



NDIS Transition - Sector Development Fund Specialist Disability Accommodation Initiative

Feedback summary

Overview

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), of which the Sector Development Fund (SDF) is a Sub Activity, intends to ensure people with disability are supported to participate in and contribute to social and economic life to the extent of their abilities. People with disability and their carers will have certainty that they will receive the individualised care and support they need over time.

The Sector Development Fund (SDF) assists people with disability, the disability services sector and its workforce with the transition to the NDIS, including through:

- building community capacity and engagement
- increasing individual support capacity and development of new forms of support to meet the needs of people with disability
- building disability sector capacity and service provider readiness to manage the transition
- assistance with the required expansion and diversification of the workforce; and
- building the evidence base.

The Specialist Disability Accommodation Initiative (SDAI) is designed to help address immediate community need for specialist disability housing in areas outside NDIS trial sites, as determined by geographic location or age cohort, by providing 'top up' funding to:

- increase the availability of accommodation for people with a disability, who the applicant anticipates will be eligible for the NDIS, with a particular focus on:
 - those housed in inappropriate accommodation settings; and
 - those with ageing carers who are in need of a long-term, sustainable arrangement.
- identify project initiatives with self-sustaining specialist disability housing models which could be scaled up in the future.

Selection process

The Department of Social Services (the Department) received 117 applications with proposals to deliver specialist disability accommodation.

The Department considered each proposal against the following four mandatory eligibility criteria:

- the applicants' project must be outside of the NDIS trial sites. Outside of NDIS trial sites is defined as 'not available in trial locations (where these are geographically based) or trial cohorts';
- projects must have state or territory government (or other third party) written guarantees of support funding for the individuals who will be accommodated by the project (given the fact these projects will not be in NDIS trial sites);
- the application must demonstrate how the proposal is sustainable once the accommodation is occupied; and
- the application must demonstrate that occupants are anticipated to be eligible for the NDIS once the location is included within the NDIS scheme.

Applications that did not satisfy one or more of the mandatory eligibility criteria were deemed to be non-compliant and did not progress for further assessment.

If deemed compliant, the applications were further assessed against four equally-weighted selection criteria. These selection criteria are detailed further below. Preferred applicants were identified based on the strength of their responses to the selection criteria and their demonstrated ability to deliver the following requirements, as published in the Funding Round Summary:

- the SDAI will provide 'top up' funding only to enable the completion of projects;
- all projects should be completed within two years; and
- the applicant has already acquired the majority of funding required for the project from another source or sources and the project is substantially planned and ready to proceed.

In addition to the above requirements, as published in the Funding Round Summary, funding was not provided for:

- private ownership (or part ownership) of a home or land by a parent, relative, carer or individual
- the cost of providing ongoing support services; or
- the cost of ongoing maintenance for buildings or equipment.

Selection results

The Department selected 12 organisations to deliver Specialist Disability Accommodation.

The selected organisations provided strong responses to the selection criteria and demonstrated their ability to fulfil each of the grant's requirements. Information about strong and preferred proposals is included in this feedback.

Criterion 1: Demonstrate your understanding of the need for the funded Activity in the specified community and/or the specified target group.

Successful applicants demonstrated a wide range of strengths in relation to Criterion 1, as shown in the following table.

Strength	Example
<p>The Applicant demonstrated how the project will help address an immediate community need by targeting and benefiting people with disability who the applicant anticipates will meet the NDIS criteria at full scheme.</p>	<p>The response demonstrated that the project will help address an immediate need within the community, particularly by benefitting those currently housed in inappropriate settings (e.g. residential aged care facilities) or those at home with ageing carers. Specifically the response provided demographics of the community, and a description of the individual situations of the proposed residents (where known).</p> <p>The response also provided a description of how the Applicant will determine that the proposed residents will meet the NDIS eligibility criteria at full scheme.</p>
<p>The Applicant demonstrated how the project has the support of the community.</p>	<p>Attachments included letters of support from non-government organisations, family members of proposed residents, local council members or members of parliament. Attachments also included planning support of local government, where appropriate.</p>
<p>The Applicant demonstrated how the project will be completed within a two year timeframe.</p>	<p>Attachments included a detailed project timeline that demonstrated a completion date within two years.</p>
<p>The Applicant provided evidence to demonstrate that the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is outside of the NDIS trial sites; • has state or territory government, or another third party, guarantees of support funding for the person with disability targeted by the project (i.e. care packages); and • is sustainable once the accommodation is occupied. 	<p>The response identified the address of the proposed accommodation and provided supporting evidence.</p> <p>Attachments included letters from government departments or third parties to guarantee financial support for each of the individuals until the NDIS is at full scheme.</p> <p>The response provided a detailed description of how the accommodation would be sustainable once occupied including ongoing provision of services and care delivery, projected costs and income, ability to tailor accommodation to future residents that may occupy it and ability to scale up the model in the future.</p>

Areas for improvement

Applicants could have strengthened their responses to Criterion 1 by:

- Providing clear evidence demonstrating guarantees of financial support by government departments or third parties for each of the individuals until the NDIS is at full scheme;
- Providing clear evidence demonstrating how the proposed residents will meet the NDIS eligibility criteria at full scheme;
- Providing specific statistics or other evidence to demonstrate the need within the specific community being addressed;
- Providing further information and evidence demonstrating the inappropriate settings in which the proposed residents are currently housed; and
- Demonstrating knowledge of relevant existing services and service gaps that support the need for specialist disability accommodation.

