



We are reviewing the Disability Inclusion Act 2014

We want to know what you think

January 2020

Easy Read version



How to use this document



The New South Wales (NSW) Government Department of Communities and Justice wrote this document.

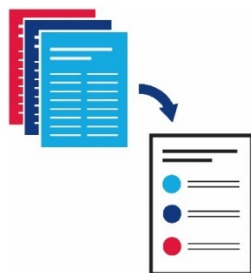
When you see the words 'we' or 'us', it means the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ).



This document is written in an easy to read way. We use pictures to explain some ideas.



We have written some words in **bold**. We explain what these words mean. There is a list of these words on page 44.



This Easy Read document is a summary of another document.



You can find the other document on the [DCJ website](#).



You can ask for help to read this document. A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

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What's this document about?



This document is about the *Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW)*.

In this document we call it the Act.



You can find the Act on [this website](#).



The Act is a law in New South Wales (NSW).



The Act started on 3 December 2014 – International Day of People with Disability.

The Act is about making sure people with disability:



- are included in our community



- can take part in the community.



The Act is based on ideas that are in the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (UN Convention).



The UN Convention applies in many countries around the world.



The UN Convention sets out the rights of people with disability.

It explains how people with disability should be treated fairly.



The Act gives people with disability choice and control over the supports and services they use.



The Act made sure people with disability got good quality services and supports while the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) was starting up in NSW.

The Act says:



- NSW must have a State Disability Inclusion Plan



- other parts of our government and local councils must have Disability Inclusion Action Plans.



The Act also helps the Disability Council NSW do their important job.



They help the Minister understand the issues that affect people with disability.

Why are we reviewing the Act?



When we do a **review**, we:

- look something over
- see how well it has been going.



We are reviewing the Act on behalf of the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services.

We are reviewing the Act to:



- make sure it has achieved what it set out to do



- find out if we need to change it

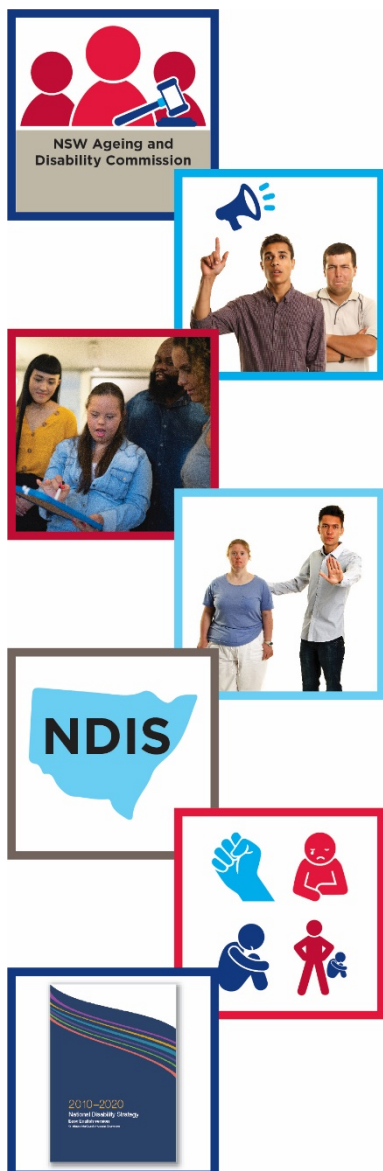


- bring it up to date.



There are other important reviews and changes taking place in NSW at the moment too.

They include:



- the NSW Ageing and Disability Commission
- a review of disability **advocacy** in NSW – advocacy is when someone speaks up for you if you can't speak up for yourself
- more jobs for people with disability in the NSW Government
- new rules about **restrictive practices** – these are to help if someone hurts themselves or others
- more people using the NDIS in NSW
- the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability
- the National Disability Strategy.

We've written an Easy Read document about these other reviews and changes.



It is available on the [DCJ website](#).

How can you have your say?



We need to hear from different people to make sure the Act matches what the community needs.



We want to hear from:

- people with disability
- carers
- disability service providers
- the community
- local councils.



In this document there is:

- information about different parts of the Act
- questions you can answer.



You can answer the questions by filling out a survey on the [DCJ website](#).

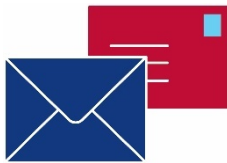


You don't have to answer all of our questions.

You can also send your answers in writing:



- by email to NSWDIP@facns.nsw.gov.au



- by post to
Department of Communities
and Justice
Locked Bag 4028
Ashfield NSW 2131.



We need you to give us your answers to our questions by 5pm on 30 March 2020.



We will also hold workshops.



We will put information about our workshops on the [DCJ website](#).

What happens with your feedback?



We will:

- think about what people have to say
- use some of those ideas to write a report.



The report will be talked about in the NSW Parliament.



We will share the feedback people give us on our website.



If you don't want us to share the feedback you give us, please tell us.



If you ask us to, we will do our best to keep your feedback private.



But sometimes the law says we need to share the information you give us.

What the Act sets out to achieve



The Act talks about the goals it was designed to achieve.

The goals of the Act are:



- to understand and accept that people with disability have the same rights as everyone else in the community



- to make sure people with disability have, and use, their rights



- to give people with disability their independence so they can do things:
 - for themselves
 - on their own



- to include people with disability in our community



- to give people with disability choice and control over their:
 - goals
 - the supports and services they use to reach their goals



- to keep people with disability safe when they use supports and services



- to follow the UN Convention



- to include people with disability in our **economy**.



Our economy is the total amount of goods, services and money that Australia makes and uses.



