



Economic development opportunities for Indigenous Australians & the National Disability Insurance Scheme

A workshop report

Prepared by Inside Policy
for the Prime Minister's
Indigenous Advisory
Council

17 August 2017



Disclaimer

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Introduction

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet engaged Inside Policy to facilitate and report on a workshop on economic development opportunities within the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) for Indigenous Australians. This workshop was initiated and hosted by the Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council.

The workshop was held at the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence in Redfern on 10 August 2017 and was attended by over 30 representatives from Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, Indigenous peak bodies and service delivery organisations, Indigenous disability advocates, microfinance, government, disability provider peaks and the National Disability Insurance Agency.

The overarching objective of the workshop was to build a “call to action” amongst representatives in the room to do their part in seizing the opportunities that exist within the NDIS for Indigenous Australians.

This report outlines the feedback to emerge from the workshop.

The overarching sentiment from the workshop can be summarised as “Nothing about us without us. Done with us not for us.” Workshop participants strongly conveyed the importance of the NDIS being rolled out with rather than for Indigenous communities.

The remainder of this report summarises the feedback provided on the following discussion items:

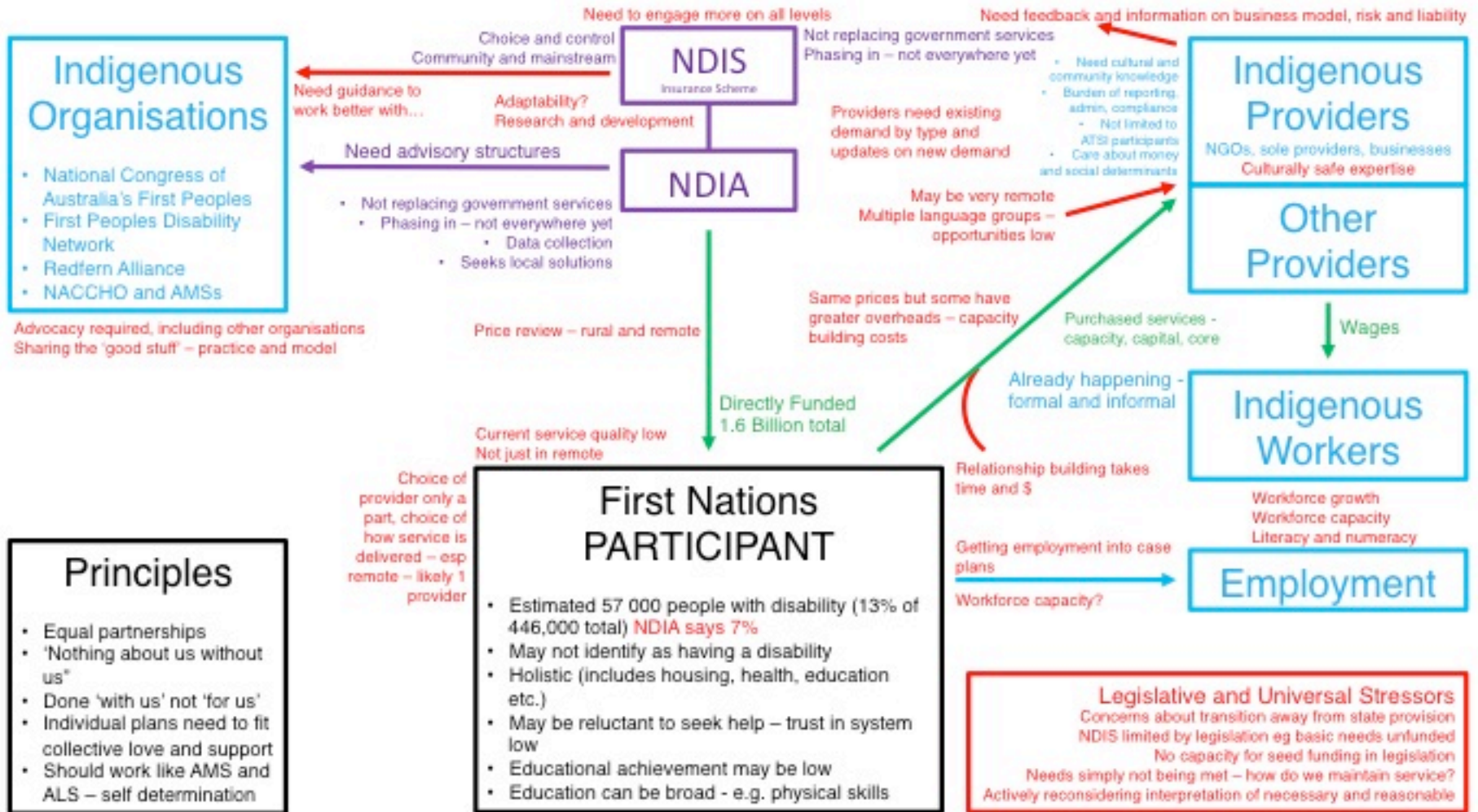
- The current challenges within the NDIS.
- The opportunities that exist.
- On-country models for delivering the NDIS.
- Participation and advocacy.
- Financial viability.

