

Slide 1: COAG Disability Reform Council. This is the National Quarterly Performance Report.

This is the June 2019 update on NDIA performance.

Slide 2: Overview

This report is a summary of the performance and operations of the NDIA for Quarter 4 of 2018-19 (01 April 2019 - 30 June 2019).

It is the twelfth 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.

Slide 3: Summary

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

Participants and Planning

An additional 27,853 participants with plans this quarter (excluding ECEI).

The Agency has achieved 93% of the 2018-19 operational target for new plan approvals.

As at 30 June 2019, plans approved and ECEI referrals represent:

- 61% of 2018-19 bilateral estimate met (1 July 2018 - 30 June 2019).
- 69% of transition to date bilateral estimate met (1 July 2016 - 30 June 2019).
- 72% of scheme to date bilateral estimate met (1 July 2013 - 30 June 2019).

Participant satisfaction has continued to improve, with 90% 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

\$18.0 billion for supports has been paid to providers and participants since Scheme inception:

- \$85.8m in 2013-14,
- \$370.9m in 2014-15,
- \$704.1m in 2015-16,

- \$2,181.4m in 2016-17,
- \$5,387.2m in 2017-18,
- \$9,289.0m in 2018-19.

Overall,

- 65% of committed supports were utilised in 2013-14,
- 75% in 2014-15,
- 75% in 2015-16,
- 67% in 2016-17,
- 70% 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 21,510 registered providers as at 30 June 2019, representing a 6% increase for the quarter.

57% of registered providers were active as at 30 June 2019.

46% of registered providers are individuals/sole traders.

25% of registered providers are receiving 80-95% 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) component of the NDIS aims to build the capacity of people with disability in Australia to achieve their goals and for them to be included in all aspects community life.

The NDIA has invested \$65.9 million during 2019 to States and Territories Governments, prior to the commissioning of new programs during 2019-20.

There were two national interim grant rounds administered by the NDIA, namely the Disability People and Families Organisation (DPFO) and the Economic Participation grant rounds.

The NDIA will continue the progressive roll-out of funding programs throughout 2019. The first program National Information Program (NIP) opened on Friday 5 April 2019. The other three programs, Individual Capacity Building Program (ICBP), Mainstream Capacity Building Program and Economic and Community Participation Program will be released throughout 2019 and 2020.

In December 2018, the NDIA introduced the 'ILC Strategy Towards 2022' which guides the investment of ILC funds from 2019-20 to 2021-22. This strategy will see ILC administered through these four discrete, but complementary programs.

Mainstream Interface

93% of active participants with a plan approved in 2018-19 Q4 access mainstream services.

Financial Sustainability

The NDIS has been within budget each year of its operation. The NDIS remains within budget for 2018-19.

The primary drivers of costs to the NDIS include the number of participants, the amount of support allocated to each plan, how that allocated amount will change over time, the utilisation of individual supports, and the rate at which participants exit the Scheme. The current primary financial pressures relate to:

- Scheme access and ongoing eligibility.
- Participant costs.

Specific management responses include: participant pathway review, reference package and guided planning process, improved decision making for support independent living and specialist disability accommodation.

Slide 4: Part 1: Participants and Planning

The NDIS nationally continues to grow with 27,853 additional participants with approved plans this quarter.

In total, over 298,000 participants have now been supported by the NDIS, with approximately one third of participants receiving support for the first time.

Slide 5: Summary

The NDIS has been 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:

298,816 participants have now been supported by the NDIS, including children in the ECEI program.

27,853 initial plans approved in 2018-19 Q4, excluding children in the ECEI program (representing 10% growth since last quarter).

5,312 children are being supported in the ECEI program, with 1,288 additional referrals to the ECEI gateway confirmed in 2018-19 Q4.

99,537 people have received support for the first time.

93% of 2018-19 operational target met (1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019)*.

72% of scheme to date bilateral estimate met (1 July 2013 to 30 June 2019).

61% of 2018-19 bilateral estimate met (1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019).

*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.

Slide 6: Quarterly Intake

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 Q4

Of the 18,861 participants deemed 'eligible' this quarter 33% entered from an existing State/Territory program.

Of the 27,853 plan approvals this quarter, 47% had transitioned from an existing State/Territory program, 81% entered with a permanent disability and 4,274 were previously confirmed as ECEI as at 31 March 2019.

The diagram displays the following key statistics on quarterly intake:

25,433 access decisions.

18,861 access met.

27,853 plan approvals (excluding ECEI).

1,288 ECEI.

