

# Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS

## Equity and Inclusion Reference Group

Meeting Bulletin 29 April 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

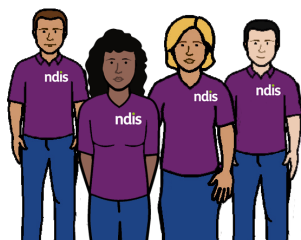


The **Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS** wrote this book.

We will call it the Council.



The Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS tells the **National Disability Insurance Agency** what they think about how the NDIS is managed.



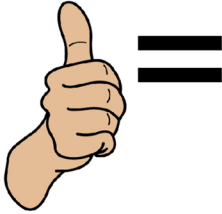
The National Disability Insurance Agency or NDIA manages the **National Disability Insurance Scheme**.



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



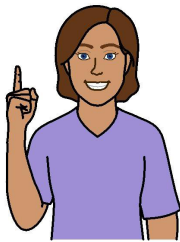
This book tells you about what happened at the **Equity and Inclusion Reference Group** meeting.



Equity is when things are fair.



Inclusion means everyone can be part of something.



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



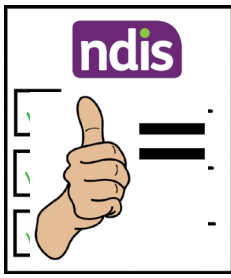
Reference Groups help

- the Council do its work

and



- make our advice better.



This group gives advice about ways the NDIS can

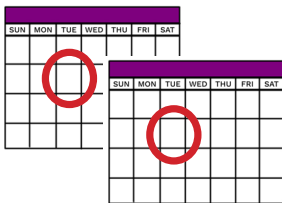
- be fair and clear for all participants

and

- include people from different backgrounds.



This book tells you what happened at our meeting on 29 April 2021.



The Reference Group meets 2 times each year.

## Who was at the meeting?

There are 2 **Chairs** of the Reference Group

- Robyn Kruk

and

- Jennifer Cullen.

A Chair means someone who can run the meeting.

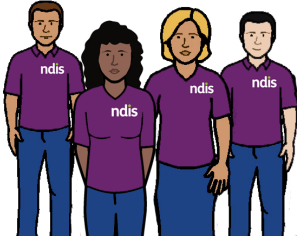




Also at the meeting were

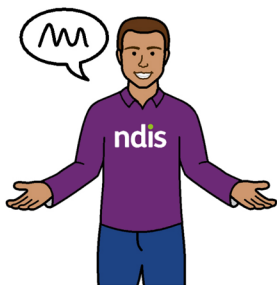
- Reference Group members

and



- NDIA managers.

The Reference Group talked about things the NDIA is working on.



The Reference Group Chairs and NDIA managers spoke at the meeting to

- tell the us about the work they do

and



- ask for our feedback.

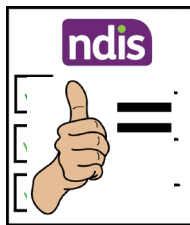
# What happened at the meeting?

## Update from the meeting Chairs



The Reference Group will help the Council with its advice and

- tell us what happens in their communities
- help Council and the NDIA achieve their goals
- find ways to make the NDIS fair for everyone.



The Reference Group will make sure that people from different communities tell us what they think about the NDIS.



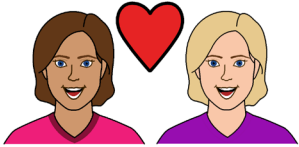
We want to hear about

- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people

and



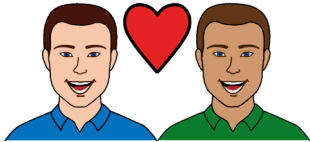
- communities with people from different cultures and who speak languages other than English.



We also want to hear from people who are

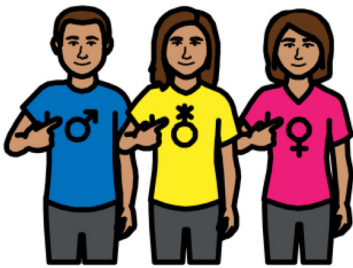
- **Lesbian**

- you are a woman who is attracted to other women.



- **Gay**

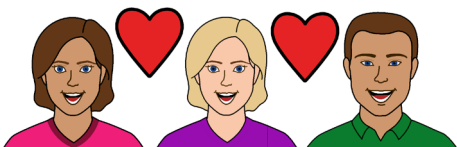
- you are a man who is attracted to other men or
- you are attracted to people who are the same **gender identity** as you.



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

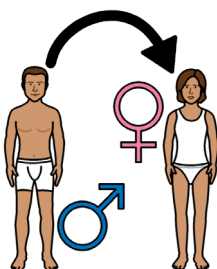
It is **not** about if your body is male or female.

Your gender identity can be a man, a woman or something else.



- **Bisexual**

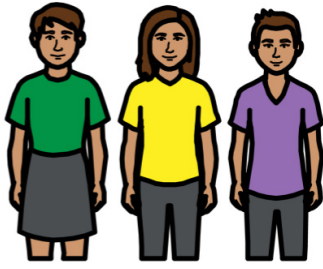
- you are attracted to both men and women.



- **Transgender**

- your gender identity is different now to what you were given when you were born.

