



Independent  
Advisory  
Council  
to the **ndis**

# First Nations Reference Group Expression of Interest Information Booklet



**Easy Read**



# About this information

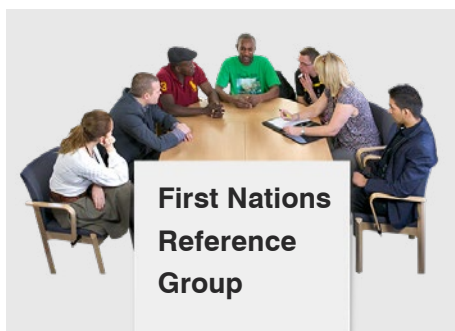


This information is about a new group the NDIA **Independent Advisory Council** is starting.



The **Independent Advisory Council** help the NDIA understand what people with disability need.

We will say **IAC** for short.



The new group will be called the **First Nations Reference Group**.

We will say **the group** for short.

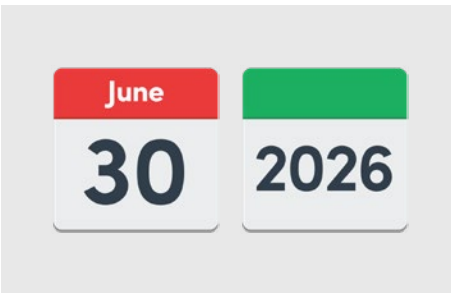


The group will share what First Nations people with disability think is important for the NDIS.

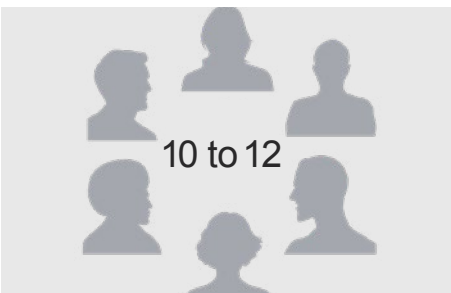
## About this information



We are looking for First Nations people with disability to be in the group.



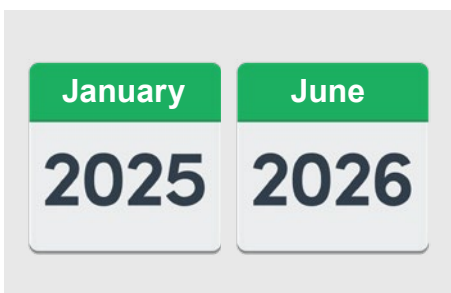
We are looking for people to be in the group until **30 June 2026**.



We would like about 10 to 12 people to join the group.



We are looking for people who can come to at least 4 meetings a year.



The meetings will be from  
January 2025 to June 2026.



The group will have people on it who

- Are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

and

- Have a disability

and

- Know lots of people in their community.



Members of the group will speak up about how the NDIS is working for

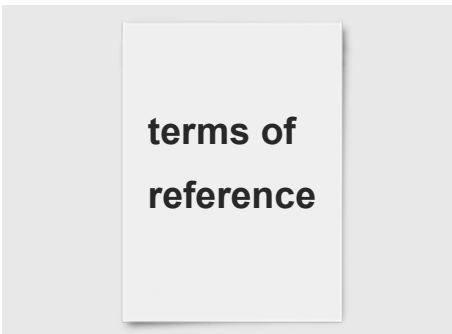
- Them



- Their community.



The group will also tell us what can be better in the NDIS.

