

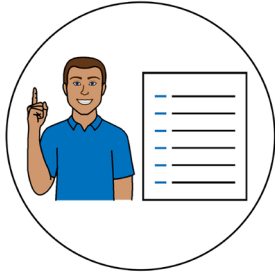
Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS

Equity and Inclusion Reference Group

Meeting Bulletin 6 December 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

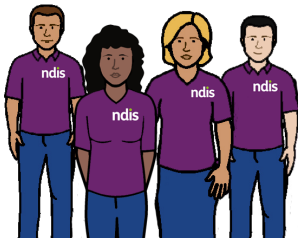


The **Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS** wrote this book.

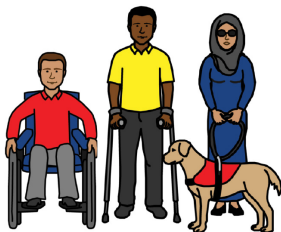
We will call it the Council.



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



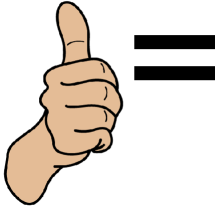
The National Disability Insurance Agency or NDIA manages the **National Disability Insurance Scheme**.



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



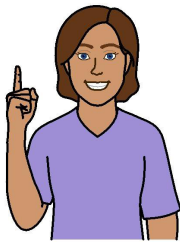
This book tells you about what happened at the **Equity and Inclusion Reference Group** meeting.



Equity is when things are fair.



Inclusion means everyone can be part of something.



Reference Groups are a group of people that know a lot about something. For example, disability.



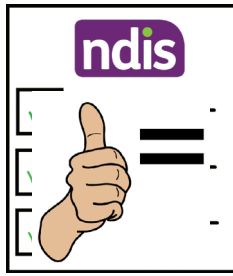
The Reference Group

- helps the Council do its work



- helps make our advice better

- meets 2 times each year.



The Reference Group gives advice about ways the NDIS can

- be fair and clear for all participants



- include people from **diverse communities**.

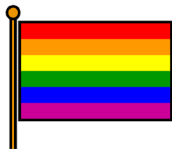


Diverse communities include

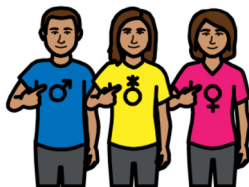
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities



- communities with people from different cultures and who speak languages other than English



- **LGBTIQ+** communities.



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

This book tells you what happened at our meeting on 6 December 2021.

Who was at the meeting?



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

- Robyn Kruk

and

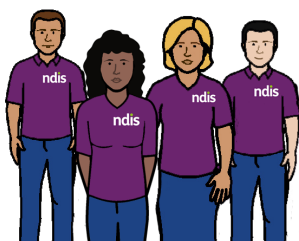
- Jennifer Cullen.

A Chair means someone who can run the meeting.



Also at the meeting were

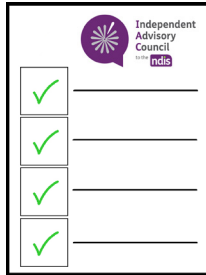
- Reference Group members



- NDIA managers and staff.

What happened at the meeting?

Update from Reference Group Chairs



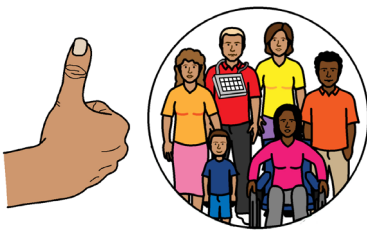
The Reference Group is doing work on its **formal advice**.



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



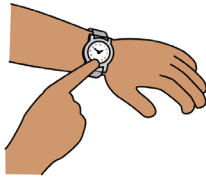
We also give formal advice to the NDIA Board and the Minister for the NDIS.



The formal advice will help to make sure the NDIS gives better access and outcomes for diverse communities.



The Reference Group met with leaders from diverse communities to help our formal advice.



Reference Group members said

- they want extra time to hear from leaders



- the advice should include cultural differences across diverse communities

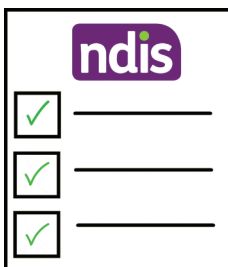


- the advice should include communities that feel like they do **not** get enough support.

Council and Reference Group work



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

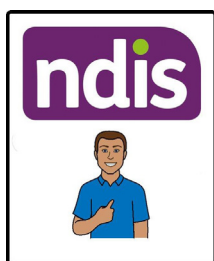


Council and the Reference Group met with the NDIA to help them with plans and rules for people with disability.

Update from Reference Group members

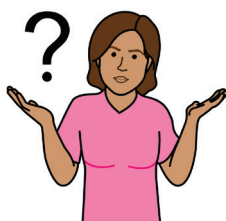


Reference Group members talked about what is happening in their communities.



