

Independent Advisory Council

An Easy Read meeting bulletin

15 December 2022



How to use this bulletin



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

It explains what we did in our last meeting.

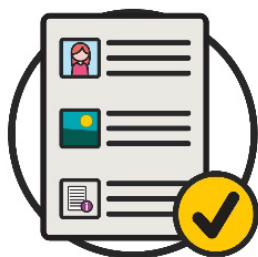


The Independent Advisory Council gives advice about ways to make the NDIS better.



The Council wrote this bulletin.

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



We wrote this bulletin in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold

We wrote some important words in **bold**.

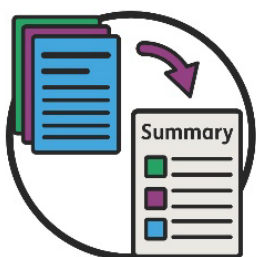
Not bold

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these bold words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 37.



This Easy Read bulletin is a 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.

What's in this bulletin?

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What happened in the last meeting?



Leah van Poppel ran the last meeting.

She is the Council's Principal Member.

She's also a member of the **NDIA Board**.



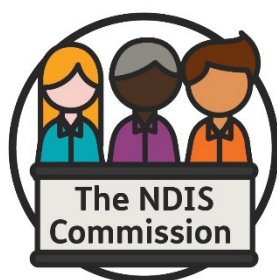
The NDIA Board is a group of people who make decisions about all parts of the NDIA.



The meeting was held on 15 December 2022.



Leah talked about the work we are doing.



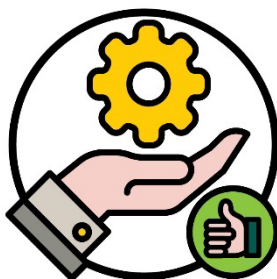
She talked about a meeting we had with the **NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission**.

In this bulletin we call them the NDIS Commission.

The NDIS Commission makes sure people who take part in the NDIS:



- are safe



- get good services.



We will keep working with the NDIS Commission.

What did Mr Kurt Fearnley AO share?



Mr Kurt Fearnley AO is the Chairperson of the NDIA Board.

This means he runs the NDIA Board.



Kurt shared that the experiences of the Council Members are important to the NDIA.

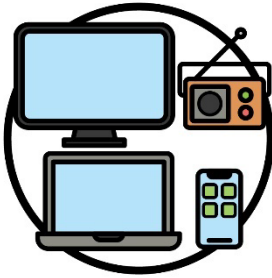


He told us about some meetings he has had.



And about some interviews he did for the **media**.

The media includes:



- TV
- radio
- the Internet
- social media – like Facebook.

What did Ms Rebecca Falkingham share?



Ms Rebecca Falkingham is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the NDIA.

This means she runs the NDIA.



Rebecca shared how important the knowledge of Council Members is to the NDIA.



She told us what the NDIA has been working on.

This includes:



- helping the media talk about disability in a good way



- hiring more people with disability to work at the NDIA.

The NDIA has been working towards:



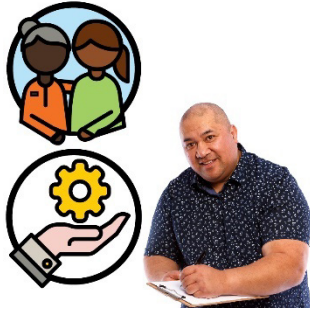
- a new computer system



- supporting people with disability when they leave hospital



- making it easier for people with disability to change parts of their home.



The NDIA is also working to make sure there are enough supports and services for everyone.



And they are working to stop people doing the wrong thing with **funding**.



Funding is money from your plan that pays for the supports and services you need.



The NDIA is also making it easier to use the **Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT)**.



The AAT is a government organisation that is separate to the NDIS.

They check the NDIA's decisions about:



- who can join the NDIS



- NDIS plans.

What did our Council Members share?



Our Council Members connect with the community to find out about issues that affect them.



Our Council Members shared these issues with the NDIA.

The community



Council Members shared that the community is happy with our Work Plan for 2022 to 2023.

Our Work Plan explains the work we will do each year.



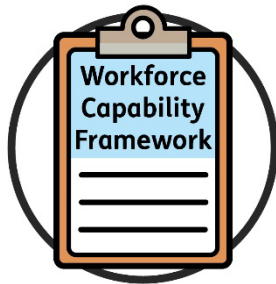
Council members explained that people don't know how the NDIS Commission supports **participants**.

