

Children, Young People and Families Reference Group

Easy Read meeting bulletin

11 February 2026



How to use this bulletin



We are the Independent Advisory Council (IAC).

We give advice about ways to make the National Disability Insurance Scheme (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.



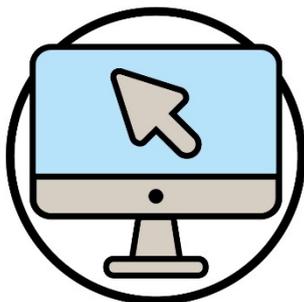
You can ask someone you trust for support to:

- 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 NDIS.



Members shared reports about these issues with the NDIA.



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

Young people with disability in Western Australia



Reference Group members talked about something very sad that happened in Western Australia.



2 young people with disability passed away.



Members talked about how sad they and the disability community feel.

Thriving Kids



Reference Group members said the community are worried about Thriving Kids.



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

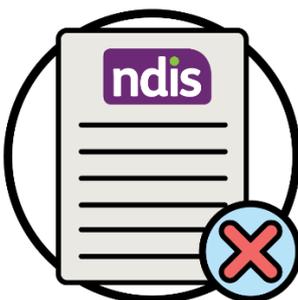


For example, children with **developmental delay**.

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



The community are worried about how Thriving Kids will affect families.

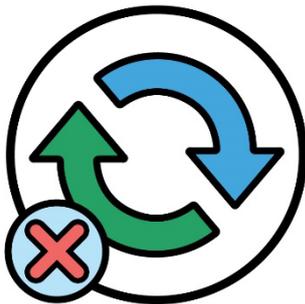


Some parents are worried they will not be able to use the NDIS after Thriving Kids starts.

The NDIA said:



- it will keep offering the NDIS to children

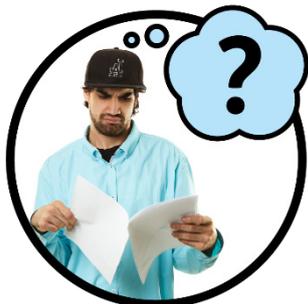


- there are no changes to who can use the NDIS yet.



The NDIA also said it hasn't changed the way children can join the NDIS.

Information from the NDIA



Reference Group members said the NDIA shares information that isn't **accessible**.



When information is accessible, it's easy to:

- find and use
- understand.



Members also said the NDIA needs to share more information about changes to the NDIS.



The NDIA said it's working to make sure information is accessible for:

- participants
- families and carers.



The NDIA also said it sent an update about the new way of making NDIS plans in February.



It sent this update to:

- participants
- people who support participants to make decisions.



The NDIA doesn't want to make participants and families feel stressed by sending too much information.

Funding periods



Reference Group members said families are still confused about **funding periods**.



Funding periods tell a participant:

- how long their **funding** needs to last
- when they can start using more funding.



Funding is money from an **NDIS plan** that pays for the supports a participant needs.



An NDIS plan has information about:

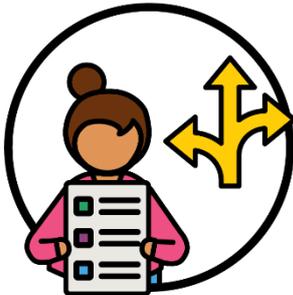
- a participant and their goals
- what supports a participant needs
- what the NDIS will pay for.



Many parents and carers feel they need more support to understand funding periods.



The NDIA talked about the new way of making NDIS plans.



It said these changes will support participants to use their NDIS plans in different ways.

Cost of supports and services

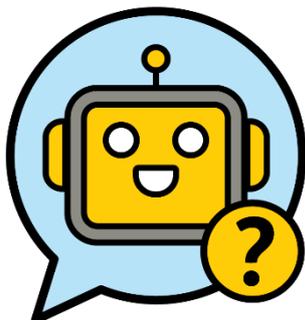


Reference Group members talked about the costs of disability supports and services.

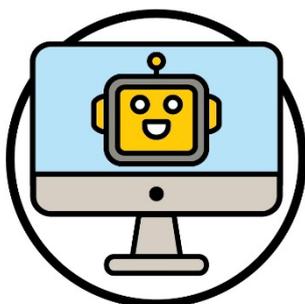


This includes the costs of supports and services in areas very far away from cities and towns.

Artificial intelligence



Reference Group members asked the NDIA about how it uses **artificial intelligence (AI)**.



AI is when computers think and learn.

People can use it to solve problems and do tasks.



The NDIA said it doesn't use AI to make NDIS plans.

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.



The IAC are currently writing both these pieces of advice.

Update on other Reference Group meetings



Reference Group members had 2 extra meetings outside of their usual meeting.

The first meeting was on **2 February 2026**.



At this meeting, the NDIA talked about the IAC's advice for children with disability who need extra support.



They talked about what **early intervention** supports children in the youth justice system need.



Early intervention is when people get services and support as early as possible in their lives.



This includes what supports children need to stop them from going back into the youth justice system.



The second meeting was on **10 February 2026**.



At this meeting, the NDIA talked about their program on **child protection services**.



Child protection services help children stay safe.

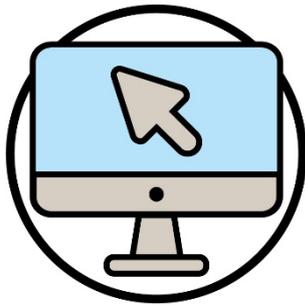
They can decide if a child:

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

Our next meeting



Our next meeting is on **30 March 2026**.

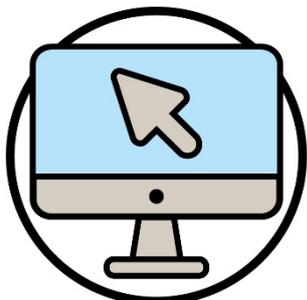


You can find out more about our meetings and bulletins on our website.

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

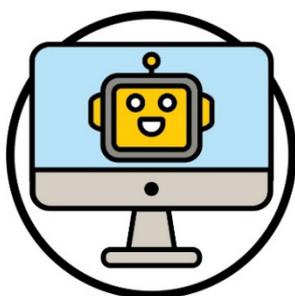
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Early intervention

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Foundational supports

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Funding

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Funding period

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NDIA Board

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NDIS plan



An NDIS plan has information about:

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Participants

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Reference Group

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Council**
to the **ndis**



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