



**Independent
Advisory Council**

**End of Year Update
2015: Supporting
an Ordinary Life
for People with
Disability**

Principal Member's foreword

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (the Scheme, NDIS) is one of the most important social reforms of our generation. As Principal Member of the National Disability Insurance Agency's (the Agency, NDIA) Independent Advisory Council (IAC, Council) it is an honour to contribute to the development of the Scheme by facilitating the IAC's strong and productive contributions.

The IAC is an integral part of the Agency's governance structure. The *NDIS Act 2013* establishes the IAC, its membership and independence. Its purpose is to provide independent advice to the NDIA Board on how the Agency performs its functions. The majority of IAC members must have a disability.

The IAC embodies the principle of co-design through its membership and strong connections with the community. The IAC strives to ensure the realisation of the vision and values of the NDIS Act – for the NDIS to contribute to people with disabilities becoming more independent, more included in mainstream social and economic participation and more self directing.

In its first two years, the IAC has focused on the fundamental design questions in the NDIS, such as what is an ordinary life and how can reasonable and necessary support assist people to move toward an ordinary life, which is a mainstream life in the Australian community.

Conceiving the concept of an “ordinary” life across lifespan cohorts from early childhood to older age has been a major contribution by the IAC. It has been the basis of advice to the NDIA Board on practical definition and substance for key concepts such as choice and control, reasonable and necessary supports, capacity building and personal safeguards and risk,

It is heartening to see the impact of the IAC's work around an ordinary life on the Agency. This includes the development of the Agency's outcomes framework, revised and more flexible catalogue of supports, reference packages, planning and how the Agency is designing the NDIS for people with psychosocial and intellectual disability.

More recently the Council has provided advice to the Board on capacity building for people with disability and also on safeguards and risk. Capacity building is a focus by the IAC because it is considered to be the area—along with early

intervention—that can change people’s aspirations, goals and decisions to become part of the mainstream world. The IAC has analysed what is effective in capacity building so that capacity can be built over time through a variety of methods, including peer to peer support and NDIA funded reasonable and necessary supports. Similarly, with safeguards and risk the IAC sees that capacity building is central to enabling people with disability to exercise choice and control, while balancing personal safety with the dignity of risk.

For the IAC to maximise its impact it needs to understand how the Scheme is being experienced on the ground. It does this through its members and through a series of roving visits to the NDIA’s trial sites. In its first two years the IAC has visited the majority of the NDIA’s seven sites and held meetings and roundtables with participants, providers and NDIA staff. The IAC draws from these round tables to provide this feedback to the Agency and the Board.

Another important initiative of the IAC has been to create an Intellectual Disability Reference Group (IDRG). There are a significant number of people in the Scheme who have an intellectual disability and who are likely to need significant

support to reach full citizenship. The IDRG provides advice about how the Scheme can better support people with intellectual disability. The IDRG is co-sponsored by Liz Cairns - General Manager, Service Delivery to ensure a direct link between people with intellectual disability and the operational arm of the Agency. The IDRG comprises leaders with intellectual disability, family members of people with intellectual disability, expert academics and advocates. It is another example of the IAC and the Agency’s commitment to co-design.

Similarly, the IAC has undertaken work to refine strategies for implementing the NDIS for people with psychosocial disability. This work has had a significant impact and has led to the creation of a Mental Health Reference Group as well as the development of a mental health work plan.

The IAC has given evidence to the Joint Standing Committee (JSC) on its work. It also provided a formal response to a recommendation from the JSC’s *Progress report on the implementation and administration of the National Disability Insurance Scheme*. The JSC plays a pivotal role in reviewing the implementation of the Scheme and the IAC has directly influenced its deliberations.

Principal Member's foreword (Continued)

Earlier this year, the IAC provided a submission to the Australian Human Rights Commission's, Social Justice and Native Title Report 2015. It is pleasing to see that the final report launched in December references the IAC's submission. IAC members visited the Barkly Trial Site in 2015 and also attended the Desert Harmony Festival in Tennant Creek. The Council receives regular updates on the Barkly Trial Site through its membership and is well aware of the challenges of delivering the Scheme in rural and remote communities.

