

Children, Young People and Families Reference Group

An Easy Read meeting bulletin

25 September 2024



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

What's in this bulletin?

About this Reference Group 5

Our reports 7

Update on the NDIA Children's Taskforce 14

Update on the supported decision-making policy 16

Include the voice of children 19

Our next meeting 21

More information 22

Word list 23

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:



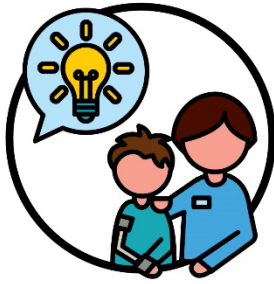
- children



- 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.

Our reports



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



The Reference Group members shared these issues with the NDIA.

What did the reports talk about?

NDIS laws



Reference Group members explained that some young people aren't happy about the changes to the NDIS laws.



Members also explained that there isn't enough information about these changes that is:

- easy for young people to understand
- written for young people.

Foundational supports



Reference Group members shared their thoughts about **foundational supports**.

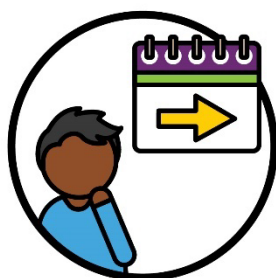


Foundational supports are disability supports for all people with disability.

This includes people with disability who are not NDIS **participants**.



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



Members explained that some people are worried about how foundational supports will work in the future.



This is because there might be changes to the way the government manages these supports.



Some people aren't sure there will be enough foundational supports for children and young people.



Members shared that it takes a long time for people who live far away from cities and towns to get some supports.

For example, early childhood supports.



Members explained that this affects families who want to take part in the NDIS.

NDIS funding



Reference Group members shared that there are some issues with NDIS **funding**.



Funding is money from your **NDIS plan** that pays for the supports you need.

Your NDIS plan has information about:



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



Members explained that issues with NDIS funding include spending too much money for some plans.



For example, some providers ask for more **assessments** than a participant needs.



Assessments help the NDIA work out:

- how your disability affects your life
- what supports you need.



Members also shared that young people in prison find it hard to use their NDIS funding.

Housing



Reference Group members shared some young people are worried about housing.



This includes young people:

- with disability
- who need extra support.



Some young people don't feel like they have safe and secure housing.



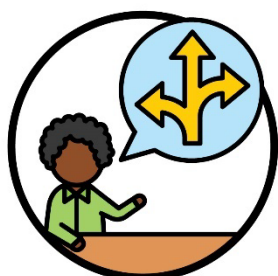
For example, some young people have to move out of their housing.

They don't have control of this when it happens.

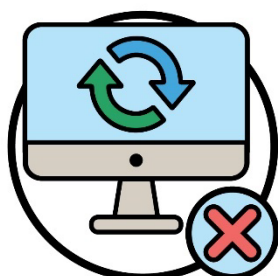
NDIA computer system



Reference Group members explained how the NDIA's new computer system doesn't let participants use their plans in different ways.



Members shared that participants should be able to use their plans in different ways.



For example, the NDIA is working with participants to slowly help them use less supports.

But the new computer system stops them from changing their support needs.



This means a participant can't use their funding for something else if they don't need the support anymore.

Update on the NDIA Children's Taskforce



The NDIA gave an update on their Children's Taskforce.



The Children's Taskforce focuses on children aged **0 to 14 years old** who take part in the NDIS.

They support these children during different stages of their life.

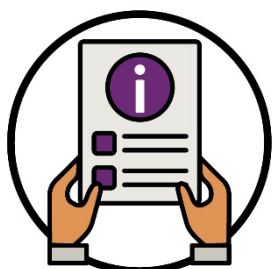
The NDIA shared the work the Children's Taskforce has been doing for:



- young people



- families and supporters.



Reference Group members explained that the NDIA should share clearer information for families.



Members also explained there needs to be more information to support children and young people to achieve their goals.

Members shared they would like the Children's Taskforce to:



- focus more on participants



- support participants in different ways.

Update on the supported decision-making policy



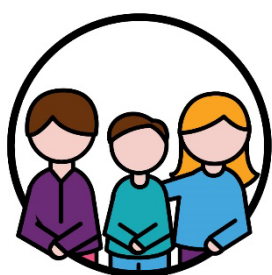
A **policy** is a set of rules or ideas that tell people how they should do things.



Reference Group members talked about the NDIA's policy for **supported decision-making**.

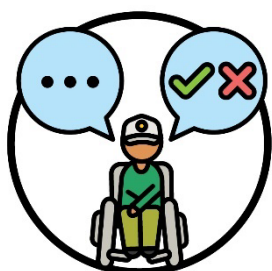


Supported decision-making is when someone supports you to make your own decisions about your life.



Members talked about how this policy works for:

- young people
- families and supporters.



Members explained it's important that young people:

- have their say on the policy
- make decisions about the policy.



Members also explained it's important for the NDIA to support parents to understand the policy.

This includes sharing better information about how the policy will work.

Members shared it's important the policy supports:



- parents to find out what's best for their child



- the **rights** of children.



Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.

Members also shared that the policy should have:



- ways to include different communities and groups



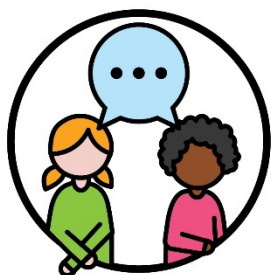
- a focus on **family and domestic violence**.

Family and domestic violence is when someone close to you hurts you, such as:



- your partner, like your boyfriend or girlfriend
- a member of your family
- someone who takes care of you
- someone you live with.

Include the voice of children



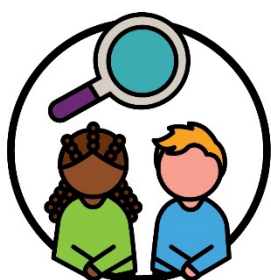
Reference Group members talked about how the NDIA's work can include the voice of children.



Members explained that children should have support to share their experience with the NDIS.



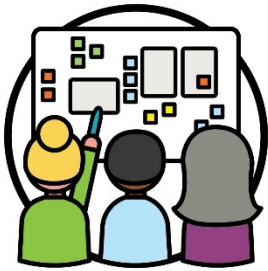
This includes sharing how well the NDIS is working for them.



Members also explained that it's important to focus on children over **9 years old**.



Members shared how the NDIA should use the voice of children in their **co-design** work.



Co-design is when people work together to hear different ideas when they plan or create something new.

Members shared that the NDIA should:



- find more ways for young people to be part of co-design



- keep doing co-design work



- keep working with its Children's Expert Advisory Group.

Our next meeting



Our next meeting will be on
27 November 2024.



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 visit the NDIS website.

www.ndis.gov.au



You can call the NDIS.

1800 800 110

Word list

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



Assessments

Assessments help the NDIA work out:

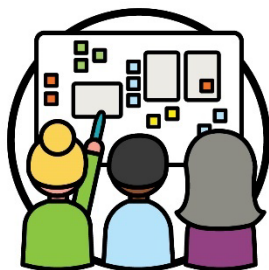
- how your disability affects your life
- what supports you need.



Bulletin

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Co-design

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Family and domestic violence

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NDIA Board

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NDIS plan

Your NDIS plan has information about:

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- what the NDIS will pay for.



Participants

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Policy

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Reference Group

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Rights

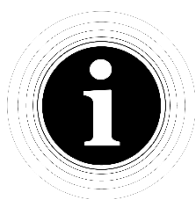
Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.



Supported decision-making

Supported decision-making is when someone supports you to make your own decisions about your life.



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