

Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS

Meeting Bulletin 22 September 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

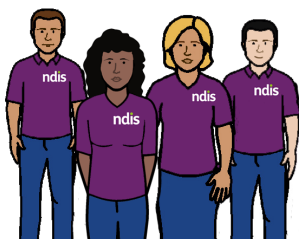


The **Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS** wrote this book.

We will call it the Council.



The Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS 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 our meeting on 22 September 2021.

The Council meets every month.

Who was at the meeting?



The meeting was run by Ms Robyn Kruk who is the Council's Principal Member.



Leah Van Poppel is the Council's Deputy Chair.

She helped the Principal Member run the meeting.

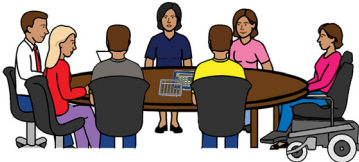


The other people at the meeting were

- Mr Martin Hoffman who is the Chief Executive Officer of the NDIA



- Dr Helen Nugent who is the NDIA Board Chair



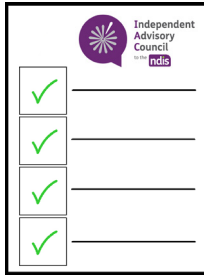
- 12 Council members

- 1 expert adviser



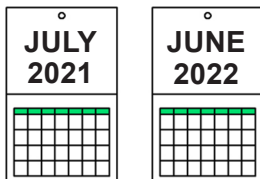
- NDIA managers.

What happened at the meeting?



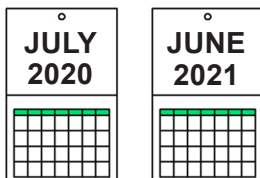
Updates from the Principal Member

The Council gave its **work plan** and **annual report** to the public.



Our work plan says

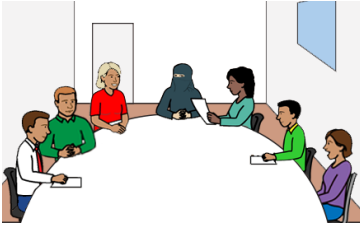
- what we will do this year to make the NDIS better for the people who use it
- what work will be done from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.



Our annual report says

- what we did last year to make the NDIS better for the people who use it
- what work we did from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

Updates from the Deputy Chair



Meetings with **Disability Representative Organisations** about the best ways for the NDIA to work with the disability community went well.



Disability Representative Organisations support people with disability and fight for their rights.



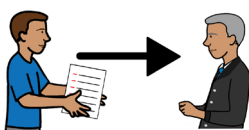
People at the meetings will work with the NDIA to choose work they want to do together.

We call this **co-design**.

Co-design is when people work together towards a goal.

For example

- people who run services work with people who use services and carers to plan services
- work together to design or improve a service.



Updates from the NDIA CEO



The NDIA wants to work with the disability community on co-design.

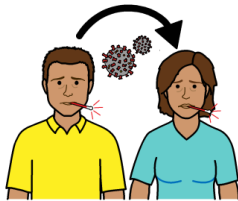


The NDIA is doing good work to help participants and providers get the supports they need during the **coronavirus pandemic**.



Coronavirus

- can make people very sick



- is spread when you are close to someone else.



A pandemic means coronavirus affects a lot of people all over the world.

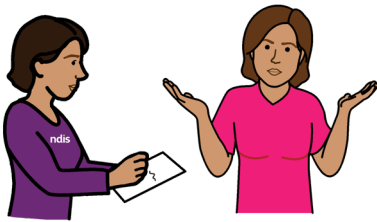


The NDIA will give the public information about the money it needs to run the NDIS.

Problems Council has heard about



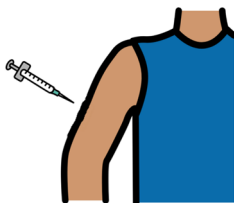
Council talked about what people with disability have told them about the NDIS.



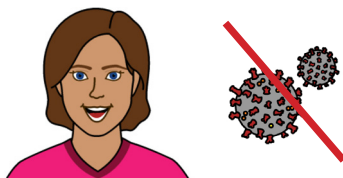
Some people with disability find it hard to get the supports they need because of the coronavirus pandemic.



Health care systems and supports need to be ready to help people with disability who get coronavirus.



Some people in the disability community are worried that **not** enough people with disability have had their coronavirus **vaccination**.



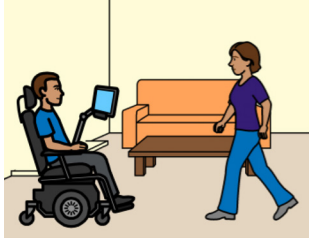
A vaccination is medicine to

- protect you from a virus

- help you to **not** get sick.



When you get the coronavirus vaccination it can help keep you and the community safe.



It is hard for people with disability to get vaccinations in their homes.



Diverse communities have low rates of vaccination.

For example

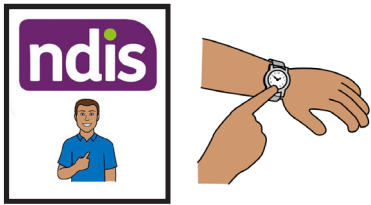
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people



- communities with people from different cultures and who speak languages other than English

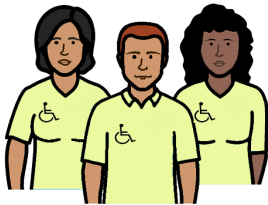
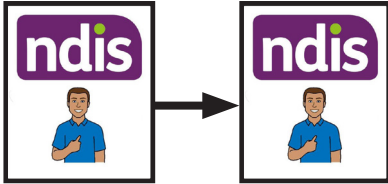


- people who live far away from big cities where most NDIS services are.



