

Intellectual Disability Reference Group

An Easy Read meeting bulletin

16–17 August 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 36.



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

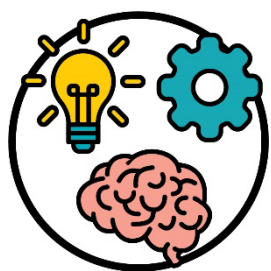


A **Reference Group** is a group of people who give us advice about a certain topic.



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.

A message from the IAC's Principal Member



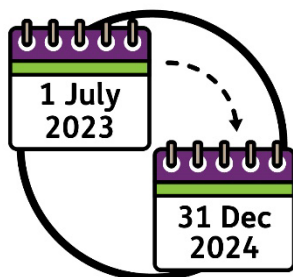
Ms Leah van Poppel is the IAC's Principal Member.

She is also the Reference Group Co-Chair.

This means she helps run the Reference Group.



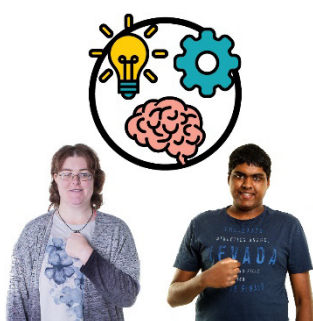
Leah welcomed old and new members to the Reference Group.



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:



- people with intellectual disability

and



- younger people.



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



She will do this after the Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) shares who the new members of the IAC are.

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

Leah shared the work done since the last meeting by:



- the IAC



- the IAC Reference Group.



This includes the work the Reference Group did with the IAC on behaviour supports advice.



The IAC will give this advice to the NDIA Board after the new members of the IAC have been shared.

There were 2 people from the NDIA at the meeting:



- Ms Rebecca Falkingham



- Ms Corri McKenzie.



Ms Rebecca Falkingham is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the NDIA.

This means she runs the NDIA



Ms Corri McKenzie is the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the NDIA.

This means she helps the CEO run the NDIA.



Leah talked about Rebecca and Corri's goal to work with the Reference Group to improve the NDIA.

This includes work to improve:



- how the NDIA works



- NDIS supports for people with intellectual 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?

NDIS plans



Reference Group members shared that the NDIA should offer NDIS plans in Easy Read.



Members also shared that some adults with **fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD)** struggle to get NDIS supports.



Drinking alcohol while pregnant can cause FASD. It affects how a baby grows before it's born.



Behaviour support practitioners help people with disability to:

- live a better life
- manage stressful situations better.



Members explained that some behaviour support practitioners don't make **behaviour support plans** the right way.

A behaviour support plan is a document with steps for improving behaviour.



For example, some behaviour support practitioners don't spend time with the person that the plan is made for.



Supported decision-making is when someone supports you to make your own decisions about your life.

Members shared that people with intellectual disability should help the NDIA:



- make supported decision-making part of the NDIS



- make sure the NDIA's supported decision-making **policy** works well.



Policies are:

- government plans for how to do things
- where rules come from.

NDIS services and supports



Reference Group members explained that the NDIS should have better supports for **participants** whose disability affects their speech.

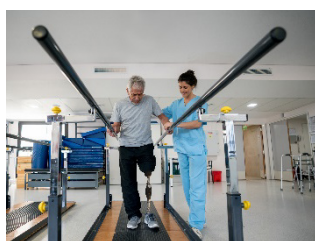


Participants are people with disability who take part in the NDIS.



Members shared that the NDIA tell some participants they can't use certain **funding** for other supports.

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



For example, if a participant gets funding for physical **therapy** they can't use it on another type of therapy.



Therapy is a type of support that can help how:

- you think and feel
- your body moves.



Members explained that some people with intellectual disability are at risk of **scams** when they use technology.



We call it a scam when someone tries to:

- trick you
- take your money.



People with intellectual disability need more support to understand how to use technology safely for their supports and services.



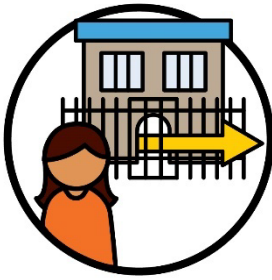
Members also explained that participants should be able to keep their NDIS supports when they move into **palliative care**.

Palliative care is a support for when you are near the end of your life.



You use palliative care when you have an illness that:

- will get worse
- will last the rest of your life.



Members shared that the NDIA should think about how participants lose certain supports when they leave the **justice system**.

Our justice system includes:



- prisons
- the courts
- police
- the law.



For example, they lose support from **Justice Liaison Officers (JLOs)**.

JLOs help people with disability find and use supports:



- when they take part in the justice system
- until they leave prison.

This includes working with the justice system to help people with disability take part in the NDIS.

