



Provider quarterly report - School leaver employment summary

January – December 2021

September 2022

Market Innovation & Employment Branch

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

ndis

1. Executive summary

1.1 Vision

In 2019 the National Disability Insurance Agency (the Agency) released the NDIS Participant Employment Strategy (the Strategy), which sets out the vision, commitment and plan for supporting participants to find and keep meaningful employment. The vision of the Strategy is that participants have the same opportunities to work as other Australians, and the confidence, support and skills to take advantage of those opportunities. Our goal is to have 30% of working age participants in meaningful employment by 30 June 2023. As at December 2021, 22% of working age participants were in paid employment. One of the 6 priority areas in the NDIS Participant Employment Strategy Action Plan 2021/2022 is to improve the path between education to work.

School leaver employment support is an early intervention support intended to smooth the transition from school to employment by building a young participant's skills, confidence, and capacity for work.

These supports are intended to be individualised and are generally provided for a period of up to 2 years commencing in the final year of school, bridging gaps in mainstream services by recognising that many NDIS participants require significant investment early to gain the generic competencies needed for work.

1.2 Employment support provider reporting

Employment support providers are required to submit data through the provider reporting tool (the tool) to the NDIA each quarter. The data submitted includes participants' demographic details, activities, progress towards milestones, outcomes achieved, and employment details.

The Quarterly report was made mandatory in January 2021, with increasing numbers of providers reporting throughout each quarter in 2021.

This summary report provides insights on the data submitted through the tool, aggregated across all providers that contributed from January to December 2021.

The report will be released on a regular basis, with improvements incorporated as the data matures including publishing individual provider outcomes data.

2. Key findings

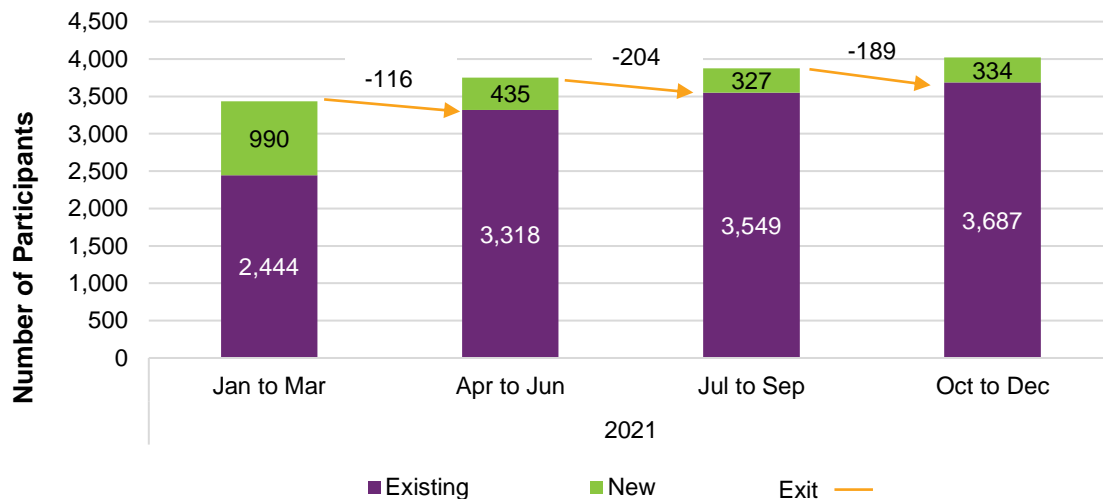
The information contained in this report represents data submitted to the Agency by providers of school leaver employment supports for the participants for whom they provided service from January to December 2021.

As at December 2021, approximately 6397 participants age 15-24 either had school leaver employment support included in their active plan, or had claimed school leaver employment supports. Out of these, only participants for whom service had been provided, and whose data providers submit to the Agency are included in this report.

