NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission

Research into the deaths of people with disability in Australia

NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission

Easy English

Hard words

This book has some hard words.

The first time we write a hard word

- the word is in **blue**

- we write what the hard word means.

You can get help with this book

You can get someone to help you

- read this book

- know what this book is about

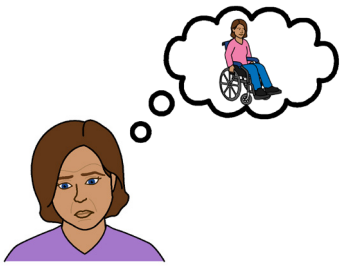
- find more information.

About this book

NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission

This book is written by the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission.

We are also called the NDIS Commission.



This book is about **research** into the deaths of people with disability in Australia.

Research means we look for information to learn more about something.

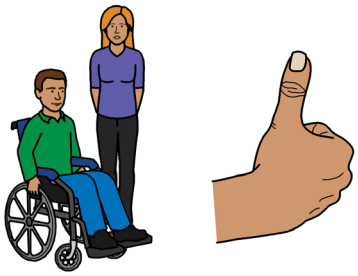
The research will tell you

- why deaths might have happened

- how deaths might have happened

- what we want to do to help stop early deaths and serious injury.

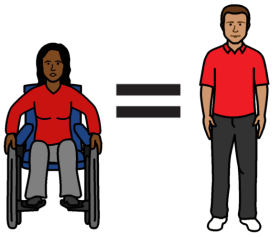
What we do



We work to

- make supports and services better for people who have an NDIS plan

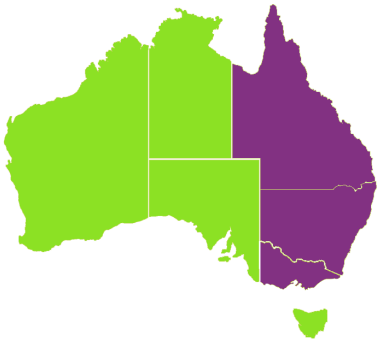
and



- protect the rights of people with disability.

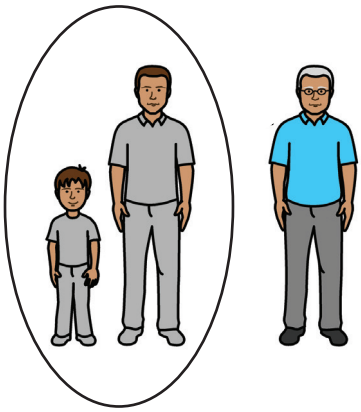
We asked the University of New South Wales and Professor Julian Trollor to help us find out about the causes of death for people with disability.

We did research about the cause of death of 901 people with disability in



- New South Wales
- Victoria
- Queensland.

What we found out



We found out that

- people with disability died at a younger age than people without disability

and

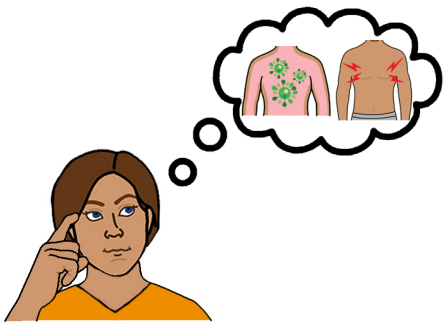
- most of the deaths were people with **intellectual disability**.

Intellectual disability can mean someone has

- problems with things they do every day

or

- a developmental delay.



We also found out that a lot of people had more than 1 health problem.

There were 4 main reasons why people in the research died.

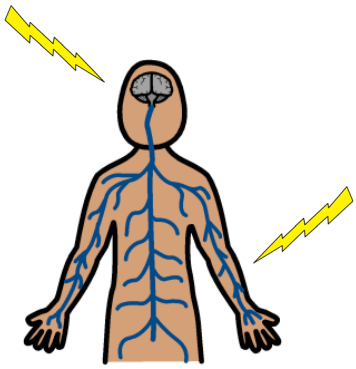
1. Respiratory disease

Respiratory disease can be lung problems or when people find it hard to breath.

Respiratory disease can make it hard for people to eat and drink.

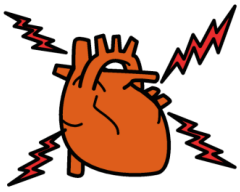
People with respiratory disease can more easily choke on food.

2. Nervous system disease



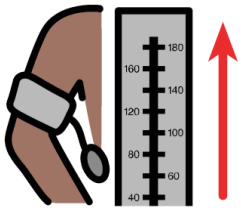
Nervous system disease is when messages from the brain do **not** get to the right parts of the body. For example, epilepsy.

3. Circulatory problems



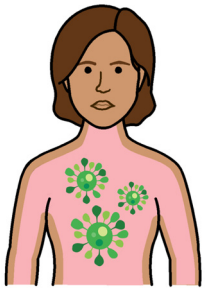
Circulatory problems can be

- heart disease



- blood problems.

4. Neoplasms



Neoplasms are unhealthy growths inside your body. For example, cancer.

We also found out that people with disability did **not** get enough support for good health care. For example,

- dental check ups

- weight loss support

- **vaccinations**.

Vaccinations are medicine to stop health problems like the flu.

How to make things better

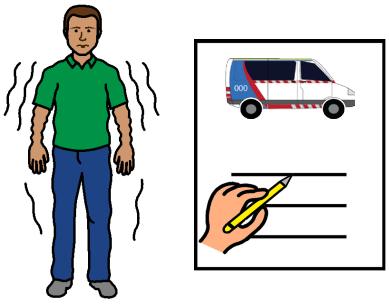
There can be more support for people with disability to manage how they

- eat

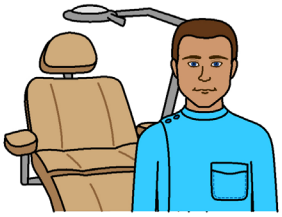
and

- swallow.

People with disability can get vaccinations so they do **not** get sick. For example, the flu shot.



People who have seizures must have an emergency care plan.



People with disability must have health and dental check ups often.

What we will do now

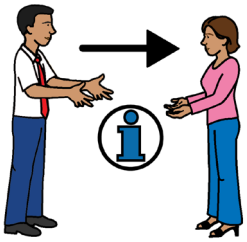
We want to help stop early deaths and serious injury of people with disability.

We will make sure providers give support to people with an NDIS plan to

- eat

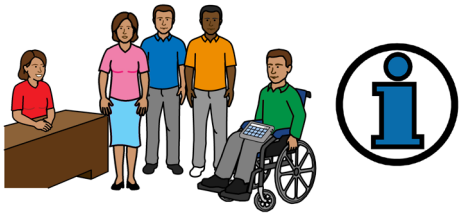
- swallow

- help with other health issues.



We will make sure disability service providers and workers have the right information.

We will make a new training program for support workers about better ways to help people with disability.



We will tell other groups about what we found in our research.

More information

For more information contact the NDIS Commission.

Call 1800 035 544

Website www.ndiscommission.gov.au

Email contactcentre@ndiscommission.gov.au

National Relay Service

If you need help to speak or listen

Contact the NDIS Commission through the National Relay Service or NRS.

Call the NRS help desk

1800 555 660

Go to the NRS website

communications.gov.au/accesshub/nrs

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