

# Home and Living Reference Group

An Easy Read meeting bulletin

26 June 2023



## 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.



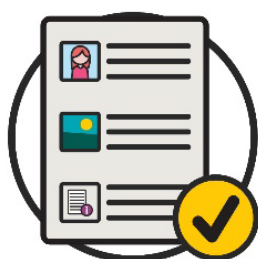
The Independent Advisory Council gives advice about ways to make the NDIS better.

In this bulletin, we just say 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 23.



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.

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## What is this Reference Group about?



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



This Reference Group is about home and living supports.

The Reference Group gives advice to the IAC about how people with disability can:



- live in their own home



- choose where they want to live.

They also give advice to the IAC about how people with disability can:



- do things for themselves in their home



- take part in their 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.

## From the Reference Group Co-Chairs



Dr Leighton Jay is an IAC Member.

He is also the Reference Group Co-Chair.

This means he helps run the Reference Group.

Leighton shared the work done since the last meeting by:



- the IAC



- the IAC Reference Group.



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

She is also the Reference Group Co-Chair.

She helps run the Reference Group.

## Our reports



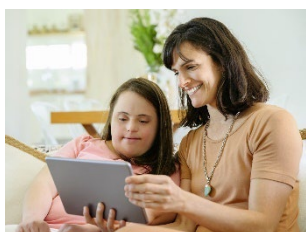
The Reference Group connected with the community to find out about issues that affect them.



The Reference Group members shared these issues with the NDIA.

## What did the reports talk about?

### NDIS access and planning



Reference Group members explained the NDIA should think about how to support **participants** to care for themselves in the future.



Participants are people with disability who take part in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).





For example, ways to support participants who might need to care for themselves because they have older parents.



The NDIA should think about how to support participants to:

- make their own decisions
- find supports that work well for them.



Members also explained that the NDIA should think about how to support participants who might want to live on their own.

For example, participants with **psychosocial disability**.

A psychosocial disability affects your mental health.

It can affect how you:

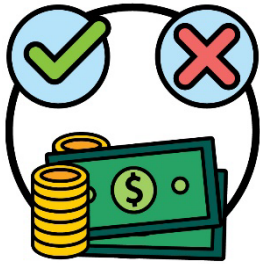


- think
- feel
- deal with other people.



Members shared that information about **funding** isn't clear.

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



This includes information about what funding can and can't be used for.



People with disability want this information to be more **accessible**.



When information is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use
- understand.

## NDIS home and living supports



Reference Group Members shared that the NDIA does not always make the same decisions about home and living supports.



This includes when a person lives in **specialist disability accommodation (SDA)**.

SDA is housing for people with disability who need extra support most of the time.



It also includes **supported independent living (SIL)**.

SIL is help with day-to-day tasks around your home so you can:

- do things for yourself
- learn new skills.

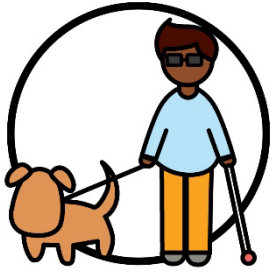


Members shared that people who use SIL don't have enough choice and control.



Members also shared that participants don't always get to choose how they use their **core supports**.

Your core supports are the supports and services you need and use the most.



Members explained that the NDIA tells some participants who have assistance dogs that they need to live in SDA.



This happens even when participants want to **rent** a place to live where they have the supports they need.

Rent is the money you pay to live in a home someone else owns.



Members explained that some people with disability are sleeping in their wheelchairs.

And that this happens even when they have more than one **provider**.



Providers support people with disability by delivering a service.



Members also explained that some disability housing providers don't always do the right thing.



For example, they don't always look for participants who need housing the most.



Members shared it's very hard for some participants who get SIL funding to find a house to rent long-term.



When participants have to move house a lot, it affects how they live their life.



Members also shared there is not enough good housing for people with psychosocial disability.



Members explained that the NDIA should look at the risk people with disability have of becoming **homeless**.



People who are homeless do not have a home. They must find a place to sleep each night.



And that the NDIA should work with others to help fix this issue.

This includes working with:

- states and territories
- services outside of the NDIS.



Members shared that more parts of the NDIA should work together to improve home and living supports.

## NDIS services and supports



Reference Group members shared that different types of supports should work together to help people when they leave hospital.



Members explained that some people with disability feel like they have to agree with the **Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT)**.

Even when they don't think the AAT is right.

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

They review decisions about:

- who can join the NDIS
- NDIS plans.





Members shared that some providers charge participants more money for services than they should.



They want the NDIA to do more to stop this from happening.



And they also want the **NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission** to do more too.

We just call them the NDIS Commission.



The NDIS Commission makes sure people who take part in the NDIS:

- are safe
- get good services.



Members shared that there should be more information about how much money the Australian Government plans to give SDA supports.

