# Quarterly Report

July to September 2022

### Easy Read text-only version

## How to use this report

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

This report is written in an easy to read way.

We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.

We explain what these bold words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 19.

This Easy Read report is a summary of another report.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.

You can find the other report on our website.

[www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/publications/ quarterly-reports](http://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/publications/quarterly-reports)

You can ask for help to read this report. A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

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## What is this report about?

We want to make sure the NDIS:

* works well
* lasts a long time.

We look at lots of **data** to make sure this happens.

When we talk about data, we mean:

* facts
* information
* records.

We write a report every 3 months.

3 months is a quarter of a year.

So we call our report a Quarterly Report.

This Quarterly Report is about what we did from:

* 1 July 2022

to

* 30 September 2022.

In this report, we just say ‘this quarter’.

Our Quarterly Report includes:

* the data we collected
* the information we shared
* how we worked with the community.

A **minister** leads an area of the government.

We give the Quarterly Report to the:

* NDIS minister
* minister for disability in each state and territory.

And we share the Quarterly Report with the community.

## Who took part in the NDIS?

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

On 30 September 2022, the NDIS had 554,917 participants.

This included 88,617 children younger than 7.

We also look at how many people take part in the NDIS out of all Australians.

It’s quite high for children who are 5–7 years old.

10% of boys this age take part in the NDIS.

And it’s about 4% of girls.

It’s a lot less for adults who are 35 to 64 years old.

About 1% of all Australians this age take part in the NDIS.

But it gets a bit higher for people who are older than 64.

Just over 2% of all Australians this age take part in the NDIS.

23,137 participants joined the NDIS in this quarter.

In this quarter, this included 11,554 children younger than 7.

In this quarter, this also included:

* 2,169 First Nations peoples
* 380 people who live very far away from cities and towns
* 2,061 people from **culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)** backgrounds.

CALD people:

* come from different cultures and backgrounds
* speak languages other than English.

### Younger people in residential aged care

**Residential aged care** is where older Australians live when they can’t live in their home anymore.

Some people under the age of 65 need to live in residential aged care.

But this doesn’t happen very often.

We want to support people under the age of 65 to move out of residential aged care if they want.

Over the last 3 months, there are less people under 65 who:

* live in residential aged care
* move into residential aged care.

5,468 people under 65 lived in residential aged care by the end of September 2019.

And at the end of June 2022 only 2,934 people under 65 lived in residential aged care.

386 people under 65 moved into residential aged care between July 2019 and September 2019.

And now only 99 people under 65 moved into residential aged care between April 2022 and June 2022.

You can go to the DSS website to find out more about how the Australian Government plans to support young people.

[www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers/ programmes-services/for-people-with-disability/younger-people-with-disability- in-residential-aged-care-initiative](http://www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers/programmes-services/for-people-with-disability/younger-people-with-disability-in-residential-aged-care-initiative)

### Taking part in the community and work

We looked at participants who have been in the NDIS for at least 2 years.

They took part in more community activities than they did before they joined the NDIS.

And more participants take part in these activities the longer they are part of the NDIS.

More participants aged 15 to 24 years old work and have jobs.

And more participants this age work and have jobs the longer they take part in the NDIS.

## **[What did participants say about the NDIS?](#_What_did_participants)**

In this quarter:

* 81% of participants said their experience of applying to take part in the NDIS was good or very good
* 80% of participants said their experience getting ready to make their plan was good or very good
* 85% of participants said their experience of making a plan was good or very good
* 69% of participants said their experience of plan **reassessment** was good or very good.

When we do a plan reassessment, we check if your plan needs to change.

### Our decisions

We made 100% of our decisions about who can join the NDIS within 21 days.

We made 98% of decisions about participants younger than 7 getting a plan within 90 days.

We made 93% of decisions about participants aged 7 years or older getting a plan within 56 days.

When participants asked us to **review** decisions we made, we reviewed 94% of those decisions within 60 days.

When we review something, we check to see what:

* works well
* needs to be better.

### Reviewing our decisions

The **Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT)** is a government organisation that is separate to the NDIS.

They review our decisions about:

* who can join the NDIS
* NDIS plans.

More participants asked the AAT to review a decision we made.

These decisions we made were about if supports were:

* reasonable – it is fair
* necessary – you need it.

We are learning from this so we can make our decisions:

* fairer
* the same every time.

Since the NDIS started, there have been 9,165 cases that:

* participants asked the AAT to review
* have been closed.

Most of the problems were fixed before the AAT needed to make a decision.

Only 264 cases needed a **hearing** with:

* us
* the participant who asked the AAT to review our decision.

A hearing is an important meeting.

Everyone explains what they think should happen.

And then the AAT makes a decision.

## What supports do participants use?

**Funding** is the money from your plan that pays for the supports and services you need.

Between September 2020 and September 2022, funding payments have grown by 50%.

More participants use plan managers instead of the NDIS managing their plan.

43% of participants used a plan manager at the end of September 2020.

And 57% of participants used a plan manager at the end of September 2022.

