# Disability Dashboard Transcript for spinal cord injury

## Insights

This section contains key information about the NDIS participants with a spinal cord injury 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 participants in the NDIS, 1% (or 5,895) of them have a primary disability of spinal cord injury.
* The next doughnut chart shows that 69% (or 4,078) of participants with a spinal cord injury are aged 45 years and over.
* The next doughnut chart shows that 70% (or 4,121) of participants with a spinal cord injury are male.
* A bar chart shows that 84% of access decisions for applicants with a spinal cord injury aged under 45 years resulted in the applicant joining the Scheme in the year ending 30 June 2023, compared to 77% of access decisions for those aged over 45 years and over.
* The next bar chart shows that NDIS provided $860 million of paid supports to participants with a spinal cord injury in the year ending 30 June 2023, compared to $704 million in the previous year, an increase of 22%.
* The next bar chart shows that the average payment for a participant with a spinal cord injury was $150,600 in the year ending 30 June 2023, an increase of 14% when compared to the previous year at $131,800.
* The next bar chart shows that 41% of participants aged 15 and over with a spinal cord injury indicated they had engagement in social and community activities, which is a 5 percentage point increase from baseline at 36%(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).
* 31% of participants with a spinal cord injury aged 15 to 64 years indicated they had a paid job at their latest plan reassessment.
* The weighted average satisfaction rate for participants with a spinal cord injury over the 4 stages of Scheme pathway was 66% in the year ending 30 June 2023.

A photo shows an NDIS participant sitting in a chair smiling.

Quote: ‘The NDIS has changed my life and enabled me to be the best me I can be.’ by NDIS participant, Carol.

## Section 1: Participants

### Active Participant Trend

The number of participants with a spinal cord injury has increased by 8% and 6% in the last two years.

A bar chart shows there were 5,895 active participants with a primary disability of a spinal cord injury at 30 June 2023

* The number of active participants with a spinal cord injury was 5,563 at June 2022 and 5,134 at June 2021
* The number of active participants with a spinal cord injury has increased by 8% between June 2021 and June 2022 and 6% between June 2022, and June 2023.

### Access

In the year ending 30 June 2023:

A doughnut chart shows that 80% of access decisions for applicants with a spinal cord injury resulted in the applicant joining the Scheme, compared to 76% of access decisions for all applicants.

The next doughnut chart shows that 578 access decisions have been for applicants with a spinal cord injury, of which 461 participants met access and are still active.

A bar chart shows the percentage of participants with a spinal cord injury by age band of those who met access and are still active. Of the 461 participants who joined the scheme in the year ending 30 June 2023, 90% (or 416) were aged 25 years and over.

* 3% were aged 0 to 14.
* 4% were aged 15 to 18.
* 3% were aged 19 to 24.
* 90% were aged 25 and over.

### Gender

Distribution of active participants by gender

A bar chart shows the percentage of active participants with a spinal cord injury by gender and compares that to the distribution of all participants in the Scheme.

As at 30 June 2023, the percentage of participants with a spinal cord injury who identified as:

* Male was 70%, compared to 61% for all participants.
* Female was 29%, compared to 37% for all participants.
* Other was 1%, compared to 1% for all participants.

Commentary in the text box: The majority of participants with a spinal cord injury are male (70%).

### State/Territory

Distribution of active participants by State/Territory

A bar chart shows the percentage of active participants with a spinal cord injury 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 a spinal cord injury who resided in:

* NSW was 32%, compared to 30% for all participants.
* VIC was 17%, compared to 27% for all participants.
* QLD was 27%, compared to 21% for all participants.
* WA was 12%, compared to 9% for all participants.
* SA was 8%, 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 1%, compared to 2% for all participants.

### Age Band

Distribution of active participants by age band

A chart shows the percentage of active participants with a spinal cord injury 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 a spinal cord injury who were in the age band:

* 0 to 6 was less than 1%, compared to 16% for all participants.
* 7 to 14 was 1%, compared to 26% for all participants.
* 15 to 18 was 1%, compared to 9% for all participants.
* 19 to 24 was 3%, compared to 8% for all participants.
* 25 to 34 was 9%, compared to 9% for all participants.
* 35 to 44 was 17%, compared to 8% for all participants.
* 45 to 54 was 22%, compared to 9% for all participants.
* 55 to 64 was 32%, compared to 11% for all participants.
* 65 and over was 15%, compared to 5% for all participants.

