

Home and Living Reference Group

An Easy Read meeting bulletin

9 November 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.

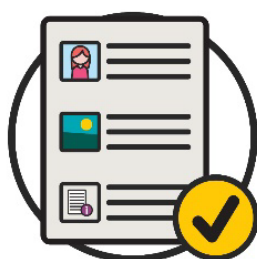


The Independent Advisory Council gives advice about ways to make the NDIS better.



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**.

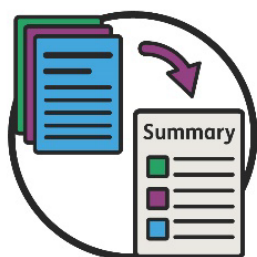
Not bold

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these bold words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 26.



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 is this Reference Group about? 5

From the Reference Group Co-Chairs 7

Our reports 9

The NDIA's home and living framework 19

Our next meeting 24

More information 25

Word list 26

What is this Reference Group about?



A **Reference Group** is a group of people who give us advice about a certain topic.



This Reference Group is about home and living supports.

The Reference Group gives advice to the Council about how people with disability can:



- live in their own home



- choose where they want to live.

They also give advice to the Council about how people with disability can:



- do things for themselves in their home



- take part in their community.

From the Reference Group Co-Chairs



Ms Leah van Poppel is the Council's Principal Member.

She is also the Reference Group Co-Chair.

This means she helps run the Reference Group.

Leah shared that the experiences of the Reference Group members help them give advice to:



- the Council



- the NDIA.



She said this was an important part of the NDIA's **co-design** work.



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



Dr Leighton Jay is a Council Member.

He is also the Reference Group Co-Chair.

He helps run the Reference Group.

Our reports



The Reference Group connected with the community to find out about issues that affect them.



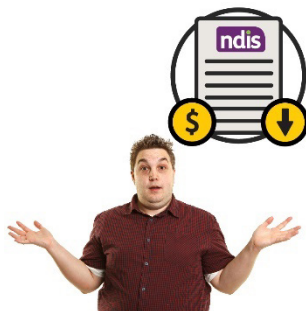
The Reference Group members shared these issues with the NDIA.

What did the reports talk about?

NDIS plans



Funding is the money from your plan that pays for the supports and services you need.



Some **participants** are getting less funding. But they don't have information about why it happened.



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



Participants can ask the NDIA to **review** a decision about their plan.

When the NDIA review a plan, they check that the right decision has been made.



But Reference Group members explained some planners tell participants they will get less funding if they do.



This is more common when the decisions are about home and living supports.



Members think the NDIA should help participants decide to use the **Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT)**.



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

They review decisions about:

- who can join the NDIS
- NDIS plans.



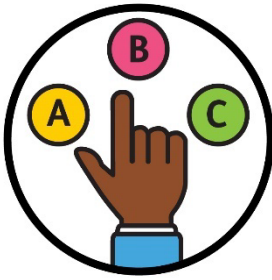
The community worry that some planners don't know enough about home and living supports.

When they know more they can plan for what participants need.

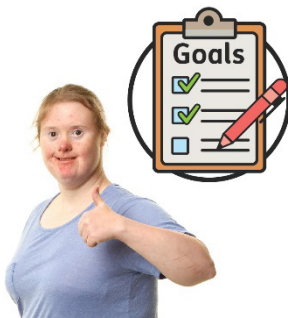


The NDIA should share examples with the community to show how home and living funding can help people with disability.

This will help other participants:

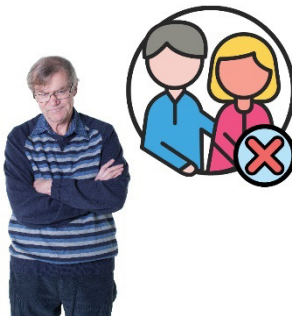


- have more choice and control



- make better goals for themselves.

NDIS services and supports



The Reference Group explained that parents worry about getting too old to care for their adult children with disability.



Aged care is where older Australians live when they can't stay in their home anymore.

It's usually for people 65 years or older.



But some younger people with disability also live in aged care.

This includes NDIS participants.



Reference Group members explained that aged care might not offer the supports that NDIS participants need.

The Reference Group explained that participants need support to:



- learn about their supports
- review their supports.

This will help them have more choice and control.

NDIS home and living supports



Supported accommodation is a type of housing for people with disability who need support.

It can help them live in their own home.



The Reference Group think the NDIA should show governments how supported accommodation works.

And how it can be cheaper than other supports.



The Reference Group shared that participants don't have many choices about where to live.



There are even less for participants with **psychosocial disability**.

A psychosocial disability affects your mental health.



Improved liveability is housing with good accessibility.

Reference Group members shared people think the NDIA will stop using improved liveability.

But this is not true.



Some participants might have funding to change parts of their house because of their disability.



But they think they can only get one ramp.

And they think they can't move to another home later.

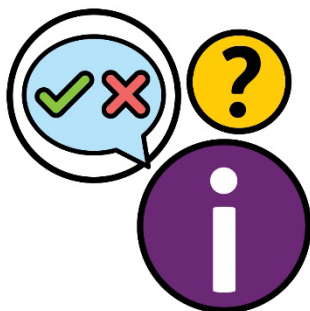


Reference Group members think the NDIA should review the rules about how participants can change their home.



The community worry that people who need a lot of support might not be ready to talk to the NDIA about home and living supports.

Sometimes these people have never had choice and control before.



