

Children, Young People and Families Reference Group

Easy Read meeting bulletin

30 March 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 [21](#).



We wrote this **bulletin**.

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

It explains what we did in our meeting.



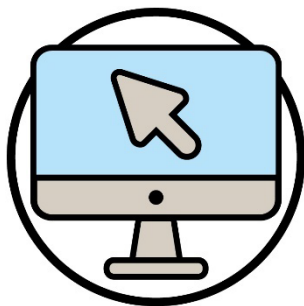
You can ask someone you trust for support to:

- 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.

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 with Autistic children.



The community are also worried about how Thriving Kids will affect their **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.



The NDIA said the Thriving Kids program will start from **1 October 2026**.



It expects Thriving Kids to be in full use by **1 January 2028**.



Children will keep using the NDIS if they:

- have high support needs
- a disability that will last their whole life.



Thriving Kids will support children with low support needs.

Assessments



Reference Group members said the community are worried about **assessments**.



The NDIA uses assessments to work out:

- what support someone needs
- if they can take part in the NDIS.



Members asked the NDIA to make sure it supports children and families leaving the NDIS.

Funding periods



Reference Group members asked the NDIA to share more information about **funding periods**.



Funding periods tell a participant:

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

Decisions about changes to the NDIS



Reference Group members said the community are worried about how the NDIA makes decisions.



They're worried that NDIA makes decisions too quickly.



This includes decisions about changes to the NDIS.

Funding



Reference Group members said participants told them about losing some of their funding.

This means



- they can't pay for some support they used to get



- their families have to do more to support them.



Some families have had to leave work to care for participants.

Young people who need mental health support



Reference Group members shared that the NDIA said no to certain supports for some young people.



This includes young people who need support with their **mental health**.



A person's mental health is about how they:

- think and feel about themselves
- deal with things in their life
- manage their feelings.



Members said it can be harder for some young people to get the support they need.



Members asked the NDIA and state governments to work together to better support young people.

Child protection services



The NDIA said they've been working with **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.



They've been trying new programs to help support children who need extra support.



This work started in **August 2025**.



It has helped the NDIA improve the way they work with children and family services.

Update on support needs assessments



The NDIA gave Reference Group members an update on **support needs assessments**.

Support needs assessments help the NDIA work out:



- how a person's disability affects their life



- what supports a person needs.

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.

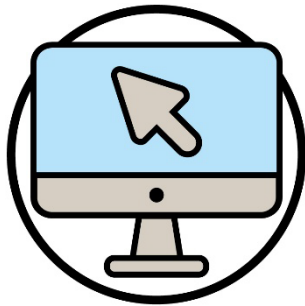


The NDIA also gave an update on their New Framework Planning.

Our next meeting



Our next meeting is on **15 June 2026**.

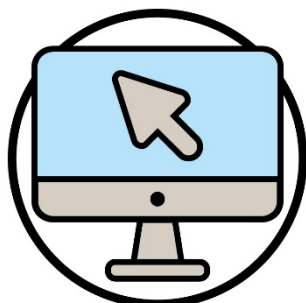


You can find out more about our meetings and bulletins on our website.

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.



Assessment

The NDIA uses assessments to work out:

- what support someone needs
- if they can take part in the NDIS.



Bulletin

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It explains what we did in our last meeting.



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.



Developmental delay

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



Funding

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



Funding period

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- how long their funding needs to last
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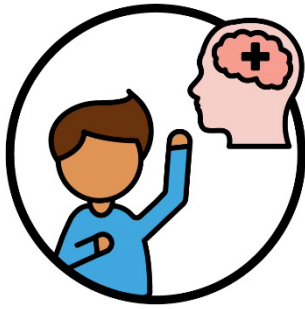
Justice system

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- courts
- police.

Mental health



A person's mental health is about how they:

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- deal with things in their life
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NDIA Board

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NDIS plan

An NDIS plan has information about:

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



Participants

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



Reference Group

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Support needs assessment

Support needs assessments help the NDIA work out:

- how a person's disability affects their life
- what supports a person needs.



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Advisory
Council**
to the **ndis**



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