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## Disability Reform Council Quarterly Performance Report

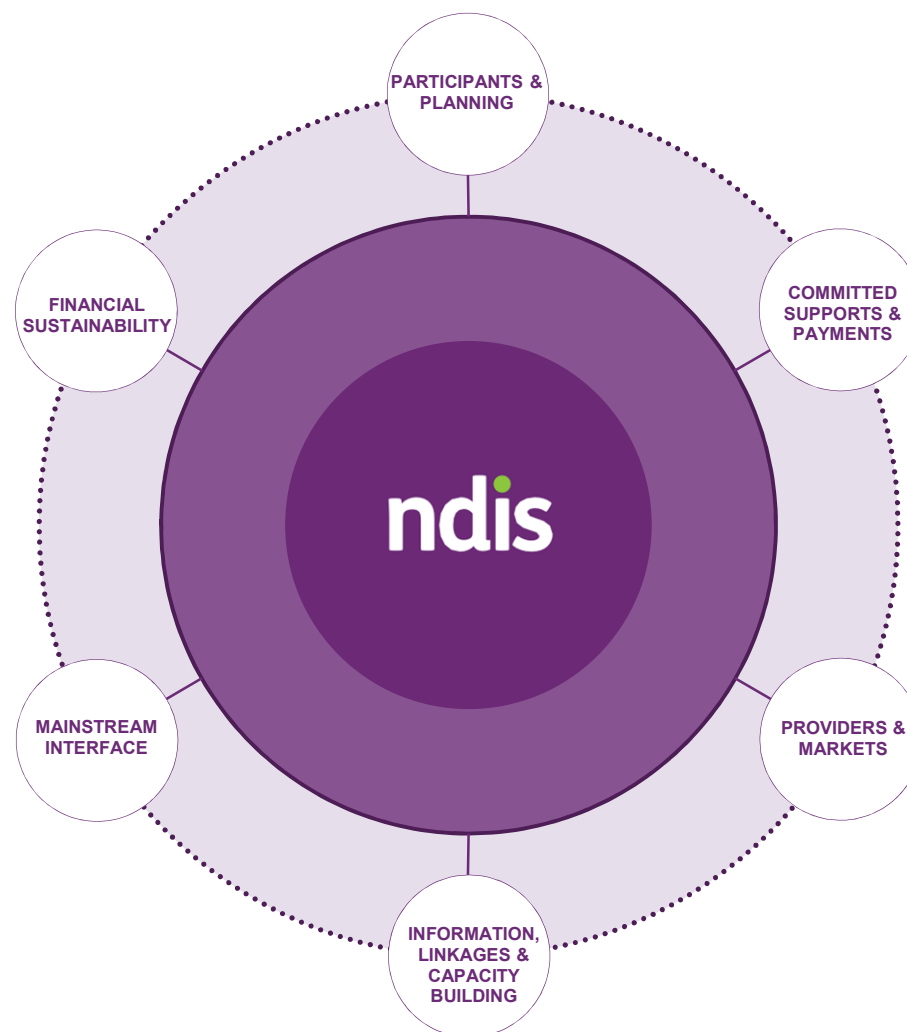
South Australia - 30 September 2019



# Overview

This report is a summary of the performance and operations of the NDIA in South Australia for Quarter 1 of 2019-20 (01 July 2019 - 30 September 2019).

It is the thirteenth quarterly report during the NDIS Transition period, which commenced on 1 July 2016.



# Summary

## Participants and Planning

An additional 2,127 active participants received plans this quarter (excluding ECEI).

At 30 September 2019, plans approved and ECEI referrals represent 97% of scheme to date bilateral estimate.

Participant satisfaction remains high in the quarter, with 78% of participants surveyed rating their satisfaction with the Agency's planning process as either 'Good' or 'Very Good'.

## Committed Supports and Payments

The following amounts have been paid to providers and participants each financial year:

- \$5.7m in 2013-14,
- \$29.8m in 2014-15,
- \$63.1m in 2015-16,
- \$104.0m in 2016-17,
- \$209.3m in 2017-18,
- \$745.5m in 2018-19,
- \$265.7m in 2019-20 to date.

Overall,

- 54% of committed supports were utilised in 2013-14,
- 61% in 2014-15,
- 62% in 2015-16,
- 56% in 2016-17,
- 59% in 2017-18,
- 66% in 2018-19.

The 2018-19 and 2019-20 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 1,556 active providers as at 30 September 2019.

32% of active providers are individuals/sole traders.

25% of active providers are receiving 80-95% of payments to providers made by the NDIA.

The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (NQSC) was established to regulate providers in NSW and SA from 1 July 2018, and all other jurisdictions except for WA were incorporated from 1 July 2019. WA providers will be regulated by the NQSC from 1 July 2020.

## Mainstream Interface

93% of active participants with a plan approved in 2019-20 Q1 access mainstream services.

Note: Jurisdiction is defined by the current residing address of the participant. This is a change from the previous quarter, where the jurisdiction was based on where the participant resided when they had their initial plan approved. This change may affect comparability to the prior quarter.

# Participants and Planning

The NDIS in South Australia continues to grow with 2,127 additional active participants with approved plans this quarter.

In total, over 29,000 participants are being supported by the NDIS in South Australia, with 50% receiving support for the first time.

## Summary

The NDIS is fully operational and available in all areas of South Australia.



### Key Statistics

**29,538**

PARTICIPANTS ARE BEING SUPPORTED BY THE NDIS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**2,127**

INITIAL PLANS APPROVED IN 2019-20 Q1, EXCLUDING CHILDREN IN THE ECEI PROGRAM (REPRESENTING 8% GROWTH SINCE LAST QUARTER)

**123**

CHILDREN ARE RECEIVING INITIAL SUPPORTS IN THE ECEI PROGRAM\*

**14,713**

PEOPLE ARE BEING SUPPORTED FOR THE FIRST TIME

\*Note: The definition used to report on children being supported in the ECEI gateway has changed compared with the last quarter due to improvements in data collection.

# Quarterly Intake

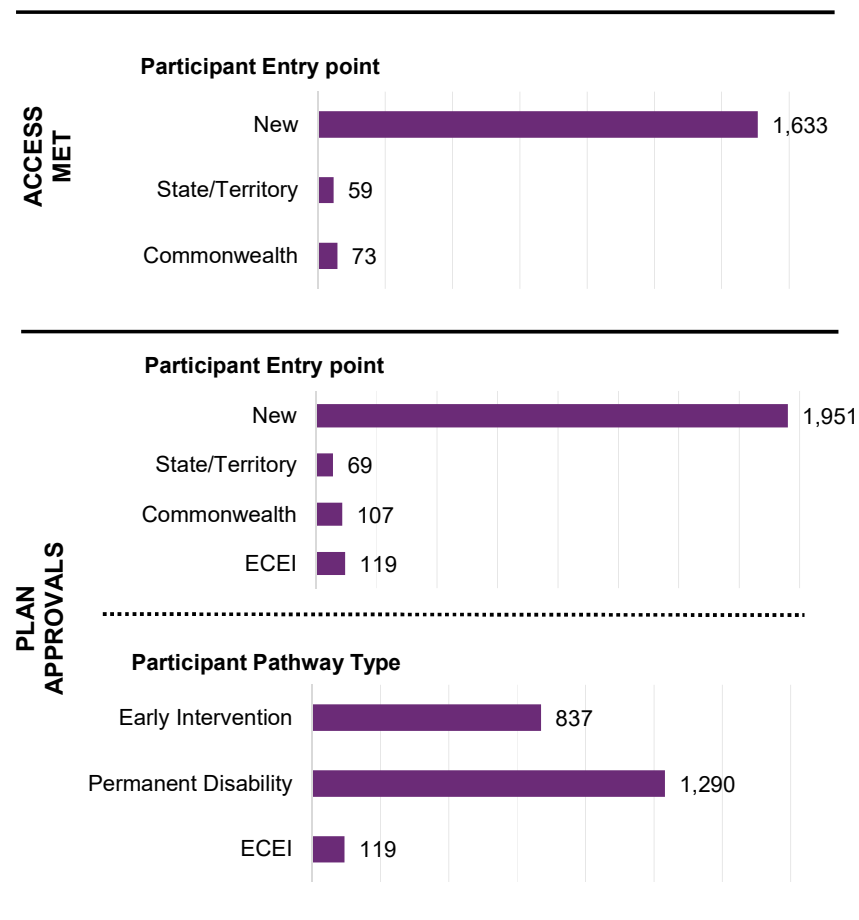
## 2019-20 Q1

Of the 1,765 participants active and deemed 'eligible' this quarter 93% were 'New' participants (i.e. had not transitioned from an existing State/Territory or Commonwealth program).

Of the 2,127 new active participants this quarter, 92% were 'New' participants (i.e. had not transitioned from an existing State/Territory or Commonwealth program), 61% entered with a permanent disability.



Note: The definition used to report on children being supported in the ECEI gateway has changed compared with the last quarter due to improvements in data collection. This is the result of the introduction of new ICT capability. While the total number of children being supported in the ECEI gateway is accurate, the information on the timing of supports provided will improve going forward. Therefore, the results based on those who commenced receiving supports in the quarter should be treated with caution.



## Quarterly Intake Detail

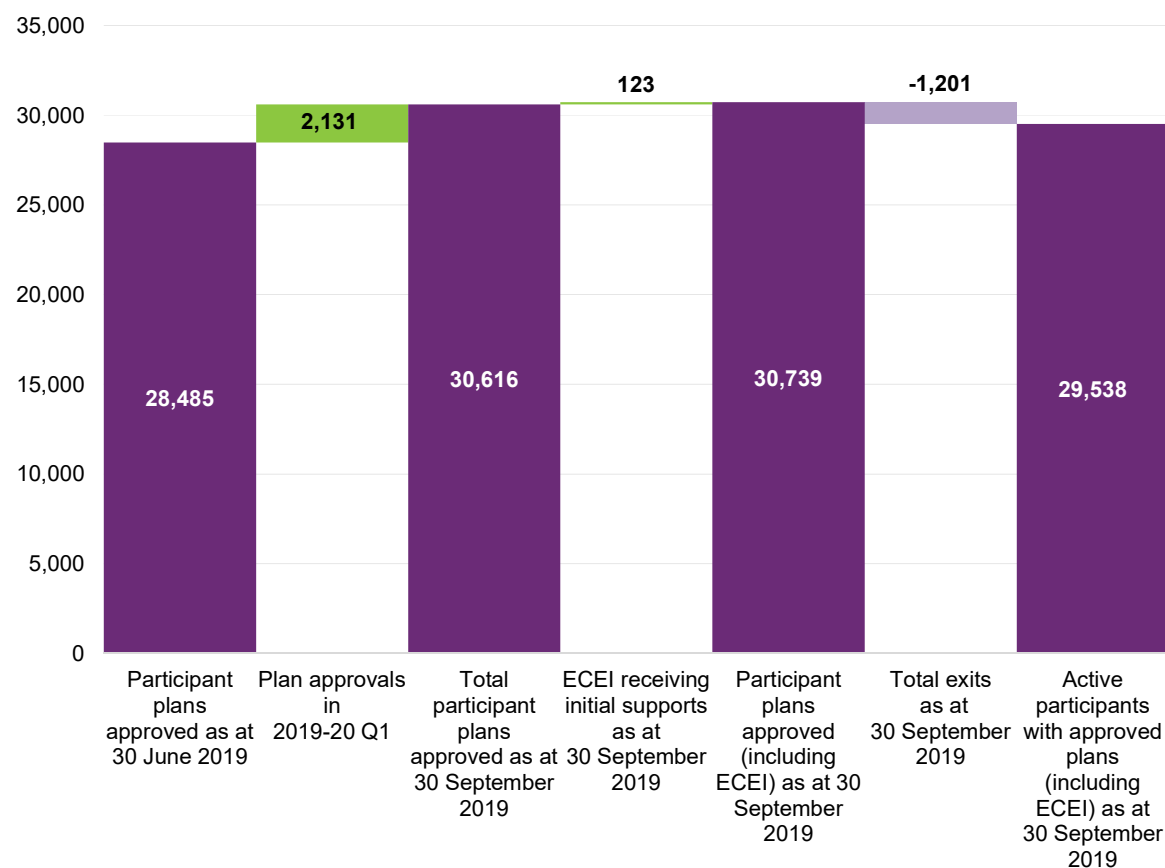
Plan approval numbers have increased from 28,485 at the end of 2018-19 Q4 to 30,616 by the end of 2019-20 Q1, an increase of 2,131 approvals.

At the end of the quarter, 123 children are receiving initial supports in the ECEI gateway.

Overall, 1,201 participants with approved plans have exited the Scheme, resulting in 29,538 active participants (including ECEI) as at 30 September 2019.

There were 6,875 plan reviews this quarter. This figure relates to all participants who have entered the scheme.

