



Australian Government

Australian Institute of
Health and Welfare

Australia's
Disability
Strategy
2021–2031

Creating
an inclusive
community
together

Australia's Disability Strategy

2021–2031

Outcomes Framework

3rd annual report

The AIHW is a corporate Commonwealth entity producing authoritative and accessible information and statistics to inform and support better policy and service delivery decisions, leading to better health and wellbeing.

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Summary

Summary

The Outcomes Framework is a key initiative under [Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#) (the Strategy) to measure, track and report outcomes for people with disability. Annual reporting against the measures in the Outcomes Framework will show what progress is being made on outcomes for people with disability.

This summary is for the 3rd annual report on the Strategy's Outcomes Framework. It provides an overview of the progress being made on outcomes for people with disability in 2024.



The Strategy has **7 outcome areas**. These represent those areas that people with disability have said need to improve to achieve the Strategy's vision for an inclusive Australian society – one that ensures people with disability can fulfil their potential, as equal members of the community.

Outcome areas



Employment and financial security



Inclusive homes and communities



Safety, rights and justice



Personal and community support



Education and learning



Health and wellbeing



Community attitudes

Spotlight on women with disability

- In 2023–24 Q4 61% of female NDIS participants (aged 15–64) get the support they need to do their job, compared with 64% of males.
- In 2022, 90% of females did not experience discrimination due to disability in the last 12 months.
- In 2022, 67% of females reported excellent, very good or good health compared to 95% of females without disability.
- 84% of young females in the labour force were employed in 2022, compared with 79% in 2018.

Notes:

1. The data in this box come from different data sources.
2. Data sources may collect information based on a person's gender identity, or on sex recorded at birth. Therefore, some people referred to as 'female' may not identify with this term.

The Outcomes Framework included a list of 85 measures at the launch of the Strategy in 2021. The measures were identified in consultation with the disability community. People with disability wanted the Outcomes Framework to include measures that could be reported on at the launch of the Strategy and in the future as new data became available. Governments will work together to create and improve data so these measures can be reported. For example, since July 2024, data about Autistic people with disability have been added to the [Outcomes Framework webpages](#).

Highlights from 2024

In 2024, 36 measures have updated post-baseline data. Twenty measures were given a progress status update for the first time, including 18 measures from the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC).

For the 36 measures with updated post-baseline data:

- 12 show improving
- 12 show no change
- 12 show regress

The Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC)

The Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) is conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) throughout Australia.

The survey collects information from three target populations:

- people with disability
- older people (i.e. those aged 65 years and over)
- people who care for persons with disability, long-term health conditions or older people.

In October 2024, data from the SDAC were able to be used to inform the progress of 18 measures in the Outcomes Framework for the first time.

- In 2022, just under 3 in 5 people with disability aged 20–64 had completed Year 12 or equivalent
- 80% of young people aged 15–24 with disability in the labour force were employed in 2022
- 9 in 10 people with disability reported in 2022 they have not experienced discrimination due to disability in the last 12 months
- 63% of all people with disability said they can use all forms of public transport with no difficulty in 2022.

Measures that are **improving**



Employment and financial security

Around 25,000 valid claims were created for a 52-week employment outcome by a person with disability in 2023–24 compared to baseline (16,041 in 2020–21).



Personal and community support

More than 3 in 4 (78%) NDIS participants aged 15–64 felt NDIS helped them have more choice and control after two years in the scheme in the fourth quarter of 2023–24 compared to baseline (75% in second quarter of 2021–22).



Education and learning

The proportion of children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full-time schooling who had disability was similar to the proportion of children with disability aged 4–5 years in the community (7.6% in community and 7.1% in preschool).

Measures that show **no change**



Employment and financial security

There was no real change in the proportion of Australian Public Service employees with disability between baseline (December 2021) and December 2023 (5.0% and 5.2% respectively).



Safety, rights and justice

There was no real change in NDIS participants who felt able to advocate (stand up) for themselves between baseline (second quarter 2021–22) and the fourth quarter of 2023–24 (37% and 38% respectively).



Health and wellbeing

There was no real change in the proportion of adults with disability with high or very high levels of psychological distress (31% in 2018 and 2022).

Measures that show **regress**



Inclusive homes and communities

The proportion of NDIS participants who are happy with their current home was lower in the fourth quarter of 2023–24 (72.7%) compared to baseline (second quarter of 2021–22; 73.4%).



Inclusive homes and communities

The proportion of people with disability who can use all forms of public transport with no difficulty was lower in 2022 (63%) than in 2018 (66%).



Health and wellbeing

The proportion of people with disability who reported that they did not go to hospital when they needed to (2022; 14%) has increased since baseline (2018; 10%).

How is progress measured?

Where data are available for a measure for 2 or more points in time it is possible to report on whether change has occurred for that measure.

Data from the closest point in time to when the Strategy started are used to provide the initial view for reported measures. These data are referred to as the 'baseline'.

As more data for each measure become available these are reported alongside the baseline data.

The status of a measure is decided by comparing the baseline and the latest report data. The status shows if there has been change, and the direction of the change.

- Improving: the measure is moving in the direction the Strategy wants
- No Change: the latest data are similar to the baseline
- Regress: the measure is not moving in the direction the Strategy wants.

For some measures, data are also included for periods prior to the start of the Strategy to provide additional context when interpreting the data.

Since launching the Strategy in 2021, there have been 43 measures with updated post-baseline data. Of these measures:

- 14 show improving
- 16 show no change
- 13 show regress.

Future plans

The next (4th) annual report with data updates will be released in early 2026. In the meantime, data updates will also be released quarterly on the [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework](#) webpages, with the next release scheduled for April 2025.

People with disability were clear that they did not want the Strategy reporting to be limited to data that were available at launch. For more details on the government approach to developing future measures, see the Strategy's [Data Improvement Plan](#).

Introduction

1

1. Introduction

Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031

[Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#) (the Strategy) is Australia's national disability policy framework. It sets out a 10-year plan for continuously improving the lives of people with disability in Australia. Its vision is an inclusive Australian society that ensures people with disability can fulfil their potential as equal members of the community. Under the Strategy, Australian, state, territory and local governments are committed to delivering better outcomes.

The Strategy's 7 Outcome Areas set out where governments at all levels – working with people with disability, the community and business – need to prioritise change. The 7 Outcome Areas that people with disability have said need to improve to achieve the Strategy's vision are:

1. Employment and financial security
2. Inclusive homes and communities
3. Safety, rights and justice
4. Personal and community support
5. Education and learning
6. Health and wellbeing
7. Community attitudes

Under each of these 7 Outcome Areas there are Policy Priorities. By delivering against the Policy Priorities under each Outcome Area, governments envisage all aspects of Australian life becoming more inclusive of people with disability.

For information on the development of the Strategy, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Hub](#).

Outcomes Framework

The Outcomes Framework is a key part of the Strategy that reports the outcomes for people with disability. Outcomes Framework annual reports and dashboard are used to show what progress is being made towards intended outcomes. Progress is measured for each Outcome Area by reporting on a range of agreed measures under each Policy Priority.

There are 3 types of measure across the 7 outcome areas of the Strategy:

- **System measures:** these track the contribution key systems such as health care, housing, education, and employment are making to achieve outcomes. Some service systems are specifically for people with disability while others are mainstream systems for all Australians.
- **Population measures:** these track changes in outcomes over time for people with disability.
- **Community attitude measures:** these track the change in attitudes towards people with disability, and how people with disability experience community attitudes.

Some measures focus on specific groups of people with disability, such as National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participants; others relate to the broader population of people with disability.

At the launch of the Strategy in 2021, the Outcomes Framework included a list of 85 measures (see [Appendix B: List of Measures](#)). The measures were developed in consultation with the disability community. At the time, not all 85 measures had available data. Rather than limit the Outcomes Framework to reporting on data that was available in 2021, people with disability wanted to include measures that could be reported on in the future, when data became available.

Over the life of the Strategy, governments are working together to create and improve data so these future measures can be reported. Additionally, reviews of the Outcomes Framework may result in updates to measures or the addition of new measures. As such, the original 85 measures may change over time as more appropriate data become available. For example, data from the first wave of a new national survey – Australia’s Disability Strategy Survey - Share with us – undertaken by the Australian National University (ANU) allowed additional insight beyond the originally identified Community attitudes measures.

Purpose of the 3rd annual report

This 3rd annual report presents a summary of changes over time for measures with updated data since the previous annual reports. It compares the value of the latest available data with the baseline value (that is, data from the closest point in time to when the Strategy began in December 2021). The change observed between the latest data and the baseline data is used to assign one of the following categories:

- improving
- no change
- regress.

Establishing if a measure has changed also considers whether there is confidence in the change (that it is real and not a product of chance), and that the change is important.

Where data are available, changes in the measure values in the context of the historical (that is, pre-baseline) data forms part of this consideration. For more details on the methodological approach to measuring progress over time, see [Appendix A: Methods](#).

As data collections have varying collection and reporting periods (for example, quarterly, annual or triennial), measures derived from different data sources may have different timings for baseline and updated data (see also [About the data](#)).

The annual reports are intended for people with disability, government policymakers at all levels, disability advocacy groups and anyone who wishes to follow what progress is being made for people with disability, based on the Outcomes Framework measures.

In this report, each outcome area is reported separately, but it is important to note that all 7 outcomes are interrelated and connected. For example, improved outcomes in education and learning can lead to better outcomes in employment and financial security (Australia’s Disability Strategy 2021–2031). For more information, see the [Outcomes Framework](#).

Overview of results

Since the first annual report in early 2023, baseline data are available for more measures – an increase from 47 to 55 measures. The number of measures with post-baseline data has also increased – from 32 to 43 measures. Of the 55 measures in the Outcomes Framework for which there are available data:

- 43 measures have new or revised data – consisting of 22 system and 21 population measures. All 43 measures have a progress status.
- Of these, 20 measures have a status update for the first time, including 18 measures from the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers.

Data for all 55 measures are reported in summary tables at the start of each section, with additional focus provided on the 43 measures with new or revised data.

Further information on all measures, including additional data for the 12 measures with only baseline data that are not the focus of this report, is available on the [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework](#) webpages.

Governments will continue to develop data for future measures over the life of the Strategy. A full list of measures can be found in [Appendix B: List of measures](#).

Intersectionality and diversity

The Strategy recognises that the diversity of people with disability needs to be understood, acknowledged and celebrated. The experiences of people with disability may differ due to intersectionality. Where data permit, the Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework webpages include data on the following groups and characteristics of people with disability (see also [Data limitations](#)):

- age group
- sex and gender
- lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer/questioning and asexual (LGBTIQA+) people
- type and severity of disability
- state and territory
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (First Nations) peoples
- culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) people
- remoteness.

Where available, data on these groups can be found on the Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework webpages and are not reproduced here.

SDAC classification of severity of disability

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) is the main source for data on severity of disability in this report.

SDAC classifies disability according to the degree of limitation or impairment in core activities into **profound**, **severe**, **moderate**, and **mild limitation**. In addition, SDAC distinguishes people with disability who have no limitation in core activities but have schooling or employment restriction, and people with disability who have no specific limitation or restriction.

Severe or profound disability includes people with severe or profound core activity limitation – always or sometimes needing assistance or supervision with self-care, mobility, and/or communication. People with **other disability** status are those who have disability with other than severe or profound core activity limitation.

About the data

Data sources

Data for the 55 measures noted in this report are drawn from 19 data sources. Thirty-nine measures are drawn from surveys and 16 from administrative data collected as part of service delivery. Some collections are well established for reporting while others are relatively new.

Nine of the 55 measures reported draw on NDIS participant data. The approach taken to reporting NDIS data here is different from that taken in NDIS reports. For more details as well as technical information about other data sources, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Data sources](#).

Of the 16 measures drawn from administrative data:

- 2 were drawn from DSS Data Exchange and Disability Employment Services
- 2 were drawn from the AIHW's National Housing Assistance Data Repository and Specialist Homeless Services Collection
- 2 were drawn from the Department of Education's Higher Education Statistics Collection
- 3 were drawn from the National Centre for Vocational Education Research
- 7 were drawn from the Australian Digital Inclusion Index, the Australian Public Service Employment Database, the Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services, the Australian Human Rights Commission business systems, the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations business systems, NDIA business systems, and NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission business systems.

Of the 39 measures drawn from surveys:

- 19 were drawn from the ABS SDAC
- 8 were drawn from the NDIA survey data (Short Form/Long Form Outcomes Framework)
- 7 were drawn from the Australia's Disability Strategy Survey – Share with us (the ADS Survey)
- 3 were drawn from the ABS Personal Safety Survey (PSS)
- 2 were drawn from the ABS National Health Survey and the ABS Survey of Income and Housing.

Data limitations

The measures in the Outcomes Framework reflect what the Strategy would ideally like to track. However, most data collections used for reporting were not set up for the specific purpose of reporting against the Strategy. In the case of administrative data collections, statistical reporting is generally a secondary purpose to the data's primary role in relation to service delivery. Some Outcomes Framework measures have been revised slightly so that they align more closely to the available data; other measures have been revised slightly to clarify the intent of the measure. These adjustments are described in the relevant 'measure' section of the report or can be found in [Appendix B: List of measures](#).

Disability is complex, making it sometimes difficult to define. A significant limitation for consistent reporting on outcomes for people with disability is the variation in how 'disability' is defined when data are drawn from a range of sources. The most comprehensive definition of disability comes from the ABS SDAC. Other ABS surveys such as the NHS and the PSS use the ABS [Short Disability Module](#). Definitions of disability used by administrative collections often relate to the purpose of their service delivery. See [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Data sources](#) for definitions of disability used in different data sources.

The Strategy recognises that gender diversity is an important aspect for reporting outcomes for people with disability. Currently, many collections include only the categories 'male' and 'female'. In some collections where additional categories are included, small numbers – together with requirements to maintain privacy – limit what can be reported. For more information, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Data sources](#).

Data development

A key initiative of the Strategy is to improve data to better measure, track, and report on outcomes for people with disability. The pathway for this is outlined in the [Data Improvement Plan 2024](#), endorsed by the Disability Reform Ministerial Council on 1 November 2024, and published in December 2024. All governments continue to work together to improve the availability, quality, and usability of data to support reporting on the Outcomes Framework.

The National Disability Data Asset is an important piece of work that will support reporting on measures under the Outcomes Framework. It is being designed as a long-term national asset containing linked, de-identified data from across Australia, state and territory government service systems. It will enable, for the first time, a person-centred view of the pathways people with disability take through government and other service systems, and provide information on inclusion and outcomes for people with disability.

National Disability Data Asset disability indicators

A major development of the [National Disability Data Asset](#) has been the design of disability indicators. Disability indicators refer to types of information about disability. Disability indicators help to consistently capture people with a disability or other disability concepts in the National Disability Data Asset.

In consultation with people with disability, their representatives and technical experts, a first set of disability indicators has been designed from the early datasets available in the National Disability Data Asset. The first disability indicators will include information about Australian Government disability-related payments and NDIS funded support services.

As more data are added, and data improvement occurs, more people with disability are expected to be captured.

The first disability indicators include people who:

- were assessed as eligible for, or received,
 - Centrelink Disability Support Pension (DSP)
 - Centrelink Mobility Allowance
 - Centrelink Youth Disability Supplement
 - a one-off Business Services Wage Assessment Tool (BSWAT) payment.
- were carers, who make their carer eligible for Centrelink Carer Allowance or Carer Payment.
- were participants in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

This is not considered to be a complete representation of people with disability in Australia.

Several future measures in the Outcomes Framework will use data from the National Disability Data Asset for reporting. It will also be used to improve reporting on some of the current measures. Benefits to Outcomes Framework reporting will be:

- improving the quality of data used in analysis of the measures
- offering new insights that were not previously available
- increasing the frequency for reporting on the measures
- allowing people to filter data based on measures more relevant to them – for example, based upon their geography, type of disability, or use of disability supports.

For more information on how the National Disability Data Asset will support the Outcomes Framework reporting, see the Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031 [Data Improvement Plan 2024](#).

Disability Royal Commission

The final report of the [Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability](#) (DRC) was released on 29 September 2023. The report made a range of recommendations relating to data, including some that are relevant to the Strategy. For more information on how progress is being made on the DRC see the Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031 [Data Improvement Plan 2024](#).

National Autism Strategy

From July 2024, data about Autistic people with disability have been added to the Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework webpages. This is to help track outcomes under the new [National Autism Strategy](#).

Structure of the report

The following sections report on measures in each of the 7 outcome areas.

- Section 2 – Employment and financial security
- Section 3 – Inclusive homes and communities
- Section 4 – Safety, rights and justice
- Section 5 – Personal and community support
- Section 6 – Education and learning
- Section 7 – Health and wellbeing
- Section 8 – Community attitudes

For additional information on the data presented in this report, see:

- [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework 2021–2031: 3rd annual report | Data downloads](#).
- [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework](#) webpages.



Employment and financial security

2

2. Employment and financial security

Outcome

People with disability have economic security, enabling them to plan for the future and exercise choice and control over their lives

Why is this outcome area important?

Employment and financial security are central to improving outcomes for people with disability. This includes providing jobs, career opportunities and having adequate income for people with disability to meet their needs ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)).

Increased workforce participation by people with disability provides benefits for the Australian economy, reduces welfare expenditure and increases security in retirement ([Australian Human Rights Commission 2016](#)). Employment provides people with disability increased income, and therefore, higher living standards and financial independence, while also contributing to positive health outcomes ([DSS 2012](#)). However, in 2022, the unemployment rate for working-age people with disability was twice as high as those without disability ([AIHW 2024](#)), highlighting barriers to equal employment opportunities. Additionally, the median gross personal income for people with disability was \$575 per week, compared to \$1055 for those without disability ([ABS 2022](#)).

What are the policy priorities?

1. **Economic participation:** Supporting people with disability to find and keep jobs.
2. **Transition to employment:** Supporting young people with disability who leave school to find work.
3. **Economic independence:** Supporting people with disability to earn enough money to live well, plan for their future and have choice and control over their own lives.

Measures

For the 3 policy priorities under this outcome area, data are available for 6 system measures and 4 population measures (Table 2.1). Since the second annual report, 3 measures have updated historical data and 3 measures have updated post-baseline data for the first time.

All 10 measures have updated post-baseline data in this report. Of these:

- 4 showed improving
- 5 showed no change
- one showed regress.

For future measures requiring development, see [Future measures](#).

Table 2.1: Employment and financial security reference guide

Policy priority	Measure	Baseline time point	Baseline value	Latest time point	Latest value	Change since baseline ^(c)	Progress status
Economic participation	Number of valid 52-week full outcome claims for employment in the 12-month period for people with disability* (system measure)	2020–21	16,041	2023–24	24,845	8,804 valid claims	Improving
Economic participation	Proportion of people with disability using jobactive who obtain at least one job placement in a 12-month period which later converted to a 26-week outcome* (system measure)	2020–21	7.5%	2021–22	7.6%	0.1 pp	No change
Economic participation	Proportion of NDIS participants who get the support they need to do their job ^(a) (system measure)	2021–22 Q2	65.9%	2023–24 Q4	62.9%	-3.0 pp	Regress
Economic participation	Gap in proportion of people with disability in the labour force who are unemployed, compared with proportion of people without disability (population measure)	2018	4.7 pp	2022	3.9 pp	-0.8 pp	No change
Economic participation	Proportion of NDIS participants aged 15–64 in the labour force who are in open employment at full award wage (population measure)	2021–22 Q2	19.9%	2023–24 Q4	22.9%	3.0 pp	Improving
Transition to employment	Proportion of VET graduates with disability who are employed on completion of training (system measure)	2021	51.6%	2023	62.3%	10.7 pp	Improving
Transition to employment	Proportion of NDIS young people (aged 15–24) in employment (system measure)	2021–22 Q2	17.6%	2023–24 Q4	20.2%	2.6 pp	Improving
Transition to employment	Proportion of young people (aged 15–24) with disability in the labour force who are employed ^(b) (population measure)	2018	75.9%	2022	79.8%	3.9 pp	No change
Economic independence	Proportion of Australian Public Service employees with disability* (system measure)	December 2021	4.9%	December 2023	5.2%	0.2 pp	No change
Economic independence	Gap in median gross income for a person with disability aged 15–64 years compared with people without disability (population measure)	2018	\$511	2022	\$480	\$37	No change

‡ Measure wording has been revised to reflect available data more accurately or clarify the measure's intent. See relevant measure section below for more information (See [Appendix B: List of measures](#)).

n.a. – not available; pp – percentage points; VET – vocational education and training.

(a) This measure will be replaced in the future by 'Proportion of NDIS participants with an employment goal in receipt of employment income in the last 12 months'.

(b) This measure will be replaced in the future by 'Proportion of school leavers with disability who are not in employment, education or training 12 months later'.

(c) n.a. indicates that there has not been an additional data point post-baseline to enable an assessment of progress.

References

- ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) (2022) [Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings](#), ABS website, accessed 12 July 2024.
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- AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) (2024) [People with disability in Australia](#), AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 12 July 2024.
- DSS (Department of Social Services) (2012) [Shut Out: The Experience of People with Disabilities and their Families in Australia](#), DSS, Australian Government, accessed 12 July 2024.

Economic participation

Increasing employment opportunities of people with disability provides more independence and control financially and helps support a better standard of living. Paid employment may increase confidence and lead to better mental and physical health and wellbeing. Although some people with disability may be unable to work, others are able to do so and have the necessary skills, or the capacity to acquire necessary skills. Increasing employment of people with disability who are able to work will ensure that these individuals have opportunities to participate in the economy ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)).

Services that play an important role in supporting people with disability to find employment and get the support they need to do their job include Disability Employment Services (DES), the Employment Assistance Fund, and supports funded through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). People with disability are also supported to find employment through the mainstream, national employment service, Workforce Australia.

It should be noted that employment alone does not always provide people with disability with adequate income to be self-sufficient. Australia's social security system provides a strong safety net for Australians who are unable to fully support themselves, including those with disability.

An essential enabler for finding and maintaining employment is having appropriate supports. Community attitudes also play a critical role (see also [Section 8 – Community attitudes](#)).

Disability Employment Services

DES is a program funded by the Australian Government that aims to assist jobseekers with disability, injury or health conditions to prepare for, find and keep a job in the open labour market. The program assists with maintaining employment by providing post placement employment support for at least 52 weeks.

The measure was intended to track the number of people supported in DES to achieve at least 12 months employment at their work capacity. Measure wording has been revised in this report to reflect available data more accurately (see [Appendix B: List of measures](#)).

Due to the nature of the available data, the counting unit for this measure is valid claims made by a DES provider for employment outcomes rather than the number of participants. The measure is reported here as:

- Number of valid 52-week full outcome claims for employment in the 12-month period for people with disability.

The desired key system outcome for this measure is that DES supports people with disability to find and maintain employment. From 1 July 2025, a new specialist disability employment program will be rolled out which will support people with disability to prepare for, find and maintain sustainable employment. This new program will replace the current DES program. Because of this, 2024–25 will be the last year DES can be used for this measure.

System measure: Number of valid 52-week full outcome claims for employment in the 12 month period for people with disability

Desired outcome: Increase in the number of claims

Data source: Department of Social Services – DES

Revised results at baseline: 2020–21

- In 2020–21, 16,041 valid claims were made for full 52-week employment outcomes for people with disability aged 15 and over.
- This was 3,499 valid claims lower than in 2019–20 (19,540). It should be noted that the baseline year was likely impacted by COVID-19.

Latest results: 2023–24

- In 2023–24, there were 24,845 valid claims for full 52-week employment outcomes for people with disability aged 15 and over. This was an increase of 8,804 valid claims (or an increase of approximately 55%) since the baseline year, 2020–21 (16,041 valid claims), indicating improvement since the Strategy began (Figure 2.1).
- The number of valid claims in 2023–24 is 6,436 (or 21%) lower than in 2022–23 (31,281).

Things to consider when interpreting results

- Full employment outcome claims are those where the participant is working hours at or above their work capacity on average.
- Data for this measure are available only for the period from 1 July 2019 onwards. This is because a full 52-week employment outcome could only be claimed 52 weeks after the participant had begun placement with a DES provider contract under the DES Grant Agreement, which was established from 1 July 2018.
- The baseline year 2020–21 for this measure is potentially problematic due to the likely impact of COVID-19 on 2020–21 results, and the lack of data available for time series analysis over a longer period in the pre-COVID-19 period. The adverse impact of COVID-19 on 2020–21 results means that comparisons of changes over time should also take into account pre-baseline results, with 2019–20 offering the best available indication of the number of valid claims pre-COVID-19.
- The decline in overall caseload is due to a range of factors, including eligibility changes to the DES program made in 2021 and due to stronger labour market demand post COVID-19 lockdowns. With the lower overall participant numbers there are fewer overall people achieving outcomes across the DES program. As a percentage of the total population though, the outcomes achieved by DES participants remained at a reasonably consistent rate.

