

# Live with Your Mates

SUPPORTED INDEPENDENT LIVING



**UNISSON** | IT STARTS *with heart*  
DISABILITY



Image: Peter Nancovski

AT UNISSON, OUR GOAL

IS TO SUPPORT YOUR

CHOICE REGARDING WHERE

YOU LIVE. WE'LL LISTEN

CAREFULLY TO GET A CLEAR

UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR

GOALS, THEN TOGETHER,

WE'LL COME UP WITH A WAY

FORWARD THAT CAN HELP

YOU ACHIEVE THEM.

“

*I like the house and my friends*

”

CLAIRE COULTER

## Welcome Message from the General Manager Shared Living

**KAREN BIRD**

Moving into a new home is an exciting time. Working through finding a house, a housemate and funding can be exhausting. Unisson will work with you to navigate the complexities and find an option that you want, and a place you will call 'home'.

We are delighted to introduce you to Unisson and look forward to working alongside you and being part of your journey.

Best Wishes,



**KAREN BIRD**  
**General Manager, Shared Living**

## What is Supported Independent Living (SIL)?

Supported Independent Living (SIL) is an NDIS support also known as shared living accommodation.

SIL is where a person with disability will live with other people and share common household areas. Through Unisson's Person-Centred Active Support approach, we support your choices and ensure that assistance is available when needed for daily tasks such as cleaning, cooking and personal care within your supported home.

Our shared living accommodation consists of between 3-4 bedrooms, with some houses consisting of separate self-contained units.

### Am I eligible for SIL?

To apply for a Unisson SIL vacancy you will need to have NDIS funding for Supported Independent Living within your NDIS plan. If you do not have SIL within your current NDIS plan you can apply for a Change of Circumstances.

To find out how to apply for a Change of Circumstance check out our FAQ section at the end of this brochure.

THROUGH UNISSON'S

PERSON-CENTRED ACTIVE

SUPPORT APPROACH, WE

SUPPORT YOUR CHOICES

AND ENSURE THAT

ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE

WHEN NEEDED.



## How Unisson Can Support You

There comes a time in everyone's life when you or your child will start to consider moving out of the family home for the first time. For a person with disability or parents of children with disability this transition can sometimes seem especially daunting.

To help make the process a lot less daunting we have identified the opportunity for you, to live with your mates. Moving in with a group of friends, surrounded by people you know, offers you and your family peace of mind, and reduces the needs to complete complex compatibility assessments – making the transition easier, and in some instances, shorter.

To help you make this new transition, our Person-Centred Active Support approach places the needs of our clients and their families at the centre of the process while our thorough procedures and in-depth NDIS knowledge ensures a smooth transition. Together, we'll work with you through every step, as you progress towards your new Shared Living arrangement and ensure your home reflects who you are with the support you need.



## Moving out of home – it's a part of life:

Moving out of home is a major change for anyone, especially for a person with disability and of course the parents of that child. It should be an exciting time, a time filled with new experiences, and sense of approaching adulthood.

To make this milestone an exciting, memorable, and safe experience for everyone involved, there are a few things you can do to plan ahead.



### Start the conversation early

Start to talk about what moving out of home might be like – this will help you understand what is important to your child in a new home. This includes everyone in the process and helps to uncover any concerns or hesitations early on.



### Set A Goal

Speak to your Support Coordinator about setting the goal of moving out of home and building your/ your child's independence. By setting this as a goal in your plan your Support Coordinator can request that you have 'Supported Independent Living' (SIL) funding in your next NDIS plan.



