



# NDIA Research and Evaluation Branch

Policy, Advice and Research Division

December 2020

# Overview



This presentation will provide:

- NDIS update
- Background to the NDIS Research and Evaluation agenda
- Our current structure and way of working
- Current research and evaluation projects 2020/2021
- Gaps in research
- An opportunity to hear from the Group

# What is the NDIS?



Reasonable and  
necessary supports



A lifetime  
approach



500,000  
Australians



Help people  
achieve goals



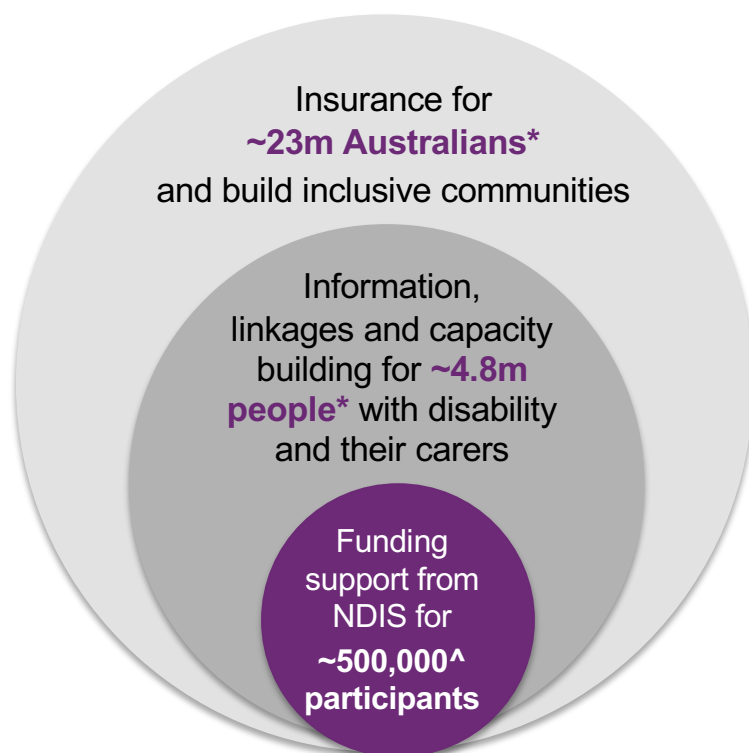
Information  
and referrals



# The NDIS fits within a broader supports and services system



## The NDIS is for all Australians



\*Productivity Commission report 2011

^Scheme Actuary modelling

## The NDIS is part of a broader system supporting people with disability



# NDIS Corporate plan (2020-2024)



## Six aspirations:

- A robust COVID-19 response and recovery
- A quality experience and outcomes for participants
- A competitive market with innovative supports
- A genuinely connected and engaged stakeholder sector
- High performing NDIA
- A financially sustainable Scheme

# Background



- NDIA recognises that research and evaluation is an important core activity
- Promotes and encourages all parts of the organisation to contribute and/or take part



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# Research and Evaluation Branch Purpose