The future work program will examine how the Agency can strengthen its focus on innovation. The IAC will collect and analyse examples of models of support in housing, work and leisure that build participants' independence, social and economic participation and self management and provide examples of innovative ways in which segregated service models can transition to open inclusive models. This work will be co-sponsored by market and actuarial areas so that different models can be costed, and market levers will be developed to promote them. New innovations in living, working and recreation from Australia and globally will also be analysed and disseminated.

None of this can occur without the hard work and commitment of my fellow members. I am very grateful for their important contribution and for the way the IAC has come together into such a cohesive and hard working group. We are also grateful for the support of the IAC's Secretariat and in particular Belinda Epstein Frisch who has so ably assisted the IAC in its productive output of advice.

The Scheme will begin to roll out across Australia from July 2016. The IAC will continue to provide advice to the Board so that at every step central to the design and delivery of an NDIS is the goal of people with disabilities, families and carers living an ordinary life participating fully in the society as Australian citizens.



Professor Rhonda Galbally AO

IAC Achievements: 2013–2015

Since 2013 the IAC has successfully delivered advice to the Board on a range of Agency functions. Often small groups of IAC members with a particular expertise or skill set work on a piece of advice and then it is presented to the full Council for deliberation.

2015: Advice and Activities

Capacity Building

The IAC's 2015 Workplan has a strong focus on capacity building and this theme cuts across a number of pieces of its work.

In its advice to the Board on capacity building for people with disability the Council has identified that capacity building is essential not only to provide opportunities for people with disability to achieve citizenship, but to deliver the Scheme's insurance principles. Alongside early intervention, capacity building is key to the Scheme's ongoing sustainability. The IAC sees that NDIS capacity building should be evidence based, delivered through both the ILC/LAC model and reasonable and necessary supports. It should be available through a choice of providers including user led providers.

The IAC advice has recommended that the Agency should encourage user led organisations to develop their own capability building opportunities. Evidence suggests that people with disability benefit from learning from people who have similar disability or life circumstances. Support of user led service providers, in part, addresses the potential for market failure if demand is not achieved in the face of enormous resources and effort supplied in traditional models in living, recreation and work.

Safeguards

The IAC's advice on safeguards and risk is based on international best practice and advises that the most effective way of balancing freedom from harm with choice and control is through individual capacity building. The IAC articulates that providing an individual approach to safeguards will contribute to individuals playing a stronger role in identifying and implementing personal safeguards and to build self advocacy skills. The IAC also prioritises the importance of natural safeguards based on evidence that if an individual is living an ordinary life in the mainstream community with access to inclusive employment and recreational opportunities, then they are less vulnerable to abuse.

IAC Achievements: 2013-2015 (Continued)

Intellectual Disability Reference Group

The IDRG held its first meeting in Melbourne in May 2015. Members include people with intellectual disability, parents and experts in the field of intellectual disability.

More than half of the future users of the NDIS will be people with intellectual disability (ID). This provides particular challenges for the Agency as this cohort are likely to face significant barriers to access the Scheme and reach full citizenship. The IAC's IDRG will provide systemic and strategic advice to the Council on how the Scheme can better support the inclusion of people with ID. This advice will focus on high level NDIS operations and Scheme design, and its efficacy in promoting and enabling an ordinary life for people with intellectual disability.

The IDRG workplan for 2015–16, includes:

- What should the NDIA understand about intellectual disability?
- Promoting equity of access to the NDIS
- Definition of Intellectual Disability
- Planning and implementing support where participants lack effective informal support

- Decision making and participants with cognitive impairment
- Participants with complex behaviour
- Creating a positive vision for participants with ID
- Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC)
- People with intellectual disability in large residential centres and other closed services
- Parents with intellectual disability.

2014: Advice and Activities

Reasonable and necessary support across the lifespan: an ordinary life for people with disability

A key piece of work by the NDIA is that of adding further meaning to the critical term of reasonable and necessary.