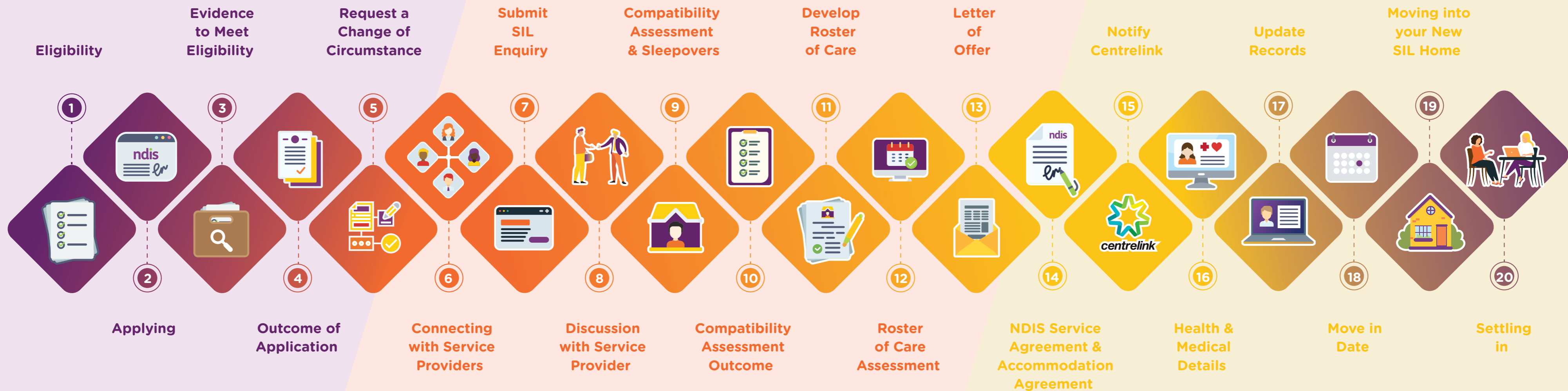
### Think Long Term

Moving into a SIL home can be a long process. We recommend starting the conversation with our friendly Client Engagement team early. We can talk you through the process and help you get underway with the help from your Support Coordinator. In most cases it can take up to six to twelve months to secure the perfect home and we will support you through each step during that time.

## Applying for an NDIS Plan

## Finding a Compatible SIL Home

## Preparing to Move into your SIL Home



## Supported Independent Living: FAQs

Knowing you will have the right company and supports to live independently is a key factor in giving you and your family the comfort and confidence you need to move out of home.

### What can I expect in a Unisson SIL home?

In a Supported Independent Living home, you will have your own room while sharing common household areas with your mates who also live there. Most of our accommodation consists of 3-4 bedrooms.

You will have the opportunity to create deeper connections with your mates, learn new independent skills with the opportunity to socialise and participate in activities inside and outside of your home.

### How can Unisson help if I'm feeling nervous about living independently?

It's okay to be nervous. When moving out of home for the first time, naturally there will be some concerns as to whether you or your child will have the right environment and supports to thrive and live independently.

Both the support staff and the friends you live with play a vital role within your Supported Independent Living home. Support staff will be able to assist you when needed for daily tasks such as cleaning, cooking and personal care. While the added bonus of living with your mates, plays an important role for your physical, emotional and mental wellbeing.

Unisson understands the challenges of finding the right home under the NDIS and we will be with you every step of the way providing you with the support you need to live your best life.

### After I join Unisson's SIL service, how else can Unisson help?

After you've moved into your new home, our time is spent getting to know you even better. Once we've met your goals for living arrangements, we want to understand more about you, and your interests and how we can help you to live your best life.

#### Other support services we provide include:

##### Community-based support

We can assist you to take part in community-based activities that you enjoy such as outings to the cinema, park or museum, playing sport, joining a hobby group and much more.

##### Centre-based support

Our community access centres are an ideal base where you can catch up with friends, learn new skills, and participate in fun social incursions and excursions.

##### Blue Apple Art Studios

Our Blue Apple Art Studio classes provide you with the opportunity to let your inner artist shine. You have the choice of participating in art, papermaking or ceramic art classes.

##### Supported Employment

Unisson Works is the business arm of Unisson Disability, providing employment opportunities where you will receive training, learn new skills, earn a wage,

make friends and reach your career goals .

### What are my other options to live independently?

Whether you live on your own or with family or friends, our drop-in support can assist you to live independently. Supported Living also known as drop-in support gives you the flexibility and control over the type and level of support you receive. We ensure you get the support you need, when you need it. This may be during the day, evening, weekdays, or weekends.

Some of the tasks we can support you with include daily tasks, cooking, cleaning, personal care, shopping, budgeting, going on holiday, getting to work and appointments, travelling on public transport, community-based support, and support with trying new activities.

## NDIS and Change of Circumstances: FAQs

Recognising that many people are still at the early stages of their journey with the NDIS, here's some additional information to help you or your family member get started and on your way to finding the right home.

### How do I get an NDIS plan?

To get an NDIS plan you must meet the eligibility criteria listed on the NDIS website.

