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

This is the March 2019 update on NDIA performance.

Overview

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This report is a summary of the performance and operations of the NDIA for Quarter 3 of 2018-19 (01 January 2019 - 31 March 2019).

It is the eleventh 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 32,486 participants with plans this quarter.

The Agency has achieved 102% of the 2018-19 year to date operational target for new plan approvals.

At 31 March 2019, plans approved and ECEI referrals represent:

• 67% of year to date bilateral estimate met (1 July 2018 -31 March2019)

• 73% of transition to date bilateral estimate met (1 July 2016 -31 March 2019)

• 75% of scheme to date bilateral estimate met (1 July 2013 -31 March 2019)

Participant satisfaction has increased in the quarter, with 88% of participants surveyed rating their satisfaction with the Agency's planning process as either 'Good' or 'Very Good'.

Committed Supports and Payments

$14.9 billion has been paid to providers and participants:

• $85.8m in 2013-14,

• $370.9m in 2014-15,

• $704.0m in 2015-16,

• $2,179.1m in 2016-17,

• $5,345.4m in 2017-18,

• $6,195.4m 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 20,208 registered providers at 31 March 2019, representing a 6% increase for the quarter.

57% of registered providers were active at 31 March 2019.

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 introduced the 'ILC Strategy Towards 2022' in December 2018, which will guide investment of almost $400 million in ILC funds from 2019-20 to 2021-22.

To date, the NDIA has allocated 222 grants totalling $85.9 million (excluding GST) to organisations across Australia to deliver a wide range of ILC initiatives.

In addition to this, the NDIA has recently announced that 114 Disabled Peoples Organisations and Families Organisations (DPFOs) will share in $13.8 million in grants, including 13 organisations led by

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) or LGBTI communities, which will benefit from $1.6 million in grants.

The ILC Economic Participation of People with Disability grant round 2019-20 opened on 15 February 2019. The goal of this grant round is to build the capacity of businesses and organisations to employ people with disability through community engagement, improved resources and training.

Mainstream Interface

92% of active participants with a plan approved in 2018-19 Q3 access mainstream services.

Financial Sustainability

The NDIS has been within budget each year of its operation. The NDIS remains within budget in the third quarter of 2018-19 and is projected to remain within budget for the whole financial year.

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 on-going eligibility
- Participants costs

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

PART 1: Participants and Planning

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As the transition phase to full scheme continues, the NDIS nationally continues to grow with 32,486 additional participants with approved plans this quarter.

In total, over 277,000 participants have now been 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:

277,155 participants are now being supported by the NDIS, including children in the ECEI program

32,486 initial plans approved in 2018-19 Q3, excluding children in the ECEI program (representing 14% growth since last quarter)

11,504 children are being supported in the ECEI program, with 5,304 additional referrals to the ECEI gateway confirmed in 2018-19 Q3

85,489 people are now receiving support for the first time

102% of year to date operational target met (1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019)*

75% of scheme to date bilateral estimate met (1 July 2013 to 31 March 2019)

67% of year to date bilateral estimate met (1 July 2018 to 31 March 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.

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 Q3

Of the 19,214 participants deemed 'eligible' this quarter 37% entered from an existing State/Territory program.

Of the 32,486 plan approvals this quarter, 54% had transitioned from an existing State/Territory program, 84% entered with a permanent disability and 3,172 were previously confirmed as ECEI at 31 December 2018.

The diagram displays the following key statistics on quarterly intake:

25,586 access decisions

19,214 access met

32,486 plan approvals (excluding ECEI)

5,304 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 233,165 at the end of 2018-19 Q2 to 265,651 by the end of 2018-19 Q3, an increase of 32,486 approvals.

At the end of the quarter, 11,504 children are being supported in the ECEI gateway. Of these, 6,200 were previously confirmed as ECEI at 31 December 2018 and an additional 5,304 children entered the gateway this quarter.

