# Disability Dashboard Transcript for Autism

## Insights

This section contains key information about NDIS participants with autism in the form of simple charts and commentaries using data as at 30 June 2023:

* A doughnut chart shows that of the 610,502 active NDIS participants, 35% (or 214,880) of them have a primary disability of autism, making it the most common disability for NDIS participants.
* The next doughnut chart shows that 78% (or 167,767) of participants with autism are aged 18 years and under, with 112,565 (or 52%) participants aged 7 to 14 years.
* The next doughnut chart shows that 70% (or 149,826) of participants with autism are male.
* A bar chart shows that 98% of access decisions for applicants with autism aged 18 years and under resulted in the applicant joining the Scheme in the year ending 30 June 2023, compared to 90% of access decisions for those aged over 18 years.
* The next bar chart shows that the NDIS provided $6.73 billion of paid supports to participants with autism in the year ending 30 June 2023, compared to $5.27 billion in the year ending 30 June 2022, representing a year-on-year increase of 28%.
* The next bar chart shows that the average payment for the year ending 30 June 2023 for a participant with autism was $33,800, compared to $31,600 for the year ending 30 June 2022, representing a year-on-year increase of 7%.
* The next bar chart shows that 53% of family/carers of participants with autism reported being employed at the participant’s latest plan reassessment, a five percentage point increase compared to 48% at baseline*.* (The Participant Outcome section compares baseline results when participants entered the Scheme or at their first plan reassessment, with results measured at the most recent participant plan reassessment for each respondent. Results are for participants who have been in the Scheme for at least two years and NDIS trial participants are excluded. All outcome results are rounded to the nearest percentage but the percentage point increases or decreases are calculated based on the unrounded results).
* The next bar chart shows 73% of family/carers of school children with autism (up to 14 years of age) felt their child had become more independent as a result of the NDIS at their most recent plan reassessment, a 10 percentage point increase from their first plan reassessment.
* The weighted average satisfaction rate for participants with autism over the 4 stages of the Scheme pathway was 70% in the year ending 30 June 2023.

A photo shows an NDIS participant mowing the lawn.

Quote: “All people with disability have the right to live the lives of their choosing, and that’s what Will is doing.” By Clare, NDIS participant Will’s support coordinator.

## Section 1: Participants

### Active Participant Trend

The number of participants with autism has increased by 21% and 18% in the last two years.

A bar chart shows there were 214,880 active participants with a primary disability of autism at 30 June 2023.

* The number of active participants with autism was 182,494 at 30 June 2022 and 151,433 at 30 June 2021.
* The number of active participants with autism has increased by 18% between 30 June 2022 and 30 June 2023, and 21% between 30 June 2021 and 30 June 2022.

### Access

A doughnut chart shows that, in the year ending 30 June 2023, 97% of access decisions for applicants with autism resulted in the applicant joining the Scheme, compared to 76% of access decisions for all applicants.

The next doughnut chart shows that, in the year to 30 June 2023, 27,466 access decisions have been for applicants with autism, of which 26,519 participants met access and are still active.

A bar chart shows the percentage of participants with autism, by age band for those who met access in the year ending 30 June 2023 and are still active. Of the 26,519 participants with autism who joined the Scheme in the year ending 30 June 2023:

* 81% (or 21,500) were aged 18 years and under.
* 17% were aged 0 to 6.
* 51% were aged 7 to 14.
* 13% were aged 15 to 18.
* 7% were aged 19 to 24.
* 12% were aged 25 and over.

### Gender

Distribution of active participants by gender

A bar chart shows the distribution of active participants with autism by gender and compares that to the distribution of all participants in the Scheme.

As at 30 June 2023, the percentage of participants with autism who identified as:

* Male was 70%, compared to 61% for all participants.
* Female was 28%, compared to 37% for all participants.
* Other was 2%, compared to 1% for all participants.

Commentary in the text box: The majority of participants with autism are male (70%).

### State/Territory

Distribution of active participants by State/Territory

A bar chart shows the distribution of active participants with autism residing in each State/Territory and compares that to the distribution of all participants in the Scheme.

