



Participant outcomes | Executive summary

To 30 June 2021

National Disability Insurance Agency

ndis

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Summary of results for participants aged from:

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Results for each age cohort include:

- Notable changes in indicators over one, two, three and four years in the Scheme
- Perceptions of whether the NDIS has helped

Summary of findings

Background

This report



This report summarises longitudinal outcomes for participants entering the Scheme from 1 July 2016, and who have been in the Scheme for one year or more at 30 June 2021, using data available as at 30 June 2021.

The purpose of the report is to provide a picture of how participants are progressing under the NDIS, based on information provided by them in interviews conducted using the NDIS outcomes framework questionnaires.

The report summarises the number, extent and nature of changes across key outcome indicators. The results are intended to provide insight into how the Scheme is making a difference, and point to any areas where improvements may be required.

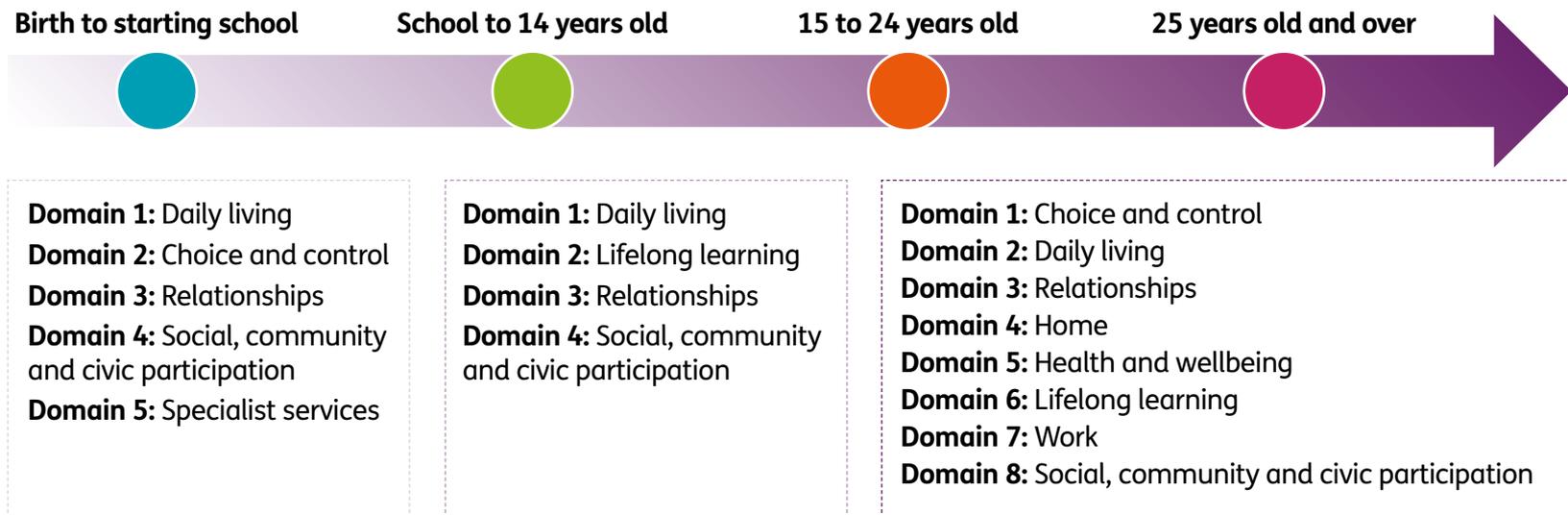
The present report builds on the work of previous reports:

<https://data.ndis.gov.au/reports-and-analyses/outcomes-and-goals/participant-outcomes-report>

Outcomes framework

A lifespan approach to measuring participants' goals and outcomes across main life domains has been used.

Lifespan approach: four age-based cohorts



While most domains overlap, goals and outcomes may differ depending on the age group.

This approach facilitates monitoring of participants' progress over time, as well as benchmarking to Australians without disability and to other OECD countries.

Short Form (SF) and Long Form (LF)



The **Short Form (SF)** outcomes questionnaire is completed by all participants, and contains questions useful for planning as well as key indicators to monitor and benchmark over time.

The **Long Form (LF)** is completed for a subset of participants, and includes some additional questions allowing more detailed investigation of participant experience, and additional benchmarking.

For both the SF and the LF, participants are interviewed at baseline (Scheme entry), and approximately annually thereafter. Following the same group of participants longitudinally over time allows within-individual changes in outcomes to be investigated.

Progression towards better outcomes

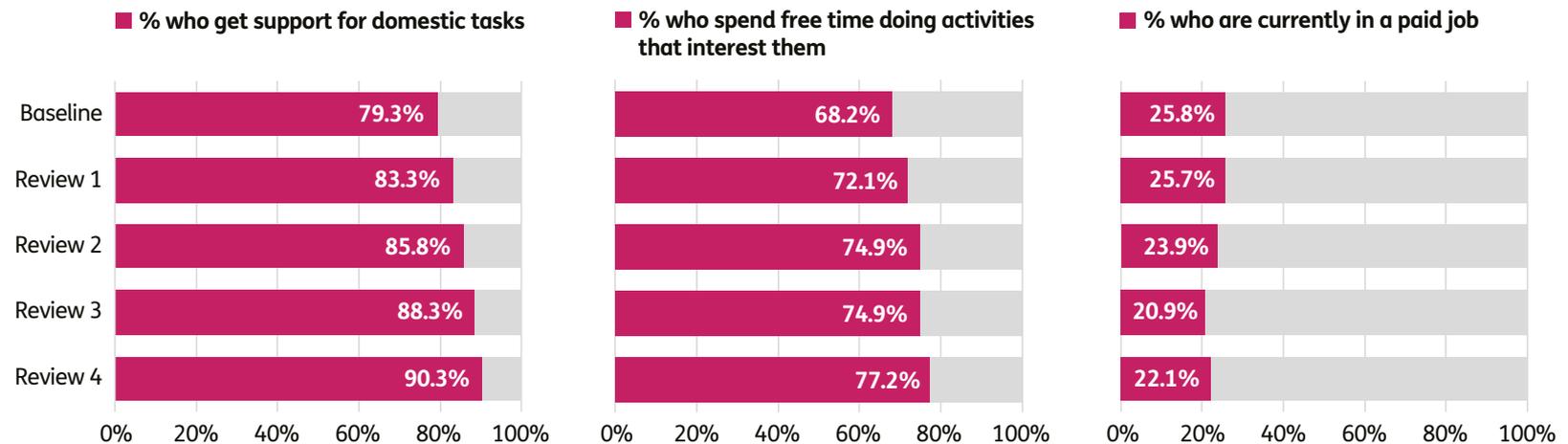
Success should be measured on how far participants have come since entering the Scheme (at “baseline”), acknowledging different starting points.

Whilst some outcomes should improve relatively quickly (such as assistance with daily living), others are much more long-term in nature (for example, employment), and measurable progress may take some years to emerge.

Participants do not enter the Scheme on an equal footing – baseline outcomes vary by a number of factors, such as:

- the nature of the participant’s disability and how it affects their life
- the extent of support received from family and friends
- how inclusive their community is
- their health and other personal traits.

Participants age 25 and over



Longitudinal cohorts

Longitudinal results for outcome indicators are considered separately for four cohorts of participants:

- Participants who have been in the Scheme for four years at 30 June 2021 (C4 cohort)
- Participants who have been in the Scheme for three years at 30 June 2021 (C3 cohort)
- Participants who have been in the Scheme for two years at 30 June 2021 (C2 cohort)
- Participants who have been in the Scheme for one year at 30 June 2021 (C1 cohort)

These four cohorts are distinct (that is, a participant contributing to the longitudinal analysis belongs to one cohort only).

COVID-19 pandemic

Also of key note is the global pandemic that took hold from early 2020, which is likely to have had an impact on at least some participant outcomes, such as community participation, and for older age groups, employment.

For more information on the potential impact of COVID-19 on outcomes to 30 June 2020, see:

<https://data.ndis.gov.au/reports-and-analyses/outcomes-and-goals/covid-19-impact-participant-and-familycarer-outcomes-30-june-2020>

Participants from birth to before starting school

Participants from birth to before starting school

For children in the birth to before starting school cohort, the outcomes framework seeks to measure the extent to which participants are:

- **Gaining functional, developmental and coping skills appropriate to their ability and circumstances** (daily living)
- **Showing evidence of autonomy in their everyday lives** (choice and control)
- **Using specialist services that assist them to be included in families and communities** (use of specialist services)
- **Participating meaningfully in family life** (relationships)
- **Participating meaningfully in community life** (social, community and civic participation)

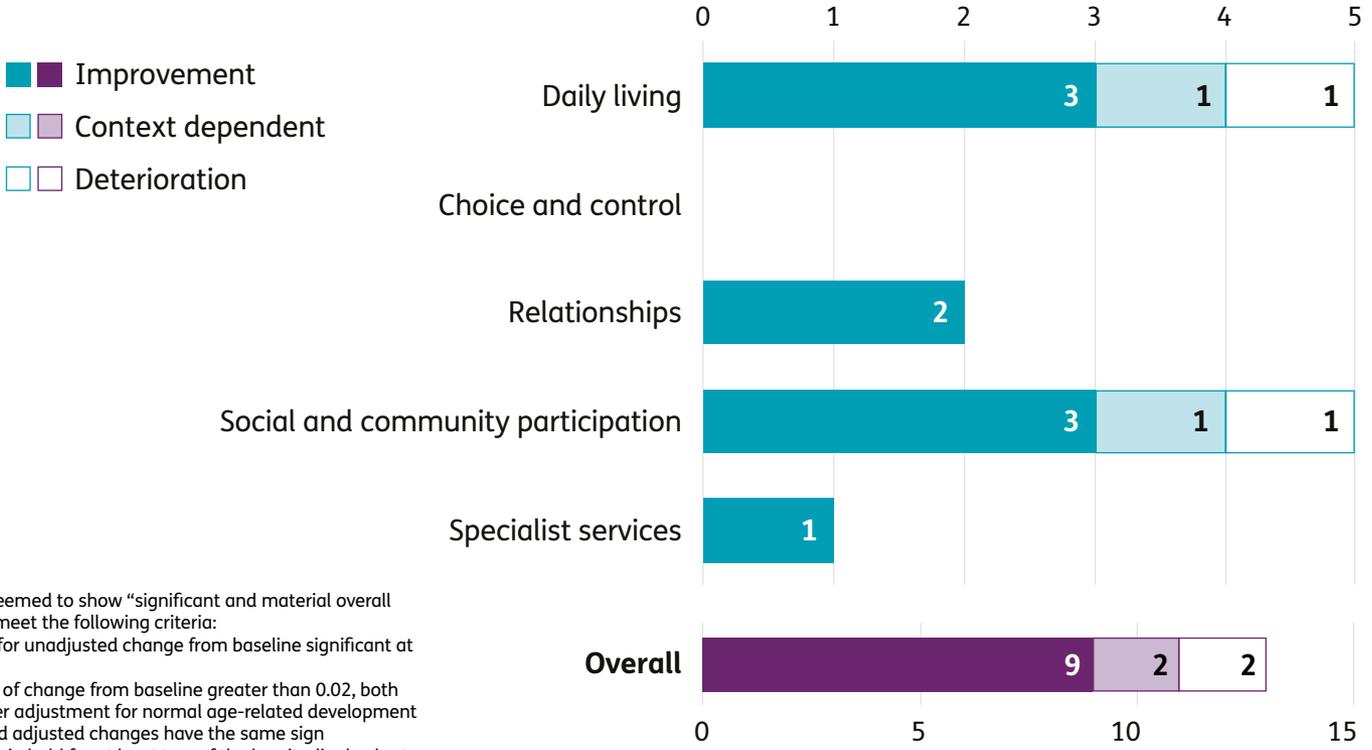
Number of participants in each longitudinal cohort¹:

Form	C1	C2	C3	C4
SF	24,689	5,716	1,127	104
LF	546	141	22	N/A

¹ The table shows the potential number of respondents, however, not all of them responded to each question. The number of missing responses is small and varies by indicator. Only C1-C3 cohorts are shown for the LF, due to small numbers available in C4.

Participants from birth to before starting school

Number of indicators with significant and material overall change by domain¹



¹ Indicators are deemed to show “significant and material overall change” if they meet the following criteria:

- McNemar test for unadjusted change from baseline significant at the 5% level
- Absolute value of change from baseline greater than 0.02, both before and after adjustment for normal age-related development
- Unadjusted and adjusted changes have the same sign
- The above criteria hold for at least two of the longitudinal cohorts

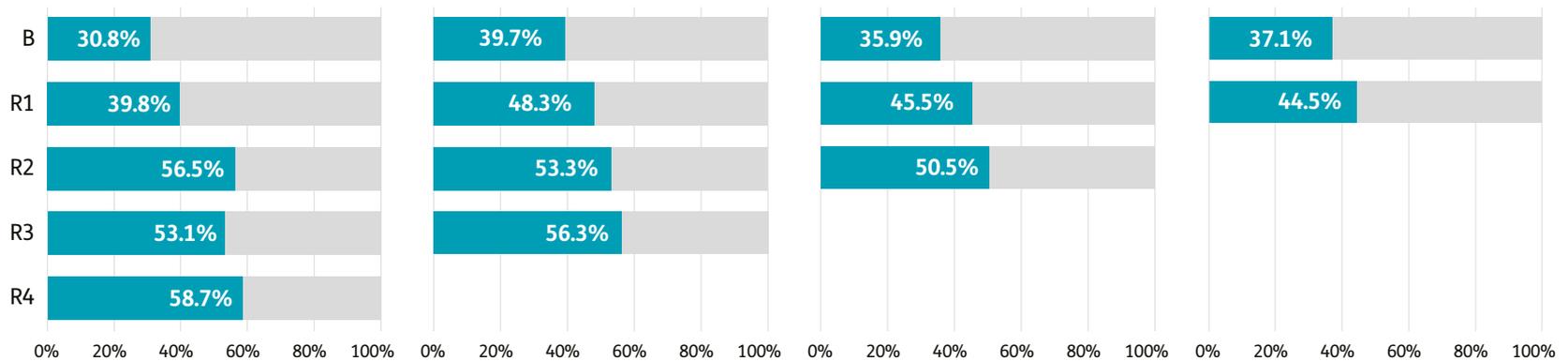
Numbers of indicators meeting the above criteria are presented. A total of 45 indicators were considered.

Participants from birth to before starting school

Social, community and civic participation

Friendships

My child has friends they enjoy playing with



For participants who have been in the Scheme for **four years**, the percentage increased by 27.9 percentage points between baseline and fourth review, from 30.8% to 58.7%.

For participants who have been in the Scheme for **three years**, the percentage increased by 16.6 percentage points between baseline and third review, from 39.7% to 56.1%, including a 3.0 percentage-point increase in the latest year.

For participants who have been in the Scheme for **two years**, the percentage increased by 14.6 percentage points between baseline and second review, from 35.9% to 50.5%, including a 5.0 percentage-point increase in the latest year.

For participants who have been in the Scheme for **one year**, there was a one year improvement of 7.4 percentage points, from 37.1% to 44.5%.

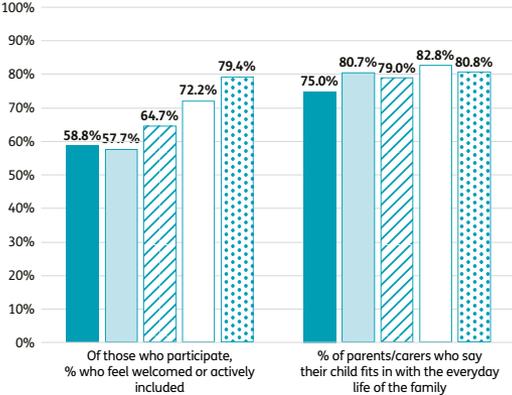
Participants from birth to before starting school

Feeling welcomed and fitting into family life

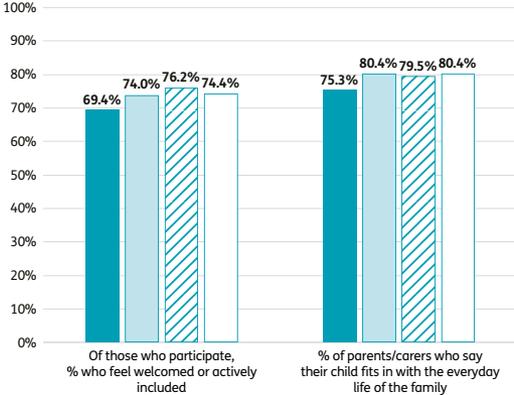
For those who participate in community, cultural or religious activities, there is an increasing trend in the percentage of children feeling welcomed or actively included. This occurs for all cohorts but is most pronounced for participants who have been in the Scheme for four years – a 20.6 percentage-point increase between baseline and fourth review.

There is also an increasing trend in the percentage of parents/ carers reporting that their child fits in with the everyday life of the family, which has increased for all cohorts between baseline and latest review. The largest improvement occurs at first review, for all cohorts.