Change in plan approvals between 30 June 2019 and 30 September 2019



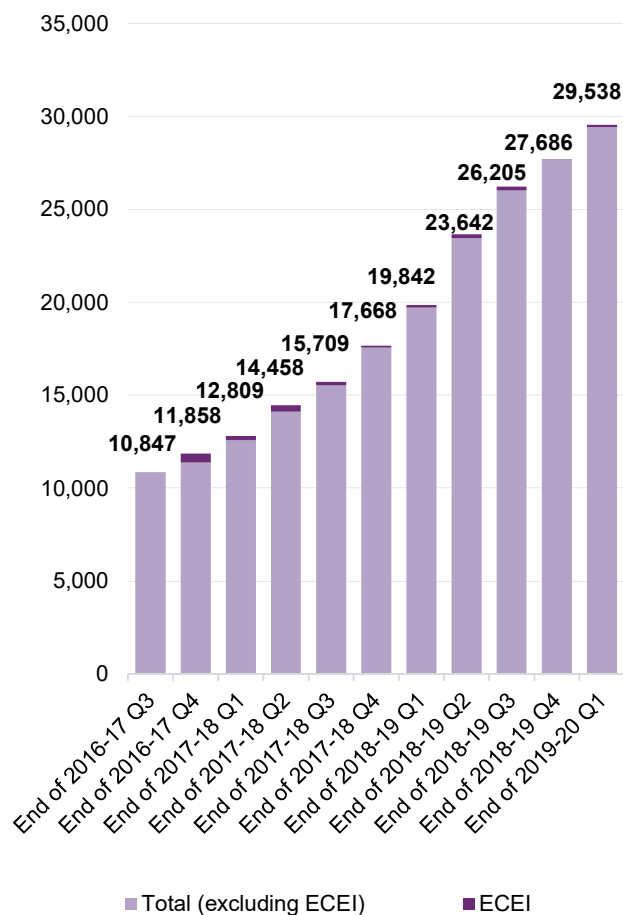
## Cumulative Position

At the end of 2019-20 Q1, the cumulative total number of active participants that are receiving support is 29,538 (including 123 children receiving initial supports in the ECEI gateway). Of these, 12,459 transitioned from an existing State/Territory program, 2,243 transitioned from an existing Commonwealth program and 14,713 participants are now receiving support for the first time.

Overall, since 1 July 2013, there have been 38,519 people with access decisions.

Cumulative position reporting is inclusive of trial participants for the reported period and represents participants who have or have had an approved plan.

Cumulative active participant numbers



Note: The definition used to report on children being supported in the ECEI gateway has changed compared with the last quarter due to improvements in data collection.

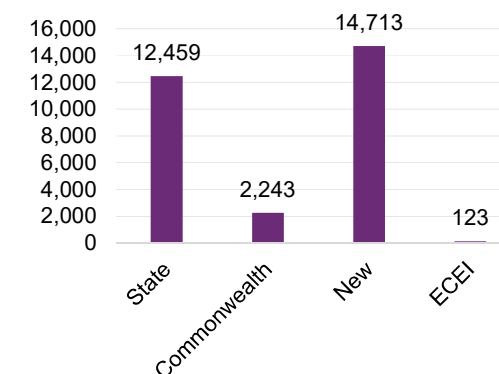
**97%**

of scheme to date bilateral estimate\*

**29,415**

active participants to date; 29,538 including 123 ECEI confirmed

Active participants by participant referral pathway



\*This estimate is at 30 June 2019.

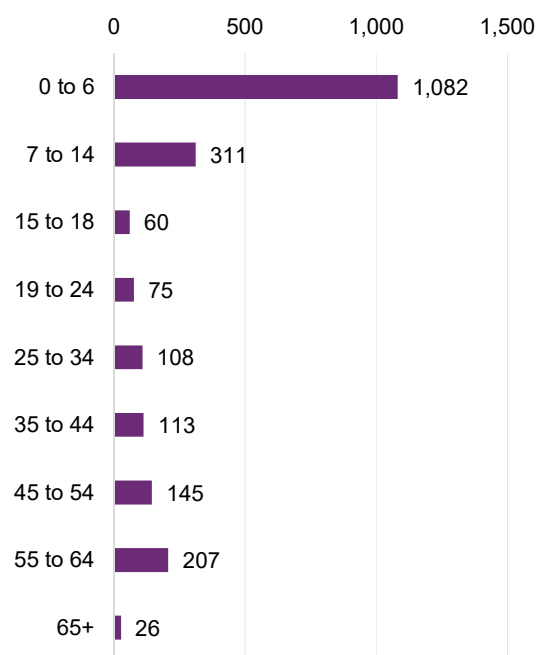


## Participant Profiles by Age Group

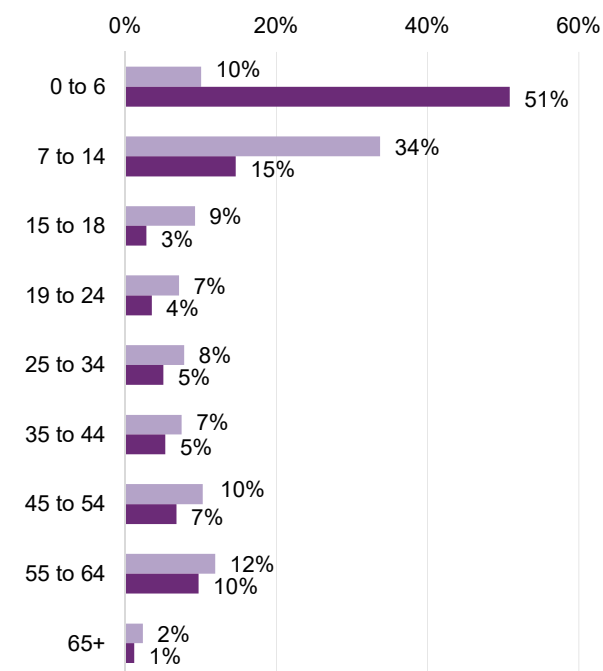
These bar charts show the demographic profile of active participants with a plan approved in 2019-20 Q1, compared with plan approvals as at 30 June 2019, by age group.

51% of participants entering in this quarter are aged 0 to 6 years, compared with 10% in previous quarters. This was driven by the introduction of Standardised Interim Plans to address wait times for children in the ECEI gateway.

Active participants with a plan approved in 2019-20 Q1 by age group



% of active participants with a plan approved by age group



■ % of active participants with a plan approved in prior quarters

■ % of active participants with a plan approved in 2019-20 Q1

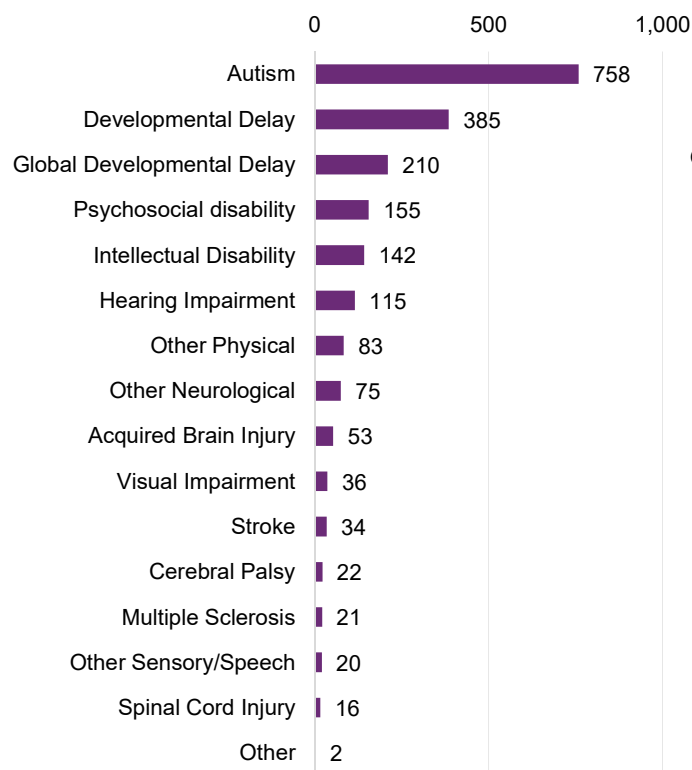
Note: The age eligibility requirements for the NDIS are based on the age as at the access request date. Participants with their initial plan approved aged 65+ have turned 65 since their access request was received.

# Participant Profiles by Disability Group

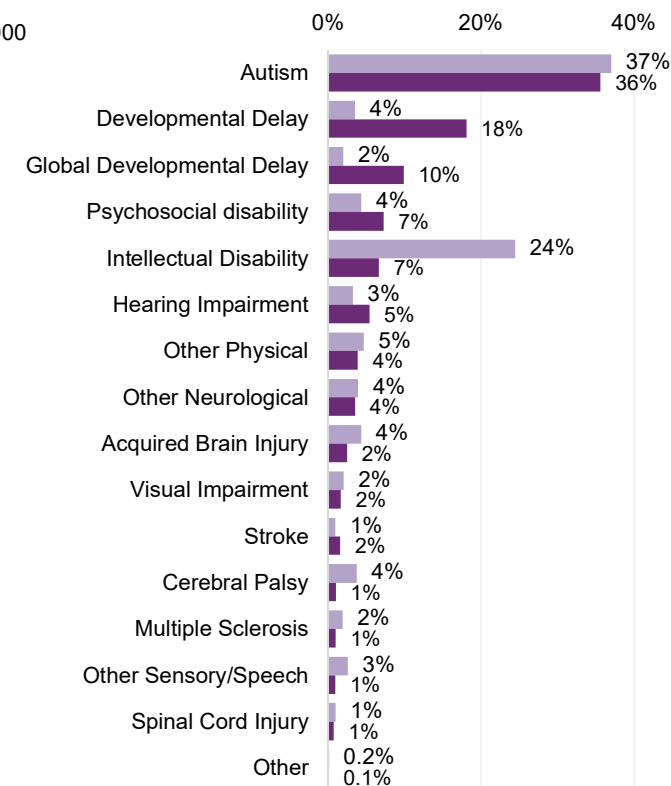
These bar charts show the demographic profile of active participants with a plan approved in 2019-20 Q1, compared with plan approvals as at 30 June 2019, by disability group.

36% of participants entering this quarter have a primary disability group of Autism, compared to 37% in previous quarters. Further, 18% of participants entering this quarter have a primary disability group of Developmental Delay, compared to 4% in previous quarters. The increase in Developmental Delay was driven by the large proportion of participants aged 0 to 6 entering this quarter.

Active participants with a plan approved in 2019-20 Q1 by disability group



% of active participants with a plan approved by disability group



■ % of active participants with a plan approved in prior quarters  
■ % of active participants with a plan approved in 2019-20 Q1

Note 1: Of the 142 active participants identified as having an intellectual disability, 16 (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.

## Participant Profiles by Level of Function

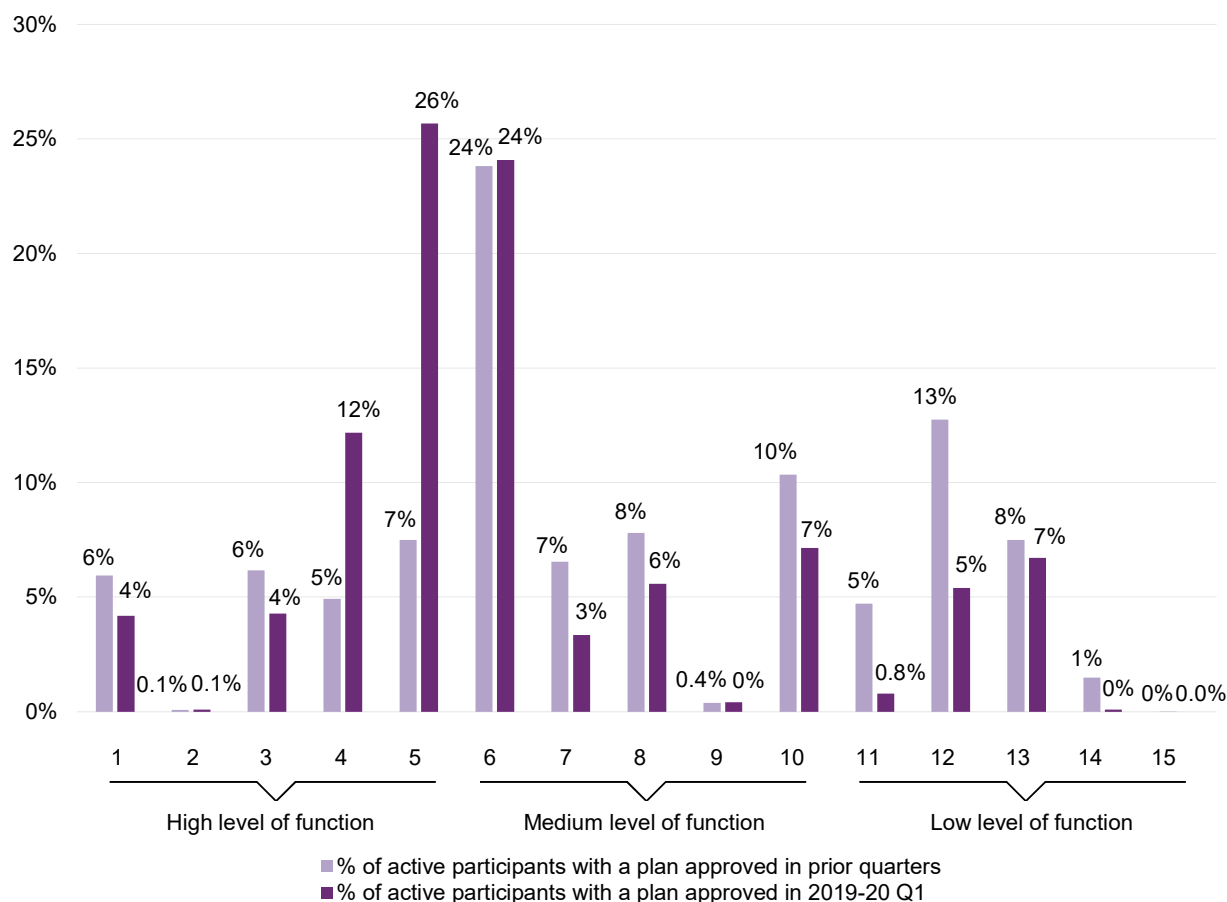
These bar charts show the demographic profile of active participants with a plan approved in 2019-20 Q1, compared with plan approvals as at 30 June 2019, by level of function.

