

Intellectual Disability Reference Group

An Easy Read meeting bulletin

1 June 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 last 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

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 27.



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.

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What is this Reference Group about?

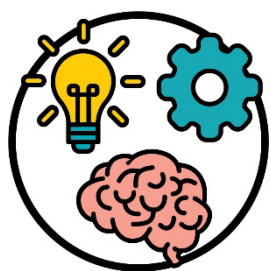


A **Reference Group** is a group of people who give us advice about a certain topic.



The Reference Group gives advice to the IAC about how to support people with **intellectual disability**.

An intellectual disability affects how you:



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

This includes support to:



- take part in the community



- make your own decisions.

A message from the IAC's Principal Member



Ms Leah van Poppel is the IAC's Principal Member.
She is also the Reference Group Co-Chair.
This means she helps run the Reference Group.

Leah shared the work we have done since the last meeting, including work by:



- the IAC



- the IAC Reference Group.



Ms Sam Paor is a IAC Member.
She is also the Reference Group Co-Chair.
She helps run the Reference Group.

Our reports



The Reference Group connected with the community to find out about issues that affect them.



The Reference Group members shared these issues with the NDIA.

What did the reports talk about?

NDIS plans



Reference Group members shared that people with intellectual disability must prove their disability to the NDIS a lot of times.



And it's harder for younger people with intellectual disability to join the NDIS.



Members explained that it should be easier for people with intellectual disability to join the NDIS.

This includes people with intellectual disability who:



- are First Nations peoples



- come from different backgrounds



- have contact with the **justice system**.

The justice system includes:



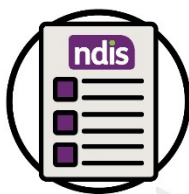
- police
- the courts
- the law
- prisons.



Members shared that people want more documents to be easy to read.

For example, Easy Read versions.

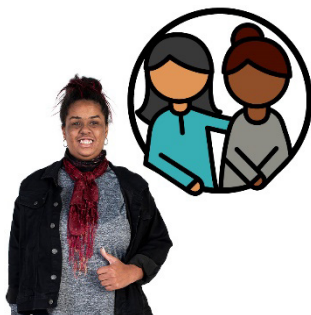
This includes information about:



- how the NDIS works

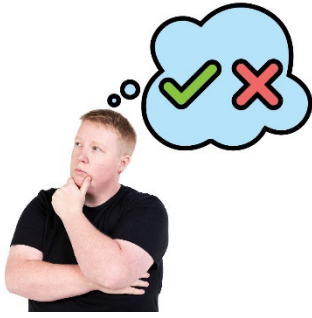


- NDIS plans.



It's important for people with disability to understand the supports in their plan.

This can help them to:



- make decisions for themselves



- use their supports how they want.



Members shared that decisions about plans are not always the same.



This means **participants** get different services even though they need the same support.



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



Members explained that some **support coordinators** will make phone calls for participants.

And they charge participants money for this when they shouldn't.



A support coordinator is someone who helps participants plan and use their supports.



Members also explained that support workers need better training so they know how to support people with intellectual disability.

NDIS services and supports



Reference Group members shared there are issues with the way **providers** offer services to people with disability.



Providers support people with disability by delivering a service.

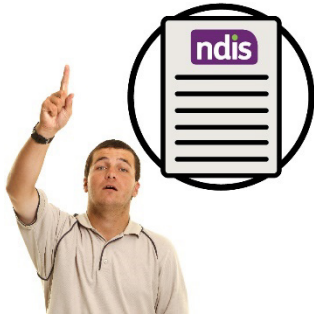


Members also shared that there are not enough support coordinators for participants who need extra support.



Members explained that people with disability who have contact with the justice system should be able to use **Justice Liaison Officers (JLOs)**.

JLOs support prisons to understand how they can use the NDIS.



This can help people prove that they need to take part in the NDIS.



Members shared there are issues with how people find and use services when they live very far away from cities.



This also includes issues with how well services work for some people with disability.

For example, people with intellectual disability.



Members shared that some people with intellectual disability experience **restrictive practices**.

And this happens without their control.



Restrictive practices are actions that stop people from:

- moving
- doing what they want.



Members explained there are issues with home and living supports.



For example, issues with not enough housing.



There are also issues with providers:

- owning the housing
- and
- delivering the supports.



Members also explained that some people with intellectual disability have more issues with housing supports.



Members shared that when the NDIA improves home and living supports it will help participants reach their goals.



Members also explained that some people thought testing the new computer system in Tasmania worked well.



But some people thought it didn't work well at all.



Members shared there should be more information to help people with intellectual disability report **fraud**.



Fraud is something someone plans to do that is not honest.

Fraud is a crime.

For example, if a provider charges someone for a service they didn't receive.

NDIS providers



Behaviour support practitioners help people with disability to:

- live a better life
- manage stressful situations better.



Reference Group members shared that some practitioners make behaviour support plans without meeting participants.



Members explained that people with disability have problems getting the same quality of support from different workers.



