



NDIS Reform Advisory Committee

Meeting Summary – Friday 21 November 2025

The meeting of the NDIS Reform Advisory Committee was held on Friday, 21 November 2025.

The November RAC meeting focused in detail on the proposed Support Needs Assessment process, including the tool and the draft policy that will inform the details of how this will work. After reviewing the proposal, and hearing from a range of officials in previous meetings, this meeting carried out a detailed analysis to provide feedback to the Disability Reform Ministers Council.

The NDIA delivered a presentation and facilitated a discussion on the New Framework Planning proposals (NFP), specifically the Support Needs Assessment process. This segment focused on the key elements of the policy and its implications for the disability community. RAC members engaged with the NDIA to analyse the proposal and process and raised significant questions.

The committee reviewed the policy related to Supported Needs Assessment (SNA), guided by a discussion paper provided by the co-chairs.

The Committee then explored the details of the NFP, with particular attention to the SNA rules. These discussions were structured around guiding questions and supporting materials. Advice was then consolidated for the Disability Ministers and the NDIS Minister regarding the NFP, ensuring alignment on recommendations.

The session considered the detail of the SNA policy proposals, along with the broader implications for people with disability in a wide range of settings and with diverse backgrounds. The RAC members recommended a significant program of continuous evaluation and transparency about the implementation and impact of the SNA process, and for the process to be responsive to necessary identified changes.

The impact of the support needs assessments on people with disability with barriers to access the National Disability Insurance Scheme was discussed in depth, particularly for those in regional, rural and remote areas and who are already disadvantaged and marginalised. The RAC discussed how to ensure that intersectional needs of different communities were included. RAC members discussed programs already underway in remote areas that work at a local level and how vital it is that the SNA process works locally.

The RAC discussed how to support people with disability through the assessments, including the sustainability and diversity of their informal supports. This support includes accessible communications, targeted assessments, time to process the assessment, trusted people being present, capacity building and time to build trust with the assessor.

For people with disability without direct or immediate informal supports, the RAC suggested a role for other supports through the SNA process, such as advocates, support coordinators, peak disability

organisations, migrant and refugee health organisations, community health organisations, ACCHOs and AMS, neighbourhood and community centres, microboards, circles of support, peer support, women's health, community mental health. The ecosystems that people with disability live in need to be part of the support needs assessment process.

Detailed suggestions were made about the four-step policy process to ensure they work for people with disability and their families.

The RAC recommended to Ministers that the support needs assessment process is given more time to be developed, that decision support is embedded in all parts of the process, that the process takes disadvantage into account, that people with disability have support to know what their support needs are, and that disability representative organisation recommendations are included.

The RAC also recommends that community and participant capacity is built before the SNA, and that independent advocacy and peer support are resourced to support people through this process. We also believe an oversight group for the SNA process and transition is established to report publicly and to Disability Ministers about the progress and impact of SNA.

At the meeting Co-chairs reported on the recent DRMC meeting. RAC members presented jurisdictional insights, and reported significant anxiety about Thriving Kids, big demands for advocacy, questions about the oversight council for the National Autism Strategy, concerns about funding cliffs for providers and how existing evidence will be transitioned over to the new SNA process.

The new NDIA CEO will be invited to the RAC meeting in early 2026.

The meeting also discussed other business, including upcoming engagement webinars, input into the RAC workplan, meeting frequency for 2026, next meeting dates, summer engagement activities, and any additional matters raised by members.