

A comprehensive guide to home and living options:

- What are the home and living options?
- What's the difference between Supported Independent Living (SIL), Individualised Living Options (ILO) and Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA)?
- How does home and living funding work/ what is included?
- How do I get home and living funding included in my NDIS plan, and when should I apply for it?

Presenting tonight:

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Acknowledgement of Country

I would like to begin today by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, and pay my respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today.



Moving out?

- Moving into a new house is a big thing!
- Think about why you want to move and where you want to move to. Talk to your family, friends and your NDIS supports.
- There are many options including both mainstream and NDIS options
- The NDIA, your support coordinator and your OT will be great support through this process as well as informal supports to help you to transition into a home and living option that is right for you.



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Mainstream
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Support



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Individual Living
Options



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Mainstream housing options:

You might be thinking, why are we looking into mainstream options? Well each individual needs to explore the below mainstream options before being considered for NDIS options.

Here are some mainstream options:

- Family/ own home
- Public housing
- Private rental
- Sharing with friends
- Home sharing

*** It might be the case that there is a combination of mainstream and NDIS support that is required. The OT doing the housing assessment will assess all options and write their recommendations.*



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Supported Independent Living

- Supported Independent Living (SIL) is help with and/or supervision of daily tasks in a shared living environment, with a focus on developing the skills of each individual to live as independently as possible. It is the paid personal supports and is most commonly used in shared living arrangements.



What support is covered in SIL?

Person to person support with:

- supervision, safety and security
- Assistance with personal care tasks
- Assistance with capacity building tasks (meal prep and cooking, cleaning, routine development, etc.)
- Behaviour support and social skill development
- Administration of medication
- Support for medical appointments



What is not covered through SIL?

- Everyday living expenses (i.e. rent, utilities, groceries etc.)
- Other NDIS funded supports (i.e. transport, regular community access, therapy, employment support etc.)
- Personal care supports while the participant is in hospital
- Ongoing costs and supports for vacancies (which is built into the price limit)
- Specific funding for staff to attend training for the participant's support needs (which is built into the price limit)
- Shadow shifts
- Organisational management costs
- Vehicle costs



What are the SIL models?

→ Full Family Governance

Families of housemates come together and generally form some legal entity (e.g. a cooperative) through which they then fulfill all management functions required for the house to function. Such activities include Human Resource management, Financial Management, Training, IT, Compliance etc.) The positives of this model include high choice and control and maximum involvement from families. The negative for some is the amount of time etc required by the family governance committee and the sustainability of this post the ability of initial FGC members to continue. e.g. health, age etc.

→ Facilitated Family Governance

The provider fulfills all the backend management and administration roles (HR, Finance etc) but is accountable to the Family Governance committee. There is high choice and control for participants and families but without the high administrative involvement. It also provides for longer sustainability post initial FGC members.

→ Provider Governance

There is no formal structure to allow for involvement or control by participants and/or families. There may be some informal channels through which input can be provided but is generally limited.

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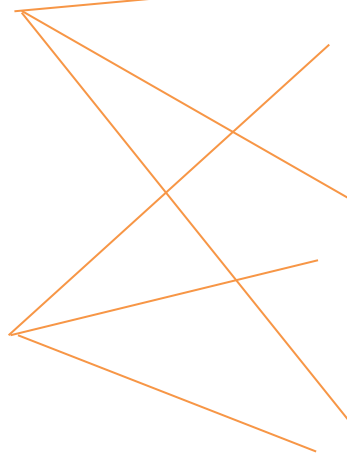
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Individualised Living Options (ILO)

- An individualised living option is support that helps you live in your chosen home environment in a way that best suits you. It's not the home itself.
- There are lots of choices with how you structure your individualised living options. Including a mix of both formal supports and informal supports such as family, friends and other networks.
- Individualised living option supports are added to your plan in two stages. The first stage is all about exploring and designing the individualised living option supports you want and need.
- The second stage is support to put those things in place. The support depends on how and where you want to live, and what supports you need.
- Individualised living option supports don't include support for activities outside your home, such as work or study, playing sport or going out.



