

Technical Advisory Group on NDIS Functional Capacity – Communiqué

4 September 2026

Professor Christine Imms and Ms Mary Wood, Deputy Secretary, Disability and Carers Group, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, co-chaired the third meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on NDIS Functional Capacity (TAG) today.

Members continued work to refine a draft framework for assessing functional capacity for the purposes of NDIS access. Discussions focused on the framework's conceptual foundations and design principles to guide development of an assessment model.

TAG members then discussed options for the detailed assessment model for functional capacity. The proposed model will turn the framework into a practical approach to access decisions by the NDIA, based on whether a person has substantially reduced functional capacity. The aim of the model is to support consistent, transparent and evidence-based access decisions by NDIA delegates. Members considered sources of evidence, assessment methods and tools, thresholds and decision-making processes.

Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister, Minister for the NDIS, and Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, ACT Minister for Disability, Autism and Neurodiversity, attended a session and were briefed by members on discussions to date.

Members noted public consultation on NDIS access changes opened on 31 August 2026, with the community invited to provide feedback by 2 October 2026. Outcomes of the consultation will help shape the TAG's advice to governments.

It was agreed that targeted stakeholder engagement on proposed approaches would be important as reforms progress. This will ensure strong connections between policy design, evidence, lived experience and practical implementation considerations.

For further information, please contact the TAG Secretariat at TAGSecretariat@health.gov.au.