COAG Disability Reform Council. This is the National Quarterly Performance Report

This is the December 2018 update on NDIA performance.

Overview

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This report is a summary of the performance and operations of the NDIA for Quarter 2 of 2018-19 (01 October 2018 - 31 December 2018).

It is the tenth quarterly report during the NDIS Transition period, which commenced on 1 July 2016.

A diagram displays the six key parts which will be discussed in the Performance Report. These areas are:

• Participants and Planning,

• Committed Supports and Payments,

• Providers and Markets,

• Information, Linkages and Capacity Building,

• Mainstream Interface; and

• Financial Sustainability.

Summary

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The following are the key statistics on the key six areas discussed in this report:

Participants and Planning

An additional 31,026 participants with plans this quarter.

The Agency has achieved 88% of the 2018-19 year to date operational target for new plan approvals.

At 31 December 2018, plans approved and ECEI referrals represent:

• 69% of year to date bilateral estimate met (1 July 2018 - 31 December 2018)

• 74% of transition to date bilateral estimate met (1 July 2016 - 31 December 2018)

• 76% of scheme to date bilateral estimate met (1 July 2013 - 31 December 2018)

Participant satisfaction remained high, with 84% of participants surveyed in the quarter rating their satisfaction with the Agency's planning process as either 'Good' or 'Very Good'.

Committed Supports and Payments

$12.3 billion has been paid to providers and participants:

• $85.8m in 2013-14,

• $370.8m in 2014-15,

• $703.6m in 2015-16,

• $2,174.9m in 2016-17,

• $5,315.9m in 2017-18,

• $3,679.8m in 2018-19 to date.

Overall,

• 65% of committed supports were utilised in 2013-14,

• 75% in 2014-15,

• 75% in 2015-16,

• 67% in 2016-17,

• 69% in 2017-18.

The 2018-19 experience is still emerging.

The lower proportion of utilisation in 2016-17 and 2017-18 reflects the increased amount of participants who received their first plans in these years. Participants tend to utilise less of their first plan, compared with their second and subsequent plans, as it takes time to familiarise with the NDIS and decide which supports to use.

Providers and Markets

There were 19,075 registered providers at 31 December 2018, representing a 6% increase for the quarter.

55% of registered providers were active at 31 December 2018.

45% of registered providers are individuals/sole traders.

25% of registered providers are receiving 80-90% of payments made by the NDIA.

Note: The new NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (NQSC) has been established to regulate providers in NSW and SA from 1 July 2018, and other jurisdictions are due to be incorporated from July 2019.

Information, Linkages and Capacity Building

The Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) policy is a commitment made by the NDIA to connect people with disability to their community.

The NDIA is adopting a new approach to ILC funding to enhance the support of individuals and communities that help promote a more accessible and inclusive culture. New Economic Participation grants form part of this new approach, which will direct funding to boost employment opportunities for people with disabilities. The grants, funded by the Australian Government and worth $19.9 Million, support the new Participant Employment Taskforce that was established in January 2019 to enhance economic independence and participation for people with disabilities.

The grants will support innovative proposals that help build the aspirations, confidence and skills of people with disability to maximise their employment prospects. An open, competitive grant round will open in January 2019, the results of which will be announced later this year.

Mainstream Interface

91% of active participants with a plan approved in 2018-19 Q2 access mainstream services.

Financial Sustainability

The scheme remains within budget in the first quarter of 2018-19 and is projected to remain within budget for the whole financial year.

The NDIS Insurance approach allows pressures on the scheme to be identified early and management responses put in place to respond to these pressures. This actuarial monitoring occurs continuously and allows management to put in place strategies as required.

Specific management responses include: independent assessment pilot, participant pathway review, reference package and guided planning process, supported independent living and specialist disability accommodation and business intelligence strategy.

PART 1: Participants and Planning

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As the transition phase to full scheme continues, the NDIS nationally continues to grow with 31,026 additional participants with approved plans this quarter.

In total, over 244,000 participants are now being supported by the NDIS, with close to one third of participants receiving support for the first time.

