

**Imagine
what's
possible**



**Your guide to
all things SIL**

NDVR
Endeavour
Foundation



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What is Supported Independent Living?

Supported Independent Living (SIL) is the name of the NDIS funding that provides supports to people with disability to help them live as independently as possible.

SIL funding is typically for people who need 24/7 support while living in a shared home. It exists to cover the cost of the support staff in the house.

There is a lot of confusion about how SIL funding works because it works a bit differently to other parts of the NDIS.

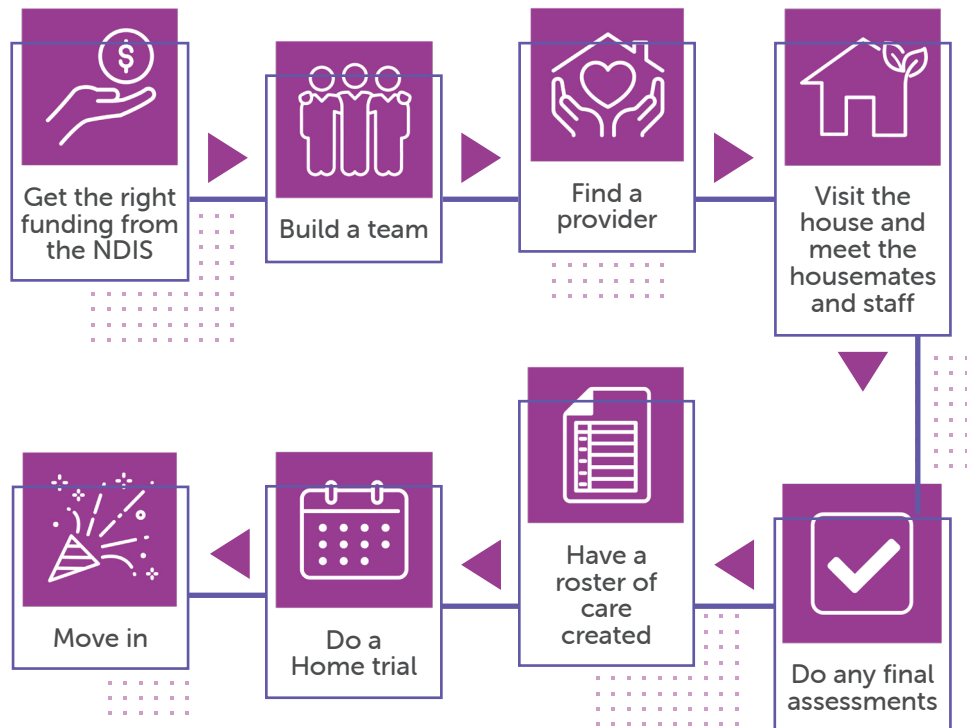
It's worth noting that SIL funding can be very complex. Often the best way to work out what it means for you is to talk to someone directly. If you have any questions about it, we encourage you to get in touch.

In this booklet, we will provide information about how SIL funding works so you have all you need to start your journey towards independent living.



The steps you will likely take on your SIL journey

When you start your independent living journey, you will most likely go through the following steps:



What's the difference between Supported Independent Living and Specialist Disability Accommodation?

This can be a bit confusing – especially because they both kind of sound like the same thing.

Essentially, SIL is the funding for support services, and the Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) is the accommodation in which those services are delivered.

It's worth noting that a provider can be both.

Here's a different way to see what that looks like:

A SIL provider:

Will manage the supports themselves. Essentially this means that a SIL provider will supply the workers that support people in the house with daily living tasks. Generally this is all done with a focus on developing your skills so you can live as independently as possible.

An SDA provider:

Will look after the house itself – as in the physical structure, similar to a landlord or property management agency. SDA is generally only used when someone has very high needs or “extreme functional impairment”. It's designed to make sure people don't have to pay more for their home because of their disability. It's important to note only a very small percentage of NDIS participants will get SDA funding in their plan.

