



Independent Advisory Council

An Easy Read meeting bulletin

7 December 2023



How to use this bulletin



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

It explains what we did in our meeting.



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

In this bulletin, we just say IAC.



The IAC wrote this bulletin.

When you see the word 'we', it means the IAC.



We wrote this bulletin in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold

Not bold

We wrote some important words in **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 22.



This is an Easy Read 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.

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What happened at the meeting?

Ms Leah van Poppel ran the meeting.



She is the IAC's Principal Member.

She's also a member of the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) Board.

We just call them the **NDIA Board**.



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



We held the meeting on 7 December 2023.



Leah welcomed IAC Members to the meeting.

This included a new IAC Member, Mr Gavin Burner.

Leah also welcomed back IAC Members to the meeting, this included:



- Dr Sharon Boyce



- Dr Leighton Jay



- Ms Tricia Malowney OAM



- Ms Sam Paior



- Mr Mark Tonga.



Leah told IAC Members that Ms Liz Reid AM is leaving the IAC.

Leah thanked Liz for her work with the IAC.



Leah shared that she will start looking for a new IAC Member to take Liz's place.

Leah also shared an update since our 2 November 2023 meeting on the IAC's:



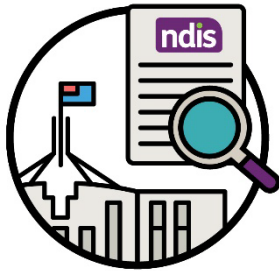
- advice



- work.



Leah told IAC Members that the **NDIS Review** have shared their final report.



The Australian Government is checking the NDIS to find out what:

- works well
- could be better.

They call it the NDIS Review.



Leah shared that she will reach out to Ms Rosemary Kayess about working with the IAC.



Rosemary helps run the Australian Human Rights Commission.

They are an organisation who support the **human rights** of people.



Human rights are rules about how everybody should be treated:



- fairly
- equally.

What important updates were in the meeting?

The NDIS Review final report



Leah and the NDIA talked to IAC Members about the NDIS Review's final report.

IAC Members shared that they need more time to understand:



- the ideas and actions in the final report



- how the final report will affect the community.



IAC Members shared that there needs to be **accessible** information about the final report.



When information is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use
- understand.



IAC Members also shared that some people might worry about what the NDIS Review's ideas mean for them.



IAC Members explained that the **Minister** of the NDIS will work with the community to make changes to the NDIS.



A minister leads an area of government.



IAC Members also explained that governments will share their thoughts on the final report in early 2024.

This includes:



- the Australian Government



- state and territory governments.

The IAC's advice update



Ms Samantha Jenkinson gave IAC Members an update on the IAC's advice for the NDIA Board.



The IAC advice is about **participants** who are getting older.



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

To support the IAC's advice, Samantha said the IAC should look at:



- ideas from the NDIS Review



- advice the IAC has shared before



- advice from the IAC's **Reference Groups**.

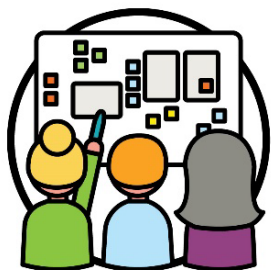


A Reference Group is a group of people who give us advice about a certain topic.



The IAC will keep working on its advice for participants who are getting older in 2024.

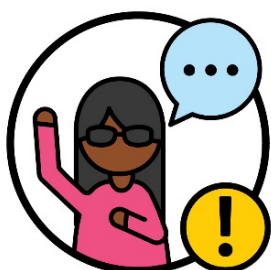
Update on the NDIA co-design projects



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



The NDIA gave IAC Members an update on its co-design projects.



IAC Members explained that it's important for people with disability to share their thoughts on this work.



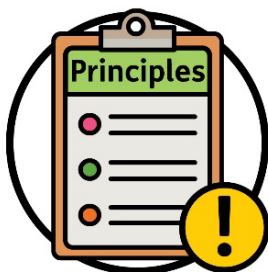
They want the NDIA to make sure this happens.

