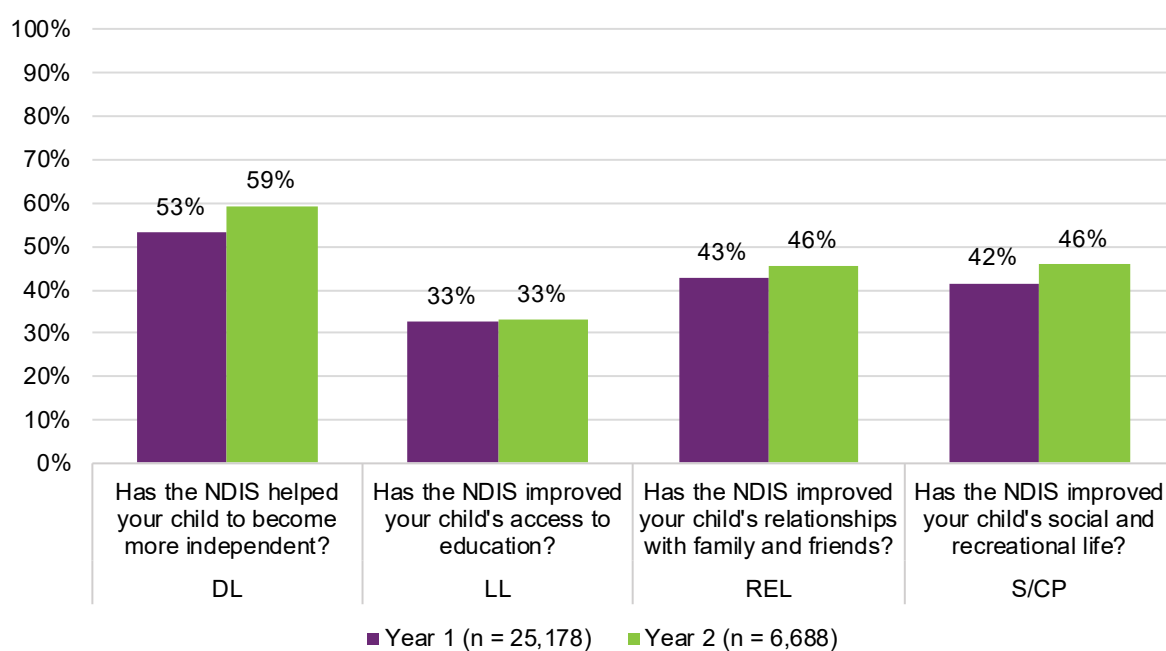


5. Participants from starting school to age 14: Has the NDIS helped?

5.1 Results across all participants

For participants who have been in the Scheme for approximately one or two years as at 30 June 2019, Figure 5.1 shows the percentage of parents/carers who reported that the NDIS has helped with outcomes related to each of the four domains, after one year in the scheme (first review) and after two years in the scheme (second review).

Figure 5.1 Percentage who think that the NDIS has helped with outcomes related to each domain



For participants who have been in the Scheme for approximately one or two years as at 30 June 2019, Figure 5.1 shows the percentage of parents/carers who reported that the NDIS has helped with outcomes related to each of the four domains, after one year in the scheme (first review) and after two years in the scheme (second review).

Figure 5.1 shows that, after one year in the Scheme, opinions on whether the NDIS has helped range from 32.8% to 53.3% for the starting school to 14 cohort. The highest percentage of positive responses was for the first domain, where 53.3% think that the NDIS has helped their child to become more independent. The largest improvement in the percentage of positive responses between the first and second years in the Scheme was also seen for domain 1 (from 53.3% to 59.3%).

For domain 2, only 32.8% thought that the NDIS had helped with their child's access to education after one year in the Scheme, and this has not changed after a further year in the Scheme. However, to a large extent this is the responsibility of the education system, which has a bigger role in ensuring successful education outcomes than the NDIS.

Perceptions for domains 3 and 4 are similar, with 42.9% saying that the NDIS has improved their child's relationships with family and friends at the end of year 1, and 41.6% saying that the NDIS has improved their child's social and recreational life. For both of these domains,

the percentage reporting that the NDIS had helped increased to approximately 46% after a further year in the Scheme.

