

**Independent  
Advisory  
Council**  
to the **ndis**



# **Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS**

**Our Annual Report: 2021–2022**

**Easy Read version**



## How to use this report



We are the Independent Advisory Council to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (the Council).

When you see the words 'we' or 'us', it means the Council.



We wrote this report for the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).



We wrote this report in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

**Bold**

We have written some words in **bold**.

Not bold

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 40.



This Easy Read report is a summary of the *Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS Annual Report 2021-22*.



You can find the other report on our website.

[www.ndis-iac.com.au/news](http://www.ndis-iac.com.au/news)



You can ask for help to read this report.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

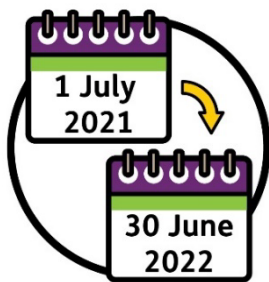
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## What is this report about?



This report explains our work over the last 12 months.



We explain what we did from:

- 1 July 2021
- to
- 30 June 2022.



We explain how we have tried to make the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) better.

We also explain:



- what we do



- how we work



- our members



- our **advice**.



Advice is ideas about how to make things better.

## What does the Council do?



We are **independent**.



This means we can:

- say what we think
- have our own ideas and opinions about the NDIS.



We give advice to the NDIA **Board**.



A Board is a group of people who make decisions for:

- an organisation
- a company.

The NDIA Board makes decisions about:



- **policies** – plans for how things will be done



- how well the NDIA is working



- money



- connecting with the community



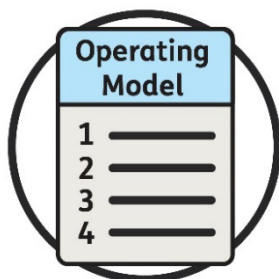
- who works at the NDIA.



The NDIA Board listens to our advice about the NDIS.



# How does the Council work?



We have a guide about how the Council should work.

We call it our **Operating Model**.

Our Operating Model helps us work well:



- as a team



- with the NDIA.

It helps us connect with:



- people with disability

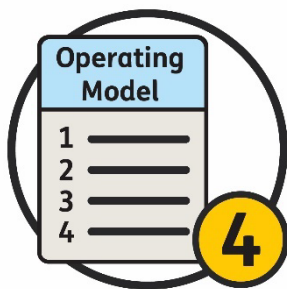


- their families and communities.

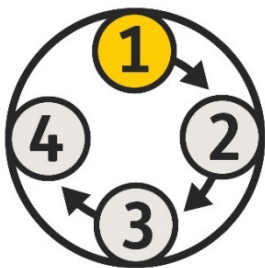


Our Operating Model also helps us:

- share our ideas with experts
- write our advice.



Our Operating Model has 4 main steps.



### 1. Identify and prioritise

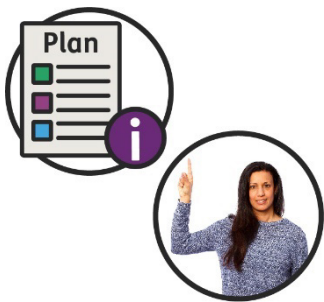


We think about:

- what advice the NDIA needs
- other information we know about.

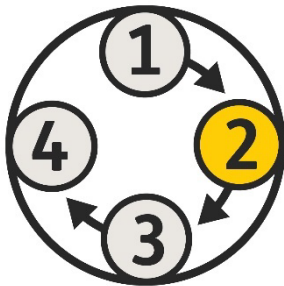


The NDIA can ask us for advice and information about a certain topic.

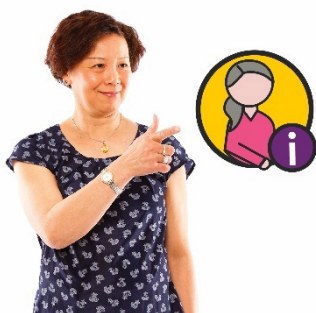


We make a plan to work out what:

- information we need
- work we will do first.