For participants with a plan approval in the current quarter:

- 46% of active participants had a relatively high level of function
- 41% of active participants had a relatively moderate level of function
- 13% had a relatively low level of function

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

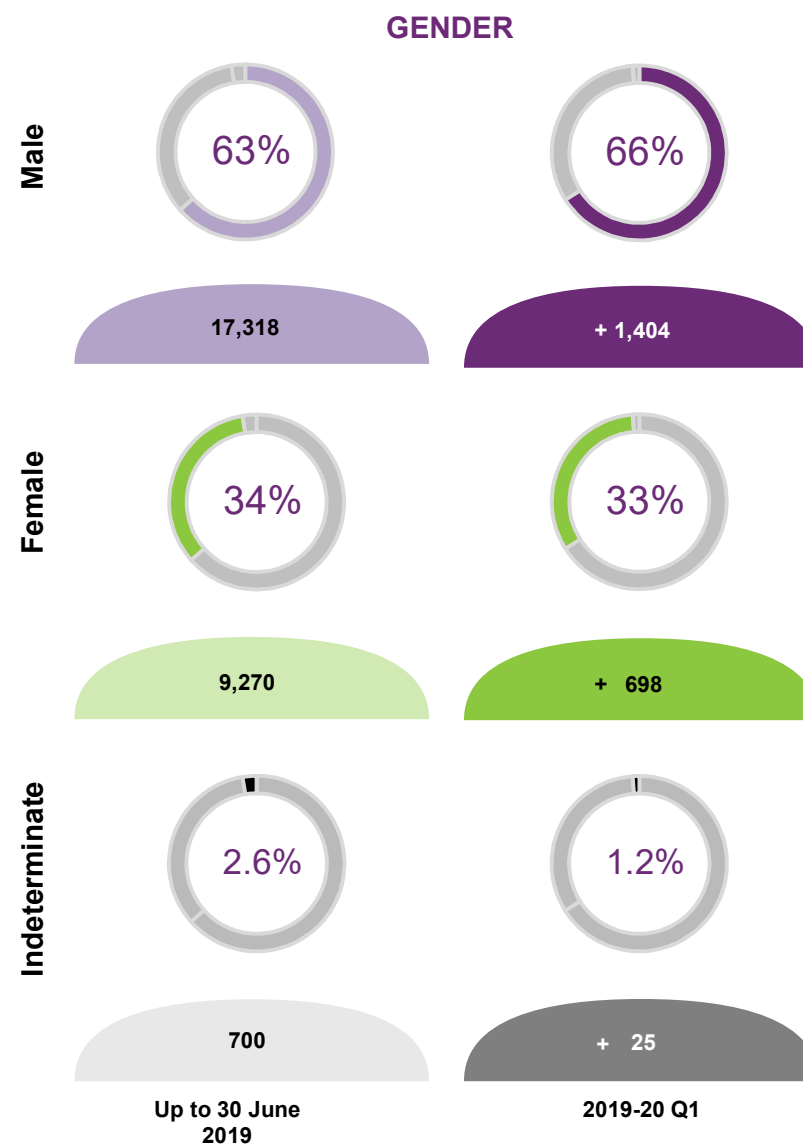
% of active participants with a plan approved by level of function



## Participant Profiles by Gender

These charts show the demographic profile of active participants with a plan approved in 2019-20 Q1, compared with plan approvals as at 30 June 2019, by gender.

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.

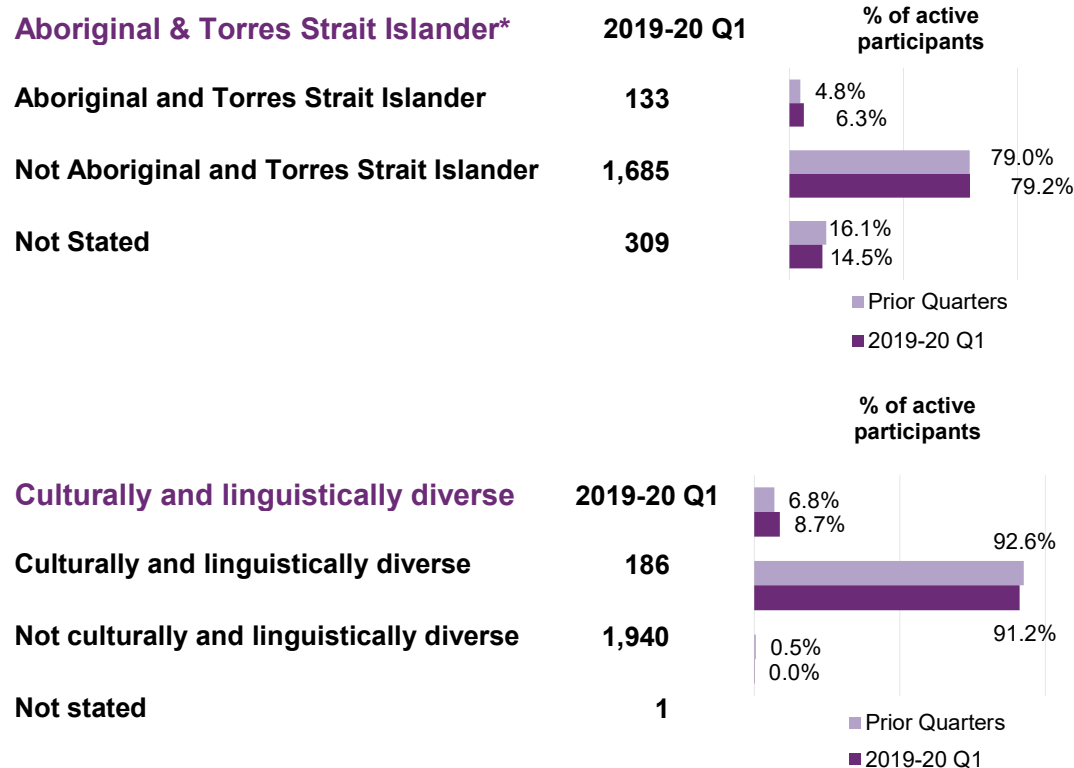


## Participant Profiles: Other

These bar charts show other demographic profiles of active participants with a plan approved in 2019-20 Q1, compared with plan approvals as at 30 June 2019.

Of the participants with a plan approved in 2019-20 Q1:

- 6.3% were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, compared with 4.8% in previous periods combined.
- 8.7% were culturally and linguistically diverse, compared with 6.8% in previous periods combined.
- There were 290 participants in residential aged care. 222 of them were under the age of 65 years.



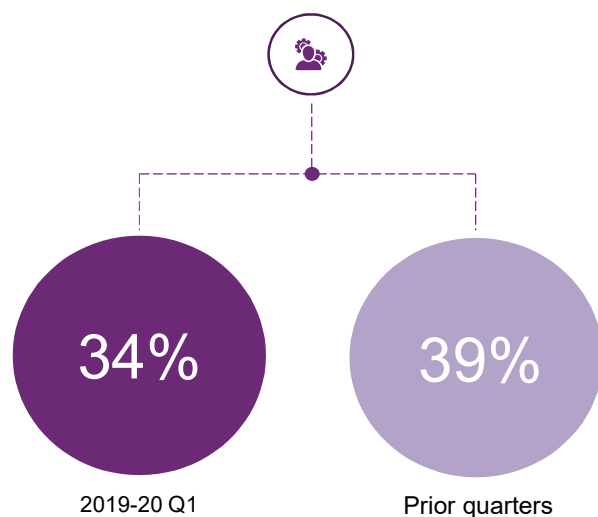
\* Note: The proportion of participants with a 'Not Stated' response regarding Indigenous status has increased compared with previous periods, with an offsetting reduction to the proportion of participants with a 'No' response. This is the result of a correction to the data and has no impact on the proportion of Indigenous participants identified

## Plan Management Support Coordination

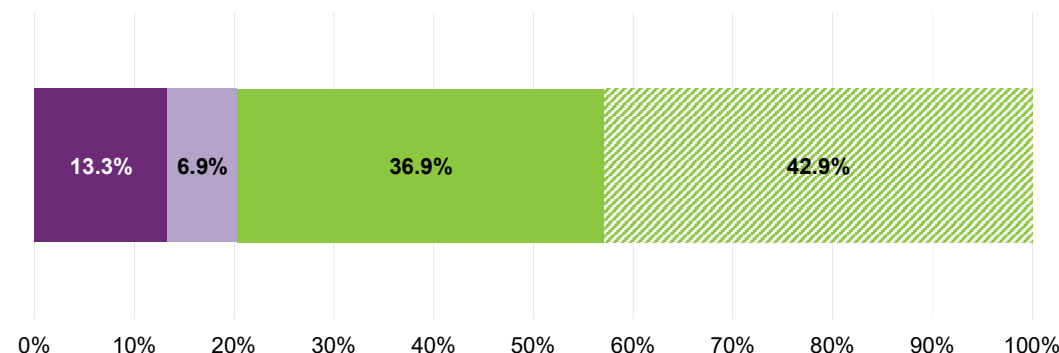
The proportion of participants electing to fully or partly self-manage their plan was higher in 2019-20 Q1 at 25%, compared with 20% in previous quarters combined.

34% of participants who have had a plan approved in 2019-20 Q1 have support coordination in their plan, compared to 39% in previous quarters combined.

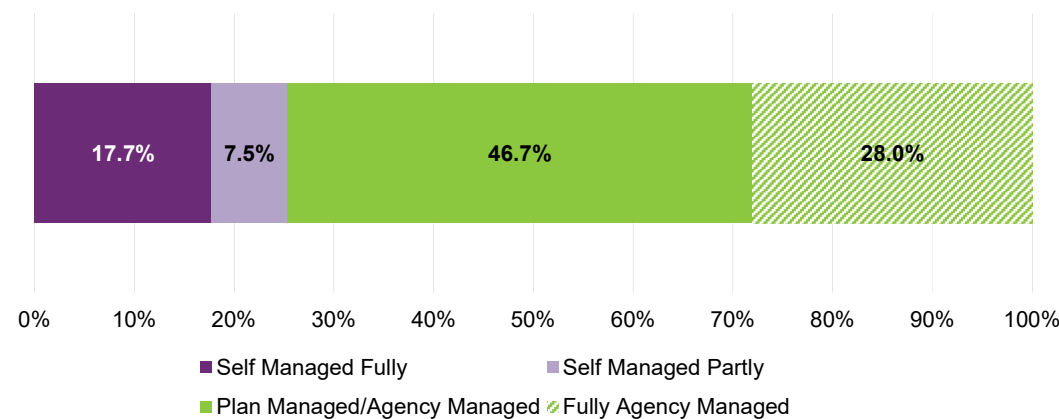
### Support Coordination



Prior quarters (transition only)



2019-20 Q1



## Plan Activation

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.

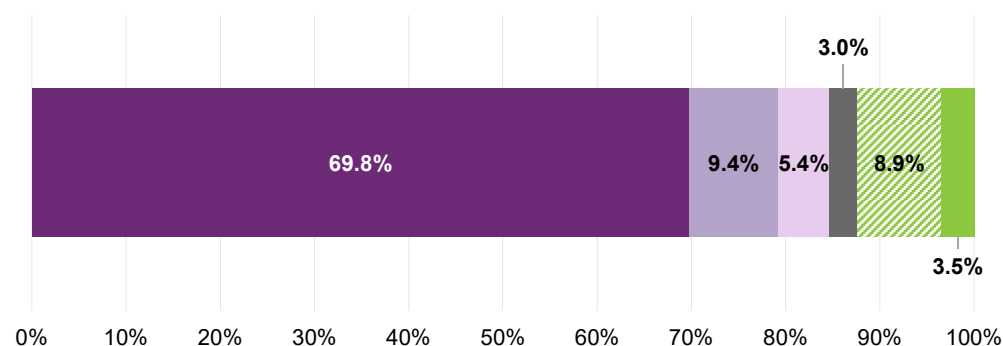
The percentage of participants who activated plans within 90 days of initial plan approval was:

- 86% of participants entering in 2018-19 Q3
- 85% of participants entering in previous quarters combined

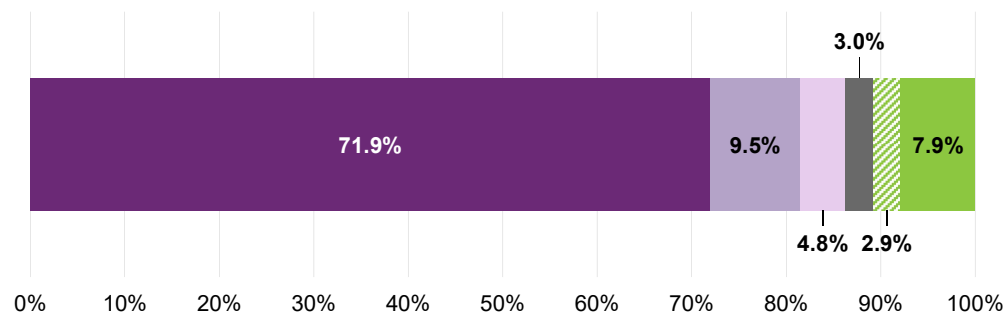
Plan activation figures are approximations based on payment data. As there is a lag between when the support is provided to a participant, and the payment being made, these statistics are a conservative estimate; it is likely plan activation is faster than presented.

