# Disability Dashboard Transcript for Autism

## Insights

This section contains key information about the NDIS participants with autism in the form of simple charts and commentaries using data as at 30 September 2022:

* A doughnut chart shows that of the 554,917 active participants in the NDIS, 34% (or 191,251) of them have a primary disability of autism, making it the most common disability for NDIS participants.
* The next doughnut chart shows that 64% (or 122,515) of participants with autism are aged under 15 years, with 100,658 (or 53%) participants aged 7 to 14 years.
* The next doughnut chart shows that 90% (or 172,667) of participants with autism are aged under 25 years.
* The next doughnut chart shows that 71% (or 136,084) of participants with autism are male.
* A bar chart shows that 97% of access decisions for applicants with autism resulted in the applicant joining the Scheme in the September 2022 quarter, compared to 77% of access decisions for all applicants.
* The next bar chart shows that NDIS provided $1.54 billion of paid supports to participants with autism in the September 2022 quarter, compared to $1.26 billion in the September 2021 quarter, representing a year-on-year increase of 23%.
* The next bar chart shows that the average payment for the 12 months to 30 September 2022 for a participant with autism was $31,700, which is the same as 12 months prior.
* The next bar chart shows that 52% of family/carers of participants with autism reported being employed at the participant’s latest plan reassessment, a five percentage point increase compared to 48% at baseline. (The Participant Outcome section compares baseline results when participants entered the Scheme, with results measured at the most recent participant plan reassessment for each respondent. Results are for participants who have been in the Scheme for at least two years and NDIS trial participants are excluded. All outcome results are rounded to the nearest percentage but the percentage point increases or decreases are calculated based on the unrounded results).
* The next bar chart shows 73% of family/carers of school children with autism (up to 14 years of age) felt their child had become more independent as a result of the NDIS at their most recent plan reassessment, a 10 percentage point increase from their first plan reassessment.
* The weighted average satisfaction rate for participants with autism over the 4 stages of Scheme pathway was 71% in the September 2022 quarter.

## Section 1: Participants

**Overview**

Of the 191,251 active participants with a primary disability of autism at 30 September 2022:

* A doughnut chart shows that 71% (or 136,084) were male, compared to 61% (or 341,220) for all participants.
* Another doughnut chart shows that 6% (or 12,243) identified themselves as First Nations people, compared to 7% (or 40,842) for all participants.
* Another doughnut chart shows that 6% (or 11,875) identified as Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD), compared 9% (or 50,968) for all participants.

In the twelve months to 30 September 2022:

* A bar chart shows that the number of active participants with autism has increased from 159,312 to 191,251, an increase of 20%.
* Another bar chart shows that the number of participants with autism who identify as First Nations people has increased from 9,802 to 12,243, an increase of 25%.
* Another bar chart shows that the number of participants with autism who identify as CALD has increased from 9,923 to 11,875, an increase of 20%.

**Access**

In the quarter to 30 September 2022:

* A doughnut chart shows that 97% of access decisions for applicants with autism resulted in the applicant joining the Scheme, compared to 77% of access decisions for all applicants .
* Another doughnut chart shows that 6,310 access decisions have been made in the quarter for applicants with autism, of which 6,125 participants met access and are still active.

The following section contains 5 charts comparing different demographic make-up of participants with autism and the make-up of the overall Scheme.

**State/Territory**

Distribution of active participants by State/Territory

A chart represents the percentage of active participants with autism residing in each State/Territory, and compares that to the distribution of all participants in the Scheme.

At 30 September 2022, the percentage of participants with autism who resided in:

* NSW was 30%, compared to 30% for all participants
* VIC was 25%, compared to 27% for all participants
* QLD was 22%, compared to 21% for all participants
* WA was 9%, compared to 9% for all participants
* SA was 10%, compared to 9% for all participants
* TAS was 2%, compared to 2% for all participants
* NT was 1%, compared to 1% for all participants
* ACT was 2%, compared to 2% for all participants

**Age Band**

Distribution of active participants by age band

A chart represents the percentage of active participants with autism by age band, and compares that to the distribution of all participants in the Scheme.

