

Dietitians in the NDIS: case study highlighting health vs. social outcomes

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Is the support most appropriately funded or provided through the NDIS?

- NDIS Operational Guideline 10.8.2- Health (excluding mental health)
 - NDIS *is* responsible for supports related to a person's ongoing functional impairment and that enable the person to undertake activities of daily living, live in the community and participate in education or employment
 - NDIS *is not* responsible for
 - Diagnosis/treatment of health conditions
 - Acute/post-acute services
 - Preventative health
 - Time-limited, goal-oriented services where the predominant purpose is treatment directly related to the person's health status
 - Services provided after a recent medical or surgical event that aim to improve functional status

- Mr. AJ, a sixteen-year-old young man with autism. Due to food texture sensitivities, he was not meeting his nutrient requirements and was advised by his GP to use 1-2 oral nutrition supplements each day. This strategy was successful for ~2 years. Following the loss of his primary carer last year, Mr. AJ's reliance on supplements increased to a point where he was drinking up to fifteen each day as his sole source of nutrition (providing almost three times his energy and protein requirements). Last month he was admitted to hospital with an acute kidney injury, which was attributed to overuse of oral nutrition supplements. Mr. AJ has not previously seen a dietitian and dietetics is not currently funded through his NDIS plan.
- Is this a health issue (non-NDIS) or a disability issue (NDIS)?

- Health issue: acute kidney injury and immediate follow-up
 - Not appropriately funded by NDIS (Medicare, private health)
 - Short-term goal of preventing hospital readmission and ensuring supplements are being used appropriately
 - **Health outcome measures**
 - renal function markers
 - % energy/protein requirements being met

- Disability issue: texture aversions resulting in inadequate intake
 - Appropriately funded by NDIS
 - Medium/long-term goal of using supplements and other management strategies to support Mr. AJ to lead an ordinary life
 - **Social outcome measures:** will relate directly to a goal in the participant's NDIS plan for which they were given dietetic funding
 - undertake activities of daily living (e.g. meeting requirements independently)
 - undertake activities that allow the participant to participate in the community (able to undertake employment safely without dangerously exceeding requirements)