Duration to Plan activation for participants with initial plan approval

Prior Quarters (Transition Only)



2018-19 Q3



■ Less than 30 days    ■ 30 to 59 days    ■ 60 to 89 days  
 ■ 90 to 119 days    ■ 120 days and over    ■ No payments

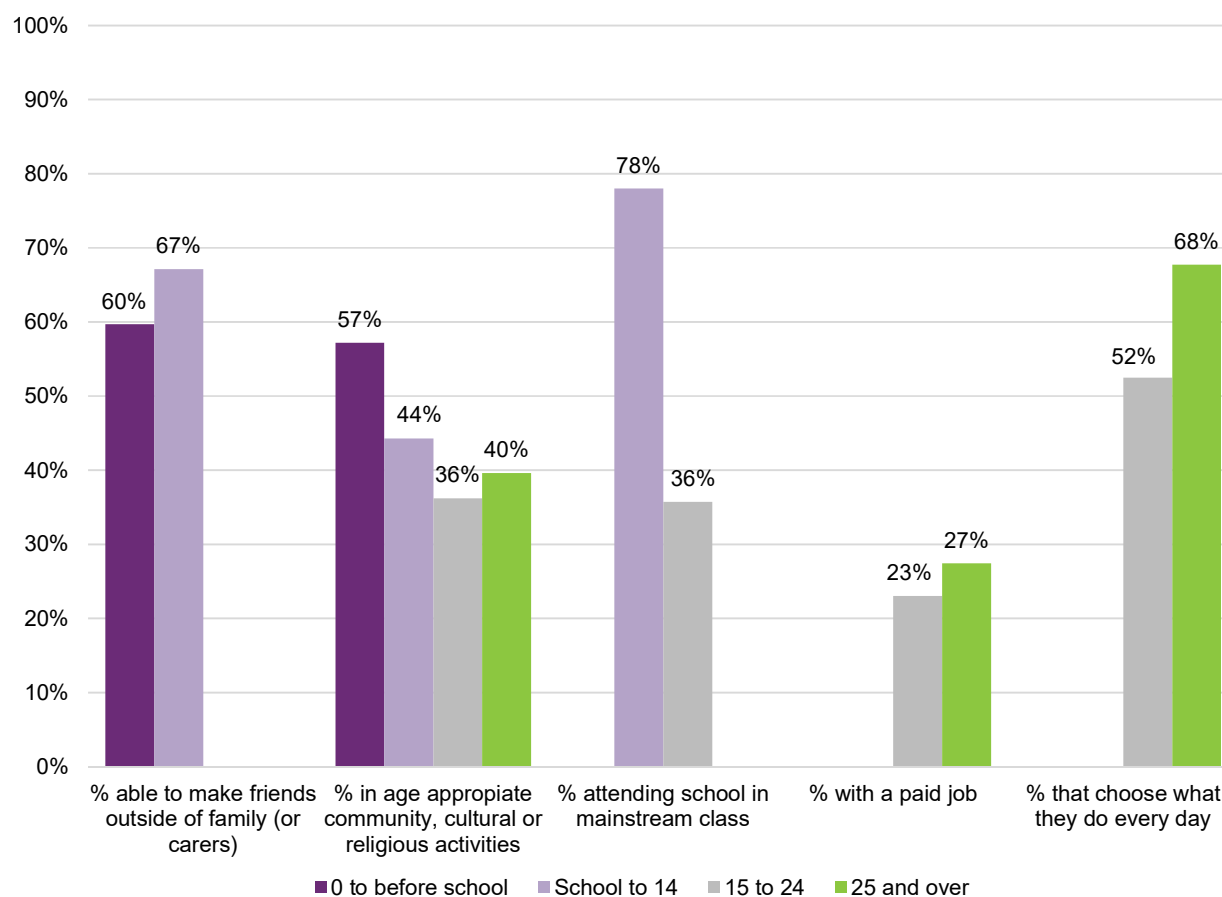
Note: Participants with initial plans approved after the end of 2018-19 Q3 have been excluded from the charts. They are relatively new and it is too early to examine their durations to activation.

## Participant Outcomes

This information on participant outcomes has been collected from 96% of participants who received their initial plan since 1 July 2016 (when they entered the scheme).

- 67% of participants from school age to 14 are able to make friends outside of family/carers, compared to 60% of participants aged 0 to before school
- 57% of participants aged 0 to before school are engaged in age appropriate community, cultural or religious activities, compared to 36% to 44% for other age groups
- 78% of participants from school age to 14 attend school in a mainstream class, compared to 36% of participants aged 15 to 24
- 27% of participants aged 25 and over have a paid job, compared to 23% of participants aged 15 to 24
- 68% of participants aged 25 and over choose what they do every day, compared to 52% of participants aged 15 to 24

Selected key baseline indicators for participants



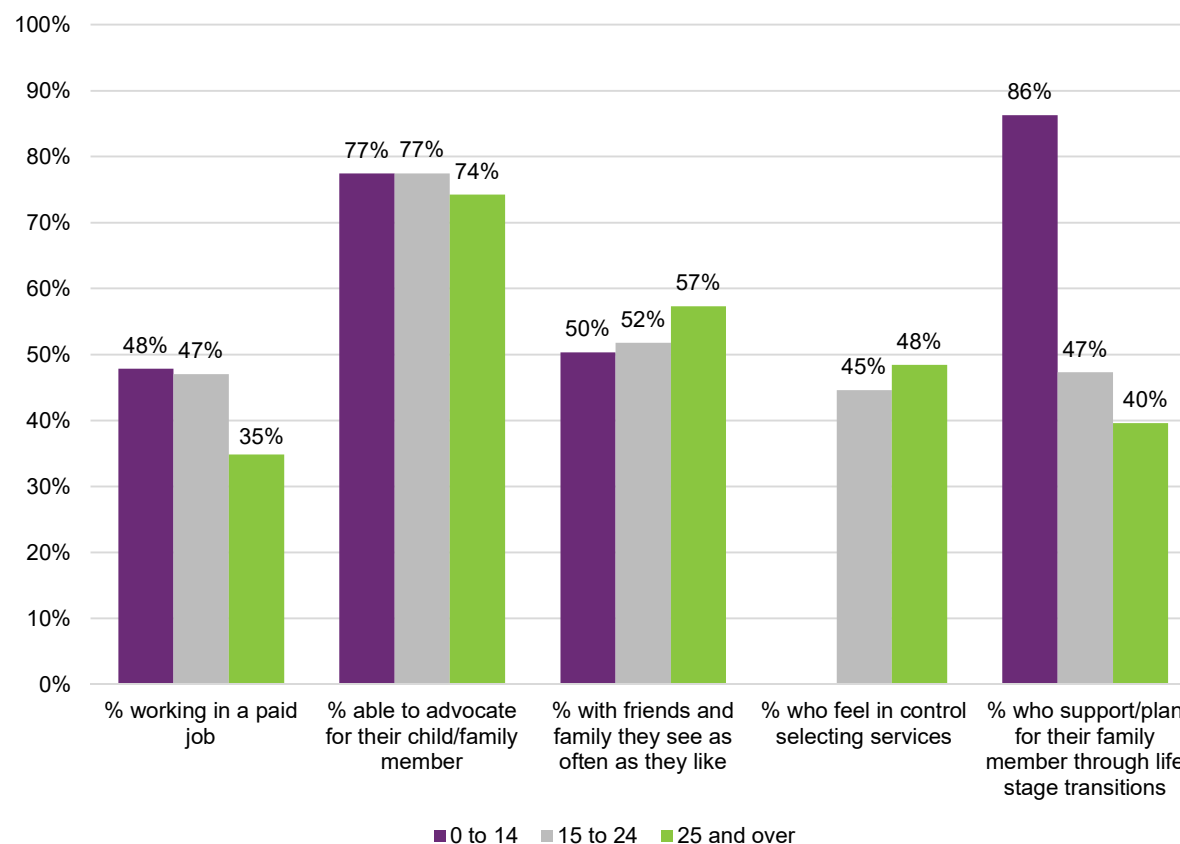


## Family/Carers Outcomes

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

- working in a paid job was highest for participants aged 0 to 14 (48%)
- able to advocate for their child/family member was highest for participants aged 0 to 14 and participants aged 15 to 24 (77%)
- who have friends and family they can see as often as they like was highest for participants aged 25 and over (57%)
- who feel in control selecting services was highest for participants aged 25 and over (48%)
- who support/plan for their family member through life stage transitions was highest for participants aged 0 to 14 (86%)

Selected key baseline indicators for families and carers of participants



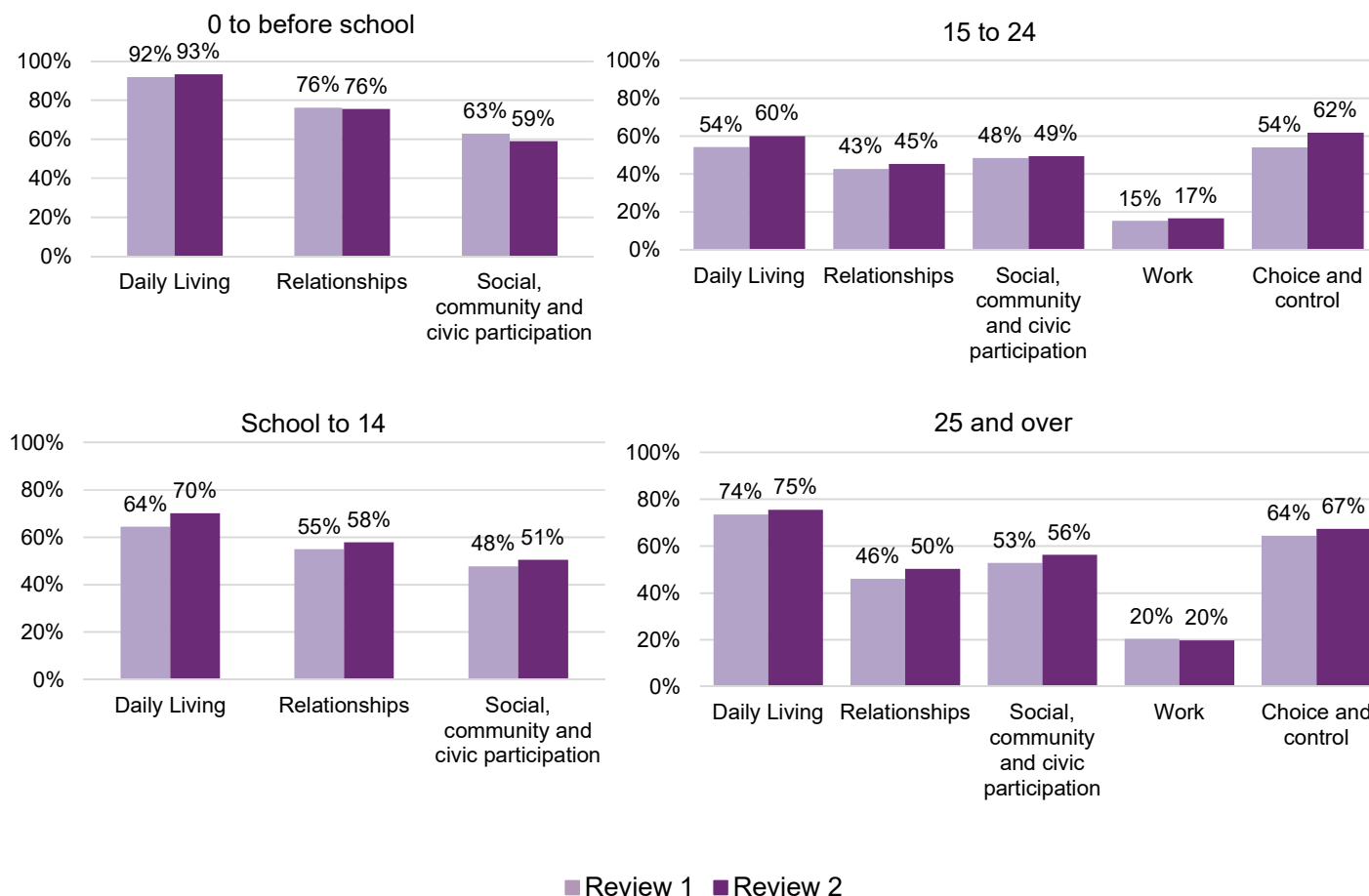
# Has the NDIS helped? Participants

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 when they enter and at their subsequent plan reviews. These charts summarise the responses for participants who entered the Scheme between 1 October 2016 and 30 September 2017 and have had a first and second plan review to date.

Participant perceptions in general improved or remained stable from first review to second review in the Scheme. The exception was some deterioration in the 'Social, community and civic participation' domain for ages 0 to before school. The greatest improvements across most age groups were demonstrated within the 'Daily living' domain.

