

Our Work Plan 2022–23

An Easy Read version



How to use this plan

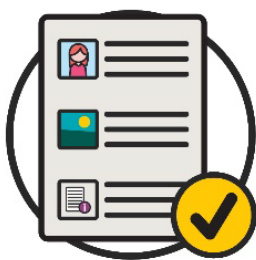


The Independent Advisory Council (the Council) gives advice about ways to make the NDIS better.



The Council wrote this plan.

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



We wrote this plan 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 34.



This Easy Read plan is a summary of another plan.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other plan on our website.

www.ndis-iac.com.au/about



You can ask for help to read our plan.

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

What's in this plan?

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What is this plan about?



We wrote a new Work Plan for 2022–23.

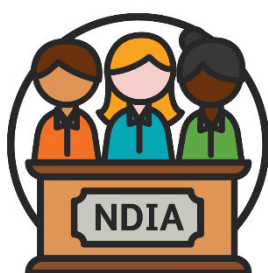


Our Work Plan talks about the work we will do each year.



Most of the work we do is giving **advice**.

Advice is ideas about how to make things better.



We give advice to the NDIA **Board** about how to make the NDIS better.



A Board is a group of people who make decisions for:

- an organisation
- a company.

Our work helps make sure the NDIA focuses on the voices of:



- **participants** – people with disability who take part in the NDIS

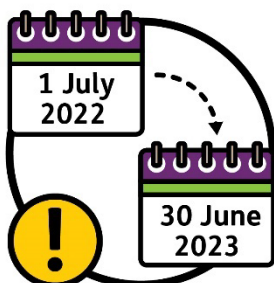


- their families and carers.



Our work also supports the goals of the NDIS Act.

The NDIS Act is a law that explains how the NDIS works.



Our Work Plan includes key issues Council Members want to focus on between:

- 1 July 2022
- 30 June 2023.



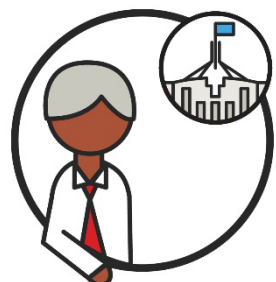
It includes important ideas from the NDIA Corporate Plan.

The Corporate Plan explains the goals for the NDIS over the next 4 years.



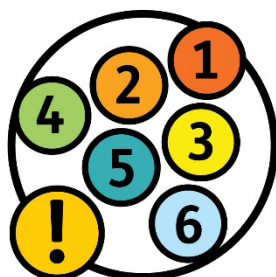
You can find an Easy Read version of the Corporate Plan on the NDIS website.

www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/publications/corporate-plan



Our Work Plan also includes ideas the Minister for the NDIS wants to focus on.

A **minister** leads an area of the government.



We have grouped what we will work on into 6 key areas.

In this plan we explain what we will do for each area.

Why do we need this plan?



Our Work Plan helps us make sure we:

- give advice to the NDIA Board
- do our job well
- share information about our work.



Our Work Plan also gives us the chance to work on new ideas during the year if we need to.

When we wrote our Work Plan, we focused on our work with:



- the NDIA



- other government organisations



- the disability community.



In the next year we want to bring the community closer together.

To do this, we will work with:



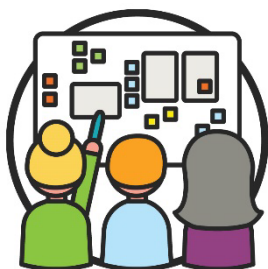
- disability and carer organisations



- state and territory disability councils



- the disability community.



We will all work together as part of the NDIA's **co-design** work.

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



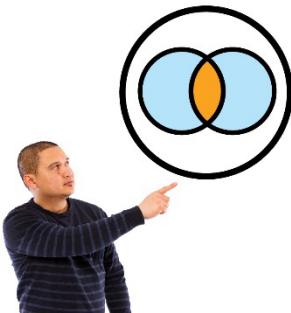
We will also share our advice with the NDIA Board.

Important ideas we always think about



Our Work Plan has 4 important ideas we will always think about.

We want to focus on how **intersectionality** affects participants.



Some people might be different in more than one way.

And they might be treated differently for each of the things about them that they cannot change.

We call this intersectionality.



For example, if a person with disability also:

- comes from a different background
- speaks a language other than English.



We want participants to build their **capacity** over their whole life.

A participant's capacity is:



- their ability to do something



- the skills they have



- knowing the right people who can help them.



We want participants to have choice and control over what:

- is in their plan
- supports they get.



