

Independent Advisory Council

An Easy Read meeting bulletin

21 September 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 22.



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.

What's in this bulletin?

What happened in the last meeting? 5

What did our Council Members share? 9

Important updates 17

Our next meeting 20

More information 21

Word list 22

What happened in the last meeting?



Leah van Poppel ran the last meeting.

She is the Council's Principal Member.

She's also a member of the **NDIA Board**.



The NDIA Board is a group of people who make decisions about all parts of the NDIA.



It was held on 21 September 2022.



Leah welcomed The Honourable Bill Shorten.

Bill is the **Minister** for the NDIS.

A minister leads an area of government.



Leah talked about the advice we are writing for the NDIA Board.

Our advice is about:



- positive behaviour supports – ways to support how a person acts or behaves



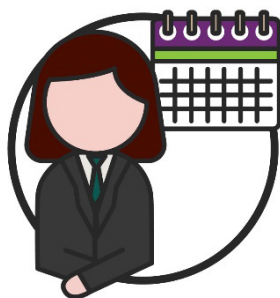
- making sure the NDIS is fair and includes everyone.



Then we had a closed session with the Minister.

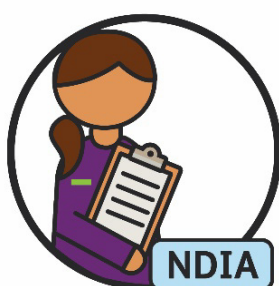
This means we don't share what happened in that part of the meeting.

What did Liz Neville share?



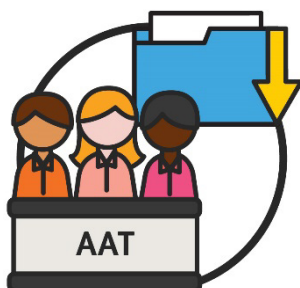
Liz Neville is the Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer at the NDIA.

This means she is helping the person who runs the NDIA for a period of time.



The CEO couldn't come to the meeting so Liz came instead.

Liz explained work the NDIA will do.

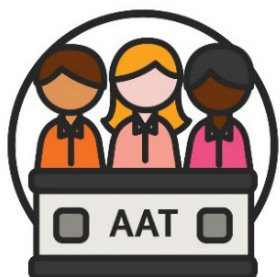


The NDIA is working to reduce how many cases the **Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT)** look after.

The AAT is a government organisation that is separate to the NDIS.

They review the NDIA's decisions about:

- who can join the NDIS
- NDIS plans.





The NDIA will find better ways to protect participants from people doing the wrong thing.

For example, providers charging for services they don't provide.



The NDIA will also work with hospitals and health departments to make it easier for **participants** when they're ready to leave hospital.

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

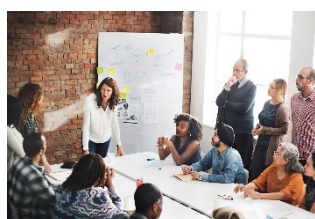


Council Members shared that some people with disability can't get important supports when they are in hospital.

What did our Council Members share?



Our Council Members connect with the community to find out about issues that affect them.

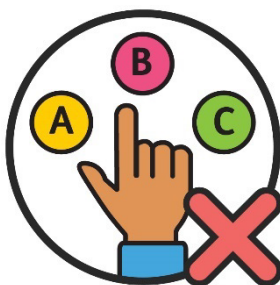


Our Council Members shared these issues with the NDIA.

NDIS plans



Some plan managers are not letting participants use some supports because they don't think they need them.



Council Members think this is not part of their job. And this will stop participants having choice and control.



Participants are getting less **support coordination** in their plans.

Support coordination helps participants manage the supports in their plan.



When this happens, it's harder for participants to reach their goals.



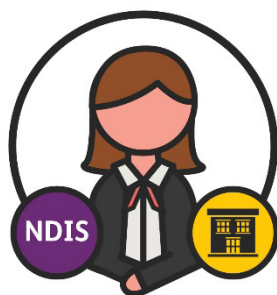
Participants face challenges when they're ready to leave hospital.