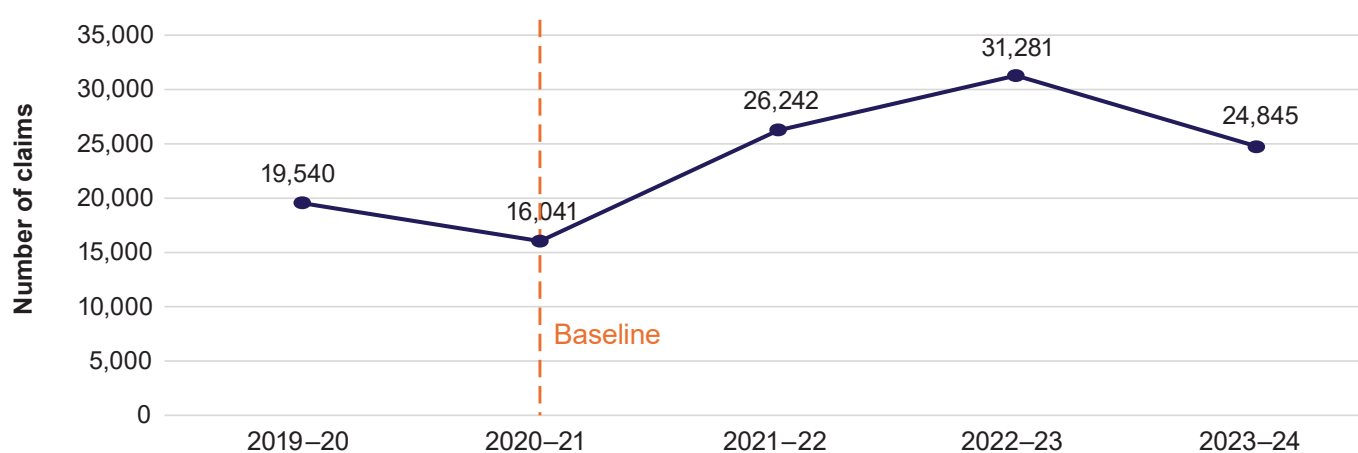
- The data do not provide any insight into how many people did not achieve 12 months of full employment.
- DES data are not comparable with the other employment services data presented below, as they are from different sources, cover different populations, and measure different outcomes.

Latest results: 24,845 (2023–24)

Baseline: 16,041 (2020–21)

Progress status: Improving

Figure 2.1: Valid claims for full 52-week employment outcomes among people with disability aged 15 and over who participated in DES, 2019–20 to 2023–24



Source: Department of Social Services, using administrative data from the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations Employment Business Intelligence Warehouse (DEWR EBIW).

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | DES](#).

Employment services

jobactive was the Australian Government employment service that connected job seekers with employers and helped them find, prepare for and keep a job. The program ran from July 2015 to June 2022. It was replaced by Workforce Australia on 4 July 2022 ([DEWR 2022](#)). While DES is a service specifically targeted to help people with disability, jobactive was – and Workforce Australia is – a mainstream service open to all Australians seeking employment.

The Outcomes Framework intended to track the proportion of people with disability in the labour force who use jobactive and successfully find employment within 12 months. Measure wording has been revised in this report to reflect available data more accurately (see [Appendix B: List of measures](#)).

Due to the nature of the available data, the measure is reported here as:

- Proportion of people with disability using jobactive who obtain at least one job placement in a 12-month period which later converted to a 26-week outcome.

The reported measure tracks sustainable employment gained through jobactive. Due to the introduction of the Workforce Australia program, 2021–22 is the last year jobactive can be used for this measure. Data for the 2023–24 reporting period will be drawn from the Workforce Australia Services program and reported in the 2026 annual report. Data will not be comparable with jobactive data.

System measure: Proportion of people with disability using jobactive who obtain at least one job placement in a 12-month period which later converted to a 26-week outcome

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) – Business Systems

Latest results: 2021–22

- In 2021–22, 7.6% of people with disability using jobactive obtained at least one job placement in a 12-month period which later converted to a 26-week outcome. This was almost the same result as at baseline (7.5% in 2020–21) indicating no change for this measure since the Strategy began (Figure 2.2).
- There is no clear trend across the historical and post-baseline data (the period 2015–16 to 2021–22) with results ranging from a high of 7.7% in 2017–18 to a low of 4.5% in 2019–20, likely due to the impact of COVID-19 on the labour market. The proportion in 2021–22 was just slightly lower than the highest point of 7.7% in 2017–18 (Figure 2.2).

Things to consider when interpreting results

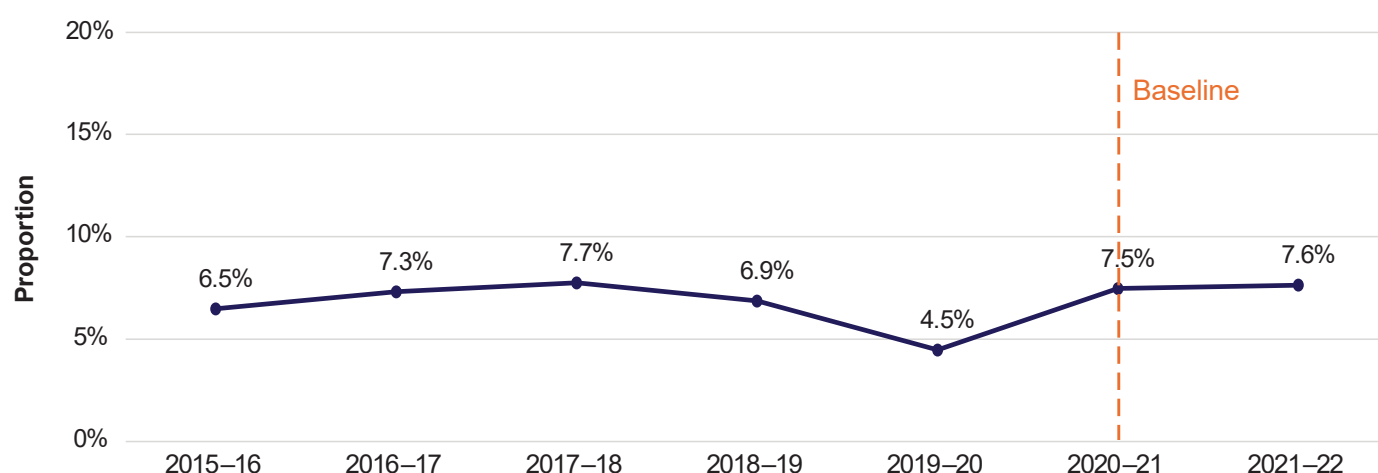
- Results for this measure are preliminary as they cover only the first 6 months of the Strategy rather than a full year.
- As there is no time limit in which employment service providers can claim a 26-week employment outcome, there are small differences with historical data included in the annual report.
- Results for this measure are not comparable with results for the DES measure as they are from different data sources, cover different populations and measure different outcomes.

Latest results: 7.6% (2021–22)

Baseline: 7.5% (2020–21)

Progress status: No change

Figure 2.2: Proportion of people with disability using jobactive aged 15 and over who obtained at least one job placement in a 12-month period which later converted to a 26-week outcome, 2015–16 to 2021–22



Source: DEWR administrative data.

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Employment services](#).

NDIS participants job support

A key focus of the NDIS is to improve social and economic participation for its participants ([NDIS 2024](#)). NDIS participants can receive support to do their job from several services, including DES (described earlier) and the NDIS. NDIS funding can include supports in employment, which are for day-to-day assistance in the workplace to maintain employment ([NDIS 2021](#)). It can also include ancillary support; for example, transport to work, personal care at work, assistive technology (used both at work and at home) and capacity building for skills development.

Data for this measure are from the NDIS Short Form questionnaire and include participants who answered:

- 'Yes' to the question 'Are you currently working in a paid job?' and
- Either 'Yes' or 'No' to the question 'Do you get the support you need to do your job?'

Note, the question is not intended (nor interpreted by participants) to be limited to NDIS support. Nor does a 'No' response necessarily mean that the NDIS is responsible for providing the required support. It may reflect other factors, such as employer capability to provide support.

System measure: Proportion of NDIS participants who get the support they need to do their job

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) Business Systems

This measure will be replaced in the future when available data are improved. During the life of the Strategy, this measure will be replaced by 'Proportion of NDIS participants with an employment goal in receipt of employment income in last 12 months'.

Latest results: June 2024 (Q4 of 2023–24)

- In 2023–24 Q4, more than 6 in 10 (63%) NDIS participants aged 15–64 reported that they had received the support they needed to do their job. This was 3 percentage points lower than at baseline (2021–22 Q2) (66%), indicating regress since the Strategy began (Figure 2.3).
- Since baseline, consistent quarter-to-quarter decreases have been observed, with a modelled quarterly decrease of 0.4 of a percentage point over the period 2021–22 Q2 to 2023–24 Q4. This is smaller than the modelled quarterly decrease in the historical data for the period 2018–19 Q2 to 2021–22 Q2 which was around one percentage point.

Things to consider when interpreting results

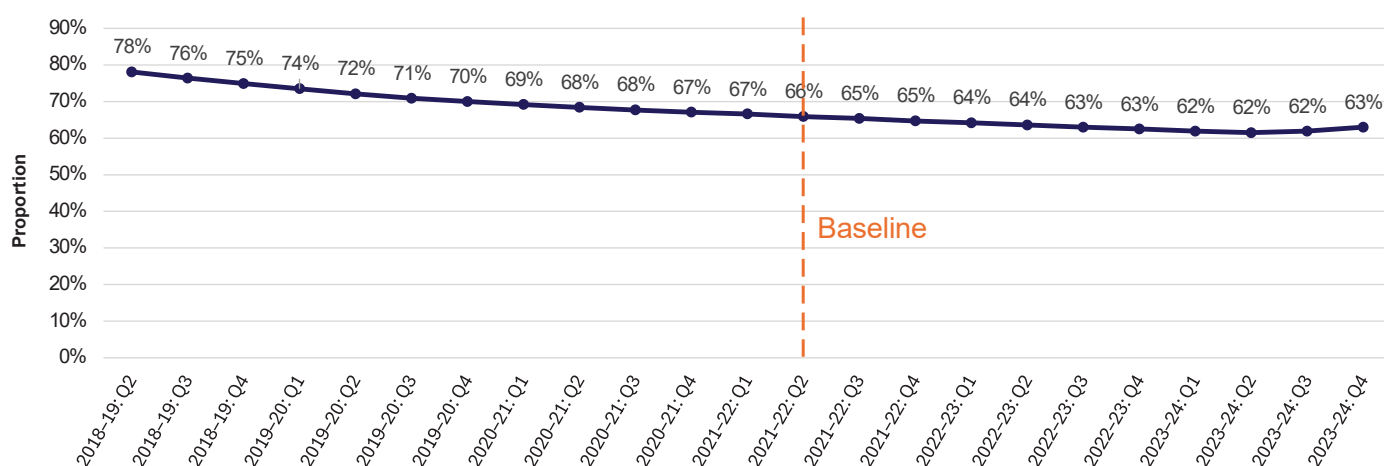
- Several external factors may influence responses to the question ‘Do you get the support you need to do your job?’. Respondents may not need additional support to do their job or they may receive the disability-related support required but other sources of support are lacking, such as informal or employer-provided support.
- Time series analysis for the NDIS data presented here is different from the longitudinal approach taken in NDIS reporting. See [Data sources | National Disability Insurance Agency \(NDIA\)](#) for more details.

Latest results: 62.9% (2023–24 Q4)

Baseline: 65.9% (2021–22 Q2)

Progress status: Regress

Figure 2.3: Proportion of NDIS participants aged 15–64 who get the support they need to do their job, 2018–19 Q2 to 2023–24 Q4



Source: NDIA Business System.

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Job support](#).

Unemployment gap

Tracking changes over time in unemployment rates of people with disability compared with people without disability is one way to measure whether access to employment is becoming more accessible for people with disability.

‘Unemployment’ refers to those who reported that they were not employed during the reference week and had actively looked for full or part-time work at any time in the 4 weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week ([ABS 2019](#)). ‘Labour force’ includes people who are employed or unemployed ([ABS 2024](#)).

The desired population outcome for this measure is to see a decrease in the unemployment gap between people with and without disability.

Population measure: Gap in proportion of people with disability in the labour force who are unemployed, compared with proportion of people without disability

Desired outcome: Decrease in the unemployment gap

Data source: ABS SDAC

Latest results: 2022

- The disability employment gap between people in the labour force who are unemployed with disability and without disability was 3.9 percentage points in 2022. This was 0.8 percentage points lower than the employment gap in 2018 (4.7 percentage points) (Figure 2.4).
- As the change between the baseline and latest value is not statistically significant, the status is indicated as no change.

Things to consider when interpreting the results

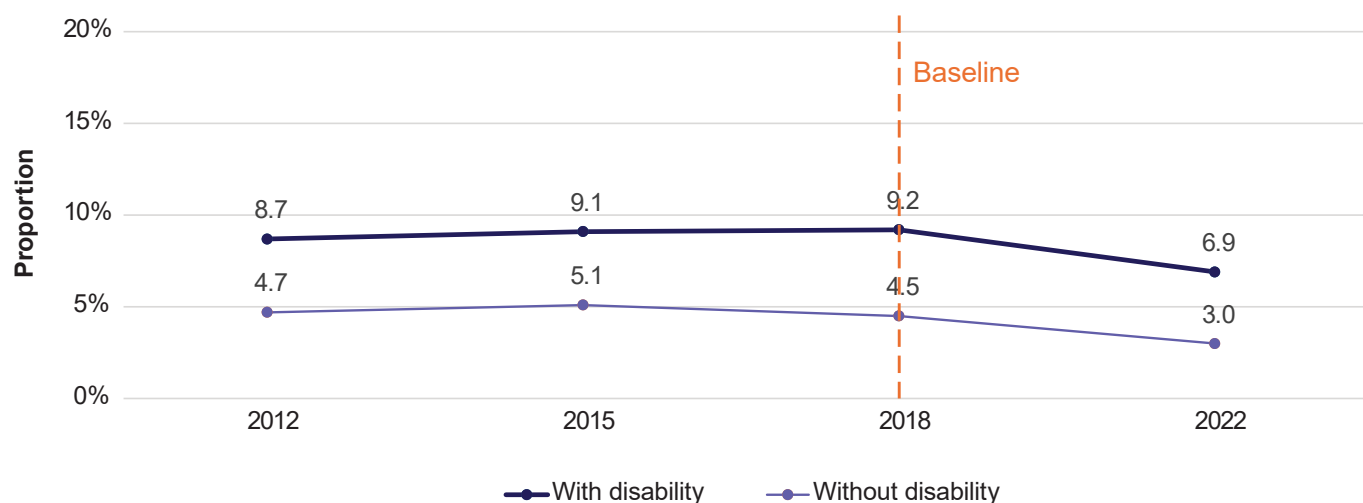
- Restricted to people aged 15 and over living in households who are in the labour force. People in the labour force include those who were employed in the reference week, and those who were unemployed, that is: not employed during the reference week, had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week.
- Statistical methods are used to assist with determining confidence where there are 2 or more data points. For sampled (survey) data, sampling error is considered for determining whether the change is statistically significant, based on overlapping confidence intervals and z-tests. More information can be found in [Appendix A: Methods](#).
- The definition of unemployment does not account for people who are underemployed (are employed but would like to work more hours) or are ‘discouraged’ from or have temporarily stopped participating in the labour force (would like to work but are not actively searching or were not available to start). Many people with profound disabilities may be out of scope of this measure as they may not be seeking work, or available to start work. As a result, care should be taken in interpreting this measure.

Latest results: 3.9 percentage points (2022)

Baseline: 4.7 percentage points (2018)

Progress status: No change

Figure 2.4: Gap in proportion of people with disability in the labour force who are unemployed, compared with the proportion of people without disability



Source: AIHW analysis of ABS SDAC 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2022 (detailed microdata).

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Unemployment gap](#).

NDIS participants in full award wage employment

'Open employment' refers to employment in the open market where employees are paid the relevant minimum wage or above ([NDIS 2024](#)). People with disability face a number of barriers in relation to open employment, including discrimination by employers or colleagues, and employment restrictions (such as limited hours of work or restrictions on the type of work available) ([AIHW 2024](#)).

Data for this measure are collected as part of the NDIS Short Form questionnaire. Data include NDIS participants who answered:

- 'Yes' or 'No, but I would like one' to the question 'Are you currently working in a paid job?' and
- 'Open employment market with full award wages' to the question 'What type of employment is it?'

The desired population outcome for this measure is an increase in the proportion of NDIS participants in the labour force who are in open employment at full award wages.

Population measure: Proportion of NDIS participants aged 15–64 who are in open employment at full award wage

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: NDIA Business System

Latest results: June 2024 (Q4 of 2023–24)

- In 2023–24 Q4, just over 1 in 5 (23%) NDIS participants in the labour force aged 15–64 were in open employment at full award wage. This was 3 percentage points higher than at baseline (20% in 2021–22 Q2) indicating improvement since the Strategy began (Figure 2.5).
- Since baseline, consistent quarter-to-quarter increases have been observed, with a modelled quarterly increase of 0.3 of a percentage point over the period 2021–22 Q2 to 2023–24 Q4. This is similar to the modelled quarterly increase in the historical data for the period 2018–19 Q2 to 2021–22 Q2 (just under 0.3 of a percentage point).

Things to consider when interpreting results

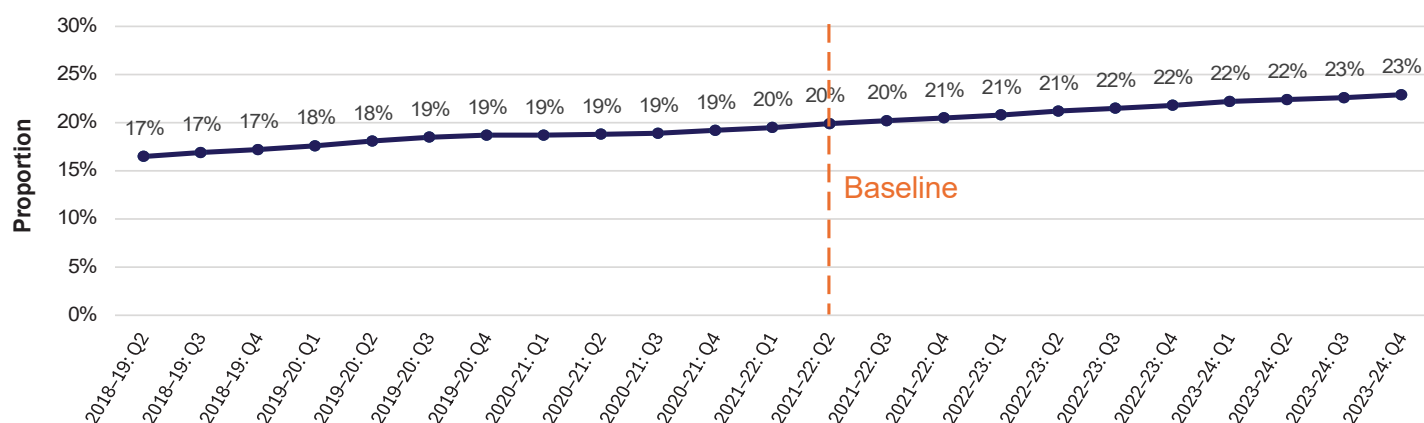
- Data from NDIS participants who answered, ‘Yes’ or ‘No, but I would like one’ to the question ‘Are you currently working in a paid job?’ are intended to capture NDIS participants who are in the labour force.
- The measure does not include people employed under the Supported Wage System (SWS) – that is, open employment at less than full award wages. The SWS applies to those who have a reduced working capacity. If an employee is covered by an award or registered agreement with an SWS provision, an eligible employee is entitled to a percentage of the minimum pay rate for their classification, depending on their assessed work capacity ([NDIS 2024](#)).
- This measure looks at the proportion of NDIS participants aged 15–64 in the labour force who are in open employment at full award wage. It does not provide insight into the proportion of employed individuals with disability who are in open employment, which may show different results.
- Time series analysis for the NDIS data presented here is different from the longitudinal approach taken in NDIS reporting. See [Data sources | National Disability Insurance Agency \(NDIA\)](#) for more details.

Latest results: 22.9% (2023–24 Q4)

Baseline: 19.9% (2021–22 Q2)

Progress status: Improving

Figure 2.5: Proportion of NDIS participants aged 15–64 in the labour force who are in open employment at full award wage, 2018–19 Q2 to 2023–24 Q4



Source: NDIA Business System.

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | NDIS participants in full award wage employment](#).

References

ABS (2019) 'Glossary', [Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: summary of findings methodology](#), ABS website, accessed 11 September 2023.

— (2024) 'Glossary', [Labour force, Australia methodology](#), ABS website, accessed 23 July 2024.

AIHW (2024) 'Employment participation needs and challenges', [People with disability in Australia](#), AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 23 July 2024.

DEWR (Department of Employment and Workplace Relations) (2022) [jobactive](#), DEWR website, accessed 11 September 2023.

NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme) (2024) [Employment outcomes for NDIS participants as at 31 December 2022](#), NDIS, Australian Government, accessed 23 July 2024.

— (2021) [Supports in employment](#), NDIS website, accessed 11 September 2023.

— (2024) [Participant Employment Strategy](#), NDIS website, accessed 23 July 2024.

Transition to employment

Improving the transition of young people with disability from education to employment requires preparing them for employment. This includes supporting them to access skills development and work experience which can have long-term benefits for their employment prospects and careers ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)).

VET graduate employment

Vocational Education and Training (VET) is post-compulsory education and training that provides people with occupational or work-related knowledge and skills. It includes programs that provide the basis for subsequent vocational programs ([SCRGSP 2023](#)). VET courses and qualifications are:

- Certificate I, II, III, IV
- Diploma, Advanced Diploma
- Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma ([ASQA 2021](#)).

Data for this measure are from the National Centre for Vocational Education Research's (NCVER) National Student Outcomes Survey. The annual survey includes students who completed nationally recognised VET delivered by registered training organisations (RTOs) in Australia. The 2023 survey collected data between June and August 2023 from students who completed their qualifications in 2022.

The desired key system outcome for this measure is that VET graduates with disability transition into employment on completing their training.

System measure: Proportion of VET graduates with disability who are employed on completion of training

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)

Latest results: 2023

- In 2023, 62% of domestic VET graduates with disability aged 15 and over were employed upon completion of training. This was 10 percentage points higher than at baseline (2021) (52%), indicating a positive change (Figure 2.6).
- The result for 2023 (62%) was the highest result achieved across the period 2016 to 2023. It was 3 percentage points higher than the previous highest result of 59% in 2022.

Things to consider when interpreting results

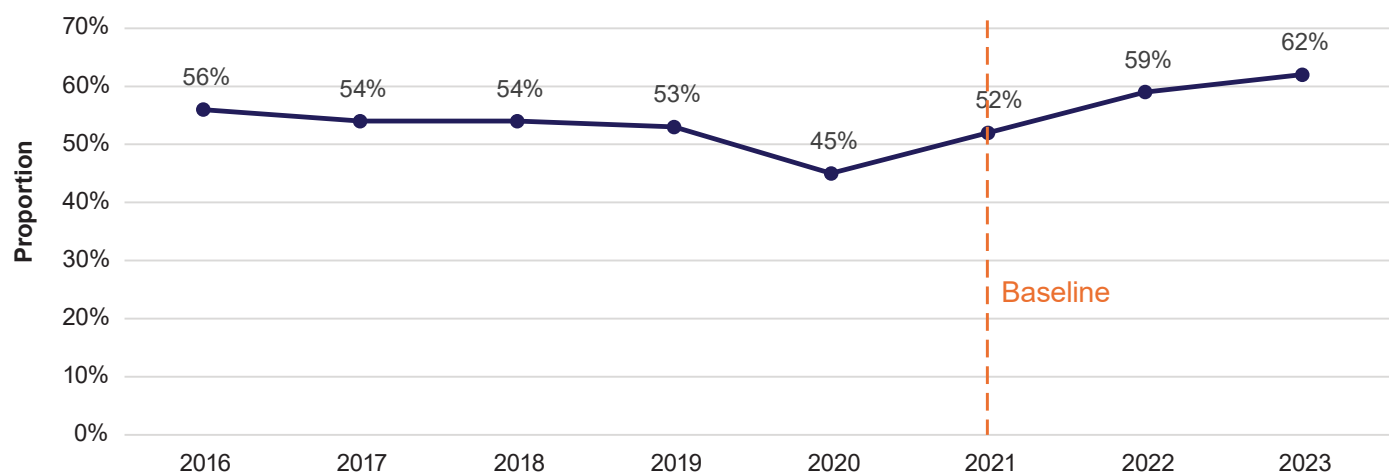
- For the purposes of this measure, VET graduates refer to 'qualification completers' – that is, students who completed a training package qualification or an accredited qualification. 'Employed on completion of training' refers to 'employed after training'. Data are restricted to domestic students.
- This measure does not consider whether students were employed before training and/or whether they are employed in the same occupation as the training course. The measure also does not capture students who went on to undertake further vocational training.

Latest results: 62.3% (2023)

Baseline: 51.6% (2021)

Progress status: Improving

Figure 2.6: Proportion of VET graduates with disability aged 15 and over who are employed on completion of training, 2016 to 2023



Source: NCVET 2022, Australian VET statistics: VET student outcomes 2022 (customised data request).

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia’s Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | VET graduate employment](#).

Young NDIS participant employment

Successful engagement of young people in the labour market and society is crucial for their own personal economic prospects and wellbeing and for overall economic growth and social cohesion (OECD 2022).

This measure focuses on young NDIS participants aged 15–24. Data are collected from the NDIS Short Form questionnaire and refer to participants aged 15–24 who answered:

- ‘Yes’ to the question ‘Are you currently working in a paid job?’

The desired key system outcome for this measure is that the NDIS supports young people leaving school to prepare for employment.

System measure: Proportion of NDIS young people (aged 15–24) in employment

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: NDIA Business System

Latest results: June 2024 (Q4 of 2023–24)

- In 2023–24 Q4, 1 in 5 (20%) NDIS young participants (aged 15–24) were in employment. This was around 3 percentage points higher than at baseline (2021–22 Q2) (18%), indicating improvement since the Strategy began (Figure 2.7).
- Since baseline, consistent quarter-to-quarter increases have been observed, with a modelled quarterly increase of 0.2 of a percentage point over the period (2021–22 Q2 to 2023–24 Q4). The result for 2023–24 Q4 was also the highest across the historical and post-baseline data.

