



Independent Advisory Council

An Easy Read meeting bulletin

24 August 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.

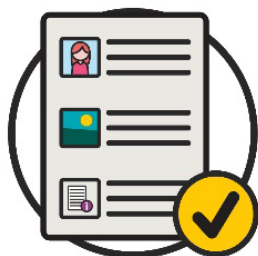


The Independent Advisory Council gives advice about ways to make the NDIS better.



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**.

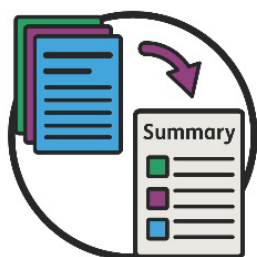
Not bold

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these bold words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 25.



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.

What's in this bulletin?

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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.



It was held on 24 August 2022.



Leah talked about our advice for the NDIA Board.

Our advice was about:



- behaviour supports – ways to support how a person acts or behaves



- making sure the NDIS is fair and includes everyone.



And we are writing 2 documents about our advice.
We will share these documents with the NDIA Board.



Leah also talked about the recent work our Council Members have done with the NDIA.
This work was about making guides to understand supports better.

What did Lisa share?



Lisa is the Acting Chief Executive Officer at the NDIA.

This means she's running the NDIA for a period of time.



Lisa explained the Australian Government will **review** the NDIS.

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

- works well
- can be better.

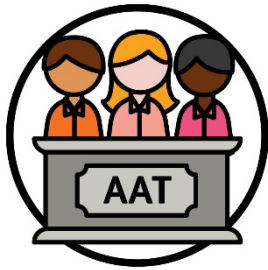


Lisa also explained other work the NDIA will do.



The NDIA is working to reduce how many cases the **Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT)** look after.

And the NDIA will create a team to do this.



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

They review our decisions about:

- who can join the NDIS
- NDIS plans.



The NDIA will work with hospitals and health departments to make it easier for **participants** when they're ready to leave hospital.

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



The NDIA will also find better ways to protect participants from people doing the wrong thing.

For example, providers charging for services they don't provide.

What did our Council Members share?



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



Our Council Members shared these issues with the NDIA.

Home and living supports



Some participants face challenges to get changes made to their home.



The community is confused about how short term accommodation works – a place for someone to stay for a short time.



Some participants face challenges with the way **specialist disability accommodation (SDA)** is changing.



For example, the NDIA are building more apartments.

But participants want other options, like a home.



SDA is a NDIS support.

It's housing for participants who need extra support most of the time.



There needs to be a better way to support participants when their parent or carer passes away.



For example, they shouldn't need to move out of their own home.



And we need to focus on making sure there are no younger people living in **residential aged care**, unless they need to.



Residential aged care is where older Australians live when they can't live in their home anymore.

NDIS plans

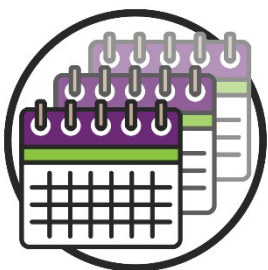


The community shared that there are still a lot of problems with NDIS plans.

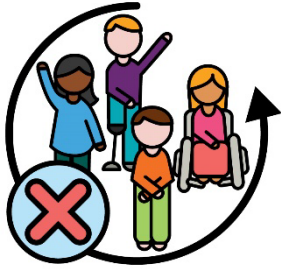


Some participants are getting less **funding**.

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



It can also take a long time for the NDIA to make a decision about someone's plan.



Participants aren't being included when the NDIA reviews their plan.



There are also more participants who aren't allowed to manage their plan on their own.



There are challenges with how much funding participants can get for behaviour support.



And there are less **providers** who want to support participants with their behaviour.



Providers support other people by delivering a service.



It can cost a lot of money for people to get what they need to apply for the NDIS.

For example, a report from their doctor.

There are also delays for people to get information about:

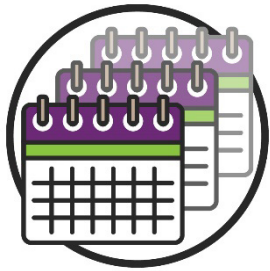


- how their disability affects their life



- what supports they need.

Participants face challenges when they're ready to leave hospital because:



- it's taking a long time for the NDIA to review their plan

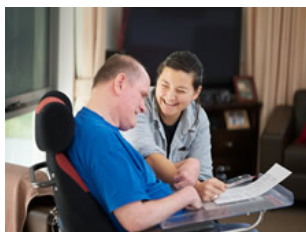


- they can't find a place to stay that meets their needs.



And some participants can't use the funding in their plan to support them.

NDIS services and supports



NDIA managers and staff are showing that they want to work with people with disability.