NDIS home and living supports



Members explained that some home and living **providers** tell participants to get all their NDIS supports from them.

And these participants feel like they can't say no.



Providers support people with disability by delivering a service.



Members shared that the NDIA should include apartments as part of home and living supports.

They should do this because there are not enough houses.



Members also shared that the NDIA need to better explain what 'shared supports' are.

This will support more people with intellectual disability to have choice and control over where they live.



Members explained that some **plan managers** will ask people with intellectual disability certain questions to get the answer they want.



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



For example, they will ask people with intellectual disability certain questions about their home and living supports.

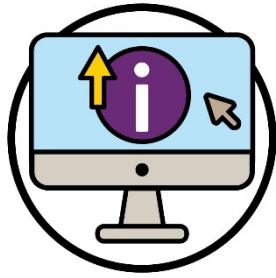
Other services and supports



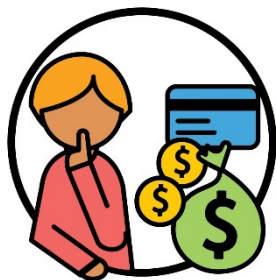
The **NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission** makes sure people with disability who take part in the NDIS:

- are safe
- get good services.

In this bulletin we call them the NDIS Commission.



Members shared that the NDIS Commission should have more information on their website about how participants can report **fraud**.



Fraud is something someone plans to do that is not honest.

Fraud is a crime.



It's important that the NDIS Commission share this information in a way that is **accessible**.



When information is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use
- understand.



Members also shared that public transport should be more accessible for people with intellectual disability.



This includes airports.



For example, sharing information about public transport in Easy Read.

Members explained that some services that work with the NDIS need more training.

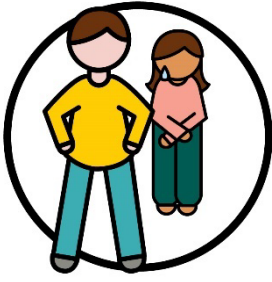


This includes some:

- government services
- community services.



They need training on what supports people with disability can use that are not NDIS supports.

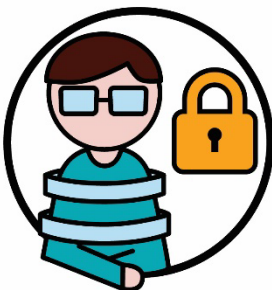


Members shared that people with disability who leave the justice system are at risk of **exploitation**.

Exploitation is when someone takes advantage of you.



And they are also at risk of too many **restrictive practices**.



Restrictive practices are actions that stop people from:

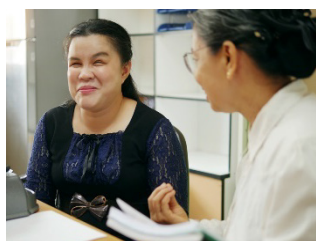
- moving
- doing what they want.

Ways to improve employment

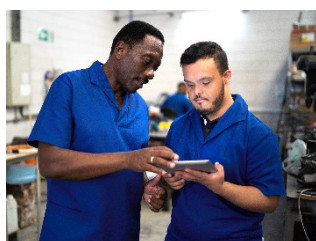


Employment means you:

- have a job
- go to work
- get paid.



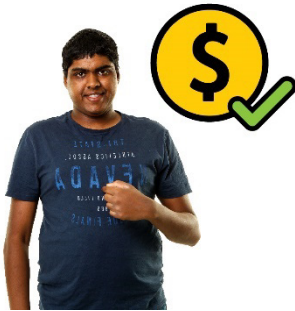
Ms Rebecca Falkingham shared what work the NDIA will do to hire more people with disability.



Reference Group members talked about what helps people with intellectual disability to:

- get jobs
- keep jobs.

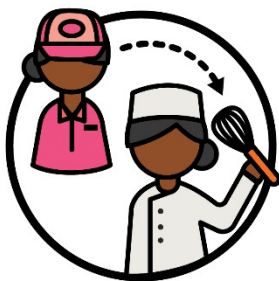
Members explained that people with intellectual disability should get:



- paid the same



- support to make their own decisions about their **career**.

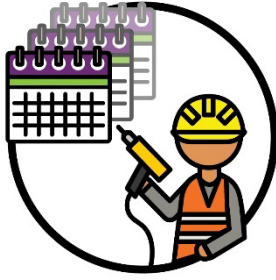


Your career is the path you take in your work throughout your life.



They should also get support to find work at a business where anyone can have a job.

For example, places that don't just hire people with disability.



Members also explained that people with intellectual disability want long-term work where they can grow their career.



People with intellectual disability also want to know how their career might affect other payment supports they get from the government.



Members shared that job interviews should be run by people with intellectual disability.

