

Quarterly Report

July to September 2026

Easy Read version

ndis

ndis.gov.au

How to use this report



We are the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).

We wrote this report.



We wrote some words in **bold**.

We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 39.



You can ask someone you trust for support to:

- read this report
- find more information.



This Easy Read is a summary of another report.

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



This document is quite long.

It includes a lot of information.



You don't need to read it all at once.

What's in this report?

What is this report about? 5

Who took part in the NDIS? 8

What did participants say about the NDIS? 22

What supports do participants use? 25

How are we making the NDIS better? 31

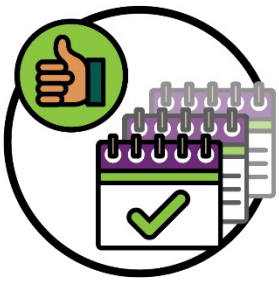
Sharing information 33

Making sure the NDIS lasts a long time 34

More information 37

Word list 39

What is this report about?



We want to make sure the NDIS:

- works well
- lasts a long time.

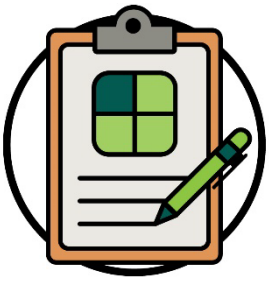


We look at lots of **data** to make sure this happens.



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 2026**

  to

- **30 September 2026**.



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

Our Quarterly Report includes:



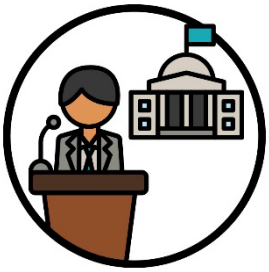
- the data we collected



- 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 minister for Health and Ageing and Disability and the NDIS



- another minister for the NDIS



- the minister for disability in each state and territory.



We also 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 2026**, the NDIS had **792,304** participants.



This included **159,470** children **younger than 9 years**.



There are also **25,015** children using early connections.

This is a way the NDIS supports children who are not participants.



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



A lot more boys aged **6 years** take part in the NDIS than girls.

14% of boys this age take part in the NDIS.

And it's about **7%** of girls.



It's a lot less for adults who are aged **35 to 40 years**.

About **1.4%** of all Australians this age take part in the NDIS.



More adults **over 40 years old** take part in the NDIS as they get older.

About **2.6%** of all Australians take part in the NDIS by **65 years old**.



But by **74 years old** the number of Australians who take part in the NDIS drops to around **0.3%**.



17,823 participants joined the NDIS in this quarter.

In this quarter, this also included:



- **2,064** First Nations peoples



- around **400** people who live far away from cities and towns



- **1,739** 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 people live when they can't live in their home anymore.



Some people aged **under 65 years** need to live in residential aged care.

But this doesn't happen very often.



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

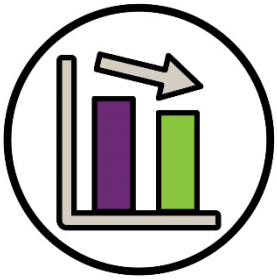


Over the last **3 months**, there are fewer people **under 65** who:

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



In this quarter **424** participants **under 65** lived in residential aged care.



This has come down from **459** in the quarter before this one.



In this quarter **52** young people have a goal to move out of residential aged care.



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/suitable-accommodation-and-supports

Participants leaving hospital

When participants are ready to leave hospital, we help them leave:



- safely



- as soon as possible.



We want to make staying in hospital better for participants.



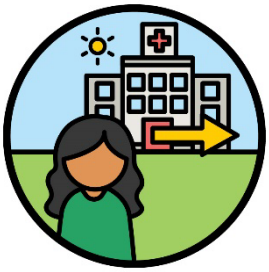
This includes making it easier for participants to know what support they will have when they leave hospital.



We offer participants a hospital discharge plan to support them when they leave hospital.



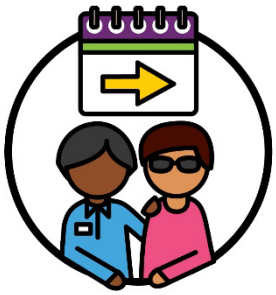
In the **September 2026 quarter**, it took **13 days** for participants to leave hospital.



And in the **March 2023 quarter**, it took around **27 days** for participants ready for discharge to leave hospital.



More than half of the participants left hospital on the day they were ready to.