There aren't enough workers who support children with their health care, such as early support for children as they grow and develop.



Some participants in places far from large cities or towns can't use their plans.

This is because there aren't enough services where they live.



And COVID-19 makes it harder for participant to find and use:

- services
- support workers.



There isn't enough information about how the NDIS must work with the police and courts in different:

- states
- territories.

This includes how it works for young people.



All government services need to give better support to participants with:

- complex needs
- more than 1 disability.

This includes services like health and education.



Businesses are charging participants more for their services.



People are interested in the work **Australian Disability Enterprises** do.

An Australian Disability Enterprise provides work and support for people with disability. We often call them ADEs.

Providers



Participants are happy about providers offering new services.



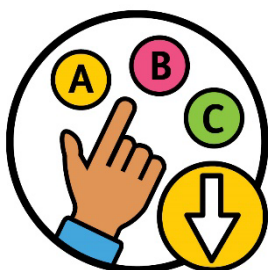
Local Area Coordinators (LACs) are people who support people with disability when they take part in the NDIS.

Some LACs are supporting parents to become **nominees**.



Your nominee is someone you choose to:

- make decisions for you
- do things for you when you can't do them on your own.

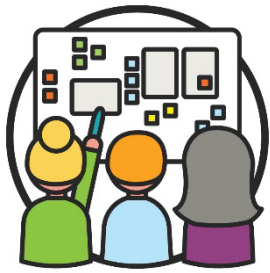


If a parent becomes a nominee, a person with disability has less control.

And they can't make as many decisions about their lives.

Important updates

Our co-design work



Leah talked about our **co-design** projects.

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



She also talked about using co-design to make a **policy** about supported decision making.



A policy is a plan for how we should do things.

A policy is where rules come from.



Council Members shared that the Support for Decision Making Steering **Committee** are supporting this work.

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



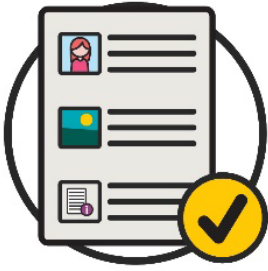
This committee gave advice about the challenges participants face if they need more support when they make decisions.

There are 7 different committees.



Council Members shared that it's important for them to:

- work together
- share information.



Council Members also shared that information about support for decision making should be:

- easy to read
- shared in different ways, such as Easy Read.



They also shared that the NDIA should find ways to help participants understand how:

- to use the NDIS
- the NDIS can support them.



And Council Members shared that the NDIA has written guides about different types of support.

For example, the NDIA has shared support guides about finding and keeping a job.



The NDIA should think of ways participants can learn about how plans are made.

And how to make and reach their goals.

Places far from large cities or towns



Participants in places far from large cities or towns are still facing challenges.



The NDIA has explained what they are doing to fix these problems.



Council Members agreed to work often with the NDIA to fix these problems.

Council Members also think the NDIA should create plans to:



- help providers offer more services in places far from cities and towns



- work safely with people from different communities.

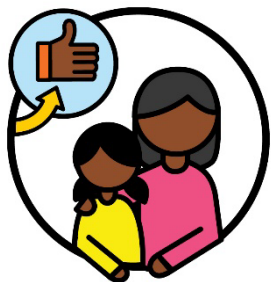


This includes First Nations communities.



And it includes people who:

- come from different backgrounds
- speak different languages.



There also needs to be better support for family members who are paid to support a family member with disability.



Council Members shared that we need to focus on what stops these communities from getting the support they need.

Using research to make the NDIS work better



There is a part of the NDIA that does research.

They talked about the work they've done between 2019 and 2022.



Our Council Members shared ideas about their plan to work with the community.

Our Council Members shared that it's important to:



- work with people who do research in other countries



- think about problems that people in Australia face



- hire people with disability to do research.

Our next meeting



Our next meeting is on 21 September 2022.



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.



Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT)

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They review our decisions about:

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- NDIS plans.



Australian Disability Enterprises

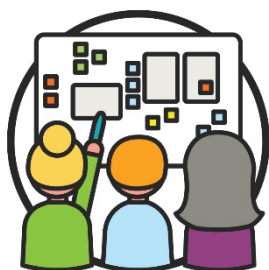
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Bulletin

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NDIA Board

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Nominees



Your nominee is someone you choose to:

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Policy

A policy is a plan for how we should do things.

A policy is where rules come from.



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Residential aged care

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Review

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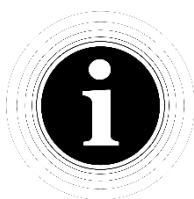
- works well
- can be better.



Specialist disability accommodation (SDA)

SDA is a NDIS support.

It's housing for participants who need extra support most of the time.



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