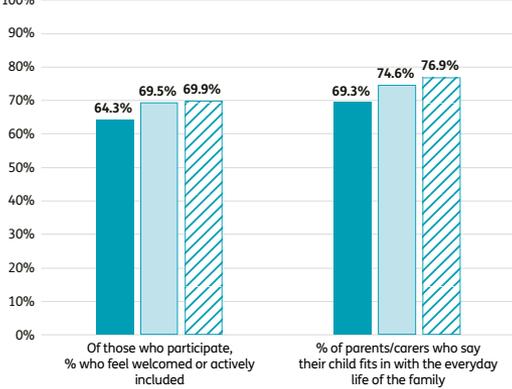
Four years in the Scheme



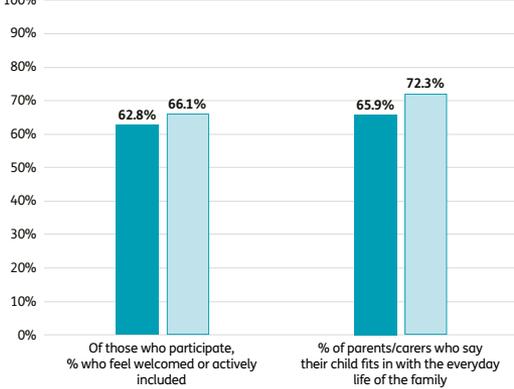
Three years in the Scheme



Two years in the Scheme



One year in the Scheme



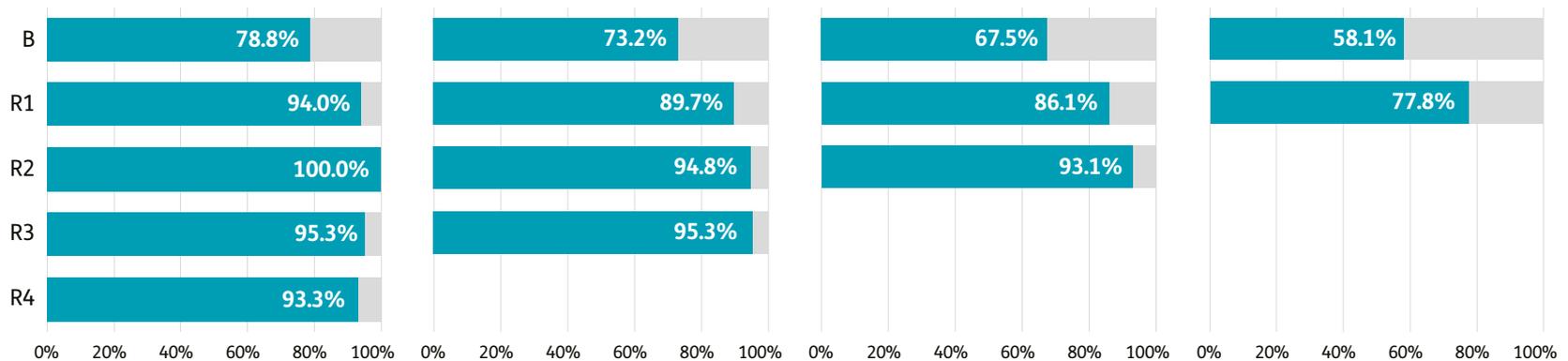
■ Baseline ■ Review 1 ▨ Review 2 □ Review 3 ▩ Review 4

Participants from birth to before starting school

Specialist services

Use of services

My child uses specialist services



For participants who have been in the Scheme for **four years**, the percentage increased by 14.5 percentage points between baseline and fourth review, from 78.8% to 93.3%. However, there has been a decrease of 6.7 percentage points over the last two years.

For participants who have been in the Scheme for **three years**, the percentage increased by 22.1 percentage points between baseline and third review, from 73.2% to 95.3%.¹

For participants who have been in the Scheme for **two years**, the percentage increased by 25.6 percentage points between baseline and second review, from 67.5% to 93.1%, including a 7.0 percentage-point increase in the latest year.

For participants who have been in the Scheme for **one year**, there was a one year improvement of 19.7 percentage points, from 58.1% to 77.8%.

¹ This indicator did not change significantly over participants' latest year in the Scheme.

Participants from birth to before starting school

Specialist services

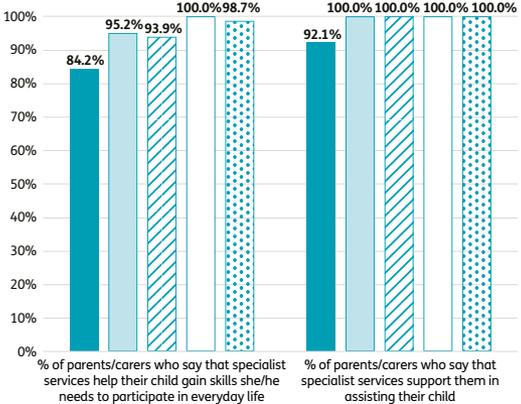
Gaining skills and assisting child

Overall, there is an increasing trend (across all cohorts) in the percentage of parents/carers who report that the specialist services help their child to gain key skills and support them in assisting their child.

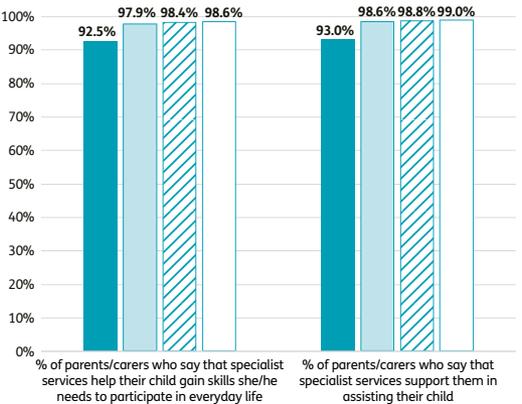
This is most pronounced for participants who have been in the Scheme for four years – a 14.5 and 7.9 percentage-point increase between baseline and fourth review in terms of gaining skills and being supported, respectively.

For children in the Scheme for one to three years, there are increases in the range of 5.4 to 7.8 percentage points compared to baseline.

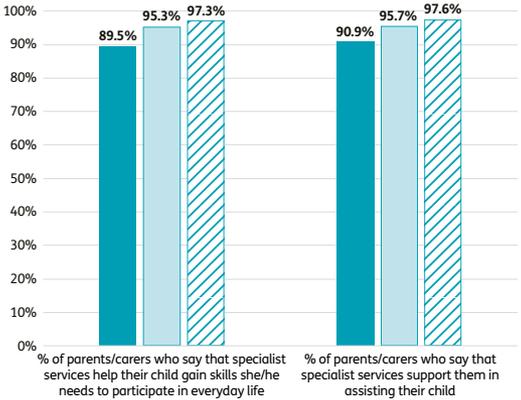
Four years in the Scheme



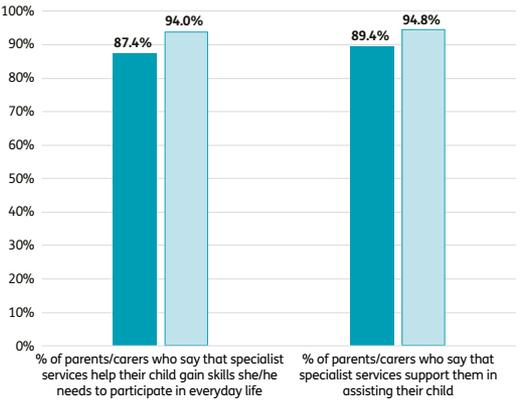
Three years in the Scheme



Two years in the Scheme



One year in the Scheme



■ Baseline ■ Review 1 ▨ Review 2 □ Review 3 ▩ Review 4

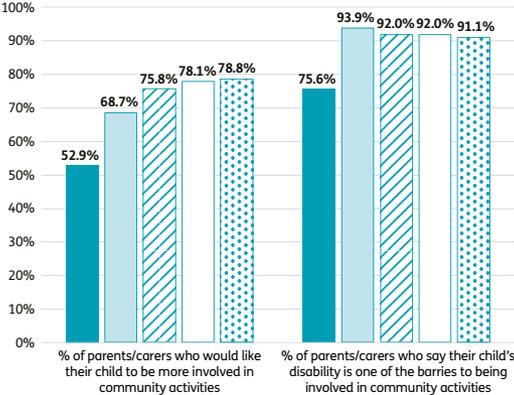
Participants from birth to before starting school

Concerns about involvement in community activities

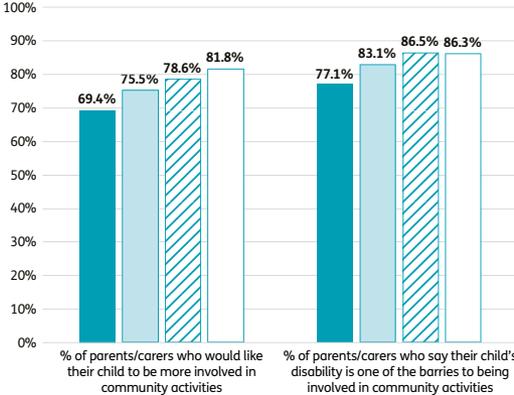
The percentage who want their child to be more involved in community activities has increased for all four cohorts since baseline. However, the increases are less pronounced over the latest two years for participants who have been in the Scheme for four years – 2.3 and 0.7 percentage points, respectively.

Considering those parents/ carers who report that their child’s disability is a barrier to greater involvement – the percentage has increased overall since baseline, across all age cohorts. However, there has been a stabilisation over the latest year for those in the Scheme three or four years.

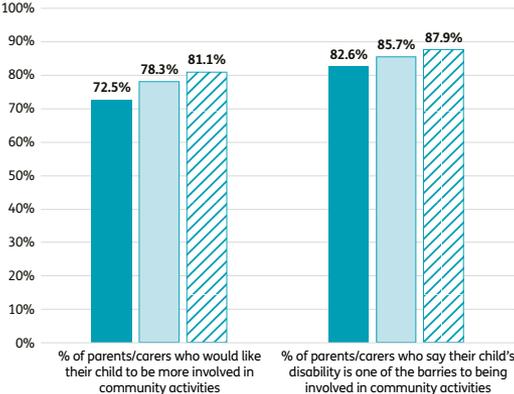
Four years in the Scheme



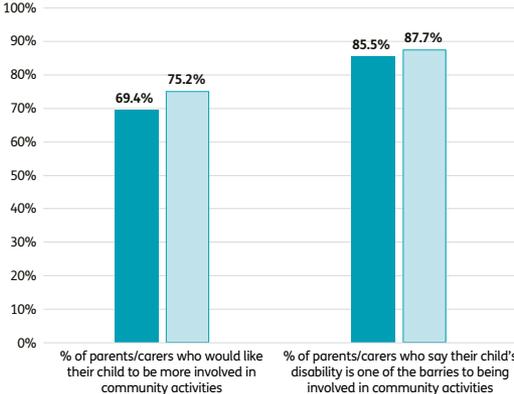
Three years in the Scheme



Two years in the Scheme



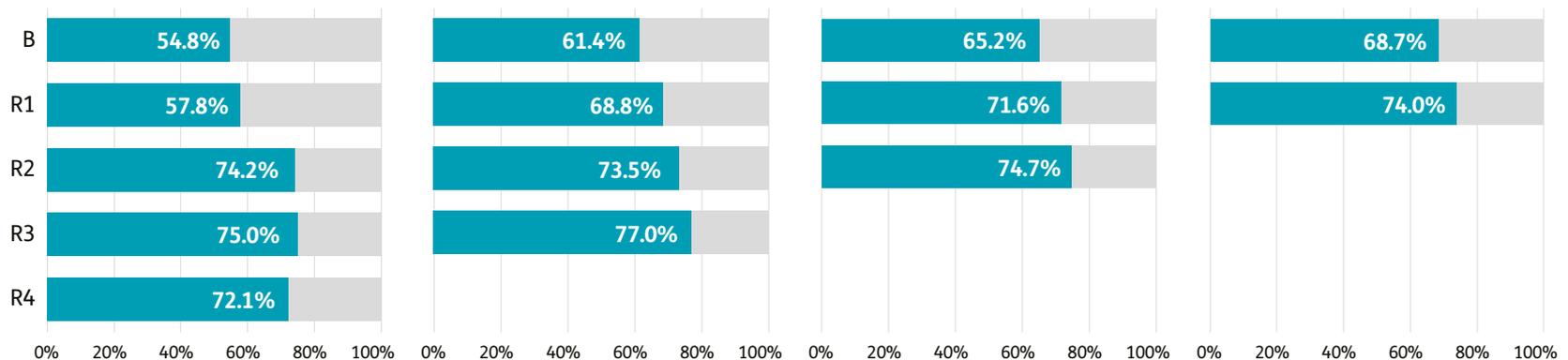
One year in the Scheme



■ Baseline ■ Review 1 ▨ Review 2 □ Review 3 ▩ Review 4

Participants from birth to before starting school

Concerns about development in six or more areas¹



For participants who have been in the Scheme for **four years**, the percentage increased by 17.3 percentage points between baseline and fourth review, from 54.8% to 72.1%. However, there has been a decrease of 2.9 percentage points in the latest year.

For participants who have been in the Scheme for **three years**, the percentage increased by 15.6 percentage points between baseline and third review, from 61.4% to 77.0%, including a 3.5 percentage-point increase in the latest year.

For participants who have been in the Scheme for **two years**, the percentage increased by 9.5 percentage points between baseline and second review, from 65.2% to 74.7%, including a 3.1 percentage-point increase in the latest year.

For participants who have been in the Scheme for **one year**, there was a one year increase of 5.3 percentage points, from 68.7% to 74.0%.

¹ Parents/carers are asked whether they have concerns about their child's development in eight areas (shown on the next slide). This slide shows the percentage who say they have concerns in six or more of these eight areas. Note that an increase in the percentage indicates deterioration.

Participants from birth to before starting school

Concerns about development in eight areas

Participants who have been in the Scheme for four years

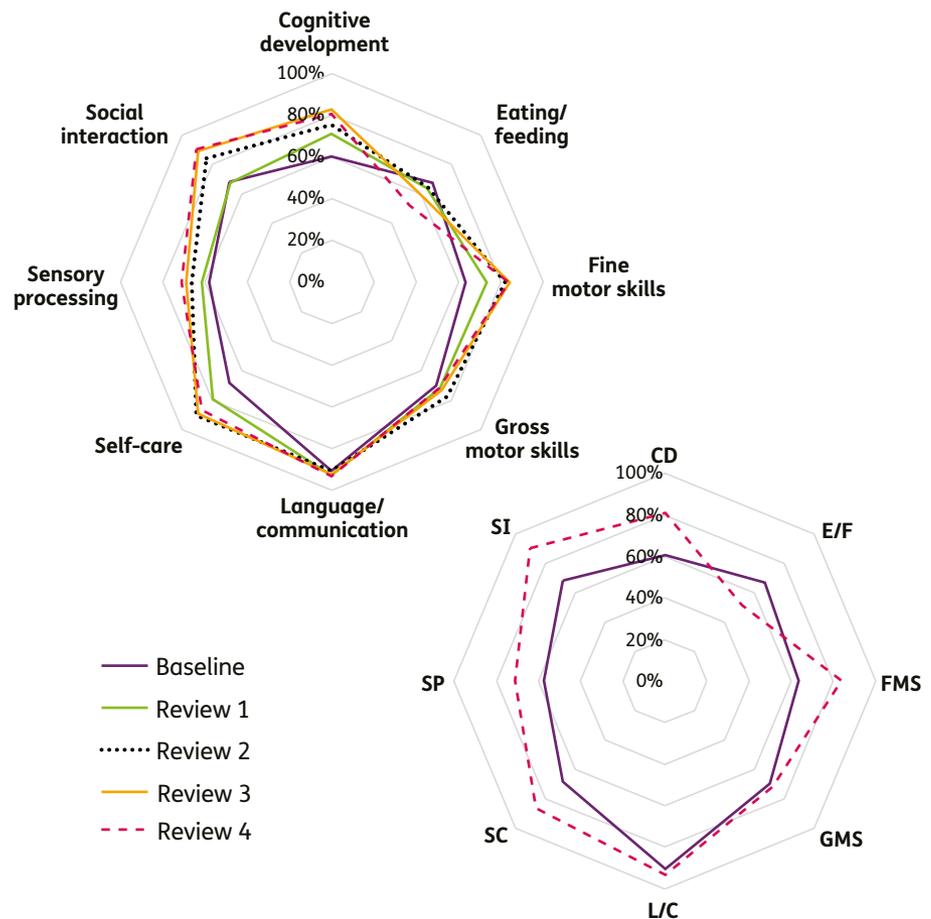
Language/communication was the area with the highest percentage of concerns at fourth review (93.3%), followed by social interaction (90.4%) and self-care (86.5%).

Eating/feeding was by far the area with the lowest percentage of concerns (51.9%).

Compared to baseline, the percentage of parents/carers expressing concern about their child's development after four years in the Scheme has:

- increased in five out of the eight areas - social interaction (22.1 percentage points), cognitive development and fine motor skills (20.2 percentage points), self-care (18.3 percentage points) and sensory processing (13.5 percentage points).
- increased slightly for gross motor skills and language/communication by 1.9 and 2.9 percentage points, respectively.
- decreased by 15.4 percentage points for eating/feeding.

Over the latest year there were small changes across most areas (between -0.7 and +2.4 percentage points except for eating/feeding, which had the largest change, a 7.5 percentage-point decrease).

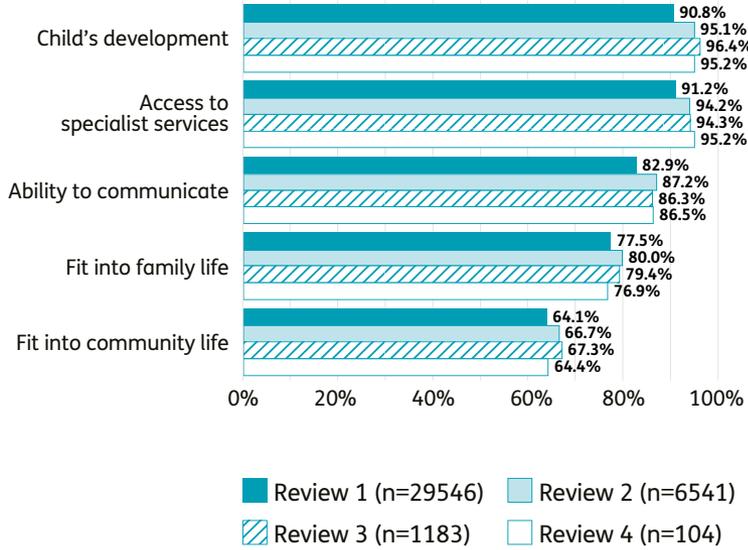


Participants from birth to before starting school

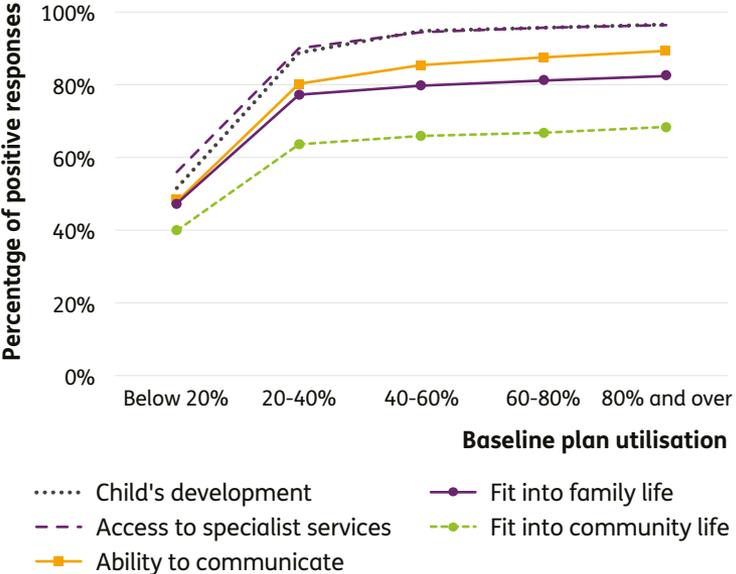
Has the NDIS helped?

