



GUIDE TO DEVELOPING A PARTICIPANT'S HOUSING STATEMENT

For NDIS support coordinators and allied health professionals – May 2020

About this guide

This guide and the Participant Housing Statement template will assist NDIS support coordinators and allied health professionals working with people wanting to test their eligibility for Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA). Concise evidence helps the SDA panel to make a timely decision. The SDA panel considers the evidence provided to determine whether a person meets the SDA eligibility criteria as set out in the *SDA Rules 2016*. And whether SDA is a reasonable and necessary support for them under Section 32 of the *NDIS Act 2013*.

Background

The priorities of all levels of government changed with the worldwide outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The attention of health and the NDIA turned to discharging people who are medically stable from hospitals.

We are seeing greater use of Medium Term Accommodation (MTA) particularly by people in hospital who need complex home modifications to return home. The time allowed in MTA is now 180 days, up from 90 days, and a participant does not currently require a long-term housing option to be considered for MTA.

The NDIA is also working to streamline approvals for home modifications, assistive technology, SDA and Supported Independent Living (SIL) for younger people in aged care and those at risk. See: www.ndis.gov.au/providers/housing-and-living-supports-and-services/providing-home-modifications#complex-home-modification-chm-assessments

Housing and support under the NDIS

People whose disability prevents them from living in a mainstream housing option may be eligible for SDA funding. Support coordinators should assist them in gathering relevant evidence and submitting it to the NDIA. The SDA panel decides whether SDA is a reasonable and necessary support for them.

SDA is housing specially designed or modified to suit the needs of people who have an 'extreme functional impairment' or 'very high support needs'. You can find out more about SDA payments in our SDA payments

guide: www.summerfoundation.org.au/resources/sda-payments-guide/

NDIS support coordinators and allied health professionals need to understand how the NDIA applies Section 32, reasonable and necessary, of the *NDIS Act 2013*, to housing-related supports, particularly SDA. They also need to understand Parts 3 and 4 of the *SDA Rules 2016*, SDA eligibility criteria.

People under 65 in residential aged care or at risk of admission to RAC, with complex disability support needs, whose disability prevents them living in a mainstream housing option, may only need to submit a Participant Housing Statement between 2 and 5 pages long. Submit the Participant Housing Statement with supporting documentation to the NDIA. Supporting documentation includes allied health assessments, carer statements, RAC care plans, incident and police reports. We have developed a [Participant Housing Statement template](#) to assist.

For all other NDIS participants testing their eligibility for SDA, we recommend submitting a Housing Plan. See our How to Write a Housing Plan Guide and Template, www.summerfoundation.org.au/resources/how-to-write-a-housing-plan/ Providing extensive evidence to the NDIA supports people's choice and control and guards against the NDIA funding them to live in a group home.

Considerations

The decision to supplement allied health reports with a Housing Plan or a Participant Housing Statement rests with the participant. Consider the circumstances and preferred housing outcome when the decision is being made.

Transition Plan

We also recommend that NDIS support coordinators and allied health professionals collaborate with the person to develop and submit a transition plan. A transition plan should detail all the capacity building supports that the person will require to transition into a new housing and support arrangement. Consider what's needed to build a person's capacity to prepare for moving, to move, and to establish a sustainable tenancy in their preferred housing with a sustainable mix of NDIS and mainstream supports.

The transition plan must include evidence-based reports by allied health professionals based on validated assessments that document the capacity building required to establish a sustainable tenancy.

Helpful resources

This guide is part of a series of NDIS housing information resources prepared by the Summer Foundation. You can access the other resources here: www.summerfoundation.org.au/ndis-housing-resources/

Complete the SDA Participant Housing Statement using the information provided by the person you're working with and captured in My Housing Preferences: www.summerfoundation.org.au/resources/my-housing-preferences/

NDIS allied health professionals must undertake recognised assessments and provide written reports that address the eligibility criteria set out in Parts 3 and 4 of the *SDA Rules 2016*: www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2019C0025

Allied health professionals should read Valid's 10 steps to excellent NDIS allied therapy reports: www.valid.org.au/10-steps-excellent-ndis-therapy-reports

The Summer Foundation's Allied Health Housing Assessments Guide (www.summerfoundation.org.au/resources/allied-health-housing-assessments/) lists validated assessments for various impairments. It also contains a sample service agreement to assist in ensuring allied health professionals are capable of providing relevant assessments that address the *SDA Rules 2016*.

Allied health assessments checklist

Explain how SDA will:

- Assist the person in achieving their goals
- Prevent the deterioration of the person's condition
- Support the person to maintain or regain function and maximise their independence
- Build the person's capacity
- Provide value for money
- Facilitate the delivery of appropriate supports for the person, given their age and current life stage

Ensure the allied health professional reports recommend:

- The SDA response that will best facilitate the delivery of person-to-person supports.
- The SDA design category that best meets the environmental needs described in the report.
- The person's preferred building type and the reasons behind their preference. Do they link the building type back to the person's goal and provide information on how it can maximise the person's independence?
- The person's preferred occupancy arrangements and the reasons behind their preference. Do they link the occupancy arrangements back to the person's goal and provide information on how it can maximise the person's independence?
- The person's preferred location and the reasons behind their preference. Do they link the preferred location back to the person's goal and provide information on how it can maximise the person's independence?
- Prescriptions for all equipment and assistive technology the person needs.

Overall checklist

- Participant Housing Statement
- Allied health reports, including any current or future risks and mitigation strategies
- Transition plan
- Equipment and assistive technology prescriptions

You can provide feedback on these resources to penny.paul@summerfoundation.org.au