Transcript for Northern Territory Quarterly Performance Dashboard as at 31 December 2023

This dashboard provides a quarterly comparison of key statistics relating to active participants and their experience of the Scheme. It also includes key outcomes and participant satisfaction results as well as provider market characteristics.

The new computer system commenced in Tasmania in the December 2022 quarter and nationally from 30 October 2023. The Quarterly Performance Dashboard combines data from the current and new systems, where it is available. Data from the new system is not available for all tables shown. Where this is materially incomplete, the underlying data for this dashboard has not been shown. This may lead to restatements of information in future reports.

## Participants and planning

A table displays the following key statistics on the Northern Territory participant experience as at 31 December 2023 and 30 September 2023:

• The number of active participants with approved plans (excluding children accessing early connections) increased from 5,838 as at 30 September 2023 to 5,949 as at 31 December 2023.

• The number of children accessing early connections was 105, as at 30 September 2023. This metric cannot be measured for the quarter ending 31 December 2023. The early childhood approach indicators under the new system (PACE) are being refined. Where these results remain unreliable for this quarter, n/a has been substituted until these are resolved further.

• The number of children waiting for early connections was two as at 30 September 2023. This metric cannot be measured for the quarter ending 31 December 2023. The early childhood approach indicators under the new system (PACE) are being refined. Where these results remain unreliable for this quarter, n/a has been substituted until these are resolved further.

• The percentage of participants fully or partially self-managing their plan remained stable at 14%, from 30 September 2023 to 31 December 2023.

• The percentage of plans activated within 90 days remained stable at 84%, from 30 September 2023 to 31 December 2023. Trial participants (participants with initial plans approved prior to one July 2016), and those with initial plans approved after the end of 2022-23 Quarter 3, have been excluded.

• The number of completed participant plan reassessments in the quarter decreased from 699 in the quarter ending 30 September 2023 to 595 in the quarter ending 31 December 2023. Plans less than 31 days in duration have been excluded from this tabulation, as these reassessments are more likely to represent corrections to the plan rather than a new plan reassessment to address a change in circumstance. Plan reassessments exclude data from the new system (PACE) until resolved further.

A chart displays the change in the number active participants between 30 September 2023 and 31 December 2023.

At the beginning of Quarter two 2023-24 there were 5,838 active participants (excluding children accessing early connections). During 2023-24 Quarter 2, there were 184 plan approvals, and 73 participants left the Scheme or moved to another state or territory. This resulted in 5,949 active participants as at 31 December 2023.

The following key statistics summarise the Northern Territory performance as at 31 December 2023:

• 6,509 participants (excluding children accessing early connections) have had an approved plan since July 2013. 5,949 of these continue to be active.

• 3,923 active participants have not previously received disability support via State and Commonwealth government programs in the past.

• 184 participants entered the Scheme in the December 2023 quarter and the net number of participants leaving the Scheme was 73, which is the active participant movements in and out of the Scheme and Northern Territory.

• 595 plans have had reassessments this quarter.

• 190 access decisions have been made in the quarter, of which 150 met access and are still active.

• 97 (52.7%) of the new active participants this quarter identified as First Nations participants, taking the total number of First Nations participants in Northern Territory to 3,021 (50.8% of all Northern Territory participants).

• seven (3.8%) of the new active participants this quarter are Culturally and Linguistically Diverse, taking the total number of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse participants in Northern Territory to 348 (5.8% of all Northern Territory participants). The number of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse participants excludes First Nations participants.

## Participant outcomes and satisfaction

A table displays the following key statistics on Northern Territory participant outcomes and satisfaction.

For Participant and Scheme Outcome metrics from the Corporate Plan as at 31 December 2023, the Outcome results include participants who have been in the Scheme for at least two years. Trial participants (participants with initial plans approved prior to one July 2016) are excluded. The following four indicators are outcomes measures from the corporate plan.

• The participant employment rate for those aged 15 - 64 years increased from 13% at baseline to 15% at the latest reassessment.

• The participant social and community engagement rate for those aged 15+ years increased from 42% at baseline to 45% at the latest reassessment.

• The parent and carer employment rate across all ages increased from 50% at baseline to 55% at the latest reassessment.

• The participant perception of choice and control for those aged 15+ years increased from 56% at the first reassessment to 69% at the latest reassessment.

The following results indicate the percentage of participants rating their overall experience as 'Very Good' or 'Good' by pathway stage in both the current and previous quarter:

• At the 'access' stage, this percentage cannot be measured for the quarters ending 30 September 2023 and 31 December 2023.

• At the 'pre-planning' stage, this percentage cannot be measured for the quarters ending 30 September 2023 and 31 December 2023.

• At the 'planning' stage, this percentage increased from 83% in the quarter ending 30 September 2023 to 87% in the quarter ending 31 December 2023.