We want to focus on new ideas to make supports work better for participants.



We will also listen to the advice and stories of our 4 **Reference Groups**.

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

The names of our Reference Groups are the:



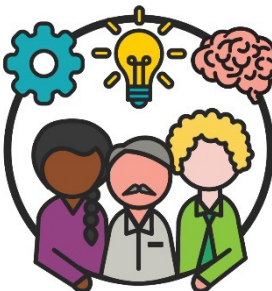
- Equity and Inclusion Reference Group



- Home and Living Reference Group



- Children, Young People and Families Reference Group



- Intellectual Disability Reference Group.

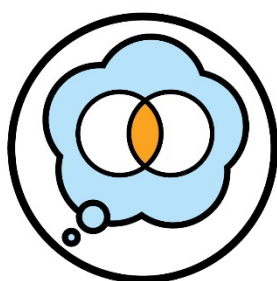
1. Putting participants first

Thinking about intersectionality



Every participant is different.

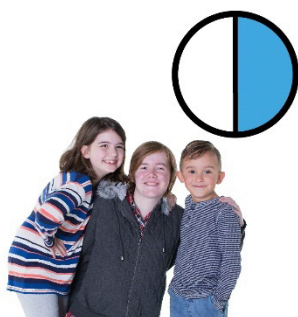
And they have different experiences.



We will think about intersectionality when we give advice to the NDIA.

This will help make sure the NDIS works well for all participants.

Supporting children and young people



Children and young people make up almost half of all participants.



But their voices aren't always included when the NDIS:



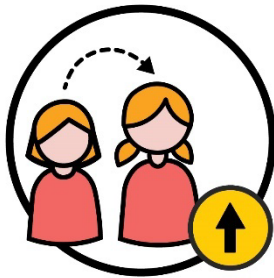
- plan projects
- do co-design work.



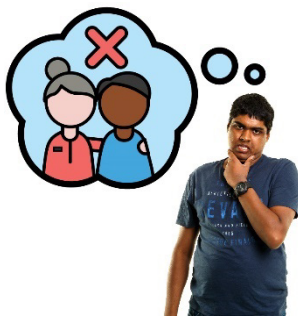
We will work with the NDIA to support children and young people to have their own voice.

This will help make sure they have a say in how the NDIS supports them.

Supporting participants as they get older

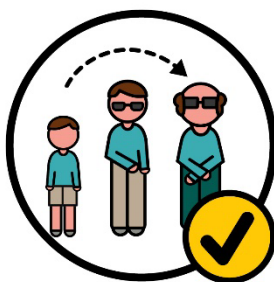


The number of participants who are getting older is growing.



These participants are living longer than their parents or main carers.

But some don't have other people in their lives who can support them.



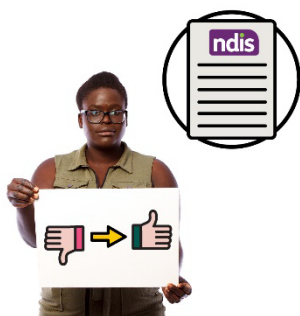
We will work with the NDIA to learn more about how the NDIS supports participants as they get older.



This will also help the community know what support people with disability will get as they get older.

2. Supporting good NDIS plans that help participants reach their goals

Applying for and using NDIS support



The NDIA is focusing on making the NDIS work better.

This includes the way people:



- apply for the NDIS



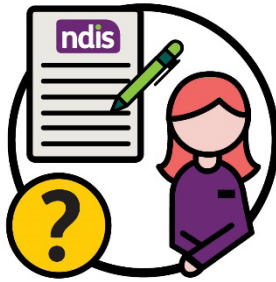
- use their plans.



Some of our Council Members help the NDIA with co-design through the Information Gathering for Access and Planning (IGAP) Steering **Committee**.

A committee is a group of people who give advice about a topic.

This Committee will share advice about how to make it better for participants to:



- apply for the NDIS



- use their plans

The Committee wants this to be:



- fair



- consistent – the same every time.

Keeping participants safe



We will keep working with the NDIA to make sure participants are safe.

And our Members will help the NDIA with co-design through the Participant Safety Committee.



This Committee will make a **policy** about participant's safety.



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

Policies are where rules come from.



The policy will help the NDIA keep participants safe when they plan new things.

And it will help participants think about what support they need to keep themselves safe.

Supported decision making



Our Members will also help the NDIA with co-design through the Supported Decision Making Committee.



This Committee will make a policy about support for decision making.