Summary

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The NDIS is transitioning to full-scheme according to phasing schedules bilaterally agreed by State/Territory and Commonwealth governments.

The following are the key statistics on Participants and Planning:

244,653 participants are now being supported by the NDIS, including children in the ECEI program

31,026 initial plans approved in 2018-19 Q2, excluding children in the ECEI program (representing 15% growth since last quarter)

11,489 children are being supported in the ECEI program, with 6,987 additional referrals to the ECEI gateway confirmed in 2018-19 Q2

73,956 people are now receiving support for the first time

88% of year to date operational target met (1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018)*

76% of scheme to date bilateral estimate met (1 July 2013 to 31 December 2018)

69% of year to date bilateral estimate met (1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018)

Note: The operational target is based on actionable records, which are the records of participants who the NDIA have been able to contact based on the information provided, and who have ‘access met’ or ‘in progress’ status.

Quarterly Intake

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There are three charts. The first chart displays the number of participants with access met (Eligible) by Participant Entry point. The second chart displays the number of participants with approved plans by Participant Entry Point. The third chart displays the number of participants with approved plans by Participant Pathway Type.

2018-19 Q2

Of the 23,441 participants deemed 'eligible' this quarter 52% entered from an existing State/Territory program.

Of the 31,026 plan approvals this quarter, 54% had transitioned from an existing State/Territory program, 83% entered with a permanent disability and 1,232 were previously confirmed as ECEI at 30 September 2018.

The diagram displays the following key statistics on quarterly intake:

31,347 access decisions

23,441 access met

31,026 plan approvals (excluding ECEI)

6,987 ECEI

Quarterly Intake Detail

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A chart displays the change in plan approvals between the current and previous quarter.

Plan approval numbers have increased from 202,138 at the end of 2018-19 Q1 to 233,164 by the end of 2018-19 Q2, an increase of 31,026 approvals.

At the end of the quarter, 11,489 are children being supported in the ECEI gateway. Of these, 4,502 were previously confirmed as ECEI at 30 September 2018 and an additional 6,987 children entered the gateway this quarter.

Overall, 5,678 participants with approved plans have exited the Scheme, resulting in 238,975 active participants (including ECEI) as at 31 December 2018.

There were 52,117 plan reviews this quarter. This figure relates to all participants who have entered the scheme.

Cumulative Position

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There are two charts. The first chart displays the comparison between the cumulative plan approvals and the bilateral estimate per quarter. The second chart displays the number of plan approvals by participant referral pathway.

Plan approvals as at 31 Dec 2018

At the end of 2018-19 Q2, the cumulative total number of participants receiving support was 244,653 (including 11,489 children supported through the ECEI gateway). Of these, 136,609 transitioned from an existing State/Territory program, 22,599 transitioned from an existing Commonwealth program and 73,956 participants are now receiving support for the first time.

Overall, since 1 July 2013, there have been 330,811 people with access decisions.

Cumulative position reporting is inclusive of trial participants for the reported period and represents participants who have or have ever had an approved plan.

The following are the key statistics on the cumulative position:

88% of operation target met (1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018)

76% of scheme to date bilateral estimate met (1 July 2013 to 31 December 2018)

69% of year to date bilateral estimate met (1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018)

233,164 plan approvals to date; 244,653 including 11,489 ECEI confirmed

Progress against bilateral estimates

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A chart displays a breakdown of the cumulative 2018-19 bilateral progress.

There were 51,933 plans approved in the 2018-19 year to date, including ECEI participants but excluding Western Australian transfers, New South Wales and South Australia existing State clients, and plan approvals made in the Australian Capital Territory. This total includes 26,035 State/Territory clients and 25,898 New and Commonwealth clients, representing 88% of the operational target and 69% of the 2018-19 bilateral estimate.

Of the 58,818 actionable records available to the Agency, 51,933 (88%) resulted in approved plans and 6,885 (12%) remained as 'access in progress' at the end of the quarter.

