23 October 2025

Quote from attendee:

"I'd like to learn more about how they're (NDIS) going to use this new assessment tool to determine the level of funding, because even when we provide evidence, the planner comes over the top and says no."

Overview

We met to discuss NDIS access and equity for First Nations communities. Members listened to the outline of the new planning framework. The group talked though trauma-informed practices, data sovereignty, and better communication, while suggesting future topics and actions to make sure First Nations voices are reflected in reform.

What we talked about

Topic 1: Group Name Discussion

- The co-chairs proposed to rename the group from First Nations Consultation Group to First Nations Participants and Carers Consultation Group which would better reflect its purpose.
- General agreement to update the Terms of Reference to include the change of name to First Nations Participants and Carers Consultation Group.

Topic 2: New Framework Planning Presentation

A new approach to NDIS planning aimed at improving consistency, reducing burden, and ensuring trauma-informed, respectful processes.

Four key journey stages:

- Prepare for Support Needs Assessment
- Support Needs Assessment Meeting
- Receiving Your Plan
- Using Your Plan

Concerns and feedback from members:

- including advocates or support people in meetings to help participants avoid missing critical information
- inconsistent planning outcomes and the lack of recognition for diverse communication needs

- transparency and effectiveness of the I-CAN tool
- regional access, deaf and vision impairment supports, and the need for a national strategy on Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and rheumatic heart disease.

Topic 3: NDIS Engage Platform

- A new NDIS platform has been introduced to support public feedback and engagement.
- Members discussed ways to improve accessibility and visibility of First Nations content.

Topic 4: Data and Feedback Loop

- The group discussed the importance of Indigenous data sovereignty and using data to tell stories, not just numbers.
- Proposal for a feedback and action register to track issues raised and responses.

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