Opinions on whether the NDIS has helped tend to be positive, particularly in relation to the child’s development (90.8% after one year in the Scheme, increasing to 96.4% after three years) and access to specialist services (91.2% after one year in the Scheme, increasing to 95.2% after four years). Overall opinions changed to varying degrees across the five domains. For example, the percentage who say the NDIS has helped their child fit into family life increased by 2.5 percentage points between first and second review, but decreased by 3.1 percentage points over the next two years. Higher plan utilisation is strongly associated with a positive response after one year in the Scheme, across all five domains. The largest improvement is between utilisation bands 0-20% and 20-40%, an increase of around 30% in each domain.

Percentage of positive responses



By baseline plan utilisation rate, outcomes after one year



Participants

**from starting
school to age 14**

Participants from starting school to age 14

From starting school to the early teenage years, the outcomes framework seeks to measure the extent to which participants:

- **Grow in independence** (daily living)
- **Are welcomed and educated in their local school** (lifelong learning)
- **Form friendships with peers and have positive relationships with family** (relationships)
- **Participate in local social and recreational activities** (social, community and civic participation)

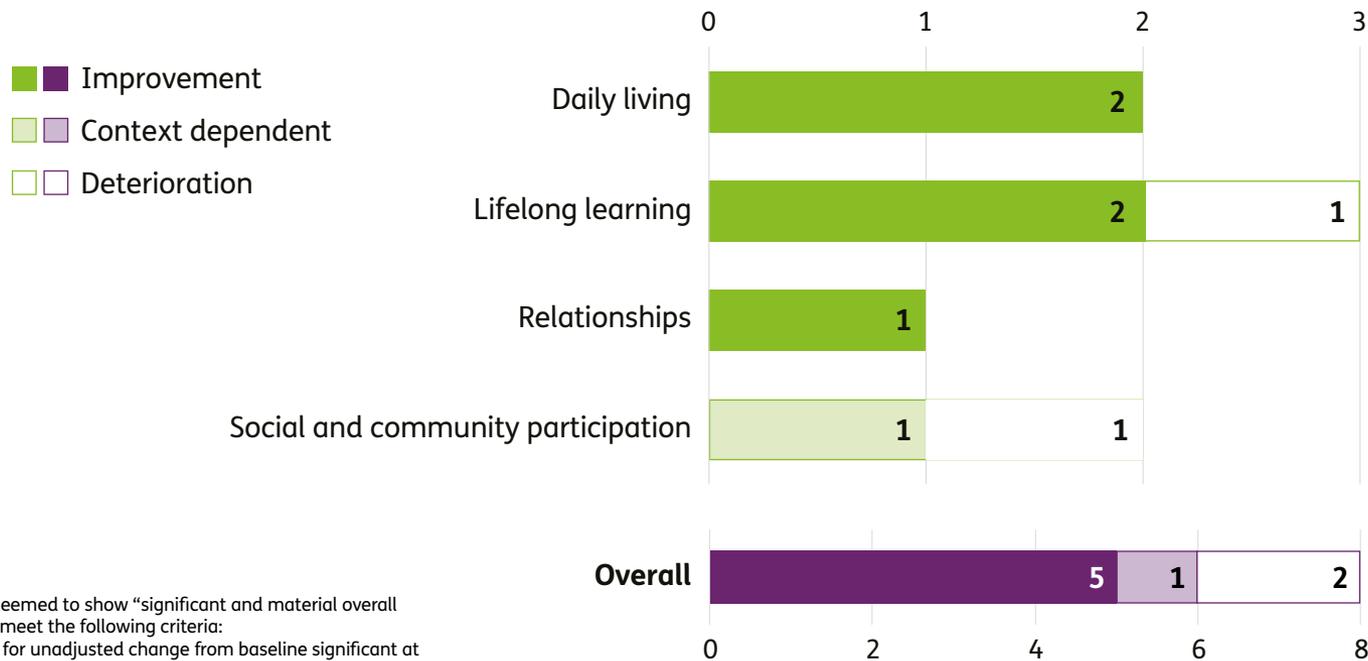
Number of participants in each longitudinal cohort¹:

Form	C1	C2	C3	C4
SF	36,906	21,676	10,715	3,222
LF	884	441	236	N/A

¹ The table shows the potential number of respondents, however, not all of them responded to each question. The number of missing responses is small and varies by indicator. Only C1-C3 cohorts are shown for the LF, due to small numbers available in C4.

Participants from starting school to age 14

Number of indicators with significant and material overall change by domain¹



¹ Indicators are deemed to show “significant and material overall change” if they meet the following criteria:

- McNemar test for unadjusted change from baseline significant at the 5% level
- Absolute value of change from baseline greater than 0.02, both before and after adjustment for normal age-related development
- Unadjusted and adjusted changes have the same sign
- The above criteria hold for at least two of the longitudinal cohorts

Numbers of indicators meeting the above criteria are presented. A total of 43 indicators were considered.

Participants from starting school to age 14

Daily living

Independence and managing the demands of their world

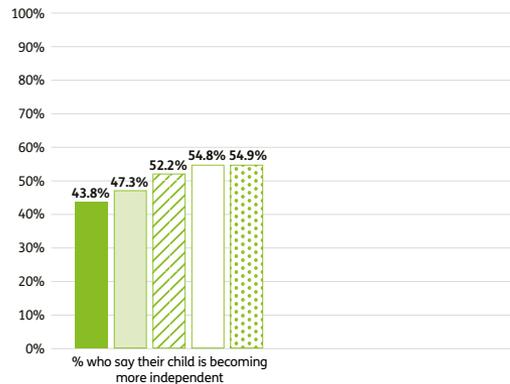
The percentage of parents/carers reporting positive outcomes in daily living has increased.

Becoming more independent – For participants who have been in the Scheme for four years, the percentage increased by 11.1 percentage points between baseline and fourth review. For children in the Scheme for one, two and three years, there were increases of 6.7, 9.4 and 9.6 percentage points, respectively, from baseline. Improvements were stronger after adjusting for normal age-related development (8.5% to 19.6%).

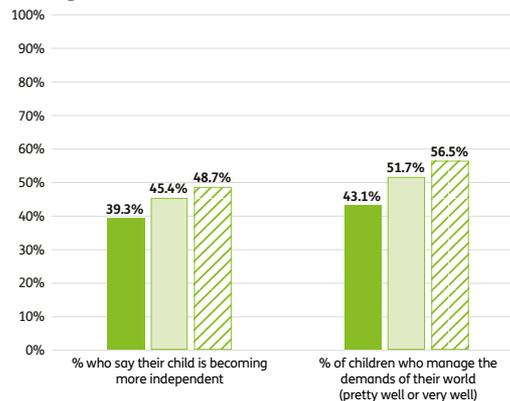
Managing the demands of their world¹ – Increases of 6.2, 13.4, and 14.5 percentage points from baseline have been observed for children in the Scheme for one, two or three years.

¹ Note that due to small numbers, this indicator is not available for participants who have been in the Scheme for four years.

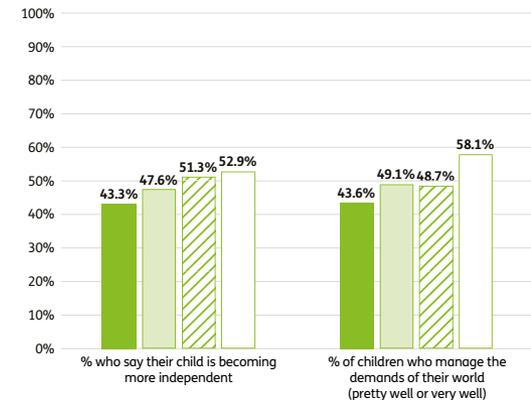
Four years in the Scheme



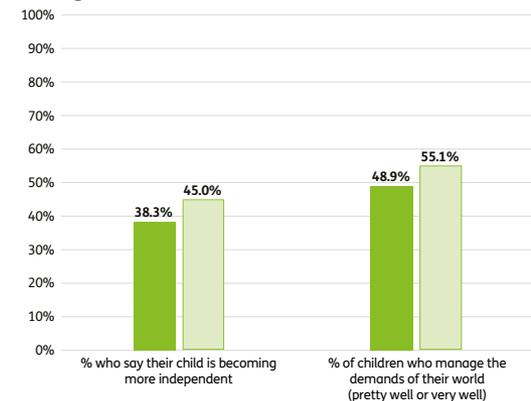
Two years in the Scheme



Three years in the Scheme



One year in the Scheme



■ Baseline ■ Review 1 ▨ Review 2 □ Review 3 ▤ Review 4

Participants from starting school to age 14

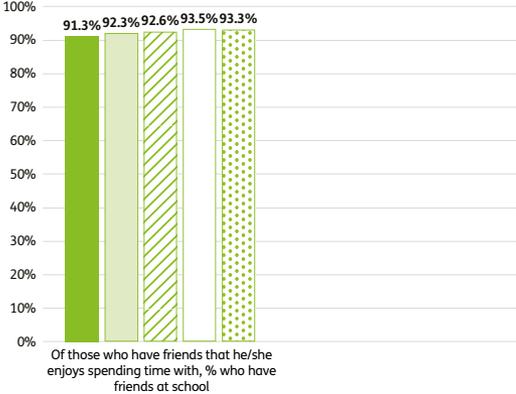
Lifelong learning and relationships

Knowing goals and connections at school

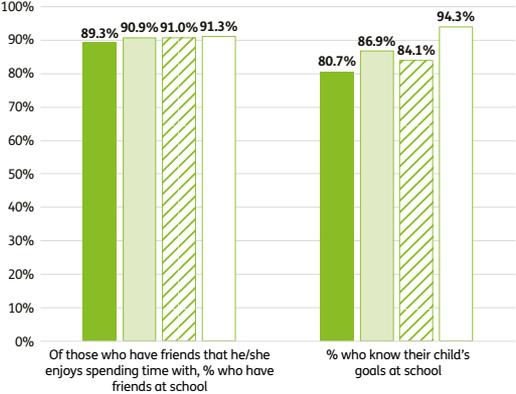
There is an increasing trend in the percentage of children who have friends at school,¹ with a 2.0 percentage-point increase between baseline and latest review for those participants in the Scheme for more than one year.

Across all cohorts, there is an increasing trend in the percentage of parents/carers who know their child's goals at school – a 13.6 percentage-point increase between baseline and third review² for participants who have been in the Scheme for three years, and 10.0 and 16.6 percentage-point increases for participants in the Scheme for one and two years, respectively.

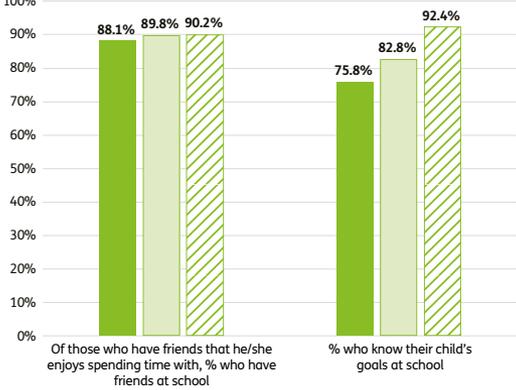
Four years in the Scheme



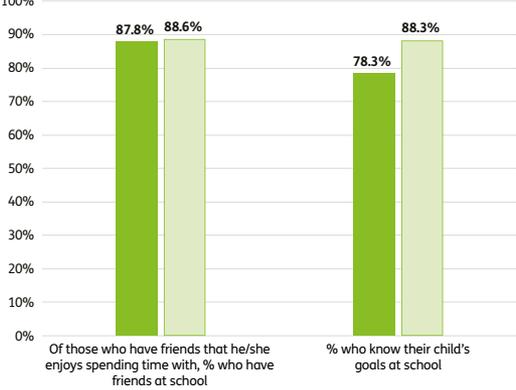
Three years in the Scheme



Two years in the Scheme



One year in the Scheme



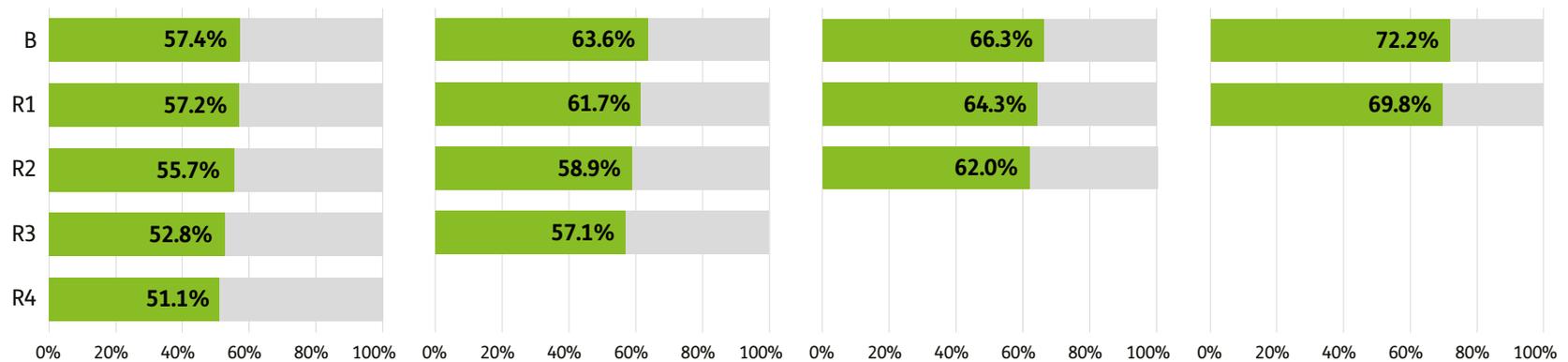
■ Baseline ■ Review 1 ▨ Review 2 □ Review 3 ▤ Review 4

¹ Of those that say yes to having friends that they enjoy spending time with.
² Note that due to small numbers, the goals indicator is not available for participants in the Scheme for four years.

Participants from starting school to age 14

Lifelong learning

Attending school in a mainstream class



For participants who have been in the Scheme for four years, the percentage of children attending school in a mainstream class decreased by 6.3 percentage points between baseline and fourth review, from 57.4% to 51.1%, including a 1.7 percentage-point decline in the latest year.

For participants who have been in the Scheme for three years, the percentage decreased by 6.5 percentage points between baseline and third review, from 63.6% to 57.1%, including a 1.8 percentage-point decline in the latest year.

For participants who have been in the Scheme for two years, the percentage decreased by 4.3 percentage points between baseline and second review, from 66.3% to 62.0%, including a 2.3 percentage-point decline in the latest year.

For participants who have been in the Scheme for one year, there was a one year deterioration of 2.4 percentage points, from 72.2% to 69.8%.

Participants from starting school to age 14

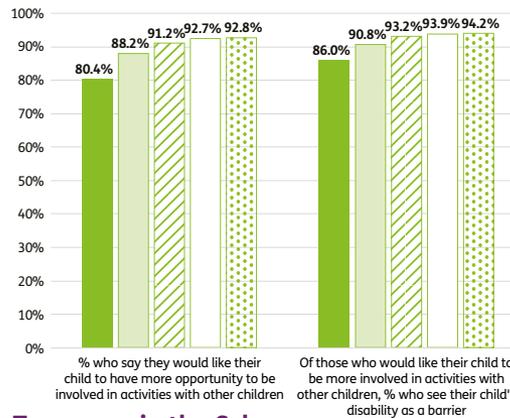
Concerns about involvement in social activities

Concerns about involvement in social activities have increased among all cohorts.

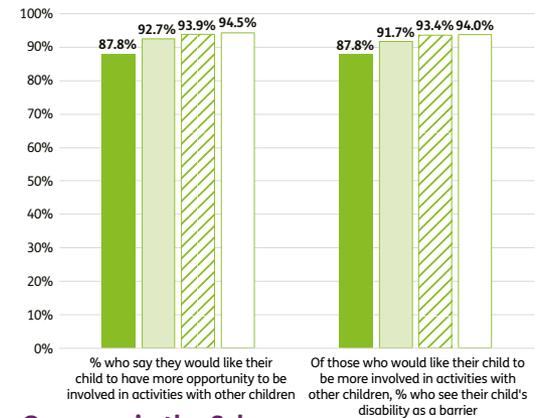
The percentage of parents/ carers who want their child to be more involved in activities with other children increased for all four cohorts compared to baseline.

Additionally, the percentage who say that their child's disability is a barrier to greater involvement has increased for all four cohorts since baseline.