Of the individuals receiving existing State/Territory services, 1,596 did not meet the access criteria and 10,119 could not progress to planning for other varied reasons, such as being unable to be contacted. There were 25,625 State/Territory clients who were able to progress to planning.

As at 31 December 2018, there were 2,362 access decisions in progress and 8,287 participants with access met but yet to receive an approved plan. An additional 11,059 State/Territory clients who were due to receive a plan in other quarters received an approved plan during this period. There were 26,035 State/Territory clients who received an approved plan in 2018-19 to date.

88% of actionable records have resulted in approved plans in 2018-19 to date

Note: Actionable records refer to those that were provided to the Agency for participants that had access met or in progress, and could be contacted.

Participant Profiles by Age Group

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There are two charts. The first chart displays the number of participants with an approved plan by age group for the current quarter. The second chart displays the percentage of participants with an approved plan by the participant's age group. This chart compares the current quarter against all prior quarters.

Approximately 21% of participants entering in this quarter are aged 7 to 14 years, compared to 25% in prior quarters.

Note: The age eligibility requirements for the NDIS are based on the age as at the access request date. Participants with their initial plan approved aged 65+ have turned 65 since their access request was received.

Participant Profiles by Disability Group

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There are two charts. The first chart displays the number of participants with an approved plan by disability group for the current quarter. The second chart displays the percentage of participants with an approved plan by the participant's disability group. This chart compares the current quarter against all prior quarters.

Of the participants entering in 2018-19 Q2, 28% have a primary disability group of Autism and 23% have a primary disability group of Intellectual Disability.

Note 1: Of the 7,199 active participants identified as having an intellectual disability, 943 (13%), have Down syndrome.

Note 2: Since 2017-18 Q1 Developmental Delay and Global Developmental Delay have been reported separately to the Intellectual Disability group.

Participant Profiles by Level of Function

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A chart displays the percentage of participants with an approved plan by the participant's level of function. This chart compares the current quarter against all prior quarters.

For participants with a plan approval in the current quarter:

• 27% of participants had a relatively high level of function

• 46% of participants had a relatively moderate level of function

• 27% of participants had a relatively low level of function

These relativities are within the NDIS participant population, and not comparable to the general population.

Participant Profiles by Gender

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The figure on the right displays the amount and percentage of participants with an approved plan per the participant's gender group. This figure compares the current quarter against all prior quarters.

The majority of participants are males.

Participant Profiles

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There are three charts. The first chart displays the percentage of participants with an approved plan by the participant's Aboriginal & Torres-Strait Islander status. The second chart displays the percentage of participants with an approved plan by the participant's Young people in residential aged care status. The third chart displays the percentage of participants with an approved plan by the participant's Culturally and Linguistically Diverse status. All three charts compare the current quarter against all prior quarters.

Of the participants with a plan approved in 2018-19 Q2:

• 5.7% were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, compared with 5.4% in previous quarters combined.

• 1.6% were young people in residential aged care, compared with 1.6% in previous quarters combined.

• 9.8% were culturally and linguistically diverse, compared with 7.7% in previous quarters combined.

The following are the key statistics for the current quarter on Aboriginal & Torres-Strait Islander status.

1,781 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

27,325 Not Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

1,884 Not Stated

The following are the key statistics for the current quarter on Young people in residential aged care status.

490 Young people in residential aged care

30,500 Young people not in residential aged care

The following are the key statistics for the current quarter on Culturally and Linguistically Diverse status.

3,052 Culturally and Linguistically Diverse

25,498 Not Culturally and Linguistically Diverse

2440 Not Stated

Plan Management Support Co-ordination

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Two charts display the proportion of support coordination and plan management for participants. These charts compare the current quarter against all prior quarters.

The proportion of participants electing to fully or partly self-manage their plan was higher in 2018-19 Q2 at 26%, compared with 23% in previous quarters combined.

41% of participants who have had a plan approved in 2018-19 Q2 have support coordination in their plan, compared to 39% in previous quarters combined.