As at 30 June 2023, the percentage of participants with autism who resided in:

* NSW was 29%, compared to 30% for all participants.
* VIC was 25%, compared to 27% for all participants.
* QLD was 22%, compared to 21% for all participants.
* WA was 9%, compared to 9% for all participants.
* SA was 10%, compared to 9% for all participants.
* TAS was 2%, compared to 2% for all participants.
* NT was 1%, compared to 1% for all participants.
* ACT was 2%, compared to 2% for all participants.

### Age Band

Distribution of active participants by age band

A bar chart shows the distribution of active participants with autism by age band and compares that to the distribution of all participants in the Scheme.

As at 30 June 2023, the percentage of participants with autism who were in the age band:

* + 0 to 6 was 9%, compared to 16% for all participants.
  + 7 to 14 was 52%, compared to 26% for all participants.
  + 15 to 18 was 16%, compared to 9% for all participants.
  + 19 to 24 was 11%, compared to 8% for all participants.
  + 25 to 34 was 6%, compared to 9% for all participants.
  + 35 to 44 was 2%, compared to 8% for all participants.
  + 45 to 54 was 1%, compared to 9% for all participants.
  + 55 to 64 was 0%, compared to 11% for all participants.
  + 65 and over was 0%, compared to 5% for all participants.

Commentary in the text box: The majority of participants with autism are aged 7 to 14 years (52%) and 15 to 18 years (16%).

### Reported Level of Function

Distribution of active participants by reported level of function

A chart shows the distribution of active participants with autism by reported level of function and compares that to the distribution of all participants in the Scheme.

As at 30 June 2023, the percentage of participants with autism who had:

* + a high reported level of function was 17%, compared to 30% for all participants.
  + a medium reported level of function was 63%, compared to 46% for all participants.
  + a low reported level of function was 20%, compared to 24% for all participants.

Commentary in the text box: The majority of participants with autism have a medium reported level of function (63%).

### Remoteness

Distribution of active participants by remoteness

A bar chart shows the distribution of active participants with autism by remoteness, and compares that to the distribution of all participants in the Scheme.

As at 30 June 2023, the percentage of participants with autism who resided in:

* + Major cities was 69%, compared to 68% for all participants.
  + A region with a population greater than 50,000 (and not a major city) was 11%, compared to 11% for all participants.
  + A region with a population of 15,000 to 50,000 was 8%, compared to 8% for all participants.
  + A region with a population of 5,000 to 15,000 was 4%, compared to 5% for all participants.
  + A region with a population less than 5,000 (and not a remote or very remote area) was 6%, compared to 6% for all participants.
  + Remote areas was 1%, compared to 1% for all participants.
  + Very remote areas was 0%, compared to 1% for all participants.

### SEIFA score (using Index of Education and Occupation)

Distribution of active participants by SEIFA score.

(The Australian Bureau of Statistics SEIFA Index of Education and Occupation (IEO) is used by NDIA to classify participants into socio-economic deciles, with decile one representing participants in the lowest socio-economic decile, and decile ten representing participants in the highest socio-economic decile. SEIFA deciles are allocated based on the Statistical Area 1 (SA1) that a participant lives in). Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) is a product developed by the ABS that ranks areas in Australia according to relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage.

A bar chart shows the distribution of active participants with autism by SEIFA score and compares that to the distribution of all participants in the Scheme.

As at 30 June 2023, the percentage of participants with autism who resided in areas with:

* + SEIFA scores of 1 was 12%, compared to 14% for all participants.
  + SEIFA scores of 2 was 12%, compared to 12% for all participants.
  + SEIFA scores of 3 was 12%, compared to 12% for all participants.
  + SEIFA scores of 4 was 11%, compared to 11% for all participants.
  + SEIFA scores of 5 was 11%, compared to 11% for all participants.
  + SEIFA scores of 6 was 11%, compared to 10% for all participants.
  + SEIFA scores of 7 was 10%, compared to 9% for all participants.
  + SEIFA scores of 8 was 9%, compared to 8% for all participants.
  + SEIFA scores of 9 was 7%, compared to 7% for all participants.
  + SEIFA scores of 10 was 5%, compared to 5% for all participants.

