CPRC

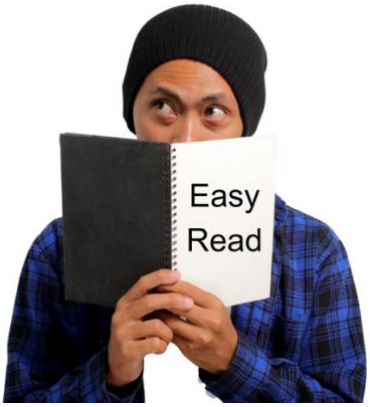
Fairer markets for Australians

Specialist Disability Accommodation in Western Australia

Easy Read

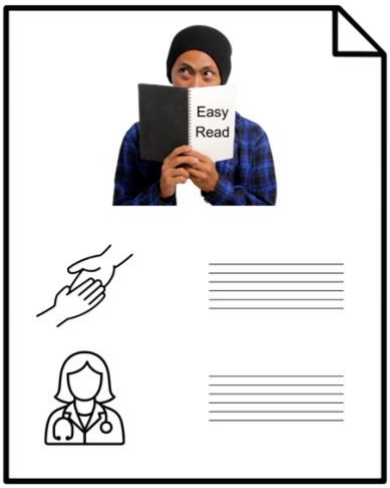
October 2026

We are the **Consumer Policy Research Centre.**



This document has some **hard words.**

We explain what the hard words mean.



This is an Easy Read **summary** of another document.

A **summary** has only the most important ideas.

You can ask for help to read this document.

You can ask

- a friend
- family members
- a support person.

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Who we are and what we did

A **consumer** is what you are called when you buy things.

You are called a consumer when you:

- buy things you can touch like food, clothes or toys
- buy or use services like a haircut or a bus ride.

We help you be treated fairly when you buy things.

We do **research** to help make things fairer.

Research is finding things out.

We use what we find out to help you.

We researched **Specialist Disability Accommodation** in Western Australia.

Specialist Disability Accommodation is sometimes called **SDA.**

SDA is a special type of housing for people who need a lot of daily support.

We spoke to:

- people who live in **SDA**
- their families and carers
- people who work in SDA homes

We wrote a report based on what people told us.

Our report has **recommendations.**

A recommendation is advice given to someone about what they should do or think about.

Australian Government

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

We gave our recommendations to the Australian Government and the Government of Western Australia to tell them how they can make SDA better.

What our report says

Our report is called **Life in Specialist Disability Accommodation in Western Australia.**

People who live in SDA and their families told us:

- getting a home was very **complex**

- they want more help when finding a home

- they want to be safe
- they want to be **independent**

Independent means doing things for yourself and making your own choices.

- they want to live near their family and friends

- some of them told us they do not have enough money to pay for an SDA home

- some people told us they were scared of the Government taking away the money they need to pay for an SDA home

Some people said they wanted more choices of homes.

Some people said they just wanted to move into a home quickly.

Moving into an SDA home

It is important that the SDA home you move into is right for you.

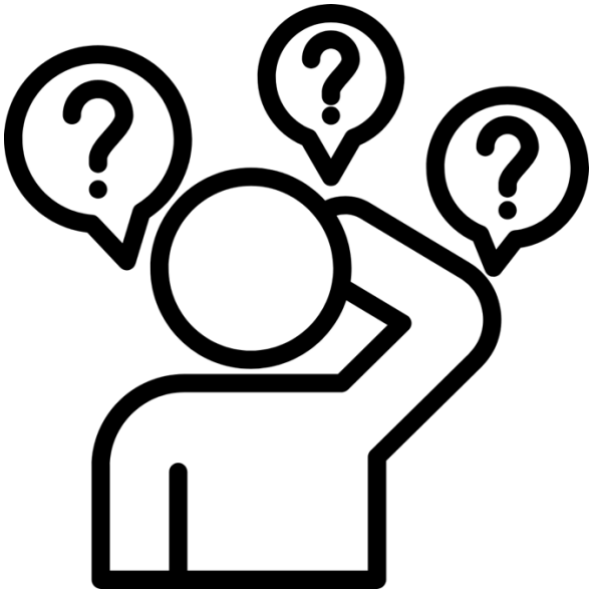
This may mean:

- living with people you like
- a home that lets you move around easily and do the things you want to do

When you move into an SDA home you need to sign a **lease.**

A **lease** is an agreement between you and the person or organisation you rent your home from.

