Navigating Disability Housing In The NDIS Context Accessible Slides

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## Navigating Disability Housing in the NDIS Context

Unpacking SDA, SIL, and Victorian regulatory requirements

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## Welcome

The changing landscape of disability

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## The entwined nature of housing and the Victorian regulatory environment

National Disability Services

Pascale Dreyer

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## Transition of disability housing and supports

* Disability housing in Victoria was previously funded as an integrated model of support and accommodation, reflected in the term ‘supported accommodation’
* NDIS funding model separates the delivering of disability housing into two different support types
* Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA)
* Supported Independent Living (SIL)
* Existing quality safeguards remain in place during transition

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## The split between SIL and SDA

* The SDA Position Pater (June 2016) states: ‘the Agency expects SDA and SIL to be separable and ultimately separately provided.’
* There is a recognition that there will be a transition period. As a result providers delivering both SIL and SDA will need to:
* Provide the participant with separate Service Agreements
* Have a robust conflict of interest policy in place

| **Specialist Disability Accommodation** | **Supported Independent Living** |
| --- | --- |
| Accommodation and tenancy management | Direct support e.g. personal care supports |
| Property Maintenance and repairs | Support to manage household tasks e.g. meal preparation |
| Vacancy management |  |

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## Specialist Disability Accommodation

* Intended to stimulate growth and investment in disability housing
* Anticipated that only 6% of NDIS participants will be eligible
* There are continuity of support arrangements for participants who are non-eligible for SDA living in existing group homes
* Eligibility requirements include:
* Extreme or complete functional impairment due to disability
* Very high support needs (including house needs)
* Suitable alternative supports and pathways have been considered

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## Transitional quality and safeguards

* Disability Act (2006) and considerations when delivering a Residential Service
* Quality and safeguards imposed via support provider (SIL)
* Required to have a Residential Statement in place
* Responsible for duties of a ‘landlord’, such as maintenance and repairs, providing notice to vacate and offering residency
* Fire safety management, including compliance of building
* Compliance with vacancy management policy

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## New policies and processes

* NDIA: SDA dwelling types, registration and enrolment
* DHHS: Offering Residency in Specialist Disability Accommodation: Policy and Standards
* DHHS: Sample Collaboration Agreement
* DHHS: Department of Health and Human Services’ Building Code of Australia requirements for fire risk management in NDIS Specialist Disability Accommodation in Victoria – Summary guidelines (pending)

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## What does this mean?

* SDA and SIL providers must have an understanding as to whether or not the dwelling and service is defined as a ‘residential service’
* SIL will be provided in non-SDA, these may or may not be defined as ‘residential services’
* SIL providers must determine their approach and relationship with SDA providers to meet their obligations under the Disability Act 2006
* SDA providers must understand how obligations of a SIL provider impacts on their dwellings and build requirements

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## Thank you

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## Supported Independent Living (SIL) Quoting Policy Framework

National Disability Services

Stephanie Worsteling

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## Context

* NDIS Trial 2013-16 – Most providers were happy to accept plans with SIL benchmark prices
* NDIS 1st year transition 2016-17 – Significant increase in providers submitting SIL quotes above benchmark
* NDIS 2nd year transition 1 July 2017 – New policy which requires providers to submit SIL quotes for **all** participants

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## Providers’ experience

* Most SIL quotes are being approved at benchmark prices
* SIL quotes above benchmark require evidence for a higher level of support
* Approval timelines vary – it appears to be improving
* Communication from the Agency has been inconsistent
* Organisations experiencing cash flow issues have had a Service Booking created by the Agency at the SIL benchmark price to allow providers to claim – this practice is inconsistent

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## Provider tips

* Read the SIL Pack Training Guide and FAQ
* Calculate the SIL quote based on the annual number of hours using the relevant support line items from the price guide
* Both SIL quoting templates must be complete and contain consistent information
* Confirm the quote has been received
* The SIL quote should reflect staff rosters, or a justification of additional hours with evidence
* When the quote is approved, check whether other relevant supports are included in the plan

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## Provider considerations

* If participants have an interest or plans to go on a holiday, they need to discuss this in the planning session
* Understand if there is a gap between what it costs your organisation to deliver SIL for each individual and the SIL funding approved by the Agency, e.g. transport
* Review your staff to understand whether shift finish times attract loadings/penalty rates for the whole shift

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## Submitting quotes

* Submit individual quotes, even if you are submitting quotes for multiple residents in one house
* NDIA SIL Quote email addresses:
  1. Vic West – [vicwestsil@ndis.gov.au](mailto:vicwestsil@ndis.gov.au)
  2. Vic North – [silquotes.vicnorth@ndis.gov.au](mailto:silquotes.vicnorth@ndis.gov.au)

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## Thank you

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