Independent Advisory Council

An Easy Read meeting bulletin

15 April 2024

Easy Read®

How to use this bulletin

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

It explains what we did in our meeting.

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

In this bulletin, we just say IAC.

The IAC wrote this bulletin.

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

We wrote this bulletin in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold
Not bold

We wrote some important words in **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 18.

This is an Easy Read 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.

What's in this bulletin?

What happened at the meeting?

Ms Sylvana Mahmic ran the meeting.

She is an IAC Member.

We held the meeting on 15 April 2024.

Sylvana welcomed members from 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.

Sylvana also welcomed some people who help run the NDIA.

Our reports

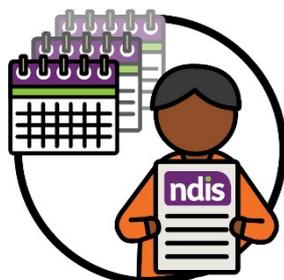The IAC Members connected with the community to find out about issues that affect them.

The IAC Members shared these issues with the NDIA.

What did the reports talk about?

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

IAC Members shared that some participants have to wait longer to get their **NDIS plans**.

Your NDIS plan is a document that has information about:

- you and your goals

- what supports you need.

IAC Members also shared that there are issues with the way people get some supports.

For example:

- home and living supports

- supports for children and young people.

IAC Members explained that it's important that the NDIS:

- is fair to children and young people

- gives children and young people the same chances as other people.

IAC Members also explained that some community run disability services are facing issues.

These issues affect their participants.

For example:

- it can be hard for them to find staff

- they might have to close.

These disability services use money from the government to pay for their supports.
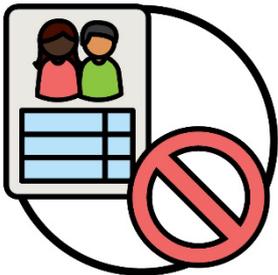
For example, they might get money from the **Information, Linkages and Capacity Building program**.

We call it the ILC program.

The ILC program gives grants to organisations that support people with disability.

Some programs that use ILC grants are ending.

This will affect community run disability services.

IAC Members shared that it's important for the NDIA to share **accessible** information with the community.

When information is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use

- understand.

Sharing accessible information would help the community understand:

- how laws about the NDIS will change

- what NDIA **co-design** is.

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

IAC Members shared they have seen news about some NDIS **providers** who treat participants badly.

Providers support people with disability by delivering a service.

IAC Members shared that people with disability need ways to:

- stay safe
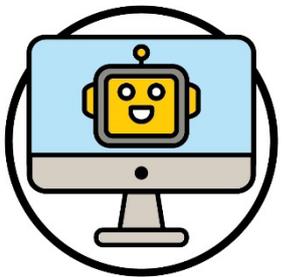
- get the support they need.

The news also says that there are issues with NDIS supports for people with disability in the **justice system**.

The justice system includes:

- prisons

- the courts

- police

- the law.

IAC Members explained that **artificial intelligence** might make the NDIS better.

We just call it AI.

AI technology can:

- solve problems

- help the NDIS make decisions.

Changing the laws about the NDIS

IAC Members and people from the NDIA talked about the Australian Government's plans to change laws about the NDIS.

IAC Members worry about the Government making new rules for who can take part in the NDIS.

IAC Members also worry about the way the law explains what can be an NDIS support.

This could change what supports people can use **funding** for.

Funding is money from the government that pays for services and supports.

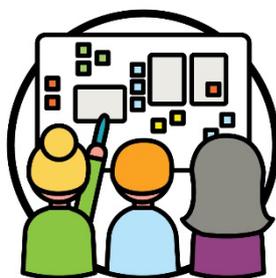IAC Members thanked the NDIA for explaining how the law could change.

IAC Members explained that the NDIA should:

- share more accessible information about the laws with the community

- explain to the community how changing the law will affect them

- explain how they use co-design to make new rules and plans.

NDIA's co-design plan

The NDIA made a plan to change how they do co-design.

They want to make sure they use co-design the way the community wants them to.

IAC Members explained that the NDIA has already done some good co-design work.

They can use that work to improve their co-design in the future.

IAC Members told the NDIA that they should use co-design to check how well services work.

They should do this when they plan something new.

IAC Members explained that the NDIA should try to do co-design with lots of different people.

This includes people with different:

- ages

- abilities

- backgrounds

- beliefs.

IAC Members told the NDIA they should make sure they plan enough time to do co-design work the right way.

Our next meeting

Our next meeting will run for 2 days:

- 21 May 2024

- 22 May 2024.

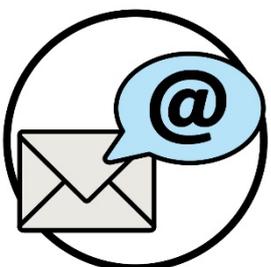You can find out more about our meetings and bulletins on our website.

