

Equity and Inclusion Reference Group

Easy Read meeting bulletin

25 February 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 [25](#).



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 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.

Our reports



Reference Group members connected with the community to find out about issues that affect them.



Members shared reports about these issues with the NDIA.

What did the reports talk about?

Phone calls to participants



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



These phone calls are to talk about what participants need from their **NDIS plans**.



An NDIS plan has information about:

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

Members are worried these phone calls mean:



- participants can't get ready to talk about what they need



- NDIS plans can change when participants don't expect it.



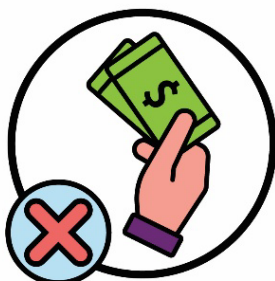
Members said some participants don't answer these phone calls because they're worried the NDIA will decide they don't need the NDIS anymore.

Issues with plan managers



A **plan manager** is someone who can manage the money you get from the NDIS.

Members said some participants feel like their plan managers:



- have too much control over their money from the NDIS



- don't always pay for the services they have used.



The NDIA said they will work better with plan managers to make sure they treat participants fairly.

Changes to the NDIS laws

Reference Group members said participants are confused about:



- how some of the NDIS laws have changed



- what changes to the NDIS laws will mean for them.



Members said the NDIA shouldn't make a lot of changes to the NDIS laws at the same time.

Issues with support for some participants

Reference Group members said people don't feel like there is enough support for:



- First Nations participants



- participants that live in places far away from cities or towns.



These participants often don't know they should:

- be treated fairly
- get the support they need.

How different groups in the community are treated

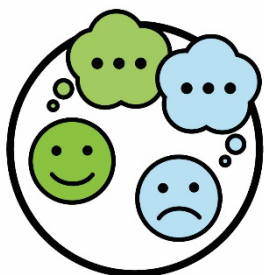


Reference Group members are worried about what people say and think about different groups in the community.

They're worried about:



- what is being said in the news



- what other people think and feel.

Members said they will work with the IAC to write a message or advice about:



- being inclusive

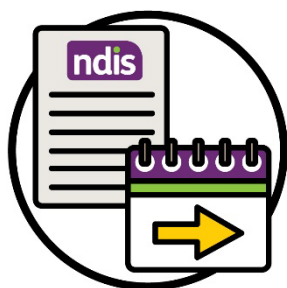


- supporting what makes people different.

Update on the First Nations Strategy 2025–2030



The NDIA gave an update on the work they're doing for the First Nations **Strategy** 2025–2030.

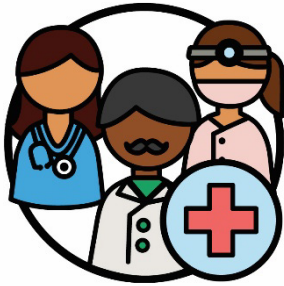


A strategy is a plan for how we will do things in the future.



The NDIA said the First Nations Strategy will support the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

This is an agreement between the government and First Nations community to improve:



- health



- education



- jobs



- community support.



The NDIA also gave an update on the First Nations Reference Group.



The First Nations Reference Group had its first meeting on **20** and **21 February 2025**.



The NDIA also said Dr Richard Fejo joined the NDIA Board.

He is a proud Larrakia elder from Darwin.

The NDIA shared how they will:



- hire more First Nations people



- support their First Nations workers to stay in their jobs for a long time.



The NDIA shared how they will make sure all their services are **culturally safe**.



When something is culturally safe, people feel:

- respected and heard
- safe to be who they are.

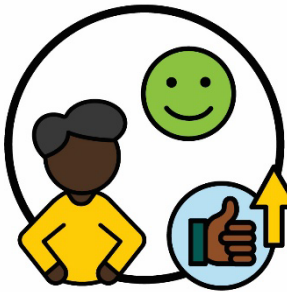
The NDIA said they're creating a way to better support First Nations people to:



- learn about the NDIS



- become a participant



- use the NDIS to improve their life.



Reference Group members said the NDIA should keep working with First Nations communities.

Update on plans for an inclusive NDIA



The NDIA gave an update on their strategy to support the **LGBTIQA+** community.



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



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



The NDIA also gave an update on their strategy to support **multicultural** communities.



Multicultural people:

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



The NDIA gave an update on the work they've done for both of these strategies.

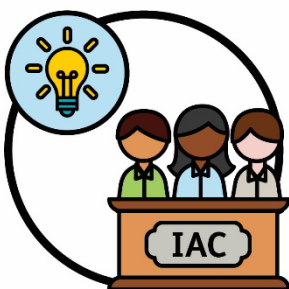


The NDIA said they're creating a plan about how different parts of a person can affect their experiences.

For example, a person's background or abilities.



This plan will help NDIS participants to get the support they need.



The NDIA will use advice from the IAC to make this plan.



The NDIA also shared 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 gender equality strategy will focus on 4 areas:



1. Support everyone to take part in the community.



2. Support First Nations women and girls.



3. Support people at every stage of their life.



4. Stop **violence** against people because of their gender.

Violence is when someone:



- hurts you
- scares you
- controls you.

Our next meeting



Our next meeting will be on **14 May 2025**.



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/meetings



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 document mean.



Bulletin

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



Culturally safe

When something is culturally safe, people feel:

- respected and heard
- safe to be who they are.



Diversity

Diversity is what makes people different from each other.



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.

LGBTIQA+



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

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

Multicultural



Multicultural people:

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



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 manager

A plan manager is someone who can manage the money you get from the NDIS.



Reference Group

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



Strategy

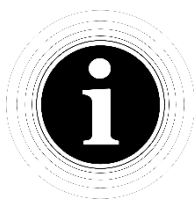
A strategy is a plan for how we will do things in the future.

Violence



Violence is when someone:

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



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