People with disability can take part in our economy by:

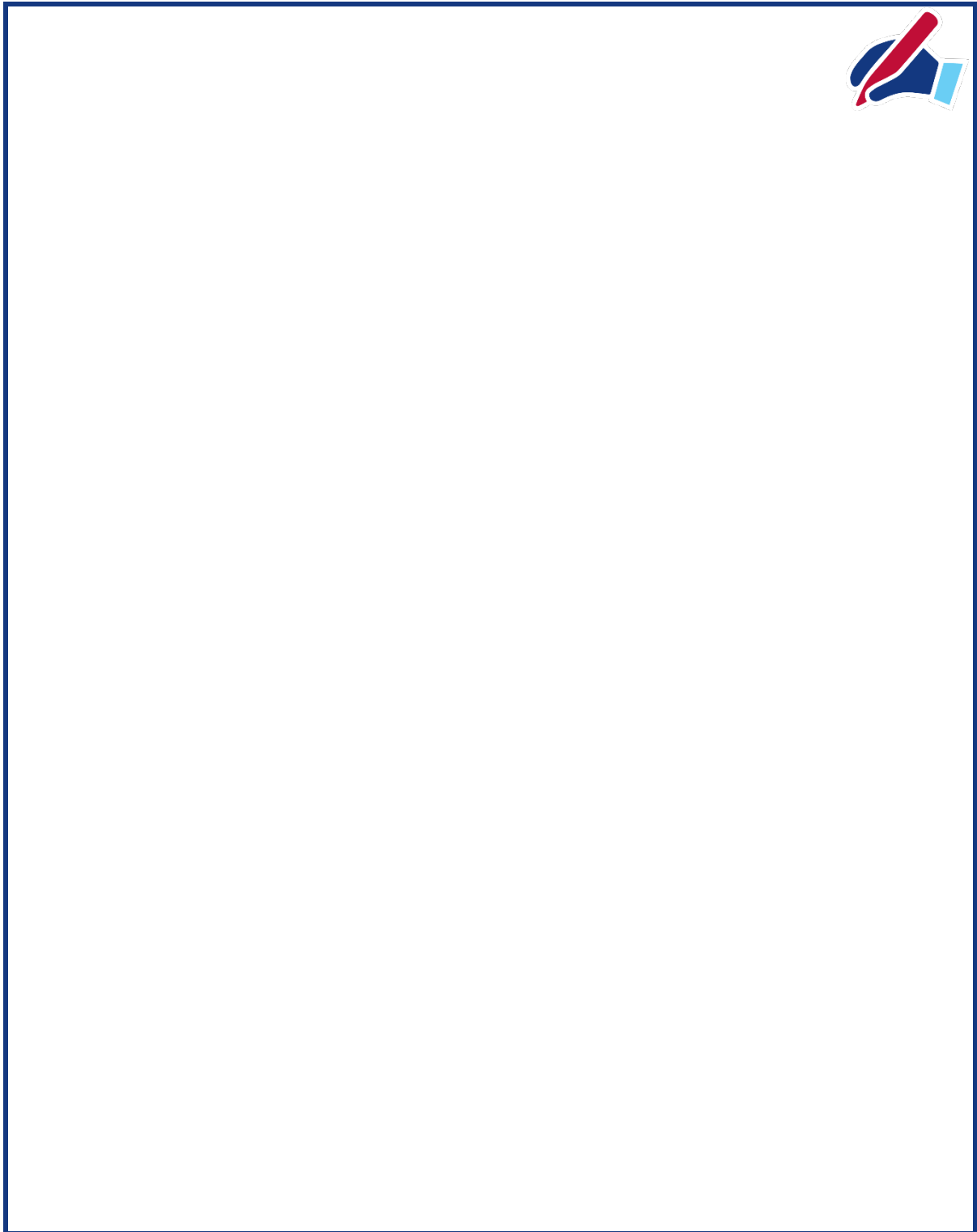
- working
- earning money.

Question 1

Do we need to change any of the goals on this list?

What goals could we add to the list?

Please write your answer in the box below.



The rights of people with disability



The Act talks about the rights of people with disability.

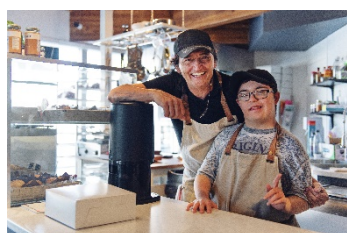
The rights of people with disability included in the Act are:



- the right to be respected



- the right to take part in the:
 - community
 - economy



- the right to learn work skills and get work experience



- the right to spend time with other people, have relationships and make friends



- the right to enjoy their sex life



- the right to have a baby and start a family



- the right to express their feelings



- the right to learn



- the right to privacy



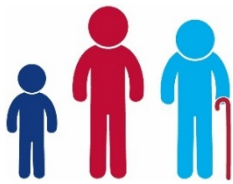
- the right to be shown respect for:



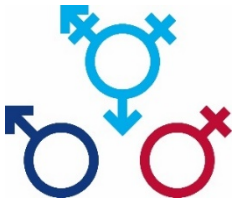
- their culture and background



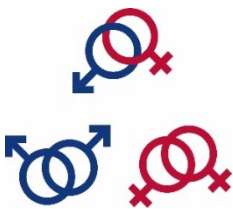
- the language they speak



- their age



- their gender



- their sexuality



- their religion

- the right to live free from



- **violence** – when someone hurts you physically



- **abuse** – when someone treats you badly



- **neglect** – when someone is not helping you the way they are supposed to help you



- **exploitation** – when someone takes advantage of you



- the right to find and use information they need



- the right to be given information in a way they can understand



- the right to speak up when something isn't good enough or goes wrong.

The Act talks about how we must work harder to recognise the rights of some groups of people with disability.

These groups include:



- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples



- people from different cultures and backgrounds who speak languages other than English



- women



- children.