Things to consider when interpreting results

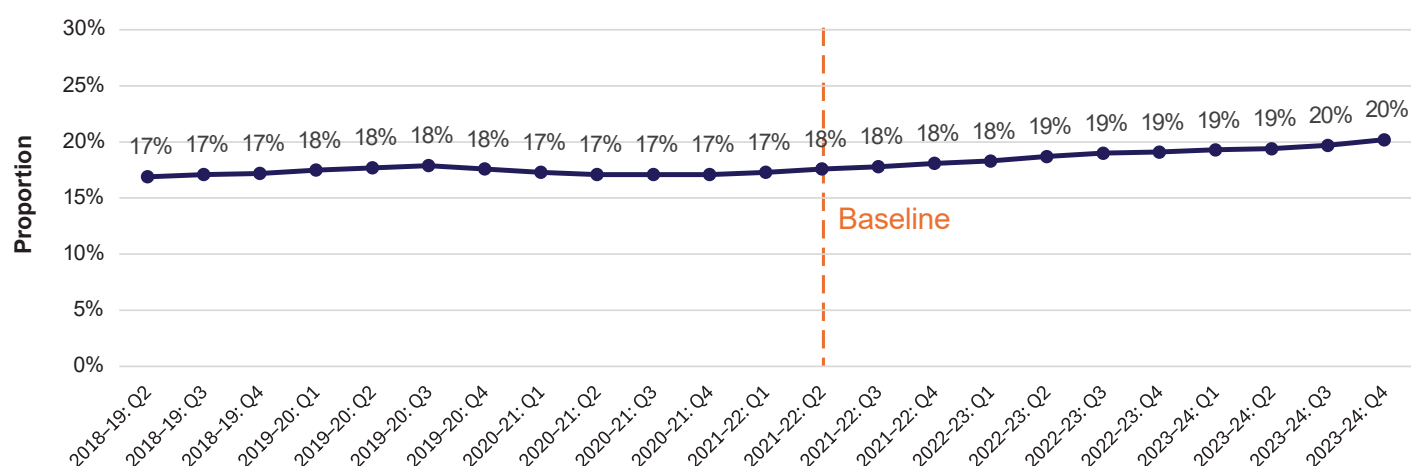
Time series analysis for the NDIS data presented here is different from the longitudinal approach taken in NDIS reporting. See [Data sources | National Disability Insurance Agency \(NDIA\)](#) for more details.

Latest results: 20.2% (2023–24 Q4)

Baseline: 17.6% (2021–22 Q2)

Progress status: Improving

Figure 2.7: Proportion of NDIS young people aged 15–24 in employment, 2018–19 Q2 to 2023–24 Q4



Source: NDIA Business Systems.

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Young NDIS participant employment](#).

Young people in employment

The desired key population outcome for this measure is to see an increase in young people with disability moving from education to employment.

Population measure: Proportion of young people (aged 15–24) with disability in the labour force who are employed

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: ABS SDAC

This measure will be replaced in the future when available data are improved. During the life of the Strategy, this measure will be replaced by 'Proportion of school leavers with disability who are not in employment, education or training 12 months later'.

Latest results: 2022

- In 2022, 4 in 5 (80%) young people with disability in the labour force were employed. This is 3.9 percentage points more than the proportion of young people with disability in the labour force in 2018 (76%) (Figure 2.8).

- As the change between the baseline and latest value is not statistically significant, the status is indicated as no change.

Things to consider when interpreting results

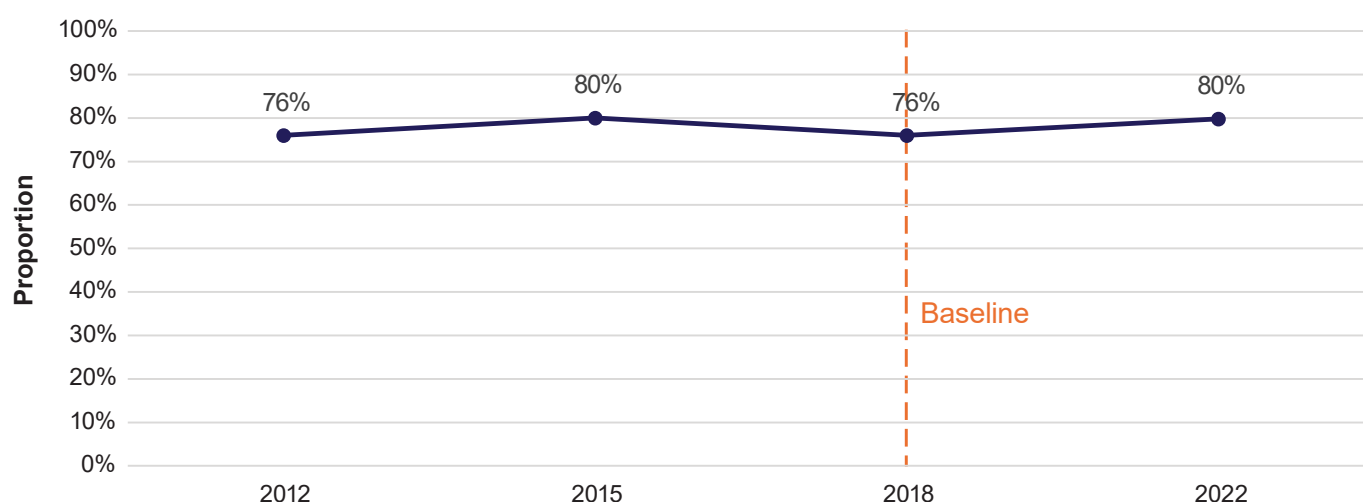
- This measure is restricted to people with disability aged 15–24 living in households who are in the labour force. People in the labour force include those who were employed during the reference week, had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week.
- Young people are more likely to experience lower employment rates compared with their prime age counterparts due to factors such as reduced experience, skills development, and educational attainment. For these reasons, young people are more likely to experience loss of employment during labour market disruptions. These labour market factors will also apply to youth with disability.
- Statistical methods are used to assist with determining confidence where there are 2 or more data points. For sampled (survey) data, sampling error is considered for determining whether the change is statistically significant, based on overlapping confidence intervals and z-tests. More information can be found in [Appendix A: Methods](#).
- Many young people with profound disability may be out of scope of this measure as they may be out of the labour force (not be seeking work, or available to start work). As a result, care should be taken when interpreting this measure.

Latest results: 79.8% (2022)

Baseline: 75.9% (2018)

Progress status: No change

Figure 2.8: Proportion of young people (aged 15–24) with disability in the labour force who are employed



Source: AIHW analysis of ABS SDAC 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2022 (detailed microdata).

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Young people in employment](#).

References

ASQA (Australian Skills Quality Authority) (2021) '[Standard 10.5 – Australian Qualifications Framework levels](#)', *Users' guide to Standards for VET Accredited Courses*, ASQA website, accessed 11 September 2023.

OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) (2022) [Youth employment and social policies](#), OECD website, accessed 11 September 2023.

SCRGSP (Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision) (2023) [Report on Government Services: 5 Vocational education and training: Key terms and references](#), Productivity Commission, Australian Government, accessed 11 September 2023.

Economic independence

Having limited employment opportunities can affect a person's finances. Strengthening the financial independence of people with disability by ensuring they have an adequate income is critical to providing them with increased financial security, economic independence and an appropriate standard of living. An adequate income can give people more choice and control over their lives, enabling their participation in community life. The income support system provides an important safety net for people with disability who are unable to work or cannot find employment ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)).

Public sector employment

An Australian Public Service (APS) workforce that better reflects the diversity of the Australian community will help produce programs, policies and services that meet the diverse needs of the community. People with disability bring lived experiences and expertise to the workplace that can make a positive difference. Employment of people with disability creates a larger talent pool, increasing creativity, productivity and morale. Overall, this benefits the agency and all employees, not just those with disability ([Australian Public Service Disability Employment Strategy 2020–2025](#)).

The Outcomes Framework is intended to track the proportion of public sector employees with disability. Public sector employees are those employed at all levels of the government: Commonwealth, state and local. Measure wording has been revised in this report to reflect available data more accurately (see [Appendix B: List of measures](#)).

Available data do not currently allow reporting in the wider public sector. The measure is reported here as:

- Proportion of Australian Public Service employees with disability.

Data for this measure are sourced from the APS Employment Database (APSED) maintained by the Australian Public Service Commission. Data are supplied to APSED from the HR systems of APS agencies.

System measure: Proportion of Australian Public Service employees with disability

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: APSED

Revised results at baseline: December 2021

- In December 2021, 5.0% of APS employees had a disability. This was 1.5 percentage points higher than in June 2011 (3.5%).
- The overall trend for the period leading up to and including baseline (June 2011 to December 2021) was upwards (Figure 2.9). Fitting a regression model to the data shows a modelled increase of 0.08 of a percentage point every 6 months, and a modelled increase of 46% over the reference period June 2011 to December 2021 (baseline).

Latest results: December 2023

- In December 2023, 5.2% of APS employees had disability. This was 0.2 percentage points more than at baseline (December 2021) (5.0%), indicating little change.
- Overall, across the historical and post-baseline data, there were consistent small increases.

Things to consider when interpreting results

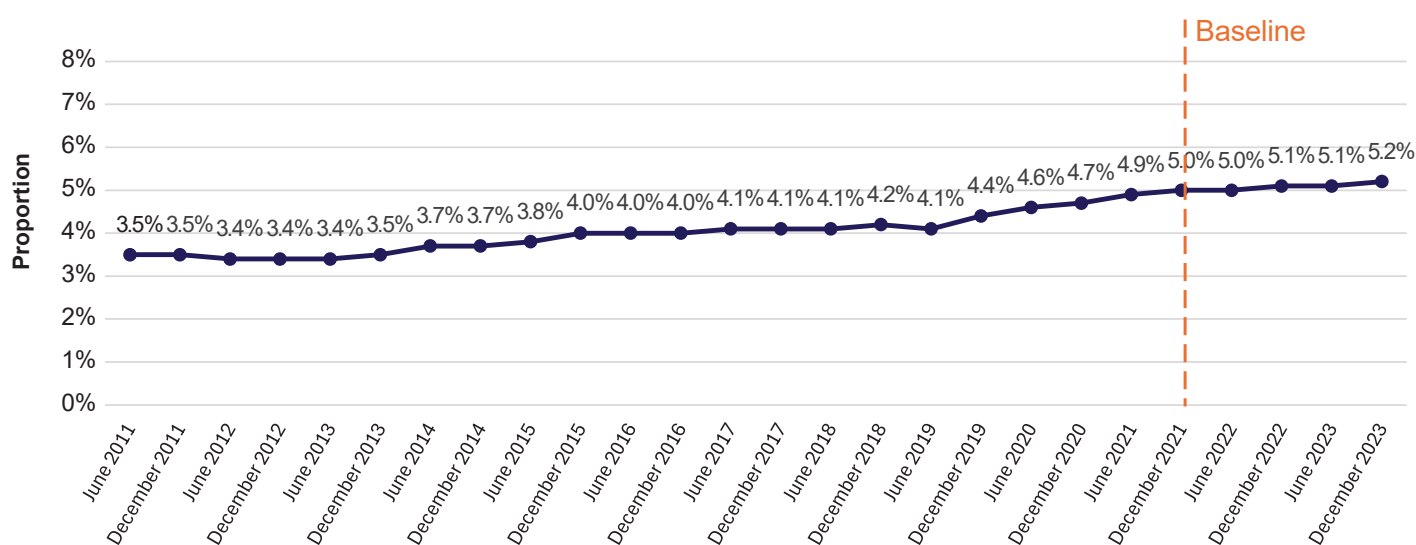
- Data on the disability status of APS employees is also included in the APS Employee Census. The 2024 APS Employee Census recorded that 12% of APS employees had disability. This is more than twice the proportion reported in the APSED data, supplied via agency human resource systems (5.2%). One factor that may be contributing to this difference is that employees may be concerned about their disability status being recorded in their agency's HR system but comfortable providing this information in a confidential survey.

Latest results: 5.2% (December 2023)

Baseline: 5.0% (December 2021)

Progress status: No change

Figure 2.9: Proportion of Australian Public Service employees with disability, June 2011 to December 2023



Source: Australian Public Service Employment Database (APSED)

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Public sector employment](#).

Median gross income gap

Looking at a person's income level can provide insight into potential inequality in standard of living ([AIHW 2024](#)). This measure reports the difference in the median weekly gross income between people with disability and people without disability who are of working age (15–64 years) ([ABS 2019](#)).

The desired population outcome for this measure is to see an increase in people with disability experiencing economic independence.

Population measure: Gap in median gross income for a person with disability aged 15–64 years compared with people without disability

Desired outcome: Reduction in the median income gap

Data source: ABS SDAC

Revised results at baseline: 2018

- People with disability had a median gross income of \$458 per week in 2018, compared with \$901 per week for people without disability. This was a median income gap of \$443 per week.
- This was an increase of \$74 from 2015, where the median income gap was \$369 per week (Figure 2.10).

Latest results: 2022

- People with disability had a median gross income of \$575 per week, compared with \$1,055 per week for people without disability. This is a median income gap of \$480 per week in 2022, which was \$37 per week less than in 2018 at \$443 per week.
- As the change between the baseline and latest value is not statistically significant, the status is indicated as no change.

Things to consider when interpreting results

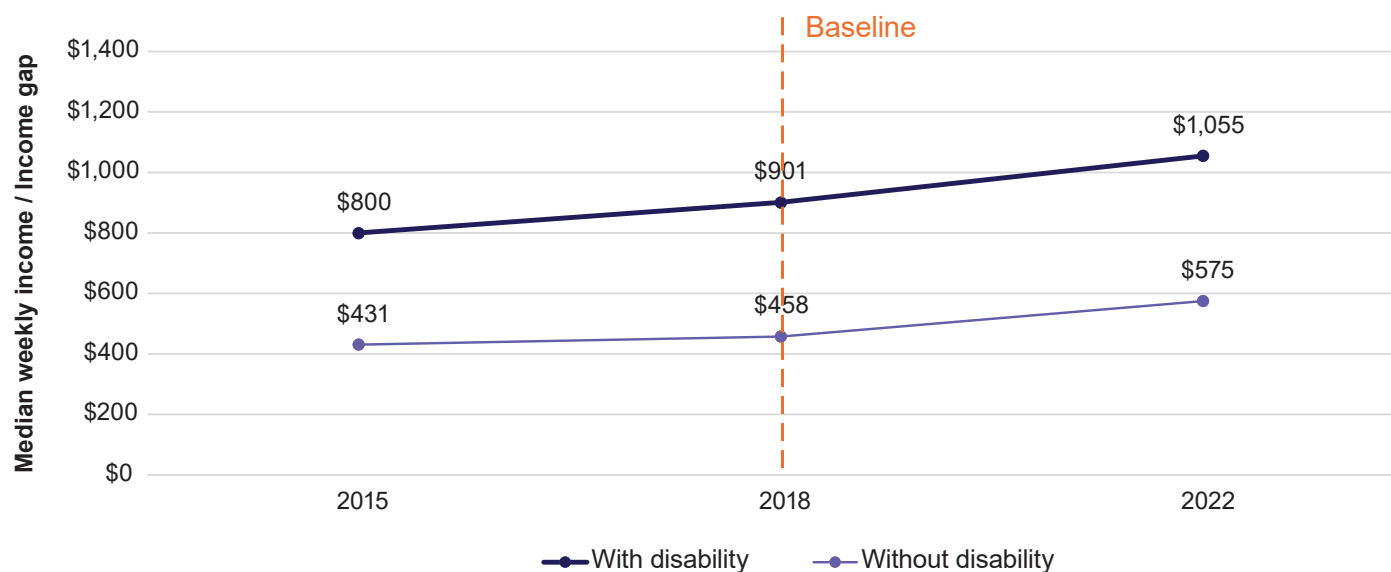
- The ABS method for calculating median income has changed between 2018 and 2022 iterations and is now consistent with the method used in other ABS household surveys. People with nil income are now included in the calculation. Data for 2015 and 2018 have been re-calculated for consistency.
- Statistical methods are used to assist with determining confidence where there are 2 or more data points. For sampled (survey) data, sampling error is considered for determining whether the change is statistically significant, based on overlapping confidence intervals and z-tests. More information can be found in [Appendix A: Methods](#).

Latest results: \$480 per week (2022)

Baseline: \$443 per week (2018)

Progress status: No change

Figure 2.10: Gap in median gross income for people with disability aged 15–64 years compared with people without disability



Source: AIHW analysis of ABS SDAC 2015, 2018 and 2022 (detailed microdata).

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Median gross income gap](#).

References

ABS (2019) 'Glossary', [Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings methodology](#), ABS website, accessed 3 November 2023.

AIHW (2024) 'Income', [People with disability in Australia](#), AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 23 July 2024.

Future measures

The employment and financial security measures listed in Table 2.2 will undergo future data development and will be included in future reports as data become available, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | About future data development](#).

Table 2.2: Employment and financial security measures requiring further development

Policy priority	Measure
Economic participation	Proportion of NDIS participants with an employment goal in receipt of employment income in the last 12 months ^(a) (system measure)
Transition to employment	Proportion of school leavers with disability who are not in employment, education or training 12 months later ^(b) (population measure)

(a) In the future, this measure will replace 'Proportion of NDIS participants who get the support they need to do their job'.

(b) In the future, this measure will replace 'Proportion of young people (aged 15–24) with disability in the labour force who are employed'.



Inclusive homes and communities

3

3. Inclusive homes and communities

Outcome

People with disability live in inclusive, accessible and well-designed homes and communities

Why is this outcome area important?

Affordable, appropriate, and secure housing in an accessible, inclusive community is central to how people with disability live, work and socialise ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)). Ensuring that public buildings, facilities, and transport are accessible to people with disability is crucial to an inclusive society. Access to online services and technology further support the inclusion of people with disability.

Housing provides people with disability shelter, safety and security, allowing them to participate in the social, economic and community aspects of everyday life ([AIHW 2024a](#)). In 2022–23, around 7,600 specialist homelessness services clients with disability sought assistance due to problems with accommodation ([AIHW 2024b](#)). The ABS' ([2024](#)) SDAC found 26% of people with disability had difficulty accessing buildings or facilities in the last 12 months and 63% of people 15 years and over with disability experienced barriers to participating in social and community activities in the last 3 months.

What are the policy priorities?

1. **Housing affordability/stress:** Improving access to affordable housing for people with disability.
2. **Housing accessibility:** Making sure people with disability can live in homes that meet their needs.
3. **Social inclusion and participation:** Supporting the inclusion of people with disability in their communities.
4. **The built and natural environment accessibility:** Making sure the buildings and facilities people with disability visit are accessible.
5. **Transport system accessibility:** Making sure people with disability can access the public transport they need.
6. **Information and communication systems accessibility:** Supporting people with disability to be able to find and use information they need.

Measures

For the 6 policy priorities under this outcome area, data are available for 3 system measures and 6 population measures (Table 3.1). Three measures have updated post-baseline data for the first time since the second annual report.

There are 7 measures with updated post-baseline data. Of these:

- 2 showed improving
- one showed no change
- 4 showed regress.

For future measures requiring development, see [Future measures](#).

Table 3.1: Inclusive homes and communities reference guide

Policy priority	Measure	Baseline time point	Baseline value	Latest time point	Latest value	Change since baseline ^(f)	Progress status
Housing affordability and stress	Average time waited for newly allocated households with a member with disability in public housing or SOMIH [‡] (system measure)	2020–21	413 days <i>public housing</i> 389 days <i>SOMIH</i>	2021–22	562 days <i>public housing</i> 416 days <i>SOMIH</i>	149 days <i>public housing</i> 27 days <i>SOMIH</i>	Regress Regress
Housing affordability and stress	Proportion of households with at least one person with disability in lowest 40% income whose housing costs exceed 30% of household income (system measure)	2019–20	17.7%	2019–20	17.7%	n.a.	Not known yet
Housing accessibility	Proportion of social housing dwellings that meet Liveable Housing Design silver accessibility standards ^(a) (system measure)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Housing accessibility	Proportion of NDIS participants who are happy with current home ^(b) (population measure)	2021–22 Q2	73.4%	2022–23 Q4	72.8%	-0.6 pp	Regress
Social inclusion and participation	Proportion of NDIS participants who spend free time doing activities that interest them ^(c) (system measure)	2021–22 Q2	65.5%	2022–23 Q4	64.3%	-1.2 pp	Regress
Social inclusion and participation	Proportion of people with disability who participated in community or social activities in the past 12 months [‡] (population measure)	2018	95.1%	2018	95.1%	n.a.	Not known yet
The built and natural environment accessibility	Proportion of people with disability who have difficulty accessing government buildings (system measure)	2018	8.1%	2018	8.1%	n.a.	Not known yet
The built and natural environment accessibility	Proportion of people with disability who had no difficulty accessing buildings or facilities in the last 12 months (population measure)	2018	69.1%	2018	69.1%	n.a.	Not known yet

Policy priority	Measure	Baseline time point	Baseline value	Latest time point	Latest value	Change since baseline ^(f)	Progress status
Transport system accessibility	Proportion of people with disability who can use all forms of public transport with no difficulty ^(d) (population measure)	2018	66.3%	2018	66.3%	n.a.	Not known yet
Information and communication systems accessibility	Difference in digital inclusion between people with disability and the Australian population ^{‡(e)} (population measure)	2021	9.1 points	2022	11.7 points	2.6 points	Regress

‡ Measure wording has been revised to reflect available data more accurately or clarify the measure's intent. See relevant measure section below for more information. (See [Appendix B: List of measures](#)).

n.a. – not available; pp – percentage points; SOMIH – state owned and managed Indigenous housing.

- (a) Data for this measure are being developed.
- (b) This measure will be replaced in the future by 'Proportion of people with disability whose home is suitable and accessible'.
- (c) This measure will be replaced in the future by 'Number of community, political, social, recreational, sporting, religious and cultural groups that have active inclusion policies for people with disability'. This replacement measure will be reassessed as part of a major evaluation in 2025.
- (d) This measure will be replaced in the future by 'Proportion of people with disability who can access public or private transport when needed'.
- (e) This measure will be replaced in the future by 'Proportion of people with disability reporting the internet sites and apps they want to use are accessible'.
- (f) n.a. indicates that there has not been an additional data point post-baseline to enable an assessment of progress.

References

- ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) (2024) [Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings](#), ABS website, accessed 12 July 2024.
- AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) (2024a) 'Housing', [People with Disability in Australia](#), AIHW, Australian Government, viewed 12 July 2024.
- AIHW (2024b) 'Clients with disability', [Specialist homelessness services annual report 2022–23](#), AIHW, Australian Government, viewed 12 July 2024.

Housing affordability and housing stress

Living in housing that is affordable, safe and with long-term security is important to provide a sense of home and to be able to participate in the community ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)). People living with disability often struggle to find affordable housing, and are vulnerable to housing or rental stress and homelessness ([Anglicare Australia 2022](#)). They may also struggle to find accommodation that is appropriate to their needs.

Average time waited for social housing allocation

Social housing is a form of housing assistance in Australia that aims to assist in these circumstances. Social housing programs are rental housing owned or managed by the government, such as public housing or state owned and managed Indigenous housing (SOMIH), or by a community organisation (community housing, or Indigenous community housing) ([AIHW 2024b](#)).

Each state, territory or organisation that provides social housing determines its own priorities for allocating its stock according to need. Priorities typically fall across 'special needs' and 'greatest need' categories. Social housing households that include people with disability or other key demographics are considered as special needs households. These households may also be regarded as being in greatest need if it is experiencing or is at risk of homelessness, meaning existing accommodation:

- poses a threat to life or safety,
- exacerbates a health condition,
- is inappropriate to needs, or
- has very high rental costs.

Households in greatest need are generally prioritised for allocation by social housing, however, other factors are also considered during allocation processes (see [AIHW 2024b](#)).

The Outcomes Framework intended to track the average time waited for all social housing for people with disability. Measure wording has been revised in this report to reflect available data more accurately (see [Appendix B: List of measures](#)).

Time waited data are currently available for public housing and SOMIH, but not available for households allocated community housing or Indigenous community housing. The measure is reported here as:

- Average time waited for newly allocated households with a member with disability in public housing or SOMIH.

The desired key system outcome for this measure is that social housing supports people with disability to live in secure housing.

System measure: Average time waited for newly allocated households with a member with disability in public housing or SOMIH

Desired outcome: Decrease in the average wait time

Data source: National Housing Assistance Data Repository (NHADR)

Latest results: 2022–23

Public housing

- In 2022–23, the average time waited for public housing by newly allocated households (with a member with disability) was 637 days – 224 more days than in 2020–21 (413 days) indicating regress since the Strategy began (Figure 3.1).
- While the change between 2020–21 and 2021–22 was larger than earlier changes observed in the historical data, the average time waited was lower than previous highs seen in 2014–15 (682 days) and 2017–18 (587 days).

SOMIH

- In 2022–23, the average time waited for SOMIH by newly allocated households (with a member with disability) was 406 days – 17 more days than in 2020–21 (389 days) indicating regress since the Strategy began (Figure 3.1).
- The change between 2020–21 and 2021–22 (17 days) was lower than the change between 2019–20 and 2020–21 (28 days), and is the lowest change observed in the data.