Criterion 2: Describe how the implementation of your proposal will achieve the Activity objectives for all stakeholders, including value for money within the Grant funding.

Successful applicants demonstrated a wide range of strengths in relation to Criterion 2, as shown in the following table.

Strength	Example
<p>The Applicant demonstrated how the proposal will achieve the activity objectives for all stakeholders.</p>	<p>The response provided a detailed description with convincing evidence to demonstrate how the proposal will benefit the target group. Strong applications were able to demonstrate that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the accommodation is located in an appropriate area where proposed residents are able to access local services; and the proposed accommodation meets or exceeds key design elements outlined in the ‘Liveable Housing Guidelines’.
<p>The Applicant demonstrated all funding currently in place, the funding sources and how the requirements of each contributor will be managed, including who will own the asset.</p>	<p>The response provided a detailed description to demonstrate that the proposal has significant financial support. The response also demonstrated how funding contributors will be managed and who will own the asset(s).</p> <p>Attachments included letters or bank statements confirming financial commitment, current assets or ownership of land or property; and memoranda of understanding demonstrating how assets will be owned and managed.</p>
<p>The Applicant demonstrated how the project represents a value for money investment for the Commonwealth.</p>	<p>The response demonstrated how the Commonwealth’s investment will specifically contribute to the project and why the project cannot proceed without Commonwealth funding.</p>

Areas for improvement

Applicants could have strengthened their responses to Criterion 2 by:

- Providing a detailed budget breakdown demonstrating project costs and how Commonwealth funds will be utilised.

Criterion 3: Demonstrate your experience and/or capability in effectively developing, delivering, managing and monitoring Activities to achieve Activity objectives for all stakeholders.

Successful applicants demonstrated a wide range of strengths in relation to Criterion 3, as shown in the following table.

Strength	Example
<p>The Applicant demonstrated previous experience in effectively developing, delivering, managing and monitoring Activities.</p>	<p>The response provided a detailed description of previous projects delivered and performance in these projects.</p> <p>The response also gave examples of how the organisation would deliver, manage and monitor the project to ensure objectives are met.</p>
<p>The Applicant demonstrated the progress of the project to date and timeframes and dependencies for completion.</p>	<p>The response detailed progress to date and timeframes and dependencies for completion.</p>
<p>The Applicant demonstrated knowledge of the risks associated with the project including mitigation strategies for managing risks.</p>	<p>The response provided detailed information, including a risk plan, to identify risks associated with the proposal and the treatment strategies to mitigate these risks. Strong risk plans included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an outline of each risk • its likelihood • its severity • the proposed mitigations for dealing with it; and • how the mitigation strategy would affect the risk's likelihood and severity. <p>Where applicable, the response also detailed mitigation strategies that have already been implemented successfully for the proposal.</p>

Areas for improvement

Applicants could have strengthened their responses to Criterion 3 by:

- Providing clear evidence of previous projects and testimonials or feedback on performance including referee details or letters of support;
- Providing a detailed timeline with clear evidence to demonstrate progress to date;
- Providing detailed evidence to demonstrate dependencies for completion and contingency plans to ensure the project is completed within two years; and
- Demonstrating the governance arrangements in place to manage and monitor the project as well as identify and manage risks associated with the project.

Criterion 4: Demonstrate your organisation’s capacity and your staff capability (experience and qualifications) to deliver the Activity objectives in the specified community and/or the specified target group.

Successful applicants demonstrated a wide range of strengths in relation to Criterion 4, as shown in the following table.

Strength	Example
The Applicant demonstrated the organisation’s structure and capacity to deliver services.	The response provided detailed information on staff structure, governance arrangements and policies and procedures in place to assist in delivering the project.
The Applicant demonstrated that the organisation is qualified and experienced in managing similar projects	<p>The response provided a detailed description of the experience, qualifications and skills of staff who would be involved in the project including prerequisites for any positions that were yet to be filled. The stated experience and qualifications were relevant to the requirements of the project.</p> <p>Attachments included resumes for all staff involved in the project, and position descriptions for positions yet to be filled.</p>
The Applicant demonstrated the financial viability for both the project and the organisation to see the project through to completion.	<p>The response provided a detailed description of the organisation’s financial history and ongoing viability. The response also provided some attachments which demonstrated project viability.</p> <p>Attachments included recent audited financial statements, financial agreements, project budget, quotes and letters of support.</p>

Areas for improvement

Applicants could have strengthened their responses to Criterion 4 by:

- Providing clear evidence demonstrating the organisation’s structure and governance arrangements including an organisational chart;
- Providing information about the staff structures and support mechanisms in place for all staff to train, support and develop staff; and
- Providing a detailed description and clear evidence to demonstrate the viability of the project.