

# 10. Participants from starting school to age 14: Has the NDIS helped?

## 10.1 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 10.1 shows the percentage who think that the NDIS has helped with outcomes related to each of the four domains.

**Figure 10.1 Percentage who think that the NDIS has helped with outcomes related to each domain**

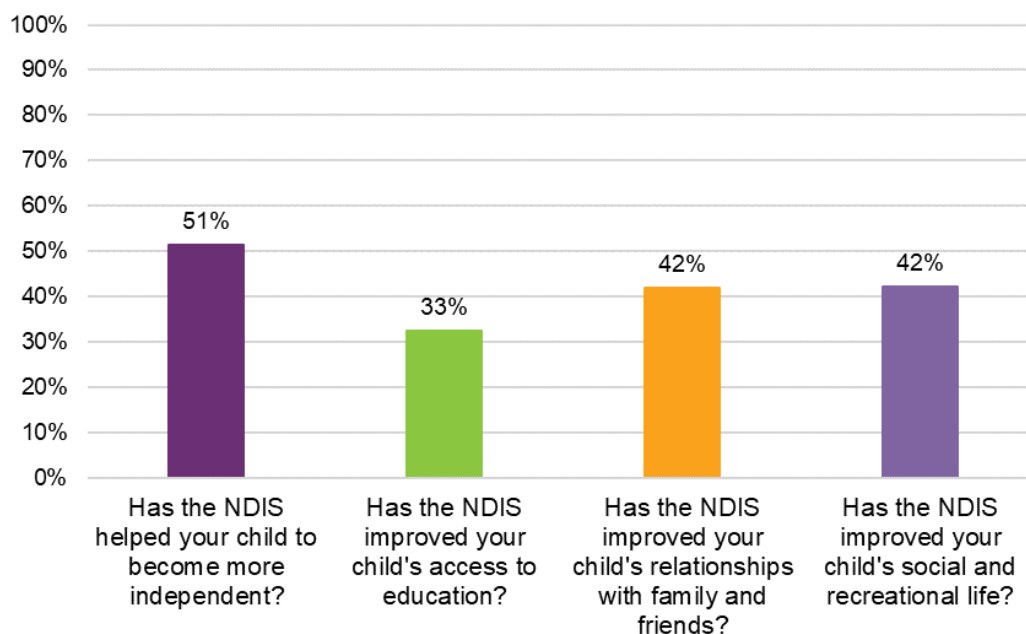


Figure 10.1 shows that opinions on whether the NDIS has helped range from 33% to 51% for the starting school to 14 cohort. The highest percentage of positive responses was for the first domain, where 51% think that the NDIS has helped their child to become more independent. For domain 2, only 33% think that the NDIS has helped with their child's access to education, however to a large extent this is the responsibility of Education rather than the NDIS. Perceptions for domains 3 and 4 are similar, with 42% saying that the NDIS has improved their child's relationships with family and friends, and 42% saying that the NDIS has improved their child's social and recreational life.

## 10.2 Results by participant characteristics

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

- Disability type is an important predictor of a positive response for all four domains. Parents/carers of children with a disability in the "Other sensory/speech" group tend to be more likely to say that the NDIS has helped whereas those whose child has a disability in the "Other physical" group tend to be less likely to have a positive opinion. Results for children with a visual impairment or another neurological disability also tend to be less positive. Results for children with Down syndrome are more positive for domain 4 (participation).

- Baseline plan utilisation is also an important predictor for all four domains. In particular, those with very low utilisation (below 20%) are much less likely to say that the NDIS has helped.
- Annualised cost of baseline plan has some impact on the likelihood of a positive response for all four domains. The main impact occurs for lower cost plans (\$10,000 or under), where an increasing trend towards responding positively as plan cost increases to \$10,000 is observed.
- Self-managing (either fully or partly) tends to be associated with more positive responses.
- Participants from SA and WA tended to be more likely, and those from TAS less likely, to think that the NDIS has helped.
- Participants entering the Scheme for early intervention were more likely to think that the NDIS had helped with outcomes in domains 1 (independence) and 2 (access to education) than those entering due to disability.
- Parents/carers of children from a CALD background were more likely to say that the NDIS had helped with their child's access to education.
- Parents/carers of Indigenous children were less likely to say that the NDIS had helped their child to become more independent. The likelihood of a positive response to this question also declined with decreasing level of function.
- Responses also varied according to other measured outcomes. For example, the likelihood of a positive response in all four domains was positively associated with frequency of happiness at school, and for the first three domains, enrolment in a special school was negatively associated with a positive response. Parents/carers who use a formal school holiday program (whether mainstream or for children with disability) rather than informal care or an NDIS funded support, tended to answer more positively for domains 1 (independence), 3 (relationships) and 4 (social participation).