• At the 'plan reassessment' stage, this percentage decreased from 64% in the quarter ending 30 September 2023 to 62% in the quarter ending 31 December 2023.

## Participant Service Guarantee

The following statistics measure performance against the Participant Service Guarantee metrics. These statistics look at the percentage of cases meeting the Service Guarantee target in the quarters ending 30 September 2023 and 31 December 2023. The Participant Service Guarantee measures currently do not include participants who have migrated to the new computer system. However, the Participant Service Guarantee measures are being remediated where there is a similar process and data available between the new and old systems. Where these results remain unreliable for this quarter, n/a has been substituted until these are resolved further.

The following metric is concerned with the General service type. The metric number and description are provided below followed by the percentages themselves:

• Participant Service Guarantee number 1: Explain a previous decision within 28 days after a request for explanation is received. This was 100% as at 30 September 2023. This metric cannot be measured for the quarter ending 31 December 2023.

The following three metrics are concerned with Access:

• Participant Service Guarantee number 2: Make an access decision, or request for more information within 21 days after an access request has been received. This was 100% as at 30 September 2023. This metric cannot be measured for the quarter ending 31 December 2023.

• Participant Service Guarantee number 3: Allow sufficient time (90 days) for prospective participants to provide information, after NDIA has requested further information. This was 100% as at 30 September 2023. This metric cannot be measured for the quarter ending 31 December 2023.

• Participant Service Guarantee number 4: Make an access decision within 14 days after more information has been provided. This was 97% at 30 September 2023. This metric cannot be measured for the quarter ending 31 December 2023.

The following three metrics relate to Planning:

• Participant Service Guarantee number 5: Commence facilitating the preparation of a plan within 21 days after an access decision has been made. This was 79% at 30 September 2023. This metric cannot be measured for the quarter ending 31 December 2023.

• Participant Service Guarantee number 6: Approve a participant's plan within 56 days after an access decision has been made (excludes those ECA [Early Childhood Approach] that have received initial supports). This was 72% as at 30 September 2023. This metric cannot be measured for the quarter ending 31 December 2023.

• Participant Service Guarantee number 7: Approve a plan for ECA participants within 90 days after an access decision has been made. This was 91% as at 30 September 2023. This metric cannot be measured for the quarter ending 31 December 2023.ECA stands for early childhood approach.

The following metric relates to Implementation:

• Participant Service Guarantee number 9: If the participant accepts the offer, hold a plan implementation meeting within 28 days. This was 100% as at 30 September 2023. This metric cannot be measured for the quarter ending 31 December 2023.

The following three metrics relate to Plan Reassessments:

• Participant Service Guarantee number 11: Commence facilitating a scheduled plan reassessment at least 56 days prior to the scheduled reassessment date. This was 62% at 30 September 2023. This metric cannot be measured for the quarter ending 31 December 2023.

• Participant Service Guarantee number 12: Decide whether to undertake a Participant Requested Plan Reassessment within 21 days after the request is received. This was 75% as at 30 September 2023. This metric cannot be measured for the quarter ending 31 December 2023.

• Participant Service Guarantee number 13: Complete a reassessment within 28 days after the decision to accept the request was made. This was 35% as at 30 September 2023. This metric cannot be measured for the quarter ending 31 December 2023.

The following two metrics relate to Plan Amendments:

• Participant Service Guarantee number 14: Amend a plan within 28 days after the receipt of information that triggers the plan amendment process. This was 89% as at 30 September 2023. This metric cannot be measured for the quarter ending 31 December 2023.

• Participant Service Guarantee number 15: Amend a plan within 50 days after the receipt of information relating to a complex quote that triggers a plan amendment process. This was 100% as at 30 September 2023. This metric cannot be measured for the quarter ending 31 December 2023.

The following two metrics relate to Reviewable Decisions:

• Participant Service Guarantee number 17: Complete an Internal Review of a Reviewable Decision within 60 days after a request is received. This was 94% as at 30 September 2023. This metric cannot be measured for the quarter ending 31 December 2023.

• Participant Service Guarantee number 18: Implement an Administrative Appeals Tribunal decision to amend a plan within 28 days after the Administrative Appeals Tribunal decision is made. This was 100% as at 30 September 2023. This metric cannot be measured for the quarter ending 31 December 2023.

The following two metrics are concerned with Nominees:

• Participant Service Guarantee number 19: Cancel participant requested nominee within 14 days. This metric cannot be measured for the quarters ending 30 September 2023 and 31 December 2023.

• Participant Service Guarantee number 20: Cancel CEO initiated nominee within 14 days. This metric cannot be measured for the quarters ending 30 September 2023 and 31 December 2023.