Plan Activation

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Two charts display the proportion of the duration to activate plans. These charts compare plans approved in 2017-18 Q4, against plans approved in prior quarters.

Plan activation refers to the amount of time between plan approval and the commencement of the participant receiving support.

The percentage of plans activated within 90 days of approval were:

• 76% of plans approved in prior quarters

• 78% of plans approved in 2017-18 Q4.

Plan activation can only be approximated using data on payments. As there is a lag between when support is provided and payments made, these statistics are likely to be conservative. That is, it is likely that plan activation is faster than presented. Further, in-kind supports have been excluded from the calculation, which contributes to the conservative figures.

Note: Plans approved after the end of 2017-18 Q4 have been excluded from the charts. They are relatively new and it is too early to examine their durations to activation.

Participant Outcomes

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A chart displays selected key baseline indicators for participants.

Information was collected from 99% of participants who have received their initial plan since 1 July 2016 (baseline outcome measures).

• 64% of participants aged 0 to before school are able to make friends outside of family/carers, compared to 62% of participants from school age to 14

• 54% of participants aged 0 to before school are engaged in age appropriate community, cultural or religious activities, compared to 33% - 37% for other age groups

• 58% of participants from school age to 14 attend school in a mainstream class, compared to 28% of participants aged 15 to 24

• 25% of participants aged 25 and over have a paid job, compared to 17% of participants aged 15 to 24

• 63% of participants aged 25 and over choose what they do every day, compared to 43% of participants aged 15 to 24

Family/Carers Outcomes

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A chart displays selected key baseline indicators for family and carers of participants.

The percentage of participants' family/carers:

• working in a paid job was highest for participants aged 15 to 24 (49%)

• able to advocate for their child/family member was highest for participants aged 0 to 14 (78%)

• who have friends and family they can see as often as they like was highest for participants aged 25 and over (48%)

• who feel in control selecting services was highest for participants aged 25 and over (41%)

• who support/plan for their family member through life stage transitions was highest for participants aged 0 to 14 (85%)

Has the NDIS helped? Participants

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Charts display the responses from participants to the question: 'Has the NDIS helped?' split into age categories and life domains.

Perceptions of whether the NDIS has helped.

Participants who entered the Scheme between 1 July 2016 and 31 December 2016 and had a plan review approximately one year later and also two years later were asked questions about whether the NDIS had helped them.

In general, participants' perceptions of whether the NDIS has helped improved from year one to year two. The greatest improvements where experienced by participants in the group School to 14, as well as the group 25 and over with the exception of the Work domain.

Has the NDIS helped? Family/Carers

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Charts display, from year 1 to year 2, the percentage of family and carers who thought the NDIS has helped in various domains.

Perceptions of whether the NDIS has helped.

Families and carers of participants who entered the Scheme between 1 July 2016 and 31 December 2016 and had a plan review approximately one year later and also two years later were asked questions about whether the NDIS had helped them.

Overall, family and carers' perceptions of whether the NDIS has helped improved from year one to year two except when answering the question 'Has the NDIS helped you with your health and wellbeing?'.

Participants in Work

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A chart displays, from baseline to year 2, the percentage of participants in paid work by age group.

Participants who entered the Scheme between 1 July 2016 and 31 December 2016 and are of working age are monitored to see whether the NDIS has helped them find paid work.

The percentage of participants in paid work increased from 13% to 21% for those aged 15 to 24, but decreased from 23% to 21% for those aged 25 and over. Overall, the percentage increased from 20% to 21%.

Participants involved in communal and social activities

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A chart displays, from baseline to year 2, the percentage of participants engaged in social activities in their community.

Participants who entered the Scheme between 1 July 2016 and 31 December 2016 are monitored to see whether the NDIS has helped them participate in social activities in their community.

Across both age groups, there were considerable increases in the percentage of participants engaged in social activities in their community.

Participant Satisfaction

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A chart displays, by quarter, the proportion of participants describing satisfaction with the Agency's planning process as 'good' or 'very good'.

