



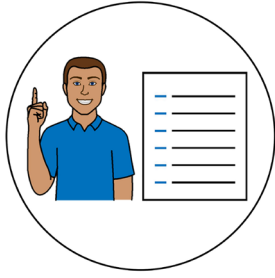
# Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS

News Bulletin 7 July 2021



Easy Read





## Hard words

This book has some hard words.

The first time we write a hard word

- the word is in **blue**
- we write what the word means.

## You can get help with this book



You can get someone to help you

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



## About this book

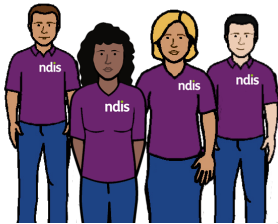


The **Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS** wrote this book.

We will call it the Council.



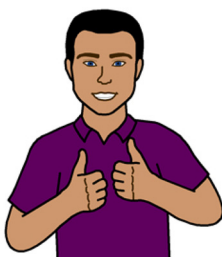
The Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS gives advice to the **National Disability Insurance Agency**.



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.

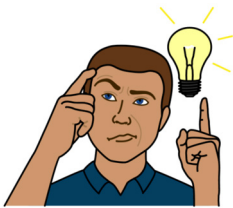


This book tells you what Council has been doing to help NDIS participants.

## Meetings with disability advisory groups



We met with disability advisory groups from all over Australia.



We listened to

- ideas about Council's advice for the NDIA Board and Minister for the NDIS

and



- concerns about **Scheme reforms**.



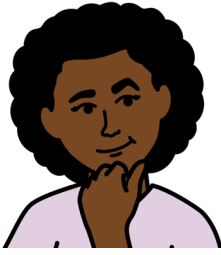
Scheme reforms are important changes the NDIA will do to

- make the NDIS better for everyone

and



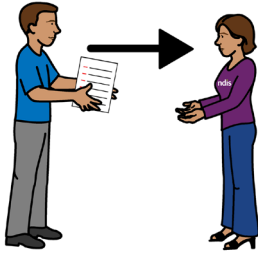
- change NDIS laws.



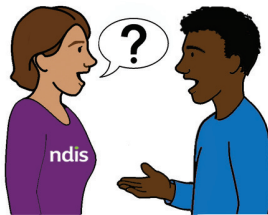
We found out that

- some people have **less** trust in
  - the NDIA

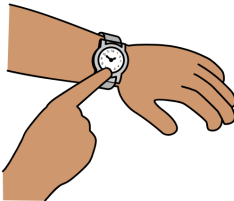
and



- the way the NDIA gets and uses information from participants



- communication from the NDIA could be better



- Scheme reforms are happening too fast.



Some people are worried about Scheme reforms and how they will affect

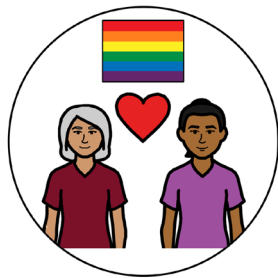
- regional, rural and remote communities



- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability

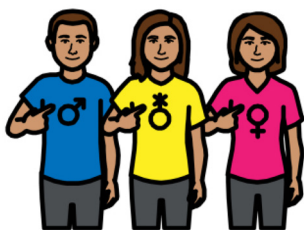


- people who speak little or no English



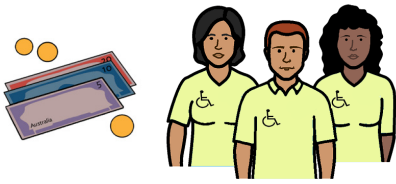
- the **LGBTIQA+** community.

LGBTIQA+ is a way to show sexual and **gender** identities and bodies in the community.



Gender means if you are

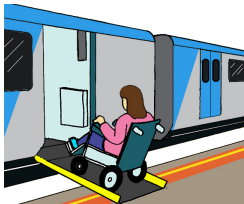
- a man **or** a woman
- **both** a man and a woman
- **not** a man or a woman.



More money should be spent on helping people with disability, their families and carers find and use disability and mainstream supports.



**Independent Assessments** need to properly support different groups in the community.



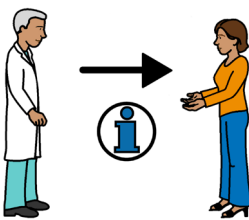
Independent Assessments are the new way the NDIA will work out

- 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.