Here's what that generally looks like broken down:

SIL provider	SDA provider
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides support in the house • Can help with community access outside of the home • Helps the residents organise household tasks like preparing food, cleaning, etc. • Manages the staff that work in the house • Addresses any complaints about the support providers • Screens workers for the house 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Builds or owns the SDA home • Is who you pay your rent to • Fixes and maintains the house • Helps address damage

How do I get SIL funding?

Like all things with the NDIS, to get funding for something it needs to be deemed reasonable and necessary by your NDIS planner.

When you go into your planning meeting, you will need to explain to your planner why SIL funding is reasonable and necessary to your circumstances.



If we can give any tips on this it would be to:

Be prepared

We have found that the more someone prepares, the better their chances of receiving their best funding package.

Be clear

One of the most important things to remember going into your planning meeting is the NDIS Planner does not know you. They will only know what you tell them. If the need is urgent or pressing, you will need to articulate this to your planner.

If you're after more tips on how to ace your NDIS planning meeting – make sure you check out our blog on this topic at our website.



What are the levels of SIL funding?

SIL funding is divided into three levels depending on the amount of support required, as well as the number of people living in the shared setting. The three levels available are*:

Lower need – provides supervision of living arrangements and is not usually provided 24/7.

Standard need – provides 24/7 support including active assistance and/or supervision of most daily tasks, and includes overnight sleepovers.

Complex need – provides highly frequent assistance to the individual with managing challenging behaviours that require intensive positive behaviour support, continual active assistance with all daily tasks, active management of complex medical needs, active support 24/7 including overnight.

*For full descriptions of these levels, please consult the NDIS Price Guide.

How does the SIL funding work?

The funding for SIL works a little differently to most NDIS funding.

How most NDIS funding works

- You receive your NDIS plan with dollar amounts assigned to the various categories.
- You decide which service providers you want to go with.
- You sign-on to receive supports.

How SIL funding works

- You get funding for SIL in your plan, but it doesn't have an exact dollar amount assigned.
- You will work with your Support Coordinator and speak to all of the relevant people (for example, Occupational Therapist).
- They will determine your level of support required.
- You will work with your Support Coordinator to find a suitable house.
- Your SIL provider will provide a quote for the whole house.
- You receive your NDIS plan with dollar amounts assigned to the various categories.
- You decide which service providers you want to go with.
- You sign-on to receive supports.

It's funded individually and the supports can be shared amongst everyone in the house.

A provider will put in a quote for each individual in the house and identify what their 'typical week' looks like.

It's important to note the NDIS will cover the reasonable and necessary costs of SIL, and you will never be out of pocket for SIL supports. In the vast majority of cases, the SIL provider will liaise with the NDIA directly.

Who can help me?

You aren't expected to navigate this all alone.

You will have a team of people to help you with this change. Here are some of the key people you'll encounter on your SIL journey:

Your Support Coordinator

Pretty much everyone who gets SIL funding also gets ample Support Coordinator funding. Your Support Coordinator will help you through every step of the process. They are there to talk about your options, find solutions, help you get organised and more. You will be spending a lot of time with your Support Coordinator, so it's really important that you get along.

Your family

Moving out of home is a big deal! It's something that often involves the whole family. It can be a big adjustment for people, so it's good to have everyone on the same page.

Your supports

There's more to moving out of home than what's involved in the NDIS. You will want to make sure you are emotionally, physically and mentally ready, too. This can involve learning new skills, building confidence and getting ready for change. Whether you have paid or informal supports, chances are you will all be working towards the same goals and you will want them on your team.

Healthcare professionals

To make sure you get the right supports for you and your needs, you're probably going to have to attend a lot of appointments and consultations. The most common one is an Occupational Therapist.



Why can it be such a long process?

There is a lot that needs to fall into place for a SIL home to be right for someone.

The ratio needs to be right

In your assessment, they will determine the support worker to housemate ratio. That can be anywhere from 1:1* or 1:7. In most instances, everyone in the house will need to have similar ratios to be compatible.

An Occupational Therapist needs to approve the house for you

Any house you move into will need Occupational Therapist (OT) approval. The OT will do an assessment to understand your requirements in a living arrangement. This will help form part of the SIL application. An OT won't approve each property – but the assessment they do will inform whether someone can be accepted for a property.

