

9. Participants aged 25 and over: Has the NDIS helped?

9.1 Results across all participants

For participants who have been in the Scheme for approximately one or two years as at 30 June 2019, Figure 9.1 shows the percentage of participants aged 25 and over who think that the NDIS has helped with outcomes related to each of the eight domains, after one year in the Scheme and after two years in the Scheme.

Figure 9.1 Percentage who think that the NDIS has helped with outcomes related to each domain

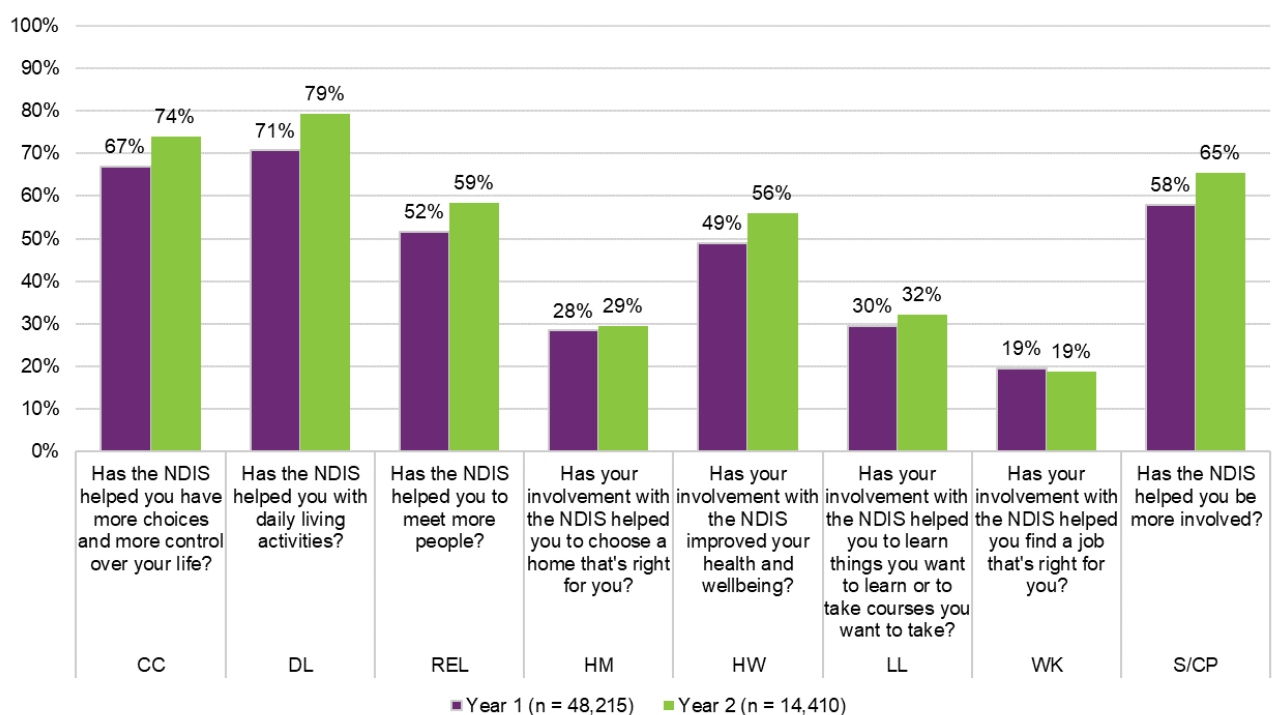


Figure 9.1 shows that opinions on whether the NDIS has helped vary considerably by domain for participants aged 25 and over. Compared to the 15 to 24 cohort, results tend to be more positive, but generally reflect a similar pattern by domain. However the young adult cohort is more likely to think that the NDIS has helped with education, and results for the work domain are similar for younger and older adults.

The percentage who think the NDIS has helped is highest for daily activities (70.7% after one year increasing to 79.3% after two years), followed by choice and control (66.8% after one year increasing to 74.0% after two years), participation (58.0% after one year increasing to 65.5% after two years), and relationships (51.6% after one year increasing to 58.5% after two years). These are all domains where the NDIS would be expected to have an impact. Percentages are slightly lower for health and wellbeing (49.0% and 55.9%), and lower still for lifelong learning (29.5% and 32.2%), home (28.4% and 29.4%) and work (18.7% and 19.4%). Improvements in the percentage of positive responses between one and two years are observed for all domains except work.