Things to consider when interpreting results

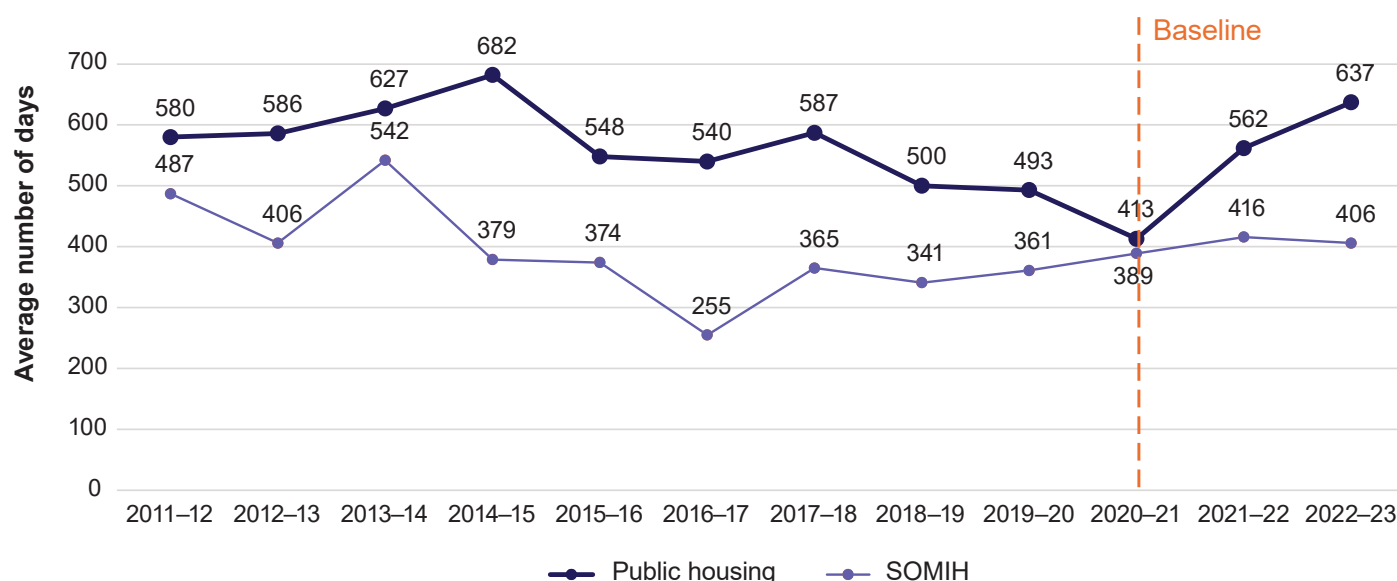
- The total number of newly allocated households in social housing increased between 2020–21 and 2022–23 for public housing (15,144 and 16,446 respectively) but decreased for SOMIH (993 and 702 respectively).
- The proportion of newly allocated households (with a member with disability) in public housing decreased slightly from 2020–21 (36%) to 2022–23 (34%).
- There was very little difference in the proportion of newly allocated households (with a member with disability) in SOMIH for 2020–21 (13%) and 2022–23 (14%).
- The average time waited can be influenced by the size of the dwelling required, as well as by the amenities or modifications needed to accommodate a person's disability.

Latest results: Public housing: 637 days, SOMIH: 406 days (2022–23)

Baseline: Public housing: 413 days, SOMIH: 389 days (2020–21)

Progress status: Regress

Figure 3.1: Average time waited (days) for newly allocated households with a member with disability in public housing and SOMIH, 2011–12 to 2022–23



Source: AIHW NHADR.

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Average time waited for social housing](#).

Lower income housing stress

Housing affordability can be examined by looking at whether the housing costs of a household will likely affect their ability to afford other living costs, such as food, clothing, transport and utilities. A common threshold applied is the proportion of households spending more than 30% of their income on housing costs. Those households whose equivalised disposable household income falls in the bottom 40% of Australia's income distribution, excluding the bottom 2%, are referred to as lower income households ([ABS 2022](#)). Lower income households that spend more than 30% of gross household income on housing costs are considered to be in financial housing stress ([AIHW 2024a](#)).

Ensuring access to affordable, accessible housing is essential for reducing housing stress and empowering people with disability to live independently and participate fully in their communities.

The desired population outcome of this measure is to see a reduction in people with disability in housing stress.

The updated data for this measure (2019–20) represents the baseline data and replaces the pre-baseline data included in the first annual report. Data for 2023–24 is expected to be available in 2025 and will be included in the 2026 annual report.

Population measure: Proportion of households with at least one person with disability in lowest 40% income whose housing costs exceed 30% of household income

Desired outcome: Decrease in the proportion

Data source: ABS Survey of Income and Housing (SIH)

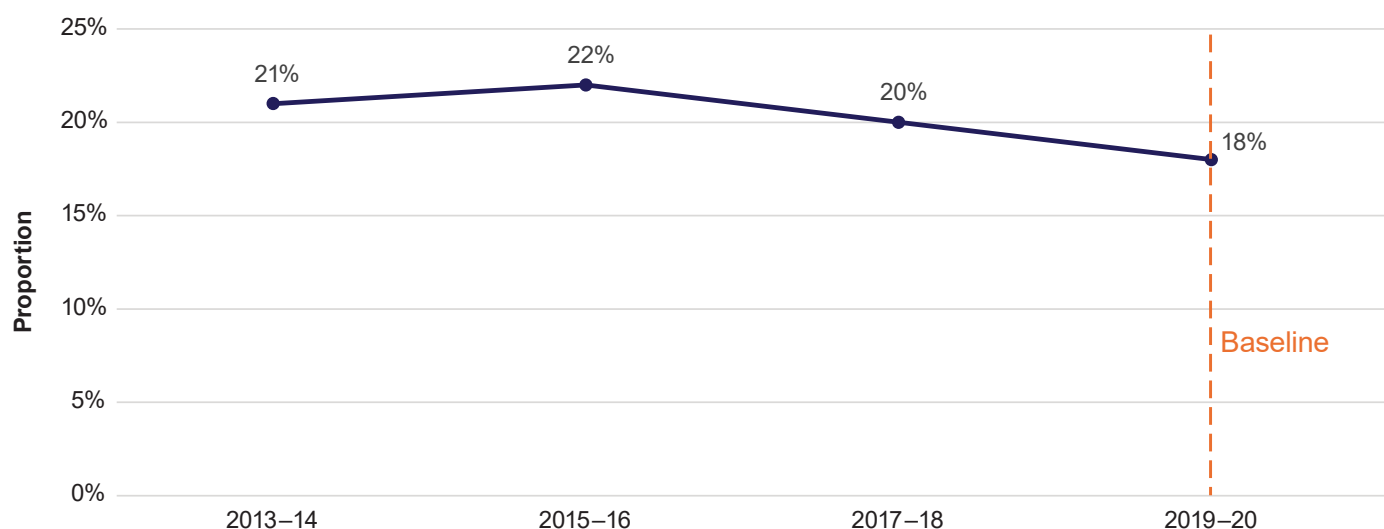
Latest results: 2019–20 (Baseline)

- In 2019–20, 18% of households with at least one person with disability in the lowest 40% income distribution had housing costs that exceeded 30% of household income.
- The proportion of households experiencing housing cost stress was highest in 2015–16 (22%) and lowest in 2019–20 (18%) across the 4 time periods for which data are reported.

Things to consider when interpreting results

- Households are defined as households with disability if they include at least one member aged 15 and over with disability. These data do not include households with one or more members with disability aged 14 and under.
- The 2019–20 SIH was carried out from July 2019 to June 2020. During this time, Australians were impacted by bushfires and COVID-19. The data collection design for this survey was optimised to meet operational objectives. As a result, the sample design and collection of 2019–20 SIH does not accurately reflect the household impacts of the bushfires nor COVID-19.

Figure 3.2: Proportion of lower income households with disability experiencing housing stress, 2013–14 to 2019–20



Source: AIHW analysis of ABS SIH 2013–14, 2015–16, 2017–18 and 2019–20 (detailed microdata).

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Lower income housing stress](#).

References

ABS (2022) 'Housing affordability', [Survey of Income and Housing](#), ABS website, accessed 5 September 2023.

AIHW (2024a) [Housing affordability](#), AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 25 July 2024.

— (2024b) 'Housing assistance', [Housing assistance in Australia 2024](#), AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 25 July 2024.

Anglicare Australia (2022) [Homes for all: A Roadmap to Affordable Housing](#), Anglicare Australia, accessed 25 October 2023.

Housing accessibility

Accessible and well-designed housing supports independence and social and economic participation. Increasing the availability of accessible housing provides choices on one's living situation, enabling people with disability to visit, socialise and connect with neighbours, family and friends ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)).

NDIS participants housing satisfaction

Housing plays a key role in the health and wellbeing of people with disability by providing shelter, safety and security. People with disability may have specific housing-related needs. These can include the need to modify their dwelling, move to more suitable accommodation, or move closer to other services ([AIHW 2024](#)). Stable housing contributes to the health of NDIS participants and their engagement in the community ([NDIS 2022](#)). The NDIS aims to give participants more choice and control over where they live, who they live with and how they are supported in their home ([NDIS 2023](#)).

Data for this measure are collected as part of the NDIS Short Form questionnaire. Data include NDIS participants who answered 'Yes' to the question 'Thinking about where you currently live in relation to your disability support needs: Are you happy with the home you live in?'

The desired population outcome for this measure is to see an increase in people with disability who live in a suitable and accessible home.

Population measure: Proportion of NDIS participants who are happy with current home

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: NDIA – Business Systems

This measure will be replaced in the future when available data are improved. During the life of the Strategy, this measure will be replaced by 'Proportion of people with disability whose home is suitable and accessible'.

Latest results: June 2024 (Q4 of 2023–24)

- In 2023–24 Q4, more than 7 in 10 (72.7%) NDIS participants aged 15–64 responded that they were happy with their current home. Based on values rounded to one decimal place, there has been a small decrease of 0.7 of a percentage point since baseline (73.4% in 2021–22 Q2) (Figure 3.3).

- Fitting a regression model to the data post-baseline, shows a modelled decrease of 0.1 of a percentage point per quarter and a modelled -0.9% change since the start of the Strategy.

Things to consider when interpreting results

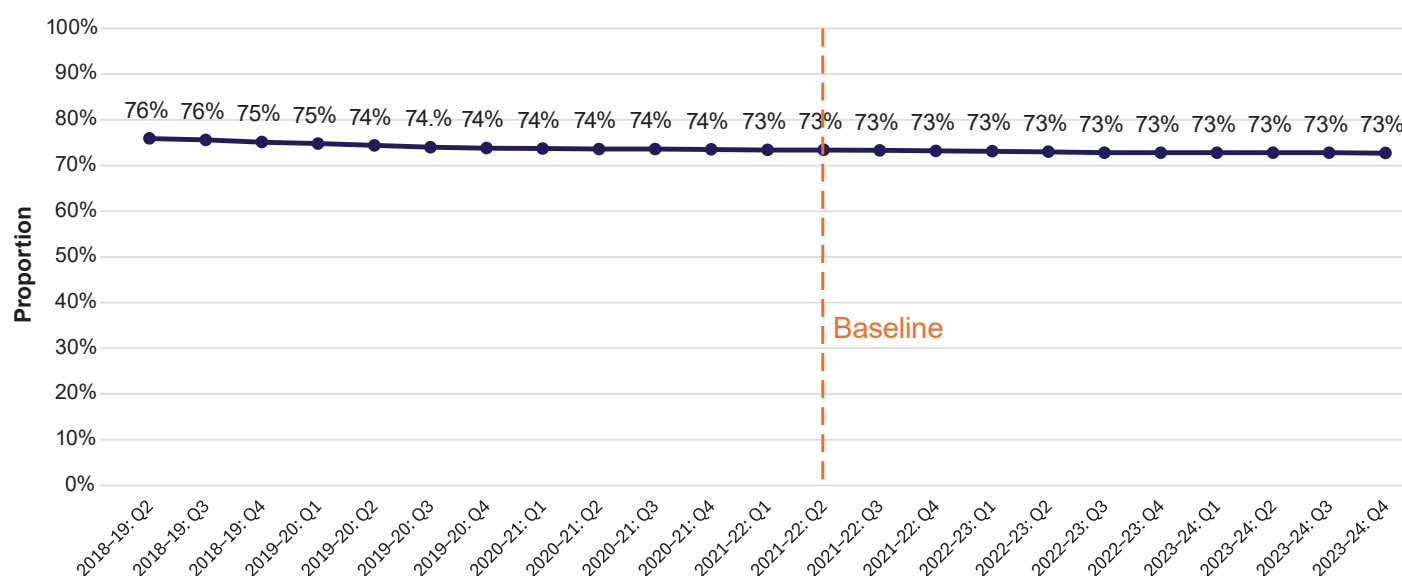
- The reported data capture satisfaction with current housing for NDIS participants; however, they do not capture what the housing issues are for those participants who are not satisfied.
- Time series analysis for the NDIS data presented here is different from the longitudinal approach taken in NDIS reporting. See [Data sources | National Disability Insurance Agency \(NDIA\)](#) for more details.
- Households are defined as households with disability if they include at least one member aged 15–64 with disability. This data does not include households with one or more members with disability aged 14 and under.

Latest results: 72.7% (2023–24 Q4)

Baseline: 73.4% (2021–22 Q2)

Progress status: Regress

Figure 3.3: Proportion of NDIS participants aged 15–64 who are happy with their current home, 2018–19 Q2 to 2023–24 Q4



Source: NDIA Business Systems.

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | NDIS participants housing satisfaction](#).

References

AIHW (2024) 'Housing', [People with disability in Australia](#), AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 25 July 2024.

NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme) (2022) [‘Getting out into the world’: pathways to community participation and connectedness for NDIS participants with intellectual disability, on the autism spectrum and/or with psychosocial disability](#) [summary report], NDIS, Australian Government, accessed 5 September 2023.

— (2023) [‘Having a go’: Exploring the use of supports to make individualised living a reality](#) [summary report], NDIS, Australian Government, accessed 5 September 2023.

Social inclusion and participation

People with disability should be supported to live more connected lives within their communities. This includes being able to fully participate in social, recreational, sporting, religious and cultural life. Ensuring accessibility in relation to physical and sensory needs as well as easily accessible information about community services, events and facilities helps to create an inclusive community ([Australia’s Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)).

NDIS participants pursuing interests

Recreational activities are an important part of life for many people, enjoyed independently or with support from friends, family and the community. Such activities can support people with disability to achieve independence, and social and economic participation ([NDIS 2022](#)).

Data for this measure are collected as part of the NDIS Short Form questionnaire. Data include NDIS participants who answered ‘Yes’ to the question ‘Do you spend your free time doing activities that interest you?’.

The desired key system outcome for this measure is that community organisations are accessible to people with disability.

System measure: Proportion of NDIS participants who spend free time doing activities that interest them

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: NDIA – Business Systems

This measure will be replaced in the future when available data are improved. During the life of the Strategy, this measure will be replaced by ‘Number of community, political, social, recreational, sporting, religious and cultural groups that have active inclusion policies for people with disability’.

Latest results: June 2024 (Q4 of 2023–24)

- In 2023–24 Q4, nearly two-thirds (65.3%) of NDIS participants aged 15–64 reported that they spend their free time doing activities that interest them. This was a decrease of 0.2 percentage points since baseline (65.5% in 2021–22 Q2) (Figure 3.4).
- Fitting a regression model to the data post-baseline, shows a modelled decrease of 0.1 of a percentage point per quarter and a modelled -1.3% change since the start of the Strategy.

Things to consider when interpreting results

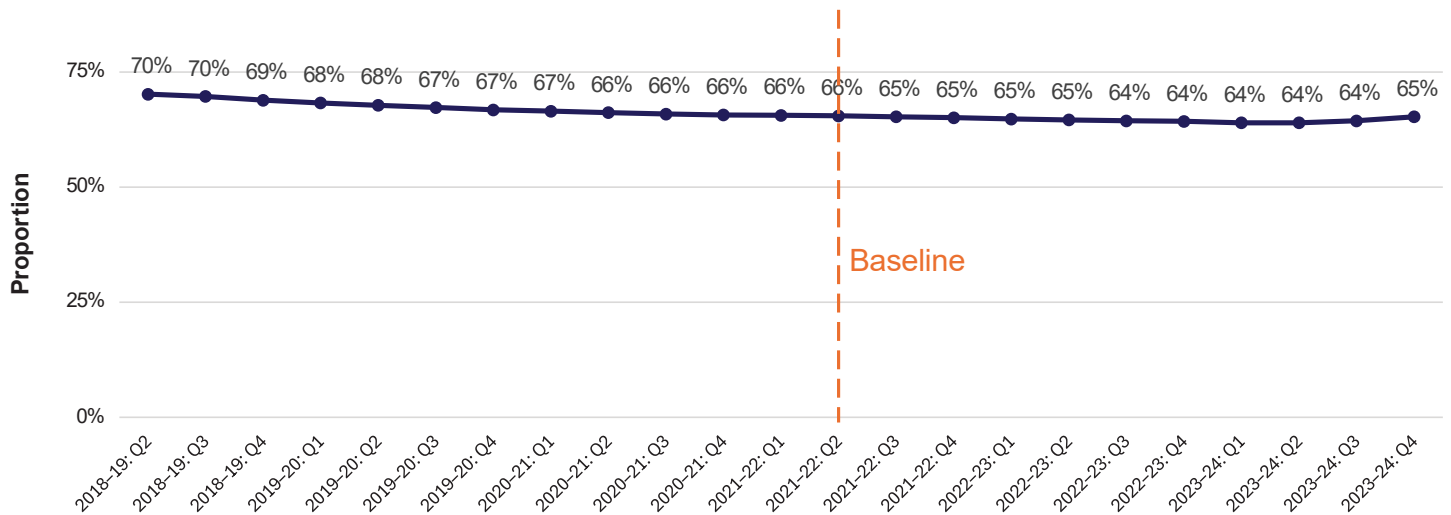
- Time series analysis for the NDIS data presented here is different from the longitudinal approach taken in NDIS reporting. See [Data sources | National Disability Insurance Agency \(NDIA\)](#) for more details.

Latest results: 65.3% (2023–24 Q4)

Baseline: 65.5% (2021–22 Q2)

Progress status: No change

Figure 3.4: Proportion of NDIS participants aged 15–64 who spend free time doing activities that interest them, 2018–19 Q2 to 2023–24 Q4



Source: NDIA Business Systems.

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | NDIS participants pursuing interests](#).

Social participation

Participation in society is essential for better health and wellbeing outcomes, as social isolation and loneliness can be harmful to both mental and physical health ([AIHW 2024](#)).

People with disability may face various barriers to participation in society, including discrimination. This may lead to lower social participation rates, as well as greater risk of isolation and loneliness than experienced by those without disability ([AIHW 2024](#)).

This measure is intended to track the proportion of people with disability who have been actively involved in community, cultural or religious groups in the past 12 months or taken part in an activity they organised. Due to the nature of the available data, the measure is reported here as:

- Proportion of people with disability who participated in community or social activities in the past 12 months.

For the purposes of this measure, community or social activities include cultural, sport or social activities.

The desired population outcome for this measure is to see increased social inclusion and participation for people with disability.

Population measure: Proportion of people with disability who participated in community or social activities in the past 12 months

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: ABS SDAC

As of the 2022 SDAC, data for this measure were not collected. Alternative sources of data are now being explored. For a breakdown of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Social participation](#).

References

AIHW (2024) 'Social inclusion', [People with disability in Australia](#), AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 25 July 2024.

NDIS (2022) [What do we mean by social and recreational support?](#), NDIS website, Australian Government, accessed 5 September 2023.

Built and natural environment accessibility

People with disability have the right to access public places and to have the same opportunities as others to participate in community life. To achieve this, the services and facilities provided to the community need to accommodate the access requirements of people with disability ([Government of Western Australia 2024](#)).

The physical environment can present a barrier to how some people with disability participate in community life. Public spaces, buildings and facilities may have obstacles that make moving around the community and participating in everyday activities difficult ([AIHW 2024](#)).

Improving accessibility to the built and natural environment enables everyone, regardless of age or ability, to use buildings, transport, parks and playgrounds without the need for specialised or adapted features ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)).

Access to government buildings

To ensure that people with disability have the same opportunities as the wider population to access necessary services, government buildings need to be accessible for people with all forms of disability ([Government of Western Australia 2024](#)).

The desired key system outcome for this measure is that buildings are accessible.

System measure: Proportion of people with disability who have difficulty accessing government buildings

Desired outcome: Decrease in the proportion

Data source: ABS SDAC

Latest results: 2022

- 5.2% of people with disability had difficulty accessing government buildings in 2022. This was 3.0 percentage points lower than the proportion of people who had difficulty accessing government buildings in 2018 (8.1%), indicating an improvement since the start of the Strategy (Figure 3.5).

Things to consider when interpreting results

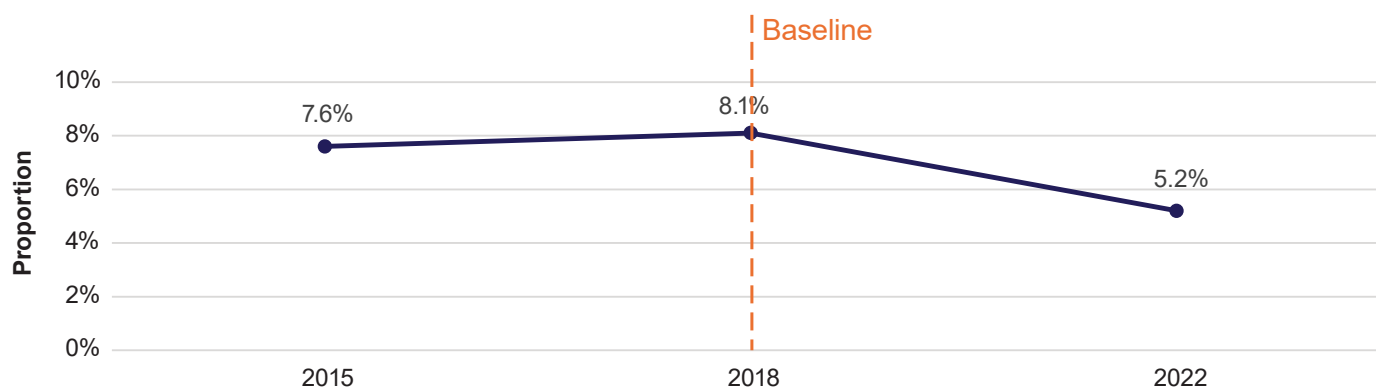
- Data for this measure are restricted to people with disability who need assistance or have difficulty with communication or mobility because of disability.

Latest results: 5.2% (2022)

Baseline: 8.1% (2018)

Progress status: Improving

Figure 3.5: Proportion of people with disability who had difficulty accessing government buildings in the past 12 months



Source: AIHW analysis of ABS SDAC 2015, 2018 and 2022 (detailed microdata).

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Access to government buildings](#).

Accessing buildings and facilities

Buildings and outdoor spaces that are not accessible exclude people with disability from participating in work, education, and social and cultural life ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)). Feeling excluded from everyday activities – such as going to school or work, attending events, or seeking medical help – increases the risk that people with disability will experience social isolation, which can affect their overall health and wellbeing ([AIHW 2022](#)).

The desired population outcome for this measure is to see an increase in people with disability being able to access locations.

Population measure: Proportion of people with disability who had no difficulty accessing buildings or facilities in the last 12 months

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: ABS SDAC

Latest results: 2022

- In 2022, about 3 in 4 (74%) people with disability had no difficulty accessing buildings or facilities in the last 12 months.
- This was 4.6 percentage points higher than the proportion of people with disability who had no difficulty accessing buildings or facilities in 2018 (69%), indicating an improvement since the start of the Strategy (Figure 3.6).

Things to consider when interpreting results

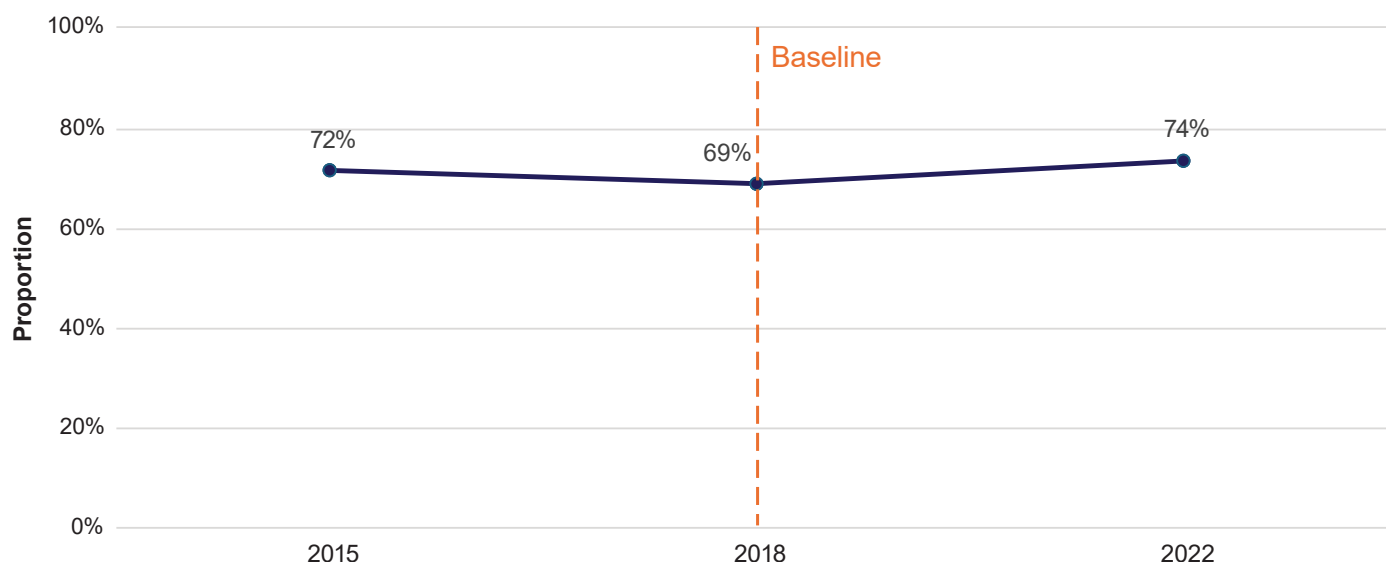
- Data for this measure are restricted to people with disability who need assistance or have difficulty with communication or mobility because of disability.

Latest results: 73.7% (2022)

Baseline: 69.1% (2018)

Progress status: Improving

Figure 3.6: Proportion of people with disability who had no difficulty accessing buildings or facilities in the past 12 months



Source: AIHW analysis of ABS SDAC 2015, 2018 and 2022 (detailed microdata).