"Has the NDIS helped?" questions for participants



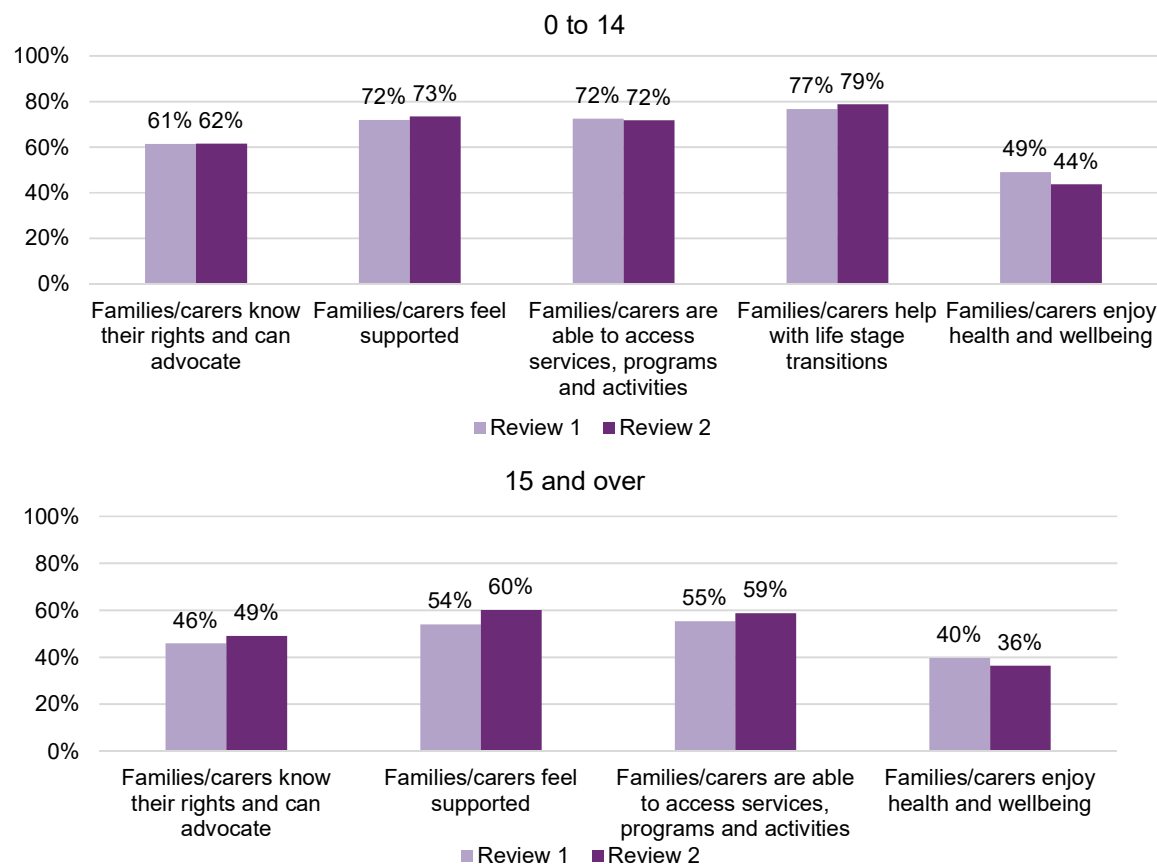
## Has the NDIS helped? Family/Carers

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

The NDIA asks the question 'Has the NDIS helped?' to families and carers of participants when they enter and at their subsequent plan reviews. These charts summarise the responses for participants who entered the Scheme between 1 October 2016 and 30 September 2017 and have had a first and second plan review to date.

The perceptions of families and carers of participants of whether the NDIS has helped improved or remained stable in most domains. The exception was the 'health and well being' where the results deteriorated.

"Has the NDIS helped?" questions for families and carers of participants



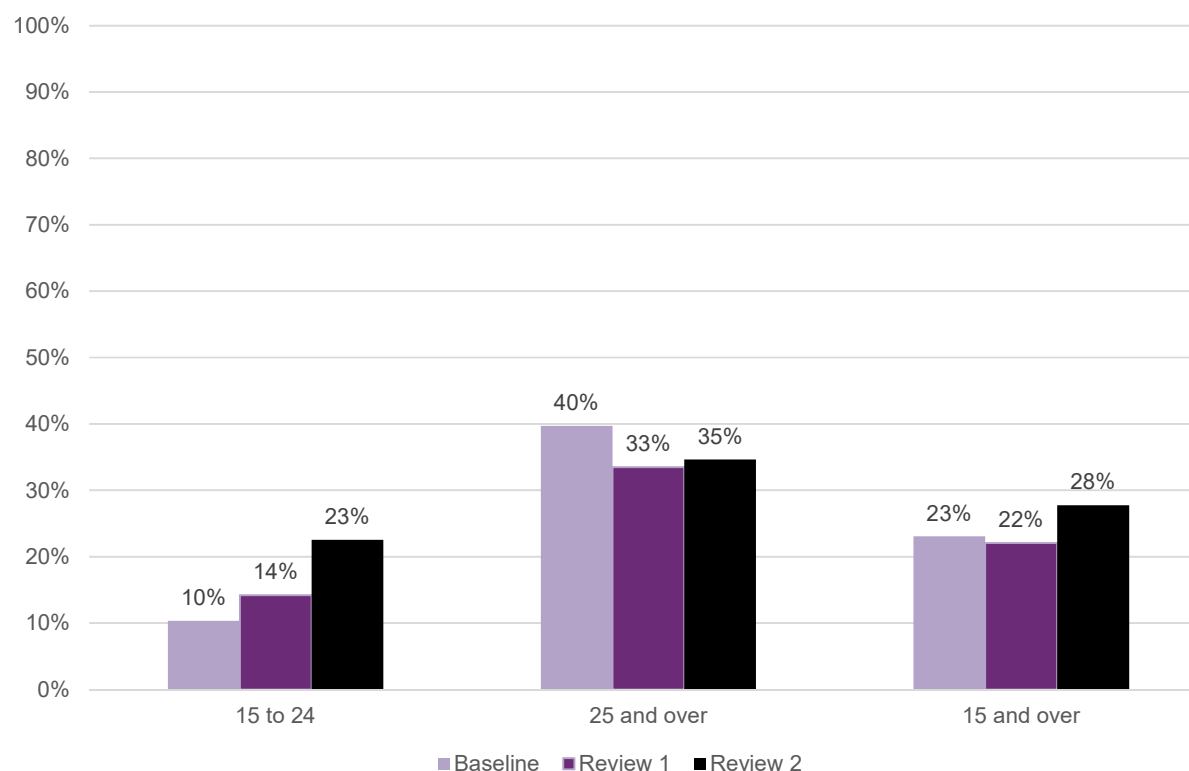
## Participants in Work

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 and at their subsequent plan reviews. These results relate to participants who have entered the Scheme between 1 October 2016 and 30 September 2017, and have had two plan reviews to date.

The percentage of participants in paid work increased from 10% to 23% for those aged 15 to 24, but decreased from 40% to 35% for those aged 25 and over. Overall, the percentage increased from 23% to 28%.

NDIS participants in paid employment, by age group – participants with first and second plan reviews



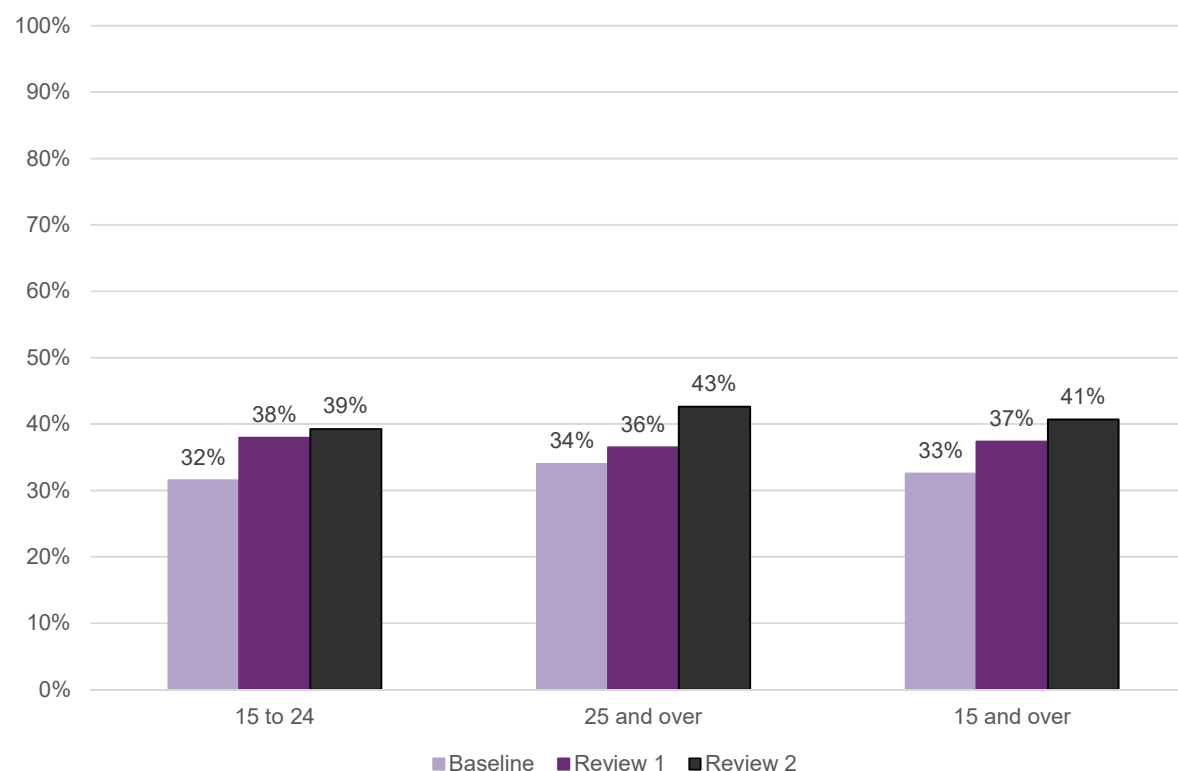
## Participants involved in community and social activities

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

Baseline measures on engaging in community and social activities are collected as a participant enters the Scheme and at their subsequent plan reviews. These results relate to participants who have entered the Scheme between 1 October 2016 and 30 September 2017, and have had two plan reviews to date.

The percentage of participants involved in community and social activities increased from 32% to 39% for those aged 15 to 24 and increased from 34% to 43% for those aged 25 and over. Overall, the percentage increased from 33% to 41%.

NDIS participants participating in social activities in their community, by age group – participants with first and second plan reviews

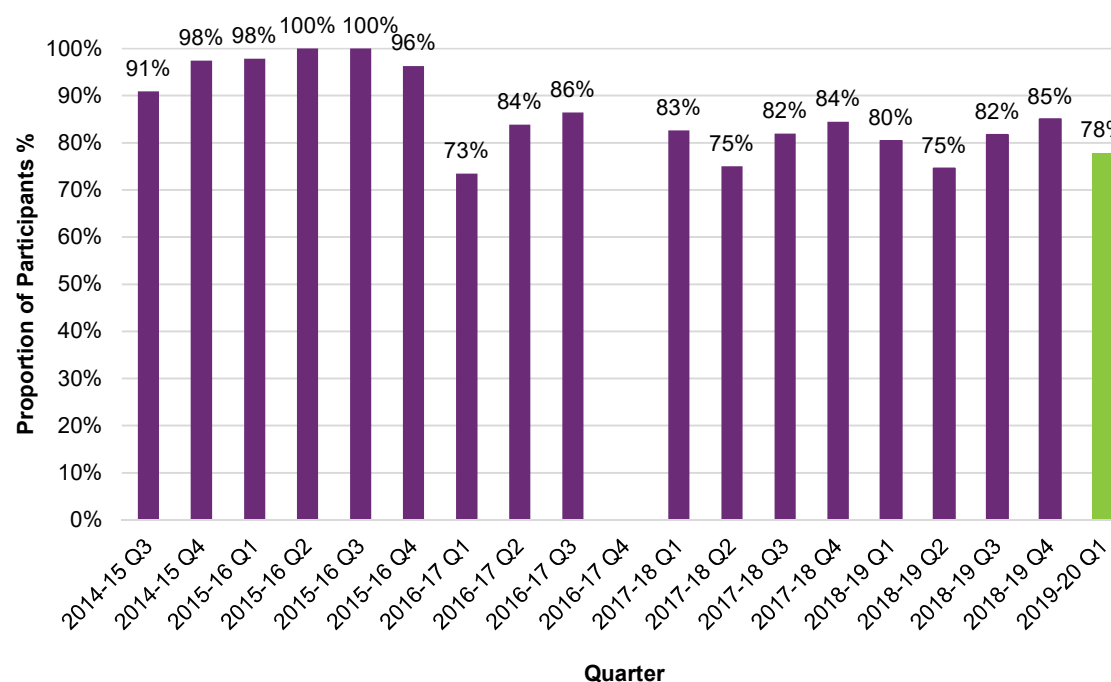


## Participant Satisfaction

**78% of participants rated their satisfaction with the Agency's planning process as either good or very good in the current quarter. This has decreased since the previous quarter.**

Participant satisfaction under the existing survey method continues to be high, but has been below the trial site level.

**Proportion of participants describing satisfaction with the Agency's planning process as good or very good - by quarter**



Note: Participant satisfaction results are not shown if there is insufficient data in the group.