9.2 Results by participant characteristics

9.2.1 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:

- There is a strong trend towards responding more positively as baseline plan utilisation increases, for all eight domains. In particular, those with very low utilisation (below 20%) are much less likely to say that the NDIS has helped, and the positive response rate for participants with plan utilisation of 80% and over is 15 to 35 percentage points higher than for those with utilisation below 20%.
- Annualised baseline plan budget also has an impact on the likelihood of a positive response. A generally increasing trend towards responding positively as plan budget increases is observed, except for the work domain, where an initial increase is followed by a slight decline for plans above \$50,000. A similar pattern is observed for level of function, with the likelihood of a positive response tending to increase as participant's level of function decreases, apart from the work domain.
- Participants in supported independent living (SIL) are more likely to respond positively, across all domains but particularly for the home domain (57% versus 25% for other participants).
- The percentage who say that the NDIS has helped tends to increase with age for choice and control, daily living, home, and health and wellbeing. However, the reverse tends to be the case for relationships, lifelong learning, work, and social, community and civic participation, where younger participants tend to respond more positively. For work, the likelihood of responding positively is particularly low for participants aged 55 or over (likely related to retirement).
- The percentage responding positively is consistently lower across all domains for participants with deafness/hearing loss or another sensory/speech disorder, and is also generally lower for participants with visual impairment. Participants with an intellectual disability or Down syndrome tended to be more positive on average.
- Participants in WA, TAS and QLD tended to respond more positively, and those in NT, SA and VIC less positively. On a one-way basis, participants in ACT were the least positive in the home domain and the most positive in the health and wellbeing domain.
- Participants in regional areas with population between 5000 and 50,000 were more likely to think that the NDIS had helped compared to participants in larger regional areas or major cities. However, participants in remote and very remote areas were less likely to think that the NDIS had helped. These results are consistent with those for younger adults.
- There was a slight but consistent trend for CALD participants to respond less positively across all domains. Results for Indigenous participants were slightly worse across most domains. There were no appreciable differences by gender.

9.2.2 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.

Regression models for improvement include all participants who answered “No” at review 1 and model the probability of answering “Yes” at review 2 (between 3731 and 9822 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 2402 and 8981 participants).

Some key features of the analyses for helped question indicators are summarised below.

Has the NDIS helped you have more choices and more control over your life?

The percentage of participants reporting that the NDIS helped them have more choices and more control over their life increased 7.5% from 66.6% to 74.1% between the first review and the second review. Of those who responded negatively at the first review, 30.4% responded positively at the second review (improvement). Table 9.1 sets out the breakdown of the movements of responses.

Table 9.1 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	4,139	8,249	1,258	30.4%	332	4.0%	7.5%

- Participants whose plans were Agency managed were less likely to improve.
- Female participants were more likely to improve.
- Participants living in QLD and NSW were more likely to improve.
- SIL participants were more likely to improve and less likely to deteriorate.
- Indigenous participants were more likely to deteriorate.
- Participants with higher levels of NDIA support were less likely to deteriorate.
- Participants with lower level of function were more likely to deteriorate.

Has the NDIS helped you with daily living activities?

The percentage of participants reporting that the NDIS helped them with daily living activities increased 8.7% to 79.3% between the first review and the second review. Of those who responded negatively at the first review, 37.8% responded positively at the second review (improvement). Table 9.2 sets out the breakdown of the movements of responses.

Table 9.2 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	3,731	8,981	1,411	37.8%	309	3.4%	8.7%

- Female participants were more likely to improve.
- Participants with higher plan budget were more likely to improve.
- Participants living in Victoria were less likely to either improve or deteriorate.
- SIL participants were less likely to deteriorate.
- Participants with fully or partly self-managed plans were less likely to deteriorate compared to participants with an agency managed plan.
- Participants with a hearing impairment were more likely to deteriorate.
- Participants needing lower levels of NDIA support were more likely to deteriorate.
- Participants in more remote locations were less likely to deteriorate.
- Older participants were less likely to deteriorate.

Has the NDIS helped you to meet more people?

The percentage of participants reporting that the NDIS helped them meet more people increased 6.5% from 52.0% to 58.5% between the first review and the second review. Of those who responded negatively at the first review, 20.7% responded positively at the second review (improvement). Table 9.3 sets out the breakdown of the movements of responses.

Table 9.3 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	6,057	6,568	1,251	20.7%	436	6.6%	6.5%

- SIL participants were more likely to improve.
- New participants (not previously receiving supports from State/Territory or Commonwealth programs) were less likely to improve.
- Participants living in VIC were less likely to improve.
- Participants with lower level of function were more likely to improve, and those with higher plan budget were less likely to deteriorate.
- Participants with intellectual disability, Down syndrome, autism or cerebral palsy were more likely to improve, and participants with Down syndrome were less likely to deteriorate.

- Participants with higher levels of NDIA support were less likely to deteriorate.