The Participant Service Guarantee metrics are based on the recommendations of the 2019 Tune Review. The NDIA commenced measuring performance against the Participant Service Guarantee metrics prior to the legislation of the Participant Service Charter and Guarantee. On 30 March 2022, the NDIS Amendment (Participant Service Guarantee and Other Measures) Bill 2021 passed in both houses of Parliament and received Royal Assent on one April 2022. It introduces changes that provide greater flexibility for participants and the NDIA to amend plans.

## Provider and market metrics

A table displays the following key statistics on Northern Territory market supply and participant costs as at 31 December 2023 and as at 30 September 2023:

• The total number of active providers (with at least one claim ever) increased from 1,078 as at 30 September 2023 to 1,109 as at 31 December 2023. Active providers mean those who have received payment for supports provided to Agency-managed participants and plan managers.

• The total number of active providers in the last quarter decreased from 349 as at 30 September 2023 to 346 as at 31 December 2023. Active providers mean those who have received payment for supports provided to Agency-managed participants and plan managers.

• Utilisation (which is calculated as a six-month rolling average with a three-month lag) increased from 77% as at 30 September 2023 to 78% as at 31 December 2023.

• The following relates to plan utilisation by service district. The proportion of service districts that are more than 10 percentage points below the benchmark remained stable at 33%, as at 30 September 2023 and as at 31 December 2023. The ‘benchmark’ in this analysis is the National average after adjusting for the proportion of participants in Supported Independent Living (SIL) in each service district and the length of time participants have been in the Scheme.

• Market concentration. The proportion of service districts where more than 70% of payments for supports goes to the top 10 providers remained stable at 33%, as at 30 September 2023 and as at 31 December 2023.

• The proportion of payments paid within five days remained stable at 99.8% from 30 September 2023 to 31 December 2023. The payment enquiries come from the Provider Portal, Participant Portal and NDIS App.

• Total payments from one July 2023 to 30 September 2023 were $151 million and from one July 2023 to 31 December 2023 were $301 million.

• Total annualised plan budgets increased from $707 million as at 30 September 2023 to $731 million as at 31 December 2023. Total annualised plan budgets refer to those in the current plans of active participants at the end of quarter.

• Total plan inflation (current quarter percentage per annum) decreased from 16.1% in the September 2023 quarter to 14.4% in the December 2023 quarter. Total plan inflation consists of plan budget changes occurring at plan reassessment as well as changes occurring within a plan between reassessments. The Annual Pricing Review saw price limit increases on one July where unspent portions of plan budgets were increased in line with indexation rates in July to maintain the purchasing power of remaining plans. There has been a one-off 2.59% increase in intraplan and total inflation during the month of July 2023.

• Inflation at plan reassessment (current quarter percentage per annum) decreased from 7.7% in the September 2023 quarter to 7.6% in the December 2023 quarter.

• Inflation within a plan, between reassessments (current quarter percentage per annum) decreased from 8.4% in the September 2023 quarter to 6.8% in the December 2023 quarter.

• Socioeconomic equity increased from 90% in the September 2023 quarter to 95% in the December 2023 quarter. Socioeconomic status uses deciles from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Index of Education and Occupation (IEO). A higher decile indicates that people residing in that area have a higher level of skills and qualifications on average. The Socioeconomic equity metric is equal to the average annualised plan budget of participants residing in the top two IEO deciles divided by the average annualised plan budget of participants residing in the bottom two IEO deciles (participants not in Supported Independent Living and aged 0 to 64).

The following comments are made regarding the Northern Territory experience:

• Total annualised plan budgets as at 31 December 2023 were $731 million and payments from one July 2023 were $301 million.

• The number of active providers at the end of December is 1,109, growing by 3% in the quarter.

• Utilisation has been 78% from one April 2023 to 30 September 2023, with 33% (2 out of 6) of service districts in Northern Territory more than 10 percentage points below the adjusted national benchmark.

• In 33% (2 out of 6) of service districts, the top 10 providers receive more than 70% of payments.

A chart displays the Northern Territory distribution of service districts by plan utilisation as at 31 December 2023. The ‘benchmark’ in this analysis is the national average after adjusting for the proportion of participants in Supported Independent Living (SIL) in each service district and the length of time participants have been in the Scheme.

On the chart:

• No service districts are more than 10 percentage points above the adjusted national benchmark.

• No service districts are between five and 10 percentage points above the adjusted national benchmark.

• three out of six (50%) service districts are within five percentage points of the adjusted national benchmark.

• one out of six (17%) service districts are between five and 10 percentage points below the adjusted national benchmark.

• two out of six (33%) service districts are more than 10 percentage points below the adjusted national benchmark.

Service districts more than 10% below plan utilisation benchmark:

• East Arnhem: 53% versus 76% benchmark.

• Darwin Remote: 59% versus 72% benchmark.