Some disability communities are worried that NDIS plans

- take too long to get approved
- get renewed with no review.

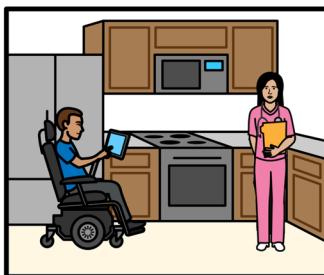


Some people on the NDIS **cannot** get services because

- there are **not** enough disability workers
For example, disability workers from migrant backgrounds



- they live in areas where there are **not** enough disability services or providers
For example, they live far away from big cities, where most NDIS services are.



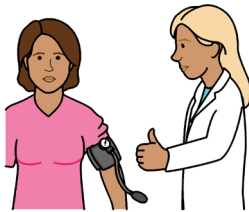
Some participants who get home and living supports have problems with their plans and providers.



The NDIA should use the **Australian Infant Communication and Engagement Study** to improve how children get NDIS supports.



The Australian Infant Communication and Engagement Study is a **clinical trial** being done by experts in child health.



A clinical trial is research that studies new tests and treatments and looks at the effects on big groups of people.



Some disability organisations say that Council does **not** have enough members with disability.

Update on the Information, Linkages and Capacity Building Program



The Department of Social Services is doing work to make the **Information, Linkages and Capacity Building** program better.

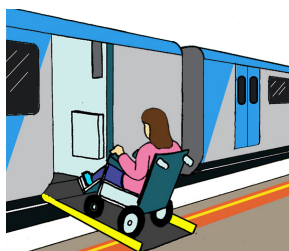


Information, Linkages and Capacity Building or ILC gives money to help people with disability

- do things for themselves
- learn new skills
- know the right person to go to when they need something.



ILC helps to make sure people with disability who **cannot** use the NDIS can still live in a community that is **inclusive** and **accessible**.



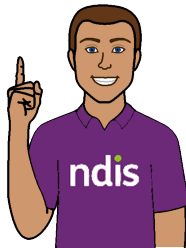
Inclusive means everyone can take part.

Accessible means everyone can use it.



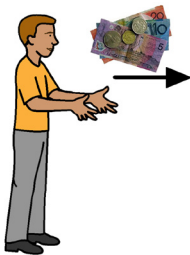
ILC can also help people with disability

- be more independent
- meet other people and make friends
- find work and earn money
- live an ordinary life.



Council told the Department of Social Services it should

- let the NDIA run the ILC again
- work with disability organisations to give ILC money
- look at new ways to fund ILC
- use Local Area Coordinators to make sure ILC money is used properly
- make sure ILC money helps people from different backgrounds.





Council told the Department of Social Services it should make sure ILC money helps people with disability use **mainstream services**.



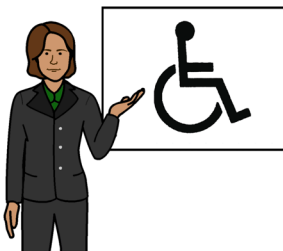
Mainstream services are services in the community for everyone to use.

For example

- transport
- health
- education.



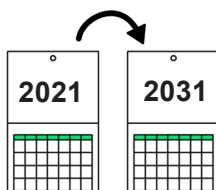
Update on Australia's Disability Strategy



The Department of Social Services is doing work on **Australia's Disability Strategy**.



Australia's Disability Strategy is a new plan for improving the lives of people with disability.



The strategy goes from 2021 to 2031.



Disability Ministers agreed that the strategy should be approved by all governments before it is given to the public.



Council told the Department of Social Services that it has

- done good work over 3 years on its plan

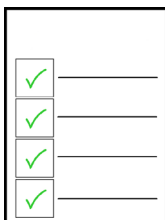


- worked hard to include the views of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



Council told the Department of Social Services it should

- make sure their strategy advisory council includes members with different disabilities



- check that the strategy does what it says it will do

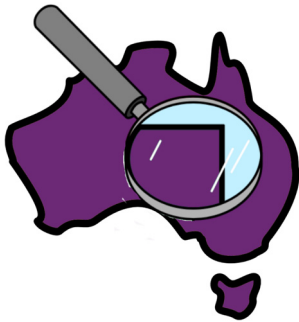


- include the community in plans about safety.



Council told the Department of Social Services it should also

- work with all Ministers whose work is linked to the strategy, not only Disability Ministers



- manage how states and territories run the strategy.

More information



The next meeting is on **18 October 2021**.

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



Call 1800 800 110



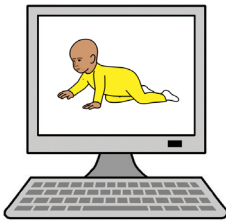
Learn more about the work plan at

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



Learn more about the annual report at

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

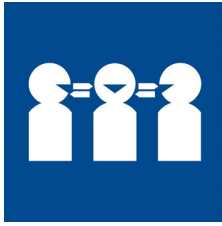


Learn more about the Australian Infant
Communication and Engagement Study at
[telethonkids.org.au/projects/australian-
infant-communication-and-engagement](https://telethonkids.org.au/projects/australian-infant-communication-and-engagement)



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

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

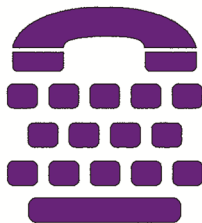
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