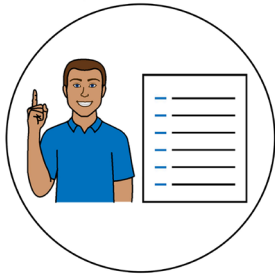


# Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS

Meeting Bulletin 28 March 2022



Easy Read



## Hard words

This book has some hard words.

The first time we write a hard word

- the word is in **blue**
  
- we write what the word means.

## You can get help with this book



You can get someone to help you

- read this book
  
- know what this book is about
  
- find more information.



## About this book

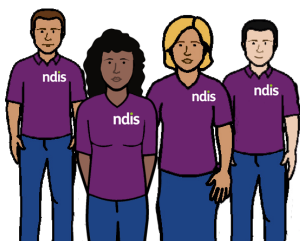


The **Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS** wrote this book.

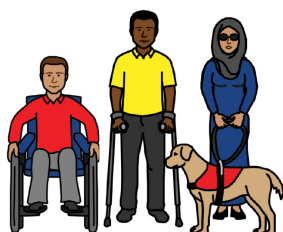
We will call it the Council.



The Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS gives advice to the **National Disability Insurance Agency**.



The National Disability Insurance Agency or NDIA manages the **National Disability Insurance Scheme**.



The National Disability Insurance Scheme or NDIS gives services and support to people with disability.



This book tells you what happened at our meeting on 28 March 2022.

## Who was at the meeting?



The meeting was run by Leah Van Poppel who is the Council's Principal Member and NDIA Board member.



10 Council members and 1 expert adviser were at the meeting.

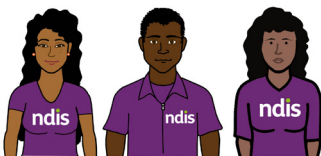


Other people at the meeting were

- Gavin Burner who is a member of the Intellectual Disability Reference Group



- Martin Hoffman who is the Chief Executive Officer of the NDIA



- NDIA Board members

- NDIA managers.

# What happened at the meeting?

## Update from the Principal Member



Leah welcomed new NDIA Board members

- Dr Denis Napthine AO



- Meredith Allan.



Leah will

- **not** appoint a Deputy Chair to help her do her work as Principal Member



- work with Reference Group Co-Chairs to ensure Council's work and advice happens.

## Update on co-design advisory group



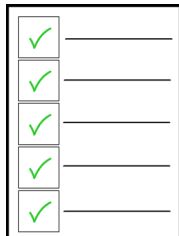
The **co-design advisory group** continues to work together.

Co-design means to work together to reach a goal.



Advisory groups talk about their ideas to make something happen.

Some members on the co-design advisory group are also members of **steering committees** for co-design projects.

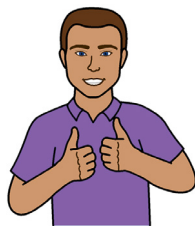


Steering committees make sure projects happen properly.



The steering committee for people to have a home says the NDIA should also work with Council's Home and Living Reference Group to fix current issues.

## Update from the NDIA CEO



This year the NDIA will do work with a focus on

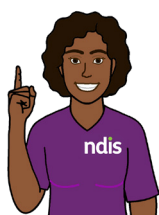
- making the way it works better



- co-design projects

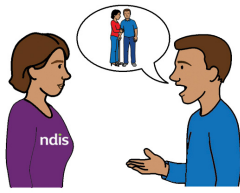


- making participant outcomes better

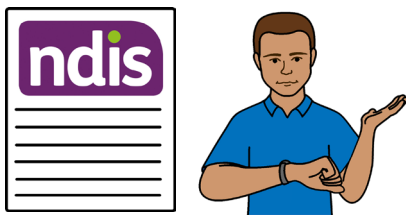


- making other parts of the NDIA better.