This policy is about finding better ways to support participants to make decisions:



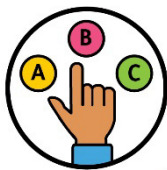
- on their own



- with support



- about things that affect them.



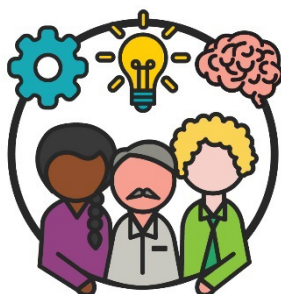
And making choice and control easier for participants.

Positive behaviour support



We will give advice to the NDIA Board about how to make positive behaviour supports better for participants.

Positive behaviour supports help people to live better lives.



We will work with the Intellectual Disability Reference Group to write this advice.



Our advice will help share the challenges participants face when they need positive behaviour support.

And it includes how the NDIA can make it easier for these participants to use their plans.



We will share this advice with the NDIA Board before 2023.

Home and living



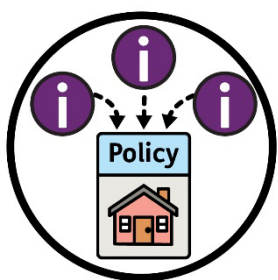
Our Members will help the NDIA with co-design through the Home and Living Committee.



Our Home and Living Reference Group will also work with this Committee.



The Committee will make a home and living policy.



This policy will put all the rules and information about home and living supports together.

And this policy will make it easier for participants to choose:



- where they live
- who they live with
- who supports them.

Finding and keeping a job



We will tell the NDIA about issues participants face to:

- find a job
- keep a job.



We will also give advice about how the NDIA can support participants to:

- build their career – the path you take in the area of work you choose
- get a job.



We will also support the NDIA to find ways to have more people with disability with senior jobs in the NDIA.



We want the NDIA to be a leader in hiring people with disability.

And helping them to build a career in the government.

Assistive technology



Assistive technology might be an aid or piece of equipment.

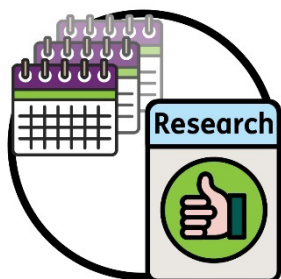


It can:

- make it easier to do things
- keep you safe.



We will give the NDIA advice about the best ways to support participants with assistive technology.



Our advice will focus on assistive technology that:

- will last a long time
- research says works well.

3. Working with other government organisations

Reviewing the NDIS

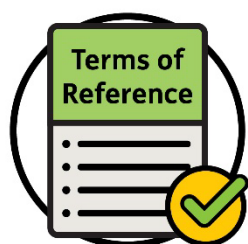


The government wants to **review** the NDIS to check how well it supports participants.



When the government reviews something, they check to see what:

- works well
- can be better.



The **terms of reference** is a list of things governments want to focus on.

When governments agree on the terms of reference, we will know how we can support the review by working with the:



- NDIA



- Minister for the NDIS



- community.

Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031



Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031 is a plan to support people with disability in all areas of their life.

We call it the Strategy.

We will give the Department of Social Services (DSS) advice about the Targeted Action Plans in the Strategy.



This includes what we think:

- will work well
- needs to change.

The ILC program



We will also give DSS advice about the **Information, Linkages and Capacity Building program**.

We also call it the ILC program.

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



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

Making sure participants get good supports



We will give advice about the challenges participants face when they try to find:

- good quality supports
- consistent support.



We will make sure the advice uses research and rules about what good quality support is.



We will work with the NDIA on this advice.



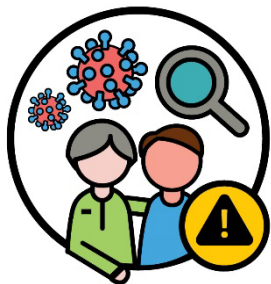
We will also work with the **NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (the NDIS Commission)** on this advice.



The NDIS Commission:

- makes sure participants get good quality services
- keeps participants safe.

How COVID-19 has affected services



We will speak up about how hard it is for participants to find workers to support them because of COVID-19.

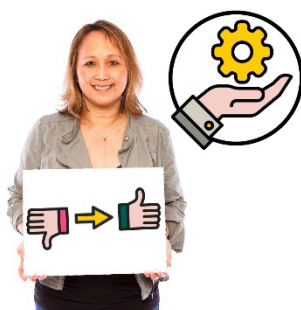
We will work with:



- the NDIA



- other government organisations.



The work we do will make services better.

And it will help participants find workers with the right skills.

