Inclusion Australia

Our report for the Disability Dialogue on Supported Independent Living





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About this document

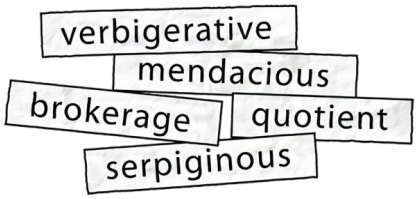
This document was written by Inclusion Australia.

Where it says ‘we’ it means Inclusion Australia.



This document is an Easy Read **summary** of a report we wrote.

This means it only has the most important points.



Hard words are in **bold.**

We explain what they mean.



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



You can read the big version of our report at

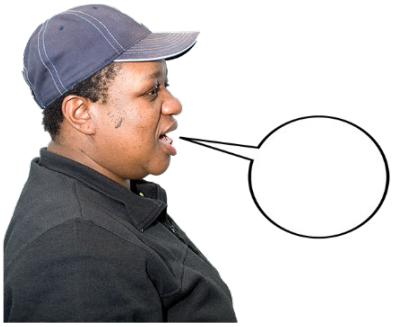
https://www.inclusionaustralia.org.au/submission/improving-supported-independent-living/

About our report

We wrote our report as part of a project run by the **Disability Dialogue.**



The Disability Dialogue is a group of people who come together to talk about important things for people with disability.



The Disability Dialogue wanted to know what people with an intellectual disability think about the Government's plans for **SIL commissioning.**



SIL stands for Supported Independent Living.

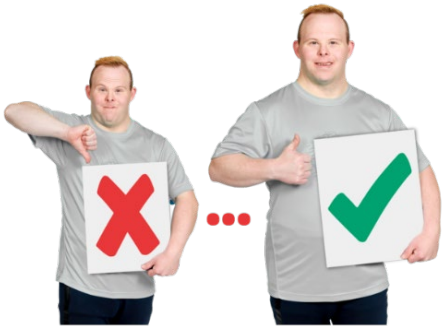
SIL is when people with disability live together with support.



SIL commissioning means the Government would choose which providers can give support in SIL homes.



For our report we worked with Ability First Australia to talk to people with an intellectual disability who live in SIL homes.



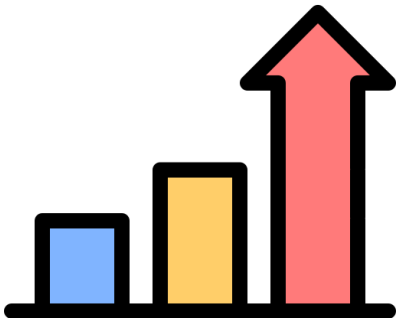
Our report will help the Government learn:

- What people think about living in SIL
- How to make SIL better and safer for people with an intellectual disability.

What we heard



Nearly 2 out of 10 people on the NDIS with an intellectual disability live in SIL homes.



This means there are a lot more people with an intellectual disability in SIL than any other disability.



People who live in SIL usually need extra support to do everyday things.



People told us both good and bad things about living in SIL.



Some people told us that they are happy in their SIL home because they:

- Are friends with their housemates
- Have good support workers



- Get to go out and do things in the community
- Get the right amount of support at home.



But we also heard about some of the problems people have in SIL like:

- Not getting a say in decisions about their life or their home
- Problems communicating with support workers



- Not feeling safe or being treated badly
- The house not feeling like a real home.



People also talked to us about:

- What they think makes a good SIL provider
- What the Government needs to know about SIL.



We also wrote a submission to the Government on what we think about SIL and what needs to change.

You can read our submission at [link]

Making decisions



Many people living in SIL told us that other people often make decisions for them.



Some people said they did not get to make decisions about things like:

- Where they live
- Who they live with
- Who supports them
- What they eat
- What time they go to bed
- What their home looks like.





Some people could not remember if they got to choose if they wanted to live in a SIL home or not.



Others said they did not know they were allowed to find another place to live if they wanted to.



We think people living in SIL have the right to:

- Make their own decisions
- Get information about their choices and rights in a way they can understand
- Get good support when making decisions if they want it
- Have a say in decisions about their home.



Communication



People have many different ways of communicating.

Some people may:

- Find it hard to be understood clearly
- Only speak a few words
- Use a communication device or other ways of communicating their wants and needs.





Some people we spoke to said they had good communication with their SIL support workers.

But others told us about communication problems they faced in their SIL home.



One man found it hard to talk to us because his communication device had not been charged by his support workers.



He told us that he often found it hard to understand his support workers.



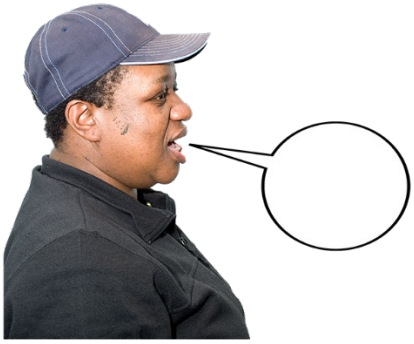
We also saw his support worker walk away when she could not understand him anymore.



This is not okay.



People living in SIL have the right to be understood and listened to.



Good communication is important to make sure that people in SIL can:

- Say what they want and need
- Have a say in decisions
- Stay safe and feel included.



Safety and privacy



Some people told us that they felt safe in their SIL home.



But others said that they have felt unsafe or had been scared or hurt by housemates.



One person told us that they had been treated badly and had money stolen by one of their support workers.

This is not okay.



People living in SIL have the right to feel safe and supported in their home.

What makes a good SIL provider



People told us what they think makes a good SIL provider.



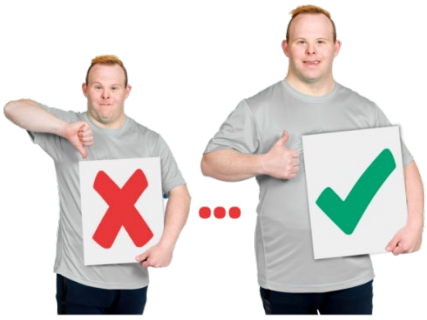
People said SIL support workers must be:

- Kind
- Respectful
- Listen to people's wants and needs
- Good at their job.





People told us that they want their SIL supports to help them have a good life.



They also said that they want SIL providers to listen and act when things go wrong.

What the Government must know when making changes to SIL



There must be clear rules about what good SIL looks like.



People told us that they want the Government to:

- Regularly check that SIL providers are doing the right thing
- Listen to what people with an intellectual disability want and need in SIL
- Do something when a person living in SIL is hurt or treated badly.





People with an intellectual disability should get a say in deciding if SIL providers are following the rules.



The Government should check that SIL providers are doing a good job by checking they are following the rules and talking to the people living there.

For example:

- How happy they are
- How safe they are
- If they are getting the support they need
- Making sure their support workers have the skills they need to do their job well.

