

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

### 5.1 Results across all participants

For participants who have been in the Scheme for approximately one, two or three years as at 30 June 2020, Figure 5.1 shows the percentage of parents/carers who reported that the NDIS has helped with outcomes related to each of the four domains, after one, two and three years in the scheme (first review, second review and third review respectively).

**Figure 5.1 Percentage who think that the NDIS has helped with outcomes related to each domain**

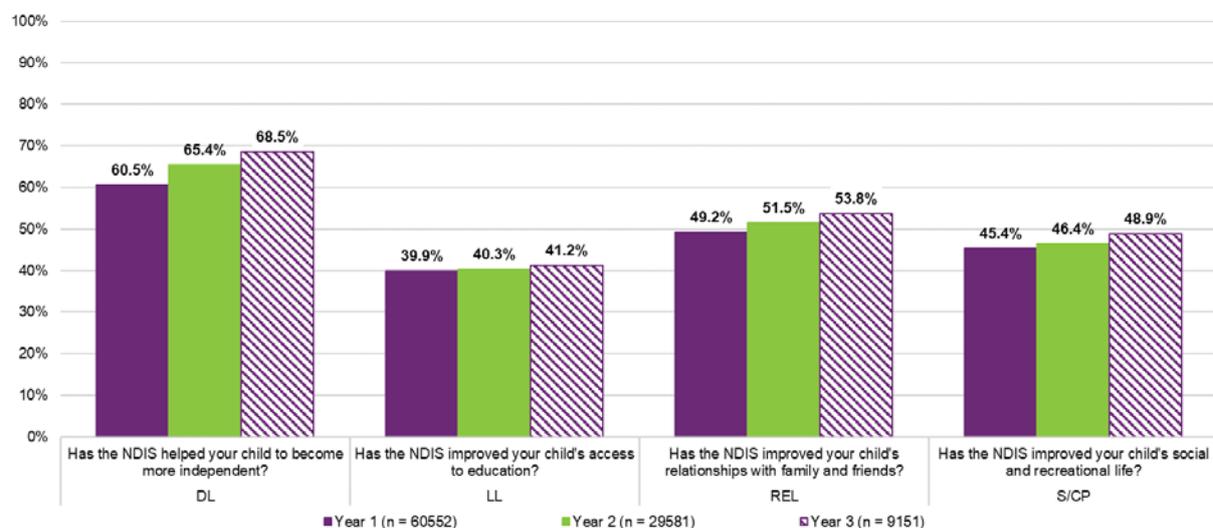


Figure 5.1 shows that after one year in the Scheme, opinions on whether the NDIS has helped range from 39.9% to 60.5% for the starting school to age 14 cohort. The highest percentage of positive responses was for the first domain, where 60.5% think that the NDIS has helped their child to become more independent. The largest improvement in the percentage of positive responses between year 1 and year 3 was also seen for daily living (DL) (from 60.5% to 68.5%).

For lifelong learning (LL), only around 40% thought that the NDIS had helped with their child's access to education after one year in the Scheme, and this has not changed significantly after an additional one or two years in the Scheme. However, to a large extent this is the responsibility of the mainstream education system, which has a bigger role in ensuring successful education outcomes than the NDIS.

Whilst perceptions for relationships (REL) and social and community participation (S/CP) are not as high as for daily living, steady improvements have been observed over time in the Scheme. 49.2% said that the NDIS has improved their child's relationships with family and friends at the end of year 1, and 45.4% said that the NDIS has improved their child's social and recreational life. By the end of year 3, the percentage reporting that the NDIS has helped increased to 53.8% and 48.9%, respectively.

## 5.2 Results by participant characteristics

### 5.2.1 Year 1 'Has the NDIS Helped?' indicators – participant characteristics

Year 1 (first review) indicators have been analysed by participant characteristics using one-way analyses and multiple regression modelling.

Table 5.1 summarises the results of the regression modelling, showing the relationship of different participant characteristics with the likelihood of the child's parent/carer saying that the NDIS has helped after one year in the Scheme. The arrow symbols have the same interpretation as for Section 2, defined in Table 2.3.

