

## 3. Results overview and LF participation and representativeness analysis

### 3.1 Overview

The remaining sections of the report present results from analysing the outcomes framework data available as at 30 June 2018. Results are organised with separate sections for each questionnaire version, synthesising analyses from all data sources (SF and LF, baseline and longitudinal).

In view of the large amount of data, to keep the report manageable we have chosen to focus in depth on one or two areas judged to be of particular relevance for each age cohort. High level summaries of results for all questions are included in a separate volume of Appendices.

The remainder of the report is organised as follows:

- Section 3.2 describes sources of information, and Sections 3.3 and 3.4 consider LF participation rates and representativeness by key participant characteristics.
- Sections 4 to 7 contain results for participants from birth to before start school, focusing on childcare and use of specialist services.
- Sections 8 to 10 contain results for participants from starting school to age 14, focusing on education and school experiences.
- Sections 11 to 15 contain results for young adult participants aged 15 to 24, and for adult participants aged 25 and over. These sections focus on employment and community participation.

More detailed results contained in the Appendices include:

- Appendix A: Numbers of questionnaires
- Appendix B: LF participation and representativeness analysis
- Appendix C: Participants from birth to before starting school
- Appendix D: Participants from starting school to age 14
- Appendix E: Participants aged 15 to 24
- Appendix F: Participants aged 25 and over

Appendices C to F contain the following information:

1. Baseline indicators – aggregate
2. Baseline indicators – by participant characteristics
3. Longitudinal change in indicators – aggregate
4. Longitudinal change in indicators – by participant characteristics
5. Perceptions of whether the NDIS has helped – aggregate and by participant characteristics.

## 3.2 LF participation rates

Unlike the SF, LF participation is voluntary. Hence the degree of representativeness of the LF sample will be affected not only by phasing, but also by differential rates of participation amongst different segments of the participant population.

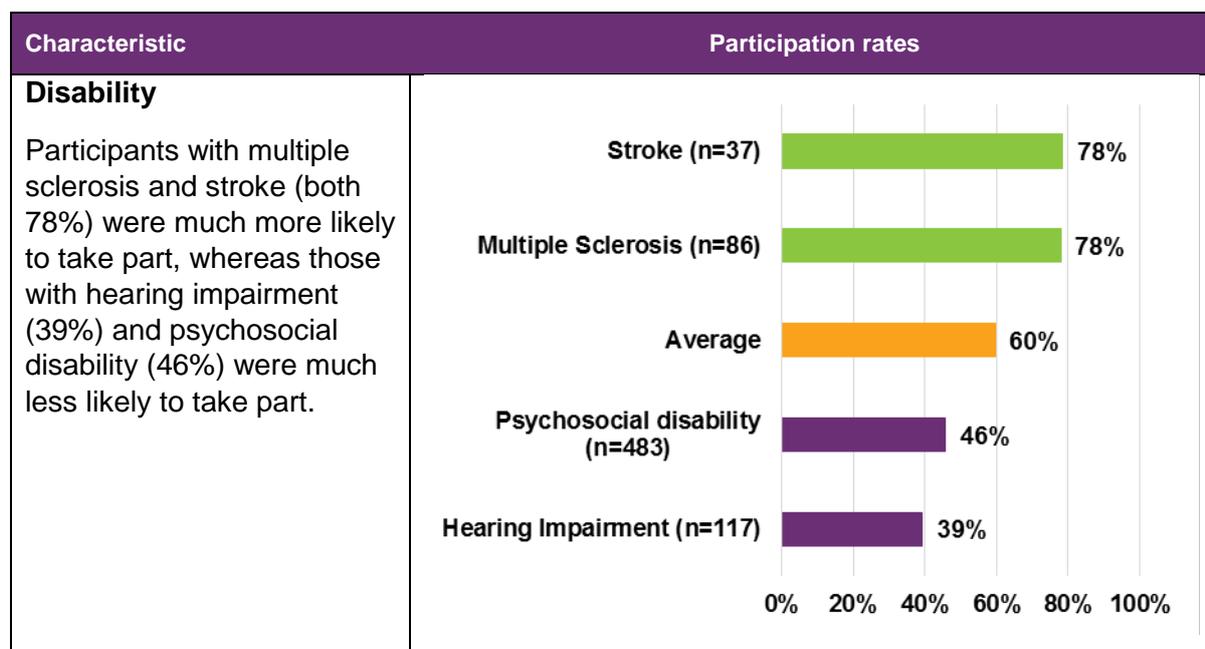
This section investigates rates of participation by participant characteristics. Full details are contained in Appendix B, with key points discussed here.