Slide 7: Quarterly Intake Detail

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

Plan approval numbers have increased from 265,651 at the end of 2018-19 Q3 to 293,504 by the end of 2018-19 Q4, an increase of 27,853 approvals.

At the end of the quarter, 5,312 children are being supported in the ECEI gateway. Of these, 4,024 were previously confirmed as ECEI at 31 March 2019 and an additional 1,288 children entered the gateway this quarter.

The number of confirmed ECEI referrals reduced since 31 March 2019 mainly due to children who were in the ECEI gateway having an initial plan approved during the quarter. Children have also moved out of the ECEI gateway since 31 March 2019 for other reasons including where the child has been referred to appropriate mainstream services.

Overall, 7,489 participants with approved plans have exited the Scheme, resulting in 291,327 active participants (including ECEI) as at 30 June 2019.

There were 63,904 plan reviews this quarter. This figure relates to all participants who have entered the scheme.

Slide 8: Cumulative Position

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.

At the end of 2018-19 Q4, the cumulative total number of participants that have received support is 298,816 (including 5,312 children supported through the ECEI gateway). Of these, 165,390 transitioned from an existing State/Territory program, 28,577 transitioned from an existing Commonwealth program and 99,537 participants have received support for the first time.

Overall, since 1 July 2013, there have been 375,494 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:

93% of 2018-19 operational target met (1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019).

72% of scheme to date bilateral estimate met (1 July 2013 to 30 June 2019).

61% of 2018-19 bilateral estimate met (1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019).

293,504 plan approvals to date; 298,816 including 5,312 ECEI confirmed.

Slide 9: Participant Profiles by Age Group

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 27% of participants entering in this quarter are aged 0 to 6 years, compared to 12% 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.

Slide 10: Participant Profiles by Disability Group

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 this quarter, 12% had a primary disability of Psychosocial Disability compared with 8% in previous quarters. Further, 9% had a primary disability of Developmental Delay compared with 4% in previous quarters.

For the participants with a primary disability of Developmental Delay, the large increase was mainly driven by the increase in participants aged 0 to 6 years entering this quarter.

Note 1: Of the 4,874 active participants identified as having an intellectual disability, 549 (11%) have Down syndrome.

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

Slide 11: Participant Profiles by Level of Function

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 this quarter:

- 31% of participants had a relatively high level of function.
- 44% of participants had a relatively moderate level of function.
- 25% of participants had a relatively low level of function.

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

Slide 12: Participant Profiles by Gender

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. Consistent with population data, this is driven by autism and developmental delay where prevalence rates are higher for males compared with females.

Slide 13: Participant Profiles

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 Q4:

- 7.3% were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, compared with 5.6% in previous periods combined.
- 2.2% were young people in residential aged care, compared with 1.6% in previous periods combined.
- 10.3% were culturally and linguistically diverse, compared with 8.2% in previous periods combined.

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

2,034 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

23,675 Not Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

2,114 Not Stated.

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

607 Young people in residential aged care.

27,216 Not young people in residential aged care.

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

2,871 Culturally and Linguistically Diverse.

24,137 Not Culturally and Linguistically Diverse.

815 Not Stated.

Slide 14: Plan Management Support Co-ordination

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

The proportion of participants electing to fully or partly self-manage their plan was higher in 2018-19 Q4 at 29%, compared with 27% in previous quarters combined.

42% of participants who have had a plan approved in 2018-19 Q4 have support coordination in their plan, compared to 39% in previous quarters combined.

Slide 15: Plan Activation

Two charts display the proportion of the duration to activate plans. These charts compare participants with initial plans approved in 2018-19 Q2, against those with initial plans approved in prior quarters (transition only).

Plan activation refers to the amount of time between a participant's initial plan being approved, and the date the participant first receives support. In-kind supports are included.

The percentage of participants who activated plans within 90 days of initial plan approval was:

- 85% of participants entering in 2018-19 Q2.
- 86% of participants entering in previous quarters combined.

Plan activation figures are approximations based on payment data. As there is a lag between when the support is provided to a participant, and the payment being made, these statistics are a conservative estimate; it is likely plan activation is faster than presented.

Note: Participants with initial plans approved after the end of 2018-19 Q2 have been excluded from the charts. They are relatively new and it is too early to examine their durations to activation.

Slide 16: Participant Outcomes

A chart displays selected key baseline indicators for participants.

This information on participant outcomes has been collected from 99% of participants who received their initial plan since 1 July 2016 (when they entered the scheme).

- 61% of participants aged 0 to 14 are able to make friends outside of family/carers.
- 52% of participants aged 0 to before school are engaged in age appropriate community, cultural or religious activities, compared to 34% - 37% for other age groups.

