



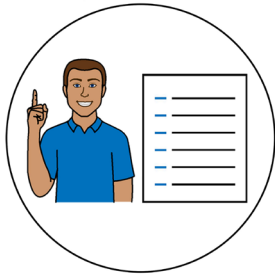
# Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS

## Intellectual Disability Reference Group

Meeting Bulletin 5 April 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

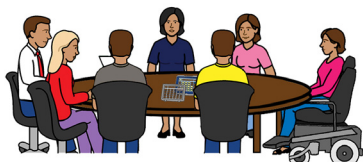
- read this book
- know what this book is about
- find more information.



## About this book



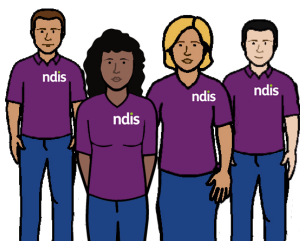
The **Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS** wrote this book.



We will call it the Council.



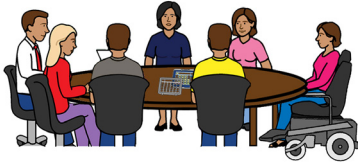
The Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS gives advice to the **National Disability Insurance Agency**.



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.



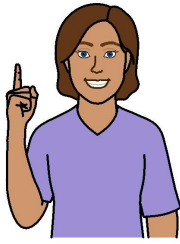
Intellectual disability is a disability that might affect how well you can

- think and learn

- feel and communicate



- connect and deal with others.



Reference Groups are groups of people that know a lot about something.

For example, disability.



The Reference Group

- helps make Council's advice better

- meets 3 times each year.



This book tells you what happened at our meeting on 5 April 2022.

## Who was at the meeting?



Leah Van Poppel is

- the Principal Member of Council



- the Reference Group **Chair**.

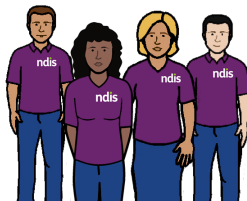
A Chair means someone who can run the meeting.

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?

### Council and Reference Group work



Council and the Reference Group have done a lot of work since October 2021.



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 people with intellectual disability



- want regular updates on how the NDIA is making Council's advice happen.



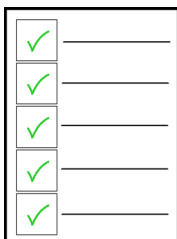
The **co-design advisory group** continues to work together.

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

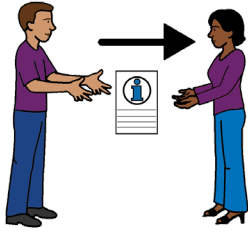


Advisory groups talk about their ideas to make something happen.

Some members on the co-design advisory group are also members of **steering committees** for co-design projects.



Steering committees make sure projects happen properly.

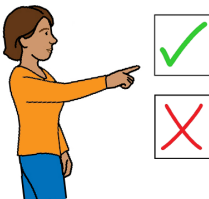


The co-design projects are about ways the NDIA

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



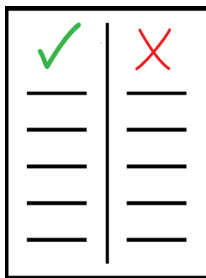
- helps people get home and living supports



- helps people get supports to make their own decisions



- helps participants be safe.



The NDIA made an **engagement framework** to help with co-design.

An engagement framework is rules for how the NDIA will work with the disability community on co-design projects.





Reference Group members said the co-design work

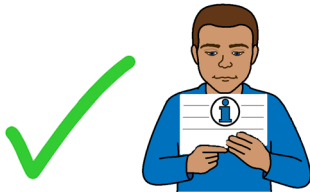
- should include people with intellectual disability



- should include people who find it hard to use or understand speech

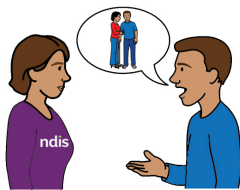


- needs to be easy to understand, like Easy Read



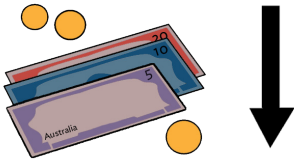
- can be made better by learning from organisations that do co-design work well.

## Update from Reference Group members



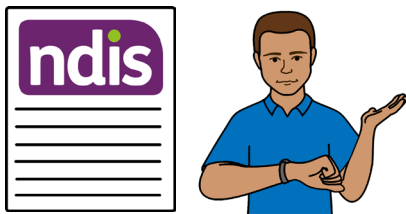
Reference Group members talked about what people with disability have told them about the NDIS.

Some people say they have problems with their NDIS plans

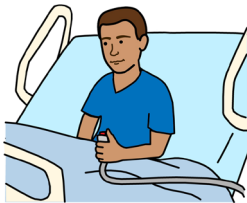


- because they have less money in their plans than before

- because they do not get a copy of their plans



- because plan reviews take a long time

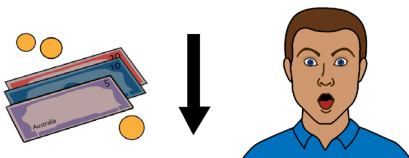


- when they are waiting to get out of hospital.