A chart displays the Northern Territory distribution of service districts by market concentration as at 31 December 2023.

On the chart:

• No service districts have less than 25% of payments going to the 10 largest providers.

• In two out of six (33%) service districts have between 25% and 45% of payments going to the 10 largest providers.

• In one out of six (17%) service districts have between 45% and 60% of payments going to the 10 largest providers.

• In one out of six (17%) service districts have between 60% and 70% of payments going to the 10 largest providers.

• In two out of six (33%) service districts have between 70% and 85% of payments going to the 10 largest providers.

• No service districts more than 85% of payments going to the 10 largest providers.

Service districts above the market concentration benchmark:

• Katherine: 80% versus 70% benchmark.

• Barkly: 77% versus 70% benchmark.

## Summaries by State/Territory

A chart displays the number of active participants by service district as at 31 December 2023.There are 247 active participants as at 31 December 2023 residing in 'Other' service districts. 'Other' includes participants with service district information missing. The average annualised plan budgets and average payments for this group are not shown.

The number of active participants in each service district as at 31 December 2023 are:

• 146 for Barkly.

• 975 for Central Australia.

• 520 for Darwin Remote.

• 3,518 for Darwin Urban.

• 237 for East Arnhem.

• 306 for Katherine.

Another chart displays the average annualised plan budgets and average payments as at 31 December 2023. Figures are not shown if there is insufficient data in the service district. Average annualised plan budgets are derived from total annualised plan budgets in the current plans of active participants as at 31 December 2023. Average payments are calculated as the average of the annualised monthly payments in the same 12-month period, weighted by the participants that are active in each month.

The average annualised plan budget in each service district as at 31 December 2023 shows as:

• $131,200 for Barkly.

• $201,100 for Central Australia.

• $69,800 for Darwin Remote.

• $107,200 for Darwin Urban.

• $119,900 for East Arnhem.

• $161,900 for Katherine.

• $122,800 for Northern Territory.

The average payments to participants in each service district for the 12 months to 31 December 2023 show as:

• $88,600 for Barkly.

• $170,900 for Central Australia.

• $44,200 for Darwin Remote.

• $95,800 for Darwin Urban.

• $60,300 for East Arnhem.

• $142,200 for Katherine.

• $102,900 for Northern Territory.

Another chart displays the average annualised plan budgets and average payments as at 31 December 2023 for participants in Supported Independent Living. Figures are not shown if there is insufficient data in the service district. Average annualised plan budgets are derived from total annualised plan budgets in the current plans of active participants as at 31 December 2023. Average payments are calculated as the average of the annualised monthly payments in the same 12-month period, weighted by the participants that are active in each month.

The average annualised plan budget in each service district as at 31 December 2023 for participants in Supported Independent Living shows as:

• $756,500 for Central Australia.

• $580,700 for Darwin Urban.

• $624,300 for Katherine.

• $629,800 for Northern Territory.

The average payments in each service district for the 12 months to 31 December 2023 for participants in Supported Independent Living show as:

• $699,400 for Central Australia.

• $552,500 for Darwin Urban.

• $568,600 for Katherine.

• $587,400 for Northern Territory.

Another chart displays the average annualised plan budgets and average payments as at 31 December 2023 for participants not in Supported Independent Living. Figures are not shown if there is insufficient data in the service district. Average annualised plan budgets are derived from total annualised plan budgets in the current plans of active participants as at 31 December 2023. Average payments are calculated as the average of the annualised monthly payments in the same 12-month period, weighted by the participants that are active in each month.

The average annualised plan budget in each service district as at 31 December 2023 for participants not in Supported Independent Living shows as:

• $83,300 for Barkly.

• $92,000 for Central Australia.

• $66,300 for Darwin Remote.

• $58,100 for Darwin Urban.

• $100,600 for East Arnhem.

• $71,600 for Katherine.

• $67,800 for Northern Territory.

The average payments in each service district for the 12 months to 31 December 2023 for participants not in Supported Independent Living show as:

• $49,200 for Barkly.

• $66,900 for Central Australia.

• $40,700 for Darwin Remote.

• $49,000 for Darwin Urban.

• $54,200 for East Arnhem.

• $61,100 for Katherine.

• $51,400 for Northern Territory.

The following comments is with regards to the Northern Territory experience at service district level as at 31 December 2023.

• Darwin Urban has the highest number of active participants at 3,518 participants, while Barkly has the lowest number at 146 active participants.

• The average annualised plan budget at the end of December for active participants is $122,800 ($67,800 for participants not in Supported Independent Living and $629,800 for participants in Supported Independent Living).

• The average payments for the 12 months ending 31 December 2023 are $102,900 ($51,400 for participants not in Supported Independent Living and $587,400 for participants in Supported Independent Living).

• Central Australia has the highest average annualised plan budgets and payments across all participants.