25 June 2026

> “I want to talk about nothing about us [without us]… when it reaches vulnerable families and individuals with disabilities… that does not happen… there are a lot of people who aren’t included… they don’t get services, they suffer more and there’s more isolation.”
> Group member

What we talked about

Topic 1: Group updates and reflections

The group discussed its ongoing role and value, future planning, how the workplan will be developed and shared, and opportunities to strengthen input into NDIA work.

Topic 2: Integrated Care and Commissioning (ICC) Project

The NDIA presented an overview of the Integrated Care and Commissioning (ICC) Project. ICC aims to help communities work out what better care looks like for them and what steps they need to take to get there.

What we heard

Group updates and reflections

Members said they:

- value the group and want it to continue
- want more opportunities to be involved in practical work, such as shaping documents and solutions
- supported the idea of the group being used more often to test ideas and get early guidance
- are linking with local organisations (e.g. TAFE, regional networks) to gather feedback and improve awareness of what's needed for First Nations people to access the NDIS
- are interested in making connections between the First Nations Participant and Carer Consultation Group (FNPCCG) and other NDIA First Nations consultation groups
- are aware of confusion in communities about the Securing the NDIS for Future Generations Bill
- are unsure how new legislation may change the NDIS and eligibility requirements

- need clear, culturally safe information and spaces for First Nations communities to learn about the proposed legislation changes.

Integrated Care and Commissioning Project (ICC)

- A member highlighted the need to raise awareness and make sure families can access the information they need. They noted that their involvement in the FNPCCG helps them stay informed, but many other families are not aware of the available information and support.
- Members were interested in what would happen after the initiative ends in 2027, including whether successful models would continue or expand. The group welcomed further information and updates.
- Workforce shortages remain a key issue, especially in regional and remote areas.
- Recruitment and retention are challenging because of housing shortages, high living costs and competition from industries such as mining.
- Members noted some areas have poor service quality even when services are available.
- There is a need for more local employment pathways and training for First Nations people.

Playback

Last month the NDIA discussed the First Nations Connect initiative. The initiative aims to improve respectful access to information on the NDIS and includes a new First Nations phone service, 1800 411 640.

- First Nations Connect continues to strengthen culturally safe service delivery through First Nations-led training, ongoing monthly yarning circles, and increased First Nations involvement in shaping and delivering services.
- View the the minister's announcement .

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