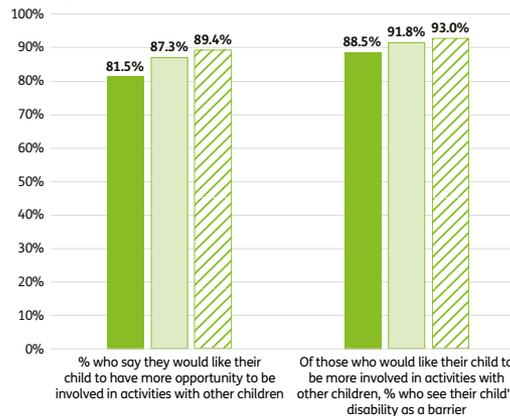
Four years in the Scheme



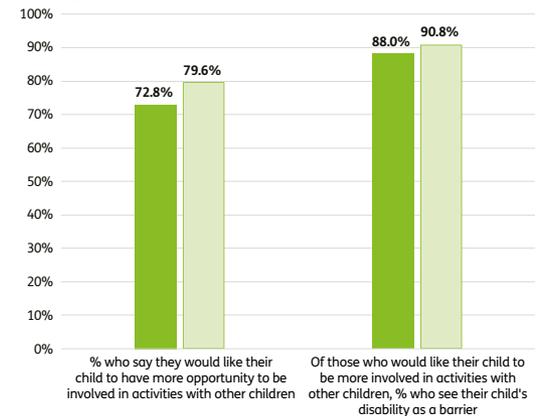
Three years in the Scheme



Two years in the Scheme



One year in the Scheme



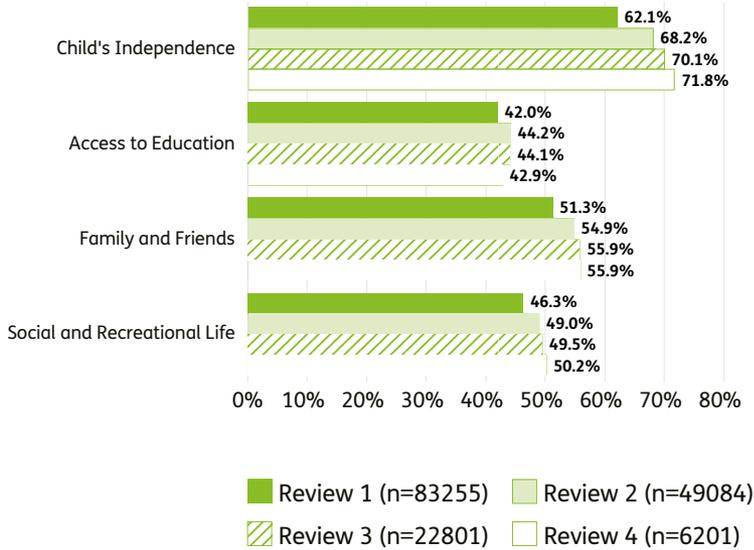
■ Baseline ■ Review 1 ▨ Review 2 □ Review 3 ▩ Review 4

Participants from starting school to age 14

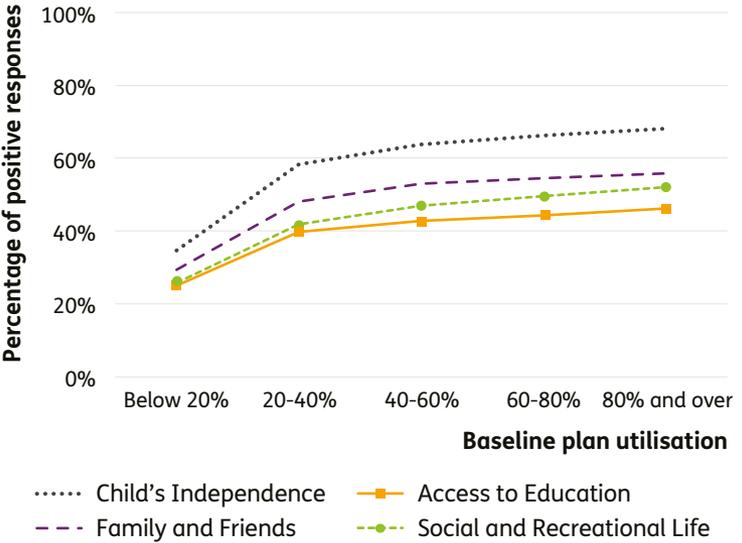
Has the NDIS helped?

Opinions on whether the NDIS has helped vary by domain for the starting school to 14 cohort. The percentage responding positively was lowest for access to education (42.0% after one year in the Scheme, increasing to about 44% at reviews 2 and 3 and then decreasing to 42.9% after four years) and highest for independence (62.1% after one year in the Scheme, increasing to 71.8% after four years). For education, however, the mainstream education system has a much bigger role in ensuring successful outcomes than the NDIS. The percentage who think that the NDIS has helped increased by 4-10 percentage points between first and fourth review across all domains except for access to education, where there was little change (1%). Higher plan utilisation is strongly associated with a positive response after one year in the Scheme. The improvement is especially large between utilisation bands 0-20% and 20-40%.

Percentage of positive responses



By baseline plan utilisation rate, outcomes after one year



Participants **aged 15 to 24**

Participants aged 15 to 24



Typically the young adult (15 to 24) cohort is characterised by increasing levels of independence and participation in community, with some individuals moving out of the family home, and transitioning from school to employment or further study.

The eight outcome domains are:

Choice and control	Health and wellbeing
Daily living	Lifelong learning
Relationships	Work
Home	Social, community and civic participation

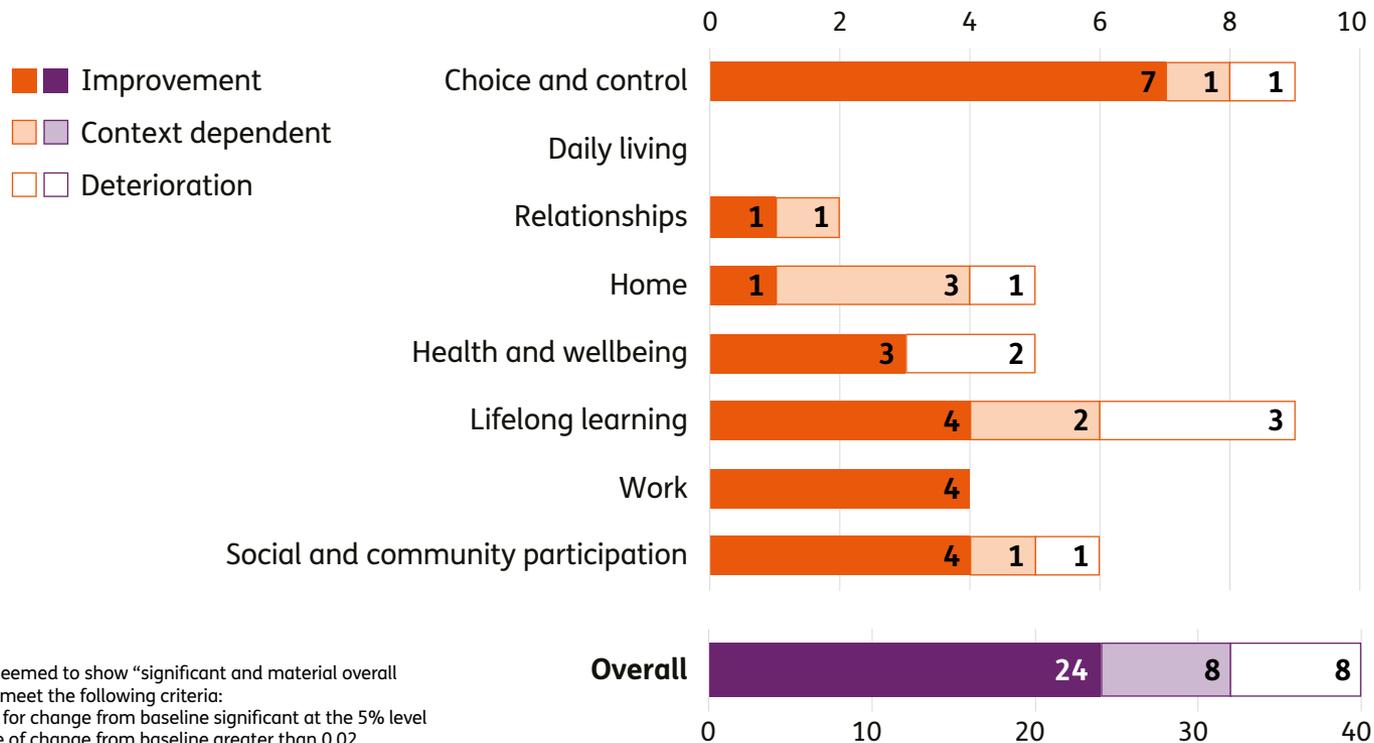
Number of participants in each longitudinal cohort¹:

Form	C1	C2	C3	C4
SF	16,293	10,844	6,145	2,053
LF	472	198	98	N/A

¹ The table shows the potential number of respondents, however, not all of them responded to each question. The number of missing responses is small and varies by indicator. Only C1-C3 cohorts are shown for the LF, due to small numbers available in C4.

Participants aged 15 to 24

Number of indicators with significant and material overall change by domain¹



¹ Indicators are deemed to show “significant and material overall change” if they meet the following criteria:

- McNemar test for change from baseline significant at the 5% level
- Absolute value of change from baseline greater than 0.02
- The above criteria hold for at least two of the longitudinal cohorts

Numbers of indicators meeting the above criteria are presented.
A total of 93 indicators were considered.

Participants aged 15 to 24

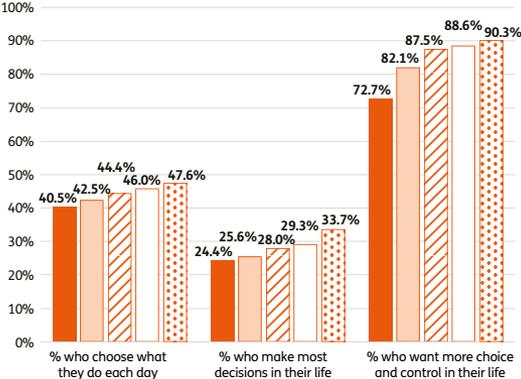
Choice and control

There are positive changes over time in choice and control outcomes across all cohorts.

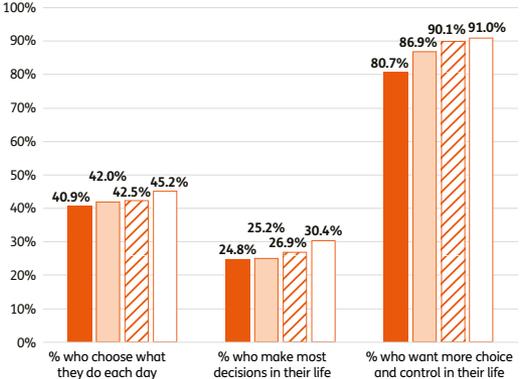
Participants aged 15 to 24 are increasingly likely to choose what they do each day (a 7.1 percentage-point increase over four years), and to make most decisions in their life (a 9.3 percentage-point increase).

However, there is also an increasing trend in the percentage of participants who want more choice and control in their life (a 17.6 percentage-point increase over four years). This may suggest that participants are becoming more empowered and want more agency over their choices, or it may be flagging challenges to exerting choice and control.

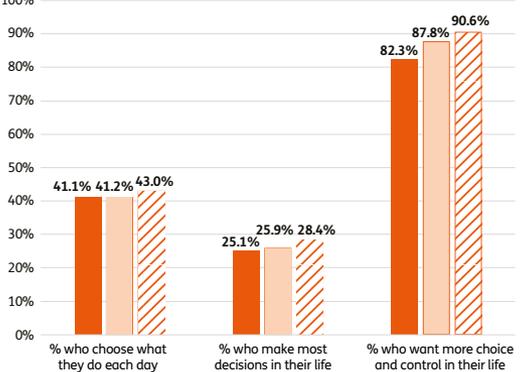
Four years in the Scheme



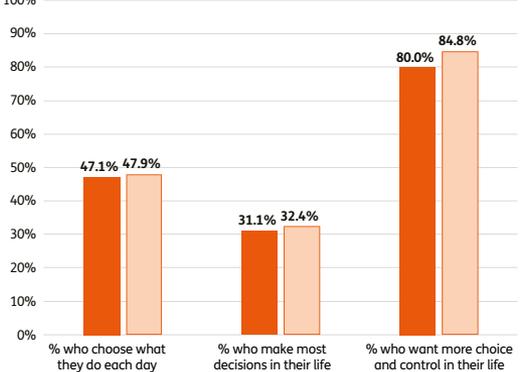
Three years in the Scheme



Two years in the Scheme



One year in the Scheme



■ Baseline ■ Review 1 ▨ Review 2 □ Review 3 ▩ Review 4

Participants aged 15 to 24

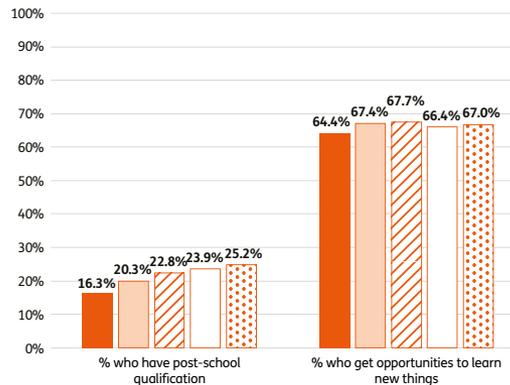
Lifelong learning

Post-school qualifications and opportunities to learn

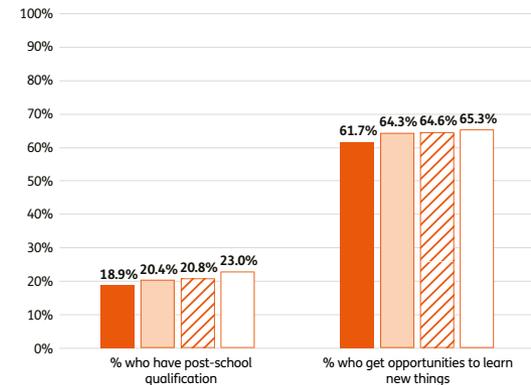
There were positive changes in lifelong learning outcomes for participants across all cohorts, with:

- an increasing trend in the percentage of participants who have a post-school qualification. The percentage increased by 8.9 percentage points for participants in the Scheme for four years, with smaller increases for other cohorts.
- an increase of about three percentage points in the percentage of participants who get opportunities to learn new things, for those in the Scheme for two years or longer.

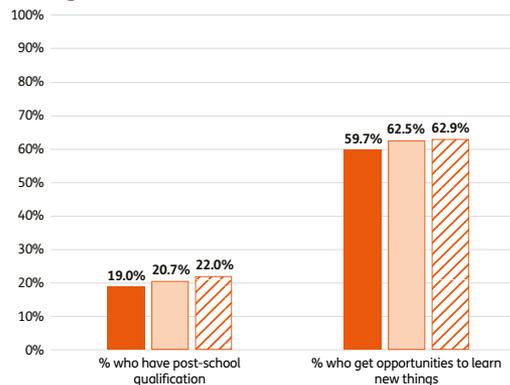
Four years in the Scheme



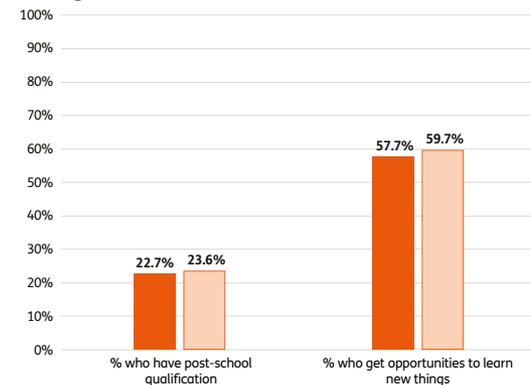
Three years in the Scheme



Two years in the Scheme



One year in the Scheme



■ Baseline ■ Review 1 ▨ Review 2 □ Review 3 ▩ Review 4

Participants aged 15 to 24

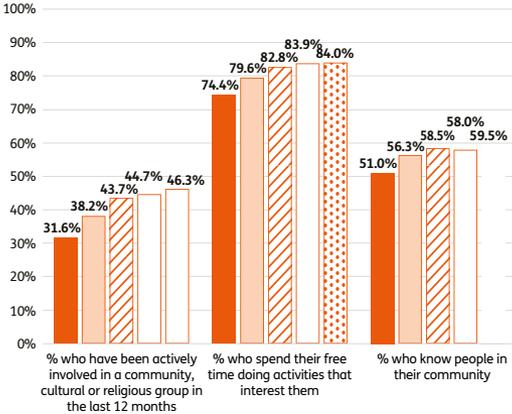
Social, community and civic participation

Social, community and civic participation outcomes have improved across all four cohorts.

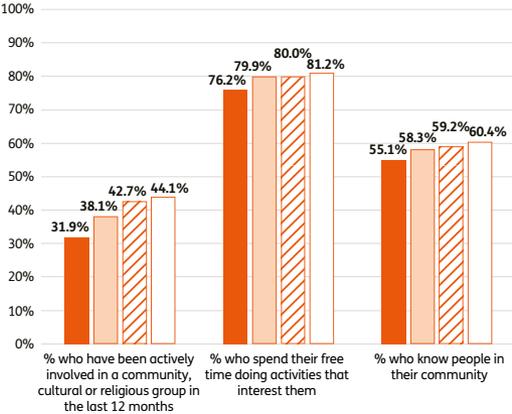
Increases have been observed over time for the percentage who:

- are actively involved in a community, cultural or religious group – 14.7 percentage points between baseline and fourth review.
- spend their free time doing activities that interest them – 9.6 percentage points between baseline and fourth review.
- know people in their community – 8.5 percentage points between baseline and fourth review.

