# Funding

**Q:** What does bundled payments mean? Do bundled payments mean we are using block funding rather than line item weekly claiming?

**A:** Bundled payments give participants and providers the flexibility to:

1. identify the outcomes participants wish to achieve from their supports
2. reach agreement about how these outcomes will be achieved, rather than following a set regime of supports.

Payment is then made for the achievement of outcomes.

This is in contrast to block funding which may involve payment for the delivery of a set number of hours.

**Q:** How does this differ from funding for individualised living options (ILO)?

**A:** Current ILO funding arrangements reflect a reliance on care provided by informal supports. The funding for the first round of demonstration projects does not reflect this reliance, as we are only looking at participants with 24/7 NDIS funded supports.

In the long term, it may be possible for people to access ILO across all home and living contexts, including shared accommodation settings.

**Q:** What types of NDIS participant funding can be used in demonstration projects?

**A:** Funding for demonstration projects can be from both supported independent living (SIL) funding and other support funding. The provider must be registered to deliver both support categories.

**Q:** Can bundled payments include non-NDIS funded supports?

**A:** Yes. You can draw on funding sources outside the NDIS to fund aspects of your project. Participants and the other funding sources must agree to this occurring.

**Q:** Is it expected that providers will need to deliver more support through the demonstration projects than what they currently deliver?

**A:** No. The intent is for providers and participants to think about how SIL supports can be delivered and funded differently to achieve positive participant outcomes. Providers should not need to deliver further, or additional, supports.

**Q:** Can I submit a proposal to the demonstration projects for NDIS funded accommodation that is not currently SIL? Especially if economic and social outcomes can be determined, measured and improved?

**A:** The first round of demonstration projects requires submissions from registered SIL providers. A subsequent round of demonstration projects with a broadened scope across home and living options will be released in early 2022.

**Q:** How does this project consider the requirements of the Fair Work Commission to offer casuals permanent part time work?

**A:** The NDIA is aware of these requirements. We are addressing these through the [Annual Pricing Review](https://www.ndis.gov.au/providers/pricing-arrangements/making-pricing-decisions/annual-pricing-review) 2021-22, currently underway.

The [Annual Pricing Review](https://www.ndis.gov.au/providers/pricing-arrangements/making-pricing-decisions/annual-pricing-review) 2021-22 Consultation Paper outlines the topics for review as well as information on how to make a submission. The closing date for submissions is 28 November 2021, 12 midnight AWST.

**Q:** Can we incorporate SDA funding as part of the bundled funding?

**A:** With the agreement of participants, providers can propose the inclusion of a combination of supports they are registered to deliver. Proposals must outline how any potential conflicts of interest will be addressed, and how participant choice and control will be improved.

Outcomes and evaluation

**Q:** What are the outcome measures for demonstration projects?

**A:** The NDIA is developing an evaluation framework for home and living demonstration projects. We will share the framework with the selected providers to inform their data collection.

The market information request states proposals will be assessed according to how projects improve participant choice and control, and how they promote social, economic and community participation.

**Q:** Will there be an assessment of what doesn't work within demonstration projects as well?

**A:** Yes. The external evaluation will look at both what does, and does not, work within the demonstration projects.

Scope and design

**Q:** How will the NDIA ensure participants with different support needs are included in the demonstration projects?

**A:** The NDIA will consider representation of participants with different types of support, functioning and participation needs when we evaluate the demonstration project proposals.

**Q:** How can we demonstrate we have engaged with participants on proposals, when participants have alternative and augmentative communication requirements?

**A:** Providers can demonstrate participant involvement through written explanations. For example, using existing participant governance groups or through one-to-one engagement.

**Q:** What consultation has informed the development of the market information request?

**A:** In 2020 and 2021 the NDIA engaged SIL providers and held SIL forums across Australia. The feedback we received from these activities informed the design of the first round of demonstration projects.

**Q:** Will there be acknowledgment that better outcomes, for example improved client well-being and reduced incidents, comes with sufficient staff numbers and training?

**A:** The demonstration projects will feature external evaluation to test how the different funding and care models impact participants, providers and outcomes.

**Q:** Can the demonstration projects be around transitioning people to living independently and exploring options of living, prior to actually living independently?

**A:** The first round of demonstration projects is targeted towards registered SIL providers supporting participants with current SIL funding in their NDIS plans.

Future rounds of demonstration projects will be designed in collaboration with key stakeholders including the Independent Advisory Council, NDIS participants and members of the disability community and sector. Future rounds will consider a broader range of home and living options.

