

Supported Living Fund

Principles, Eligibility and Suitability

The Supported Living Fund (SLF) is an initiative that aims to provide people with a disability, their families and carers greater opportunity to create a good life, build sustainable networks and person centred living arrangements. The Supported Living Fund is a recurrent source of funding which is individualised and portable.

The focus is on giving people with a disability, their families and carers a truly flexible and person centred option in the planning of ongoing supports to sustain a living arrangement and helping them to live in a 'home of their own'¹. What this looks like and how it is achieved will reflect the aspirations of the individual and their network of support.

The Supported Living Fund is not considered to be a 'program' or 'type of service' and how people access and use the Supported Living Fund will be varied. It is also envisaged that people may utilise the fund as either a recurrent or one-off source, and their level of assistance from the Supported Living Fund may change over time. The average amount of a Supported Living Fund package will be \$50,000 per person per annum.

The Supported Living Fund is designed to enable people with a disability, their family and carers to have the central role in determining the supports they receive and how they receive them.

Principles

The Supported Living Fund will:

Be person centred and individualised: The person with disability, their family and support network will be assisted to build a vision, to plan and to have choice and control over the important decisions that affect their lives.

Be genuinely inclusive: Supports facilitate meaningful participation and inclusion in the community and actively engage others formally and informally regarding a person's support arrangements.

Promote choice and control: Supports are provided in a manner that suits the person with a disability who together with his/her family, carer and support network will be able to determine when, where, how and by whom supports are provided and where and with whom the person lives. The supports will be directed by and responsive to the changing needs of the person with a disability, their family and carers, providing ongoing opportunities for challenges and growth.

Be culturally responsive: Support and planning considers and reflects the cultural and linguistic background of the person with a disability, their family and carers.

¹ A 'home of their own' will reflect the vision and choice of the person and their network of support, and this will vary accordingly. 'Home' relates to the living arrangement, not an asset or a capital purchase.

Value and respect relationships: Support and planning values and respects the relationships a person with disability has with family, carers and other important people, values and respects their contributions and emphasises identification, development and support of relationships and meaningful networks.

Be life building: The focus of support is long term with an ongoing pursuit of autonomy and lifelong personal fulfillment of the person with a disability.

Separate housing and support functions: Security of tenancy rights for the person with a disability is distinct and not contingent to the provision of any support, and governance functions are separate. The person with a disability can change their residence and/or support provider as required.

Be accessible: People with a disability, their family and carers will have access to the information they need, in the format they need, to assist them to be able to set goals and make plans, decisions and choices about their life.

Provide learning opportunities and capacity building: There will be opportunities for people with a disability, their family, carers, networks and the local community to learn about new ideas, best practice, to share information, resources, and successes, and to build their individual and joint capacity.

Be cost effective: Individual budgets, designed by the person and their support network, will reflect a mix of support options from the resources available. It will focus on what can be obtained through community, informal and other identified programs or sources, with a focus on developing increased informal supports.

Be responsive: Through ongoing reflection, review and support people with a disability and their networks will drive the ongoing review of their own goals, supports and living arrangements, so that support is reflective of changing needs and future aspirations.

Be accountable: A simple record keeping system will provide evidence of expenditure against an agreed individual budget, and will be in keeping with Government accountability requirements.

Eligibility

People eligible to receive a Supported Living Fund package will be required to meet the following criteria:

- Adults (18– 64 years²) with a disability as defined by the *NSW Disability Services Act 1993*
- are resident of NSW
- are interested in living in a 'home of their own', with a mix of informal and formal/paid support arrangements that are adequate and sustainable

² Young people with a disability under the age of 18 may be considered in exceptional circumstances

Suitability

- people with a disability and their family/carers are not in crisis
- people with a disability have an understanding of the Supported Living Fund and are committed to making it work
- people with a disability, their family and carers can demonstrate that an informal support network exists or has the capacity to be developed
- a person's living arrangements can be sustained within his/her plan and within the allocated budget using a mix of formal/paid and informal supports
- people with a disability currently have access to stable living arrangements and/or are willing to commit time to explore alternative living arrangements
- people with a disability, their family and carers are interested in providing feedback about their experience.