

# Independent Advisory Council

An Easy Read meeting bulletin

21 November 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.

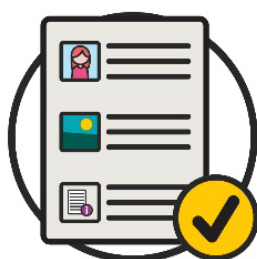


The Independent Advisory Council gives advice about ways to make the NDIS better.



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** 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 29.



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](http://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 in the last meeting? 5

---

What did our Council Members share? 12

---

Important updates 21

---

Our next meeting 27

---

More information 28

---

Word list 29

---

## What happened in the last meeting?



Leah van Poppel ran the last meeting.  
She is the Council's Principal Member.  
She's also a member of the **NDIA Board**.



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



The meeting was held on 21 November 2022.



Leah thanked Ms Sarah Johnson for her work.  
Sarah is the Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
at the NDIA.

This means she helps the Chief Executive Officer  
run the NDIA.

Sarah is leaving the NDIA.

Leah talked about:



- our advice about how to make the NDIS more **inclusive**



- the work the NDIA have done.



When the NDIS is inclusive, everyone feels:

- included
- like they belong.



Leah said we will give our advice to the NDIA Board in 2023.

When we do, the NDIA will tell the Board how they will use our advice.

The Australian Government will **review** the NDIS.



When the Australian Government reviews something, they check to see what:

- works well
- can be better.

Leah welcomed the NDIS Review Co-Chairs:



- Professor Bruce Bonyhady AM



- Ms Lisa Paul AO PSM.

They will help run the project to review the NDIS.



We had a closed session with the Co-Chairs.

This means we don't share what happened in that part of the meeting.



Leah welcomed Mr Kurt Fearnley AO.

He is the new Chairperson of the NDIA Board.



Leah also welcomed Ms Rebecca Falkingham.

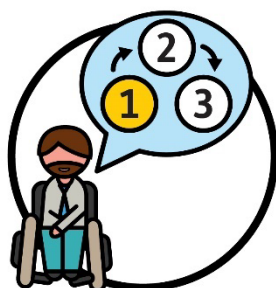
She is the new Chief Executive Officer of the NDIA.

This means she runs the NDIA.

## What did Mr Kurt Fearnley AO share?



Kurt shared that the experiences of the Council Members are important to the NDIA.



He told us what he has done since he started.

Kurt explained that he will listen to:



- NDIA staff



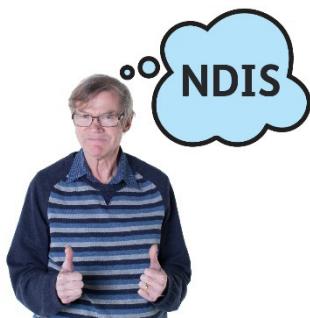
- people with disability.



He wants to:



- understand what the community worry about



- help people trust the NDIS.

## What did Ms Rebecca Falkingham share?



Rebecca shared how important the knowledge of Council Members is to the NDIA.

She told us the NDIA has been working on:



- a new computer system



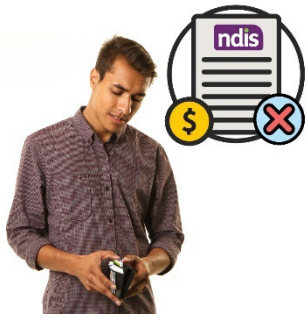
- supporting people with disability when they leave hospital



- ways to have more people with disability working at the NDIA.



The NDIA is also working to make sure there are enough supports and services for everyone.



And they are working to stop people doing the wrong thing with **funding**.



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

## What did our Council Members share?



Our Council Members connect with the community to find out about issues that affect them.



Our Council Members shared these issues with the NDIA.

## NDIS plans



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



There are examples on the NDIS website to help participants know what they can get funding for.

We call them our guidelines.

You can find our guidelines on our website.

[ourguidelines.ndis.gov.au/would-we-fund-it](http://ourguidelines.ndis.gov.au/would-we-fund-it)



Council Members worry that some examples are not true for all participants.

For example, when people live far away from cities and towns.

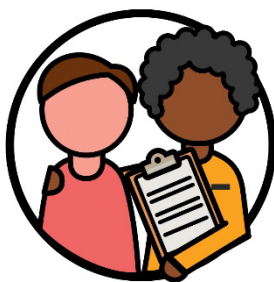
## Providers



**Providers** deliver services and supports to people with disability.

Council Members explained that it is harder for some providers to join the NDIS.

For example:



- First Nations providers



- providers far away from cities and towns.



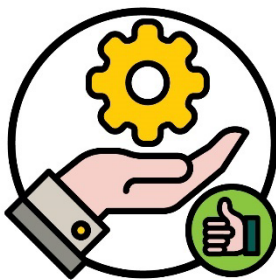
Council Members shared that too many people don't know what the **NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission** does.

We call it the NDIS Commission.

The NDIS Commission makes sure participants:



- are safe



- get good services.



Council Members also shared that some **Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA)** is not good enough.



SDA is **accessible** housing for people with disability.