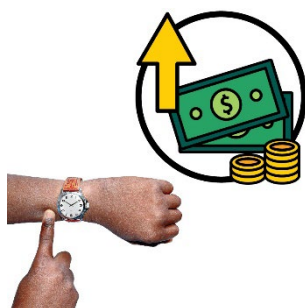
## Update on the cost of SIL



The NDIA gave the Reference Group an update on how much SIL costs.



Reference Group members shared that there needs to be more information about why the costs of SIL are going up.



Members explained that the cost of supports can go up while participants are waiting for the NDIA to check their plan.



For example, the cost of a support might go up because a provider changes their hourly rate.





Members shared that the NDIA should make sure that participants get the funding they need when this happens.



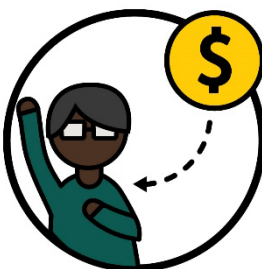
Members want to know what **plan managers** should do to help participants with this issue.

A plan manager is someone that will manage your NDIS plan for you.

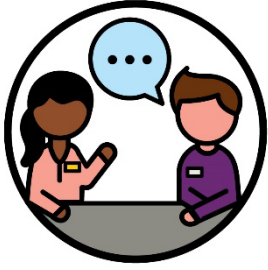


Members shared that the NDIA should improve the way they decide how much things should cost.

For example, when the cost of SIL goes up.



Members explained that some providers charge participants money for services that are part of their job.



For example, provider staff meetings that don't involve participants.



Members want to know if SIL costs more for participants who have someone that makes decisions for them.

For example, a family member.



Members explained that the NDIA need to share more information in ways everyone can understand.

For example, more Easy Read documents.



This can support people with disability to discuss their plans with others.

# The NDIA's home and living framework



A **framework** is:

- a plan for how we should do things
- where rules come from.

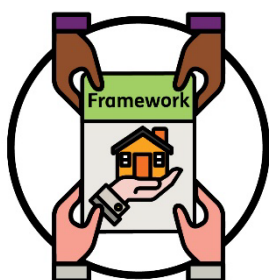


The NDIA's home and living framework is about supporting participants:

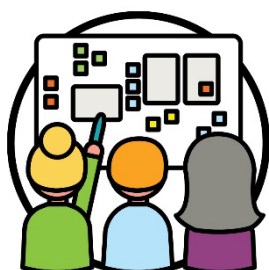
- in their home
- to live how they want.



The NDIA gave the Reference Group an update on their home and living framework.



The NDIA plan to share their home and living framework with the NDIA Board soon.



Members shared that they were happy the NDIA used **co-design** to finish the framework.

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



The NDIA are waiting on information from the Disability Royal Commission.

A **royal commission** is how the government looks into a big problem.

They are also waiting on information from the **NDIS Review**.



The Australian Government is checking the NDIS to find out what:

- works well
- could be better.

They call it the NDIS Review.



Members worry that waiting for this information will affect the home and living framework.



Members shared that they hope that the new home and living framework will support new and better ways to build housing.

## Our next meeting



Our next meeting is 14 September 2023.



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

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



### **Accessible**

When information is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use
- understand.



### **Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT)**

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

They review decisions about:

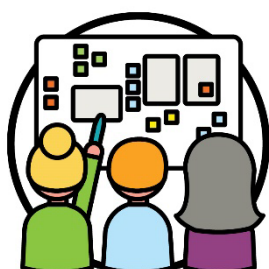
- who can join the NDIS
- NDIS plans.



### **Bulletin**

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

It explains what we did in our last meeting.



### **Co-design**

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



## Core supports

Your core supports are the supports and services you need and use the most.



## Framework

A framework is:

- a plan for how we should do things
- where rules come from.



## Funding

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



## Homeless

People who are homeless do not have a home.

They must find a place to sleep each night.



## NDIA Board

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



## NDIS Review



The Australian Government is checking the NDIS to find out what:

- works well
- could be better.

They call it the NDIS Review.

## NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (NDIS Commission)



The NDIS Commission makes sure people who take part in the NDIS:

- are safe
- get good services.



## Participants

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



## Plan manager

A plan manager is someone that will manage your NDIS plan for you.



## Providers

Providers support people with disability by delivering a service.

## Psychosocial disability

A psychosocial disability affects your mental health.



It can affect how you:

- think
- feel
- deal with other people.



## Reference Group

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



## Rent

Rent is the money you pay to live in a home someone else owns.



## Royal commission

A royal commission is how the government looks into a big problem.



## Specialist disability accommodation (SDA)

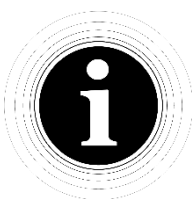
SDA is housing for people with disability who need extra support most of the time.



## Supported independent living (SIL)

SIL is help with day-to-day tasks around your home so you can:

- do things for yourself
- learn new skills.



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



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