Commentary in the text box: The majority of participants with a spinal cord injury are aged 45 years and over (69%).

### Reported Level of Function

Distribution of active participants by reported level of function

A chart shows the percentage of active participants with a spinal cord injury 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 a spinal cord injury who had:

* a high reported level of function was 13%, compared to 30% for all participants.
* a medium reported level of function was 51%, compared to 46% for all participants.
* a low reported level of function was 36%, compared to 24% for all participants.

Commentary in the text box: The majority of participants with a spinal cord injury have a medium reported level of function (51%)

### Remoteness

Distribution of active participants by remoteness

A chart shows the distribution of active participants with a spinal cord injury by remoteness and compares that to the distribution of all participants in the Scheme.

As at 30 June 2023, the percentage of participants with a spinal cord injury who resided in:

* Major cities was 65%, compared to 68% for all participants.
* A region with population greater than 50,000 (and not a major city) was 11%, compared to 11% for all participants.
* A region with population of 15,000 to 50,000 was 8%, compared to 8% for all participants.
* A region with population of 5,000 to 15,000 was 5%, compared to 5% for all participants.
* A region with population less than 5,000 (and not a remote or very remote area) was 9%, compared to 6% for all participants.
* Remote areas was 2%, compared to 1% for all participants.
* Very remote areas was 1%, 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).

A bar chart shows the percentage of active participants with a spinal cord injury by SEIFA score and compares that to the distribution of all participants in the Scheme.

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.

As at 30 June 2023, the percentage of participants with a spinal cord injury who resided in areas with:

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

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

Quote: ‘People with disabilities want to feel like everybody else, they don’t want to be singled out or made to feel like they’re excluded.’ by NDIS participant, Carol.

### First Nations

In the year ending 30 June 2023:

* + A bar chart shows that the number of active participants with a spinal cord injury who identify as First Nations people has increased from 302 to 314, an increase of 4%.
  + A doughnut chart shows that 5% (or 314) of participants with a spinal cord injury identify as First Nations people, compared to 8% (or 46,694) for all participants.
  + A doughnut chart shows that 39% (or 121) of participants with a spinal cord injury 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)

In the year ending 30 June 2023:

* + A bar chart shows that the number of active participants with a spinal cord injury who identify as CALD has increased from 603 to 661, an increase of 10%.
  + At 30 June 2023, a doughnut chart shows that 11% (or 661) of participants with a spinal cord injury identify as CALD, compared to 9% (or 55,751) for all participants.
  + At 30 June 2023, a doughnut chart shows that 92% (or 608) of participants with a spinal cord injury 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 $860 million of paid supports to participants with a spinal cord injury.
  + Last year, $704 million of paid supports were provided to participants with a spinal cord injury.
    - This is an increase of 22%.

### Total Payments by support category (in $million)

A table shows the payments made to participants with a spinal cord injury 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).

* $583.0 million for Core - Daily Activities in the year ending 30 June 2023. This was $478.0 million in the year ending 30 June 2022, which represents a 22% increase from last year.
* $77.0 million for Core - Community in the year ending 30 June 2023. This was $55.4 million in the year ending 30 June 2022, which represents a 39% increase from last year.
* $46.7 million for Core - Consumables & Transport in the year ending 30 June 2023. This was $41.0 million in the year ending 30 June 2022, which represents a 14% increase from last year.
* $59.6 million for Capacity Building - Daily Activities in the year ending 30 June 2023. This was $49.5 million in the year ending 30 June 2022, which represents a 20% increase from last year.
* $23.0 million for Capacity Building - Other in the year ending 30 June 2023. This was $20.9 million in the year ending 30 June 2022, which represents a 10% increase from last year.
* $71.2 million for Capital in the year ending 30 June 2023. This was $59.3 million in the year ending 30 June 2022, which represents a 20% increase from last year.
* $860.5 million total payments in the year ending 30 June 2023. This was $704.2 million in the year ending 30 June 2022, which represents a 22% 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 a spinal cord injury by age band for the year ending 30 June 2023.