## What Council has heard about the NDIS

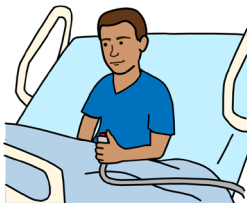
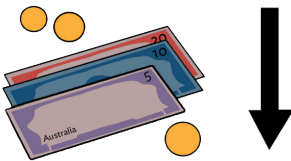


Council talked about what people with disability have told them about the NDIS.



Some people say they have problems with their NDIS plans

- because plan reviews take a long time
- because they have less money in their plans than before
- when they are waiting to get out of hospital.



Some people say the NDIA does **not** give everyone the same information about ways to manage their NDIS money.





When you live far away from a big city it is hard to

- find a Local Area Coordinator to help with NDIS supports



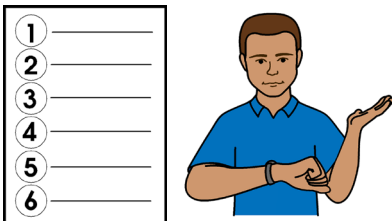
- find a place to live



- get transport support to take you places



- know the best way to spend your NDIS money.

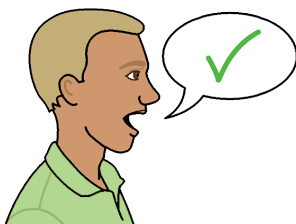


Some **public advocates** say they

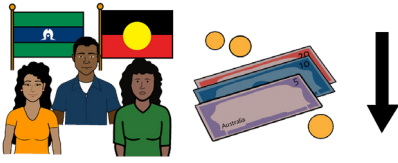
- have long wait lists to help people get NDIS supports



- deal with more appeals cases for NDIS plan reviews.

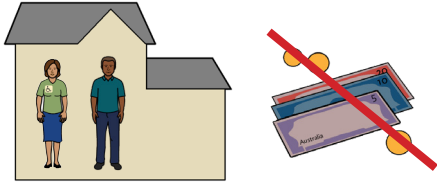


Public advocates work for governments and protect the rights of people with decision making disabilities.



Some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants say their

- NDIS funding has reduced over the years



- funding for **Supported Independent Living** has been removed from their plans.



Supported Independent Living helps with day to day tasks around your home so you can do things yourself.



It is still hard for people involved in the justice system to get NDIS supports.

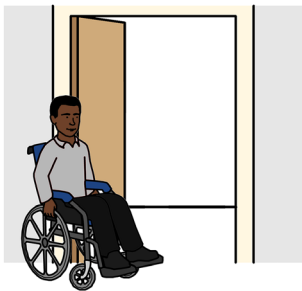


Some people are confused about how to access new assistive technology supports.

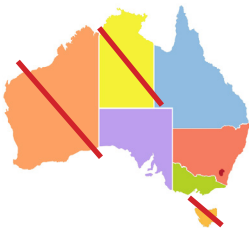
Some people say NDIA planners and Local Area Coordinators



- need training about different cultures to define behaviours of concern to make a Positive Behaviour Support Plan



- do **not** use the **complex support needs pathway** for people with disability who have many different challenges impacting on their lives

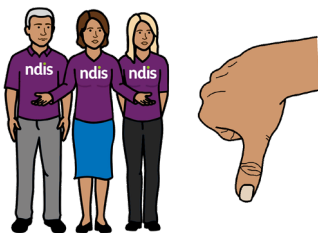


- are not available in every state and territory in Australia.



Some people in the community

- do **not** know what changes the government wants to make to NDIS law



- lose trust in the NDIA and the government because of the changes.

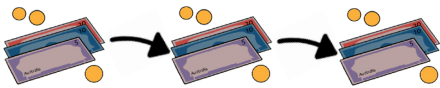


Some people in the community want to learn about how the NDIS uses an **insurance approach** to fund supports.