Overall, 6,580 participants with approved plans have exited the Scheme, resulting in 270,575 active participants (including ECEI) as at 31 March 2019.

There were 51,924 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.

At the end of 2018-19 Q3, the cumulative total number of participants receiving support was 277,155 (including 11,504 children supported through the ECEI gateway). Of these, 154,420 transitioned from an existing State/Territory program, 25,742 transitioned from an existing Commonwealth program and 85,489 participants are now receiving support for the first time.

Overall, since 1 July 2013, there have been 353,160 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:

102% of operational target met (1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019)

75% of scheme to date bilateral estimate met (1 July 2013 to 31 March 2019)

67% of year to date bilateral estimate met (1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019)

265,651 plan approvals to date; 277,155 including 11,504 ECEI confirmed

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 20% 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.

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 Q3, 29% have a primary disability group of Autism and 22% have a primary disability group of Intellectual Disability.

Note 1: Of the 7,103 active participants identified as having an intellectual disability, 895 (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:

• 24% of participants had a relatively high level of function

• 42% of participants had a relatively moderate level of function

• 33% of participants had a relatively low level of function

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

Note: An ICT issue has been identified and as a result, reporting by level of function is not accurate. This issue is currently under investigation and will be reconciled for reporting as at 30 June 2019.

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

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 Q3:

• 5.8% were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, compared with 5.5% in previous periods combined.

• 1.4% were young people in residential aged care, compared with 1.6% in previous periods combined.

• 9.3% were culturally and linguistically diverse, compared with 8.0% in previous periods combined.

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

1,892 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

28,261 Not Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

2,300 Not Stated

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

439 Young people in residential aged care

32,014 Young people not in residential aged care

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

3,011 Culturally and Linguistically Diverse

27,561 Not Culturally and Linguistically Diverse

1881 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 (transition only).

The proportion of participants electing to fully or partly self-manage their plan was higher in 2018-19 Q3 at 28%, compared with 25% in previous quarters combined.

41% of participants who have had a plan approved in 2018-19 Q3 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 participants with initial plans approved in 2018-19 Q1, 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.

There has been a change in methodology used to calculate these results since the previous quarter. Duration to plan activation is now calculated as the time from a participant’s initial plan approval to when the participant first uses plan supports (previously only the initial plan for each participant was considered). In-kind supports are now also included (previously excluded). As a result, a higher proportion of participants are identified as activating their plans within 90 days, and a lower proportion have no payments.

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

• 86% of participants entering in 2018-19 Q1

• 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 Q1 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.

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).

• 63% of participants aged 0 to before school are able to make friends outside of family/carers, compared to 61% of participants from school age to 14

• 53% 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

• 60% of participants from school age to 14 attend school in a mainstream class, compared to 29% of participants aged 15 to 24

• 24% 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 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' 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 (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 (42%)

• 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, 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 31 March 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 age groups were demonstrated within the 'Daily living' domain. However, for the 'Work' domain, the results deteriorated from year one to year two.

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.

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 31 March 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?'.

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.

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 31 March 2017.

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

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 by age group.

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 31 March 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 44%.

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'.

88% 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.

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 $22.6 billion that has been committed in participant plans, $14.9 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

$10.1 billion of committed supports in respect of 2018-19 to date

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: $704.0m

2016-17: $2,179.1m

2017-18: $5,345.4m

2018-19: $6,195.4m to date.

Percentage of committed supports utilisation by financial year:

2013-14: 65%

2014-15: 75%

2015-16: 75%

2016-17: 67%

2017-18: 69%

Utilisation of committed supports in 2018-19 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.

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 $22.6 billion that has been committed in participant plans, $14.9 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: $704.0m

2016-17: $2,179.1m

2017-18: $5,345.4m

2018-19 to date: $6,195.4m

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.

This quarter, the distribution of average annualised committed supports has remained consistent with prior 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.

This quarter, the average annualised committed supports have remained consistent with prior quarters for children and there has been a small increase for each adult age group. Average annualised committed supports increase steeply between participants 0-6 through to age 25, stabilising at 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.