In 2014 the IAC focused on analysing reasonable and necessary support for cohorts from early childhood to older age over the participant lifespan. The purpose was to provide the Board, Agency and ultimately planners, with practical guidance on how to conceptualise and apply the term reasonable and

necessary to planning decisions within the values and practical applications of the NDIS Act: full community inclusion into a mainstream life lived by ordinary Australians.

The IAC provided six advice papers framing its advice on reasonable and necessary support in the context of:

- The participant lifespan (divided into age appropriate domains)
- Families
- Planning
- Independence
- Community inclusion, and
- Self-management.

The IAC analysed best practice evidence from a range of disciplines on how the concept of an “ordinary life” can be applied.

The IAC drew from evidence-based factors that promote health and wellbeing to position the enablers of life as:

- Positive relationships
- A sense of belonging
- Autonomy
- Active involvement in decision-making, and
- Opportunities for challenge and contribution.

The IAC then considered the gap between an ordinary life and a “disabled life” across different life stages (birth to 2, 2–5, 6–12, 12–15, 16–25, 26–55 and over 55).

To date, the IAC’s work on reasonable and necessary has influenced NDIS design and decision-making in the following areas:

1. NDIA Outcomes Framework

The IAC has made a significant contribution to the development of the NDIA outcomes framework, so that the framework provides a measure of the gap between a disabled and an ordinary life and of the contribution by the NDIS in reducing that gap:

- The IAC has worked closely with the Scheme Actuary throughout the development of the outcomes framework, identifying enablers of an ordinary life in domains across the lifespan against which participant outcomes can be measured.
- The framework will capture data as participants move towards greater independence, self-direction and more inclusion in the mainstream community than before the NDIS.
- The Principal Member and Scheme Actuary co-chaired a co-design workshop in March 2015, ensuring the views of all key organisations in the sector were considered.

IAC Achievements: 2013-2015 (Continued)

- Over time, data from the outcomes framework will be used to supplement the variables included in reference packages – meaning that “distance from an ordinary life” will be effectively captured and used in the ongoing development of reference packages.
- People should be supported over a longer period of time to develop a life plan in which their goals and aspirations guide the process of building informal support, linking them to mainstream services and providing packaged support in ways that complement, rather than drive out, informal and mainstream supports.

2. Planning for full Scheme

As part of its work on reasonable and necessary, the IAC identified a number of changes in current planning practice that will lead to better outcomes for participants and the Scheme. These complement the Agency’s ongoing work in this area. The IAC focused on:

The planning process

The IAC highlighted the tension between the need to assist participants to think about goals and aspirations and operationalise them in a plan and the need to transition participants into the Scheme at a pace consistent with full Scheme roll out.

The IAC considered whether:

- The planning process should differentiate between a funding plan and a life plan,
- Reference packages could be used as the basis of a funding plan, and

Configuration of supports

The IAC proposed two areas in which changes will promote the allocation of support related to the goals of an ordinary life rather than to a menu of services. The IAC considered whether:

- Participants should be enabled to use their allocated resources more flexibly (within the funding envelope) to encourage greater initiative, choice and control, and
- Information about the cluster of supports be organised in ways that highlight the features of an ordinary life.

While some supports remain targeted (education, work and equipment), in response to the IAC’s work, the Agency is now bundling supports so that participants can use core supports interchangeably (i.e. assistance with daily life at home, and in the community).

Hence guidance for planners, the catalogue of supports and the outcomes framework are all aligned to build support for, and measure, the impact on an ordinary life.

3. Self-management and self-direction

As part of its work on reasonable and necessary, the IAC analysed practice in self-direction and self-management across jurisdictions to clarify the meaning of:

- Self-management - where funding and supports are managed by the participant and/or family, and
- Self-direction - where an intermediary assists with some aspects (often financial) of management of the support, but where the participant and their family make all the decisions about the what, when, where and by whom of support.