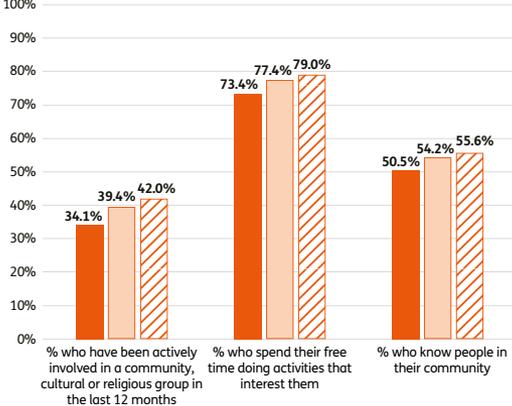
Four years in the Scheme



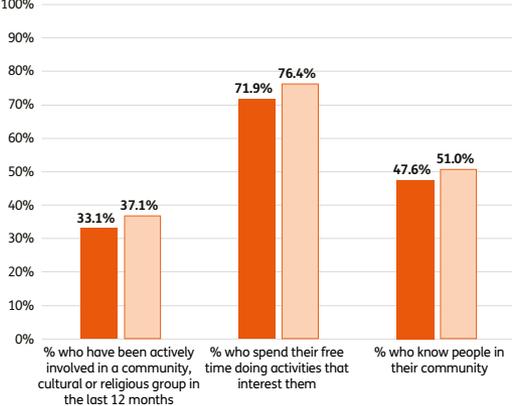
Three years in the Scheme



Two years in the Scheme



One year in the Scheme



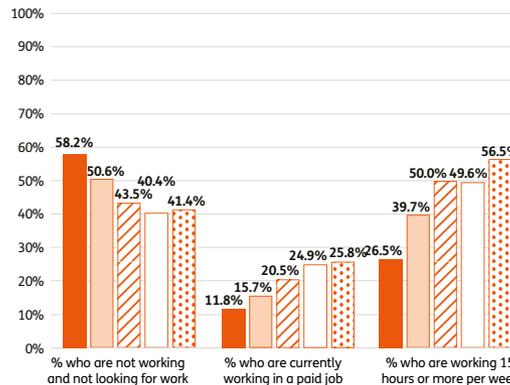
Legend: Baseline (solid orange), Review 1 (light orange), Review 2 (diagonal lines), Review 3 (white), Review 4 (dotted)

Participants aged 15 to 24 Employment¹

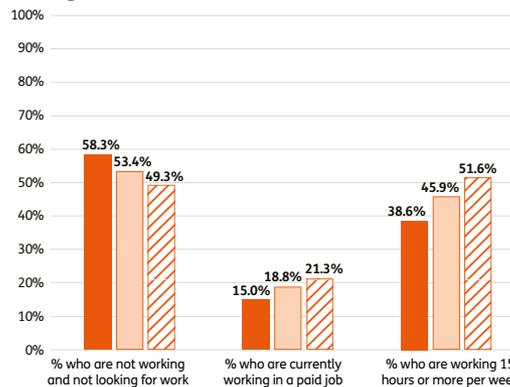
There are positive changes over time in key employment outcomes across all cohorts:

- A declining trend in the percentage of participants who are not working and not looking for work.
- An increasing percentage of participants who are in paid work – 14.0 percentage points between baseline and fourth review for those in the Scheme four years.
- An increasing trend towards working more hours, with the percentage working 15 hours or more per week increasing from 26.5% at baseline to 56.5% at fourth review for participants in the Scheme four years.

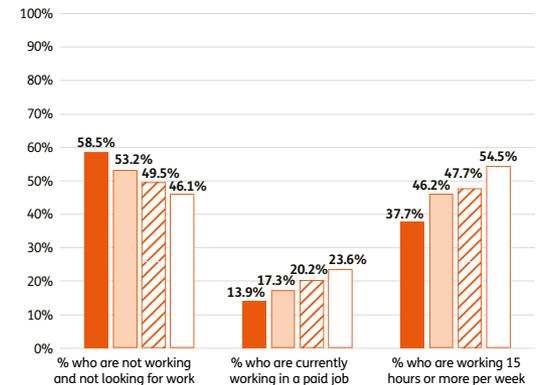
Four years in the Scheme



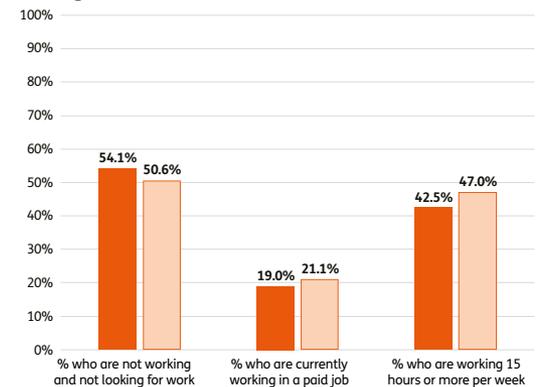
Two years in the Scheme



Three years in the Scheme



One year in the Scheme



¹ For more information on employment outcomes, see <https://data.ndis.gov.au/reports-and-analyses/outcomes-and-goals/employment-outcomes-participants-their-families-and-carers>

■ Baseline ■ Review 1 ▨ Review 2 □ Review 3 ▩ Review 4

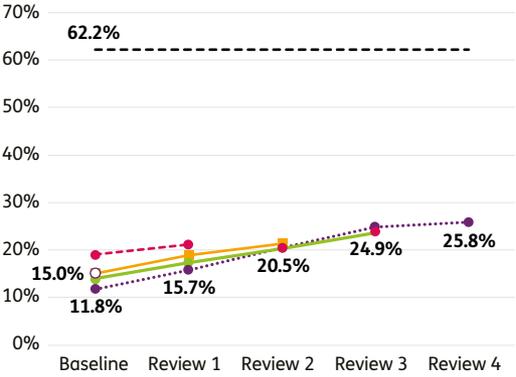
Participants aged 15 to 24 Employment

Despite improvements in a number of employment indicators, participants' employment outcomes are generally poorer than for the Australian population. For example, while there has been an increasing trend in the percentage of participants aged 15 to 24 who are in paid work – to 25.8% at fourth review – this is still well below the benchmark employment rate for the general Australian population (above 60%).¹

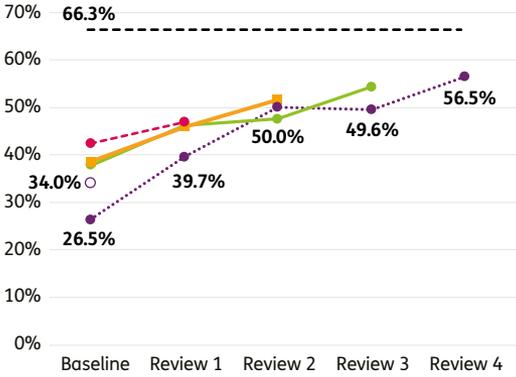
Likewise, a lower percentage of NDIS participants aged 15 to 24 work 15 hours or more per week, compared with the general population (66.3%).² However, for participants who have been in the Scheme for four years, this has increased since baseline by 30.0% to 56.5% (moving closer to the benchmark).

The percentage of participants not working and not looking for work sees a decreasing trend over time, albeit still higher than the Australian population overall.¹

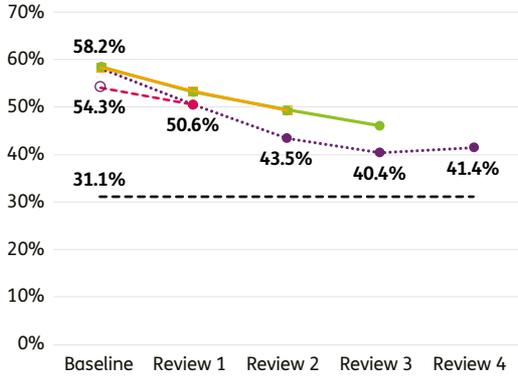
Working in a paid job



Working 15 hours or more per week



Not working and not looking for work



○ Baseline: 2020-21 entrants ● C4 cohort ● C3 cohort ● C2 cohort ● C1 cohort --- Benchmark

¹ Population benchmark data is from Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Australian labour force data as at June 2021, unadjusted.
² Population benchmark data is from ABS 2016 Census TableBuilder (Employment, Income and Education), unadjusted.

Participants aged 15 to 24

Health and wellbeing¹

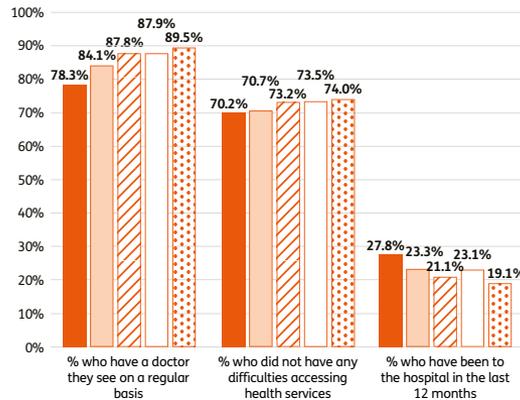
Health indicators suggest an improvement in accessing health services and lower rates of hospitalisation. More participants say they have a regular doctor.

For example, for participants in the Scheme for four years, there has been an:

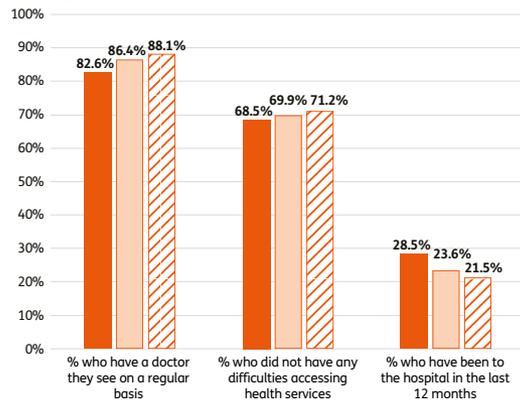
- 11.2 percentage-point increase between baseline and fourth review in the percentage of participants who reported having a doctor they see regularly.
- 3.8 percentage-point increase in the percentage of participants who did not have difficulties accessing health services.
- 8.7 percentage-point decrease in the percentage of participant hospitalisations in the past 12 months.

¹ For more information on health and wellbeing outcomes see: <https://data.ndis.gov.au/reports-and-analyses/outcomes-and-goals/health-and-wellbeing-ndis-participants-and-their-families-and-carers>

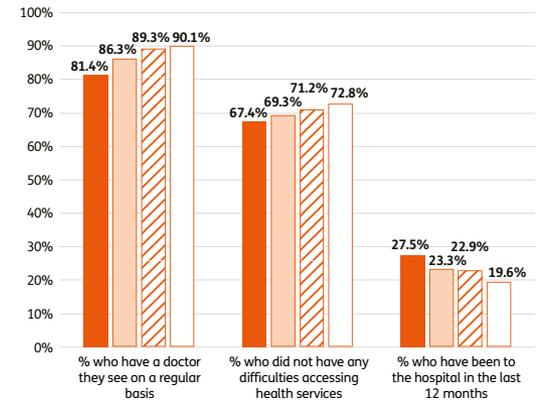
Four years in the Scheme



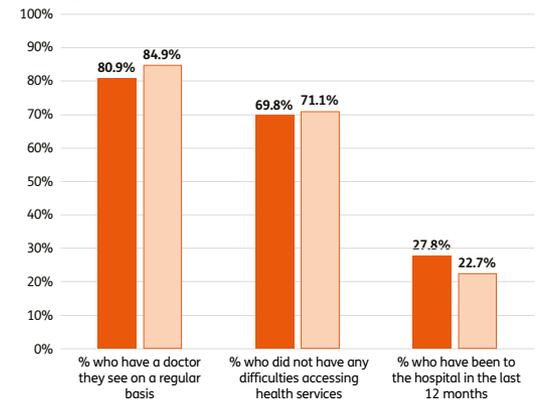
Two years in the Scheme



Three years in the Scheme



One year in the Scheme



■ Baseline ■ Review 1 ▨ Review 2 □ Review 3 ▩ Review 4

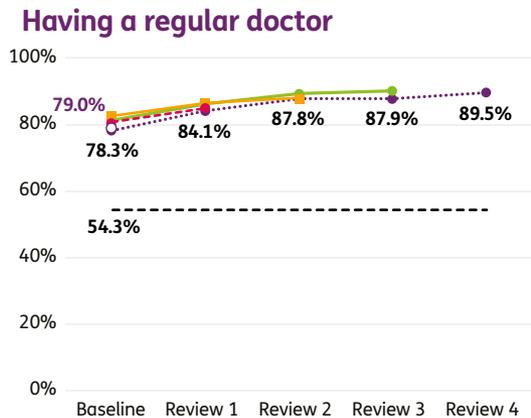
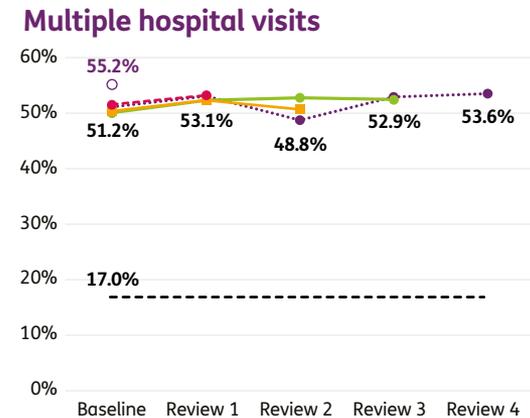
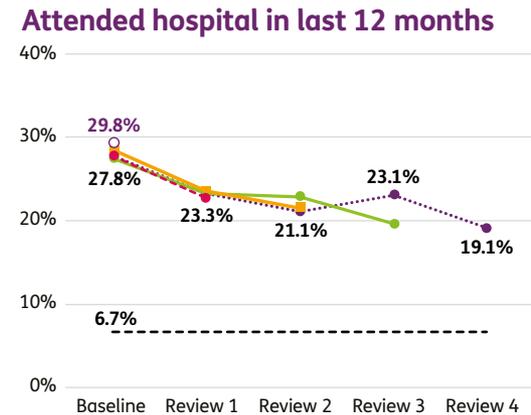
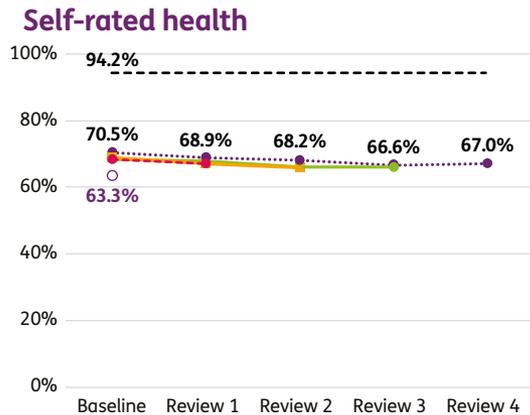
Participants aged 15 to 24

Health and wellbeing¹



Despite improvements in some indicators, participants' health and wellbeing is generally poorer than for the Australian population, across a number of key health and wellbeing indicators.

However, participants are more likely than the general population to have a regular doctor.



¹ Population benchmark figures are from:

- Self-rated health: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), General Social Survey (GSS) 2020, standardised for NDIS participant age and gender distribution.
- Hospital visits: ABS, Patient Experience in Australia (PEIA) 2019-20, standardised for NDIS participant age distribution.
- Regular doctor: Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) 2017, standardised for NDIS participant age and gender distribution.

○ Baseline: 2020-21 entrants ● C4 cohort ● C3 cohort ● C2 cohort ● C1 cohort --- Benchmark

Participants aged 15 to 24

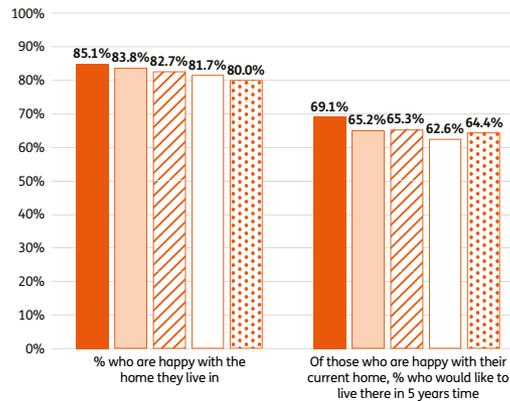
Home

For participants in the Scheme for more than one year, the percentage who are happy with the home they live in has declined over time (for example, from 85.1% at baseline to 80.0% at fourth review, for those in the Scheme for four years).

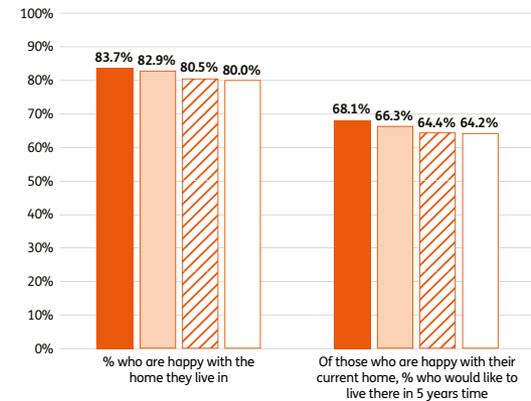
Furthermore, for those who are happy with their current home, the percentage wanting to live there in five years time has tended to decrease (for example, from 69.1% at baseline to 64.4% at fourth review, for those in the Scheme for four years).

These results likely reflect the increasing desire for young adults to live in a home of their own.

