

Home and Living Reference Group

An Easy Read meeting bulletin

29 August 2022



How to use this bulletin



A **bulletin** is an important news item we share with the community.

It explains what we did in our last meeting.

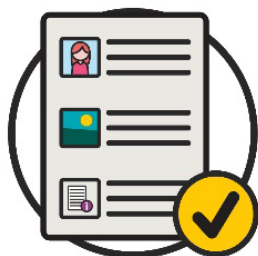


The Independent Advisory Council gives advice about ways to make the NDIS better.



The Council wrote this bulletin.

When you see the word 'we', it means the Council.



We wrote this bulletin in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold

We wrote some important words in **bold**.

Not bold

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these bold words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 23.



This Easy Read bulletin is a summary of another bulletin.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other bulletin on our website.

www.ndis-iac.com.au/meetings



You can ask for help to read our bulletin.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

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What is this Reference Group about?



A **Reference Group** is a group of people who give us advice about a certain topic.



This Reference Group is about home and living supports.

The Reference Group gives advice to the Council about how people with disability can:



- live on their own



- choose where they want to live



- do things for themselves in their home



- take part in their community.

A message from the Reference Group Co-chair



Dr Leighton Jay is the Reference Group Co-chair.

This means he helps run the Reference Group.

Leighton shared that the experiences of the Reference Group members help them give advice to:



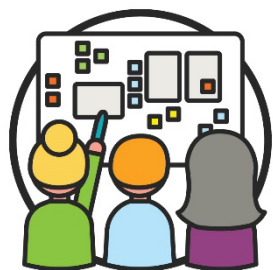
- the Council



- the NDIA.



He said this was an important part of the NDIA's **co-design** work.



Co-design is when people work together to plan something new.

The NDIA's co-design work



The Reference Group got new information about different co-design projects.

These included co-design projects for:



- support for decision making



- home and living



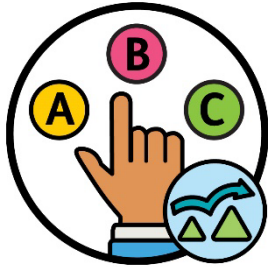
- keeping **participants** safe.



Participants are people with disability who take part in the NDIS.



The Reference Group shared that it's important to work with participants who need extra support.



This can help us understand the challenges they face when they:

- make decisions
- get support to make decisions.



The Reference Group also shared that co-design is important when the NDIA makes **policies**.



A policy is a plan for how to do things.

A policy is where rules come from.



The Reference Group talked about the Australian Guardianship and Administration Council's Conference.



This meeting is about supporting people who can't make their own decisions.



They shared that this meeting can help the NDIA with their work on support for decision making.



The Reference Group also shared that it's important we work with **culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)** communities.



CALD people:

- come from different backgrounds
- speak a language other than English.



This will help us understand how CALD participants make decisions about:

- who they live with
- where they want to live.



The Reference Group shared that participants should have support to understand their home and living choices.

Our reports



Our Reference Group connect with the community to find out about issues that affect them.



Our Reference Group Members shared these issues with the NDIA.

NDIS services and supports



Some participants couldn't get their **assistive technology** quickly when they asked for it.



Assistive technology might be an aid or piece of equipment.

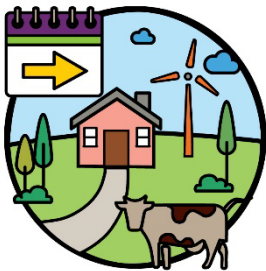
It can:



- make it easier to do things, including in your home



- keep you safe.



Some participants who live far from big cities and towns had to wait longer for assistive technology.



It takes a long time for participants to leave hospital when they're ready.



All governments should work together to fix this problem.

Home and living supports



Individualised Living Options (ILO) is a way of setting up the support you want at home.



Some participants and NDIA staff are confused about ILO.

And not everyone understands ILO the same way.

