

Home and Living Reference Group

Easy Read meeting bulletin

18 June 2025



How to use this bulletin



We are the Independent Advisory Council (IAC).

We give advice about ways to make the NDIS better.



We wrote some words in **bold**.

We explain what these words mean.

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

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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 is about home and living supports.

The Reference Group gives advice to the IAC about how people with disability can:



- live in their own home



- choose where they want to live.

They also give advice to the IAC about how people with disability can:



- do things for themselves in their home



- take part in their community.



The IAC use these ideas from the Reference Group 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**.

Participants are people with disability who take part in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).



Members shared reports about these issues with the NDIA.



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

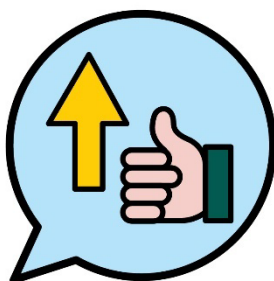
Supports and services



Reference Group members said people are worried about the NDIS support lists.



They're worried about some supports no longer being NDIS supports.



Members talked about how **group homes** need to improve.

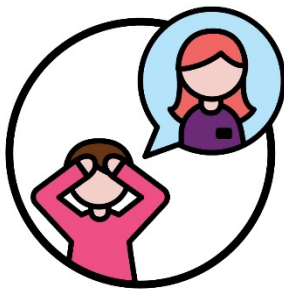


Group homes are places where people with disability:

- live together
- get support.



Members also talked about how there isn't enough information about other housing options.



Members said people are worried about **NDIS planners**.



An NDIS planner is someone who:

- makes new **NDIS plans**
- changes NDIS plans.



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.



They are worried that NDIS planners are making it too hard for participants to use their NDIS plans.

New funding periods



Reference Group members said they don't feel like they had a chance to share their thoughts about the new **funding periods**.



Funding periods tell participants:

- when part of their **funding** can be used
- how long their funding needs to last.



Funding is money from someone's NDIS plan that pays for the supports they need.

Members are worried that the new funding periods mean some participants:



- will lose supports they use now



- might have to move to get the care they need.
For example, into a hospital.

Members asked the NDIA to only use short funding periods:



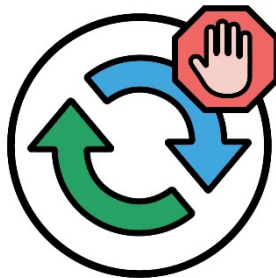
- when there is proof that it is hard for a participant to manage their funding



- after talking about funding periods with the participant.



The NDIA said that only new NDIS plans might have shorter funding periods.



This means funding periods don't have to change for current NDIS plans.



The NDIA also said they have shared the right information with the people these changes affect.

This includes:



- participants



- families and carers of participants.

The way the NDIA communicates



Reference Group members said they're sometimes worried about the way the NDIA communicates.



People have told members the way the NDIA communicates:

- sometimes upsets them
- makes them feel stressed.



Members said the NDIA should try to communicate in a different way.



The NDIA said they will look at how they explain things when they communicate.

Specialist disability accommodation (SDA)



Specialist disability accommodation (SDA)

is housing for people with disability who need extra support most of the time.



Reference Group members said some new SDA housing became **accessible** after it was built.



When housing is accessible it:

- supports what you need
- is easy to move around in.



Some builders are finding ways to do this because it's cheaper.



But this means some builders are not designing SDA to be accessible from the start.

Update on the IAC's Work Plan



A Work Plan is a document that explains the work the IAC will do from:

- **1 July 2025**
- to
- **30 June 2026.**



The IAC's Independent Advisor gave an update on the **draft** IAC Work Plan.

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

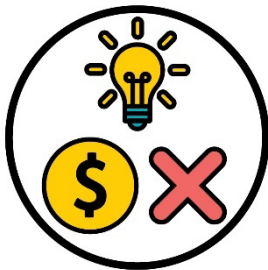


The IAC's Independent Advisors are people who work with the IAC and Reference Groups.

They help the IAC and Reference Groups make their advice.



Reference Group members said the IAC's advice needs to focus on what people need.



It shouldn't just focus on money.

Update on the Home and Living Framework



The NDIA gave an update on their Home and Living Framework.

In this document we call it the framework.



The framework is about supporting participants:

- in their home
- to live how they want.



The NDIA said the framework will support ideas about how to improve home and living supports.



This includes ideas that came from the **NDIS Review**.



The Australian Government checked the NDIS to find out what:

- worked well
- could be better.

They call it the NDIS Review.



This also includes ideas that came from the **Disability Royal Commission**.



The Disability Royal Commission looked into problems that people with disability experienced.

It helped the Australian Government find out:

- what went wrong
- what we need to improve.



The framework will also support changes the Australian Government has made to laws about home and living.



The NDIA said they have used what Reference Group members said to help make the framework.



This has helped them make sure the NDIS is the best it can be.



Members said the NDIA doesn't always follow its rules about group homes.

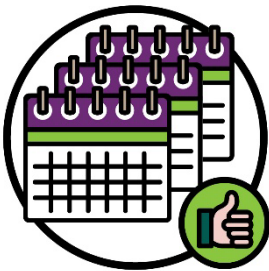


They said many participants still get put into group homes when they don't want to.

The NDIA said:



- there are some problems to solve



- it will take time to make sure everything works right.



But they have started making things better already.

Our next meeting



This was the last meeting for the Home and Living Reference Group.



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 visit the NDIS 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 housing is accessible it:

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Bulletin

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