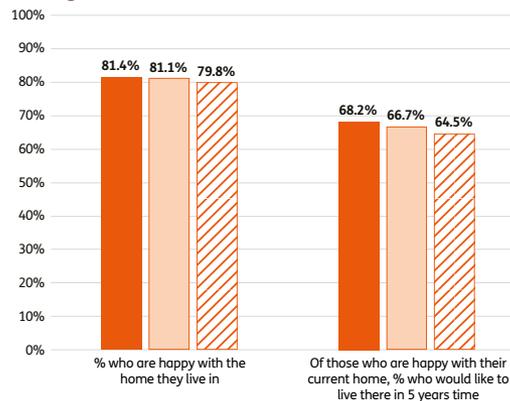
Four years in the Scheme



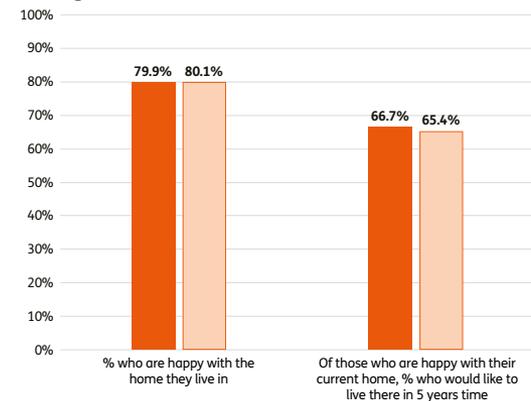
Three years in the Scheme



Two years in the Scheme



One year in the Scheme



■ Baseline ■ Review 1 ▨ Review 2 □ Review 3 ▩ Review 4

Participants aged 15 to 24

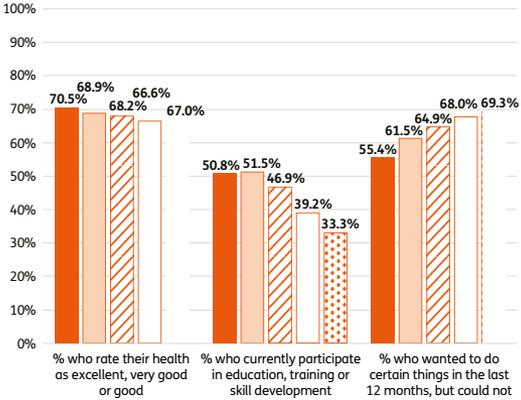
Ratings of health and lifelong learning

The percentage of participants rating their health as excellent, very good, or good has declined slightly over time (for example, by 3.5 percentage points between baseline and fourth review, for those in the Scheme four years).

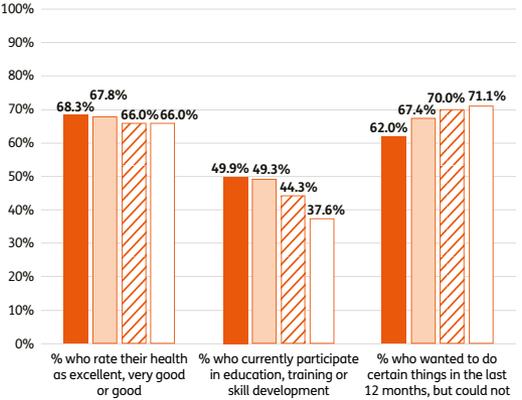
Participation in education/ training has shown a decreasing trend across all cohorts, to below 40%, possibly reflecting the transition out of school.

The percentage of participants who wanted to do certain things in the past 12 months but could not has increased significantly, by 13.9 percentage points over four years.

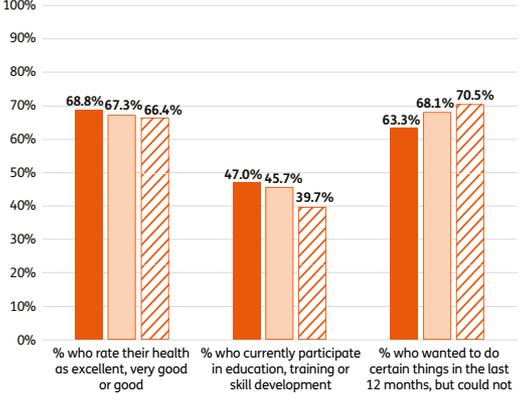
Four years in the Scheme



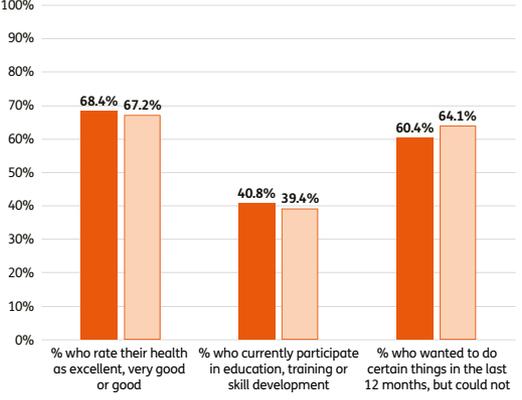
Three years in the Scheme



Two years in the Scheme



One year in the Scheme



■ Baseline ■ Review 1 ▨ Review 2 □ Review 3 ▩ Review 4

Participants aged 15 to 24

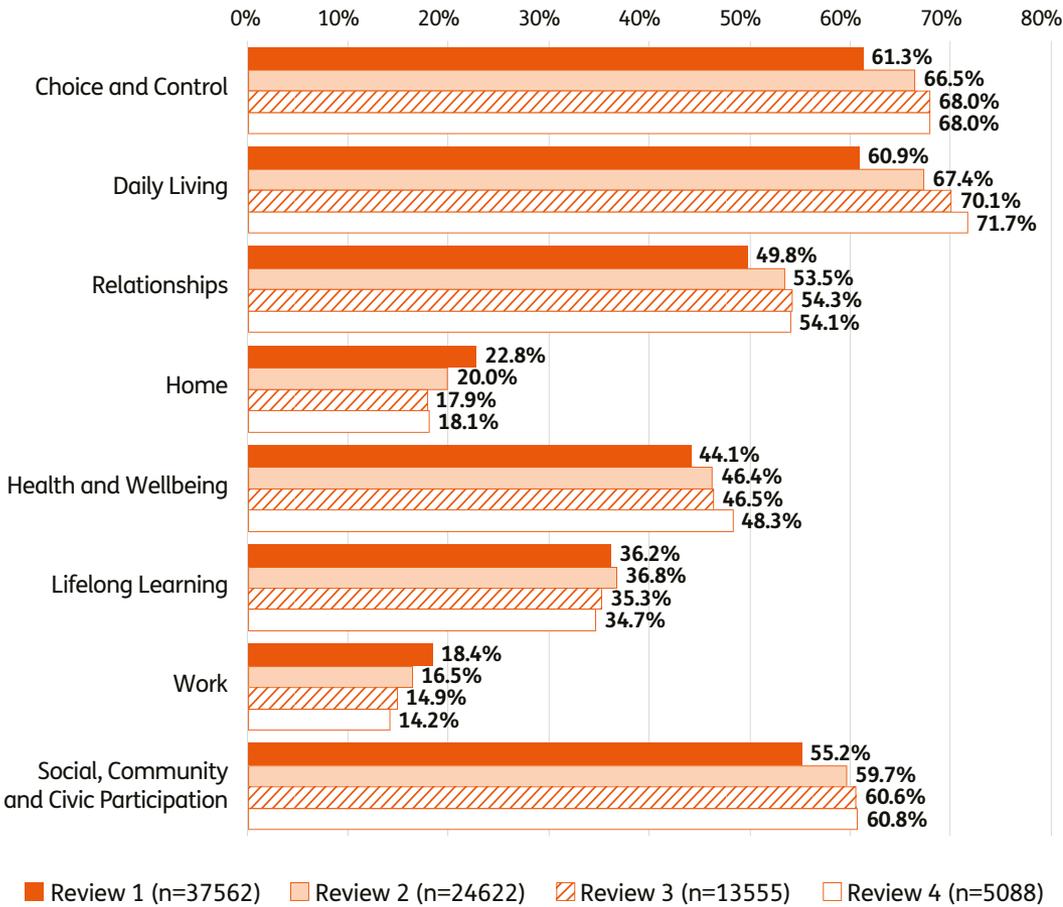
Has the NDIS helped?

Percentage of positive responses

Opinions on whether the NDIS has helped vary considerably by domain for the young adult cohort. The percentage who say the NDIS has helped is lowest for work¹ (18.4% after one year in the Scheme, decreasing to 14.2% at four years), and highest for daily living (60.9% after one year, increasing to 71.7% after four years).

The percentage who think that the NDIS has helped increased between first and fourth review across all domains except home, lifelong learning, and work. Improvements are greatest between first and second review for the other five domains, namely choice and control (+5.2 percentage points), daily living (+6.5 percentage points), relationships (+3.7 percentage points), health and wellbeing (+2.3 percentage points) and social, community and civic participation (+4.5 percentage points).

¹ Note, however, that this includes participants who are not actively job seeking, for example because they are still at school.



Participants aged 15 to 24

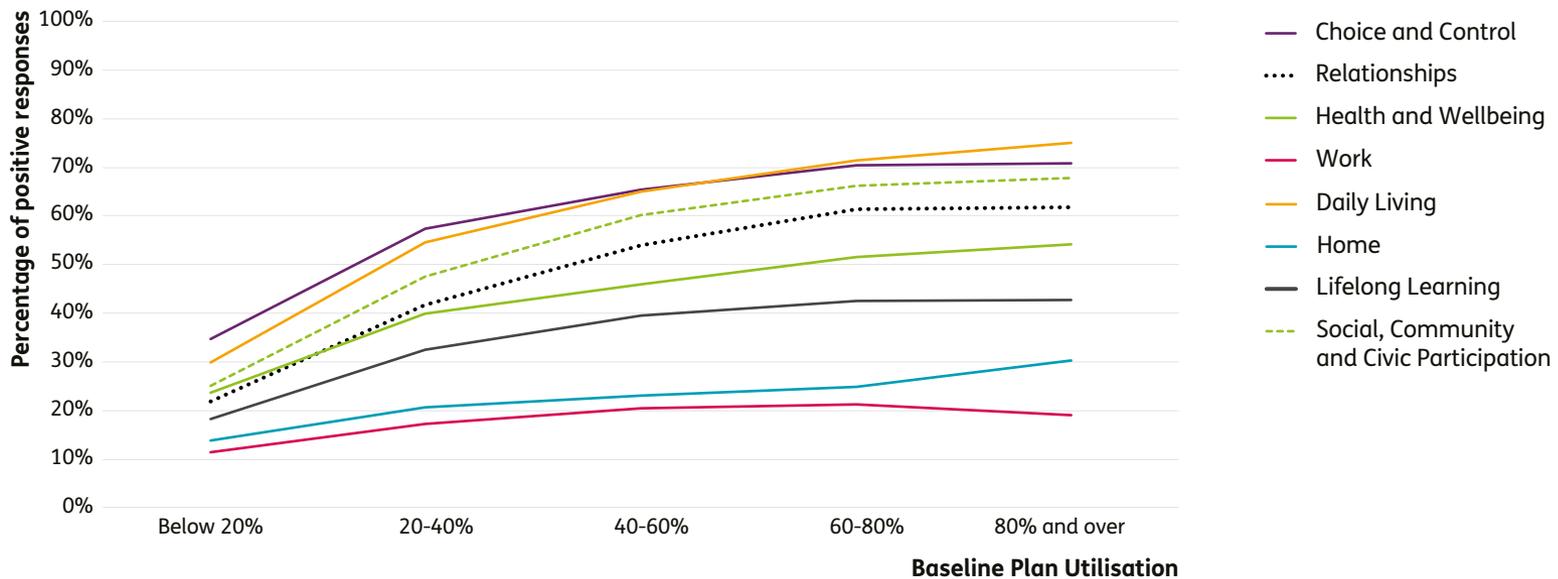
Has the NDIS helped after one year?

By baseline plan utilisation

Higher plan utilisation is strongly associated with a positive response across most domains, after one year in the Scheme.

In all domains except work, the percentage saying the NDIS helped increases consistently for higher baseline plan utilisation categories. In all domains, the greatest increase is seen between utilisation bands 0-20% and 20-40%. However, notably, there is a 5.5 percentage-point increase in the percentage saying the NDIS helped them choose the right home between review 3 and review 4.

The percentage saying the NDIS helped them find the right job increased between utilisation bands 0-20% and 60-80%. However, this percentage decreased slightly for those utilising over 80% of their plans at baseline.



Participants **aged 25 and over**

Participants aged 25 and over



Employment is an important area for the older adult (25 and over) cohort, with the older members of this cohort also starting to transition to retirement. For both young and older adults, choice and control is a normal part of everyday life.

The eight outcome domains are the same as for younger adults:

Choice and control	Health and wellbeing
Daily living	Lifelong learning
Relationships	Work
Home	Social, community and civic participation

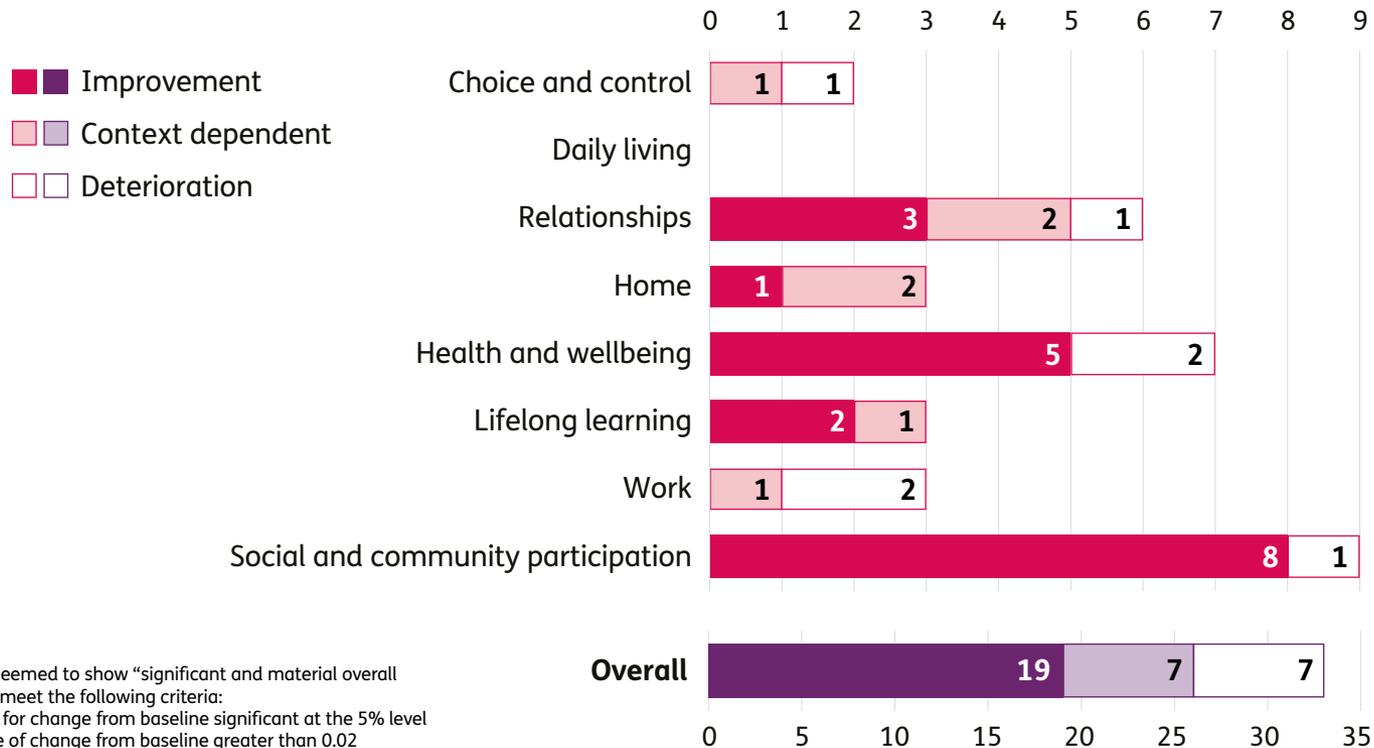
Number of participants in each longitudinal cohort¹:

Form	C1	C2	C3	C4
SF	54,565	36,283	20,744	7,284
LF	1,318	664	379	N/A

¹ The table shows the potential number of respondents, however, not all of them responded to each question. The number of missing responses is small and varies by indicator. Only C1-C3 cohorts are shown for the LF, due to small numbers available in C4.

Participants aged 25 and over

Number of indicators with significant and material overall change by domain¹



¹ Indicators are deemed to show “significant and material overall change” if they meet the following criteria:

- McNemar test for change from baseline significant at the 5% level
- Absolute value of change from baseline greater than 0.02
- The above criteria hold for at least two of the longitudinal cohorts

Numbers of indicators meeting the above criteria are presented.
A total of 89 indicators were considered.

Participants aged 25 and over

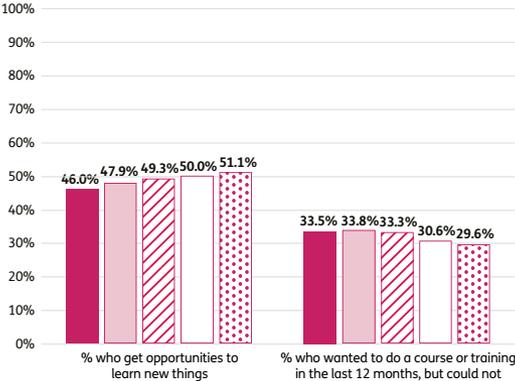
Lifelong learning

Opportunities for learning and training

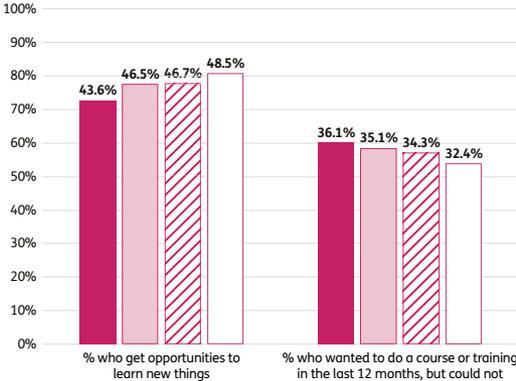
There were positive changes in lifelong learning outcomes for participants across all cohorts, with:

- an increasing trend in the percentage of participants who reported getting opportunities to learn new things. The percentage increased by about five percentage points compared to baseline for participants in the Scheme for three or more years.
- a decreasing trend in the percentage of participants who wanted to do a course or training, but could not. The percentage decreased from baseline by just under four percentage points for participants in the scheme three or more years.

