



# Participant outcomes report

## How NDIS participants are doing

January 2023

Easy Read version



**ndis**

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## How to use this report



The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) wrote this report. When you see the word 'we', it means the NDIA.



We wrote this report in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

**Bold**

We have written some words in **bold**.

Not bold

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 23.



This Easy Read report is a summary of another report.



You can find the other report on our website.

[www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au)



You can ask for help to read this report.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

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## What is this report about?



We want to know how people with disability have been doing since they started taking part in the NDIS.

We call them **participants**.

To do this we **interview** participants about different areas of their life.



When we interview you, we:

- ask you questions about your experience
- listen to your answer.



Our report focuses on participant **outcomes**.

Outcomes are results participants have achieved in their life.



These outcomes show how the NDIS is helping to make a difference in the lives of people with disability.



They also show us how we can better support participants.

## How we interview participants



We interview participants when they first join the NDIS.

And then once every year.

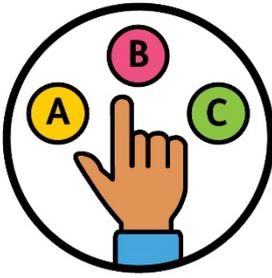


This report only includes participants who have been taking part in the NDIS for at least one year.



We ask them questions about how they are doing in different areas of their life.

For example:



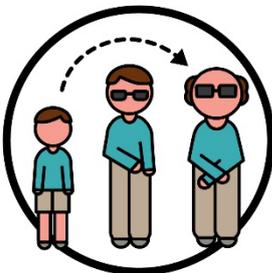
- choice and control



- health and wellbeing



- work and learning.



We ask participants different questions based on their age.

The answers they share with us help us understand:



- what areas participants are doing better in



- what areas we may need to focus on



- how their outcomes compare to other people in Australia.



We expect that participants will do better in some areas quickly.

For example, daily living.



And other areas will take longer.

For example, finding and keeping a job.



Our report has 2 parts.



The first part explains the outcomes of participants aged up to 14 years old.

We call them younger participants.



The second part explains the outcomes of participants aged 15 years and older.

# Outcomes for younger participants

## Good outcomes



**84%** of younger participants feel included when they take part in their community.



They are also doing better at making new friends.



**88%** of parents and carers told us that their child is fitting in with the daily life of their family.



More children are using support services before they start going to school.



Families and carers told us that these services help their child to learn important skills.



We also found out that children who are old enough to go to school are doing more things for themselves.



More families and carers told us that they understand their child's goals at school.

## Outcomes that we need to work on



Families and carers told us they want their child to take part in more activities with other children.



They are also more likely to say their child's disability stops them from taking part in activities.



There are less school-aged children spending time:

- with friends
- in community programs.



There are also less children going to **mainstream schools**.

Mainstream schools are schools where everybody can go to learn.



More families and carers worry their child is not doing well in some areas of daily living.



The number of families and carers who worry about this has increased to **85%** over the past 5 years.

## Other ideas families and carers shared with us



We talked to families and carers of children who have not started school.

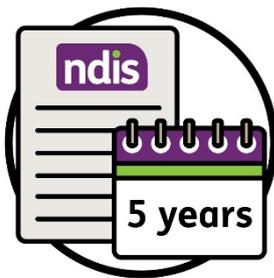


We asked them whether the NDIS has helped their child:

- as they develop
- find and use support services.



**91%** said the NDIS has helped their child after taking part in the NDIS for one year.



This went up to **96%** after their child had taken part in the NDIS for 5 years.



Participants who use more of their **NDIS funding** are more likely to think the NDIS has made their life better.



NDIS funding is the money from your plan that pays for the supports and services you need.

# Outcomes for participants aged 15 years and older

## Good outcomes



Participants aged 15 years and older are making more decisions than they did 2 years ago.

They are also more likely to:



- choose how they spend their free time



- have a say about what support they want.