# Participant Satisfaction - New Survey Method

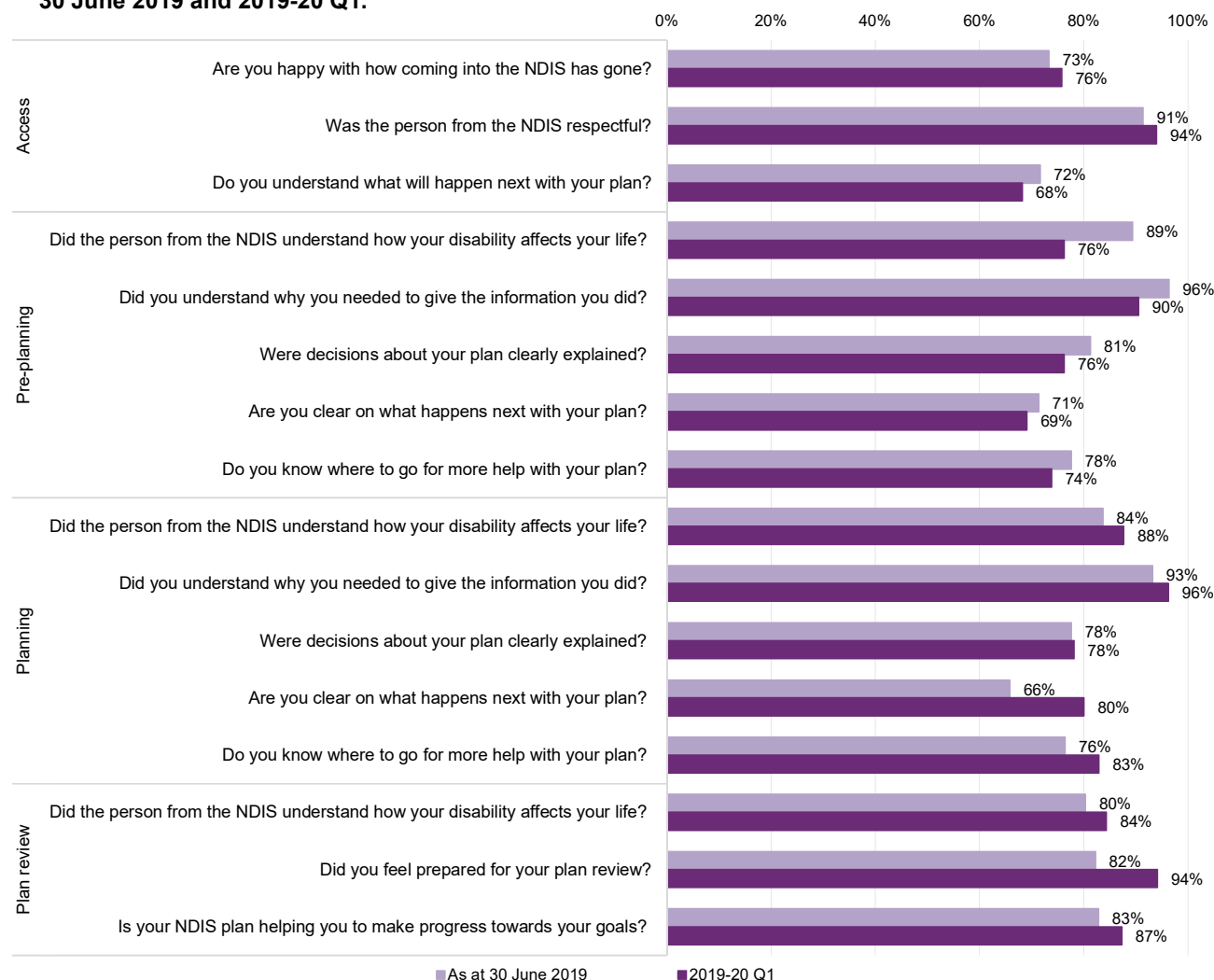
A new participant satisfaction survey has been developed to better record the experience of NDIS participants and their families and carers at different stages of the participant pathway.

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

There have been improvements in participant satisfaction at each stage of the pathway in this quarter except for the Pre-planning stage. Generally, 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.

Proportion of participants who agreed with statements about the different stages of NDIS journey as at 30 June 2019 and 2019-20 Q1.



# Committed Supports and Payments

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

Of the \$2.3 billion that has been committed in participant plans, \$1.4 billion has been paid to date.



## Summary

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



### Key Statistics

SUMMARY OF PAYMENTS FOR SUPPORTS PROVIDED BY FINANCIAL YEAR SINCE THE NDIS TRIAL WAS LAUNCHED IN 2013-14:

2013-14: \$5.7M  
2014-15: \$29.8M  
2015-16: \$63.1M  
2016-17: \$104.0M  
2017-18: \$209.3M  
2018-19: \$745.5M  
2019-20: \$265.7M TO DATE.

PERCENTAGE OF COMMITTED SUPPORTS UTILISATION BY FINANCIAL YEAR:

2013-14: 54%  
2014-15: 61%  
2015-16: 62%  
2016-17: 56%  
2017-18: 59%  
2018-19: 57%

UTILISATION OF COMMITTED SUPPORTS IN 2018-19 AND 2019-20 IS STILL EMERGING.

## Committed Supports and Payments

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 \$2.3 billion that has been committed in participant plans, \$1.4 billion has been paid to date.

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

2013-14: \$5.7m

2014-15: \$29.8m

2015-16: \$63.1m

2016-17: \$104.0m

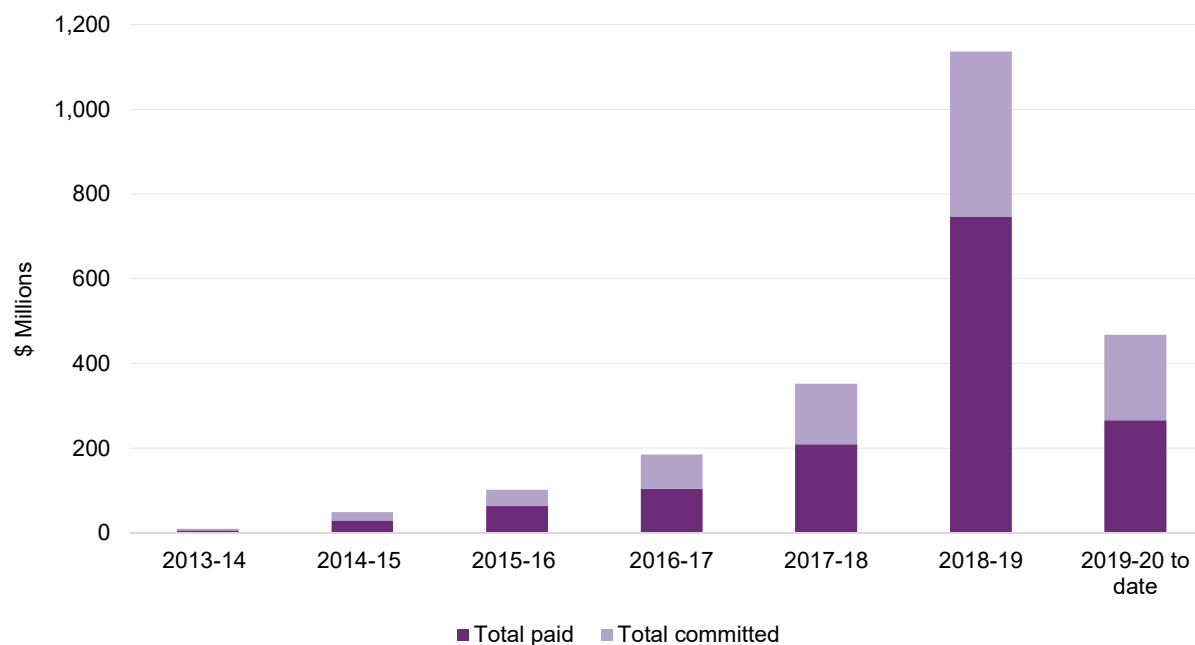
2017-18: \$209.3m

2018-19: \$745.5m

2019-20 to date: \$265.7m

Committed and paid by expected support year

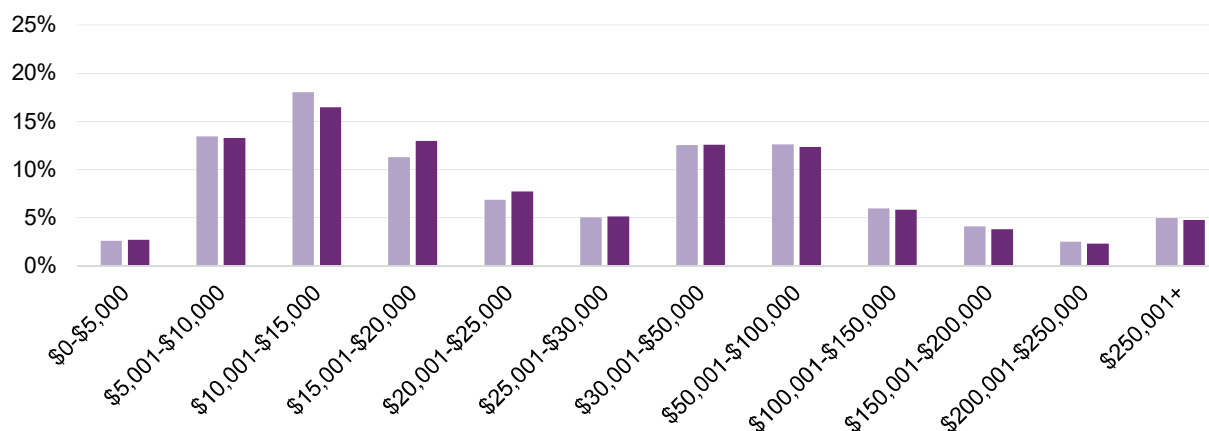
\$Million	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 to date
Total committed	10.5	48.7	102.3	185.1	351.9	1,136.0	468.0
Total paid	5.7	29.8	63.1	104.0	209.3	745.5	265.7



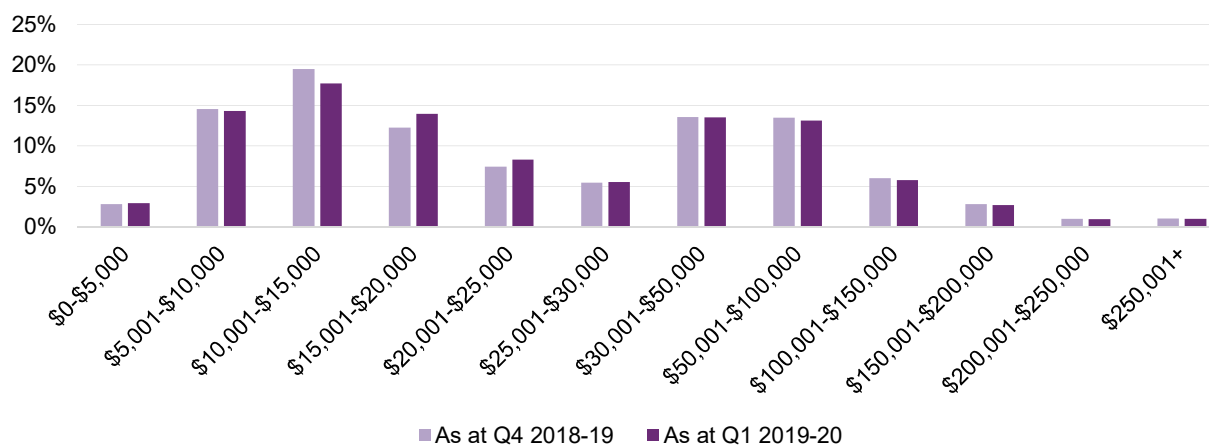
## Committed Supports by Cost Band

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.

Distribution of average annualised committed supports by cost band (including SIL)



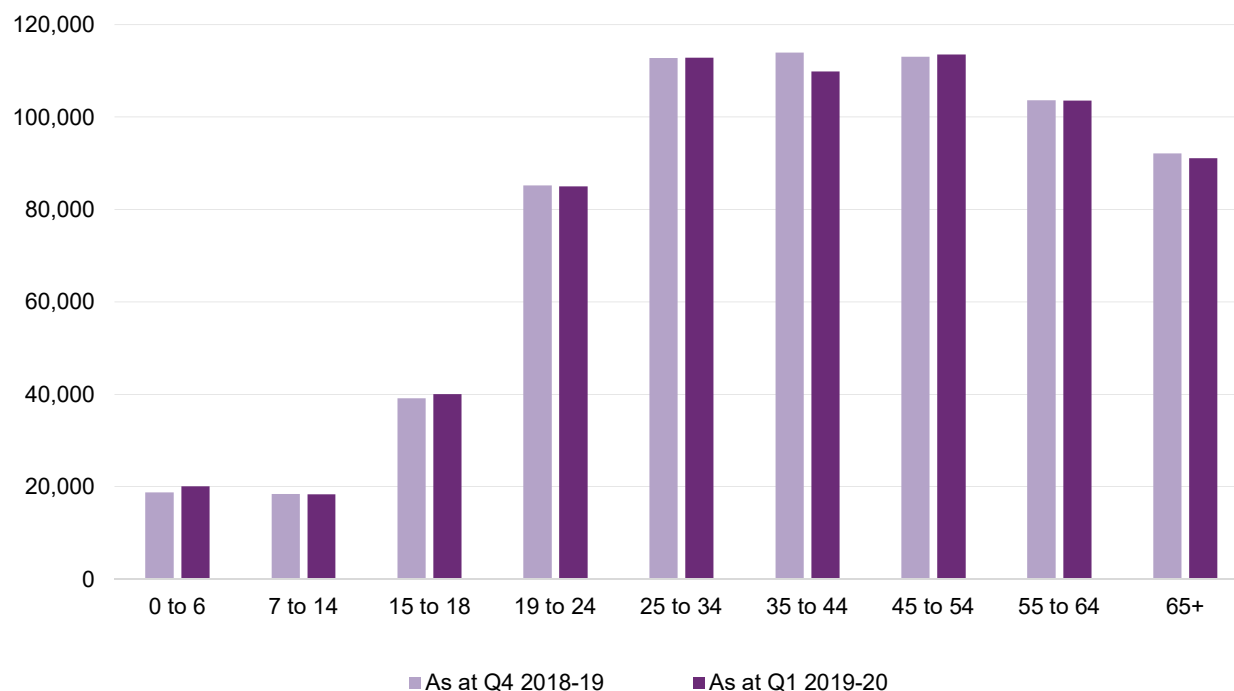
Distribution of average annualised committed supports by cost band (excluding SIL)



## Committed Supports by Age Band

This quarter, supports have remained consistent with prior quarters. Average annualised committed supports increase steeply between participants 7-14 through to age 25, stabilising to age 55 and reducing in participants of older ages.

