

# Intellectual Disability Reference Group

Easy Read meeting bulletin

2–3 July 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 25.



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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## About this Reference Group

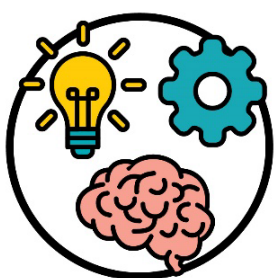


A **Reference Group** is a group of people who give us advice about a certain topic.



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 National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).



Members shared reports about these issues with the NDIA.



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

## Travel for providers



**Providers** support people with disability by delivering a service.



Reference Group members said some participants are worried about changes to travel costs for providers.



These changes affect participants who live far away from cities or towns more than other participants.



This is because providers need to travel a lot further to support participants in these areas.



Members said the NDIA should get organisations to train more workers in these areas.



This includes:

- the government
- disability organisations.



The NDIA said they are checking the rules about paying for providers to travel in these areas.

## What the NDIS can pay for

Reference Group members said people are confused about what supports the NDIS:



- can pay for



- can't pay for.



Some people are also worried about certain supports that the NDIS can't pay for.



Members said the NDIA needs to do more to help the community understand the NDIS supports lists. This includes sharing more information.

## Funding periods

**Funding periods** tell you:



- how long your money from the NDIS needs to last
- when you can start using more money from the NDIS.



Reference Group members said people are worried about the new short funding periods.



Members said short funding periods could put participants at risk.



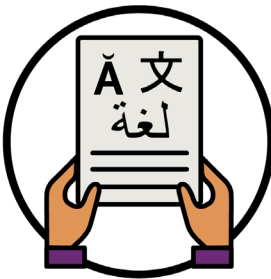
For example:

- if they need a lot of support for a short time
- if there is an **emergency**.



An emergency is a dangerous situation that no one expects to happen.

For example, a bushfire or flood.



People in the community also think the NDIA needs to share information about funding periods in more languages.



The NDIA said the new funding periods will make sure participants have enough money for the supports they need.

## Specialist disability accommodation



**Specialist disability accommodation (SDA)** is housing for people with disability who need extra support most of the time.



Reference Group members said people are worried about the information the NDIA shares about SDA.



The community want information that is easier to understand.

## First Nations people and the police



Reference Group members talked about First Nations people with disability who passed away recently.



These people passed away after they were arrested by the police.



Members said the police use **violence** when they don't need to.



Violence is when someone:

- hurts you
- scares you
- controls you.



This also makes the community lose trust in the police.

## Art and music therapy



The NDIA asked an expert to check the price of art and music **therapy** in the NDIS.



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

- you think and feel
- your body moves.



Reference Group members asked the NDIA for an update about art and music therapy.

## Housing for people with intellectual disability



Reference Group members said people are worried about more people with intellectual disability experiencing **homelessness**.



People who are experiencing homelessness don't have a safe place to live.



Members talked about 2 housing services that recently closed down.



Members said these services didn't give people much time to find another place to live.



The NDIA helped these people find a place to live.



Members said the NDIA did a good job of helping these people.

## A meeting at the United Nations



Reference Group members shared a report from a meeting at the United Nations.

The meeting is called the **Conference of State Parties (COSP)**.



COSP is a meeting:

- between different countries
- about the **rights** of people with disability.



Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.



The report looked at disability programs around the world.



Members said:

- the NDIS was a good program
- Australia is lucky to have the NDIS.

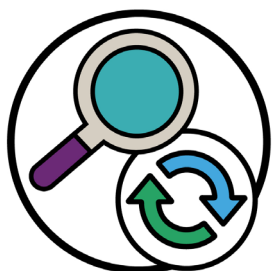
## Our Work Plan 2025–26



A Work Plan is a document that explains the work we will do this year.



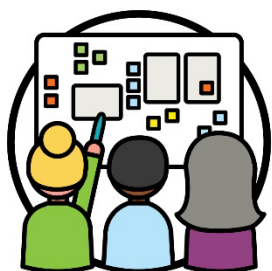
Members agreed on what the Work Plan will focus on this year.



We will focus on changes to how the NDIS works.



This includes taking part in **co-design** about how the NDIS might change.



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



We will focus on home and living supports.



This includes giving advice about how home and living supports can protect the rights of participants.



We will focus on the **justice system**.

The justice system makes sure people are treated fairly and follow the law.



The justice system includes:

- prisons
- courts
- police.



We will focus on support for participants in emergencies.



We will focus on how the NDIS can help participants take part in the community.



We will focus on supports in places far away from cities and towns.



This includes:

- having more workers
- finding ways to make sure there are enough services.

## The IAC's advice



The IAC's Independent Advisor gave an update.



The IAC's Independent Advisors are people who work with the IAC and Reference Groups.



They help the IAC and Reference Groups make their advice.



They showed us a plan about the type of advice we can give about home and living.

## Our next meeting



Our next meeting will be on  
**22–23 October 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 visit the NDIS website.

[www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au)



You can call the NDIS.

1800 800 110

## Word list

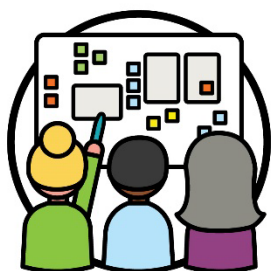
This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.



### 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.



### Conference of State Parties (COSP)

COSP is a meeting:

- between different countries
- about the **rights** of people with disability.



### Emergency

An emergency is a dangerous situation that no one expects to happen.

For example, a bushfire or flood.

## Funding period



- how long your money from the NDIS needs to last
- when you can start using more money from the NDIS.

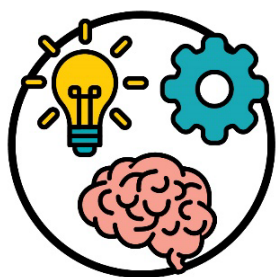


## Homelessness

People who are experiencing homelessness don't have a safe place to live.

## Intellectual disability

An intellectual disability affects how you:



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



## Justice system

The justice system makes sure people are treated fairly and follow the law.



## NDIA Board

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



## Participants

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



## Providers

Providers support people with disability by delivering a service.



## Reference Group

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



## Specialist disability accommodation (SDA)

SDA is housing for people with disability who need extra support most of the time.



## Therapy

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

- you think and feel
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## Violence

Violence is when someone:

- hurts you
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