

First Nations Reference Group

Easy Read meeting bulletin

15–16 July 2026



Acknowledgement of Country



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the First Peoples of Australia.

We also use the words First Nations people.



First Nations people have always looked after **Country**.

Country means the land, water, sky and everything within them.

We respect the important connection that First Nations people have with Country.



And we respect their Elders from the past and now.

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 [21](#).



We wrote this **bulletin**.

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

It explains what we did in our meeting.



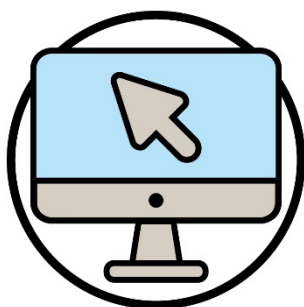
You can ask someone you trust for support to:

- 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.

The Reference Group shares their ideas with the IAC about how to support First Nations:



- communities



- **participants.**



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

The Reference Group's ideas are about support for First Nations participants to:



- live how they choose



- take part in the community



- use supports and services that are **culturally safe.**



When something is culturally safe, people feel:

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



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.

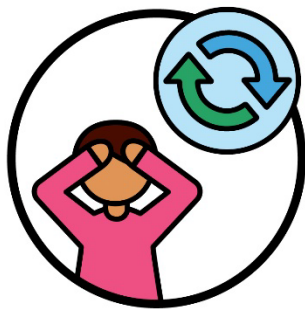


Members shared reports about these issues with the NDIA.



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

Changes to the NDIS



Reference Group members said the community are worried about changes to the NDIS laws.



These changes might mean participants get less support to take part in the community.

Members are worried this will:



- take choice and control away from participants



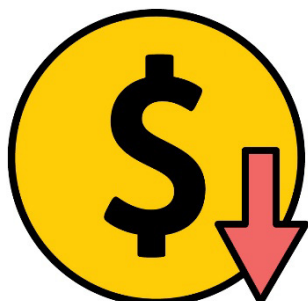
- put the safety of some participants at risk.

NDIS plans



An **NDIS plan** has information about:

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



Reference Group members said some participants now get less **funding** in their NDIS plan.



Funding is money from an NDIS plan that pays for the supports a participant needs.



This includes funding for **short term accommodation**.

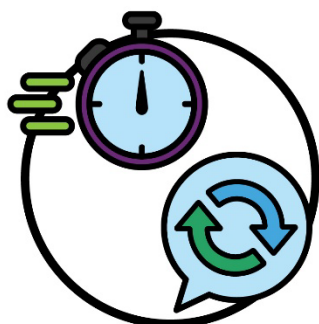
Short term accommodation lets someone stay in a place for a short time.



Participants and their families are under more stress without short term accommodation.



Members said changes to NDIS plans like this are a surprise to participants.



Members asked the NDIA to:

- tell participants early
- clearly explain what will change.

Support in hospital



Reference Group members said it can be hard for participants to get support workers when they are in hospital.



Participants feel this is a risk to their:

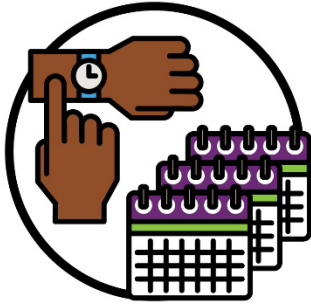
- health
- safety.

Broken equipment



Reference Group members said participants are having issues getting broken equipment fixed.

For example, a wheelchair.



Participants often have to wait **3 months** to get their equipment fixed.



This happens even when the equipment is still under **warranty**.



Warranty means the maker needs to fix or replace something if it breaks.

Warranty only lasts a little while.

First Nations Connect



First Nations Connect is the NDIA's new call centre for First Nations participants.



Reference Group members said people were happy with First Nations Connect.

Updates from the NDIA

Policies



The NDIA talked about a new **policy** they are working on.

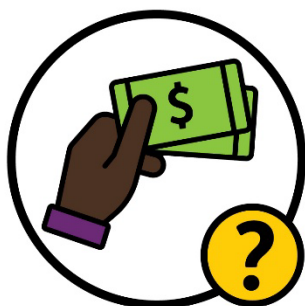
A policy is a set of rules or ideas that tell people how they should do things.



The policy is about paying family members to be support workers for participants.



The NDIA asked the Reference Group members what should be in this policy.



For example, when First Nations participants would pay family to be support workers.



The NDIA also asked members about another policy they are planning.



This policy is also about the support participants can get from their family.

Support needs assessment

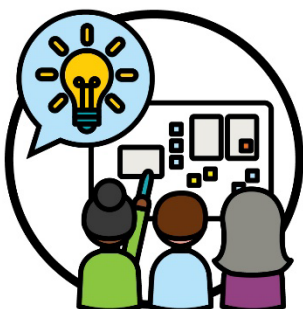


The NDIA asked Reference Group members about the **support needs assessment** for First Nations participants.



Support needs assessments help the NDIA work out:

- how a person's disability affects their life
- what supports a person needs.



The NDIA asked members for their ideas on how to:

- design it
- provide it
- test it.

Update about IAC advice

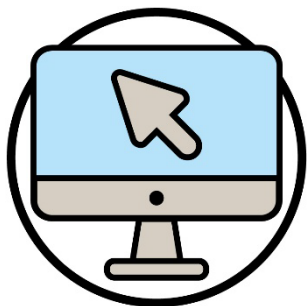


Reference Group members talked about the IAC's home and living advice.

Our next meeting



Our next meeting is on
10–11 November 2026.

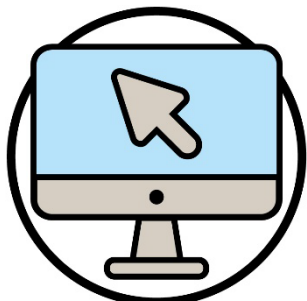


You can find out more about our meetings
and bulletins on our website.

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



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 bulletin mean.



Bulletin

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Participants

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Short term accommodation

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Council**
to the **ndis**



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