

# Intellectual Disability Reference Group

An Easy Read meeting bulletin

10–11 April 2024



## 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.

In this bulletin, we just say the 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

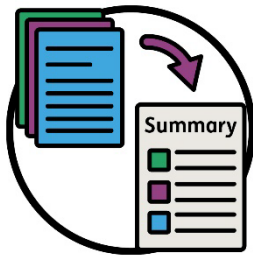
We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these bold words mean.

There is a list of these words on page **24**.



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 might be able to help you.

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## About this Reference Group

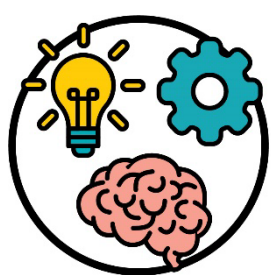


A **Reference Group** is a group of people who give us advice about a certain topic.



The Reference Group shares their ideas with the IAC 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.



The IAC use these ideas when they write their advice for 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.

## The Reference Group Co-Chairs



Ms Sam Paor is the Reference Group Co-Chair.  
This means she helps run the Reference Group.



Sam welcomed Mr Gavin Burner to the meeting.  
Gavin is the new Reference Group Co-Chair.



Sam and Gavin both ran the meeting.



Sam shared that Ms Rebecca Falkingham would  
join the meeting.

Rebecca is the Chief Executive Officer at the NDIA.  
This means she runs the NDIA.



Reference Group members were happy that  
Rebecca would:

- hear their reports
- share updates about the NDIA's work.

## 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?



Reference Group members shared that some people face issues with their **NDIS plans**.



Your NDIS plan is a document that has information about:

- you and your goals
- what supports you need.



For example, some **participants** have to wait a long time for:



- their first plan meeting



- the NDIA to check that their plan works well.



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



Members worry that the NDIA doesn't always listen to people with intellectual disability in their plan meetings.



Members also explained it can be hard for some people with disability to get the support they need.

It can be hard for them to get the support they need from:



- the NDIS



- health care services.

For example, some people who need support with their behaviour find it hard getting the right:



- NDIS **funding**



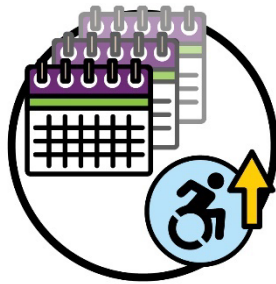
- home and living supports.



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



Members explained it is important that people with disability get all the support they need.



This includes the support people need for:

- a long time
- more than one disability.

Our **justice system** includes:



- prisons
- the courts
- police
- the law.



Members shared that there have been lots of news reports about people with disability in the justice system.



They worry that some news reports say unfair things about people with disability in the justice system.



Members also shared that all people with disability should have the support they need.

## Update on NDIS plans in Easy Read



People from the NDIA shared an update on the work they are doing to share NDIS plans in Easy Read.

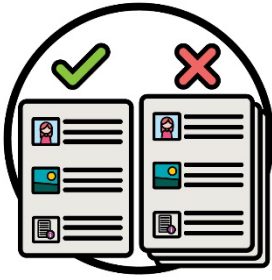
Reference Group members shared they are happy that the NDIA:



- listened to their advice



- are working on new ways to share NDIS plans.



Members explained that NDIS plans in Easy Read should be short.

NDIS plans in Easy Read should also:



- only include information participants need



- share information about supports and services in the same way.



Members also explained all NDIS plans should include a one page summary of a participant's funding.

## Ideas from the NDIS Review



The Australian Government checked the NDIS to find out what:

- worked well
- could be better.

They call it the **NDIS Review**.



Reference Group members talked about the ideas from the NDIS Review.

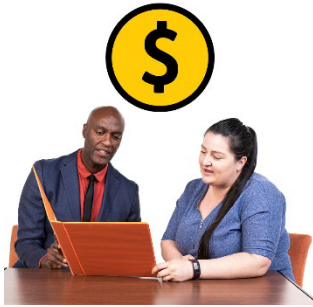
Members tried to understand how the ideas from the NDIS Review might affect:



- participants



- people who want to take part in the NDIS.



Members explained that the NDIA should support participants to control their NDIS funding.

But the NDIA also needs to protect:



- participants

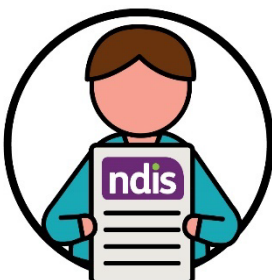


- their funding.

