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| Transitional arrangements for transferred SIL and STAA service providers 2025–26  |
| Social services sector emergency management policy note |
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**Date**: 8 July 2025

**Subject:** Transferred Supported Independent Living and Short-Term Accommodation and Assistance service providers – Application of the Social services sector emergency management policy V6.0 through the 2025–26 high-risk bushfire season.

Following the transition of disability accommodation and respite services to non-government providers, the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (the department) will cease funding and oversight of Supported Independent Living (SIL) and Short-Term Accommodation and Assistance (STAA) services on 31 December 2025.

However, to support continuity of emergency preparedness, transferred SIL and STAA service providers will remain in scope of the *Social services sector emergency management policy*(the policy)*(v6.0)*until the end of the 2025-26 high-risk bushfire season (30 April 2026, or as advised otherwise by the department).

During this time, providers would be required to continue to implement all service-specific emergency management requirements outlined in the policy during this period. This includes:

* Implementing their Bushfire Survival Plan including adhering to relocation triggers and procedures for days of Extreme or Catastrophic Fire Danger Ratings
* Undertaking timely relocations as stipulated in their Bushfire Survival Plans
* Reporting relocations and returns to the department
* Applying for relocation exemptions where relevant.

This interim measure supports continuity of emergency preparedness and client safety during the high-risk bushfire season.

Following the conclusion of the 2025-26 high-risk bushfire season, transferred SIL and STAA service providers will no longer be in-scope of the policy.

Emergency preparedness resources are available on the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing’s [Service Providers](https://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/emergency-management) <https://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/emergency-management> https://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/emergency-management website, and can be used by services providers in and out of scope of the policy.

**Issued by:**

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

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Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.

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ISBN 978-1-76130-860-4 (online/PDF/Word)

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