



Independent
Advisory
Council
to the **ndis**

Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS

Our Annual Report: 2019–2020

Easy Read version



How to use this report



The Independent Advisory Council to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (the Council) wrote this report for the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA). When you see the word 'we', it means the Council.



We wrote this report in an easy to read way. We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold
Not bold

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 32.



This Easy Read report is a summary of the *Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS Annual Report 2019-20*.



You can find the *Independent Advisory Council to the NDIS Annual Report 2019-20* on our website at www.ndis-iac.com.au



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?

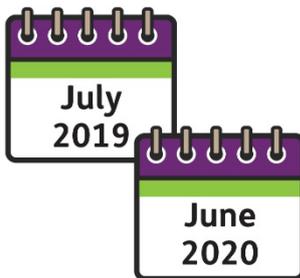
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About this report



We are the Independent Advisory Council to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (the Council).

We wrote this report to share what we have done over the last 12 months, from:



- July 2019
- to
- June 2020.



It includes information about the work we have done to make the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) better.

It also includes information about the Council, such as:



- what we do
- how we work
- our members
- the people who support us
- our **advice**.



Advice includes our ideas about what we think should happen to make things better.

What does the Council do?



We are an **independent group** that gives advice to the NDIA **Board**.



This means we can say what we think and have our own ideas and opinions about the NDIS.



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

- an organisation
- a company.



They make decisions about:

- **policies** – plans for how things will be done
- money
- ways to connect with the community
- the people who work at the organisation or company.



The NDIA Board listens to our advice about the NDIS.

How does the Council work?



In 2019, we wrote the Operating Model.

The Operating Model helps us:



- have a better way of working



- connect with more people with disability and their families and communities



- share our ideas.

Before we wrote the Operating Model, we weren't sure:



- what advice the NDIA needed



- how we could support the NDIA to work out what they needed advice on



- how we could make sure our advice helped make changes.



Our Operating Model has 4 main steps.

1. Identify and prioritise



The NDIA Board asks us for advice.



We think about:

- this advice
- other advice we are interested in.



We make a plan to work out:

- what information we need
- what we will work on 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 that everyone in the Council agrees with the advice.

3. Advise



We get our advice ready to show to the NDIA Board.



The NDIA Board thinks about our advice and decides what they will do about it.



We give the advice to the Minister for the NDIS.

4. Implement



We check-in with how the advice is going every 3 months.



We give more advice if needed.



We share our final advice with the NDIA and the community.

Who is part of the Council?



Our members are chosen by the Minister for the NDIS.

Our members include:



- people with disability



- carers



- service providers.

We talk more about our members below.



Mr John Walsh AM is our Principal Member.

He is our leader.



The AM after his name means he was given an award called the Member of the Order of Australia.



John is an **Actuary**.

An Actuary is a person who deals with risk in business.



John is also a person with disability.

He has **quadriplegia**.



Quadriplegia is when a person is not able to fully use their arms or legs.



Professor Anne Kavanagh does research about healthcare for people with disability.



Her research shows that people with disability have more health problems than people without disability.



Anne's research is looking at ways to improve the health and wellbeing of people with disability.



James Manders used to work in banking.



He works on different Boards.



He is an **advocate** for people with disability.



An advocate is someone who speaks up for people with disability.



He wants to help more people with disability find and keep a job.



Janet Meagher AM is a mental health worker.



She has worked with people with disability for nearly 40 years.



Janet is also a person with disability.



She is an advocate for people with mental health problems.



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



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



Judy Huett is an advocate for people with disability in Australia and around the world.



She works for the Speak Out Association.



Judy was the first person with intellectual disability to talk to the United Nations' Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

She did this in 2019.



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



Rights are rules about how everybody should be treated fairly.



Kerry is a person with disability.
She was born with cerebral palsy.



Kevin Cocks AM is an advocate for people with disability.



He works in Queensland to make transport more **accessible**.

When something is accessible, everyone can use it. This might be:



- a place or a building
- transport
- a service
- information
- a website.