84% of participants rated their satisfaction with the Agency's planning process as either good or very good in the current quarter. This has decreased since the last quarter.

A new participant satisfaction survey has been developed. Going forward it will better record the experience of NDIS participants, and their families and carers, at different stages of the participant pathway.

PART 2: Committed Supports and Payments

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Both committed and paid supports to participants are increasing in line with the growing scheme.

Of the $18.8 billion that has been committed in participant plans, $12.3 billion has been paid to date.

Summary

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This section presents information on the amount committed in plans and payments to service providers and participants.

The following are the key statistics on Committed Supports and Payments:

$12.5 billion of committed supports in respect of prior financial years including trial

$6.3 billion of committed supports in respect of 2018-19 to date

$85.8M has been paid to providers and participants for supports provided in 2013-14, $370.8m in 2014-15, $703.6m in 2015-16, $2,174.9m in 2016-17, $5,315.9m in 2017-18 and $3,679.8m in 2018-19 to date.

Overall, 65% of committed supports were utilised in 2013-14, 75% in 2014-15, 75% in 2015-16, 67% in 2016-17 and 69% in 2017-18.

The 2018-19 experience is still emerging.

Committed Supports and Payments

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A table and a graph show the comparison between the total committed supports and paid support for each year since scheme inception.

Committed supports by year that the support is expected to be provided, compared with committed supports that have been used (paid).

Of the $18.8 billion that has been committed in participant plans, $12.3 billion has been paid to date.

In particular, for supports provided in:

2013-14: $85.8m has been paid

2014-15: $370.8m has been paid

2015-16: $703.6m has been paid

2016-17: $2,174.9m has been paid

2017-18: $5,315.9m has been paid

2018-19 to date: $3,679.8m has been paid

Committed Supports by Cost Band

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Two charts (including and excluding SIL) show the comparison of the distribution of average annualised committed supports by cost band for the current and previous quarter.

As at 2018-19 Q2, the distribution of average annualised committed supports remained consistent with previous quarters. This is the case whether Supported Independent Living (SIL) supports are included or excluded in the figures.

Committed Supports by Age Band

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A graph shows the comparison between the average annualised committed supports by age band for the current and previous quarter.

Average annualised committed supports increase steeply up to age 25, stabilise to age 55 and then reduce at older ages.

Note: The age eligibility requirements for the NDIS are based on the age as at the access request date. Participants with their initial plan approved aged 65+ have turned 65 since their access request was received.

Committed Supports by Disability Group

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A graph shows the comparison between the average annualised committed supports by primary disability group for the current and previous quarter.

Participants with Spinal Cord Injury, Cerebral Palsy and Acquired Brain Injury have the highest average annualised committed supports.

Committed Supports by Level of Function

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A graph shows the comparison between the average annualised committed supports by level of function for the current and previous quarter.

The average annualised committed supports generally increase with lower levels of function.

Note: High, medium and low function is relative within the NDIS population and not comparable to the general population.

Utilisation of Committed Supports

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A graph shows the comparison between the utilisation of committed supports by the year that the support was expected to be provided.

Utilisation of committed supports by year that the support was expected to be provided as at 30 September 2018, compared with 31 December 2018.

As there is a lag between when support is provided and when it is paid, the utilisation in 2018-19 will increase.

Lower utilisation in 2016-17 and 2017-18 is predominantly driven by the large number of participants who received their first plan in these years. Participants utilise less of their first plan compared with their second and subsequent plans, as it takes time to familiarise with the NDIS and decide which supports to use.

The utilisation of committed supports in 2018-19 will increase further as there is a lag between when support is provided and when it is paid.

Utilisation of Committed Supports by Plan Number

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A graph shows the utilisation of committed supports by plan number for the 2017-18 support year.

Participants utilise a greater proportion of their subsequent plans when compared to their initial plan.

Note 1: Participants receiving in-kind supports are excluded from this analysis as we are unable to accurately separate in-kind payments and committed amounts between plans.

