

Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS

Equity and Inclusion Reference Group

Meeting Bulletin 18 May 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

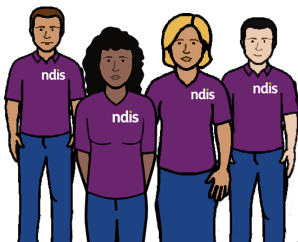


The **Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS** wrote this book.

We will call it the Council.



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



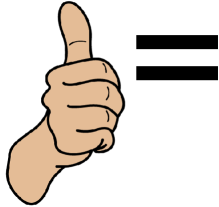
The National Disability Insurance Agency or NDIA manages the **National Disability Insurance Scheme**.



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



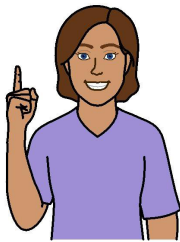
This book tells you about what happened at the **Equity and Inclusion Reference Group** meeting.



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.

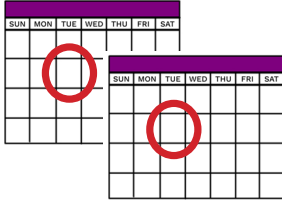


This group gives advice about ways the NDIS can

- be fair and clear for all participants



- include people from different backgrounds.



The Reference Group meets 2 times each year.



This book tells you what happened at our meeting on 18 May 2022.

Who was at the meeting?



Leah Van Poppel is the Reference Group **Chair**.

A Chair means someone who can run the meeting.

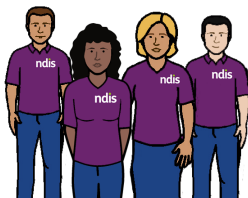


Jennifer Cullen is the Reference Group **Co-chair**, who helps Leah run the Reference Group meeting.



Also at the meeting were

- Reference Group members



- NDIA managers and other staff.

What happened at the meeting?

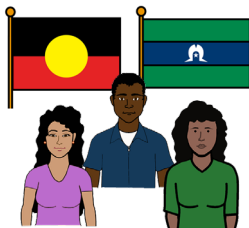
Update from the Reference Group Chair

Council and the Reference Group 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.

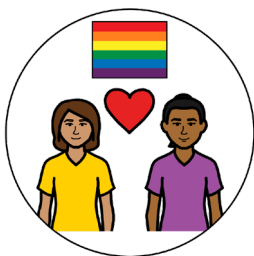
The advice is about ways the NDIA can make it fairer for people from **diverse communities** to access the NDIS. For example



- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people



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



- **LGBTIQA+** communities.

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

Update from Reference Group members

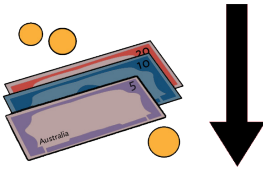


Reference Group members talked about what happens in their communities.

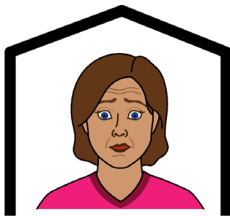


Some members hear that people

- have problems when they do NDIS plan reviews

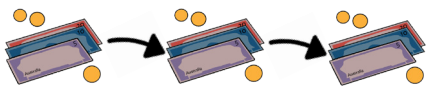


- have less money for supports in their plans.

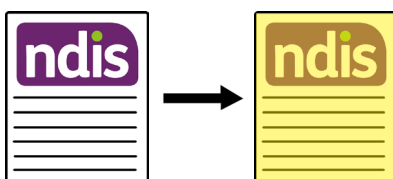


Sometimes when a plan is reviewed people wait for supports in places that are **not** safe.

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.

People say they have less supports for **Supported Independent Living.**



Supported Independent Living means help with day to day tasks around your home so you can be independent.

People say they have less supports for **Specialist Disability Accommodation.**

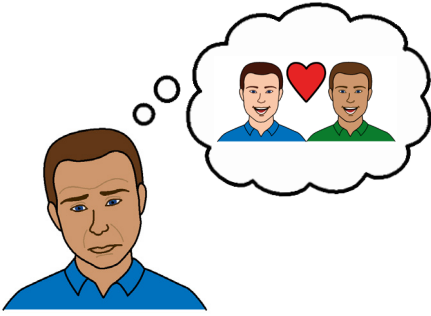


Specialist Disability Accommodation is housing to help people with very high support needs do everyday things.

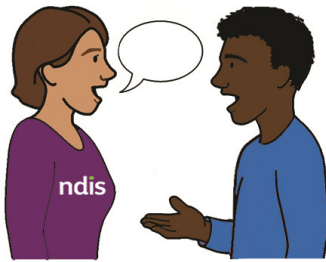
People with supports for Specialist Disability Accommodation say the NDIS needs to do what it agreed

- with governments
- about some people getting the same supports they got before the NDIS started.





Some people who get supports in group homes might have problems with people they live with if they say they are LGBTIQA+.



There are problems with how some plan managers fund supports. For example, the NDIA tells plan managers to stop supports that are **not** part of the plan goals.



Some people from diverse communities need help from a plan manager because

- they do **not** know how to manage a plan



- the NDIS is hard to access.