If you meet the criteria, you are eligible to become an NDIS participant. If you would like to become a participant you can:

- Call the NDIA on 1800 800 110.
- Submit an online Access Request.
- Download the form online and submit the form via email.

For more information on how to apply, [click here](#).

### Supported Independent Living (SIL) is not in my plan. How do I get it included in my plan?

If you have experienced a significant change in your life, your current NDIS plan may no longer meet your needs and supports. This includes moving out of home and into your own supported independent living arrangement.

If your current NDIS plan no longer suits your support needs, you will need to notify the NDIA of your change in circumstances. To do this you will need to complete and submit a [change of circumstances form](#). If you require an urgent change of circumstances you can call the NDIA directly on 1800 800 110.

Once you have submitted a Change of Circumstances form, the NDIA may decide a formal plan review is

needed. Unisson's Support Coordination team can support you through this process to ensure you are getting the most out of your NDIS plan. If you are interested in speaking to one of our Support Coordination professionals, [click here](#).

### How can I best prepare for a Change of Circumstances application with the NDIS?

To best prepare for a Change of Circumstances application you need to understand the current supports outlined in your NDIS plan and how those supports no longer meet your needs. If the NDIA decide a formal plan review is needed, it is important to come prepared with supporting evidence.

Before you submit your Change of Circumstances application, we recommend speaking with your Local Area Coordinator or Support Coordinator around your change in circumstances.

Unisson's [Support Coordination team](#) can help you prepare for a Change of Circumstance application by:

- Providing you with a list of helpful documentation.
- Helping you draft a personal impact statement from the participant or carer that outlines how these changes have impacted your day-to-day life.

\*Please note the NDIA requires the participant to submit the application.

### How long will it take to prepare and apply for a Change of Circumstances with the NDIS?

The length of time to prepare and apply for a Change of Circumstances can vary with a lot of different contributing factors such as: the urgency of your request, your location, and the amount of supporting evidence you need to gather.

We recommend you notify and submit your request to the NDIA as soon as possible. Your Local Area Coordinator or Support Coordinator will be able to keep you up to date with the progress of your request.

For further information please [click here](#) to contact the NDIA.

### What will SIL cost me?

The NDIS only funds support costs, not housing costs. A percentage of your pension will contribute to board, lodging and rent – 100% of your rent assistance will contribute towards the rent.

For participants who do not qualify for a disability pension, we recommend speaking with your Supported Independent Living provider.

For more information about funding, please refer to the [NDIS price guide](#) on our website.

## Introducing our Client Engagement Team

It's the people we employ at Unisson that make us different and we're very pleased to introduce you to our Client Engagement team. Megan Vicary, Manager Client Engagement and Emma-Chloe Ford, our Client Engagement Specialist are committed to helping you find the best solution for you.



**MEGAN VICARY**  
Manager, Client Engagement

Megan Vicary joined Unisson in May 2021 as the Manager of Client Engagement and brings more than 25 years of experience in the corporate, government and not for profit sector.

Throughout her career, Megan has worked with several disability service providers and has a strong drive for inclusion and person-centred culture of support. Her development of quality programs has led to many successful outcomes for clients, their families and carers. Instrumental in the transition to the NDIS, she has supported the implementation of quality and sustainable service models.

Megan looks forward to developing the Unisson Client Engagement Team to ensure participants, families and carers receive the customised information they need to make informed decisions when obtaining services from Unisson.



**EMMA-CHLOE FORD**  
Client Engagement Specialist

Emma-Chloe joined Unisson in 2015 as a Team Leader in our Short-Term Accommodation service after spending 10 years in customer service and retail management. She joined in the hope of applying her skills in an area where she could help people in need. In her Team Leader role, she supported clients to transition from block funding to the NDIS. She then went on to support clients in Supported Living, Shared Living and Short Term Accommodation before recently moving into her role as a Client Engagement Specialist.

Emma-Chloe believes the Client Engagement Team plays an important role at Unisson. She enjoys the opportunities to support families, Support Coordinators and people living with disability to find and access the most appropriate services for them. She is a real believer in Unisson's tagline "It starts with Heart".



Whether you need to find a shared living vacancy, supported living, community access programs or assistance with supported employment – the Client Engagement team is ready to help respond to your enquiry. Please contact us so we can get a clear understanding of your goals, then together, we'll come up with a way forward that can help you achieve them.

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 **unissondisability.org.au**

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