

**Community Affairs Legislation Committee: Inquiry into National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Getting the NDIS Back on Track No. 1) Bill 2024 [Provisions]**

Public Hearing – 22 May 2024

**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Inquiry into National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Getting the NDIS Back on Track No. 1) Bill 2024 [Provisions]

**Question reference number:** IQ24-000031

**Question asked by:** Louise Pratt

**Type of Question:** Spoken. **Hansard Page/s:** 47

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 5 June 2024

**Question:**

In addition, I'd like to know about the NDIA's co-design work on improvements for the NDIS, and I'd like to get some detail about that. I'd like to know about the advisory group—how they're divided up, what topics they're inquiring into and the progress under that. And how does the NDIA intend to use these existing groups to support co-design of the rules? Thank you. I'll leave it there.

**Answer:**

In mid-2023, the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) established 6 co-design working groups to support the reform for outcomes initiatives. These focused on:

- Addressing workforce capability to improve the consistency of access and planning decisions.
- Processes to support participants around better planning to manage their funding.
- Implementing a lifetime planning approach so plans are more transparent and enable flexibility for life events.
- Improving the consistency, equity and sustainability of home and living decisions.
- Helping participants understand and access evidenced-based supports.
- Supporting staff to detect, respond to, and reduce provider fraud and non-compliance.

These working groups include NDIS participants, members of the NDIS Independent Advisory Council (IAC), representatives from Disability Representative and Carer Organisations (DRCOs), NDIA staff and other key stakeholders and subject matter experts.

The NDIA provides updates on our co-design work through the [NDIS website](#). This includes updates on the existing [reform for outcomes co-design groups](#).

The NDIA is currently working with DRCOs and the IAC to agree on the co-design, consultation and engagement approach and priorities needed to support reforms to the NDIS.

The NDIA's co-design efforts will focus on the operationalisation and implementation of legislative reforms.

Consultation, engagement and co-design will be primarily with NDIS participants, their families and carers, national disability representative and carer organisations, and existing and new expert advisory groups (such as the Participant Reference Group, Autism Advisory Group, National Mental Health Sector Reference Group, and others).

Subject to the outcomes of the Senate Committee findings, legislation outcomes and Government response to the NDIS Review, key topics for co-design and/or engagement are anticipated to include:

- Participant pathway experience
- Assessments and budgeting
- Navigator Functions
- Participant Services
- Psychosocial Disability
- Home and Living
- Integrity and Fraud Prevention
- Workforce Capability and Culture
- Participant Safety
- Supporting Children and Young People in the NDIS.

The NDIA will work with the IAC and DRCOs to form groups to work on each topic. Groups will include participants, their families and carers, as well as people from DRCOs, IAC and Participant Reference Group, NDIA staff and other experts.

The NDIA uses a range of activities to include participants, families, carers, supporters and the public in co-design. These activities include:

- Focus groups, interviews and engagement with participants, families and carers.
- Co-design workshops on specific issues, processes or products.
- Engagement events with members of the public and stakeholders including webinars, information sessions and community updates.
- Surveys, discussion papers and submissions.
- Research and partnerships with disability organisations and experts.
- Targeted approaches to hear from under-represented participants and groups.