

## Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS

### Children, Young People and Families Reference Group

Meeting Bulletin 9 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

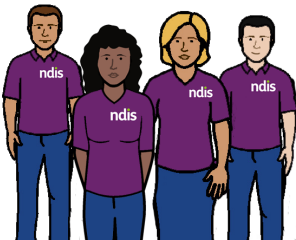


The **Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS** wrote this book.

We will call it the Council.



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



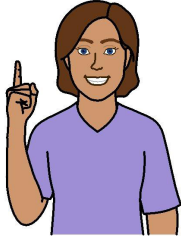
The National Disability Insurance Agency or NDIA manages the **National Disability Insurance Scheme**.



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.



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

- do things for themselves

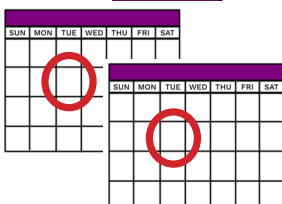


- be included in the community.



The Reference Group

- helps make Council's advice better



- meets 2 times each year.



This book tells you what happened at our meeting on 9 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.

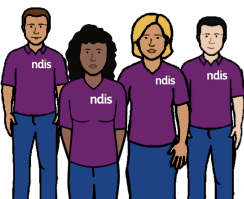


Sylvana Mahmic is the Reference Group **Co-chair**, who helps Leah run the Reference Group meeting.



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.



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 from Reference Group members



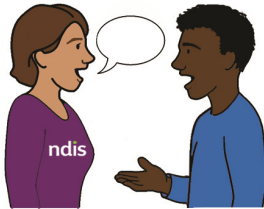
Reference Group members talked about what happens in their communities.

Some members say they are hearing the same problems they reported at the last meeting.

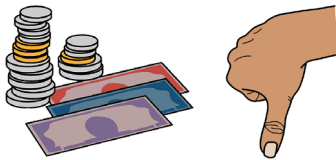


There are problems with

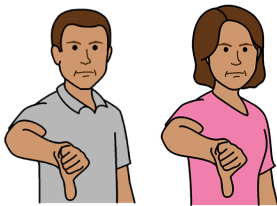
- how the NDIA and planners decide about plans



- the NDIA telling people to do too many functional capacity assessments for their child.

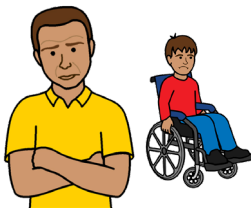


There are problems with funding in NDIS plans. For example, funding for positive behaviour supports.



Some families

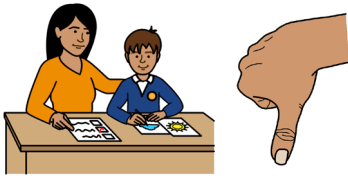
- are tired of the NDIS planning process



- experience mental health issues because they find it hard to support their child



- worry that taking money out of plans will affect their child's development.



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

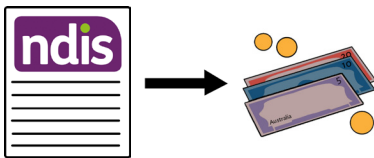


When the NDIA decides supports they should look at what help a family already has.



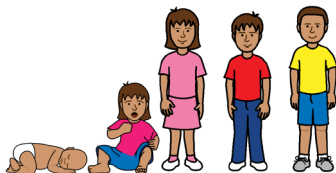
The NDIA should share information about

- how they make decisions about plans

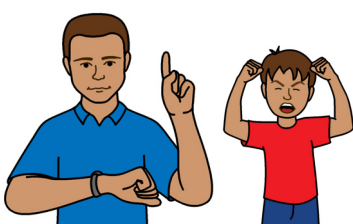


- taking money out of plans.

Some people wait a long time to get **early childhood intervention**.

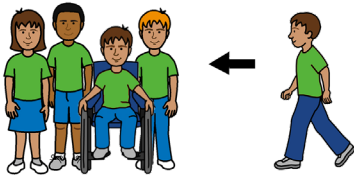


Early childhood intervention means how the NDIS helps children in Australia with disability from 0 to 6 years old.



It can affect a child's development if they wait a long time for early childhood intervention.





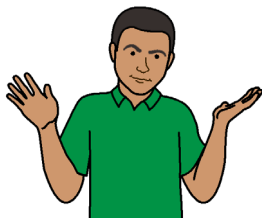
People need to learn why community supports and inclusion are good for a child's development.



Children and young people should be able to say what supports they want, **not** have their parents say for them.



Young people want to vote in the election but can **not** get information that is easy to understand.



Some specialists who give support to children and young people

- do **not** know the best ways to help NDIS participants

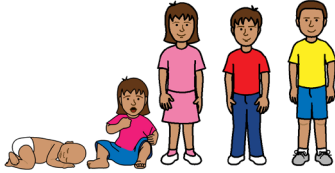


- need training about the NDIS.