### 3.2.1 Baseline

For analysis purposes, first interviews with both the 2016 and 2017 cohorts have been combined to form the LF baseline.

For the combined 2016 and 2017 cohort baseline, 5785 participants were invited to take part and 3444 completed at least one participant or family/carer questionnaire, an overall response rate of 60%.

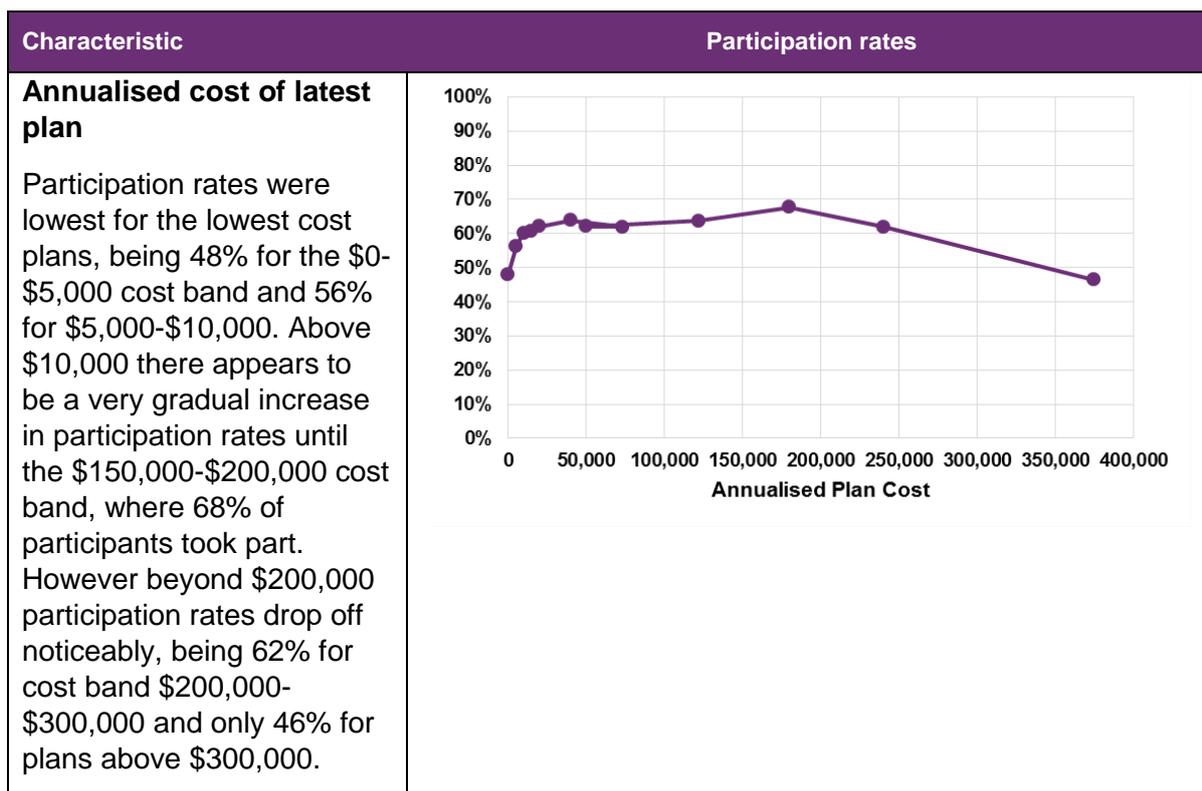
Full details of participation rates by participant characteristics are contained in Appendix B.1. Key findings<sup>13</sup>, focussing on characteristics where differential rates are observed, are summarised below.



