# Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS

## Our Annual Report: 2020–2021

### Easy Read version

## How to use this report

We are the Independent Advisory Council to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (the Council). When you see the words ‘we’ or ‘us’, it means the Council.

We wrote this report for the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).

We wrote this report in an easy to read way.

We have written some words in **bold**. This means the letters are thicker and darker.

We explain what these words mean. There is a list of these words on   
page 19.

This Easy Read report is a summary of the Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS Annual Report 2020–21.

You can find the Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS Annual Report 2020–21 on our website at [www.ndis-iac.com.au](http://www.ndis-iac.com.au)/news

You can ask for help to read this report. A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

What’s in this report?

[What does the Council do? 5](#_Toc82700100)

[How does the Council work? 6](#_Toc82700101)

[Our 2020–21 Work Plan 8](#_Toc82700102)

[Who is part of the Council? 9](#_Toc82700103)

[Reference Groups 13](#_Toc82700104)

[What have we been working on? 15](#_Toc82700105)

[Sharing our work 17](#_Toc82700106)

[More information 18](#_Toc82700107)

[Word list 19](#_Toc82700108)

## What is this report about?

This report talks about our work over the last 12 months.

We talk about what we did from:

* 1 July 2020

to

* 30 June 2021.

We talk about how we have tried to make the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) better.

We also talk about:

* what we do
* how we work
* our members
* our **advice**.

Advice is ideas about how to make things better.

## What does the Council do?

We are **independent**.

This means we can:

* say what we think
* have our own ideas and opinions about the NDIS.

We give advice to the NDIA **Board**.

A Board is a group of people who make decisions for:

* an organisation
* a company.

The NDIA Board make decisions about:

* **policies** – plans for how things will be done
* how well the NDIA is working
* money
* connecting with the community
* who works at the NDIA.

The NDIA Board listens to our advice about the NDIS.

## How does the Council work?

We have a guide about how the Council should work.

We call it our **Operating Model**.

Our Operating Model helps us:

* work well as a team
* work well with the NDIA
* connect with people with disability, their families and communities.

Our Operating Model also helps us:

* share our ideas with experts
* write our advice.

Our Operating Model has 4 main steps.

**1. Identify and prioritise**

We think about:

* what advice the NDIA needs
* other advice we know about.

The NDIA can ask us for advice about a certain topic.

We make a plan to work out what:

* information we need
* work we will do first.

**2. Mobilise**

We work out who can give us the information we need.

We do our own research.

We write our advice.

We make sure we all agree with the advice.

**3. Advise**

We get our advice ready for the NDIA Board.

The NDIA Board:

* thinks about our advice
* decides what to do with our advice.

We also give our advice to the Minister for the NDIS.

**4. Implement**

We get a report from the NDIA every 6 months to see how the advice   
is going.

We give more advice if we need to.

We share our final advice with the:

* NDIA
* community.

## Our 2020–21 Work Plan

Our Work Plan talks about the work we will do each year.

Our **priorities** are the things that are most important to us.

When we make our Work Plan, we think about the priorities:

* of the Council
* in the **NDIA Corporate Plan**
* from the government.

The NDIA Corporate Plan explains the goals for the NDIS over the next   
4 years.

Our Work Plan might change if we make new priorities during the year.

## Who is part of the Council?

The Minister for the NDIS chooses who is on the Council.

Our members include:

* people with disability
* family and carers
* service providers.

Robyn Kruk AO is our Principal Member.

She is our leader.

The AO after her name means she received an award called Officer of the Order of Australia.

Leah van Poppel helps Robyn lead the Council.

She works to improve **rights** for people with disability, especially women with disability.

She is also the leader of Women with Disabilities Victoria.

Rights are rules about how everybody should be treated fairly.

Kerry Allan-Zinner works to improve the rights for people with disability.

Kerry is a person with disability.

She was born with cerebral palsy.

Dr Sharon Boyce is a person with disability.

She:

* is from Queensland
* speaks up for people with disability.

Jennifer Cullen has worked in disability services for more than   
28 years.

She is a proud Aboriginal woman.

She also does research to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with disability.

Judy Huett works to improve the rights of people with   
**intellectual disability**.

An intellectual disability affects how well you can:

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

Dr Leighton Jay gives advice on services that affect people   
with disability.

He has a son with disability.

Sylvana Mahmic speaks up for people with disability.

She works hard to support children with disability.

Tricia Malowney OAM speaks up for the rights of people with disability.

She is a woman with disability.

The OAM after her name means she received an award called the Medal of the Order of Australia.

James Manders works on different Boards.

He speaks up for people with disability.

Sam Paior is a service provider in South Australia.

She is the leader of The Growing Space.

Liz Reid AM supports people with disability to:

* find and keep a job
* take part in their communities.

The AM after her name means that she received an award for the Member of the Order of Australia.

Mark Tonga used to lead the Disability Council of NSW.

He believes everyone should be treated:

* fairly
* like equals.