4. Sharing clear and accessible information



We will share clear information about how our work is going.



And we will provide **accessible** information about our work.

When information is accessible, everyone can find and use it.

We will share this information with the:



- NDIA



- community.

We will always share information in other formats, including:



- plain English
- Easy Read.

This will make sure everyone can find out about the work we do.

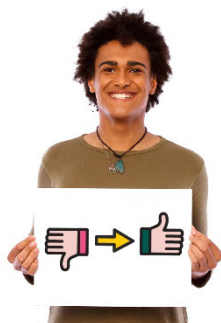


We will also update our website to make sure it is accessible.

5. Making sure our advice works well



We will keep working with the NDIA to check how our advice is working.



And make sure it is helping make the NDIS better for participants.



When the NDIA agrees with our advice, we want to make sure the NDIA changes parts of the NDIS they agreed to change.

6. Working with the NDIA in the future



We will keep supporting important projects and work the NDIA does.



And we will keep listening to the advice of our 4 Reference Groups.



We will also give advice to the NDIA's Reference Groups.

More information

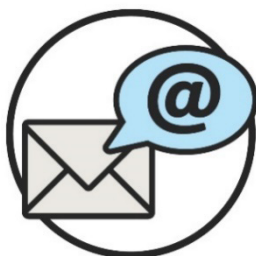


For more information about our Work Plan, please contact us.



You can visit our website.

www.ndis-iac.com.au/about



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 also call the NDIS.

1800 800 110

Word list

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



Accessible

When information is accessible, everyone can find and use it.



Advice

Advice is ideas about how to make things better.



Assistive technology

Assistive technology might be an aid or piece of equipment.

It can:

- make it easier to do things
- keep you safe.

Board



A Board is a group of people who make decisions for:

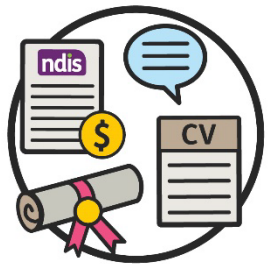
- an organisation
- a company.

Capacity

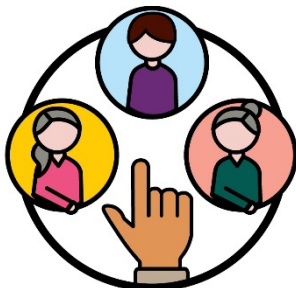
A participant's capacity is:



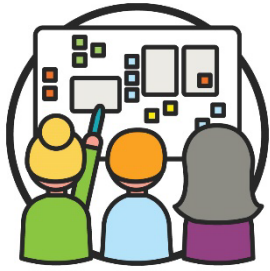
- their ability to do something



- the skills they have



- knowing the right people who can help them.



Co-design

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



Committee

A committee is a group of people who give advice about a topic.



Grants

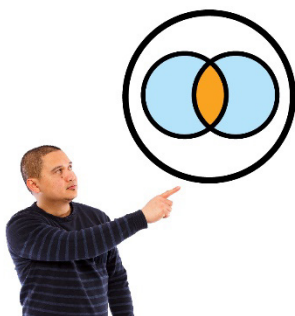
A grant is money from the government to pay for important work that can help others in the community.



Information, Linkages and Capacity Building program (the ILC program)

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

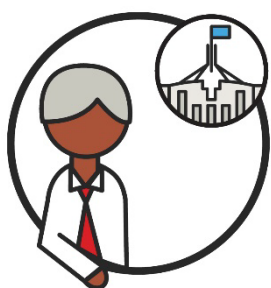
Intersectionality



Some people might be different in more than one way.

And they might be treated differently for each of the things about them that they cannot change.

We call this intersectionality.



Minister

A minister leads an area of the government.

NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (the NDIS Commission)



The NDIS Commission:

- makes sure participants get good quality services
- keeps participants safe.



Participants

Participants are people with disability who take part in the NDIS



Policy

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

Policies are where rules come from.



Reference Groups

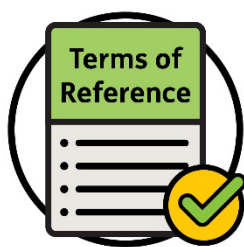
A Reference Group is a group of people who give us advice about a certain topic.



Review

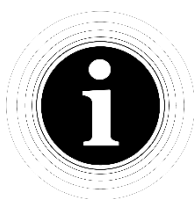
When the government reviews something, they check to see what:

- works well
- can be better.



Terms of reference

The terms of reference is a list of things governments want to focus on.



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**Independent
Advisory
Council**
to the **ndis**



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