At 30 September 2022, the percentage of participants with autism who were in the age band:

* 0 to 6 was 11%, compared to 16% for all participants
* 7 to 14 was 53%, compared to 26% for all participants
* 15 to 18 was 15%, compared to 8% for all participants
* 19 to 24 was 11%, compared to 8% for all participants
* 25 to 34 was 6%, compared to 9% for all participants
* 35 to 44 was 2%, compared to 8% for all participants
* 45 to 54 was 1%, compared to 9% for all participants
* 55 to 64 was 0%, compared to 11% for all participants
* 65 years and over was 0%, compared to 4% for all participants

Commentary in the text box: The majority of the participants with autism are aged 7 to 14 years (53%) and 15 to 18 years (15%).

**Reported Level of Function**

Distribution of active participants by reported level of function

A chart represents the percentage of active participants with autism by reported level of function, and compares that to the distribution of all participants in the Scheme.

At 30 September 2022, the percentage of participants with autism who had:

* a reported level of function of “High” was 18%, compared to 29% for all participants
* a reported level of function of “Medium” was 62%, compared to 46% for all participants
* a reported level of function of “Low” was 21%, compared to 25% for all participants

Commentary in the text box: The majority of the participants with autism have a medium reported level of function (62%).

**Remoteness**

Distribution of active participants by remoteness

A chart represents the distribution of active participants with autism by remoteness, and compares that to the distribution of all participants in the Scheme.

At 30 September 2022, the percentage of participants with autism who resided in:

* Major cities was 69%, compared to 68% for all participants
* Population greater than 50,000 was 11%, compared to 11% for all participants
* Population of 15,000 to 50,000 was 8%, compared to 8% for all participants
* Population of 5,000 to 15,000 was 4%, compared to 5% for all participants
* Population less than 5,000 was 6%, compared to 6% for all participants
* Remote was 1%, compared to 1% for all participants
* Very Remote was 0%, compared to 1% for all participants.

**SEIFA score (using Index of Education and Occupation)**

Distribution of active participants by SEIFA score. (The Australian Bureau of Statistics SEIFA Index of Education and Occupation (IEO) is used by NDIA to classify participants into socio-economic deciles, with decile one representing participants in the lowest socio-economic decile, and decile ten representing participants in the highest socio-economic decile. SEIFA deciles are allocated based on the Statistical Area 1 (SA1) that a participant lives in).

A chart represents the percentage of active participants with autism by SEIFA score, and compares that to the distribution of all participants in the Scheme. Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) is a product developed by the ABS that ranks areas in Australia according to relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage.

At 30 September 2022, the percentage of participants with autism who reside in areas with:

* SEIFA scores of 1 was 12%, compared to 14% for all participants
* SEIFA scores of 2 was 11%, compared to 12% for all participants
* SEIFA scores of 3 was 12%, compared to 12% for all participants
* SEIFA scores of 4 was 11%, compared to 11% for all participants
* SEIFA scores of 5 was 11%, compared to 10% for all participants
* SEIFA scores of 6 was 11%, compared to 10% for all participants
* SEIFA scores of 7 was 10%, compared to 9% for all participants
* SEIFA scores of 8 was 9%, compared to 8% for all participants
* SEIFA scores of 9 was 7%, compared to 7% for all participants
* SEIFA scores of 10 was 5%, compared to 5% for all participants

Commentary in the text box: There is a greater proportion of participants with autism who reside in areas with a lower socioeconomic score

## Section 2: Payments

In the September 2022 Quarter, the NDIS provided $1.54 billion of paid supports to participants with autism.

In the same quarter last year, $1.26 billion of paid supports were provided to participants with autism.

* This is an increase of 23%.