- 61% of participants from school age to 14 attend school in a mainstream class, compared to 30% of participants aged 15 to 24.
- 23% of participants aged 25 and over have a paid job, compared to 17% of participants aged 15 to 24.
- 64% of participants aged 25 and over choose what they do every day, compared to 44% of participants aged 15 to 24.

Slide 17: Family/Carers Outcomes

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

The percentage of participants' families/carers when they entered the Scheme (baseline indicators):

- 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 (77%).
- who have friends and family they can see as often as they like was highest for participants aged 25 and over (47%).
- who feel in control selecting services was equal for participants aged 15 to 24 and 25 and over (41%).
- who support/plan for their family member through life stage transitions was highest for participants aged 0 to 14 (86%).

Slide 18: Has the NDIS helped? Participants

Charts display, from year 1 to year 2, the responses from participants to the question: 'Has the NDIS helped?' split into age categories and life domains.

This data reflects participants' perceptions on whether engagement with the NDIS has helped them.

The NDIA asked the question 'Has the NDIS helped?' to individuals who entered the Scheme between 1 July 2016 and 30 June 2017, after their first year participating in the Scheme and again at the end of their second year of the Scheme.

Participant perceptions in general improve from year one to year two of participation in the NDIS. The greatest improvements across most age groups were demonstrated within the 'Daily living' domain. However, for the 'Work' domain, the results deteriorated from year one to year two.

Slide 19: Has the NDIS helped? Family/Carers

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

This data reflects families and carers' perceptions on whether engagement with the NDIS has helped them.

The NDIA asked the question 'Has the NDIS helped?' to families and carers of individuals who entered the Scheme between 1 July 2016 and 30 June 2017, after their first year participating in the Scheme and again at the end of their second year of the Scheme.

Overall, the perception of families and carers was that participant outcomes had improved from the first year with the NDIS to their second year. The one exception was the response to the question 'Has the NDIS helped you with your health and wellbeing?' for the 15 and over age group.

Slide 20: Participants in Work

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

The NDIA is acutely aware of the benefits that employment brings to participants and tracks employment outcomes to see whether the NDIS has helped participants to find paid work.

Baseline measures on employment are collected as a participant enters the Scheme, after their first year and again at the end of their second year of the Scheme. This data relates to participants who entered the Scheme between 1 July 2016 and 30 June 2017.

The percentage of participants in paid work increased from a baseline of 13% to 22% in year two for those aged 15 to 24, but decreased from 26% to 25% for those aged 25 and over. Overall, the percentage of participants in employment increased from 23% to 24%.

Slide 21: Participants involved in community and social activities

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

The number of participants engaging in community and social activities is one of the key measures for ensuring quality experiences and outcomes for participants.

For participants who entered the Scheme between 1 July 2016 and 30 June 2017, levels of engagement in community and social activity are being tracked to see whether the NDIS has helped them to increase their participation.

Across all age groups, there was considerable increase in the percentage of participants engaged in community and social activities this quarter. The growth was most prevalent for the 15 to 24 age group, which saw an increase from 31% to 43%.

Slide 22: Participant Satisfaction

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

90% of participants rated their satisfaction with the Agency's planning process as either good or very good in the current quarter. This has increased since the last quarter.

Slide 23: Participant Satisfaction - New Survey Method

A chart displays, for prior quarters compared with the current quarter, the proportion of participants who agreed with statements about different stages of the NDIS participant pathway.

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

It began roll-out on 1 September 2018 and will become the primary tool for analysing participant experience. The new survey is designed to gather data at the four primary stages of the participant pathway:

- Access.
- Pre-planning.
- Planning.
- Plan Review.

Generally there have been improvements in participant satisfaction at all stages of the pathway in this quarter. There is still work required to improve participant understanding of the NDIS process and what happens next for individuals at each stage of the process.

Slide 24: Part 2: Committed Supports and Payments

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

Of the \$27.1 billion that has been committed in participant plans, \$18.0 billion has been paid to date.

Slide 25: Summary

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

Summary of payments for supports provided by financial year since the NDIS trial was launched in 2013-14:

2013-14: \$85.8m,

2014-15: \$370.9m,

2015-16: \$704.1m,

2016-17: \$2,181.4m,

2017-18: \$5,387.2m,

2018-19: \$9,289.0m.

Percentage of committed supports utilisation by financial year:

2013-14: 65%,

2014-15: 75%,

2015-16: 75%,

2016-17: 67%,

2017-18: 70%.

Utilisation of committed supports in 2018-19 is still emerging.

