The National Disability Research Partnership (NDRP)

Our evaluation of the work so far

A report about what we found out

Easy Read version



How to use this report



ARTD Consultants wrote this report.

When you see the word ‘we’, it means ARTD Consultants.



We wrote this report in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold

Not bold

We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these bold words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 28.



This Easy Read report is a summary of another report.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other report on the NDRP website.

www.ndrp.org.au



You can ask for help to read this report.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

What's in this report?

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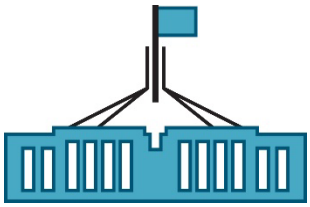
What is the National Disability Research Partnership?



The Australian Government wants to set up the National Disability Research Partnership (NDRP).



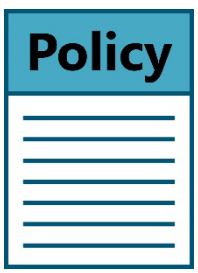
The NDRP will be an organisation that is not part of the government.



The NDRP will support people who do research to work together with people with disability.



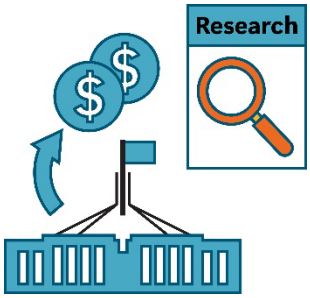
The NDRP will use research to help governments make **policies** that support people with disability better.



A policy is a plan for how the government should do things.



The Australian Government gave **funding** to the Melbourne Disability Institute (MDI) to start working on the NDRP.



Funding is money from the government.

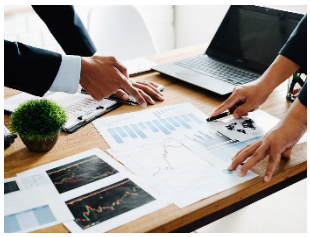


MDI worked together with a group of people to set up the NDRP.

The group includes people with disability.

We call this group the **working party**.

What is this report about?



The Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS) asked us to do an **evaluation** of the NDRP.



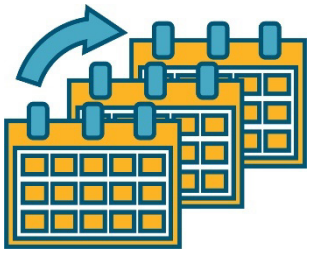
When we do an evaluation, we look at what:

- went well
- could be done better.

The government wants to make sure the NDRP will:



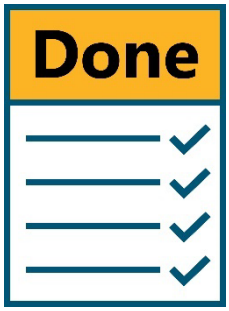
- use research well



- last a long time.



The government also wants to make sure the NDRP will make things better for people with disability.



Our evaluation is about what MDI and the working party have done so far.

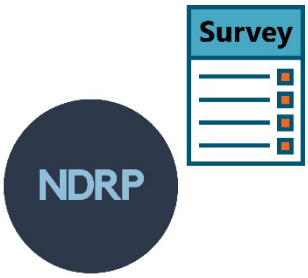


This report explains what we found out.

What did our evaluation look at?



Our evaluation looked at records about the NDRP so far.



Our evaluation included some surveys the NDRP did.



We also did a survey ourselves.



And we held interviews.

We heard from people who:



- worked on starting the NDRP



- get funding from the NDRP

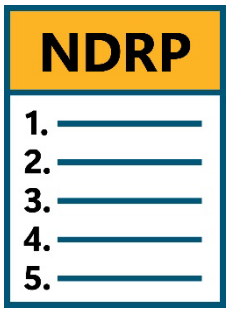


- work for governments and disability organisations.

What has the working party done so far?

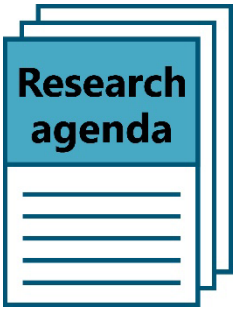


We found out that the working party has done a lot to get the NDRP started.



There are 5 things the working party had to do to start the NDRP.

And they did them all.



The NDRP worked on a research **agenda**.

