

# Equity and Inclusion Reference Group

An Easy Read meeting bulletin

25 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 **22**.



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?

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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 gives advice to the IAC about how the NDIS can:

- be fair
- give **participants** the same chances.



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



This includes making sure the NDIS is **inclusive**.

When something is inclusive, it means everyone can take part.



It also includes making sure the NDIS thinks about **diversity**.

Diversity is what makes people different from each other.

People can:



- come from different places



- speak different languages



- have different abilities



- live their lives in different ways.



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 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.



Leah welcomed back Adjunct Associate Professor Jennifer Cullen to the meeting.



Jennifer is an IAC Member.

She is also the Reference Group Co-Chair.

This means she will help Leah run the Reference Group.





Leah shared that Adjunct Professor Janine Mohamed is the NDIA's new Deputy Chief Operating Officer, First Nations.



This means she will help the NDIA support First Nations people with disability.

## 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 they worry about how long it takes to:

- make **NDIS plans**
- check NDIS plans.



Your NDIS plan is a document that has information about:

- you and your goals
- what supports you need.



Members also shared that sometimes the NDIA contacts participants about their plan before their **plan reassessment**.



When the NDIA do a plan reassessment, they check to see if the supports in a participant's plan still work well for them.



Some participants told Members that their plan changed after the NDIA contacted them.



Members explained that the NDIA should share more information 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.



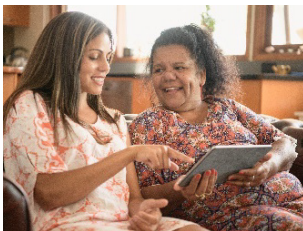
The NDIA should share this information with:

- people with disability
- the community.



Sharing this information will help support the community to think and feel about the NDIA in positive ways.

Members also explained it's important that the NDIA:



- meet and work with First Nations peoples



- share the right information with First Nations peoples.



Members talked about the community's thoughts on the NDIS Review's ideas about **navigators**.

Navigators will help people with disability to:



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



Members also talked about how local governments could support people to understand how to use the NDIS.

## The NDIA's work on our advice



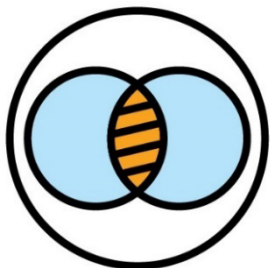
Mr Aaron Verlin gave an update on how the NDIA is using the ideas from the IAC's advice.

The advice looks at ways the NDIA can be more inclusive.

Aaron shared that the NDIA is working on:



- plans on how to be more inclusive



- a plan that looks at **intersectionality**.

People might treat you differently because of more than one thing about who you are.

For example, because you:



- are a First Nations person
- and
- have a disability.

We call this intersectionality.



Reference Group members shared they were happy that the NDIA has started work on their advice.



They shared that they would like to work with the NDIA on making their plan about intersectionality.



## Update on Reforms for Outcomes



Mr Aaron Verlin gave an update on the NDIA's **co-design** work.

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



Reference Group members shared that the NDIA should share more information about how they work with participants to make the NDIS better.



Members also shared it's important to work with participants in new ways.

It's also important that the NDIA works in ways that are **accessible** to everyone.



When something is accessible, it is easy to:

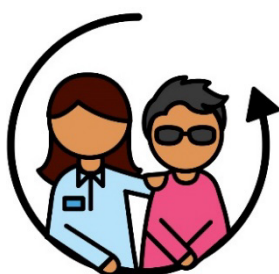
- find and use
- understand.

## Ideas from the NDIS Review



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

- navigators
- **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 shared it's important that people with disability can find and use the supports they need.

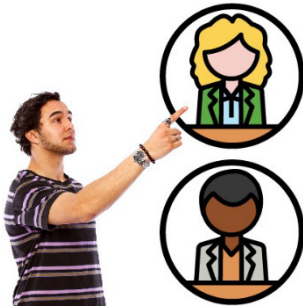
It shouldn't matter which part of the government gives them **funding** for supports.



Funding is money from the government that pays for services and supports.



Members also shared it's important that people with disability can help design how foundational supports will work.



Members explained it will be important to give people with disability choice about their navigator.

This also means giving them the choice to change their navigator if they want to.

Members also explained it will be important to hire navigators:



- with the right skills



- who come from different backgrounds



- who understand what makes the community different.

## 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](http://www.ndis-iac.com.au/meetings)

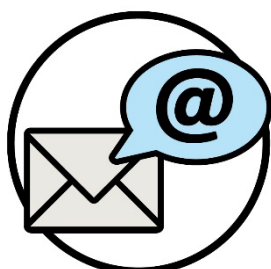
## More information

For more information about this bulletin, please contact us.



You can visit our website.

[www.ndis-iac.com.au/meetings](http://www.ndis-iac.com.au/meetings)



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

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



### **Accessible**

When something is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use
- understand.



### **Bulletin**

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



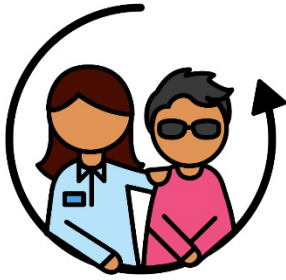
### **Co-design**

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



### **Diversity**

Diversity is what makes people different from each other.



## 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.



## Funding

Funding is money from the government that pays for services and supports.



## Inclusive

When something is inclusive, it means everyone can take part.

## Intersectionality

People might treat you differently because of more than one thing about who you are.

For example, because you:

- are a First Nations person
- and
- have a disability.



We call this intersectionality.

## 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.



Your NDIS plan is a document that has information about:

- you and your goals
- what supports you need.

## 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.



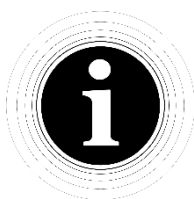
## Plan reassessment

When the NDIA do a plan reassessment, they check to see if the supports in a participant's plan still work well for them.



## Reference Group

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



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



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