# Market information request

Home and living demonstration projects

Round 1
ndis.gov.au



## Key information

**Name:** Market information request home and living demonstration projects – round 1

**Closing time:** AEST 5 pm 26 October 2021

**Questions:** demonstrationprojects@ndis.gov.au

**Lodging proposals:** demonstrationprojects@ndis.gov.au

**Application format:** All formats accepted. NDIA will accept proposals in a variety of formats such as, but not limited to, MS Word, PDF or Powerpoint (maximum 10 pages).

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## Introduction

### Background

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) is currently developing a new Home and Living Policy.

In the course of consultations with participants and providers, we have heard the importance of finding, recognising and promoting new ways for National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participants to pursue their home and living goals.

To help achieve this the NDIA are introducing a new initiative to bring together participants and providers to design and deliver home and living demonstration projects.

* The first round of demonstration projects will focus on participants receiving 24/7 support through supported independent living (SIL), and identifying and evaluating potential better practices in SIL.
* The NDIA will open the next round of this initiative in early 2022 where we will call for demonstration projects focusing on the full breadth of home and living supports, including proposals for brand new participant-led models. This round will be guided by the consultations that are informing the new Home and Living Policy. A key priority will be to ensure participants have the support they need to come together and submit a proposal.

### Purpose of this document

The NDIA is calling for proposals to deliver the first round of home and living demonstration projects.

Home and living demonstration projects will help to identify better practice in the delivery and funding of 24/7 supports to participants through supported independent living services.

This market information request outlines:

* the opportunity
* the requirements
* the selection criteria proposals will be assessed against.

## The opportunity to recognise and promote better practice

As part of its broader commitment to transforming how home and living supports are funded and delivered, the NDIA aims to identify and develop new ways of delivering 24/7 support to participants. We are looking for models which give greater flexibility to participants and providers, are outcomes-focused, encourage better practice and ensure Scheme sustainability.

The home and living demonstration projects are a unique opportunity to test different models and the outcomes they deliver.

Applicants are encouraged to present demonstration projects that explore news ways of funding and delivering supports, projects that:

* Cater for participants with different developmental needs, residing in different housing models and geographies.
* Offer different service models including staffing structures, informal care, clustering of participants, accommodation arrangements, shared services, etc.
* Explore alternative funding approaches that facilitate flexibility for wrap around supports and encourage innovation and achievement of outcomes.

As part of delivering a demonstration project, a key requirement will be that you participate in an impact evaluation undertaken by a third party provider appointed and managed by the NDIA. To support the impact evaluation, you will be required to provide the NDIA or third party evaluator with the data necessary to complete the evaluation. The NDIA is committed to ensuring you benefit from the evaluation and is exploring optional opportunities to facilitate information sharing and collaboration amongst the demonstration projects.

### Who can submit an application?

The NDIA recognises the role of both participants and providers in generating new ways of funding and delivering 24/7 supported independent living. For this round, applications will be accepted from registered NDIS providers who can demonstrate that:

* they have collaborated with, and have the support of, the participants who will receive 24/7 supports through the demonstration project; and
* they are registered to deliver Assistance with Daily Life Tasks in a Group or Shared Living Arrangement with the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission.

For round 2, which will open in early 2022, the NDIA will be inviting proposals across home and living supports and will be accepting proposals from both participants and providers.

If your proposal is selected, the NDIA will work with you to establish a clear agreement about the project’s design, how you will obtain and document participant consent to ensure participant choice, quality and continuity of services, your participation in the evaluation and how we will work together throughout the project. This will be captured in a [memorandum of understanding](https://www.ndis.gov.au/providers/housing-and-living-supports-and-services/demonstration-projects) and relevant information included in participant service agreements.

### Funding

This market information request is neither a grant nor a procurement process. Demonstration projects must use the existing funds in participant plans. To enable applicants to use the existing funding more flexibly for the demonstration project, the NDIA will introduce a specific support item.

