

## **Short Term Accommodation (STA)**

The NDIA defines Short Term Accommodation (STA) as a temporary arrangement for participants who require a short-term stay away from home, offering respite for both the participant and their informal carers. This policy outlines the NDIA's guidelines, which providers must adhere to and details the implementation approach by IOE.

### **Purpose**

Short Term Accommodation STA is there to help maintain living situations by providing respite. It also provides an opportunity for participants to try new things, make new friends and promote independence.

STA cannot be used for holidays or travel. Where support is required on a holiday, relevant (non-STA) line items will be billed from the NDIS plan.

### **Funding for Short Term Accommodation**

STA funds can be accessed if it relates to a person's disability support needs, and where it is reasonable and necessary. Funds come from the core budget of a NDIS plan for up to 14 days.

STA guidelines say funding for STA is for a group, individual support is only available if there is solid evidence of need due to a person's disability.

### **STA at IOE**

IOE acknowledges that Short Term Accommodation (STA) traditionally refers to facility-based respite opportunities. A primary purpose of IOE is to enhance family wellbeing by offering respite for informal carers while delivering dynamic and innovative services.

Given IOE does not operate facility-based respite, STA opportunities will be provided in a variety of settings. All STA services will have the primary goal of providing informal carers respite while providing a meaning experience for the participant.

### **Inclusions**

- **Accommodation** - Reasonable accommodation will be sourced by IOE to meet participant needs. Locations may vary depending on availability, cost and type of accommodation required.
- **Meals** - In house meals will be provided. Where cooking facilities are not available, or it is more practical, a purchased meal will be provided.
- **Activities** - Some no or low-cost activities may be provided as part of the STA where it provides an opportunity for a participant to engage in meaningful activities. Any other activities will incur an out-of-pocket expense.

### **Exclusions**

- Holiday accommodation (i.e. resorts), Cruises, health retreats
- STA where informal supports are also attending
- Entry tickets to events
- Any exclusions outlined by NDIS

### **Travel costs**

STA guidelines say travel for activities during an STA may only be covered if it can be linked to a participants disability needs.

IOE will include the cost of transport to and from the short-term accommodation location and necessary travel to attend activities during the STA. Any significant travel distances will not be included and will be an out-of-pocket expense to the participant.

### **Participants in Supported Independent Living (SIL and SDA)**

STA is not available for participants in Supported Independent Living or living alone. This is because these participants already experience time apart from family or informal carers. Additionally, STA cannot be used solely for capacity and independence building.

### **Payment**

IOE strongly advises that participants or their nominees contact their plan manager or LAC before booking a STA to confirm eligibility and ensure the STA will be approved for payment.

If STA is provided but later rejected for payment by the plan manager or NDIA, the participant will be responsible for covering the cost.

Some plan managers may ask additional questions when using STA prior to approving the payment

- What is the reason for STA? Is it providing respite for unpaid carers?
- Have you been funded for 1-1 support in your plan or group funding? (You may require additional evidence to support your reason for needing 1:1 support for STA if you usually access group supports)