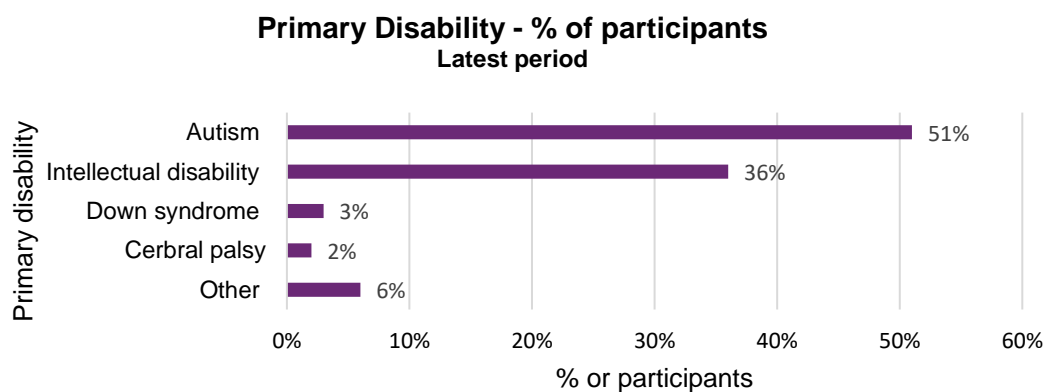
For January to December 2021, Providers report:

2.1 Employment support recipients

4530 unique participants received school leaver employment supports



990 participants commenced receiving school leaver employment supports in Q1, 435 commenced in Q2, 327 commenced in Q3, and 334 commenced in Q4.



Participants receiving school leaver employment supports predominantly had autism (51%) or intellectual disability (36%), with 67% being male. Other includes; other neurological, hearing impairment, psychosocial disability, acquired brain injury, visual impairment, and other / not populated.

The majority of employment support recipients were in NSW (41%), followed by VIC (24%), and QLD (14%).



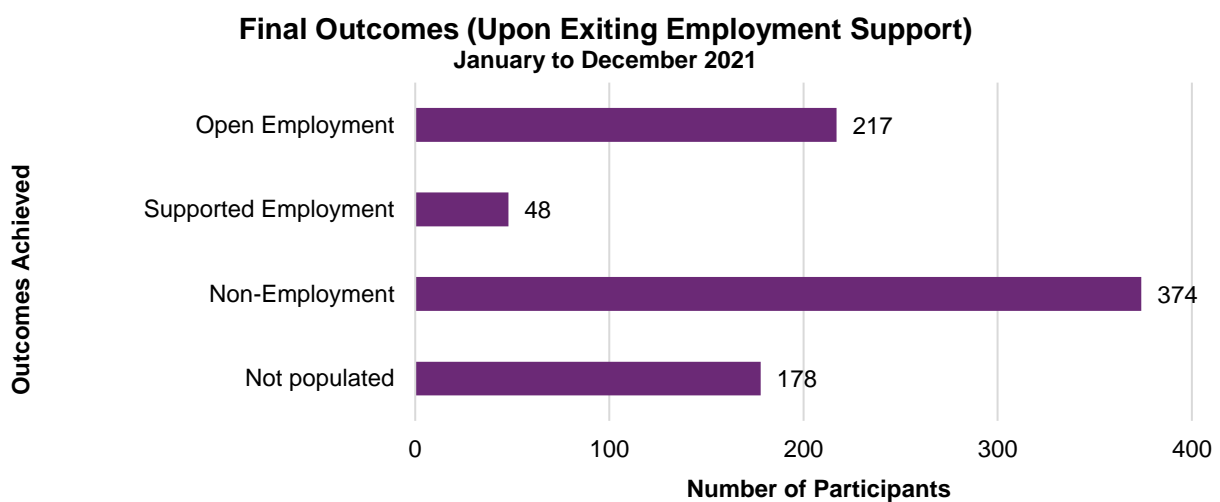


In the most recent period, October to December 2021, around 6% of employment support recipients identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people. This is slightly lower than the 8% of all NDIS participants age 15-24 who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people.

In the most recent period, around 7% of employment supports recipients identified as being from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse community. The proportion out of all NDIS participants aged 15-24 is also 7%.

2.2 Outcomes

817 participants were reported as exiting school leaver employment supports during the calendar year from January to December 2021.