The average payment per participant with autism was $31,700 for the 12 months ending 30 Sep 2022. This was $31,700 for the 12 months ending 30 Sep 2021. (Average payments per participant are calculated using a 12 month period prior to the reporting date).

* The year-on-year movement was immaterial.

Participants in SIL comprise 8% of all participants with autism who were aged 18 years and over, and their payments comprise 42% of supports paid to participants with autism aged 18 years and over in this quarter. (Supported Independent Living (SIL) is help with and/or supervision of daily tasks to develop the skills of an individual to live as independently as possible).

* A year ago, participants with SIL represented 9% of participants with autism who were aged 18 years and over, and their payments were 45% of supports paid to participants with autism aged 18 years and over in that quarter.

A table shows the average payments for the same group of participants with autism and compares that between this year and last year. (Average payments per participant are calculated using a 12 month period prior to the reporting date). (The average payment for the same group of participants is compared across two different time periods (12 months ending September 2022 vs 12 months ending September 2021). Participants who had an initial plan approved after 30 September 2021 are not included).

For participants aged under 18 years, the average payments this year was $21,900, compared to last year at $21,300, representing an increase of 3%

For participants aged 18 years and over not in SIL, the average payments for this year was $47,600, compared to last year at $44,400, representing an increase of 7%

For participants aged 18 years and over in SIL, the average payments for this year was $395,100, compared to last year at $379,200, representing an increase of 4%

At an overall level for participants with autism, the average payments for this year was $33,300, compared to last year at $31,700, representing an increase of 5%.

## Section 3: Participant Outcomes and Satisfaction

The outcome results at 30 September 2022 compare baseline results to latest results for participants with autism who have been in the Scheme for at least two years. (The Participant Outcome section compares baseline results when participants entered the Scheme or at their first reassessment, with results measured at the most recent participant plan reassessment for each respondent. Results are for participants who have been in the Scheme for at least two years and NDIS trial participants are excluded).

### Outcome: Social and Community Participation

For participants aged 15 years and over with autism, 40% said at their latest reassessment that they were actively involved in a community, cultural or religious group in the last 12 months. This compares to 43% for the Scheme as a whole.

Comparing responses at the most recent plan reassessment (between two to six years after entry) with responses at Scheme entry or baseline), there has been a:

* 7 percentage point increase from 33% to 40% for participants aged 15 years and over
* 9 percentage point increase from 35% to 44% for participants aged 25 years and over.

A chart shows that:

* for participants aged 15 to 24 years there was a 6 percentage point increase from 32% to 37%
* for participants aged 25 to 34 years there was a 9 percentage point increase from 33% to 43%
* for participants aged 35 to 44 years there was a 10 percentage point increase from 36% to 46%
* for participants aged 45 to 54 years there was a 7 percentage point increase from 38% to 44%
* for participants aged 55 to 64 years there was a 11 percentage point increase from 48% to 59%
* for participants aged 65 years and over there was a 11 percentage point increase from 43% to 54%.

### Outcome: Participant Employment

For participants aged 15 to 64 years with autism, 23% reported that they had a paid job at their latest reassessment. This compares to 23% for the Scheme as a whole.

Comparing responses at the most recent plan reassessment (between two to six years after entry) with responses at Scheme entry, there has been a:

* 7 percentage point increase from 16% to 23% for participants aged 15 years and over
* minimal movement from baseline at 27% for participants aged 25 years and over.

A bar chart shows that:

* for participants aged 15 to 24 years there was a 11 percentage point increase from 10% to 21%
* for participants aged 25 to 34 years there was a 1 percentage point increase from 27% to 28%
* for participants aged 35 to 44 years there was a 1 percentage point decrease from 25% to 24%
* for participants aged 45 to 54 years there was a 5 percentage point decrease from 31% to 26%
* for participants aged 55 to 64 years there was a 3 percentage point decrease from 20% to 17%.