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



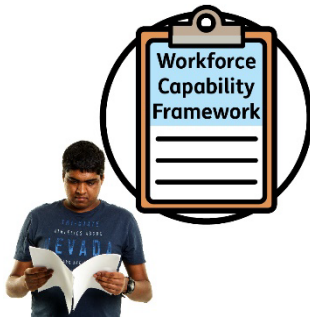
Some people also think the NDIS Commission might give them less support.

But this is not true.



Council Members talked about the NDIS Workforce Capability Framework.

The framework explains how people must behave when they support NDIS participants.



Council Members explained how the framework can help participants know what to expect from their services and supports.

How the NDIA works



Council Members explained that the NDIA has a chance to stop people doing the wrong thing with funding.



Some people are more at risk than others.

This includes:



- women with disability



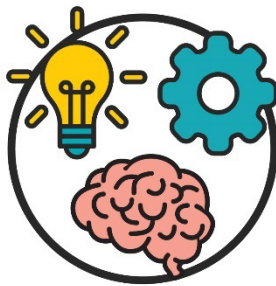
- people with disability who come from different backgrounds.



Council Members think the NDIA should hire more people with disability.

This includes people with **intellectual disability**.

An intellectual disability can affect how you:



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



The NDIA has a chance to show other organisations they can do this too.

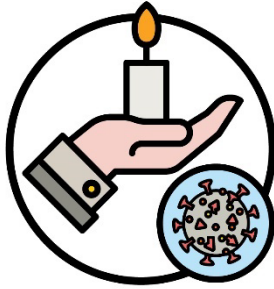


Council Members also explained that the NDIA is starting a First Nations Advisory Group.

They will give advice to the NDIA Board about issues that affect First Nations peoples.



It is important that we work together with the First Nations Advisory Group.



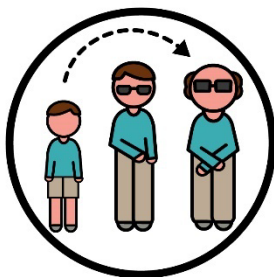
Council Members also shared that the community want the NDIA to share how many participants have died from COVID-19.

NDIS supports



Council Members explained that people with disability need support to find and keep a job at different times in their life.

Not just when they are young.



We will talk about this when we give our advice to the NDIA about 'Participants who are ageing'.

Organisations who hire people with disability need to be more **inclusive**.



When something is inclusive, everyone feels:

- included
- like they belong.

This includes:



- businesses



- governments.

They should share more information in:



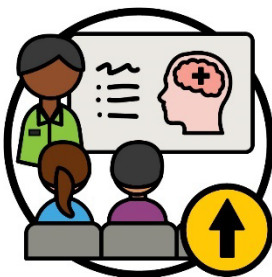
- plain English



- Easy Read.



Council Members also explained that some people who support participants need more training to support people with disability.



Support workers need more training to meet the needs of people with disability who need support with their mental health.

Local area coordinators (LACs) also need more training to support people with disability.



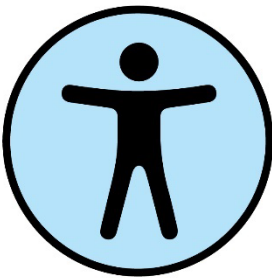
An LAC is someone who helps people with disability:

- join and use the NDIS
- find community services.

NDIS supports for children



Council Members explained that some local councils lock **accessible** playgrounds.



When something is accessible, it is easy to:

- use
- move around in.



They lock playgrounds because they worry people will damage them.



Local councils should understand it can be hard for parents of children with disability to get to an accessible playground.

And when the playground is locked, they can't use it.



Council Members explained that the support the NDIS provides changes when children are 6 years old.



But the NDIA does this in different ways.

Council Members think there should be one way to do this.



Sometimes children need **evidence** of their disability to take part in the NDIS.

Evidence is proof that something is true.

Getting evidence can cost a lot of money.



Council Members think this is not fair.

And it costs a lot of money because there isn't another way to get the evidence families need.



Council Members worry about how the NDIS stops providing support to children.

