

Equity and Inclusion Reference Group

An Easy Read meeting bulletin

28 August 2024



How to use this bulletin



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

It explains what we did in our meeting.



The Independent Advisory Council gives advice about ways to make the NDIS better.

In this bulletin, we just say IAC.



The IAC wrote this bulletin.

When you read the word 'we', it means the IAC.



We wrote this bulletin in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.



We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these bold words mean.

There is a list of these words on page **25**.



This is an Easy Read summary of another bulletin.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other bulletin on our website.

www.ndis-iac.com.au/meetings



You can ask for help to read our bulletin.

A friend, family member or support person might be able to help you.

What's in this bulletin?

About this Reference Group 5

Our reports 8

Ideas from the LGBTIQASB+ Summit 18

Intersectionality and trauma 20

Our next meeting 23

More information 24

Word list 25

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?

The Disability Royal Commission and the NDIS Review



Reference Group members shared that the community worry about some things that the Australian Government is doing.



The community worry about what the government had to say about the **Disability Royal Commission (DRC)**.



The DRC looked into problems people with disability have experienced.



It helped the Australian Government find out:

- what went wrong
- what we need to improve.



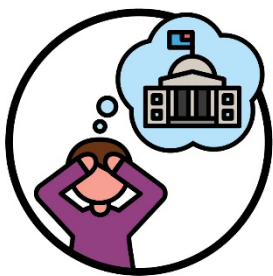
Members also shared that the community worry about what the government will say about the **NDIS Review**.



The Australian Government checked the NDIS to find out what:

- worked well
- could be better.

They call it the NDIS Review.



Members explained that this has made some people with disability feel like they have no control over what the government does.

Laws about how the NDIS works



Members shared that the community are unsure about how some laws will change.

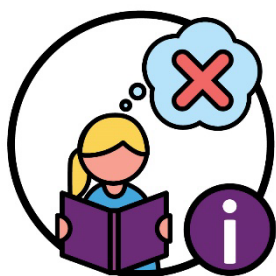


The community think that meetings about these changes should have been more **accessible**.



When something is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use
- understand.

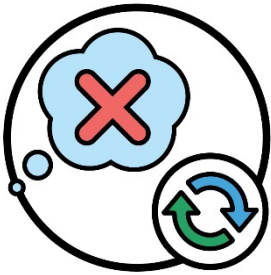


Members also shared that information about how supports will change was not clear enough.

This meant people in the community:



- were stressed



- did not understand which supports would change.

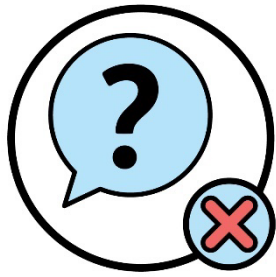
The 2026 census



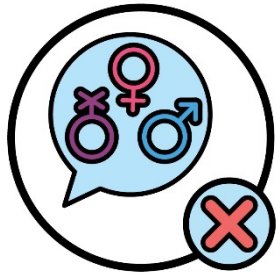
Reference Group members shared that they were not happy about news reports about the **2026 census**.



The census is a survey that asks people about themselves to help Australia plan for the future.



The news reports explained that the Australian Government might not ask some questions in the 2026 census.



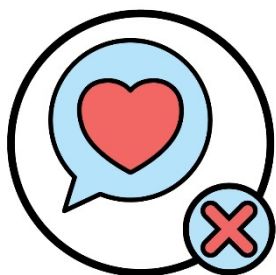
The census won't ask questions about people's **gender**.



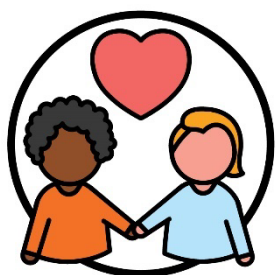
Your gender is what you feel and understand about who you are as a person.

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

You can choose the words that are right for you.

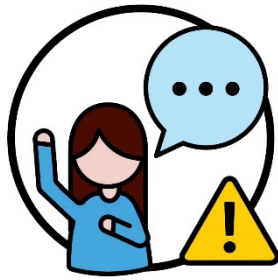


The census won't ask questions about **sexual orientation**.



Your sexual orientation is who you:

- love
- are attracted to.



Members explained that this will make it harder to speak up about services for **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.

Supports and services



Members explained that it is still hard to find **support coordinators** with the right skills.



