

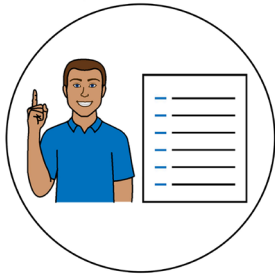
Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS

Home and Living Reference Group

Meeting Bulletin 17 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

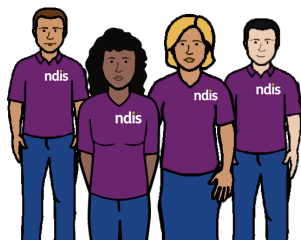


The **Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS** wrote this book.

We will call it the Council.



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



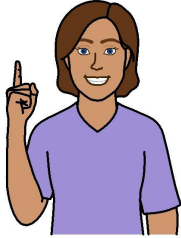
The National Disability Insurance Agency or NDIA manages the **National Disability Insurance Scheme**.



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



This book tells you about what happened at the Home and Living **Reference Group** meeting.



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



This group gives advice about ways the NDIS can help people get the supports they need

- in their homes
- to live independently



- to choose where and who they live with
- to be included in their community.



The Reference Group

- helps make Council's advice better
- meets 4 times each year.



This book tells you what happened at our meeting on 17 May 2022.

Who was at the meeting?



Leah Van Poppel is

- the Principal Member of Council



- the Reference Group **Chair**.

A Chair means someone who can run the meeting.

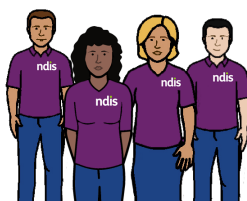


Dr Leighton Jay is the Reference Group **Co-chair**, who helps Leah run the Reference Group meeting.



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 a lot of work since October 2021
- want to know ways the NDIA can give participants more choice and control over NDIS supports.



Council is helping the NDIA

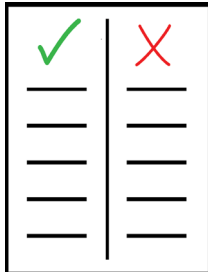
- work to make the NDIS better
- **co-design** projects with the disability community.



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

Update on NDIA co-design work

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



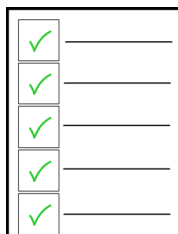
Policies are plans and rules for how to do things.

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.

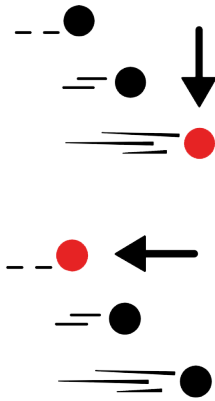


Steering committees make sure projects happen properly.



Members said co-design projects should

- include people from the start
- include many different people
- include the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission.



Projects should **not** happen

- too fast
- too slow.



Over time projects can change and include different people.

Co-design projects need to be done right so the community will trust them.

Update from Reference Group members



Reference Group members talked about what happens in their communities.

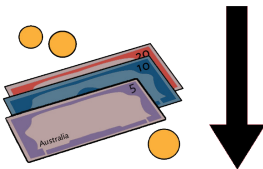


There are problems with funding for home and living supports in NDIS plans.



Some members hear that people

- have problems when they do plan reviews



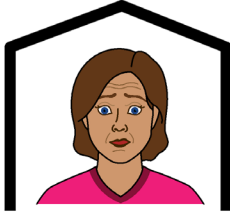
- have less money for supports in their plans.



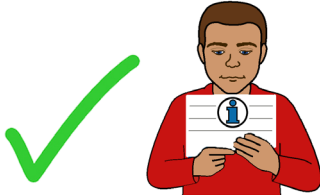
When the Home and Living Panel reviews a plan, sometimes the NDIA reduces supports because they say the participant has not given enough proof.



The NDIA should use different ways to get proof. For example, video from participants that show their daily support needs.



While people wait for supports they sometimes have to live in places that are **not** safe.



Some people want information that is easy to understand about NDIS home and living supports.

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 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 **Individualised Living Options.**

Individualised Living Options means NDIS money that helps you choose

- where you want to live

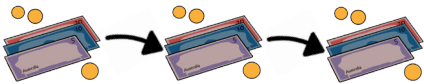


- who you want to live with.

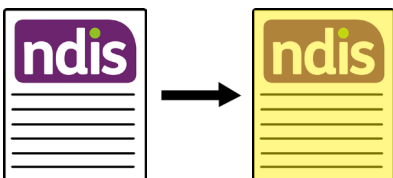


People say if the NDIA takes money out of bigger plans they should

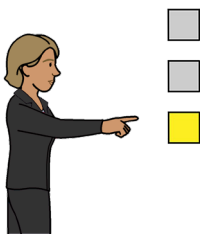
- take the money out slowly over time



- tell people when the plan will change.