**Table 5.1 Relationship of participant characteristics with the likelihood of a positive response**

Reference Category	Characteristic	Relationship with: Has NDIS helped improve participant s			
		Has NDIS helped improve participant s			
		Independence	Access to education	Relationship with family and friends	Social and recreational life
N/A	Higher annualised plan budget	↑	↑	↑	↑
N/A	Lower level of function	↓	↓	↓	↓
Non-Indigenous	Participant is Indigenous	↓	↓	↓	↓
Non-CALD	Participant is CALD		↑		
N/A	General time trend	↑	↑		
Autism	Disability is cerebral palsy		↓		
Autism	Disability is developmental delay	↑	↑	↑	↑
Autism	Disability is global developmental delay	↑	↑	↑	↑
Autism	Disability is hearing impairment	↑	↑	↑	↑
Autism	Disability is intellectual disability	↓		↓	↓
Autism	Disability is another neurological disability			↓	↓
Autism	Disability is another sensory or speech disability	↑	↑	↑	↑
Autism	Disability is a visual impairment		↑		

Reference Category	Characteristic	Relationship with: Has NDIS helped improve participant s			
		Has NDIS helped improve participant s			
		Independence	Access to education	Relationship with family and friends	Social and recreational life
Autism	Disability is "Other"	↑	↑		
N/A	Participant is older	↓	↓	↓	↑
2016/17	Participant entered the Scheme in 2017/18	↓	↓		
2016/17	Participant entered the Scheme in 2018/19			↑	↑
Major cities	Participant lives in regional area	↓	↓	↓	↓
Major cities	Participant lives in remote/very remote areas	↓	↓	↓	↓
0-75% capacity building supports	75-95% of supports are capacity building supports	↑	↑	↑	↓
0-75% capacity building supports	95-100% of supports are capacity building supports	↑	↑	↑	
0-75% capacity building supports	5-100% of supports are capital supports				↓
Agency-managed	Plan is managed by a plan manager	↓	↓	↓	
Agency-managed	Plan is fully self-managed	↑	↑	↑	↑
Agency-managed	Plan is partly self-managed	↑		↑	↑
Received State/Territory supports	Participant received services from Commonwealth programs before joining NDIS	↑		↑	↑
Received State/Territory supports	Participant did not previously receive services from Commonwealth or State/Territory programs	↑	↑	↑	↑
NSW	Participant lives in ACT	↑	↑	↑	↑

Reference Category	Characteristic	Relationship with: Has NDIS helped improve participant s			
		Has NDIS helped improve participant s			
		Independence	Access to education	Relationship with family and friends	Social and recreational life
NSW	Participant lives in QLD	↑	↑	↑	↑
NSW	Participant lives in SA	↑	↑	↑	↑
NSW	Participant lives in TAS	↑	↓		
NSW	Participant lives in VIC	↑		↑	↑
NSW	Participant lives in WA	↑	↑	↑	↑
Medium level of NDIA support	Lower level of NDIA support	↑			
Medium level of NDIA support	Higher level of NDIA support	↓		↓	
N/A	Participant lives in an area with a higher average unemployment rate	↓		↓	↓
N/A	Higher baseline utilisation	↑	↑	↑	↑

### Baseline plan utilisation

Parents and carers of participants who used a higher percentage of the supports in their baseline plan are more likely to say that the NDIS has improved their child's outcomes across all four domains.

### Annualised plan budget

Parents and carers of participants who have higher annualised plan budget are more likely to say the NDIS helped across all four domains.

### Level of function

By contrast with the results for annualised plan budget, parents and carers of participants with lower level of function are less likely to say that the NDIS helped improve their child's outcomes across all four domains.

### Indigenous status

Parents and carers of Indigenous participants are less likely to think that the NDIS has helped across all four domains. On a one-way basis, differences ranged from 6.0% (the NDIS has helped their child become more independent) to 11.4% (the NDIS has improved their child's access to education).

## CALD status

Parents and carers of CALD participants are more likely to say that the NDIS improved their child's access to education.

## Time trends

Parents and carers of participants entering the Scheme in 2017-18 are more likely than those who entered in 2016-17 to say the NDIS improved their child's independence and access to education. Parents and carers of those joining in 2018-19 are less likely to say the NDIS improved their child's relationship with family/friends or social/recreational life.

There is also a general time trend for the domains independence and access to education, with the percentage of parents/carers responding positively tending to increase over time. (Note that this is a calendar year time trend, not time in Scheme. All participants have been in the Scheme for approximately one year when they respond at first review).