**Q:** Can the demonstration project be designed for future (not current) participants?

**A:** The first round of demonstration projects is targeted at providers supporting participants with current SIL funding in their NDIS plans. Future rounds of demonstration projects will be designed in collaboration with key stakeholders including the Independent Advisory Council, NDIS participants and members of the disability community and sector. Future rounds will consider a broader range of home and living options.

Participant plans

**Q:** Some SIL participants live on their own. Why is this group not in scope of the demonstration projects?

**A:** The NDIA has chosen to focus the first round of demonstration projects on identifying and evaluating potential models of good practice for shared living supports.

Future rounds will consider a broader range of home and living options.

**Q:** Is SIL funding for participants included in the demonstration projects guaranteed not to decrease during the project period?

**A:** The NDIA cannot provide any guarantees related to participants and their funded supports.

Demonstration projects are required to meet NDIS constraints and legislation. This includes delegates making reasonable and necessary decisions for participant supports at plan review.

Where possible, the NDIA will offer participants involved in demonstration projects plans with a duration of 2 years or more.

**Q:** As this is a 2 year pilot, participant plans will end at different dates. For participants living in SDA, their plans are 12 months maximum. Will the NDIA roll participant plans over for the length of the 2 year pilot?

**A:** The NDIA will work with participants and providers regarding SDA funding, where relevant. This includes promoting plans of longer duration where requested and possible.

Intellectual property

**Q:** In regard to replicability, who will own the intellectual property (IP) of the service models that are developed through demonstration projects?

**A:** The registered NDIS providerremains the owner of any service model IP developed as part of the demonstration projects.

**Q:** Will registered NDIS providers who participate in the demonstration projects be required to declare any conflict of interest?

**A:** Eligibility for the demonstration projects is restricted to providers who are registered for SIL with the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission. Registered providers are bound by the NDIS Code of Conduct which outlines the rules around conflict of interest.

Registered providers should declare, and avoid, any real or perceived conflicts of interest (including financial, business or personal) that may impact on how they deliver supports or services to that person. Any provider selected to deliver a demonstration project will be bound by the NDIS conflict of interest provisions.

Long-term intent

**Q:** Does the NDIA intend for demonstration projects to be used to establish new plan models of SIL that will eventually apply to all NDIS participants and providers?

**A:** Our intention is for home and living demonstration projects to provide a platform for us to test and evaluate new ways of funding and delivering home and living supports. We believe the demonstration projects will provide us evidence to inform future NDIS operational policy and process.

Application process

**Q:** What is the NDIA trying to achieve through the first round of demonstration projects?

**A:** Our aim during the first round is to identify, evaluate and develop new ways of delivering 24/7 support to participants.

We are looking for proposals which give greater flexibility to participants and providers, are outcomes-focused, encourage better practice and ensure Scheme sustainability.

**Q:** Could a proposal run for less than 2 years?

**A:** We will accept proposals for projects that are less than 2 years.

Applicants are encouraged to consider using the full 2 year timeframe to maximise the potential for demonstrating outcomes for participants, the Scheme and providers.

**Q:** Is there a template for proposal submissions?

**A:** No. Applications requirements, outlined in Section 3 and 4 of the market information request, state that applications should not be longer than 10 pages, and can be in any format (for example Word or PowerPoint).

**Q:** Are members of consortia limited to SIL providers?

**A:** No.The NDIA welcomes proposals from consortia where there is an identified lead party who the NDIA will work with on behalf of the consortium. The lead party will be required to:

* be a registered SIL provider
* enter into a memorandum of understanding with the NDIA as the lead member of the consortium.

**Q:** Can I apply for an extension to the application deadline if my organisation is impacted by COVID-19?

**A:** Yes. Please contact the NDIA at [demonstrationprojects@ndis.gov.au](mailto:demonstrationprojects@ndis.gov.au) to negotiate an extension.

Please note: If you require more time to engage with participants to confirm their involvement, you can submit your application, clearly stating that this in your intention.

**Q:** How many demonstration projects are you looking to support in total?

**A:** We do not have a number identified. The final total will depend on the quality of submissions we receive.

Implementation support

**Q:** Will the NDIA provide support to manage any issues that are identified during demonstration project implementation?

**A:** Yes. We will provide assistance to providers while the demonstration projects are being implemented.

Operational

**Q:** How will the demonstration projects offer an opportunity to better support people with high support needs, for example, high medical or high behavioural supports?

**A:** The first round of demonstration projects is an opportunity for registered SIL providers and participants to propose new and innovative ways of delivering and funding SIL supports.

We encourage providers and participants to propose different funding and care models to generate positive participant outcomes for participants with high intensity support needs. We can then test and evaluate these ideas.