



# Supporting parents with cognitive disability in Queensland

Easy Read version

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# About this Easy Read summary



This Easy Read summary is about a report from the Public Advocate.



Summary means we only include our most important ideas.



The Public Advocate sticks up for people in Queensland who have cognitive disability.



Cognitive disability can be things like intellectual disability, a brain injury or a mental illness.



This summary says how the Queensland Government can make things better for people with cognitive disability who are pregnant or have babies.



You can find our contact information on page 16 at the end of this guide.

# Why we gave this advice



A lot of people told us it can be hard for people with cognitive disability to start a family.



We spoke to people with cognitive disability, service providers and advocates.

# What people told us



It can be hard for people with cognitive disability to go to ante-natal classes because they think in different ways.



Ante-natal classes are where pregnant people learn about having a baby.



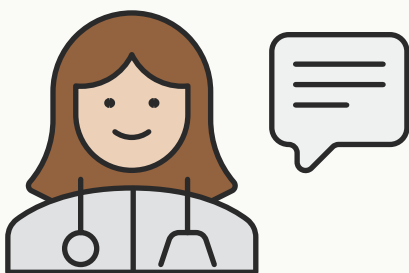
Some people with cognitive disability can be worried about going to the doctor or hospital for checks about their baby.



People with cognitive disability also told us that it can be hard to find someone at a hospital to:



- help them understand the health system
- be an advocate for them.

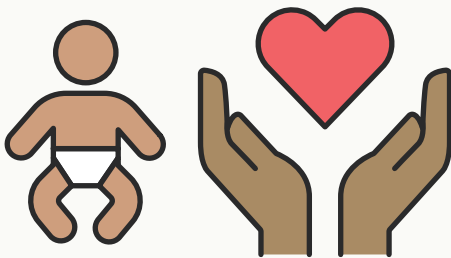


Sometimes nurses and doctors must tell Child Safety that a person who has cognitive disability is pregnant.



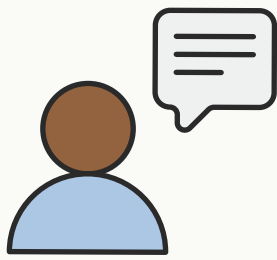
People told us it is not always easy for someone to understand the rules and what they need to do when they talk with Child Safety.

This sometimes means their child is taken away from them. We call this put into care.



It can be hard for people with cognitive disability to see a child who is put into care.



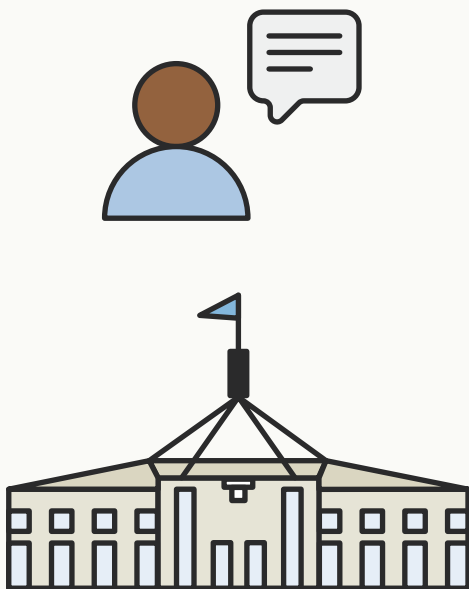


The National Disability Insurance Scheme, or NDIS, is not always told when a person with cognitive disability has a baby.



This means the person might not get all the support they need to be a parent.

# What we want to happen



We asked the Government to make a group to help fix these problems. We want the Government group to have

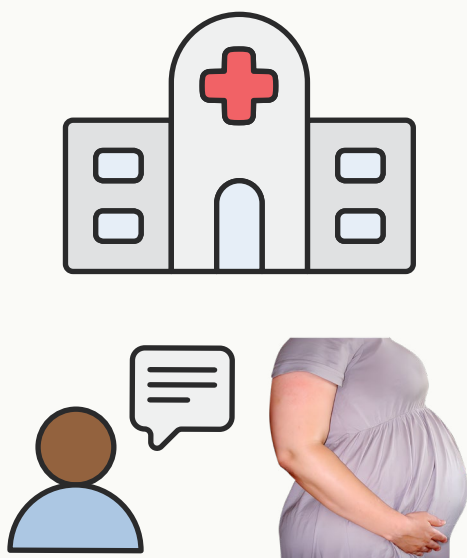
- the bosses of Health, Child Safety and the Public Advocate
- advocates for people with cognitive disability
- people who have cognitive disability.

