

Annual Public Forum

Q & A resource

PATHWAYS TO SDA

Is there anything you would recommend in how we can support a person who may be apprehensive to explore SDA or not ready to move out of their current living situation, even if the current situation is not ideal?

It is important for a person to take all the time they need to make these life changing decisions. It is also important to take time to understand why a person is feeling a certain way or why they may be feeling reluctant. These issues should be unpacked and addressed by someone the person trusts and who also knows how to help – this could be a support coordinator or LAC or YPIRAC NDIA planner.

People with psychosocial disability who act in a way that puts themselves or others at risk find it really hard to source SDA in Victoria, even though they have approval for SDA - what should they do?

Our Housing Hub team is working with people with disability to build a 'big picture' map of their housing needs and preferences. This big picture map will help to connect people with disability to housing providers.

You can contact a team member from the relevant state to discuss this if you wish.

<https://www.housinghub.org.au/resources/article/housing-hub-team>

The pathway to SDA has also been slowed by the fact that the participants need to go through different levels of short then medium-term accommodation before being approved for SDA.

Sometimes this happens for people when the NDIA decides there isn't enough evidence to support the 'SDA needs requirement', and from the evidence they have, they think the person may be able to live in non-SDA housing.

To be eligible for SDA, it is not mandatory for a person to go to an interim housing option (such as short-term accommodation or medium-term accommodation) prior to SDA. These interim funding options are for people who are not yet able to move into their long-term housing option, which may be SDA.

I have received advice that I am unable to support my client to look for SDA options unless the plan has SDA approval. Apparently, this is a new direction from NDIS implemented in July [2020]. Is this the case and if so, why are participants being blocked from searching for options? How will my participants know what/where are good options without the search process?

Our Tenancy Matching Service has supported over 375 people to find SDA housing and many of those people did not have SDA in their plans when we started working with them. A person can be determined for SDA by the NDIA without having found a suitable SDA property yet and they can search for SDA housing while at the same time, be completing the assessments for SDA determination.

You can contact a team member from the relevant state to discuss this if you wish. Please refer to:

<https://www.housinghub.org.au/resources/article/housing-hub-team>

What if your adult child has high physical disability, but also has an I.D, and mental illness and is not able to express their needs around their housing, are their parents able to express what housing is appropriate because of the high needs?

People with disability have the right to express who they want to live with, where they want to live and how they want to live. Sometimes they are unable to do this without significant help from someone that knows them very well, like a family member. You could use the Summer Foundation's www.summerfoundation.org.au/resources/guide-to-developing-a-participants-housing-statement/ to help have that discussion or to express the person's needs on their behalf. There is also the Summer Foundation's www.summerfoundation.org.au/resources/my-housing-preferences/

We often hear from people who think they are ineligible for SDA because of what they have read on the NDIS website about high needs; frequently this language is off-putting for people who consider themselves quite independent - as long as they have the right equipment, home, support, etc. Perhaps more eligible participants would apply for SDA if the language was less restrictive.

As you say, to be eligible for SDA you must have an extreme functional impairment or very high support needs. Our Housing Hub Eligibility Checker may help people understand in easier language if you are eligible for Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) funding. Please refer to: www.housinghub.org.au/resources/category/are-you-eligible-for-sda?ak=6g4CbXFN7AxcGifeumMSDS&at=Housing%20Seekers