The NDIA's work on hospital supports



The NDIA gave IAC Members an update on its work to support participants when they:

- stay in hospital
- leave hospital.



IAC Members shared their support for the NDIA's new **principles**.

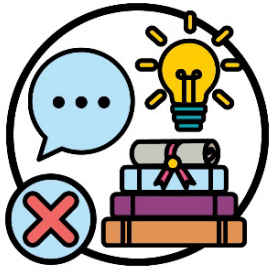
Principles are important ideas the NDIA should always think about.



These principles will guide the way the NDIA talks about supports for participants in hospital.



IAC Members also shared that they are happy with how the NDIA has used their advice.



IAC Members explained that hospital staff don't always have the right skills to support some people.



For example, people who need more support to communicate.



People who need more support should have a support worker for the whole time they are in hospital.

Update from the Department of Social Services



The Department of Social Services (DSS) shared the work it has done on Australia's Disability Strategy.

We call it the Strategy.



A **strategy** is a plan for how the Australian Government will do things in the future.



IAC Members explained that all levels of government should work together to better support people with disability.



IAC Members shared that it's important for more people to know and understand the Strategy.



They worry that only governments know a lot about the Strategy.



DSS also gave an update on the **Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) program**.



The ILC program gives **grants** to organisations that support people with disability.



A grant is money from the government to pay for important work that helps others.



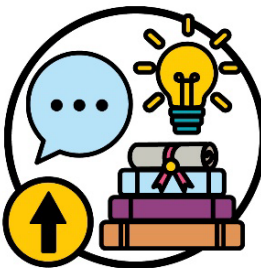
IAC Members explained that **funding** for some supports and services should last longer.

Funding is money from the government that pays for services and supports.

Funding should last longer for organisations:



- run by people with disability



- that build people's skills.



IAC Members shared that it's important to give funding to programs that help people learn about disability.



IAC Members also shared that they want to learn more about how well grants are working to make things better for people with disability.

The IAC's Work Plan

We will make our new Work Plan after the Australian Government shares its thoughts about:



- the NDIS Review's final report



- the Disability Royal Commission's final report.



The Work Plan is a document that explains what the IAC will work on.

A **royal commission** is how the government looks into a big problem.



It helps us find out what:

- went wrong
- we can fix.

Our next meeting



Our next meeting is on 29 February 2024.



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 visit the NDIS 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:

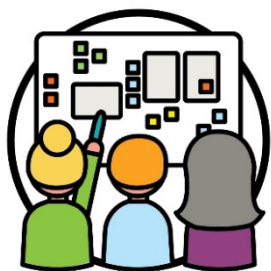
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Bulletin

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Funding

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Grant

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Human rights

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Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) program

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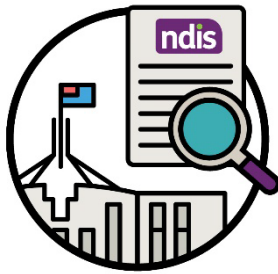
Minister

A minister leads an area of government.



NDIA Board

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

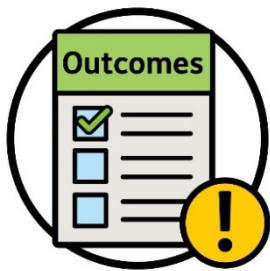


NDIS Review

The Australian Government is checking the NDIS to find out what:

- works well
- could be better.

They call it the NDIS Review.



Outcomes

Outcomes are important results governments want to get for people with disability.



Participants

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



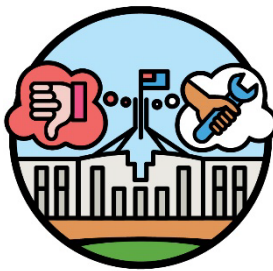
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A royal commission is how the government looks into a big problem.

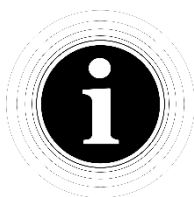
It helps us find out what:

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Strategy

A strategy is a plan for how the Australian Government will do things in the future.



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