When something is accessible, anyone can:

- find and use it
- travel around.



Members worry that participants are at risk.

## Reviewing how much services cost



Every year the NDIA reviews how much NDIS supports cost.

They want to make sure the NDIS can last a long time.



People worry the NDIA won't review **Individualised Living Options (ILO)** costs this year.



ILO is a way of setting up the support you want at home.



It will get harder to pay for ILO supports because workers will cost more.

This means ILO supports might not last a long time.





People worry that funding for **support coordination** has not gone up for 3 years.



Support coordination helps participants manage the supports in their plan.



This makes it hard for small providers to offer support coordination.



The NDIS will also review how much SDA costs.  
Council Members think this gives the NDIA a chance to make SDA better.

## What the community thinks



Some people think participants use too much funding.



But we know they follow the rules.



The Honourable Bill Shorten is the **Minister** for the NDIS.

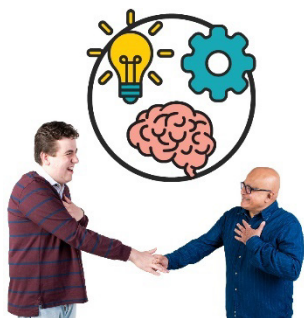


A minister leads an area of government.



Council Members shared how the Minister has done a good job showing the community he supports participants.

## How the NDIA works



Council Members think the NDIA should hire more people with intellectual disability.

This shows other organisations they can too.



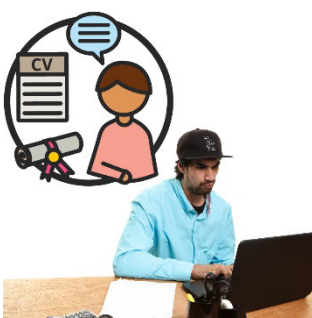
People shared they have to wait a long time when they call the NDIS.

And they might not get answers to their questions.



The NDIA should tell people how to ask the NDIA to review the decision if they can't use the NDIS.

And they should tell them in writing.



People also shared that some people have trouble finding and keeping workers with the right skills.

This includes:

- participants
- providers.

## Working with governments



Council Members think the NDIA should do more work with state and territory governments.

They need to make better ways to support participants in the:

- **child protection system**
- **justice system.**



The child protection system is how governments protect children at risk of harm.

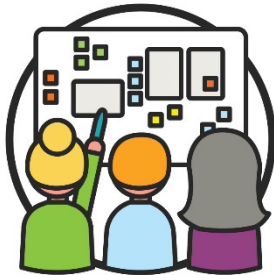


The justice system includes:

- police
- the courts
- the law
- prisons.

# Important updates

## The NDIA's co-design work



Council Members talked about the NDIA's **co-design** projects.

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



One of the co-design **committees** is the Information Gathering for Access and Planning Co-design Steering Committee.

A committee is a group of people who meet to talk about ideas.



Council Members explained how important it is for the committee to tell people about what they are doing.

The committee should also use advice from:



- health professionals



- people with disability and their families.

## Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC)



A **grant** is money from the government to pay for important work that can help others in the community.



The **Information, Linkages and Capacity Building** program gives grants to organisations that support people with disability.

We call it the ILC program.



Ms Sarah Guise is a Branch Manager at the Department of Social Services (DSS).

Sarah shared the work DSS has done on the ILC program.



Sarah told us about a new grant to support businesses to hire people with disability.



She also told us that funding for 350 ILC grants will last until June 2024.

This is longer than they were supposed to last.



Sarah also told us DSS is making an ILC **Strategy**.



A strategy is a plan for how they will do things in the future.



She told us DSS have to wait until after the government reviews the NDIS.



Then they will finish the Strategy.



DSS are also working on:



- a new way to share how well grants are working



- ways to use more funding far away from cities and towns



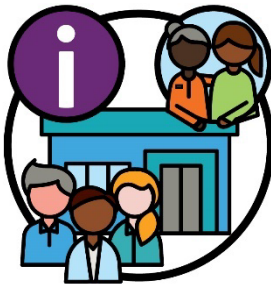
- making ILC grants more accessible.



Council Members shared what they think about the work on the ILC program.



Members explained the ILC program should support small organisations to apply for grants.



Organisations who get ILC grants should have a place to share information and support.

## Our next meeting



Our next meeting is on 15 December 2022.



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.



### **Accessible**

When something is accessible, anyone can:

- find and use it
- travel around.



### **Bulletin**

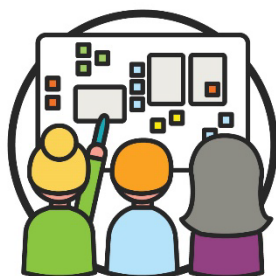
A bulletin is an important news item we share with the community.

It explains what we did in our last meeting.



### **Child protection system**

The child protection system is how governments protect children at risk of harm.



### **Co-design**

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



## Committee

A committee is a group of people who meet to talk about ideas.



## Funding

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



## Grant

A grant is money from the government to pay for important work that can help others in the community.



## Inclusive

When the NDIS is inclusive, everyone feels:

- included
- like they belong.



