



# NDIS Reform Advisory Committee

## Meeting Summary – Friday 7 August 2026

The NDIS Reform Advisory Committee (RAC) met on 7 August 2026.

The RAC received an update from the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) on testing activities supporting New Framework Planning (NFP), including testing of the Support Needs Assessment (SNA), participant and workforce experience, and operational readiness. Members also discussed the proposed Budget Method, NDIS Supports Rules and Plan Variations Rules ahead of public consultation on the next tranche of NFP rules.

NDIA officials provided an overview of the NFP testing strategy, including three key testing pillars:

- Validity and reliability testing of the SNA and budget model
- Participant and workforce experience testing
- Operational readiness, including systems, processes and service delivery.

Testing is being undertaken using a range of methods, including simulated assessments, participant surveys, focus groups and workforce testing. More than 10,000 assessments are planned as part of the current phase, with further testing continuing ahead of implementation.

Members welcomed the update and the commitments to further develop and learn from participant testing but also raised community concerns about participant understanding and confidence in the testing process. The RAC emphasised the importance of clear communication that testing is iterative and will not affect current NDIS plans or future funding decisions. Members also highlighted the need to ensure testing reflects the diversity of participant experiences, including people with autism, those in rural and remote communities, and people with complex support needs.

Discussion focused on how NFP will operate in practice for participants with multiple impairments and complex support needs, as well as the importance of cultural safety and accessibility for First Nations participants, people living in remote communities and participants from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

NDIA officials acknowledged these concerns and advised testing outcomes would inform ongoing refinement of assessment processes, participant communications and operational arrangements.

Officials from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DHDA) provided an overview of proposed NFP rules covering:

- SNA
- Budget Method
- NDIS Supports
- Plan Variations.



Officials outlined how assessment outcomes would be used to determine participant budgets and described the proposed approach to flexible funding and stated supports.

Members raised questions about funding levels, budget assumptions and how participants would understand the relationship between assessment outcomes and budget decisions. They emphasised the importance of transparency and raised questions about the treatment of informal supports, specialist disability supports, benchmarking and pricing, whether budgets would meet participant needs, and the information available to help participants understand and use their budgets.

Members commented that flexibility is meaningful only if funding levels are sufficient to meet participant needs. RAC members reiterated the importance of testing both the participant experience and likely or indicative outcomes of the support needs assessment process as an integrated whole.

DHDA officials advised further work is underway, including independent review of the budget methodology and continued testing of how assessment outcomes translate into participant budgets. Officials also noted public consultation on the proposed rules is expected to commence in August and will include supporting materials to improve accessibility and understanding.

Members shared feedback from jurisdictions and stakeholder networks, reporting significant concern and uncertainty across the disability community regarding NDIS reforms, the Thriving Kids interface with the NDIS, eligibility changes and future support pathways. Discussion also highlighted concerns about workforce impacts, service continuity, implementation readiness and the need for clearer communication as reforms progress.

Members welcomed ongoing engagement through jurisdictional advisory bodies and highlighted the importance of continued engagement with disability communities throughout implementation.

The RAC also discussed future work priorities, including NFP, access and eligibility reforms, and the interaction between the NDIS and foundational supports, noting the importance of maintaining a strong focus on participant outcomes.

The RAC acknowledged the contribution of outgoing member Carrie Clark and will welcome Clare Gibellini as Western Australia's representative from the September meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for 4 September 2026.