



NDIS Reform Advisory Committee

Meeting Summary – Friday 9 October 2026

The NDIS Reform Advisory Committee (RAC) met on 9 October 2026.

They discussed early implementation of post-legislation NDIS reforms, emerging community feedback on support determinations and foundational supports, updates on the Thriving Kids reforms, and future RAC work priorities. Members also met with DHDA officials leading the Thriving Kids reforms and representatives from the NDIS Technical Advisory Group (TAG) responsible for advising government on the design and implementation of the new access and eligibility framework.

Members provided feedback from their jurisdictions and stakeholder networks following the commencement of key reform measures from 1 October. Across jurisdictions, members reported uncertainty and concern within the disability community regarding support determinations, plan reviews and the practical impacts of reforms. Discussion highlighted the lack of clear and detailed information for participants, families and providers, particularly around timelines, assessment processes and future planning arrangements. Members noted that misinformation and anxiety continue to grow in the absence of timely and accessible communication.

Members also raised specific concerns regarding the impact of support determination changes on participants with complex support needs, particularly the reduction of social and community participation supports and the potential flow-on effects for participant wellbeing, inclusion and service sustainability. Several members reported comments from providers regarding workforce pressures, financial viability and continuity of support, particularly in regional and remote areas. Members emphasised the need for governments and the NDIA to closely monitor implementation outcomes and ensure appropriate safeguards are in place for participants at risk of adverse impacts.

Officials from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing advised that Thriving Kids has commenced progressive rollout. Some general supports (such as information, advice, and parenting supports) will roll out from October 2026, with targeted supports gradually rolling out from 2027. The Department provided an update on national supports that commenced in October 2026, such as the National Digital Information Hub, national phone supports and the Medicare Healthy Kids Check to assess a child's health and development at age 3, expected to commence from November 2026.

Members sought clarification regarding accessibility, cultural responsiveness, implementation across jurisdictions and arrangements for children living in rural, remote and First Nations communities. Discussion emphasised the importance of ensuring that supports are practical, locally responsive and easy for families to navigate, while promoting consistency across jurisdictions



Officials confirmed that there are no changes to how people access the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) until 1 January 2028. Thriving Kids supports will be rolled out by 1 January 2028 when the NDIS access changes take place.

The RAC met again with representatives from the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to further discuss ongoing work relating to the substantially reduced functional capacity framework and future access and eligibility reforms. Members provided feedback on the TAG consultation paper and highlighted the importance of ensuring new assessment approaches are consistent with the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Discussion focused on transparency, co-design, the role of lived experience, and the need for robust and equitable decision-making processes. TAG representatives outlined indicative timelines for further framework, model and rule development throughout 2026 and 2027 and welcomed continued RAC engagement as the work progresses.

Members concluded the meeting with a discussion on RAC planning for 2027. The committee considered future meeting arrangements, opportunities for in-person engagement, and potential approaches to support more detailed work on priority reform areas. Members noted that 2027 is expected to be a significant implementation year and emphasised the importance of maintaining flexibility to respond to emerging reform issues while ensuring RAC advice remains informed by participant experiences and stakeholder feedback.

The next RAC meeting is scheduled for 20 November 2026.