

Home and Living Reference Group

An Easy Read meeting bulletin

7 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.



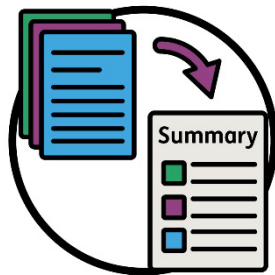
We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these bold words mean.

There is a list of these words on page **23**.



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

The IAC's Principal Member 7

Our reports 8

The NDIA's co-design work 14

Our Work Plan 17

Our next meeting 21

More information 22

Word list 23

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.

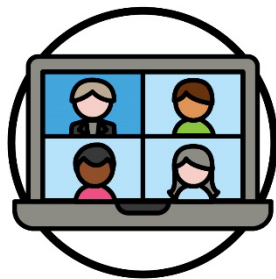
The IAC's Principal Member



Ms Leah van Poppel is the IAC's Principal Member.

She is also the Reference Group Co-Chair.

This means she helps run the Reference Group.



Leah ran this meeting.

This meeting was online.

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 (DRC)** looked into problems people with disability have experienced.



It helped the Australian Government find out:

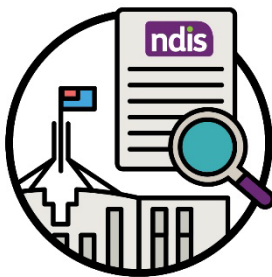
- what went wrong
- what we need to improve.



Reference Group members talked about how the community feels about the Australian Government's response to the DRC.



Members shared that the community worries about what the Australian Government will say following the **NDIS Review**.



The Australian Government checked the NDIS to find out what:

- worked well
- could be better.

They call it the NDIS Review.



Some people in the community worry that what the Australian Government has to say will have a bad effect on their supports.



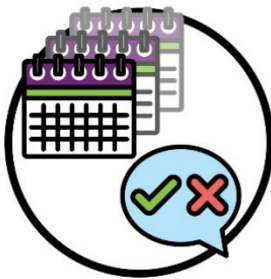
Members also worry that the voices of people with disability are still not being heard.



Members shared that they worry about the experiences of **participants** when making NDIS plans.



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



For example, they worry that some participants wait a long time for decisions about their plan.



Members said that they're glad the NDIA shares what work they will do to fix this.



Members also shared issues with how the NDIA check that the supports in a participant's plan still work well for them.

Some participants also face issues:



- when a part of their life changes



- asking for **assistive technology** in their plan.



Assistive technology is equipment that you can use to do more things for yourself.

For example, a wheelchair or hearing aid.



Members explained it's important that the NDIA keep working to improve home and living supports.

This includes making sure participants have choice and control to live somewhere that:



- is safe



- supports what they need.



Members shared that some participants have less **funding** in their plans.

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

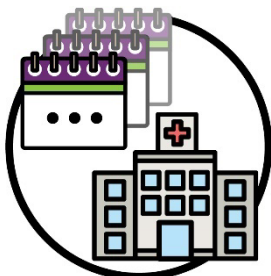


This often happens to participants who manage their plan on their own.

This means some participants might:

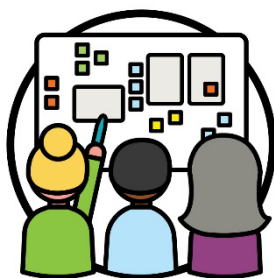


- not get the home and living supports they need



- have to wait in hospital for a decision about their home and living supports.

The NDIA's co-design work



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

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



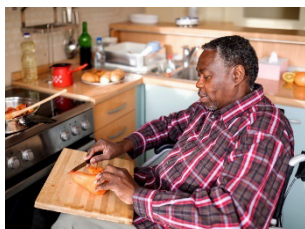
This includes the NDIA's work on the Home and Living Framework.

In this document, we call it the framework.

The framework is about supporting participants:



- in their home

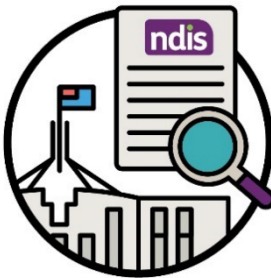


- to live how they want.

