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Meeting bulletin – 7 December 2023

This bulletin provides an overview of the recent meeting held by the Independent Advisory Council (IAC).

The IAC's role is to provide advice to the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) Board, with the goal of improving the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

The meeting, held in Sydney on 7 December 2023, was chaired by Ms Leah van Poppel who is the IAC's [Principal Member](#).

Update from the IAC's Principal Member

Ms van Poppel opened the meeting by [congratulating Mr Gavin Burner on his appointment to the IAC](#). She also congratulated reappointed IAC Members Dr Sharon Boyce, Dr Leighton Jay, Ms Tricia Malowney OAM, Ms Sam Paor and Mr Mark Tonga.

Ms van Poppel informed Members that Ms Liz Reid AM had resigned from the IAC and this would be her last meeting. She thanked Ms Reid AM for her valued contribution to the IAC over many years. Ms van Poppel advised Members that she would start the process for selecting a new IAC Member to fill this vacancy.

Ms van Poppel provided an update on the IAC's advice and other important work since their [last meeting on 2 November 2023 \(DOCX 104KB\)](#). She acknowledged the release of the NDIS Review's [Final report: Working together to deliver the NDIS \(PDF 4.37MB\)](#) (NDIS Review final report) a short time before the meeting started.

Ms van Poppel acknowledged the Australian Human Rights Commission's appointment of Ms Rosemary Kayess as [Disability Discrimination Commissioner](#). Ms van Poppel shared that she would engage with Ms Kayess so she is aware of the IAC and would consider advising the IAC from time to time on disability rights issues.

IAC discussion on the NDIS Review final report

Ms van Poppel and NDIA Representatives led discussions on the NDIS Review final report. Members welcomed the release of the NDIS Review final report. They noted the need for more time to examine and understand the NDIS Review final report's recommendations and actions, and the impact on the disability community. They also noted that there are no changes immediately to the NDIS, and that the



Minister has committed to working closely with the disability community on the changes recommended by the NDIS Review.

Members noted that the Australian Government, together with states and territories, will consider the NDIS Review final report and its recommendations, providing a response in early 2024. Members shared their early thoughts on the NDIS Review final report:

- It is important that the IAC and NDIA proactively share available accessible information about the report with the community, to reduce any confusion or fear.
- Some people in the disability community may worry about some of the recommendations, and what these mean for them personally.
- It is important that all governments work together so that people with disability have the information they need about any changes.

Members agreed to have further discussions about the proposed direction when they have had the opportunity to read the NDIS Review final report in full. They will consider areas where the IAC might develop advice to assist the government in its consideration of the NDIS Review final report, and in the implementation of its recommendations.

Work on IAC advice about ageing participants

Ms Samantha Jenkinson, IAC Senior Independent Advisor, updated Members on the development of the IAC's advice about participants who are ageing. Ms Jenkinson advised on the need for the IAC to consider any recommendations from the NDIS Review final report, particularly those that may relate to ageing participants, for this advice. This advice will consider previous advice from the IAC, as well as advice from IAC and IAC Reference Group meetings. The IAC will continue to work on this advice in 2024.

Updates on NDIA Reform for outcomes co-design work

A NDIA Representative shared an update on the [Reform for outcomes co-design work](#). IAC Members are working with the NDIA as part of their co-design approach. Members want the NDIA to make sure that people with disability are part of the evaluation of the outcomes of this work.

Revisiting the NDIA's work on hospital supports

A NDIA Representative updated the IAC on the Agency's work to support participants when they are in hospital. Part of this work focuses on working with hospitals to plan and coordinate supports when a participant is in hospital and leaving hospital.

IAC Members have previously provided advice on this work. Members commended the NDIA's work to develop and enhance a set of principles to guide conversations about supports for participants in hospital. They said the NDIA has done an excellent job to include the IAC's previously raised feedback.



Members also noted that hospital staff do not always have the capacity to support people with complex communication needs. Therefore, people with complex communication needs or positive behaviour support needs should have access to a support worker for their whole hospital stay.

Update from the Department of Social Services

A Representative from the Department of Social Services (DSS) shared an update on DSS' work on [Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031 \(ADS\)](#). Members highlighted the importance of all levels of government working together and being connected to create better outcomes for people with disability. They also shared concerns that there is not enough awareness of the ADS outside government agencies.

The DSS also shared updates on the [Information, Linkages and Capacity Building \(ILC\) program](#) and its associated grant programs. Members highlighted the importance of longer-term funding for peer-support and capacity building organisations. Members also noted the importance of funding programs that help culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities understand disability. Members called for enhanced evaluation to understand the impact that grants have on outcomes for people with disability.

Discussion about the IAC Work Plan

The IAC will extend its current Work Plan. This will allow the future Work Plan to align with the Australian Government response to the final reports of the NDIS Review and the [Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability](#).

More information on the IAC

The IAC's next meeting will be held on 29 February 2024. Find out more about IAC meetings and bulletins at the [IAC website](#). You can also access advice from the [IAC website](#).

The IAC publishes an Easy Read version of this bulletin. This is part of its commitment to accessibility.