

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



Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS

Our Annual Report: 2022–2023

Easy Read version



How to use this report



We are the Independent Advisory Council to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (the IAC).

When you see the words 'we' or 'us', it means the IAC.



We wrote this report in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold

We have written some words in **bold**.

Not bold

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page **41**.



This Easy Read report is a summary of the Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS Annual Report 2022–2023.



You can find the other report on our website.

www.ndis-iac.com.au/news



You can ask for help to read this report.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.



We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional owners of our land – Australia.

They were the first people to live on and use the:



- lands



- waters.

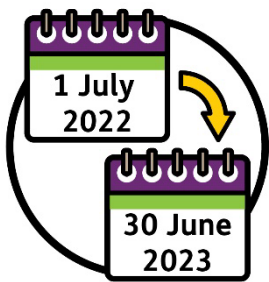
What's in this report?

About this report	6
What we do	8
How we work	10
Our 2022–23 Work Plan	16
Our members	18
Reference Groups	27
Our work this year	32
Sharing our work	37
More information	40
Word list	41

About this report



This report explains our work over the last 12 months.



We explain what we did from:

- 1 July 2022
- to
- 30 June 2023.



We explain how we have tried to make the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) better.

We also explain:



- what we do



- how we work



- our members



- our advice.

What we do



We are **independent**.



This means we can:

- say what we think
- have our own ideas and opinions about the NDIS.



We give advice about the NDIS to the **NDIA Board**.



The NDIA Board is a group of people who make decisions about all parts of the NDIA.

The NDIA Board makes decisions about:



- **policies** – plans for how to do things



- how well the NDIA is working



- how the NDIA spends money

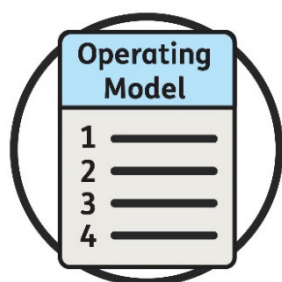


- how to support people with disability to connect with their community



- who works at the NDIA.

How we work



We have a guide about how we should work.

We call it our **Operating Model**.

Our Operating Model helps us work well:



- as a team



- with the NDIA.

It helps us connect with:



- people with disability

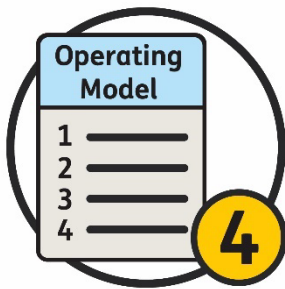


- families and communities.

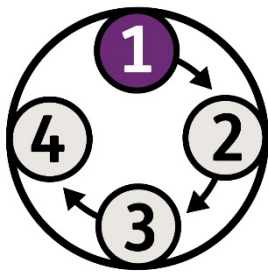


Our Operating Model also helps us:

- write our advice
- give the NDIA advice about issues they need help with.



Our Operating Model has 4 main steps.



1. Identify and prioritise



We think about:

- what advice the NDIA needs
- the information we have already.



The NDIA can also ask us for advice and information about a certain topic.

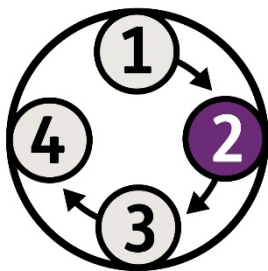
We make a plan to work out:



- other information we need



- what work we will do first.



2. Mobilise



We work out who can give us the information we need.



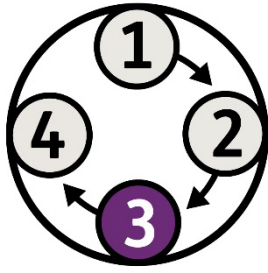
We do our own research.



We write our advice.



We make sure we all agree with the advice.



3. Advise



When you share your advice with someone, you advise them.



We give our advice to the NDIA Board.



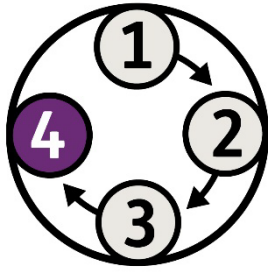
The NDIA Board:

- thinks about our advice
- decides what to do with our advice.



They give our advice to the Minister for the NDIS.

A **minister** leads an area of the government.



4. Implement



We get a regular report from the NDIA about what they are doing to support our advice.



We give more advice if we need to.



We share our final advice with the:

- NDIA
- community.

