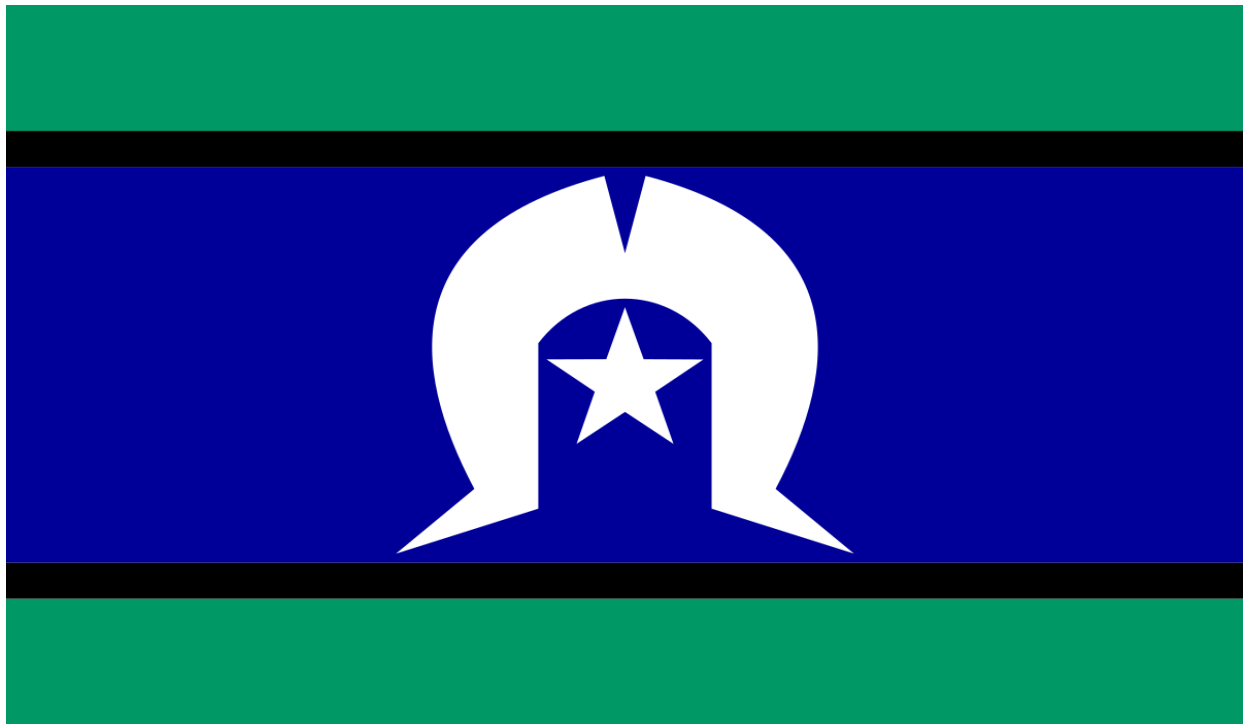
Real Voices Real Homes
Reimagining SIL

Inclusion Australia

Acknowledgement of Country



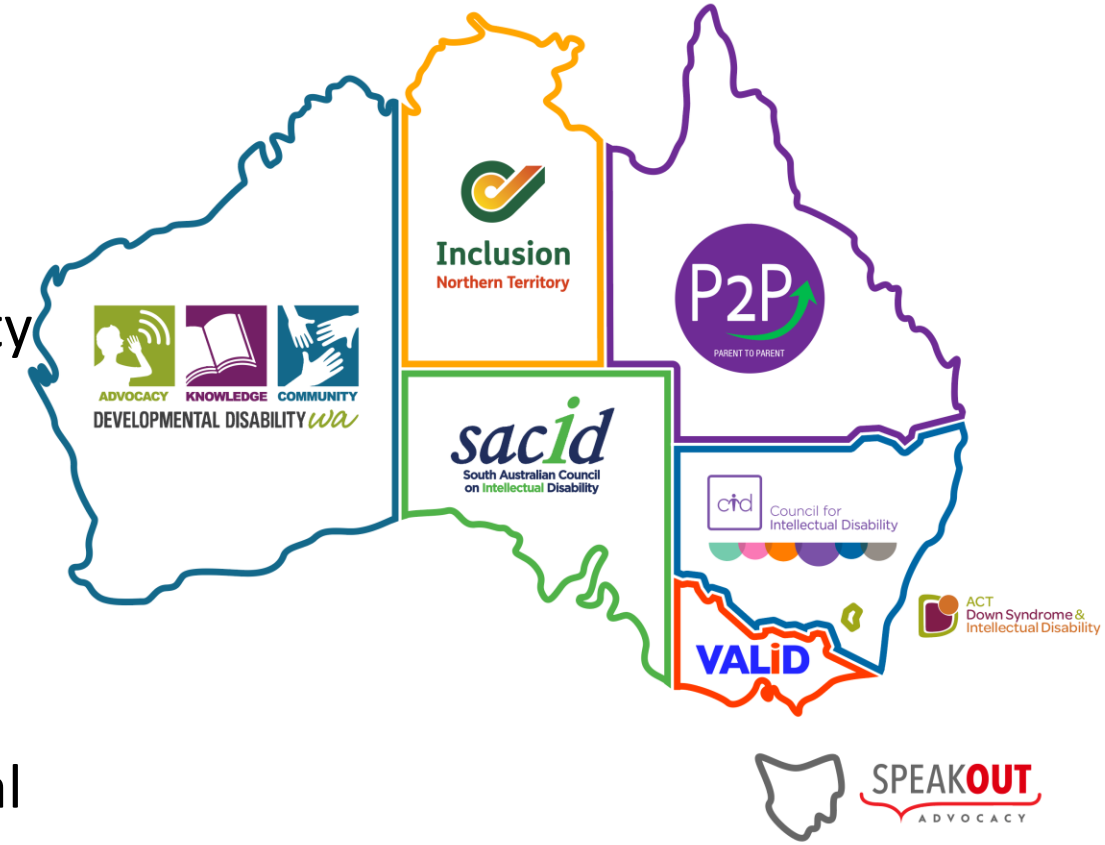
Recognition of self-advocates

We recognise self-advocates who have worked very hard over the years for equality and human rights for all.

About us

We are the national Disability Representative Organisation for people with an intellectual disability and their families.

We bring people together through our members to support and advocate for people with an intellectual disability.



What we will talk about today

- The Supported Independent Living (SIL) practice standards project
- What we heard from the people we talked to about the practice standards
- What we will do next.

What are practice standards?

The Commission is making new practice standards for SIL

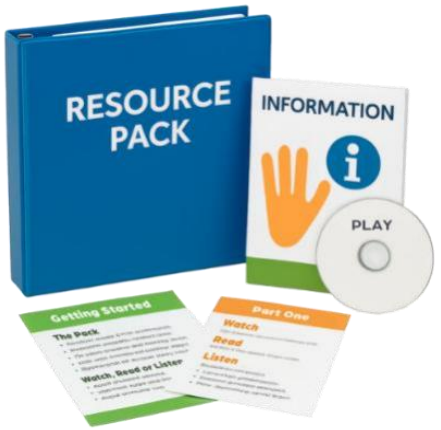
Practice Standards are rules that make sure all NDIS Participants are:

- Treated Fairly
- Know their rights
- Have service providers and support workers that do the right thing

What is the SIL Practice Standards Project

- Inclusion Australia are helping the Commission make the new SIL practice standards.

- We are also giving advice about what tools can make sure everyone understands the rules.



Expert Advisory Group

- Professor Christine Bigby, La Trobe University