Note 2: Only utilisation of committed supports for the 2017-18 support year is shown, as the 2018-19 support year is not mature enough.

PART 3: Providers and Markets

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The scale and extent of the market continues to grow, with a 6% increase in the number of providers during the quarter to 19,075.

55% of approved providers were active at 31 December 2018, and 45% were yet to have evidence of activity.

Note: The new NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (NQSC) has been established to regulate providers in NSW and SA from 1 July 2018, and other jurisdictions starting from 1 July 2019.

Summary

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This section contains information on registered service providers and the market, with key provider and market indicators presented.

Provider registration

•To provide supports to NDIS participants, a service provider is required to register and be approved by the NDIA in States/Territories other than NSW and SA.

•Since 1 July 2018, providers in NSW and SA register with the NQSC by submitting a registration request, indicating the types of support (registration groups) they are accredited to provide.

How providers interact with participants

•NDIS participants have the flexibility to choose the providers who support them.

•Providers are paid for disability supports and services provided to the participants.

The following are the key statistics:

19,075 approved providers, 55% of which were active at 31 December 2018

80-90% of payments made by the NDIA are received by 25% of providers

45% of service providers are individuals/sole traders

Therapeutic supports has the highest number of approved service providers, followed by household tasks and assistance with travel/transport arrangements

Providers over time

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A chart displays the cumulative number of approved service providers since June 2016 by the type of provider, individual/sole trader or company/organization.

As at 31 December 2018, there were 19,075 registered service providers, of which 8,534 were individual/sole trader operated businesses and 10,541 were companies or organisations.

The number of approved service providers increased by 6% from 17,925 to 19,075 in the quarter. Currently, 45% of approved service providers are individuals/sole traders.

Note: The new NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (NQSC) has been established to regulate providers in NSW and SA from 1 July 2018, and other jurisdictions starting from 1 July 2019.

1.56 average number of providers per participant

Proportion of Active Providers

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The figure displays the proportion of active and not yet active providers.

Change in the activity status of providers.

As at 31 December 2018, 55% of providers were active and 45% were yet to have evidence of activity. Of all providers, 2,279 began delivering new supports in the quarter.

Approved Registration Groups

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A chart displays the approved providers by the changes in registration group and percentage over the quarter.

The number of approved providers has increased for most registration groups over the quarter.

The registration groups with the largest numbers of approved providers continue to grow:

• Therapeutic Supports: from 8,701 to 9,247 (6% increase)

• Household Tasks: from 4,977 to 5,381 (8% increase)

• Assistance with travel/transport arrangements: from 3,723 to 3,994 (7% increase)

• Early Intervention supports for early childhood: from 2,940 to 3,051 (4% increase)

• Innovative Community Participation: from 2,760 to 2,997 (9% increase)

Active Registration Groups

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A chart displays the active providers by the changes in registration group and percentage over the quarter.

The number of providers active in each registration group has increased for most registration groups over the quarter.

The registration groups with the largest numbers of active providers continue to grow:

• Therapeutic Supports: from 5,213 to 5,664 (9% increase)

• Household tasks: from 2,126 to 2,407 (13% increase)

• Participation in community, social and civic activities: from 1,547 to 1,693 (9% increase)

• Early Intervention supports for early childhood: from 1,488 to 1,577 (6% increase)

• Daily Personal Activities: from 1,346 to 1,491 (11% increase)

Market share of top providers

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25% of service providers received 80-90% of the dollars paid for major registration groups.

The following are the key statistics for the market share of the top 25% of providers by registration category:

86% Daily personal activities

89% Early intervention supports for early childhood

83% Participation in community, social and civic activities

88% Therapeutic supports

88% Assistance with daily life tasks in a group or shared living arrangement

PART 4: Information, Linkages and Capacity Building

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The Information, Linkages and Capacity Building policy is a commitment made by the NDIS to connect people with disability to their community.

Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC)

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ILC provides grants to organisations to carry out activities or programs in the community. Supported projects create connections between people with disability and the communities in which they live, encouraging inclusion and participation and promoting a diverse Australian society.