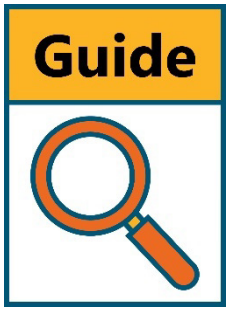
An agenda is a list of things to do or talk about.

The research agenda lists what things we are most interested in finding out about.



They had to find out about how people do research in Australia.

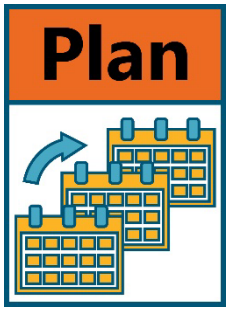
And work out how people can do more research.



They had to create a guide about the way the NDRP will do research.



They had to test some projects to find out how the NDRP can work best.



And they had to create a plan for how people will run the NDRP.

This plan had to make sure the NDRP will last for a long time.

What are the NDRP principles?



The working party also came up with 4 **principles** for the NDRP.

Principles are important ideas the NDRP should always think about.



1. Working together to make sure research is good quality

   This includes researchers, governments and people with disability.



2. Including the experiences of people with disability

   People with disability should have the chance to lead research.



3. Using different types of research together

   For example, both stories and records.



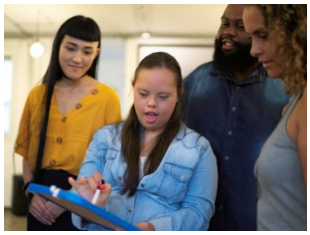
4. Supporting people with disability to build research skills

   This includes people who support people with disability.

How is the NDRP going so far?



We found out that people think the NDRP has done a lot to include people with disability.

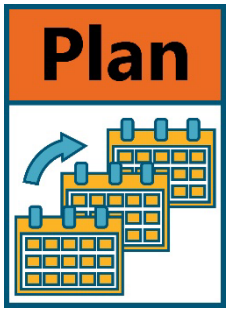


The working party included people with disability as leaders.

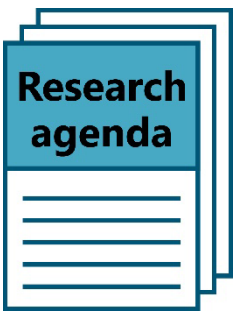
And the NDRP included people with disability when they planned:



- the NDRP principles



- how to run the NDRP



- the research agenda.



Projects that got funding from the NDRP also had to include people with disability.



But we also found out people with disability were not as positive about being included in the NDRP.



We found out people think the working party used the principles well.



People also think there should be another principle.

They want to make sure the NDRP's research helps make life better for people with disability.

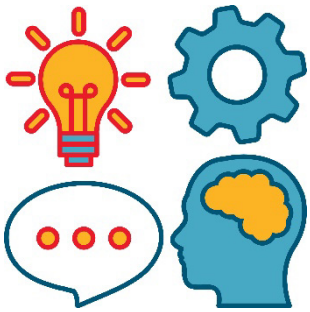


We also found that not enough people know about the NDRP yet.



The NDRP should do more to involve people with different disabilities.

For example, people with **intellectual disability**.



An intellectual disability can affect how you:

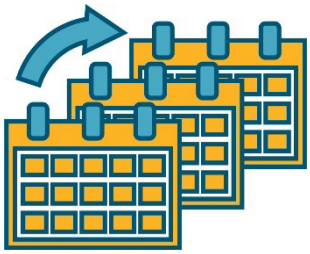
- learn new things
- solve problems
- communicate
- do things on your own.



The NDRP should make sure they use the right funding to include:

- people with different disabilities
- people who support them.

And they can do more to make sure:



- the NDRP lasts a long time.



- research is **accessible.**



When research is accessible, it's easy to:

- find and use
- understand.

How well is the NDRP working towards its goals?



We found out that the working party has done everything it had to do.



But it hadn't yet told people about everything.



We found people think the NDRP leadership plan will be good.



But people were not as positive about the research agenda.



We found out the NDRP used its funding well.



Some things cost less than planned.



And other things cost more.



The working party wanted to make sure they finished everything.

To do this, some people in the working party decided to do some work for free.

What things made work on the NDRP better?



People think some things helped the NDRP achieve their goals.

They included:



- the people on the working party



- providing activities across Australia



- working with governments and other organisations.

What things made it harder to work on the NDRP?



People also think some other things made it harder for NDRP to achieve their goals.

