

# Independent Advisory Council

Easy Read meeting bulletin

13 February 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 20.



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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## What happened at the meeting?



We held the meeting on **13 February 2025**.

At the meeting, IAC Members talked about:



- the work the IAC is doing



- what they have heard in their communities.



IAC Members heard from the Honourable Amanda Rishworth MP.

Amanda is the new **Minister** for the NDIS.

A minister leads an area of the government.



IAC Members also gave an update on their advice to the NDIA.

## The IAC's Principal Member



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

She's also a member of the **NDIA Board**.

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

Leah thanked 4 members who are leaving the IAC:



- Jennifer Cullen



- Sylvanna Mahmic



- James Manders



- Dr George Taleporos.

Leah also welcomed 5 new IAC Members:



- Vaughn Bennison



- Associate Professor Lorna Hallahan



- Dr Gill Hicks



- Jane Wardlaw



- Andrew Vodic.

Leah also welcomed people from the NDIA Board to the meeting, including:



- Kurt Fearnley AO



- Rebecca Falkingham PSM



- Corri McKenzie.





Leah said this meeting was on Sorry Day.



Sorry Day happened 17 years ago.

On this day, the Australian Government said sorry to First Nations people for how they were treated in the past.

## Our reports



The IAC Members connected with the community to find out about issues that affect them.



IAC Members shared reports about these issues with the NDIA.

## Phone calls to participants



IAC Members said the NDIA calls **participants** without telling them first.



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



These phone calls are to talk about what participants need from their **NDIS plans**.

An NDIS plan has information about:



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

IAC Members are worried these phone calls mean:



- participants can't get ready to talk about what they need



- NDIS plans can change when participants don't expect it.

## Changes to NDIS funding



IAC Members said people are worried about changes to how participants can use their NDIS **funding**.



Funding is money from your NDIS plan that pays for the supports you need.



These changes could mean participants have less choice and control over what supports they can use their funding for.

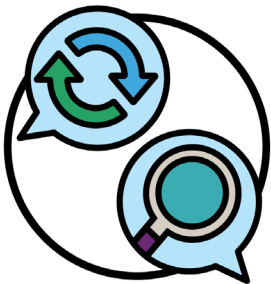
## How participants manage their NDIS plan



IAC Members said the NDIA is starting to manage funding for more participants.



Sometimes participants don't know this will happen.

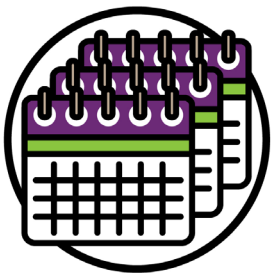


When participants speak up about this change, the NDIA tells them to apply for an **internal review**.



An internal review is when the NDIA checks:

- how they made a decision
- if they need to change a decision.



It can take months for the NDIA to check this.

## Minister for the NDIS



The Honourable Amanda Rishworth MP is the new Minister for the NDIS.

IAC Members welcomed Amanda to the meeting.



Amanda said the IAC is important for making sure participants can share their ideas.



She also said she wants the NDIS to keep making participants lives better for a long time.

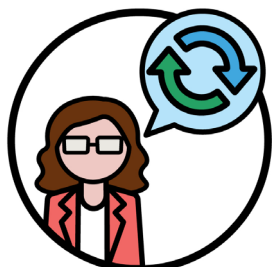
Amanda talked about how important it is for the NDIS to:



- keep providing services to participants



- work with participants to keep making the NDIS better.



Amanda said the government still has a lot of changes planned for the NDIS.



Amanda said the IAC is important to make sure these changes work well.

## Our advice



We talked about how we:

- create our advice
- check that our advice works well.



We have given the NDIA our advice about making behaviour supports better.



The NDIA said their response to this advice is nearly ready.



Then they will give our advice and their response to the Minister for the NDIS.



We are also working on advice about:



- participants who are getting older



- palliative care.



Palliative care is special support for people who are:

- very sick
- near the end of their life.

## Our next meeting



Our next meeting is on **27 March 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 bulletin mean.



### **Bulletin**

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

It explains what we did in our last meeting.



### **Funding**

Funding is money from your NDIS plan that pays for the supports you need.



### **Internal review**

An internal review is when the NDIA checks:

- how they made a decision
- if they need to change a decision.



### **Minister**

A minister leads an area of the government.



## NDIA Board

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



## NDIS plan

An NDIS plan has information about:

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



## Palliative care

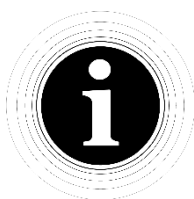
Palliative care is special support for people who are:

- very sick
- near the end of their life.



## Participant

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



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



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