Has your involvement with the NDIS helped you to choose a home that's right for you?

The percentage of participants reporting that the NDIS helped them choose a home that's right for them did not change materially between the first review (28.8%) and the second review (28.7%). Of those who responded negatively at the first review, 6.7% responded positively at the second review (improvement). Table 9.4 sets out the breakdown of the movements of responses.

Table 9.4 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	8,860	3,579	595	6.7%	610	17.0%	-0.1%

- SIL participants were much more likely to improve and much less likely to deteriorate.
- Participants living in NSW were more likely to improve. Participants living in ACT and WA were less likely to deteriorate, and those living in Queensland were more likely to deteriorate.
- Participants with higher levels of NDIA support were more likely to improve and less likely to deteriorate.
- Participants with lower level of function were more likely to improve.
- Older participants were less likely to deteriorate.

Has your involvement with the NDIS improved your health and wellbeing?

The percentage of participants reporting that the NDIS improved their health and wellbeing increased by 6.2% from 49.6% to 55.9% between the first review and the second review. Of those who responded negatively at the first review, 19.8% responded positively at the second review (improvement). Table 9.5 sets out the breakdown of the movements of responses.

Table 9.5 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	6,296	6,204	1,246	19.8%	465	7.5%	6.2%

- SIL participants were much more likely to improve and much less likely to deteriorate.
- Participants with an increase in plan utilisation between first and second review were more likely to improve.
- Participants with Agency managed plans were less likely to improve. Fully or partly self-managed participants were less likely to deteriorate.
- Participants living in NSW and QLD were more likely to improve.
- Participants living in more remote areas were more likely to improve.

- Participants with a psychosocial disability were more likely to improve, while participants with a hearing impairment were less likely to improve
- CALD participants were more likely to deteriorate.
- Older participants were less likely to deteriorate.

Has your involvement with the NDIS helped you to learn things you want to learn or to take courses you want to take?

The percentage of participants reporting that the NDIS helped them to learn things they want to learn or to take courses they want to take increased from 31.0% to 32.0% between the first review and the second review. Of those who responded negatively at the first review, 7.7% responded positively at the second review (improvement). Table 9.6 sets out the breakdown of the movements of responses.

Table 9.6 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	8,552	3,851	658	7.7%	539	14.0%	1.0%

- SIL participants were more likely to improve and less likely to deteriorate.
- Participants living in Victoria were less likely to improve.
- Participants who are new to the scheme were less likely to improve, compared to those previously receiving supports from State/Territory programs.
- Participants with an intellectual disability or Down syndrome were the most likely to improve, whereas those with a neurological or physical disability were less likely to improve.
- Older participants were less likely to improve and more likely to deteriorate.
- Participants with higher levels of NDIA support were less likely to deteriorate.

Has your involvement with the NDIS helped you find a job that's right for you?

The percentage of participants reporting that the NDIS helped them find a job that's right for them decreased from 19.6% to 18.7% between the first review and the second review. Of those who responded negatively at the first review, 3.7% responded positively at the second review (improvement). Table 9.7 sets out the breakdown of the movements of responses.

Table 9.7 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	9,822	2,402	362	3.7%	476	19.8%	-0.9%

- SIL participants were more likely to improve and less likely to deteriorate.
- Participants with Down syndrome or an intellectual disability were the most likely to improve.
- Participants with higher levels of NDIA support were more likely to improve.

- Participants previously receiving supports from Commonwealth programs were more likely to improve.
- Participants living in VIC were less likely to improve.
- Participants with higher proportions of capacity building supports in their plans were more likely to improve and less likely to deteriorate.
- Participants with lower level of function were less likely to improve.
- Older participants were less likely to improve.

Has the NDIS helped you be more involved?

The percentage of participants reporting that the NDIS helped them to be more involved increased by 6.7% to 65.5% between the first review and the second review. Of those who responded negatively at the first review, 23.1% responded positively at the second review (improvement). Table 9.8 sets out the breakdown of the movements of responses.

Table 9.8 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	5,144	7,330	1,190	23.1%	352	4.8%	6.7%

- SIL participants were more likely to improve and less likely to deteriorate.
- Participants with a larger increase in plan utilisation over the period were more likely to improve.
- Participants living in Queensland were more likely to improve while participants from Victoria were less likely.
- Participants with Down syndrome were the most likely to improve while participants with multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, a hearing impairment, a spinal cord injury or other physical disability were less likely to improve.
- Participants with lower level of function, and those with higher annualised plan budget, were more likely to improve.
- Participants with higher levels of NDIA support were less likely to deteriorate.
- CALD participants were more likely to deteriorate.