

# Intellectual Disability Reference Group

Easy Read meeting bulletin

9–10 April 2025



# 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 22.



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

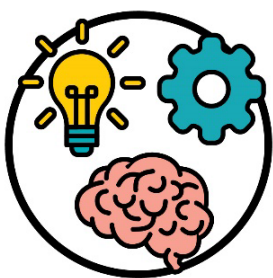


A **Reference Group** is a group of people who give us advice about a certain topic.



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 NDIS.



Members shared reports about these issues with the NDIA.



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

## NDIS plans



An **NDIS plan** has information about:

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

Reference Group members said participants have to wait a long time for the NDIA to:



- make decisions about their NDIS plans



- do **plan reassessments**.



A plan reassessment is when the NDIA checks to see if the supports in an NDIS plan still work well for a participant.

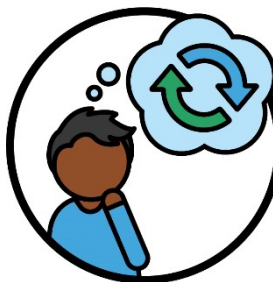




Members said participants are also worried about losing money from their NDIS plans if they ask for a plan reassessment.



The NDIA said they are working on ways to fix these issues.



Members said participants are worried about changes to NDIS plans.



For example, if a participant changes their goals, it could affect the money they get to pay for supports.



Members said participants should have more control over their NDIS plans and the money they get for supports.

## Navigators



**Navigators** will help people with disability to:

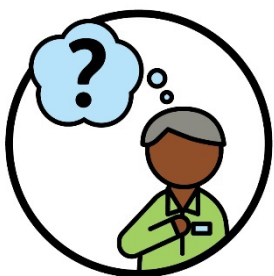
- learn about different supports
- connect with experts
- find and use the supports they need.



Reference Group members said the new navigator role has caused many **support coordinators** to leave their jobs.



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



Support coordinators have left their jobs because they're unsure what their role will be when navigators start working.



This has made it harder for participants and their carers to find the help now.



Members said they want more information about navigators.

This includes information in Easy Read.

## Emergency support



Reference Group members said participants should get extra support to help them get ready for an **emergency**.



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

For example, floods and bushfires.



This extra support should include money for an emergency in a participant's NDIS plan.



Members said NDIS plans should also include a plan about what to do in an emergency.

## Housing supports



Reference Group members said the NDIA is getting faster at checking NDIS plans for participants who move to a new house.



This helps participants have more choice and control over where they live.



Members said they're happy with the NDIA for making these checks faster.



But members said they're still worried there isn't enough housing to meet different needs.

## Providers



The NDIA said they have a new team that helps participants when a **provider** stops delivering a service.



Providers support people with disability by delivering a service.

The NDIA said this team works with:



- participants



- government organisations.



The team works with these people to make sure participants get the support they need.

## Making the IAC more accessible



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.



Reference Group members shared their experience with our meetings.

This includes people who used to be members.



People shared their ideas about:

- what works well
- what doesn't work well.

People also shared ideas about how to:



- make the IAC more accessible

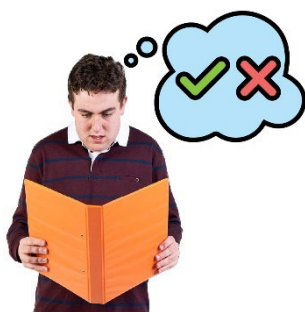


- make sure more people feel like they belong at the IAC.



Inclusion Australia said they are making **7** new resources in Easy Read.

These resources will help people:



- make decisions about joining the IAC



- understand how their work with the IAC could help the community.



# Hiring more people with intellectual disability



The NDIA gave an update on their work to hire more people with intellectual disability.



Reference Group members said this is important work.



Members said they want the NDIA to keep doing this work.

## People living in older group homes



Reference Group members talked about older **group homes** at the meeting.



Group homes are places where people with disability:

- live together
- get support.

Members are worried participants haven't been given choice and control about:



- what types of housing they can live in



- where they want to live



- who they want to live with.



Members are also worried about how well some housing supports participants.



Members said they've heard the IAC has already given the NDIA advice about older group homes.



Members will use what has been said in other meetings to give more advice.

## Our next meeting



Our next meeting is **2–3 July 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.



## 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 last meeting.



## Emergency

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

For example, floods and bushfires.

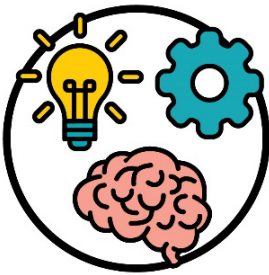
## Group homes



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 will 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



An NDIS plan has information about:

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



## Participants

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



## Plan reassessment

A plan reassessment is when the NDIA checks to see if the supports in an NDIS plan still work well for a participant.





### Providers

Providers support people with disability by delivering a service.



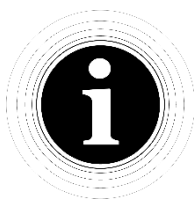
### Reference Group

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



### Support coordinator

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



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