* $1 million to participants aged 0 to 6.
* $7 million to participants aged 7 to 14.
* $9 million to participants aged 15 to 18.
* $19 million to participants aged 19 to 24.
* $83 million to participants aged 25 to 34.
* $158 million to participants aged 35 to 44.
* $199 million to participants aged 45 to 54.
* $268 million to participants aged 55 to 64.
* $116 million to participants aged 65 and over.

### Average Payments

The average payment per participant with a spinal cord injury was $150,600 for the year ending 30 June 2023, compared to $131,800 for the year ending 30 June 2022. This was a year-on-year increase of 14%.

A separate table compares the average payments for the same group of participants between this year and last year (that is, 12 months ending 30 June 2023 versus 12 months ending 30 June 2022). Participants who had an initial plan approved after 30 June 2022 are not included.

* For participants aged 18 years and over and not in SIL, the average payment this year was $133,300, compared to $119,300 last year, an increase of 12%.
* For participants aged 18 years and over and in SIL, the average payment this year was $605,300, compared to $538,100 last year, an increase of 12%.
* At overall level for participants with a spinal cord injury, the average payment this year was $151,700, compared to $131,800 last year, an increase of 15%.

### 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 a spinal cord injury who were in SIL and not in SIL, in the year ending 30 June 2023.

* $110.5 million of payments for Core - Daily Activities to participants in SIL, compared to $472.5 million for participants not in SIL. This represents a total of $583.0 million for all payments made for Core - Daily Activities supports.
* $7.3 million of payments for Core - Community to participants in SIL, compared to $69.7 million for participants not in SIL. This represents a total of $77.0 million for all payments made for Core - Community supports.
* $2.7 million of payments for Core - Consumables & Transport to participants in SIL, compared to $44.0 million for participants not in SIL. This represents a total of $46.7 million for all payments made for Core - Consumables & Transport supports.
* $4.9 million of payments for Capacity Building - Daily Activities to participants in SIL, compared to $54.7 million for participants not in SIL. This represents a total of $59.6 million for all payments made for Capacity Building - Daily Activities supports.
* $2.6 million of payments for Capacity Building - Other to participants in SIL, compared to $20.4 million for participants not in SIL. This represents a total of $23.0 million for all payments made for Capacity Building - Other supports.
* $7.2 million of payments for Capital to participants in SIL, compared to $64.1 million for participants not in SIL. This represents a total of $71.2 million for all payments made for Capital supports.
* $135.2 million total payments to participants in SIL, compared to $725.3 million to participants not in SIL. This represents a total of $860.5 million payments to participants with a spinal cord injury.

For participants aged 18 years and over with a spinal cord injury:

* Participants in SIL comprise 4% of all participants with a spinal cord injury who were aged 18 years and over, and their payments in the year ending 30 June 2023 comprise 16% of payments to participants with a spinal cord injury aged 18 years and over.
* A year ago, participants in SIL represented 3% of participants with a spinal cord injury who were aged 18 years and over, and their payments were 13% of payments to participants with a spinal cord injury 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 a spinal cord injury, 41% 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:

* 5 percentage point increase from 36% to 41% for participants aged 15 years and over.
* 4 percentage point increase from 36% to 41% for participants aged 25 years and over.

A bar chart shows that:

* for participants aged 15 to 24 years there was a 10 percentage point increase from 41% to 51%.
* for participants aged 25 to 34 years there was an 8 percentage point increase from 36% to 44%.
* for participants aged 35 to 44 years there was a 4 percentage point increase from 37% to 41%.
* for participants aged 45 to 54 years there was a 5 percentage point increase from 36% to 41%.
* for participants aged 55 to 64 years there was a 4 percentage point increase from 35% to 39%.
* for participants aged 65 years and over there was a 2 percentage point increase from 38% to 40%.

### Outcome: Participant Employment

For participants aged 15 to 64 years with a spinal cord injury, 31% 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 a:

* 1 percentage point increase from 30% to 31% for participants aged 15 to 64 years.
* 1 percentage point increase from 30% to 31% for participants aged 25 to 64 years.

A bar chart shows that:

* for participants aged 15 to 24 years there was a 12 percentage point increase from 18% to 30%.
* for participants aged 25 to 34 years there was a 12 percentage point increase from 32% to 45%.
* for participants aged 35 to 44 years there was minimal change from a baseline of 35%.
* for participants aged 45 to 54 years there was less than a one percentage point increase from 31% to 32%.
* for participants aged 55 to 64 there was a 2 percentage point decrease from 26% to 24%.