### Outcome: Family & Carer Employment

Family/carers of participants with autism reported an employment rate of 52%, which is higher than the Scheme average family/carers employment rate of 50%.

Comparing responses at the most recent plan reassessment (between two to six years after entry) with responses at Scheme entry, there has been a:

* 5 percentage point increase from 47% to 52% for participants aged 0 to 14 years
* 4 percentage point increase from 50% to 54% for participants aged 15 years and over
* 5 percentage point increase from 48% to 52% for participants across all ages.

### Outcome: Choice & Control

At 30 September 2022, 71% of participants with autism aged 15 years and over said the NDIS has helped them have more choice and control over their life.

* This is lower than the Scheme average rate at 76%.

Comparing responses at the most recent plan reassessment (between two to six years after entry) with responses at their first plan reassessment, there has been a:

* 9 percentage point increase from 62% to 71% for participants aged 15 years and over.
* 11 percentage point increase from 66% to 77% for participants aged 25 years and over.

A chart shows that:

* for participants aged 15 to 24 years there was an 8 percentage point increase from 61% to 69%
* for participants aged 25 to 34 years there was a 12 percentage point increase from 65% to 77%
* for participants aged 35 to 44 years there was an 8 percentage point decrease from 69% to 77%
* for participants aged 45 to 54 years there was a 13 percentage point decrease from 64% to 76%
* for participants aged 55 to 64 years there was a 9 percentage point decrease from 67% to 76%
* for participants aged 65 years and over there was an 8 percentage point increase from 72% to 80%.

### Outcome: For children aged 0 to before starting school:

* 96% of parents and carers for children with autism thought the NDIS improved their child's development at their most recent plan reassessment, compared to 93% at their first reassessment. This is a 3 percentage point increase from the first reassessment.
* 97% of parents and carers for children with autism thought the NDIS improved their child's access to specialist services at their latest plan reassessment, compared to 93% at their first reassessment. This is a 3 percentage point increase from the first reassessment.

### Outcome: For children starting school to 14 years:

* 73% of parents and carers for children with autism felt their child had become more independent as a result of the NDIS at their most recent plan reassessment, compared to 63% at their first reassessment. This is a 10 percentage point increase from the first reassessment.
* 59% of parents and carers for children with autism felt the NDIS has improved their child's relationship with family and friends at their most recent plan reassessment, compared with 51% at their first reassessment. This is an 8 percentage point increase from the first reassessment.

### Education outcomes

This section contains 4 bar charts demonstrating education outcomes and ADE employment outcomes for participants with autism.

A chart entitled: “Percentage of children starting school to aged 14 that attend school in a mainstream class.”

This chart illustrates the percentage of school children with autism (up to 14 years of age) who attend school in a mainstream class, and compares their results at their latest plan reassessment and Scheme entry (or baseline).

The percentage of children starting school to aged 14 with autism that attend school in the mainstream class were:

* 71% at Baseline
* 65% at the latest reassessment.

The next chart is entitled: “Percentage of participants who have post-school qualification”.

This chart displays the percentage of participants with autism who have post-school qualifications and compares the results at their latest plan reassessment and Scheme entry (or baseline).

The percentage of participants with autism who have post-school qualification were:

* 13% at baseline and 17% at the latest plan reassessment for participants aged 15 to 24 years
* 36% at baseline and 36% at the latest plan reassessment for participants aged 25 years and over.

The next chart is entitled: “Percentage of participants who get opportunities to learn new things”

This chart displays the percentage of participants with autism who get opportunities to learn new things and compares the results at their latest plan reassessment and Scheme entry (or baseline).

The percentage of participants with autism who get opportunities to learn new things were:

* 66% at baseline and 68% at the latest plan reassessment for participants aged 15 to 24 years
* 49% at baseline and 57% at the latest plan reassessment for participants aged 25 years and over.