Slide 26: Committed Supports and Payments

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

This data shows the committed supports by the year they are expected to be provided, in comparison to the committed supports that have been paid.

Of the \$27.1 billion that has been committed in participant plans, \$18.0 billion has been paid to date.

Summary of committed supports paid in financial years since the NDIS trial launched:

2013-14: \$85.8m,

2014-15: \$370.9m,

2015-16: \$704.1m,

2016-17: \$2,181.4m,

2017-18: \$5,387.2m,

2018-19: \$9,289.0m .

Slide 27: Committed Supports by Cost Band

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.

This quarter, the proportion of initial plan approvals with average annualised committed supports greater than \$30,000 has increased since the previous quarter. The increase in average committed supports was driven by indexation of plans to reflect 2019-20 price changes which was applied on 30 June 2019. This is the case whether Supported Independent Living (SIL) supports are included or excluded in the figures.

Slide 28: Committed Supports by Age Band

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

This quarter, supports have increased at each age group compared with prior quarters. This increase was driven by indexation of plans to reflect 2019-20 price changes which was applied on 30 June 2019.

Average annualised committed supports increase steeply between participants 0-6 through to age 34, stabilising to age 55 and reducing in participants of older years.

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.

Slide 29: Committed Supports by Disability Group

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

The highest average annualised committed supports are for participants with Spinal Cord Injury, Cerebral Palsy and Acquired Brain Injury.

Slide 30: Committed Supports by Level of Function

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 among participants with higher needs.

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

Slide 31: Utilisation of Committed Supports

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

This data demonstrates the utilisation of committed supports by the year they were expected to be provided as at 31 March 2019 and 30 June 2019.

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

Experience shows that 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.

There were a large number of participants who received their first plan in 2016-17 and 2017-18 which largely explains why utilisation rates are lower in these periods.

Experience for 2018-19 is still emerging.

Slide 32: Utilisation of Committed Supports by Plan Number

A graph shows the utilisation of committed supports by plan number from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018.

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 it is not possible to accurately separate in-kind payments and committed amounts between plans.

Note 2: Only utilisation of committed supports from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018 is shown, as experience in the most recent 6 months is still emerging.

Due to the increasing levels of total committed supports over time, more recent months have a heavier weighting on the 12-month utilisation rates. December 2018 is the most recent month included in this report and therefore has the highest weighting. The holiday season in December results in a low level of supports being provided relative to other months, and this has the effect of reducing the 12-month utilisation rates compared to what was observed last quarter.

Slide 33: Part 3: Providers and Markets

The provider network grows in scale and diversity, increasing participants' access to high quality services.

There were a total of 21,510 providers as at 30 June 2019, representing a 6% increase on last quarter. Of these, 57% were active.

The new NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (NQSC) commenced to regulate quality and safeguarding of NDIS supports and services. The NQSC has been active in New South Wales and South Australia from 1 July 2018, and will be in other jurisdictions starting from 1 July 2019.

Slide 34: Summary

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 all States/Territories other than New South Wales and South Australia.
- Since 1 July 2018, providers in New South Wales and South Australia register with the NQSC by submitting a registration request, indicating the types of support 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:

21,510 approved providers, 57% of which were active at 30 June 2019.

80-95% of payments made by the NDIA are received by 25% of providers.

46% 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.

Slide 35: Providers over time

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

As at 30 June 2019, there were 21,510 registered service providers, of which 9,824 were individual/sole trader operated businesses and 11,686 were companies or organisations.

The number of approved service providers increased by 6% from 20,208 to 21,510 in the quarter. Currently, 46% of approved service providers are individuals/sole traders.

1.52 average number of providers per participant.

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.

Slide 36: Proportion of Active Providers

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

As at 30 June 2019, 57% of providers were active and 43% were inactive.

Of the total providers, 2,334 began delivering new supports in the quarter.

Slide 37: Approved Registration Groups

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 9,539 to 10,132 (6% increase).
- Household Tasks: from 5,813 to 6,368 (10% increase).
- Assistance with travel/transport arrangements: from 4,279 to 4,644 (9% increase).
- Innovative Community Participation: from 3,273 to 3,616 (10% increase).
- Assistance products for personal care and safety: from 2,992 to 3,261 (9% increase).

Slide 38: Active Registration Groups

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 6,028 to 6,484 (8% increase).
- Household tasks: from 2,645 to 2,929 (11% increase).
- Participation in community, social and civic activities: from 1,792 to 1,953 (9% increase).
- Early Intervention supports for early childhood: from 1,658 to 1,753 (6% increase).
- Daily Personal Activities: from 1,594 to 1,736 (9% increase).

