**NDIS Review talking points - December 2023**

 **The role of advocacy is crucial to support the NDIS**

* The NDIS Review panel found that advocacy plays a crucial role in the health and operation of the NDIS and supporting people to navigate its complex systems.
* Individual disability advocacy is included as one of the “foundational supports” Australian governments must invest in to develop a supportive, sustainable and fair ecosystem.
* Key recommendation 1.5 calls for National Cabinet to increase funding to advocacy services to ensure that everyone has access to effective advocacy that can help resolve issues.
* Recommendation 1.5 of the report specifically expresses that States must be equally responsible for contributing to the operation of advocacy.
* The report notes “advocacy plays a critical role in promoting, protecting and defending the human rights of people with disability”.
* The report notes that current funding can only meet 50% of demand.

**Addressing systemic advocacy**

* The review acknowledges the value in systemic advocacy to represent LGBTIQA+SB people with disability, noting the gap in current services and representative organisations supporting this community.
* To help highlight specific issues faced by these communities, key recommendation 1.6 calls for all Australian governments to setup a specific body to be embodied and powered by people with direct lived experience of disability and LGBTIQA+SB.
* Key recommendation 5.2 calls on the Department of Social Services and the NDIA to ensure that people with cognitive disability or complex communication needs are appropriately supported.
* Advocacy organisations have a role to play in this space, as the key recommendation 5.2 asks that these bodies adequately provide support for self-advocacy and peer-support groups.

**Summary**

* The next few years will hopefully be a collaborative process between people with disability who rely on the scheme and governments to implement big changes. It's for this reason that DANA has developed a proposal currently before the government to immediately and substantially increase funding to the advocacy sector.