## 2. Mobilise



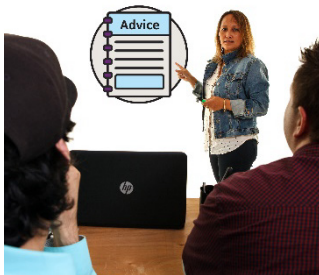
We work out who can give us the information we need.



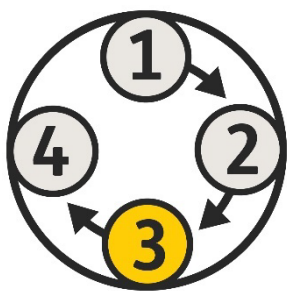
We do our own research.



We write our advice.



We make sure we all agree with the advice.



### 3. Advise



We get our advice ready for the NDIA Board.



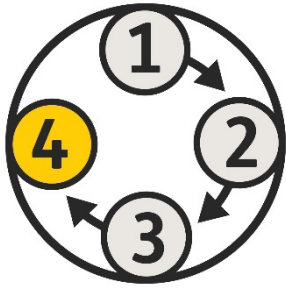
The NDIA Board:

- thinks about our advice
- decides what to do with our advice.



They give our advice to:

- the Minister for the NDIS
- other disability ministers.



#### 4. Implement



We get a report from the NDIA every 6 months to see how our advice is going.



We give more advice if we need to.



We share our final advice with the:

- NDIA
- community.

# Our 2021–22 Work Plan



Our Work Plan talks about the work we will do each year.

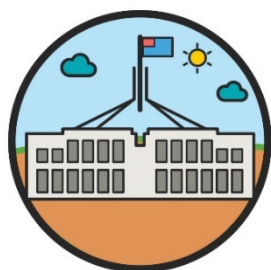


Our **priorities** are the things that are most important to us.

When we make our Work Plan, we think about the priorities:



- of the Council



- from the government.



We also think about the priorities in the **NDIA Corporate Plan**.



The NDIA Corporate Plan explains the goals for the NDIS over the next 4 years.



Our Work Plan might change if we make new priorities during the year.

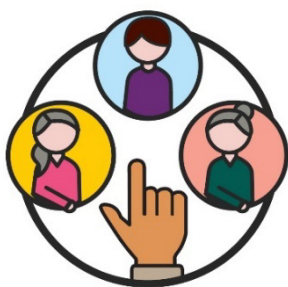


You can find an Easy Read version of our Work Plan on our website.

[www.ndis-iac.com.au/news](http://www.ndis-iac.com.au/news)



## Who is part of the Council?



The Minister for the NDIS chooses who is on the Council.



Our members include:

- people with disability
- family and carers
- service providers.



**Leah van Poppel** is the Principal Member.

She is our leader.



She became the Principal Member on 1 January 2022.

She also joined the NDIA Board at the same time.



She used to be the leader of Women with Disabilities Victoria.



**Kerry Allan-Zinner** works to improve **rights** for people with disability.



Rights are rules about how everybody should be treated fairly.



Kerry is a person with disability.

She was born with cerebral palsy.



**Dr Sharon Boyce** is a person with disability.

She:



- is from Queensland
- speaks up for people with disability.



**Jennifer Cullen** has worked in disability services for more than 33 years.



She is a proud Aboriginal woman.

She supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with disability.



**Dr Leighton Jay** gives advice on policies and services that affect people with disability.



He has a son with disability.



**Sylvana Mahmic** speaks up for people with disability.



She works hard to support children with disability.



**Tricia Malowney OAM** speaks up for the rights of people with disability.

She is a woman with disability.



The OAM after her name means she received an award called the Medal of the Order of Australia.



**James Manders** works on different Boards.



He speaks up for people with disability.



**Sam Paior** is a service provider in South Australia.

She is the leader of The Growing Space.

**Liz Reid AM** supports people with disability to:



- find and keep a job
- take part in their communities.

