



Intellectual Disability Reference Group

Easy Read meeting bulletin

19–20 August 2026



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 [23](#).



We wrote this **bulletin**.

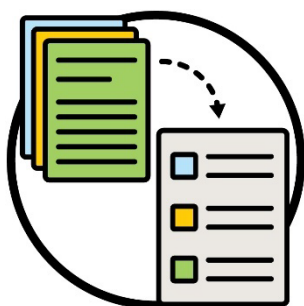
A bulletin is an important news item we share with the community.

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 is in this bulletin?

About this Reference Group	5
----------------------------	---

What issues did the community share?	7
--------------------------------------	---

Update from the NDIA	17
----------------------	----

Update on the Terms of Reference	18
----------------------------------	----

Update on Work Plan	19
---------------------	----

Update on the IAC's advice	20
----------------------------	----

Our next meeting	21
------------------	----

More information	22
------------------	----

Word list	23
-----------	----

About this Reference Group

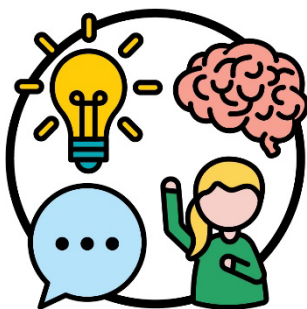


A **Reference Group** is a group of people who give us advice about a certain topic.



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

An intellectual disability affects how you:

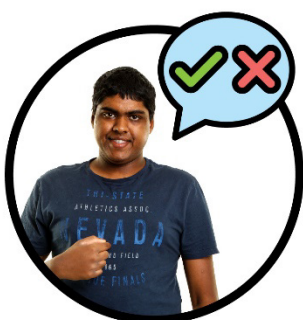


- learn new things
- solve problems
- communicate
- do things on your own.

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.

What issues did the community share?



Reference Group 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.



Members shared reports about these issues with the NDIA.



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

Support needs assessment



Reference Group members said people have questions about **support needs assessments**.



Support needs assessments help the NDIA work out:

- how a person's disability affects their life
- what supports a person needs.



People want to know how support needs assessments will work.



Members said people are worried they will have to do more **assessments**.



Assessments can help the NDIA work out:

- how to support someone
- what **funding** someone needs.



Funding is money from an **NDIS plan** that pays for the supports a participant needs.



An NDIS plan has information about:

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

Members said the NDIA should:



- trust the assessments people have already had

and



- not make them have a support needs assessment.

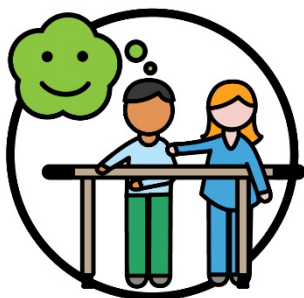
Therapy and stated supports



Reference Group members said they were happy about the meetings the NDIA has to help participants start using their NDIS plans.



They are happy with how the NDIA talk about **therapy** supports.

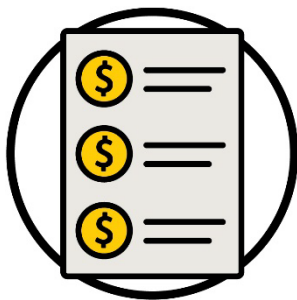


Therapy includes different types of support that can help improve how:

- you think and feel
- your body moves.



Members are also happy with how the NDIA explains **stated supports** to participants.



A stated support in an NDIS plan has funding set aside that the participant can only use for that support.



Members still worry some participants might not have enough funding for all the therapy supports they need.



Members said NDIS plans need to be clearer about which therapy supports they include.

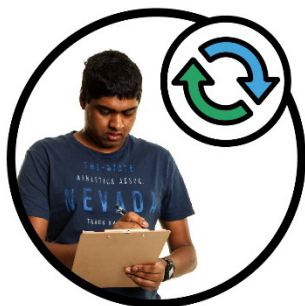
Changes to funding and NDIS plans



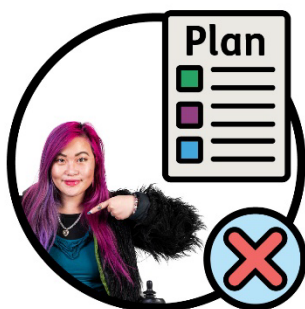
Reference Group members said people are worried participants are getting less funding.