Members shared that health professionals need more training on how to better support people with intellectual disability.



For example, dentists can share information about other services that can help people stay healthy.

The community



Members shared that people with intellectual disability want to use their **rights** to vote.



Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.



And they also want to use their right to check the programs and services they use.



The Australian Government shared how much money they plan to give the NDIS.



Members explained people worry about the information they shared.



They worry the Australian Government hasn't explained this information well for:

- people with disability
- and
- their community.

Other services and supports



Reference Group members shared people worry about how the NDIS works with other services.

For example, other services that support:



- health



- housing



- education.



Members also shared that these services need to work together when they offer supports.

This includes supports that are fair for people with intellectual disability in the justice system.



And they should support people with intellectual disability to use NDIS supports during this time.



Members explained sometimes there are gaps in how people understand:

- what the NDIS does
- what the **NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission** does.



The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission makes sure participants:

- are safe
- get good services.

In this bulletin we call them the NDIS Commission.



This includes their role to make sure people use behaviour support plans for participants.



Members shared that younger people with disability living in aged care need better services and supports.

Update on behaviour supports

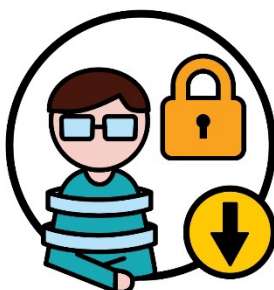


The NDIS Commission gave an update to the Reference Group about their work on behaviour supports.

This includes their work to:



- improve training for behaviour support practitioners to learn new skills



- use less of restrictive practices.



Reference Group members shared that there should be Easy Read versions of behaviour support plans.

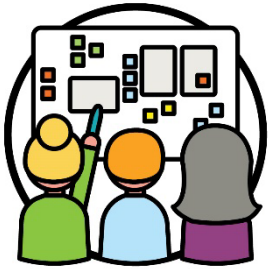


This will mean everyone will be able to understand their plan.



Members also shared that people should use **co-design** with participants to:

- create behaviour support plans
- use behaviour support plans.



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

Members shared people need to understand more about:



- behaviour support plans



- restrictive practices.

This includes sharing more information with:



- participants



- their families



- the community.

Our advice on behaviour supports

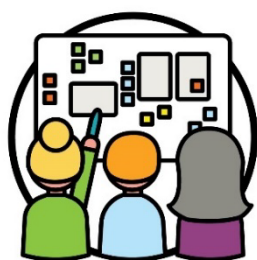


Reference Group members gave an update on their 'Enhancing behaviour support in the NDIA' advice.



Members agreed that the advice is ready to share with the IAC.

Members shared that behaviour supports work best when they:



- use co-design



- improve training for practitioners



- make plans and information easy to understand.



Behaviour supports also work best when they make sure people with intellectual disability have choice and control.

Our next meeting



Our next meeting is the 16 August 2023.



You can find out more about our meetings and bulletins on our website.

www.ndis-iac.com.au/meetings

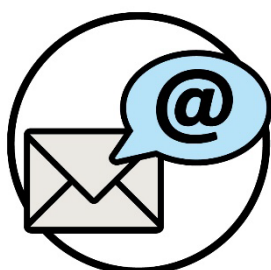
More information

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 learn more about the NDIS on their website.

www.ndis.gov.au



You can call the NDIS.

1800 800 110

Word list

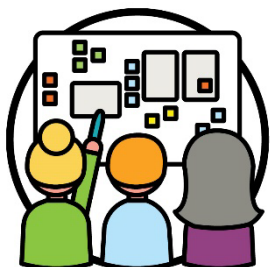
This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.



Bulletin

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It explains what we did in our last meeting.



Co-design

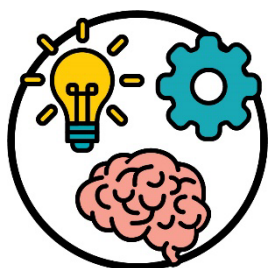
Co-design is when people work together to plan something new.



Fraud

Fraud is something someone plans to do that is not honest.

Fraud is a crime.



Intellectual disability

An intellectual disability affects how you:

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



Justice Liaison Officers (JLOs)

JLOs support prisons to understand how they can use the NDIS.

Justice system

The justice system includes:



- police
- the courts
- the law
- prisons.

NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission

The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission makes sure people with disability who take part in the NDIS:



- are safe
- get good services.

In this bulletin we call them the NDIS Commission.



Participants

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

Positive behaviour practitioners



Behaviour support practitioners help people with disability to:

- live a better life
- manage stressful situations better.



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.

Restrictive practices



Restrictive practices are actions that stop people from:

- moving
- doing what they want.

Rights



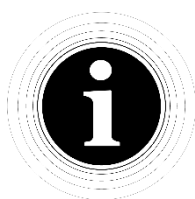
Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.



Support coordinator

A support coordinator is someone who helps participants plan and use their supports.



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Council**
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