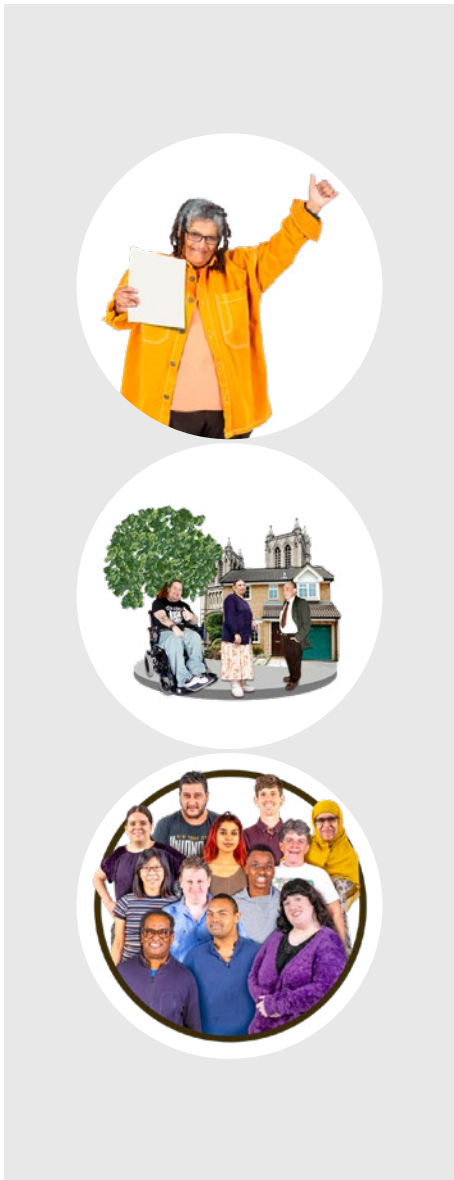


The group will make a **terms of reference**.



The **terms of reference** are the rules for how the group works.

# What will you do?



The group will give ideas to the IAC about how First Nations people with disability can

- Live how they choose
- Take part in their community
- Get disability services and supports that feel safe for their **culture**.



**Culture** means the way you do things because where you or your family are from.



The group will give ideas to support the NDIA to change its **First Nations Strategy Implementation Plan**.

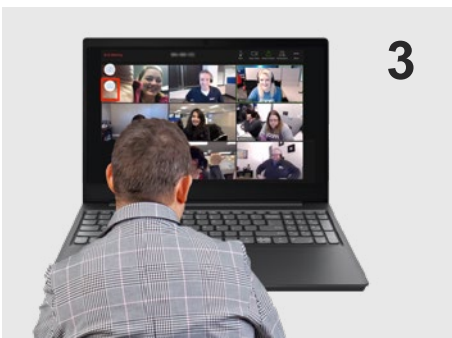


The **First Nations Strategy Implementation Plan** is a plan for how the NDIS can best support First Nations people.

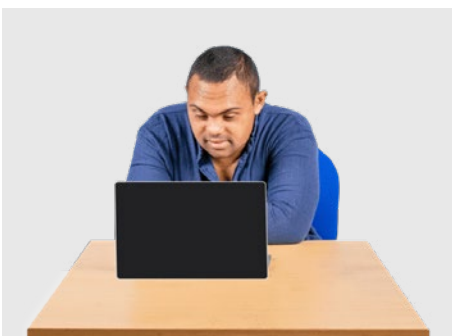
# Meetings



There will be at least 1 in person meeting a year.



Every year we will also have at least 3 other small meetings online.



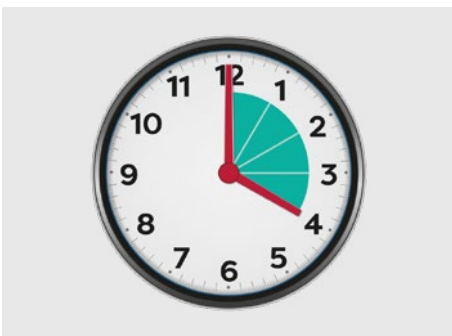
Members can join the meetings to yarn about First Nations disability business.



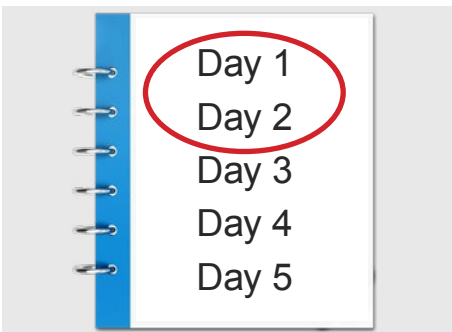
You will need to say you can come to all of these meetings.



