



**Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS**

**Intellectual Disability Reference Group**

**Meeting Bulletin 17 May 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

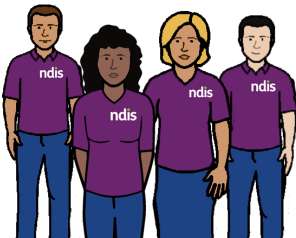


The **Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS** wrote this book.

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 **Intellectual Disability Reference Group** meeting.



The Reference Group gives advice to Council about ways the NDIS can help people with

**intellectual disability**

- live a life like everyone else



- be included in the community



- make their own decisions.

Intellectual disability is a disability that might affect how well you can

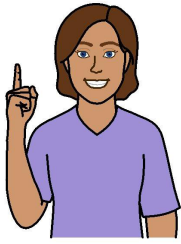


- think and learn

- feel and communicate



- connect and deal with others.



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



Reference Groups help

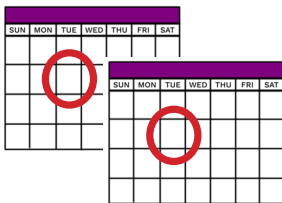
- the Council do its work

and



- make our advice better.

This book tells you what happened at our meeting on 17 May 2021.



The Reference Group meets 3 times each year.

## Who was at the meeting?



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

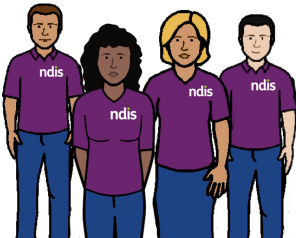
- Robyn Kruk
- Leah Van Poppel.

A Chair means someone who can run the meeting.



Also at the meeting were

- Reference Group members



- NDIA managers.

The Reference Group talked about things the NDIA is working on.



The Chairs and NDIA managers

- told the group about the work they do
- asked the group for feedback.

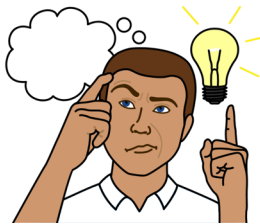
# What happened at the meeting?

## Update from the Reference Group Chairs

The Reference Group will help Council with its advice and



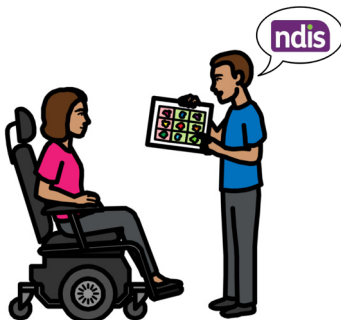
- tell us what happens in their communities



- help Council and the NDIA work out the issues for people with intellectual disability



- find ways to make NDIS supports better for people with intellectual disability.



The Reference Group will make sure people who know about the needs of people with intellectual disability tell us what they think about the NDIS.

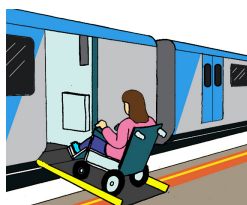
## Update from Reference Group members



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



People are worried about **Independent Assessments** for people with intellectual disability.

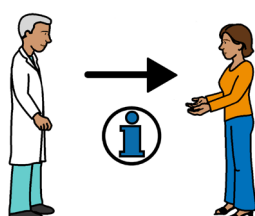


Independent Assessments are the way the NDIA wants to work out

- how your disability affects your life



- what supports you need from the NDIS.



The assessments are independent because they are done by someone who

- does **not** already know you



- is **not** the healthcare professional you usually see.





Some people with intellectual disability

- do **not** understand how Independent Assessments will work



- do **not** want to talk about their disability many times to say why they need supports



- think that **Assessors** should do more training
  - Assessors say what supports you will get in your NDIS plan



- feel they have **not** been told what the Independent Assessment **pilot** is about
  - a pilot means a test to see if a program works well



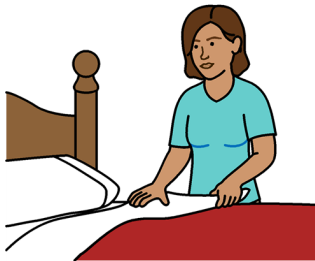
- are worried they will lose money from their plans.



