



An ordinary life at home

We want to know what you think

Easy Read version

June 2021



ndis

[ndis.gov.au](https://www.ndis.gov.au)

How to use this paper



The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) wrote this paper. When you see the word 'we', it means the NDIA.



This paper is written in an easy to read way.
We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold
Not bold

We have written some words in **bold**.
This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.
There is a list of these words on page 37.



This Easy Read paper is a summary of another paper.



You can find the other paper on **our website**.



You can ask for help to read this paper.
A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

What's in this paper?

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What is this paper about?



We want to make the NDIS easier to use.

We also want to make sure it is:



- fairer



- **consistent.**



When something is consistent, it is done the same way every time.



We are making a new Home and Living **Policy**.



A policy is:

- a plan for how we should do things
- where rules come from.

We explain our Home and Living Policy on page 15.



Before we write our policy, we want to find out what the community thinks.

This includes:



- people with disability



- families and carers



- disability organisations.



In this paper we:

- suggest how we could change things
- explain how you can tell us what you think.

Our vision



Our **vision** is what we want home and living supports to be like in the future.



We want you to think about how you want to live your life at home.



We want you to be able to make decisions about what you need.



We want you to have the same chances to make life decisions as everyone else.



At the moment, many home and living supports aren't available.



It can be hard to change your home and living supports.



At the moment too many people with disability are expected to live in:

- large group homes
- boarding homes.



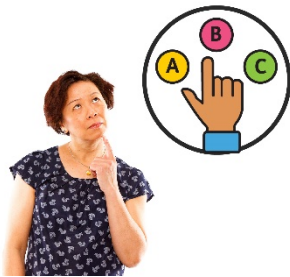
These are places where people with disability:

- live together
- get support.



But they don't often get to choose:

- who else lives there
- how the home is run.



It can be hard to understand all the choices you must make.



And meetings about your plan don't focus on your needs.

Funding



We want you to understand how to use your **funding** to live life the way you want to live it.



We can support you to do this.



Funding is the money from your plan that pays for the supports and services you need.



You use funding to pay for supports and services.

Home and living funding doesn't include things like:



- rent



- groceries



- household bills, such as electricity or gas.

Funding from the government

To live an ordinary life like other Australians, you can use funding from:



- the NDIS



- other government services.



We will work with governments to make sure you get the right support from the right service.



You might also use your own money to pay for supports and services.



You can work out if you must pay for a support or service.

Ask yourself if someone without a disability would have to pay for that support or service.



If the answer is yes, then you might have to pay for that support or service yourself.

What are home and living supports?

Home and living supports include:



- support at home to be more **independent**



- changing your home to suit your needs.



When you are independent, you can do things for yourself.



Individualised Living Options (ILO) is a new way of setting up the support you want at home.



The support you get from your ILO is different for each person.

You can use ILO supports to decide:



- how you want to live



- where you want to live



- who you want to live with.

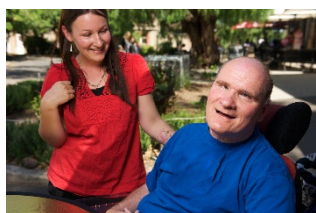


ILO doesn't include the house you live in.

ILO can pay for other types of support, not just:



- group homes



- carers.

Most people who have ILO live with:



- a host – someone who runs your home



- a housemate.

A new Home and Living Policy



Our new Home and Living Policy will put all the information about home and living supports together.

Our new Home and Living Policy will make it easier for you to choose:



- where you live



- who you live with



- who supports you.



At the moment we have 7 main ideas we want our Home and Living Policy to focus on.



We will add ideas people give us to our Home and Living Policy.

On the following pages we explain:



- the 7 ideas



- how to tell us what you think.

1. Changing how we talk about your home



When we talk about your home, we want to focus on how your home can help you have a good life.

We want your home to be a place:



- you enjoy living in
- to relax and be yourself
- where friends and visitors are welcome
- where you feel safe and secure.

At the moment we talk about support categories instead of:



- your needs



- what you want.



We want to talk about home and living supports in a new way at planning meetings.