IAC advice in relation to self-management and self-direction comes from the significant first-hand expertise held by IAC members, as well as expert research and experience from the United Kingdom (UK). The UK expertise was sought in

part to help the Agency understand how the UK has increased its levels of self-management and self-direction in individualised funding of disability supports.

The IAC advised the Board of the importance of self-direction in building participants' choice and control and economic independence.

The IAC is also working on a fact sheet on self-direction. This will contribute to resources being developed by the Agency to better support participants understand the ease and benefits of self-direction and self-management, assist in dispelling perceptions around the ability of participants to self-manage and provide guidance on how all participants can be supported and have the opportunity to self-direct, and self-manage if that is their wish.

The IAC is proposing a systematic approach to building capacity to encourage self-direction and ensure it is an accessible option for more participants. The capacity building Disability Support Organisations (DSO) model also contributes to this approach.

IAC Achievements: 2013-2015 (Continued)

Mental Health

The IAC considered strategies for implementing the NDIS for people with psychosocial disability.

In addition to its work on reasonable and necessary support, a priority for the IAC in 2014 was to examine the issue of improving the Scheme's responsiveness to people with psychosocial disability. The IAC undertook considerable work in:

- Listening to the views of consumers and family and carer advocates and the mental health sector
- Building an understanding of how the trial sites are responding to applicants and participants with disability arising from mental illness, and
- Commissioning an extensive literature review in partnership with Mind Australia and key academics, and informed by two IAC members. The literature review, *Mental Health and the NDIS: A Literature Review*, examines the current state of evidence relating to the impact of psychosocial disability in the context of the implementation of the NDIS Act. The literature review has assisted the formulation of the IAC's advice to the Board and provides an excellent resource for people interested in the implementation of the NDIS for people with psychosocial disability.

This review is publicly available on the [Agency website](#).¹

In considering the implementation of the NDIS for people with psychosocial disability the IAC considered:

- How the Scheme could harness opportunities to improve engagement with the mental health sector and mainstream services
- The importance of consistency in the assessment of severity and permanency in the determination of reasonable and necessary supports
- The development of a forward-looking Mental Health Implementation Plan as a clear statement of the strategy for implementing the NDIS for people with psychosocial disability, and
- The need to amend outcomes measures (and the development of reference packages) to better reflect the needs of people with psychosocial disability and current practice in the mental health sector.

The IAC contributed to and led workshops around aspects of the Operational Access Review for psychosocial disability and supported the investigation of the future role of peer support workers.

1 www.ndis.gov.au/release-mental-health-papers

In response to the IAC work and as part of the Agency's co-creation approach, a Mental Health Reference Group has been established with two Council members represented, who are also chairing key working groups. The Mental Health Sector Reference Group is consulted as a key resource in the development and implementation of all aspects of the Plan. This group is contributing to a robust working partnership between the mental health sector and the Agency and to the development of a mental health work plan. This approach is ensuring the Agency is better placed to support the needs of people with a psychosocial disability.

2013: Advice and Activities

Choice and control

At its first meeting in 2013, the Council identified the need to provide some preliminary reflections to the NDIA Board on the implementation of the principle of participant "choice and control" as an early priority. These reflections were not considered as formal advice according to the Act but the IAC's views were important in shaping the Board's early thinking on this critical issue.

The concept of choice and control is central to the Scheme's design and is defined in the NDIS Act 2013 in that it "enable(s) people with a disability to exercise choice and control in the pursuit of their goals and the planning and delivery of their supports". For many people with disability the concept of choice and control has been largely absent from the paid support they receive and the introduction of the NDIS and this concept represents a large shift.

In its report to the Board, the IAC focused on how to make the concept of choice and control more tangible and practical with a systematic mechanism that built capacity of people with disability and families on an ongoing basis. The IAC proposed that DSOs provide capacity building for people with disability and families to enhance their opportunities for choice and control. The aim is to transform participants from dependent users of services into active citizens, who exercise choice and control and engage in social, economic and political life, so contributing to the sustainability of the Scheme. DSOs are also one of the strategies identified by the Productivity Commission (in its report on disability care and support) to facilitate engagement and flexible choices.