Commentary in the text box: There is a greater proportion of participants with autism who reside in areas with a lower socioeconomic score.

Quote: “Having a disability doesn’t have to hold you back.” By NDIS participant, Natascha.

### First Nations

* + A bar chart shows that, in the year ending 30 June 2023, the number of active participants with autism who identify as First Nations people has increased from 11,538 to 14,173, an increase of 23%.
  + A doughnut chart shows that, at 30 June 2023, 7% (or 14,173) of participants with autism identified themselves as First Nations people, compared to 8% (or 46,694) for all participants.
  + A doughnut chart shows that, at 30 June 2023, 48% (or 6,844) of participants with autism who identify as First Nations people live in a major city, compared to 68% (or 417,206) for all participants.

### Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD)

* + A bar chart shows that, in the year ending 30 June 2023, the number of active participants with autism who identify as CALD has increased from 11,331 to 13,165, an increase of 16%.
  + A doughnut chart shows that, at 30 June 2023, 6% (or 13,165) of participants with autism identified as CALD, compared to 9% (or 55,751) for all participants.
  + A doughnut chart shows that, at 30 June 2023, 93% (or 12,223) of participants with autism who identify as CALD live in a major city, compared to 68% (or 417,206) for all participants.

## Section 2: Payments

### Total Payments

* + In the year ending 30 June 2023, the NDIS provided $6.73 billion of paid supports to participants with autism.
  + In the previous year, the NDIS provided $5.27 billion of paid supports to participants with autism.
  + This is an increase of 28%.

Total payments by support category (in $million)

A table shows the payments made to participants with autism by support category in the last two years. (The sum of the payments by support category may not equal the total payments shown in the table since the total may include payments with a “missing” support category. Daily activity supports include therapies).

* $2,679.8 million for Core - Daily Activities in the year ending 30 June 2023. This was $2,191.1 million in the year ending 30 June 2022, which represents a 22% increase from last year.
* $1,372.7 million for Core - Community in the year ending 30 June 2023. This was $913.3 million in the year ending 30 June 2022, which represents a 50% increase from last year.
* $364.1 million for Core - Consumables & Transport in the year ending 30 June 2023. This was $336.3 million in the year ending 30 June 2022, which represents an 8% increase from last year.
* $1,647.6 million for Capacity Building - Daily Activities in the year ending 30 June 2023. This was $1,319.4 million in the year ending 30 June 2022, which represents a 25% increase from last year.
* $627.4 million for Capacity Building - Other in the year ending 30 June 2023. This was $480.9 million in the year ending 30 June 2022, which represents a 30% increase from last year.
* $37.5 million for Capital in the year ending 30 June 2023. This was $30.9 million in the year ending 30 June 2022, which represents a 22% increase from last year.
* $6,729.4 million for total payments in the year ending 30 June 2023. This was $5,272.2 million in the year ending 30 June 2022, which represents a 28% increase from last year.

Total payments by age band for the year ending 30 June 2023 (in $million)

A bar chart shows the payments made to participants with autism by age band for the year ending 30 June 2023.

* $498 million to participants aged 0 to 6.
* $2,034 million to participants aged 7 to 14.
* $960 million to participants aged 15 to 18.
* $1,361 million to participants aged 19 to 24.
* $1,045 million to participants aged 25 to 34.
* $450 million to participants aged 35 to 44.
* $235 million to participants aged 45 to 54.
* $115 million to participants aged 55 to 64.
* $30 million to participants aged 65 and over.

### Average Payments

The average payment per participant with autism was $33,800 for the year ending 30 June 2023, compared to $31,600 for the year ending 30 June 2022. This was a year-on-year increase of 7%. Average payments per participant are calculated using a 12 month period prior to the reporting date.

A separate table compares the average payments for the same group of participants between this year and last year (that is, year ending 30 June 2023 vs year ending 30 June 2022). Participants who had an initial plan approved after 30 June 2022 are not included.