We will give you lots of notice about when the meetings will happen.



Most meetings can go for up to 4 hours a day.



Some meetings go over 2 days.



If you need to travel to a meeting we will support you to book

- Your travel
- A place to stay.



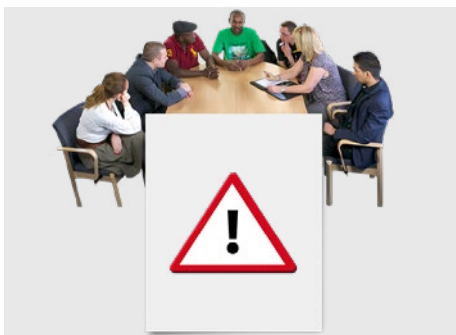
If you need to travel for a meeting we will pay for things like

- Flights
- Hotel
- Taxis
- Meals.

## What do I bring to the meetings?



Before the meeting you should yarn with your community about issues with the NDIS.



Then you can share the issues at the meetings.

## Pay for going to meetings



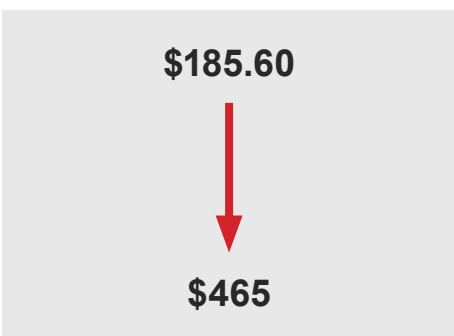
Group members will get paid for going to meetings.



This is called a **sitting fee**.



The government has rules about how much people get paid for sitting fees.



At the moment the rules say members should be paid from **\$185.60** and **\$465** per day for meetings.

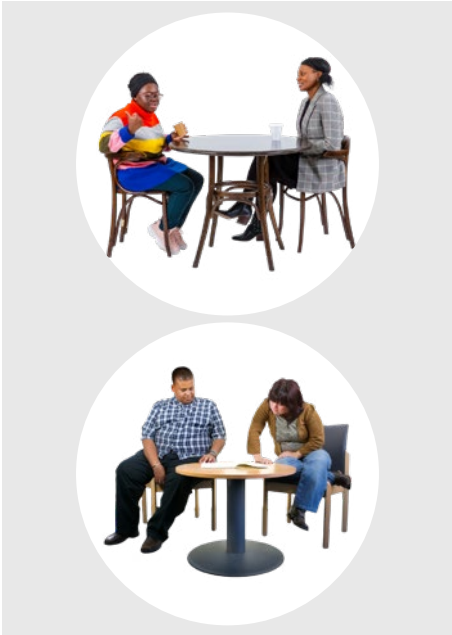


You might need to pay **tax** on your sitting fees.



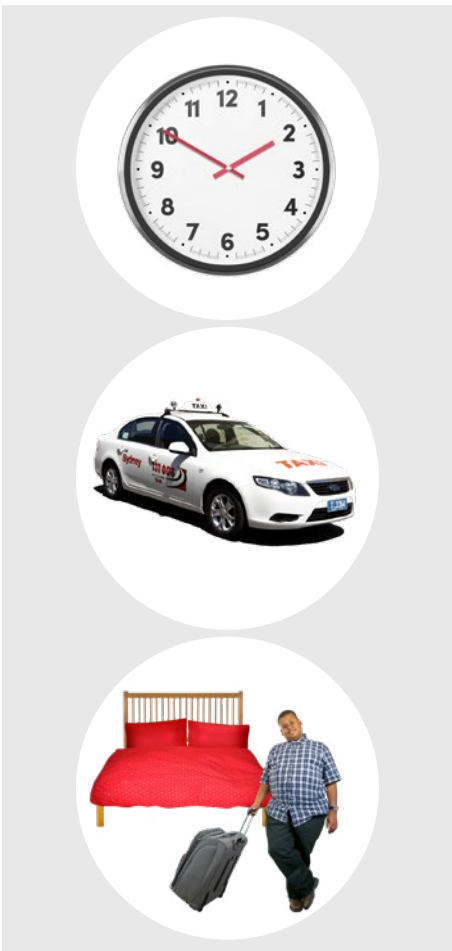
**Tax** is money the government takes from your sitting fee.

