



NDIS Review Background Paper

Home and Living



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About this Paper



This Paper is about **home and living** in the NDIS.



Home and living means NDIS supports to help you live independently.



**Inclusion
Australia**

This paper was written by Inclusion Australia.

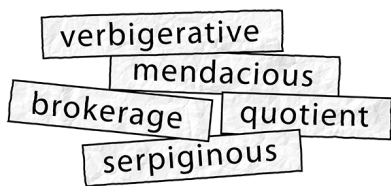
Where it says 'we' it means Inclusion Australia.



This paper is written in Easy Read.



It is a good idea to read this Paper with support.



Hard words are in **bold**.

We have written what they mean.



You can read the big version of this paper [here](#).

About the NDIS Review



This paper was written as part of the **NDIS Review**.



The NDIS Review is looking at

- What works well in the NDIS
- What could be better in the NDIS
- What needs to change in the NDIS
- How to make the NDIS last a long time.



The NDIS Review asked us to speak to people with intellectual disability and their families about their experiences with the NDIS.

Home and living rights



The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability** is an agreement between countries that protects the rights of people with disability.

We call it the **UNCRPD** for short.

The UNCRPD says people with disability have the right to

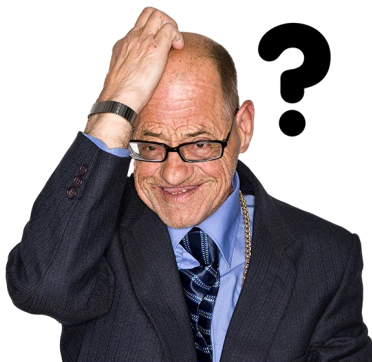
- Choose where they live and who helps them
- Be supported at home
- Be included in their community.



This does not happen for many people with an intellectual disability.



It is even harder for people with very high support needs to get their home and living rights.



It is hard for people with an intellectual disability to

- find a good place to live
- get the support they need to live there.



Many people with an intellectual disability live in Supported Independent Living or SIL for short.



SIL is for people who need a lot of help to live independently.

SIL homes are also known as group homes.

Not safe at home



Some people with an intellectual disability live in places where they do not feel safe.



Feeling unsafe can be when people are

- Hurt physically
- Treated badly
- Taken advantage of
- Not helped in the way they are supposed to be.



People mostly talk about feeling unsafe in SIL homes.



Lots of people in group homes are **segregated**.

Segregated means people are separated from the rest of their community.

Problems with providers

Provider



There are problems with **SIL providers**.

SIL providers are the companies that run SIL homes.



Many people with an intellectual disability who already lived in group homes stayed there when the NDIS started and did not get a real choice about where they live.



SIL costs a lot of money to run.

Provider



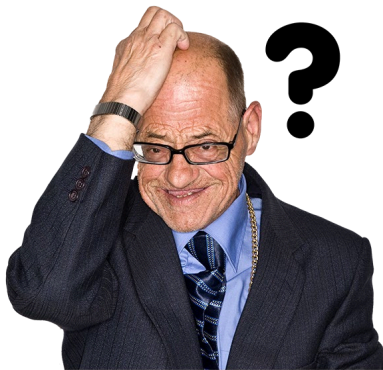
People who live in SIL are often made to get all their NDIS supports from their SIL provider.



Only having 1 provider makes it more likely that a person will be treated badly or hurt.



It is very hard for these people to change providers even when they are being treated badly.



Choice and control



The NDIS is meant to be about **choice and control** for participants.



Choice and control means that participants have the right to make their own decisions about their supports.



Many people with an intellectual disability do not get a say in where they live or who supports them at home.



Providers often speak for people instead of letting them speak for themselves.



There are not many housing choices that people can access and afford.



People with an intellectual disability often do not get a say in where they live.



People often do not get support to try out different home and living options.

For example

- Living with a housemate
- Living with a host family
- Living on their own.

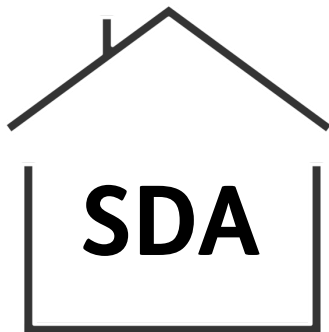
Services do not work together



Different home and living services do not work together very well.



For example state disability housing services do not work together with the NDIS.



Houses that are built especially for people with a disability are called **Specialist Disability Accommodation** or **SDA** for short.



SDA houses are for people with very high support needs that need an accessible house.



The people who build SDA houses do not listen to what participants want and need.



This means they do not understand where participants live and where SDA houses are needed.

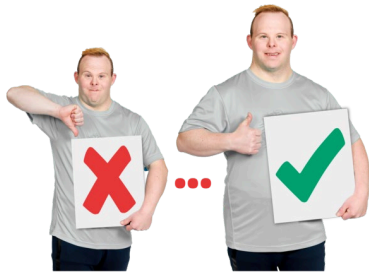


Some people are forced to live in SDA houses that are a long way away from their community, family or friends.



Some SDA houses are empty because no one nearby needs them.

How to fix it



Here are some ideas for how to fix home and living problems in the NDIS.



People with an intellectual disability should be supported to make their own decisions about home and living.



We should support young people with disabilities to plan for their future earlier.

This can help people to be more independent and makes sure they have the right supports.



Support workers should help people to learn new independent living skills instead of doing things for them.



There should be more **peer support** groups for people with an intellectual disability.

Peer support is when people with an intellectual disability help each other with things like

- Information
- Emotional support
- Giving advice
- Fixing problems.



We should think of new and different ways to do home and living support.

For example

- Using technology
- Making new home and living options.



NDIS and governments need to work together with participants and their families so everyone is on the same page.

What happens next?



The Review will look closely at what everyone has said about the NDIS.



The Review will give their Final Report to the Government with ideas about how the NDIS could be better.



The Final Report is due in October 2023.



Australian Government

The Government will decide what to do about the NDIS Review's ideas.