**80%** of participants are doing activities they enjoy in their free time.



Participants also have more chances to:

- try new things
- have new experiences.



**52%** of participants finished year 12 at school.

This is after taking part in the NDIS for 5 years.



Participants told us they have more chances to see their friends without a person to support them.

This is after taking part in the NDIS for 4 years.



**97%** of participants feel good about their relationship with support workers.

This is after taking part in the NDIS for 5 years.



**74%** of participants chose where they wanted to live.



And **86%** chose who they wanted to live with.



Those participants are also making decisions about their home.



In the last 12 months, more participants have taken part in community groups.

They also have a greater say in their community.



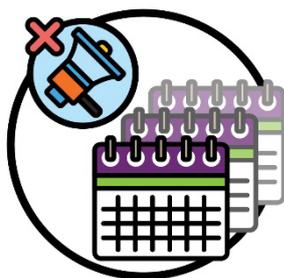
Health outcomes for participants aged 15 years and older are also getting better.

For example, they are:

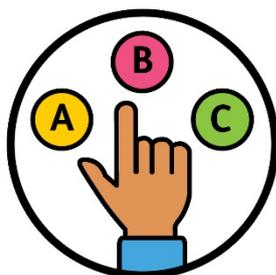


- using health services
- going to hospital less
- feeling better about their life.

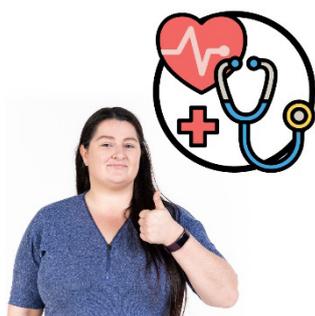
## Outcomes that we need to work on



The longer participants take part in the NDIS, the less likely they are to speak up for themselves.



But participants shared with us that they want more choice and control.



Only **52%** of participants told us their health is excellent or good.



Participants are also going to the dentist less.



There hasn't been much of a change in how many participants have a paid job.



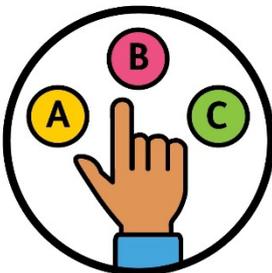
Only **25%** of participants who have taken part in the NDIS for 5 years have a paid job.

## Other ideas participants shared with us



We ask participants whether the NDIS has helped them in different areas of their life.

They told us the NDIS has helped them with:



- choice and control



- relationships



- taking part in their community.



They also told us the NDIS has helped them with:

- daily living
- health and wellbeing.



Participants who use more of their NDIS funding are more likely to think the NDIS has made their life better.

## How these outcomes compare to other people in Australia



Participants aged 15 years and older are not doing as well as other people in Australia in some areas.

This includes:



- school



- work



- health and wellbeing.



But some outcomes are getting closer to being the same as other people in Australia.

For example:



- finishing year 12 at school



- working at least 15 hours a week.



Participants aged 15 years and older are more likely to have been to hospital in the last 12 months.



They are also more likely to visit the same doctor than other people in Australia.

## More information

For more information about this report, please contact us.



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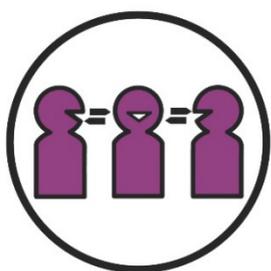
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TTY

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Speak and Listen

**1800 555 727**



National Relay Service

**133 677**

[www.relayservice.gov.au](http://www.relayservice.gov.au)

## Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.



### **Interview**

When we interview you, we:

- ask you questions about your experience
- listen to your answer.



### **Mainstream schools**

Mainstream schools are schools where everybody can go to learn.



### **NDIS funding**

NDIS funding is the money from your plan that pays for the supports and services you need.



## Outcomes

Outcomes are results participants have achieved.



## Participants

Participants are people with disability who take part in the NDIS.



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