



## Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS

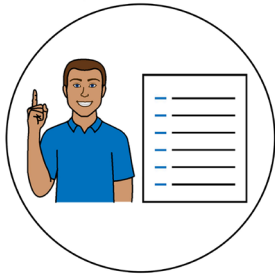
### Intellectual Disability Reference Group

Meeting Bulletin 22 June 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

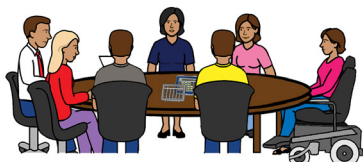
- read this book
- know what this book is about
- find more information.



## About this book



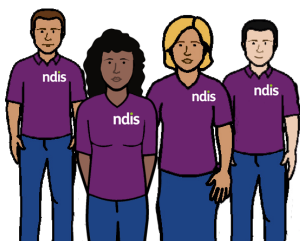
The **Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS** wrote this book.



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 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.



This book tells you what happened at our meeting on 22 June 2022.



It was the first face to face meeting in 2 years.

## Who was at the meeting?



Leah Van Poppel is the Principal Member of Council and the Reference Group **Chair**.

A Chair means someone who can run the meeting.

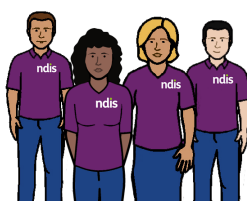


Sam Paior is the Reference Group **Co-chair**, who helps Leah run the Reference Group meetings.



Also at the meeting were

- Reference Group members
- NDIA managers and other staff.



## What happened at the meeting?



The Reference Group had information for the meeting in Easy Read for the first time.

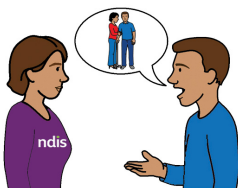


Council is working on its advice about making the NDIS fair and equal for people from diverse communities.



Reference Group members said the advice should include more diverse communities than just 3 big groups.

## Update from Reference Group members



Reference Group members talked about what people with disability have told them about the NDIS.



It is good that some specialist support coordinators give planners reports about how a participant is going with their plan.



It is still hard for people with disability to have a job like everyone else or be in supported employment.

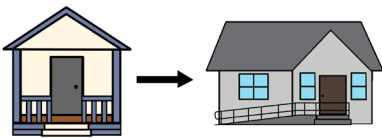


Some people worked with the Western Australian government so an organisation that gives supported employment will **not** shut.

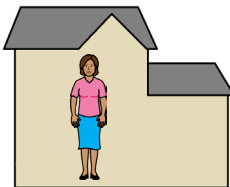


Because of the floods it is hard for some people to

- get supports



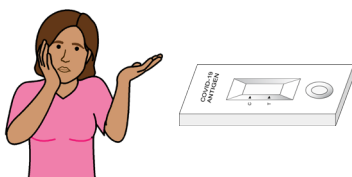
- get the same supports if they move house



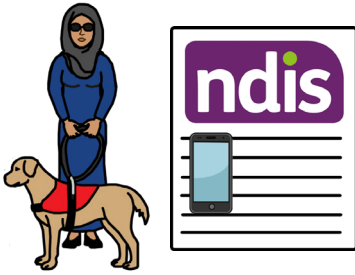
- find safe homes to live in.



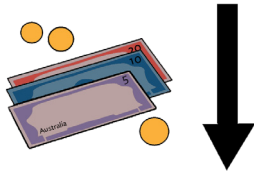
It is hard for people in the justice system to get the NDIS and help from justice liaison officers.



Some people with disability do **not** know rules about getting coronavirus tests as part of NDIS plans.

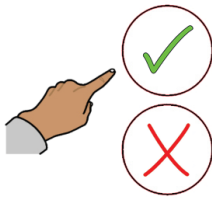


People with vision impairment should be able to use their NDIS plan for technology, like smart phones.



Some people still say

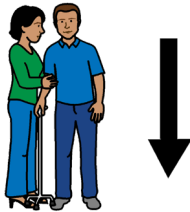
- they have less money in their plan than before



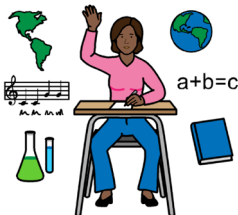
- planners do **not** make decisions the same way



- they did **not** spend their plan because of the pandemic.