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Accessing buildings and facilities](#).

References

AIHW (2024) 'Disability discrimination', [People with disability in Australia](#), AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 25 July 2024.

Government of Western Australia (2024) [A Western Australia for Everyone: State Disability Strategy 2020–2030](#), Government of Western Australia, accessed 25 July 2024.

Transport system accessibility

Being able to use public, private and community transport to move around the community underpins all aspects of life. Accessibility of transport systems includes the transport itself, its entry points, getting to and from the transport, and information to support the journey (for example, wayfinding and signage, hearing loops and alerting devices). People with disability should also have equal access to emerging technology and transport options (for example, rideshare) ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)).

Public transport usability

Mobility limitations and difficulties using public or private transport can make it difficult for people with disability to get to the places they need to go. Accessible transport options, mobility aids and assistance are important to ensure that people with disability can participate in society equally and independently ([AIHW 2024](#)).

Barriers to accessing public transport include inaccessible travel information, lack of hearing assistance, inadequate disability car parking, inaccessible stops and stations, as well as discriminatory or abusive behaviour by staff or members of the public ([Disability Resources Centre 2018](#)).

The desired population outcome for this measure is that more people with disability can access transport in their community.

Population measure: Proportion of people with disability who can use all forms of public transport with no difficulty

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: ABS SDAC

This measure will be replaced in the future when available data are improved. During the life of the Strategy, this measure will be replaced by 'Proportion of people with disability who can access public or private transport when needed'.

Latest results: 2022

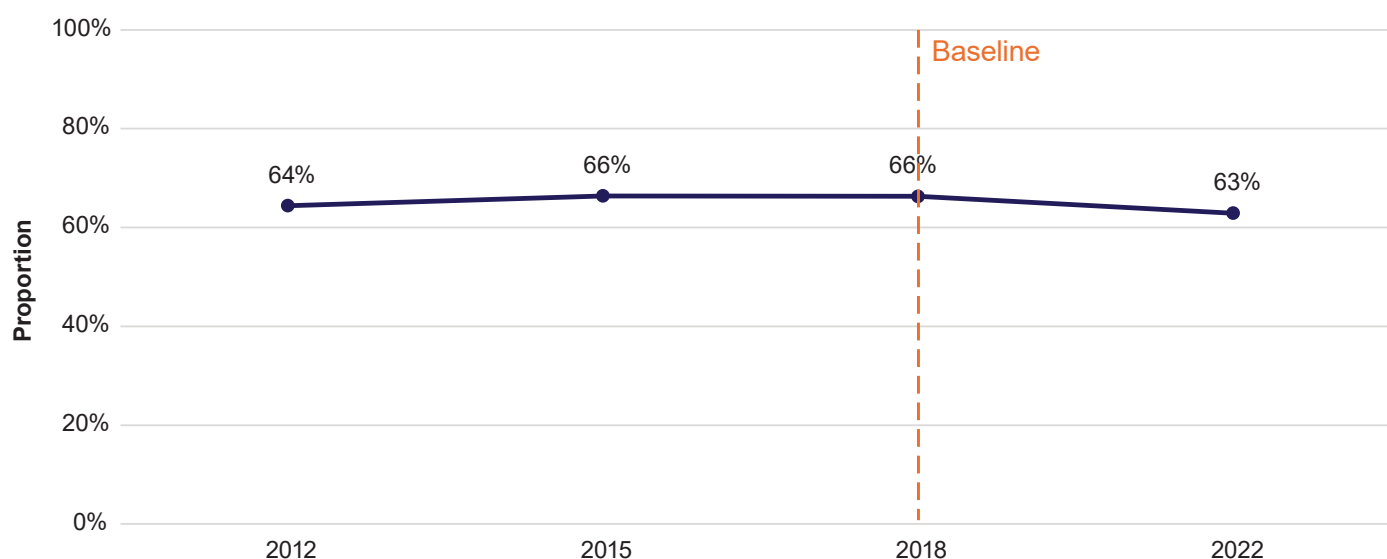
- In 2022, 63% of people with disability could use all forms of public transport with no difficulty. This was 3.4 percentage points lower than the proportion of people with disability in 2018 who could use all forms of public transport with no difficulty (66%), indicating a regress (Figure 3.7).

Latest results: 62.9% (2022)

Baseline: 66.3% (2018)

Progress status: Regress

Figure 3.7: Proportion of people with disability who can use all forms of public transport with no difficulty in the past 12 months



Source: AIHW analysis of ABS SDAC 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2022 (detailed microdata).

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Public transport usability](#).

References

AIHW (2024) 'Activities people need help with', [People with disability in Australia](#), AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 25 July 2024.

Disability Resources Centre (2018) [Transport for all](#), Disability Resources Centre, accessed 5 September 2023.

Information and communication systems accessibility

Increasingly, digital technology is becoming a key means to participating in all elements of daily life, in personal networks, in employment and education and in community life. It needs to be accessible to everyone. Access to digital technology can have a positive impact on the health of, and opportunities for, people with disability ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)).

Digital inclusion

The premise of digital inclusion is that everyone should have the opportunity to be able to fully utilise digital technologies and the benefits they bring across many aspects of economic and social life ([Thomas et al. 2023](#)).

Data for this measure are sourced from the Australian Digital Inclusion Index (ADII) which uses data from the Australian Internet Usage Survey. The ADII measures digital inclusion across the 3 dimensions of Access, Affordability, and Digital Ability. Individual Index dimensions are equally weighted in the construction of the total Index to derive an overall score from 0–100 ([Thomas et al. 2023](#)). See [Things to consider when interpreting results](#) for information on Index threshold scores from highly excluded through to highly included.

The Outcomes Framework intended to track the percentage difference in digital inclusion between people with disability and the Australian population. Measure wording has been revised to clarify the intent (see [Appendix B: List of measures](#)). The measure is reported here as:

- Difference in digital inclusion between people with disability and the Australian population.

The desired population outcome for this measure is an increase in people with disability being able to access communication and information networks.

Population measure: Difference in digital inclusion between people with disability and the Australian population

Desired outcome: Reduction in score difference

Data source: ADII

This measure will be replaced in the future when available data are improved. During the life of the Strategy, this measure will be replaced by 'Proportion of people with disability reporting the internet sites and apps they want to use are accessible'.

Latest results: 2022

- In 2022, the digital inclusion gap between people with disability and the total population was 12 points. This is a 3-point increase in the gap since 2021 indicating that the measure has not improved since the start of the Strategy. However, the gap in 2022 remains slightly narrower than 2020 where it was 13 points.
- For people with disability the ADII score initially increased from 55 in 2020, to 62 at baseline in 2021, and subsequently decreased to 61 in 2022. Both the 2021 and 2022 scores for people with disability are considered 'included' based on the ADII score ranges (Figure 3.8).
- Over the same period the ADII increased for the total population from 68 in 2020, to 71 in 2021, and 73 in 2022.

Things to consider when interpreting results

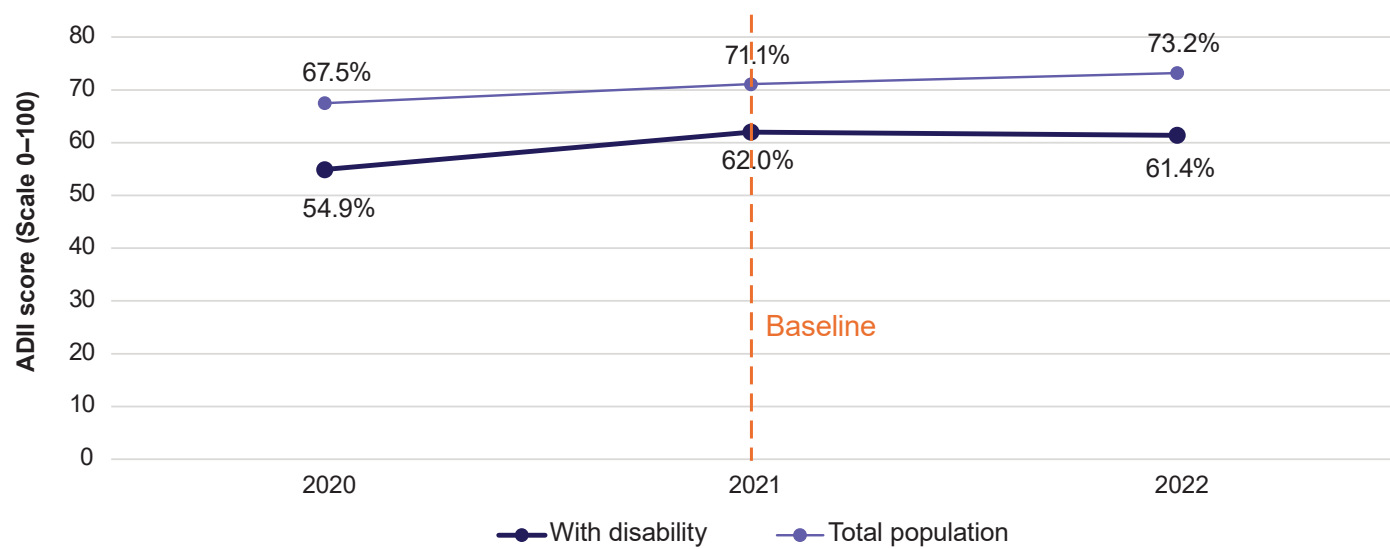
- The 4 groups of inclusion/exclusion are defined using index threshold scores. For Highly excluded, the threshold is 45 or below; for Excluded, over 45 to below 61; for Included 61 to below 80; and for Highly included the threshold scores are 80 and above.
- The sample size of respondents with disability was 420 in 2020, 374 in 2021 and 956 in 2022.

Latest results: 11.7 points (2022)

Baseline: 9.1 points (2021)

Progress status: Regress

Figure 3.8: Average ADII scores for people with disability aged 18 and over and the total population, 2020 to 2022



Source: Thomas J et al. (2023). Measuring Australia’s Digital Divide: Australian Digital Inclusion Index: 2023. Melbourne: ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making and Society, RMIT University, Swinburne University of Technology, and Telstra.

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia’s Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Digital inclusion gap](#).

References

Thomas J, McCosker A, Parkinson S, Hegarty K, Featherstone D, Kennedy J, Holcombe-James I, Ormond-Parker L, and Ganley L (2023) [Measuring Australia’s Digital Divide: Australian Digital Inclusion Index: 2023](#), Melbourne: ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making and Society, RMIT University, Swinburne University of Technology, and Telstra, accessed 28 July 2023.

Future measures

The inclusive homes and communities measures listed in Table 3.2 will undergo future data development and will be included in future reports as data become available, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | About future data development](#).

Table 3.2: Inclusive homes and communities measures requiring further development

Policy priority	Measure
Housing accessibility	Number and proportion of homes that are built to standards according to the National Construction Code (NCC) and the Liveable Housing Design, Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) Standard ^(a) (system measure)
Housing accessibility	Proportion of people with disability whose home is suitable and accessible ^(b) (population measure)
Social inclusion and participation	Number of community, political, social, recreational, sporting, religious and cultural groups that have active inclusion policies for people with disability ^(c) (system measure)
Transport system accessibility	Compliance with the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport (system measure)
Transport system accessibility	Proportion of people with disability who can access public or private transport when needed ^(d) (population measure)
Information and communication systems accessibility	Proportion of Australian, state and territory, and local government websites that meet Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 accessibility standard or above (system measure)
Information and communication systems accessibility	Proportion of people with disability reporting the internet sites and apps they want to use are accessible ^(e) (population measure)

(a) In the future, this measure will replace 'Proportion of social housing dwellings that meet Livable Housing Design silver accessibility standards'.

(b) In the future, this measure will replace 'Proportion of NDIS participants who are happy with current home'.

(c) In the future, this measure will replace 'Proportion of NDIS participants who spend free time doing activities that interest them'.

(d) In the future, this measure will replace 'Proportion of people with disability who can use all forms of public transport with no difficulty'.

(e) In the future, this measure will replace 'Difference in digital inclusion between people with disability and the Australian population'.



Safety, rights and justice

4

4. Safety, rights and justice

Outcome

The rights of people with disability are promoted, upheld and protected, and people with disability feel safe and enjoy equality before the law

Why is this outcome area important?

People with disability are experts in their own lives and have the same rights as people without disability. Community acceptance of the rights and experiences of people with disability will maximise individual power and autonomy – and support economic participation, social inclusion, safety and equality ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)).

People with disability are at greater risk of experiencing violence than people without disability ([DRC 2021](#)). They can also face discrimination on the basis of disability and barriers in exercising their rights before the law ([AIHW 2024](#)).

People with disability often face multiple barriers making complaints about services and service providers, particularly in cases of violence, neglect and abuse. These barriers include lack of experience in asserting their rights as consumers, fear of retribution, negative experiences with complaints systems (including not being believed) and difficulty in communicating what happened ([DSS 2016](#)). Advocacy plays an important role in upholding the rights of people with disability. The need for access to independent and effective advocacy for all people with disability, regardless of where in Australia they live, is recognised in the National Disability Advocacy Framework, which is an associated plan of the ADS.

What are the policy priorities?

1. **Safety from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation:** Making sure services for people with disability are high quality and safe, and that people with disability are safe.
2. **Trauma-informed policy, processes and programs:** Improving access to services that support people with disability who have experienced trauma.
3. **Violence against women and their children:** Keeping women and children with disability safe from violence, abuse and neglect.
4. **Rights are protected and upheld:** Protecting the rights of people with disability, decreasing discrimination, and improving access to supports that help people with disability stand up for themselves and make their own decisions.
5. **Access to justice:** Supporting access to justice for people with disability.
6. **Equitable treatment in criminal justice system:** Reducing the use of criminal justice interventions when responding to the needs of some people with disability.

Measures

Data for 4 policy priorities under this outcome area are available for 4 system measures, and 5 population measures (Table 4.1). One measure had updated post-baseline for the first time since the second annual report.

There are 6 measures with updated post-baseline data in this report. Of these:

- one showed improving
- 3 showed no change
- 2 showed regress.

For future measures requiring development, see [Future measure](#).

Table 4.1: Safety, rights and justice reference guide

Policy priority	Measure	Baseline time point	Baseline value	Latest time point	Latest value	Change since baseline ^(b)	Progress status
Safety from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation	Number of complaints related to abuse and neglect per 1,000 NDIS participants (system measure)	2021–22	1.9 complaints per 1,000 NDIS participants	2022–23	2.2 complaints per 1,000 NDIS participants	0.3 complaints per 1,000 NDIS participants	No change
Safety from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation	Proportion of adults with disability aged 18 years and over who have experienced violence since age 15, compared with adults without disability [†] (population measure)	2016	47.0%	2016	47.0%	n.a.	Not known yet
Trauma-informed policy, processes and programs	Proportion of people with disability who experienced assault and sought advice or support after the most recent incident (population measure)	2016	51.6%	2016	51.6%	n.a.	Not known yet
Violence against women and their children	Proportion of SHS clients with disability experiencing domestic and family violence who are provided assistance for accommodation when needed ^{‡(a)} (system measure)	2020–21	82.3%	2022–23	78.4%	-3.9 pp	Regress
Violence against women and their children	Proportion of women with disability aged 18 years and over who have experienced family or domestic violence since age 15, compared with women without disability [†] (population measure)	2016	44.5%	2016	44.5%	n.a.	Not known yet
Rights are protected and upheld	Proportion of assessed NDAP clients who reported improved choice and control to make their own decision [‡] (system measure)	2020–21	62.2%	2022–23	63.2%	1 pp	Improving ^{‡‡}
Rights are protected and upheld	Proportion of complaints related to disability discrimination lodged with the AHRC that are successfully resolved by conciliation [‡] (system measure)	2020–21	71.9%	2022–23	60.8%	-11.1 pp	Regress

Policy priority	Measure	Baseline time point	Baseline value	Latest time point	Latest value	Change since baseline ^(b)	Progress status
Rights are protected and upheld	Proportion of people with disability who have not experienced discrimination due to disability in the last 12 months (population measure)	2018	90.4%	2022	90.1%	-0.3 pp	No change
Rights are protected and upheld	Proportion of NDIS participants who feel able to advocate (stand up) for themselves (population measure)	2021–22 Q2	37.3%	2023–24 Q4	37.6%	0.3 pp	No change

[†] Measure wording has been revised to reflect available data more accurately or clarify the measure's intent. See relevant measure section below for more information (See [Appendix B: List of measures](#)).

^{**} Confidence status: care should be taken when looking at the reported progress status for this measure as there is some uncertainty in the data.

AHRC – Australian Human Rights Commission; NDAP – National Disability Advocacy Program; NDIS – National Disability Insurance Scheme; n.a. – not available; pp – percentage points; SHS – specialist homelessness services.

(a) This measure will be replaced in the future by 'Proportion of domestic and family violence services that are accessible and inclusive for women with disability'.

(b) n.a. indicates that there has not been an additional data point post-baseline to enable an assessment of progress.

References

AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) (2024) 'Disability discrimination', [People with disability in Australia](#), AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 12 July 2024.

DRC (Disability Royal Commission) (2021) [People with disability face much greater risk of violence than people without disability](#), DRC, Australian Government, accessed 8 September 2023.

DSS (Department of Social Services) (2016) [NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework](#), DSS, Australian Government, accessed 8 September 2023.

Safety from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation

People with disability are more likely to experience violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. This violence is often more severe in institutional contexts (such as group homes and boarding houses). They are also more likely to become victims of crime. Protecting people with disability from such harms is essential to maximising their safety and equality ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)).

NDIS complaints abuse and neglect

The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (NDIS Commission) is an independent agency established to improve the quality and safety of NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme) supports and services. One of its functions is to assess, manage, conciliate and resolve complaints relating to the supports and services of NDIS providers. Anyone can make a complaint to the Commissioner about issues with supports and services from an NDIS provider ([NDIS Commission 2022a](#)).

Complaints made to the NDIS Commission are classified into 4 categories: provider practice, provider policies and procedures, worker conduct or capability, and alleged abuse and neglect. 'Abuse and neglect' include financial abuse. From 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024, 1 in 4 (25%) complaints related to alleged abuse and neglect ([NDIS Commission 2024](#)).

The NDIS Commission deals with complaints through a range of actions, including helping complainants resolve the issue themselves, asking the provider to resolve the complaint directly, holding conciliation meetings, or formally investigating the situation ([NDIS Commission 2022b](#)).

The desired key system outcome for this measure is that NDIS services are high quality and safe.

System measure: Number of complaints related to abuse and neglect per 1,000 NDIS participants

Desired outcome: Decrease in the number of complaints per 1,000 NDIS participants

Data source: NDIS Commission – Business Systems

Latest results: 2022–23

- In 2022–23, the NDIS Commission received 1,132 complaints related to alleged abuse and neglect for participants aged 7 or over, a rate of 2.2 complaints per 1,000 NDIS participants.
- This was an increase of 0.3 complaints per 1,000 NDIS participants indicating no change since the Strategy began.
- With both the number of complaints and the number of active NDIS participants changing over time, more data are needed before a trend for this measure may emerge.

Things to consider when interpreting results

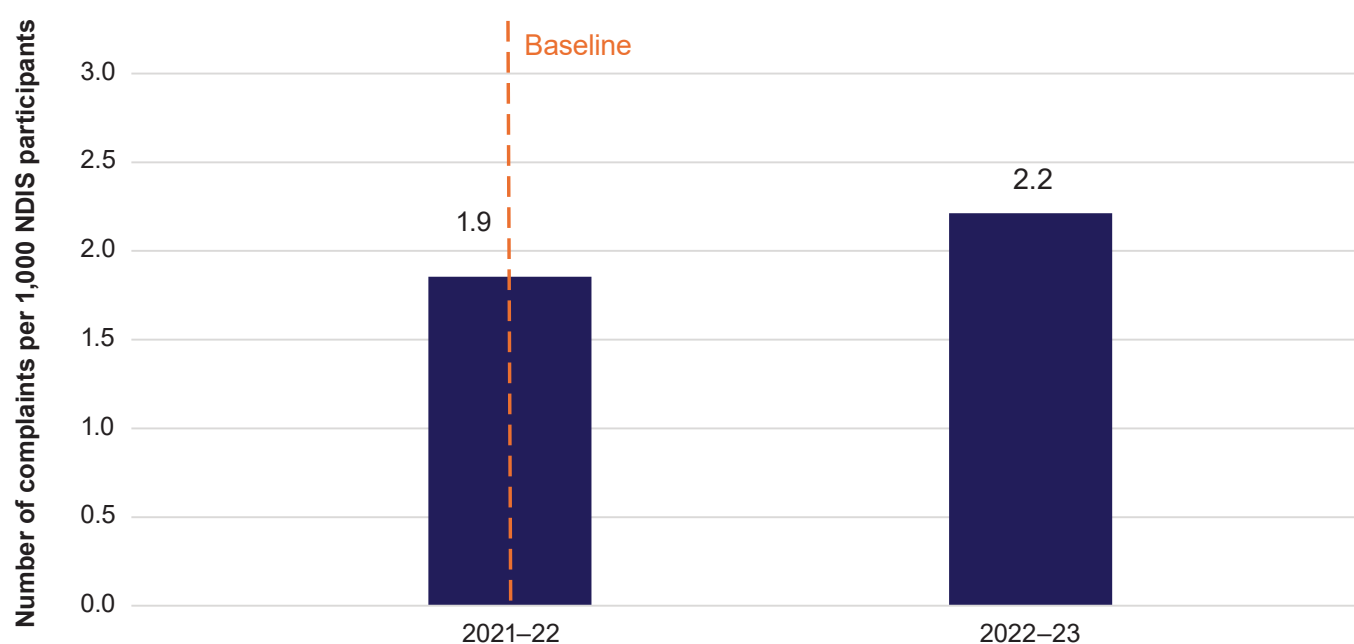
- Complaints made to the NDIS Commission relate specifically to concerns regarding NDIS supports or services.
- The number of complaints reported is a subset of total complaints made to the NDIS Commission so may not align with other publicly released complaints reports, including the Quarterly Performance Report.
- The measure does not capture the outcomes of the complaints, the reporting of which can be quite complex. Complaints may span more than one area and there are many ways in which they can be resolved. Complaints can also be re-opened.

Latest results: 2.2 complaints per 1,000 NDIS participants (2022–23)

Baseline: 1.9 complaints per 1,000 NDIS participants (2021–22)

Progress status: No change

Figure 4.1: Number of complaints related to abuse and neglect per 1,000 NDIS participants, 2021–22 and 2022–23



Source: NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission.

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For more information on this measure, including breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | NDIS complaints abuse/neglect](#).

Experience of violence

Acts of violence can affect anyone; however, people with disability may be especially vulnerable ([AIHW 2024](#)). For reporting against this measure, violence is defined according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Personal Safety Survey (PSS) as any incident involving the occurrence, attempt or threat of either physical or sexual assault experienced by a person ([ABS 2023](#)). Emotional abuse is excluded.

The Outcomes Framework intended to track the proportion of people with disability aged 15 and over who have experienced violence, compared with people without disability. Measure wording has been revised in this report to reflect available data more accurately (see [Appendix B: List of measures](#)).

Due to the nature of the available data, which does not collect information from people aged 15–17, the measure is reported here as:

- Proportion of adults with disability aged 18 and over who have experienced violence since age 15, compared with adults without disability.

The desired population outcome for this measure is a reduction in the gap between safety for people with and without disability.

Population measure: Proportion of adults with disability aged 18 years and over who have experienced violence since age 15, compared with adults without disability

Desired outcome: Decrease in the proportion

Data source: ABS PSS

For more information on this measure, including breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Experience of violence](#).

References

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) (2023) [Personal safety, Australia](#), ABS website, accessed 25 July 2024.

AIHW (2024) 'Disability discrimination', [People with disability in Australia](#), AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 12 July 2024.

NDIS Commission (NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission) (2022a) [Commissioner's functions](#), NDIS Commission, accessed 8 September 2023.

— (2022b) [Timelines and resolution of complaints](#), NDIS Commission, accessed 8 September 2023.

— (2024) [NDIS Commission Quarterly Performance Report – January 2024 – March 2024](#), NDIS Commission, accessed 25 July 2024.

Trauma-informed policy, processes and programs

Traumatic life experiences require responses that are person-centred and sensitive to the lived experience of the individual. Trauma-informed approaches respect and recognise that people with disability are experts in their own lives. Implementing trauma-informed approaches in policies, processes and programs provides better responses to people with disability who have experienced trauma ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)).

Seeking support following assault

While formal and informal supports are available, people with disability who experience violence often have limited or no access to information about where and how to seek these supports ([DRC 2020](#)).

Another barrier to accessing support is that many people with disability who are experiencing

violence do not report abuse or identify that they need protection due to fear of negative repercussions ([AHRC 2013](#)). Other reasons for not seeking support include fear of not being believed, fear/uncertainty of the criminal justice system and a lack of access to support networks ([ABS 2013](#)).

The desired population outcome for this measure is to see an increase in people with disability accessing trauma-informed services.

Population measure: Proportion of people with disability who experienced assault and sought advice or support after the most recent incident

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: ABS PSS

For more information on this measure, including breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Seeking support following assault](#).

References

ABS (2013) [Defining the data challenge for family, domestic and sexual violence](#), ABS website, accessed 8 September 2023.

AHRC (Australian Human Rights Commission) (2013) [Access to justice in the criminal justice system for people with disability – submissions received](#), AHRC website, accessed 8 September 2023.

DRC (2020) [Overview of responses to the Violence and abuse of people with disability at home Issues paper](#), DRC, Australian Government, accessed 8 September 2023.

Violence against women and their children

Policies, processes and programs for people with disability that promote gender equality and prevent violence against groups at heightened risk are essential to improving the safety of people with disability. Women, children and young people are at a particularly heightened risk of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. Many victim-survivors of family, domestic and sexual violence also sustain permanent disabilities from physical violence ([DSS 2023](#)).

