

7. Participants from birth to before starting school: Has the NDIS helped?

7.1 Aggregate results

For participants entering the Scheme in the first year of transition, and who have been in the Scheme for approximately one year as at 30 June 2018, Figure 7.1 shows the percentage who think that the NDIS has helped with outcomes related to each of the five domains.

Figure 7.1 Percentage who think that the NDIS has helped with outcomes related to each domain

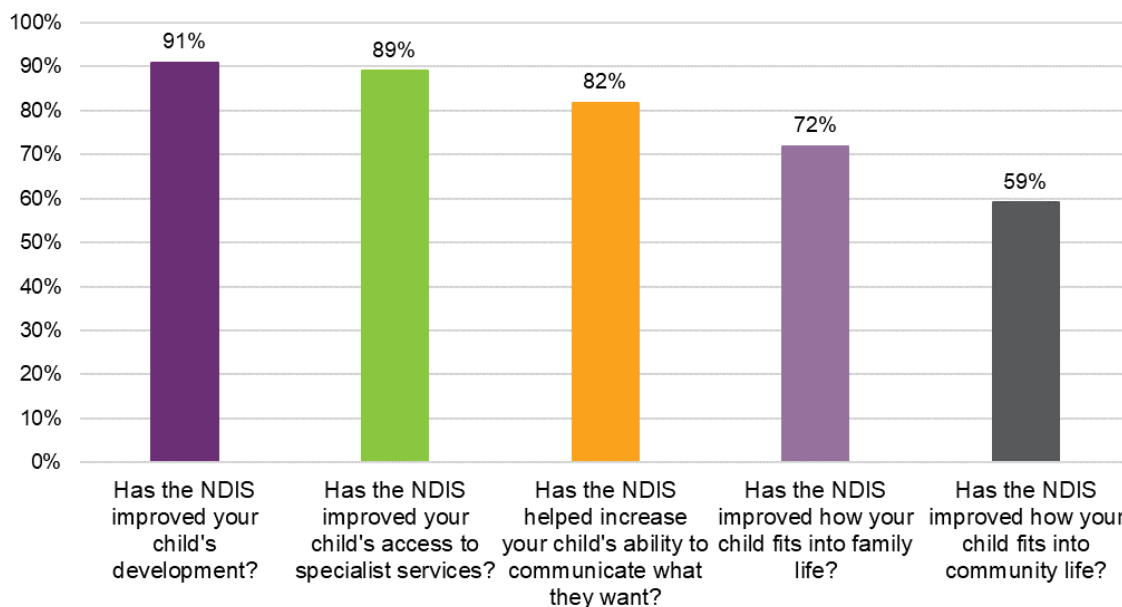


Figure 7.1 shows that opinions on whether the NDIS has helped vary considerably by domain for the youngest cohort of participants. There is widespread agreement that the NDIS has helped in areas related to the child's development (91%) and access to specialist services (89%). A slightly smaller percentage (82%) feel that the NDIS has helped improve their child's ability to communicate what they want. Percentages are lower for integration into family and community, with 72% thinking that the NDIS has helped with how their child fits into family life, and 59% thinking that the NDIS has helped with fitting into community life.

7.2 Results by participant characteristics

Analysis by participant characteristics, using one-way analysis and multiple regression, reveals the following key findings:

- Baseline plan utilisation is an important predictor of a positive response for all five areas. The likelihood of a positive response starts out low for those with very low utilisation (less than 15%), increases strongly as utilisation increases from 0% to 15%, and at a more modest rate as utilisation increases above 15%.
- The likelihood of a positive response also varied by disability. Parents/carers of children with intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, global developmental delay, another physical disability, or deafness/hearing loss have a tendency to be less likely to think that the NDIS has helped in one or more of the five areas, whereas

parents/carers of children with another sensory/speech disability or developmental delay are more likely to respond positively in one or more areas.

- Participants entering the Scheme for early intervention were more likely to think that the NDIS had helped than those entering due to disability.
- The likelihood of a positive response tended to decrease with participant's level of function. For some areas, the likelihood of a positive response also decreased with annualised cost of baseline plan.
- Respondents from South Australia tended to be more optimistic that the NDIS had helped than respondents from other States/Territories.
- Parents/carers of boys tended to be more positive about the NDIS having helped than parents/carers of girls.
- Responses also varied according to other measured outcomes. For example, parents/carers of children who have friends they enjoy playing with are more likely to respond positively.