Average annualised committed supports by age band

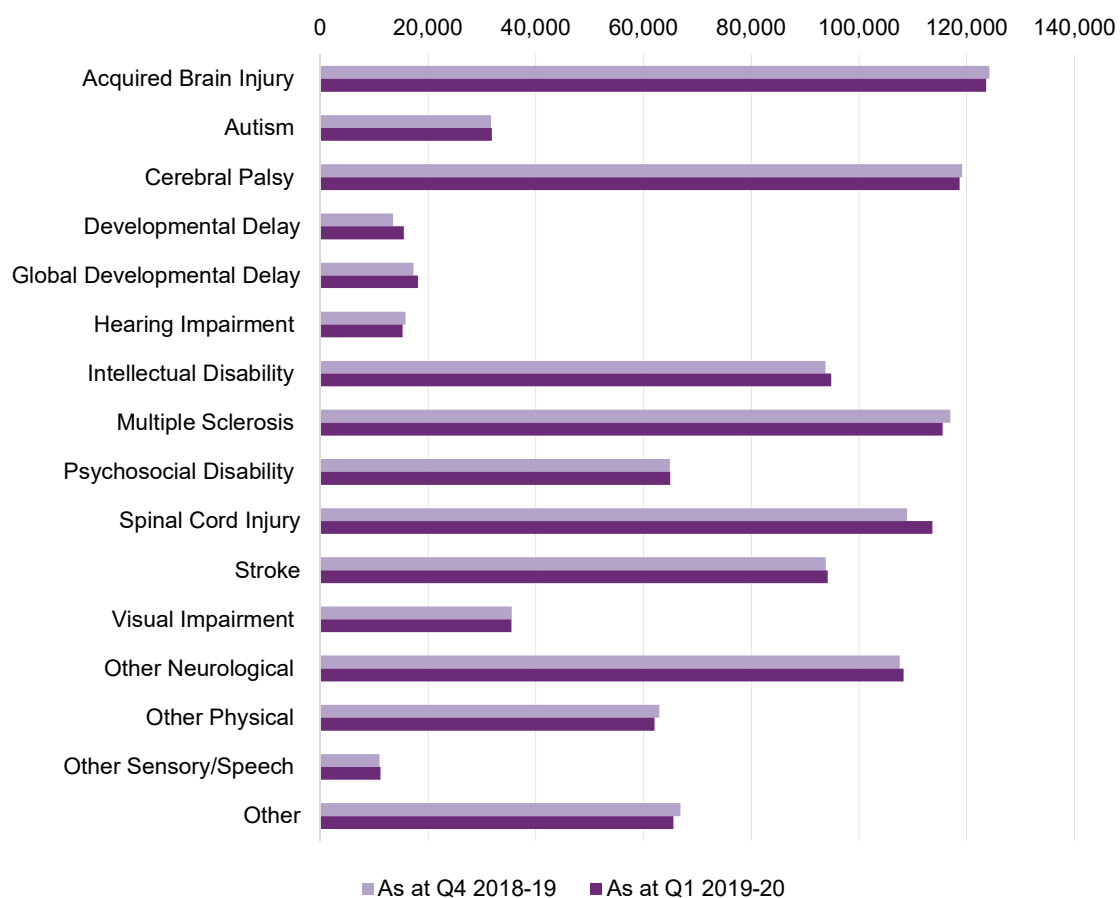


Note: The age eligibility requirements for the NDIS are based on the age as at the access request date. Participants with their initial plan approved aged 65+ have turned 65 since their access request was received.

## Committed Supports by Disability Group

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

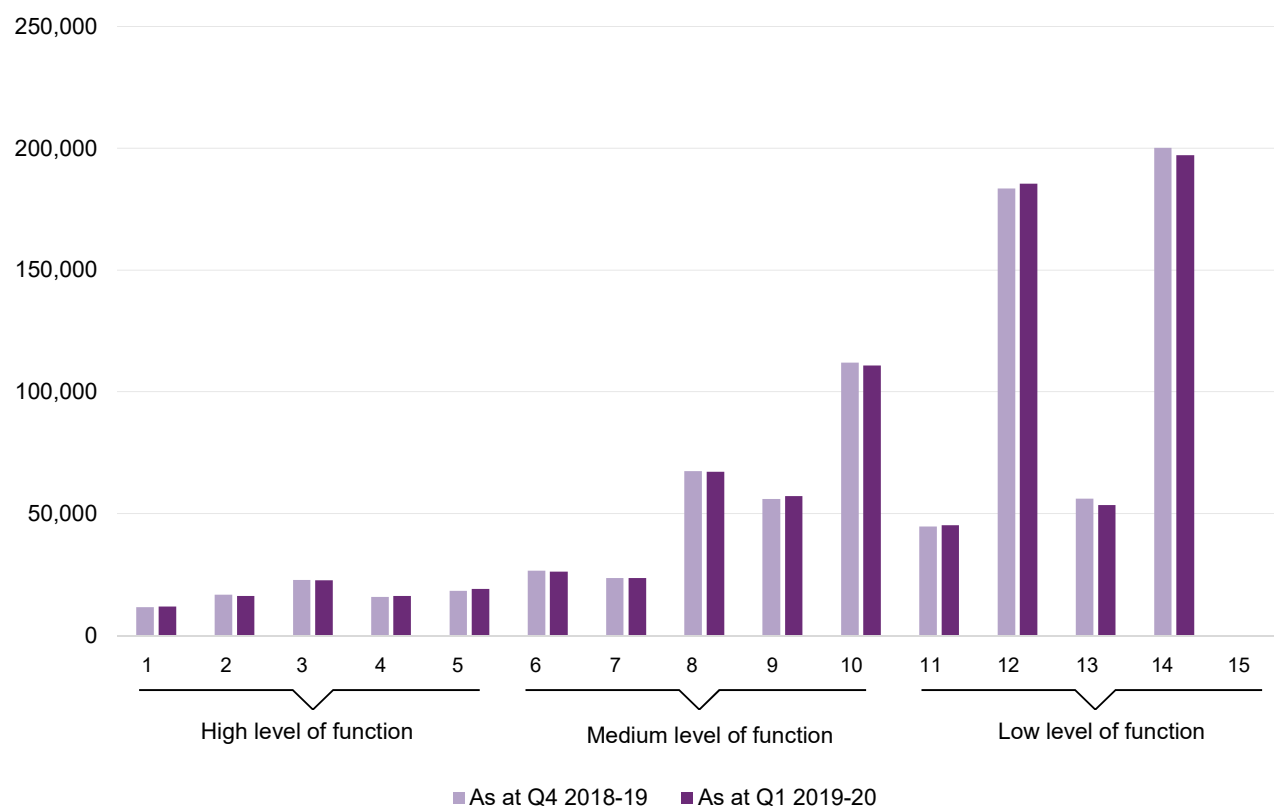
Average annualised committed supports by primary disability group



## Committed Supports by Level of Function

The average annualised committed supports generally increase among participants with higher needs.

Average annualised committed supports by level of function



Note 1: Average annualised committed supports are not shown if there are insufficient data in the group.

Note 2: High, medium and low function is relative within the NDIS population and not comparable to the general population.

## Utilisation of Committed Supports

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

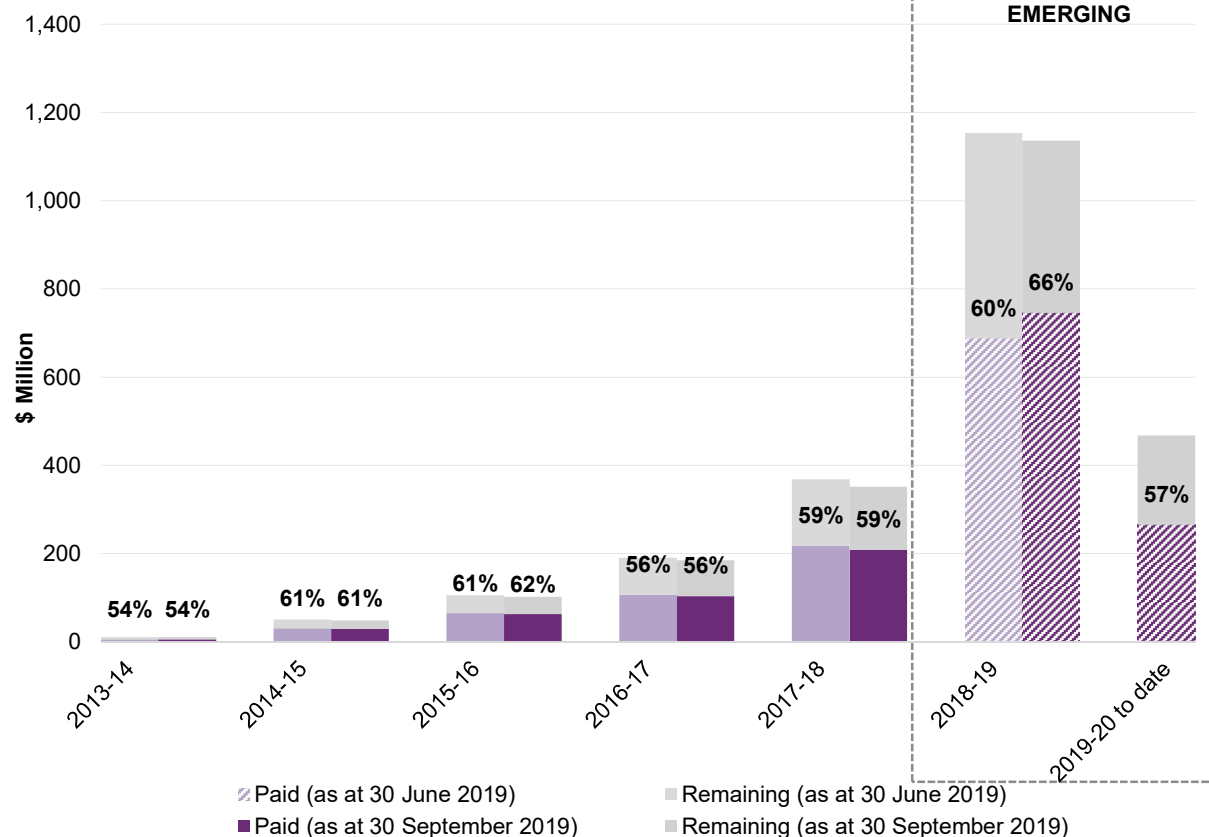
As there is a lag between when support is provided and when it is paid, the utilisation in 2018-19 and 2019-20 will increase.

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 and 2019-20 is still emerging.

Utilisation of committed supports as at 30 June 2019 and 30 September 2019



Note: Jurisdiction is defined by the current residing address of the participant. This is a change from the previous quarter, where the jurisdiction was based on where the participant resided when they had their initial plan approved. As a result, the amounts of committed supports and payments in past support years have reduced since 30 June 2019 for SA.

# Providers and Markets

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

There were a total of 1,556 active providers as at 30 September 2019, 144 of which were active for the first time in the quarter.

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 all States and Territories across Australia with the exception of WA from 1 July 2020.



## Summary

This section contains information focused on active service providers and the market, with key provider and market indicators presented.

### Provider registration

- From 1 July 2019, providers in all States and Territories across Australia (except WA) register with the NQSC by submitting a registration request, indicating the types of support they are accredited to provide.
- The NQSC uses a 'National approach' to approve providers and thus, any provider which has been verified in any other States or Territories (with the exception of WA) is automatically approved in South Australia.

### 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.



### Key Statistics

**1,556**

ACTIVE PROVIDERS, IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2019

**80-95%**

OF PAYMENTS TO PROVIDERS ARE RECEIVED BY 25% OF ACTIVE PROVIDERS

**32%**

OF ACTIVE SERVICE PROVIDERS ARE INDIVIDUALS/ SOLE TRADERS

THERAPEUTIC SUPPORTS HAS THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF ACTIVE SERVICE PROVIDERS, FOLLOWED BY EARLY INTERVENTION SUPPORTS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD AND ASSISTANCE PRODUCTS FOR PERSONAL CARE AND SAFETY

The new NDIS Quality and Safeguard Commission (NQSC) commenced to regulate quality and safeguarding of NDIS supports and services. The NQSC has been active in all States and Territories across Australia with the exception for WA from 1 July 2020.