But it's getting a lot better.



Some participants are also getting their problems fixed faster when they ask the AAT to check a decision.

NDIS services and supports



It is hard for people to find and use **Justice Liaison Officers (JLOs)**.

JLOs support prisons to understand how they can use the NDIS.



This is because state and territory governments don't know:

- what a JLO does
- how to contact them.



The way organisations apply to take part in the **Partners in the Community (PITC)** program has stopped.

PITC are community organisations the NDIA works with to support participants.



The community aren't sure about how this will affect people with disability.



And Council Members would like the NDIA to think about how people get support in places far away from cities and towns.



There needs to be more support for people with disability to find a good job.

This includes younger people, and older people.

Community supports



Disability **advocates**:

- help people with disability have their say
- give them information and advice.

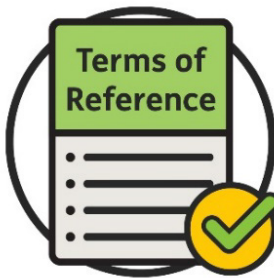


But there are more people using the AAT than advocates can help.

This is a big problem in the Northern Territory (NT) because there aren't many advocates there.



The Australian Government wants to review the NDIS.



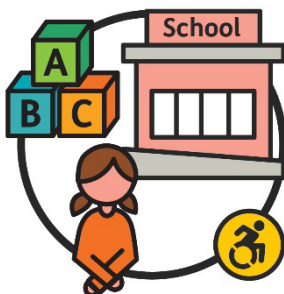
They will share a list of things they want to focus on.

The document is called the **Terms of Reference**.



The community are waiting for more information about the Terms of Reference.

And they want the Australian Government to share it soon.



The NDIA and NT Government are working together to make a plan for specialist education – schools for children with disability.

Providers



Western Australian Individualised Services (WAIIS) shared they will close in June 2023.

WAIIS is a **provider** – an organisation that provides supports and services to people with disability.



Council Members are worried about how this will affect people with disability in Western Australia.



Providers are worried too many people are using short term accommodation – a place for someone to stay for a short time.

They want more people to use other supports instead, like:



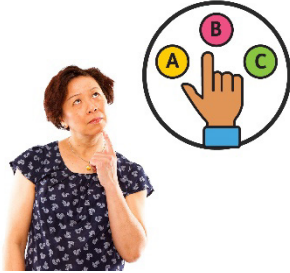
- Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA)
- Supported Independent Living (SIL).

These supports focus on what each person needs in their day-to-day life at home.



Registered providers:

- can offer supports and services to participants
- are on a list the NDIA looks after.



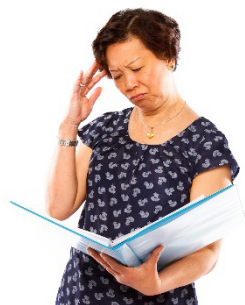
Participants worry that having to use registered providers will affect their choice and control.



Some providers are also offering less support coordination services.



Members also shared other things they have shared in past meetings.



Some groups of people find it harder to use the NDIS.

So the NDIA must share information that is easy to find and use.



People with disability face challenges at work.



The NDIA doesn't always make decisions about plans the same way.

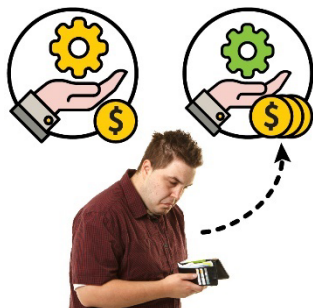


So more participants are asking the AAT to review their decisions.



Children should be given more chances to have their say in the NDIS.

And the NDIA should make early supports better for children.



Some providers make NDIS participants pay more for services than other people.

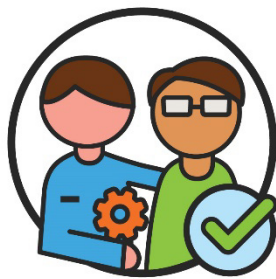
Important updates

NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (NDIS Commission)



The **NDIS Commission** makes sure people with disability who take part in the NDIS:

- are safe
- get good services.



