

# Equity and Inclusion Reference Group

An Easy Read meeting bulletin

14 October 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 explain the words in **bold**.

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                    | 8  |
| The way the NDIA collects data | 13 |
| The NDIA's co-design work      | 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 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



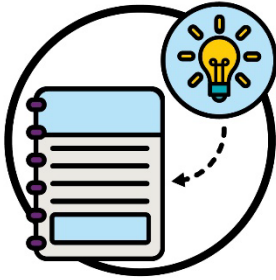
- speak different languages



- 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.

## 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?

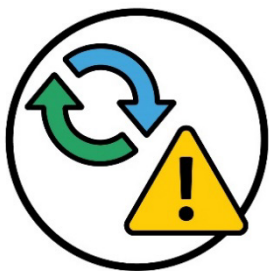


Reference Group members shared what the community thinks about the changes to some NDIS laws.



Some people from the community are worried about the changes.





Some people from the community have also experienced **trauma** because of the changes.



Trauma is the way you feel about something bad that happened to you.

For example, you might feel scared or stressed.

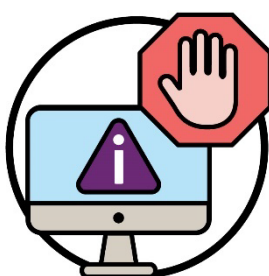
Trauma can affect you for a long time.



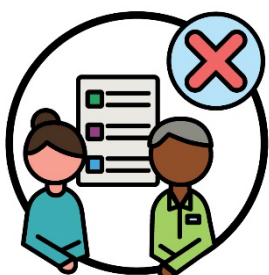
Members explained that the NDIA should share information about the changes that is easier to:

- understand
- find and use.

This might:



- stop people from sharing information online that isn't correct

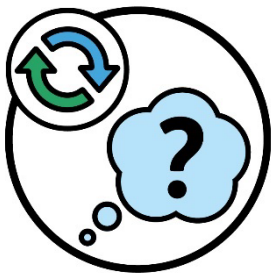


- explain information better so people don't need to go to a **support coordinator** for help.

A support coordinator is someone who helps people with disability plan and use their supports.



The NDIA sent a letter to all participants about the changes to some NDIS laws.



Members shared that some participants are still unsure about how the changes will affect their **NDIS plans**.



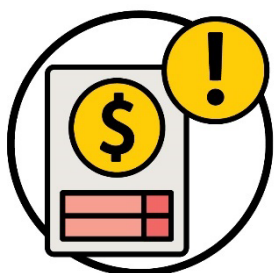
An NDIS plan is a document that includes information about:

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



These participants want to feel sure about their NDIS plans and support.

They also want the NDIA to share clearer information about:



- when participants owe the NDIA money



- **plan reassessments.**

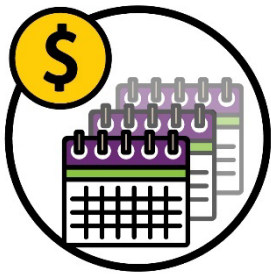
When the NDIA do a plan reassessment, they check to see if the supports in a participant's plan still work well for them.



Members shared that some participants worry they will make a mistake with their NDIS plan.



They worry that they will spend their funding on the wrong supports after the NDIS laws have changed.



Some participants also shared that payments for their providers can take a long time.

This means providers are not getting paid quickly.



Members explained that the community are worried about **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.



People from the community want people who deliver foundational supports to have the right skills.



Members also shared that these supports have affected NDIS plans since the laws changed.

## The way the NDIA collects data



The NDIA gave an update on the way it collects **data** about participants.

When we talk about data, we mean:



- facts
- information
- records.

The NDIA shared how the way they collect data looks at **intersectionality**.



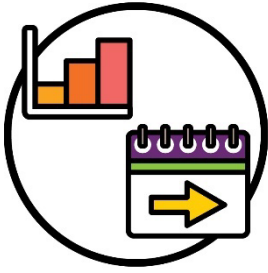
A person might treat someone unfairly because of more than one thing about who they are.

We call this intersectionality.

For example, a person might treat someone unfairly because they:



- are a First Nations person
- and
- have a disability.

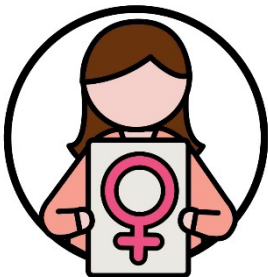


Reference Group members shared that the NDIA should collect more of this data in the future.

For example, data about:



- if a person is a First Nations person



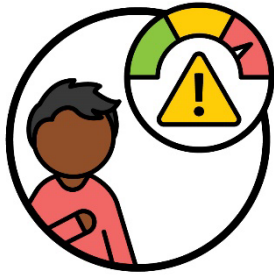
- a person's **gender**.

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.



Members also shared that the NDIA should also improve how they collect data for people at risk of being treated unfairly.



This includes **LGBTIQASB+** people.

The letters LGBTIQASB stand for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or questioning, asexual, sistergirl and brotherboy.



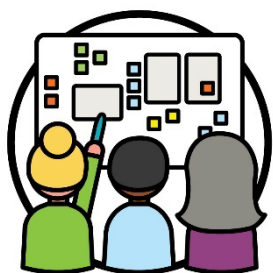
The '+' is for people who are part of the LGBTIQASB+ community but don't talk about themselves using a word from this list.



This also includes people who:

- come from different cultures and backgrounds
- speak languages other than English.

## The NDIA's co-design work



The NDIA gave an update on their **co-design** work.

Co-design is when people work together to plan or create something new.



The NDIA shared how their co-design work will look into intersectionality.

Reference Group members shared that the NDIA should think about:



- intersectionality when they make plans



- how they will look at intersectionality in future co-design work.





This will help people who experience intersectionality.



Members also shared how the NDIA can improve the way they do co-design work.



For example, making sure people have the right skills to support people from different backgrounds.

## Our next meeting



Our next meeting will be early in 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**

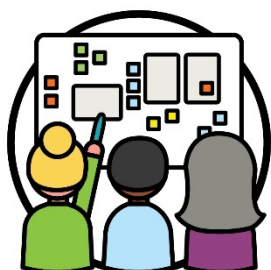
## Word list

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



### **Bulletin**

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



### **Co-design**

Co-design is when people work together to plan or create something new.



### **Data**

When we talk about data, we mean:

- facts
- information
- records.



### **Diversity**

Diversity is what makes people different from each other.



## 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.



## Inclusive

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



## Intersectionality

A person might treat someone unfairly because of more than one thing about who they are.

We call this intersectionality.

## LGBTIQASB+



The letters LGBTIQASB stand for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or questioning, asexual, sistergirl and brotherboy.

The '+' is for people who are part of the LGBTIQASB+ community but don't talk about themselves using a word from this list.



## NDIA Board

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



## NDIS plans

An NDIS plan is a document that includes information about:

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



## Participants

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



### Plan reassessments

When the NDIA do a plan reassessment, they check to see if the supports in a participant's plan still work well for them.



### Reference Group

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



### Support coordinator

A support coordinator is someone who helps people with disability plan and use their supports.

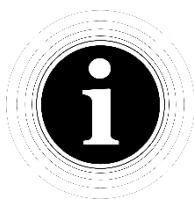


### Trauma

Trauma is the way you feel about something bad that happened to you.

For example, you might feel scared or stressed.

Trauma can affect you for a long time.



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)