

Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS

Children, Young People and Families Reference Group

Meeting Bulletin 11 October 2021



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

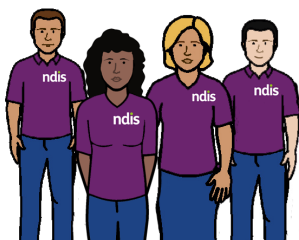


The **Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS** wrote this book.

We will call it the Council.



The Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS tells the **National Disability Insurance Agency** what they think about how the NDIS is managed.



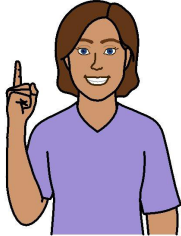
The National Disability Insurance Agency or NDIA manages the **National Disability Insurance Scheme**.



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



This book tells you about what happened at the Children, Young People and Families **Reference Group** meeting.



Reference Groups are groups of people that know a lot about something.



Reference Groups help

- the Council do its work



- make our advice better.



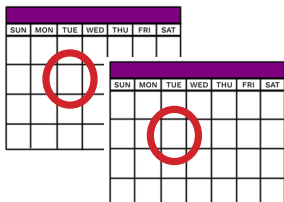
This Reference Group gives Council advice about ways the NDIS can help children and young people with disabilities

- do things for themselves



- be included in the community.

This book tells you what happened at our meeting on 11 October 2021.



The Reference Group meets 2 times each year.

Who was at the meeting?



There are 2 **Chairs** of the Reference Group

- Robyn Kruk

and

- Sylvana Mahmic.

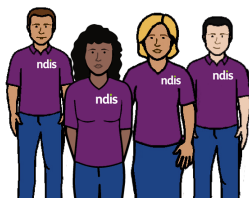
A Chair means someone who can run the meeting.



Also at the meeting were

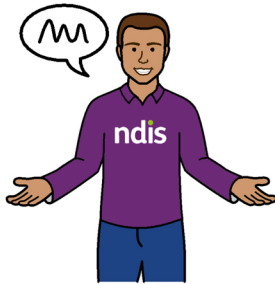
- Reference Group members

and



- NDIA managers.

The Reference Group talked about things the NDIA is working on.



The Reference Group Chairs and NDIA managers spoke at the meeting to

- tell the us about the work they do

and



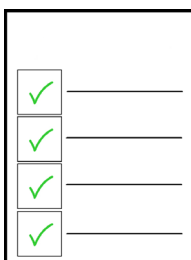
- ask for feedback from the Reference Group.

What happened at the meeting?

Update from Reference Group Chairs



Council and the Reference Group has done a lot of work since they last met.



The Reference Group decided what work it will do over the next 2 years.

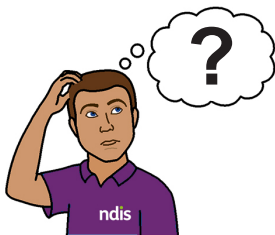


The Reference Group wants to

- fix some issues for children, young people and their families in the NDIS



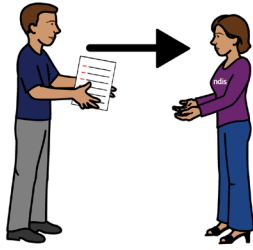
- make sure children have the supports they need



- make sure the NDIA thinks about what children and young people want and need



- have more young people in the Reference Group.

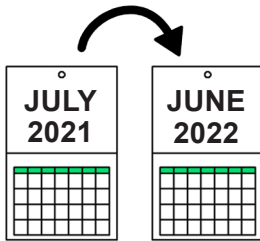


The Reference Group does work that helps the Council's **work plan**.



Our work plan says

- what we will do this year to make the NDIS better for the people who use it



- what work will be done from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.



Some Reference Group members met with the NDIA about work it is doing

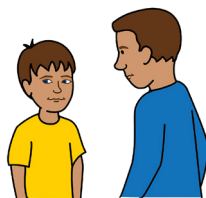
- with people and groups who work together to support young children



- to give **assistive technology** to young children.