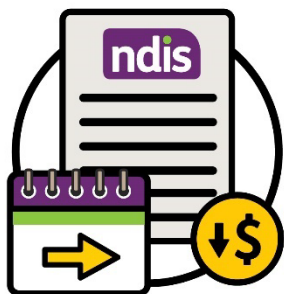


Sometimes the NDIA doesn't tell families that it will happen.

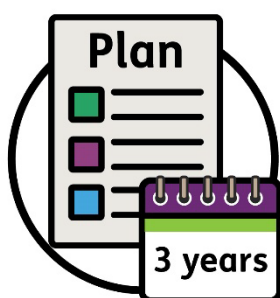


And they don't help them find other supports.

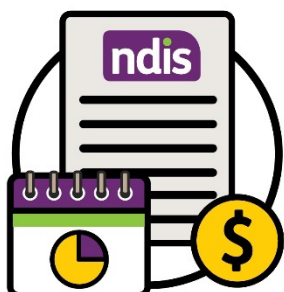
NDIS plans



Council Members worry about participants who might get less funding for their plan in the future.



Council Members explained that some participants get a plan for 3 years.



But their funding is for supports that only last part of that time.



Some participants manage their own plan.

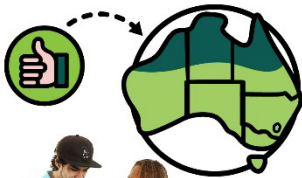


But sometimes the NDIA changes their plan so someone else manages it.



Sometimes the NDIA does not tell participants that:

- this will happen
- they can ask the NDIA to check their decision was right.



Council Members shared that people are happy with how the NDIA communicates with the community about planning in the north of Australia.

Home and living



Council Members explained that a lot of people want to build **Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA)** in the north of Australia.



SDA is accessible housing for people with disability.

But the SDA they want to build does not:



- meet the needs of participants



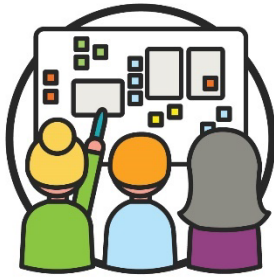
- let participants choose where they live.



Builders should talk to the disability community about where to build SDA.

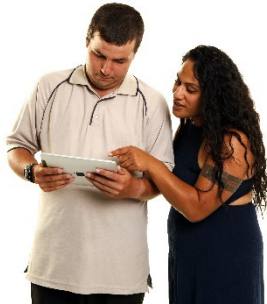
Important updates

The NDIA's co-design work



Council talked about the NDIA's **co-design** projects.

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



Council Members talked about the work the NDIA has done about **supported decision making**.



Supported decision making is when someone helps you make important decisions about your life.

The NDIA has done a good job:



- talking to the disability community
- working with the disability community.



Council Members shared their ideas about the Participant Safety co-design.

They will meet with the NDIA to talk about this more.

They want to make sure this work is right.



We will share more about the progress with the NDIA.

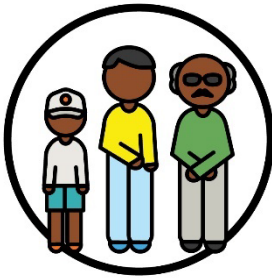
Our advice about listening to children and young people



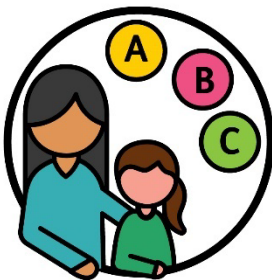
We are writing advice for the NDIA about listening to children and young people.

Council Members shared their ideas.

They explained that our advice should:



- think about how a person might take part in the NDIS at different times in their life



- help parents give their children choice and control



- help the NDIA hear what children and young people have to say



- think about how the NDIA can include the voices of children and young people.



Our advice should help LACs support children and young people in the right way.

And make sure children, young people and families can find and use:



- services that meet their needs

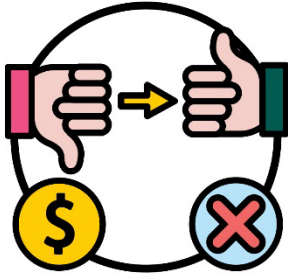


- information about what they can expect.



Our advice should also think about other ways governments can support children and young people with disability.

It doesn't always have to be the NDIS.