## Active Providers at 30 September 2019

As at 30 September 2019, there were 1,556 active service providers, of which 504 were individual/sole trader operated businesses and 1,052 were companies or organisations.

**1.32**

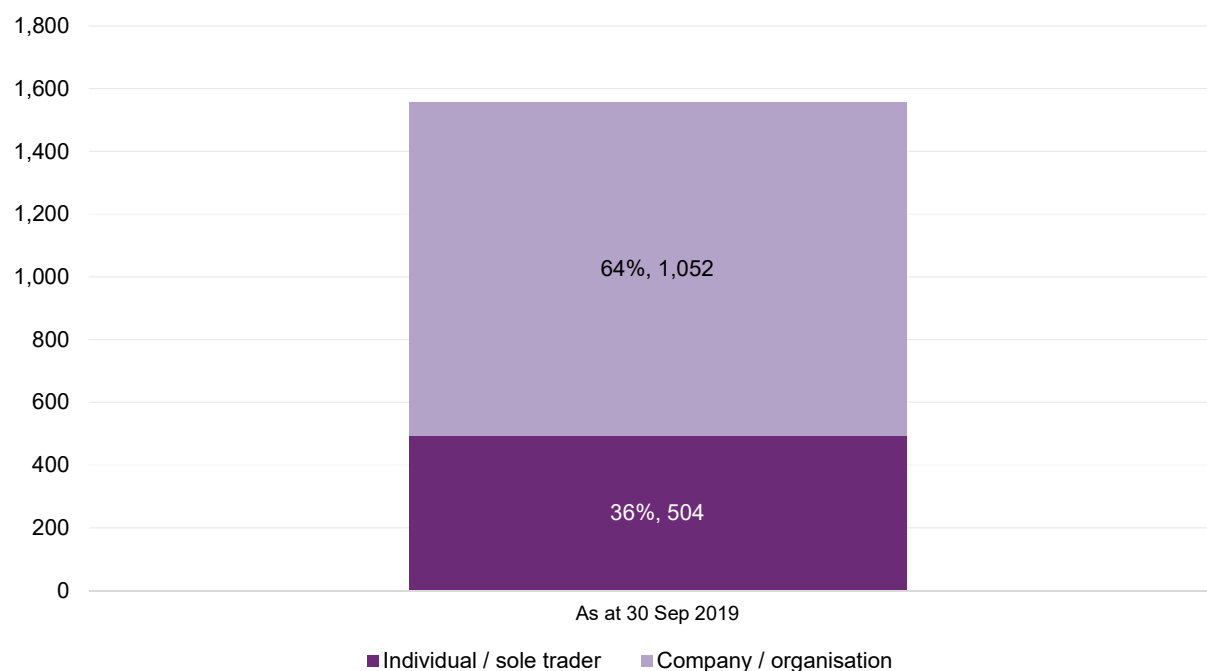
AVERAGE  
PROVIDERS PER  
PARTICIPANT

**208**

NUMBER OF ACTIVE  
PROVIDERS  
DELIVERING NEW  
TYPES OF  
SUPPORTS

Note: The new NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (NQSC) has been established to regulate providers in all States and Territories (with the exception of WA) from 1 July 2019.

Active providers at 30 September 2019



The number of active service providers increased by 10% to 1,556 in the quarter. Currently, 32% of active service providers are individuals/sole traders.

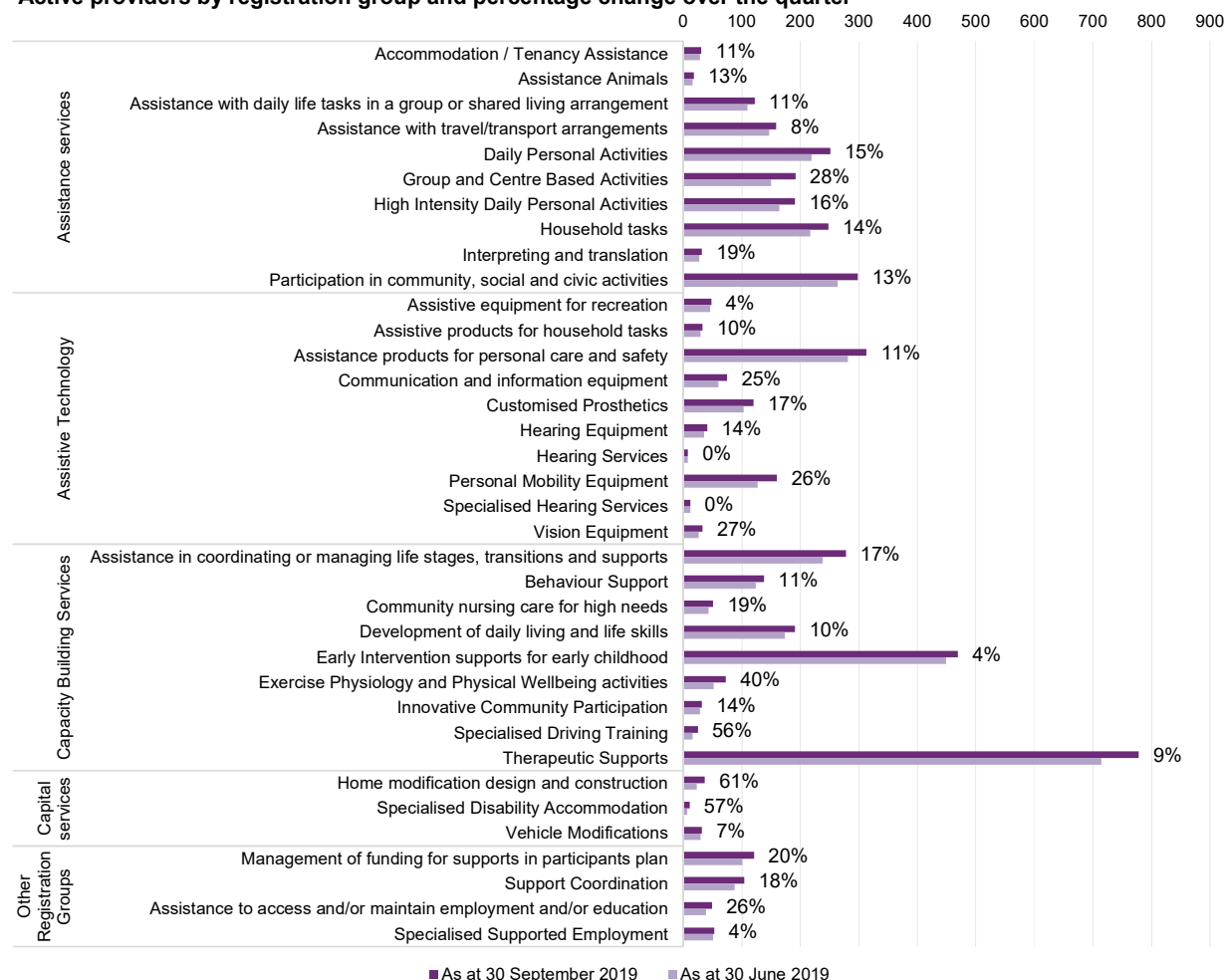
# Active Registration groups

The number of active providers 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 714 to 778 (9% increase)
- **Early Intervention supports for early childhood:** from 449 to 469 (4% increase)
- **Assistance products for personal care and safety:** from 281 to 313 (11% increase)
- **Participation in community, social and civic activities:** from 264 to 298 (13% increase)
- **Assistance in coordinating or managing life stages, transitions and supports:** from 238 to 278 (17% increase)

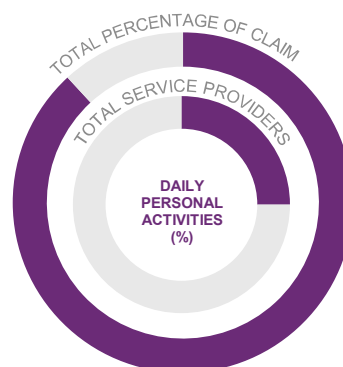
Active providers by registration group and percentage change over the quarter



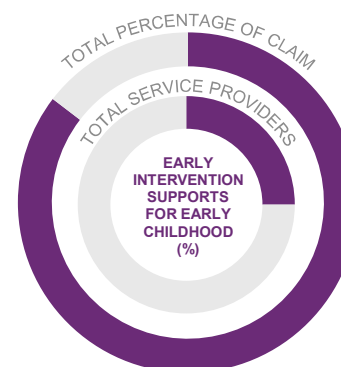
## Market share of top providers

80-95% of payments to providers are received by 25% of active providers.

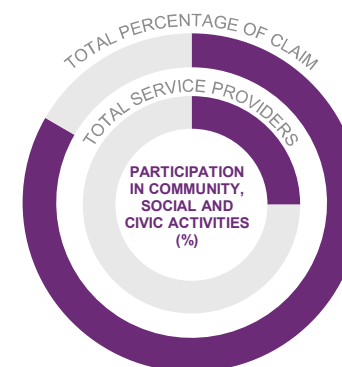
The top 25% of providers by registration group



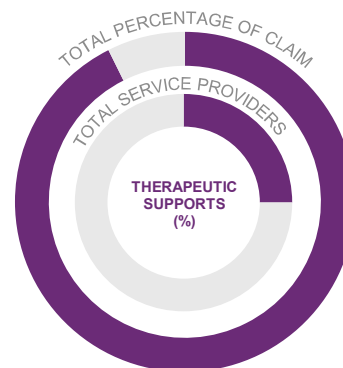
88%



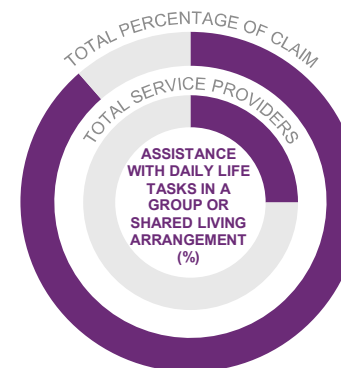
85%



83%



93%



89%

# Information, Linkages and Capacity Building

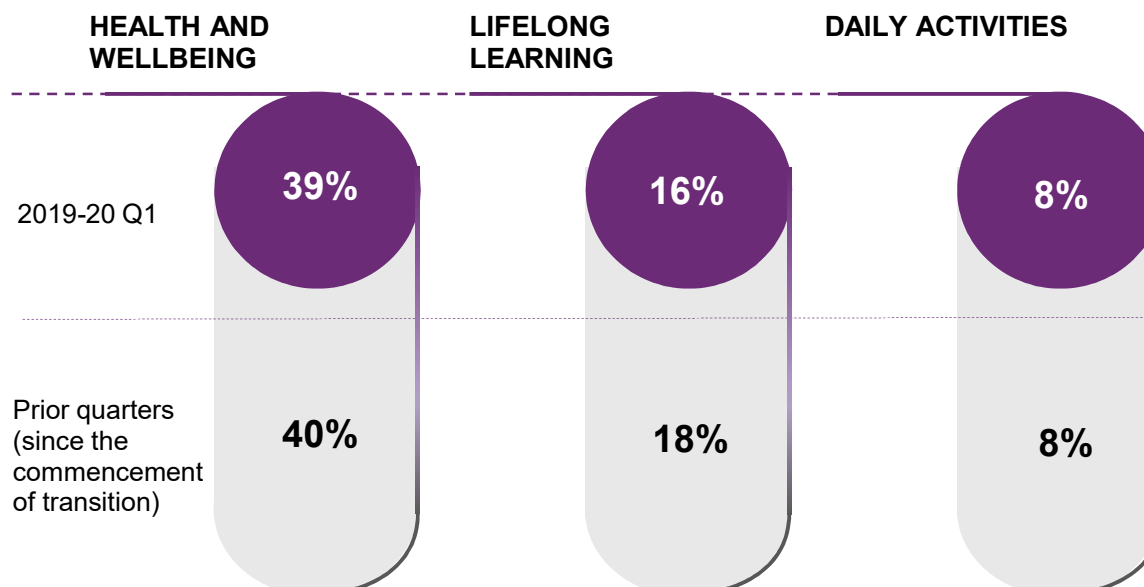
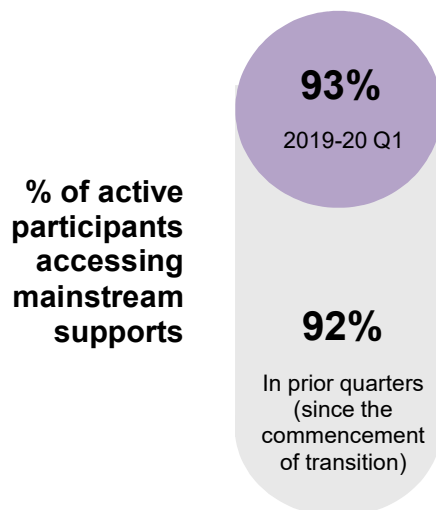
Information, Linkages and Capacity Building was covered in the national version of the COAG Quarterly Performance Report.

# Mainstream Interface

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

## Mainstream Interface

Of the total number of active participants with a plan approved in 2019-20 Q1\*, 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.



\*Note: The results shown here are as at 31 August 2019. The next quarterly report will include data to 31 December 2019.

# Financial Sustainability

Financial Sustainability was covered in the national version of the COAG Quarterly Performance Report.