* For participants aged under 18 years, the average payment this year was $23,100, compared to $21,100 last year, representing an increase of 9%.
* For participants aged 18 years and over and not in SIL, the average payment this year was $49,500, compared to $45,100 last year, representing an increase of 10%.
* For participants aged 18 years and over and in SIL, the average payment this year was $431,800, compared to $392,100 last year, representing an increase of 10%.
* For all participants with autism, the average payment this year was $35,300, compared to $31,600 last year, representing an increase of 12%.

### Participants in Supported Independent Living (SIL)

Total payments by support category for the year ending 30 June 2023 (in $million)

A table shows the payments by support category made to participants with autism who were in SIL and not in SIL, in the year ending 30 June 2023.

* $1,152.2 million of payments for Core - Daily Activities to participants in SIL, compared to $1,527.6 million for participants not in SIL. This represents a total of $2,679.8 million for all payments made for Core – Daily Activities supports.
* $232.3 million of payments for Core - Community to participants in SIL, compared to $1,140.4 million for participants not in SIL. This represents a total of $1,372.7 million for all payments made for Core – Community supports.
* $11.4 million of payments for Core - Consumables & Transport to participants in SIL, compared to $352.7 million for participants not in SIL. This represents a total of $364.1 million for all payments made for Core - Consumables & Transport supports.
* $24.3 million of payments for Capacity Building - Daily Activities to participants in SIL, compared to $1,623.3 million for participants not in SIL. This represents a total of $1,647.6 million for all payments made for Capacity Building - Daily Activities supports.
* $60.0 million of payments for Capacity Building - Other to participants in SIL, compared to $567.4 million for participants not in SIL. This represents a total of $627.4 million for all payments made for Capacity Building - Other supports.
* $15.8 million of payments for Capital to participants in SIL, compared to $21.7 million for participants not in SIL. This represents a total of $37.5 million for all payments made for Capital supports.
* $1,496.2 million total payments to participants in SIL, compared to $5,233.2 million to participants not in SIL. This represents a total of $6,729.4 million in payments to participants with autism.

For participants aged 18 years and over with autism:

* Participants in SIL comprise 8% of all participants with autism who were aged 18 years and over, and their payments in the year ending 30 June 2023 comprise 43% of all payments to participants with autism aged 18 years and over.
* A year ago, participants in SIL represented 8% of participants with autism who were aged 18 years and over, and their payments comprised 45% of payments to participants with autism aged 18 years and over in that year.

## Section 3: Participant Outcomes and Satisfaction

The Participant Outcome section compares baseline results when participants entered the Scheme or at their first reassessment, with results measured at the most recent participant plan reassessment for each respondent. Results are for participants who have been in the Scheme for at least two years and NDIS trial participants are excluded. All outcome results are rounded to the nearest percentage but the percentage point increases or decreases are calculated based on the unrounded results.

### Outcome: Social and Community Participation

For participants aged 15 years and over with autism, 38% said at their latest reassessment that they were actively involved in a community, cultural or religious group in the last 12 months. This compares to 42% for the Scheme as a whole.

Comparing responses at the most recent plan reassessment (between two to seven years after entry) with responses at Scheme entry (or baseline), there has been a:

* 6 percentage point increase from 32% to 38% for participants aged 15 years and over.
* 8 percentage point increase from 35% to 43% for participants aged 25 years and over.

A bar chart shows social and community participation outcomes for different age groups::

* for participants aged 15 to 24 years there was a 5 percentage point increase from 31% to 36%.
* for participants aged 25 to 34 years there was a 9 percentage point increase from 33% to 42%.
* for participants aged 35 to 44 years there was an 8 percentage point increase from 36% to 44%.
* for participants aged 45 to 54 years there was a 6 percentage point increase from 38% to 44%.
* for participants aged 55 to 64 years there was a 9 percentage point increase from 48% to 56%.
* for participants aged 65 years and over there was a 7 percentage point increase from 43% to 50%.

### Outcome: Participant Employment

For participants aged 15 to 64 years with autism, 23% reported that they had a paid job at their latest reassessment. This compares to 23% for the Scheme as a whole.

Comparing responses at the most recent plan reassessment (between two to seven years after entry) with responses at Scheme entry, there has been an:

* 8 percentage point increase from 15% to 23% for participants aged 15 to 64 years
* Minimal movement from 26% for participants aged 25 to 64 years.

