

Children, Young People and Families Reference Group

Easy Read meeting bulletin

24 November 2025



**Independent
Advisory
Council
to the** 

How to use this bulletin



We are the Independent Advisory Council (IAC).

We give advice about ways to make the NDIS better.



We wrote some words in **bold**.

We explain what these words mean.

There is also a list of these words on page [23](#).



We wrote this **bulletin**.

A bulletin is an important news item we share with the community.

It explains what we did in our meeting.



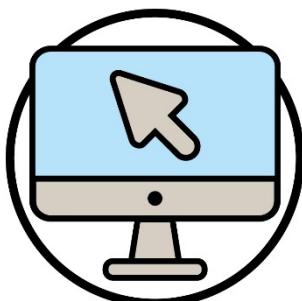
You can ask someone you trust for support to:

- read this bulletin
- find more information.



This is an Easy Read summary of another bulletin.

It only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other bulletin on our website.

www.ndis-iac.com.au/meetings

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About this Reference Group



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

This Reference Group is about:



- children



- young people



- their families.



The Reference Group shares their ideas with the IAC about how to support children and young people with disability.

This includes support to:



- do things for themselves



- take part in the community.



The IAC use these ideas from the Reference Group when they write their advice for the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) Board.

We just call them the **NDIA Board**.



The NDIA Board is a group of people who make decisions about all parts of the NDIA.

What issues did the community share?



Reference Group members connected with the community to find out about issues that affect them.



This includes issues that affect **participants**.

Participants are people with disability who take part in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).



Members shared reports about these issues with the NDIA.



People from the NDIA also shared their response to some of these issues.

Improve Thriving Kids



Reference Group members said some families with young children are confused about Thriving Kids.



Thriving Kids is a program for children who need extra support.



For example, children with **developmental delay**. A developmental delay is when a child takes longer than usual to learn things like walking or talking.



Members said the NDIA and Thriving Kids need to work together better.



This includes when the NDIA checks if a child can take part in the NDIS when they turn 6 years old.



- make it easier to find and use their supports



- make sure children with developmental delay can get the supports they need.



The NDIA said some children with disability who need extra support can still use the NDIS.

Changes to therapy

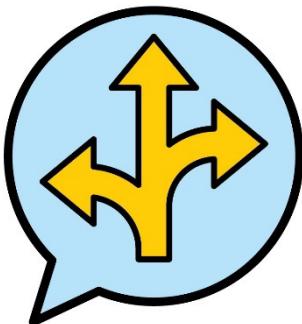


Reference Group members said participants are worried about changes to the types of **therapy** they can use.



Therapy includes different types of support that can help improve how:

- you think and feel
- your body moves.



Members said participants are being told different things about what types of therapy they can use.



This is because some **NDIA planners** are not sure what types of therapy participants can use.



An NDIA planner is someone who:

- makes new **NDIS plans**
- changes NDIS plans.



An NDIS plan has information about:

- a participant and their goals
- what supports a participant needs
- what the NDIS will pay for.

Autism can affect how you:



- think
- feel
- communicate
- connect and deal with others.



Members said that changes to therapy make some Autistic people feel like they don't belong.



Autistic people feel this way because people have been saying bad things about them:

- on the news
- online.

Child protection services



Reference Group members said some families are worried about **child protection services**.



Child protection services help children stay safe.

They can decide if a child:

- is not safe in their home
- must live with someone else.



Families are worried that some NDIA planners are calling child protection services.



NDIA planners are doing this because of how a parent's disability affects the way they care for their child.

But they aren't always right.



Members asked the NDIA what training NDIA planners have about when to call child protection services.



The NDIA said they will look into this issue.

Assistive technology



Assistive technology is equipment or a device that can help people do things more easily.

For example, a wheelchair or a hearing aid.



Reference group members said it can be hard for some participants to find the right assistive technology.



This includes participants who live very far away from cities and towns.