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.

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

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 among participants with higher needs.

Note: An ICT issue has been identified and as a result, reporting by level of function is not accurate. This issue is currently under investigation and will be reconciled for reporting as at 30 June 2019.

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.

This data demonstrates the utilisation of committed supports by the year they were expected to be provided at 31 December 2018 and 31 March 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.

Utilisation of Committed Supports by Plan Number

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A graph shows the utilisation of committed supports by plan number from 1 October 2017 to 30 September 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 October 2017 to 30 September 2018 is shown, as experience in the most recent two quarters is still emerging.

PART 3: Providers and Markets

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

There were a total of 20,208 providers at 31 March 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.

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 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:

20,208 approved providers, 57% of which were active at 31 March 2019

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 March 2019, there were 20,208 registered service providers, of which 9,117 were individual/sole trader operated businesses and 11,091 were companies or organisations.

The number of approved service providers increased by 6% from 19,075 to 20,208 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.

1.50 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.

As at 31 March 2019, 57% of providers were active and 43% were inactive.

Of the total providers, 2,276 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 all registration groups over the quarter.

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

- Therapeutic Supports: from 8,993 to 9,636 (7% increase)
- Household Tasks: from 5,283 to 5,883 (11% increase)
- Assistance with travel/transport arrangements: from 3,912 to 4,334 (11% increase)
- Innovative Community Participation: from 2,925 to 3,328 (14% increase)
- Early Intervention supports for early childhood: from 2,997 to 3,151 (5% 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 5,601 to 6,074 (8% increase)
- Household tasks: from 2,396 to 2,667 (11% increase)

• Participation in community, social and civic activities: from 1,683 to 1,812 (8% increase)

• Early Intervention supports for early childhood: from 1,565 to 1,676 (7% increase)

• Daily Personal Activities: from 1,483 to 1,613 (9% 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

90% 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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The NDIA introduced the 'ILC Strategy Towards 2022' in December 2018, which will guide investment of almost $400 million in ILC funds from 2019-20 to 2021-22.

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

The outcome sought through these activities is that people with disability, their families and carers actively contribute to leading, shaping and influencing their community.

To date, the NDIA has allocated 222 grants totalling $85.9 million (excluding GST) to organisations across Australia to deliver a wide range of ILC initiatives.

In addition to this, the NDIA has recently announced that 114 Disabled Peoples Organisations and Families Organisations (DPFOs) will share in $13.8 million in grants, including 13 organisations led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) or LGBTI communities, which will benefit from $1.6 million in grants.

The DPFO grant round will lay the foundations for a stronger DPFO sector, building the overall capacity of user led disability organisations to better support, connect and foster the capacity of people with disability in the community.

The ILC Economic Participation of People with Disability grant round 2019-20 opened on 15 February 2019. Working with the NDIS Participant Employment Taskforce, the goal of the Economic Participation of People with Disability grant round is to build the capacity of businesses and organisations to employ people with disability through community engagement, improved resources and training.

PART 5: Mainstream Interface

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

Of the total number of active participants with a plan approved in 2018-19 Q3, 92% 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:

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

- Health and wellbeing (46%)
- Lifelong learning (11%)
- Daily activities (9%)

92% of active participants with a plan approved in 2018-19 Q3 access mainstream supports, across the following domains:

- Health and wellbeing (47%)
- Lifelong learning (12%)
- Daily activities (10%)

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 each year of its operation. The NDIS remains within budget in the third quarter 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 each year of its operation. The NDIS remains within budget in the third quarter 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 NDIA's IAP was launched in November 2018, with standardised assessments used to better understand and assess the impact of disability for people with autism, intellectual disability and psychosocial disability. Designed to generate equity and reliability in access and planning decisions, the assessments are being undertaken by independent professionals for a more consistent evaluation of those seeking access to the NDIS or undertaking a plan review.

- 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. 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.

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