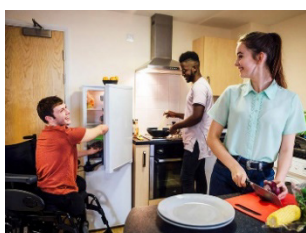


Some NDIA staff also used ILO as a new choice for **Supported Independent Living (SIL)**.



SIL is help with day-to-day tasks around your home so you can:

- do things for yourself
- learn new skills.



When someone lives in **shared accommodation**, they live in a home with other people.



Some participants are forced to live in shared accommodation.



This includes participants who want to live on their own.



The report explained that this happens a lot in the Northern Territory.



Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA)

is a NDIS support.

It's housing for participants who need extra support most of the time.



Participants get asked if they want SDA when they don't:

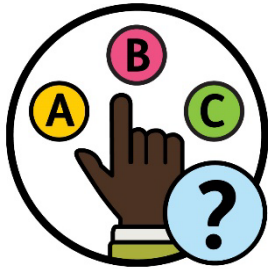
- need it
- want it.



This means participants who do need SDA might not be able to get it.



The NDIA Home and Living Panel make decisions about home and living supports.



The Panel isn't clear about how they make decisions.



For example, the Panel might decide to not give a participant the supports they asked for. But they don't explain why they did it.

NDIS plans



Funding is the money from your plan that pays for the supports and services you need.



Some participants are getting less funding. But they don't have information about why it happened.

Updates on our home and living projects

Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) pricing



The NDIA want to check how much SDA costs.

As part of this, they might change how much SDA costs.



The Reference Group shared that they don't think there's enough time to check how much SDA costs.



They also shared that it's important the people who check it understand what people with disability need.

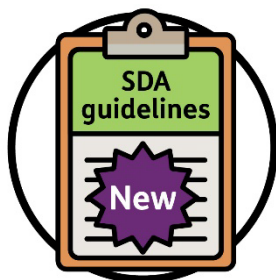


The Reference Group said we should call SDA 'NDIS funded housing'.



Some people think the word 'accommodation' means people are forced to stay in SDA.

SDA guidelines

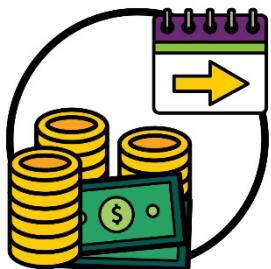


The Reference Group had an update about the new SDA guidelines.



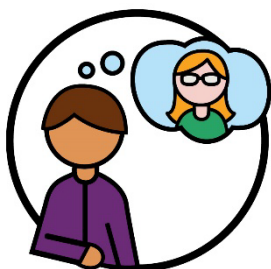
This is a document that explains:

- what SDA is
- how it works.



They were happy that SDA is a support that gets funding for a long time.

This means the NDIA doesn't need to check if participants can keep having SDA each time they check the rest of their plan.



The Reference Group shared that the NDIA should think about a participant's life when they make decisions about home and living supports.



They also shared that the NDIA should support participants to work out what home and living supports would be best for them.



The Reference Group explained challenges with how much SDA costs.



They also shared that some people who build SDA buildings don't follow the right rules.

Checking how Individualised Living Options (ILO) works



The Reference Group got more information about how the NDIA is making ILO better.



They shared that lots of people were confused about the different home and living supports.

This includes ILO, SDA and SIL.



The Reference Group shared that they support the ideas for ILO.



But there are lots of rules in the ILO guidelines. This can make it harder for participants to understand and use ILO.



The Reference Group said the NDIA should let participants find out about other home and living supports.

For example, supports that aren't part of ILO.



This can help the NDIS and the community create new home and living supports.

Reviewing the NDIS

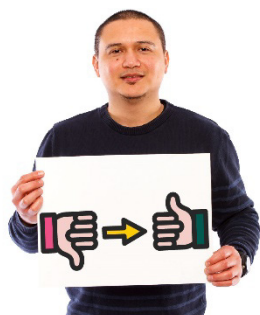


The government wants to **review** the NDIS to check how well it supports participants.