Question 2

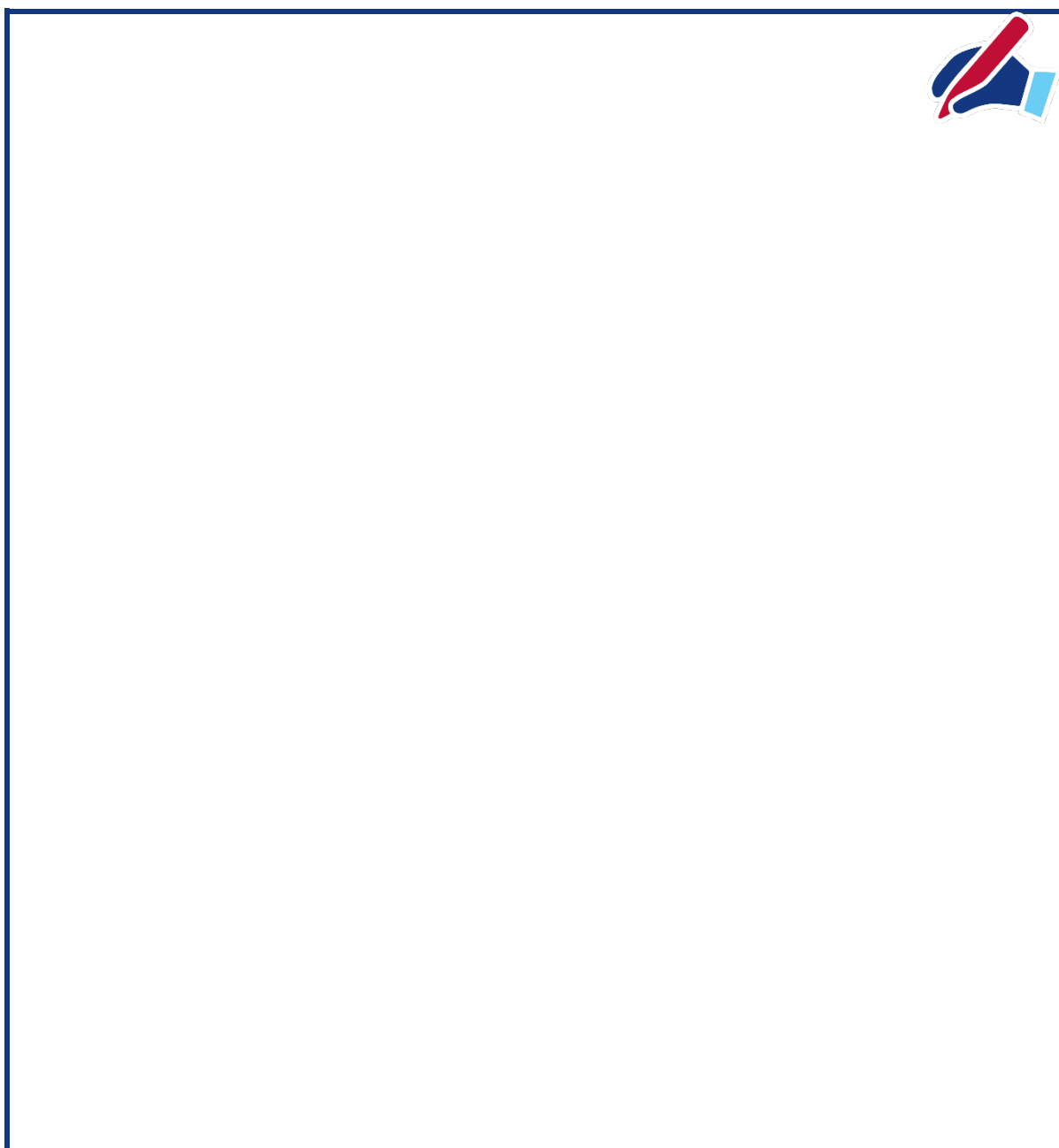
Are these rights the best for people with disability?

Are they up to date?

Are there any we should add?

Are there any we should take out?

Please write your answer in the box below.



Our State Disability Inclusion Plan



The Act says we must have a State Disability Inclusion Plan.

Our State Disability Inclusion Plan must:



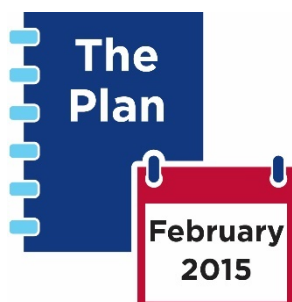
- last for 4 years



- guide us towards making our community **inclusive**.



If something is inclusive, everyone can take part.



We launched the *NSW Disability Inclusion Plan* (the Plan) in February 2015.

The goals in the Plan are to make our:



- community inclusive



- services that everyone needs to use, and places and spaces where everyone needs to go, **accessible**.

When something is accessible, everyone can use it.

This might be:

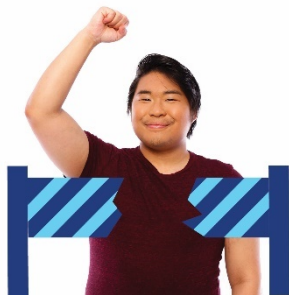


- a place or a building
- transport
- a service
- information
- a website.

The Plan shows we are committed to:



- making sure people with disability get the same chances as everyone else



- breaking down the barriers that stop people with disability from getting the same chances as everyone else.



We reviewed the Plan in 2018.



We wanted to find out if we were reaching our goals.



We talked to:

- people with disability
- disability organisations
- community organisations
- different parts of the NSW Government
- local councils
- **peak bodies.**



Peak bodies are organisations that represent an industry or group, such as people with a certain type of disability.



We found out that we are heading towards our goals.

But there is more work we need to do.



Different parts of the NSW Government and local councils need to work harder to make sure they do things the same way.



You can read a [report about the review on the NSW Parliament website.](#)

Question 3

Is having the State Disability Plan still the right thing to do?

Do you think we still need the Plan?

What needs to be in the Plan?

Please write your answer in the box below.



Disability Inclusion Action Plans



The Act talks about Disability Inclusion Action Plans (DIAP).



DIAPs make sure people with disability:

- are included in the community
- can fully take part in the community.



All NSW Government departments and local councils need to develop their own DIAPs.



DIAPs need to have similar ideas to our Disability Inclusion Plan.

These ideas include making sure that people with disability can:



- get the support they need



- use the services they want to use



- access buildings and information



- find and keep a job if that's what they want.



Each **financial year**, government departments and local councils need to write a report that tells the Minister how well their DIAPs are going.



