

Children, Young People and Families Reference Group

An Easy Read meeting bulletin

20 March 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 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

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

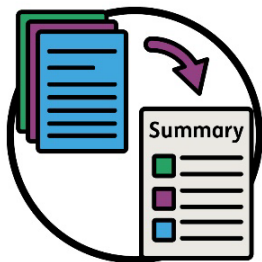
Not bold

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these bold words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 21.



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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About this Reference Group



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

This Reference Group is about:



- children



- young people



- their families.



The Reference Group shares their ideas with the IAC about how to support children and young people with disability.

This includes support to:



- do things for themselves



- take part in the community.



The IAC use these ideas from the Reference Group 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 IAC's Principal Member



Ms Leah van Poppel is the IAC's Principal Member.

She is also the Reference Group Co-Chair.

This means she helps run the Reference Group.



Leah thanked members for joining the meeting.



Dr Sharon Boyce is an IAC Member.



Leah shared that Sharon is the new Reference Group Co-Chair.

This means she will help Leah run the Reference Group.

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 explained that some families face issues with:

- taking part in the NDIS
- creating their **NDIS plans**.



Your NDIS plan is a document that has information about:

- you and your goals
- what supports you need.

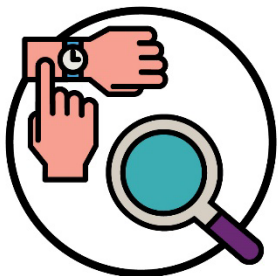


For example, the cost of **assessments** can make it harder for some families to take part in the NDIS.



Assessments help the NDIA work out:

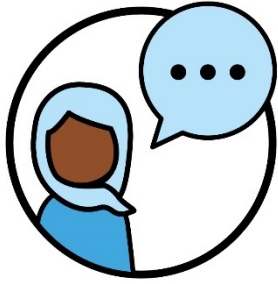
- how your disability affects your life
- what supports you need.



Members also explained that some **participants** have to wait a long time for the NDIA to check the supports in their plan.



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



Members talked about better ways the NDIA can include a participant's voice in their plan.



Members shared that child participants and their families can find it hard to get the supports they need.

Some families find it hard to get supports in:



- schools



- areas far away from cities or towns.

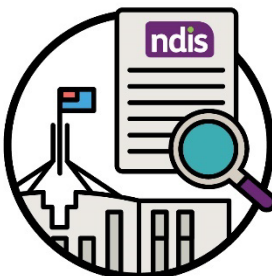


Members also shared that some families need support to help their child with disability learn to:

- do things by themselves
- make their own decisions.



Members explained that the community wants to learn more about what might change because of the **NDIS Review**.



The Australian Government checked the NDIS to find out what:

- worked well
- could be better.

They call it the NDIS Review.



Members shared that it's important that **co-design** includes honest work with the right people.

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

Update on the NDIA Children's Taskforce



The Children's Taskforce will focus on children aged 0 to 14 years old who take part in the NDIS.

And it will support these children during different stages of their life.



Ms Samantha Taylor PSM gave an update about the NDIA Children's Taskforce.

Samantha helps run the Children's Taskforce.

Samantha shared updates on:



- the taskforce's co-design work



- how the NDIA supports families in the ways they work



- **early intervention** for children younger than 9 years old.

Early intervention is when people get services and support:



- as early as possible in their lives
- when they first get a disability.

Samantha thanked the Reference Group for their work on the IAC's advice.



This advice looks at how the NDIA can improve the NDIS for children and young people.



Reference Group members shared that they would like to work with the NDIA.



Members want to help the NDIA find ways for children and young people with disability to take part in co-design.

Members explained that when the NDIA supports families in the ways they work, they should look at:



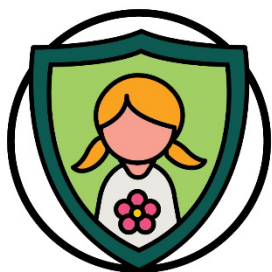
- what people who support children think and need



- what has worked well before.

Update on the NDIS and child protection

Child protection helps children stay safe.



The government runs child protection.

Child protection can decide if a child:

- is not safe in their home
- must live with someone else.

People from the NDIA explained how the NDIS:



- works with child protection



- shares information with child protection in different states and territories.



Reference Group members shared that organisations need to work with each other.

They should work with each other to better plan the futures of children with disability.



Child protection services and the NDIA should make plans for the future of young people.

They should make these plans at least one year before young people turn 18 years old.



Members shared that some First Nations families worry about child protection.

They worry that if they ask for more NDIS supports, the NDIA might contact child protection.



Members explained it's important to collect information on how many children with disability have contact with child protection.

It's also important that this information is right.

Ideas from the NDIS Review

Reference Group members talked about the NDIS Review's ideas about:



- children younger than 9 years old



- **foundational supports.**



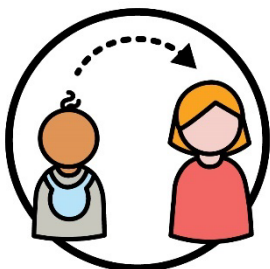
Foundational supports are disability supports for all people with disability.

This includes people with disability who don't take part in the NDIS.

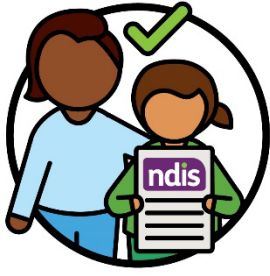
Members explained it's important that:



- children get the support they need as early as possible



- young people with disability can get support at every stage of their life.



Members shared that all families should be able to take part in the NDIS:

- in the same way
- no matter where they come from.



Members also shared that parents and guardians should get the support they need early.

A **guardian** is a person who acts and makes decisions for you.



Your guardian might be:

- a member of your family
- a friend
- chosen for you by the government.



Parents and guardians should get support:

- to build their skills
- from groups who have experiences like theirs.

Our next meeting



Our next meeting will be in July 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.



Assessment

Assessments help the NDIA work out:

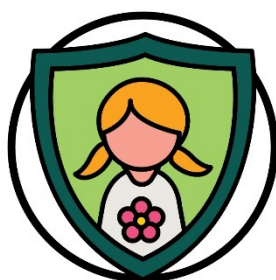
- how your disability affects your life
- what supports you need.



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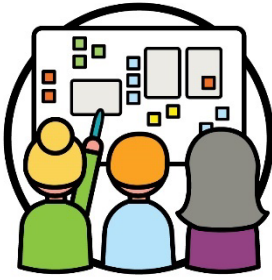


Child protection

The government runs child protection.

Child protection can decide if a child:

- is not safe in their home
- must live with someone else.



Co-design

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



Early intervention

Early intervention is when people get services and support:

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Foundational support

Foundational supports are disability supports for all people with disability.

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NDIS plans

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- what supports you need.

NDIS Review



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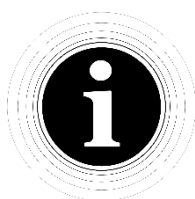
Participants

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



Reference Group

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



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