A bar chart shows participant employment outcomes for different age groups:

* for participants aged 15 to 24 years there was a 12 percentage point increase from 9% to 21%.
* for participants aged 25 to 34 years there was a 2 percentage point increase from 27% to 28%.
* for participants aged 35 to 44 years there was a 1 percentage point decrease from 26% to 24%.
* for participants aged 45 to 54 years there was a 4 percentage point decrease from 29% to 25%.
* for participants aged 55 to 64 years and over there was a 3 percentage point decrease from 20% to 17%.

### Outcome: Family & Carer Employment

Family/carers of participants with autism reported an employment rate of 53%, which is higher than the Scheme average family/carer employment rate of 50%.

Comparing responses at the most recent plan reassessment (between two to seven years after entry) with responses at Scheme entry, there has been a:

* 5 percentage point increase from 47% to 52% for participants aged 0 to 14 years.
* 4 percentage point increase from 51% to 54% for participants aged 15 years and over.
* 5 percentage point increase from 48% to 53% for participants across all ages.

### Outcome: Choice & Control

At 30 June 2023, 72% of participants aged 15 years and over with autism said the NDIS has helped them have more choice and control over their life. This is lower than the Scheme average rate at 77%.

Comparing responses at the most recent plan reassessment (between two to seven years after entry) with responses at their first plan reassessment, there has been a:

* 9 percentage point increase from 62% to 72% for participants aged 15 years and over.
* 11 percentage point increase from 66% to 77% for participants aged 25 years and over.

A bar chart shows choice and control outcomes for different age groups:

* for participants aged 15 to 24 years there was a 9 percentage point increase from 61% to 70%.
* for participants aged 25 to 34 years there was a 12 percentage point increase from 66% to 77%.
* for participants aged 35 to 44 years there was an 8 percentage point increase from 69% to 77%.
* for participants aged 45 to 54 years there was a 12 percentage point increase from 65% to 77%.
* for participants aged 55 to 64 years there was a 10 percentage point increase from 66% to 76%.
* for participants aged 65 and over there was a 13 percentage point increase from 65% to 78%.

### Outcome: For children aged 0 to before starting school:

* 95% of parents and carers for children with autism thought the NDIS improved their child's development at their most recent plan reassessment, compared to 93% at their first reassessment. This is a 3 percentage point increase from the first reassessment.
* 97% of parents and carers for children with autism thought the NDIS improved their child's access to specialist services at their latest plan reassessment, compared to 94% at their first reassessment. This is a 3 percentage point increase from the first reassessment.

### Outcome: For children starting school to 14 years:

* 73% of parents and carers for children with autism felt their child had become more independent as a result of the NDIS at their most recent plan reassessment, compared to 63% at their first reassessment. This is a 10 percentage point increase from the first reassessment.
* 59% of parents and carers for children with autism felt the NDIS has improved their child's relationship with family and friends at their most recent plan reassessment, compared with 51% at their first reassessment. This is an 8 percentage point increase from the first reassessment.

### Education outcomes

This section contains 4 bar charts demonstrating education outcomes and ADE (Australian Disability Enterprise) employment outcomes for participants with autism.

A bar chart shows the percentage of school children with autism (up to age 14) who attend school in a mainstream class The bar chart compares results at the latest plan reassessment to those at Scheme entry (or baseline). 65% of school children (up to age 14) with autism attended school in a mainstream class at the latest reassessment, compared to 72% at baseline.

The next bar chart shows the percentage of participants who have a post-school qualification, comparing results at the latest plan reassessment to Scheme entry (or baseline).

The percentage of participants with autism who have a post-school qualification were:

* 12% at baseline and 16% at the latest plan reassessment for participants aged 15 to 24 years.
* 38% at baseline and 37% at the latest plan reassessment for participants aged 25 and over.

The next bar chart shows the percentage of participants who get opportunities to learn new things, comparing results at the latest plan reassessment to Scheme entry (or baseline).

The percentage of participants with autism who get opportunities to learn new things were:

* 66% at baseline and 68% at the latest plan reassessment for participants aged 15 to 24 years.
* 49% at baseline and 56% at the latest plan reassessment for participants aged 25 and over.