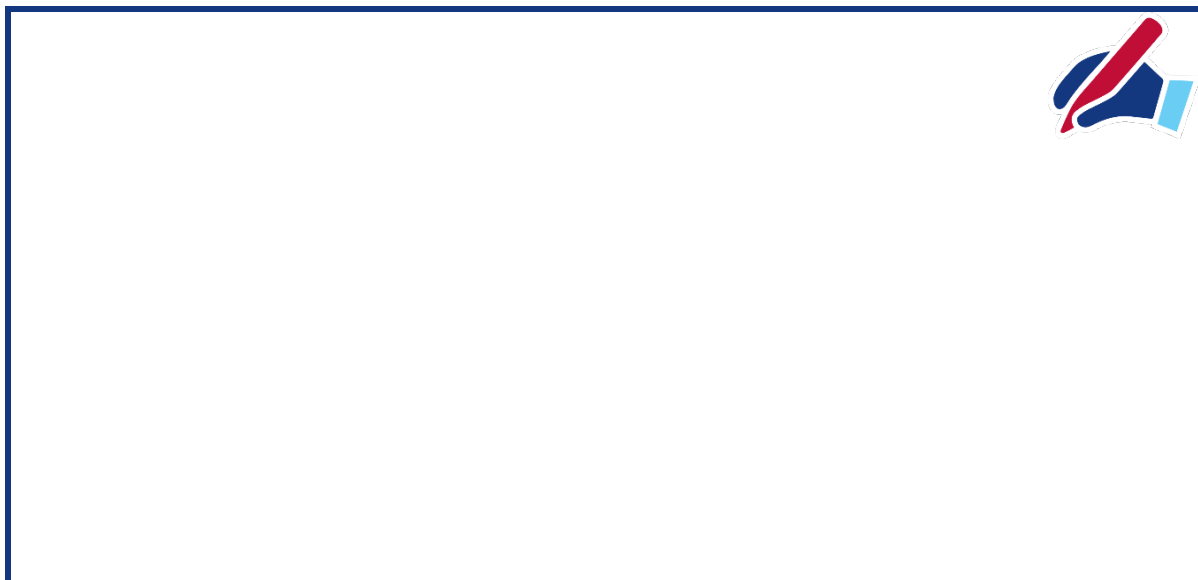
The financial year is different to the calendar year. It runs from 1 July to 30 June.

Question 4

Should more organisations have to write DIAPs?

If so, which ones?

Please write your answer in the box below.

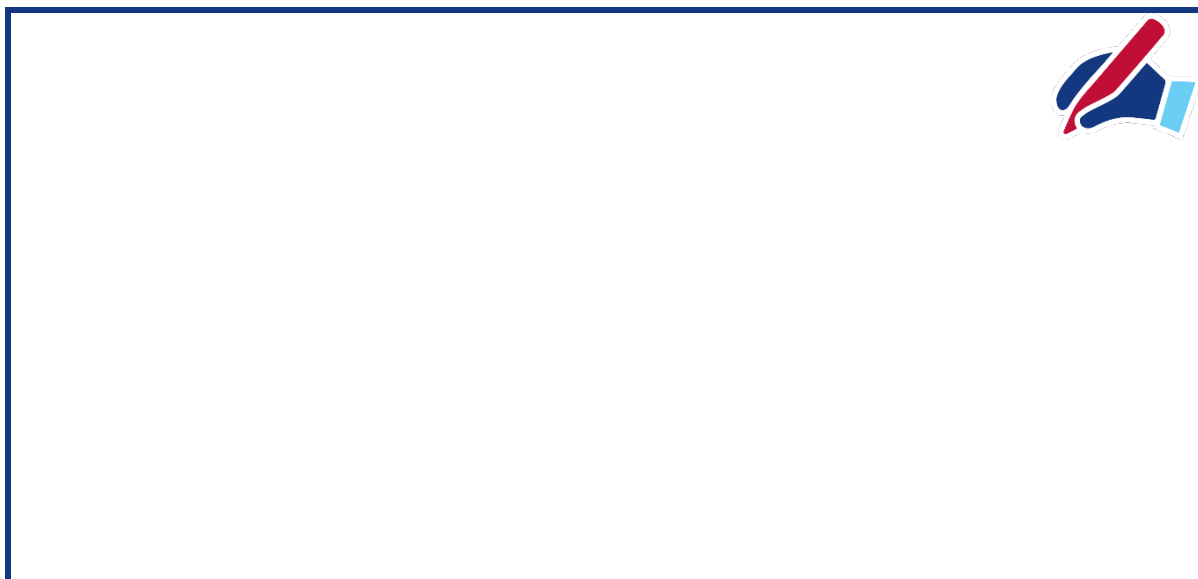


Question 5

Do you think DIAPs work?

What could we include in DIAPS to make them better?

Please write your answer in the box below.