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 visit the NDIS website.

www.ndis.gov.au
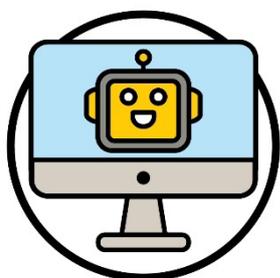
You can call the NDIS.

1800 800 110

Word list

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

Accessible

When information is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use

- understand.

Artificial intelligence (AI)

AI technology can:

- solve problems

- help the NDIS make decisions.

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.

Funding

Funding is money from the government that pays for services and supports.

Information, Linkages and Capacity (ILC) Building program

The ILC program gives grants to organisations that support people with disability.

Justice system

The justice system includes:

- prisons

- the courts

- police

- the law.

NDIA Board

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

NDIS plan

Your NDIS plan is a document that has information about:

- you and your goals

- what supports you need.

Participants

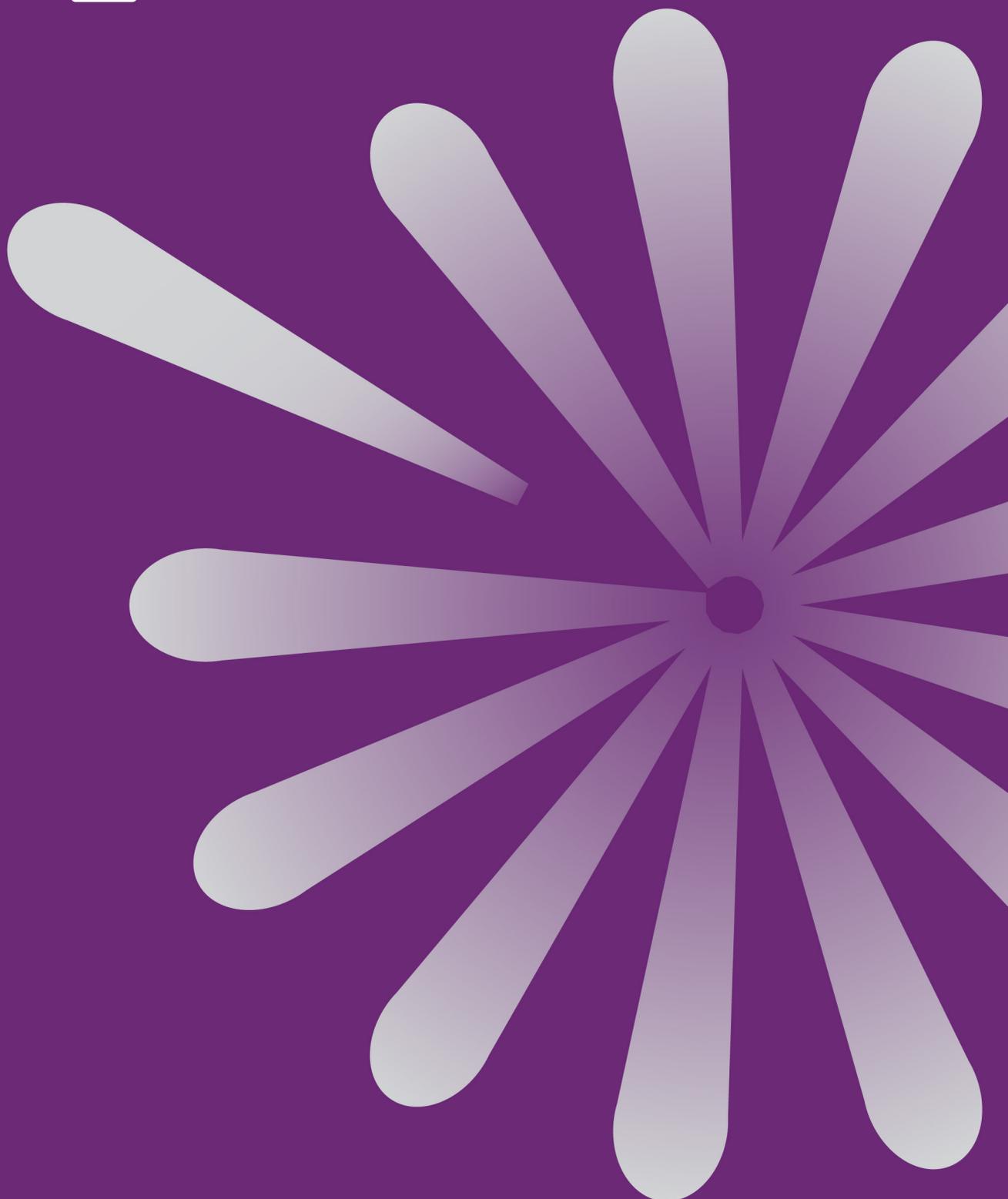Participants are people with disability who take part in the NDIS.

Providers

Providers support people with disability by delivering a service.

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Independent Advisory Council

to the ndis