Slide 39: Market share of top providers

25% of service providers received 80-95% of the dollars paid for major registration groups.

87% Daily personal activities.

90% Early intervention supports for early childhood.

83% Participation in community, social and civic activities.

91% Therapeutic supports.

89% Assistance with daily life tasks in a group or shared living arrangement.

Slide 40: Part 4: Information, Linkages and Capacity Building

The Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) component of the NDIS aims to build the capacity of people with disability in Australia to achieve their goals and for them to be included in all aspects of community life.

Slide 41: Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC)

Information, Linkages and Capacity Building Investment Strategy

The NDIA has invested \$65.9 million during 2019 through a combination of interim grant rounds and additional bridging support funding to States and Territories Governments to help ensure an orderly transition the new ILC Investment Strategy, prior to the commissioning of new programs during 2019-20.

There were two national interim grant rounds administered by the NDIA that lay the foundations for the introduction of the ILC investment strategy:

- The Disability People and Families Organisation (DPFO) grant round allocated \$15.5 million to 114 organisations and 13 priority cohort group organisations across Australia to deliver one-year projects from July 2019.
- The Economic Participation grant round will allocate up to \$19.9 million to support organisations to build the capacity of people with disability, and for employers to improve employment outcomes for people with disability.¹

Both of these enabled the testing of components of the ILC investment strategy.

As part of the ILC Investment Strategy the NDIA will continue the progressive roll-out of funding programs throughout 2019.

- The first program is the National Information Program (NIP) opened on Friday 5 April 2019, which aims to increase the accessibility, quality and consistency of information about disability types, current services and support options available to people with disability, carers and families throughout Australia.²
- The second program to be released will be the Individual Capacity Building Program (ICBP), which builds on the extensive evidence base for the use of peer support in building skills for people with disability.
- The third program to be released will be Mainstream Capacity Building Program, which aims to ensure the equity of access to and increase inclusions of people with disability in mainstream services.
- The fourth program to be released will be Economic and Community Participation Program, which aims to increase the social and economic participation, including employment outcomes, of people with disability. The third and fourth programs also aim to build the capacity of the community to

¹ Note 1: This grant supports the objectives of the NDIS Participant Employment Taskforce, and while currently under assessment, results are expected to be announced shortly.

² Note 2: This grant round is currently under assessment with results to be announced shortly.

create opportunities for people with disability to contribute to community prosperity and participate in community life.

ILC Strategy Towards 2022

In December 2018, the NDIA introduced the 'ILC Strategy Towards 2022' which guides the investment of ILC funds from 2019-20 to 2021-22.

Through the strategy, the NDIA provides grants to organisations to deliver ILC projects in the community that enable all people with disability, their families and their carers to benefit from a more inclusive, accessible and connected Australia.

The ILC Strategy Towards 2022 will see ILC administered through these four discrete, but complementary programs.

Slide 42: Part 5: Mainstream Interface

The proportion of participants entering in the current quarter and accessing mainstream services is slightly higher compared to prior quarters.

Slide 43: Mainstream Interface

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).

Of the total number of active participants with a plan approved in 2018-19 Q4, 93% access mainstream services, a slight increase from prior quarters. Participants are accessing mainstream services predominantly for health and wellbeing, lifelong learning and daily activities.

The following are the key statistics:

92% 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 (12%).
- Daily activities (9%).

93% of active participants with a plan approved in 2018-19 Q4 access mainstream supports, across the following domains:

- Health and wellbeing (47%).
- Lifelong learning (11%).
- Daily activities (11%).

Slide 44: Part 6: Financial Sustainability

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 each year of its operation. The NDIS remains within budget for 2018-19.

Slide 45: Financial sustainability

The NDIS has been within budget each year of its operation. The NDIS remains within budget for 2018-19.

Specific strategies to address pressures on financial sustainability include:

- 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.
- Independent Assessment Pilot (IAP) - The NDIA’s IAP commenced in November 2018 and closed in April 2019. Its purpose was to better understand and assess the impact of disability for people accessing the NDIS, to improve the consistency, accuracy and reliability of access and planning decisions. People with autism spectrum disorder, intellectual disability and psychosocial disability volunteered to take part, undertaking a functional assessment with an independent assessor using standardised assessment tools. The NDIA plans to further test the independent sourcing of function assessments, with additional cohorts of participants across a wider range of disabilities in 2019-2020.
- 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. A review has commenced to incorporate new learnings since the reference package and guided planning process was first implemented.
- 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. • Continued work on tools to assist with typical support packages.

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.