

Can you claim the costs of attending Different Journeys' events on the NDIS?

Different Journeys is a grassroots community organisation that provides Autism-specific peer support services. We are not a registered NDIS service however, if you are plan or self-managed, you may be able to claim back the costs. The information below may help you as to what our events can do.

People from all walks of life catch up with other people, including family and friends, over food and drinks. It is an everyday experience. Our peer support events replicate this environment, being social dining and community-based learning experiences.

We structure the environment of our events with the combined assistance of allied health and peer-led advice, to reflect real-life experiences. However, the individual attends our events for their own specific goals, wants and needs. We simply create opportunities for a person to learn and develop skills including, but not limited, to:

- **Planning & Organising** – purchase a ticket to come to the event; travel to and from the event; where and who to sit with, etc.
- **Decision-Making** – where to sit, sitting with others or by themselves; choosing to eat or drink at the event; what to eat or drink at the event, etc.
- **Confidence Building** – ordering a drink at the bar, ordering food at the ordering counter, public speaking, requesting modifications for their meal order, etc.
- **Budgeting and Managing Money** – working out what the person can afford; the person paying for their drink/food, etc.
- **Building Tolerance and Resilience** - to noise, lighting and other people; and building confidence socialising etc.

From a social communication perspective, the environment allows the individual to develop social skills and communication with their peers, including but not limited to:

- How to form relationships and maintain them.
- Reading and responding to social cues and learning the fundamentals of relationships.
- Developing skills in dealing with unknown situations.
- Developing skills in problem-solving.
- Learning about inferencing.

Individuals have opportunities to make decisions in a supported environment, building life skills that are transferable into other contexts.



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Our events include but are not limited to: Family Autism Swim Events, face-to-face Adult and Teen Events and other peer and social events which are disability-specific and created for the autism community, by the autism community.

Claiming

Not everyone that attends our events has an NDIS plan. However, if you do, we provide receipts on at our events for costs incurred. Upon booking a ticket you will also receive receipts which you can claim back, if you are eligible. We are unable to provide invoices for payment after an event. Our facilities ensure that you pay at the time and, if eligible, claim back following the event.

Attendees, or their carers, will need to contact their plan manager or support coordinator to discuss their individual circumstances and how the program relates to the individual's disability and goals.

Which Category?

Attendance at Different Journeys events may meet the the criteria for claiming. The claim category will be dependent upon the participant's goals and budgets.

Examples may include:

- Within the **Core Supports** budget of Assistance with Social and Community Participation, or
- Under **Capacity Building - Increased Social and Community Participation**.

We encourage you to seek further clarification around your personal claim eligibility.

Disclaimer: Different Journeys provides this information in good faith and recommends that every NDIS participant seek individua advice via their plan manager/support coordinator or Local Activities Coordinator (LAC)/ National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).

Different Journeys does not accept any legal liability or responsibility for any injury, loss or damage incurred by the use of, reliance on or interpretation of the information provided above.

