

# 14. Participants aged 15 to 24 and 25 and over: social, community and civic participation

## 14.1 Key findings

### Box 14.1: Key findings for participants aged 15 and over: social, community and civic participation

- Social, community and civic participation has many potential benefits for people with disability, including improved well-being, lower long-term costs of care and support, and increased employment opportunities. There are also benefits to the wider community, as the inclusion of people with disability in the community can enhance Australia's social capital, and promote a more inclusive and diverse society.
- Longitudinal analysis of SF data reveals that the percentage of participants who say they have been actively involved in a community, cultural or religious group in the last 12 months has increased significantly for both 15 to 24 year olds (from 31.6% to 37.3%, a 5.7% improvement) and those aged 25 or over (from 36.5% to 40.7%, a 4.2% improvement).
- Logistic regression modelling has been used to identify key drivers of either attaining (for those not involved at baseline) or maintaining (for those involved at baseline) involvement in a community, cultural or religious group at review.
- Participants who volunteer at baseline are more likely to say they have been actively involved in a community, cultural or religious group in the last 12 months at review.
- Participants who are in a paid job at baseline are also more likely to say they have been actively involved in a community, cultural or religious group in the last 12 months at review.
- Participants with Down syndrome have consistently higher levels of involvement in a community, cultural or religious group than participants with other types of disability. However, this result is associated with a greater proportion of participants with Down syndrome being involved in groups for people with disability rather than mainstream community groups.

## 14.2 Background and overall results

Social, community and civic (SCC) participation can have many benefits for people with disabilities, including improved well-being, lower long-term costs of care and support, and increased employment opportunities. There are also benefits to the wider community, as the inclusion of people with disability in the community can enhance Australia’s social capital, and promote a more inclusive and diverse society<sup>81</sup>.

SCC participation is determined by the participant’s response to the question “Have you been actively involved in a community, cultural or religious group in the last 12 months?” in the Social, Community and Civic Participation domain of the SF questionnaire. A participant is considered to be involved in a SCC group if they answer “Yes, a general community group” or “Yes, a group for people with a disability”. As at 31 March 2018, the overall changes in reported SCC participation rates between baseline and review are:

- A **+6%** improvement for 15-24 year olds (from 31.6% to 37.2%)
- A **+4%** improvement for participants aged 25 and over (from 36.6% to 40.8%)
- An overall **+4%** improvement (from 35.1% to 39.7%) for both age groups combined

The detailed transition rates between SCC participation status at baseline and review are given in Table 14.1 and Table 14.2 below.

**Table 14.1 SCC participation status transition rates – participants aged 15 to 24\***

Baseline SCC Participation Status	Review SCC Participation Status			
	In a general community group (n=1311)	In a group for people with a disability (n=778)	Not in a group but would like to be (n=1392)	Not in a group and do not want to be (n=2127)
In a general community group (n=1250)	<b>84%</b> (n=1053)	<b>5%</b> (n=61)	<b>6%</b> (n=81)	<b>4%</b> (n=55)
In a group for people with a disability (n=521)	<b>3%</b> (n=15)	<b>86%</b> (n=450)	<b>6%</b> (n=32)	<b>5%</b> (n=24)
Not in a group but would like to be (n=1317)	<b>6%</b> (n=80)	<b>7%</b> (n=95)	<b>79%</b> (n=1041)	<b>8%</b> (n=101)
Not in a group and do not want to be (n=2520)	<b>6%</b> (n=163)	<b>7%</b> (n=172)	<b>9%</b> (n=238)	<b>77%</b> (n=1947)

\* Excludes participants where SCC participation status is unknown at baseline or review

<sup>81</sup> Productivity Commission Inquiry Report. 2011. Disability Care and Support pp. 206-207