The NDIS Commission is working to get more providers registered.

This includes making sure their rules work well.



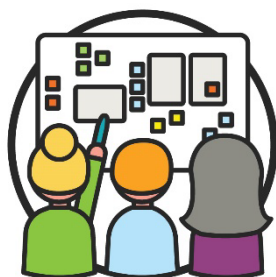
Council Members shared they should make sure providers give good service to children.



The NDIS Commission should think about how people with disability choose between:

- registered providers
- unregistered providers.

Our co-design work



Leah asked about our **co-design** projects.

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



Council Members shared their ideas about the participant safety co-design.



They shared that groups of people the NDIA works with on co-design shouldn't be kept apart.

They should all work together.

Council Members also shared that it's important to:



- share information

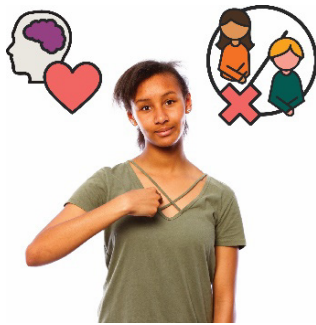


- listen to everyone.



They shared that the participant safety co-design should think about what support:

- children and adults need
- people of different **genders** need.



Gender is what you feel and understand about who you are as a person.

It isn't about whether your body looks male or female.



Council Members also shared that the participant safety co-design:

- is important
- will save lives.

Our next meeting



Our next meeting is on 17 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.



Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT)

The AAT is a government organisation that is separate to the NDIS.

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Advocate

Disability advocates:

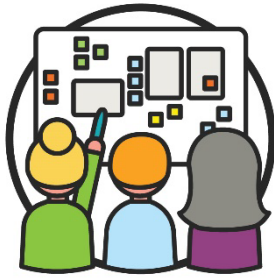
- help people with disability have their say
- give them information and advice.



Bulletin

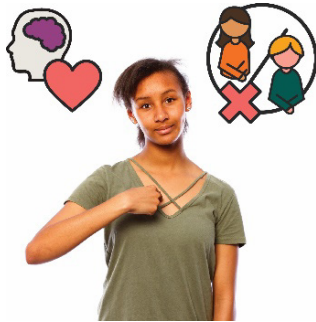
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Co-design

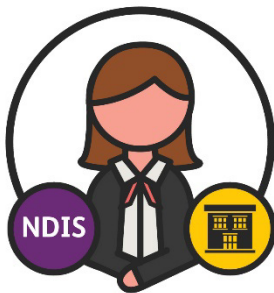
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Gender

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Justice Liaison Officers (JLOs)

JLOs support prisons to understand how they can use the NDIS.



Minister

A minister leads an area of government.



NDIA Board

The NDIA Board is a group of people who make decisions about all parts of the NDIA.

NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (NDIS Commission)



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- are safe
- get good services.



Participants

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



Partners in the Community (PITC)

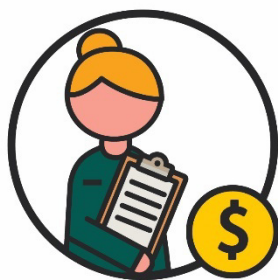
PITCs are community organisations the NDIA works with to support participants.



Provider

A provider is an organisation that provides supports and services to people with disability.

Registered



When a provider is registered, they:

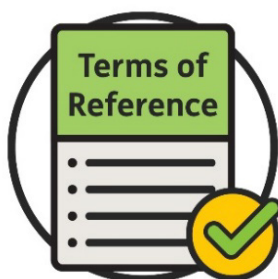
- can offer supports and services to participants
- are on a list the NDIA looks after.



Support coordination

Support coordination helps participants manage the supports in their plan.

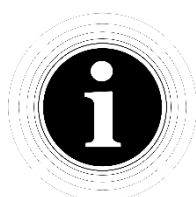
Terms of Reference



The Australian Government wants to review the NDIS.