The NDIA is adopting a new approach to ILC funding, to enhance the support of individuals and communities that help promote a more accessible and inclusive culture. New Economic Participation grants form part of this new approach, which will direct funding to boost employment opportunities for people with disabilities. The grants, funded by the Australian Government and worth $19.9 million, support the new Participant Employment Taskforce that was established in January 2019 to enhance economic independence and participation for people with disabilities.

The grants will support innovative proposals that help build the aspirations, confidence and skills of people with disability to maximise their employment prospects. An open, competitive grant round will open in January 2019, the results of which will be announced later this year.

From 2016-17 to 2018-19, the NDIA has already delivered five ILC grant rounds to support the rollout of ILC across each State/Territory. This amounts to $82.7m in ILC grants to community programs over 2 years. Each grant round has funded projects under one or more of the following activity areas in the ILC Policy:

- Information, linkages and referrals
- Capacity building for mainstream services
- Community awareness and capacity building
- Individual capacity building
- Remote ILC Grants round

PART 5: Mainstream Interface

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The proportion of participants entering in the current quarter and accessing mainstream services is consistent with prior quarters.

Mainstream Interface

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An object displays the comparison of the percentage of participants accessing mainstream supports. The object compares the current quarter against all prior quarters (transition only).

91% of active participants with a plan approved in 2018-19 Q2 access mainstream services. This is consistent with prior quarters. Participants are accessing mainstream services predominantly for health and wellbeing, lifelong learning and daily activities.

The following are the key statistics:

91% of active participants with a plan approved in prior quarters (transition only) access mainstream supports, across the following domains:

- Health and wellbeing (47%)

• Lifelong learning (11%)

• Daily activities (8%)

91% of active participants with a plan approved in 2018-19 Q2 access mainstream supports, across the following domains:

• Health and wellbeing (46%)

• Lifelong learning (11%)

• Daily activities (9%)

PART 6: Financial Sustainability

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The NDIS Insurance approach allows pressures on the scheme to be identified early and management responses put in place to respond to these pressures.

The NDIS has been within budget every year for its first five years of operations (1 July 2013 - 30 June 2018). The scheme remains within budget in the first half of 2018-19 and is projected to remain within budget for the whole financial year.

Financial sustainability

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The NDIS has been within budget every year for its first five years of operations (1 July 2013 - 30 June 2018). The Scheme remains within budget in the first half of 2018-19 and is projected to remain within budget for the whole financial year.

Specific strategies to address pressures on financial sustainability include:

- Independent Assessment Pilot (IAP) - The launch of the NDIA's IAP in November 2018 introduced standardised assessments to better understand and assess the impact of disability for people with autism, intellectual disability and psychosocial disability. The assessments are undertaken by independent health professionals for a more consistent evaluation of those seeking access to the NDIS.

- Participant Pathway Review – The NDIA is working on strengthening the 'outcomes focus' of the Participant Pathway Review to improve participant satisfaction and enable individuals to reach their goals, while also increasing the consistency and reliability of access and plan budget decisions.

- Reference package and guided planning process – To better align a participant's support package with their level of function, the NDIA introduced the reference package and guided planning process, which works to ensure that the right assessment questions and tools are being used to inform plan decisions.

- Supported Independent Living (SIL) and Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) –The NDIA is working on consistent and equitable decisions for those seeking access to SIL and SDA, which constitutes a large proportion of NDIS cost.

- Business intelligence strategy – A business intelligence strategy has been developed, which includes initiatives such as the development of tools to support decision-making, improved gateway interfaces with business partners, and the refinement of governance processes for data management.

The following are the key drivers:

Accessing the scheme: ensuring the right people meet the eligibility requirements and gain access to the scheme

Exiting the scheme: following appropriate early intervention support, suitable participants are exiting the scheme

Receiving an initial plan: ensuring participants are receiving the right amount of reasonable and necessary supports in their plan

Reviewing plans: reviewed plan budgets include the correct amount of support dependent on the participant's needs