

National Disability Insurance Agency Update 15 October 2020

Update: Extension of coronavirus supports

Temporary measures introduced earlier this year to ensure participants continue to access their essential disability supports during the COVID-19 pandemic will be extended. Temporary measures that will be extended nationally until February 2021 include:

- eligible NDIS participants can use plan funding to purchase low-cost Assistive Technology, including smart devices (up to \$1500);
- greater plan flexibility to ensure access to supports; deep cleaning of residences in the event a support worker returns a positive COVID-19 test;
- additional support, including a deep cleaning service, for participants who test positive for COVID-19 or who are required to isolate who live in a Supported Independent Living (SIL) setting; and
- in Victoria, the continuation of a clinical first response through Aspen Medical for any identified outbreak, which will ensure that infection control procedures, personal protective equipment (PPE) and nursing support is in place for residents and workers, if needed.

In states most affected by COVID-19 outbreaks, funding of personal protective equipment (PPE) for participants (up to \$50 a week) and workers will also continue, with the ability to claim PPE in Victoria until at least the end of November and in NSW until the end of October.

More information about the [extension of coronavirus measures](#).

Guide to Plan Management

The National Disability Insurance Agency has released their [Guide to Plan Management](#).

The guide helps participants, their families and carers have a better experience and understanding of what to expect from plan management. The guide includes key principles to help ensure the service helps you to achieve your goals, independence and understand the agreement you have with your plan manager.

Find the Guide to Plan management [here](#). They have created an Easy Read version of the guide, you can find it [here](#).

More information about plan management is available on their website.

Supported Independent Living (SIL): consultation

We are working to improve Supported Independent Living (SIL). To ensure these improvements have a greater focus on participant choice and control we want your feedback. We have created a consultation paper that outlines our proposed next steps to make operational and billing process improvements.

Registered and non-registered providers, participants and their families, support coordinators and industry representatives can make submissions. Submissions close on 10:00am AEST Monday 19 October 2020.

A new Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) vacancy matching platform

The Housing Hub, a nationwide platform, is a way for people with disability to find suitable housing. You can search for properties from a range of housing providers, and also view a library of useful information about housing options and planning your move.

You can view SDA homes and learn more on the [Housing Hub website](#). More NDIS information about SDA can be found on their [website](#).

National Counselling and Referral Service

The National Counselling and Referral Service is available for people with a disability.

A counsellor can support you to talk about your feelings and emotions in a safe space to work out a problem or issue you may be facing; they can also support to engage with the Disability Royal Commission.

You can contact the National Counselling and Referral Service by calling 1800 421 468 or 02 6146 1468. The service is available 9am to 6pm weekdays (AEDT), and 9am to 5pm weekends and public holidays (AEDT).

More information including Auslan and Easy Read resources can be found on the [Department of Social Services website](#).