There are problems with how planners decide about plans.



Planners need training to talk about home and living supports with participants.





Some people can **not** find the right Specialist Disability Accommodation near them. For example, with the right safety or assistive technology.



Some people with guide dogs are told they can get supports for Specialist Disability Accommodation, but **not** for Supported Independent Living.

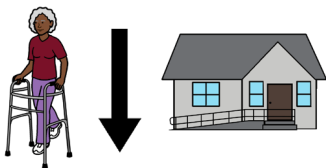


People say that providers should

- make sure they can support participants



- only make participants pay for services they got.



People who are over 65 years old say they get less options for housing.

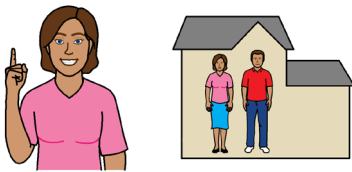


People who tell the NDIS what they think online say they wait a long time to hear back.

Choice and control for participants

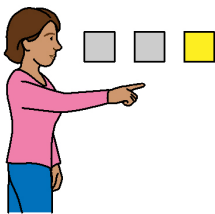


The NDIA is doing work to make sure participants get more choice and control. For example, having a say about the home and living supports they get.

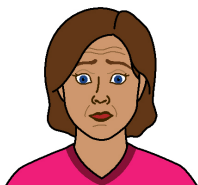


Members said participants

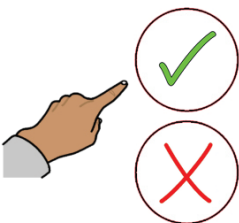
- want to understand what the job of the provider is in shared accommodation



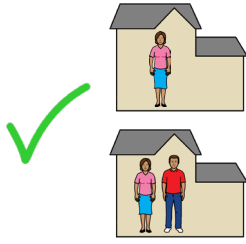
- want to choose different ways to use supports



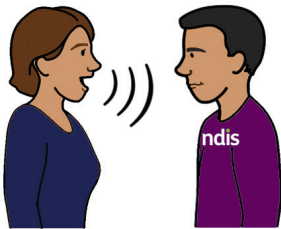
- might be scared to talk to about how providers give supports if the provider is there



- want providers to know they can make decisions about their own lives.



People who get supports for Supported Independent Living should have the same choices if they share or live alone.



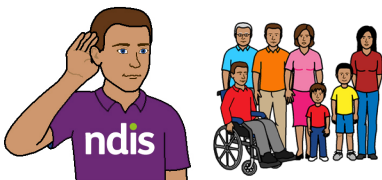
The NDIA should use real examples to make their work better. For example, when participants and providers work well together.



Members said service agreements should be in plain English.



People who speak English as a second language might **not** like it when NDIA documents say they are plain English.



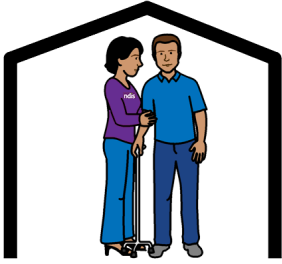
The NDIA should

- listen to what participants and families say about home and living supports they need



- **not** just listen to what the provider says.

NDIA work on new home and living information

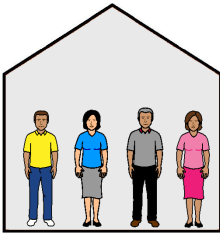


The NDIA are doing work on information about the home and living supports they fund.



Members said the information should

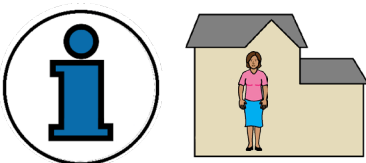
- show how the NDIA decides about funding



- help people think about different home and living supports, **not** just group homes



- include a link to what the United Nations says about the rights of people with disability.



Members said the NDIA should also make information about ways to live alone.

More information



The next meeting will happen by September 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)



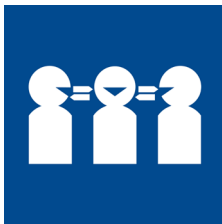
For more information about advice the Council has
given go to our website.

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



To read about the last Home and Living Reference Group meeting go to

[ndis-iac.com.au/s/Council-Bulletin-Easy-Read-Home-and-Living-Reference-Group-Web-accessible-2021-10-20.pdf](https://www.ndis-iac.com.au/s/Council-Bulletin-Easy-Read-Home-and-Living-Reference-Group-Web-accessible-2021-10-20.pdf)



If you need help with English

Telephone Interpreting Service.

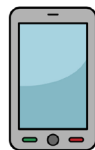
Call 131 450



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



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