

# Children, Young People and Families Reference Group

Easy Read meeting bulletin

27 November 2024



## 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 [20](#).



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

## What's in this bulletin?

About this Reference Group 5

---

Our reports 7

---

Supported decision-making 14

---

Communicate with children and young people 16

---

Our next meeting 18

---

More information 19

---

Word list 20

---

# 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:



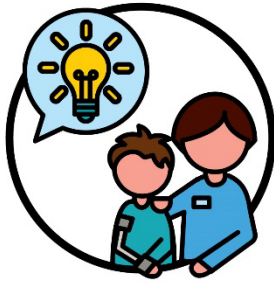
- children



- 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 uses 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



Every 3 months, the Reference Group connects with the community to find out about issues that have been affecting them.



The Reference Group members shared these issues with the NDIA Board.

## NDIS planners



Reference Group members said they are worried about how some **NDIS planners** are working.



An NDIS planner is someone who:

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



An NDIS plan has information about:

- a **participant** and their goals
- what supports they need.



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



Members said that some NDIS planners are calling participants to talk about their NDIS plans.



But these NDIS planners aren't letting participants know before they call that they will be talking about their NDIS plans.

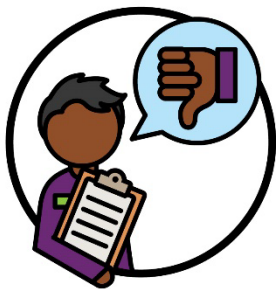


NDIS planners are also calling participants at bad times, when participants aren't ready to talk about their NDIS plans.

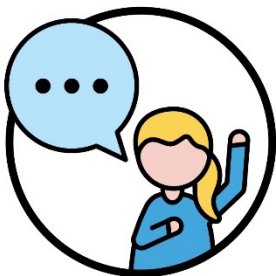




It also means participants don't get a chance to say they are okay to talk about their NDIS plans.



The NDIA said what these NDIS planners are doing is not okay.



The NDIA said participants should report this if it happens to them.



Participants can report this on the NDIS website.

[www.ndis.gov.au/contact/feedback-and-complaints#make-an-enquiry-provide-feedback-or-raise-a-complaint](http://www.ndis.gov.au/contact/feedback-and-complaints#make-an-enquiry-provide-feedback-or-raise-a-complaint)

## Checks to take part in the NDIS



Reference Group members said they are worried about letters from the NDIA that talk about the checks to find out if someone can take part in the NDIS.



For example, if someone needs a report from a health care provider to prove they should be able to take part the NDIS.



Families need to pay for these checks.

And members shared it is hard for some families to pay for these checks.



The NDIA said they will work with the community to improve how they communicate about these checks.

## Music and art therapy



Reference Group members said participants are worried about changes to support for music and art therapy.



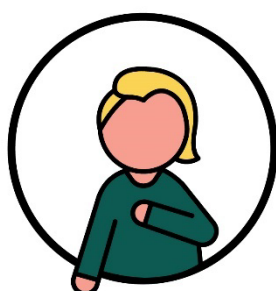
The NDIA said participants can still use music and art therapy.

But there will be some changes from **1 February 2025**.



Participants will need to choose how to use the money in their NDIS plans for music and art therapy.

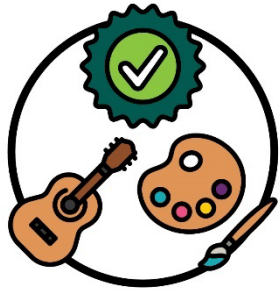
Participants can choose from 2 different ways:



- **\$67.56** for one hour on their own



- **\$193.99** for one hour in a group of 4 or more participants.



Participants must also get music and art therapy from a **registered provider**.



A registered provider:

- can offer different supports and services than other providers
- have to follow more rules.

## Short term accommodation



Members said not many people have been able to have their say on **short term accommodation (STA)**.



Short term accommodation is an NDIS support that lets someone stay in a place for a short time.

