

# Home and Living Reference Group

An Easy Read meeting bulletin

30 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 [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](http://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:

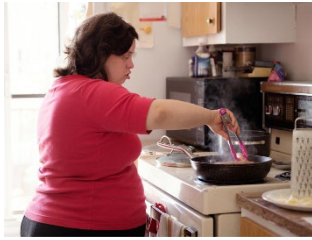


- live in their own home



- 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.

## 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?

### Laws about how the NDIS works



The NDIA have held information sessions in the community about how some laws will change.

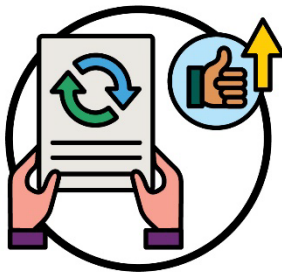
This includes laws about NDIS supports.



Reference Group members shared that they like that the NDIA is doing this.



But members also shared that the community are unsure about how some laws will change.



Members explained that the NDIA should improve how they share information about changes.

This includes:



- having more information sessions



- sharing more information in different ways.

For example, in Easy Read and videos.





The NDIA shared that they have answered some questions about how some laws will change.



You can find the answers on their website.

[www.ndis.gov.au/changes-ndis-legislation/  
frequently-asked-questions-about-legislation](http://www.ndis.gov.au/changes-ndis-legislation/frequently-asked-questions-about-legislation)

## Supports and services



Reference Group members shared that the NDIA should teach the community more about home and living.



This includes what home and living supports the community can choose from.



Members explained that the NDIA should share more information that is easy to:

- understand
- find and use.



This information should also be created through **co-design**.

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



The NDIA agreed that it's important to share information the same way.



Members also explained that some **providers** share the wrong information about supports.



Providers support people with disability by delivering a service.



Members shared this has made **participants** more unsure about what supports they can use.

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



Members worry that **NDIS plans** include only certain types of home and living supports.



An NDIS plan is a document that has information about:

- a participant and their goals
- what supports they need.

This includes **group homes**.



Group homes are places where people with disability:

- live together
- get support.

This also includes housing:



- for people who need daily support



- where lots of people live together.

Members explained that people with disability need more:



- supports



- types of housing.



The NDIA shared that they don't pick one type of home and living support over another.

## NDIS plans

Reference Group members shared that people in the community worry about:



- NDIS plans



- home and living supports.



They worry that participants have less **funding** in their plans.

Funding is the money from a participant's plan that pays for the supports and services they need.

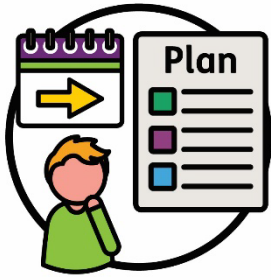


They also worry that plans include types of housing supports because:

- they worked well before
- a lot of other people use them.



But these housing supports might not work for everyone.



Members also shared that people in the community worry about how long NDIS plans last.



They worry that the NDIA tells participants to have an NDIS plan that isn't longer than **12 months**.

NDIS plans that only last **12 months** can:



- cause participants to feel more stress



- create more work for **NDIS planners**.



An NDIS planner is someone who:

- makes new plans
- changes plans.



Members explained that some participants worry about:

- using their NDIS plan wrong
- making a mistake.

## Providers

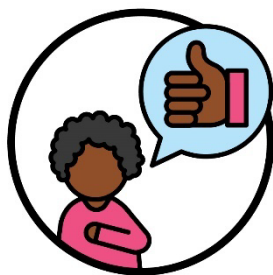


Reference Group members talked about the NDIS Provider and Worker Registration Taskforce.

In this document we call it the taskforce.



The taskforce gave advice to the Australian Government about a new way to check providers.



Members shared that they're happy with the work the taskforce has done.

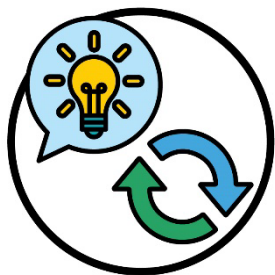


This includes their work to share the different ways NDIS providers should be **registered**.



A registered provider:

- can offer different supports and services than other providers
- have to follow more rules.



Members also talked about how the NDIA:

- listens to other people's ideas
- might make changes to support these ideas.



# NDIA 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.



Reference Group members shared what they liked about the framework.



Members explained that the framework 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 also explained that to do this the NDIA should look at information about the NDIS.



They should make sure this information supports the same things.

For example, the NDIA should look into:



- the home and living supports the NDIA gives funding to



- the law that explains how the NDIA should work



- the ideas from the **NDIA Review**.

The Australian Government checked the NDIA to find out what:



- worked well
- could be better.

They call it the NDIA Review.



Members shared that a lot has changed since the NDIA last heard from the community about what they want for the framework.

For example, the cost of housing.

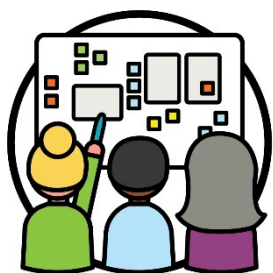


Members also shared that the NDIA should talk with the community more about this.



The NDIA were happy to listen to members' ideas about how to check in with the community better.

## The NDIA's co-design work



The NDIA gave an update about their co-design work.

This includes the NDIA's work to:



- make changes to home and living supports



- listen to what people from different backgrounds have to say.



Reference Group members shared that the NDIA should hear from people who live in group homes.



Members explained that people with **psychosocial disability** need different types of support.

A psychosocial disability affects your mental health.



It can affect how you:

- think
- feel
- deal with other people.

