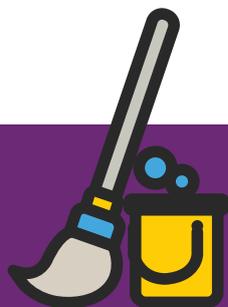


# Supported Independent Living

Information for participants, families and carers

Easy Read version



## How to use this document



The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) wrote this fact sheet. When you see the word 'we', it means the NDIA.



We have written this fact sheet in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

**Bold**

We have written some words in **bold**.

Not bold

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 33.



This Easy Read fact sheet is a summary of another document.



You can find the other document on our website at [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au)



You can ask for help to read this fact sheet. A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

## What's in this document?

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# What is this document about?



The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) provides services and support to **participants**.



Participants are people with disability who take part in the NDIS.



This guide is about **NDIS funding** for Supported Independent Living.



NDIS funding is the money from your plan that pays for the supports and services you need.



This funding supports you to be **independent** at home.



When you are independent, you can do things for yourself.

This document explains:



- Supported Independent Living



- working with Support Coordinators



- service agreements



- the other types of home and living supports participants can get.

# What is Supported Independent Living?



**Supported Independent Living** is help with day-to-day tasks around your home so you can:

- be independent
- learn new skills.

We call it SIL.



Most participants who get SIL funding live with housemates who also have SIL funding.



SIL pays for a support person to help you with day-to-day tasks, such as:

- personal care, like showering and getting dressed
- eating and cooking meals.



SIL is for participants who need support with tasks during most of the day.



SIL funding doesn't include things like:

- rent
- groceries.

## Mitch's story



Mitch used to live with his parents.



After he got SIL funding, he moved into his own home with another participant, Jack.

Support workers visit Mitch and Jack to help with:



- cooking



- cleaning



- chores

- shopping



- social activities.

These support workers come at different times during the day, including:



- visiting in the morning
- visiting in the afternoon
- staying overnight.

Mitch's mum Laurie says:



*The NDIS has given Mitch a great opportunity to live away from home and be independent.*

*Mitch can do so many things when he puts his mind to it. The NDIS provides a great opportunity to do that: to grow, have fun and enjoy life.*

# Can you get funding for SIL?

You can think about what:



- supports you need



- goals you want to achieve.



If one of your goals is to be independent at home, your NDIS plan can pay for home and living supports.



For some people, this funding will be for SIL.

## Including SIL funding in your plan

When you start using the NDIS, you will have a planning meeting with a:



- an **NDIA Planner** – someone who helps people make their plans



- a **Local Area Coordinator** – someone who helps people with disability find and use services and supports.

We call them LACs.

Your NDIA Planner or LAC will:



- find out what supports you need

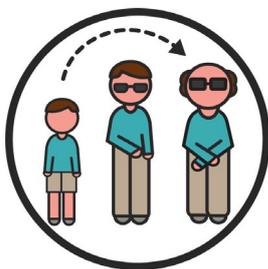


- decide if SIL is the right type of support for you.

They will think about:



- your goals



- how old you are – we don't usually fund SIL for people under 18 years old



- if other supports or changes will support you better



- how independent you already are



- if you need support with tasks during most of the day



- what kinds of services offer you the best value for the money you spend.

## What supports can you get if SIL isn't right for you?



If SIL isn't right for you, there might be other types of supports you can get funding for.



We explain these other types of funding on page 26 to 30 of this document.

## How do you start using SIL funding?



If your NDIA Planner decides that SIL is the best funding for you, the next step is to choose a SIL service provider.

### Using a Support Coordinator



A **Support Coordinator** is a person who helps participants plan and use their supports.



Lots of participants who have SIL funding also get funding for a Support Coordinator.



But not all participants get this funding.



If you need a Support Coordinator, the NDIS will pay for this support.

A Support Coordinator can help you:



- find service providers, such as SIL providers



- talk to service providers about how much services cost



- find other community services and groups.

## What is a SIL service provider?



A SIL service provider offers SIL services to people with disability.



This usually includes workers that come to your home and support you on a day-to-day basis.



## Finding the right people to support you

You can ask your NDIA planner or LAC for information about different:



- Support Coordinators



- SIL service providers.



You can learn more about them before you start using them.

You can:



- look them up on the internet



- ask someone you trust for advice



- talk to them and ask questions before you choose them.



You can use the **myplace portal** to find a:

- Support Coordinator
- SIL providers.

The myplace portal is a website where you can:



- keep all your NDIS information
- see and manage your plan
- find service providers and Support Coordinators.

## Getting started with a roster of care



Once you choose a SIL provider, they will write a **roster of care**.



A roster of care is a document SIL providers use to work out what supports you need during the week.



It breaks down a week into 30-minute blocks.



This helps SIL providers work out how much funding you need for your SIL supports.



Your SIL provider will show you the roster of care.



They will ask you to sign a form that says you are happy with the roster of care.

We will make sure:



- you are happy with your roster of care



- you are getting the right supports



- your roster of care is still working if something changes for you.

## Using your SIL funding



Once we approve your roster of care, you will get SIL funding in your plan.



Your Support Coordinator will talk to you about the best way to use your SIL funding.

# What is a service agreement?



A **service agreement** is like a contract.

It is a written plan between you and your service provider that explains:



- the supports you will use



- how your service provider will give the supports to you



- how much the supports cost.

Service agreements also include information about:



- how long the service agreement goes for



- how to change the service agreement



- what to do if you have a problem.



You don't have to use a service agreement when you use a service provider.