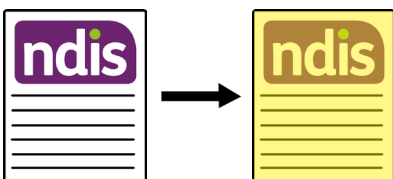


An insurance approach means

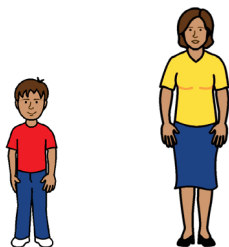
- the NDIS works out the total cost of supports over a person's life



- the costs are then broken down into funding plans for shorter amounts of time



- funding in the plans might change from one plan to another.



Compared to men, women with disability are told they have **autism** much later in life.

Autism is a disability that might affect how you



- think



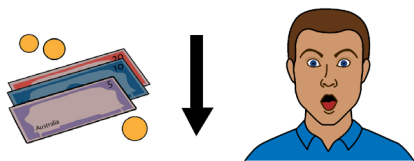
- feel

- communicate

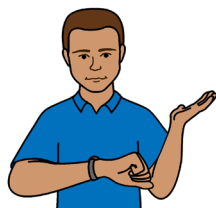


- connect and act with others.

There are a lot of problems with home and living supports, including



- funding for home and living supports being reduced with **no** warning



- long wait times to get home and living supports



- not having the choice to live where you want and with who you want.

## Update on NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission

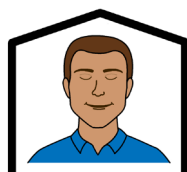


The NDIS **Quality and Safeguards Commission**, or the NDIS Commission, is a part of the NDIS.



The NDIS Commission helps to

- make the quality of services better



- keep NDIS participants safe.



The NDIS Commission told Council about the work it will do this year.



Council members told the NDIS Commission

- it should work with the Disability Royal Commission to make the NDIS better



- a lot of disability workers have done the NDIS Commission's online training



- it would help to have information about how many providers are registered to learn about if the system is working



- people with disability feel safer when they have friends around them who can support them.



Council members also told the NDIS Commission

- it is important to be able to help participants whose safety is at risk

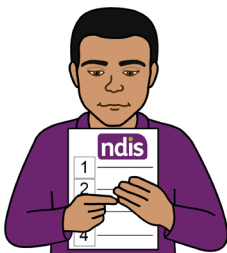


- they should work with community groups that help people with intellectual disability learn how to raise issues and get supports.

## **Update on NDIA project about information for NDIS supports**

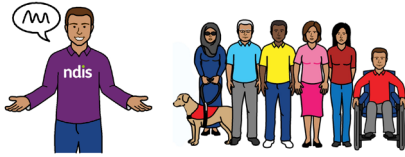


The NDIA is doing work on a project about the information it needs to help people get NDIS supports.



It wants to make sure all people get NDIS supports fairly and equally.



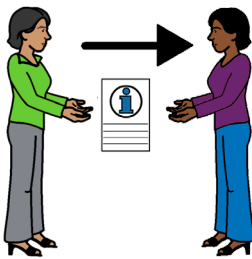


To make sure they do the project right, the NDIA

- has set up a steering committee to help it co-design the project



- will set up a panel with people who know a lot about this topic, to support the steering committee.



Council members told the NDIA that

- the panel should give the steering committee information about the things they know



- they should use what they have learnt from other projects to help with this project



- the panel could include people who know about administrative law and the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation.

## More information

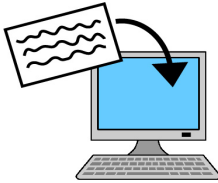


The next meeting is on **26 April 2022**.

For more information contact the  
Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS.



Website [ndis-iac.com.au](https://www.ndis-iac.com.au)



Email [advisorycouncil@ndis.gov.au](mailto:advisorycouncil@ndis.gov.au)

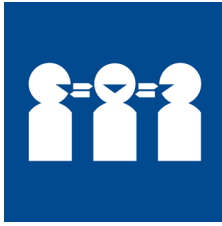


Call 1800 800 110



For more information about advice the Council  
has given go to our website.

[ndis-iac.com.au/advice](https://www.ndis-iac.com.au/advice)



**If you need help with English**

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Call 131 450



**If you need help to speak or listen**

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