Agenda

No.	Discussion Topic	Description
1.	Welcome	Welcome to Country and opening remarks by IAG Co-Chair Andrea Mason.
2.	Setting the scene	Presentations on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The NDIS and its roll-out to remote Indigenous communities• Overview of the disability services sector• Overview of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' and disability
3.	Strategies for economic development	Strategies to secure maximum opportunities for economic development, eg training, workforce and job creation, entrepreneurial and business development, particularly in remote areas. Opportunities to leverage off existing government programmes and resources such as providing training and employment through CDP providers.
4.	Financial viability	Cash flow modelling to ensure viability.
5.	On-country models	Options for a culturally appropriate, place-based on-country models that allows for a different conception of disability.
6.	Strengthening supports to participate in the NDIS	Support, including advocacy, for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to fully participate in the NDIS (including as providers) and access appropriate services, including in regional and remote areas.
7.	Close	Closing remarks by IAG Co-Chair Andrea Mason.

Workshop Outcomes

A mind map of the entire workshop discussion



Workshop Outcomes

Challenges in implementing the NDIS in remote Indigenous communities.

Challenges facing participants:

- Limited opportunity to review plans (every six months).
- Many service types in remote locations don't fit within the current definitions of reasonable and necessary.
- Lack of knowledge of NDIS and how it works.
- Building family and community (collective love & support) into plans.
- Lack of choice regarding therapeutic services.

Challenges facing communities:

- Lack of community control and building off existing base: feels like the NDIS is being done to us.
- The adaptability of the NDIA to different communities & locations.
- Time pressure to get the scheme rolled-out.
- Lack of flexibility in how the scheme is rolled-out in different locations.

Challenges facing providers:

- Financial risk: 1 in 5 fail, 6 months of cash reserves required, no guarantee on return.
- Pricing & funding doesn't make sense: no weighting on Aboriginality, no seed funding for orgs to get started.
- Different business models are required: running a health service is not the same as running a business.

Challenges facing the NDIS:

- The NDIA, with the Indigenous community, should examine how key principles of the scheme such as "flexibility", "reasonable" and "necessary" are defined and applied with the aim of effectively supporting Indigenous participants.
- Choice through the lens of a competitive market is not viable in remote locations as a multiplicity of services don't exist.
- How does research and development inform policy?

The group also raised a number of structural challenges facing the NDIS. In particular, how the various systems intersect (i.e. Medicare, income support and NDIS) must be examined to ensure Indigenous participants are able to access all of the support they require including the basic necessities of life (food, clothing, shelter).

Workshop Outcomes

Opportunities & strategies to maximise them in remote communities: A participant perspective.

Participants	
Opportunities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to services is increased regardless of geographical location• Interpreting and translating into languages – cultural brokerage• Community approach, not individual – build family and community into plans• Receive services from other Indigenous people• Access to previously unavailable tailored services• More services, greater range, everywhere• Having a say in what is reasonable and necessary
Strategies to maximise:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resourcing existing supports (Community Development Program) + capacity building + holistic including geographically• Broaden range of services especially remote and rural• Allow basic needs to be included (“reasonable” and “necessary”)• Translation and interpreting services• Cultural brokerage• Define flexibility - In rural and remote - In culture• Acknowledge and work with collectivist communities• Community-Based Rehabilitation Model

Workshop Outcomes

Opportunities & strategies to maximise them in remote communities: A provider perspective.

Providers	
Opportunities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business hub – resources and support for providers• Market approach – infrastructure absent, size, market failures• Local people achieving local opportunities• Alignment with existing health care providers - separation of services and governance, clarity of advice, separation of services (governance), avoid double dipping• Aboriginal Corporations – governance and coordination• Increased community leadership and self determination• Doing it for ourselves• Improved workforce capacity• Enhanced service options with existing health services
Strategies to maximise:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business hubs• Pooling funds to purchase from NDIS and other providers• Build our own base• Education• Care planning tool• Service infrastructure aligns with existing providers• Look at existing ‘things’ – where is good work happening?• Support and flexibility• Capacity building – walking side by side• Managing financial risk• Mechanism for connecting with market• Localised flexibility – remote cultural lens on capacity

Workshop Outcomes

Opportunities & strategies to maximise them in remote communities: NDIA & system perspective.