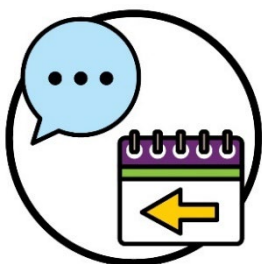
There should be more information about the:



- issues people with psychosocial disability face
- supports people with psychosocial disability need.



Members shared they want to hear about future co-design projects.



They want to hear about these projects before they start.

## Our next meeting



Our next meeting will be 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](http://www.ndis-iac.com.au)



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

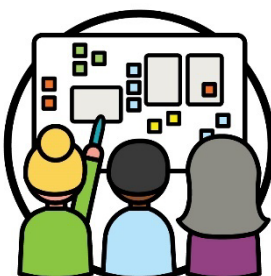
This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.



### **Bulletin**

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

It explains what we did in our meeting.



### **Co-design**

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



### **Funding**

Funding is the money from a participant's plan that pays for the supports and services they need.



### **Group homes**

Group homes are places where people with disability:

- live together
- get support.



## 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 has information about:

- a participant and their goals
- what supports they need.



## NDIS planners

An NDIS planner is someone who:

- makes new plans
- changes plans.



## NDIS Review

The Australian Government checked the NDIS to find out what:

- worked well
- could be better.

They call it the NDIS Review.



## Participants

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



## Providers

Providers support people with disability by delivering a service.

## Psychosocial disability

A psychosocial disability affects your mental health.



It can affect how you:

- think
- feel
- deal with other people.



## Reference Group

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

## Registered



A registered provider:

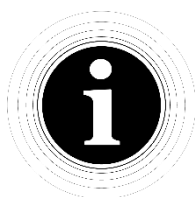
- can offer different supports and services than other providers
- have to follow more rules.

## 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.



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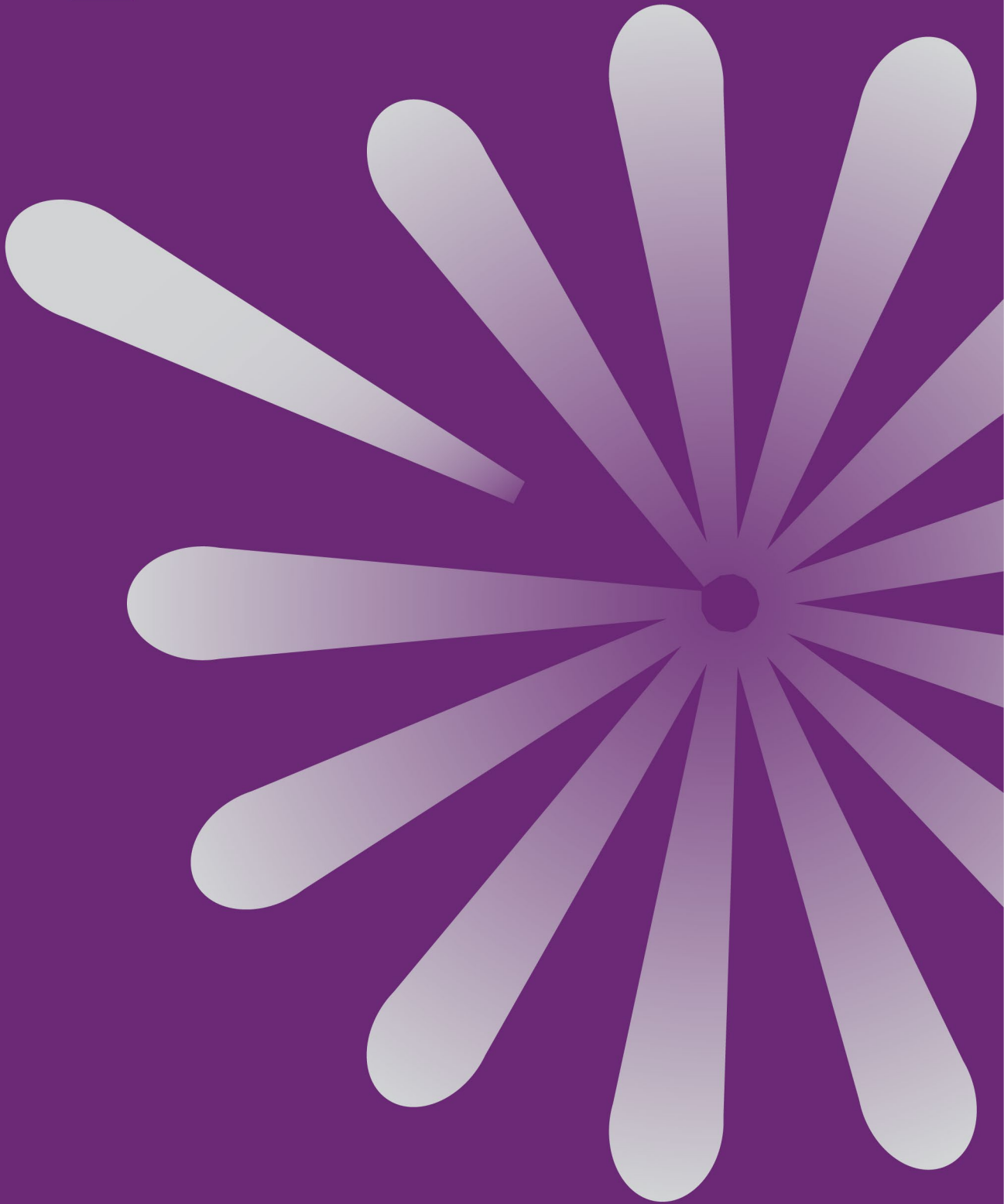
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