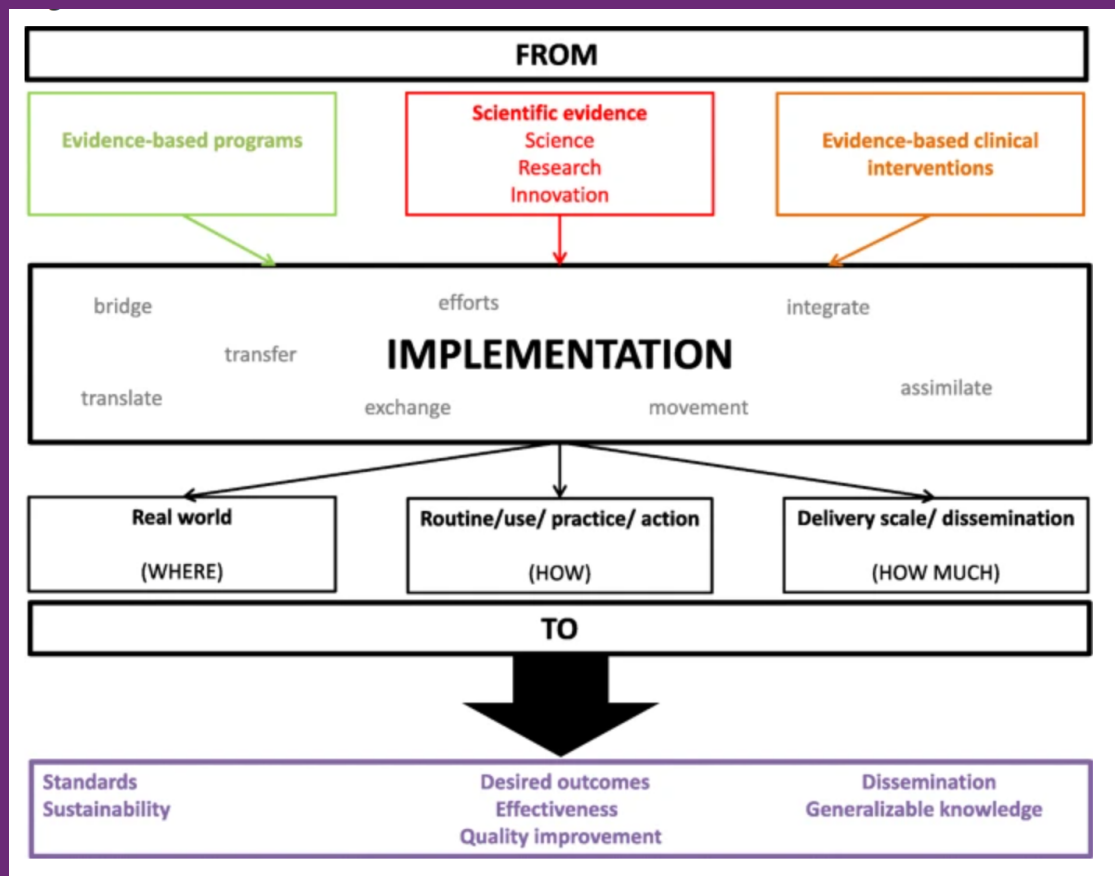


A dedicated **internal research and evaluation function** that supports defensible decision-making by using evidence to determine what works, what doesn't work and the costs to the individual and the Agency

**Our Aspiration:**  
To **build and strengthen** Participant's **capacity** for **independence** through **choice and control** and to ensure the **sustainability** of the Scheme

To connect, engage and collaborate **within the Agency, partners, providers and the academic community** to maximise the impact of research on Participant and Scheme outcomes

# Focus on implementation research



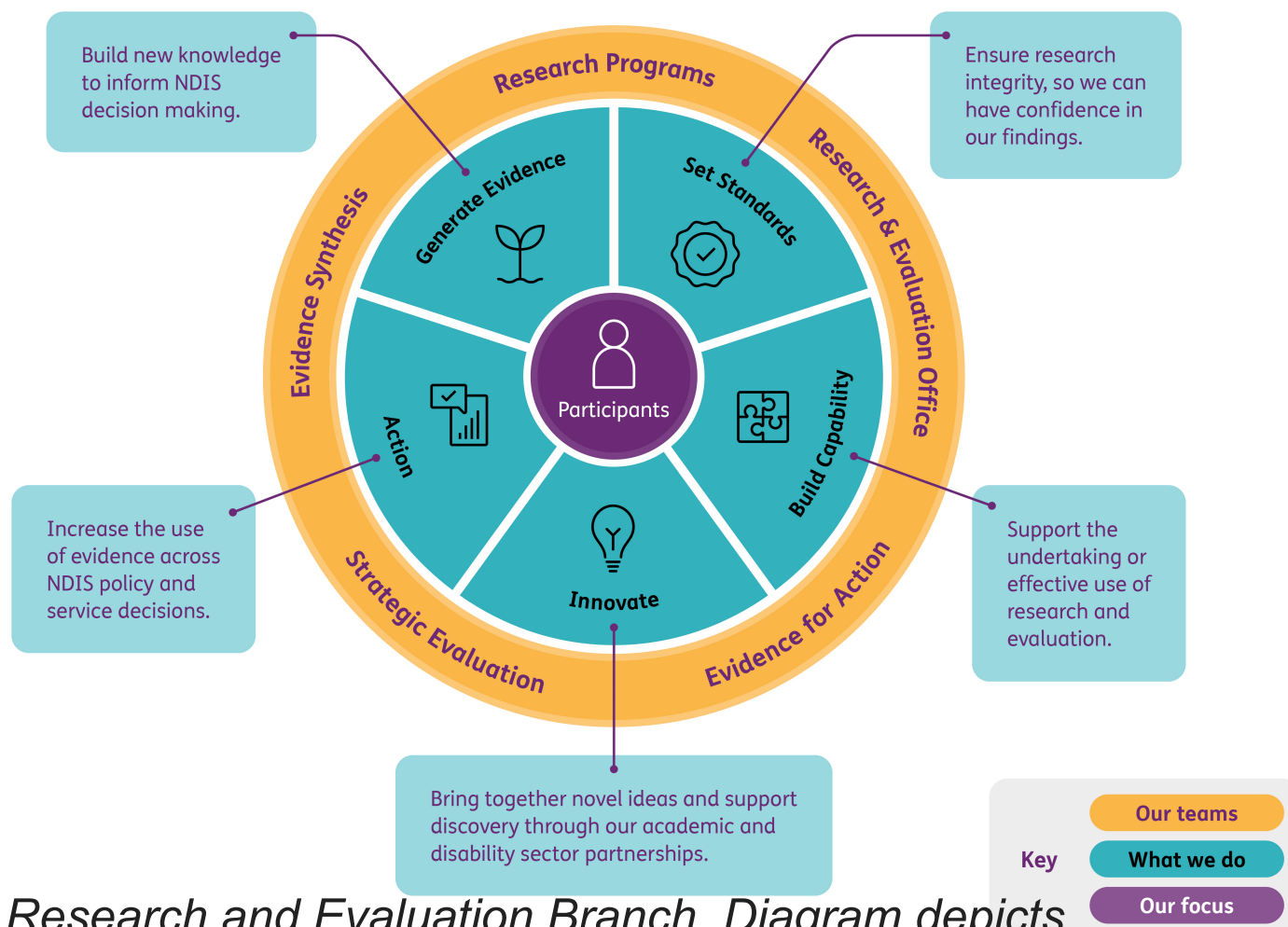
Dintrans P et al, A synthesis of implementation science frameworks and application to global health gaps, Global Health Research and Policy (2019)



