



Family &  
Community  
Services

## Permanency Support Program

### Appendix 4A: Service Overview – Supported Independent Living

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This appendix should be read in conjunction with the 'Permanency Support Program – Program Description' and all relevant appendices.

# Appendix 4A: Service Overview – Supported Independent Living (SIL)

## 1 Overview

Supported Independent Living (SIL) is an integrated accommodation and support program that aims to prepare and support young people to make a smooth transition from the Permanency Support Program to independent living, self-reliance and adulthood. This is achieved through the provision of accommodation, case management and support services for up to 24 months. Living arrangements can include lead tenant households, supported tenancies and supported shared housing.

The goals of the program are:

- To prevent young people transitioning from the Permanency Support Program to homelessness services
- To maximise young people's capacity to live independently in the community
- To improve social, economic and health outcomes for young people leaving care.

SIL supports young people to successfully acquire independent living skills through the provision of accommodation, casework support and structured and individualised life skills programs. SIL provides a comprehensive and integrated response that prepares young people for independence by strategically addressing their identified needs and implementing their Case Plan Goal.

## 2 Eligibility and access

The client group for SIL services are young people aged 16 to 17 years old at entry and assessed as CAT 1 or 4 who:

- Are in statutory OOHC or
- Are exiting the Permanency Support Program to live independently, or have left a Permanency Support Program placement but require further support to successfully transition to independence, and
- have been assessed by the Central Access Unit as having the capacity to live independently after a period of tailored support.

The maximum amount of time a young person can remain in the program is 24 months.

Referral of a young person to the Central Access Unit will be made by the CFDU where the young person meets the eligibility criteria outlined above.

## 3 Minimum service expectations

SIL services must identify and develop the skills, competencies and community connections the young person needs to acquire to be able to live independently. SIL includes the provision of work support and facilitates access to specialist services that assist young people to understand their behavioural, emotional, psychological, educational and physical health needs.

SIL services must be designed to provide the following:

- Accommodation which is stable, appropriate and affordable
- Living skills which include self-care, home management and budgeting
- Facilitate relationships with family, significant others and friends
- Provide access to health and counselling services, therapeutic intervention, welfare and community resources, specialist medical, allied health and dental services
- Assistance with access to education, training, vocational and employment assistance to support financial self sufficiency
- Access to Aftercare Services
- A 'stay put' option available to young people exiting the program who have demonstrated the capacity to maintain a tenancy
- Education and support to develop parenting skills, where appropriate
- Ongoing support after completing the program until 25 years.

Each young person in a SIL placement must be allocated a caseworker to ensure that their individual goals are incorporated into their case plan and appropriate exit pathways are identified. The caseworker supports the young person through the process of developing their Life Skills Program and Futures Planning. The casework support is provided flexibly depending on how much support a young person requires at any particular time with levels of support gradually decreasing as a young person's competencies increase. However, at a minimum the caseworker must have contact in person with the young person every week.

Service providers must ensure staff attend regular house meetings and that any carers or volunteers are Authorised Carers.

## 4 SIL Delivery Structure

SIL does not have a prescriptive delivery structure. This is to encourage innovative sector responses to the specific needs of young people.

As a minimum the Service provider must provide the following components:

- a furnished house or apartment rented from the public or private sector
- pay the difference between young people's contribution towards the rent and the actual rent charged for the property. The young person contributes a proportion of their income towards the rent and utilities for their share of costs (aligned with [FACS Charging Rent Policy](#))

- pay for the repair of deliberate property damage caused by residents and , where appropriate, negotiate the repayment of property damage debts with the resident responsible for the damage. Where there are major instances, FACS will work with the Service Provider to address the damage.
- assist young people exiting the program with establishing their own tenancies in the private or public sector if the option of remaining in the property is not available, or if the young person wishes to move to be nearer support networks, educational services, or employment
- assist young people exiting the program to receive priority access to required Aftercare Services.

Three suggested options for providing SIL placements are:

- Supported shared housing
- Lead tenant households
- Supported tenancies

The differences between the three (3) options are outlined in the following table.

Supported shared housing	Lead tenant households	Supported tenancies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suitable for up to 3-4 young people able to live in a share house who do not require daily supervision or intensive case manager support.</li> <li>• Casework support provided to young person in an environment of their choice</li> <li>• A young person may stay in the accommodation after exiting the program.</li> <li>• Young person cannot take over the tenancy as vacancies in share housing are to be filled when they become available.</li> <li>• A property owned by the Service Provider can be used for this type of arrangement because it remains open to new participants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suitable for up to 2-4 young people requiring daily supervision.</li> <li>• Live-in volunteer or carer as an Authorised Carer is the lead tenant and receives free rent and utilities to oversee the day-to-day running of the home and provides positive role modelling and informal personal support.</li> <li>• The lead tenant has access to 24 hour support.</li> <li>• Casework support provided to young person.</li> <li>• Young person(s) may have option of assuming the lease in cases where they have demonstrated the capacity to meet the obligations of the tenancy agreement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suitable for 1-2 young people who are not yet ready to live in a share living situation, are not suitable for lead tenant arrangement and require daily casework support.</li> <li>• Intensive daily case work support provided to young people</li> <li>• Support is gradually reduced as young person's competencies increase.</li> <li>• Young person(s) may have option of assuming the lease in cases where they have demonstrated the capacity to meet the obligations of the tenancy agreement.</li> </ul>

## 5 Funding Arrangements for SIL

SIL placements will be funded according to the Service model which is composed of a Case Plan Goal Package, a Baseline Package and a Child Needs Package. Other specialist packages are available for: Cultural Plan (Aboriginal); CALD; 15+ Years Reconnect; Leaving Care; and 4+ Sibling Options Placement. For unique or truly exceptional circumstances, an

additional Complex Needs payment may be added. The service design can be thought of as a 'build-up' approach whereby flexible options can be selected to meet individual child needs and achieve the overall Case Plan Goal.

