1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Families and carers play an important role in supporting NDIS participants. Improved outcomes for participants under the NDIS can be expected to facilitate this caring role, leading to improved outcomes for families and carers also.

This report summarises outcomes for families and carers of NDIS participants entering the Scheme during the four year period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2020, with outcomes measured at the time of entry to the Scheme (at “baseline”). The main focus is on families/carers of participants entering in the latest year (2019-20), but brief comparisons with results of prior year entrants are also provided. A separate report covers longitudinal change for families and carers of participants who have been in the Scheme for one year or more at 30 June 2020. Two previous reports have covered both baseline and longitudinal experience of families and carers, as at 30 June 2018 and 30 June 2019.[6]

Participants entering the Scheme at different times may have different characteristics (for example, due to phasing). Hence, for the participants whose families and carers are the subject of this report, a brief summary of how 2019-20 entrants compare to participants entering in the earlier three year period is also provided, on key characteristics such as disability and level of function.

The purpose of this report is to provide a snapshot view of family/carer outcomes at the time the participants they support enter the Scheme, based on information provided by them in interviews conducted using the NDIS outcomes framework questionnaires. At this time, the NDIS has not had an opportunity to have an impact on outcomes. The separate longitudinal report considers how far families/carers have progressed since the participants they support entered the Scheme. Together, the reports provide insight into how the Scheme is making a difference, and point to any areas where improvements may be required.

The present report focusses on results. Readers requiring further background should refer to the previous reports, which contains additional information regarding the broader scope of outcomes measurement within the NDIA, and the development and implementation of the outcomes framework questionnaires.

1.2 Overview

The remainder of the report is organised as follows:

- Section 2 contains results for families/carers of participants from birth to age 14.
- Section 3 contains results for families/carers of participants aged 15 to 24.
- Section 4 contains results for families/carers of participants aged 25 and over.

More detailed results (both baseline and longitudinal) contained in the Appendices include:

- Appendix A: Variables used in the regression modelling
- Appendix B: Families/carers of participants aged 0 to 14
- Appendix C: Families/carers of participants aged 15 to 24
- Appendix D: Families/carers of participants aged 25 and over.

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[6] Family and carer outcomes report | NDIS

1.3 Questionnaires

Table 1.1 sets out the questionnaire versions and domains, including letter codes used in the report.

Table 1.1 Outcomes framework versions and domains for families/carers

Domain	Participants aged 0 to 14	Participants aged 15 to 24	Participants aged 25 and over
Families/carers know their rights and advocate effectively for their family member with disability (RA)	✓	✓	✓
Families/carers feel supported (SP)	✓	✓	✓
Families/carers are able to gain access to desired services, programs and activities in their community (AC)	✓	✓	✓
Families/carers enjoy health and wellbeing (HW)	✓	✓	✓
Families/carers help their child develop (DV)	✓		
Families/carers help their young person become independent (IN)		✓	
Families/carers have succession plans (SC)			✓
Families/carers understand their child's strengths, abilities and special needs (UN) (LF only)	✓	✓	

The report also includes information not included in any of the specific domains, on employment (WK) and receipt of government benefits (GB).