



# Participant outcomes report

## How NDIS participants are doing

June 2023



Easy Read version

**ndis**

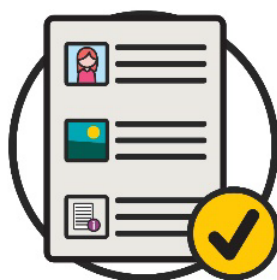
[ndis.gov.au](https://www.ndis.gov.au)

## How to use this report



The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) wrote this report.

When you read the word 'we', it means the NDIA.



We wrote this report in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.



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

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 29.



This is an Easy Read 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  
might be able to help you.

## What's in this report?

What is this report about? 5

---

How we interview participants 6

---

Outcomes for younger participants 11

---

Outcomes for participants aged 15 years and older 16

---

Outcomes about mental health and paid work 24

---

More information 27

---

Word list 29

---

## 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:



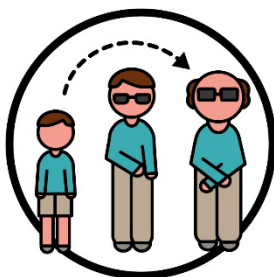
- choice and control



- 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.

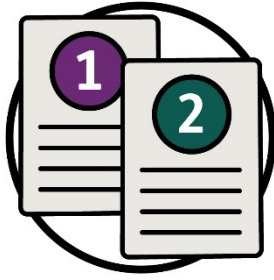
For example, daily living.



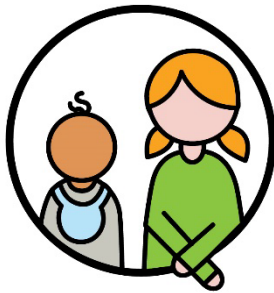
And other areas will take longer.

For example, finding and keeping a job.





Our report has **2** main 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.



Our report also includes a new part.

This part explains how we used information to learn more about how participants and other Australians take part in:

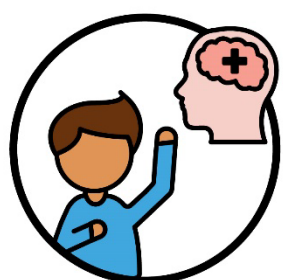


- paid work



- **mental health** services.

Your mental health is about how you:



- think and feel about yourself
- deal with things in your life
- manage your feelings.

# Outcomes for younger participants

## Good outcomes



**81%** of younger participants feel included when they take part in their community.

They are also doing better at making new friends.



**84%** 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.

## 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 who say they are included in activities with school.

For example, school sports.



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 **82%** 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 in different areas.



For example:

- as they develop
- find and use support services.



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



This went up to **97%** 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

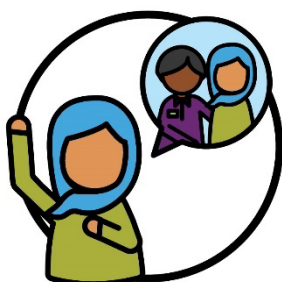


Participants aged 15 years and older are making more decisions than they did **2 years** ago.

They are also more likely to:



- choose how they spend their free time



- have a say about what support they want.



**79%** of participants are doing activities they enjoy in their free time.





Participants also have more chances to:

- try new things
- have new experiences.

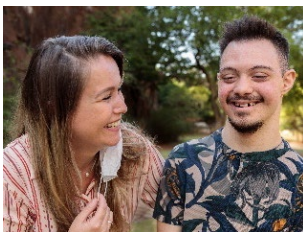


**49%** of participants finished year 12 at school.



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**.



**94%** of participants feel good about their relationship with support workers.



**73%** chose who they wanted to live with.

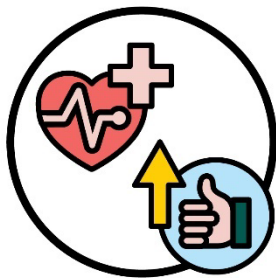


Those participants are also making decisions about their home.