And they should ask questions that are easy to understand.



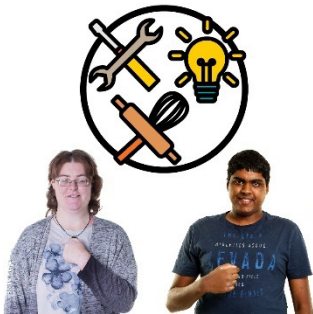
Members also shared there should be more jobs for people with intellectual disability.

This includes work that:



- everyone can take part in

and



- focuses on the skills of people with intellectual disability.



Members explained that **employers** who hire people with intellectual disability need the right supports.

An employer is a person who hires other people to work for them.



For example, they should have support to understand what each person with intellectual disability needs.

And what skills they have.



Members also explained that employers should make a plan each day for what they want their staff to work on.



Employers should also look at ways to make their place of work better in the long-term.

They should do this by listening to what their staff have to say.



Members shared that there are people with disability who work to support other people at their jobs.

They are called mentors.

These mentors:



- support people with intellectual disability at work
- make people with intellectual disability feel safe at work.



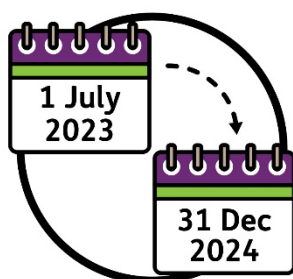
They also support people to find better jobs with better pay.

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 talked about how the advice in the Work Plan can improve:



- NDIS employment supports for people with intellectual disability

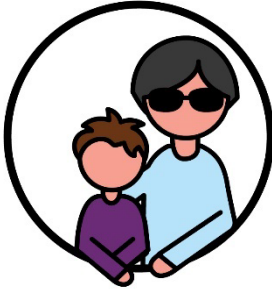


- how the NDIA makes NDIS plans.

They also talked about how the Work Plan should improve how the NDIS works with:



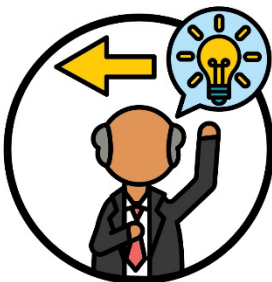
- other organisations



- participants who are parents.



Members explained that the Work Plan should include the work the Reference Group can do.



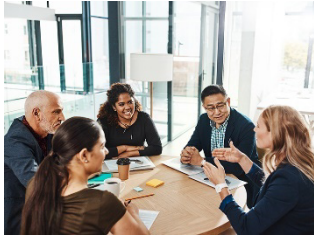
This includes the work they can do before the **NDIS Review** shares their ideas about the NDIS.

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



- works well
- could be better.

They call it the NDIS Review.



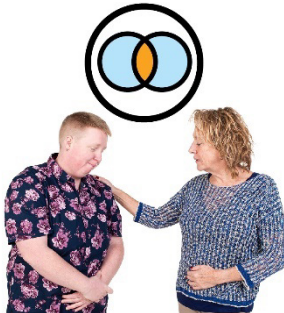
It also includes the work the Reference Group can do before the Disability Royal Commission shares their ideas about the NDIS.

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



It helps us find out what:

- went wrong
- we can fix.



Members shared that each area of the Work Plan should support people who experience **intersectionality**.



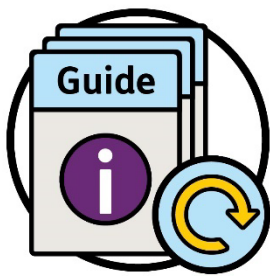
You can be different in more than one way.

And people might treat you differently for each part of who you are.

We call this intersectionality.



Members also shared that the Reference Group should use the advice from the last Work Plan to support the new Work Plan.



Members also explained that the Reference Group need to update the information in their guide about how their meetings work.

Update from SACID



People from the South Australian Council on Intellectual Disability (SACID) spoke to the Reference Group.

SACID supports people with intellectual disability living in South Australia to have their say.



SACID shared how they hire people with intellectual disability.

They also shared how places like the NDIA should hire people in a way that:



- is accessible for everyone



- supports people who have experienced **trauma**.



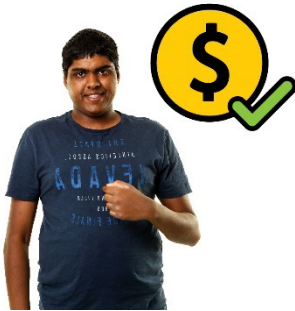
Trauma is the way you feel about something bad that happened to you.

For example, you might feel scared or stressed.

Trauma can affect you for a long time.



SACID talked about how more jobs should support the different ways people work.