Dr Ben Gauntlett is Council’s Expert Adviser.

This means he supports us with our work.

He is the Disability Discrimination Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission.

This means he works to make sure people with disability are safe.

Belinda Epstein-Frisch AM works closely with Council members to bring our advice to life.

The AM after her name means that she received an award for the Member of the Order of Australia.

She has experience writing policies that affect people with disability.

She speaks up for people with disability.

## Reference Groups

This year, we made some changes to our **Reference Groups**.

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

These Reference Groups will help support our advice.

We changed some of the rules for the:

* Home and Living Reference Group
* Intellectual Disability Reference Group.

We also made two new Reference Groups.

They are the:

* Children, Young People and Families Reference Group
* Equity and Inclusion Reference Group.

Our Reference Groups include people who:

* know a lot about the topic for their group
* have a disability
* come from different backgrounds.

We talk more about each Reference Group below.

### Children, Young People and Families Reference Group

This group gives advice about how to support:

* children with disability
* young people with disability
* their families and carers.

### Equity and Inclusion Reference Group

This group gives advice about:

* giving everyone an equal chance
* treating everyone fairly
* how to be more **inclusive**.

When something is inclusive, everyone can take part.

### Home and Living Reference Group

This group gives advice about supports people with disability need:

* in their home
* to live their life each day

### ****Intellectual Disability Reference Group****

This group gives advice about supporting people with intellectual   
disability to:

* live their life
* take part in their community.

## What have we been working on?

### Formal advice

In the last 12 months, we gave **formal advice** to the NDIA Board.

Formal advice is advice we give to the NDIA Board that they must:

* listen to
* do something about.

We gave formal advice about how to support **Local Area   
Coordinators (LACs)**.

LACs help people with disability find and use supports and services.

We also gave formal advice about:

* supporting families to help people with disability live their best life
* how the NDIA can keep people with disability safe
* how to include people with disability in the community.

### Informal advice

We also gave **informal advice** to the NDIA.

Informal advice is other advice we give to:

* the NDIA
* people who work for the NDIA.

They do not have to do anything about it.

But it can help them in their work.

We gave informal advice about:

* changes to the NDIS
* **independent assessments**.

Independent assessments were a new way for the NDIA to get   
information about:

* how your disability affects your life
* what supports you need from the NDIS.

We gave informal advice to the NDIS research team.

It helped them make guides for people who take part in the NDIS.

We gave informal advice about supports for home and living.

This included giving people who take part in the NDIS more control over:

* where they live
* who they live with
* the supports they use.

We gave informal advice about support for decision making.

## Sharing our work

Over the last year, we shared some of our work with the:

* NDIA
* community.

We share our work by:

* posting it on our website [www.ndis-iac.com.au](http://www.ndis-iac.com.au)
* making news updates, such as bulletins.

We also made new videos that talk about:

* what we do
* the advice we give.

You can find the video about what we do on our website at   
[www.ndis-iac.com.au/about](http://www.ndis-iac.com.au/about)

You can find the video about the advice we give on our website at [www.ndis-iac.com.au/advice](http://www.ndis-iac.com.au/advice)

## More information

For more information about this report, please contact us.

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

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

If you speak a language other than English, you can call:

Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS)

Phone – **131 450**

If you have a speech or hearing impairment, you can call:

TTY

Phone – **1800 555 677**

Speak and Listen

Phone – **1800 555 727**

National Relay Service

Phone – **133 677**

Website – [**www.relayservice.gov.au**](http://www.relayservice.gov.au)

## Word list

**Advice**

Advice is ideas about how to make things better.

**Board**

A Board is a group of people who make decisions for:

* an organisation
* a company.

**Formal advice**

Formal advice is advice we give to the NDIA Board that they must:

* listen to
* do something about.

**Inclusive**

When something is inclusive, everyone can take part.

**Independent**

This means we can:

* say what we think
* have our own ideas and opinions about the NDIS.

**Independent assessments**

Independent assessments were a new way for the NDIA to get   
information about:

* how your disability affects your life
* what supports you need from the NDIS.

**Informal advice**

Informal advice is when we give advice about other issues to:

* the NDIA
* people who work for the NDIA.

They don’t have to do something about it.

But it can help them in their work.

**Intellectual disability**

An intellectual disability affects how well you can:

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

**Local Area Coordinators (LACs)**

LACs help people with disability find and use supports and services.

**NDIA Corporate Plan**

The NDIA Corporate Plan explains the goals for the NDIS over the next   
4 years.

**Operating Model**

We have a guide about how the Council should work.

We call it our Operating Model.

**Policies**

Policies are plans for how things will be done.

**Priorities**

Our priorities are the things that are most important to us.

**Reference Group**

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

**Rights**

Rights are rules about how everybody should be treated fairly.

The Information Access Group created this text-only Easy Read document. For any enquiries about the document, please visit [www.informationaccessgroup.com](http://www.informationaccessgroup.com).   
Quote job number 4296.