They will share a list of things they want to focus on.

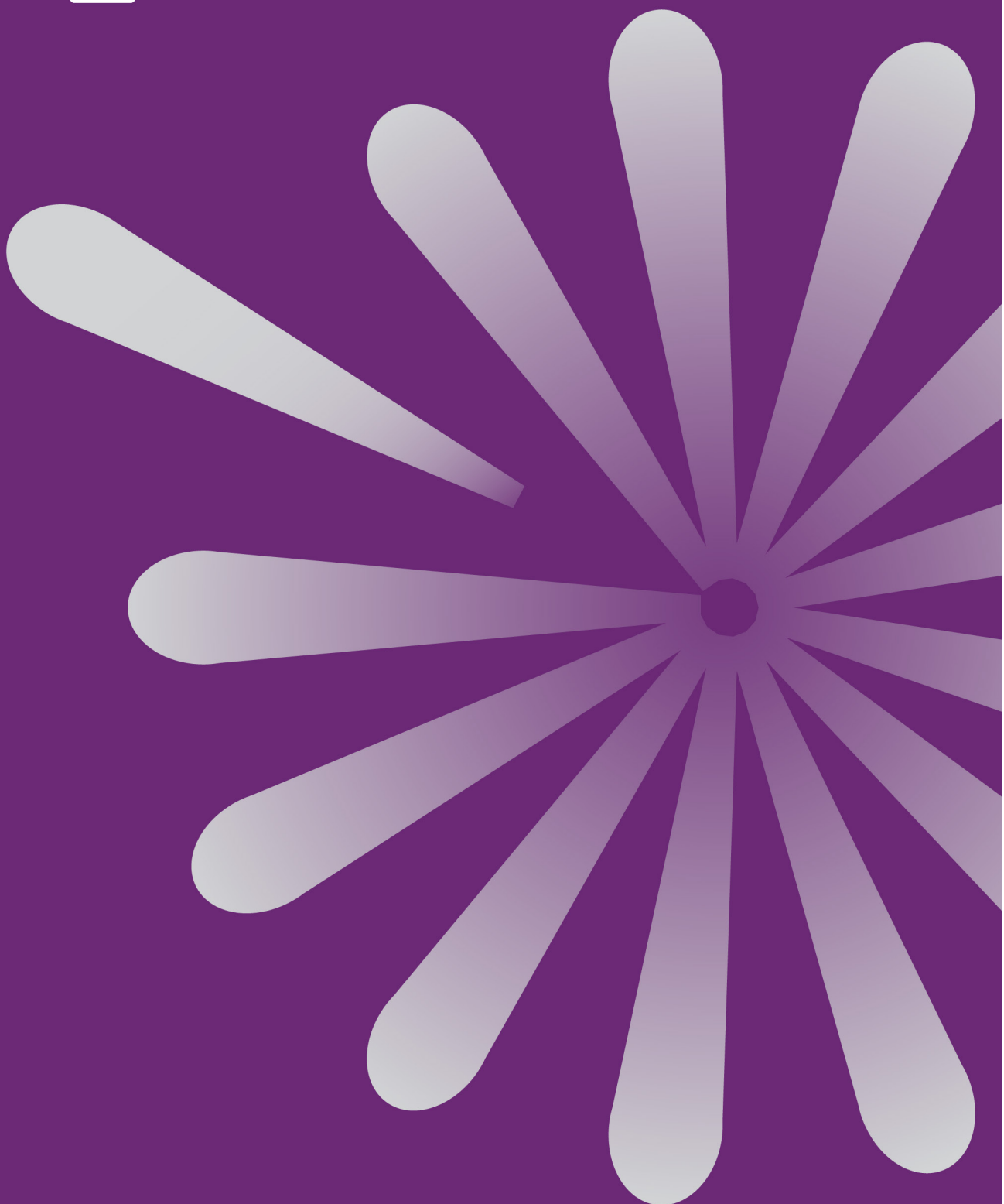
The document is called the Terms of Reference.



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