# What we do



Our role and functions are to



*Diagram of the Research and Evaluation Branch. Diagram depicts a three-tiered circle explaining the Branch's teams and guiding principles. Participants are at the centre of the circle symbolising that they are the focus of the Branch's work.*

# Research and Evaluation Branch structure



## Research and Evaluation Office

- Setting research and evaluation standards
- Provides governance oversight
- Manages external research requests and tenders

### Evidence Synthesis

- Conducting high quality evidence reviews that are used to inform policy or services
- Commissioning systematic reviews

#### Review types:

- Scoping review
- Environmental scan
- Systematic review
- Rapid systemic review

Identify and understand what is already known

Look outside the Agency to inform the Agency's policy and decision-making

### Research Programs

- Horizon scanning
- Conducting and commissioning primary research (qualitative/quantitative)
- Generating and partnering on research to future proof the Agency's program and outcomes
- Research Advice service
- Building capacity in research skills across the Agency
- Insight reports

Understand and defining the problem space

Understand the participant perspective

### Strategic Evaluation

- Planning evaluations and identifying short, medium and long term outcomes
- Conducting service and program evaluations
- Producing recommendations from evaluations to and working with services to translate into quality improvement activities

Focus on NDIA programs, projects and pilot activities

Measure and monitor service implementation and outcomes

### Evidence for Action

- Produce evidence informed resources to support participant decision-making
- Disseminate research in an easy to digest format
- Working with services to translate research into their work

Develop products to infuse evidence into policy and practise

Build informed decision making capacity

Cross pollinate new understandings from evidence across the Agency

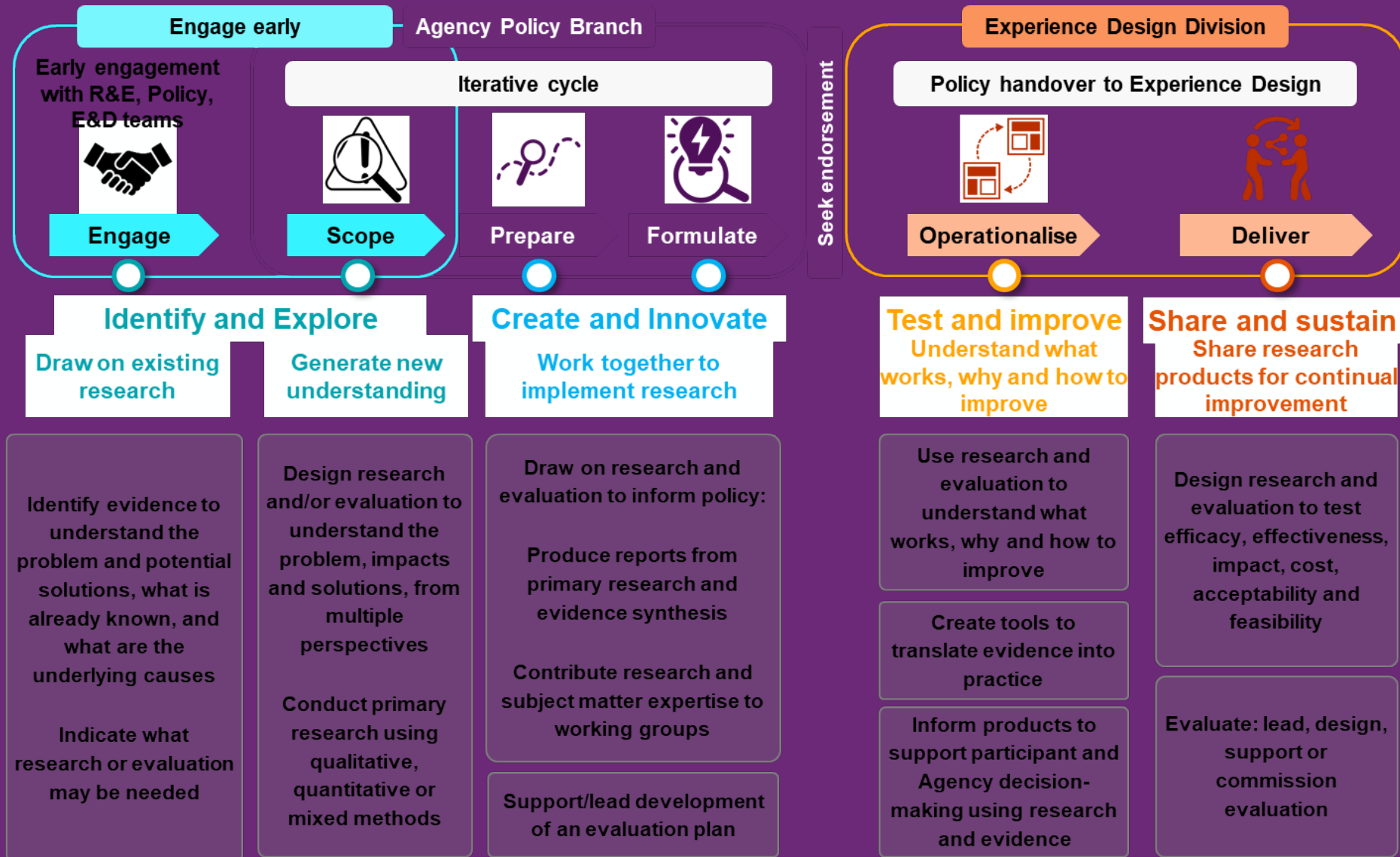
## Research driving impact: policy, programs and participants