Proposals must consider (i) shared cost saving initiatives and (ii) ensure the delivery of better outcomes for participants. Importantly, out of scope for the initial round of demonstration projects are requests for:

* additional funding such as seed funding or increases to individual participant plan budgets
* additional capital funding to build or change the type of accommodation, home modifications and/or assistive technology.

### Scope

The demonstration projects will focus on participants receiving 24/7 care in individual or shared accommodation, using the existing funding in participant plans.

The demonstration projects will run for up to 2 years. They will include evaluation of participant and registered NDIS provider outcomes. This will help to develop a robust evidence base to:

* in the short term, inform better practice in SIL
* in the medium term, help shape broader reforms of NDIS home and living supports.

### Alternative funding models

One of the aims of the demonstration projects is to explore alternative and flexible funding models for participants. The NDIA is open to considering a range of funding options that deliver on the intended outcomes and also present the opportunity for cost savings. The alternative funding model will not replace a participant having a plan, and the participant will still exercise choice over the model of support.

Alternative funding models may include the following:

| **Funding model** | **Description** |
| --- | --- |
| **Fee-for-service**  | Providers are reimbursed based on the number of supports and equipment they provide. **In essence, this is the funding model currently being used**. |
| **Bundled payments\*** | Traditionally used in health care, 1 payment is provided by the funder to a provider for an episode of care or bundle of related supports. The amount paid is based on the expected costs of all items and services during an episode of care. Payment can be tied to quality measures and is expected to drive innovation in care. *Example:* A hip replacement is funded to include the procedure plus all related care before and after the procedure.  |
| **Outcomes-based or payment for performance**  | A performance-based model that links financial incentives to providers’ performance on a set of defined measures or outcomes to improve the quality of life for the participant. This approach is often used to help drive improvements in quality of care. Example: In NSW, some providers of out-of-home care support are contracted by the NSW Government to deliver supports to promote safety, permanency and wellbeing outcomes for children so that they can reach their potential. |

\*This funding model is not meant to represent a move to block funding type approaches. Any project that uses this funding model will be required to demonstrate how participant choice and control will be improved.The NDIA is open to other proposals with alternative formats.

## Proposal requirements

### Registration with the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission

Proposals may be submitted by providers who are registered to deliver Assistance with Daily Life Tasks in a Group or Shared Living Arrangement with the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (NDIS Commission).

| Please confirm the provider involved is registered with the NDIS Commission, for the registration group 0115 Assistance with Daily Life Tasks in a Group or Shared Living Arrangement. |
| --- |
| **Response:** |

| Please include any other registration groups that are relevant to this proposal. |
| --- |
| **Response:**  |

### Proposal covering page information

All eligible registered providersmust include the following information:

* Organisation name
* Business address
* ABN
* ACN (if applicable)
* Registered provider number
* Legal entity
* Type of organization
* Contact person (s)
* Date of proposal
* Proposal executive summary (maximum 2 pages) addressing the following:
	+ The support and service that you are proposing to offer participants
	+ How the proposed support and service differs from the current approach in design and funding
	+ How you will attract and engage participants to be involved in the project
	+ Process for ensuring that supports will be in place when the participant needs them.

### What does my proposal need to include?

Your proposal must explain your idea for delivering supported independent living. In addition to the covering page at Section 3.2 above, it should also address the selection criteria at Section 4.2.

Your proposal must be no more than 10 pages and can be in any format.

### Can I submit more than 1 proposal?

An applicant may submit more than 1 proposal, with each proposal being considered independently.

### Is it possible for a consortium of organisations to apply?

Yes, the NDIA welcomes proposals from consortia where there is an identified lead party who the NDIA will work with on behalf of the consortium. The lead entity will be required to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the NDIA as the lead member of the consortium.

### How do I submit a proposal?

Proposals can be submitted by email to demonstrationprojects@ndis.gov.au.

## Selection process

### Process overview

The assessment of proposals will be based on:

* The content of the proposal.
* Any material provided by the applicant in response to requests for clarification from NDIA.
* Any other information that NDIA, in its absolute discretion, considers relevant to evaluating the proposal.