The community should understand the NDIS laws say what early childhood support services the NDIA can give.

## NDIA work on early childhood



The NDIA is doing work about the best ways to support

- children aged 0 to 6 years old

- **autistic people.**

Autistic people have a disability that might affect how they can



- think and feel

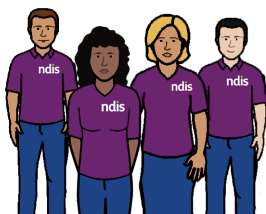


- communicate

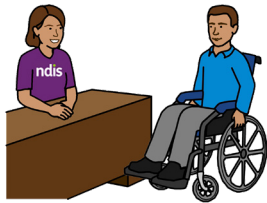
- connect and deal with others.



The NDIA wants to hear what Reference Group members think about the NDIA's work.



Reference Group members told the NDIA that work on early childhood needs strong leadership and trust.



Reference Group members said work on early childhood should

- be co-designed with the disability community
- teach families the best ways to support their child



- think about ways to include children in their community.

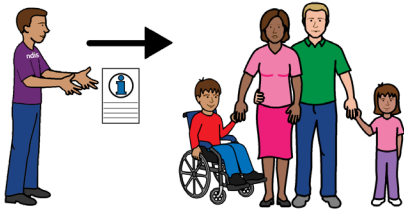


Reference Group members said the NDIA should

- teach families skills to support their child's development in their early years



- focus on outcomes more than how many support services there are.



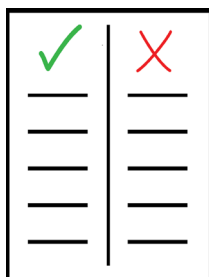
Some families need information on ways to make decisions that support their child's development.



Reference Group members said the NDIA and governments should work together on provider standards.

## Update on NDIA co-design work

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



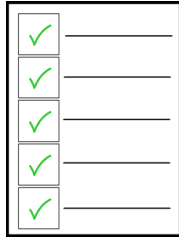
Policies are plans and rules for how to do things.

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.

The NDIA will tell Council and Reference Group members



- what happened at each steering committee meeting

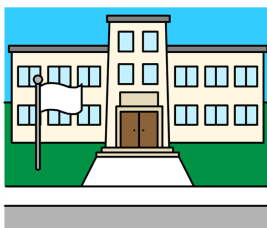


- what co-design work the NDIA will do.

Reference Group members said co-design projects should include



- children and young people



- schools and governments all over Australia.



Co-design projects should listen to what children and young people need

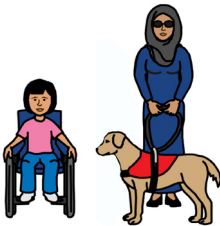
- from the NDIS



- for their future



- to be safe.



The NDIA should use ideas for communicating from

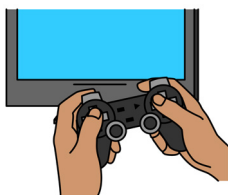
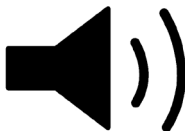
- children and young people with disability



- children who do not use speech to communicate.

The NDIA should think about new ways to communicate. For example

- photo voice



- games-based technology.



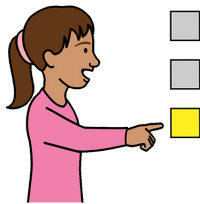
The NDIA should also make accessible information.

For example

- Easy Read



- Auslan.



Children and young people with disability should get support to learn how to make their own decisions.

Parents and families should talk about their child's skills to help them be **independent**.



Independent means the child can do things on their own.

## 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](mailto:advisorycouncil@ndis.gov.au)



Call 1800 800 110



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

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



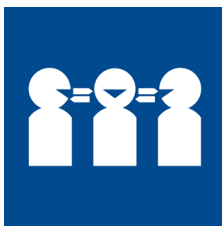
For more information about advice the Council  
has given go to our website.

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





To read about the last Children, Young People and Families Reference Group meeting go to [ndis-iac.com.au/s/Bulletin-Council-Children-Young-People-and-Families-Reference-Group-Bulletin-Easy-Read-Web-accessibl.pdf](https://www.ndis-iac.com.au/s/Bulletin-Council-Children-Young-People-and-Families-Reference-Group-Bulletin-Easy-Read-Web-accessibl.pdf)



### **If you need help with English**

Telephone Interpreting Service.

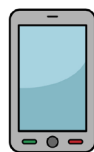
Call 131 450



### **If you need help to speak or listen**

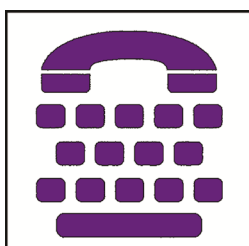
Use the National Relay Service.

[nrschat.nrscall.gov.au/nrs/internetrelay](https://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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