

Home and Living Reference Group

An Easy Read meeting bulletin

18 September 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.



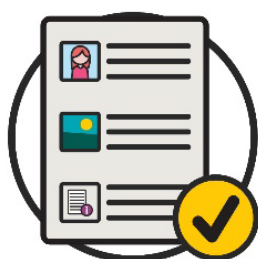
The Independent Advisory Council gives advice about ways to make the NDIS better.

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 28.



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?

About this Reference Group 5

The IAC's Principal Member 7

Our reports 10

Our Work Plan 21

Our next meeting 26

More information 27

Word list 28

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 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.

The IAC's Principal Member



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

She is also the Reference Group Co-Chair.

She helps run the Reference Group.

Leah shared the work done since the last meeting by:



- the IAC

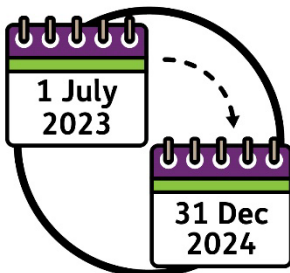


- the IAC Reference Group.



Leah welcomed old and new members to the Reference Group.

Members will work with the Reference Group from:



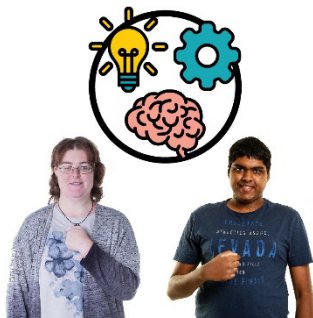
- 1 July 2023
- to
- 31 December 2024.

She shared that new members of the Reference Group include:



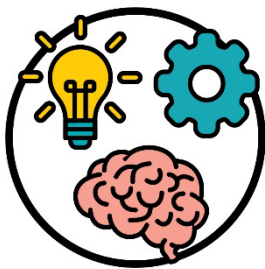
- younger people

and



- people with **intellectual disability**.

An intellectual disability affects how you:



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



Leah explained the IAC will find new Co-Chairs for each Reference Group.



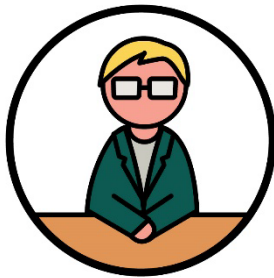
They will do this after the Minister for the NDIS shares who the new members of the IAC are.

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



Leah welcomed Ms Samantha Taylor to the meeting.

Samantha is the NDIA's General Manager for Policy, Advice and Research.



Leah also welcomed Ms Chris Faulkner to the meeting.

Chris is the NDIA's Branch Manager for Home and Living Innovation.

They both came to the meeting to:



- listen to the Reference Group's reports



- share the NDIA's work on home and living supports.

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 plans



Reference Group members explained that some **participants** want to live on their own.



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



Some **NDIA planners** tell participants they should live with other people with disability.



An NDIA planner is someone who:

- makes new plans
- changes plans.



Members shared that the NDIA should work more with others when they make decisions about home and living supports.

For example, they should work more with:



- participants



- the people who support them.



Members explained that decisions about home and living supports can take too long.

This can mean some participants have to stay longer in:



- hospital



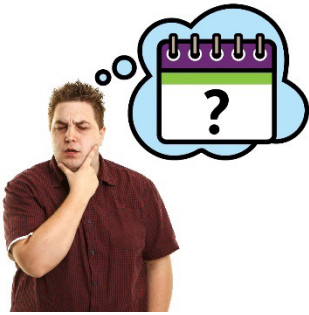
- aged care.



Members worry that some home and living supports are not part of the Participant Service Guarantee.



The Participant Service Guarantee is a guideline for how long the NDIA will take to make a decision.



This means participants and support workers don't know how long they will have to wait for a decision about some home and living supports.



Members explained that some participants have to wait a long time to get **funding** for home and living supports.

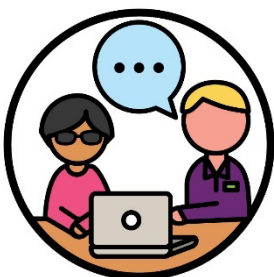


Funding is the money from your plan that pays for the supports and services you need.



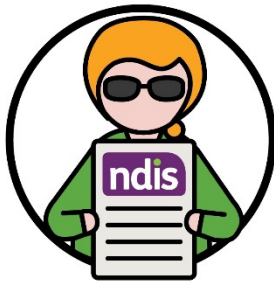
This includes funding for **individualised living options (ILO)**.

ILO is a way of setting up the support you want at home.



Members shared that the NDIA should make a service that supports people with disability as they use the NDIS.

This service should support people with disability to:



- take part in the NDIS



- find information about the NDIS



- find and use NDIS services.

This service can support people with disability that affects the way they:



- think
- feel
- understand information.

NDIS services and supports



Reference Group members shared that some participants find it hard to understand home and living supports.

For example, participants who manage their own plan.



Members also shared that ILO does not always support participants in the ways they need.

And it can mean some participants get **supported independent living (SIL)** that is not right for them.



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

- do things for yourself
- learn new skills.



Members explained that NDIS supports can cost too much in areas far away from towns and cities.



Members also explained there is not enough housing for people with **psychosocial disability**.

A psychosocial disability affects your mental health.