Members also explained it is important to make a plan to support participants before they:



- apply to take part in the NDIS



- use the NDIS.



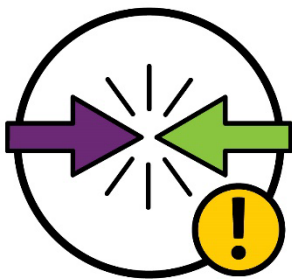


Members shared different thoughts about the NDIS Review's idea about **navigators**.

Navigators will help people with disability to:



- learn about different supports
- connect with experts
- find and use the supports they need.



Members explained that the NDIA should be careful when they manage the **conflicts of interest** of navigators.



A conflict of interest is when someone could affect a decision so the result is better for them.



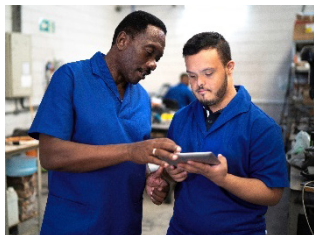
If a navigator has a conflict of interest, it could put participants at risk.



Members also explained that it would be good to hire navigators from small organisations.

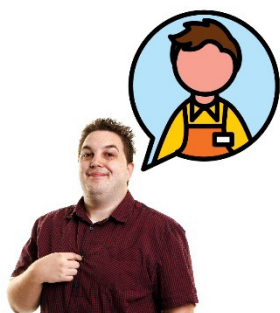
These organisations should also be local.

## Supporting participants to work



People from the NDIA asked the Reference Group for advice on supporting participants to work.

Reference Group members explained it's important for participants to hear people like them talk about:



- the work they do



- how they found work.



These stories can support people with disability to:

- understand what they can do in their own lives
- start thinking about work.



These stories can also support their carers to understand these things.



Members suggested that the NDIA share information people can use to talk about work.



This information should talk about the **rights** of workers.



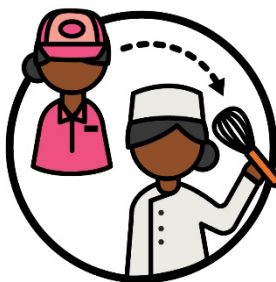
Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.



This information should also include advice about:

- changing a person's **career**
- growing a person's career.



Your career is the path you take in the area of work you choose.

The NDIA should share this information with:



- participants



- employers – people who hire other people to work for them



- **NDIS planners.**



An NDIS planner is someone who:

- makes new plans
- changes plans.

## Our next meeting



Our next meeting is in July 2024.



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)

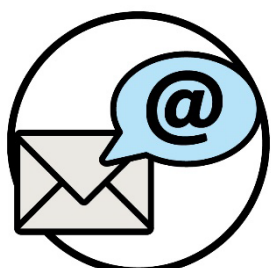
## More information

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 learn more about the NDIS on their website.

[www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au)



You can call the NDIS.

**1800 800 110**

## Word list

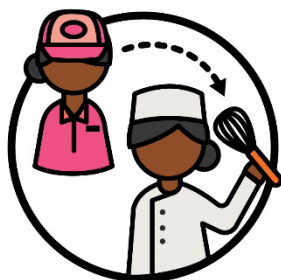
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### **Bulletin**

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### **Career**

Your career is the path you take in the area of work you choose.



### **Conflicts of interest**

A conflict of interest is when someone could affect a decision so the result is better for them.



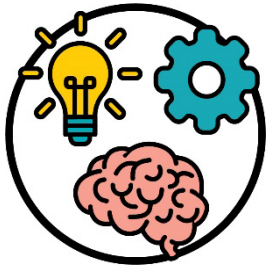
### **Funding**

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



## Intellectual disability

An intellectual disability affects how you:



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

## Justice system

The justice system includes:



- police
- the courts
- the law
- prisons.

## Navigators

Navigators will help people with disability to:



- learn about different supports
- connect with experts
- find and use the supports they need.



## NDIA Board

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



## NDIS plan

An NDIS plan is a document that includes information about:

- you and your goals
- what support you receive from the NDIS.



## NDIS planner

An NDIS planner is someone who:

- makes new plans
- changes plans.



## NDIS Review

The Australian Government checked the NDIS to find out what:

- worked well
- could be better.

They call it the NDIS Review.



## Participants

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



## Reference Group

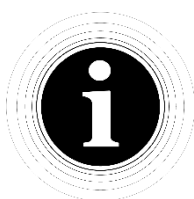
A Reference Group is a group of people who give us advice about a certain topic.



## Rights

Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.



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to the **ndis**



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