Effective preventive actions targeting violence against women and children require an inclusive and collaborative effort across a range of settings. The Strategy should be considered in conjunction with other plans such as the [National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032](#) and [Safe and Supported: the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2021–2031](#) (Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031).

Access to safe and secure housing

Domestic and family violence is a major national health and welfare issue that can have lifelong impacts for victim-survivors and perpetrators. While it affects people of all ages and from all backgrounds, people with disability are particularly vulnerable to this form of violence ([AIHW 2019](#)). These types of violence can have a serious impact on individuals, families and communities, and can inflict physical injury, psychological trauma and emotional suffering ([AIHW 2019](#)).

Women with disability experience higher rates of intimate partner violence, emotional abuse, stalking and sexual violence than women without disability or men with disability ([DRC 2020](#)).

People with disability may have a greater exposure to risk factors associated with homelessness than the general population. Domestic and family violence can result in people with disability, including those with severe or profound disability, seeking homelessness services ([AIHW 2024a](#)).

Specialist homelessness services (SHS) provide accommodation-related and/or personal assistance to people who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness. SHS accommodation services include:

- shortterm or emergency accommodation,
- medium-term/transitional housing,
- assistance to obtain long-term housing,
- assistance to sustain tenancy or prevent tenancy failure or eviction,
- assistance to prevent foreclosures or for mortgage arrears ([AIHW 2024b](#)).

A client is identified as having severe or profound disability if they reported a limitation in core activities (self-care, mobility and/or communication) and sometimes or always need assistance with one or more of these core activities.

The Outcomes Framework intended to track the proportion of people with disability experiencing domestic and family violence who are assisted into safe and secure housing when requested. Measure wording has been revised in this report to reflect available data more accurately (see [Appendix B: List of measures](#)).

Available data do not allow the exact measure listed to be tracked. An alternative measure is reported here as:

- Proportion of SHS clients with disability experiencing domestic and family violence who are provided assistance for accommodation when needed.

The desired key system outcome for this measure is that domestic and family violence services provide assistance needed to people with disability.

System measure: Proportion of SHS clients with disability experiencing domestic and family violence who are provided assistance for accommodation when needed

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: Specialist Homelessness Services Collection (SHSC)

This measure will be replaced in the future when available data are improved. During the life of the Strategy, this measure will be replaced by 'Proportion of domestic and family violence services that are accessible and inclusive for women with disability'.

Latest results: 2022–23

- In 2022–23, 78% of SHS clients with disability experiencing domestic and family violence were provided assistance for accommodation when needed. This was 4 percentage points lower than at baseline (2020–21) (82%), indicating regress since the Strategy began.
- The proportion in 2022–23 is the lowest proportion in the time series presented. Across the period 2013–14 and 2016–17 the proportion decreased from 87% to 81%. It remained between 81% and 82% until 2021–22 when it dropped to 79% (Figure 4.2). Regression modelling of

the data shows a modelled decrease of 0.9 of a percentage point per year and a modelled decrease of 8.0% over the reference period.

Things to consider when interpreting results

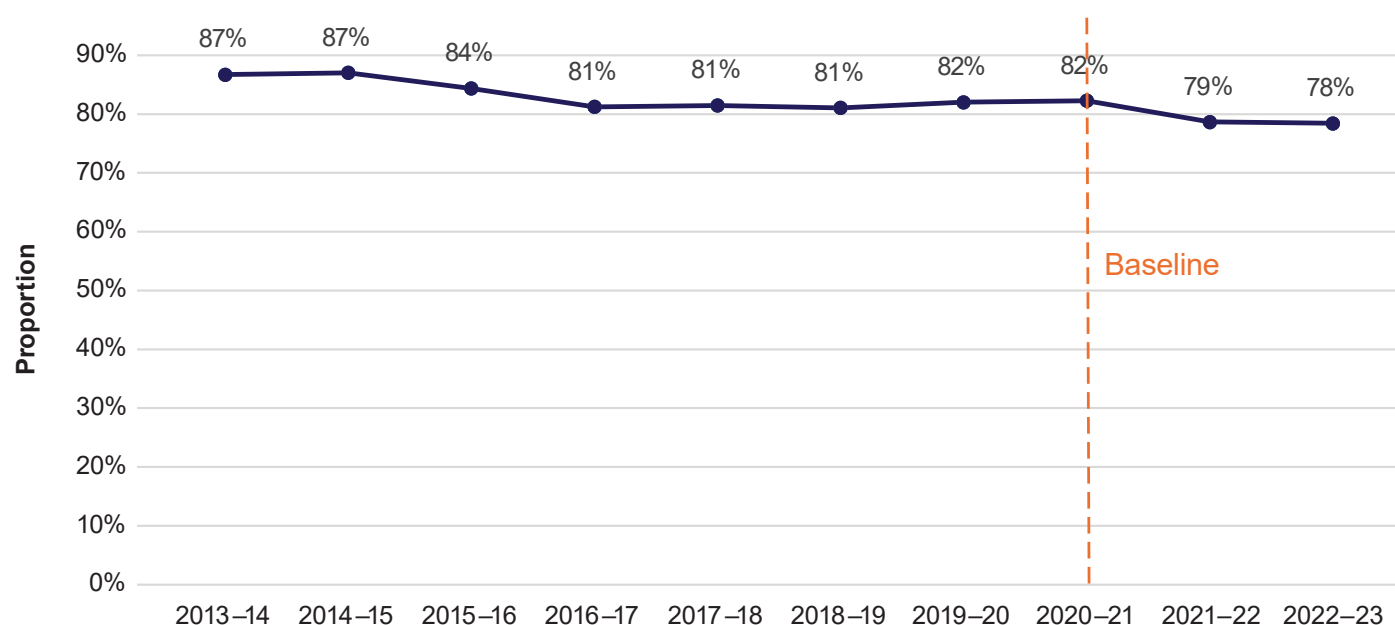
- The proportion of SHS clients without disability experiencing domestic and family violence who were provided assistance for accommodation when needed has also decreased across the period 2013–14 to 2022–23 (from 85% to 74%). Regression modelling of the data shows a modelled decrease of around 1.3 percentage points per year and a modelled decrease of 12% over the reference period.
- Disability status was unknown for 21% of SHS clients experiencing domestic and family violence who needed, and were provided with, accommodation assistance in 2013–14. Between 2014–15 and 2022–23, disability status was unknown for between 4.1% and 6.7% of clients experiencing domestic and family violence who needed assistance with accommodation.
- Data for 2013–14 to 2016–17 have been adjusted for non-response. Due to improvements in the rates of agency participation and Statistical Linkage Key validity, data for 2017–18 onwards are not weighted. The removal of weighting does not constitute a break in time series, and weighted data from 2011–12 to 2016–17 are comparable with unweighted data for 2017–18 onwards.

Latest results: 78% (2022–23)

Baseline: 82% (2020–21)

Progress status: Regress

Figure 4.2: Proportion of SHS clients with disability (all ages) experiencing domestic and family violence who are provided assistance for accommodation when needed, 2013–14 to 2022–23



Source: Specialist Homelessness Services Collection (SHSC).

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For more information on this measure, including breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Access to safe and secure housing](#).

Experience of domestic violence

A key challenge in defining and measuring family and domestic violence lies in the complexity of the behavioural acts involved, and the relationships and situations in which these acts occur (ABS 2013). For the purposes of this measure, family and domestic violence is defined as physical and/or sexual violence perpetrated by an intimate partner (current, previous, boyfriend or girlfriend or date, ex-boyfriend, or exgirlfriend) or relative or in-law (father/mother, son or daughter, brother or sister, or other relative or in-law). It also includes emotional abuse by a current or previous partner. Financial abuse and coercive control are excluded from the definition.

The Outcomes Framework intended to track the proportion of females with disability aged 15 and over who have experienced family or domestic violence compared with women without disability. Measure wording has been revised in this report to reflect available data more accurately (see [Appendix B: List of measures](#)).

Due to the nature of the available data, which does not collect information from people aged 15–17, the measure is reported here as:

- Proportion of women with disability aged 18 and over who have experienced family or domestic violence since age 15, compared with women without disability.

The desired population outcome for this measure is a decrease in family and domestic violence against women with disability. Data are from the ABS PSS.

Population measure: Proportion of women with disability aged 18 and over who have experienced family or domestic violence since age 15, compared with women without disability

Desired outcome: Reduction in gap

Data source: ABS PSS

For more information on this measure, including breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Experience of domestic violence](#).

References

ABS (2013) [Defining the data challenge for family, domestic and sexual violence](#), ABS website, accessed 8 September 2023.

AIHW (2019) [Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia: continuing the national story](#), AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 8 September 2023.

— (2024a) 'Clients with disability', [Specialist homelessness services annual report 2022–23](#), AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 25 July 2024.

— (2024b) 'Technical notes – Glossary', [Specialist homelessness services annual report 2022–23](#), AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 25 July 2024.

DRC (2020) [Violence and abuse of people with disability at home \[Issues paper\]](#), DRC, Australian Government, accessed 8 September 2023.

Rights are protected and upheld

The Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), and state and territory human rights/anti-discrimination bodies play an important role in promoting and protecting rights of people with disability, including helping individuals and organisations understand and meet their legal responsibilities. Disability advocacy supports people with disability to safeguard their rights, experience equality and overcome barriers that can affect their ability to participate in the community ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)).

Advocacy program support

Funded by the Australian Government, the National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP) provides advocacy support to people with disability that promotes, protects and ensures their full and equal enjoyment of all human rights, enabling their community participation ([DSS 2024](#)).

The Outcomes Framework intended to track the proportion of those people who accessed independent advocacy programs who report improved choice and control to make their own decisions. Measure wording has been revised in this report to reflect available data more accurately (see [Appendix B: List of measures](#)).

The first year for which data are available for this measure was 2020–21. This is because the reporting on improved choice and control to make one's own decisions by NDAP clients only became mandatory as of 1 January 2021. For 2020–21, 8.6% of clients had been assessed – that is, 8.6% of NDAP clients had been asked about improved choice and control to make their own decisions. For 2021–22, 14% of NDAP clients had been assessed, and 18% of NDAP clients had been assessed in 2022–23. The proportion of assessed clients will increase over time. In view of this, the measure is reported here as:

- Proportion of assessed NDAP clients who reported improved choice and control to make their own decisions.

The desired key system outcome for this measure is that people with disability get the information and supports they need to have their rights upheld and to make their own decisions.

System measure: Proportion of assessed NDAP clients who reported improved choice and control to make their own decisions

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: Department of Social Services – Data Exchange (DEX)

Latest results: 2022–23

- In 2022–23, more than 6 in 10 (63%) assessed clients reported improved choice and control to make their own decisions. This was one percentage point higher than at baseline (2020–21) when it was 62% (Figure 4.6).
- The proportion in 2022–23 was 4 percentage points higher than the proportion of assessed clients in 2021–22 (59%).

Things to consider when interpreting results

- A 'client' can be either a person with disability or a carer/family member of a person with disability.
- Although the proportion of assessed clients in 2022–23 was higher (18%) than in the two previous years (14% in 2021–22 and 8.6% in 2020–21), the data may not be representative of all participants in the program. For this reason, there is some uncertainty in the data. Care should be taken when looking at reported progress for this measure and the difference needs to continue to be monitored.
- The SCORE system used for the NDAP data is designed to measure the result of a client's interaction with a service funded by the Department of Social Services, and it captures a point in time in the client's service journey.

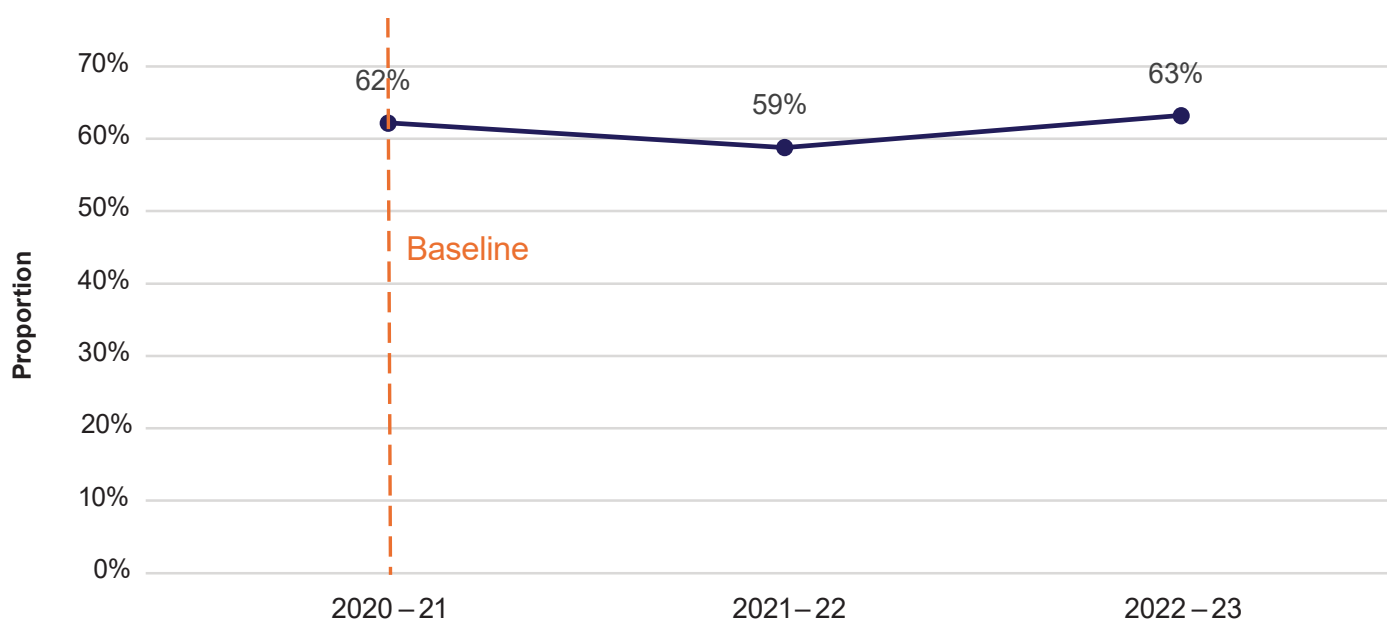
Latest results: 63.2% (2022–23)

Baseline: 62.2% (2020–21)

Progress status: Improving

Confidence status: Care should be taken when looking at the reported progress status for this measure as there is some uncertainty in the data

Figure 4.3: Proportion of assessed NDAP clients (all ages) who reported improved choice and control to make their own decisions, 2020–21 to 2022–23



Source: Department of Social Services – Data Exchange.

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For more information on this measure, including breakdowns of the data, visit Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Advocacy program support.

Discrimination complaints resolved

Disability discrimination occurs when a person with disability is treated less favourably than a person without disability in circumstances that are not materially different ([Australian](#)

[Government 1992](#)). Under the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (Cwlth), it is unlawful to discriminate against a person because of their disability in defined areas of public life, including but not limited to employment, education, goods, services and facilities, accommodation and access to premises ([AHRC 2014](#)). Relatives, friends and carers are also protected if they are discriminated against because of their association with a person with disability ([AHRC n.d.a](#)).

The Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) is an independent statutory organisation that functions under the Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986 (Cwlth). A key function of the AHRC is to inquire into and attempt to conciliate complaints of unlawful discrimination, including disability discrimination ([Australian Human Rights Commission Act](#)).

The conciliation process provides the complainant (the person making the complaint) and the respondent (the person or organisation being complained about) with an opportunity to talk about the issues raised in the complaint and attempt to resolve the matter themselves ([AHRC n.d.b](#)).

Not all complaints lodged with the AHRC go through a conciliation process and these can be finalised on other grounds. For example, some are terminated or declined because they are outside the scope of the relevant Act, or another remedy has been pursued and the AHRC is satisfied that the subject matter of the complaint has been adequately dealt with. Others may be withdrawn by complainants or discontinued; for example, where a complainant does not respond to the Commission's attempts to contact them.

The Strategy would like to see the following tracked – proportion of complaints related to disability discrimination lodged with the Australian Human Rights Commission/relevant state and territory bodies that are investigated and resolved.

The Outcomes Framework intended to track the proportion of complaints related to disability discrimination lodged with the AHRC/relevant state and territory bodies that are investigated and resolved. Differences between the national Disability Discrimination Act, and the states and territory acts relating to disability discrimination mean that available data do not allow this. Measure wording has been revised in this report to reflect available data more accurately (see [Appendix B: List of measures](#)).

Due to differences between the [Disability Discrimination Act](#) and state and territory acts relating to disability discrimination, the measure focuses on complaints that were attempted to be resolved by conciliation. The measure is reported here as:

- Proportion of complaints related to disability discrimination lodged with the AHRC that are successfully resolved by conciliation.

The desired key system outcome for this measure is that the Disability Discrimination Act is implemented effectively to ensure people with disability are not discriminated against.

System measure: Proportion of complaints related to disability discrimination lodged with the AHRC that are successfully resolved by conciliation

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: AHRC – Business Systems

Latest results: 2022–23

- In 2022–23, 61% of the 679 complaints related to disability discrimination that were lodged with the AHRC and went through a conciliation process were successfully resolved. This is 11 percentage points lower than at baseline (2020–21) when it was 72%, indicating regress since the Strategy began (Figure 4.4).

Things to consider when interpreting results

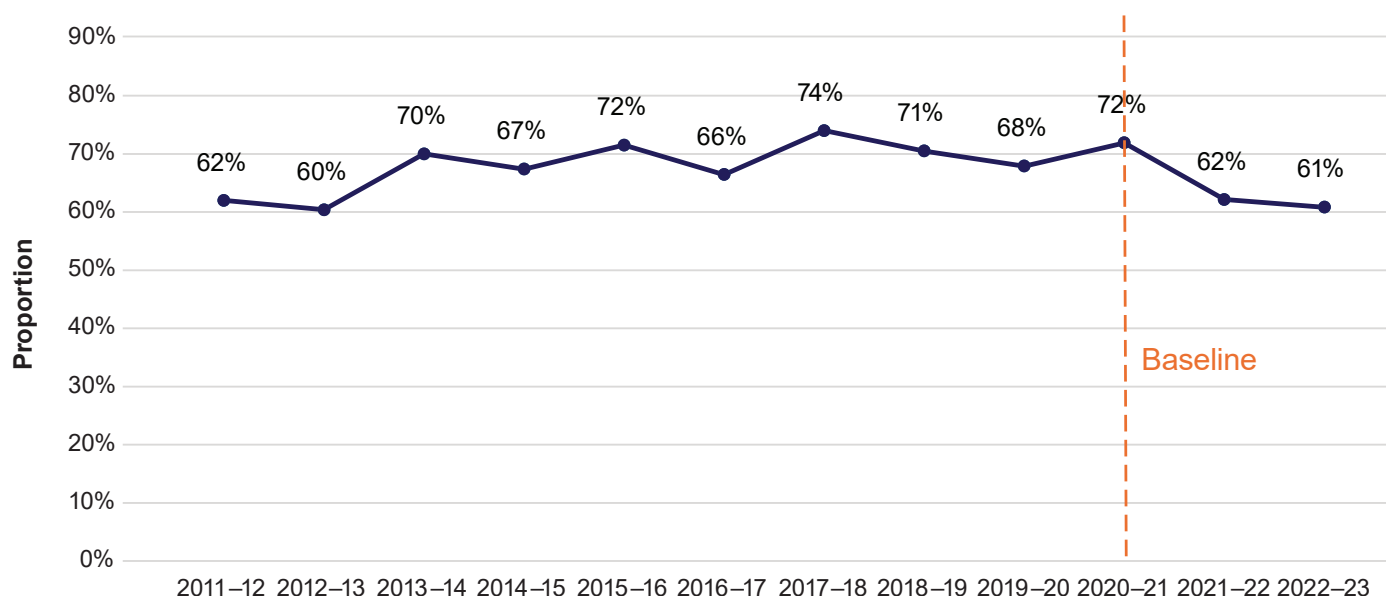
- The decrease observed between baseline (2020–21) and 2022–23 is the largest observed in the data across the reference period. However, the decrease is due to the impact of COVID-19 on the AHRC's complaint handling function. In 2021–22 there was an exponential increase in complaint numbers leading to a considerable complaint backlog, resulting in significantly increased complaint handling timeframes and complaints being discontinued at a higher rate. In 2022–23, increased complaint handling timeframes continued due to the COVID-19 related complaint backlog and the finalisation of COVID-19 'legacy' complaints. The subject matter of the complaints was not always amenable to resolution, particularly those related to state and territory health orders (regarding mask wearing and vaccinations) and Commonwealth government international travel restrictions. Outcomes sought by complainants could not always be supported or achieved through the Commission's conciliation processes.
- One complaint may raise a number of grounds and areas of discrimination and be against one or more respondents ([AHRC n.d.b](#)).
- Complaints for which a conciliation process was begun but which could not be resolved through this process include those that were finalised on other grounds; for example, they may have been withdrawn.

Latest results: 60.8% (2022–23)

Baseline: 71.9% (2020–21)

Progress status: Regress

Figure 4.4: Proportion of complaints related to disability discrimination lodged with the AHRC that were successfully resolved by conciliation, 2011–12 to 2022–23



Source: AHRC annual reports 2011–12 to 2014–15; AHRC complaints statistics 2015–16 to 2022–23.

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For more information on this measure, including breakdowns of the data, visit [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Discrimination complaints resolved](#).

Freedom from discrimination

Experiencing discrimination makes participating in everyday life more difficult. It can affect education and employment opportunities and limit social interactions. A person unable to participate in everyday activities, or who avoids situations, may be at higher risk of adverse outcomes, including social isolation, unemployment and poor health (AIHW 2024).

The desired population outcome for this measure is to see a decrease in discrimination against people with disability. Data for this measure are from the ABS SDAC (Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers).

Population measure: Proportion of people with disability who have not experienced discrimination due to disability in the last 12 months

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: ABS SDAC

Latest results: 2022

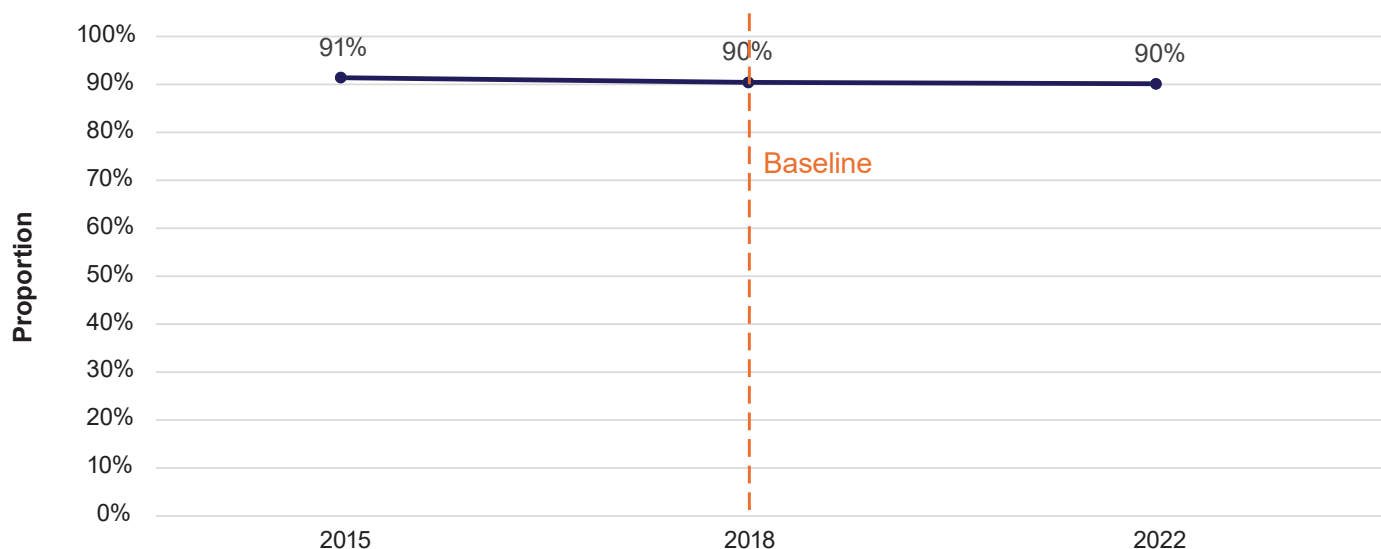
- In 2022, 9 in 10 (90.1%) people with disability have not experienced discrimination due to disability in the last 12 months. Based on values rounded to one decimal place, this is only 0.3 percentage points lower than the baseline value in 2018 (90.4%).
- Data from 2015, 2018 and 2022 indicate that there has been very little proportional change (Figure 4.5).

Latest results: 90.1% (2022)

Baseline: 90.4% (2018)

Progress status: No change

Figure 4.5: Proportion of people with disability aged 15 years and over who have not experienced discrimination due to disability in the last 12 months, 2015, 2018, 2022



Source: AIHW analysis of ABS SDAC 2015, 2018 and 2022 (detailed microdata).

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For more information on this measure, including breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Freedom from discrimination](#).

NDIS participants capacity to self-advocate

Self-advocacy is when a person or group with disability speaks up or acts to represent themselves. Self-advocacy, or assistance with advocacy, is important to promote and protect an individual's rights ([DRC 2020](#)).

Data for this measure are collected as part of the NDIS Short Form questionnaire. Data include NDIS participants who responded 'Yes' to the question 'Do you feel able to advocate (stand up) for yourself? That is, do you feel able to speak up if you have issues or problems with accessing supports?'

Population measure: Proportion of NDIS participants who feel able to advocate (stand up) for themselves

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: NDIA Business Systems

Latest results: June 2024 (Q4 of 2023–24)

- In 2023–24 Q4, 1 in 3 (37.6%) NDIS participants aged 15–64 responded that they felt able to advocate for themselves. Based on values rounded to one decimal place, this was an increase of 0.3 of a percentage point from the baseline value of 37.3% (2021–22 Q2), indicating no change since the Strategy began.
- There has been very little change in the measure over the previous 4 quarters (Figure 4.6).

