# Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS

# Meeting Bulletin from 22 November 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.

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 happened at our meeting on   
22 November 2021.

# Who was at the meeting?

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

Leah Van Poppel is the Council’s Deputy Chair and helps the   
Principal Member run the meeting.

Council’s 12 members and 1 expert adviser were at the meeting.

Other people at the meeting were

* Martin Hoffman who is the Chief Executive Officer of the NDIA
* NDIA managers.

# What happened at the meeting?

Update from the Principal Member

The Council and its 4 \*Reference Groups\* are doing a lot of work on our advice.

Reference Groups are groups of people that know a lot   
about something.

Reference Groups help

* the Council do its work
* make our advice better.

Council will make sure its members work on advice that matches their interests and experience.

Council member Judy Huett has decided **not** to be part of Council   
next year.

Judy will still be part of the Intellectual Disability Reference Group.

Update from the Deputy Chair

The \*co-design\* \*advisory group\* has regular meetings with the NDIA.

Co-design means to work together to reach a goal.

For example, people who run services work with people who use the services to plan the services.

Advisory groups talk about their ideas to make something happen.

The co-design advisory group will decide on work they will do together and how they will work with

* the NDIA
* Council
* \*Disability Representative and Carer Organisations\*.

Disability Representative and Carer Organisations help people   
with disability and their carers fight for their rights.

Update from the Reference Groups

The 3 Reference Groups that have met are the

* Home and Living Reference Group
* Children, Young People and Families Reference Group
* Intellectual Disability Reference Group.

The Equity and Inclusion Reference Group will meet in December.

Update from the NDIA CEO

The NDIA gave \*Parliament\* advice about changes to NDIS laws.

Parliament makes decisions about Australian laws.

Parliament will decide if changes to NDIS laws will be made into   
new laws.

The government will soon announce \*Australia’s Disability Strategy\*.

Australia’s Disability Strategy is a new plan to improve the lives of people with disability.

State and territory disability ministers will talk about how much money the NDIS needs.

The NDIA Board will soon change because

* Helen Nugent who is the Board Chair is leaving

and

* Robyn Kruk who is a Board Member and Council’s Principal Member is leaving.

Problems Council has heard about

Council talked about what people with disability have told them   
about the NDIS.

Some people say there are delays with NDIS plan reviews because of the \*coronavirus\* \*pandemic\*.

Coronavirus

* can make people very sick
* is spread when you are close to someone else.

A pandemic means coronavirus affects a lot of people all over the world.

Some people miss out on supports because they get less money in   
their plans.

Some NDIS programs help people from different cultural backgrounds get supports they need.

Some older people find it hard to pay for supports they need from the NDIS and other providers.

NDIS providers want to know how the NDIA supports participants who have **not** had the coronavirus \*vaccination\*.

A vaccination is medicine to

* protect you from a virus
* help you to **not** get sick.

When you get the coronavirus vaccination it can help keep you and the community safe.

The NDIA is doing an \*Early Childhood Early Intervention\* \*Reset\*.

Early Childhood Early Intervention is how the NDIS helps children under the age of 7 years.

The Reset is a review of NDIA early childhood supports that

* work well
* can work better.

The NDIA can use the information to work with early childhood partners and find better ways to support children and their families.

Some parents of children with disability want to know what

* they can do to get their child supports
* the NDIS can do to help their child get supports.

Some people with disability say it is hard to get NDIS support to

* get out of hospital and jail
* find a home and a job.

The NDIA should work with Governments to get better information about the supports and services that help people with disability.

Update from the NDIS Quarterly Report

The NDIS Quarterly Report says how the NDIS worked   
from 1 July to 30 September 2021.

Council members want more information about how the NDIS works to include people with disability in the community.

Council members want more information about

* how many people asked for plan reviews
* how plans are used
* why plans change.

Council members also want more information about

* the cost of home and living supports
* how many young people live in care homes for older people.

Update on the Participant Safety Policy

The NDIA is doing work on a \*policy\* about participant safety.

A policy is a plan and rules for how we should do things.

Work on the policy started because of advice from Council.

Council members said the policy should

* say what safety and risk mean for people with disability
* help people with disability make decisions that make them   
  feel safe
* protect people’s rights
* think about people with disability who have children
* include the views of carers, family members and providers.

# More information

The next meeting is on **16 December 2021**.

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

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

[ndis-iac.com.au/advice](file:///\\svcfs02\groups\CRCHome\Accessible%20Information\1.%20Customers\2021%20CUSTOMERS\NDIA\20382_2021-2022%20IAC%20work\Meeting%20Bulletins\03%20Finals\07_21%20July%20Bulletin\www.ndis-iac.com.au\advice)

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Call 131 450

If you need help to speak or listen

Use the National Relay Service.

[nrschat.nrscall.gov.au/nrs/internetrelay](http://www.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 December 2021, [www.scopeaust.org.au](http://www.scopeaust.org.au).  
To see the original contact the Independent Advisory Council to   
the NDIS.