## Disability type

Compared to participants with autism:

- Parents and carers of participants with developmental delay, global developmental delay, hearing impairment or another sensory/speech disability were more likely to respond positively across all domains.
- Parents and carers of participants with an intellectual disability were less likely to respond positively across all domains except access to education.
- Parents and carers of participants with another neurological disability were less likely to think that the NDIS has helped their child's relationships with family and friends, and their social and recreational life.
- Responses for participants with Down syndrome, a spinal cord injury/other physical disability, or the small group with a psychosocial disability were not significantly different to those for participants with autism.

## Participant age

Parents/carers of older participants are more likely to say that the NDIS helped with their child's independence, access to education and relationship with family and friends. However, they are less likely to think the NDIS improved their child's social and recreational life.

## Remoteness

Parents and carers of participants residing in regional, remote or very remote areas are less likely than their counterparts in major cities to say the NDIS improved their child's outcomes across all four domains.

## Support categories within plans

Compared to participants whose plans have 0-75% capacity building supports:

- Parents and carers of participants whose plans have 75-95% capacity building support are more likely to say that the NDIS improved their child's outcomes across all four domains.
- Parents and carers of participants whose plans have 95-100% capacity building supports are more likely to say that the NDIS improved their child's independence, access to education and relationship with family/friends.
- Parents and carers of participants whose plans have 5-100% capital supports are more likely to say the NDIS improved their child's independence, relationship with family/friends and social/recreational life.

### **Plan management type**

Compared to plans that are Agency-managed:

- Parents and carers of participants with fully self-managed plans are more likely to say the NDIS improved their child's outcomes across all four domains.
- Parents and carers of participants with partly self-managed plans are also more likely to say the NDIS helped, except for improving access to education where the difference is not statistically significant.
- Parents and carers whose plans are managed by a plan manager are less likely to say the NDIS helped improve their child's outcomes across all domains except for social and recreational life, where the differences are not statistically significant.

### **Scheme entry type**

Relative to participants who received supports from State/Territory systems before joining the NDIS:

- Parents/carers of participants who did not previously receive supports from either State/Territory or Commonwealth systems are more likely to say the NDIS has helped across all four domains.
- Parents/carers of former recipients of Commonwealth system supports are more likely to say that the NDIS helped improve their child's independence, relationships with family/friends, and social/recreational life.

### **State/Territory**

Compared to participants living in New South Wales:

- Parents/carers of participants in the Australian Capital Territory, Queensland, South Australia, and Western Australia are more likely to say that the NDIS has helped across all four domains.
- Parents/carers of Victorian participants are more likely to say that the NDIS helped improve their children's independence, relationships with families/friends and social/recreational life.
- Parents and carers of Tasmanian participants are more likely to say that the NDIS helped improve their children's level of independence, but are less likely to say that the NDIS improved their child's access to education.

### **Level of NDIA support**

Parents and carers of participants with higher levels of NDIA support with the planning process are less likely to say that the NDIS helped improve their child's outcomes in the level of independence and relationship with family and friends.

### **Unemployment rate for LGA of residence**

Parents and carers of participants who live in Local Government Areas with higher unemployment rates are less likely to say that the NDIS improved their child's level of independence, relationship with family/friends, and social/recreational life.

## 5.2.2 Longitudinal ‘Has the NDIS Helped?’ indicators – participant characteristics

Analysis of longitudinal indicators by participant characteristics has been examined in two ways:

1. A simple comparison of the percentage reporting that the NDIS had helped after one, two and three years in the Scheme with the percentage reporting that the NDIS had helped after one year in the Scheme. The difference (percentage after two years minus percentage after one year, as well as after three years minus one year) are compared for different subgroups.
2. Multiple regression modelling of the probability of improvement / deterioration over the participant’s second and third years in the Scheme.

Some key features of the analyses for helped question indicators are summarised below.

### The NDIS has helped my child become more independent

The percentage of parents/carers reporting that the NDIS helped their child become more independent increased 6.4% from 57.3% to 63.7% between the first and the second review, and from 57.3% to 67.2% (9.9% increase) between the first and the third review. Of those who responded negatively at the first review, 26.4% responded positively at the second review (improvement) and 39.3% at the third. Table 5.2 sets out the breakdown of the movements.

**Table 5.2 – Breakdown of net movement in longitudinal responses**

Longitudinal Period	Number of Baseline Responses in cohort		Improvements: No to Yes		Deteriorations: Yes to No		Net Movement
	No	Yes	Number	%	Number	%	
Review 1 to Review 2	10,146	13,601	2,674	26.4%	1,158	8.5%	+6.4%
Review 1 to Review 3	2,806	3,768	1,103	39.3%	450	11.9%	+9.9%

Table 5.3 shows the main drivers of the likelihood of improvement or deterioration.