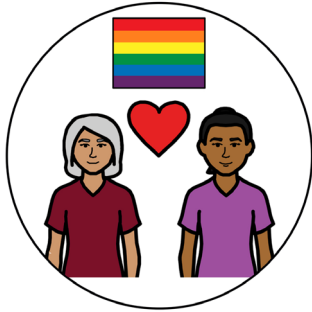




We also want to hear from people who are

- **Intersex**

- you might have both male and female parts in your body and live as a man, a woman or whatever you choose.



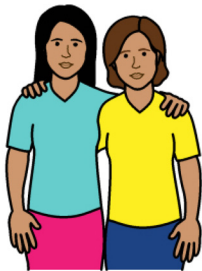
- **Queer**

- you can be gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or something else.



- **Questioning**

- you might still be working out your sexuality or gender identity.



- **Asexual Plus**

- you might **not** be sexually attracted to anyone but you can still
  - care for other people
  - have close relationships.

We often say LGBTIQ+ when we talk about any or all of the people in these groups.

## Update from Reference Group members



Reference Group members talked about what is happening in their communities.



They said that some people

- do **not** know how to get help from the NDIS



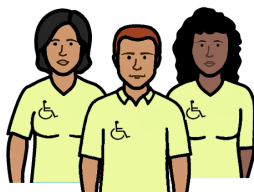
- do **not** have NDIS plans that understand their culture and ways to make them feel safe



- do **not** have a say about how to change the way the NDIS works.



Some people are worried they will lose money from their plans.



Some people do **not** always get good services.

The Reference Group members said that some people are worried about



- **Scheme reforms**

and



- **Independent Assessments.**

Scheme reforms are important changes the NDIA will do to



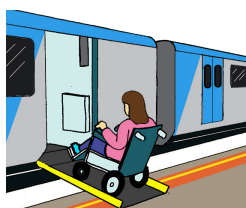
- make the NDIS better for everyone

and



- change NDIS laws.

Independent Assessments are the way the NDIA wants to work out

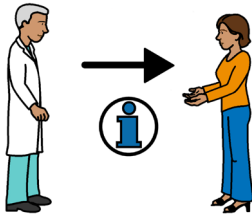


- how your disability affects your life

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.

## NDIA's plan to include more people

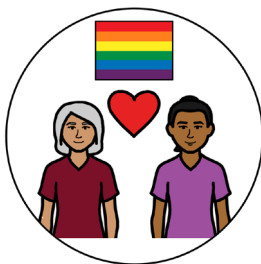


The NDIA has plans to make the NDIS better for

- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people



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



- people who are LGBTIQA+.



Reference Group members said that the plans have **not** worked very well.



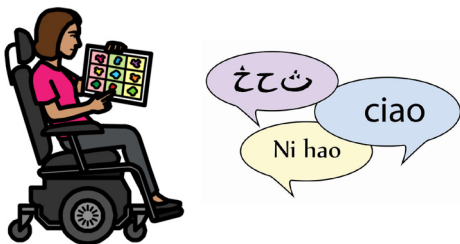
The NDIA needs to

- find new ways to work with people from different communities



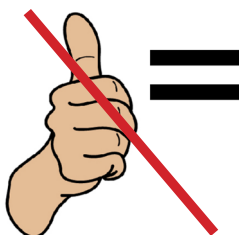
- let people from different communities have a say about NDIA work that is about them

- write and review communications with people from different communities

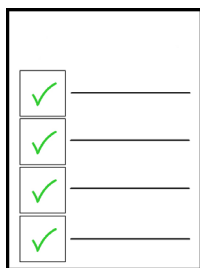


- make communications in ways everyone can understand.

For example, plain English, Easy Read or other languages.



The NDIA needs to understand that people with disability who are also from different communities do **not** feel like they get treated fairly.



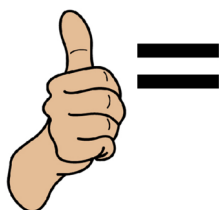
## Reference Group plan

The Reference Group will make a plan with the most important work it will do over the next 3 years to

- help include different communities



and



- give different communities a fair go.



The Reference Group will tell everyone about its plan soon.

## More information



The next meeting will happen later this year.

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



Website [www.ndis-iac.com.au](http://www.ndis-iac.com.au)



Email [advisorycouncil@ndis.gov.au](mailto:advisorycouncil@ndis.gov.au)



Call 1800 800 110



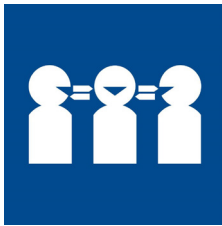
For more information about the Council Reference  
Groups go to our website.

[www.ndis-iac.com.au/referencegroups](http://www.ndis-iac.com.au/referencegroups)



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

[www.ndis-iac.com.au/advice](http://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](http://nrschat.nrscall.gov.au/nrs/internetrelay)

Call 1300 555 727



Independent  
Advisory  
Council  
to the  
**ndis**



Give the relay officer the number you want to call.



TTY

Call 1800 555 677







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

Scope (Aust) Ltd. created this Easy English document in June 2021 using Picture Communication Symbols ©1981–2021 by Tobii Dynavox. All Rights Reserved Worldwide. Boardmaker® is a trademark of Tobii Dynavox. This document must not be sold to third parties. The images must not be reused without permission. For more information about the images, contact Scope on 1300 472 673 or visit [www.scopeaust.org.au](http://www.scopeaust.org.au)