

Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS

Meeting Bulletin 26 April 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

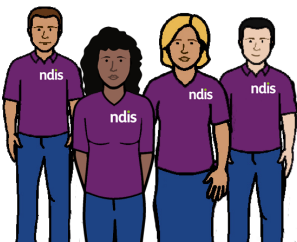


The **Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS** wrote this book.

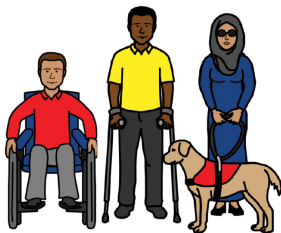
We will call it the Council.



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 26 April 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

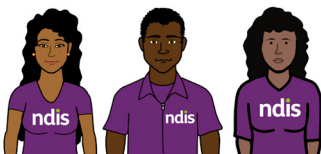
- Gavin Burner who is a member of the Intellectual Disability Reference Group



- Dr Denis Napthine AO who is the NDIA Board Chairman



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



- NDIA managers.

What happened at the meeting?

Update from the Principal Member

Leah thanked members who have done work on Council's **Formal Advice**.



Formal Advice means we tell the NDIA Board what we think about how they manage the NDIS.



The advice is about ways the NDIA can make it fairer for people from diverse communities to access the NDIS.



We also give Formal Advice to the Minister for the NDIS.



Formal Advice helps the NDIA learn about

- problems that people with disability might have

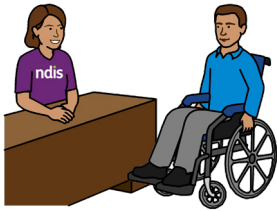


- ways the NDIA can help fix the problems.

Update from the NDIA Board Chairman and the CEO



The NDIA Board Chairman said Council does important work to grow and make the NDIS better.



The Chairman wants the NDIA to do work helping people with disability get jobs like everyone else.

The NDIA keeps working to improve the NDIS and **co-design** projects with the disability community.



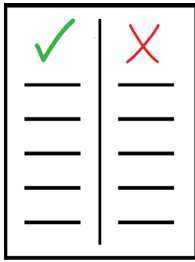
Co-design means to work together to reach a goal.

The NDIA wants to make sure it follows the **Participant Service Guarantee**.



The Participant Service Guarantee says how long the NDIA should take to do things for participants.

Update on co-design work



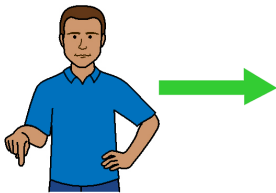
The NDIA is doing work with Council and the disability community to co-design 4 **policies**.

Policies are plans and rules for how to do things.

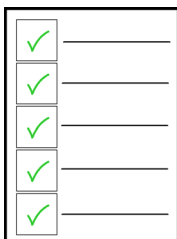


A co-design **advisory group** has been set up to share ideas about

- how the co-design projects should work
- what needs to happen as part of the co-design.



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



Steering committees make sure projects happen properly.

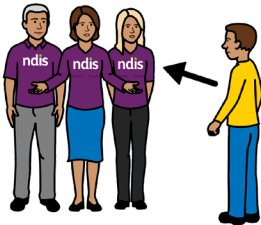


Sylvana Mahmic is on the steering committee for the co-design project about ways the NDIS helps people make their own decisions.



Sylvana said the project is going well because

- it includes a lot of new people



- the NDIA has enough staff to help with co-design.



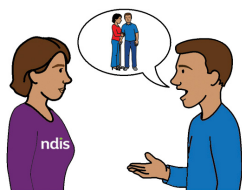
The NDIA will tell Council members

- what happened at each steering committee meeting



- what co-design work the NDIA will do.

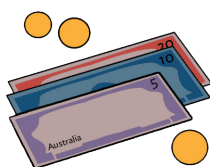
What Council has heard about the NDIS



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

Some members said they still hear a lot of the same problems they reported at the last meeting.

For example, problems



- with funding in NDIS plans



- getting supports for home and living



- finding disability advocates



- about ways to manage NDIS money



- getting new assistive technology supports

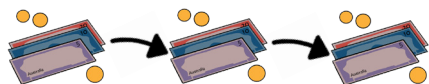


- with reviews of appeals cases.

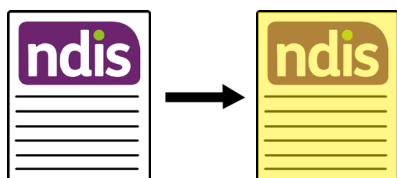


There are still problems with helping people in the justice system get NDIS supports.

If the NDIA takes money out of bigger plans they should



- take the money out slowly over time

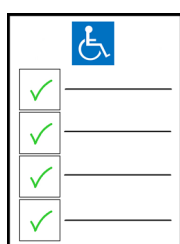


- tell people when the plan will change.



The NDIA should

- give people with disability good service when they need help with their plans



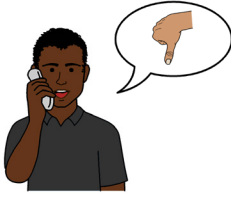
- use the proof people give them about their disability when they make plans.