IAC Achievements: 2013-2015 (Continued)

This led in late 2014 to the development and the implementation of an initial small network of DSOs.

Eighteen community organisations have initially been funded to recruit new members and work with people with disability and their families in exercising choice and control.

Each DSO facilitates and supports up to 20 local peer support or mutual support groups. The support networks provide information and resources, and build the capacity of people with disability and their families to shift demand towards more independent, more self-directed and more mainstream services.

The IAC's work in initiating the DSO development will have a significant impact on the development of future demand and help stimulate the innovation in specialist and mainstream services that is required for the successful rollout of the NDIS.

The IAC has a continuing interest in the progress of the DSOs and in work that builds the capacity of people with disabilities and their families. While most DSOs are in the early stages of establishing their networks, it has been encouraging to see a number moving beyond traditional membership and implementing strategies to reach particularly marginalised and vulnerable individuals.

IAC Reports

In addition to the advice prepared by the IAC for the NDIA Board in 2015, the IAC also provided a report on service gaps to the Joint Standing Committee (JSC) on the NDIS.

In July 2014, the JSC on the NDIS released its *Progress report on the implementation and administration of the National Disability Insurance Scheme* (the Report). Recommendation two of the Report states:

3.72 The committee heard evidence that 'gaps in service' have been identified in each of the trial sites. The committee recommends further work be undertaken by the Independent Advisory Council which is well-placed to identify and inform the Agency about where there are gaps in service and possible options for addressing these shortfalls.

In the IAC's 2015 response to the JSC it acknowledged that specialist service gaps exist and that in many instances the Agency is encountering barriers regarding the interface with mainstream service providers. The response covers the issue of supply gaps in the broader context of disability and mainstream service delivery, as well as providing an update on the role of the Agency in responding to issues

within its remit. Some of the main themes identified by the IAC relate to:

- Experience of the NDIS in interactions with Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory (NT) and South Australia (SA) and the particular difficulties faced in rural and remote communities and by specific population groups.
- Mainstream issues of housing, mental health, transport and employment. On housing, the IAC has an ongoing interest in housing models that access new and innovative solutions, including separating support from accommodation.
- Mental health and that the provision of quality clinical mental health services will be a key element of a good life for NDIS participants with mental ill-health.
- Expanding the DSOs into a comprehensive network across Australia, so that all participants will have the opportunity to be part of a peer-to-peer organisation that supports their aspirations and demand for more independent, mainstream and innovative supply.

The IAC concludes that while progress is being made across the trial sites, there is still a role to play for all governments, as well as the Agency and service providers to ensure that people with disability have access to the services they need to live an ordinary life. The IAC notes the importance of the National Disability Strategy (NDS) in relation to supply gaps.

Member profiles

Under the NDIS Act, the IAC consists of up to 12 members and a principal member (section 146).

In consultation with all states and territories, the responsible Commonwealth Minister appoints the Principal Member of the IAC. The Principal Member of the IAC is also a member of the NDIA Board. All states and territories must support the appointment of other IAC members.

IAC members are leaders who come from urban, regional and Indigenous communities and include people with disability, those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and people with a range of expert experience of disability including lived experience and experience in service or support provision. IAC members come from across Australia, to reflect state differences in disability provision.

More detail on the membership of the IAC can be found on the NDIS website.

The members of the IAC are:

- Professor Rhonda Galbally AO
- Dr Ken Baker
- Mr Dean Barton-Smith AM
- Ms Jennifer Cullen
- Mr Kurt Fearnley OAM
- Ms Sylvana Mahmic
- Ms Janet Meagher
- Ms Joan McKenna-Kerr
- Dr Gerry Naughtin
- Mr Michael Taggart
- Mr Dale Reardon



Professor Rhonda Galbally AO (Principal Member)

Professor Galbally chaired the Federal Government's inaugural National People with Disability and Carer group. This Council ran a

national consultation and produced the *Shut Out Report* that spear headed the call for NDIS as well as the National Disability Strategy. Professor Galbally facilitated the development of the National Disability and Carer Alliance that developed the *Every Australian Counts* campaign mobilising Australia behind the NDIS.