People want to better understand

- the outcome of an Independent Assessment

and



- how Independent Assessments will affect their plan budgets.

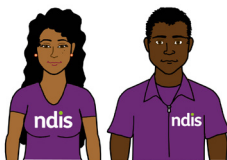


Other things we talked about with the disability advisory groups were

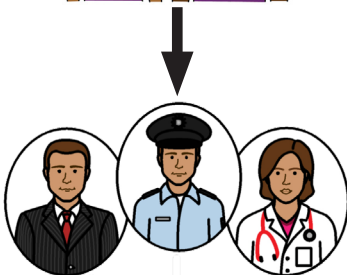
- NDIS staff training and development



- how providers work and gaps in their services



- how the NDIS and other systems like health, justice and education work together.





## Scheme reform forum

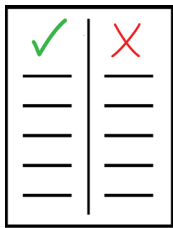


Council had another **Scheme reform forum**.



The Scheme reform forum is a meeting to

- talk about what we learned at the meetings with disability advisory groups



- talk about what Council recommends to make Scheme reforms better

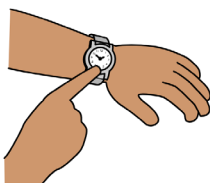


- talk with the NDIA about how we can work better together in the future.



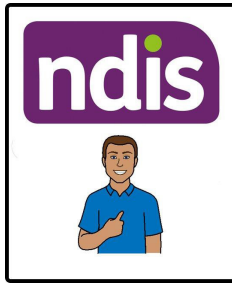
We know that Council advice to make Scheme reforms work well for everyone will

- be hard work



- **not** leave much time for the work.

## Council advice on Scheme reforms



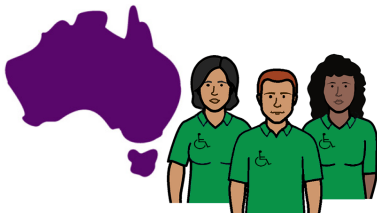
The Minister for the NDIS and NDIA Board asked for Council's advice on how to improve

- access to the NDIS

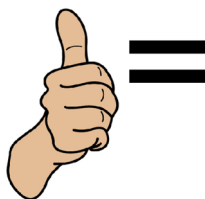
and



- planning.



Council advice will include what we learned at the meetings with disability advisory groups.



Council advice will help to make the Government's changes to access and planning

- fair
- simple
- respectful
- safe.





Council advice will help to

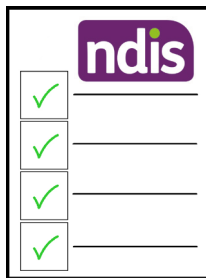
- build trust with the disability community through better communication



- make sure groups work together



- give participants better outcomes.

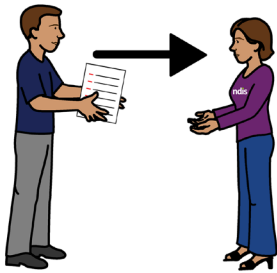


Council wants to make sure the NDIS works in the way it was first made for participants.



Council says the NDIS must also make sure the right changes and NDIA funding happen to make sure Scheme reforms work well for participants.

## Next steps



Council advice on Scheme reforms has been

- given to the Board of the NDIA and Disability Ministers

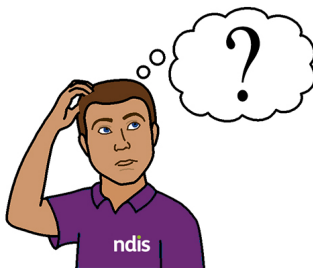
and



- put on the Council's website.



Council will also present the advice to the NDIA Board in late July.



The NDIA will then decide what to do about each Council recommendation.

## More information

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



Website [www.ndis-iac.com.au](http://www.ndis-iac.com.au)



Email [advisorycouncil@ndis.gov.au](mailto:advisorycouncil@ndis.gov.au)

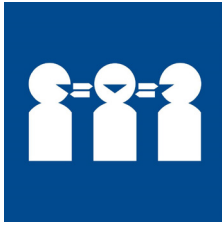


Call 1800 800 110



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

[www.ndis-iac.com.au/advice](http://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](https://nrschat.nrscall.gov.au/nrs/internetrelay)

Call 1300 555 727



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



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