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Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA)

SDA are the bricks and mortar and designed for people with significant functional impairments that require the home to be designed and modified for their needs. It does not include the staff in the home.

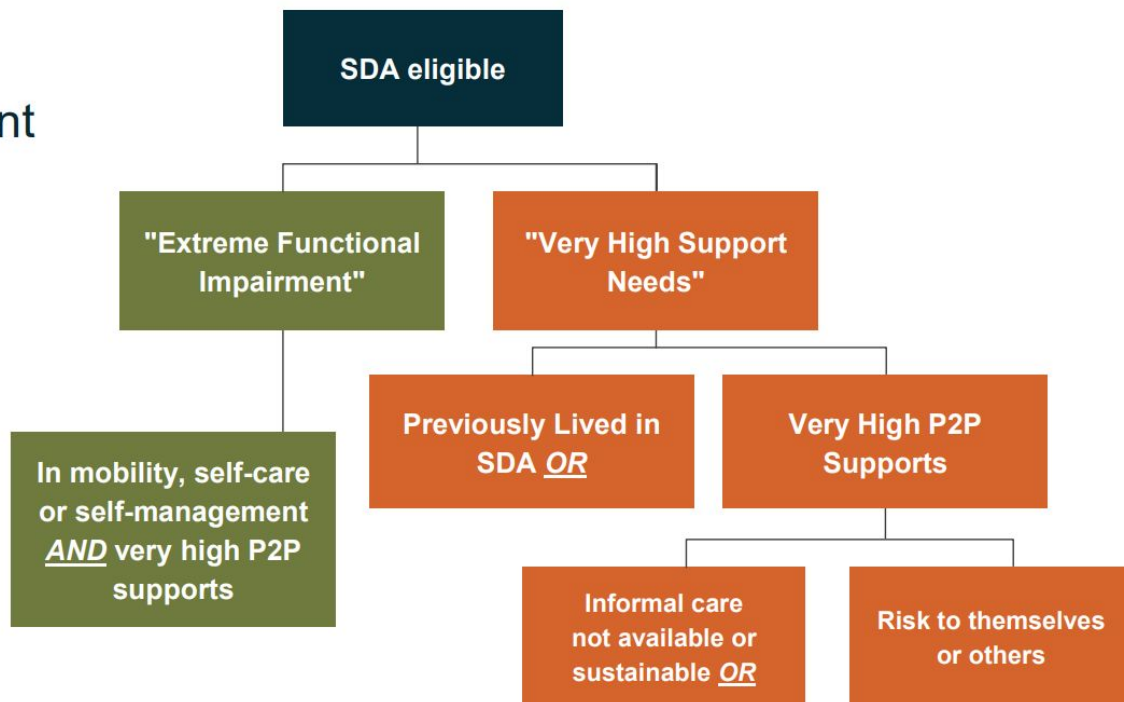
There are 4 SDA housing categories :

1. Improved livability by incorporating physical access and enhanced provision for people with sensory, intellectual or cognitive impairment.
2. Fully Accessible incorporates a high level of physical access provision for people with significant physical impairment
3. Robust Incorporates a reasonable level of physical access provision and be very resilient, reducing the likelihood of reactive maintenance and reducing the risk to the participant in the community.
4. High Physical Support Incorporates a high level of access provision for people with significant physical impairment and requiring very high levels of physical support.

