

Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS

Meeting Bulletin 18 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

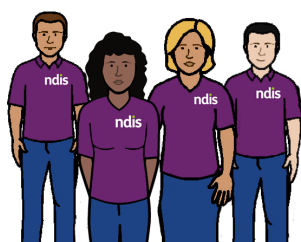


The **Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS** wrote this book.

We will call it the Council.



The Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS 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 18 October 2021.

The Council meets every month.

Who was at the meeting?



The meeting was run by Robyn Kruk who is the Council's Principal Member.



Leah Van Poppel is the Council's Deputy Chair.

Leah helped the Principal Member run the meeting.



Council's 12 members and 1 expert adviser were at the meeting.



Other people at the meeting were

- Linda Reynolds who is the Minister for the NDIS



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



- Helen Nugent who is the NDIA Board Chair



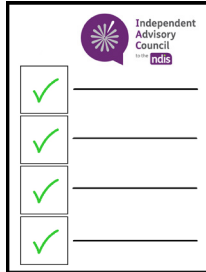
- NDIA managers



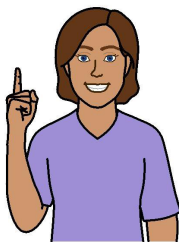
- some people from other organisations.

What happened at the meeting?

Updates from the Principal Member



The Council and its 4 **Reference Groups** are doing a lot of work to make Council's **work plan** happen.



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



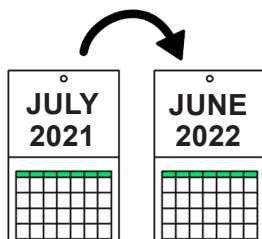
Reference Groups help

- the Council do its work
- make our advice better.



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.





The NDIA is doing work with Council and **Disability Representative Organisations**.

Disability Representative Organisations support people with disability and fight for their rights.



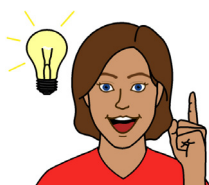
The work is about

- what they want to do together
- a **co-design advisory group**.



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.

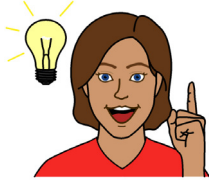


Advisory groups talk about their ideas to make something happen.

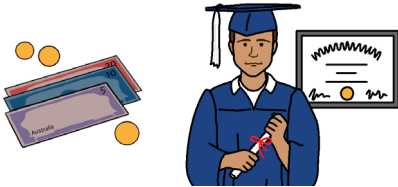


The advisory group will

- give advice to the NDIA about ways to work together to plan new services or projects



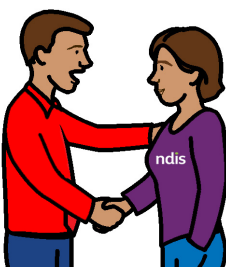
- include people who know a lot about co-design.



The NDIA has made a **scholarship** to remember Sue Salthouse.

Sue was a Council member who died in 2020.

Scholarship means we pay someone to study at university.



Each year the scholarship will go to 1 NDIA staff member with disability.

Updates from the NDIA CEO and Board Chair



The NDIA will give Council and Disability Representative Organisations more information about the money it needs to run the NDIS now and in the future.

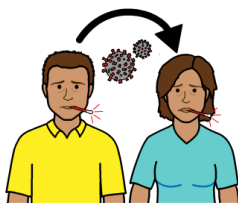


The NDIA is still doing work to help participants and providers get the supports they need during the **coronavirus pandemic**.



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.



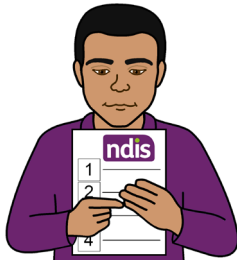
The NDIA is doing work to support people with a disability who are waiting to get out of hospital.



The NDIA has been doing work with state and territory governments to make the NDIS better.



The NDIA still wants to work with the disability community on co-design.



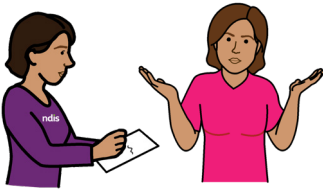
The NDIA will send out its **annual report**.

The annual report tells you about the work the NDIA has done in the past year.

Problems Council has heard about



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



Some people with disability find it hard to get supports for home and living.

Some people with disability say they have problems with NDIS supports for



- **Specialist Disability Accommodation**

- housing to help people with very high support needs do everyday things



- **Supported Independent Living**

- help with day to day tasks around your home so you can be independent



- **Individualised Living Options**

- NDIS money that helps you choose where you want to live and who you want to live with.



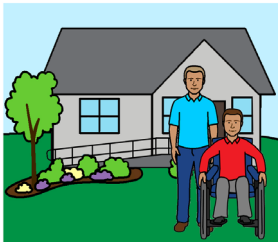
Some people have problems with **social housing**.

Social housing is a house you rent that is owned and run by the government or an organisation.