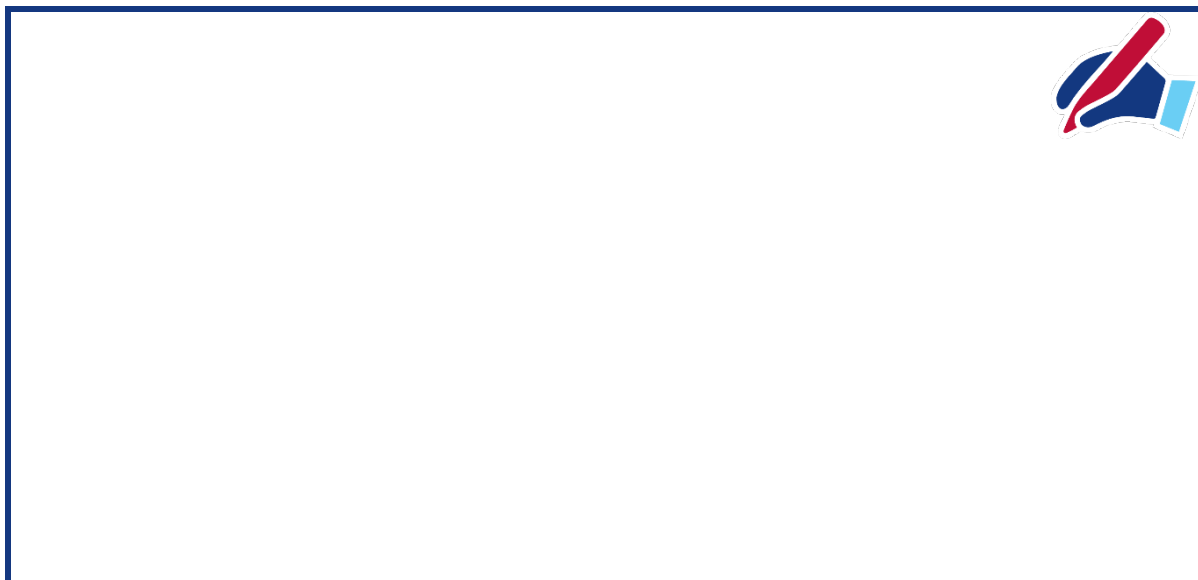


Question 6

How can we help agencies and organisations write DIAPs?

What steps should they take to write good DIAPs?

Please write your answer in the box below.

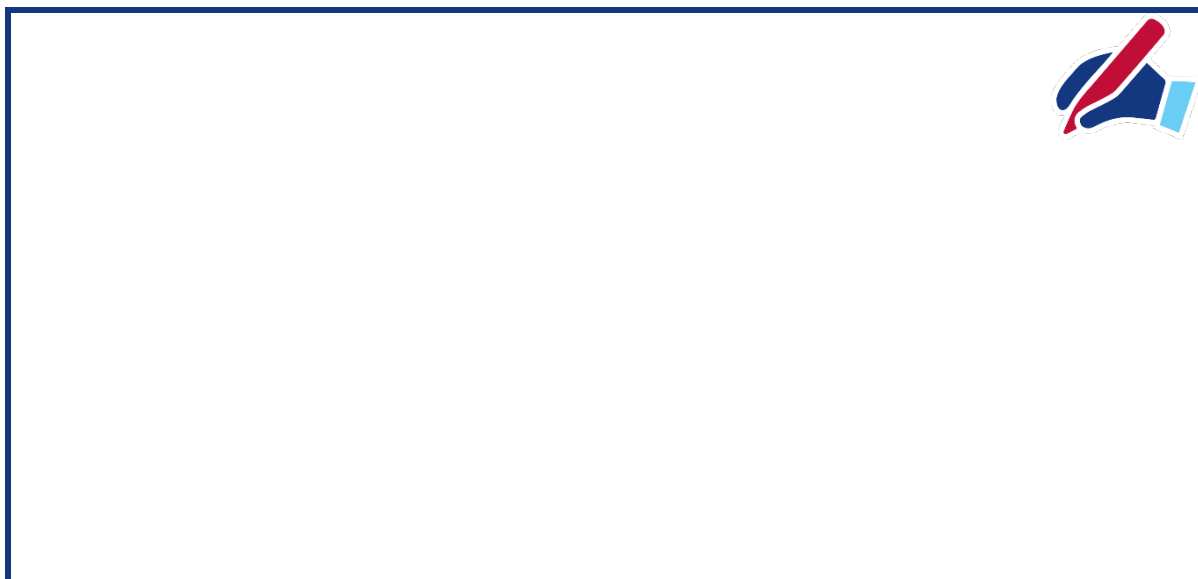


Question 7

Do DIAPs still have the right goals and ideas in them?

What should we add or take out to make them better?

Please write your answer in the box below.

