First Nations Advisory Council Introductory Video.

[Transcript begins]

Narrator: So today, March 10th, 2023 the First Nations Advisory Council members gathered for its introductory meeting. The NDIA and First People’s Disability Network jointly established this Council in February 2023.

First Nations Advisory Council consists of First Nations people who have lived experience of disability, and they also understand the issues and challenges their communities face. The atmosphere at the Koori Heritage Trust was warm and welcoming.

There were representatives from across Australia and people with such diverse ranges of experience and disability. Rebecca Falkingham the CEO of NDIA, spoke about how the agency intends to co-design solutions to improve the NDIS in this way.

Rebecca: I'm deeply committed to doing better working side by side with each of you to make sure through principles of good self-determination, we make this scheme something that First Nation's people with disability are proud to be part of.

Narrator: Damian Griffis, the CEO of First People’s Disability Network, spoke of the importance of the work ahead.

Damian: So the stakes are very high. Our expectations in the First Peoples Disability Network are very high and the expectations of our people with disability in our communities are very high.

Narrator: Much of the meeting comprised members sharing their experiences as well as the needs and aspirations of their community.

This included Donna Murray of the Wiradjuri and Wonnarua peoples from New South Wales. She's the CEO of Indigenous Allied Health Australia and her goals align with how our workforce can meet the needs of Indigenous participants.

Donna: It's not what the system needs, it's what our mob need.

Narrator: From Bungalla land in South Australia, Gee Brown shared insightful experiences of their work and organization.

Gee: I'm big on intellectual disability, having control over what disability means to them, how it's represented, how they experience it, and what they want to support them to live the fullest life that they can.

Narrator: Joanna Agius, a proud Numa woman and a science teacher from South Australia delivered insights about the experiences of First Nations people who identified as deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing.

Joanna's Translator: The first thing that the doctor said was ‘oh, we’re so sorry, your baby’s deaf. Sorry? What does that mean? Straight away, there’s that negative label, there’s that negative perception, it’s like we don't see that as anything negative but straight away you’re labeled.

Narrator: Joanna identified areas to improve outcomes for First Nations People who identify with this community. The NDIA will collaborate with the First Nations Advisory Council to make sure all their decisions affecting First Nations people with disability are informed. It will reflect their goals and hopes, support self-determination and make sure the decisions are culturally safe, aligning with everyone's vast knowledge and experiences.

Tess Moodie: And my passions lie with brain injury. My passions lie with justice.

Jennifer Cullen: Bringing the voices of victims, survivors of violence into the disability focus.

Liz: To move forward and to do the best that we possibly can for all Australians with disabilities.

Narrator: The objective of the meeting was to ensure that members could see how they could meaningfully work as a council to improve the NDIS.

Rebecca: Is making sure that we are pulling out when things are going wrong and listening to you as to how you fix them.

Narrator: For more information, go to the First Nations strategy web page at NDIS. gov.au or phone one 1800 800 110.

[End transcript]