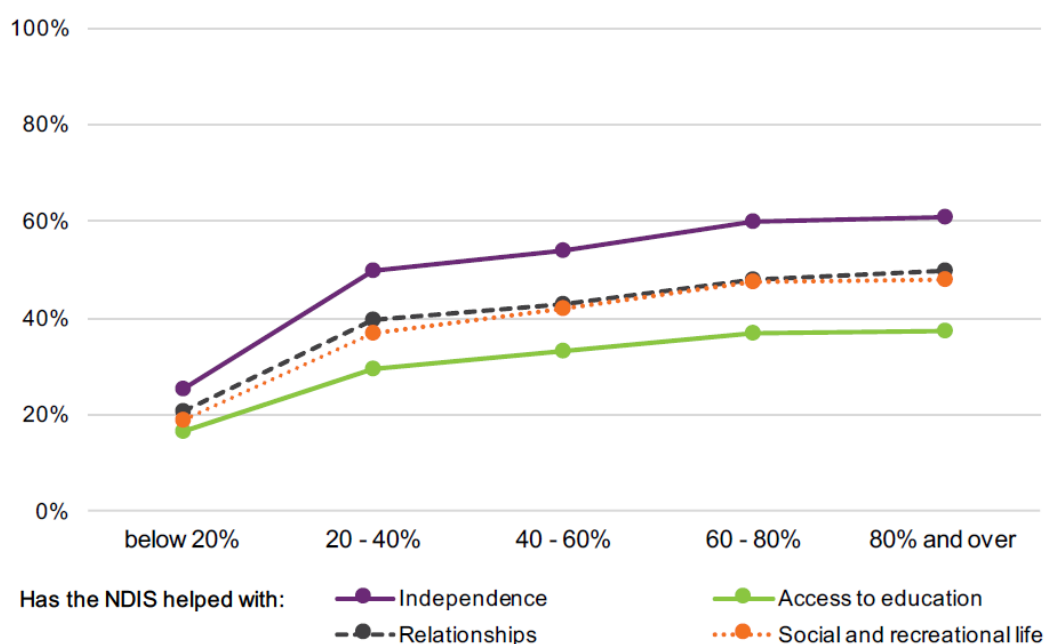
5.2 Results by participant characteristics

5.2.1 Year 1 'Has the NDIS Helped?' indicators – participant characteristics

Year 1 (first review) indicators have been analysed by participant characteristics using one-way analyses, revealing the following key findings:

- Participants with higher baseline plan utilisation tend to respond more positively across all four domains. In particular, those with very low utilisation (below 20%) are much less likely to say that the NDIS has helped. The likelihood of a positive response increases sharply from 0-20% utilisation to 20-40% utilisation (by 13 to 24 percentage points across the four domains) and continues to increase above 40% (by an average of 4 percentage points as utilisation increases to 40-60%, a further 5 percentage points as utilisation increases to 60-80%, and a further 1 percentage point for utilisation over 80%). These results are illustrated in Figure 5.2.

Figure 5.2 Trend by utilisation



- The percentage of parents/carers who say that the NDIS has helped also varies by the participant's disability. Parents/carers of children with developmental delay or global developmental delay respond more positively, consistently across all domains, whereas parents/carers of children with visual impairment respond consistently less positively. Parents/carers of children with cerebral palsy, another neurological disorder, or a physical disability also tend to be less likely to have a positive opinion.
- Parents/carers of older participants tend to respond less positively, particularly for the first three domains (independence, access to education, and relationships). For domain 4 (social, community and civic participation), parents/carers of participants aged 5 and under tend to answer more positively, but the positive response rate does not vary greatly for participants older than 5.

- The percentage of parents/carers who think that the NDIS has helped is highest for participants who fully self-manage, across all domains, followed by those who partly self-manage.
- The percentage of positive responses tended to be higher for participants living in major cities, and lower for those living in remote/very remote areas.
- On a one-way basis, participants from WA, ACT and SA tend to be more likely, and those from NT and TAS less likely, to think that the NDIS has helped.
- Participants entering the Scheme for early intervention are more likely to think that the NDIS had helped with outcomes across all domains compared to those entering due to disability.
- Parents/carers of children from a CALD background are more likely to say that the NDIS had helped with their child's access to education.
- Parents/carers of Indigenous children are less likely to say that the NDIS had helped across all outcome domains, with the largest difference observed for whether the NDIS had helped their child to become more independent.
- The percentage responding positively declined with decreasing level of function across all domains except domain 4 (social, community and civic participation).
- Responses also varied according to other measured outcomes. For example, the likelihood of a positive response in all four domains was positively associated with frequency of happiness at school, and for the first three domains, enrolment in a special school was negatively associated with a positive response. Parents/carers who use a formal school holiday program (whether mainstream or for children with disability) rather than informal care or an NDIS funded support, answered more positively across all domains.

5.2.2 Longitudinal 'Has the NDIS Helped?' indicators – participant characteristics

Analysis of longitudinal indicators by participant characteristics has been examined in two ways:

1. A simple comparison of the percentage reporting that the NDIS had helped after two years in the Scheme with the percentage reporting that the NDIS had helped after one year in the Scheme. The difference (percentage after two years minus percentage after one year) is compared for different subgroups.
2. Multiple regression analyses modelling the probability of improvement / deterioration over the participant's second year in the Scheme.³¹

Some key features of the analyses are summarised below.