It says what you and they must do.



Many people told us they do not understand the rules in their lease.

They told us they would like simple rules for living in their home.

Many people told us they like their home.

Some people said their home could be more **accessible.**

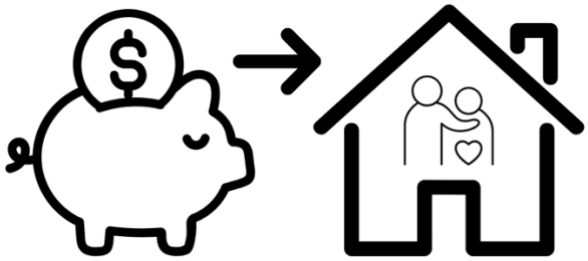
Accessible means everyone is able to find and use something.

Some people said it was hard to get things fixed if they were broken.

Some people said they did not know who to tell if they did not like something or needed something fixed.

Supported Independent Living (SIL) is money to help you pay someone to help you with your disability.

- SDA and SIL are different



People who live in SDA can pay for SIL workers to help them with their daily activities.

Providers can sell both SDA and SIL.

Some people told us they do not know the difference.

What we are asking Government

Australian Government

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

When we say **Government** we mean the people who are paid to help everyone.

We call them the **Australian Government** and the **Government of Western Australia.**

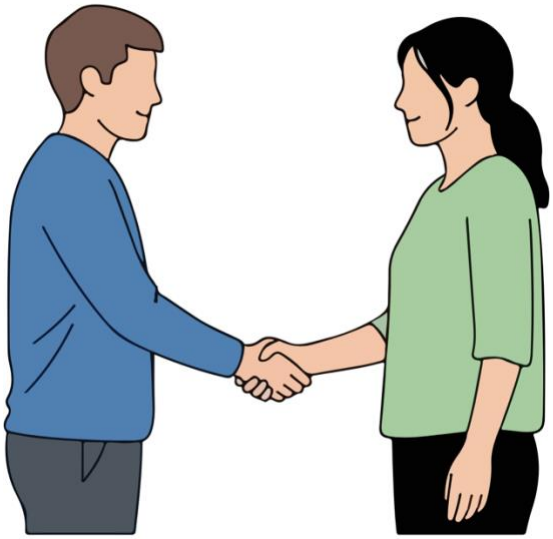
Our recommendations to Government were:

- give people information that is easy to understand
- make it easy to search for a home

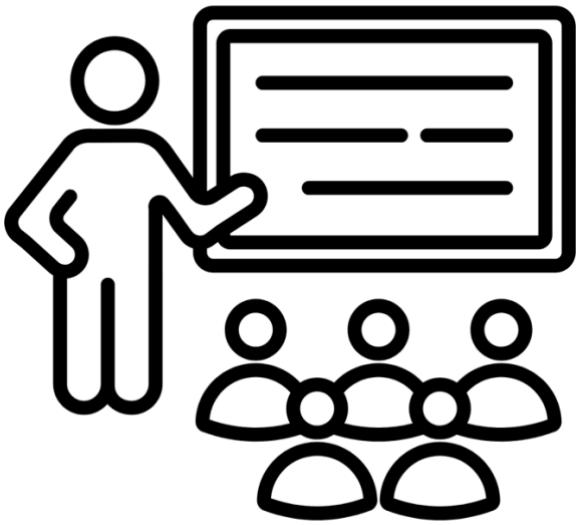
- give people more support

- improve **regulation** of Specialist Disability Accommodation.

Regulation means having rules and checking to make sure SDA providers do the right thing.



- both Governments should work together more



- that the Government of Western Australia help the people who sell SDA to understand the law

- that **Consumer Protection WA** be **proactive**

Consumer Protection WA checks to make sure SDA providers do the right thing.

Proactive means you help before bad things happen.

- create a phone number people living in SDA can call for help

- teach the people who answer phone calls about SDA so they can help

We asked:

- that **leases** or **agreements** for your home do not end

- that the Government **co-design** with people with disabilities

Co-design means making something together with the people who will use it, instead of making it for them.

What happens now

We have given our report to Government.

We have asked Government to listen to these recommendations.