<sup>13</sup> Statistical significance was assessed using a chi-square test with 0.05 significance level.

Characteristic	Participation rates																		
<p><b>State/Territory</b></p> <p>Northern Territory participants (31%) were much less likely to participate. Lower participation rates were also observed in the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania (both 51%). New South Wales (58%) had a slightly lower participation rate and South Australia, Victoria and Queensland slightly higher (63%-64%).</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>State/Territory</th> <th>Participation Rate</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>VIC (n=910)</td> <td>64%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SA (n=1328)</td> <td>64%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>QLD (n=567)</td> <td>63%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Average</td> <td>60%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NSW (n=2126)</td> <td>58%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ACT (n=590)</td> <td>51%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TAS (n=158)</td> <td>51%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NT (n=99)</td> <td>31%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	State/Territory	Participation Rate	VIC (n=910)	64%	SA (n=1328)	64%	QLD (n=567)	63%	Average	60%	NSW (n=2126)	58%	ACT (n=590)	51%	TAS (n=158)	51%	NT (n=99)	31%
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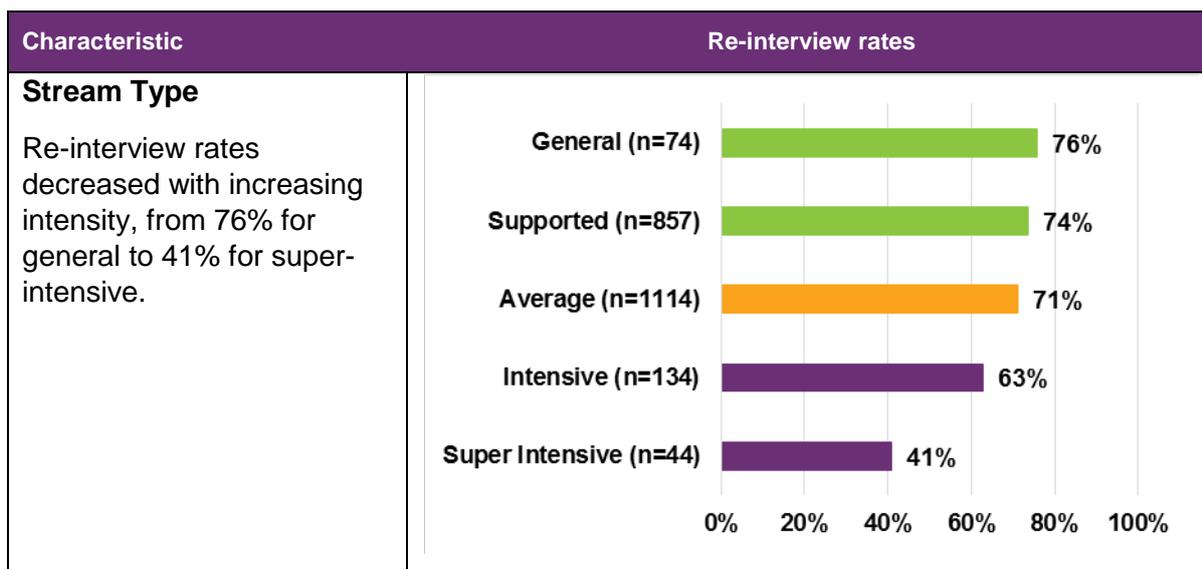
### 3.2.2 Longitudinal

Starting from the number of 2016 cohort participants who contributed a baseline questionnaire, this section investigates the percentages who agreed to be reinterviewed in 2017.

Overall, 1114 participants from the 2016 cohort contributed at least one participant or family/carer questionnaire at baseline. Of these participants, 792 contributed a follow-up questionnaire in 2017, an overall response rate of 71%.

Full details of participation rates at the second data collection period by participant characteristics are contained in Appendix B.2. Key findings are summarised below.