Things to consider when interpreting results

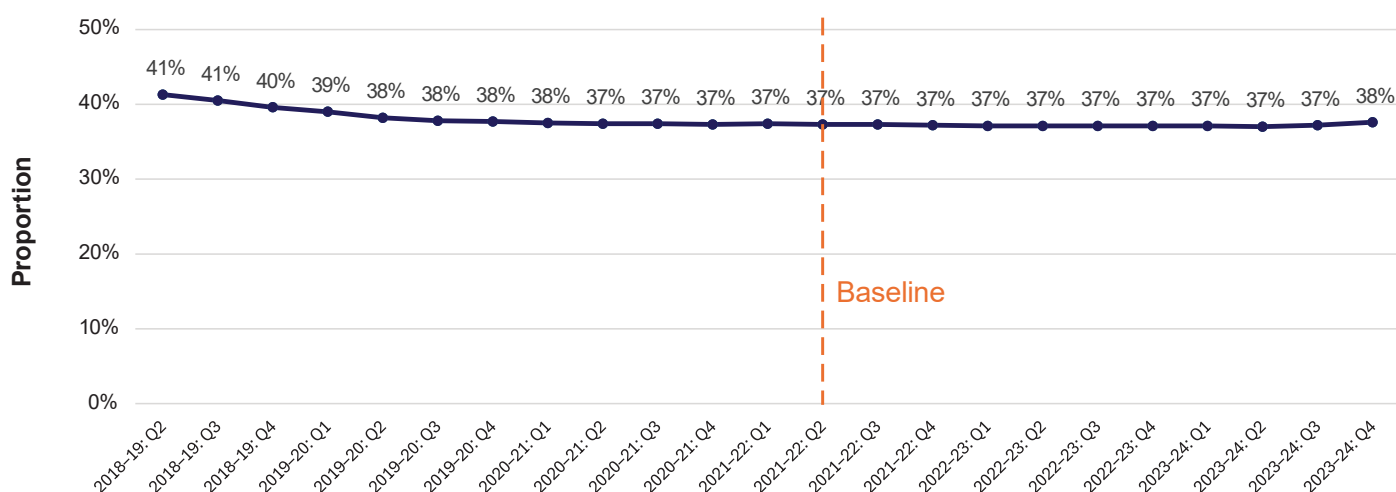
- Time series analysis for the NDIS data presented here is different from the longitudinal approach taken in NDIS reporting. See [Data sources | National Disability Insurance Agency \(NDIA\)](#) for more details.

Latest results: 37.6% (2023–24 Q4)

Baseline: 37.3% (2021–22 Q2)

Progress status: No change

Figure 4.6: Proportion of NDIS participants aged 15–64 who feel able to advocate (stand up) for themselves, 2018–19 Q2 to 2023–24 Q4



Source: NDIA Business Systems.

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For more information on this measure, including breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | NDIS participants capacity to self-advocate](#).

References

Australian Government (1986) [Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986](#), Australian Government, accessed 8 September 2023.

— (1992) [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#), Australian Government, accessed 8 September 2023.

AHRC (n.d.a) [A brief guide to the Disability Discrimination Act](#), AHRC website, accessed 8 September 2023.

— (n.d.b) [Understanding and preparing for conciliation – unlawful discrimination](#), AHRC website, accessed 8 September 2023.

— (2014) [Disability discrimination](#), AHRC, accessed 8 September 2023.

AIHW (2024) 'Disability discrimination', [People with disability in Australia](#), AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 25 July 2024.

DRC (2020) [Rights and attitudes \[Issues paper\]](#), DRC, Australian Government, accessed 8 September 2023.

DSS (2024) [National Disability Advocacy program](#), DSS website, Australian Government, accessed 25 July 2024.

Future measures

The safety, rights and justice measures listed in Table 4.2 will undergo future data development and will be included in future reports as data become available, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | About future data development](#).

Table 4.2: Safety, rights and justice measures requiring further development

Policy priority	Measure
Trauma-informed policy, processes, and programs	Number of services for people with disability that use a trauma-informed approach (system measure)
Violence against women and their children	Average length of time a child with disability remains in the child protection system compared with children without disability (system measure)
Violence against women and their children	Rate of children with disability aged 0–17 who were the subject of a child protection resubstantiation in a given year (population measure)
Violence against women and their children	Proportion of domestic and family violence services that are accessible and inclusive for women with disability ^(a) (system measure)
Access to justice	Proportion of people with disability supported to communicate and participate when interacting with police or judicial officers at court (system measure)
Access to justice	Proportion of people with disability who reported having equal access to justice compared with people without disability (population measure)
Equitable treatment in criminal justice system	Proportion of people with disability returning to corrective services within 2 years compared with the proportion of people without disability (system measure)
Equitable treatment in criminal justice system	Proportion of people with disability detained in prisons and forensic facilities compared with people without disability (population measure)

(a) In the future, this measure will replace 'Proportion of SHS clients with disability experiencing domestic and family violence who are provided assistance for accommodation when needed'.



Personal and community support

5

5. Personal and community support

Outcome

People with disability have access to a range of supports to assist them to live independently and engage in their communities

Why is this outcome area important?

Personal and community supports are fundamental to improving overall outcomes for people with disability. It is important for people with disability to be able to live independently and be involved in community activities such as education, work, training, recreation, cultural life and neighbourhood activities ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)).

Personal and community supports can include specialist disability services (for example, the NDIS), mainstream services, informal carers, carer supports services and assistive technology.

Most people with disability who need assistance do so through informal supports, with 76% receiving support through informal carers such as partners, children, or parents ([ABS 2024](#)). It is integral that carers are given appropriate and high quality supports in their role should they need it. In 2022, 38% of carers reported receiving assistance in the last 6 months, with 66% of primary carers reporting being satisfied with the quality of assistance they received, down from 71% in 2018 ([ABS 2024](#)).

What are the policy priorities?

1. **Availability of support:** Making sure people with disability have access to and receive the support services they need.
2. **People with complex, high needs are supported:** Providing services that support those people with disability who have complex high needs.
3. **Informal and carer supports:** Providing enough services and alternative care arrangements to give carers of people with disability the support they need.
4. **Availability of assistive technology:** Improving access to assistive technologies and aids for people with disability.

Measures

For the 4 policy priorities under this outcome area, data are available for 4 system measures and 3 population measures (Table 5.1). One measure has updated historical data since the second annual report and 5 measures have post-baseline data reported for the first time.

All 7 measures have updated post-baseline data in this report, where:

- one showed improving
- 2 showed no change
- 4 showed regress.

For future measures requiring development, see [Future measures](#).

Table 5.1: Personal and community support reference guide

Policy priority	Measure	Baseline time point	Baseline value	Latest time point	Latest value	Change since baseline ^(c)	Progress status
Availability of support	Proportion of people with disability (aged 15–65, and 65 and over) who are satisfied with the quality of assistance received from formal service providers (system measure)	2018	79.2% <i>aged 15–64, 84.1% aged 65 and over</i>	2022	79.6% <i>aged 15–64, 85.7% aged 65 and over</i>	0.5 pp (15–64) 1.6 pp (65 and over)	No change
Availability of support	Proportion of people with disability who had their needs fully met ^(a) (population measure)	2018	72.2%	2022	62.1%	-10.1 pp	Regress
People with complex, high needs are supported	Proportion of NDIS participants aged 15–64 who responded 'Yes' to 'Has the NDIS helped you have more choice and control over your life?' after two years in the scheme (system measure)	2021–22 Q2	75.4%	2023–24 Q4	78.4%	3.0 pp	Improving
Informal and carer supports	Proportion of carers who are satisfied with the range of services available to assist in caring role (system measure)	2018	49.9%	2022	45.5%	-4.4 pp	Regress
Informal and carer supports	Proportion of informal carers of people with disability who report no unmet need for respite care [‡] (population measure)	2018	86.2%	2022	86.2%	0 pp	No change
Availability of assistive technology	Proportion of NDIS participants who received assistive technology supports (system measure)	2021–22 Q2	48.9%	2023–24 Q4	45.2%	-3.5 pp	Regress
Availability of assistive technology	Proportion of people with disability who do not need additional aids ^(b) (population measure)	2018	94.1%	2022	91.3%	-2.7 pp	Regress

[‡] Measure where wording has been revised to reflect available data more accurately or clarify the measure's intent. See relevant measure section below for more information (See [Appendix B: List of measures](#)).

n.a. – not available; pp – percentage points

(a) This measure will be replaced in the future by 'Proportion of people who report that they can access mainstream support services when they need them'.

(b) This measure will be replaced in the future by 'Proportion of people with disability who can access the assistive technology they need'.

(c) n.a. indicates that there has not been an additional data point post-baseline to enable an assessment of progress.

References

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) (2024) [Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings](#), ABS website, accessed 12 July 2024.

Availability of support

People with disability need access to personal and community supports that meet their needs. This includes both formal specialist disability services and mainstream services, as well as informal support provided by family, friends and the community.

Quality of formal support

People with disability who require formal assistance can seek either targeted or universal formal support services. A range of organisations and individuals can provide formal assistance. In the ABS SDAC, formal providers of assistance for people with disability are defined as help provided by:

- organisations or individuals representing organisations (whether profit making or non-profit making, government or private), or
- other persons (excluding informal assistance/providers), on a regular, paid basis, who are not associated with any organisation ([ABS 2024](#)).

The desired key system outcome for this measure is that people with disability receive the supports they need.

System measure: Proportion of people with disability (aged 15–64, and 65 and over) who are satisfied with the quality of assistance received from formal service providers

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: ABS SDAC

Latest results: 2022

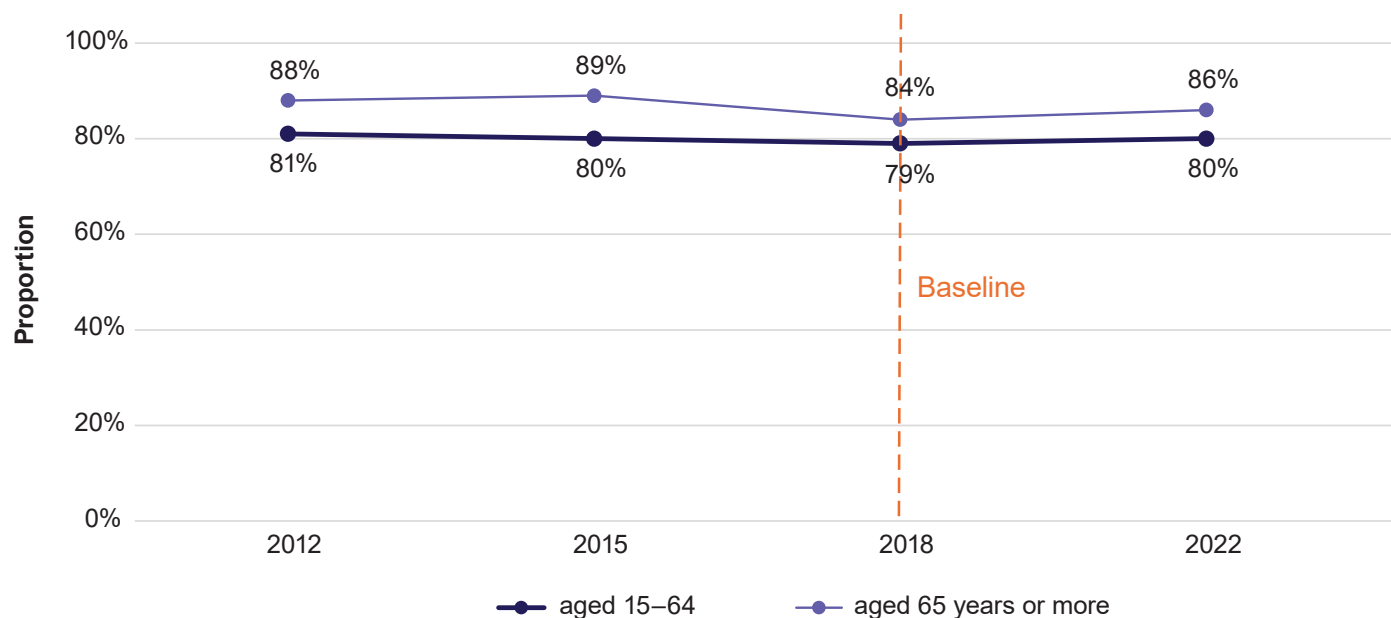
- In 2022, 4 in 5 (80%) people with disability aged 15–64 years were satisfied with the quality of assistance received from formal service providers. Based on values rounded to one decimal place, this was 0.5 percentage points higher than the baseline value in 2018 (79%).
- For people with disability aged 65 years and over, 86% of people with disability were satisfied with the quality of assistance received from formal service providers in 2022. This was 1.6 percentage points higher than the baseline value in 2018 (84%).
- The changes between baseline and latest values for people with disability aged 15–64 years and 65 years and over were not statistically significant, indicating a status of no change (Figure 5.1).

Latest results: 9.6% (aged 15–64 years); 85.7% (aged 65 years and over) (2022)

Baseline: 79.2% (aged 15–64 years); 84.1% (aged 65 years and over) (2018)

Progress status: No change

Figure 5.1: Proportion of people with disability (aged 15 and over) who are satisfied with the quality of assistance received from formal service providers



Source: AIHW analysis of ABS SDAC 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2022 (detailed microdata).

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Quality of formal support

Needs fully met

Some people with disability require support to maintain everyday wellness at home and to be fully included in community activities ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)).

People needing support may seek formal assistance, such as specialist and mainstream services provided by formal organisations or other paid providers (including the NDIS or Disability Employment Services). These services may supplement other support that a person with disability receives, such as informal care provided by family, friends or neighbours ([AIHW 2023](#)).

The desired population outcome for this measure is an increase in people with disability accessing the services they need.

Population measure: Proportion of people with disability who had their needs fully met

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: ABS SDAC

This measure will be replaced in the future when available data are improved. During the life of the Strategy, this measure will be replaced by 'Proportion of people who report that they can access mainstream support services when they need them'.

Latest results: 2022

- In 2022, 62% of people with disability had their needs fully met.
- This was 10 percentage points lower than the proportion of people with disability who had their needs fully met in 2018 (72%), indicating a regress (Figure 5.2).

Things to consider when interpreting results

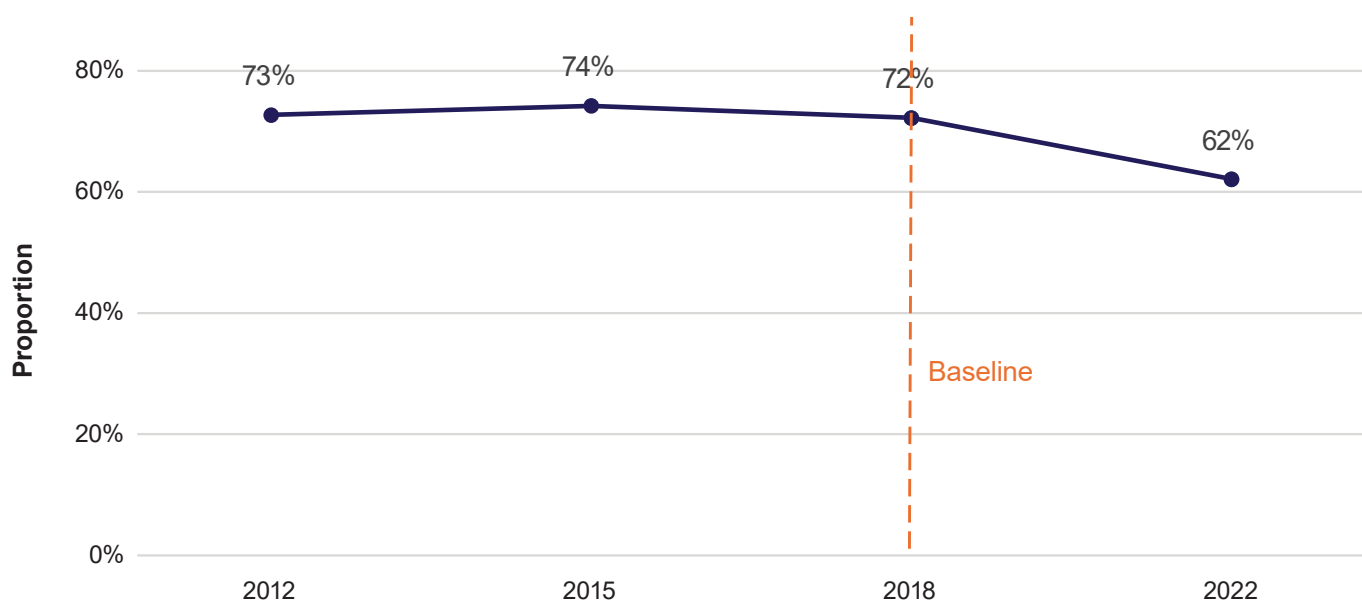
- People who have their needs fully met are those who do not need assistance or do not need any more assistance with activities. People who do not have their needs fully met are those who need more assistance with at least one activity, regardless of whether any assistance is currently received. People who responded 'other (too young, activity not undertaken or not assessed)' and 'do not know if need more assistance with activities due to disability or old age' were excluded.
- In 2022, major updates were made to the question modules and sequencing from which these data were derived. These updates may have an impact on the number of people reporting that they do or do not need assistance with activities.

Latest results: 62.1% (2022)

Baseline: 72.2% (2018)

Progress status: Regress

Figure 5.2: Proportion of people with disability who had their needs fully met



Source: AIHW analysis of ABS SDAC 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2022 (detailed microdata).

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Needs fully met](#)

References

ABS (2024) [Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings methodology](#), ABS website, accessed 23 July 2024.

AIHW (2023) [Specialised supports for people with disability](#), AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 23 July 2024.

People with complex, high needs are supported

The NDIS supports people with disability caused by a permanent impairment, which may be intellectual, cognitive, neurological, sensory, physical or psychosocial ([NDIS 2023](#)). The NDIS provides funding for people with disability to receive a package of flexible supports that meet their needs.

NDIS participants choice and control

Access to disability supports through the NDIS helps people with disability pursue their goals and aspirations and exercise choice and control over their own lives ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)).

Data for this measure are collected from the NDIS Short Form questionnaire. They refer to participants who have been in the scheme for at least 2 years and responded to the question 'Has the NDIS helped you have more choice and control over your life?'.

The desired key system outcome for this measure is that NDIS participants receive the support they need.

System measure: Proportion of participants aged 15–64 who responded 'Yes' to 'Has the NDIS helped you have more choice and control over your life?' after two years in the scheme

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: NDIA Business Systems

Latest results: June 2024 (Q4 of 2023–24)

- In 2023–24 Q4, more than three-quarters (78.4%) of NDIS participants aged 15–64 responded that the NDIS had helped them to have more choice and control over their life after 2 years in the scheme. This was an increase of 3 percentage points from baseline (2021–22 Q2; 75.4%) (Figure 5.3).
- The increase over the previous 12 months builds on the 0.5 of a percentage point increase seen over the first 6 months of the Strategy (2021–22 Q2 to 2021–22 Q4).
- Fitting a regression model to the data post-baseline shows a modelled increase of 0.2 of a percentage point per quarter and a modelled increase of 3.0% since the start of the Strategy.

Things to consider when interpreting results

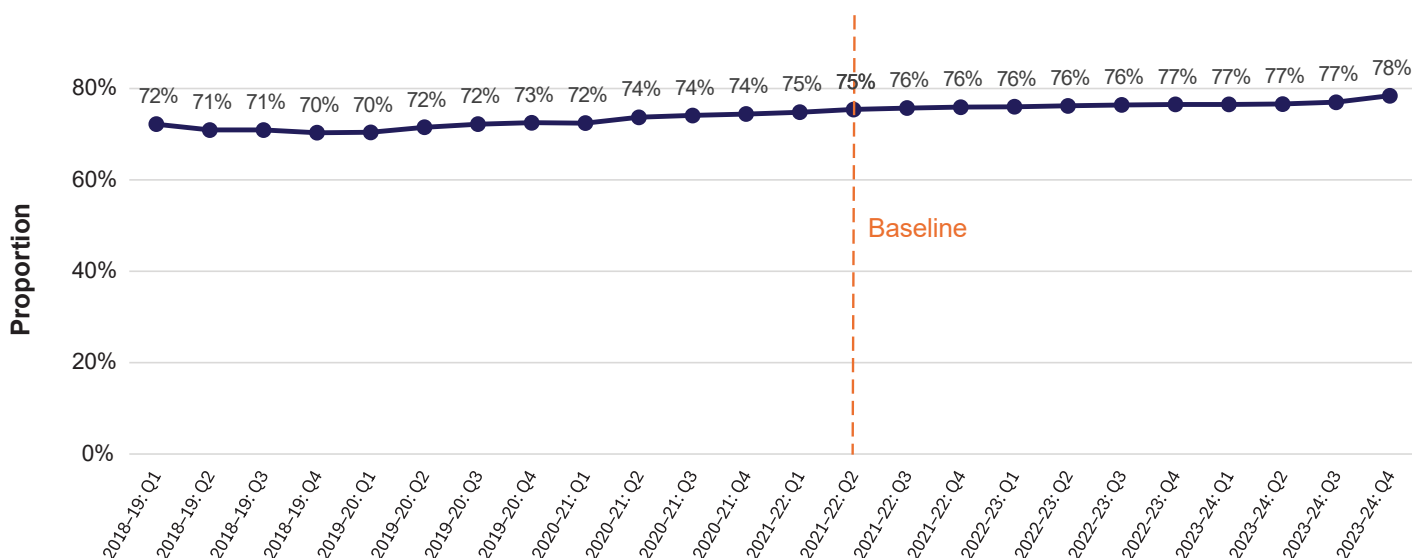
- Time series analysis for the NDIS data presented here is different from the longitudinal approach taken in NDIS reporting. See [Data sources | National Disability Insurance Agency \(NDIA\)](#) for more details.
- Prior to 30 October 2023, there was only one 'yes' option to the question 'Has the NDIS helped you have more choice and control over your life?'. Starting from 30 October 2023, the 'yes' option was split into 'yes, a lot' or 'yes, a bit'. This change in response options may have contributed to a higher increase in the percentage for the most recent quarter.

Latest results: 78.4% (2023–24 Q4)

Baseline: 75.4% (2021–22 Q2)

Progress status: Improving

Figure 5.3: Proportion of NDIS participants aged 15–64 who responded ‘Yes’ to ‘Has the NDIS helped you have more choice and control over your life?’ after 2 years in the scheme, 2018–19 Q1 to 2023–24 Q4



Source: NDIA Business Systems.

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia’s Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | NDIS participants choice and control](#).

References

NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme) (2023) [Am I eligible](#), NDIS website, Australian Government, accessed 18 July 2024.

Informal and carer supports

The informal support provided by parents, siblings, kinship guardians, other family members and friends is vitally important to people with disability. Informal support can include practical and emotional support and representing the interests and rights of the person being supported. Acknowledging and supporting those who provide informal care (including voluntary organisations) can increase the participation of people with disability in community life ([Australia’s Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)).

Carer satisfaction with support

Carers are those who provide any informal assistance to people with disability.

Caring can incur health and emotional costs for some informal carers. Access to, and awareness of, carer support services, such as respite care, may alleviate these impacts of caring ([Deloitte Access Economics 2020](#)).

Due to the nature of the available data, for the purposes of this measure, carers refer to primary carers. A primary carer is someone aged 15 years and over who provides the most informal assistance to a person with disability for the core activities of mobility, self-care and communication ([ABS 2024](#)).

The desired key system outcome for this measure is that carer support services provide carers of people with disability with appropriate assistance.

System measure: Proportion of carers who are satisfied with the range of services available to assist in caring role

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: ABS SDAC

Latest results: 2022

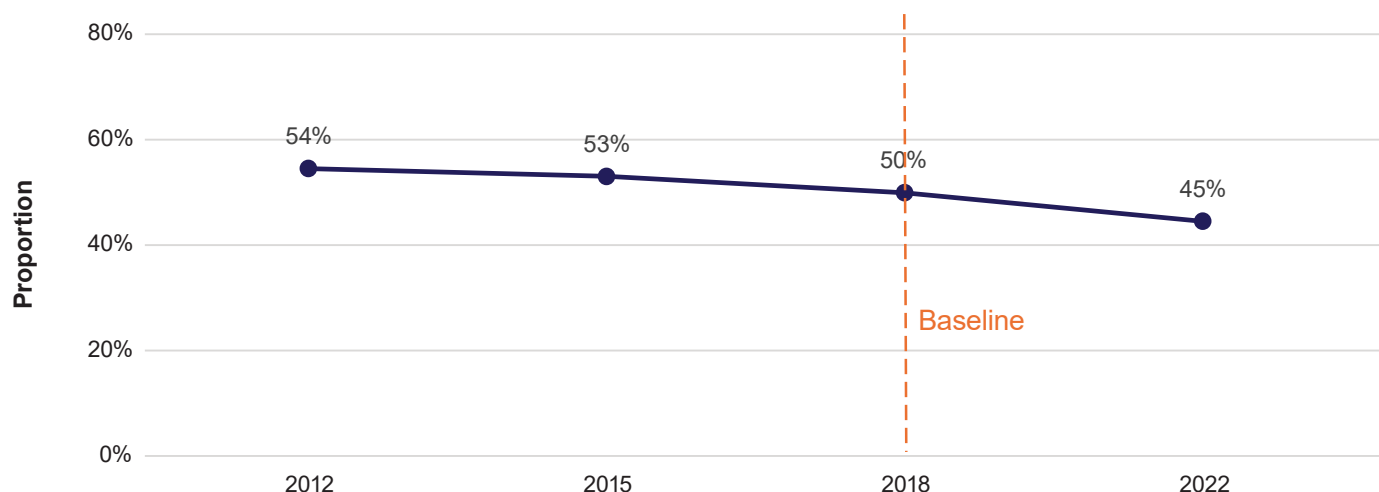
- In 2022, 45% of carers were satisfied with the range of services available to assist in their caring role.
- This was 5 percentage points lower than the baseline value in 2018 (50%), indicating a regress (Figure 5.4).

