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Bridging the Gap Between Current Disability Funding and Meaningful Supports for Students with Autism

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Students with additional needs need support when starting school and throughout their education journey. Adequate resources to ensure individualised adjustments takes place as well as teachers who are trained and well supported and a collaborative framework occurs between families and school staff are an ideal in the current educational landscape. For students with autism, difficulties in communication, sensory processing, social skills, lack of knowledge about play skills and inflexibility / rigidity with routines can result in individuals displaying challenging behaviours within the home, school and community settings. For participants of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and their families in Australia, there is limited awareness about what supports are available for students. This presentation will explore the new world of disability service provision under the NDIS and explore ways towards bridging the gap between funding and accessing meaningful supports for students with autism from the early childhood years to post school options.