

Intellectual Disability Reference Group

An Easy Read meeting bulletin

12 October 2022



How to use this bulletin



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

It explains what we did in our last meeting.

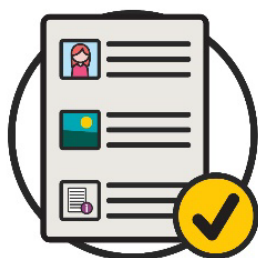


The Independent Advisory Council gives advice about ways to make the NDIS better.



The Council wrote this bulletin.

When you see the word 'we', it means the Council.



We wrote this bulletin in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold

We wrote some important words in **bold**.

Not bold

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these bold words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 22.



This Easy Read bulletin is a summary of another bulletin.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other bulletin on our website.

www.ndis-iac.com.au/meetings



You can ask for help to read our bulletin.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

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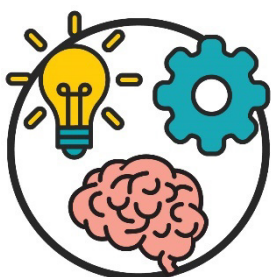
What is this Reference Group about?



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



The Reference Group gives advice to the Council 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.

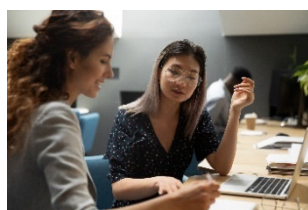
A message from the Council's Principal Member



Ms Leah van Poppel is the Council's Principal Member.

She is also the Reference Group Co-Chair.

This means she helps run the Reference Group.

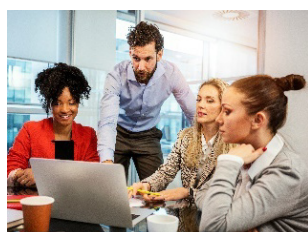


Leah shared that the work the Reference Group has done since their last meeting will help give advice to the NDIA.



This advice aims to improve **positive behaviour supports**.

Positive behaviour supports are ways to support how a participant acts or behaves.



Council are still working on this advice.



Leah said the NDIA will have a new CEO soon.

The new CEO will be Ms Rebecca Falkingham.

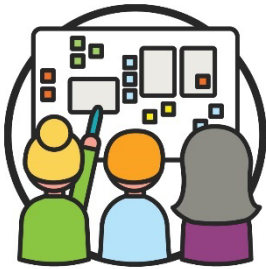


Leah welcomed people from Inclusion Australia to the meeting.



Inclusion Australia is:

- a disability organisation
- helping the NDIA with **co-design**.



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

Important policy updates



A **policy** is:

- a plan for how we should do things
- where rules come from.

The NDIA's supported decision-making policy



The NDIA is making a new policy about **supported decision-making**.



Supported decision-making is when someone helps you make important decisions about your life and how you will live.



The Reference Group members think that the NDIA's work on the policy is going well.

But they need to test how it works with real participants.



They said the NDIA should include information about people with intellectual disability when they talk about the policy.

And they should also include:



- their families



- people from different backgrounds.



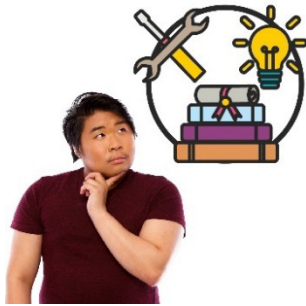
The Reference Group members said the NDIA should think about how the policy works with:

- community supports
- other government supports.



And they should work with other governments to make supported decision-making better.

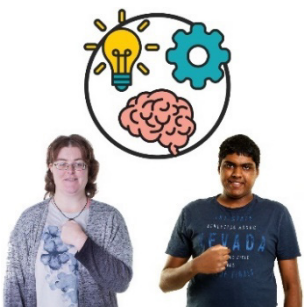
They said the policy should think about how people with intellectual disability can:



- build skills to make their own decisions



- decide what risks they want to take.



They also said the NDIA should include their staff with intellectual disability when they start using the policy.

The NDIA's home and living policy



The NDIA's home and living policy is about supporting **participants**:

- in their home
- to live how they want.



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



The Reference Group members said people with disability need someone they can trust to support them with home and living supports.

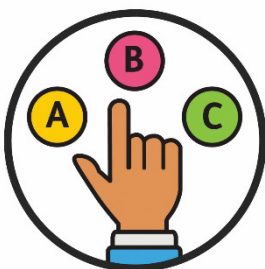


This policy will include new home and living **partners**.

This policy should make it clear what home and living **partners** will do.



Partners are people who help others find and use services.



They said this policy should give participants choice and control.



This includes making sure people with intellectual disability have enough time to understand what their choices are.



The Reference Group members also said the NDIA should think about how the policy works with Australia's Disability Strategy.

This is a national plan to support people with disability in all areas of their life.



They also said the NDIA should think about how to keep people with intellectual disability safe.