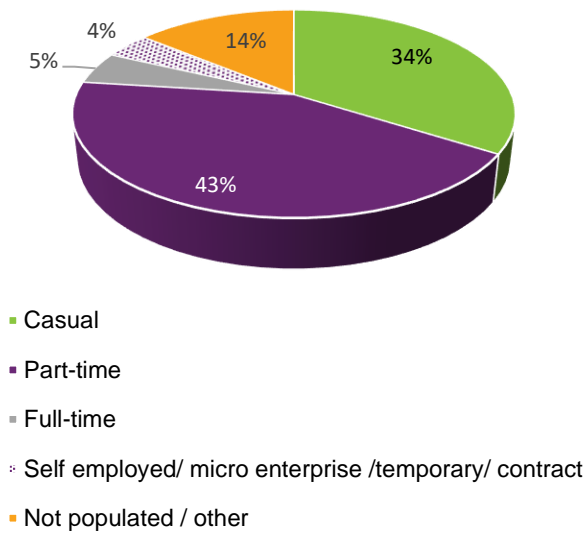


Of the 817 participants who exited employment supports in the 12 month period a total of 265 participants finished employment support with open or supported employment. 33% of those who exited achieved an employment outcome, 27% in open employment and 6% in an ADE.

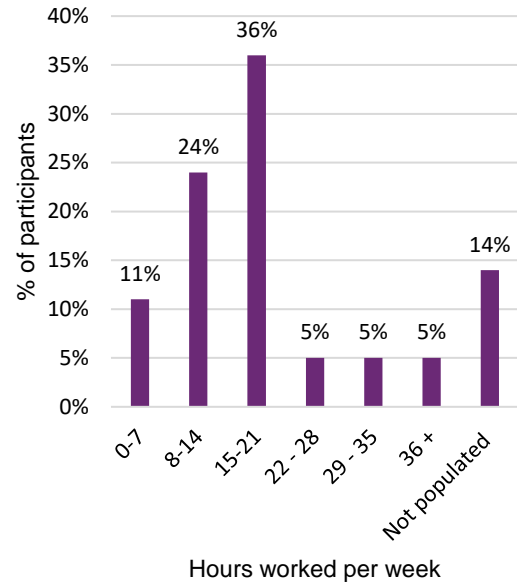
46% of participants exited support without an employment outcome. Providers reported 10% went on to do volunteering or other unpaid work, 4% were referred to other providers, 2% were referred to DES, 4% went on to further education or study while 26% reported they exited support for a variety of reasons including, coming to the end of 2 years of support, health, mental health and personal reasons.

Providers did not report any outcome for 22% of exiting participants.

**Employment type
January to December 2021**



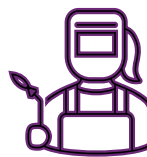
**Hours worked per week
January to December 2021**



Of the participants who gained paid employment over the four quarters, 43% were employed on a part time basis while 34% were employed casually, 5% were employed full time.

Of participants who started employment throughout 2021, 71% worked up to 21 hours per week. The percentage that worked 8-21 hours per week has been generally increasing over time.

73% worked in Retail, Hospitality, Tourism, Trades, Manufacturing, or Operation.



From January to December 2021, of participants who started employment, providers reported that 26% will be using NDIS Supports in Employment to maintain their employment. This % has been generally decreasing over time.

For more than a third of participants (37%) who finished employment support with paid employment, the employers said they will use supported wages for the participants' employment.

2.3 Supports that helped to achieve outcomes

Around half of all training time was spent building the participant’s social, presentation, communication, and work skills.

Delivery method	Jan to Mar 2021	Apr to Jun 2021	Jul to Sep 2021	Oct to Dec 2021
One to One	36%	39%	43%	43%
Group Based	62%	57%	32%	46%
Distance or Online	2%	3%	25%	11%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

The large increase in Distance or Online learning in July to September 2021 coincided with the COVID-19 Delta variant outbreaks and lockdowns (mainly in NSW and VIC). This had decreased in October to December 2021, but not fully back to pre-July 2021 level.

More time receiving employment support or skill specific training was associated with a higher chance of making significant progress towards, or fully gaining the specific skills.



Participants who made significant progress or fully achieved their goals in relation to developing work skills, employer engagement and job customisation milestones were more likely to gain paid employment.



Participants who fully achieved their work experience milestone goals were more likely to gain paid employment.



Higher levels of one to one support increased the chance of finding paid employment.



A full report is available on the [NDIS website](#). For questions or general feedback, please email participant.employment@ndis.gov.au.