16 May 2025

New data shows reform to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) continues to stabilise costs.

The NDIS Quarterly Report (March 2025) published on the NDIS website puts Scheme expenses for the first nine months of 2024-25 at $34.2 billion – $740 million lower than projections in June 2024.

The result consolidates a trend of moderating cost growth – in the 2023-24 financial year, Scheme expenses were some $600 million lower than the estimate contained in last year's Commonwealth Budget.

The Quarterly Report shows annual costs growth at the end of March was 10.6% – lower than the annual growth rate of 12% forecast in the NDIS Annual Financial Sustainability Report.

The continued improvement keeps the Scheme on track to achieve the financial stabilisation target set by National Cabinet of 8 per cent growth in Scheme costs by 1 July 2026. In 2021-22, the growth rate was 22 per cent.

While the stabilisation of costs remains encouraging, the data shows continued work is needed to further ensure the Scheme’s ongoing sustainability.

The NDIS has undertaken a campaign to support participants to spend within their plans and only on approved NDIS Supports.

A key change introduced last October provided participants with detailed lists of what items could be claimed as a NDIS support and what items could not be claimed as a NDIS support.

Legislation passed last year provides for further reforms to make the scheme work better for participants.

The Annual Financial Sustainability Report estimates that reforms will reduce projected Scheme expenses by $19.3 billion over the four years to June 2028.

The Quarterly Report also revealed that as at 31 March:

- Scheme participants numbered 717,001 – an increase of 24,178 or 3.5% from the previous quarter.
- Some 80 per cent of participants aged 15 years and older who had been in the NDIS for two years or more reported having greater choice and control in their lives.
- The number of participants aged 15 years and older involved in the community and social activities had grown 23 per cent in relative terms since joining the Scheme.
- The rate of participants aged 15-24 in the scheme for two years or more who were in paid work had more than doubled, to 23 per cent, measured from the time of joining the NDIS.

- There was a 6 percentage point increase in families and carers reporting paid employment, rising to 52 per cent, comparing the time of entry to the NDIS with the most recent check-in.
- Consultation and partnership with the disability community on Scheme improvements continued to be a focus, with 26 co-design and consultation sessions held over the quarter.

View the Quarterly Report at Quarterly Reports | NDIS.

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