But some participants:

- need a lot more support
- have to wait much longer to leave care.



Our goal was to contact participants within **4 days** of knowing they were in hospital.



We did this **99%** of the time for the **September 2026 quarter**.

We work closely with:



- health services



- hospitals



- the government.



This helps us support participants to leave hospital:

- safely
- when they are ready.

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.



This number has gone up by **7%** for participants aged **15 years** and over.



14% more participants aged **15 to 24 years** work and have jobs.

Participant outcomes

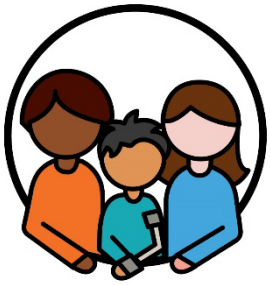


Outcomes are important results we want to achieve.

Our outcomes show that the NDIS is making life better for:



- participants



- families and carers.



This report has information about outcomes for:

- participants
- families and carers.



The NDIS shares what outcomes are going well.

And where people need more support.

Participants aged 0 to 14 years



We found out about young participants who haven't started school yet.



96% of their parents and carers used specialist services to support them.



And **95%** of parents and carers said the NDIS has helped their child develop.



89% of parents and carers said the NDIS has helped their child's skill to communicate what they want.

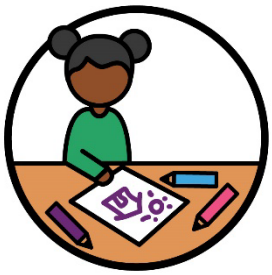


We also found out about participants who:

- have started school
- are **younger than 15 years**.



More of these children are learning and taking part in education.



79% of parents said their child is more **independent**.



When you are independent, you can do things:

- for yourself
- on your own.

Participants 15 years and over



83% of participants aged **15 years** and over say the NDIS has given them more choice and control.



Participants **15 years and over** who have been in the NDIS for at least **2 years** shared they take part in more community activities.



24% of participants aged **15 to 64 years** have jobs that pay them.

Families and carers



More families and carers of participants are working and earning money.



Overall, **54%** of parents and carers for all participants have jobs that pay them.



This is **56%** of parents and carers of participants aged **0 to 14 years**.



And it's **51%** of parents and carers of participants aged **15 years and over**.

What did participants say about the NDIS?

In this quarter:



- **81%** of participants who could take part in the NDIS said their experience of applying was good or very good



- **53%** of participants said their experience of making a plan was good or very good



- **61%** of participants said their experience of starting to use their plan was good or very good



- **70%** of participants said their experience of **plan reassessment** was good or very good.



When we do a plan reassessment, we check to see if the supports in your plan still work well for you.

Reviewing our decisions



When we **review** something, we check to see what:

- works well
- needs to be better.



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

They review our decisions about:

- who can join the NDIS
- NDIS plans.



This quarter, participants asked the ART to review **2,702** new cases.

Every case is about 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.



There were **2,665** ART cases closed this quarter.



For most cases, we found a way to agree with participants about what should happen before the ART needed to make a decision.

What supports do participants use?



Payments for supports have grown by **23%** over the last **2 years**.

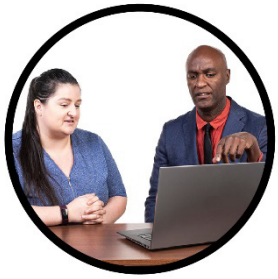


More participants use plan managers instead of the NDIS managing their plan.

This quarter:



- **6%** of participants had us manage all of their plan



- **70%** of participants had a plan manager for some or all of their plan.

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.



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 got **7,721** new applications for home and living supports.



This quarter we made decisions about **8,311** applications for home and living supports.

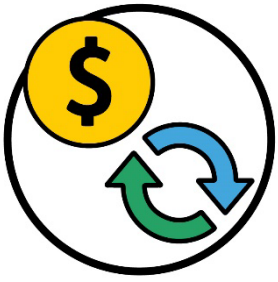


Another **1,310** applications were still open at the end of the quarter.

They might be waiting for:



- a decision



- supports to start in their plan.

Supported Independent Living



Supported independent living (SIL) is help with day-to-day tasks around your home so you can:

- do things for yourself
- learn new skills.



More participants receive **funding** for SIL.



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



At the end of **September 2026**, **36,941** participants had SIL funding.



Payments for SIL grew **8%** each year over the past **2 years**.

Who did we work with?



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

We work together with:



- people with disability



- families and carers



- people who speak up for people with disability.