Some people with intellectual disability said they did **not** have enough safe and easy access to

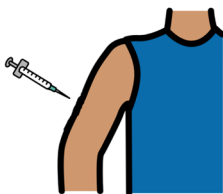
- **Specialist Disability Accommodation**

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

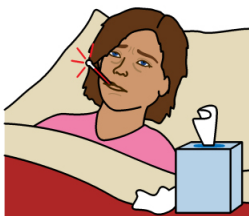


- **Supported Independent Living**

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

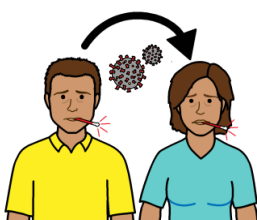


Some people living in disability accommodation have **not** got their **Coronavirus vaccine**.

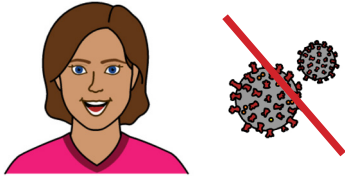


Coronavirus

- can make people very sick



- is spread when you are close to someone else who has Coronavirus.



A vaccine is medicine to

- protect you from a virus like Coronavirus
- help you stay well.



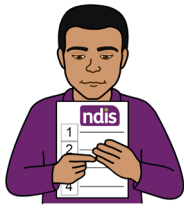
The Reference Group said they want to help people with intellectual disability

- understand the supports they can get when they move out of hospital or jail



- know the ways they can tell the NDIS they are **not** happy with their supports.

## NDIA work for intellectual disability

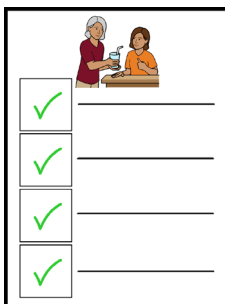


The NDIA is doing work on a

### **Support for Decision Making Consultation report.**



The Support for Decision Making report will ask for ideas to help people with disability make their own decisions.



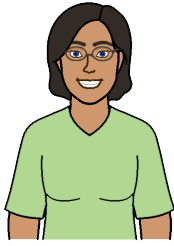
The NDIA is making

### **Participant Decision Guides.**

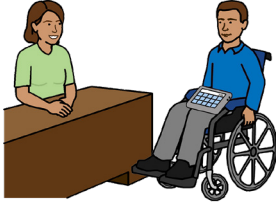
Participant Decision guides will give people with a disability information about supports they can use.



The NDIA is doing work to see how Independent Assessments could work for people with intellectual disability.

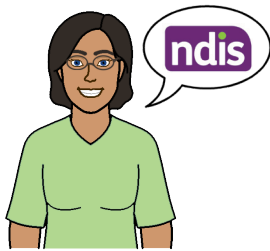


The Council has an **independent consultant** that writes their advice.



An independent consultant is someone who

- helps us do our work
- is **not** part of the Council or the NDIA.



The independent consultant told us that the NDIA should work with other government organisations on the **Information, Linkages and Capacity Building program**.

The Information, Linkages and Capacity Building program helps people with disability



- be more independent
- meet other people and make friends



- find work and earn money
- live an ordinary life.

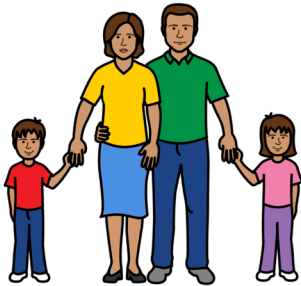


Reference Group members said people with intellectual disability should

- have more say in the NDIS and their own lives



- know the supports they need and what good support looks like

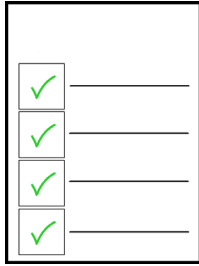


- have family and friends around them who trust decisions they make about their life



- get information about the NDIS that they can understand.

For example, plain English, Easy Read or videos.



## Reference Group plan

The Reference Group will make a plan with the most important work it will do over the next 2 years to



- fix the issues for people with intellectual disability in the NDIS



- make sure people with intellectual disability have the support they need make their own decisions.



The Reference Group will tell everyone about its plan soon.

## More information



The next meeting will happen later this year.

For more information contact the  
Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS.



Website [www.ndis-iac.com.au](http://www.ndis-iac.com.au)



Email [advisorycouncil@ndis.gov.au](mailto:advisorycouncil@ndis.gov.au)



Call 1800 800 110



For more information about the Council Reference  
Groups go to our website.

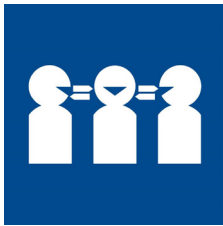
[www.ndis-iac.com.au/referencegroups](http://www.ndis-iac.com.au/referencegroups)





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

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

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