From 2008-2013, Professor Galbally was the Chair of the National People with Disabilities and Carer Council. She was a member of the Independent Expert Panel appointed to advise the Productivity Commission and Government during the Inquiry into long-term care and support for Australians with disability. She was also a member of the NDIS Advisory Group.

Professor Galbally founded the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth), Our Community Pty Ltd, and the Australian International Health Institute, now the Nossal Institute. She was also the founding CEO of the Australian Commission for the Future and the Executive Director

of the Myer Foundation and Sidney Myer Foundation, Chair of Philanthropy Australia, the Chair of the Royal Women's Hospital, and the Independent Chair of the competition policy review of medicines, poisons and chemicals. She was the transitional CEO of the Australian National Preventive Health Agency.

Professor Galbally was awarded an Order of Australia in 1990 and the Centenary Medal in 2003, in recognition of her service to the community. In 2012, Professor Galbally was awarded the Prime Minister's Outstanding Achievement Award in the National Disability Awards.

Organisational affiliations:

- Chair, International Evaluation Board for the Thai Health Promotion Foundation
- Member, Board of the National Disability Insurance Agency
- Honorary Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences and Development at Deakin University

Member profiles (Continued)



Dr Ken Baker AM

Dr Ken Baker is the Chief Executive of National Disability Services (NDS), the peak association for non-government disability

service organisations. In that role, he provides information, representation and policy advice.

Dr Baker has worked in social policy and public affairs for almost 30 years. He is currently a member of the National Disability Strategy Implementation Group, the Aged Care Workforce Advisory Group and a variety of other committees advising on disability employment and income support.

Organisational affiliations:

- Member, National Disabilities and Carer Alliance
- Member, National People with Disabilities and Carer Council
- Member, National Disability Research and Development Steering Committee (Disability and Policy Working Group)
- Member, Vision Advisory Group for Inclusion of People with Disability Through Supported Employment (Department of Social Services)



Mr Dean Barton-Smith AM

Mr Dean Barton-Smith is the CEO of the Victorian Mental Illness Awareness Council and former Chair

of the Board of the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations. He is a Certified Practising Marketer and has held a number of senior positions in the communications and transport sectors.

He is also an accomplished sportsman, representing Australia in the Decathlon at the 1990 and 1994 Commonwealth Games and the 1992 Barcelona Olympics – the first deaf Australian to do so. He has competed in four Deaflympic Games holding numerous world and games records. He was also founding chairperson of the Melbourne 2005 Deaflympic Games Limited.

Mr Barton-Smith was awarded Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2013. He has also received the Advance Australia Award, Prime Minister Sports Medal and the rare Edwin Flack Medal.

Organisational affiliations:

- Non-Executive Director, YMCA Victoria
- Non-Executive Director, Victorian YMCA Youth and Community Services
- Non-Executive Director, YMCA Aquatic Education Ltd
- Non-Executive Director, Deaf Sports Australia



Ms Jennifer Cullen

Ms Jennifer Cullen is CEO of Synapse in Queensland. She has extensive experience providing a comprehensive range of

community-based services to support and benefit people with a disability. As the CEO of Synapse, Ms Cullen has a strong understanding of and detailed experience in supporting people with acquired brain injuries and complex and challenging behaviours.

She also holds a number of volunteer positions and undertakes a number of extracurricular work activities in the areas of disability services and Indigenous issues.

Organisational affiliations:

- Associate Fellow of the Australian College of Health Service Management
- Member, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Council
- Member, NDIS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group, Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (Qld)



Mr Kurt Fearnley OAM

Mr Kurt Fearnley is an Australian Paralympian and wheelchair athlete. He has represented Australia at four Paralympic Games,

winning a total of nine medals including three gold medals, is a six-time World Champion and a winner of more than 30 wheelchair marathons.

In 2009 Mr Fearnley was recognised as the NSW Young Australian of the Year, and in 2005 was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to sport as a Gold Medallist at the Athens 2004 Paralympic Games.