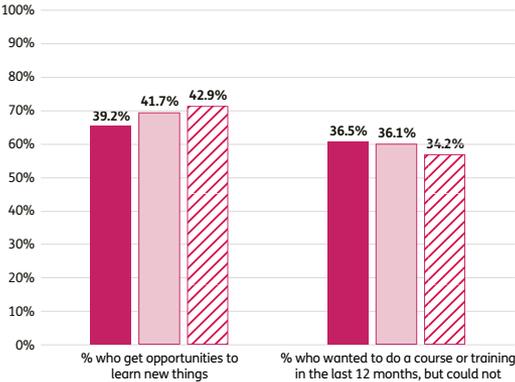
Four years in the Scheme



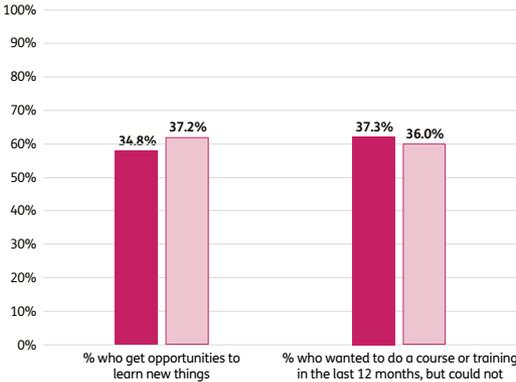
Three years in the Scheme



Two years in the Scheme



One year in the Scheme



■ Baseline ■ Review 1 ▨ Review 2 □ Review 3 ▩ Review 4

Participants aged 25 and over

Social and community participation

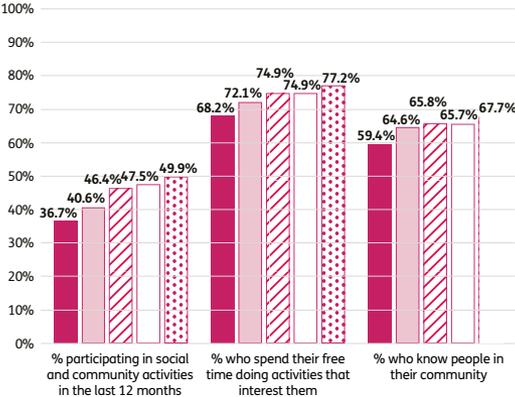
Social and community participation outcomes have improved over time across all cohorts.

Actively involved in a community, cultural or religious group in the last 12 months – for participants in the Scheme for four years, the percentage increased by 13.2 percentage points between baseline and fourth review.

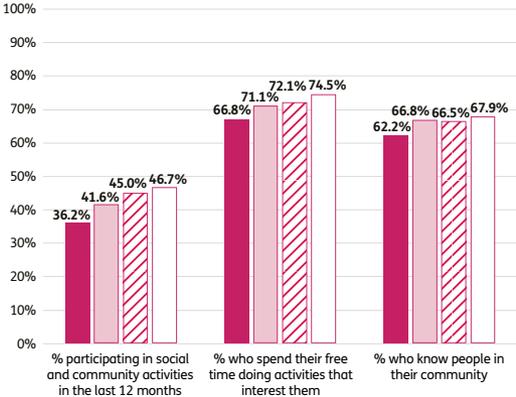
Spending free time on activities that interest them – a 9.0 percentage-point increase between baseline and fourth review for participants in the Scheme for four years.

Knowing people in their community – For participants who have been in the Scheme for four years, the percentage increased by 8.3 percentage points between baseline and fourth review.

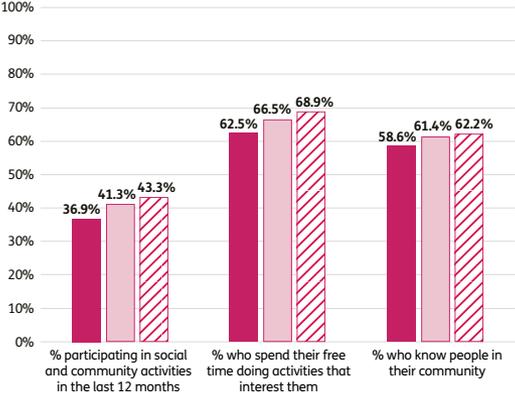
Four years in the Scheme



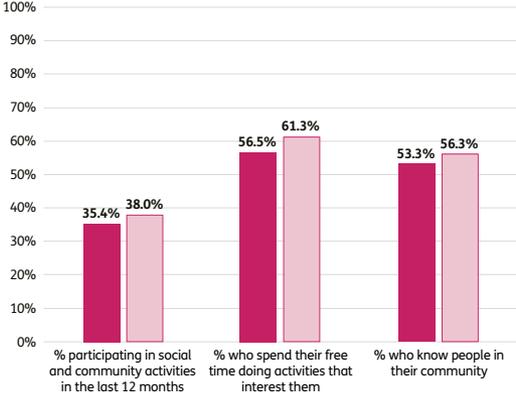
Three years in the Scheme



Two years in the Scheme



One year in the Scheme



■ Baseline ■ Review 1 ▨ Review 2 □ Review 3 ▩ Review 4

Participants aged 25 and over

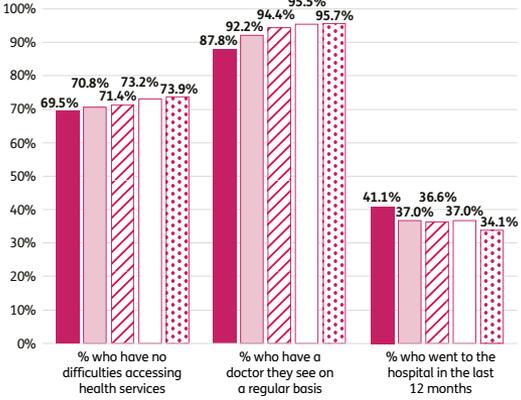
Health and wellbeing

Health indicators suggest an improvement in accessing health services and lower rates of hospitalisation. More participants say they have a regular doctor.

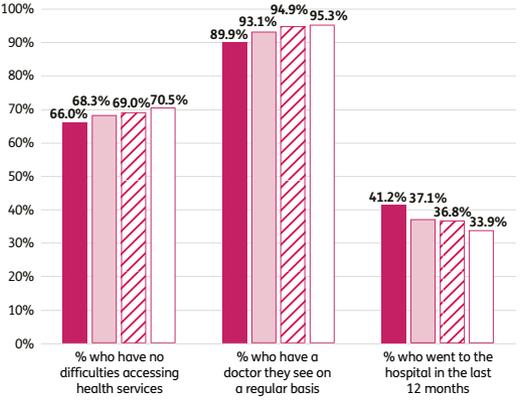
For example, for participants in the Scheme for four years, there has been:

- a 7.9 percentage-point increase between baseline and fourth review in the percentage of participants who reported having a doctor they see regularly.
- a decrease of 7.0 percentage points in the percentage of participant hospitalisations in the past 12 months.

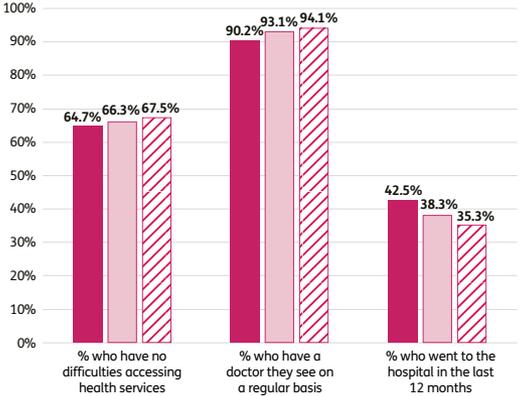
Four years in the Scheme



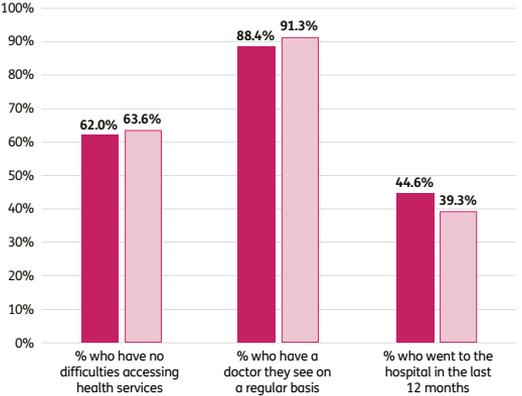
Three years in the Scheme



Two years in the Scheme



One year in the Scheme



■ Baseline ■ Review 1 ▨ Review 2 □ Review 3 ▩ Review 4

Participants aged 25 and over

Health and wellbeing, comparison to benchmark

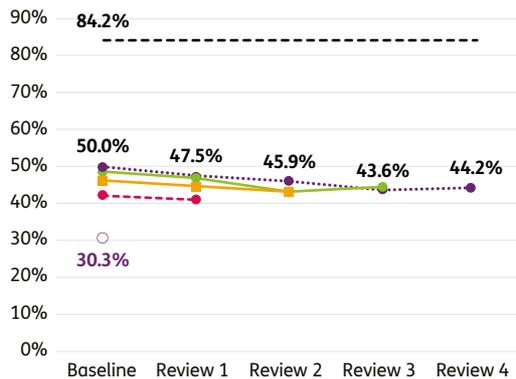
Self-rated health and hospital visits

Participant self-rated health has been deteriorating, both longitudinally (i.e. for a given cohort over time) and cross-sectionally (i.e. later entrants appear to have worse outcomes). Longitudinally, the percentage rating their health as “Excellent”, “Very Good” or “Good” decreased by 5.8 percentage points over four years, remaining below 50%, compared to 84.2% for the Australian population overall¹.

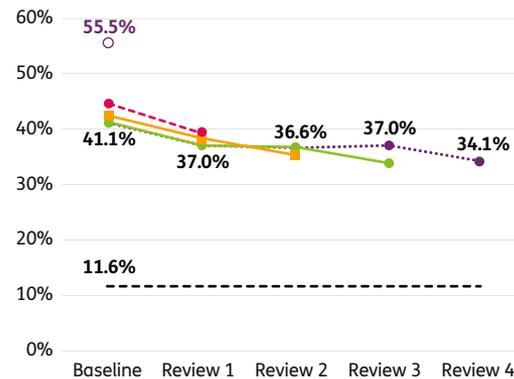
The percentage of participants who have attended hospital in the past 12 months decreased over four years from 41.1% to 34.1%. Despite this improvement, the percentage remains higher than for the general Australian population, at 11.6%².

Across the different cohorts, between 55% and 60% of participants who visited the hospital in the past 12 months made multiple visits, more than double the Australian population average of 26.1%².

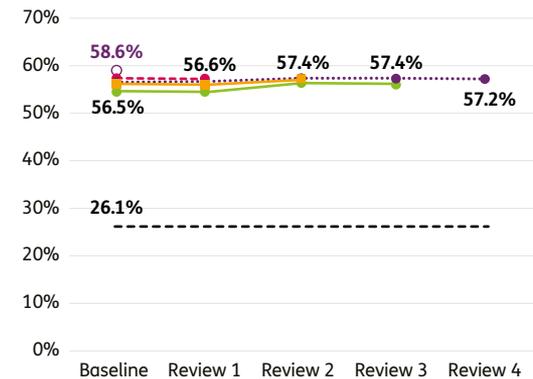
Self-rated health



Attended hospital in last 12 months



Multiple hospital visits



○ Baseline: 2020-21 entrants ● C4 cohort ● C3 cohort ● C2 cohort ● C1 cohort --- Benchmark

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), General Social Survey (GSS) 2020, standardised for NDIS participant age and gender distribution.

² ABS, Patient Experience in Australia (PEIA) 2019-20, standardised for NDIS participant age distribution.

Participants aged 25 and over

Health and wellbeing

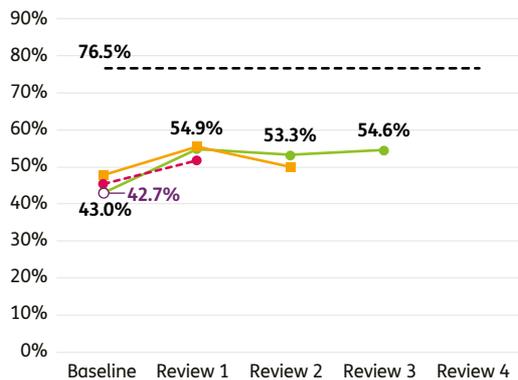
Life satisfaction, flu vaccination and regular doctor

Participant life satisfaction has tended to improve, with an increase of 11.9 percentage points from baseline to first review in the proportion of participants feeling delighted, pleased or mostly satisfied about their life in general, now and in the future, for participants who have been in the Scheme for three years. This percentage has remained stable between first and third review, at below 55%, and is lower than the Australian population average of 76.5%¹.

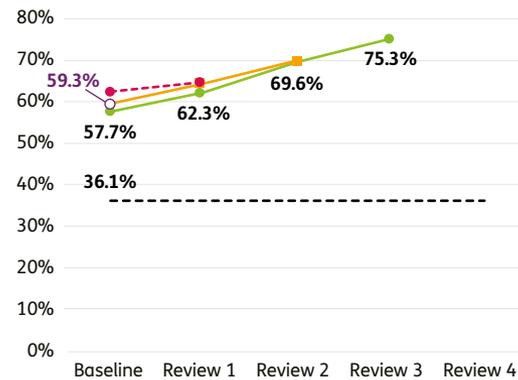
The percentage of participants receiving a flu vaccination in the past 12 months has increased strongly for all cohorts. For those in the Scheme for three years, the percentage increased from 57.7% at baseline to 75.3% at third review, which is more than double the Australian population average of 36.1%².

There has been a gradual increase in the percentage with a regular doctor, from 87.8% to 95.7% over four years, which is substantially higher than the Australian population average of 69.2%³.

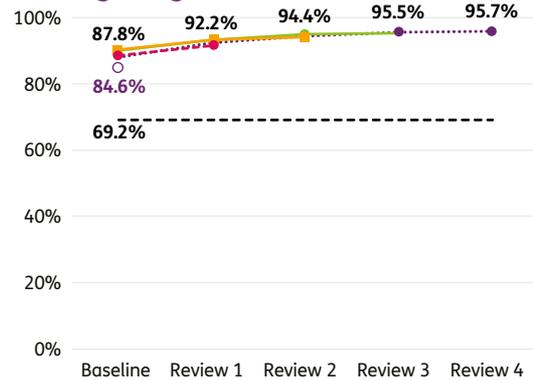
Life satisfaction



Flu vaccination



Having a regular doctor



○ Baseline: 2020-21 entrants ● C4 cohort ● C3 cohort ■ C2 cohort ● C1 cohort --- Benchmark

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), General Social Survey (GSS) 2010, standardised for NDIS participant age and gender distribution.

² Department of Health, News-Poll Omnibus June 2014, standardised for NDIS participant age and gender distribution.

³ Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) 2017, standardised for NDIS participant age and gender distribution.

⁴ The numbers of participants in the cohort with four reviews are too small to display results for life satisfaction and flu vaccination.

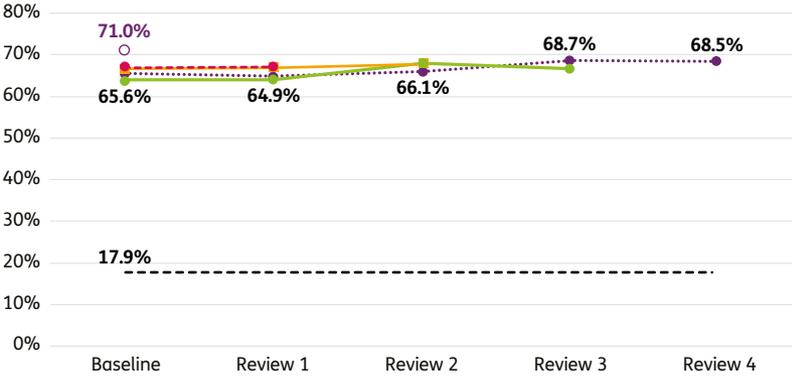
Participants aged 25 and over

Employment¹

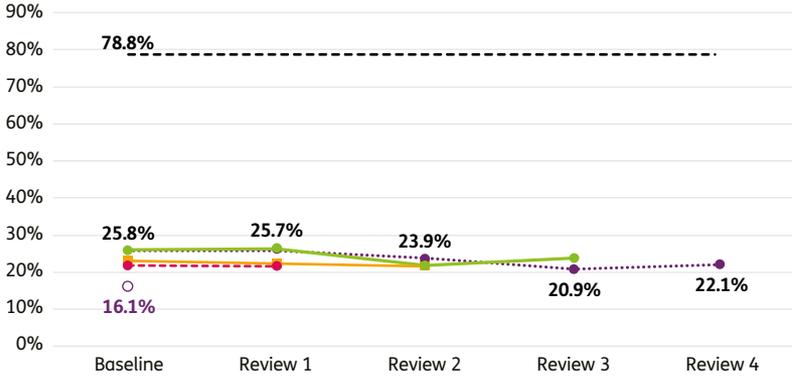
Participants' employment outcomes are generally poorer than for the Australian population. Over 65% of NDIS participants aged 25 and over are neither working nor looking for work, compared to 17.9% of the overall Australian population².

Likewise, less than 30% of NDIS participants aged 25 and over are in a paid job, compared to 78.8% for the Australian population in the same age range².

Not working and not looking for work



Working in a paid job



○ Baseline: 2020-21 entrants ● C4 cohort ● C3 cohort ● C2 cohort ● C1 cohort --- Benchmark

¹ For more information on employment outcomes, see <https://data.ndis.gov.au/reports-and-analyses/outcomes-and-goals/employment-outcomes-participants-their-families-and-carers>.
² Population benchmark data is from Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Australian labour force data as at June 2021, unadjusted.

