

The Provision of Personal Care in Schools

What is personal care?

Personal Care at school can include:

- Toileting, bladder and bowel management and menstrual care.
- Supervision or assistance with showering.
- Assistance or support with the oral intake of food or drink.
- Supervision and assistance at meal times for health and safety reasons.
- Supervision or assistance to move around the school environment due to mobility difficulties.
- Assistance to manage medical conditions e.g. blood glucose level monitoring.
- Management of PEG or naso-gastric feeds.

Personal care does not include:

- General supervision at meal times.
- Reminders to use the toilet or wash hands.
- Supervision to take medication.
- Support to manage behaviour or ensure safety.
- Supervision or assistance to move around the school because of anxiety or difficulty understanding school routines or processes.
- Support to access the curriculum.

How does the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) fund personal care in schools?

If a student receives personal care support at school, it is important they are an NDIS participant. Personal care support at school is in-scope for the NDIS and the cost of this will appear in a student's NDIS plan. However **the NDIS does not transfer funding** for this support to either the family or to the school. Personal care support is considered an *in-kind* support provided to the NDIS by the ACT Government. It is recognition of the cost of support already provided and forms part of the ACT Government's contribution to the scheme. For more information see [NDIS Operational Guideline- Personal Care Supports](#).

Can a parent use NDIS funding to employ an assistant to work with their child at school?

A family cannot use NDIS funding to hire their own learning support assistant to support the student at school. If a student needs assistance with personal care, the school will ensure that those supports are provided in the same way they have always been provided.

What are the different levels of personal care?

There are various levels of personal care support. Whilst the activities required to provide personal care support vary from individual to individual, the main way to identify different levels of personal care support is by describing the number of hours of support required by the student per week.

Needs	Approximate hours of support per week
low	1.5
medium	4
high	8
very high	25

Families/carers and schools should reach a consensus regarding the level of personal care support required at school at the student's annual Individual Learning Plan (ILP) meeting.

Links

NDIS Operational Guideline- Planning and Assessment- Supports in the Plan- Personal Care Supports

http://www.ndis.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/og_plan_assess_supp_plan_personal_care.pdf