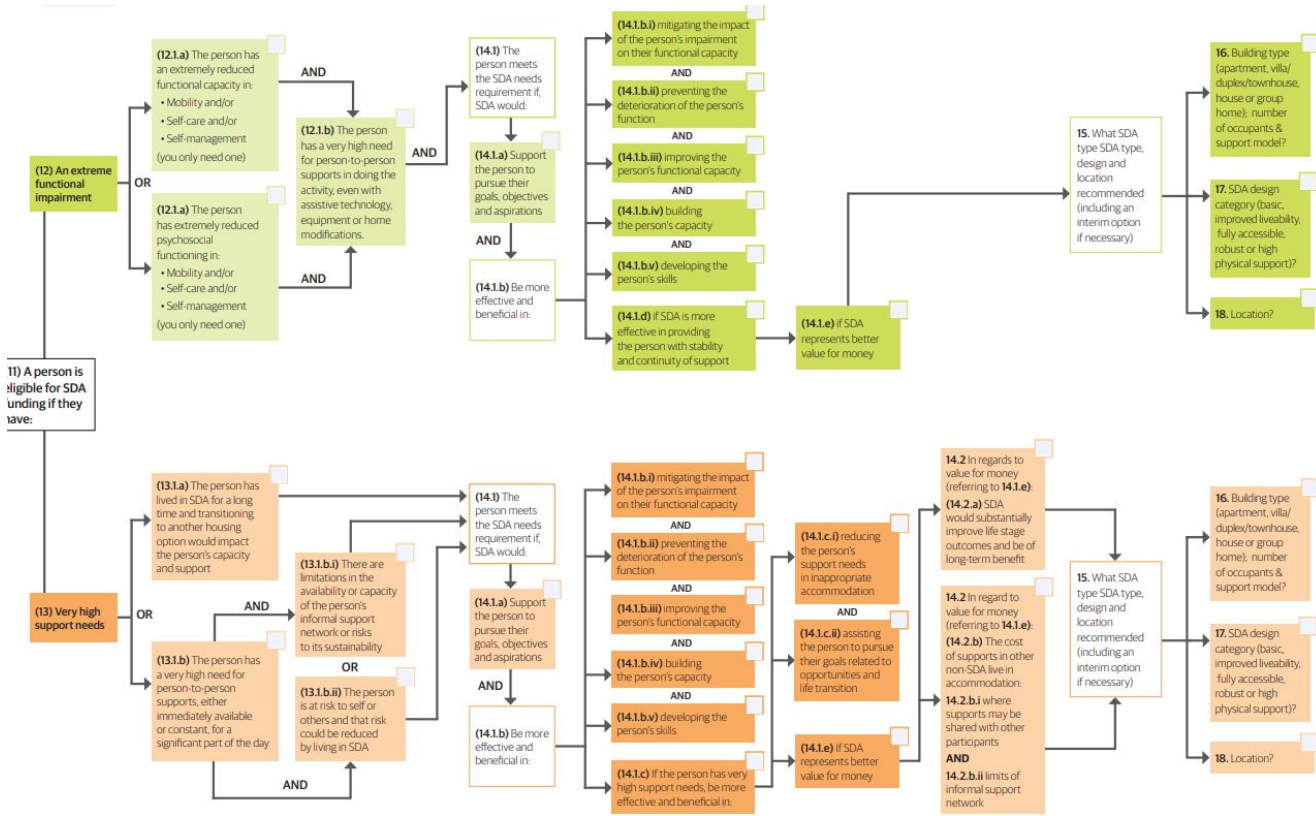


Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) eligibility

SDA
Assessment
Criteria



Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) eligibility

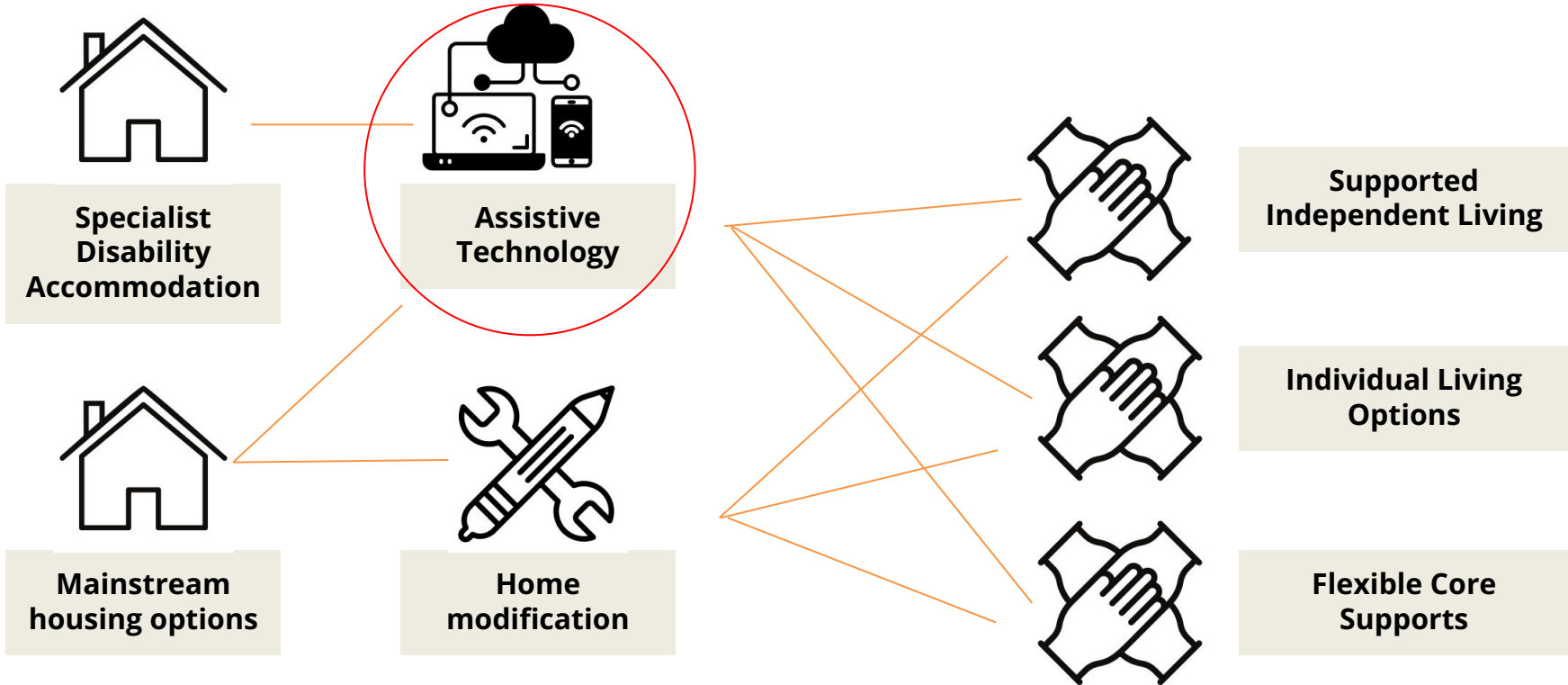


What SDA might look like in a plan:

Capital Supports	Budget
<p>Home Modifications</p> <p>Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) up to \$55,520.28 per year (Quote Required). I am eligible for SDA. While I live at my current address, my design category is Robust, building type is Villa / Duplex / Townhouse, 1 residents, location is Newcastle and Lake Macquarie. If I want to move address, I am still eligible for SDA but I will need to contact the NDIA for the next steps to assess my SDA amount.</p> <p>My Quote Required Stated Supports will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NDIA-managed Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA)	Quote required
Total Capital Supports	Quote required

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Assistive Technology

- Assistive technology may be what a person needs to increase their independence and result in being less reliant on physical support and mean they can complete the tasks independently.
- Assistive technology may be needed in combination with other options but it may be all an individual requires to live independently.
- There are different levels of assistive technology.



