



NDIS Reform Advisory RAC

Meeting Summary – Friday 22 May 2026

The NDIS Reform Advisory Committee (the RAC) met on 22 May 2026.

Officials from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing provided the RAC with an overview of the 2026–27 Budget announcements and the NDIS Amendment (Securing the NDIS for Future Generations) Bill 2026 (the Bill). The presentation outlined key reform elements, including legislative changes, funding announcements and the implementation pathway.

Officials noted the Bill is intended to strengthen the sustainability, integrity and operation of the NDIS, with a focus on managing growth, improving consistency in decisions, and addressing fraud and poor-quality supports.

The RAC was taken through the structure of the Bill, including five schedules covering:

- Access, eligibility, planning and funding reforms
- Fraud and compliance measures
- Governance, pricing and automation
- New Framework Planning
- Transitional arrangements

Key reform measures highlighted included:

- A shift toward functional capacity assessments for access decisions and clearer definitions of eligibility
- Changes to planning arrangements, including limits on reassessments, plan renewal settings, and revised funding approaches
- Measures to reset selected support budgets, particularly for social and community participation and capacity building supports
- Expanded fraud prevention and compliance powers, including provider regulation and reduced claiming timeframes
- Changes to governance and pricing, including Ministerial decision-making and use of automation
- Support for the transition to New Framework Planning and updated funding models

Access and eligibility (Schedule 1)

The Bill is proposing to change how disability and support needs are assessed, including new approaches to functional capacity, permanence, and treatment requirements, with further detail to be set in rules.

Members raised strong concerns about changes to how disability and support needs would be assessed. Members were worried not considering a person's individual circumstances and environment could lead to unfair or inequitable outcomes. Members highlighted impacts for people in remote areas, people who cannot easily access treatment, and people with complex or rare conditions.

Members also raised concerns about expectations to undergo treatment, including cost, risk, access and personal choice, and were concerned people could be expected to pursue treatment even where it is not realistically accessible. Members also questioned what evidence and data informed these changes.

Officials acknowledged concerns about fairness and equity, especially for people in remote areas or with complex needs. They said the changes won't happen straight away and there is still more work to do, including consultation. They also said expert advice from the Technical Advisory Group will be used to shape how assessments work, including how treatment expectations and access issues are handled. Officials noted modelling has been done, but acknowledged detailed evidence and data were not shared during the session and may be provided through other processes. Officials noted many details are still being developed.

Planning, reassessments and link to supports (Schedule 1)

The Bill is proposing to change when plans can be reassessed, strengthen how supports must relate to a person's disability, and clarify rules around decision-making.

Members raised concerns proposed changes to plan reassessments and how supports are linked to disability may make the system less flexible and responsive to changes in people's lives. Members noted risks at key transition points and where changes in a person's needs are first noticed by support workers or others, rather than by the participant themselves.

Members also highlighted risks for people with multiple or complex needs, where supports do not clearly relate to a single impairment and may be hard to justify under the proposed approach.

Officials acknowledged concerns about reduced flexibility. They advised reassessments will still occur where there are significant changes, and that the NDIA retains discretion to step in where needed. Officials said further work is required to ensure people with complex or changing needs are appropriately supported, and details of how this will operate are still being worked through.

Support determinations and funding reductions (Schedule 1)

The Bill is proposing to introduce new ministerial powers to reduce funding for some supports, particularly after a participant's reasonable and necessary supports have been determined in their plan.

Members raised strong concerns about proposed powers to reduce funding for supports, like particularly social and community participation and capacity building. Members said this could significantly reduce people's ability to take part in everyday life, leading to isolation, poorer wellbeing, and increased risks to safety over time.

Members also noted these changes would likely have unequal impacts, affecting people with higher or more complex needs more, including those in supported living or without informal supports. Members highlighted some participants would be affected much more than others depending on how they use their plans.

Members raised broader concerns about flow-on impacts, including increased pressure on families, carers, and other systems such as health, housing and state services.

Officials acknowledged concerns about the potential impacts of funding reductions on participants' lives. They said any reductions would need to consider participant safety, and that further work is required to

develop appropriate safeguards. Officials also advised they will continue to monitor impacts across different groups and systems, noting detailed implementation approaches are still under development.

Participant safeguards and administration (Schedules 1 and 2)

The Bill proposes to introduce new administrative requirements, including record-keeping obligations, plan renewal arrangements, and stronger compliance settings.

Members raised concerns that proposed changes to how plans are managed could increase the administrative burden on participants, including more record-keeping and less flexibility in how plans are used. Members were concerned this could make the system harder to navigate, reduce choice and control, and create risks if participants are later asked to justify past spending.

Members also raised concerns about a broader shift toward increased oversight and compliance, and the impact this may have on participants' sense of trust and confidence in the NDIS.

Officials acknowledged concerns about increased administration and reduced flexibility. They said the changes are intended to improve NDIS integrity and management, but further work is needed to ensure arrangements are effective for participants. Officials noted key details will be developed through implementation.

System impacts and overall reform approach (across the Bill)

Members emphasised that, taken together, the changes could have significant impacts, both within the NDIS and across the broader service system. This includes increased pressure on health, housing and other services, as well as passing costs to states, families and carers.

Members stressed the importance of considering all changes together, noting the combined effect may be greater than any single change, and may not be fully understood. Members also noted impacts on the community, including confusion, distress and uncertainty, and called for clearer, simpler communication about what the changes mean in practice.

Officials acknowledged concerns about the overall and system-wide impacts of the reforms. They said they will continue working with states and territories to manage wider effects of changes and improving communication remains a priority. Officials also noted many elements of the reforms are still being developed and will be shaped through further consultation.

In a discussion on future RAC priorities, members noted the importance of focusing RAC advice on a small number of high-impact priority areas, given the breadth of reform measures announced. Discussion highlighted three key areas where the RAC could add greatest value:

- New Framework Planning, to ensure the approach is workable, consistent and delivers improved outcomes.
- Access and Eligibility, to support clarity, fairness and transparency in decision-making; and
- Thriving Kids, to ensure early intervention supports are meaningful, sustainable and responsive to the needs of children and families.