# Changes to Co-design Working Groups

This information is about changes to the co-design working groups supporting reforms to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). It has information about what changes are happening and why, and different ways that participants can have a voice and stay involved in scheme reform work.

### About the co-design working groups

People with disability have sent a clear message to Government: nothing about us without us. The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) is committed to working with people with disability and the wider disability community to improve the NDIS. This means finding different ways to inform, consult and co-design with you.

The co-design working groups are one way that we work together. Seven groups were set up in 2024 to help inform our approach to big reform areas.

The groups include representatives from across the disability community including NDIS Participants, the NDIS Independent Advisory Council, Participant Reference Group, Disability Representative and Carer Organisations and other experts.

### Why are changes happening

Over the past few months people have told us they feel overwhelmed by the amount of work happening. Some people said it feels like we are not spending enough time exploring of the issue and solutions or the immediate priorities for reform.

Many people have told us that the speed of the work is too fast. Some said there is too much information shared in each meeting which means there is not enough time to explore a subject deeply or unpack a subject properly.

Advocates also told us there is fear and anxiety in the disability community about what the reforms will mean in practice. They said the NDIA is not communicating enough about efforts to design reforms. They want more communication with participants about co-design so that people have clear helpful information.

In June 2024 we [shared a joint statement on co-design](https://www.ndis.gov.au/community/making-ndis-stronger-together/co-designing-reform#approach) developed with the disability community. We said that we would be honest and ready to listen and learn. We said we would act on feedback and focus on what matters most. When people tell us things are not working, we think it important to make changes to make things better.

### What will change

A key priority for NDIS reform in 2025 is the new planning framework. This will make sure that funding for NDIS participants is matched to people’s support needs. To help us develop and deliver this work together, we will focus on four co-design working groups:

* Assessments and Budgeting
* Navigators
* Participant Pathway Experience
* Participant Safeguarding

These groups are all directly involved in the new planning framework.

The Home and Living, Workforce Capability and Integrity co-design working groups will all be paused after the meetings in April 2025. We will take time to think about some different approaches to engagement for these work programs.

### Staying involved

For members of continuing groups, monthly meetings will continue with small changes. This includes how the groups are chaired. This will be done by a NDIA senior leader with direct responsibility for designing and implementing the initiatives. These groups will continue to lead engagement and co-design work which will be open to different people from across the disability community. These opportunities will be advertised through Participant First, our website, DRCOs and other networks.

For members of the Home and Living, Workforce Capability and Integrity groups, monthly meetings will be paused. Each initiative will consider their priorities in 2025 and any opportunities for people with lived experience to inform their work.

We will continue to offer different ways for people with disability to be involved in engagement and co-design ona range of topics beyond Scheme reform.

We will do this through our existing and new engagement channels, including:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Audience | Consultation and Engagement Channels | Communication Channels |
| Participants, families and carers | Participant Reference Group  Participant Engagement Panels (e.g. communications and digital product testing)  Participant First (e.g. surveys and submissions, focus groups, interviews, testing)  Digital Collaboration Platform (coming in 2025) | Online information sessions (NDIA hosted and DRCO co-hosted)  Events, expos, and conferences  Direct communications (e.g. text messages and emails)  Website  Social media and newsletters |
| Disability sector stakeholders | DRCO Forum and working groups  IAC and IAC Reference Groups  [NDIA Reference and Advisory Groups](https://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/reference-group-updates)  Industry Chief Executive Forum | Fortnightly Disability Sector Update  CEO/Chair monthly briefing with DRCOs and IAC members (proposed)  Provider newsletter |
| State and Territory  stakeholders | State and Territory disability sector engagement sessions ​  ​Showcase with State and Territory governments​  ​​Online information sessions (NDIA hosted) | Events, expos, town halls and conferences  Monthly Community and Sector Updates (online information sessions for state and territory stakeholders)​ |

### Stay connected

We are working to improve our communication about co-design activities and opportunities. This includes:

* Simplifying and publishing meeting summaries and workplans, so activities can be seen by everyone.
* A new fortnightly Disability Sector Update and refreshed online monthly update for state and territory organisations.
* Online information sessions for participants, families and carers on reforms.

**🚧 NDIS Co-design Reset**

📣 The NDIA is changing how it works with the community.  
🧠 These changes are about fixing the NDIS in the right way.  
🗓️ New co-design groups will start in April 2025.

**✏️ What is co-design?**

🤝 Co-design means people with disability help design the NDIS.  
📢 People said co-design was going too fast and too much.  
🧩 The NDIA listened and is now doing it differently.

**🛠️ What is changing?**

📉 From April 2025, there will be fewer co-design groups.  
🎯 The focus will be on the **new planning framework**.  
🔁 Some groups will pause and restart later.

**✅ Groups that will continue**

🧭 **Navigation -** What NDIS Navigators will do from September 2025.

📋 **Assessments and Budgeting -** Tools for support needs and planning home and living.

🧍‍♀️ **Participant Pathway Experience -** What the NDIS journey will feel like, and workforce needs.

🛡️ **Participant Safeguarding -** Ways to keep people safe under the new plans.

**⏸️ Co-design groups that will pause**

🏠 **Home and Living** – Support for where and how people live.  
🔐 I**ntegrity** – Stopping fraud and keeping the NDIS fair.  
👷 **Workforce Capability** – Helping NDIS workers do a great job.

📅 These groups will pause from April 2025.  
🔄 They will be reviewed again at the end of the year.

**📬 Stay informed**

🗂️ NDIA will share:

Meeting notes

Work plans

Updates you can understand

🌐 Visit: [ndis.gov.au](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ndis.gov.au%2F&data=05%7C02%7CAlexandria.ROSENTHAL%40ndis.gov.au%7C22ca941d5bb24ec0b82008dd6daab788%7Ccd778b65752d454a87cfb9990fe58993%7C0%7C0%7C638787302181273960%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=FcohjPJOfVvJI6H1JVbNx5oqLAS302Md%2BfKUqdnU%2FKY%3D&reserved=0)