### Outcome: Family & Carer Employment

Family/carers of participants with a spinal cord injury reported an employment rate of 46%, this compares to Scheme average family/carers 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:

* 10 percentage point increase from 29% to 38% for participants aged 0 to 14 years.
* 4 percentage point increase from 43% to 47% for participants aged 15 and over.
* 4 percentage point increase from 42% to 46% for participants across all ages.

### Outcome: Choice & Control

At 30 June 2023, 85% of participants with a spinal cord injury aged 15 years and over said the NDIS has helped them have more choice and control over their life. This is higher 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:

* 13 percentage point increase from 72% to 85% for participants aged 15 years and over.
* 13 percentage point increase from 72% to 85% for participants aged 25 years and over.

A chart shows that:

* for participants aged 15 to 24 years there was a 12 percentage point increase from 67% to 79%.
* for participants aged 25 to 34 years there was a 14 percentage point increase from 74% to 87%.
* for participants aged 35 to 44 years there was an 11 percentage point increase from 74% to 85%.
* for participants aged 45 to 54 years there was a 13 percentage point increase from 71% to 84%.
* for participants aged 55 to 64 years there was a 13 percentage point increase from 71% to 84%.
* for participants aged 65 and over there was a 19 percentage point increase from 69% to 88%.

### Education outcomes

This section contains 2 bar charts demonstrating education outcomes and Australian Disability Enterprise employment outcomes for participants with a spinal cord injury.

A chart entitled: “Percentage of participants who have a post-school qualification” displays the percentage of participants with a spinal cord injury who have post-school qualifications and compares the results at the latest plan reassessment and Scheme entry (or baseline).

The percentage of participants with a spinal cord injury who have a post-school qualification were:

* 26% at baseline and 30% at the latest plan reassessment for participants aged 15 to 24 years.
* 64% at baseline and 65% at the latest plan reassessment for participants aged 25 and over.

The next chart entitled: “Percentage of participants who get opportunities to learn new things” displays the percentage of participants with a spinal cord injury who get opportunities to learn new things and compares the results at the latest plan reassessment and Scheme entry (or baseline).

The percentage of participants with a spinal cord injury who get opportunities to learn new things were:

* 70% at baseline and 73% at the latest plan reassessment for participants aged 15 to 24 years.
* 51% at baseline and 54% at the latest plan reassessment for participants aged 25 and over.

Quote: “For me, it was a process of having to accept that yes, I have a disability, and that disability is not a bad word.” By NDIS participant, Tamina.

### Satisfaction

One bar chart compares the satisfaction responses between participants with a spinal cord injury 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 a spinal cord injury who rated their experience with the as good or very good was:

* 80% 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 a spinal cord injury who rated their experience as good or very good over the 4 stages of the pathway was 66% in the year ending 30 June 2023.

* This was 69% in the year ending 30 June 2022.
* This compares to a satisfaction rate of 75% for all participants.

Satisfaction results for access and pre-planning are not shown due to the small sample size of responses collected from participants with a spinal cord injury.

### Complaints

There were 769 complaints raised by participants with a spinal cord injury in the year ending 30 June 2023 (or a complaint rate of 13%). (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 a spinal cord injury was 15%, two percentage points higher than 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 a spinal cord injury 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 a spinal cord injury.
    - A doughnut charts shows that 17,736 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 10% of payments were received by the top 10 providers.
* The next doughnut chart shows that 55% of these providers were companies or organisations and 45% were individuals or sole traders.

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

* + A doughnut chart shows that 17,089 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 26% of the providers were registered and 74% 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 $529 million was paid in the year ending 30 June 2023. This makes up 62% of payments to participants with a spinal cord injury.

The last set of three doughnut charts are for providers supporting agency-managed participants with a spinal cord injury:

* A doughnut chart shows that 2,130 providers received a payment during the year.
* A doughnut chart shows that 100% of providers were registered.
* The next doughnut chart shows that $153 million was paid in the year ending 30 June 2023. This makes up 18% of payments to participants with a spinal cord injury.

For providers supporting self-managed participants with a spinal cord injury, $179 million was paid in the year ending 30 June 2023, which is 21% of all payments to participants with a spinal cord injury. 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.