



## The NDIS Review – the future of the NDIS

Brooke, Luke, and William all work at Inclusion Australia.

They are also NDIS participants.

They shared their thoughts on the speech by Professor Bruce Bonyhady about the future of the NDIS, and what it might mean for people with an intellectual disability.



### What were the main ideas you heard in the speech?

- **Brooke:** Bruce said the NDIS is a policy miracle which has helped lots of people. It has also made a lot of people stressed and traumatised. There are lots of ways the Scheme needs to change for the better
- **Luke:** He said the NDIS has not always driven inclusion but segregation. He said that supports can be unfair and inconsistent across Australia, especially for people who live in remote areas and not in a city.
- **Brooke:** He talked about 3 big challenges. Firstly, he said lots of mainstream services are unavailable and inaccessible. Number 2 was that 'reasonable and necessary' is hard to interpret and Number 3 was we need more early intervention in early childhood.
- **William:** they talked about early intervention being separated from the scheme.
- **Brooke:** He also talked about were separating budgets and planning, getting rid of Tiers 1, 2 and 3 and rethinking how reasonable and necessary supports are decided.

- **Luke:** they said budgets should be decided by the NDIA and not LACs. The NDIA should get expert reports when needed and we need to increase the workforce capacity of the NDIA to make that happen.

### What things in the speech made you feel good about the NDIS Review?

- **William:** it was good hearing the personal experiences and family perspectives. It made it meaningful.
- **Brooke:** It feels like they have been listening to some things organisations like Inclusion Australia have been saying

### What things made you feel unsure about the NDIS Review?

- **Brooke:** Lots of words were hard and confusing. Talking about the ‘oasis in the desert’ and ‘magic pudding’ did not make sense to us. It was hard to know what he meant by those things. I feel this will be way too confusing if someone else was watching this.
- **Luke:** Even though they talked about some of the challenges and changes, they did not give enough detail. This can make people worry about what the changes will mean for them.
- **William:** Hearing the some of the phrases used was not reassuring, there wasn’t a lot of representation of lived experience.

### What things made you feel bad about the NDIS Review?

- **Brooke:** A lot of the words were confusing and felt too formal—it makes it feel too remote and separate from peoples’ real lives
- **William:** there wasn’t a lot of representation of lived experience.
- **Luke:** There was not enough detail about some of the changes. Separating budget and planning—this made me think of independent assessments 2.0! There is a lot of fear and worry in the community that this is going to be bringing independent assessments back
- **Brooke:** People might not understand about what their choices are about different supports they need or want to put in their plan because there is not enough accessible and independent information about different supports people can get through the NDIS

- **William:** Hearing the some of the phrases used was not reassuring. It wasn't good to hear the words "independent assessment" in the context of next steps.

What questions do you think people with an intellectual disability might have about the webinar?

- **Brooke:** People probably have lots of questions but during the webinar there wasn't enough time left to get to peoples' questions.
- **Luke:** What will the separation of budget and planning mean for people on the NDIS? What will it look like? People need reassurance that this won't be like independent assessments.
- **Brooke:** What does Bruce mean when he talks about the 'oasis in the desert' and the NDIS being a 'magic pudding'?
- **Luke:** What will getting rid of Tiers 1, 2 and 3 mean for people on the NDIS and how will reasonable and necessary be used in the NDIS?
- **William:** I want to know will there be people with disability at the forefront of feedback with changes being made.



**Australian Government**



**NDIS  
Review**

To find out more about the speech by the NDIS Review Panel on The Future of the NDIS visit: <https://www.ndisreview.gov.au/news/future-ndis-and-where-we-are-heading>

This paper was written by Inclusion Australia on 25 August 2023.

[www.inclusionaustralia.org.au](http://www.inclusionaustralia.org.au)