But it can help you make sure you are getting the supports you have paid for.



You can ask your service provider to make changes to the service agreement if you are not happy with it.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you:



- read the service agreement



- ask for changes.



Your service provider should make sure you understand your service agreement.

If you need them to, your service provider can give you your service agreement in a different format, such as:



- in a different language



- an Easy Read version.



You can find more information about service agreements on our website at [www.ndis.gov.au/providers/working-provider/connecting-participants/service-agreements](http://www.ndis.gov.au/providers/working-provider/connecting-participants/service-agreements)

## What if you're not happy with your supports?



It's important to talk to your SIL service provider about what:

- is working well
- might need to change.



If you're not happy with your SIL supports, you can:

- talk to your SIL service provider
- ask them to fix the problem.



You can also tell your:

- Support Coordinator
- family member, carer or other trusted support person.



You can contact the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission if you:

- are not happy with your supports
- feel unsafe.



NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission

**1800 035 544**



You can contact the NDIS Fraud Reporting Hotline if you think someone might be committing **fraud**.



NDIS Fraud Reporting Hotline

**1800 650 717**



When someone commits **fraud**, they lie to steal money.



For example, a service provider commits fraud if they make you pay for services they don't give you.



You can find out more about fraud on the NDIS website at [www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/fraud-strategy/reporting-suspected-fraud](http://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/fraud-strategy/reporting-suspected-fraud)

## Funding for home and living supports



Your funding should support your goals.



If your goal is to be independent at home, your funding will pay for supports to help you.



SIL might be the best support for you.



Or another type of support might be better.

There are different types of supports that your funding can pay for, including:



- **home modifications** – changes to your home such as ramps, safety rails and changes to taps



- support with day-to-day activities, such as showering and getting dressed



- help around your home, such as cleaning, cooking and doing your laundry.

But NDIS funding doesn't:

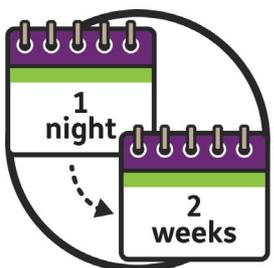


- pay your rent
- buy your home
- help you find a home.

## What can NDIS funding pay for?



NDIS funding can pay for temporary accommodation if you need somewhere to live for a short time.



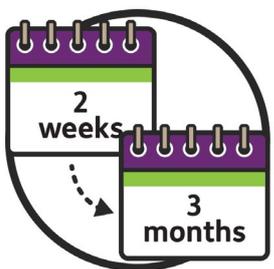
Short-term accommodation is from 1 night up to 2 weeks.



For example, you might need to stay somewhere else while changes are made to your home.



Or you might need **respite care** – when someone else cares for you so your carer can have a break.



Medium-term accommodation is from 2 weeks up to 3 months.



For example, you might be waiting to move into a new home.



NDIS funding can pay for:

- home modifications
- **assistive technology.**



Assistive technology is equipment that helps you move around or communicate.



NDIS funding can also pay for supports to live where you want.



Individualised Living Options funding helps you choose:

- where you want to live
- who you want to live with.

Assistance with Daily Living funding pays for support to do day-to-day activities, such as:



- shopping



- cleaning



- mowing your lawn.



NDIS funding might pay for extra support at home if you have complex needs.



**Specialist Disability Accommodation** is housing designed for people with very high support needs.



SIL funding is also included in this category.

## More information

For more information about this booklet,  
please contact us.



[www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au)



1800 800 110



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[@NDIS](https://twitter.com/NDIS)

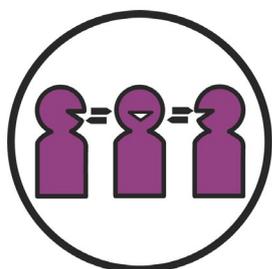
## Support to talk to us



You can talk to us online using our webchat feature.

[www.ndis.gov.au/webchat/start](http://www.ndis.gov.au/webchat/start)

If you speak a language other than English, you can call:



Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS)

**131 450**

If you have a speech or hearing impairment, you can call:



TTY

**1800 555 677**



Speak and Listen

**1800 555 727**



National Relay Service

**133 677**

[www.relayservice.gov.au](http://www.relayservice.gov.au)

## Word list



### **Assistive technology**

Assistive technology is equipment that helps you move around or communicate.



### **Fraud**

When someone commits fraud, they lie to steal money.



### **Independent**

When you are independent, you can do things for yourself.



### **Modifications**

Modifications are changes to your home such as ramps, safety rails and changes to taps.



### **Local Area Coordinator**

A Local Area Coordinator is someone who helps people with disability find and use services and supports.

We call them LACs.

## myplace

The myplace portal is a website where you can:



- keep all your NDIS information
- see and manage your plan
- find service providers and Support Coordinators.



## NDIA Planner

An NDIA Planner is someone who makes new plans.



## NDIS funding

NDIS funding is the money from your plan that pays for the supports and services you need.



## Participants

Participants are people with disability who take part in the NDIS.



## Respite care

Respite is when someone else cares for you so your carer can have a break.



## Roster of care

A roster of care is a document SIL providers use to work out what supports you need during the week.



## Service agreement

A service agreement is a written plan between you and your service provider that explains:

- the supports you will use
- how your service provider will give the supports to you
- how much the supports cost.



## Support Coordinator

A Support Coordinator is a person who help participants plan and use their supports.



## Supported Independent Living

Supported Independent Living is help with day-to-day tasks so you can:

- be independent
- learn new skills.



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