**Table 5.3 – Key drivers of likelihood of transitions of “The NDIS has helped my child become more independent” response**

Reference Category	Variable	1 <sup>st</sup> Review to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Review		1 <sup>st</sup> Review to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Review	
		Relationship with likelihood of Imp.	Det.	Relationship with likelihood of Imp.	Det.
N/A	Higher annualised plan budget		↑		
N/A	Lower level of function	↓	↑	↓	↑
N/A	Higher baseline plan utilisation				↑

Reference Category	Variable	1 <sup>st</sup> Review to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Review		1 <sup>st</sup> Review to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Review	
		Relationship with likelihood of		Relationship with likelihood of	
		Imp.	Det.	Imp.	Det.
N/A	Higher utilisation of capacity building supports	↑	↓	↑	↓
N/A	Higher utilisation of core supports				↑
Pre-COVID	Review during COVID period	↓	↓		
N/A	General time trend	↓	↓		
N/A	Change in time trend post-COVID			↓	
Major cities	Participant lives in regional area	↑		↑	
Agency-managed	Plan is fully self-managed	↑	↓	↑	↓
Agency-managed	Plan is partly self-managed		↓		
0-75% capacity building supports	75%-100% of supports are capacity building supports			↑	
NSW	Participant lives in QLD	↑	↓	↑	
NSW	Participant lives in SA	↑		↑	
NSW	Participant lives in ACT, NT, TAS or WA		↓		
N/A	Participant is older	↓			
Entered the Scheme due to disability	Participant entered the Scheme for early intervention		↑		↑
Received State/Territory supports	Participant received services from Commonwealth programs before joining NDIS		↓	↑	↓
Received State/Territory supports	Participant did not previously receive services from Commonwealth or State/Territory programs		↓	↓	↓
Did not relocate	Participant relocated to a new Local Government Area (LGA)		↑		

Reference Category	Variable	1 <sup>st</sup> Review to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Review		1 <sup>st</sup> Review to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Review	
		Relationship with likelihood of		Relationship with likelihood of	
		Imp.	Det.	Imp.	Det.
N/A	Participant lives in an area with a higher average unemployment rate		↑		
Medium Level of NDIA Support	Higher level of NDIA support		↓		

Key findings from Table 5.3 are as follows:

- Participants who used a higher percentage of their capacity building supports are more likely to improve and less likely to deteriorate.
- Participants whose plans are fully self-managed are more likely to improve and less likely to deteriorate relative to those whose plans are Agency-managed.
- Participants living in Queensland and SA are more likely than those in NSW to improve.
- Participants who entered the scheme for early intervention are more likely to deteriorate than those entering due to disability.
- Participants who have lower levels of function are less likely to improve and more likely to deteriorate.
- Participants who received Commonwealth support services or received neither Commonwealth nor State/Territory support services prior to joining NDIS are less likely to deteriorate than former recipients of State/Territory support services.

### The NDIS has improved my child's access to education

The percentage of parents/carers reporting that the NDIS improved their child's access to education increased from 36.4% at the first review to 37.4% at the second review (a 1.0% improvement), and from 36.6% at the first review to 37.9% at the third review (an improvement of 1.2%). Table 5.4 sets out the breakdown of the movements in responses between first and second review, and between first and third review.

**Table 5.4 – Breakdown of net movement in longitudinal responses**

Longitudinal Period	Number of Baseline Responses in cohort		Improvements: No to Yes		Deteriorations: Yes to No		Net Movement
	No	Yes	Number	%	Number	%	
Review 1 to Review 2	14,932	8,552	1,661	11.1%	1,424	16.7%	+1.0%
Review 1 to Review 3	4,124	2,382	694	16.8%	613	25.7%	+1.2%

The main drivers of the likelihood of improvement or deterioration are shown in Table 5.5.