Assistive Technology overview - how to request

Low cost, low risk, level 1 and 2	Medium cost, level 3	High cost, high risk, level 4	Like for like replacement
<p>Items under \$1500</p> <p>Off the shelf items - can often be accessed at regular stores.</p> <p>Will be included as part of core Budget - no further evidence required before purchase.</p>	<p>Items between \$1500-5000</p> <p>Might need a little help/recommendation from therapist to find and implement</p> <p>Will be included as part of Capital Budget - support letter from therapist must be kept by participant after purchase.</p>	<p>Items above \$5000</p> <p>Will require specialist support to assess, fit and monitor use.</p> <p>Will require full assessment and AT application to be completed by therapist</p> <p>Will be included as part of Capital Budget as stated item.</p>	<p>Items under \$15000</p> <p>Items that have previously been funded but requires replacement due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wear and tear - Broken beyond repair - Dangerous to use - Outgrown <p>Quote and supporting letter from therapist.</p>

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Home modifications

- The NDIS offers reasonable and necessary funding for home modifications to access the dwelling and frequently used rooms to facilitate Activities of Daily Living (ADLs).
- The primary focus is the person's bedroom, living area, meal area and bathroom.

<https://www.ndis.gov.au/providers/housing-and-living-supports-and-services/providing-home-modifications>



How to get assessed/ funded supports?

If you feel NDIS funded supports are probably going to need to be explored when looking to live independently then you want to:

1. Request of a review either through a change of situation or scheduled reassessment request.
2. At the plan reassessment meeting you want to ensure that there is a home and living goal in your plan.
3. You want to request funding to explore housing options will give you funding for reports/ funding to trial short term accommodation/ funding for a support coordinator to help with the exploration of the housing options.
4. At this point you do not need to tell the NDIA planner or LAC which option as you have not been assessed.



Once you have funding:

1. You need to get a functional capacity assessment through the occupational therapist for home and living purposes. The OT will assess all home and living options both NDIS and mainstream will be explored through this process.
2. If there has not been any time spent away from the family home to see how it has worked/ not worked/ what ratios and supports were required then it is encouraged to do this as it provides evidence to the NDIA of what works/ does not work.
3. Once the report has been completed the support coordinator will need to complete the home and living form and if SDA then a section living options form.
4. All reports and evidence is submitted for a home and living decision to be made by the home and living team.

*** Historically the roster of care was used as a tool to help show the amount required for supported independent living but this is no longer the case. It can still be submitted however it isn't considered any longer as evidence.*

What's next?

- Once the decision is made around home and living (this can take about 90 days) you will receive a letter explaining the decision.
- You will then receive a new plan with the funding built into it (if this is supported independent living then it will be in the CORE budget and if it is SDA it will be in the Assistive Technology budget under home modifications. If ILO it will be under CORE).
- Once you have the letter and the amount that as been funded you can contact the housing provider or a housing provider to discuss the funding and whether they can support.
- If unhappy with the decision or it isn't in line with what your believe you need then the decision can go through the internal review process. If nothing changes then there is the option of going to AAT.

Recent changes in home and living options:

- Roster of Care templates are being used by providers and individuals to work out the schedule of support and ratios for the individual but the NDIA are no longer using it as a quote to fund to that amount for the individual.
- Home and living funding (ILO, SIL amounts) are being put in flexibly to the CORE budget so this can be utilized as the whole amount or between social and community and in home support amounts depending on the needs of the individual.
- Home and living reports (resource attached) that used to only be written by the support coordinator can be written by a family member or someone close to the individual.
- There have been a lot of reductions in funding in the home and living space which is putting a lot of pressure on providers to be able to provide the support that is needed so a lot more flexibility is needed to think about how to make the funding work.
- The NDIA want to see assistive technology and capacity building supports to build independence being thoroughly explored to help with the reduction of home and living costs in an individual's plan.

