# Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS

# Meeting Bulletin from 4 February 2021

Easy Read 2021  
This is the text-only version of the Easy Read document.

This book has some hard words.

Hard words will be marked with a star on both sides of the word.

We will write what the hard word means.

You can get someone to help you

* read this book
* know what this book is about
* find more information.

# About this book

The \*Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS\*wrote this book.

The Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS gives advice to the \*National Disability Insurance Agency\*.

We will call it the Council.

The National Disability Insurance Agency or NDIA manages the \*National Disability Insurance Scheme\*.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme or NDIS gives services and support to people with disability.

This book tells you what happened at our meeting on   
4 February 2021.

# Who was at the meeting?

The Council meets every month.

The meeting was run by Ms Robyn Kruk who is the Council’s   
Principal Member.

Also at the meeting were

* 12 Council members

and

* 1 expert adviser.

The Council talked about things the NDIA is working on.

The NDIA CEO and managers spoke at the meeting to

* tell us about the work they do
* ask for our feedback.

# What happened at the meeting?

Updates from the Principal Member

The Council will give the NDIA feedback about their \*Corporate Plan\*.

The Corporate Plan says what the NDIA will do to make the NDIS better from 2021 to 2025.

Updates from the NDIA CEO

The NDIA will make important changes to the NDIS to make it better for everyone.

The changes will help the NDIA decide what

* works well

and

* does **not** work well.

Changes will be made to

* NDIS laws
* how the NDIS money is spent
* \*Independent Assessments\*.

Independent Assessments are the new way the NDIA will work out

* how your disability affects your life

and

* what supports you need from the NDIS.

The assessments are independent because they are done by   
someone who

* does **not** already know you

and

* is **not** the healthcare professional you usually see.

Council’s formal advice

The Council spoke about its \*formal advice\*.

Formal advice means we tell the NDIA what we think about how they manage the NDIS.

Formal advice helps the NDIA learn about

* problems that people with disability might have

and

* ways the NDIA can help fix the problems.

The Council will send the NDIA Board formal advice about \*Local   
Area Coordinators\*.

Local Area Coordinators or LACs are the people who give services and help you

* get the supports you need to have a good life
* understand and use the NDIS and other disability services in   
  your community
* make an NDIS plan.

The Council’s formal advice says what the NDIA can do to help participants use Local Area Coordinators in ways that help them   
the most.

This formal advice will be sent to the NDIA Board at the end of February 2021.

The Council will also send formal advice about ways to keep participants safe.

This formal advice will be sent to the NDIA Board in April 2021.

Plan budgets

The NDIA spoke about the \*personalised budget tool\*.

The personalised budget tool is a calculator that will help the NDIA

make better decisions about the money in

* participant plans

and

* use information about a participant to make a plan budget.

For example, what supports does a participant need?

Psychosocial disability

The NDIA spoke about its work in \*psychosocial disability\*.

Psychosocial disability means mental health issues that   
cause disability.

The NDIA wants to work with the Council on its \*National Psychosocial Disability Framework\*.

The National Psychosocial Disability Framework tells us the best ways to work with people in Australia who have a psychosocial disability.

The Council wants to make sure that the NDIA’s work helps

* young people with mental health issues

and

* people find a place to live.

The Council also wants to make sure the NDIA’s work   
helps participants

* understand how they can make the most of psychosocial supports in the NDIS
* find the right support in the criminal justice system
* live with other disabilities as well as psychosocial disability.

# More information

The next meeting is on **19 March 2021**.

For more information contact the Independent Advisory Council to   
the NDIS.

Website www.ndis-iac.com.au

Email advisorycouncil@ndis.gov.au

Call 1800 800 110

For more information about advice the Council has given go to   
our website.

www.ndis-iac.com.au/advice

If you need help with English

Telephone Interpreting Service.

Call 131 450

If you need help to speak or listen

Use the National Relay Service.

nrschat.nrscall.gov.au/nrs/internetrelay

Call 1300 555 727

Give the relay officer the phone number you want to call.

TTY

Call 1800 555 677

# Acknowledgements

Scope’s Communication and Inclusion Resource Centre wrote  
the Easy English in February 2021, [www.scopeaust.org.au](http://www.scopeaust.org.au).  
To see the original contact the Independent Advisory Council to   
the NDIS.