We want you to have choices about your home just like other people do.

We will focus on 4 themes:



- Where you live



- Who you live with



- Who supports you



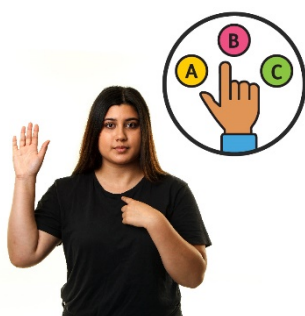
- The things you use.

2. Supporting you to know your options



Choosing the right home and living supports can:

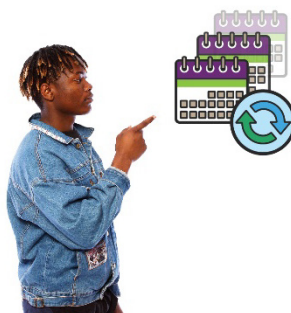
- be hard
- take a lot of time.



You might need to try different options to work out which ones suit your needs.



Our Home and Living Policy will help you understand your options before you choose how to use your funding.



It will also help us plan ahead if you need to change your home and living supports soon.

This could include if:



- you live with older parents



- you are a young person who wants to move out of your family home



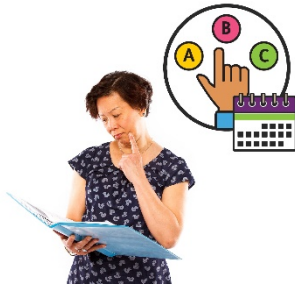
- you are leaving aged care or a group home



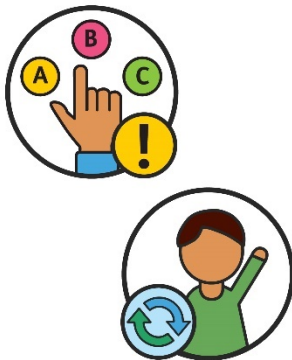
- you are leaving a long stay in hospital



- the home you live in now doesn't meet your needs.



If you can get information about home and living supports early, it gives you more time to look at different options.



This also gives you more time to:

- make important decisions
- feel ready for change.

3. More support for decision making

It can be hard when your life changes in a big way, such as moving out of:



- home



- aged care.

We want to make sure you have:



- the information you need
- support to make decisions.



We will give you more information to help you make decisions.



For example, we can give you examples of different ways home and living supports can be combined.

We will give providers clear information about providing you with both:



- home and living supports

and



- **support coordination services.**



Support coordination services help you manage the supports and services in your plan.

This will help us:



- keep you safe



- make sure you can make your own decisions.

4. Changes to funding

We are changing how:



- we make your plan



- we give you funding



- you use your funding.



You can find out more about these changes on **our website.**

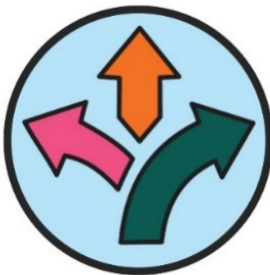
These changes will make funding more:



- consistent



- fairer



- flexible.



We will make sure you always have enough funding to pay for important supports.



We will talk to you about other home and living options if you:

- live in aged care or a group home
- want to hear about other options.

5. Personalised budgets

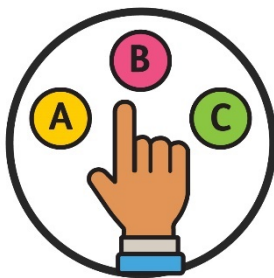


Your **budget** is how we split up your funding.



At the moment funding has 3 budgets.

You can only use these budgets for set supports and services.



We are changing how funding budgets work so you have more:

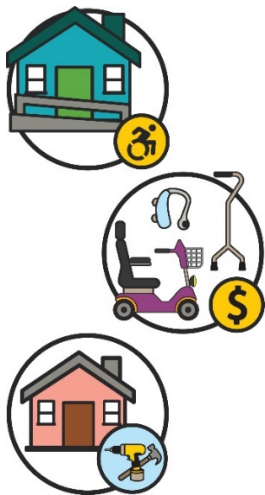
- choice
- control.