Some people say they have less support in their plans for **capacity building**.

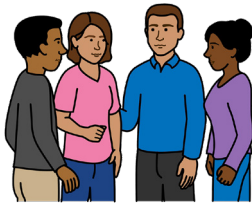


Capacity building means building your skills.



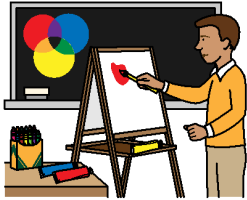
There are problems with home and living supports. For example, less money for people with intellectual disability.





Some people with intellectual disability

- need supports to make friends



- go to day programs which are **not** a part of their NDIS goals.



Some people with complex disabilities find it hard to have a NDIS planning meeting.



The NDIA and the **NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission** should work together to keep participants safe and give the best supports.



The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission helps

- make services better



- keep NDIS participants safe.



Some people who manage their own NDIS plans

- need training about how to manage their funds and supports

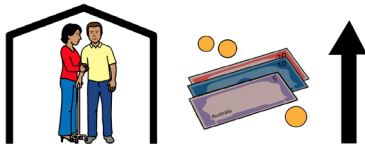


- say the capacity building in their plans is now managed by the NDIA.

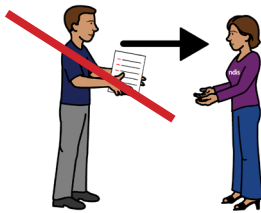


Some providers say they can **not** give supports because

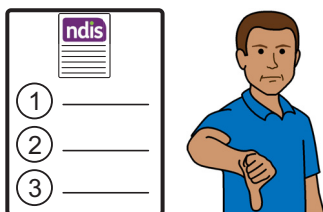
- NDIS funding is slow



- the services cost more.



Some providers talk to people who say they are a nominee and do **not** ask for proof.



The NDIS plan review and appeals process does **not** work well for people with less supports.



Some people in the appeals process do **not** get **advocacy** to help them say what they want.

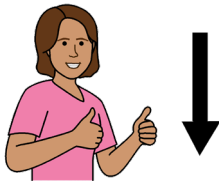


The NDIA should think about ways to fix plan reviews before the appeals process happens.

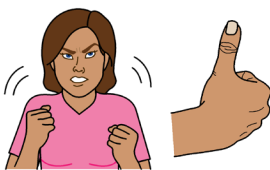


Providers and participants say there are **not** enough

- disability workers



- behaviour support practitioners who give good service.

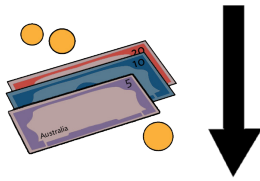


When there are less workers

- it is hard to make sure people get good service



- providers all try to get the same staff.



Some people with **supported independent living** supports say they

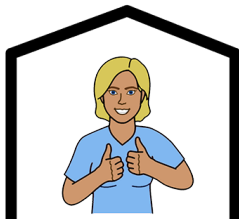
- get less money and the NDIA does **not** say why



- do **not** have enough workers where they live.



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



The NDIA should make sure plans with **positive behaviour supports** are done well.

Positive behaviour supports help people to

- live better lives



- have less **behaviours of concern**.

Behaviours of concern are actions that might not be safe. For example, if a person hurts someone.

## Positive behaviour supports update

Positive behaviour supports can include changing things to help a person feel better.



For example

- do things a person likes



- stop things a person does **not** like.

Reference Group members said what they think about positive behaviour support plans.

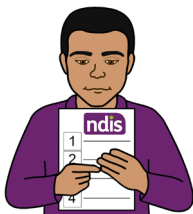
For example



- things Council should put in its advice



- ways the NDIA can fix problems.



Only people who work on a plan should get paid.



Providers should only use funding for supports that help a participant.

Members said the NDIA should work with others to make positive behaviour supports better.

For example



- the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission



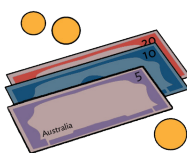
- providers



- other services.