**Table 14.2 SCC participation status transition rates – participants aged 25 and over\***

Baseline SCC Participation Status	Review SCC Participation Status			
	In a general community group (n=3614)	In a group for people with a disability (n=2077)	Not in a group but would like to be (n=3288)	Not in a group and do not want to be (n=4992)
In a general community group (n=3447)	<b>87%</b> (n=2984)	<b>4%</b> (n=143)	<b>6%</b> (n=221)	<b>2%</b> (n=99)
In a group for people with a disability (n=1657)	<b>4%</b> (n=63)	<b>89%</b> (n=1473)	<b>5%</b> (n=77)	<b>3%</b> (n=44)
Not in a group but would like to be (n=3084)	<b>8%</b> (n=244)	<b>5%</b> (n=148)	<b>82%</b> (n=2518)	<b>6%</b> (n=174)
Not in a group and do not want to be (n=5783)	<b>6%</b> (n=323)	<b>5%</b> (n=313)	<b>8%</b> (n=472)	<b>81%</b> (n=4675)

\* Excludes participants where SCC participation status is unknown at baseline or review

### 14.3 Key drivers of social, community and civic participation outcomes

The key drivers of SCC participation outcomes have been analysed using a multiple logistic regression analysis approach with a reduced set of predictor variables. This is because, in contrast to employment (for example), SCC participation is not a precisely defined concept. There is a wide range of activities that may be encompassed under SCC participation, and participant responses will vary depending on their own subjective judgement as to what constitutes involvement in the community.

The regression analysis models a binary response (dependent) variable of one if the participant responds at review that they have been actively involved in a community, cultural or religious group in the last 12 months, and zero otherwise<sup>82</sup>. The predictor variables that have been used in the regression analysis are expected to broadly influence the ability of a participant to be involved in the community.

The regression analysis has been performed on two cohorts of participants based on their SCC participation status at baseline:

1. Participants who are not involved in a SCC group at baseline, but would like to be
2. Participants who are actively involved in a SCC group at baseline

Participants who reported that they did not want to be involved in a SCC group at baseline have been excluded from the key driver analysis.

<sup>82</sup> Both in a general community group or a group for people with disabilities

Figure 14.1 shows the SCC participation rates at review for each participant cohort, with rates broken down into the participants who are in a general community group at review, and those who are in a community group for people with disabilities at review.

**Figure 14.1 SCC participation rates at review, by SCC participation at baseline**

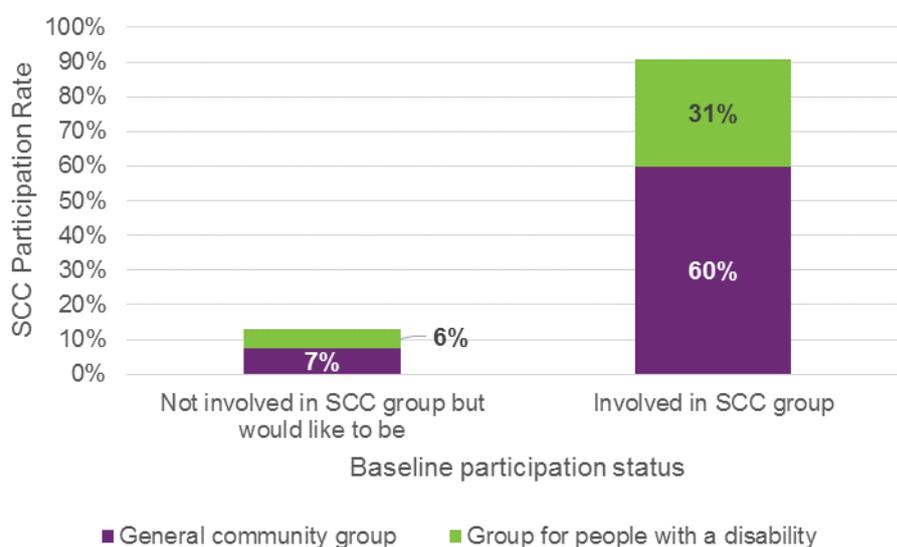


Table 14.3 outlines the variables that were found to have a significant relationship to SCC participation status at review, based on the multiple logistic regression analysis. The direction of the relationship is also given.