Key things to think about if starting the home and living process:

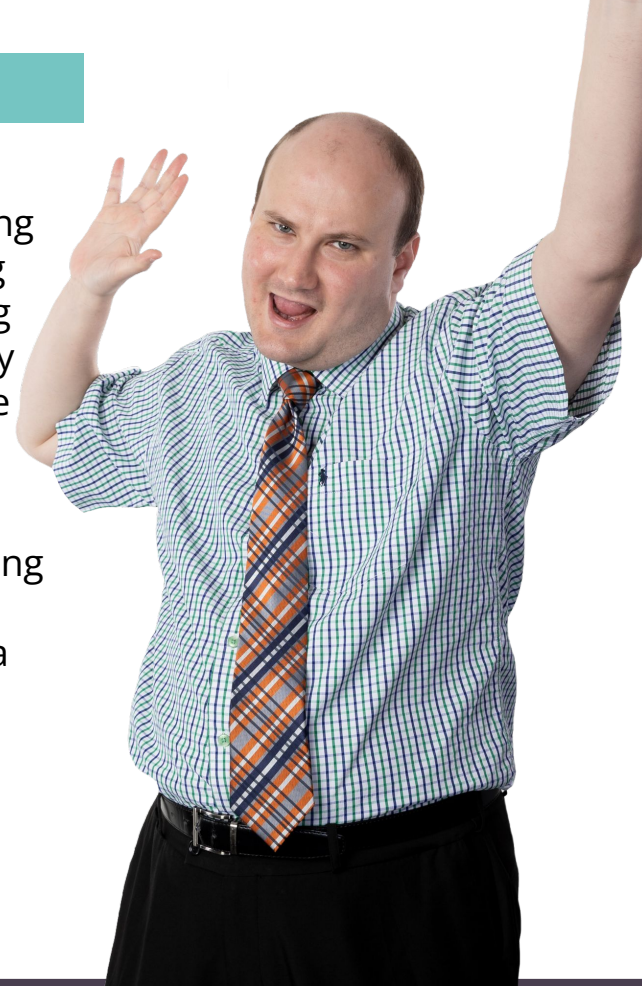
- Home and living funding doesn't pay for rent so how will you pay this?
- Most people use their DSP if they are not working, so applying for this if meeting the eligibility criteria.
- There is rental assistance through centrelink so ensuring everything is registered for that.
- If support is being provided by family members how will this be sustained long term?
- Is guardianship for living needed and if so going through that process.
- NDIS do not fund daily costs like bills and food so how will this be paid?
- If looking to rent privately considering the area and the cost of living/ rental prices in that area.

Summary of steps:

1. When it has been identified that you would like to explore home and living options and due to the functional impact of your disability living independently has not been possible in the past then going to the NDIA through a reassessment meeting to request a change in goals (to a housing goal) and then support to explore home and living options.
2. Once you have funding to explore options, finding an OT to do a home and living functional is step 1 and seeing the recommendations they are going to make. It can be at this point as well that you look at short term accommodation to see what works/ doesn't work and it can also be good at this point to apply for DSP if that is available for you and to look at guardianship if that is required.
3. Once the home and living functional is completed by the OT then having the support coordinator help with the home and living forms is really important.
4. Submitting all the evidence to the NDIA is the next step to request a change of situation/ submit to home and living team to decide eligibility.

Summary of steps:

5. Once you have the eligibility decision if it is correct then taking that decision and exploring options with the home and living providers (this can be done before the eligibility and funding is in however the home and living providers will generally say they would like you to get in touch once the decision is made but you can be put on their enquiry list or waiting list to be kept up to date).
6. Once you have found a provider and have funding it is working with the provider to put together the roster of care and to work through the practical side to be able to transition into a home and living option. This may include finding a private rental or house and only the funded support is accessed through the provider so having that discussion is important.



A final note:

- It is important to note this is a lengthy process and can take over 12 months so to start this process with good time rather than leaving it till it is urgent is preferred however we cannot always predict what the future holds so sometimes this is unavoidable .
- For medium term accommodation funding to be put in a person's plan they need to have a move in date for their home and living option. Short term accommodation is 28 days and then it turns into medium term accommodation.