### **Individualised Living Options (ILO)**

ILO is a way of setting up the support you want at home.



### **Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) program**

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



### **Justice system**

The justice system includes police, the courts, the law and prisons.



### **Minister**

A minister leads an area of government.



### **NDIA Board**

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



### **NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission**

The NDIS Commission makes sure participants:

- are safe
- get good services.



### **Participants**

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



### **Providers**

Providers deliver services and supports to people with disability.





## Review

When the Australian Government reviews something, they check to see what:

- works well
- can be better.



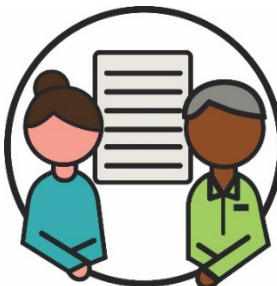
## Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA)

SDA is accessible housing for people with disability.



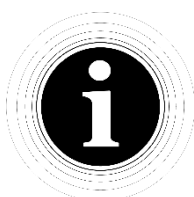
## Strategy

A strategy is a plan for how they will do things in the future.



## Support coordination

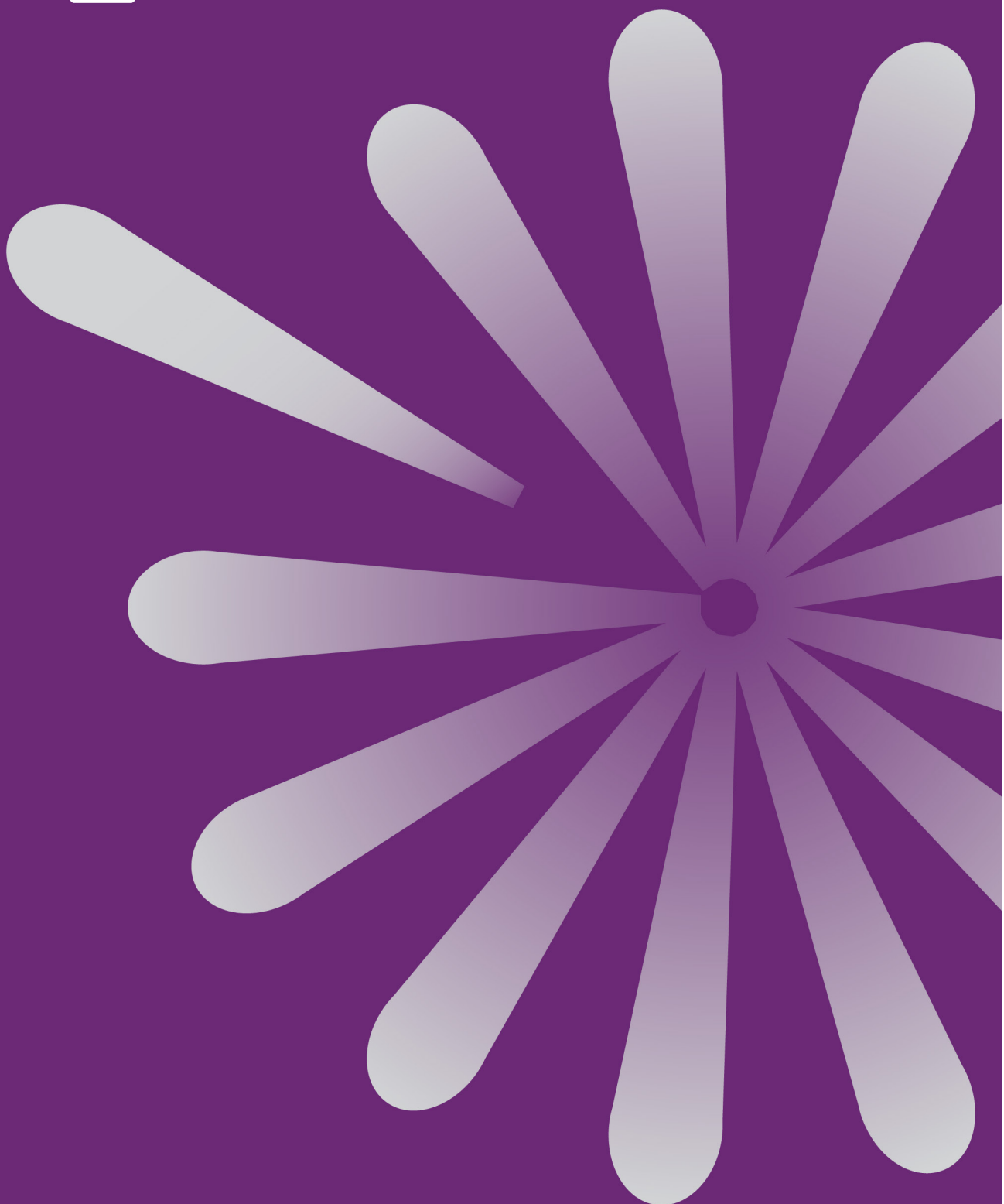
Support coordination helps participants manage the supports in their plan.



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Council**  
to the **ndis**



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