

NDIS Short Term Accommodation Guidelines

What is Short Term Accommodation?

Short Term Accommodation (STA), including respite, is a support funded by the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) that provides participants with temporary accommodation away from their usual home. This service is designed to offer a short-term break for both participants and their carers, typically lasting up to 14 days at a time.

STA covers the cost of care and accommodation in an alternative setting, which can be either a shared environment with other participants or an individual arrangement. The primary purposes of STA include:

- Providing respite for carers
- Allowing participants to try new experiences
- Developing new skills and independence
- Maintaining current living situations by offering breaks to informal supports
- Offering support when usual care arrangements are temporarily unavailable

It's important to note that STA is not intended for holidays or longer-term accommodation needs. Instead, it focuses on disability-related support requirements, such as respite or skill-building activities.



What Does Short Term Accommodation Include?

Short Term Accommodation funding covers a comprehensive package of supports to ensure participants' needs are met during their stay. The typical inclusions are:

- Personal care assistance
- Accommodation
- Meals and food
- Agreed-upon activities with the provider

The NDIS generally funds up to 28 days of STA per year, which can be used flexibly according to the participant's needs. For instance, this could be utilised as two 14-day blocks or as regular weekend stays throughout the year.

Funding and Pricing

The NDIS funds STA at standard rates, which can be found in the NDIS Pricing Arrangements and Price Limits document. Generally, the funding is based on a group price, assuming that participants will share supports with others. However, if there is evidence that a participant requires individual support due to their disability, this can be accommodated.

It's worth noting that participants who already have funding in their Core budget can use this for STA. This flexibility allows participants to allocate their budget across various supports, including STA, to best meet their needs and pursue their goals.

Eligibility and Decision-Making Criteria

The NDIS applies specific criteria when making decisions about funding Short Term Accommodation. These criteria ensure that the support aligns with the scheme's objectives and the participant's needs. The key factors considered include:

1. Disability-related need: The requirement for STA must be directly related to the participant's disability.
2. Goal alignment: STA should help the participant pursue their goals, such as increasing independence or building skills.
3. Community participation: The NDIS considers how STA will assist the participant in engaging with the community, for example, by meeting new people or developing social skills.
4. Value for money: The cost of STA is evaluated against the potential benefits it offers to the participant over time.
5. Existing support network: The NDIS takes into account the level of support provided by the participant's family and other informal supports.

Short Term Accommodation for Children



When it comes to funding STA for children, the NDIS considers additional factors. While the specific details aren't provided in the search results, it's likely that these considerations include:

- The child's developmental needs
- The impact on family dynamics
- The potential for skill-building and increased independence
- The level of support required compared to typically developing children of the same age

Parents or guardians seeking STA for children should discuss their specific circumstances with their NDIS contact or support coordinator to understand how these additional factors may influence funding decisions.

Flexibility in Using Short Term Accommodation

One of the key advantages of STA funding is its flexibility. Participants can use their STA allocation in various ways to best suit their needs and circumstances. Some examples of flexible use include:

- Using STA for regular respite, such as one weekend per month
- Booking longer stays of up to 14 days for more extensive breaks
- Combining STA with other supports to create a comprehensive care package
- Utilising STA to trial new living arrangements or develop independent living skills

This flexibility allows participants and their families to tailor the use of STA to their unique situations, maximising the benefits of the support.

Alternatives to Short Term Accommodation

While STA is a valuable support option, it's not always the most appropriate solution for every situation. The NDIS may fund alternative supports depending on the participant's needs. Some alternatives include:

- Medium Term Accommodation (MTA): This option is suitable for participants who require longer-term accommodation support.
- Other home and living supports: Depending on the participant's goals and needs, various other supports may be more appropriate.
- In-home respite: For some participants, receiving respite care in their own home might be a better option than STA.
- Community access supports: These can provide opportunities for skill development and social interaction without the need for overnight accommodation.

Participants should discuss their specific needs with their Support Coordinator, Local Area Coordinator, Early Childhood Partner, or planner to explore the most suitable options.

Using Short Term Accommodation in Crisis Situations

It's important to understand that STA is not intended for use in housing crisis situations. The NDIS only funds STA when the need is directly related to the participant's disability. In cases of homelessness or urgent housing needs, participants should contact homeless services in their state or territory or seek assistance through organisations like Homelessness Australia. However, there may be instances where a crisis occurs that is related to a participant's disability support needs. For example:

- If carers suddenly become unavailable
- If the participant is at risk of harm in their current home

In such cases, participants should contact their NDIS representative or support coordinator immediately to discuss the best options for meeting their [disability support needs](#).

Booking and Accessing Short Term Accommodation

The process of booking and accessing STA can vary depending on the provider and the participant's circumstances. Generally, the steps involved include:

1. Identifying suitable providers: Participants can search for STA providers through the NDIS website, disability support guides, or with the help of their support coordinator.
2. Checking availability: Contact potential providers to check their availability for the desired dates.
3. Discussing support needs: Communicate any specific support requirements or preferences to ensure the provider can meet these needs.
4. Booking the stay: Once a suitable provider is found, make the booking and confirm any necessary details.
5. Preparing for the stay: Gather any required personal items, medications, or equipment needed for the stay.
6. Providing feedback: After the stay, participants may be asked to provide feedback to help improve the service for future use.

It's important to note that the availability of STA can sometimes be limited, especially in certain regions or during peak periods. Participants are encouraged to book well in advance when possible to secure their preferred dates and providers.

Challenges and Considerations

While STA is a valuable support option, there are some challenges and considerations that participants and their families should be aware of:

- Availability: As mentioned, STA places can be limited, particularly in rural or remote areas.
- Suitability: Not all STA providers may be equipped to meet the specific needs of every participant. It's crucial to discuss individual requirements in detail before booking.
- Transition: Some participants may find it challenging to adjust to a new environment, even for a short period. Preparation and support during the transition can be helpful.
- Impact on routines: A stay in STA may disrupt established routines, which can be particularly challenging for some participants.
- Funding limitations: The standard allocation of 28 days per year may not be sufficient for all participants, requiring careful planning and budgeting.

By being aware of these potential challenges, participants and their support networks can better prepare for and maximise the benefits of Short Term Accommodation.