Characteristic	Re-interview rates																
<p><b>Disability</b></p> <p>Re-interview rates were highest for participants with Down syndrome and visual impairment (both 83%), followed by participants with cerebral palsy (82%) or another neurological disability (79%). Rates were lowest for participants with global developmental delay (44%), and also lower for psychosocial disability (61%).</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Disability</th> <th>Re-interview rate</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Visual Impairment (n=30)</td> <td>83%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Down Syndrome (n=24)</td> <td>83%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cerebral Palsy (n=45)</td> <td>82%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Neurological (n=42)</td> <td>79%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Average</td> <td>71%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Psychosocial disability (n=110)</td> <td>61%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Global developmental delay (n=16)</td> <td>44%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Disability	Re-interview rate	Visual Impairment (n=30)	83%	Down Syndrome (n=24)	83%	Cerebral Palsy (n=45)	82%	Other Neurological (n=42)	79%	Average	71%	Psychosocial disability (n=110)	61%	Global developmental delay (n=16)	44%
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### 3.3 LF representativeness

Since the LF participants form a subset of participants completing the SF (and should have their answers to the SF questions collected in CRM), it is useful to compare how similar the LF sample is to the complete SF population on demographic characteristics that might affect outcomes. As discussed in Section 3.2, representativeness is affected by phasing and by differential rates of participation amongst different segments of the participant population.

#### 3.3.1 Baseline

On the whole, the LF baseline was fairly representative of the SF baseline, except with respect to jurisdiction, where there are considerable differences largely driven by phasing.

For participants, New South Wales is under-represented in the LF baseline, across all ages but more so for participants under 25. Victoria is over-represented in the 0 to starting school group but under-represented in the 25 and over group. South Australia is under-represented in the 0 to starting school group but considerably over-represented in the older age groups.

For families/carers, New South Wales is considerably under-represented for families/carers of participants under 25, but not for the 25 and over group. South Australia is over-represented across all age groups. For the young age groups this may be partly because parents of children are more likely to respond. Victoria is under-represented for the 25 and over age group, slightly under-represented for 15 to 24, but similar to benchmark for 0 to 14.

Other points of difference were much slighter. For participants, they include the following:

- The LF baseline has a lower proportion of participants with autism compared to benchmark. For children 14 and under, there is a higher proportion with developmental delay, and for adults 15 and over, there is a higher proportion with intellectual disability/Down syndrome.
- For level of function, the comparison differs by age. For children 14 and under, the LF baseline has a higher proportion with high level of function, whereas for adults 15 and over, the LF baseline has a higher proportion with low level of function.
- The percentage of CALD participants is slightly lower than benchmark, however the percentage of participants identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is similar to benchmark.

For families/carers:

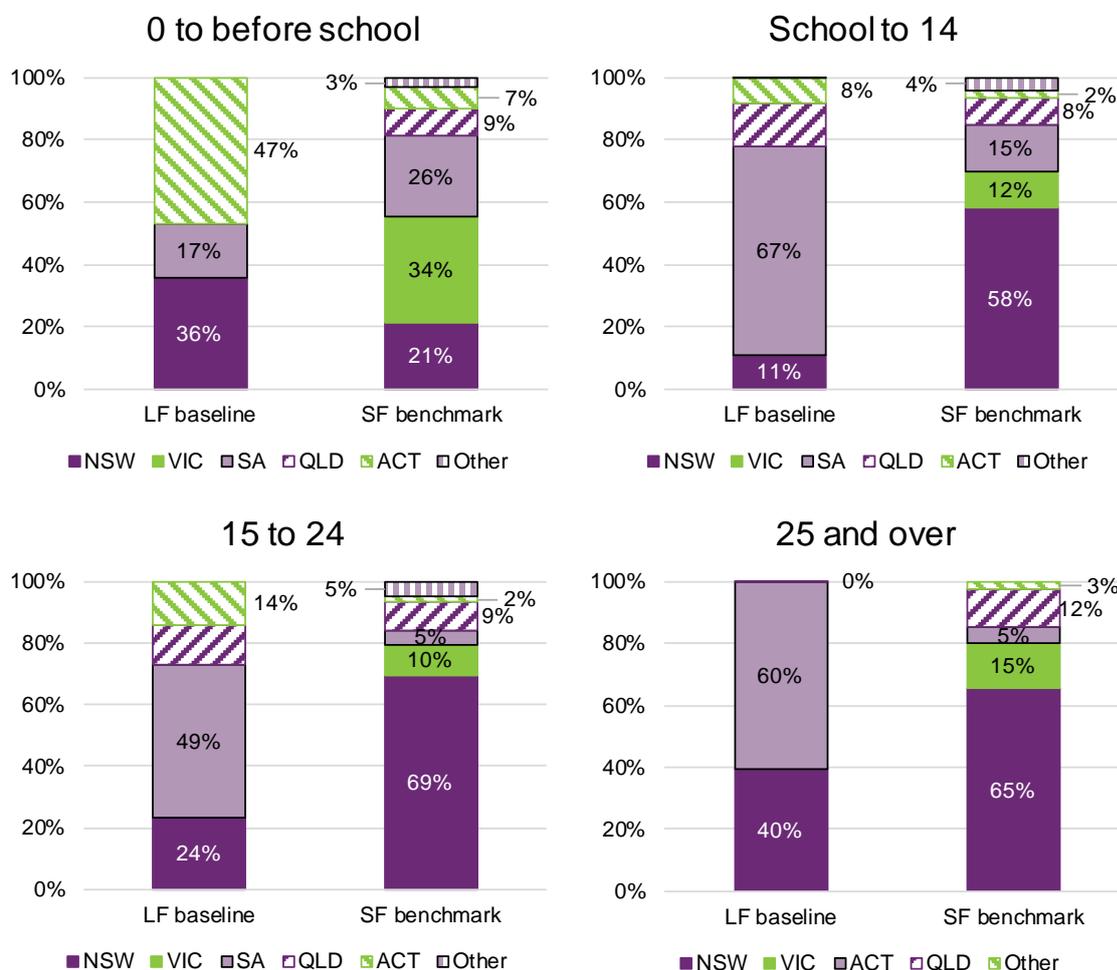
- By primary disability, differences are fairly slight for families/carers of participants aged 0 to 14. For the 15 to 24 age group, the LF has a slightly lower proportion with autism (35% versus 40%) and a slightly higher proportion with intellectual disability/Down syndrome (44% versus 41%). The 25 and over group has a higher proportion with intellectual disability/Down syndrome (51% versus 37%), a similar proportion with autism, and lower proportions for other disabilities.
- There is a slightly lower proportion of CALD participants in the LF baseline, particularly for the 25 and over group (4% versus 10%).

Appendix B.3 provides more information on baseline representativeness.

### 3.3.2 Longitudinal

As for the LF baseline, the major differences occurred by jurisdiction. These differences are illustrated in Figure 3.1 for each participant version.

**Figure 3.1 LF longitudinal cohort compared to SF benchmark, by State/Territory**



Other differences for participant questionnaires include:

- By disability, for the 0 to starting school group there is a much lower proportion of participants with autism (6% versus 32%) and a much higher proportion with sensory disabilities (42% versus 13%). Differences for the other age groups are less pronounced.

- By level of function, for the 0 to starting school group the LF has a much higher proportion with high level of function (89% versus 69%). Differences for the other age groups are less pronounced.
- By annualised cost of latest plan, overall the distribution of LF participants tends to be skewed towards lower cost plans compared to the SF benchmark.

Further discussion of representativeness for the longitudinal cohort is provided in Appendix B.4.

As seen above, there are some characteristics for which the LF baseline and longitudinal samples differ from benchmark. For many characteristics though, the LF baseline and longitudinal data are sufficiently similar to benchmark that the results produced should be fairly representative of the whole Scheme. Future rounds of LF collection can be targeted in such a way as to reduce observed imbalances, and sample weighting can be considered for analyses where closer representativeness is desired.