The AM after her name means that she received an award for the Member of the Order of Australia.



**Dr George Taleporos** lives with a physical disability and high support needs.



He has been speaking up for people with disability for over 20 years.

He also leads the Victorian Disability Advisory Council.



**Mark Tonga** speaks up to make sure people with different disabilities:

- are included
- get the support they need.



He believes everyone should be treated:

- fairly
- like equals.



**Dr Ben Gauntlett** is Council's Expert Adviser.

This means he supports us with our work.



He is the Disability Discrimination Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission.

This means he works to make sure people with disability are safe.



**Belinda Epstein-Frisch AM** works closely with Council members to bring our advice to life.



The AM after her name means that she received an award for the Member of the Order of Australia.



She has experience writing policies that affect people with disability.

She speaks up for people with disability.

## People who left the Council



**Robyn Kruk AO** was our leader from July 2020 to December 2021.

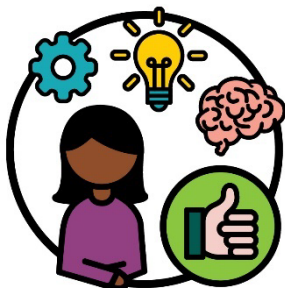


The AO after her name means she received an award called Officer of the Order of Australia.





**Judy Huett** was part of the Council from July 2012 to December 2021.



She still works to improve the rights of people with **intellectual disability**.

An intellectual disability affects how you:



- learn new things
- solve problems
- communicate
- do things on your own.

# Reference Groups



We have 4 **Reference Groups**.

A Reference Group is a group of people who give us advice about a certain topic.

Our Reference Groups are the:



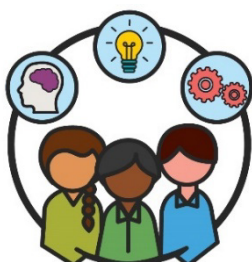
- Children, Young People and Families Reference Group



- Equity and Inclusion Reference Group.



- Home and Living Reference Group



- Intellectual Disability Reference Group



Our Reference Groups will help support our advice.

Our Reference Groups include people who:



- know a lot about the topic for their group



- have a disability



- come from different backgrounds.



We talk more about each Reference Group below.

## Children, Young People and Families Reference Group

This group gives advice about how to support:



- children with disability



- young people with disability



- their families and carers.

This includes how to support them to:



- do things for themselves



- take part in the community.

## Equity and Inclusion Reference Group

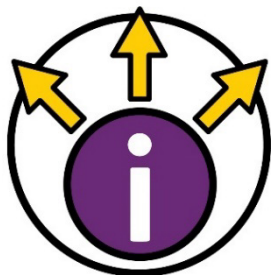
This group gives advice about:



- giving everyone an equal chance



- treating everyone fairly



- sharing information with the community



- how to be more **inclusive**.



When the community is inclusive, everyone feels:

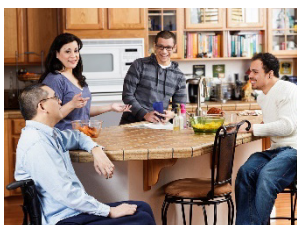
- included
- like they belong.

## Home and Living Reference Group

This group gives advice about supports people with disability need:



- in their home



- to live their life each day

## Intellectual Disability Reference Group

This group gives advice about supporting people with intellectual disability to:



- live their life



- take part in their community.

# What have we been working on?

## Advice



In the last 12 months, we gave suggestions and advice to the NDIA Board.



When we give advice to the NDIA Board they must:

- listen to us
- do something about it.



We worked on advice about how to support **participants** from different backgrounds.



Participants are people with disability who take part in the NDIS.

This includes supporting:



- First Nations peoples



- **culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)** people.



CALD people:

- come from different countries or backgrounds
- speak languages other than English.

This also includes supporting **LGBTIQA+** people.

LGBTIQA stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and questioning, and asexual.