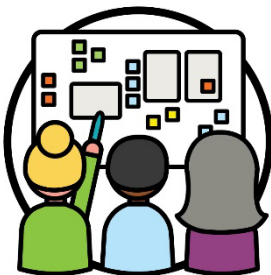
The NDIA said that they will share the framework after they read what the Australian Government has to say about:



- the DRC



- the NDIS Review.



The NDIA will also keep telling Reference Group members about co-design work they can do.

Members explained that the NDIA should:



- keep looking for changes to home and living that they can start right away



- use research from other work and IAC advice.



Members shared that home and living funding should support participants:

- the way they need
- to have choice and control.

Members also shared that the NDIA should look at research that shows **group homes** don't support:



- choice and control



- what participants need to live a good life.

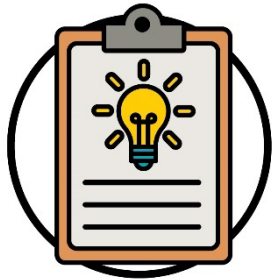


Group homes are places where people with disability:

- live together
- get support.

Our Work Plan

Reference Group members talked about:



- their advice for the NDIA about home and living supports



- the IAC's **Work Plan** for **2024** to **2025**.



The Work Plan is a document that explains what the IAC will do.



Members shared they will look at research to improve their advice.

This includes research that shows how:



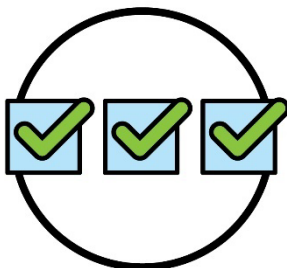
- new types of home and living supports can support participants



- using home and living supports in different ways can support participants.



Members explained that their work should focus on what makes it harder for participants to find and use home and living supports.



This includes home and living supports that work well every time.



Members also talked about the **navigator** role.



Navigators will help people with disability to:

- learn about different supports
- connect with experts
- find and use the supports they need.



Members shared that they want to give advice on the navigator role.



Members also shared that they want to give advice on how to help participants get the right home and living supports.

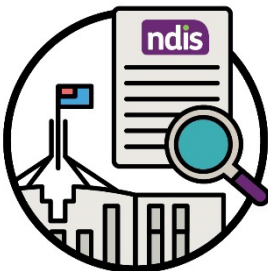
This includes advice on how to support:



- people who live far away from cities or towns



- First Nations communities.



Members want to give this advice after they read what the Australian Government says about the NDIS Review.

Our next meeting



Our next meeting will be on **30 October 2024**.



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

www.ndis-iac.com.au/meetings

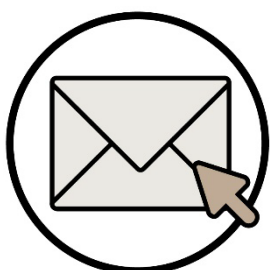
More information

For more information about this bulletin, please contact us.



You can visit our website.

www.ndis-iac.com.au



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.



Assistive technology

Assistive technology is equipment that you can use to do more things for yourself.

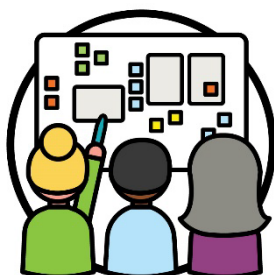
For example, a wheelchair or hearing aid.



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.

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.



Funding

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

Group homes



Group homes are places where people with disability:

- live together
- get support.

Navigators



Navigators will help people with disability to:

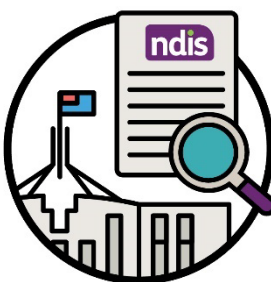
- learn about different supports
- connect with experts
- find and use the supports they need.



NDIA Board

The NDIA Board is a group of people who make decisions about all parts of the NDIA.

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.



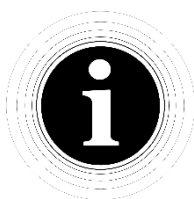
Reference Group

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



Work Plan

The Work Plan is a document that explains what the IAC will do.



The Information Access Group created this Easy Read document using stock photography and custom images.

The images may not be reused without permission.

For any enquiries about the images, please visit

www.informationaccessgroup.com.

Quote job number 5264-B.



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



ndis-iac.com.au