Reference Group members think the NDIA should tell participants:

- how they make decisions
- what information they use to make decisions.

Other services that give support



The Reference Group told us that some people with disability are not treated fairly by the **justice system**.

The justice system includes:



- police
- the courts
- the law
- prisons.

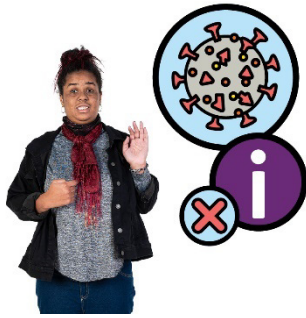
This includes people with:



- psychosocial disability



- acquired brain injury – brain injuries from accidents.



The community gets information about COVID-19 from the governments.

But the community worry that people at high risk do not get information.

This includes:



- people with disability



- older people.



Some participants have **guardians**.

A guardian is a person who can act and make decisions for you.



Sometimes the government chooses who a guardian is.

Reference Group members explained that sometimes guardians make decisions for people without:



- asking if it's what they want
- telling them.

The NDIA's home and living framework



A **framework** is:

- a plan for how we should do things
- where rules come from.



The NDIA's home and living framework is about supporting participants:

- in their home
- to live how they want.



The NDIA asked the Reference Group what they think about their work on the framework so far.



The Reference Group explained that the NDIA could make sure the framework is **accessible**.



When information is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use
- understand.

This includes providing the information in different ways.

For example:



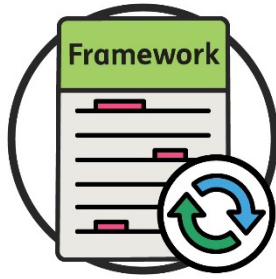
- in writing



- in Easy Read



- sound recordings.



Members also shared how some words in the framework should change.

For example, they think the framework shouldn't use the word 'assessment'.



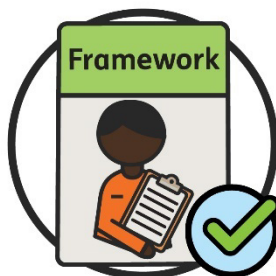
They also think the framework should explain ideas clearly.

Home and living partners

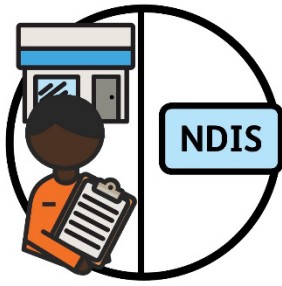


The framework will include new home and living **partners**.

Partners are people who help others find and use services.



This framework should make it clear what home and living partners will do.



Reference Group members think the home and living partners should be separate from the NDIS.



They also think people who help participants to use their supports should know more about home and living supports.

Co-design



Reference Group members talked about how the government will review the NDIS.

They told us it is important that the NDIA keep doing home and living co-design while this happens.



The NDIA asked Purple Orange to test parts of the framework.

Purple Orange is an organisation that supports people with disability to take part in research.



Members explained that the NDIA should use what Purple Orange found out.



Members also told us the home and living framework should work with other NDIA co-design work.

Our next meeting



Our next meeting is in 2023.



You can find out more about our meetings and bulletins on our website.

www.ndis-iac.com.au/meetings

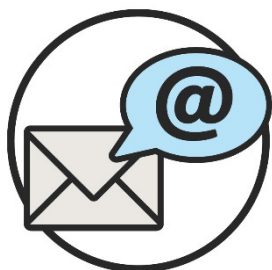
More information

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 learn more about the NDIS on their website.

www.ndis.gov.au

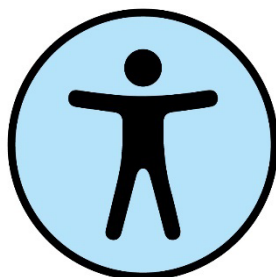


You can call the NDIS.

1800 800 110

Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.



Accessible

When information is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use
- understand.



Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT)

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

They review decisions about:

- who can join the NDIS
- NDIS plans.



Aged care

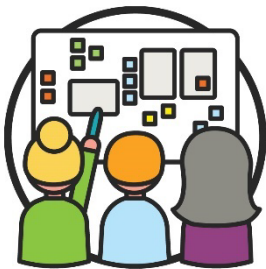
Aged care is where older Australians live when they can't stay in their home anymore.



Bulletin

A bulletin is an important news item we share with the community.

It explains what we did in our last meeting.



Co-design

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



Framework

A framework is:

- a plan for how we should do things
- where rules come from.



Funding

Funding is the money from your plan that pays for the supports and services you need.



Guardian

A guardian is a person who can act and make decisions for you.



Improved liveability

Improved liveability is housing with good accessibility.

Justice system

The justice system includes:



- police
- the courts
- the law
- prisons.



Participants

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



Partners

Partners are people who help others find and use services.



Psychosocial disability

A psychosocial disability affects your mental health.



Reference Group

A Reference Group is a group of people who give us advice about a certain topic.



Review

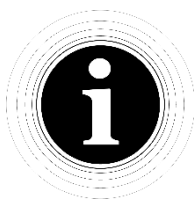
When you review something, you check to see what:

- works well
- can be better.



Supported accommodation

Supported accommodation is a type of housing for people with disability who need support.



The Information Access Group created this Easy Read document using stock photography and custom images. The images may not be reused without permission. For any enquiries about the images, please visit www.informationaccessgroup.com. Quote job number 4773-B.



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



ndis-iac.com.au