Our 2022–2023 Work Plan



Our Work Plan talks about:

- the work we will do each year
- our **priorities**.



Our priorities are the things that are most important to us.

When we make our Work Plan, we also think about:



- the Australian Government's priorities



- the priorities in the NDIA Corporate Plan.



The NDIA Corporate Plan explains the goals for the NDIS over the next 4 years.



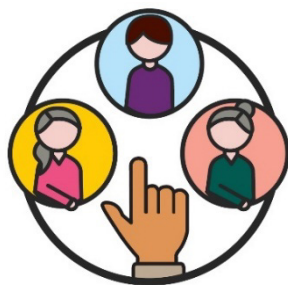
Our Work Plan might change if we make new priorities during the year.



You can find an Easy Read version of our Work Plan on our website.

www.ndis-iac.com.au/news

Our members



The Minister for the NDIS chooses our members.

Our members include:



- people with disability
- people who are experts in disability
- family and carers
- **providers.**

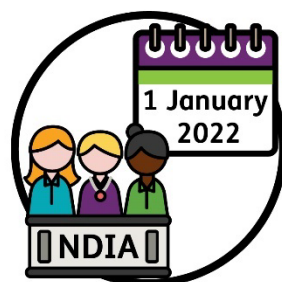


Providers support people with disability by delivering a service.



Leah van Poppel is the Principal Member.

The Principal Member is our leader.



She became the Principal Member on 1 January 2022.

She also joined the NDIA Board at the same time.



Dr Sharon Boyce is a person with disability who:



- is from Queensland



- speaks up for people with disability.



Jennifer Cullen has worked in disability services for more than 30 years.



She is a proud Aboriginal woman.

She supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with disability.



Dr Leighton Jay gives advice on policies and services that affect people with disability.



He has a son with disability.



Sylvana Mahmic speaks up for people with disability.



She works hard to support children with disability.



Tricia Malowney OAM is a woman with disability.



She speaks up for the **rights** of people with disability.



Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.



The OAM after her name means she received an award called the Medal of the Order of Australia.



James Manders works on different **boards**.



A board is a group of people who make decisions for:

- an organisation
- a company.



He speaks up for people with disability.



Sam Paior is the leader of The Growing Space.

This is a provider in South Australia that hires people with disability.



Liz Reid AM supports people with disability to:

- find and keep a job
- take part in their communities.



The AM after her name means that she received an award for the Member of the Order of Australia.



Dr George Taleporos is a person with disability and high support needs.



He has been speaking up for people with disability for over 20 years.

He also works on a **podcast** called Reasonable and Necessary.



A podcast is a recording of people talking about a topic.

It is a bit like a radio program.



Podcasts are shared:

- online
- using apps.



Mark Tonga speaks up to make sure people with different disabilities:

- feel like they belong
- get the support they need.



He believes everyone should be treated:

- fairly
- equally.

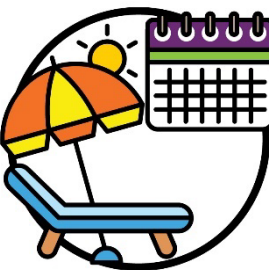


Kerry Allan works to improve rights for people with disability.



Kerry is a person with disability.

She was born with cerebral palsy.



This year she took a break from her work with us.

Other people who support the IAC



Dr Ben Gauntlett is our Expert Adviser.

This means he supports us with our work.



He is the Disability Discrimination Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission.

This means he works to make sure people with disability are safe.



Ben finished his work as Commissioner on 30 June 2023.



Belinda Epstein-Frisch AM works closely with our members to turn our advice into a report.



She has experience writing policies that affect people with disability.

She also speaks up for people with disability.



Gavin Burner is a person with **intellectual disability**.

An intellectual disability affects how you:



- learn new things
- solve problems
- communicate
- do things on your own.



He speaks up for the rights of people with intellectual disability who live far away from cities and towns.

Reference Groups



We have 4 **Reference Groups**.

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

Our Reference Groups are the:



- Children, Young People and Families Reference Group



- Equity and Inclusion Reference Group



- Home and Living Reference Group



- Intellectual Disability Reference Group



Our Reference Groups help support our advice.

Our Reference Groups include people who:



- know a lot about the topic for their group



- have disability



- come from different backgrounds.



We talk more about each Reference Group below.

Children, Young People and Families Reference Group

This group gives advice about how to support:



- children with disability



- young people with disability



- families and carers.