This is something you will most likely work with your Support Coordinator to obtain.

You need to be compatible with the other tenants

Like with any house, you will need to be compatible with the people who you are living with, and vice versa. You wouldn't move into a house where you aren't compatible with people and under the NDIS, it's no different.

*In very rare instances, people may be approved for two support workers per resident if the NDIS deems it reasonable and necessary.

Frequently asked questions

It's question time! Here are answers to common SIL-related questions we are often asked.

What does the NDIS pay for, and what do I personally pay for?

This is a great question, and it has a relatively simple answer.

Would someone without disability be expected to pay for it? If so, chances are that it won't be covered under the NDIS. The NDIS is designed to make sure people don't have to pay more for their home because of their disability. In most instances, you will pay for rent and board, just as someone without disability would be expected to pay for these costs out of their own money.

The NDIS funding for home services is called Supported Independent Living (SIL) and Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA). SIL is the funding for support services, and the SDA is the physical accommodation in which those services are delivered.

What is covered by rent and board?

This table shows what typical living costs are included in "Rent and Board".

Included in Rent and Board	Not included in Rent and Board
Rent	Independent activities outside of the house
Household groceries	Medications/medicated or specialised groceries
Bills (including internet)	Personal subscriptions (like Netflix)
Basic kitchen appliances	Specialised kitchen appliances
Furniture in shared spaces	Furniture in your bedroom
Shared devices (like a TV)	Personal devices



How does it work for meals and cooking?

This is something that differs from house to house. This is because different houses have different preferences. The decision on how this works is up to the housemates.

Most housemates choose to meal-plan, shop, cook and eat together. Sometimes they like to make a roster and sometimes it's a whole group effort. Dietary requirements and allergies are always factored in. While support is always readily available, it's the housemates that get to make these decisions, not the support staff.

Of course, if someone in the house prefers to do their own shopping and cooking, that is perfectly fine and the house will most likely be able to cater to this.

What do you mean by 24/7 support?

All our houses offer 24/7 support. This means there is the option to always have someone in the house to help you out if you need it. We want you to feel safe and supported.

Some people hear 24/7 support and imagine staff in your space the whole time but this is not at all the case. The staff are there when you need them, but are very aware of giving you privacy and independence.

How does it work with household group activities?

We get this question a lot! It depends on whether the whole house is doing the activity or not.

If the whole house is doing the activity:

Then the support costs for that activity would theoretically be covered under SIL funding.

If not everyone is doing the activity:

If some people in the house want to do an activity, but others don't, the activity most likely won't be covered under SIL funding. This is because the SIL supports are primarily based in the home, and if there are any housemates in the home the support staff member would need to remain there.

That's not to say the housemates can't do that activity though. It would mean they would have to use some of their other NDIS funding for community access.

Can I still use my own support worker?

Absolutely! Here's how that works.

If the support worker is NOT being paid from your SIL funding:

You can use any support worker you like. This is often the case for things like community access. The support worker does not need to be an Endeavour Foundation employee, even if the support is taking place inside the house.

If the support worker is being paid from your SIL funding:

It will be an Endeavour Foundation employee supporting you.

What are the housemates like?

The best way to find out is to get in touch!

We don't put any identifying information online to protect privacy, but we can chat to you in general terms if there's a particular house you have your eye on.

We make sure you have plenty of opportunities to meet the housemates before you move in. As part of the SIL process, you will complete a Home trial. This is a great opportunity to see how well you all get along before you decide to move in.

Getting along with your housemates is such an important thing, and we always make sure the house dynamics work for everyone who lives there.

What is an Individualised Living Option (ILO)?

Individualised Living Option supports are an alternative to SIL. Like SIL, ILO is not the home itself; it is the supports you receive to help you live as independently as possible.

ILO is a support package that will help you work out how you want to live, where you want to live, and who you want to live with. With ILO, you can share your home with your friends or housemates. You also have the option to live on your own with the support you need.

It is important to note that SIL and ILO supports can't be funded together at the same time.



For more information



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