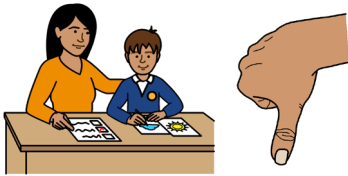


There are problems with

- how the NDIA and planners decide about plans

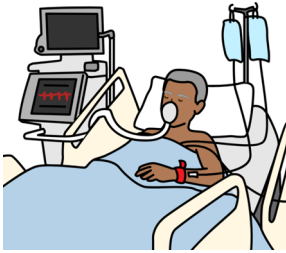


- how the NDIA shares information with participants when they take money out of plans.

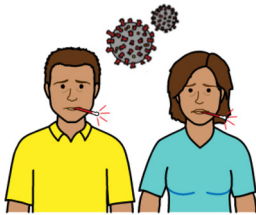


Lots of families find it hard to get supports for their child at school.

Some people in **palliative care** want to learn more about NDIS supports they can get.

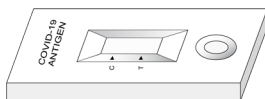


Palliative care is health care for people who are sick and at the end of their life.



Some people

- worry about what supports they will get if they get coronavirus



- say it is hard to get tests that tell if you have coronavirus.



Some people get wrong information that they must leave that NDIS when they are 65 years old.

The Disability **Royal Commission** should give information that is easy to understand.



Royal Commission means the government made a group to find out about an important problem.

Some states give people with intellectual disability supports to get **advocacy** in the justice system.

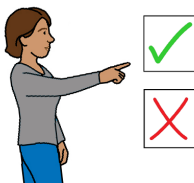


Advocacy means a person to help you

- understand information



- say what you want



- make decisions.

NDIA work on better plans for inclusion

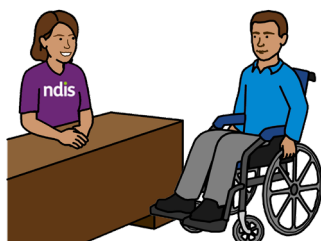


The NDIA is doing work to make better plans for

- diverse communities
- people who live far away from big cities.



The NDIA wants to hear what Reference Group members think about its work.



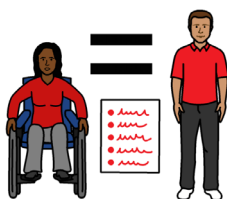
Reference Group members said

- NDIA staff should get training from people with disability
- some people from diverse communities will **not** help the NDIA with its plans because they worry about **discrimination**.



Discrimination is when someone does **not** treat you fairly.

Reference Group members said the NDIA should think about



- discrimination



- how different parts of a person's life work together to make things easier or harder



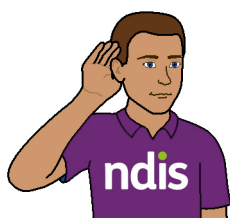
- what problems diverse communities have to get supports they need



- why government **policies** have **not** helped Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



Policies are plans and rules for how to do things.



Reference Group members said the NDIA should

- hear from many different people



- ask NDIA staff from diverse groups to help make the plan happen the right way.

Update on NDIA co-design work

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



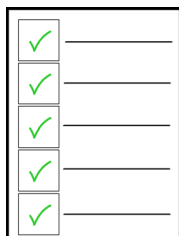
Co-design means to work together to reach a goal.

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.

Reference Group members said co-design projects should be fair for everyone.



Co-design projects should include people

- from diverse communities

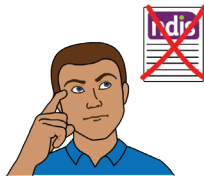


- who live far away from big cities.



Members said the NDIA should work with

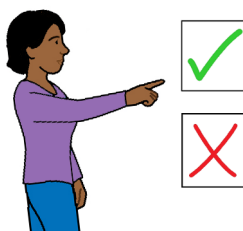
- many different groups, for example youth advocacy groups



- people who can **not** access the NDIS



- community leaders.

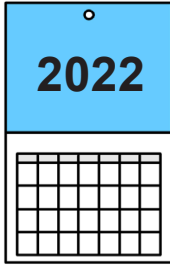


The NDIA should let people from diverse communities lead the co-design work.



The NDIA should make information about its plans for people who do **not** speak English.

More information



The next meeting will happen later 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)



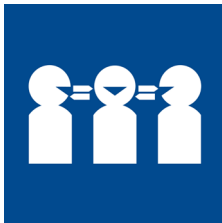
For more information about advice the Council
has given go to our website.

[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

[ndis-iac.com.au/s/Bulletin-Easy-Read-Council-Equity-and-Inclusion-Reference-Group-Meeting-6-December-2021-web.pdf](https://www.ndis-iac.com.au/s/Bulletin-Easy-Read-Council-Equity-and-Inclusion-Reference-Group-Meeting-6-December-2021-web.pdf)



If you need help with English

Telephone Interpreting Service.

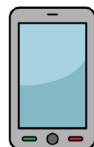
Call 131 450



If you need help to speak or listen

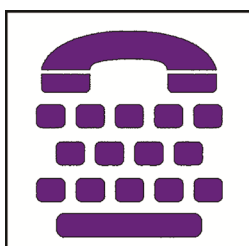
Use the National Relay Service.

nrschat.nrscall.gov.au/nrs/internetrelay



Call 1300 555 727

Give the relay officer the 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 June 2022 using Picture Communication Symbols ©1981–2021 by Tobii Dynavox. All Rights Reserved Worldwide. Boardmaker® is a trademark of Tobii Dynavox. 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