This happens even though their life has not changed.



Members said the NDIA is changing how some participants manage their NDIS plan.



For example, some people no longer manage their own NDIS plan.



The NDIA now manages their NDIS plan instead.



Members said this can have a big impact on participants.



The NDIA said it is common to check how well NDIS plans are working.



The NDIA also said they have not changed how they create NDIS plans.



Changes will only happen after the Australian Government makes it a law.

Carers and support people

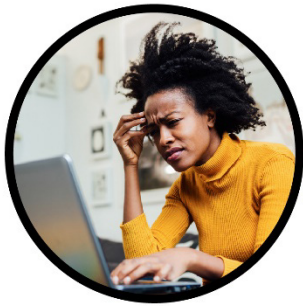


Reference Group members said there are reports about the wellbeing of carers and support people.

Carers and support people are feeling very:



- tired



- stressed.

Changes to NDIS supports



Reference Group members said participants are worried about changes to NDIS supports.

Participants are worried they will get less funding for support to:



- take part in their community



- learn to do more things for themselves in their everyday life.



Members talked about how important this funding is to First Nations people with disability.

Places very far away from cities and towns



Reference Group members said it is harder for some people to use the NDIS.



This includes people very far away from cities and towns.



Some support workers will fly in and out to see participants.



But it is harder for these workers to connect with communities than local support workers.

Update from the NDIA

The NDIA gave Reference Group members an update on:



- Easy Read NDIS plans



- support needs assessments.

Update on the Terms of Reference



Reference Group members talked about their **Terms of Reference.**



Terms of Reference are a guide that explain what a program or project:

- can do
- must focus on.



The Terms of Reference is not finished yet.

Update on Work Plan



Reference Group members talked about their **Work Plan**.



A Work Plan is a document that explains what the Reference Group will work on.

Members talked about:



- what is important to them



- what the Work Plan should focus on.

Update on the IAC's advice



Reference Group members talked about the IAC's advice about support in an **emergency**.



An emergency is a dangerous situation when people need help straight away to stay safe.

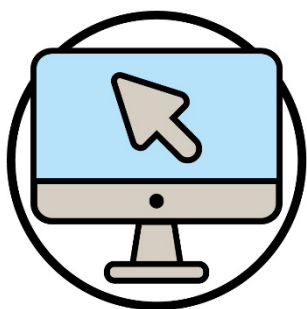


Members talked about what this advice should include.

Our next meeting



Our next meeting is in **18 and 19 November 2026.**



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.



Assessment

Assessments can help the NDIA work out:

- how to support someone
- what funding someone needs.



Bulletin

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

It explains what we did in our last meeting.



Emergency

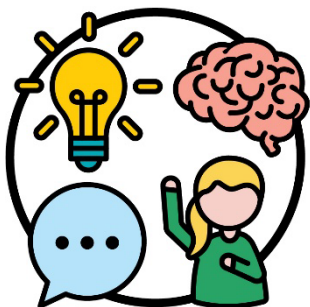
An emergency is a dangerous situation when people need help straight away to stay safe.



Funding

Funding is money from an NDIS plan that pays for the supports a participant needs.

Intellectual disability



An intellectual disability affects how you:

- learn new things
- solve problems
- communicate
- do things on your own.



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 a participant needs
- what the NDIS will pay for.



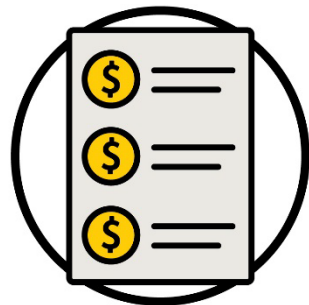
Participants

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.



Stated support

A stated support in an NDIS plan has funding set aside that the participant can only use for that support.



Support needs assessment

Support needs assessments help the NDIA work out:

- how a person's disability affects their life
- what supports a person needs.

Terms of Reference



Terms of Reference are a guide that explain what a program or project:

- can do
- must focus on.

Therapy



Therapy includes different types of support that can help improve how:

- you think and feel
- your body moves.



Work Plan

A Work Plan is a document that explains what the Reference Group will work on.



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