The next chart is entitled: “Percentage who are working in Australian Disability Enterprise (of those participants who are working in a paid job)”

Of participants with autism who are working in a paid job, the chart displays the percentage of them working in Australia Disability Enterprise, and compares the results at their latest plan reassessment and Scheme entry (or baseline).

The percentage of participants with autism who are working in Australian Disability Enterprise are:

* 23% at baseline and 23% at the latest plan reassessment for participants aged 15 to 24 years
* 58% at baseline and 59% at the latest plan reassessment for participants aged 25 years and over.

### Satisfaction

A bar chart that compares the satisfaction responses between participants with autism and that of all participants in the September 2022 quarter. The percentage of participants with autism who rated their experience with the NDIS (the NDIA gathers responses at the four primary stages of the participant pathway – access, preplanning, planning and plan reassessment) as good or very good was

* 80% for the access process, compared to 81% for all participants.
* 80% for the pre-planning process, compared to 80% for all participants.
* 81% for the planning process, compared to 85% for all participants.
* 65% for the reassessment process, compared to 69% for all participants.

The weighted average satisfaction result for participants with autism who rated their experience as good or very good over the 4 stages of the pathway was 71% in the quarter of September 2022.

* This was 72% in the September 2021 quarter
* The overall Scheme weighted average satisfaction rate in the September 2022 quarter was 75%.

### Complaints

There were 2,098 complaints raised by participants with autism in the September 2022 quarter (or an annualised complaint rate of 4%). (The complaint rate is an annualised rate calculated as the number of complaints in the quarter divided by the active participant exposure in the quarter).

* The annualised complaint rate 12 months ago for participants with autism was 5%, 1 percentage point higher than the current quarter
* This compares to an annualised complaint rate of 7% for all participants.

## Section 4: Providers

This section contains information on service providers supporting participants with autism in the September 2022 Quarter, in the form of doughnut charts:

The first three doughnut charts show an overview of all the providers supporting participants with autism:

* A doughnut charts shows that 56,695 providers received a payment during the quarter. (The count of providers is by ABN and includes providers supporting agency-managed participants, participants who use a plan manager and self-managed participants. Note that for self-managed payments, the total number of providers is unable to be determined since it is not a requirement for self-managed participants to provide the ABN at the time of payment)
* The next doughnut chart shows that 5% of payments were received by the top 10 providers
* The next doughnut chart shows that 40% of these providers are companies or organisations and 60% are individuals or sole traders.

The second set of three doughnut charts are for providers supporting participants with autism who used a plan manager:

* A doughnut chart shows that 51,703 providers received a payment during the quarter. (For each plan management type, a single provider is counted if they received a payment in the quarter for that plan management type. Note that a single provider can receive payments across more than one plan management type so may be included in more than one count).
* The next doughnut chart shows that 18% of the providers were registered and 82% are unregistered. (A registered provider is an approved person or provider of supports who is registered with the NDIS Quality and Safeguard Commission. While a registered provider can provide supports to all participants, an unregistered provider can only provide supports to participants who use a plan manager or who are self-managed).
* The next doughnut chart shows that $692 million was paid in the September 2022 quarter (This makes up 45% of payments to participants with autism).

The last set of three doughnut charts are for providers supporting agency-managed participants with autism:

* A doughnut chart shows that 5,320 providers received a payment during the quarter
* The next doughnut chart shows that 100% of the providers were registered
* The next doughnut chart shows that $518 million was paid in the September 2022 quarter (This makes up 34% of payments to participants with autism).

For providers supporting self-managed participants with autism, $335 millionwas paid in the September 2022 quarter (which is 22%of all payments to participants with autism). At this time, for self-managed payments, the total number of providers and the registration status of providers is unable to be determined since it is not a requirement for self-managed participants to provide the ABN at the time of payment.

## Additional Information

**Key definitions**

Definitions of terms used in this dashboard are consistent with those used in Appendix A of the Quarterly Report to disability ministers published on the NDIS website.