Our reports



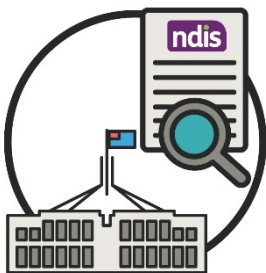
The Reference Group connected with the community to find out about issues that affect them.



The Reference Group members shared these issues with the NDIA.

What did the reports talk about?

NDIS plans



The government wants to **review** the NDIS to check how well it supports participants.



When you review something, you check to see what:

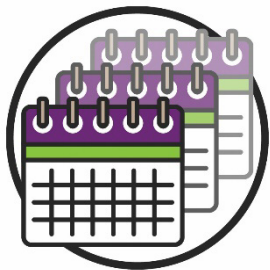
- works well
- can be better.



The Reference Group learned that the community worries about how reviewing the NDIS might affect **funding** for NDIS plans.



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



They also learned that people with intellectual disability can wait a long time to use the **Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT)**.



The AAT is a government organisation that is separate to the NDIS.

They review decisions about:

- who can join the NDIS
- NDIS plans.



It is hard for some people with intellectual disability to find someone to speak up for them when they use the AAT.



In some parts of Australia, there are no services to speak up for them.

NDIS services and supports



The Reference Group members shared that the community doesn't know enough about different home and living supports.

This includes:



- supported independent living (SIL) – support with day-to-day tasks in your home



- specialist disability accommodation (SDA) – homes that support people with high needs.



They also worry some **providers** put people with disability into SDA just so they can make more money.

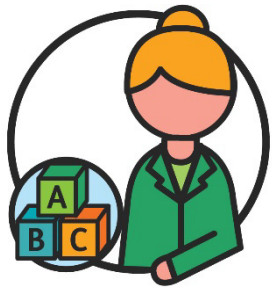
Providers deliver services to people with disability.

People worry about how the NDIS works with other government services.

For example:



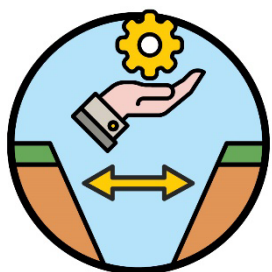
- health services



- education services



- housing services.



People shared that sometimes there are gaps between these services.

And people with intellectual disability don't always get the support they need.



It can also be hard for people with intellectual disability to find providers they can trust.



The Reference Group members think the NDIA should work out how to give First Nations communities choice and control.

They also shared that some older parents who care for adult children:



- don't get the support they need
- worry about who will care for their children when they can't anymore.

They want to know how the NDIS will help.

Providers



The Reference Group reported that the NDIA needs to do more to make sure providers are doing what they should do.

This includes checking that providers are doing the right thing.



Sometimes providers agree to give support to a participant over a set time.

For example, 12 weeks.



When this happens, they can quickly use up a participant's funding.



Western Australian Individualised Services (WAIS) shared they will close in June 2023.

WAIS is a disability service provider.



The community worry about how this will affect people with disability in Western Australia.

Disability community



The Reference Group members shared that the NDIA needs to improve the way they:

- communicate
- share information.



They said this is important for people who need support to communicate.

This includes people who can't always talk to communicate.



They also shared challenges with finding support that:

- works well
- is the same every time.



People also want to be able to find and use supports wherever they live.

Including in areas far away from cities or towns.



The Reference Group members shared that people with intellectual disability want:

- more job opportunities that suit their needs
- to know more about different job choices.



They shared the NDIA should hire more people with intellectual disability to show other organisations they can too.

Our next meeting



Our next meeting is in 2023.



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 document mean.



Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT)

The AAT is a government organisation that is separate to the NDIS.

They review decisions about:

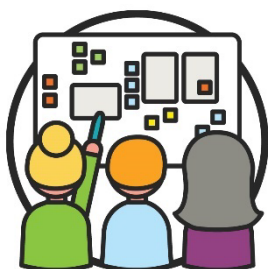
- who can join the NDIS
- NDIS plans.



Bulletin

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Co-design

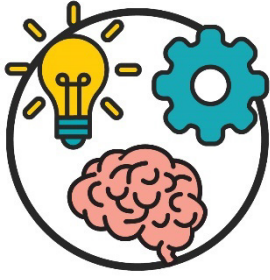
Co-design is when people work together to plan something new.



Funding

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

Intellectual disability



An intellectual disability affects how you:

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



Participants

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



Partners

Partners are people who help others find and use services.



Policy

A policy is:

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- where rules come from.



Positive behaviour supports

Positive behaviour supports are ways to support how a participant acts or behaves.



Providers

Providers deliver services to people with disability.



Reference Group

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



Review

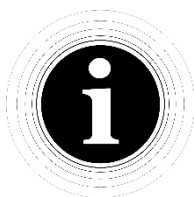
When you review something, you check to see what:

- works well
- can be better.



Supported decision-making

Supported decision-making is when someone helps you make important decisions about your life and how you will live.



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Advisory
Council**
to the **ndis**



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