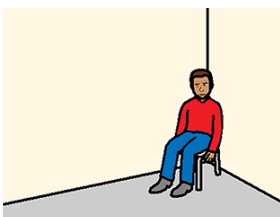
The NDIA should look at what worked well in the past to make positive behaviour supports better.



People with **restrictive practices** in their plans should

- get specialist support coordinator funding

- have restrictive practice supports for a short time.



Restrictive practices may help people with disability stay safe. For example, if a person is in a locked room.

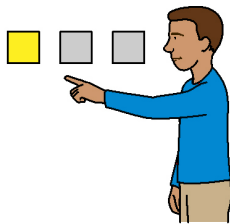


People with disability want to understand what behaviours of concern are so they know

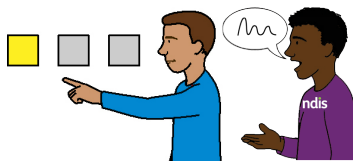
- which behaviours need support



- how supports can help.



People with disability want to know how to choose the right behaviour support practitioner.

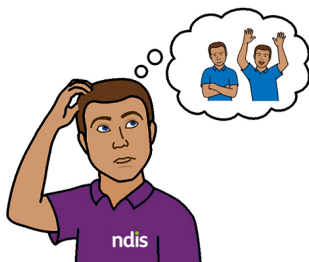


The NDIA should think about how

- to help people with intellectual disability decide about their own plan

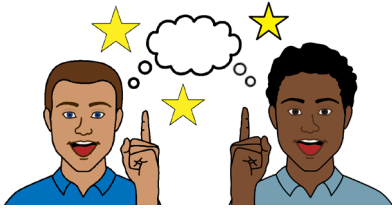


- to make plans safe for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people



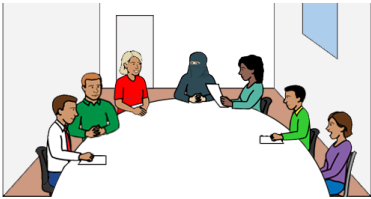
- things in a person's life can cause behaviours of concern.

## Co-design update

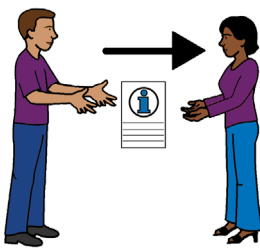


The **co-design advisory group** continues to work together.

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

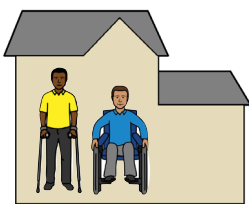


Advisory groups talk about their ideas to make something happen.



The co-design projects are doing work on ways the NDIA

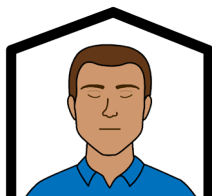
- gets the information it needs to help people get NDIS supports



- helps people get home and living supports



- helps people get supports to make their own decisions



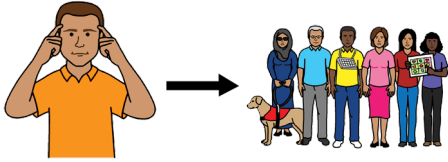
- helps participants be safe.





The Reference Group members talked about

- who to include in the co-design projects



- the best ways to include people with intellectual disability.

## More information



The next meeting will happen in October 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/reference-groups](https://www.ndis-iac.com.au/reference-groups)

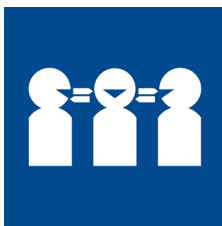


For more information about advice the Council  
has given go to our website.

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



To read about the last Intellectual Disability Reference Group meeting go to [ndis-iac.com.au/s/Council-Intellectual-Disability-Reference-Group-meeting-bulletin-5-April-22-web-accessible.pdf](https://www.ndis-iac.com.au/s/Council-Intellectual-Disability-Reference-Group-meeting-bulletin-5-April-22-web-accessible.pdf)



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Telephone Interpreting Service.

Call 131 450



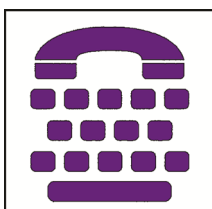
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Use the National Relay Service.

[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

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**Independent  
Advisory  
Council**  
to the **ndis**

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