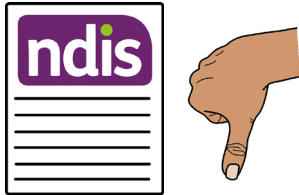
The appeal process the NDIA uses should be reviewed by a legal expert.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who live far away from big cities say



- it is hard to do a plan review on the phone if English is **not** your first language



- some communities are **not** included in new plans for **Partners in the Community**.



Partners in the Community are organisations the NDIS works with to give services in communities.



If support workers are **not** told when plan reviews will happen they can **not** help participants get ready.

Some providers run by Aboriginal community controlled organisations



- can **not** get registered as NDIS providers



- can **not** give services to some NDIS participants.



People said that providers should

- make sure they can support participants

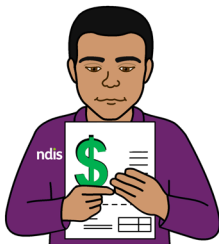


- only make participants pay for services they got.

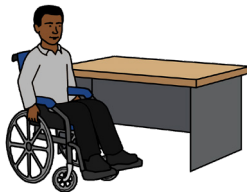


Some families with young children with disability

- say it is hard to have a job if they can **not** find child care support



- try to get reports and therapy quotes because they hope to get a bigger NDIS plan for the child.

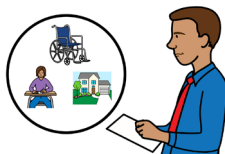


People with disability want to find jobs that are **not** in supported employment.



Organisations that give supported employment should

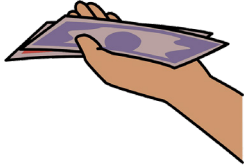
- give training in job skills



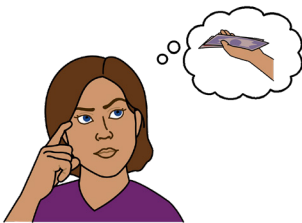
- give a way to move to open employment.

Update on plans to get compensation

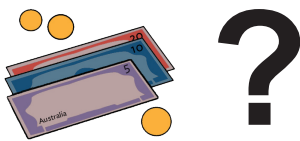
The NDIA is looking for ways for people with disability to get **compensation** for a personal injury.



Compensation means you get paid some money.



Council members said the NDIA should think really hard about their plans for compensation.



Council members want to know

- how much the project will cost



- who can ask for compensation.

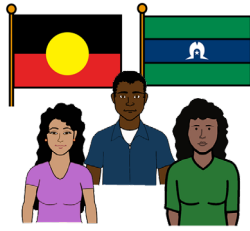


Council members said some people find it very hard try to get compensation.



Council members want to work with the NDIA to make their plans better.

Update on Council's Formal Advice

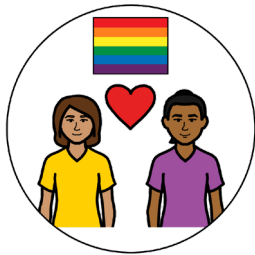


Council has talked with diverse communities about its Formal Advice. For example

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

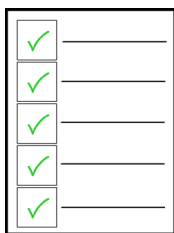


- people from different cultures or who speak a language that is **not** English



- **LGBTIQ+** communities.

LGBTIQ+ is a way to show sexual and gender identities and bodies in the community.



Most members were happy with the Formal Advice and said the work is important.

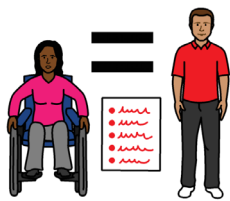


Some members said the Formal Advice should

- include other diverse communities

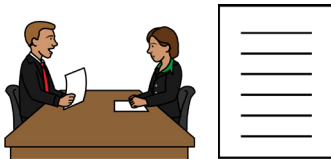


- say more about women with disabilities.



Some members said the NDIA should

- make fairness and inclusion the most important things



- report on how the NDIA puts the Formal Advice into action.



Some members said the Formal Advice made them think about their own attitudes to diverse communities.

More information

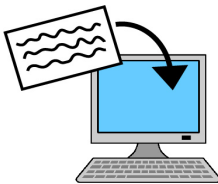


The next meeting is on **26 May 2022**.

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

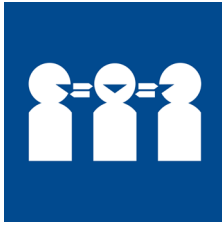


Call 1800 800 110



For more information about 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

Telephone Interpreting Service.

Call 131 450



If you need help to speak or listen

Use the National Relay Service.

nrschat.nrscall.gov.au/nrs/internetrelay

Call 1300 555 727



Independent
Advisory
Council
to the
ndis



Give the relay officer the phone number you want to call.



TTY

Call 1800 555 677



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

Scope (Aust) Ltd. created this Easy English document in May 2022 using Picture Communication Symbols. PCS is a trademark of Tobii Dynavox, LLC. All rights reserved. Used with permission. This document must not be sold to third parties. The images must not be reused without permission. For more information about the images, contact Scope on 1300 472 673 or visit www.scopeaust.org.au