**Table 5.5 – Key drivers of likelihood of transitions of “The NDIS has helped my child’s access to education” response**

Reference Category	Variable	1 <sup>st</sup> Review to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Review		1 <sup>st</sup> Review to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Review	
		Relationship with likelihood of Imp.	Relationship with likelihood of Det.	Relationship with likelihood of Imp.	Relationship with likelihood of Det.
N/A	Higher annualised plan budget		↓		
N/A	Higher utilisation of capacity building supports	↑		↑	↓
N/A	Higher utilisation of core supports			↓	
NSW	Participant lives in ACT, NT, TAS or WA		↓		↓
NSW	Participant lives in QLD	↑			
NSW	Participant lives in SA	↑			↓
N/A	Participant is older	↓		↓	
Non-CALD	Participant is CALD	↑	↓	↑	↓
Did not relocate	Participant relocated to a new Local Government Area (LGA)		↑		
N/A	Participant lives in an area with a higher average unemployment rate	↓			
Medium Level of NDIA Support	Lower level of NDIA support		↓		
Medium Level of NDIA Support	Higher level of NDIA support		↓		
Pre-COVID	Review during COVID period		↓		
N/A	General time trend		↓		↓

Key findings from Table 5.5 are as follows:

- Participants who used a higher percentage of their capacity building supports are more likely to improve and less likely to deteriorate.
- Participants living in the ACT, NT, Tasmania and WA are less likely to deteriorate than those living in NSW.
- Older participants are less likely to improve.

- Participants from a CALD background are more likely to improve and less likely to deteriorate, compared to non-CALD participants.
- The likelihood of deterioration decreases with calendar time.

### The NDIS has improved my child's relationships with family and friends

The percentage of parents/carers reporting that the NDIS improved their child's relationships with family and friends increased 3.9% from 45.6% to 49.5% between the first review and the second review, and from 46.0% to 52.2% between first review and third review. Table 5.6 sets out the breakdown of the movements in responses between first and second review, and between first and third review.

**Table 5.6 – Breakdown of net movement in longitudinal responses**

Longitudinal Period	Number of Baseline Responses in cohort		Improvements: No to Yes		Deteriorations: Yes to No		Net Movement
	No	Yes	Number	%	Number	%	
Review 1 to Review 2	12,830	10774	2,229	17.4%	1,314	12.2%	+3.9%
Review 1 to Review 3	3,521	3003	963	27.4%	559	18.6%	+6.2%

The main drivers of the likelihood of improvement or deterioration are shown in Table 5.7.

**Table 5.7 – Key drivers of likelihood of transitions of “The NDIS has improved my child's relationships with family and friends” response**

Reference Category	Variable	1 <sup>st</sup> Review to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Review		1 <sup>st</sup> Review to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Review	
		Relationship with likelihood of Imp.	Det.	Relationship with likelihood of Imp.	Det.
Male	Participant is female			↑	↓
N/A	Higher baseline utilisation				↑
N/A	Higher annualised plan budget	↑			
N/A	Higher utilisation of capacity building supports	↑	↓	↑	↓
N/A	General time trend	↓	↓		
Agency-managed	Plan is managed by a plan manager	↑			
Agency-managed	Plan is fully self-managed	↑	↓		
Agency-managed	Plan is partly self-managed	↑			

Reference Category	Variable	1 <sup>st</sup> Review to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Review		1 <sup>st</sup> Review to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Review	
		Relationship with likelihood of		Relationship with likelihood of	
		Imp.	Det.	Imp.	Det.
0-75% capacity building supports	75%-100% of supports are capacity building supports	↑			
NSW	Participant lives in QLD	↑		↑	
NSW	Participant lives in SA	↑		↑	
NSW	Participant lives in VIC	↑			
NSW	Participant lives in ACT, NT, TAS or WA		↓		
N/A	Participant is older	↓			
Did not relocate	Participant relocated to a new Local Government Area (LGA)		↑		↑
N/A	Participant lives in an area with a higher average unemployment rate		↑		
Received State/Territory supports	Participant received services from Commonwealth programs before joining NDIS			↑	↓
Received State/Territory supports	Participant did not previously receive services from Commonwealth or State/Territory programs		↓		↓

Key findings from Table 5.7 are as follows:

- Participants who use a higher percentage of their capacity building supports are more likely to improve and less likely to deteriorate.
- Participants residing in Queensland and SA are more likely to improve compared to those in NSW.
- Participants who have relocated to a different Local Government Area are more likely to deteriorate than those who did not relocate.
- Participants who did not receive Commonwealth or State/Territory support services prior to joining the NDIS are less likely to deteriorate than former recipients of State/Territory support services.

## The NDIS has improved my child's social and recreational life

The percentage of parents/carers reporting that the NDIS improved their child's social and recreational life increased by 4.0% from 41.4% to 45.4% between first and second review, and by 6.0% from 42.4% to 48.4% between first and third review. Table 5.8 sets out the breakdown of the movements in responses between different reviews.

