21 May 2021

Today’s release of the latest National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) quarterly report shows the strong participant outcomes from this world first Scheme.

“This report recognises what we’ve achieved so far and where we need to take this next chapter of the NDIS,” Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme Linda Reynolds said.

The report shows that children are becoming more independent, more participants aged 15 to 24 are in paid jobs, and fewer participants aged over 25 are going to hospital.

It also highlights the need for reforms to improve fairness, consistency and flexibility of support, and to ensure the financial longevity of the Scheme.

“Participants are at the centre of every discussion we’re having on reforms,” Minister Reynolds said.

“As a world first, there’s much to be proud of, but we also need to keep working to make the Scheme the best it can be.

“This report shows that the scale and cost per participant is now on a trajectory well ahead of what was anticipated by its original design. As the new custodian of the Scheme, it’s my job to ensure it endures for generations to come.

”I want to be clear that at a Scheme level, the reforms are about sustainable growth. The NDIS has always been demand-driven and this is reflected in the Government’s $17.2 billion investment over the last two Budgets.

“The number of participants and the Scheme’s overall budget will continue to grow, but we need to get the model right.

“I am consulting widely with the sector, families and participants before considering legislative changes.

“These Scheme wide reforms being considered will enable an improved and respectful participant experience, more closely resembling what as was originally intended.

“Participants should have choice and control, rather than bureaucratic red tape and constant re-explanations. Individuals should also be able to spend their NDIS plan funds in a way that aligns with their needs, goals and aspirations.

“I look forward to continued discussions with the sector and all levels of government on how we can work together to build a better NDIS,” Minister Reynolds said.

Read the latest NDIS Quarterly Report.

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