Intellectual Disability Reference Group

An Easy Read meeting bulletin

13–14 November 2024

Easy Read®

Independent Advisory Council to the **ndis**

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

What's in this bulletin?
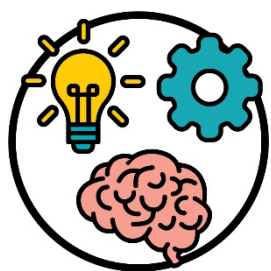
About this Reference Group

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

The Reference Group shares their ideas with the IAC about how to support people with **intellectual disability**.

An intellectual disability affects how you:

- learn new things

- solve problems

- communicate

- do things on your own.

This includes support to:

- take part in the community

- make your own decisions.

The IAC use these ideas 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.
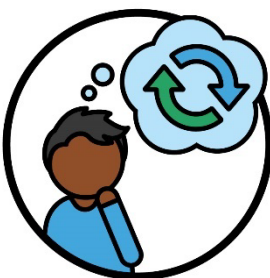
Our reports

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.

Changes to NDIS supports

Reference Group members explained that the community is worried about changes to NDIS supports.
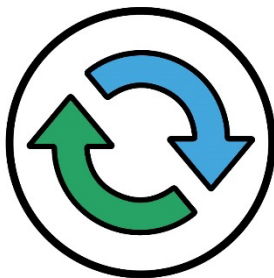
Members said the changes are confusing for **participants**.

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

Participants are confused about:

- what has changed

- what supports they can use their NDIS **funding** for.

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

Your NDIS plan is a document that includes information about:

- you and your goals

- what supports you receive from the NDIS.

Reference Group members asked the NDIA to make it clear what participants:

- can use NDIS funding for

- can't use NDIS funding for.

Support coordinators

Reference Group members explained that it is hard to find **support coordinators** in some areas far away from cities and towns.

A support coordinator is someone who helps participants plan and use their supports.

Members also said this means participants need a lot of support from their families.

But their families don't get paid for this support.

Changes for participants who self-manage their funding

Reference Group members worry about changes for participants who **self-manage** their funding.
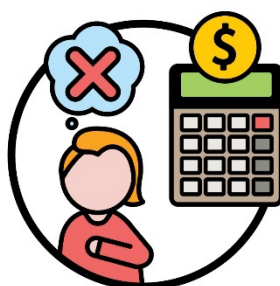
If you self-manage your funding, you:

- manage all or part of your funding

- choose what supports you use to reach your goals.

These changes might make more work for participants who self-manage their funding to make a claim after they use a service.

Members worry this will stop participants from wanting to self-manage their funding.

The NDIA said they are doing work to support participants who self-manage their funding.

Checks to take part in the NDIS

Reference Group members worry about how the NDIA is checking if participants still need support from the NDIS.

Members shared that participants are worried because the NDIA asked them for written proof of their disability.

The NDIA said it wants to make sure they share easy to understand information with participants about this.

Reference Group members explained some issues with NDIS plans.

This includes how long it can take:

- the NDIA to approve NDIS plans

- people to understand and use the funding in their NDIS plans.

Members said that NDIS plans:

- can be too long to read without support

- should be in Easy Read.

The NDIA said they are working on providing their NDIS plans in Easy Read.

People who live in older group homes

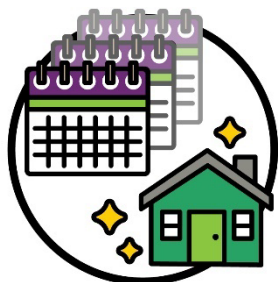Reference Group members talked about issues for participants who live in older **group homes**.

Group homes are places where people with disability:

- live together

- get support.

The NDIS is not allowed to keep supporting some types of older group homes.

Members explained that it is taking a long time to find new housing for people who live in older group homes.

Members said there are other homes that could support people from older group homes who need less support.

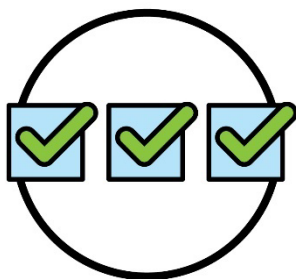Reference Group members talked about a job the NDIA wants to start soon.

The job is called a **navigator**.

Navigators could help people with disability to:

- learn about different supports

- connect with experts

- find and use the supports they need.

Members said navigators would need to:

- work the same way every time

- understand how to support each participant the right way

- understand the NDIS.

Accessible meetings

Inclusion Australia did a survey to help us find out how we can make our meetings more **accessible**.

When a meeting is accessible, it's easy to:

- take part in

- understand.

The survey showed that our meetings are more accessible than they used to be.

But the survey also showed that members think there should be better information about what it's like to be a Reference Group member.

This includes how much time someone needs to give to be a Reference Group member.

The survey showed members want information for meetings to be available in:

- plain English

- Easy Read.

Inclusion Australia will also create some documents about the IAC that members and the NDIA can use.

Employment program

The NDIA talked about the **employment** program they ran in South Australia.

Employment means you:

- have a job

- go to work

- get paid.

The program hired 3 people with intellectual disability at the NDIA.

The NDIA worked with other organisations and parts of the government to make sure the employment program worked well.

Reference Group members said the NDIA should try the program in other parts of Australia.

Our next meeting

Our next meeting is on **9** and **10 April 2025**.

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 bulletin mean.

Accessible

When a meeting is accessible, it's easy to:

- take part in

- understand.

Bulletin

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

It explains what we did in our meeting.

Employment

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- have a job

- go to work

- get paid.

Funding

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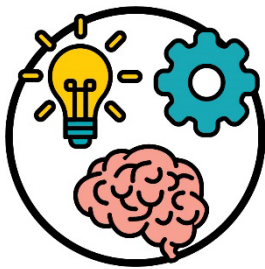
Group homes

Group homes are places where people with disability:

- live together

- get support.

Intellectual disability

An intellectual disability affects how you:

- learn new things

- solve problems

- communicate

- do things on your own.

Navigators

Navigators could 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 plan

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- you and your goals

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Reference Group

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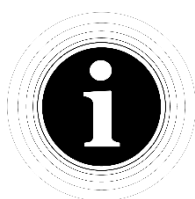
Self-manage

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