



## Independent Advisory Council – Roadshow Video 3 Our Advice

### **Leah van Poppel - Independent Advisory Council Member & Deputy Chair:**

Each year, the Council comes together to agree on our priorities for formal advice for that year.

And through that discussion, we come up with a Work Plan that aligns with the work of the Agency, the priorities of the Board and the priorities of Council itself.

### **Dr Helen Nugent AO - NDIA Board Chair:**

We receive both formal and informal advice from the Independent Advisory Council.

In terms of informal advice, COVID is an example of something that was really fast-moving, and getting the input from the Independent Advisory Council as we went meant that we received that advice informally and then acted on it.

In the case of the formal advice, that's provided by the Council, and then we provide a formal response which is then forwarded to the Disability Ministers, including Minister Robert.

### **Belinda Epstein-Frisch AM - Independent Advisory Council Consultant:**

My role is to develop formal advice on behalf of the Independent Advisory Council. I do this working closely with members of Council and Reference Groups to understand the NDIS related issues from the perspective of people with disability, their families and carers.

For each piece of work, I'm guided by a small group made up of members of Council and Reference Groups. And we often invite external experts, people from the disability community, who contribute to guiding our advice. We engage early with Agency staff to understand current policy, practice, and any work that they are undertaking at the moment that can impact on that advice.

This is all part of an Operating Model that we've developed so that the advice coming from Council is best heard within the Agency to inform their work.

### **Dr Helen Nugent AO - NDIA Board Chair:**

A terrific piece of work that was done by the Independent Advisory Council on 'Participants who are Parents'. I mean, it was extremely moving, and actually had

many of the Board members in tears as they read it, given the significance of that piece of work.

**Leah van Poppel - Independent Advisory Council Member & Deputy Chair:**

We are really proud to see that the work that we've put in has already enabled some innovation and some deeper thought to this issue. That's the heart of what Council is here to do.

The Scheme intent is that people with disability should be able to lead ordinary lives, and what could be more ordinary than being able to parent your child with the right support?

**Sumone Chakravarti - NDIA Branch Manager Strategy:**

So, the ECI project is a great example of partnering with the Council to make long-lasting change for the benefit of our participants and the wider sector. My branch was one of many teams working on the Agency's Response to the Council's recommendations for Early Childhood Intervention.

At the outset of the project, we met with the Council to hear their advice, gain their perspectives and understand their recommendations. But what we learnt was that regular contact would be of great benefit for us as we shaped our thinking.

**Belinda Epstein-Frisch AM - Independent Advisory Council Consultant:**

We collaborated with the Agency in terms of helping to shape their advice and in terms of developing the reset project that has emanated from this.

It's been a really good example of co-design, where Council feels that their voice has been heard, that through this collaboration, the Agency has a clearer view about the nuances of the issues and has drawn upon the knowledge, skills and lived experience of Council members.

**Leah van Poppel - Independent Advisory Council Member & Deputy Chair:**

Over the life of the Council, we've provided advice on a whole range of topics that are still relevant to the NDIS today. You can find all of our advice on the Council's website, so please go and check it out.