**Table 14.3 Key drivers of SCC participation status at review, by SCC participation at baseline**

Participants not involved in a SCC group at baseline, but would like to be		Participants involved in a SCC group at baseline	
Variable	Relationship	Variable	Relationship
Level of function is high (1 to 5) or low (above 10)	↓	Entry age	↑ with increasing age
Participant has Down syndrome	↑	Participant has Down syndrome or an intellectual disability	↑
Participant has cerebral palsy or other neurological disability*	↓	Cultural and linguistically diverse background (CALD)	↑
Has less than year 12 education	↓	Has less than year 12 education, TAFE certificate or university degree (relative to Year 12 education)	↓
Has university degree	↑	Participant is a volunteer at baseline	↑
Participant is a volunteer at baseline	↑	Participant has friends other than family or paid staff at baseline	↑

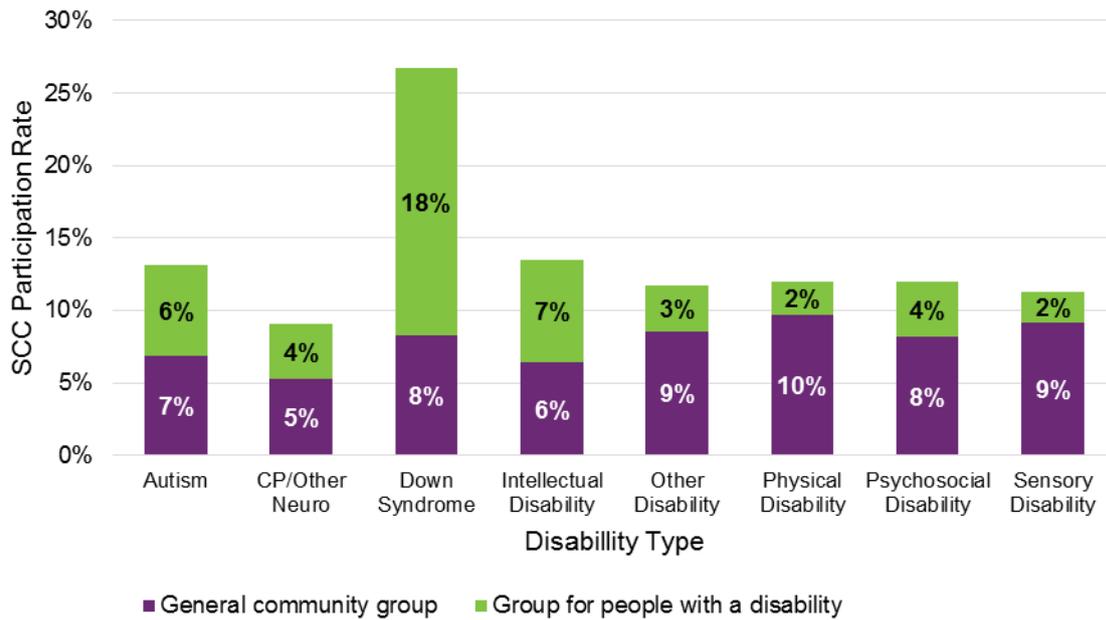
Participants not involved in a SCC group at baseline, but would like to be		Participants involved in a SCC group at baseline	
Variable	Relationship	Variable	Relationship
Participant is in education, training or skill development and is in a class for students with disability at baseline	↑	Participant is in a paid job at baseline	↑
Participant is in a paid job at baseline	↑		

\* Significant at the 10% level only

Some of the key insights from the regression analysis are:

- Participants who volunteer at baseline are more likely to be involved in a SCC group at review for both cohorts. This may reflect an overlap between volunteering and SCC participation, with potential changes in the interpretation of what constitutes community participation between baseline and review. Alternatively, volunteers may be more committed to their roles than participants in other SCC groups, or volunteering may encourage participants to engage in other community activities. Similar considerations apply to participants who are in a class for students with a disability at baseline.
- Participants who are in a paid job at baseline are found to have greater rates of SCC participation, even though they may have less time available than participants who are not working. This could be a result of participants in paid employment having greater levels of financial and social independence, and more opportunities to join social groups through their workplace.
- Participants with Down syndrome have consistently better SCC participation outcomes than participants with other types of disability. However, this result is associated with a greater proportion of participants with Down syndrome being involved in groups for people with disabilities rather than mainstream community groups, as illustrated in Figure 14.2 and Figure 14.3 below.

**Figure 14.2 SCC participation rates at review for participants not involved in a SCC group at baseline but would like to be, by disability type**



**Figure 14.3 SCC participation rates at review for participants involved in a SCC group at baseline, by disability type**

