



PARLIAMENTARY JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME

SUPPORTED INDEPENDENT LIVING (SIL) REPORT TABLED

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme today tabled its report on Supported Independent Living (SIL).

SIL is a category of funding and supports under the NDIS, and refers to assistance with and supervision of daily tasks in the home to support participants to develop the capacity to live as independently as possible.

The committee believes that SIL has the potential to deliver transformational benefits for NDIS participants – by supporting them to develop the skills needed for independent living and by helping to maximise community participation.

“The committee appreciates that the NDIA has made a number of enhancements to the SIL regime and has several further initiatives in train. However, several issues associated with access to and the delivery of SIL supports persist and some of these must be remedied as a matter of urgency,” Committee Chair, the Hon Kevin Andrews MP said.

The unanimous report makes 45 recommendations to improve the operation of the SIL regime.

These focus on access to SIL for participants and providers, living arrangements for participants with SIL, the vacancy management process, funding for SIL, and other issues including access to supports in thin markets, decision support and advocacy.

“The committee has heard from submitters and witnesses that the current SIL regime is not living up to its promise and suffers from a number of issues with the potential to undermine choice and control for participants and to affect the viability of providers.”

“This is of particular concern given the significant portion of total NDIS funding committed to SIL supports, and the fact that a substantial number of participants accessing SIL have higher or more complex needs,” Mr Andrews said.

“The recommendations aim to maximise choice and control for participants, consistent with the underpinning principles of the NDIS, and to minimise financial and other hardship for participants and providers.”

The committee thanks all who participated in the inquiry by lodging submissions, giving testimony or expressing their views through correspondence.

The report is available on the committee's website:

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/National_Disability_Insurance_Scheme/Independentliving/Report.

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