Members said many young people use STA to help them move out of:



- home



- **group homes** – where people with disability live together and get support.

Members said STA supports participants to:



- do things by themselves

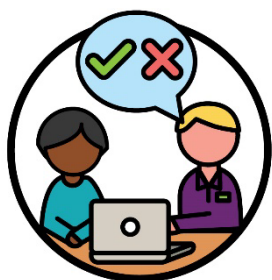


- make their own decisions



- keep good relationships with their families.

## Supported decision-making

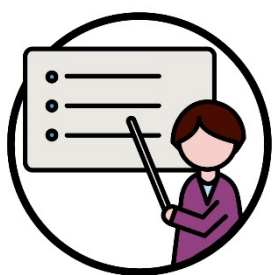


**Supported decision-making** is when someone supports you to make decisions about your life.



The NDIA created a new **policy** for supported decision-making.

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



The NDIA said they are going to teach their staff about the new policy.

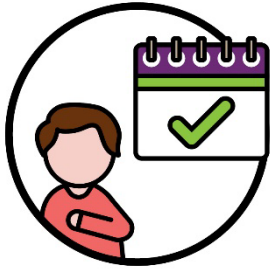


The NDIA also said they are putting together a new group to:

- support the policy
- give them advice about the policy.



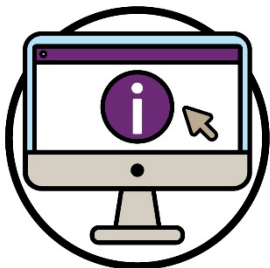
The new group will meet for the first time in **early 2025**.



Reference Group members said they want to stay up to date with how the new policy is going.



The NDIA also shared its work with disability organisation, Inclusion Australia.



The NDIA and Inclusion Australia are working together on a website to share information and tools.



Members said they are excited about the new website.

## Communicate with children and young people



The NDIA is asking children and young people what they think about changes to the **NDIS Act**.



The NDIS Act is a law that sets the rules for how the NDIS should work.



The NDIA shared an update on their work with the **Children's Taskforce**.



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

It supports these children during different stages of their life.

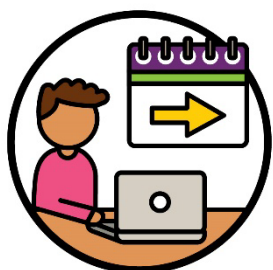




The NDIA is working with the Children’s Taskforce to share information about the NDIS Act.



The NDIA ran online sessions for young people in October to talk about the NDIS Act.



They will run more online sessions in the future.



Members said children and young people should have a say on information and tools the NDIA is creating to teach them about the NDIS Act.

## Our next meeting



Our next meeting will be on **17 February 2025**.



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

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



You can send us an email.

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



You can visit the NDIS website.

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



### **Bulletin**

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

It explains what we did in our meeting.



### **Children's Taskforce**

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

It supports these children during different stages of their life.



### **Group homes**

Group homes are places where people with disability live together and get support.



## NDIA Board

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



## NDIS Act

The NDIS Act is a law that sets the rules for how the NDIS should work.



## NDIS planner

An NDIS planner is someone who:

- makes new NDIS plans
- changes NDIS plans.



## NDIS plans

An NDIS plan is a document that has information about:

- a participant and their goals
- what supports you need.



## Participants

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



## Policy

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



## Reference Group

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



## Registered provider

A registered provider:

- can offer different supports and services than other providers
- have to follow more rules.



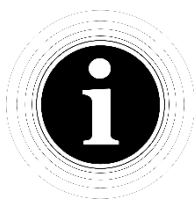
### Short term accommodation (STA)

Short term accommodation is a place for someone to stay for a short time.



### Supported decision-making

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



---

The Information Access Group created this Easy Read document using stock photography and custom images.

The images may not be reused without permission.

For any enquiries about the images, please visit

[www.informationaccessgroup.com](http://www.informationaccessgroup.com).

Quote job number 6025-B.



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



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