Mr Fearnley represents a number of charitable organisations, is a board member of Australian Volunteers International and a member of the NSW Australia Day Council. He is a qualified physical education teacher and works in a number of public school education programs in NSW.

Organisational affiliations:

- Sponsorship with Invacare Pty Ltd.
- Ambassador, CROWNability

Member profiles (Continued)



Ms Sylvana Mahmic

Ms Sylvana Mahmic is the CEO of Plumtree and an advocate for early childhood intervention.

Sylvana is an immediate past member of the Disability Council NSW.

Ms Mahmic has worked for over twenty years in the early learning field, with a particular expertise in a whole of family and community approach to early childhood intervention. She has developed several initiatives which target the wider community, in particular the culturally and linguistically diverse community. Ms Mahmic is currently undertaking postgraduate research with a focus on individualised support and self-directed funding.

Ms Mahmic has a son who has cerebral palsy and an intellectual disability. Her son has been utilising self-managed funding since 2009 and participates completely in the mainstream and has never used specialist disability services.

Organisational affiliations:

- Vice President, Early Childhood Intervention Australia NSW
- Member, NSW Ministerial Advisory Group Person-Centred Approaches
- Member, Advisory Group Consumer Development Fund 'My Choice Matters'
- Member, NSW Steering Committee for Focus on Inclusion Project
- Department of Premier and Cabinet



Ms Janet Meagher AM

A teacher and librarian by profession, Janet was a founding member of several Consumer organisations. She has

lived with schizophrenia since the early 1970s, and has advocated for rights and equity, participation and respect for people living with mental health challenges.

Ms Meagher has had a long association with the Mental Health sector. From 2012 to 2013 she was a Mental Health Commissioner for the National Mental Health Commission. Earlier in her career Ms Meagher was the foundation co-chairperson of the National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum and previously the Divisional Manager, Inclusion, for Richmond Psychiatric Rehabilitation Australia. She has been appointed on several occasions to Ministerial and National Advisory bodies in Mental Health, Suicide Prevention and Disability areas.

Ms Meagher was honoured as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 1996 and as a Churchill Fellow in 1994 investigated *Consumer Empowerment and Self Advocacy*.

Organisational affiliations:

- Member, National People with Disabilities and Carer Advisory Council



Ms Joan McKenna-Kerr

Ms McKenna-Kerr is CEO of the Autism Association of Western Australia, an organisation funded by the State and Commonwealth

Government to provide specialist services to children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). She was a member of the Commonwealth NDIS Advisory Body and Co-Chair of the NDIS Expert Group on Eligibility and Assessment.

Ms McKenna-Kerr is Chair of National Disability Services (NDS) WA and a member on the national NDS Board. She is also a member of the Australian Advisory Group on Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Ms McKenna-Kerr is a former member of the Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability and has served on numerous working parties tasked with advising on unmet need for disability services. She has also been involved in major initiatives involving disability sector development and reform.

Organisational affiliations:

- Board Director, Autism Advisory Board of Australia
- Board Director, National Disability Services (NDS)
- Chair, National Disabilities Services Western Australia
- Member of West Australian Partnership Forum



Dr Gerry Naughtin

Dr Gerry Naughtin is the Chief Executive of Mind Australia and has an extensive background in human service

management, research and community development and commercial delivery of disability and aged care services. He has held senior management positions in the government and CEO positions in commercial and not for profit sectors.

He has extensive knowledge of the Australian mental health, aged care and disability sectors. He contributes regularly to policy development and advocacy in the mental health and aged care sectors.

Dr Naughtin is the Chief Executive of Mind Australia. Earlier career positions include Associate Professor at LaTrobe University, senior policy officer retirement and ageing at the Brotherhood of St Laurence and founding Chief Executive of Silver Circle Home Support Services.