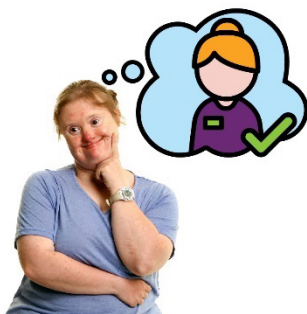


Reference Group members shared that it's important that people with intellectual disability get paid the same as others.

This gives them more choice and control in their life.



Members explained the NDIA should share more information about their different types of employment for people with intellectual disability.



This means more people with intellectual disability will understand how:

- they can work for the NDIA
- grow their career.

Members shared that people with disability do better when they feel:



- safe



- part of a community.



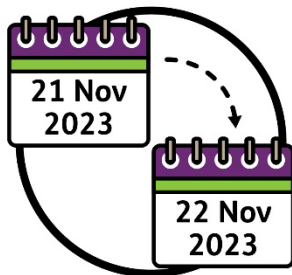
When they feel like this, they also do better at their work.



Members also shared that people with intellectual disability might look for and find jobs in different places.

For example, on Facebook.

Our next meeting



Our next meeting is the 21–22 November 2023.



You can find out more about our meetings and bulletins on our website.

www.ndis-iac.com.au/meetings

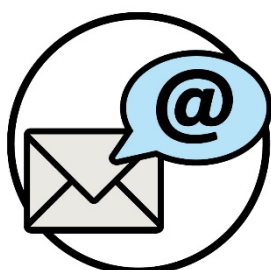
More information

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.



Accessible

When information is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use
- understand.

Behaviour support practitioners



Behaviour support practitioners help people with disability to:

- live a better life
- manage stressful situations better.



Behaviour support plan

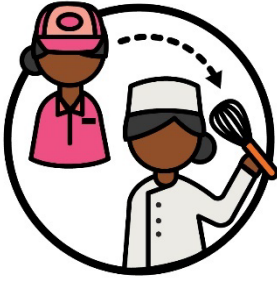
A behaviour support plan is a document with steps for improving behaviour.



Bulletin

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

It explains what we did in our last meeting.



Career

Your career is the path you take in your work throughout your life.



Employer

An employer is a person who hires other people to work for them.



Employment

Employment means you:

- have a job
- go to work
- get paid.



Exploitation

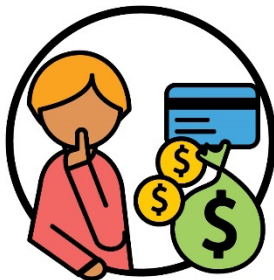
Exploitation is when someone takes advantage of you.



Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD)

Drinking alcohol while pregnant can cause FASD.

It affects how a baby grows before it's born.



Fraud

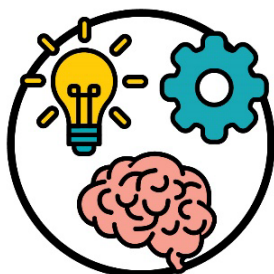
Fraud is something someone plans to do that is not honest.

Fraud is a crime.



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.

Intersectionality



You can be different in more than one way.

And people might treat you differently for each part of who you are.

We call this intersectionality.

Justice Liaison Officers (JLOs)

JLOs help people with disability find and use supports:



- when they take part in the justice system
- until they leave prison.

This includes working with the justice system to help people with disability take part in the NDIS.

Justice system

The justice system includes:



- police
- the courts
- the law
- prisons.



Minister

A minister leads an area of the government.

NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission

The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission makes sure people with disability who take part in the NDIS:



- are safe
- get good services.

In this bulletin we call them the NDIS Commission.

NDIS Review

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



- works well
- could be better.

They call it the NDIS Review.



NDIA Board

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



Palliative care

Palliative care is a support for when you are near the end of your life.

You use palliative care when you have an illness that:

- will get worse
- will last the rest of your life.



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.



Policy

Policies are:

- government plans for how to do things
- where rules come from.



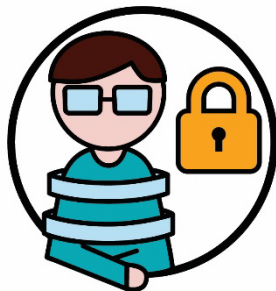
Providers

Providers support people with disability by delivering a service.



Reference Group

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



Restrictive practices

Restrictive practices are actions that stop people from:

- moving
- doing what they want.



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.



Scam

We call it a scam when someone tries to:

- trick you
- take your money.



Supported decision-making

Supported decision-making is when someone supports you to make your own decisions about your life.

Therapy



Therapy is a type of support that can help how:

- you think and feel
- your body moves.

Trauma



Trauma is the way you feel about something bad that happened to you.

For example, you might feel scared or stressed.

Trauma can affect you for a long time.



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



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