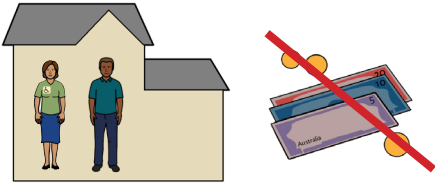
There are problems with home and living supports, including



- housing for people with intellectual disability changing a lot



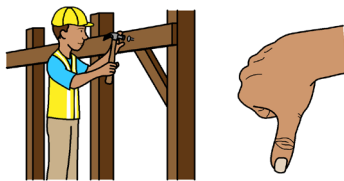
- funding for home and living supports being reduced.



Funding for **Supported Independent Living** is sometimes removed from plans with **no** warning.

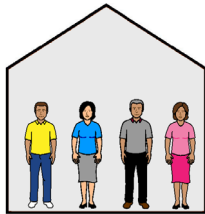


Supported Independent Living helps with everyday tasks in your home so you can do things yourself.



Disability accommodation is

- **not** built in the right way to help people with very high support needs do everyday things



- still being made as group homes.



It is still hard for people

- in the justice system to get NDIS supports



- to go through the appeals process for an NDIS plan review.



People with intellectual disability want to have jobs like everyone else.

People with intellectual disability need **accessible information** to help them vote in the election.



Accessible information means it is easy to understand and everyone can use it.



Some people find it hard to find support workers because of the coronavirus pandemic.

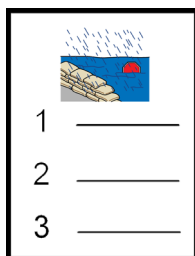


The recent floods have made it harder for people to

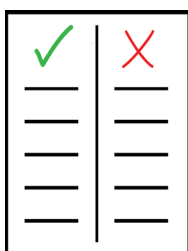
- find a home that is right for them



- get supports they need.



The NDIA should have a plan about ways to support people when there is a **natural disaster**, like a flood.

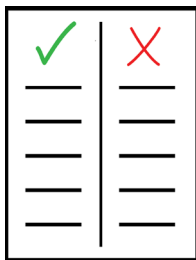


Providers that do plans for behaviour supports need better rules.

## Support for decision making

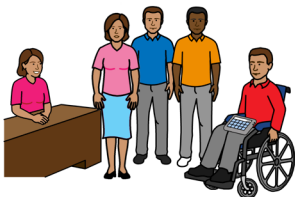


The NDIA is working on a project to help people get supports to make their own decisions.

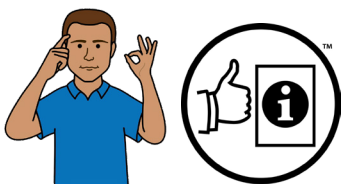


The NDIA want to make a **policy** to help people with disability make their own decisions.

A policy is plans and rules for how we should do things.



The NDIA has set up a steering committee to co-design the work.

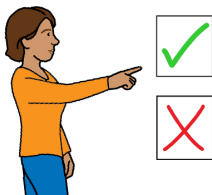


Reference Group members said the project should

- use accessible information



- include people with intellectual disability



- give people supports to make decisions that are important to them.

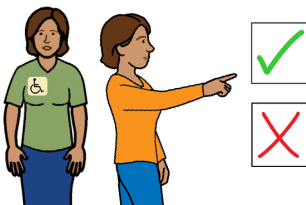


Reference Group members said the project should

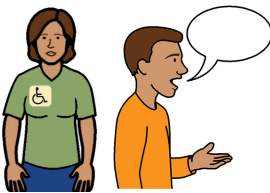
- include stories that show how support for decision making works well for different people



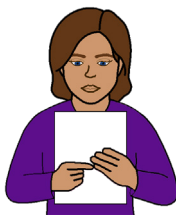
- think about ways to support people to make decisions by learning new skills



- ensure someone who helps a person with disability make decisions knows the person well



- support people who find it hard to use speech to make their own decisions



- look at research about support for decision making



- ensure behaviour support plans
  - are made after meeting with a participant



- keep participants safe.

## More information



The next meeting will happen in the middle of 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.

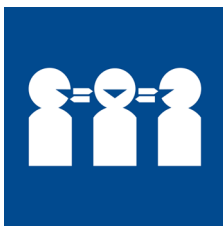
[ndis-iac.com.au/advice](https://www.ndis-iac.com.au/advice)



To read about the last Intellectual Disability

Reference Group meeting go to

[ndis-iac.com.au/s/Bulletin-Easy-Read-Council-Intellectual-Disability-Reference-Group-Bulletin-Web-accessible.pdf](https://www.ndis-iac.com.au/s/Bulletin-Easy-Read-Council-Intellectual-Disability-Reference-Group-Bulletin-Web-accessible.pdf)



**If you need help with English**

Telephone Interpreting Service.

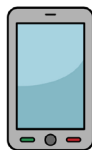
Call 131 450



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

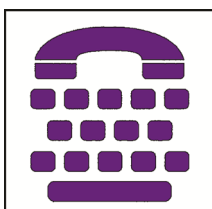
Use the National Relay Service.

[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







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

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