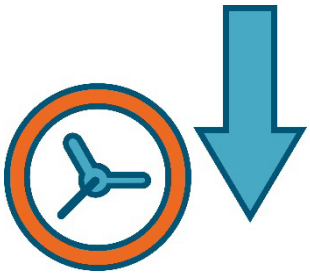
They included:



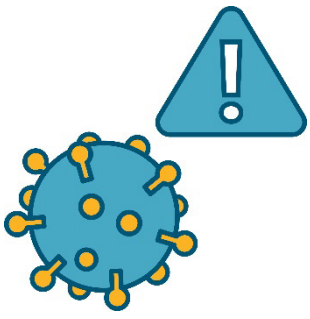
- governments and researchers work in different ways



- not many people knowing about the NDRP



- having a short time to do projects



It has also been hard to start the NDRP because of COVID-19.

What do we recommend?



When we **recommend** something, we say how to make things better.



We recommend 5 main things to make the NDRP better.



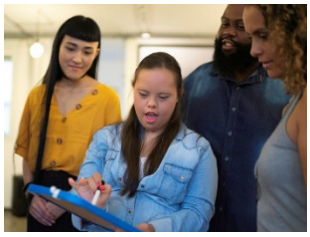
We think these things will help the NDRP:

- use research well
- last a long time
- make things better for people with disability.



We explain these things on the following pages.

Planning and leadership



We recommend the NDRP keep supporting people with disability to:

- be leaders
- guide activities.



The NDRP should find ways to get funding from new places.



The NDRP should also make sure they have the right people to achieve their goals.

The NDRP principles



We recommend adding a principle about:

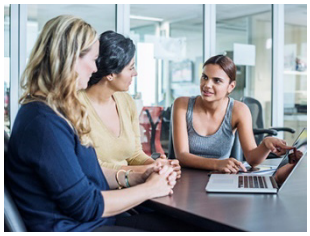
- using research
- making things better for people with disability.



We also recommend making sure the principles are:

- clear
- easy for everyone to understand.

Working closely with important groups

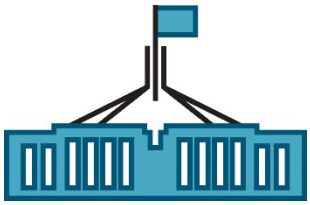


We recommend the NDRP work closely with people their research might affect.

This includes:



- the disability community



- the Australian Government



- state and territory governments.



The NDRP should try to tell more people about what they do.

And why it is important.



It's important for people to know:

- about research the NDRP does
- how people can use it to make life better for people with disability.

Using what the NDRP learns



We recommend the NDRP work more closely with:

- governments
- disability organisations.

The NDRP can help them use the research to support people with disability.



The NDRP should also make sure research is ready when:

- governments need it
- disability organisations need it.



And that it is accessible.

Making sure the NDRP works well



The NDRP should have a plan about how to do evaluations in the future.



This plan should focus on how the NDRP works together with different groups.

The NDRP should keep track of:



- how they follow their principles



- how well the people in charge of the NDRP are doing their jobs.



The NDRP should also make sure they share what they learn from projects they give funding to.

Word list

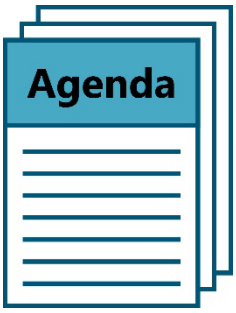
This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.



Accessible

When research is accessible, it's easy to:

- find and use
- understand.



Agenda

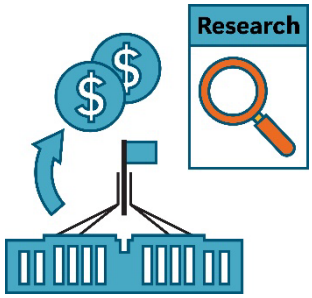
An agenda is a list of things to do or talk about.



Evaluation

When we do an evaluation, we look at what:

- went well
- could be done better.



Funding

Funding is money from the government to pay for research.

Intellectual disability



An intellectual disability can affect how you:

- learn new things
- solve problems
- communicate
- do things on your own.



Policy

A policy is a plan for how we should do things.

Policies are where rules come from.



Principles

Principles are important ideas the NDRP should always think about.



Recommend

When we recommend something, we say how to make things better.

Working party



MDI worked together with a group of people to set up the NDRP.

We call this group the working party.

The group includes people with disability.

More information



You can find out more on the NDRP website.

www.ndrp.org.au



You can contact ARTD by sending an email.

Gerard.Atkinson@artd.com.au



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