Council Members also explained that sometimes more funding and services don't make things better for children and young people.

Our guide about intersectionality



Council Members also shared their ideas about our guide for the NDIA about **intersectionality**.

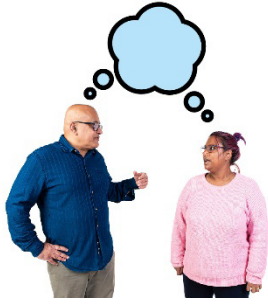


Intersectionality is when people are different in more than one way.

They might be treated differently for each of the things about them they can't change.



Council wants to be a leader in intersectionality.



Council Members explained how our guide should think about people who have experienced **trauma**.

Trauma is something bad that happens to you that can make you feel:



- scared
- stressed
- worried.



We should also use real stories to explain what participants experience.



Council Members also explained that we should make sure to give our guide in plain English.

This will make it easier for people to understand,
including people:



- with disability



- from different backgrounds.

The NDIA's work on complex supports



Council Members are happy with the NDIA's work to help participants when they leave hospital.



The NDIA wants to decide how to support a participant leaving hospital within 30 days.



But the community want a shorter time.



Council Members worry about where participants go when they leave hospital.

Sometimes the NDIA puts participants in housing that doesn't meet their needs.



Council Members shared how the NDIA could look at ideas that work well.

Like the Disability Liaison Officers in Victoria.

They also shared that the NDIA should share information about complex supports in:



- plain English



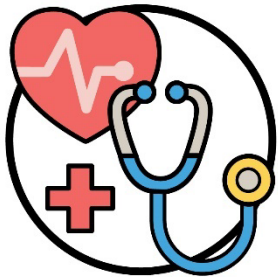
- Easy Read.



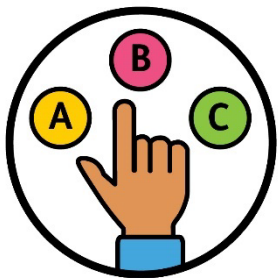
Council Members shared ideas about a health passport for participants.

A health passport has information that a participant wants health professionals to know.

This includes information about their:



- health



- choices.

Our next meeting



Our next meeting is on 22 February 2023.



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 something is accessible, it is easy to:

- use
- move around in.



Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT).

The AAT is a government organisation that is separate to the NDIS.

They check the NDIA's decisions about:

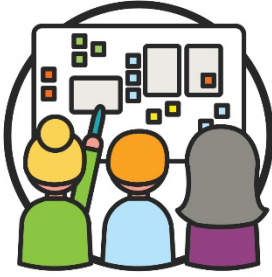
- who can join the NDIS
- NDIS plans.



Bulletin

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

It explains what we did in our last meeting.



Co-design

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



Evidence

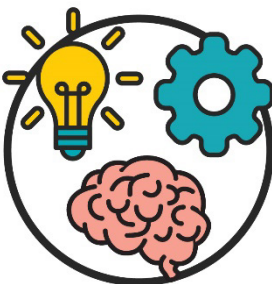
Evidence is proof that something is true.



Inclusive

When something is inclusive, everyone feels:

- included
- like they belong.



Intellectual disability

An intellectual disability can affect how you:

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



Intersectionality

Intersectionality is when people are different in more than one way.

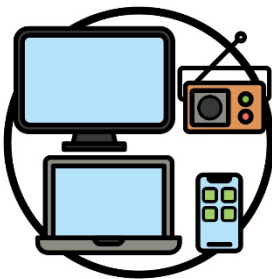
They might be treated differently for each of the things about them they can't change.



Local area coordinators (LACs)

An LAC is someone who helps people with disability:

- join and use the NDIS
- find community services.



Media

The media includes:

- TV
- radio
- the Internet
- social media – like Facebook.



NDIA Board

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



NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission

The NDIS Commission makes sure people who take part in the NDIS:

- are safe
- get good services.



Participants

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



Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA)

SDA is accessible housing for people with disability.



Supported decision making

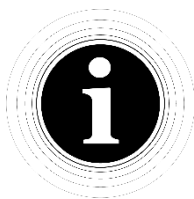
Supported decision making is when someone helps you make important decisions about your life.

Trauma

Trauma is something bad that happens to you that can make you feel:



- scared
- stressed
- worried.



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