**Determining Need – Identifying Suitable**

**Housing Solutions**

**Guide to Support Development of Assessment and Report**

SIL is described as the support a person requires to live in a shared living environment with a focus on developing the skills of each individual to live as autonomously as possible.

The support is provided to each person living in the shared arrangement in accordance with their need; some examples of these living arrangements are Shared Supported Accommodation, Group Homes or Large Residential Facilities. The item prices do not include the cost of rent, board and lodging or other day to day usual living expenses such as food and activities.

Participants who receive Supported Independent Living supports in their plan may also be eligible to receive SDA.

Where a participant lives on their own with support, this is funded according to the physical support needs for the participant on an individual basis.

The support that is identified as being required to assist a person in their home is generally assessed by an Occupational Therapist.

**What is the Role of a Support Coordinator?**

A participant may already be closely linked or engaged with a Service Provider offering Support Coordination. Where a participant identifies with a goal of finding alternate housing, the support coordinator is required to coordinate the required assessments and perform the following tasks (which includes but is not limited to);

* Work closely with the participant and their support network to identify their housing and accommodation objectives;
* Consider all housing options to determine whether mainstream or public housing is a viable option;
* Consider whether the current living situation could be sustained if there was additional support to assist the participant and/or carers;
* Refer the participant to suitably qualified specialist assessors that have been recommended by the Agency to inform the Planner of their physical/cognitive/functional support needs for Specialist Disability Accommodation;
* Liaise with the Agency and inform the Planner/Representative of any changes to a participant’s circumstance regarding their need for Specialist Disability Accommodation
* Where there is an identified need by the Planner (i.e.: lack of informal supports, demonstrated crisis, requirement for additional assistance), refer the participant to a Support Coordinator with the skills to strengthen their ability to implement NDIS funded supports and monitor obligations from a variety of funded, mainstream, informal and community interfaces.

**Monitoring and Review**

Once the participant has successfully completed all required assessments, the Support Coordinator will be responsible for collating the required information and providing recommendations and advice to the Agency. The Support Coordinator will be required to;

* Provide the Agency with a comprehensive report once all assessments and specialist recommendations are obtained to support their SDA need. This report is expected to include an outcome response to the service provided by the Support Coordinator and contain all assessments completed by requested therapists.
* Develop a Life Transition plan for the participant, exploring collected therapeutic assessments with strategic and recommended supports to ensure a successful transition into their new living arrangement.
* Develop a Skill Development plan for participants that are considering moving out of home, in preparation for a life of greater autonomy and capacity for independence.
* If applicable, justification of additional funding required to meet the objectives, including estimation of hours, expected outcomes and how these outcomes will be measured.
* Provide evidence of progress made against objectives of the referral and completion of the Housing Reporting tool.
* Provide a recommendation of the type of housing appropriate to the participant based on evidence and information provided by the therapists and associated supports.

### Role of Specialist Assessors to inform the Agency of the most appropriate Housing and Support Options?

It is the responsibility of the referred specialist to complete a comprehensive therapeutic assessment of skills, abilities and needs to assess a person’s current level of cognitive and/or functional performance and to identify opportunities or interventions that will enhance that person’s ability to live more autonomously.

It is anticipated that during the completed therapeutic report, where identified as appropriate, will be accompanied by a request to design and supervise a skills development or other therapeutic program. The intention of this program would be to establish a skill development program or routine and implement strategies within the participant’s current living situation until a suitable SDA dwelling can be identified.

The Specialist will be required to provide advice to the Support Coordinator on suggested strategies or interventions that can be included in the current plan period to assist in developing capacity.

Specialist Assessors will be required to inform the agency where SDA is seen as the most appropriate housing support and reason why other service systems (public housing, community) would be unsuitable options.

**Suggested Assessment to Inform SDA and Individual Support Need**

#### **Occupational Therapist**

It is identified that many participants may require various assessments to determine their disability and housing support needs to transition to alternate accommodation.