- Samuel Murray, La Trobe University and various service providers
- Sarah Nicoll, Head of Quality and Safeguards, National Disability Services (NDS)
- Garry Simpson, Ability Roundtable
- Kalina Southall, Manager, Practice & Quality Improvement, Life Without Barriers
- Sara De Grandis, Team Leader Self Advocacy Programs, VALID
- Liam Doyle, VALID8 peer auditor
- David West, VALID8 peer auditor
- Michelle Keogh, Senior Manager Systemic Policy & Advocacy, People with Disability Australia
- Helen Westwood, Director, Professional Standards and Safety Unit, ASU NSW & ACT Branch
- Dariane McLean, Specialist Advisor, Inclusion Australia
- Marisa McCague, NDIS Auditor and Consultant (late addition to the ERG).

Who did we talk to?

- People with disability
- Inclusion Australia Policy Reference Group
- SIL Project Expert Reference Group
- Researchers
- Support Workers
- Providers
- Auditors

Lived experience perspective

- David West is a member of the Expert Advisory Group
- He has lived experience of SIL
- David will talk about why involving people with lived experience is key to making sure this project works well and meets peoples' real needs.

What did people tell us was important for the new rules?

- Privacy
- Making your own decisions with support
- Complaints
- Staff training
- Rights
- Communication
- Safety
- Providers doing the right thing

What did people with disability say?