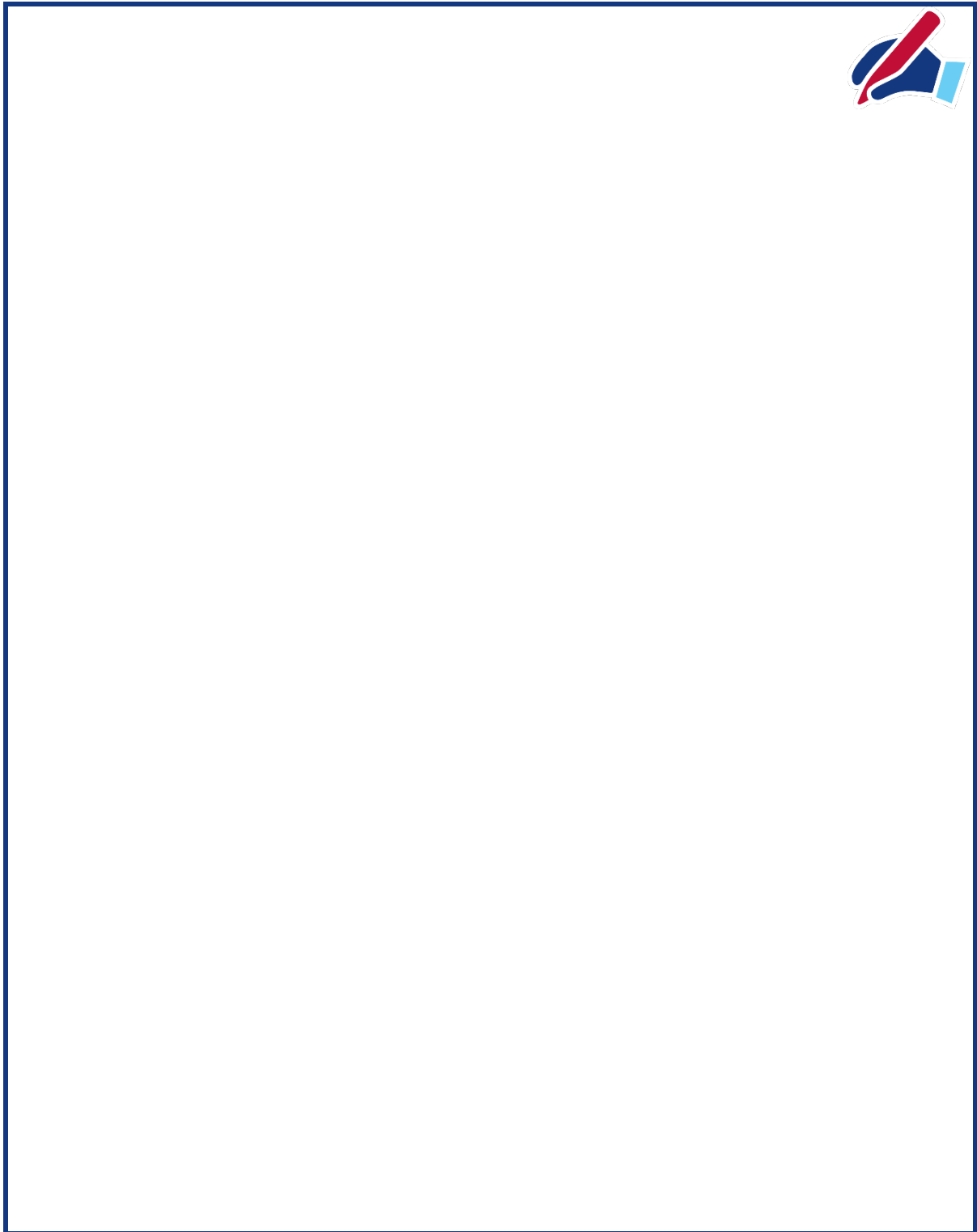


Question 8

How often do you think reports about DIAPs should be written?

Who should the report be for?

Please write your answer in the box below.



Disability Council NSW



The Disability Council NSW is the peak body that represents people with disability in NSW.

It is the Disability Council NSW's job to:



- watch over new plans the government makes that affect people with disability and their families



- give the Minister advice about the issues that affect people with disability



- talk to the community about including people with disability



- help the community understand the issues that affect people with disability



- talk about the issues that affect people with disability with
 - people with disability
 - other peak bodies
- help agencies develop their DIAPs.

Question 9

Have we given the right jobs to the Disability Council NSW?

Are there any other jobs they should be doing?

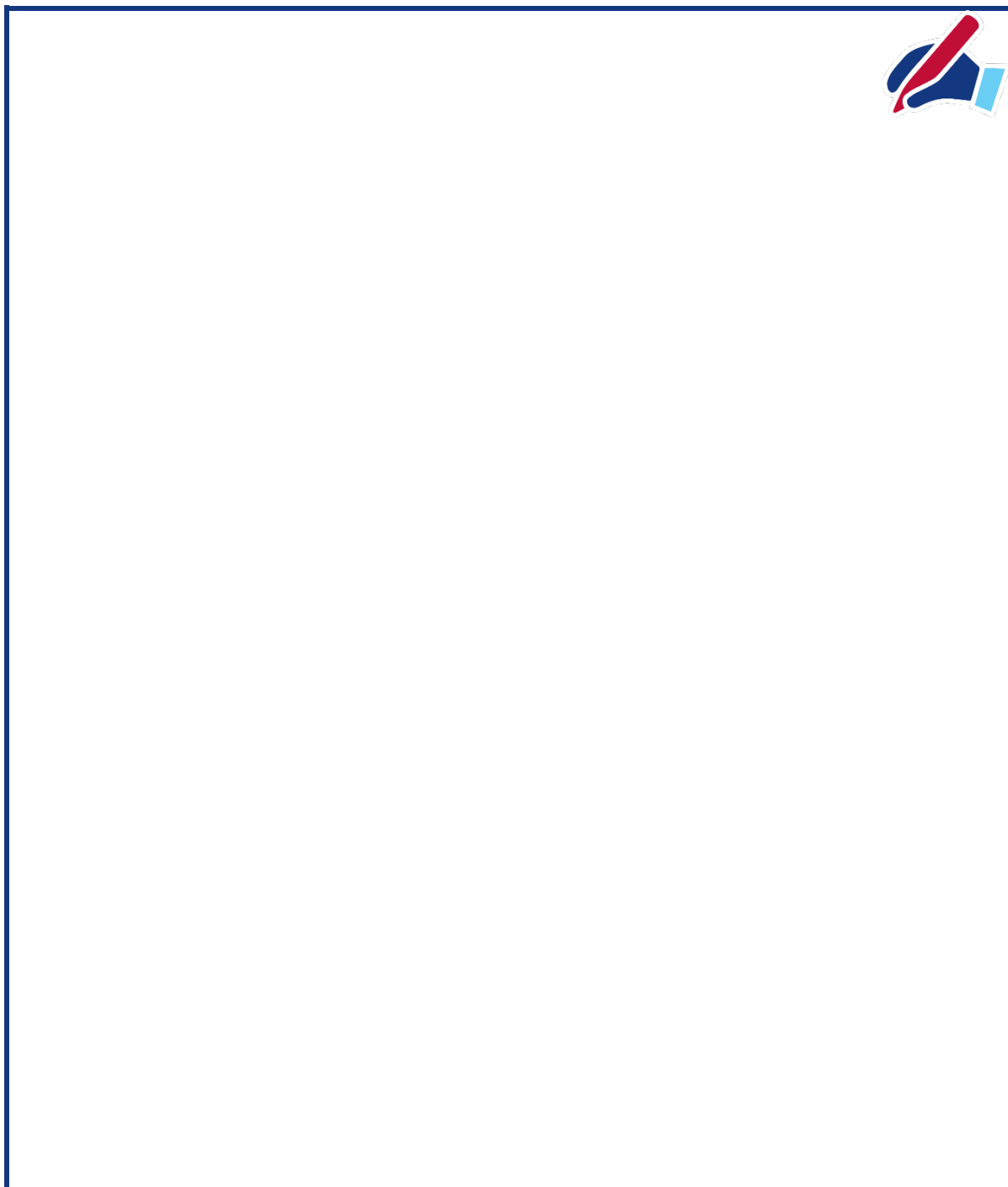
Please write your answer in the box below.

Question 10

Do you think the start of the NDIS has affected the work of the Disability Council NSW?

What changes should we make to the work the Disability Council NSW does?

Please write your answer in the box below.



Who is on the Disability Council?