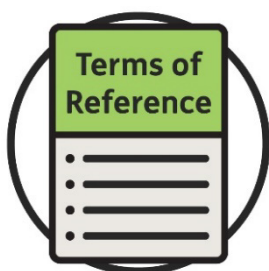
When the government reviews something, they check to see what:



- works well



- can be better.



The Reference Group explained that the government needs to share the **terms of reference** they will use.

The terms of reference is a list of things the NDIA want to focus on.



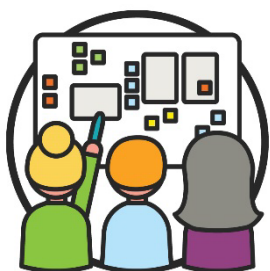
This will help the Reference Group understand what the parts of the NDIS the government will review.



They also shared they want to take part in reviewing the NDIS.



The Reference Group shared that this is a good chance for the community to share new ideas.



They also told us the government should include co-design when they review the NDIS.

Our next meeting



Our next meeting is in October 2022.



You can find out more about our meetings and bulletins on our website.

www.ndis-iac.com.au/meetings

More information

For more information about this bulletin,
please contact us.



You can visit our website.

www.ndis-iac.com.au



You can send us an email.

advisorycouncil@ndis.gov.au



You can visit the NDIS website.

www.ndis.gov.au



You can call the NDIS.

1800 800 110

Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.



Assistive technology

Assistive technology might be an aid or piece of equipment.

It can:

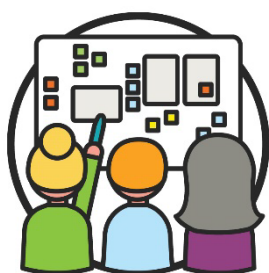
- make it easier to do things, including in your home
- keep you safe.



Bulletin

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Co-design

Co-design is when people work together to plan something new.



Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)

CALD people:

- come from different backgrounds
- speak a language other than English.



Funding

Funding is the money from your plan that pays for the supports and services you need.



Individualised Living Options (ILO)

Individualised Living Options (ILO) is a way of setting up the support you want at home.



Participants

Participants are people with disability who take part in the NDIS.



Policy

A policy is a plan for how to do things

A policy is where rules come from.



Reference Group

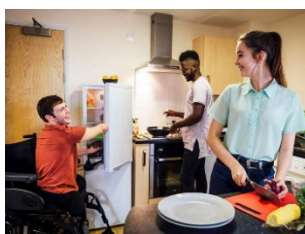
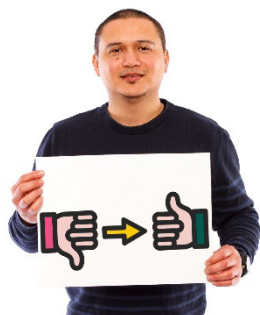
A Reference Group is a group of people who give us advice about a certain topic.



Review

When the government reviews something, they check to see what:

- works well
- can be better.



Shared accommodation

When someone lives in shared accommodation, they live in a home with other people.



Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA)

Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) is a NDIS support.

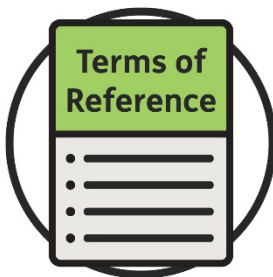
It's housing for participants who need extra support most of the time.



Supported Independent Living (SIL)

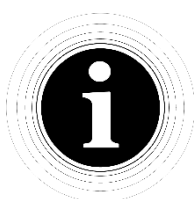
SIL is help with day-to-day tasks around your home so you can:

- do things for yourself
- learn new skills.



Terms of reference

The terms of reference is a list of things the NDIA want to focus on.



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