

## Project Independence – Eligibility and Financial Considerations

### About Project Independence

**Our Mission:** *To provide a place of safety for residents to grow their independence both financially and socially with guidance and support whilst living within a sustainable, safe and caring community.*

Project Independence (PI) offers a unique and innovative model of home ownership that gives people with intellectual disability the opportunity to build financial equity in their own unit within the PI community. Residents have a secure unit with private indoor and outdoor spaces. They also share common spaces with other residents for social connection, meals, and recreation. Onsite support is provided by a Live-in Resident Coordinator (LIRC) who provides some meals and supports residents to build their skills for independent living. Residents choose to procure their own external supports as required to meet their needs.

### Who is eligible to apply to live in a PI home?

The PI houses are designed for people who:

- Have a mild intellectual disability.
- Have the desire to live in harmony with others and develop their independent living skills.
- Are an Australian Citizen or a permanent resident.
- Are between the ages of 18-60 upon entry.
- Can manage their own personal care or have supports in place.
- Can travel independently or have the desire to learn or have supports in place.
- Can assist with household chores or have the desire to learn.
- Can manage their own routine medications and health appointments or have supports in place.
- Be able to pay a 10% deposit of approximately \$30,000.
- Be on the disability support pension (DSP) or have the financial capacity to pay equivalent of 75% of the DSP.
- Have an NDIS Core budget (or private income) to pay 5 hours of PI support per week.

### Try Before You Buy (TBYB) period

The first 12 months of a resident's time at PI is called the Try Before You Buy (TBYB) period. The TBYB policy ensures that the resident will have ample opportunity to decide whether a PI house is the right accommodation option for them, and for PI to ensure that the resident can live without excessive support and in harmony with other residents in the house. PI support during this period is focused on transition into the household/community and the identification of required skills development.

Regular reviews are conducted during the TBYB period to ensure that the resident is content at PI and getting the support they need. Reviews focus on the development of the following skills and capacities:

- **Life skills** – an ability to look after themselves and undertake activities of daily living, either independently or with good external supports in place.
- **Social skills** – the ability to live in harmony with others and regulate their emotions and behaviours.
- **Management of own physical and mental health** – an ability to live in a state of stable physical and mental wellbeing without unreasonable intervention from PI.
- **Contribution to the PI household** - residents are expected to contribute to the PI household by undertaking tasks and responsibilities related to living in the PI community.

## **Outline of Current Costs for all PI Residents**

- Deposit: 10% of valued price of unit as a holding deposit.
- A proportion of the DSP to service the loan and pay for operating costs of the PI home including rates, all utilities (electricity, water, internet, etc), provided food and meals, shared appliances and facilities and maintenance of common areas.
- Payment from NDIS Core Budget (Line Item f01\_011\_0107\_1\_1 – assistance with self-care activities) for the shared support from PI staff.

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