Disability Council NSW



There should be between 8 and 12 members on the Disability Council NSW.



Most of the members should be people with disability.

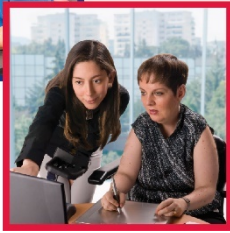


Each member stays on the Disability Council NSW for up to 4 years.



The chairperson must:

- be a person with disability
- have the right experience
- have the right **qualifications**.



If you have a qualification, you have:

- studied or trained
- learned how to do your job the right way.



The chairperson and other leaders stay in their positions for 1 year at a time.

Question 11

Are our rules about who can be a member of the Disability Council NSW right?

Do we need different rules? What are they?

Please write your answer in the box below.

Funding for supports and services



The Act talks about funding for the supports and services people with disability need.

Making sure service providers meet a set of standards



The Act says the Minister needed to make a set of standards that service providers should meet.



This was so we could watch over the quality and safety of supports and services in NSW until the NDIS started.



The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (NDIS Commission) started on 1 July 2018.



Quality is about receiving good services.



Safeguards are ways to keep people safe when they are receiving services.



The NDIS Commission now watches over the quality and safety of supports and services.



The NDIS Commission has a set of NDIS practice standards.



The NDIS practice standards replace the Minister's set of standards.



The NDIS Commission has a set of NDIS safeguards.



These include **worker screening checks**.



Worker screening checks are a way to make sure the right people work in the NDIS.

Supports and services



In the past, we provided funding for supports and services to people with disability.



Now, the supports and services are paid for by the NDIS.



The Act says we can provide funding for supports and services to people with disability from a target group.

The target group includes people with disability who have a disability or an impairment that:



- affects how well they:
 - think
 - communicate
 - understand
 - remember



- affects their brain and how well it works



- affects a part of their body and how well it works



- affects their senses, such as:
 - seeing
 - hearing



- affects their mental health and how they think and feel



- will last their whole life



- means they need support to live their day to day life.



The Act says we can also provide funding so other agencies and organisations can offer supports and services to people with disability from the target group.



They include:

- government departments
- local councils
- corporations
- businesses.



We have some rules about giving this type of funding.

They must prove to us that:



- they meet the service standards



- people with disability will be safe when they use the supports and services



- they have good people working for them.



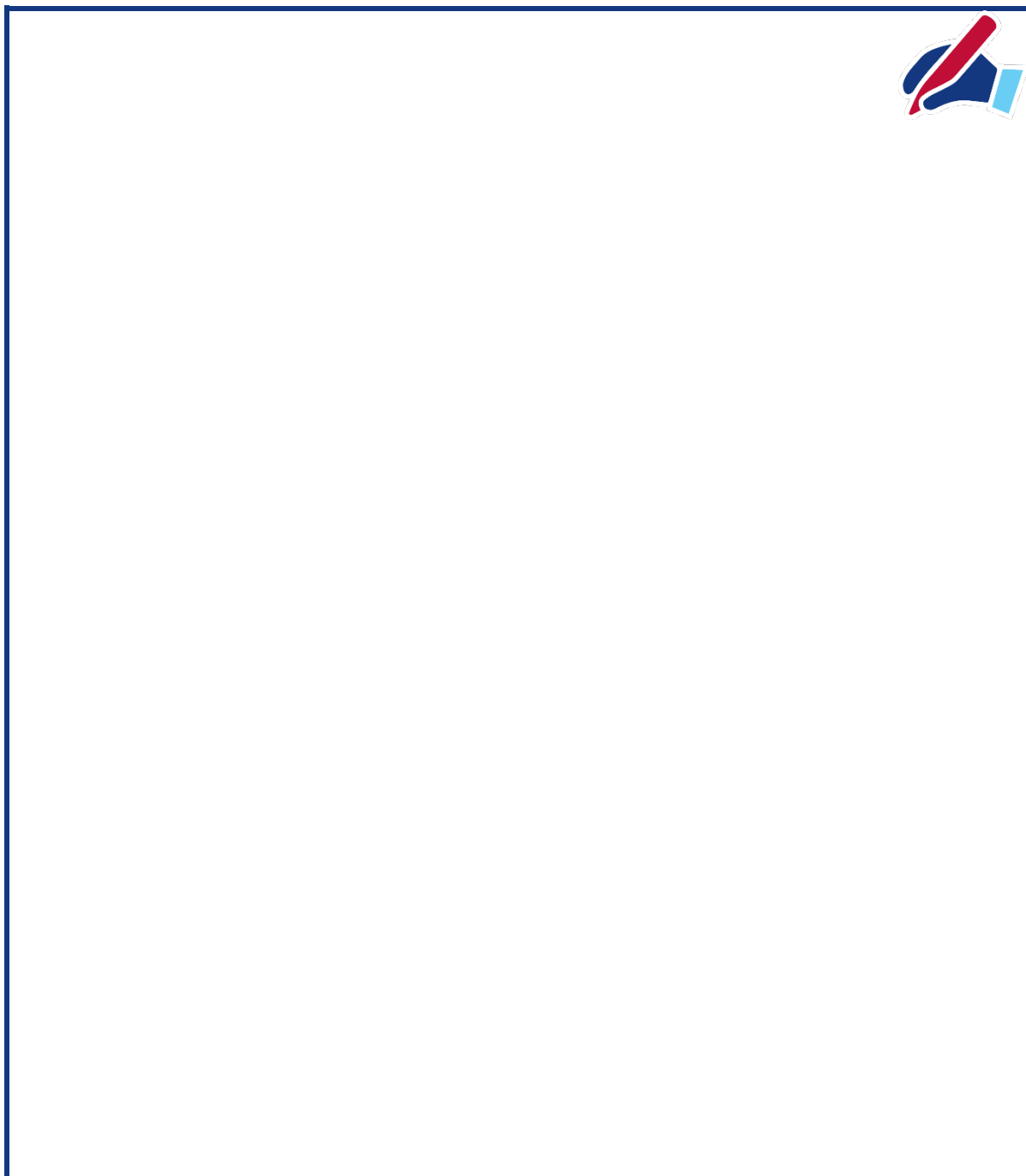
They also need to explain how they will use the funding.