• Informing NDIA decisions and actions

• Ensuring evidence can be used in all that we do

• Building the knowledge base

# Incorporating research into policy development processes



## Current work



- Currently undertaking 18 research and evaluation projects
- Involved in 16 external research projects, linked to universities or NGOs – support provided through:
  - ✓ Access to data
  - ✓ Access to staff
- Partnering and in-kind support to projects aligned to NDIA goals

All requests are assessed for eligibility

# Developing Participant Decision Guides



PDGs can fit in at both the initial planning phase or during a plan review.



Participant goals  
are established



Options for how  
to achieve goals  
are considered



Participants can review  
available PDGs  
categorised under core  
themes



PDGs provide participants with a  
tool to record their decisions  
about available options, risks  
and benefits, their values and  
any questions they have for  
planners and providers

# Current research priority areas



Across all participant groups



Home and living



Early interventions



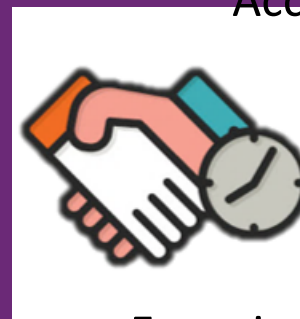
Access to employment



Independent  
assessments



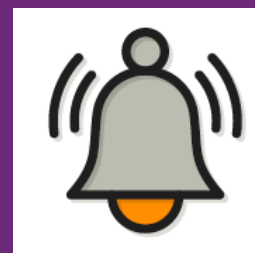
Social and community  
participation



Engaging vulnerable groups



Markets and innovation



COVID response

# There are gaps in the evidence



SDA and individualized living arrangements



Home and living



Early interventions

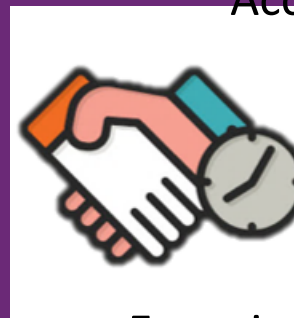
Interventions with children with Autism  
Short term capacity building interventions



Pathways for ID, PD and Autism

Access to employment

Formal /Informal supports



Engaging vulnerable groups

Health and wellbeing

Capacity building



Social and community participation

Independent assessments

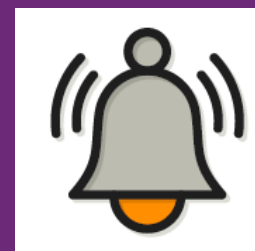


Workforce

innovative practices



Markets and innovation



COVID response

Across all disability groups

# Importance of working collaboratively



- Partner with the NDRP, academics and other organisations
- Engage with researchers to ensure their research can be used
- Share policy and practice priorities
- Engage with participants

**Make sure research can be used in a timely way to benefit participants**



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# Help to bridge the gap



# Actions

- Move towards co-production
- More sessions like today
- NDRP/planning for research
- Keep up to date with your research agenda
- Align to Productivity commissions Aboriginal people's evaluation framework