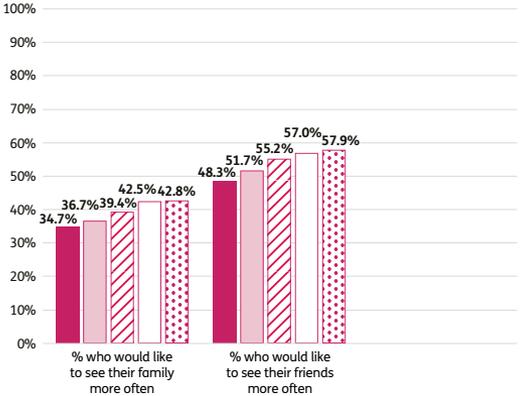
Participants aged 25 and over

Relationships with family, friends and staff

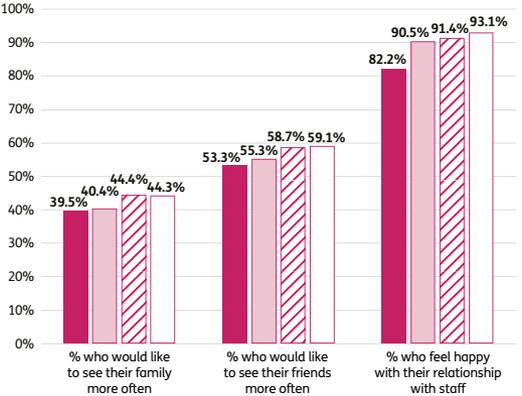
Participants expressed an increasing desire to see family and friends more often. For example, for those in the Scheme for four years, the percentage wanting to see their family / friends more often increased over four years by 8.1 / 9.6 percentage points, respectively.

Long Form survey results for participants who have been in the Scheme for three years suggest that participants are feeling more positive about their relationship with staff (for example, a 10.9 percentage point increase over three years).

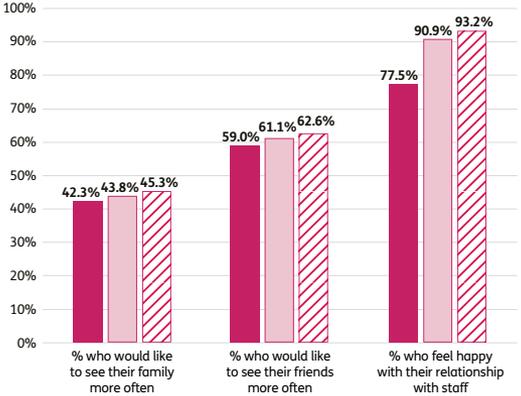
Four years in the Scheme



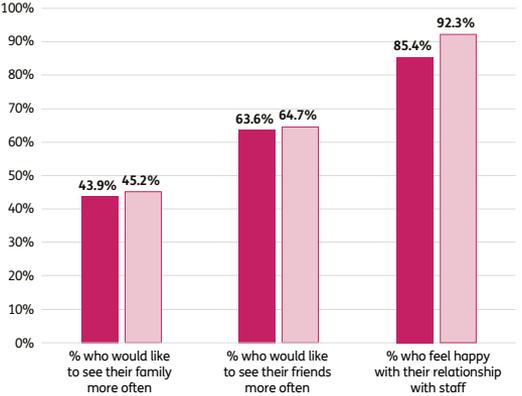
Three years in the Scheme



Two years in the Scheme



One year in the Scheme



■ Baseline ■ Review 1 ▨ Review 2 □ Review 3 ▩ Review 4

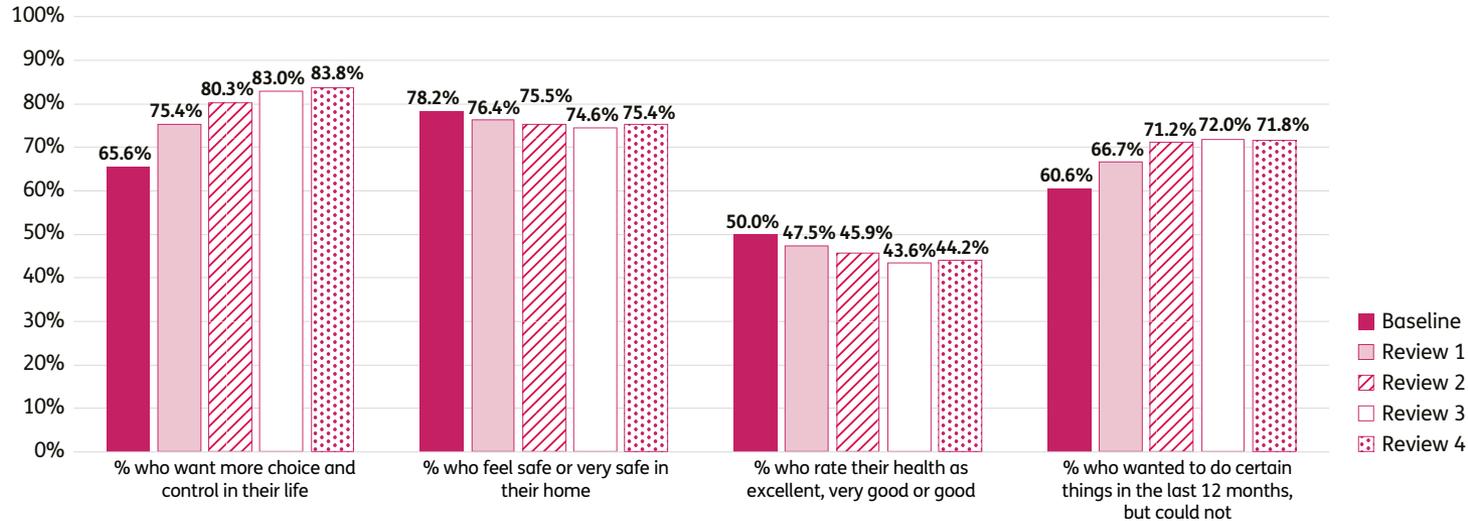
Participants aged 25 and over

Choice and control, home, health, and participation

For participants who have been in the Scheme for four years, the percentage who want more choice and control has increased. This could suggest that participants are becoming more empowered and want more agency over their choices, or it could be flagging challenges to exerting choice and control. There has also been an:

- overall downward trend in the percentage of participants who feel safe at home and who rate their health as excellent, very good or good.
- increase in the percentage who say there was something they wanted to do in the past 12 months but could not.

Four year change¹



¹ Feelings of safety in the home, self-rated health, and being unable to do something they wanted to in the last 12 months did not deteriorate in the latest year.

Participants aged 25 and over

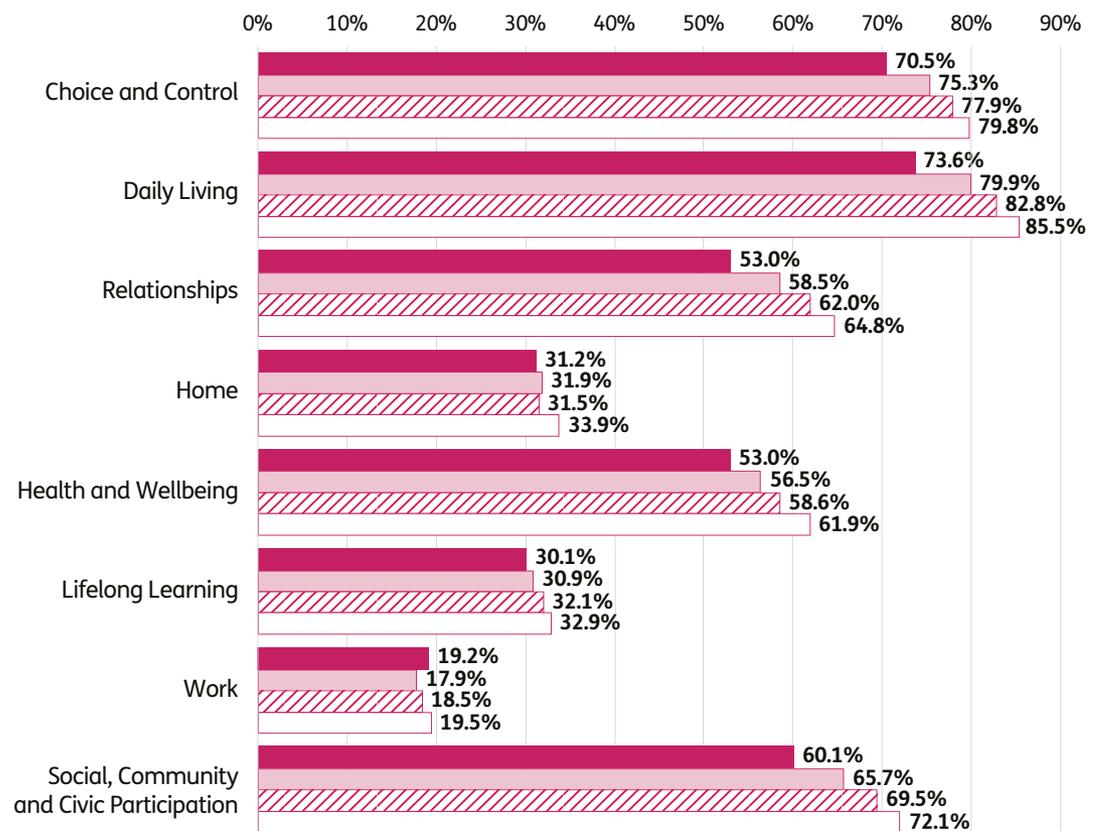
Has the NDIS helped?

Percentage of positive responses

The percentage who think the NDIS has helped is highest for daily activities (73.6% after one year in the Scheme, increasing to 79.9%, 82.8%, and 85.5%, after two, three and four years in the Scheme, respectively). This is followed by choice and control, which had a 9.3 percentage-point increase between first and fourth reviews (70.5% after one year in the Scheme, increasing to 79.8% after four years in the Scheme).

Percentages are lowest for lifelong learning (30.1% after one year, increasing to 32.9% after four years) and work¹ (19.2% after one year, and 19.5% after four years).

Nevertheless, all domains have shown overall positive increases between first and fourth reviews.



¹ Note, however, that this includes participants who are not actively job seeking, for example because they have retired.

■ Review 1 (n=103977) ■ Review 2 (n=58189) ▨ Review 3 (n=27361) □ Review 4 (n=8289)

Participants aged 25 and over

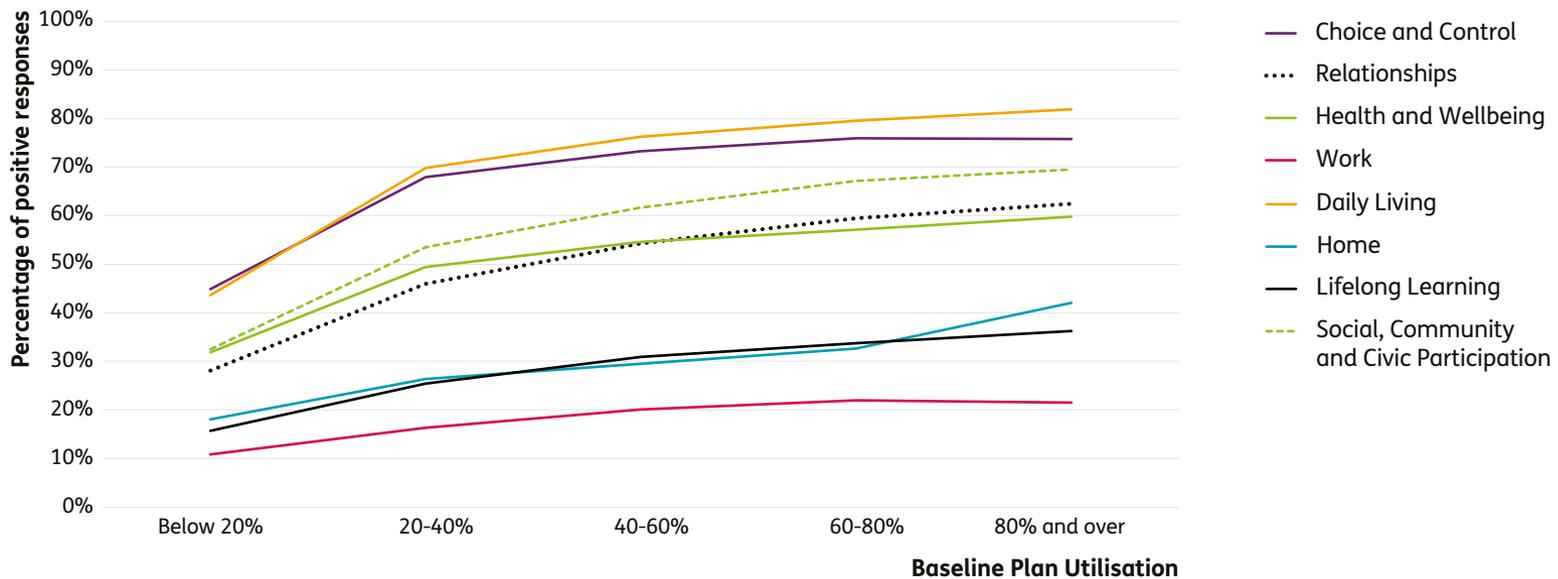
Has the NDIS helped after one year?

By baseline plan utilisation

Higher plan utilisation is strongly associated with a positive response across all eight domains, after one year in the Scheme.

In most domains except choice and control, and work, the percentage saying the NDIS helped has increased consistently for higher baseline plan utilisation categories. Across most domains except home, the increase is the greatest between utilisation bands 0-20% and 20-40%. The percentage saying the NDIS helped them find the right home increased by 9.4 percentage points between utilisation bands 60-80% and 80%+.

In the domains of choice and control, and work, there is a slight decrease in the percentage saying the NDIS helped between utilisation bands 60-80% and 80%+.



Summary of findings

Summary of findings (1)



Measuring progress and change

The report summarises the number, extent and nature of changes across key outcome indicators. In total, there are approximately 90 indicators for each of the older participant age groups, and about half that number for each of the younger participant age cohorts. Of these:

- the older age cohorts had a larger proportion of significant and material indicators – 43% for the 15 to 24 age group and 37% for the 25 and over age group, compared with 29% and 19% for the birth to starting school and school to 14 age groups, respectively.
- there was a higher proportion of indicators showing positive change (improvement) for the youngest age cohort at 69% (birth to school), compared with the other age cohorts – i.e. 63%, 60% and 58% for school to 14, 15 to 24, and 25 and over age groups, respectively.

In what areas has the NDIS impacted positively?

- There have been positive perceptions of the Scheme's role in promoting key outcomes for younger age groups – i.e. independence, relationships with family/ friends, social and recreational life for the school to 14 age group. While child development, access to specialist services, and ability to communicate were increasingly positive since baseline for the birth to school age group.
- Participants aged 15 and over reported that the Scheme has helped them in the areas of choice and control, daily living, relationships, social and community participation, health and wellbeing.
- In most cases, higher plan utilisation is strongly associated with a positive response after one year in the Scheme. Improvements are typically largest between utilisation bands 0-20% and 20-40% (for most domains).

Summary of findings (2)

Children aged up to 14

Outcomes that are improving for children

Improvements were observed in the areas of daily living, relationships, and lifelong learning:

- For school aged children, improvements in their ability to become more independent, manage the demands of their world well, make friendship connections at school, and parents being better informed of their child's goals at school.
- An increasing trend in reports that specialist services are helping young children to gain key skills and supporting families/carers in assisting their child. Younger children also having friends they enjoy playing with, feeling welcomed at community activities, and fitting well into family life.

Areas of concern – opportunities for improvement

Survey results highlight concerns about involvement in social activities among children aged up to 14, with parents/ carers wanting their child to be more involved in activities with other children and respondents citing their child's disability as a barrier to greater involvement.

Key outcome indicators in the daily activities and lifelong learning domains also highlight potential areas for improvement, with:

- an increasing trend in the percentage of parents/ carers of children in the birth to starting school age group reporting concerns in six or more areas of daily living – particularly in relation to social interaction, cognitive development, fine motor skills, self-care, and sensory processing.
- the percentage of children attending school in a mainstream class decreasing since baseline (school to 14 age group) and the percentage of parents/carers responding positively on whether the NDIS helped being lowest for access to education.

Summary of findings (3)

Participants aged 15 and over

Outcomes that are improving for participants

Survey results are showing that there are significant positive changes for participants aged 15 and over since entering the Scheme (i.e. baseline) in the areas of choice and control, social and community participation, lifelong learning and health and wellbeing. For example:

- Greater involvement in community activities, participants are spending free time doing activities of interest, are getting opportunities to learn new things, and report knowing people in the community.
- Better access to health services, reduced hospital visits, and a higher percentage of participants having a regular doctor.
- Participants aged 15 to 24 are increasingly likely to choose what they do each day and make most decisions in their life. They are also experiencing positive employment outcomes.

Areas of concern – opportunities for improvement

There are a few areas where there has been a deteriorating trend over time for the older age cohorts – particularly in relation to self-rated health; wanting to do certain things in the last 12 months but not being able to; and some home related outcomes (i.e. being happy and/ or feeling safe in their home).

Both age groups also increasingly reported wanting more choice and control. This could suggest that participants are becoming more empowered and want more agency over their choices, and/ or it could be flagging challenges to exerting choice and control. While the 25 and over age group expressed an increasing desire to see family and friends more often.

Perceptions of the Scheme’s role in promoting key outcomes were lowest for the work, home, and lifelong learning domains. Furthermore, these deteriorated since baseline for the 15 to 24 age group.

Summary of findings (4)



Benchmarking against the Australian population

Overall, participants' employment and health-related outcomes are generally poorer than for the Australian population. However, the trend is improving on some employment indicators for the 15 to 24 age group and getting closer to that of the general population (e.g. working 15 or more hours, not working and not looking for work).

On a positive note, participants are more likely than the general population to have a regular doctor, and for participants aged 25 and over, they are much more likely to receive the flu vaccination than the Australian population.

Final remarks

This report summarises longitudinal outcomes for participants entering the Scheme from 1 July 2016, and who have been in the Scheme for one year or more at 30 June 2021, providing a picture of how participants are progressing under the NDIS.

The results provide insight into how the Scheme is making a difference and point to areas where improvements may be required.



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