

Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS

Meeting Bulletin 19 March 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

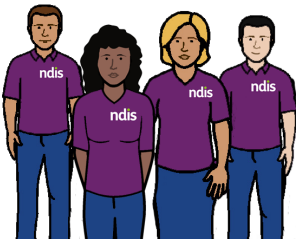


The **Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS** wrote this book.



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

We will call it the Council.



The National Disability Insurance Agency or NDIA manages the **National Disability Insurance Scheme**.

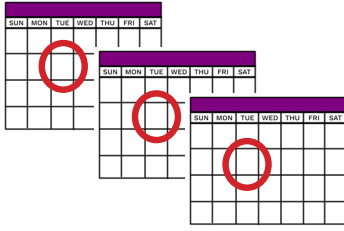


The National Disability Insurance Scheme or NDIS gives services and support to people with disability.



This book tells you what happened at our meeting on 19 March 2021.

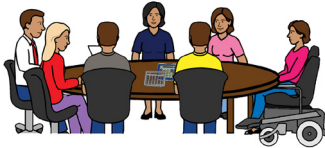
Who was at the meeting?



The Council meets every month.



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



Stuart Robert who is the Minister for the NDIS was at the meeting with

- 12 Council members
- 1 expert adviser
- NDIA managers.



The Council talked about things the NDIA is working on.

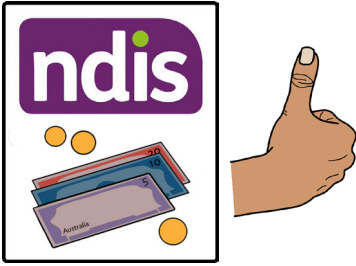


The NDIA CEO and managers spoke at the meeting to

- tell us about the work they do
- ask for our feedback.

What happened at the meeting?

Updates from the Principal Member



The NDIA and Council want to make sure the NDIS is good value for participants.



The Council will put information about the **financial sustainability** of the NDIS in its **formal advice**.

Financial sustainability means the NDIS has enough money to run now and in the future.



Formal advice means we tell the NDIA what we think about how they manage the NDIS.



Formal advice helps the NDIA learn about

- problems that people with disability might have
- ways the NDIA can help fix the problems.



Updates from the NDIA CEO



The NDIA is working with the community on **Scheme Reforms**.



Scheme Reforms are things the NDIA will do to

- make the NDIS better

and



- change NDIS laws.



The NDIA is talking to NDIS participants and groups that give services to people with disability about

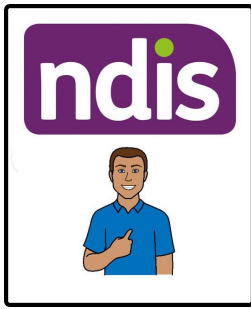
- important changes it is making to the NDIS

and



- ways it can make the NDIS better for everyone.

The NDIA CEO answered questions about what the changes mean for



- NDIS **participant plans**
 - participant plans say what money and supports you get from the NDIS

and



- **Specialist Disability Accommodation**
 - Specialist Disability Accommodation means a place where people with very high supports live.



For example, someone with many physical disabilities who might need changes made to their home.

Updates from the Minister of the NDIS



The Minister is working on Scheme Reforms.

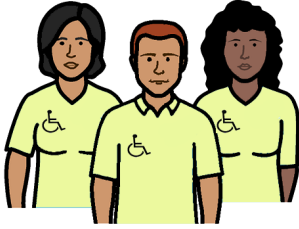


The Minister wants the NDIS to be there for all Australians with a disability in the future.



The Minister wants to work with the Council to fix problems.

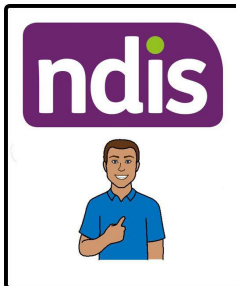
Formal advice about Local Area Coordinators



The Council told the Minister about the formal advice on **Local Area Coordinators**.

Local Area Coordinators or LACs are the people who give services and help you

- get the supports you need to have a good life
- understand and use the NDIS and other disability services in your community



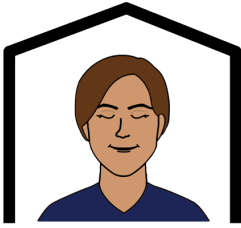
- make a NDIS plan.



The formal advice says what the NDIA can do to help participants use Local Area Coordinators in ways that help them most.

The Minister agrees with the formal advice on Local Area Coordinators.

Formal advice about participant safety



The Council told the Minister about the formal advice it is writing about keeping participants safe.



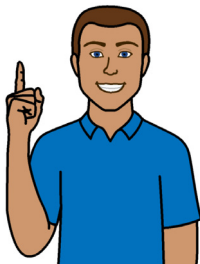
It says what the NDIA can do to make sure NDIS participants

- are safe

and



- have the supports they need to feel safe.



The Minister wants to make sure the Government

- understands what it means to be safe

and



- supports participants to feel safe and live good lives.

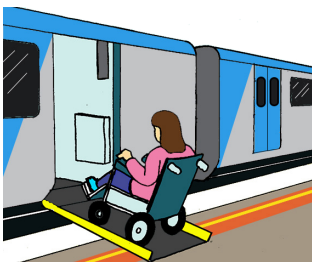
The Minister supports the formal advice on participant safety.

Scheme Reforms



Council told the Minister what they have heard in their communities about Scheme Reforms.

For example, **Independent Assessments**.



Independent Assessments are the new way the NDIA will work out

- how your disability affects your life

and

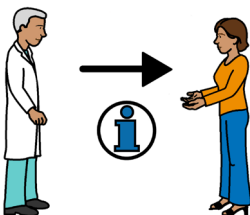


- what supports you need from the NDIS.

The assessments are independent because they are done by someone who

- does **not** already know you

and



- is **not** the healthcare professional you usually see.





The Council told the Minister ways the NDIA can improve

- the way people think about Independent Assessments

and



- how Independent Assessments start to happen.

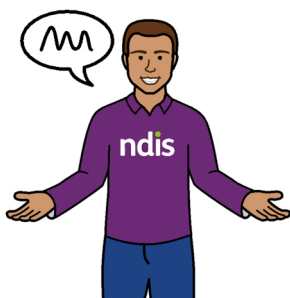


The NDIA

- is still working with the community on Scheme Reforms



- has read a lot of ideas on Independent Assessments from the community



- will tell everyone about all of the ideas soon.

NDIS Quarterly Report



The NDIA spoke about the results of its **Quarterly Report**.



The Quarterly Report gives information about how the NDIA has performed from October to December 2020.



The Quarterly Report says

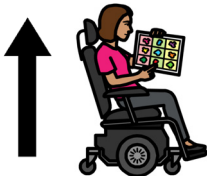
- more people have joined the NDIS



- more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and people who speak a language other than English have joined the NDIS



- there are less complaints about the NDIS



- NDIS participants have got more supports



- the money the NDIS uses is affected because more people have joined the NDIS.

More information



The next meeting is on **21 April 2021**.

For more information contact the
Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS.



Website www.ndis-iac.com.au



Email advisorycouncil@ndis.gov.au

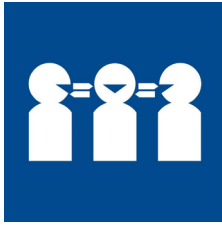


Call 1800 800 110



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

www.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

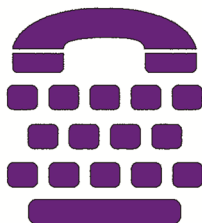
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