Support to apply to the NDIS



Reference Group members asked the NDIA to support people when they apply to the NDIS.



Members said that many people feel like it's too hard to apply to the NDIS.



The NDIA thanked members for sharing this information.



The NDIA also said they would think more about what members shared.

Changes to assessments



Reference Group members said some people are worried about changes to **assessments**.



The NDIA uses assessments to work out:

- how someone's disability affects their life
- what support someone needs from the NDIS.



Members said they want to know more about how the NDIA will run assessments.

This includes how they will think about:



- people with **anxiety**

and



- people who need extra support.



Anxiety is when you feel very worried or scared about something that may or may not happen.



The NDIA said they have a new tool to help them decide what supports people with disability need.



But they are still working on an assessment for children under 16 years old.

Update on foundational supports and Thriving Kids

The Department of Health, Ageing and Disability gave an update on:



- the Thriving Kids program



- **foundational supports.**



Foundational supports are disability supports for all people with disability.

This includes people with disability who don't take part in the NDIS.

Update on the IAC's advice



The IAC's Independent Advisor gave an update.



The IAC's Independent Advisors are people who work with the IAC and Reference Groups.



They help the IAC and Reference Groups make their advice.



The IAC's Independent Advisor gave an update on the IAC's home and living advice.



They also gave an update on the IAC's advice about the **justice system**.



The justice system makes sure everyone is treated fairly and follows the law.



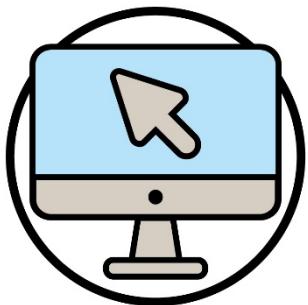
The justice system includes:

- prisons
- courts
- police.

Our next meeting



Our next meeting is on **2 February 2026**.

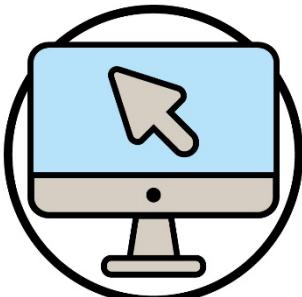


You can find out more about our meetings
and bulletins on our website.

www.ndis-iac.com.au/meetings

More information

For more information about this bulletin, please contact us.



You can visit our website.

www.ndis-iac.com.au



You can send us an email.

advisorycouncil@ndis.gov.au



You can learn more about the NDIS on their website.

www.ndis.gov.au



You can call the NDIS.

1800 800 110

Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this bulletin mean.



Anxiety

Anxiety is when you feel very worried or scared about something that may or may not happen.



Assessment

The NDIA uses assessments to work out:

- how someone's disability affects their life
- what funding someone needs from the NDIS.



Assistive technology

Assistive technology is equipment or a device that can help people do things more easily.

For example, a wheelchair or a hearing aid.

Autism

Autism can affect how you:



- think
- feel
- communicate
- connect and deal with others.



Bulletin

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It explains what we did in our last meeting.

Child protection services



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They can decide if a child:

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- must live with someone else.



Developmental delay

A developmental delay is when a child takes longer than usual to learn things like walking or talking.



Foundational supports

Foundational supports are disability supports for all people with disability.

This includes people with disability who don't take part in the NDIS.



Justice system

The justice system makes sure everyone is treated fairly and follows the law.

The justice system includes:

- prisons
- courts
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NDIA Board

The NDIA Board is a group of people who make decisions about all parts of the NDIA.



NDIA planner

An NDIA planner is someone who:

- makes new NDIS plans
- changes NDIS plans.



NDIS plan

Your NDIS plan has information about:

- you and your goals
- what supports you need
- what the NDIS will pay for.



Participants

Participants are people with disability who take part in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).



Reference Group

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



Therapy

Therapy includes different types of support that can help improve how:

- you think and feel
- your body moves.



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