We want most funding to be flexible so you can choose what supports to spend your funding on.



Some funding for home and living supports will be fixed – you must spend it on certain supports.



For example, this might be for certain supports such as:

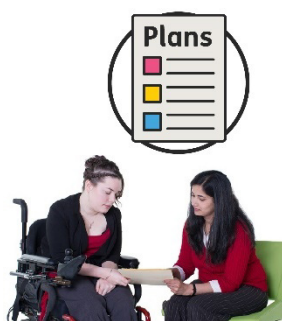
- Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA)
- assistive technology
- home modifications.



We will help you understand what your supports cost so you can decide what is best value for money.



We will tell you if you have fixed budgets.



We will show you examples of plans so you can decide how to use your funding for home and living supports.



We will give you support to choose how to use your funding.

6. Making sure everything works well



We want to make sure you have support from the NDIA to make decisions about your home and living supports.

This includes support from:



- **Local Area Coordinators (LACs)** – someone who helps people with disability find and use services and supports



- **NDIA Planners** – someone who makes new plans.



We will teach them how they can help you understand how to use your funding.



You may also have a **Support Coordinator** – someone who helps you plan and use your supports.



These people can also help you plan for times when something big in your life changes.

For example:



- you reach a new stage in life, like finishing school



- your disability needs change.



Your supports can move with you even if you change where you live.

We will also help connect you with:



- peer support groups, where you can talk about your experience with other people with disability



- mentors who guide you so you can do things well on your own.

7. Encouraging providers to offer more options

We want providers to think of new ways to offer home and living supports other than:



- group homes



- aged care.



We want providers to come up with new ways to support you to reach your goals.



We also want providers to use technology that can help you live like everyone else.



We will share examples of success stories so providers know what works well.

How to tell us what you think



We want to know what you think about our new approach to home and living supports.



This Easy Read paper is a summary of another paper.



The other paper has a list of questions we want to ask you.



You can find the other paper on our website at www.ndis.gov.au/community/have-your-say



You can also answer these questions on our website at

www.ndis.gov.au/community/have-your-say

Please tell us what you think by 5 pm
AEST on Friday 10 September 2021.

Other changes to the NDIS



We want to change how other parts of the NDIS work as well.



We wrote Easy Read papers about other things we want to change.



You can find a paper about support for decision making on **our website**.



You can find more information about independent assessments on **our website**.



You can find information about changing early intervention for young children on **our website**.



You can find information about changing NDIS plans and funding on **our website**.

More information



You can find out more about our new approach to home and living supports on our website.

www.ndis.gov.au/community/have-your-say



If you would like more information about what is in this paper, you can contact us.



www.ndis.gov.au



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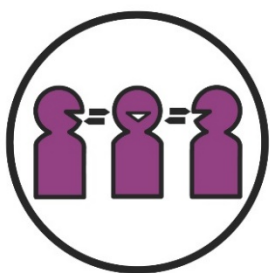
Support to talk to us



You can talk to us online using our webchat feature.

www.ndis.gov.au/webchat/start

If you speak a language other than English, you can call:



Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS)

131 450

If you have a speech or hearing impairment, you can call:



TTY

1800 555 677



Speak and Listen

1800 555 727



National Relay Service

133 677

www.relayservice.gov.au

Word list



Budget

Your budget is how we split up your funding.



Consistent

When something is consistent, it is done the same way every time.



Funding

Funding is the money from your plan that pays for the supports and services you need.



Independent

When you are independent, you can do things for yourself.



Individualised Living Options (ILO)

Individualised Living Options (ILO) is a new way of setting up the support you want at home.



Local Area Coordinator (LAC)

A Local Area Coordinator is someone who helps people with disability find and use services and supports



NDIA Planner

An NDIA Planner is someone who makes new plans.



Policy

A policy is:

- a plan for how we should do things
- where rules come from.



Support coordination services

Support coordination services help you manage the supports and services in your plan.



Support Coordinator

A Support Coordinator is someone who helps people with disability plan and use their supports.



Vision

Our vision is what we want home and living supports to be like in the future.



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