Assistive technology means technology to help people with disability.

For example, text to speech on a computer.



Some Reference Group members met with the NDIA about work it is doing on **early intervention** to support **Autistic children**.



Early intervention is help for children to get services and support as early as possible in their lives.



Early intervention helps children

- learn new skills
- take part in family and daily life
- be independent when they are older.



Autistic children are affected in the way they



- think
- feel



- communicate
- connect and deal with others.



The NDIA is doing more work and research to include what people think in its **consultation report** on Autism.



A consultation report lets you have a say on what the NDIA can to do better.

Update from Reference Group members



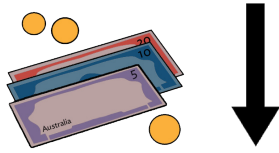
Reference Group members talked about what happens in their communities.

The NDIA should think about ways to better support Autistic people.

For example

- how it gives money for supports
- different ways to support Autistic people.





Some children and young people with disability and their families have less money for supports in their NDIS plans.



These people want to know how the NDIS makes decisions about their plans.



Some children and young people with disability and their families find it hard to get into the NDIS.

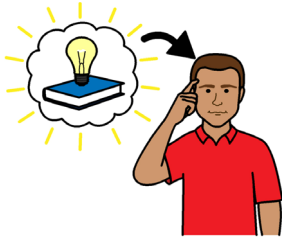


For example, if they

- are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- come from different cultures and speak languages other than English.



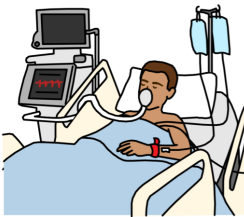
Some children and young people with disability and their families might **not** get supports they need because services and supports are **not** available in their area.



Some children and young people with disability and their families need to learn more about the supports that can help them.

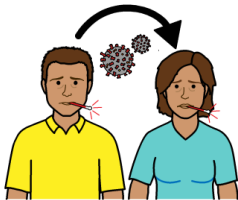


The NDIA should help children and young people go back to school during the **coronavirus pandemic**.



Coronavirus

- can make people very sick



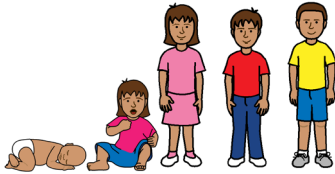
- is spread when you are close to someone else.



A pandemic means coronavirus affects a lot of people all over the world.



The NDIA and **Early Childhood Early Intervention** partners should look at a family's situation when they give supports.



Early Childhood Early Intervention means how the NDIS helps children in Australia with disability or **developmental delay** from 0 to 6 years old.



Developmental delay means a child finds it harder to do everyday things that other children their age do. For example, dress themselves.



Early Childhood partners talk to families and children about support and services.



The NDIA, **early childhood providers** and Early Childhood partners should work together to make

- strong relationships with people they support



- families feel valued.



Early childhood providers give services or supports to children with a developmental delay or disability.

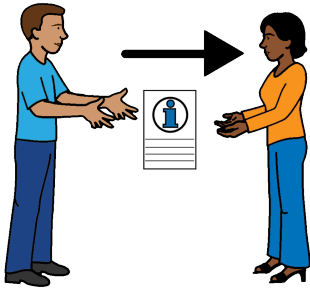


Some parents and families say

- some healthcare professionals do **not** understand the supports that can help their child



- some Support Coordinators help them better than others.

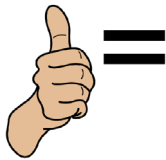


Some parents and families need

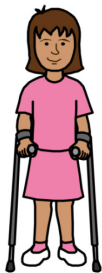
- more information on ways to make decisions that support their child's development and independence



- to understand the **reasonable** and **necessary** supports they should give their child.