Initial Case Plan Goal packages are provided for up to two years to facilitate young people having a safe, permanent home. Restoration/Guardianship/Adoption packages are all for a period of up to two years. Extensions to time may be granted in some circumstances.

Long Term Care packages require a review every twelve months to identify if other permanency arrangements, such as restoration, may be appropriate. Ongoing activity to find family for the purposes of restoration has been incorporated into the service package cost. Intensive support must be provided to identify and achieve a permanency outcome over time.

Detailed information on the packages and review periods are outlined in the [Permanency Support Program Guidelines](#).

The SIL Baseline package supports the young person in their placement. The baseline package includes the Service Providers' accommodation, overhead, administration, casework and other staffing costs.

Each young person will also receive a Child Needs Package which will be guided by the CAT. While the services provided across low, medium and high needs will largely be the same, they will differ in regularity and intensity to support individual needs of the young people.

Two specialist packages have been designed to assist young people to successfully transition from OOHC and to reconnect with their family. Young people in SIL may also be eligible for other specialist packages. Decisions about specialist packages will be made on a case by case basis.

Specialist Package	Description	Payment Specification
Leaving Care package	Provision of extra caseworker hours to develop and undertake the strategies to support a young person to exit from OOHC with increased capacity to achieve independence and be linking to services that will support their Futures Plan goals.	Annual payment for up to 3 years
15+ Years Old Reconnect	A number of older young people who have been in care for a period of time have limited for no contact with family or significant others from their life before entering OOHC. Where it is safe to do so and the young person agrees then this package of supports will assist in reconnecting the young person with their family prior to exiting care.	Annual payment for up to 3 years

Additional information on funding arrangements are outlined in Schedule 3 of the PSP Program Level Agreement.

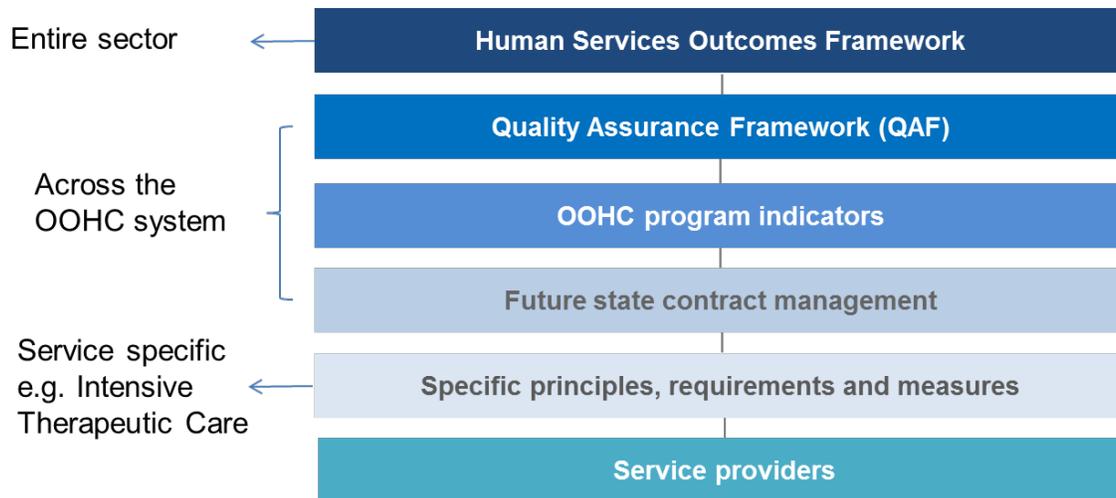
# 6 Case Management

Information and requirements for case management are located in the following documents and sections

Information/Requirements	Reference
Case management also involving services from Juvenile Justice	Appendix 6: Section 3.1
Casework responsibilities	Appendix 6: Section 3.2
Requirement to work with birth families and significant others	Program Description: Section 2.4.1

# 7 Key Performance Indicators

An outcome and monitoring framework provides continuity from the level of broader human services outcomes to service delivery.



From 1 July 2018, outcomes and indicators will be used to inform financial abatements and incentives for contracted Service Providers. The development of measures for SIL will be influenced by the Quality Assurance Framework trial.

Indicators will be tracked and enhanced over time for Service Providers and FACS to understand the impact of the OOHC care program on children and young people and are outlined below.

Schedule 2 of the PLA sets out FACS' performance and outcomes data reporting requirements for the Program, including the Key Performance Indicators and other outcomes measurement data that Service Providers will be required to report on.