Question 12

How has the start of the NDIS affected what the Act says about service standards and safeguards?

How has the NDIS affected what the Act says about funding for the target group?

Please write your answers in the box below.

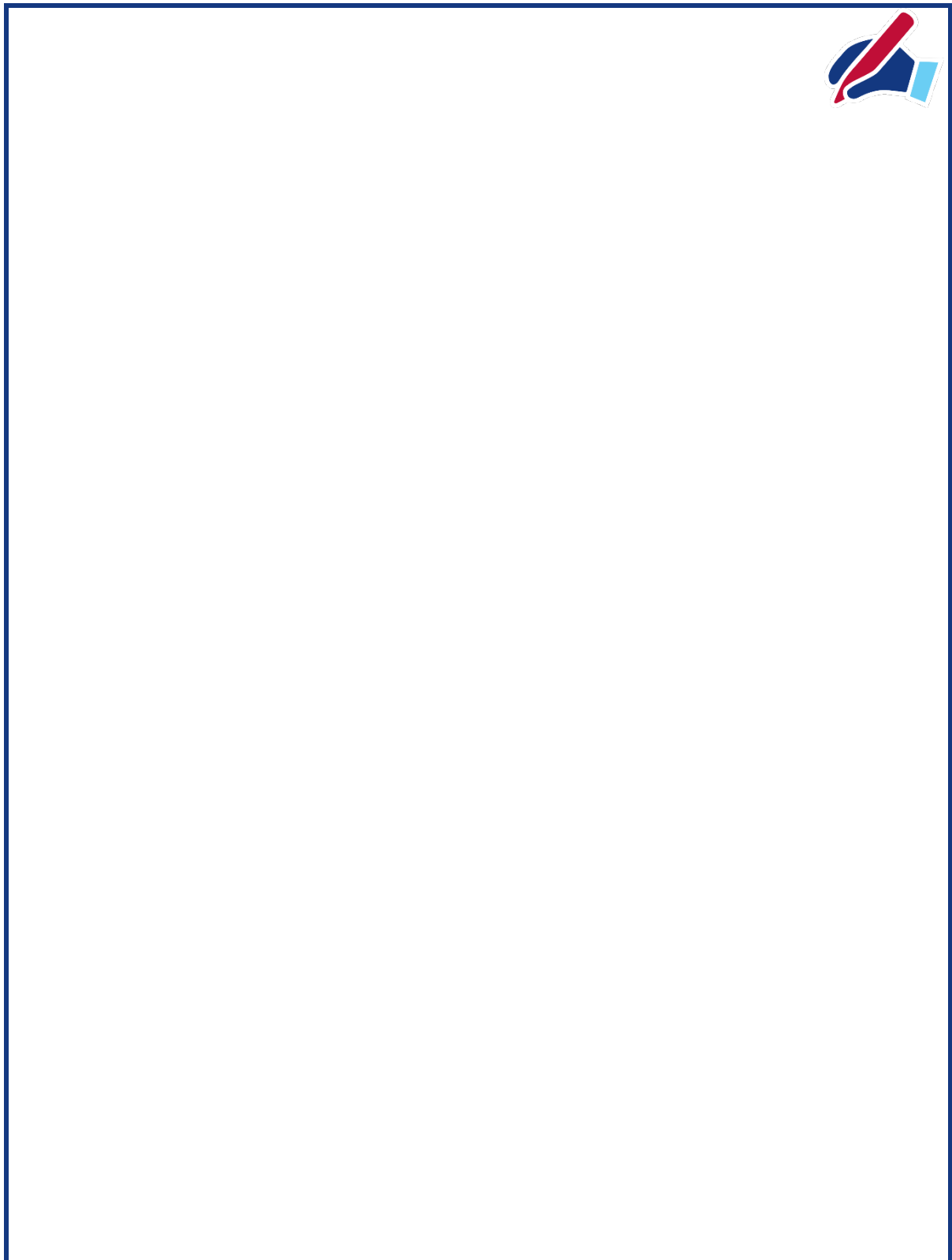


A large empty rectangular box with a blue border, intended for writing answers. In the top right corner of the box, there is a small icon of a hand holding a pen, with the hand in blue and the pen in red.

Question 13

Is there anything else you want to tell us about the Act?

Please write your answer in the box below.



Word list



Abuse

Abuse is when someone treats you badly.



Accessible

When something is accessible, everyone can use it. This might be a place or a building, a service or information.



Advocacy

Advocacy is when someone speaks up for you if you can't speak up for yourself.



Economy

Our economy is the total amount of goods, services and money that Australia makes and uses.



Exploitation

Exploitation is when someone takes advantage of you.



Financial year

The financial year is different to the calendar year. It runs from 1 July to 30 June.



Inclusive

If something is inclusive, everyone can take part.



Neglect

Neglect is when someone is not helping you the way they are supposed to help you.



Peak bodies

Peak bodies are organisations that represent an industry or group, such as people with a certain type of disability.



Qualification

If you have a qualification, you have:

- studied or trained
- learned how to do your job the right way.



Restrictive practices

Ways to stop someone from hurting themselves or others.



Quality

Quality is about receiving good services.



Review

When we do a review, we:

- look something over
- see how well it has been going.



Safeguards

Safeguards are ways to keep people safe when they are receiving services.



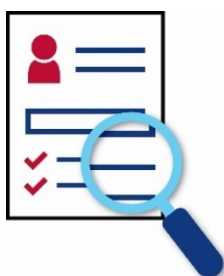
Service standards

Service standards explain how good services need to be.



Violence

Violence is when someone hurts you physically.



Worker screening checks

Worker screening checks are a way to make sure the right people work in the NDIS.

More information



Please contact us if you would like more information about:

- this review
- how you can take part.



(02) 9716 3429



NSWDIP@fac.s.nsw.gov.au



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It is available on the **[DCJ website](#)**.



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