Leah van Poppel works to improve rights for people with disability, especially women with disability.



She is the leader of Women with Disabilities Victoria.



Liz Reid AM works to support people with disability to:

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



She has worked in this area for over 25 years.



Sue Salthouse was an advocate for people with disability.



She worked to teach the community about disability.



She also helped create the NDIS.



Sadly, Sue died in July 2020.

We will miss her a lot.



Sylvana Mahmic is an advocate for people with disability.



She wants more people with disability to be able to manage their NDIS plans.



She also wants better support for children with disability.

Who else supports the Council?



We also have support from:

- **5 Expert Advisors**
- 3 Reference Groups.



The Expert Advisors are people who:

- have worked with people with disability for a long time
- know a lot about how the NDIS works.

They include:



- Ara Cresswell from Carers Australia



- Dr Ben Gauntlett – the Disability Discrimination Commissioner



- David Moody from National Disability Services



- Jane Flanagan from Disabled People's Organisations Australia



- Ross Joyce from Australian Federation of Disability Organisations.



The Reference Groups include people who:

- know a lot about a certain issue
- have a lot of experience dealing with that issue.

They include the:



- **Intellectual Disability Reference Group**

This group gives advice about ways to support people with intellectual disability to:

- live an ordinary life
- take part in their community.



- **Self-Management Reference Group**

This group gives advice about how to support more people with disability to manage their own NDIS plans.



- **Contemporary & Innovative Approaches Reference Group**

This group gives advice about home and living supports for people with disability.

What has the Council been working on?

Formal advice



In the last 12 months, we have given **formal advice** to the NDIA Board



Formal advice is when we give advice to the NDIA Board and they have to:

- listen to it
- do something about it.



We have included links to our formal advice below.



We gave formal advice about how people who use the NDIS can have more choice and control over how they spend their funding.



You can read our formal advice – **Flexibility as a tool to assist participants seek value for money (PDF)**.



We gave formal advice about how to help people who use the NDIS make decisions about their lives.



You can read our formal advice – **Support for decision making in the NDIS (PDF)**.



We gave formal advice about the best ways to support parents who use the NDIS to reach their goals.



You can read our formal advice – **NDIS support for participants who are parents (PDF)**.



We gave formal advice about the best ways to support children who use the NDIS.



You can read our formal advice – **Promoting best practice in Early Childhood Intervention in the NDIS (PDF)**.

Informal advice



We have also given **informal advice** to the NDIA.



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.

Some of our informal advice was about:



- how to help people who use the NDIS to get a home that meets their needs



- the role of support coordinators – people who help you manage the supports and services in your NDIS plan



- the challenges for people with intellectual disability



- providing information that is accessible, such as Easy Read.

More information



You can find out more about the Council on our website.

www.ndis-iac.com.au/



If you would like more information about what is in this report, you can contact us.



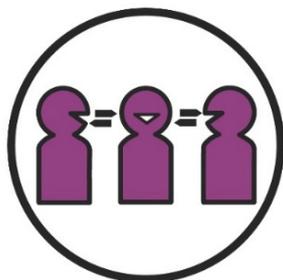
advisorycouncil@ndis.gov.au



1800 800 110

Support to talk to us

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



Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS)

131 450

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



TTY

1800 555 677



Speak and Listen

1800 555 727



National Relay Service

133 677

www.relayservice.gov.au

Word list

Accessible



When something is accessible, everyone can use it. This might be:

- a place or a building
- transport
- a service
- information.



Actuary

A person who deals with risk in business.



Advice

Advice includes our ideas about what we think should happen to make things better.



Advocate

Someone who speaks up for people with disability.



Board

A group of people who make decisions for:

- an organisation
- a company.

Formal advice



Formal advice is when we give advice to the NDIA Board and they have to:

- listen to it
- do something about it.



Independent group

This means we can say what we think and have our own ideas and opinions about 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.



Policies

Plans for how things will be done.



Quadriplegia

When a person is not able to fully use their arms or legs.



Rights

Rules about how everybody should be treated fairly.



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