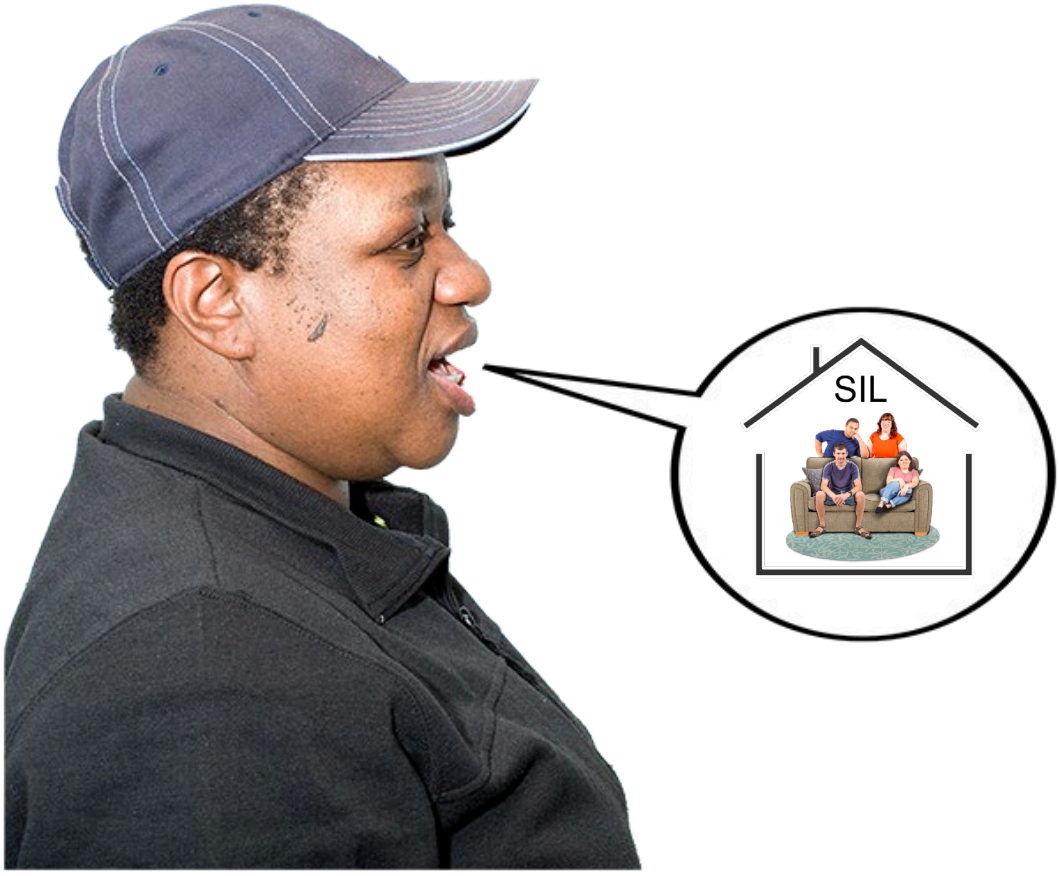
Inclusion Australia

Our submission to the Government on SIL commissioning





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About this document

This document was written by Inclusion Australia.

Where it says ‘we’ it means Inclusion Australia.

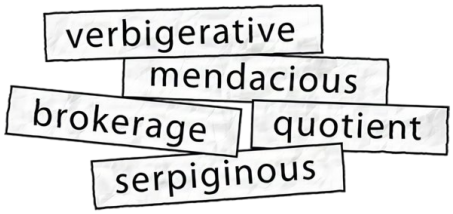


This is an Easy Read **summary** of a submission we wrote.

This means it only has the most important points.



A submission is when we write to the Government and tell them what we think.



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 submission at

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

About our submission



The Government is looking at a new way of managing supports in Supported Independent Living called **SIL commissioning.**



Supported Independent Living is when people with disability live together with support.

We call it SIL for short.



SIL commissioning means the Government would choose who can give supports in SIL homes.



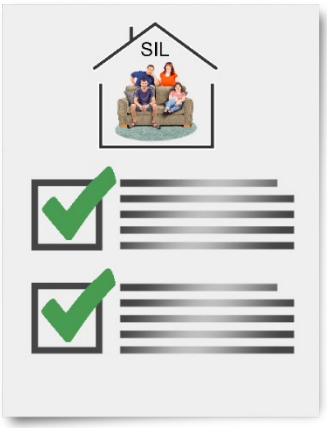
In August 2026 the Government asked people what they think of the plans for SIL commissioning.

We looked at:



- What people with an intellectual disability and their families have told us about SIL
- Our past work helping to make the **SIL Practice Standards**

  The Practice Standards are rules that SIL providers must follow.



Our submission tells the Government:

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

Different providers for different supports



Sometimes a person's SIL provider is also their:

- **Landlord**

  This is the person who owns or manages the SIL home



- **Support Coordinator**

  This is someone who finds and organises the person's NDIS supports

- Support for decision making.



This can make it hard for the person to:

- Make decisions about their home and supports
- Speak up when something is wrong
- Change providers if they want to.



We think people living in SIL should be able to get their other supports from providers that are not their SIL provider.

Keeping people in SIL safe



It is important for people living in SIL to feel safe and supported in their home.



Some people living in SIL may find it hard to:

- Know when something is wrong
- Tell someone about a problem
- Make changes to their supports.