Council members said that

- young people with disability should **not** need to live in aged care homes



- people need somewhere to live while they wait for long term housing supports to be approved by the NDIS



- people need supports to make changes to their home so that it is safe and **accessible**.

Accessible means everyone can use it.

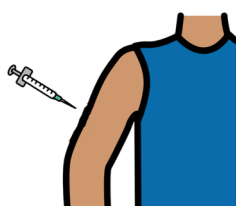


Some people with disability find it hard to get the supports they need because of the coronavirus pandemic.

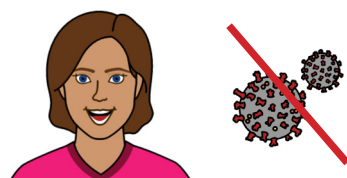


For example

- parents of young children
- people waiting to get out of hospital.



Some people are worried that not enough people with disability and disability workers have had their coronavirus **vaccination**.

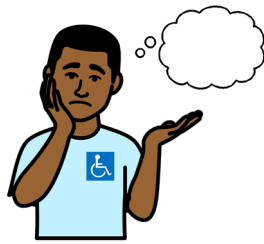


A vaccination is medicine to

- protect you from a virus
- help you to not get sick.



When you get the coronavirus vaccination it can help keep you and the community safe.



Support coordinators need to know what to do when someone they care for has coronavirus.



It would be better for people to do **telehealth** appointments with their doctor during the coronavirus pandemic.

Telehealth is when you use a phone or computer to talk with a doctor or health service from your home.

Update from the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission



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



The Quality and Safeguards Commission helps to

- make the quality of services better
- keep NDIS participants safe.

We also call it the NDIS Commission.

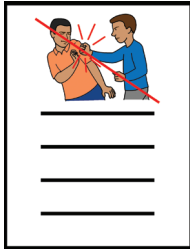


Council wants the NDIS Commission to

- work with Council members to make its reviews better

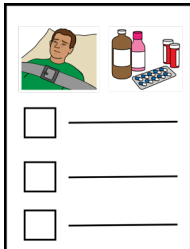


- make sure NDIS providers find better ways to help participants



- review **Behaviour Support Plans**.

Behaviour Support Plans say how to support people if their behaviour hurts them or others.



Council also wants the NDIS Commission to review the use of **restrictive practices**.



Restrictive practices are ways to quickly stop someone from hurting themselves or others.



Council members said people with disability should have training from people they know to learn about what keeps them safe.



Some people are worried about the use of medicine to manage **behaviours of concern**.



Behaviours of concern are actions that might **not** be safe. For example, if a person hurts someone.



Some people are worried they **cannot** get NDIS services because they live in areas where there are **not** enough disability services or providers.

For example, they live far away from big cities, where most NDIS services are.



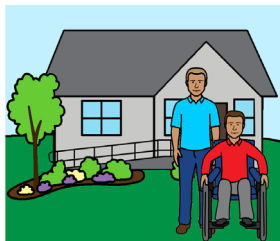
This is happening in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.



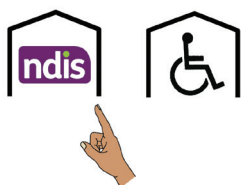
Some people are worried that some NDIS providers who help children and young people do **not** give good and safe supports that help a child develop.

Updates from the Minister

The Minister said that the Government's work will make sure



- home and living supports in the NDIS get better



- there are a lot of NDIS supports and services to choose from



- there are enough disability workers in areas that are far away from big cities



- **Parliament** says yes to changes to NDIS laws.

Parliament makes decisions about Australian laws.



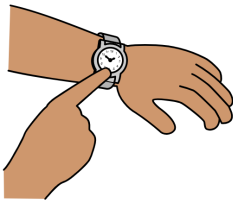
The Minister thanked Council for their

- advice on ways to make the NDIS better

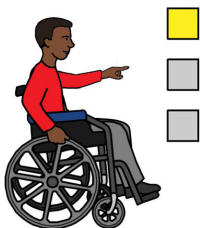


- work with the NDIA and Disability Representative Organisations on co-design.

What Council told the Minister



The government should have taken more time to tell people about changes to the NDIS laws.



NDIS participants should have choice and control to manage their own plans.



Co-design is important for the disability community and state and territory governments.



The **Information, Linkages and Capacity Building** program is important to help people who **cannot** get supports from the NDIS.



Information, Linkages and Capacity Building 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.



ILC can also help people with disability

- be more independent
- meet other people and make friends
- find work and earn money
- live an ordinary life.



More information



The next meeting is on **22 November 2021**.

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



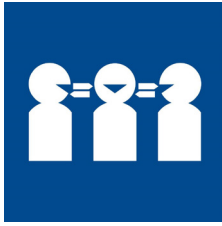
Learn more about the work plan at

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



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

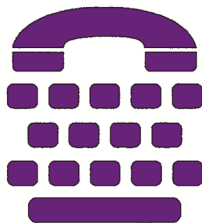
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