- “Support workers should always knock on my bedroom door and wait for an answer. This should be the same as when they enter my house.”
- “It’s my house not theirs.”
- “I don’t like the workers thinking they are the boss of me. I want them to help me live my life my way. Not how they THINK I should live. Even if I make mistakes”

What did people with disability say?

- “I used to live with other people but now I live on my own and I like that better – no one to bother me and I decide on who supports me. If I don’t like a support worker I can say no – I don’t want that person back”

- My friend lives in another house and her SIL (sic) has rules about no tv in bedroom. We are 30. Why can’t we watch tv in our bedroom. I get tired. I like to lay in bed and watch tv. It relaxes me and is good if I’m sick so I can stay in bed at (sic) watch tv but her house tell her no. We are adults. These rules make me feel like a little kid not an adult.”

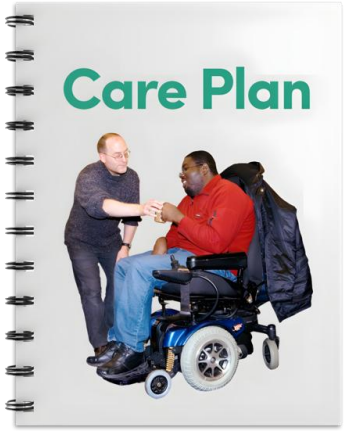
What did providers and support workers say?

- “I think one of the most fundamental, important things that we can be doing for the people that we support is helping them connect with other humans. And I think that often we don't even talk about that as something that we should be measuring or tracking or thinking about” (Senior leader)

- “People who can’t speak for themselves are still moved around, matched badly, or placed in unsafe settings, that’s not choice, that’s convenience.” (Support worker)

What did we tell the NDIS Commission about what the rules should be?

- Quality of Life
- Supported Decision Making and Support Planning
- Feedback, Complaints & Safeguarding
- Practice Governance
- Agreements



What did we tell the NDIS Commission about what the rules should be?

Quality of Life

I have a right to be myself in my home

This means I feel safe to show my

- Culture
- Religion
- Beliefs
- Sexuality
- Gender Identity

What did we tell the NDIS Commission about what the rules should be?

Feedback & Complaints

I have the right to be safe. If I do not feel safe or if I am hurt:

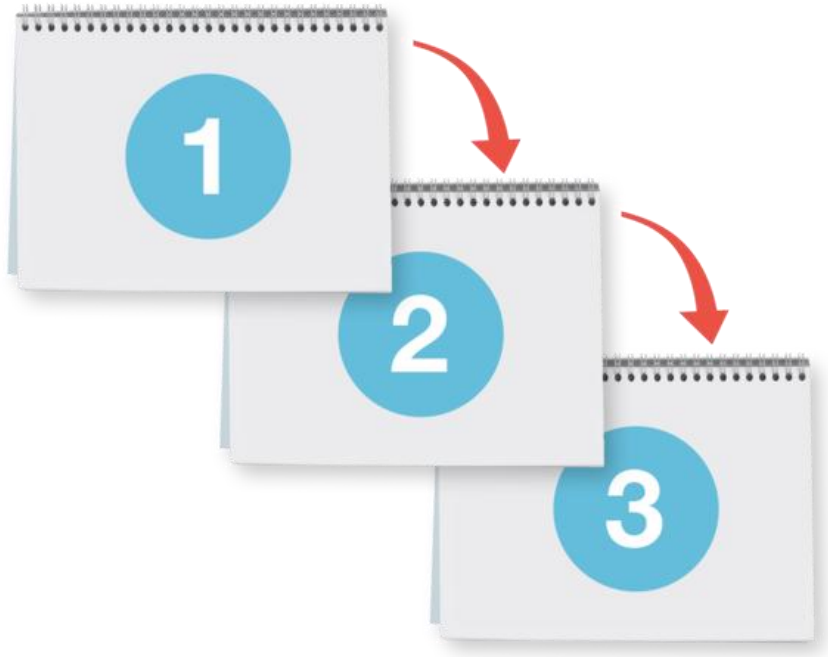
- I know who to speak with.
- I know who can help me if I need help, like family, friends or an advocate.
- Staff listen, record and follow-up, and make sure I am safe.

What did people say were the best tools to help everyone learn about the new rules?

- Videos
- Conversation cards
- Easy Read Documents
- Evidence Guide
- Guides for Providers
- Complex issue guides
- Resource Hub

What happens next?

- We will send our final version to the NDIS Commission at the end of November
- The Commission will decide how to use it.



Any questions?

Contact us at:

policy@inclusionaustralia.org.au