# What we want the group to look at

## When someone is pregnant

We want the group to think about things like:

- what happens at the hospital and what could go wrong for a person with cognitive disability
- why Child Safety might be told that a person with cognitive disability is pregnant.





We want to know:

- what Child Safety might do when it is told about a person with cognitive disability who is pregnant
- how services like the NDIS can help
- how to make ante-natal classes more accessible.

## After someone has a baby

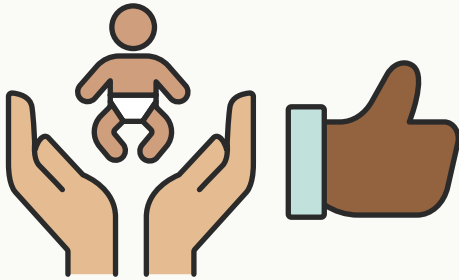


We want peer groups to support people with cognitive disability who have babies. A peer group means people who are like you.



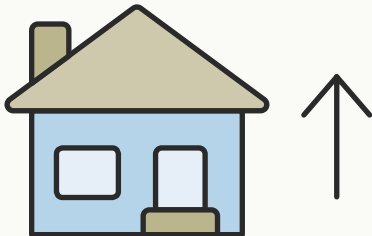
We want the Government group to ask the NDIS how it can help. For example, if it can change NDIS plans for people with cognitive disability who are pregnant or have a baby.

We want people to have access to mother and baby units if they need extra support.

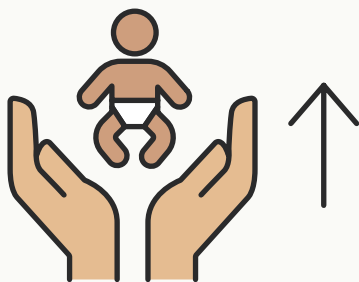


We want programs to help people with cognitive disability be good parents.

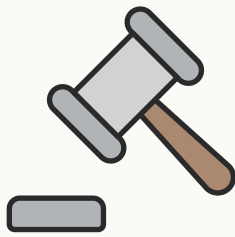
## **What we want to happen if Child Safety is involved**



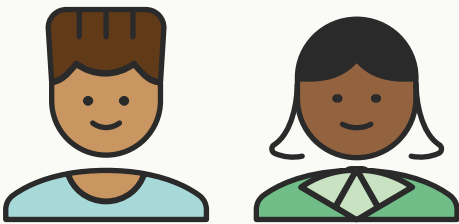
We want better places for people to see a child who is put into care.



We want to improve parenting skills. Parenting skills means things you learn to look after a baby.



We want it to be easier for people to understand what happens if they have to go to court about the custody of their baby.



Custody means who a baby lives with.

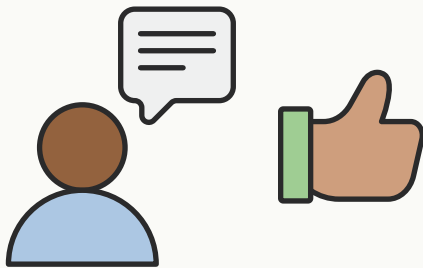


The Government group should make a report about what it is doing every 6 months.

## Other things we want to happen



We asked the Government to let pregnant people with cognitive disability choose an advocate to help them.



The advocate would make sure the pregnant person can say what they want to happen.



The advocate would help during the pregnancy and for the first few years of the baby's life.

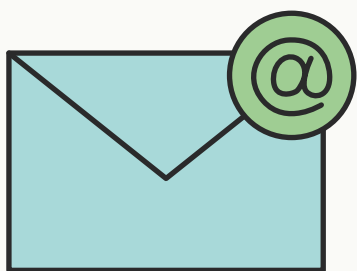
# Contact information

## Call us



We will answer the phone Monday to Friday  
between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm local time.  
We are in Brisbane.

07 3738 9513



## Email us

[public.advocate@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:public.advocate@justice.qld.gov.au)





## Visit our website

Visit [The Public Advocate website](#)



## See the original document on our website

[Supporting parents with cognitive disability - the need for reform \[PDF\]](#)



## Use the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS)

Call 131 450 and ask to speak to  
The Public Advocate on 07 3738 9513



## Use the National Relay Service (NRS)

Visit the [National Relay Service website](#)

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