Some people with disability say it is hard to

- get onto the NDIS
- do your NDIS plan
- get services you need when your plan is being reviewed.



People with disability want

- to know how and when decisions are made about their plans



- **accessible information.**

Accessible information means it is easy to read and understand.



Some people with disability say **Local Area Coordinators** need more training to help people from diverse communities.

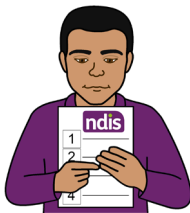


Local Area Coordinators or LACs are the people who give services and help you

- get the supports you need to have a good life



- understand and use the NDIS and other disability services in your community



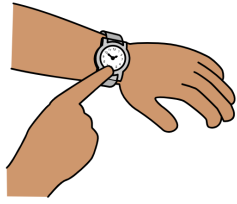
- make a NDIS plan.



The Victorian government spoke to diverse communities to review the laws and plans for people with disability.

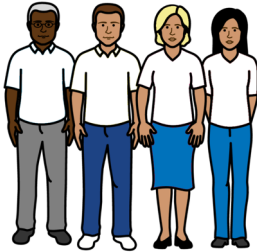


People with disability who come from diverse communities want home and living options in the NDIS that follow the rules of their culture.



Some people with disability

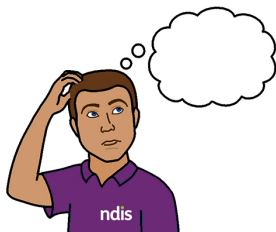
- have to wait a long time to get supports because there are **not** enough disability workers



- say that the quality of supports they get is different with each disability worker.

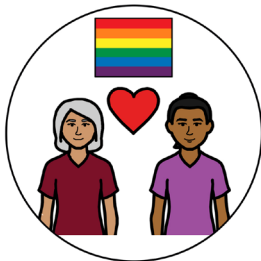


Some people with disability need help to understand the NDIS supports they can get when they are in hospital or move out of hospital.



The Reference Group wants the NDIA to learn more about

- identities and experiences of people to understand the challenges in their life



For example, someone who identifies as Aboriginal and LGBTIQ+

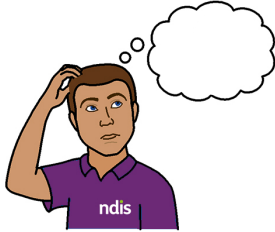


- **restrictive practices.**

Restrictive practices are ways to stop you hurting yourself or other people.



NDIS providers who give services to people with disability need to follow laws.



The laws have rules about how to think about someone's culture when you give services.



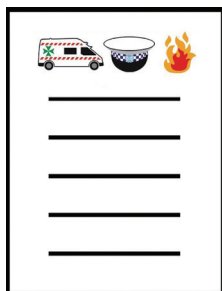
NDIS providers should also let people they care for get **advocacy** services.

Advocacy means someone who can

- tell us what you think

- fight for your rights.

Update on NDIA's plans for emergencies



The NDIA and the government have plans for what to do in an emergency.

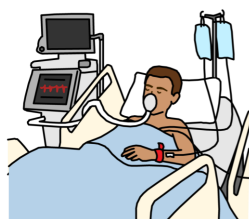


The emergency plans will include people from diverse communities.



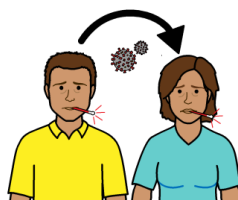
An emergency might be

- a bushfire or flood
- 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.



Reference Group members think all governments in Australia should work together to protect everyone fairly in an emergency.



This includes making sure people with disability

- get protective equipment

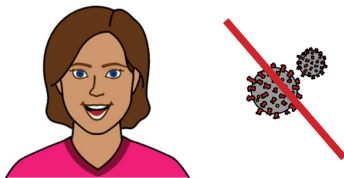
For example, face masks



- get **vaccines** they need.

A vaccine is medicine to

- protect you from a virus



- help you to **not** get sick.



Reference group members think the NDIA and governments should work with local communities and councils to manage emergencies.

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/reference-groups](https://www.ndis-iac.com.au/reference-groups)



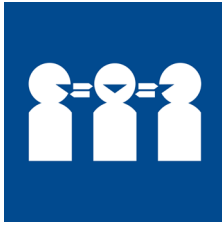
For more information about advice the Council has given go to our website.

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



To read about the last Equity and Inclusion Reference Group meeting go to our website.

[ndis-iac.com.au/s/Council-Reference-Group-Bulletin-Easy-Read-Equity-and-Inclusion-RG-Web.pdf](https://www.ndis-iac.com.au/s/Council-Reference-Group-Bulletin-Easy-Read-Equity-and-Inclusion-RG-Web.pdf)



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