NDIA & the System	
Opportunities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Employment of Indigenous people for NDIS functions• Could be increased to 10%• Agency, agency contractor, service providers, with NDIS \$• Cadetships• Aboriginal reference group that has status• Support research and development• Indigenous workers - NDIA workers, Service workers, Sole/contracted providers
Strategies to maximise:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Procurement strategy• 'Indigenous Provider' sticker• Info for providers and new workers to educate on opportunities• Capitalisation?• Invest in <u>disability specific</u> workers• Back end support• Develop framework for business• Doing the 'homework'• Partnering for full case plan• Ensuring cash flow by effective use of model – eg invoicing guide• Collaboration between NDIA - AMS's - Indigenous Disability Network• Building respect into the NDIS• Support research and development – Practice – Policy - Future development• Better access to evaluation – Federal funds• Provide market modeling, what has and hasn't worked

Workshop Outcomes

Advocacy, financial viability & on-country models.

Advocacy & Participation

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' must have a voice in the roll out of the NDIS and the development of policy affecting people with a disability. At a minimum this should occur by way of:

- An Indigenous steering group which directly advises the NDIA on the roll out of the NDIS.
- An Indigenous group that directly advises on disability policy reform.

Financial Viability

- Seed funding is required to assist Indigenous people start-up businesses to support Indigenous participants.
- Pricing for service types must reflect the cost of doing business and providing services in remote and very remote locations including travel and relationship building.

On-Country Models

Key elements of on-country models include:

- Segmenting locations by urban, remote and very remote.
- Leveraging the existing Indigenous service system infrastructure including Aboriginal Medical Services, their workforces and systems.
- Building the local Indigenous workforce to design and deliver services under the scheme.
- Access to market intelligence about current and future demand in communities.
- Working with local organisations to develop back end administrative support and physical workspaces for small businesses and sole traders.
- Information and assistance to help participants pool funds for block purchasing.
- In remote locations with sole providers choice will be a function of how a service is delivered rather than which agency delivers it.
- Assist Indigenous practitioners and entrepreneurs to register as a provider.

Appendix A: Workshop participants

Organisation	Name	Position
IAC	Andrea Mason	Co-Chair
First Peoples Disability Network (FPDN)	Ms Gayle Rankine	Chair
First Peoples Disability Network (FPDN)	Mr Damian Griffis	CEO
First Peoples Disability Network (FPDN)	Mr Paul Calcott	National Operations Manager
First Peoples Disability Network (FPDN)	Mr Scott Avery	Policy and Research Director
National Disability Services (NDS)	Mr Ken Baker	Chief Executive
Indigenous Business Australia	Mr Wally Tallis	Acting CEO
National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA)	Ms Stephanie Gunn	Deputy Chief Executive Officer – Participants & Planning
Supply Nation	Ms Laura Berry	CEO
Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation	Ms Eddie Mulholland	CEO
The Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation (ALPA)/ Island & Cape (Qld)	Mr Liam Flanagan	General Manager, Community Services division
National Congress of Australia's First Peoples	Ms Jackie Huggins	Co-Chair
National Congress of Australia's First Peoples	Mr Gary Oliver	

Appendix A: Workshop participants

Organisation	Name	Position
New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC)	Mr James Christian	CEO
Indigenous Allied Health Australia	Mr Allan Groth	
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Association (NATSIHWA)	Mr Karl Briscoe	CEO
Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM)	Mr Ben Gorrie	CATSINaM Board Member
Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health (SARRAH)	Mr Rob Curry	President
ServeGate	Mr Leigh Coleman	CEO
Many Rivers Micro Finance	Mr John Burn	CEO
VAEI (Victoria)	Mr Lionel Bamblett	
Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak (QATSICPP)	Ms Natalie Lewis	CEO
Children First	Mr Dylan Reynolds	Executive Manager
Nous Group	Ms Gill Shaw	Director
Northcott	Mr Matt Old	Regional Manager
Synapse	Dr Clare Townsend	National Manager of Research and Development

Appendix A: Workshop participants

Organisation	Name	Position
NPY Women's Council	Ms Kim McRae	NPYWC Tjungu Team Manager & My Aged Care Team Leader
NPY Women's Council	Lavenia Saville	Finance Manager
National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)	Pat Turner, CEO	CEO
Department of Health	Kate Thomann	Assistant Secretary Strategy & Evidence Branch Indigenous Health Division
Department of Employment	Brad Knight	Director: Indigenous, CALD and Financial Modelling Section
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Kathleen O'Ryan	Senior Advisor, IAC Secretariat
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Peter Arnaudo	AS, Health Branch
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Christian Hall	Senior Advisor, Health Branch
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Clare Sharp	AS, Business and Economic Policy
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Rachel Kerrigan	Acting AS, CDP Branch
Department of Social Services	John Riley	AS, Market Oversight Branch



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Inside Policy Pty Ltd

86 137 290 718

Level 2, 101 William Street, Darlinghurst, NSW 2010

PO Box 1315 Potts Point NSW 2011

insidepolicy.com.au