



NDIS Review Background Paper

Access and Planning



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About this Paper



This Paper is about **access and planning** in the NDIS.



Access and planning means

- Getting on the NDIS
- Writing your NDIS plan
- Making changes to your NDIS plan.



**Inclusion
Australia**

This paper was written by Inclusion Australia.

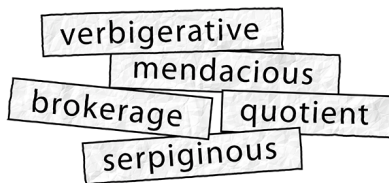
Where it says 'we' it means Inclusion Australia.



This paper is written in Easy Read.



It is a good idea to read this Paper with support.



Hard words are in **bold**.

We have written what they mean.



You can read the big version of this paper [here](#).

About the NDIS Review

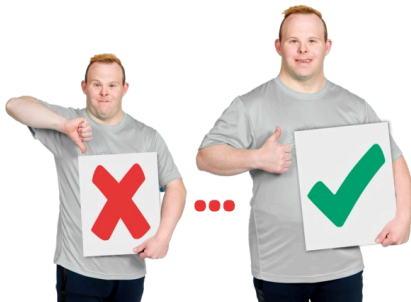


This paper was written as part of the **NDIS Review**.



The NDIS Review is looking at

- What works well in the NDIS
- What could be better in the NDIS
- What needs to change in the NDIS
- How to make the NDIS last a long time.



The NDIS Review asked us to speak to people with intellectual disability and their families about their experiences with the NDIS.

Choice and control



People with intellectual disability have less **choice and control** in their NDIS plans than other participants.



Choice and control means that participants have the right to make their own decisions about their supports.



People can have less choice and control when

- they do not go to their own planning meetings
- someone else is in charge of the person's NDIS plan and makes all their decisions



for example a parent or support worker

- the planner or **LAC** speaks to the supporter instead of the participant



LAC is short for **Local Area Coordinator**.

An **LAC** is someone who helps participants with their NDIS plans and supports.



People with intellectual disability often feel rushed by their planner or LAC in planning meetings.



This leaves people feeling unheard and unhappy with their NDIS plans.



People with an intellectual disability have the right to make their own decisions.



The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability** is an agreement between countries that protects the rights of people with disability.

We call it the **UNCRPD** for short.



The UNCRPD says people with disability have the right to good support when making decisions.



We think the NDIS need to train their planners and LACs on how to do supported decision making.



Planners and LACs need to give people with intellectual disability more time and support in planning meetings.



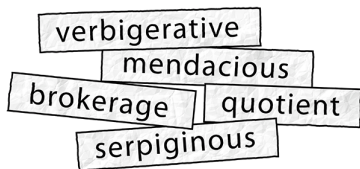
This will make sure participants

- are listened to
- get to make their own decisions
- get what they want in their NDIS plan.

Access



A lot of people with intellectual disability find the NDIS confusing and hard to understand.



This is because the NDIS

- uses hard words and does not explain what they mean
- does not have enough accessible information
- thinks everyone has support to understand access and planning.



We think the NDIS needs to



- make the access and planning process easier
- make sure all NDIS documents and policies are accessible

For example written in Easy Read.



Planners and LACs need to take the time to fully explain things to participants with intellectual disability.



This would help participants to

- understand the NDIS better
- have more choice and control in their NDIS plans.

Focusing on what participants cannot do



People with intellectual disability and their families often have to focus on what the participant cannot do to get the funding they need.



This makes people feel upset and sad.



The NDIS is meant to be about helping people with disability to become more independent.



The NDIS should look at what people are good at as well as the things they need help with.

The same person each time



Participants often have to deal with a different person each time they have a plan review.



It can be frustrating and upsetting for participants to tell their story to a new person every time.



Participants are less likely to get the supports they need in their NDIS plan if the planner or LAC does not know the person properly.



People with intellectual disability should be able to deal with the same planner or LAC each time they have a plan review.

Clear rules



It can be hard to work out

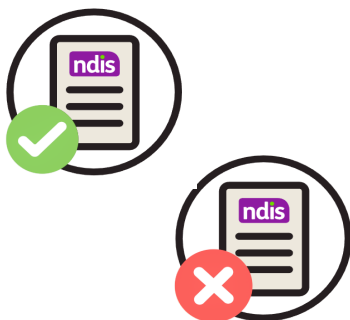
- what the NDIS will fund
- what the NDIS will not fund.



People with intellectual disability and their families get confused when people at the NDIS give different answers to the same question.



It seems like the NDIS plan participants get depends on what their planner or LAC thinks instead of clear rules.



The NDIS needs to

- be clearer about what supports can and cannot be funded
- make sure planners and LACs know what can and cannot be funded.

What happens next?



The Review will look closely at what everyone has said about the NDIS.



The Review will give their Final Report to the Government with ideas about how the NDIS could be better.



The Final Report is due in October 2023.



Australian Government

The Government will decide what to do about the NDIS Review's ideas.