³¹ Regression models for improvement include all participants who answered "No" at review 1 and model the probability of answering "Yes" at review 2 (between 2913 and 4119 participants, depending on the domain). Models for deterioration include all participants who answered "Yes" at review 1 and model the probability of answering "No" at review 2 (between 2011 and 3215 participants).

The NDIS has helped my child become more independent

The percentage of parents/carers reporting that the NDIS helped their child become more independent increased 7.2% from 52.5% to 59.6% between the first review and the second review. Of those who responded negatively at the first review, 25.8% responded positively at the second review (improvement). Table 5.1 sets out the breakdown of the movements.

Table 5.1 – Breakdown of net movement in longitudinal responses

| Longitudinal Period | Number of first review responses | | Improvements: No to Yes | | Deteriorations: Yes to No | | Net Movement |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|---------------------------|------|--------------|
| | No | Yes | Number | % | Number | % | |
| Review 1 to Review 2 | 2,913 | 3,215 | 753 | 25.8% | 314 | 9.8% | +7.2% |

The main drivers of the likelihood of improvement or deterioration are as follows:

- Participants with a higher level of function were more likely to improve, and less likely to deteriorate. Overall net improvement for participants with a lower level of function is significantly lower than that for other participants (3.4%, compared to 6.0% overall), on a one-way basis.
- Participants with self-managed plans were more likely to improve.
- Older participants were less likely to improve.
- Participants living in Queensland and South Australia were more likely to improve.

The NDIS has improved my child's access to education

The percentage of parents/carers reporting that the NDIS improved their child's access to education was 32.8% at the first review and not materially different (33.4%) at the second review. Table 5.2 sets out the breakdown of the movements in responses between first review and second review.

Table 5.2 – Breakdown of net movement in longitudinal responses

| Longitudinal Period | Number of first review responses | | Improvements: No to Yes | | Deteriorations: Yes to No | | Net Movement |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|-------|-------------------------|------|---------------------------|-------|--------------|
| | No | Yes | Number | % | Number | % | |
| Review 1 to Review 2 | 4,119 | 2,011 | 408 | 9.9% | 372 | 18.5% | 0.6% |

The main drivers of the likelihood of improvement or deterioration are as follows:

- CALD participants were more likely to improve.
- Participants with self-managed plans were more likely to improve.
- Participants with a larger increase in plan utilisation between the first review and the second review were more likely to improve.
- Participants living in Queensland and South Australia were more likely to improve, and those living in Victoria were less likely.
- Older participants were less likely to improve.
- Participants with a sensory disability, developmental delay or global developmental delay were more likely to improve.
- Participants having a high level of NDIA support were less likely to deteriorate.

The NDIS has improved my child's relationships with family and friends

The percentage of parents/carers reporting that the NDIS improved their child's relationships with family and friends increased 3.1% from 42.5% to 45.7% between the first review and the second review. Table 5.3 sets out the breakdown of the movements in responses between first review and second review.

Table 5.3 – Breakdown of net movement in longitudinal responses

| Longitudinal Period | Number of first review responses | | Improvements: No to Yes | | Deteriorations: Yes to No | | Net Movement |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|--------------|
| | No | Yes | Number | % | Number | % | |
| Review 1 to Review 2 | 3,525 | 2,607 | 557 | 15.8% | 364 | 14.0% | +3.1% |

The main drivers of the likelihood of improvement or deterioration are as follows:

- Participants with a lower level of function were less likely to improve.
- Participants living in Queensland were more likely to improve, and those living in Victoria are less likely.
- Participants with self-managed plans were more likely to improve and less likely to deteriorate.
- Participants with a developmental delay or global developmental delay were more likely to improve.
- Older participants were less likely to improve.

The NDIS has improved my child's social and recreational life

The percentage of parents/carers reporting that the NDIS improved their child's social and recreational life increased 3.7% from 42.3% to 46.0% between the first review and the second review. Table 5.4 sets out the breakdown of the movements in responses between first review and second review.

Table 5.4 – Breakdown of net movement in longitudinal responses

| Longitudinal Period | Number of first review responses | | Improvements: No to Yes | | Deteriorations: Yes to No | | Net Movement |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|--------------|
| | No | Yes | Number | % | Number | % | |
| Review 1 to Review 2 | 3,517 | 2,583 | 552 | 15.7% | 328 | 12.7% | +3.7% |

The main drivers of the likelihood of improvement or deterioration are as follows:

- Participants requiring a medium level of NDIA support were less likely to improve.
- Participants with self-managed plans were more likely to improve.
- Participants living in NSW were more likely to deteriorate.