



VMIAC NDIS Critical Reference Group

Terms of Reference June 2021

Brief Context of and Background on the NDIS

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) created a 'managed market' for disability services provided to people with intellectual, physical, sensory and psycho-social disabilities in Australia. The NDIS was established by the National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013. The NDIS roll out commenced nationally on 1 July 2016 and was completed in June 2021

Victorian Mental Illness Awareness Council (VMIAC) is the peak body for people with lived experience of mental illness and/or emotional issues.

VMIAC's vision is for a world where all mental health consumers stand proud, live a life with choices honoured, rights upheld and principles embedded in all aspects of society. VMIAC achieves its aims by:

- honouring mental health consumer diversity
- providing advocacy for mental health consumers
- advancing mental health consumer workforce and leadership
- delivering information and training to the community
- enabling mental health consumer driven education and research
- developing strategic partnerships

VMIAC is funded by the Federal Government to provide advocacy to people with a psychosocial disability who are either seeking assistance and support in appealing decisions made by the NDIS with regards to their access and or use of the scheme.

VMIAC is also funded by the State Government to provide advocacy and assistance to NDIS participants along multiple points in their NDIS journey including areas such as plan reviews, managing and resolving conflict and disputes with service providers, acquiring appropriate supports, assistance with making complaints to providers and complaints to the Quality and Safeguarding Commission and the Disability Ombudsman

VMIAC provides systemic advocacy to the NDIS, and the Federal and State Governments on matters pertaining to people with a psychosocial disability in relation to the NDIS through our participation in NDIS related task forces, project work, research, advisory work, submissions to Inquiries and Community Consultation processes.

Since 2020 VMIAC has invited VMIAC members who are NDIS Participants to contribute to work of our community advisory group known as the VMIAC NDIS Critical Reference Group which has been instrumental in providing content and advice with regards to our submissions and focus of VMIAC's systemic advocacy work.

Roles and Functions of VMIAC NDIS Critical Reference Group

The VMIAC NDIS Critical Reference Group will:

- provide lived experience leadership from NDIS Participants with a psychosocial disability into the development, delivery, and evaluation of VMIAC NDIS programs & NDIS related Systemic Advocacy work
- monitor and report on identified and emerging issues, risks and concerns relating to participation in the NDIS for NDIS participants
- assist in developing and initiating actions that respond to issues arising in the NDIS
- Support the production of new initiatives, strategies, programs and campaigns associated with the NDIS

Role of Individual Group Members

The role of individual members of the VMIAC NDIS Critical Reference Group includes:

- bringing your lived experience as a participant in the NDIS to the task of providing advice, input, and feedback on VMIAC's NDIS programs and VMIAC NDIS social media content and communication strategies
- bringing your critical and creative thinking and observations and reflections on the NDIS to the task of providing advice and feedback on VMIAC's strategic and systemic advocacy responses and priorities in relation to the NDIS
- attending regular monthly meetings as required (approx. 10 per year)
- active participation in the group's work

General

Membership

Membership to the VMIAC NDIS Critical Reference Group is for open to all VMIAC Members who are participants of the NDIS. New members may be included in the group as required. The work of the VMIAC NDIS Critical Reference Group, and expressions of interest and opportunities to join the CRG will be promoted via VMIAC social media platforms.

Convenor

The group will be chaired by the NDIS Manager. Meetings will be convened by the Chair and supported by additional NDIS Program Staff.

Agendas, Minutes, and meeting papers

The Agendas, Minutes and meeting papers for each Critical Reference Group meeting will be VMIAC NDIS Terms of Reference Draft Version 3 June 5, 2021

prepared by NDIS Program Staff.

Draft Copies of Agendas, Minutes and additional reading material, will be circulated to all VMIAC NDIS Critical Reference Group prior to each meeting.

Agenda items

All agenda items will be forwarded to the NDIS Program staff prior to scheduled meeting. Where possible additional agenda items may be added at the time of the meeting.

The agenda, with attached meeting papers, will be distributed at least five working days prior to the next scheduled meeting.

Frequency of meetings

The VMIAC NDIS Critical Reference Group will meet once per month and more frequently as required in the leads up to major events or activities.

Members of the VMIAC NDIS CRG may also be invited to take part in consultation meetings around drafting responses to new NDIS related submissions or position papers.

Quorum requirements

A quorum will be half the regular membership plus one.

Reimbursement

Reimbursement for contributions made to VMIAC's NDIS Critical Reference Group is proposed to be based on a sitting fee – suggested being set at \$60 per session.

Review

The effectiveness and membership of the VMIAC NDIS Critical Reference Group will be reviewed on a six-monthly basis through evaluation