**Table 5.8 – Breakdown of net movement in longitudinal responses**

Longitudinal Period	Number of Baseline Responses in cohort		Improvements: No to Yes		Deteriorations: Yes to No		Net Movement
	No	Yes	Number	%	Number	%	
Review 1 to Review 2	13,723	9,695	2,128	15.5%	1,187	12.2%	+4.0%
Review 1 to Review 3	3,730	2,749	912	24.5%	524	19.1%	+6.0%

The main drivers of the likelihood of improvement or deterioration are shown in Table 5.9.

**Table 5.9 – Key drivers of likelihood of transitions of “The NDIS has improved my child's social and recreational life” response**

Reference Category	Variable	1 <sup>st</sup> Review to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Review		1 <sup>st</sup> Review to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Review	
		Relationship with likelihood of Imp.	Det.	Relationship with likelihood of Imp.	Det.
Male	Participant is female			↑	
N/A	Higher annualised plan budget	↑			↓
N/A	Higher utilisation of capacity building supports	↑	↓	↑	↓
N/A	Higher utilisation of core supports	↑			
Pre-COVID	Review during COVID period		↓		
N/A	General time trend	↓	↓		
Agency-managed	Plan is managed by a plan manager	↑			
Agency-managed	Plan is fully self-managed	↑	↓	↑	↓
Agency-managed	Plan is partly self-managed	↑		↑	
N/A	Lower level of function	↓			

Reference Category	Variable	1 <sup>st</sup> Review to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Review		1 <sup>st</sup> Review to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Review	
		Relationship with likelihood of		Relationship with likelihood of	
		Imp.	Det.	Imp.	Det.
NSW	Participant lives in QLD	↑		↑	
NSW	Participant lives in VIC	↑		↑	
NSW	Participant lives in SA		↓	↑	↓
NSW	Participant lives in ACT, NT, TAS or WA		↓	↑	↓
N/A	Participant is older			↑	
N/A	Participant lives in an area with a higher average unemployment rate	↓			
Did not relocate	Participant relocated to a new Local Government Area (LGA)		↑	↓	↑
0-75% capacity building supports	75%-100% of supports are capacity building supports		↑		
Received State/Territory supports	Participant received services from Commonwealth programs before joining NDIS			↑	↓
Received State/Territory supports	Participant did not previously receive services from Commonwealth or State/Territory programs				↓
Medium Level of NDIA Support	Higher level of NDIA Support			↑	
Entry due to disability	Participants entered the scheme through Early Intervention				↑

Key findings from Table 5.9 are as follows:

- Participants who have utilised a higher percentage of their capacity building supports are more likely to improve and less likely to deteriorate.
- Compared to participants whose plans are Agency-managed, those self-managing their plans, whether partly or fully, are more likely to improve. Participants with fully self-managed plans are also less likely to deteriorate than those with Agency-managed plans.
- Participants living in NSW are less likely to improve between first and third review than participants living in other States/Territories.
- Participants who relocated to a different Local Government Area (LGA) are more likely to deteriorate than those who did not.

Box 5.1 summarises the results of this section.

### **Box 5.1: Has the NDIS helped? – by participant characteristics**

After one year in the Scheme:

- Higher plan utilisation is a strong predictor of a positive response across all four areas surveyed, after one year in the Scheme. In particular, those with very low utilisation (below 20%) are much less likely to say that the NDIS has helped. The fact that utilisation tends to be lowest for the starting school to age 14 cohort may contribute to the observed lower levels of satisfaction across all domains, compared to participants in other age groups.
- Participants who self-manage fully, those who did not receive services from State/Territory or Commonwealth programs before entering the NDIS, and those with a higher annualised plan budget were more likely to respond positively after one year in the Scheme. By contrast, Indigenous participants, those with lower level of function, and those living in regional or remote areas were less likely to respond positively.

Changes between one and three years in the Scheme:

- Participants with higher utilisation of capacity building supports are more likely to improve and less likely to deteriorate across all domains.
- Improvement was more likely for participants who self-manage (either fully or partly), except in relation to access to education.
- Participants who relocated to a different LGA tended to be more likely to deteriorate.
- For access to education, CALD participants were more likely to improve and less likely to deteriorate. However, older participants were less likely to improve.
- For the relationships domain, female participants were more likely to improve and less likely to deteriorate between baseline and third review.
- Participants who did not receive Commonwealth or State/Territory support services prior to joining the NDIS were less likely to deteriorate than those who previously received State/Territory support services.