

Supporting LACs to be LACs

- *Plan size has increased but many participants remain isolated. The lack of impact of the National Disability Strategy puts pressure on the NDIS to fund the failed community response.*
- *The NDIA has pivoted to better serve participants in its post transition environment and has committed to ensure “LACs can be LACs.”*
- *What does it mean to ensure “LACs can be LACs” and how can the NDIA maximise participant and sustainability outcomes from its LAC investment?*

The NDIA must configure its LAC function to give priority to embedding people with disability in community and assisting local communities to become more inclusive. Evidence suggests this approach will contribute to the development of mainstream and community networks committed to shared outcomes for people with disability and mitigate the risk of the NDIS becoming a substitute for a failed community response.

Success requires LACs to

- Embed people with disability in community
- Assist communities to be more welcoming and inclusive of people with disability without taking on the role of the National Disability Strategy
- Assist participants to use plan to achieve their goals.

Strategies to achieve success include

- Support participants to
 - build real relationships and informal support
 - make decisions and develop support for decision making
 - build personal safeguards and experience risk positively while being safe
 - develop non-service solutions to their needs
- Assist community to be more welcoming via
 - networking and community development activities to support organisations and communities to become more inclusive of people with disability
 - local partnerships with mainstream and community providers to build their capacity to include people with disability
- Assist participants to achieve their goals via informal and responsive paid support.

So, the NDIA should take steps to ensure that the LAC function

1. Has its own vision, charter and principles and accountabilities
2. Characterises the design of LAC as:
 - a) a facilitator of change at an individual and community level
 - b) aiming to empower people with disability
 - c) staffed by people who work alongside the person to achieve their goals.
 - d) prioritising community engagement
 - e) supporting the development of approaches based on meaningful relationships that can complement or substitute for paid supports.
3. Identifies the target group as people who identify as having a disability including non-participants and all participants.
4. Uses Council advice as the basis of its approach to commissioning, workforce strategy and piloting.