### Home and living supports

We are working to give you more options to get support at home.

We can also help you be **independent** in your own home.

When you are independent, you can do things:

* for yourself
* on your own.

Participants can ask us for home and living supports if the NDIS can help them work towards their goals.

We will work out if these supports are:

* reasonable
* necessary.

This quarter we made decisions about 8,620 applications for home and living supports.

Another 2,937 applications were still open at the end of the quarter.

They might be waiting for:

* a decision
* changes to funding.

### Supported Independent Living

More participants receive funding for **Supported Independent Living (SIL)**.

SIL is help with day-to-day tasks around your home so you can:

* do things for yourself
* learn new skills.

Funding for SIL grew 25% each year for the past 3 years.

At the end of September 2019, 21,654 participants had SIL funding.

At the end of September 2022, 28,018 participants had SIL funding.

## Who did we work with?

We want to keep working with the community to make the NDIS the best it can be.

We call this co-design.

This includes working with:

* people with disability
* families and carers
* people who speak up for people with disability.

We work with different groups of people to do this.

This quarter we kept working with the **Independent Advisory Council (IAC).**

They are a group of people who help us understand what people with disability need.

This quarter, the IAC continued to give us advice in many areas.

We also kept working with the **Co‑design Advisory Group**.

They are a group of people from the community who give us advice about our plans.

Some IAC members are also part of this group.

The Co-design Advisory Group includes people from different organisations that:

* speak up for people with disability
* share their experiences with us.

This group works together to:

* make sure we listen to what the community thinks about the NDIS
* give us advice about co-design.

They also collect information about co-design, including what:

* is working well
* can be done better.

And they work together to learn more about:

* the problems the NDIS face
* what co-design needs to focus on.

In the last 3 months, the Co-design Advisory Group updated their Terms of Reference.

Their Terms of Reference explain:

* their goals
* how to reach those goals.

They also worked on making sure the NDIS lasts a long time.

They shared their ideas about our co-design plan. This includes:

* the ‘Have Your Say’ website
* important ideas we want to follow.

The Co-design Advisory Group has met 3 times this quarter.

## How did we support participants?

### COVID-19

We supported participants and NDIS workers to get a COVID-19 **vaccine**.

A vaccine is medicine that:

* helps people fight a virus if they come in contact with it
* can stop people from getting very sick from the virus.

We helped people book their vaccine appointment through our call centre.

We are also providing funding to help with:

* the extra cost to organise a vaccine appointment
* personal protective equipment (PPE), such as masks and gloves
* buying **Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs)**.

A RAT is a test you can do yourself to find out if you have COVID-19.

We wanted to make sure participants still have support during the quarter.

We worked with services to make a team of workers who can support participants during this time.

### Sharing information

On 17 August 2022, we shared our first quarterly report.

On our website, we updated:

* data
* the ‘explore data’ tool.

You can read more on our website.

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

We shared lots of data about how well the NDIS is working.

We also shared information about what happens in the NDIS.

## Making sure the NDIS lasts a long time

In this quarter, the funding in plans has grown by 20.5% each year.

We write another report that we share each year.

It’s called the Annual Financial Sustainability Report (AFSR).

The AFSR uses data from the past 9 years.

This is how long we have had the NDIS now.

We use that data to work out how much the NDIS will cost in the future.

The AFSR says the NDIS will have:

* 741,077 participants at the end of June 2026
* 1,017,522 participants at the end of June 2032.

This is more than we expected.

You can read an Easy Read version of the AFSR on our website.

[www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/publications/ annual-financial-sustainability-reports](http://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/publications/annual-financial-sustainability-reports)

## More information

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## Word list

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

**Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT)**

The AAT is a government organisation that:

* reviews decisions about the NDIS
* makes their own decisions.

**Co‑design Advisory Group**

The Co-design Advisory Group is a group of people from the community who give us advice about our plans.

**Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)**

CALD people:

* come from different cultures and backgrounds
* speak languages other than English.

**Data**

When we talk about data, we mean:

* facts
* information
* records.

**Funding**

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

**Hearing**

A hearing is an important meeting.

Everyone explains what they think should happen.

And then AAT makes a decision.

**Independent**

When you are independent, you can do things:

* for yourself
* on your own.

**Independent Advisory Council (IAC)**

The IAC is a group of people who help us understand what people with disability need.

**Minister**

A minister leads an area of the government.

**Participants**

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

**Plan reassessment**

When we do a plan reassessment, we check if your plan needs to change.

**Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs)**

A RAT is a test you can do yourself to find out if you have COVID-19.

**Residential aged care**

Residential aged care is where older Australians live when they can’t live in their home anymore.

**Review**

When we review something, you check to see what:

* works well
* needs to be better.

**Supported Independent Living (SIL)**

SIL is help with day-to-day tasks around your home so you can:

* do things for yourself
* learn new skills.

**Vaccine**

A vaccine is medicine that:

* helps people fight a virus if they come in contact with it
* can stop people from getting very sick from the virus.

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