

# **Special Disability Trusts project**

**Easy Read report**

## What is this report about?



- This report is about a project on Special Disability Trusts.
- Special Disability Trusts are like a bank account that keeps money safe so a person with disability can pay for things in the future.

## Why is this information important?



- Special Disability Trusts are useful for some people.
- The money in a Special Disability Trust can be used to pay for housing and care, and some other things.

## The information in this report is important because it shows:

- The benefits of Special Disability Trusts
- What helps people start a Special Disability Trust, and what makes it harder
- What changes could make Special Disability Trusts more useful.

## Who was involved in the project?



- Researchers from the Social Policy Research Centre did the project.

## What did the researchers do?



- The researchers read the legal rules for Special Disability Trusts.
- The researchers also talked to people who know about Special Disability Trusts, like lawyers.

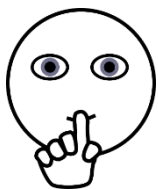


- Then the researchers talked to some families who had a Special Disability Trust or wanted to set one up.

# What do we know about Special Disability Trusts?



- Special Disability Trusts were set up by the Government in 2006, so that people with disability can pay for things in the future.
- The Government says there are around 2000 Special Disability Trusts in Australia – together they hold about \$150 million.
- There may be more Trusts. Some families set up Special Disability Trusts in their wills and put money in them later.



- We do not know what people use the money in a Special Disability Trust for, because the government keeps that information private.

# What is good about Special Disability Trusts?



- The good thing about having a Special Disability Trust is that it can have a lot of money in there (up to \$700,000) without affecting the Disability Support Pension.



- Having a house as part of the Special Disability Trust also means paying less or no stamp duty, land tax and council rates (depending on where you live).



- But buying a house is hard, with or without a Special Disability Trust.

# What are the barriers to Special Disability Trusts?

People had problems setting up a Special Disability Trust:



- The rules are strict



- People with disability and their families may not know much about money



- People with disability and their families may not have much money to put into a Special Disability Trust

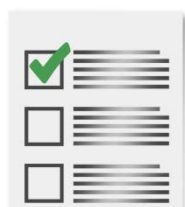


- Not many people set up Special Disability Trusts. Not many people or organisations can help set up a Special Disability Trust.

# What could help people know more about Special Disability Trusts?



- People want more information about Special Disability Trusts. Organisations want to know how to set them up.



- People said the government should make the rules easier.



- People need other help to find a home that is right for them.



- The NDIS could help people with disability find a good home and support them to live in it.

This document was written by Suzanna Poredos and Laura Davy.