#### Selection process

Stage 1 - Eligibility check

1. Has the proposal included sufficient evidence to demonstrate that participants have been involved in the design of the proposal, and that they support the proposal?
2. Has the proposal included sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the proposed project will provide participants greater choice and control over their 24/7 supports?
3. A review to determine whether the registered provider involved is a registered SIL provider.

Stage 2 – Individual assessment

The NDIA will assess each eligible proposal against the selection criteria in Table 1.

### Selection criteria

The NDIA will assess each proposal based on the equally weighted criteria outlined in the table below.

##### Table 1: Selection criteria

| **Criteria**  | **Description** |
| --- | --- |
| **Outcomes**  | Applicant demonstrates how their proposal addresses the following: * Delivers improved choice and control outcomes for participants and how this could be measured.
* Delivers improved social and economic participation outcomes for participants and how this could be measured.
* Measures and reports on provider outcomes.
 |
| **Replicability**  | Applicant demonstrates how their idea has the potential to be replicated. |
| **Capacity and capability**  | Applicant demonstrates the following: * Provides evidence of delivering/implementing related service models.
* Has the capacity to be involved in the demonstration projects for up to 2 years.
* Has the capability to deliver whilst appropriately managing risks and compliance requirements.
 |
| **Value for money**  | Applicant demonstrates how their innovative idea addresses the following:* Delivers value for money and cost savings to the NDIS.
* Improves outcomes for participants.
* Appropriately manages risk.
 |

## Submitting your proposal

### Lodgement of proposals

Proposals must be submitted by email to demonstrationprojects@ndis.gov.au by AEST 5 pm 26 October.Early submissions are welcome.

### Use of proposals

The demonstration project proposals will only be used for the purposes of the demonstration project process.

### Further information

Any further enquires and requests for information can be sent to demonstrationprojects@ndis.gov.au

### A proposal briefing session

The NDIA will hold a briefing session where applicants will receive an overview of the market information request and have an opportunity to ask questions.

Date: Wednesday 6 October 2021

Time: AEST 1 pm to 2pm

### [Register online](https://www.ndis.gov.au/events/6823-online-home-and-living-demonstration-projects-information-session)Consideration for impacts of COVID-19

If you or your organisation is impacted by COVID-19 during the preparation of your proposal, please contact the NDIA for discussion regarding seeking a possible time extension or other supports.

### Responsibility for costs of developing proposal

Participation in this process, or in relation to any matter concerning this process, is at the applicant’s own risk and cost. The NDIA will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by a respondent in preparation or lodgement of a proposal.

The NDIA is under no obligation to accept any proposals submitted as part of this market information request, whether or not a proposal satisfies the selection criteria.

Whether the NDIA decides to proceed, or not to proceed, to stage 2 of the market information request is at the sole discretion of the NDIA.

The NDIA may terminate this market information request at any time and for any reason at its absolute discretion and the NDIA will not be, and is not, liable for any lost profit, lost opportunity or other losses of the applicant.

## Next steps

### Three stages

#### Stage 1 – Selection

**Applications close AEST 5 pm 26 October 2021**

Each proposal that meets the eligibility criteria at section 4.1 will be assessed against the selection criteria at 4.2. The NDIA may contact you if clarification is needed about any part of your application. The NDIA will provide feedback to applicants that are not selected. If your proposal is not selected in this first round the NDIA may still select it later in 2021 or 2022 in a subsequent round.

Indicative timeframes – all applicants notified during December and January 2022.

#### Stage 2 – Agree final project design

The NDIA will work with each selected applicant to finalise their project design by confirming: how participants will be engaged; how participant consent will be obtained; and how the project will be evaluated according to an evaluation framework. Please note the NDIA will commission another organisation to evaluate the demonstration projects. If it is not possible to agree a final project design, the demonstration project will not proceed to implementation.

Indicative timeframes – January to February 2022.

#### Stage 3 – Implementation

Applicants will enter into a memorandum of understanding with the NDIA and demonstration projects will commence implementation.

Indicative timeframes – from February 2022, with projects expected to be implemented for up to a 2 year period.