# Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS

# Children, Young People and Families Group Meeting Bulletin from 14 May 2021

Easy Read 2021  
This is the text-only version of the Easy Read document.

This book has some hard words.

Hard words will be marked with a star on both sides of the word.

We will write what the hard word means.

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 about what happened at the Children, Young People and Families \*Reference Group\* meeting.

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 Reference Group gives Council advice about ways the NDIS can help children and young people with disabilities

* do things for themselves
* be included in the community.

This book tells you what happened at our meeting on 14 May 2021.

The Reference Group meets 2 times each year.

# Who was at the meeting?

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

* Sylvana Mahmic

and

* Liz Reid.

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 Reference Group Chairs and NDIA managers spoke at the meeting to

* tell the us about the work they do

and

* ask for our feedback.

# What happened at the meeting?

Update from the Reference Group Chairs

The Reference Group will help the Council with its advice and

* tell us what happens in their communities
* help Council and the NDIA achieve the goals for children and young people with disability
* find ways to make NDIS supports better for children and young people with disability and their families.

The Reference Group will make sure that people who know about the needs of children and young people with disability and their families tell us what they think about the NDIS.

Update from Reference Group members

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

Families with children with disability find it hard to

* get into the NDIS
* understand the ways the NDIS can help them even after   
  they get in
* get NDIS supports and services
  + in rural and remote areas
  + if they come from different cultures and speak languages other than English
  + when children go to school
  + if they are deaf or hard of hearing.

NDIS funding for children seems to be given out   
**without** thinking about

* what is reasonable and necessary

and

* choice and control.

The Reference Group said families with children with disabilities have less trust in the NDIS.

Some families

* do **not** understand the supports the NDIS says they should give their children to be independent
* say the NDIS does **not** help children with disabilities that are less well known
* have to often say why the supports are needed for their children.

Some families are worried about \*Independent Assessments\*   
for their children.

Independent Assessments are the way the NDIA wants to work out

* how your disability affects your life

and

* what supports you need from the NDIS.

The assessments are independent because they are done   
by someone who

* does **not** already know you

and

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

NDIA’s work for children and young people

The NDIA is doing work on ways to support   
\*Early Childhood Early Intervention\*.

Early Childhood Early Intervention means how the NDIS   
helps children in Australia with disability or \*developmental delay\*   
from 0 to 6 years old.

Developmental delay means a child finds it harder to do everyday things that other children their age do. For example, dress themselves.

The NDIS is also doing work on ways to support children with \*Autism\*.

Autism is a disability that might affect how you can

* think
* feel
* communicate
* connect and deal with others.

The NDIA needs to work with

* all Australian Governments to make sure the NDIS fits into a child’s life
* the education system to make sure children are included in their schools and communities so that they can get jobs in the future.

The NDIA needs to think about

* reasons why families and children with disability find it hard to get the services they need
* the rights of people with disability when it does its work.

The Council has an \*independent consultant\* that writes   
the Council’s 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 about the advice Council has written about children.

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 children, young people and their families   
  in the NDIS

and

* make sure children have the supports they need for   
  their development.

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

Email 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.

[nrschat.nrscall.gov.au/nrs/internetrelay](http://www.nrschat.nrscall.gov.au/nrs/internetrelay)

Call 1300 555 727

Give the relay officer the phone number you want to call.

TTY.

Call 1800 555 677

# Acknowledgements

Scope’s Communication and Inclusion Resource Centre wrote  
the Easy English in July 2021, [www.scopeaust.org.au](http://www.scopeaust.org.au).  
To see the original contact the Independent Advisory Council to   
the NDIS.