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 **48%** of participants told us their health is excellent or good.



There are a few less participants who have paid jobs.



Only **22%** of participants who have taken part in the NDIS for 6 years have a paid job.



Participants want to see their family and friends more often.

## 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:



- daily living

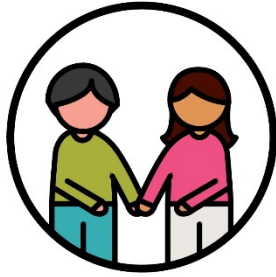


- choice and control



- taking part in their community.

They also told us the NDIS has helped them with:



- relationships



- 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.

# Outcomes about mental health and paid work

## Mental health



**18%** of participants used a mental health service.



This is more than other people in Australia who use mental health services.



There have been changes in where participants get mental health services in the last 5 years.



For example, participants:



- see a **psychiatrist** more than before – a doctor who is an expert in mental illnesses



- see a **psychologist** less than before – someone who helps people with how they think and feel



- see a doctor about the same as before



- see **allied health professionals** and doctors who work with children less than before – people who support people with disability with their health care.

## Paid work



About **26%** of participants 15 years old and older were paid for work.



Participants aged 15 to 44 years old were more likely to be paid for work.



About **11%** of participants 15 years old and older paid **tax** on money they earned.



Tax is money all Australians pay to the government.  
The government uses tax to pay for things in the community, like roads and hospitals.



Participants 15 to 44 years old were more likely to pay tax on money they earned.

## More information

For more information about this report, please contact us.



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



1800 800 110



Follow us on Facebook.

[www.facebook.com/NDISAus](https://www.facebook.com/NDISAus)



Follow us on X.

[@NDIS](https://twitter.com/NDIS)

X used to be called Twitter.

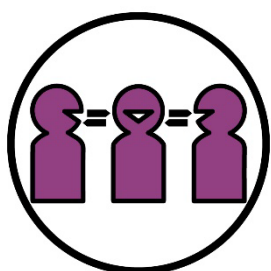
## Support to talk to us



You can talk to us online using our webchat feature at the top of our website.

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

If you speak a language other than English, you can call:



Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS)

**131 450**

If you have a speech or hearing impairment, you can call:



TTY

**1800 5 55 677**



Speak and Listen

**1800 555 727**



National Relay Service

**133 677**

[www.accesshub.gov.au/about-the-nrs](http://www.accesshub.gov.au/about-the-nrs)

## Word list

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



### **Allied health professionals**

Allied health professionals support people with disability with their health care.



### **Interview**

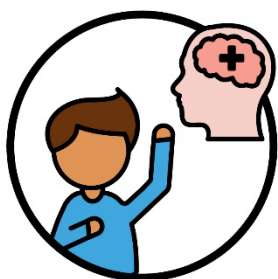
When we interview you, we:

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



### **Mainstream schools**

Mainstream schools are schools where everybody can go to learn.



### **Mental health**

Your mental health is about how you:

- think and feel about yourself
- deal with things in your life
- manage your feelings.



### **NDIS funding**

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



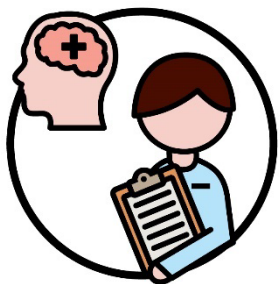
### **Outcomes**

Outcomes are results participants have achieved.



### **Participants**

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



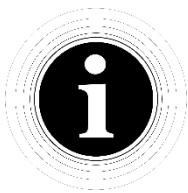
### **Psychiatrist**

A psychiatrist is a doctor who is an expert in mental illnesses.



## Psychologist

A psychologist is someone who helps people with how they think and feel.



The Information Access Group created this Easy Read document using stock photography and custom images.

The images may not be reused without permission.

For any enquiries about the images, please visit

[www.informationaccessgroup.com](http://www.informationaccessgroup.com). Quote job number 5866.



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