

# Independent Advisory Council

Easy Read meeting bulletin

20 February 2026



## 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**.

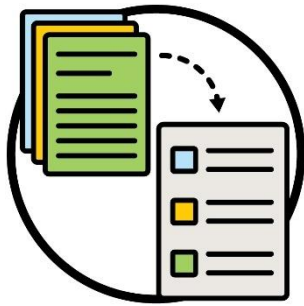
A bulletin is an important news item we share with the community.

It explains what we did in our meeting.



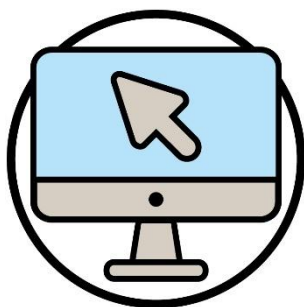
You can ask someone you trust for support to:

- 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](http://www.ndis-iac.com.au/meetings)

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## What happened at the meeting?



We held the meeting on **20 February 2026**.

At the meeting, IAC Members talked about:



- the work the IAC is doing



- what they have heard in their communities



- some updates about the National Disability Insurance Agency's (NDIA) work.

## What issues did the community share?



IAC 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 NDIS.

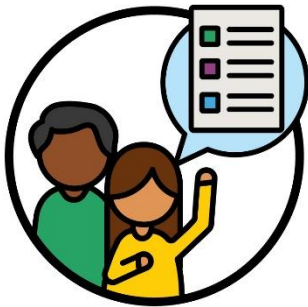


IAC Members shared reports about these issues with people from the NDIA.



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

## Changes to NDIS plans



IAC Members shared what the community are saying about **NDIS plans**.



An NDIS plan has information about:

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



For example, Members shared that the community are talking about:

- less choice and control in NDIS plans
- less **funding** in NDIS plans.



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



Members shared what the NDIA should think about when it makes decisions about:

- planning
- funding.



For example, the NDIA should look at a person's:

- experiences
- medical history.



Members also asked the NDIA how **supported decision-making** will work in NDIS plans with the new planning rules.



Supported decision-making is when someone supports you to make decisions about your life.



For example, Members wanted to know how people can use money from their NDIS plans to pay for supported decision-making.

## More support for CALD participants



IAC Members shared that **culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)** participants aren't getting the support they need to use their NDIS plans.



CALD people:

- come from different cultures and backgrounds
- speak languages other than English.



Members said CALD participants need to ask for help outside of the NDIS to get the support they need.



For example, they need support from family and friends.

## Better information about Thriving Kids



IAC Members said the community are worried about Thriving Kids.

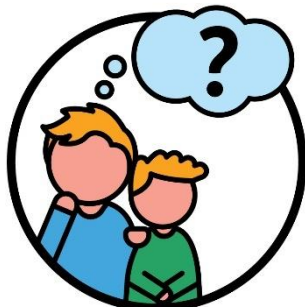


Thriving Kids is a new program for children who need extra support.



For example, children with **developmental delay**.

A developmental delay is when a child takes longer than usual to learn things like walking or talking.



Members shared that people are confused about how Thriving Kids will affect them.

## Support for participants who manage their NDIS plans



IAC Members said that participants who manage their own NDIS plans feel like the NDIA doesn't trust them.

Participants are worried that the NDIA doesn't trust them to make decisions that:



- they can manage easily



- are low risk.



Members asked the NDIA to better support participants to manage their own NDIS plans.

## How the NDIA shares information

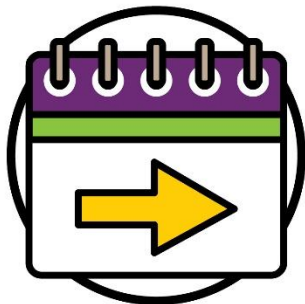


IAC Members said the community doesn't feel hopeful about the NDIS.

This includes:



- how it works now



- how it might work in the future.



Members asked the NDIA to think about better ways to communicate with the community.

## Update from the NDIA's Board Chair



Kurt Fearnley AO is the **Chair** of the NDIA Board.



This means he helps make important decisions and leads the NDIA.



Kurt will be the Board Chair for the **next 3 years.**



Kurt talked about how the community is worried about the wrong information being shared on social media.



For example, if someone posts about the NDIA stopping funding for supports when it isn't true.



Kurt also talked about something very sad that happened in Western Australia.



2 young people with disability passed away.



Kurt talked about how sad Members and the disability community feel.

## Update from the NDIA's CEO



Graeme Head is the NDIA's **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**.

A CEO helps run an organisation or business.



Graeme told IAC Members about what he thinks is very important for the NDIA.

This includes:



- making sure the NDIA communicates better with the community



- making sure people who work for the NDIA are safe and respected.



Graeme said the NDIA will work with police to help them find out more about what happened in Western Australia.



Graeme also talked about some of the issues Members have shared.

## Update on IAC advice



IAC Members talked about the advice they're working on.

This includes their advice on:



- home and living



- the **justice system**.

The justice system makes sure everyone is treated fairly and follows the law.



The justice system includes:

- prisons
- courts
- police.

## Update on other IAC meetings



IAC Members had 2 extra meetings outside of their usual meeting.

At these 2 meetings, IAC members talked about:



- how the NDIA will check if their goals and changes are working

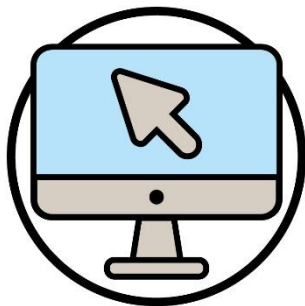


- managing NDIS plans.

## Our next meeting



Our next meeting is on **25 and 26 March 2026.**

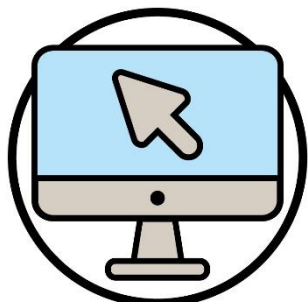


You can find out more about our meetings and bulletins on our website.

[www.ndis-iac.com.au/meetings](http://www.ndis-iac.com.au/meetings)

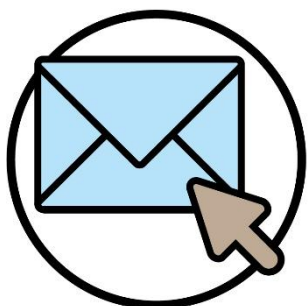
## More information

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.



### **Chair**

The Chair helps make important decisions and leads the NDIA.



### **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**

A CEO helps run and organisation or business.



### **Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)**

CALD people:

- come from different cultures and backgrounds
- speak languages other than English.



### Developmental delay

A developmental delay is when a child takes longer than usual to learn things like walking or talking.



### Funding

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



### Justice system

The justice system makes sure everyone is treated fairly and follows the law.

The justice system includes:

- prisons
- courts
- police.

## NDIS plan



An NDIS plan has information about:

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



## Participants

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



## Supported decision-making

Supported decision-making is when someone supports you to make decisions about your life.



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Council**  
to the **ndis**



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