* Full ADL (Activities of Daily Living) Assessment
* General Living Skills or Functional Capacity Assessment
* Assistive Technology and Home Modifications Assessment - Include current and proposed needs as they relate to new housing options.
* Sensory Assessment

These assessments will determine the participant’s current capacity to perform daily tasks; level of support required; and inform the planner of additional support needs that may be required to remain in their existing housing or when transitioning into new accommodation. These assessments will also be utilised to identify skill development and capacity building opportunities to support the participant to remain in their current housing or successfully live in their new residence.

Where qualified to do so, an Occupational Therapist is also able to provide a Sensory Assessment where participants with a Primary Disability of Autism is present. This may be utilised when a participant shows some behaviours of concern as a result of heightened reactivity to sound, touch or movement, difficulty accepting changes in routines or transitioning between tasks, poor sleeping patters, poor motor skills or seeks increased amount or auditory, tactile or movement.

**Psychologist**

Where a participant has behaviours of concern and requires behavioural intervention, a psychologist may be requested to complete a Behaviour Support Plan.

If a participant has a current Behaviour Support Plan, it is requested this be reviewed to ensure all recognised behaviours have strategies and recommendations to support the participant and carers in their new and existing environments.

**Speech Therapist**

Communication Assessment

Swallowing and meal management plan

#### **Physiotherapist**

Where a participant requires aids/equipment due to mobility, a Mobility assessment will support the Planner in identifying the type of dwelling/modified dwelling that would suit the participant, it is important for the Physiotherapist to capture the support the participant requires both inside and outside of the home, for example, will ramp access to the building be required?

A physiotherapist is able to review and monitor prescribed exercise programs and will develop carer training to support the participant maintain their functional mobility. Physiotherapists develop prescribe and review suitable exercise programs (including hydrotherapy) to maintain functional mobility. The physiotherapist will require ongoing reviews with the participant to revise the program, provide more support to carers in any exercise changes and also monitor the program to access individual outcomes.

Physiotherapy assessment may include a review of current mobility, transfers, mobility equipment needs and suitable serf managed exercise programs to maintain functional mobility.

What type of living situation is the participant currently in?

* Does the participant live at home with parent/s, shared supported accommodation or a residential facility.
* Detail the environment; how many people live in the home, does the participant have their own living area and bathroom.
* Are there aides/equipment the participant currently uses within the home (home modifications).

What are the reasons the participant wishes to move from their current home?

* Determine whether the participant wants to move because they are unhappy the support/residents/environment.
* Identify whether the participant wants to remain in their home, however doesn’t feel they are being given reasonable support (ie: aging parents).
* Does the current living arrangement impact the participant’s ability to engage in social, community and/or economic participation?

Is the currently living situation unsuitable for the participant?

* If the living situation is not suitable – list the reasons why additional intervention would not improve the living situation.

Has the participant been requested to seek alternate accommodation by their service provider?

Are there risks associated with the current living situation?

* If yes, please list the risks and any strategies previously used.

Describing the participant’s Informal and Community support network.

What supports (current and past) has the NDIA funded to support the participant in their existing (or previous) home?

Describe how Specialist Disability Accommodation will benefit the participant?

Has the participant lived out of home in the past (if currently residing in the family home)?

Is the participant able to live with others? If No – reasons why.

Does the participant require significant mobility support needs?

Does the participant require significant support to communicate their needs?

Does the participant require significant personal care support?

Does the participant require a specific dwelling type as a result of their disability?

Has the participant been supported to explore Private, Public and Community Housing initiatives?

What alternative housing options have been considered that would achieve the same outcome as SDA?

Would the participant’s identified housing goal improve their current level of independence, social and economic participation?

Is the support required directly related to the participant’s disability?

Additional Comments to support the participant’s need for Specialist Disability Accommodation:

Are there Specialist Disability Accommodation dwellings available once SDA need is determined?