This includes:



- **co-design** – working together with the people our plans affect to hear about how things could work



- asking people in the community what they think about our plans

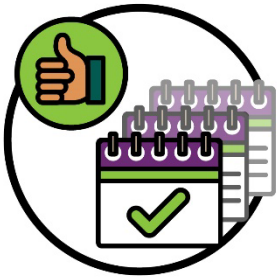


- meeting with people often to make sure the NDIS is working well



- sharing information with the community.

How are we making the NDIS better?



The Australian Government wants to make sure the NDIS:

- works well for participants
- can last a long time.



We are doing a lot of work to make the NDIS better.

We will keep working with people with disability to make sure:



- participants can get the right supports



- supports and services are safe for the people who use them.

We are supporting organisations that speak up for:



- people with disability



- the people who care for them.

This will help us:



- listen to what people in the community need



- make better decisions.



We made a plan that explains how we work with other people to make the NDIS better.

We call it our ‘Engagement Framework’.

Sharing information



On **13 November 2026**, we shared our quarterly report.

On our website, we updated:



- data
- the ‘explore data’ tool.

You can read more on our website.

dataresearch.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.

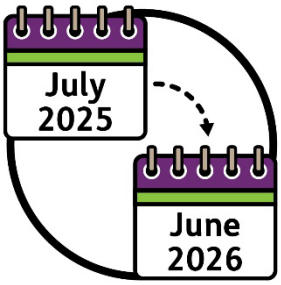
Making sure the NDIS lasts a long time



More participants join the NDIS each year.



The total amount of funding for participant supports was **$51.2 billion** for the last financial year.



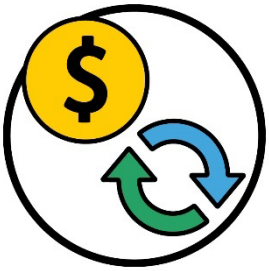
The last financial year was from **July 2025 to June 2026**.



In the last **3 months,** the total amount of funding for participant supports was **$13.7 billion**.



In the last **2 years**, the average payment for participants went up by **2.1%**.



The amount of money it costs for funding each year changes.

This is because participants need different supports.



For example, funding is higher for participants who:

- use SIL

  or

- are adults.



And funding is lower for participants who are children.



It cost **$2.91 billion** for us to run the NDIS in **2025–2026**.

This was **5.7%** of the total cost of the NDIS.



This cost **$1.83 billion** in **2022–2023**.



In the **3 months before 30 September 2026,** the amount of money it costs for us to run the NDIS was **$758 million**.



This was **5.5%** of the total cost of the NDIS.

More information

For more information about this report, please contact us.



You can visit our website.

www.ndis.gov.au



You can call us.

1800 800 110

Follow us on Facebook.

www.facebook.com/NDISAus

Follow us on Instagram.

@ndis_australia

Follow us on LinkedIn.

au.linkedin.com/company/national-disability-insurance-agency

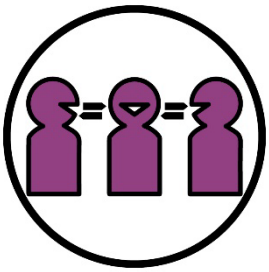
Support to talk to us



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

www.ndis.gov.au

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



Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National)
131 450

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



TTY
1800 555 677



Speak and Listen
1800 555 727

National Relay Service
133 677
www.accesshub.gov.au/about-the-nrs

Word list

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



Administrative Review Tribunal (ART)

The ART is a government organisation that:

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



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.



Health Liaison Officers (HLOs)

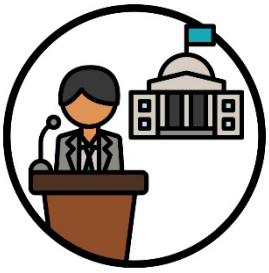
HLOs help health services and the NDIS work together to make sure participants get the right support.



Independent

When you are independent, you can do things:

- for yourself
- on your own.



Minister

A minister leads an area of the government.



Outcomes

Outcomes are important results we want to achieve.



Participants

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



Plan reassessment

When we do a plan reassessment, we check to see if the supports in your plan still work well for you.



Residential aged care

Residential aged care is where older people 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.

The Information Access Group created this Easy Read document using stock photography and custom images.
The images may not be reused without permission.
For any enquiries about the images, please visit www.informationaccessgroup.com.
Quote job number 6968.



ndis.gov.au