# Support person



You can tell us if you need a support person to

- Get ready for meetings
- Take part in the meetings.



We will pay for your support persons

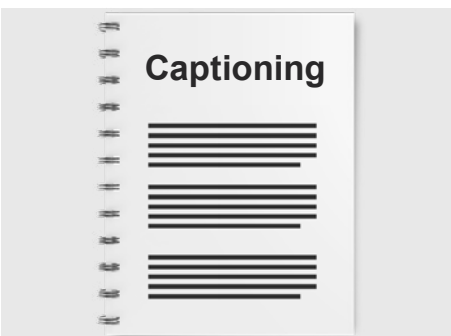
- Time
- Travel
- Accommodation.



We can also book other supports like **interpreters** and **captioning**.

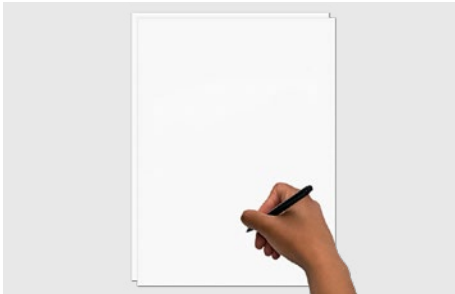


**Interpreters** support you by sharing what someone said in a way you can understand.



**Captioning** is when someone types the words spoken in a meeting so you can read them.

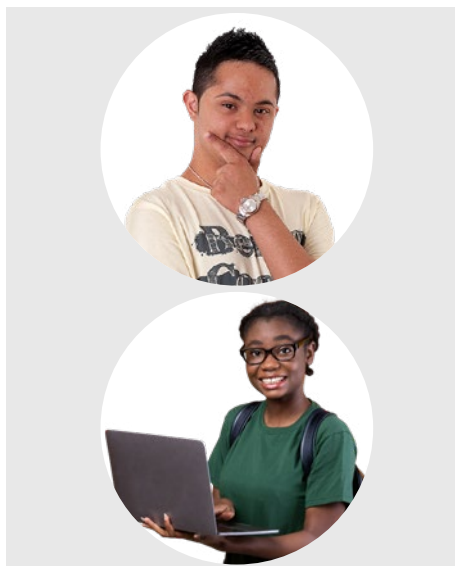
# How can you apply to be a member of the First Nations Reference Group



If you want to be in the First Nations Reference Group you can fill in an **Expression of Interest**.



An **Expression of Interest** is a form you fill out to tell us you want to be in the group.



You can tell us in the form

- Why you want to do the work
- The skills you have for the group.



We look at all the Expressions of Interest to decide who will be a member.

# How do I put in an Expression of Interest?

You can send an Expression of Interest by



- Answering questions in the form

or



- Making a video of you answering the questions

or



- A different way that we agree on.

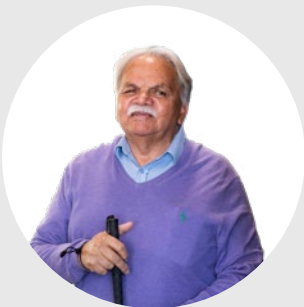
When you answer the questions on the form it is good to tell us about



- How you are connected to the community



- Why I want to help and make a difference.



- What I am good at and what I have done before



- My promise to share what the people in my community think.



Before you do an Expression of Interest you can contact us for a yarn if you want.



You can also ask someone to support you.



You can contact Matthew Berne from the **First Nations Strategy Branch** if you need support.

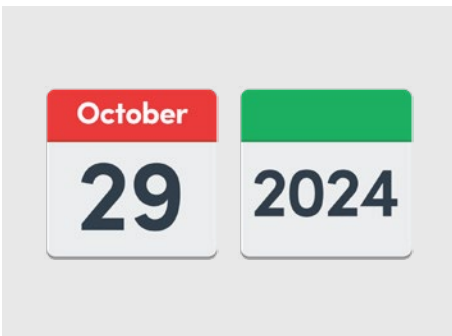


You can call him on 0456 692 698.