Reasonable means it is fair and sensible.



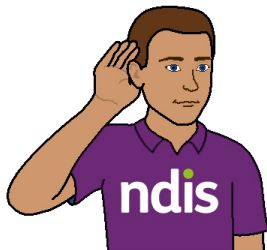
Necessary means you need it to live your best life.

What children want from the NDIS



Reference Group members talked about

- work disability organisations do to support children and young people with disability

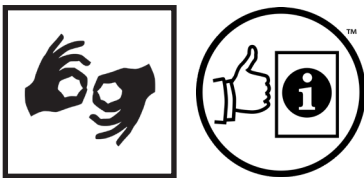


- ways Council can help the NDIA listen to what children and young people want from the NDIS.

The NDIA should use ideas from children and young people with disability in its

- communications

For example, accessible information like plain English, Easy Read and Auslan

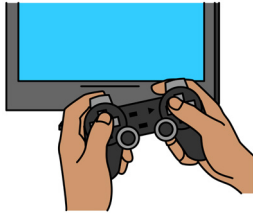


- **co-design** work.

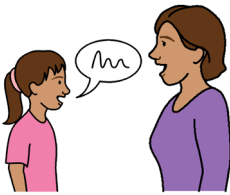


Co-design means to work together to reach a goal.

For example, people who run services work with people who use the services to plan the services.



The NDIS should use games technology and other tools to help children and young people who need support to communicate.



Children and young people with disability should

- be able to say what supports they want, **not** just what their parents think



- be supported to learn how to make their own decisions



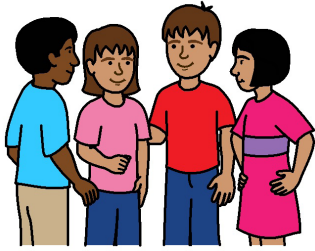
- be able to connect with young disability leaders.



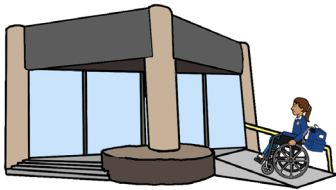
Parents and families should talk about their child's skills to help them be **independent**.



Independent means the child can do things on their own.

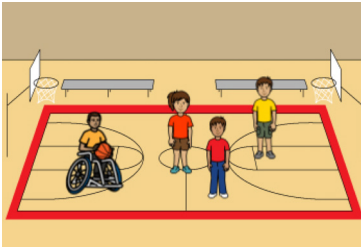


The **Information, Linkages and Capacity Building program** is important for children and young people.



The Information, Linkages and Capacity Building program or ILC gives money to help people with disability

- do things for themselves



- learn new skills



- know the right person to go to when they need something.



ILC helps to make sure people with disability who **cannot** use the NDIS can still live in a community that is **inclusive** and **accessible**.

Inclusive means everyone can take part.

Accessible means everyone can use it.

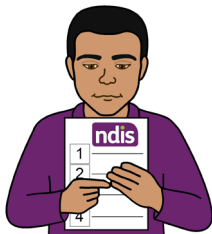


Reference Group members said **NDIA Planners** should have training so they can

- support children



- help families understand the NDIS.



An NDIA Planner is someone who makes new plans.

More information



The next meeting will happen in 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



Call 1800 800 110



For more information about the Council
Reference Groups go to our website.

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

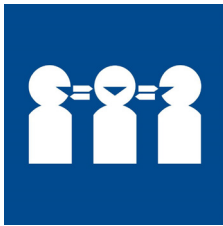


For more information about advice the Council
has given go to our website.

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



To read about the last Children, Young People and Families Reference Group meeting go to [ndis-iac.com.au/s/Bulletin_Children-Young-People-Families-RG_Easy-Read_Web.pdf](https://www.ndis-iac.com.au/s/Bulletin_Children-Young-People-Families-RG_Easy-Read_Web.pdf)



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