The '+' is for people who are part of the LGBTIQA+ community but don't talk about themselves using a word from this list.

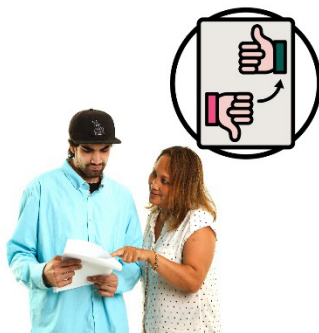




We also worked on advice about ways to support how a participant acts or behaves.



We worked on advice about making sure participants get support as they get older.



And we gave advice about how the NDIA can work with people with disability to make the NDIS better.

## Input and expertise

We also shared other ideas with:



- the NDIA



- people who work for the NDIA.



They do not have to do anything about it.

But it can help them in their work.



We worked with people with disability and the NDIA to share these ideas.



We shared ideas about how to support participants who manage their own plans.



We also shared ideas about the **plan implementation directory**.

This is a new way for the NDIA to share information about how participants can use their plans.



You can find the plan implementation directory on the NDIS website.

**[www.ndis.gov.au/participants/plan-implementation-directory](http://www.ndis.gov.au/participants/plan-implementation-directory)**

## Sharing our work

Over the last year, we shared some of our work with the:



- NDIA



- community.



We share our work by posting it on our website.



We also share news updates, such as bulletins.  
This includes Easy Read versions.



You can find these bulletins on our website.

[www.ndis-iac.com.au/meetings](http://www.ndis-iac.com.au/meetings)



We started using an Easy Read meeting pack for our Intellectual Disability Reference Group.



We want to make sure our website works well for everyone.

We are planning to start work on our website in the next year.



We also talked to over 900 NDIA staff to share:

- what work we do
- how to work with us.



We also made videos that talk about:

- what we do
- the advice we give.



You can find these videos on our website.

## More information



For more information about our Annual Report, please contact us.



You can visit our website.

[www.ndis-iac.com.au/news](http://www.ndis-iac.com.au/news)



You can send us an email.

[advisorycouncil@ndis.gov.au](mailto:advisorycouncil@ndis.gov.au)



You can learn more about the NDIS on their website.

[www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au)



You can also call the NDIS.

**1800 800 110**

## Word list



### Advice

Advice is ideas about how to make things better.



### Board

A Board is a group of people who make decisions for:

- an organisation
- a company.



### Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)

CALD people:

- come from different countries or backgrounds
- speak languages other than English.





## Inclusive

When the community is inclusive, everyone feels:

- included
- like they belong.



## Independent

This means we can:

- say what we think
- have our own ideas and opinions about the NDIS.

## Input and expertise

Input and expertise are other kinds of advice we give to:



- the NDIA
- people who work for the NDIA.

They don't have to do something about it.

But it can help them in their work.

## Intellectual disability



An intellectual disability affects how you:

- learn new things
- solve problems
- communicate
- do things on your own.

## LGBTIQA+ people



LGBTIQA stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning, intersex, and asexual.

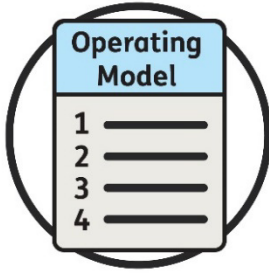


The '+' is for people who are part of the LGBTIQA+ community but don't talk about themselves using a word from this list.



## NDIA Corporate Plan

The NDIA Corporate Plan explains the goals for the NDIS over the next 4 years.



## Operating Model

Our Operating Model helps us work well:

- as a team
- with the NDIA.



## Participants

Participants are people with disability who take part in the NDIS.



## Plan implementation directory

The plan implementation directory is a place for people to learn how to use their plans effectively.



## Policies

Policies are plans for how things will be done.



## Priorities

Our priorities are the things that are most important to us.



## Reference Group

A Reference Group is a group of people who give us advice about a certain topic.



## Rights

Rights are rules about how everybody should be treated fairly.



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