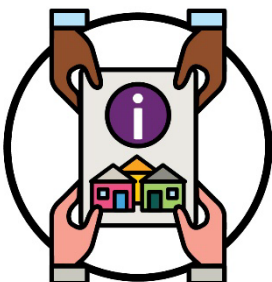


It can affect how you:

- think
- feel
- deal with other people.



Members shared that it can be hard for some parents to find good housing for their children with disability.



Members explained that the NDIA should share information about new types of housing.

This will help people think of better ways to provide home and living supports.



Circles of support are groups of people who:

- know and understand the person they support
- can help the person make their own decisions.



Members shared that funding for circles of support can be important for people who don't get much support from people in their community.

This includes people who are:



- First Nations peoples



- leaving prison or hospital.

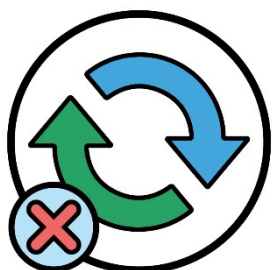
NDIS providers and the community



Reference Group members shared that participants and **providers** should work together to design home and living supports.



Providers support people with disability by delivering a service.



Members worry the rules home and living support workers need to follow don't let them change how they work.



Members shared some participants and their carers worry they will lose home and living supports.



They worry they will lose these supports when the **NDIS Review** shares their ideas.



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

- works well
- could be better.

They call it the NDIS Review.



They also worry about what will change when the Disability Royal Commission shares their ideas.



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

It helps us find out what:

- went wrong
- we can fix.

Members explained that the government should make sure:



- the information they share is easy to understand

and



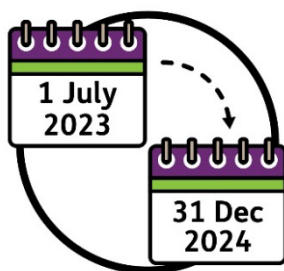
- they listen to what the community has to say about the information they share.

Our Work Plan



Reference Group members looked at what their Work Plan will focus on.

The Work Plan is a document that explains what the Reference Group will work on.



The Reference Group will use this Work Plan from:

- 1 July 2023
- to
- 31 December 2024.



They will also use the Work Plan to support the advice they give the IAC.



Members picked 3 areas that focus on home and living to include in the Work Plan.

The 3 areas are:



1. How well participants understand and use the NDIS

This includes supporting participants to:



- have the skills to take part in the NDIS on their own



- understand the work of **local area coordinators (LACs)**.



An LAC is someone who helps people with disability find and use supports and services.

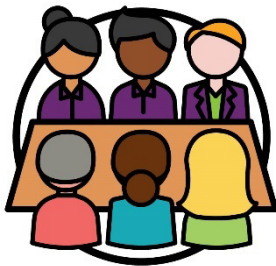


2. Improve how the NDIA make plans



For example, members want the NDIA to:

- include participants when they make plans
- make plans that participants want.



3. How the NDIS will work with others



For example, how the NDIS will work with other organisations to support people who are **homeless**.



People who are homeless do not have a home.

They must find a place to sleep each night.



Members explained that many home and living issues are because of bad **attitudes** about disability.



Your attitude is what you think, feel and believe.

This includes the attitudes of people from:



- the NDIA



- providers



- the community.

Members shared that they want to change these attitudes about disability so that people:



- listen to people with disability



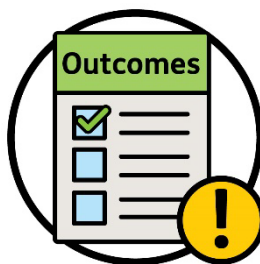
- care about people with disability



- support people with disability to feel like they belong.



Members also shared that the NDIA should include good attitudes about disability in their Reform for Outcomes work.



The Reform for Outcomes will focus on what the NDIA can change to support better **outcomes**.

Outcomes are important results we want to get for people with disability.

Members agreed that their work will first focus on:



- how well participants understand and use the NDIS



- improving how the NDIA make plans.

Our next meeting



Our next meeting is 9 November 2023.



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 learn more about the NDIS on their 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.



Attitude

Your attitude is what you think, feel and believe.



Bulletin

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

It explains what we did in our last meeting.



Circles of support

Circles of support are groups of people who:

- know and understand the person they support
- can help the person make their own decisions



Funding

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



Homeless

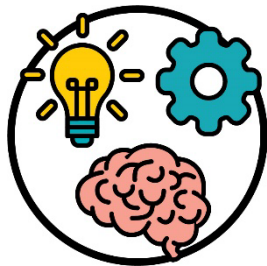
People who are homeless do not have a home.

They must find a place to sleep each night.



Individualised living options (ILO)

ILO is a way of setting up the support you want at home.



Intellectual disability

An intellectual disability affects how you:

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



Local area coordinators (LACs)

An LAC is someone who helps people with disability find and use supports and services.



Minister

A minister leads an area of the government.



NDIA Board

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



NDIA planner

An NDIA planner is someone who:

- makes new plans
- changes plans.



NDIS Review

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

- works well
- could be better.

They call it the NDIS Review.



Outcomes

Outcomes are important results we want to get for people with disability.



Participants

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



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.



Royal commission

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

It helps us find out what:

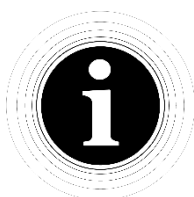
- went wrong
- we can fix.



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.



The Information Access Group created this Easy Read document using stock photography and custom images. The images may not be reused without permission. For any enquiries about the images, please visit www.informationaccessgroup.com. Quote job number 5264-B.



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



ndis-iac.com.au