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



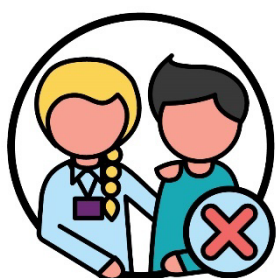
Members worry about how the NDIA checks to make sure these services work well.



Members shared that some organisations offer people things to get them to use their service.



For example, they might give people a gift card for using their support workers.



Members explained that support coordinators with different skills might mean participants don't get the supports they need.

NDIS plans



Your **NDIS plan** is a document that has information about:

- you and your goals
- what supports you need.



Members shared that some participants have had good experiences with their **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.



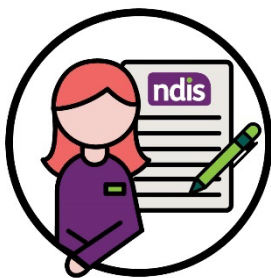
At these meetings, participants shared that they felt:

- understood
- supported.

Members explained that these experiences show it's important to have **NDIS planners** who:



- have a disability
- or
- have experienced what life can be like for people with disability.



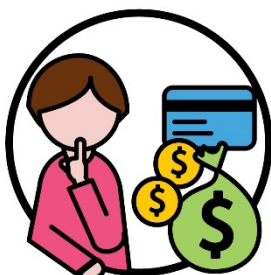
An NDIS planner is someone who:

- makes new plans
- changes plans.

Fraud



Members explained that information about **fraud** needs to be explained carefully.



Fraud is something a person plans to do that is not honest.

Fraud is a crime.



Members explained that this information should not make it look like people with disability use the NDIS to steal money.



This can affect how the community feels about people with disability.

Ideas from the LGBTIQASB+ Summit



The NDIA gave an update on the LGBTIQASB+ Summit held on **25 July 2024**.

In this document, we call it the Summit.



The Summit was a meeting between the NDIA and the community.

It was about how to improve the NDIA's LGBTIQ+ **Strategy**.



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



People at the Summit talked about what the NDIA should focus on.

This included focusing on the:



- experiences of young people



- need for safe spaces.



People at the Summit also explained that the NDIA should become a leader in supporting the LGBTIQASB+ community.



This includes understanding diversity within communities.



The NDIA will keep sharing updates about their work on the LGBTIQASB+ Strategy.

Intersectionality and trauma



Reference Group members talked about how important it is for the IAC's work to focus on **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.

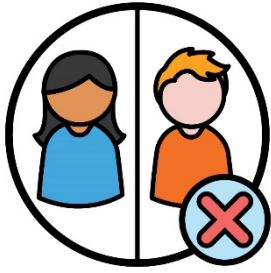


Members shared that the IAC's work should support the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**.



The CRPD is an agreement between countries.

It explains how everyone should treat people with disability fairly.



Members explained it's important to not separate people from each other.



Members also explain that the IAC Members and NDIA workers should get more training.

This includes training on:



- intersectionality



- ways to support people who have experienced **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.

Members said the NDIA should always:



- make sure to treat everyone with respect



- think about the trauma someone might have when they make NDIS plans.

Our next meeting



Our next meeting will be on **14 October 2024**.



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

www.ndis-iac.com.au/meetings

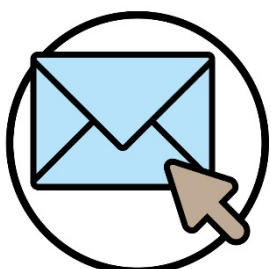
More information

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.



Accessible

When something is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use
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Bulletin

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Census

The census is a survey that asks people about themselves to help Australia plan for the future.



Disability Royal Commission (DRC)

The DRC looked into problems people with disability have experienced.

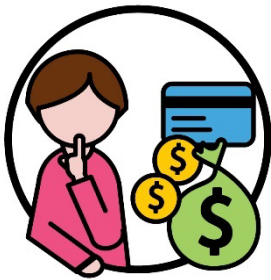
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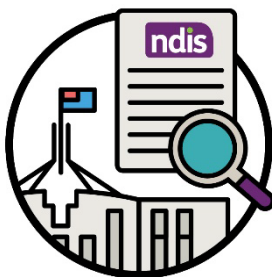
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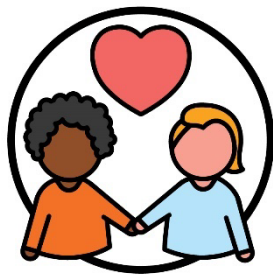
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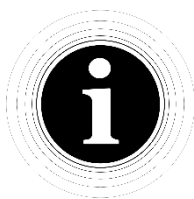
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