The next chart shows the percentage of participants who are working in Australian Disability Enterprise (of those participants who are working in a paid job), comparing results at the latest plan reassessment to Scheme entry (or baseline).

The percentage of participants with autism who are working in an Australian Disability Enterprise are:

* 20% at baseline and 20% at the latest plan reassessment for participants aged 15 to 24 years.
* 54% at baseline and 55% at the latest plan reassessment for participants aged 25 and over.

Quote: “Thanks to the NDIS, I’m able to get her all the supports she needs. Natascha’s quality of life has improved because of these supports.” By Kathleen, mother of NDIS participant Natascha.

### Satisfaction

Four bar charts compare the satisfaction responses between participants with autism and all participants in the year ending 30 June 2023. The NDIA gathers responses at the four primary stages of the participant pathway – access, preplanning, planning and plan reassessment.

The percentage of participants with autism who rated their experience with the NDIS as good or very good was:

* 77% for the Access Process, compared to 81% for all participants.
* 80% for the Pre-Planning Process, compared to 81% for all participants.
* 82% for the Planning Process, compared to 86% for all participants.
* 64% for the Reassessment Process, compared to 68% for all participants.

The weighted average satisfaction result for participants with autism who rated their experience as good or very good over the 4 stages of the pathway was 70% in the year ending 30 June 2023.

* This was 72% for the year ending 30 June 2022.
* This compares to a satisfaction rate of 75% for all participants.

### Complaints

There were 6,864 complaints raised by participants with autism in the year ending 30 June 2023 (or a complaint rate of 3%). The complaint rate is an annualised rate calculated as the number of complaints in the year divided by the active participant exposure in the year.

* The complaint rate 12 months ago for participants with autism was 3%, the same as the current year.
* This compares to a complaint rate of 6% for all participants.

## Section 4: Providers

This section contains information on service providers supporting participants with autism in the year ending 30 June 2023, in the form of doughnut charts.

The first set of three doughnut charts show an overview of all the providers supporting participants with autism.

* + - A doughnut charts shows that 88,861 agency or plan managed providers received a payment during the year. The count of providers is by ABN and includes registered and unregistered providers supporting agency-managed participants and participants who use a plan manager. Note that for self-managed payments, the total number of providers is unable to be determined since it is not a requirement for self-managed participants to provide the ABN at the time of payment.
* The next doughnut chart shows that 5% of payments were received by the top 10 providers.
* The next doughnut chart shows that 38% of these providers were companies or organisations and 62% are individuals or sole traders.

The second set of three doughnut charts are for providers supporting participants with autism who used a plan manager.

* + A doughnut chart shows that 88,055 providers received a payment during the year. (For each plan management type, a single provider is counted if they received a payment in the year for that plan management type. Note that a single provider can receive payments across more than one plan management type so may be included in more than one count.)
  + The next doughnut chart shows that 13% of the providers were registered and 87% were unregistered. (A registered provider is an approved person or provider of supports who is registered with the NDIS Quality and Safeguard Commission. While a registered provider can provide supports to all participants, an unregistered provider can only provide supports to participants who use a plan manager or who are self-managed.)
  + The next doughnut chart shows that $3,159 million was paid in the year ending 30 June 2023. This makes up 47% of payments to participants with autism.

The last set of three doughnut charts are for providers supporting agency-managed participants with autism:

* + A doughnut chart shows that 6,645 providers received a payment during the year.
  + 100% of providers were registered.
  + The next doughnut chart shows that $2,167 million was paid in the year ending 30 June 2023. This makes up 32% of payments to participants with autism.

For providers supporting self-managed participants with autism, $1,404 million was paid in the year ending 30 June 2023, which is 21% of all payments to participants with autism.

At this time, for self-managed payments, the total number of providers and the registration status of providers is unable to be determined since it is not a requirement for self-managed participants to provide the ABN at the time of payment.

## Key definitions

Definitions of terms used in this dashboard are consistent with those used in Appendix A of the Quarterly Report to disability ministers published on the NDIS website.