

7 August 2025

The Autism Advisory Group met on 7 August 2025 for the fourth meeting of the year. The meeting was held online.

## **Focus of the meeting**

The focus of the August meeting was:

- Access to the NDIS
- AAG feedback on impairment information letters
- Early Intervention Pathway for Children under 9
- Member reports.

## **Access process**

The NDIA shared an overview of the guidance and process used by delegates in making access decisions.

- The operational guideline sets out how NDIA staff make decisions about access to the NDIS, using the eligibility criteria in the NDIS Act.
- The NDIS Act changed in October 2024, and access delegates can now consider if someone meets both the disability and early intervention requirements.
- Since January 2025, the NDIA has been providing information about the impairments a participant meets access for. This information is part of the access outcome letter.
- The NDIA acknowledged feedback that the terminology of 'notice of impairment' as set out in the NDIS Act does not resonate as being empowering or strengths based. Co-design groups are considering different terminology resulting from this significant feedback.

## **Feedback on impairment information letters**

The NDIA sought feedback from members on the new letter in development for existing participants.

## **NDIS Pathway for Children under 9**

The NDIA shared a presentation and sought feedback and insights on design concepts for a new pathway for children under 9.

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The NDIA shared an update on co-design and consultation work that has been completed since the previous discussion with AAG at the April meeting:

- The primary focus has been gaining insights from parents and carers of young children in the NDIS. The NDIA is working with a group of 20 parents and carers to help design the new pathway.
- Work has also been continuing with the Children’s Expert Advisory Group.

Members provided the following feedback:

- The importance of pilots and early testing in the right locations, including rural and remote areas.
- Suggested a resolution process to enable the best possible outcomes for the children’s pathway and Navigators.

## Autism Advisory Group next meeting

The Autism Advisory Group’s next meeting is on 8 October 2025.

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