This includes how to support them to:



- do things for themselves



- take part in the community.

Equity and Inclusion Reference Group

This group gives advice about:



- giving everyone an equal chance



- treating everyone fairly



- sharing information with the community



- how to be more **inclusive**.



When the community is inclusive, everyone feels:

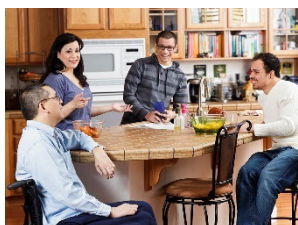
- included
- like they belong.

Home and Living Reference Group

This group gives advice about supports people with disability need:



- in their home



- to live their life each day

Intellectual Disability Reference Group

This group gives advice about supporting people with intellectual disability to:



- live their life



- take part in their community.

Our work this year

The advice we worked on



In the last 12 months, we worked on suggestions and advice for the NDIA Board.



When we give advice to the NDIA Board they must:

- listen to us
- do something about it.



We gave advice to the NDIA Board about how the NDIA can support **participants** from different backgrounds.



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

This includes supporting:



- First Nations participants



- **culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)** participants.



CALD participants:

- come from different countries or backgrounds
- speak languages other than English.



This also includes supporting **LGBTIQA+** participants.

LGBTIQA stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and questioning, and asexual.



The '+' is for people who are part of the LGBTIQA+ community but don't talk about themselves using a word from this list.



We worked on advice about how to improve the NDIS for children and young participants.



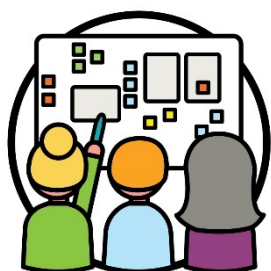
We will send this advice to the NDIA Board soon.



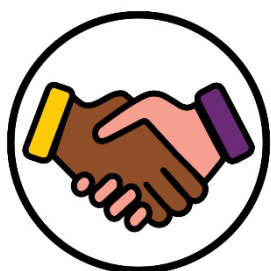
We also worked on advice about ways to support how a participant acts or behaves.

We are still working on this advice.

How we supported co-design



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



This year we worked with the NDIA to support their co-design work.



For example, we worked with the NDIA on their Home and Living Framework.

A **framework** is a plan for how things should work.



We shared what the community had to say about the NDIA's framework.

This includes:



- people with disability



- disability organisations



- providers.



We also met with the NDIA to share our ideas with them about their co-design work.

Sharing our work

Over the last year, we shared some of our work with the:



- NDIA



- community.



We share our work by posting it on our website.



We also share news updates, such as bulletins.
This includes Easy Read versions.



You can find these bulletins on our website.
www.ndis-iac.com.au/meetings



We share an Easy Read meeting pack for our
Intellectual Disability Reference Group.



We want to make sure our website works well
for everyone.
We will keep working to make our website
better in the next year.

We want to keep finding new ways
to communicate with:



- the community



- the Australian Government



- disability organisations



- people who support people with disability.

More information



For more information about our Annual Report, please contact us.



You can visit our website.

www.ndis-iac.com.au/news



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 also call the NDIS.

1800 800 110

Word list



Board

A board is a group of people who make decisions for:

- an organisation
- a company.



Co-design

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



Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)

CALD people:

- come from different countries or backgrounds
- speak languages other than English.



Framework

A framework is a plan for how things should work.



Inclusive

When the community is inclusive, everyone feels:

- included
- like they belong.



Independent

This means we can:

- say what we think
- have our own ideas and opinions about the NDIS.



Intellectual disability

An intellectual disability affects how you:

- learn new things
- solve problems
- communicate
- do things on your own.

LGBTIQA+ people



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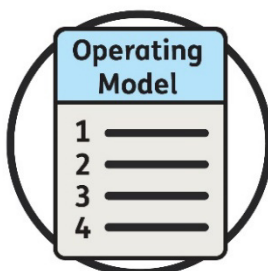
Minister

A minister leads an area of the government.



NDIA Board

The NDIA Board is a group of people who make decisions about all parts of the NDIA.



Operating Model

Our Operating Model helps us work well:

- as a team
- with the NDIA.



Participants

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



Policies

Policies are plans for how to do things.



Priorities

Our priorities are the things that are most important to us.



Providers

Providers support people with disability by delivering a service.



Reference Group

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



Rights

Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.



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