This means they may need extra support to stay safe and make decisions.



We think there should be a system to decide which people living in SIL may need this extra support.



This system would look at:

- A person's support needs
- How they communicate
- Who supports them
- Where and how they live
- How much support they need to make decisions.



People would get this extra support from a provider that is not their SIL provider.



SIL providers must also help someone move if they are unsafe in their current SIL home.



For example if the person is:

- Being hurt or treated badly by another person living there
- Not getting the support they need to live safely.



SIL providers should work together with the person's other supports to make sure the move happens quickly and safely.

Checking that SIL providers are doing a good job



SIL homes should be checked regularly by people that do not work for the SIL provider.



This will make sure that checks are fair and honest.



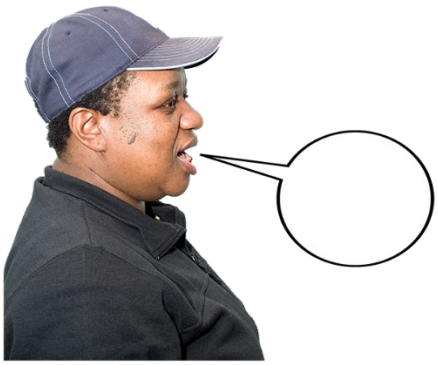
The people doing the checks should speak to:

- The people living in the SIL home
- The support workers at the SIL home that day.



They should also ask the people living there:

- What they think about their home and their supports
- If they feel safe in their home
- If they know about their rights in SIL.



People living in SIL have the right to say how they feel about their SIL home and supports.

But they may worry about getting in trouble if they talk about problems.



People living in SIL must be able to talk to the person checking the home in private if they want to.

Speaking up and knowing your rights



Some people living in SIL do not have any **informal supports** to help them speak up.

Informal supports are family members or other unpaid support people.



This can make it hard for them to:

- Understand their rights
- Speak up about what they want
- Make a complaint when something is wrong.



We think that people living in SIL without informal supports should be able to get help from an **independent advocate.**



An advocate is someone who supports people with disability to speak up.

Independent means they do not work for the SIL provider.



People living in SIL must also be able to get information about SIL in a way they can understand.

For example in Easy Read.



The information should tell people:

- What SIL is
- The right to choose where you live and who you live with
- Your rights in a SIL home



- What SIL providers must do
- Where to get help to speak up or make a complaint.



SIL providers must make sure this information is available to everyone living in the SIL home.

Making decisions about SIL



People living in SIL should get a say in where they live and who they live with.



When making these decisions the SIL provider must think about:

- What the person wants
- Who they get along with
- How they communicate
- Their culture and beliefs
- How much support they need.



Restrictive practices



Sometimes **restrictive practices** are used on people living in SIL.

Restrictive practices are things that control or stop a person from doing something.



For example:

- Locking a door to stop someone running onto the road



- Giving someone medication to stop them hurting themselves.



Some restrictive practices are **authorised.**

This means the SIL provider is allowed to do them.



But some restrictive practices are **unauthorised.**

This means they are not allowed at all.



The Government must make sure that SIL providers:

- Only use authorised restricted practices if they are needed
- Do not use unauthorised restrictive practices at all.



SIL providers must make sure that:

- SIL staff are trained properly on using restrictive practices
- People living in SIL get a say in restrictive practices used on them



- People living in SIL can get good information and independent support to speak up about restrictive practices.

Lived experience



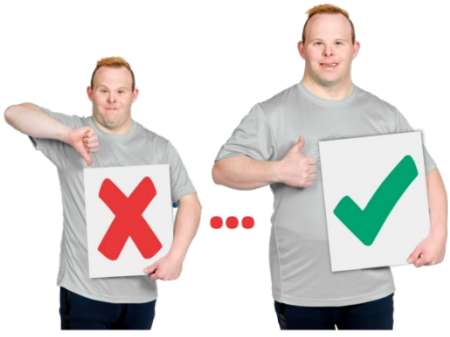
People with an intellectual disability living in SIL and their families must be involved in:

- Designing how the new way of managing SIL supports will work



- Checking that the new way is working well.

The Government should pay people with an intellectual disability to:



- Check that SIL providers are doing a good job
- Give them advice and ideas about how to make SIL better.

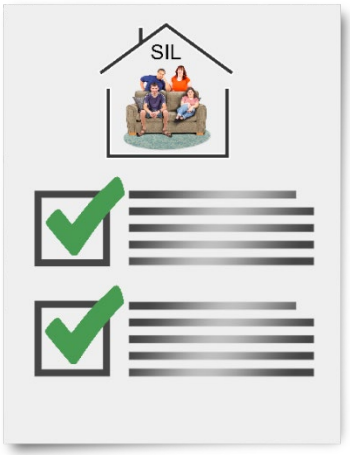
SIL in regional and remote areas



Sometimes people living in **regional and remote areas** have less choice about who supports them.



Regional and remote areas are places far away from big cities.



People should be able to get good SIL support no matter where they live.



The Government must make sure that SIL providers in regional and remote areas get the support they need to provide good SIL supports.



There must also be rules to help find and fix problems with **conflicts of interest** in SIL homes in regional and remote areas.

For example if someone's SIL provider also gives them other supports.



This will help make sure that SIL in regional and remote areas is fair for everyone.