

# Equity and Inclusion Reference Group

Easy Read meeting bulletin

1 May 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.



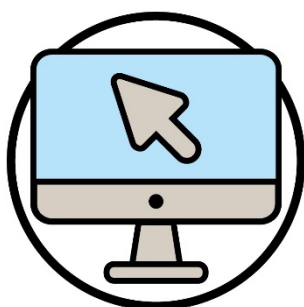
You can ask someone you trust for support to:

- 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](http://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 gives advice to the IAC about how the NDIS can:

- be fair
- give **participants** the same chances.



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



This includes making sure the NDIS is **inclusive**.

When something is inclusive, it means everyone can take part.



It also includes making sure the NDIS thinks about **diversity**.

Diversity is what makes people different from each other.

People can:



- come from different places



- speak different languages



- have different abilities



- live their lives in different ways.



The IAC use these ideas 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.



Members shared reports about these issues with the NDIA.



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

## Changes to the NDIS



Reference Group members said the community is worried about the new changes to the NDIS.



Members said the community want to understand more about these changes.



The community are worried that these changes mean participants will lose:

- services
- **funding.**



Funding is money from a participant's **NDIS plan** that pays for the supports they need.



An NDIS plan has information about:

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



The community are also worried the new changes to the NDIS will hurt people with disability.

## The way the NDIA works



Reference Group members said many people feel that the NDIA doesn't work well with them.



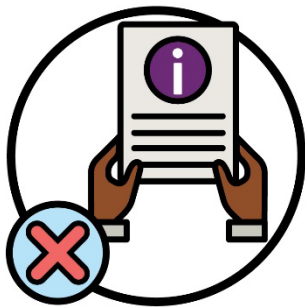
People feel that the NDIA is not:

- safe
- **accessible.**



When something is accessible, it's easy to:

- find and use
- understand.



Many people also feel that information the NDIA shares isn't always right.



Sometimes the information goes against what the NDIA has already said before.

## Changes to funding



Reference Group members said the community is worried about losing funding for some supports.

For example, community supports.



Members said this funding goes towards important supports.

Like medical appointments.



The community is worried about the safety of participants if they lose this funding.

Losing this funding might mean participants:



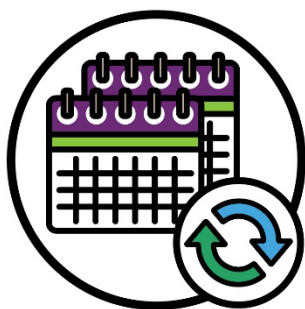
- get less services



- spend more time home alone.



The NDIA said they understand the community are scared.



They told members that changes to the NDIS will not start right away.



The NDIA said they will work with participants to design how they will start using changes.



The NDIA also said they don't plan to make changes to rules about who can take part in the NDIS.

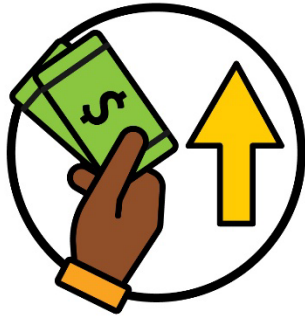
## Providers taking on longer shifts



Reference Group members said some **providers** are not working longer shifts as often.



Providers support people with disability by delivering a service.



These providers are also asking people to pay more money to cover costs for support staff.



Some participants feel they would be better off staying at home than paying for these services.

## **Participants in places far away from cities and towns**



Sometimes participants share transport to travel to services and supports.



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



Reference Group members said sometimes each participant pays the full cost for transport.

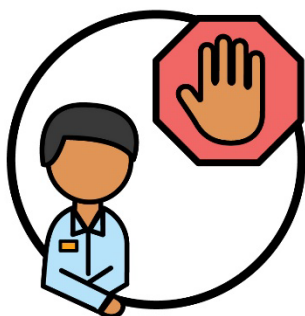


Members are worried this happens because participants don't understand what the NDIS rules are.



Members think the NDIA is not checking these providers enough.

## Providers cancelling supports



Reference Group members said some providers are cancelling supports.



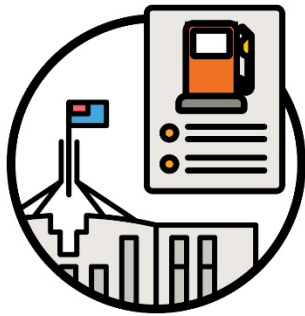
This is because it can be hard to get fuel.



Participants who live in places far away from cities and towns can't get supports.



This is because support workers and providers don't want to travel that far.



The NDIA said this is part of the Australian Government's plan to save fuel.



The government is working on ways to make sure people:

- can get fuel
- don't use too much fuel.



The NDIA said it's important to hear from the Reference Group about how this affects people.

## Update from the NDIA



The NDIA gave Reference Group members an update on their new **principles**.



Principles are rules or ideas that help people know how they should act and treat other people.



These principles are about being inclusive.



Members shared ideas about what the principles:

- are doing well
- can do better.

## Update on the IAC's advice

Reference Group members talked about the IAC's advice on:



- home and living



- the **justice system**.

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



The justice system includes:

- prisons
- courts
- police.

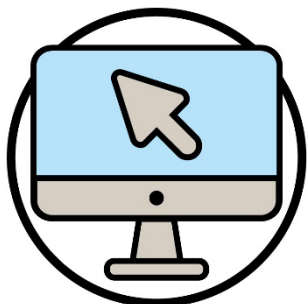


Members shared ideas about what the advice should include.

## Our next meeting



Our next meeting is on **27 May 2026**.

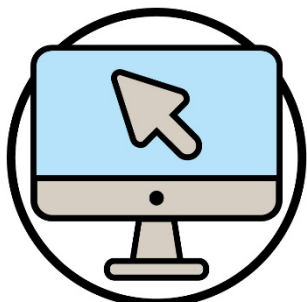


You can find out more about our meetings and bulletins on our website.

[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 learn more about the NDIS on their 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 bulletin mean.



### **Accessible**

When something is accessible, it's easy to:

- find and use
- understand.



### **Bulletin**

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

It explains what we did in our last meeting.



### **Diversity**

Diversity is what makes people different from each other.



### **Funding**

Funding is money from a participant's NDIS plan that pays for the supports they need.



## Inclusive

When something is inclusive, it means everyone can take part.



## Justice system

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

The justice system includes:

- prisons
- courts
- police.



## NDIA Board

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



## NDIS plan

An NDIS plan has information about:

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



## Participants

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



## Principles

Principles are rules or ideas that help people know how they should act and treat other people.



## Providers

Providers support people with disability by delivering a service.



## Reference Group

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



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to the **ndis**



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