## Where to send your form?



You can email your form to  
**[advisorycouncil@ndis.gov.au](mailto:advisorycouncil@ndis.gov.au)**



You need to send it to us by  
**Tuesday 29 October 2024.**

## What happens next?



After you give us your form we might ask you  
to yarn with us in an interview.

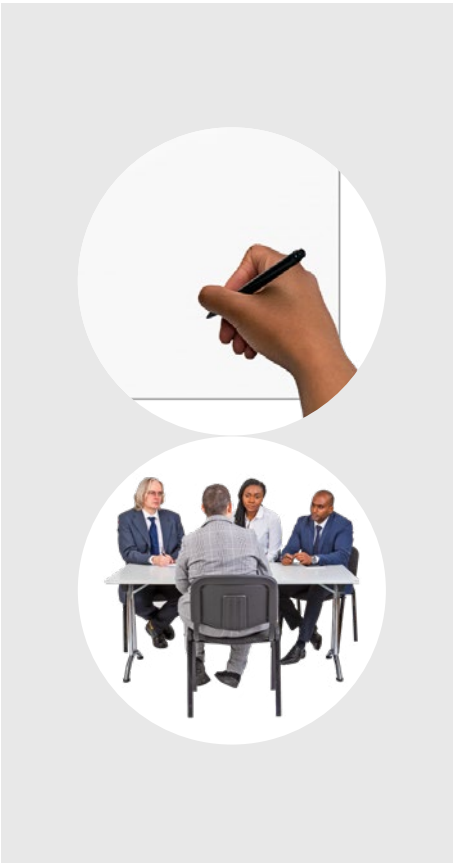


This is when you can tell us more about  
yourself and ask any questions you have.

# Looking at the Expressions of Interest



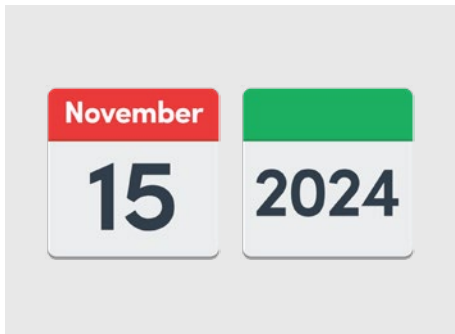
A small group of people will get together to look at all the Expressions of Interest.



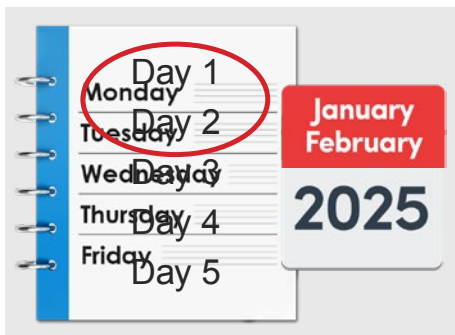
They will look at things like how well you

- Answered the questions in the form
- Did in the interview.

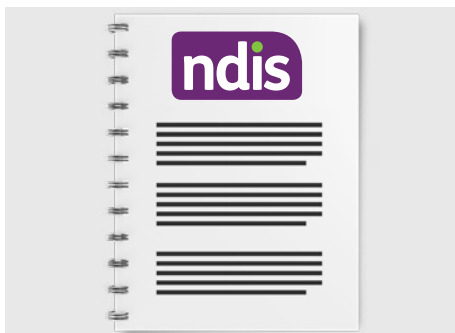
# When we tell you what will happen



If you get a place in the group we will tell you by **Friday 15 November 2024**.



We are hoping to have a big meeting over 2 days in at the end January or February 2025.



If you do not get a place on the group we might ask to keep your name on a list for other NDIS groups.

Council for Intellectual Disability made this document Easy Read. **CID** for short. You need to ask CID if you want to use any pictures in this document. You can contact CID at **business@cid.org.au**.