

# Equity and Inclusion Reference Group

Easy Read meeting bulletin

14 May 2025



## How to use this bulletin



We are the Independent Advisory Council (IAC).

We give advice about ways to make the NDIS better.



We explain the words in **bold**.

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)

## What's in this bulletin?

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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 National Disability Insurance Scheme (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.

## Navigators



**Navigators** will help people with disability to:

- learn about different supports
- connect with experts
- find and use the supports they need.



Reference Group members said that **support coordinators** don't know:

- how navigators will affect their jobs
- if they will still have enough work.



A support coordinator is someone who helps participants plan and use their supports.



This could make it harder for participants and their carers to find the help they need.



The NDIA said they know they need to improve their information about navigators.

## Supports and services



Reference Group members said people are confused by the changes to NDIS supports.



People are unsure about what supports they can and can't use.



The NDIA said they have been doing work to make sure information about NDIS supports is easy to:

- find and use
- understand.



For example, the NDIA has shared information about NDIS supports in 17 languages.



Members said **foundational supports** are important.



Foundational supports are disability supports for all people with disability.

This includes people with disability who don't take part in the NDIS.



Members also said the NDIA need to understand how important foundational supports are.



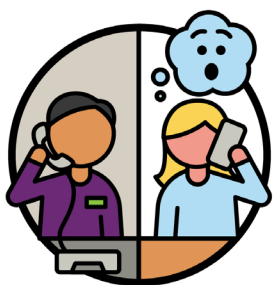
And the NDIA should also focus on what matters to each participant.



This includes their:

- way of life
- beliefs.

## NDIS plans



Reference Group members said the NDIA is calling participants without telling them first.



These phone calls are to talk about their **NDIS plans**.



An NDIS plan has information about:

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



These phone calls are also about **plan reassessments**.

A plan reassessment is when the NDIA check to see if the NDIS supports in a participant's plan still work well for them.



Members said some participants are scared to answer these calls.



Participants are also scared they will lose money from their NDIS plan if they don't answer these calls.



Members are worried about plan reassessments for older participants.



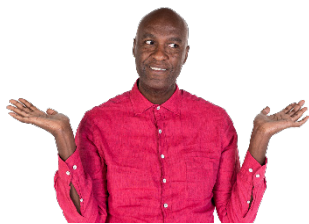
Members said changes to an older participant's NDIS plan could make them move into **aged care**.

Aged care is where older people live when they can't live in their home anymore.



The NDIA said aged care supports should be part of an older participant's NDIS plan.

## Support for psychosocial disability



Reference Group members said people don't understand if the NDIS has enough supports for people with **psychosocial disability**.



A psychosocial disability can affect how you:

- think
- feel
- deal with other people.



Members said there should be more foundational supports for psychosocial disability.



Members also said there is not enough training about psychosocial disability for health workers.



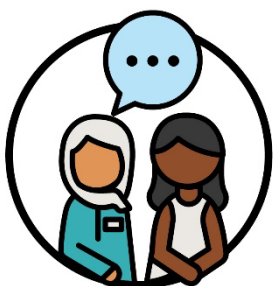
This means there are not enough health workers with the right skills to support people with psychosocial disability.



The NDIA said there is a new Reference Group to work on some of these things.

They're called the National Mental Health Reference Group.

Their work will focus on:



- psychosocial supports



- how NDIS supports and foundational supports can work together.

## Disability in government



Ali France is a new member of the Australian Government.

She is a person with disability.



Reference Group members said they're happy there are more people with disability in government roles.



Members said people are confused about there being 2 **Ministers** for the NDIS.



A minister leads an area of the government.



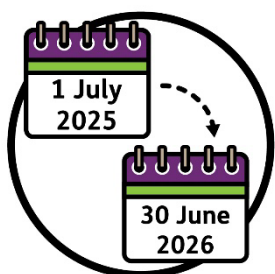
The NDIA said there will soon be more information on the work these ministers will do.

# Update on the IAC Work Plan 2025–2026



The IAC advice shared an update on the **draft** IAC Work Plan.

A draft is a document that isn't finished yet.



The Work Plan explains the work the IAC will do from:

- 1 July 2025
- to
- 30 June 2026.



The Work Plan will use ideas and experiences from the Reference Group members.



Parts of the Work Plan will also focus on the work the Equity and Inclusion Reference Group will do.

Members asked for the Work Plan to include:



- new and different ways of doing things

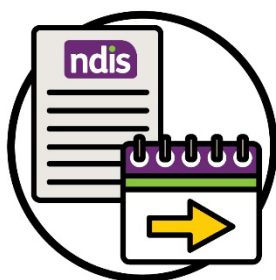
- **intersectionality.**



Intersectionality is about understanding how different parts of a person can affect their experiences.

For example, a person's background or abilities.

# Update on the Gender Equality Strategy



A **strategy** is a plan for how we will do things in the future.



The NDIA told Reference Group members that they're creating a new strategy to support **gender equality**.



Your gender is what you feel and understand about who you are as a person.

You might think of yourself as a man or a woman or something different.

You can choose the words that are right for you.



Gender equality is when all genders are treated:

- fairly
- equally
- with respect.

The strategy will:



- look at how fair the NDIS is for participants of different genders



- find out what the NDIA has to do to improve gender equality.



Members said it's important the strategy includes:

- the needs of women
- the voices of **transgender** women.



Transgender is when a person's gender is different from the one they were given when they were born.

## Our next meeting



Our next meeting will be on:

- Wednesday 20 August 2025
- and
- Thursday 21 August 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/meetings](http://www.ndis-iac.com.au/meetings)



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 document mean.



### **Aged care**

Aged care is where older people live when they can't live in their home anymore.



### **Bulletin**

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



### **Diversity**

Diversity is what makes people different from each other.



### **Draft**

A draft is a document that isn't finished yet.



### **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.

## Gender



Your gender is what you feel and understand about who you are as a person.

You might think of yourself as a man or woman or something different.

You can choose the words that are right for you.

## Gender equality



Gender equality is when all genders are treated:

- fairly
- equally
- with respect.



## Inclusive

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

## Intersectionality



Intersectionality is about understanding how different parts of a person can affect their experiences.

For example, a person's background or abilities.



## Minister

A minister leads an area of the government.

## Navigators



Navigators will help people with disability to:

- learn about different supports
- connect with experts
- find and use the supports they need.



## NDIA Board

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

## NDIS plan



An NDIS plan is a document that includes information about:

- a participant and their goals
- what support they receive from the NDIS
- what the NDIS will pay for.



## Participants

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



## Plan reassessment

A plan reassessment is when the NDIA check to see if the NDIS supports in a participant's plan still work well for them.



## Psychosocial disability

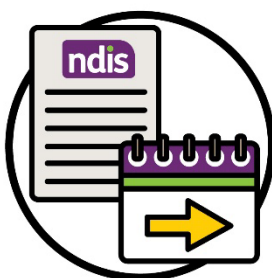
A psychosocial disability can affect how you:

- think
- feel
- deal with other people.



## Reference Group

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



## Strategy

A strategy is a plan for how we will do things in the future.



### Support coordinator

A support coordinator is someone who helps participants plan and use their supports.



### Transgender

Transgender is when a person's gender is different from the one they were given when they were born.



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**Independent  
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to the **ndis**



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