**Support Coordination End of Service Report and Advice**

Participant details:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Full Name** |  |
| **NDIS Number** |  |

### (Support Coordinator) Service Provider details:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Service provider name** |  |
| **Contact phone number** |  |
| **Author of report** |  |

### Comprehensive Specialist Assessments Required:

* The comprehensive report must inform the agency of the significant impact the participant’s disability has on their ability to be supported by mainstream housing options, or identify how the provision of SDA will increase independence and reduce risk to the participant.
* The specialist reports need to be complemented with a Skill Development strategy or documented recommendation that will assist the participant and their supports to build capacity and develop skill while they are transitioning to alternate accommodation.

| SPECIALIST | RESONSE |
| --- | --- |
| **Occupational Therapist** | **YES**   **NO**  Specialist Assessment Report and Skill Development Recommendations/Strategies included in final report.  **Date of Report:**  **Specialist Name/Provider:** |
| **Psychologist** | **YES**   **NO**  Specialist Assessment Report and Skill Development Recommendations/Strategies included in final report.  **Date of Report:**  **Specialist Name/Provider:** |
| **Speech Therapist** | **YES**   **NO**  Specialist Assessment Report and Skill Development Recommendations/Strategies included in final report.  **Date of Report:**  **Specialist Name/Provider:** |
| **Physiotherapist** | **YES**   **NO**  Specialist Assessment Report and Skill Development Recommendations/Strategies included in final report.  **Date of Report:**  **Specialist Name/Provider:** |
| **Other (please state)** | **YES**   **NO**  Specialist Assessment Report and Skill Development Recommendations/Strategies included in final report.  **Date of Report:**  **Specialist Name/Provider:** |

### Comprehensive Support Coordination Response:

The support coordinator report and response is required to inform the agency of the significant impact the participant’s disability has on their capacity to be supported by mainstream or community housing options and inform the need of SDA.

Please refer to the Support Coordinator Checklist if assistance is required when responding to the SDA assessment report.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Plan Goal  Identified by participant in NDIS plan |  |
| Describe the participant’s current living situation and the reasons the wish to move from their current home? |  |
| Describe why the current living situation is unsuitable for the participant. |  |
| Describe the risks associated with the current living situation? |  |
| Describing the participant’s Informal and Current support network and ensure SDA does not replace informal support systems. |  |
| Describe the supports (current and past) the NDIA has funded to support the participant in their existing (or previous) home? |  |
| Describe how Specialist Disability Accommodation will benefit the participant? |  |
| Advise whether the participant has lived out of home in the past (if currently residing in the family home)? And outcome from this experience. |  |
| Is the participant able to live with others? If No – reasons why.  Please advise the specialist assessments or advice that advises why the participant is unable to live with others. |  |
| Does the participant require a specific dwelling type as a result of their disability? (ie: does the OT report indicate a need for a specific dwelling type or modification) |  |
| Please describe the type of housing exploration that has been completed to support the participant (ie: has public/private housing been explored and subsequent outcomes).  What alternative housing options have been considered that would achieve the same outcome as SDA? |  |
| Would the participant’s identified housing goal improve their current level of independence, social and economic participation?  Do the assessments indicate increased independence with a new accommodation setting? |  |
| Please confirm the support required is directly related to the participant’s disability. Refer to specialist assessments such as OT.  Ensure there isn’t duplication or alternate service obligations with mainstream health services. |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Additional Comments to support the participant’s need for Specialist Disability Accommodation: |  |
| Support Coordinator recommendations for housing as per Specialist Reports. |  |
| If appropriate housing is not yet available (that meets participant need for SDA), please advise of the skill development or capacity  Building activities that will be implemented in this plan period. |  |
| Next steps/strategy for housing within the duration of this plan period. |  |
| If appropriate housing is available, please provide advice on a ‘Housing Transition plan’ for the participant, highlighting additional funding that may be required from the Agency to support the participants Change of Circumstance (moving into a new home). |  |
| Will additional supports be required for the participant to ensure they are able to successfully transition into their new home? |  |
| Please provide any other advice or recommendations |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Support Coordinator Name/Agency |  |
| Date Report Completed |  |