Member profiles (Continued)



Mr Dale Reardon

Mr Reardon was the founding President of Blind Citizens Australia (Tasmania) and is a former Director of Royal

Guide Dogs Association of Tasmania. He is currently undertaking his PhD thesis on Anti-Discrimination and the employment of people with disability at the Australian National University. He has also recently started a new business which helps micro businesses develop an online presence. Mr Reardon is a qualified barrister and solicitor.

Organisational affiliations:

- Member, Vision Australia
- Member, People with Disabilities Australia
- Member, National Disability Services
- Member, Blind Citizens Australia



Mr Michael Taggart

Mr Taggart is the inclusion Project Officer for Salisbury City Council in Northern Adelaide. He received the 2009 National Disability

Award (Local Government).

Mr Taggart initiated the South Australian Local Government Access and Inclusion Network which liaises with the Local Government Professionals Community Managers Network. The Network is open to all LG Professionals SA members working in the field of community development and community services in local government and allied sectors.

Organisational affiliations:

- Member, Blind Citizens Australia
- Member, Australian Services Union local government division (SA and NT branch)
- Member, People with Disability Australia
- Membership of the IDRG is listed below.

IDRG membership

IDRG member	Position	Expertise	State
Professor Rhonda Galbally AO	Chair	Principal Member of the Council	VIC
Ms Liz Cairns	Co-Sponsor	Agency representative	VIC
Susan Arthur	Member	Powerful Parents Self Advocacy Group	VIC
Professor Richard Bruggemann	Member	People with high support needs	SA
Ms Silvana Gant	Member	Adelaide People First self-advocacy, person with intellectual disability	SA
Mr Angus Graham OAM	Member	Down Syndrome Australia Chair	VIC
Mr Damian Griffis	Member	First Peoples Disability Network	NSW
Ms Judy Huett	Member	Person with intellectual disability	TAS
Dr Leighton Jay	Member	Parent of a person with intellectual disability, Microboards	WA
Ms Sylvana Mahmic	Member	Member of the Council, parent of a person with intellectual disability	NSW

Member profiles (Continued)

IDRG member	Position	Expertise	State
Ms Sally Robinson	Member	Centre for Children and Young People Southern Cross University	QLD
Mr Daniel Leighton	Member	Inclusion Melbourne	VIC
Mr Jim Simpson	Member	Criminal justice, NSW Council for Intellectual Disability Senior Advocate	NSW
Mr Kevin Stone	Member	Advocacy, parent of a person with an intellectual disability	VIC
Mr Michael Sullivan	Member	NSW Council for Intellectual Disability Chair, person with an intellectual disability	NSW

Appendices: IAC Advice

In August 2013, the IAC provided a paper to the NDIA Board which offered reflections on the implementation of the principle of enabling people with a disability to exercise choice and control in the pursuit of their goals and the planning and delivery of their supports:

- [View Reflections on the implementation of the principle of choice and control under the NDIS on the NDIS website](#)¹

In December 2014, the IAC provided advice to the Board on how the Agency should approach the provision of ‘reasonable and necessary’ supports to NDIS participants:

- [View Reasonable and necessary support across the lifespan: An ordinary life for people with disability on the NDIS website](#)²
- [View Reasonable and necessary support for families on the NDIS website](#)³

In January 2015, the IAC provided advice on implementing the NDIS for people with disability related to mental illness (psychosocial disability):

- [View Advice on implementing the NDIS for people with psychosocial disability on the NDIS website](#)⁴

In June 2015, the IAC response to recommendation two of the Joint Standing Committee’s (JSC) progress report on the implementation and administration of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (the Report).

- IAC’s response

Recommendation two states:

3.72 *The committee heard evidence that ‘gaps in service’ have been identified in each of the trial sites. The committee recommends further work be undertaken by the Independent Advisory Council which is well-placed to identify and inform the Agency about where there are gaps in service and possible options for addressing these shortfalls.*

1 www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/governance/IAC/IAC-advice-choice-and-control

2 www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/governance/IAC/iac-reasonable-necessary-lifespan

3 www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/governance/IAC/iac-reasonable-necessary-families

4 www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/governance/IAC/IAC-advice-2015-NDIA-response#advice1