Latest results: 44.5% (2022)

Baseline: 49.9% (2018)

Progress status: Regress

Figure 5.4: Proportion of carers who are satisfied with the range of services available to assist in caring role



Source: AIHW analysis of ABS SDAC 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2022 (detailed microdata).

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Carer satisfaction with support](#)

Access to alternative care

Respite care is a service that provides alternative care arrangements for people with disability ([ABS 2024](#)). Respite care can provide benefits for people with disability as well as their carers. It helps people with disability who require support needs, by giving them some time away from families and carers. It also allows carers time away from caring responsibilities ([NDIS 2022](#)).

A range of people use respite care for different reasons. However, there may be barriers to accessing these services, such as cost, availability or lack of knowledge about availability ([AIHW 2023](#)). Due to the nature of the available data, the population for this measure is restricted to primary carers.

The Outcomes Framework intended to track the proportion of informal carers of people with disability who report that alternative care arrangements are available and affordable. Measure wording has been revised in this report to reflect available data more accurately (see [Appendix B: List of measures](#)).

Available data do not allow the exact measure listed to be tracked. An alternative measure is reported here as:

- Proportion of informal carers of people with disability who report no unmet need for respite care.

The desired population outcome for this measure is to see an increase in carers being able to access suitable carer support.

Population measure: Proportion of informal carers of people with disability who report no unmet need for respite care

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: ABS SDAC

Latest results: 2022

- 86% of carers reported no unmet need for respite care, the same proportion of carers in 2018 (86%), indicating a status of no change.
- Results from the 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2022 SDAC indicate that there has been very little change in the proportion of carers reporting no unmet need for respite care.

Things to consider when interpreting results

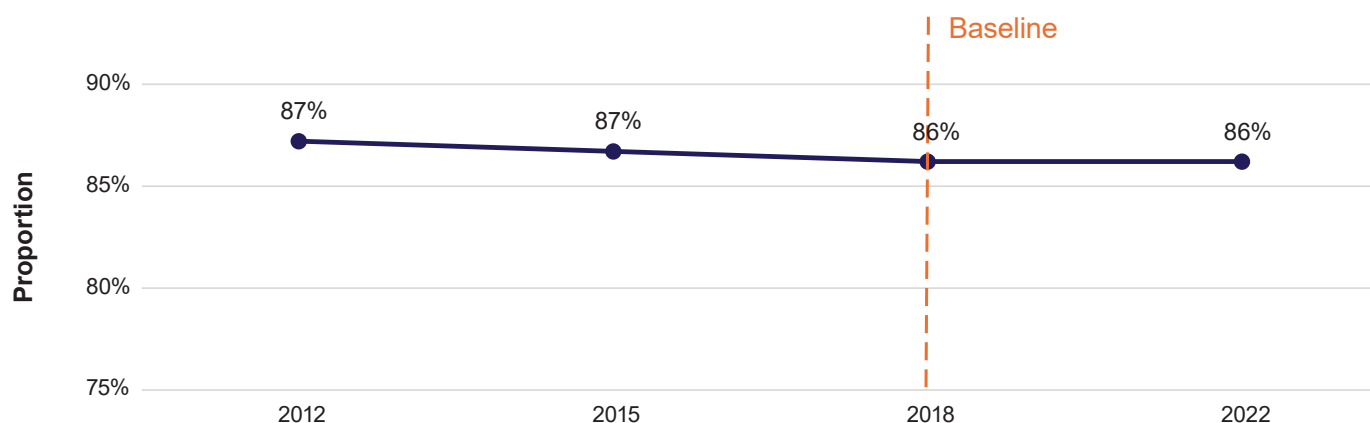
- Unmet need for respite care is defined as needing (more) respite care, regardless of any respite care already received. Primary carers who say they do not need (more) respite care or do not know if they need it are considered to have no unmet need for respite care.

Latest results: 86.2% (2022)

Baseline: 86.2% (2018)

Progress status: No change

Figure 5.5: Proportion of informal carers of people with disability who report no unmet need for respite care



Source: AIHW analysis of ABS SDAC 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2022 (detailed microdata).

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Access to alternative care](#)

References

ABS (2024) '[Carers](#)', Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, ABS website, accessed 23 July 2024.

AIHW (2023) [Informal carers](#), AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 28 September 2023.

Deloitte Access Economics (2020) [The value of informal care in 2020](#), Deloitte Access Economics, accessed 28 August 2023.

NDIS (2022) [How we can help carers](#) How we can help carers, NDIS website, Australian Government, accessed 28 August 2023.

Availability of assistive technology

Assistive technology comprises devices or systems used by people to make tasks easier. Smart phones and remote controls are examples of such technology used daily by many people. Other types of assistive technology include grab rails, hoists, wheelchairs, hearing aids, text captioning services, home modifications, digital assistive technology, prosthetics and devices to support memory.

For people with disability, access to assistive technology supports inclusion, participation, communication and engagement in all aspects of life ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)).

NDIS participants use of assistive technology

Assistive technology helps people with disability do things they may not otherwise be able to do (due to their disability) easily or safely. It is designed to help with everyday tasks and may reduce the need for other supports over time ([NDIS 2022](#)).

The Outcomes Framework intended to track the proportion of NDIS participants' plans that use assistive technology supports. To clarify the intent of the measure, it is reported here as:

- Proportion of NDIS participants who received assistive technology supports in the last 12 months.

The desired key system outcome for this measure is that the NDIS provides participants with access to the assistive technology they require.

Data presented in this report measures the proportion of active NDIS participants receiving assistive technology supports of any value in the last 12 months.

System measure: Proportion of NDIS participants who received assistive technology supports in the last 12 months

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: NDIA Business Systems

Revised baseline results: December 2021 (Q2 of 2021–22)

- In 2021–22 Q2, 49% of NDIS participants aged 15–64 received assistive technology supports in the previous 12 months.
- The overall trend for the period leading up to and including the baseline (2017–18 Q2 to 2021–22 Q2) was favourable, trending upward (Figure 5.6).

Latest results: June 2024 (Q4 of 2023–24)

- In 2023–24 Q4, less than half (45.2%) of NDIS participants aged 15–64 received assistive technology supports in the previous 12 months. There has been a decrease of 3.5 percentage points since baseline, indicating a regression since the Strategy began.
- Although the movements post-baseline have been very small, there was a slight downward trend over the first 9 months of the Strategy, with decreases between 0.2 and 0.5 of a percentage point between 2021–22 Q2 and 2022–23 Q1.
- From 2023–24 Q1 to 2023–24 Q4, the measure has decreased between 0.5 to 1.3 percentage points per quarter.

Things to consider when interpreting results

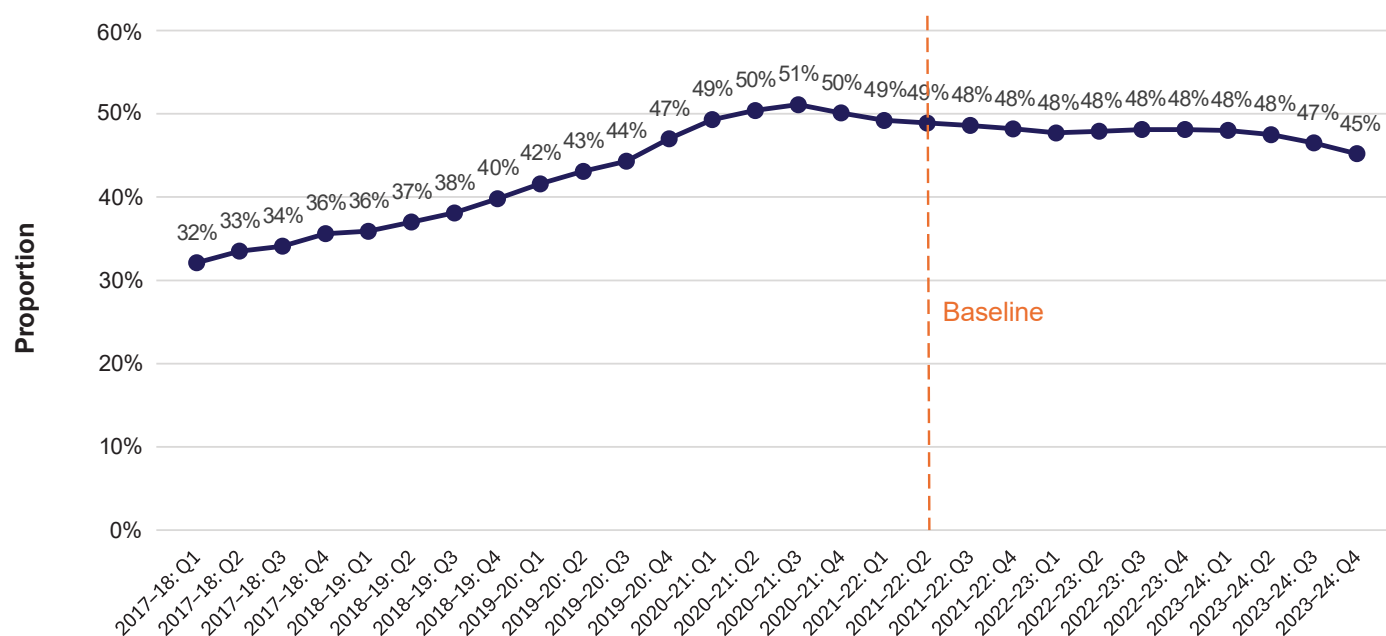
- Time series analysis for the NDIS data presented here is different from the longitudinal approach taken in NDIS reporting. See [Data sources | National Disability Insurance Agency \(NDIA\)](#) for more details.
- Participants are likely to still be using and benefitting from assistive technology (as a capital investment) even if there are no costs incurred during a 12-month period.
- All supports funded in a NDIS participant's plan must meet the NDIS Reasonable and Necessary Criteria, which includes that the support will be effective for the participant and be related to their specific disability needs. Not all NDIS participants would necessarily have a reasonable and necessary requirement for assistive technology supports.

Latest results: 45.2% (2023–24 Q4)

Baseline: 48.7% (2021–22 Q2)

Progress status: Regress

Figure 5.6: Proportion of NDIS participants aged 15–64 who received assistive technology supports, 2017–18 Q1 to 2023–24 Q4



Source: NDIA Business Systems.

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | NDIS participants use of assistive technology](#).

Additional aids

People with disability may use aids or equipment to assist with their functioning, improve their independence and increase their participation in social and economic life. A variety of aids or equipment may be used depending on a person's living arrangements, personal and environmental factors, levels of impairment or activity limitation, accessibility and affordability ([ABS 2024](#)).

The desired population outcome for this measure is an increase in the accessibility of assistive technology for people with disability.

Population measure: Proportion of people with disability who do not need additional aids

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: ABS SDAC

This measure will be replaced in the future when available data are improved. During the life of the Strategy, this measure will be replaced by 'Proportion of people with disability who can access the assistive technology they need'.

Latest results: 2022

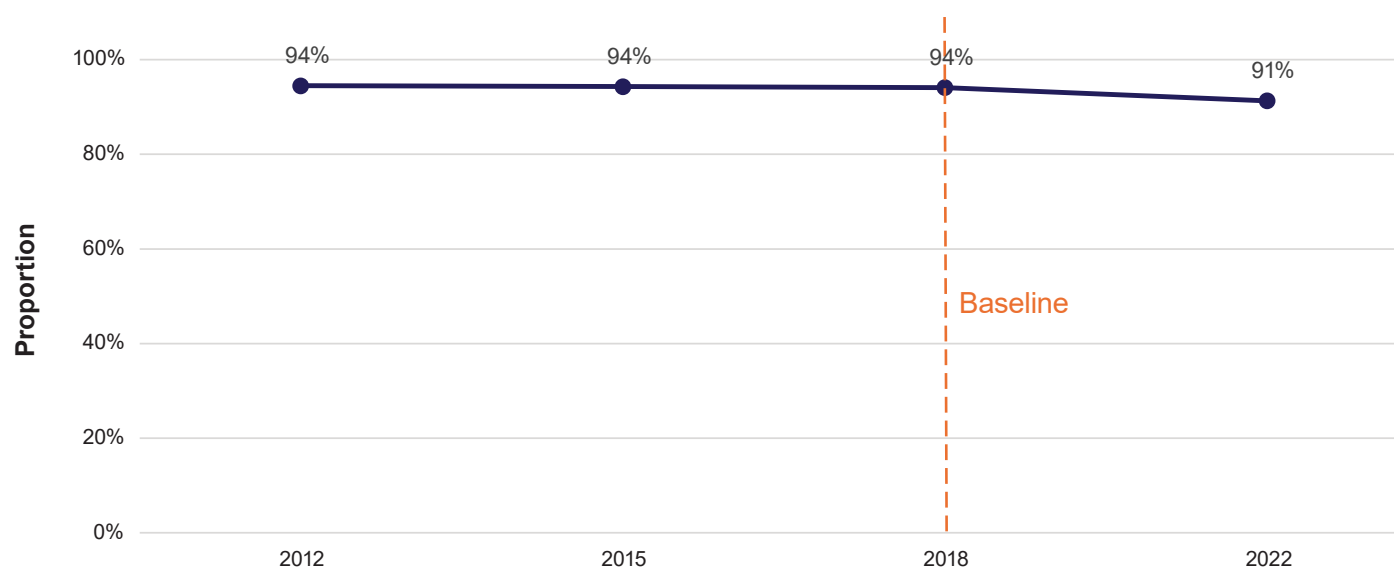
- In 2022, 91% of people with disability did not need additional aids. This is down 3 percentage points from the baseline value in 2018 (94%) and indicates a regress.
- The result in 2022 is the first decrease in the proportion of people with disability who did not need additional aids. Prior to that, the proportion remained steady in from 2012 to 2018 (Figure 5.7).

Latest results: 91.3% (2022)

Baseline: 94.1% (2018)

Progress status: Regress

Figure 5.7: Proportion of people with disability who do not need additional aids



Source: AIHW analysis of ABS SDAC 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2022 (detailed microdata).

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Additional aids](#)

References

ABS (2024) 'Disability', [Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings](#) Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, ABS website, accessed 23 July 2024.

NDIS (2022) [What do we mean by assistive technology?](#), NDIS website, Australian Government, accessed 28 August 2023.

Future measures

The personal and community support measures listed in Table 5.2 will undergo future data development and will be included in future reports as data become available, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | About future data development](#).

Table 5.2: Personal and community support measures requiring further development

Policy priority	Measure
Availability of support	Proportion of people who report that they can access mainstream support services when they need them ^(a) (population measure)
People with complex, high needs are supported	Proportion of NDIS participants who report systems accessed through their individual support package were effective (population measure)
Availability of assistive technology	Proportion of people with disability who can access the assistive technology they need ^(b) (population measure)

(a) In the future, this measure will replace 'Proportion of people with disability who had their needs fully met'.

(b) In the future, this measure will replace 'Proportion of people with disability who do not need additional aids'.



Education and learning

6

6. Education and learning

Outcome

People with disability achieve their full potential through education and learning

Why is this outcome area important?

Participation in education, both formal and informal, is critical to developing skills and providing pathways for people with disability to find fulfilling employment and gain financial independence. Education can lead to enhanced general wellbeing and enriched lives ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)).

The Disability Standards for Education 2005 clarify the obligations for education and training providers to ensure that students with disability can access and participate in education on the same basis as students without disability ([Department of Education 2021](#)).

Under the United Nations (UN) *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, Australia has an obligation to ensure an inclusive education system and lifelong learning that enables the full development of human potential, sense of dignity and self-worth, and the strengthening of human rights, freedoms, and diversity. This also includes providing persons with disabilities the opportunity to develop their personality, talents, creativity and abilities to their full potential and to effectively participate in society ([UN 2006](#)).

Missing out on the benefits of education affects job prospects, wages and job satisfaction. It can influence decisions and behaviour that negatively affect health and participation in a connected and fulfilling life ([Lamb & Huo 2017](#)).

What are the policy priorities?

1. **Participation in early childhood education:** Helping children with disability to be ready to start school.
2. **Participation in school education:** Supporting students with disability to finish high school.
3. **Participation in tertiary education:** Supporting people with disability to participate in and complete additional education after high school.
4. **Participation in informal education (life skills):** Supporting people with disability to continue to learn life skills.

Measures

For 3 of the 4 policy priorities under this outcome area, data are available for 3 system measures and 4 population measures (Table 6.1). Since the second annual report, historical data has been updated for one measure and post-baseline data has been updated for the first time for 4 measures.

All 7 measures have updated post-baseline data where:

- 4 showed improving
- 2 showed no change
- one showed regress.

For future measures requiring development, see [Future measures](#).

Table 6.1: Education and learning reference guide

Policy priority	Measure	Baseline time point	Baseline value	Latest time point	Latest value	Change since baseline ^(a)	Progress status
Participation in early childhood education	Proportion of children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full-time schooling (YBFS) who have disability, compared with proportion of children aged 4 to 5 years who have disability in the community [†] (system measure)	2021	6.2% <i>preschool</i>	2023	7.1% <i>preschool</i>	0.9 pp	
		2018	7.6% <i>community</i>	2018	7.6% <i>community</i>	n.a.	Improving
Participation in school education	Proportion of people with disability who completed Year 10 [†] (or equivalent) (population measure)	2018	85.5%	2022	90.2%	4.7 pp	Improving
Participation in school education	Proportion of people with disability who completed Year 12 [†] (or equivalent) (population measure)	2018	45.5%	2022	57.8%	12.3 pp	Improving
Participation in tertiary education	Proportion of VET students with disability (aged 15–64) (system measure)	2021	4.4%	2022	4.1%	-0.3 pp	No change
Participation in tertiary education	Proportion of undergraduate higher education students with disability (system measure)	2021	10.2%	2022	11.5%	1.3 pp	Improving
Participation in tertiary education	Qualification completion rate for VET students aged 15–64 with disability, compared with students without disability (population measure)		40.0% <i>with disability</i>		41.7% <i>with disability</i>		
			46.3% <i>without disability</i>		49.0% <i>without disability</i>	1.0 pp increase in gap	Regress
		Cohort 2017–2021		Cohort 2018–2022			
Participation in tertiary education	Proportion of students with disability who complete a higher education qualification (population measure)	Cohort 2016–2021	54.9%	Cohort 2017–2022	54.6%	-0.3 pp	No change

[†] Measure wording has been revised to reflect available data more accurately or clarify the measure's intent. See relevant measure section below for more information (See [Appendix B: List of measures](#)).

n.a. – not available; pp – percentage points; VET – vocational education and training.

(a) n.a. indicates that there has not been an additional data point post-baseline to enable an assessment of progress.

References

Department of Education (2021) [Disability Standards for Education 2005](#), Department of Education website, Australian Government, accessed 1 September 2023.

Lamb S and Huo S (2017) [Counting the costs of lost opportunity in Australian education](#), Mitchell Institute, Melbourne, doi: 10.422/80/591e74a01d950, accessed 19 July 2024.

UN (2006) '[Article 24 – Education](#)', Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, UN, accessed 19 July 2024.

Participation in early childhood education

High-quality, affordable and inclusive early childhood education and care help children with disability and their families to succeed in life. Early education and care benefit children's primary education years and can support future success not only in educational attainment and employment, but also in economic and social participation ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)).

Preschool enrolment

Preschool programs are structured, play-based learning programs which are delivered by a qualified teacher and aimed at children in the year or two before starting full-time schooling ([SCRGSP 2023](#)). Quality preschool education sets the foundation for all children to realise their potential, particularly when systems are not inclusive and accommodating of disability.

In Australia, preschool enrolment, or attendance, is not compulsory. However, recognising its benefits, the Commonwealth has provided a per-child funding contribution since 2009 to support States in delivering 15 hours of quality preschool a week. This was initially through Universal Access National Partnership arrangements, and from 2022, through the Preschool Reform Agreement ([Federal Financial Relations 2021](#)).

The Outcomes Framework intended to track the proportion of children with disability enrolled in a preschool program the year before full-time schooling (YBFS) compared with representation in the community. Measure wording has been revised in this report to reflect available data more accurately (see [Appendix B: List of measures](#)).

Estimated resident population data for children with disability are not available. For this reason, the proportion of children with disability enrolled in preschool is compared with the estimated prevalence of children with disability in Australia. Disability prevalence is sourced from the ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC), the best source for this data. Disability prevalence data from SDAC has not been updated since 2018. The measure is reported as:

- Proportion of children enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS who have disability, compared with the proportion of children aged 4 to 5 years who have disability in community.

The desired key system outcome for this measure is that the preschool system supports children with disability to achieve their full potential.

System measure: Proportion of children enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS who have disability, compared with the proportion of children aged 4 to 5 years who have disability in the community

Desired outcome: Proportion of children enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS who have disability to reflect their representation in the community

Data source: Report on Government Services (RoGS)

Latest results: 2023

- In 2023, the proportion of children with disability who were enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS was 7.1%, similar to the proportion of children with disability aged 4–5 in the community in 2018 – the latest year for which prevalence data for disability from the ABS SDAC are available (7.6%; 95% CIs 6.2–9.0%) (Figure 6.1).
- The proportion of children with disability who were enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS in 2023 (7.1%) is the highest proportion since 2019 (6.8%).

Things to consider when interpreting results

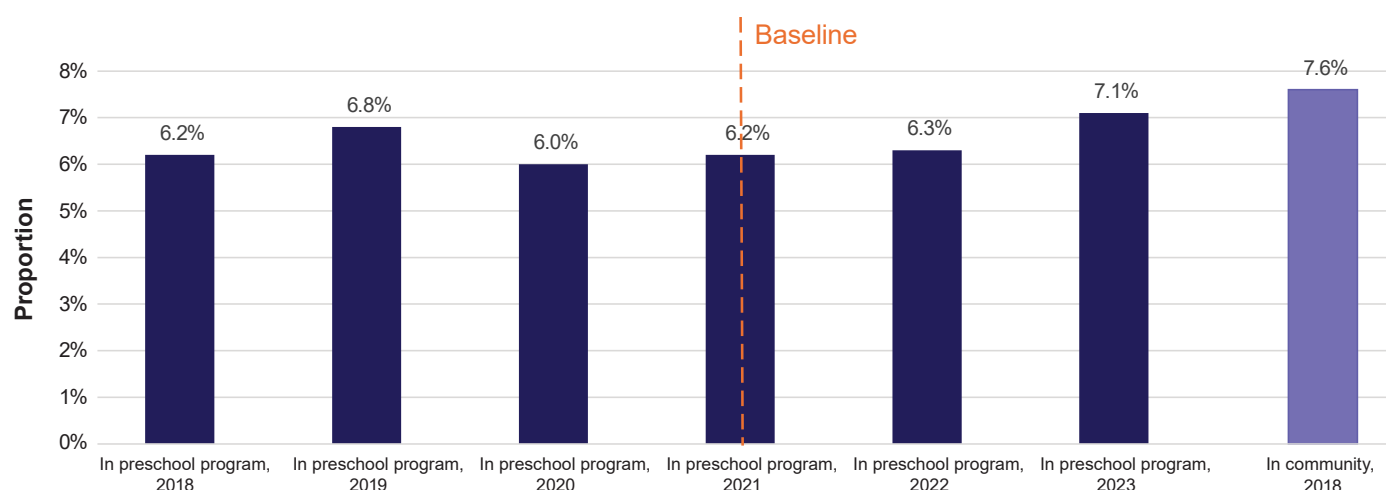
- While the best available sources have been used for this measure, care should be taken in comparing results as the data come from 2 different sources.
- The YBFS population is an estimate of a single year cohort for the population that will transition to full-time schooling in the following year. Preschool starting age varies across jurisdictions and the YBFS population age range is specific to each state or territory. Data are not directly comparable across jurisdictions but are comparable across years for jurisdictions.

Latest results: 7.1% (preschool) (2023); 7.6% (community) (2018)

Baseline: 6.2% (preschool) (2021); 7.6% (community) (2018)

Progress status: Improving

Figure 6.1: Proportion of children enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS with disability, 2018 to 2023, compared with the proportion of children aged 4 to 5 with disability in the community, 2018



Source: SCRGSP. Report on government services, Part B: child care, education and training. Chapter 3. Early Childhood Education and Care, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Preschool enrolment](#).

References

FFR (Federal Financial Relations) (2021) [Preschool Reform Agreement](#), FFR, Australian Government, accessed 1 September 2023.

SCRGSP (Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision) (2019) [Report on Government Services 2023, volume B: Child care, education and training](#), Productivity Commission, Australian Government, accessed 1 September 2023.

Participation in school education

Students with disability have the right to access and participate in education on the same basis as students without disability. They also have the right to be educated in an environment free from bullying, harassment or exclusion ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)).

Reducing the gaps in educational attainment between people with and without disability is essential to improve lifetime outcomes for people with disability ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)).

Year 10 completion

In Australia, it is mandatory for young people to complete year 10 or an approved equivalent and to continue full-time education, employment or training (or a combination) until at least age 17 under the National Youth Participation Requirement ([ACARA 2024](#); [SCRGSP 2023](#)).

The Outcomes Framework intended to track the proportion of students with disability who complete Year 10 or equivalent. Measure wording has been revised in this report to reflect available data more accurately (see [Appendix B: List of measures](#)).

Available data do not allow reporting on students specifically. The measure is reported here as:

- Proportion of people with disability who completed Year 10 (or equivalent).

The desired population outcome for this measure is to see an increase in young people with disability completing Year 10. Reporting is restricted to people aged 20–64.

Population measure: Proportion of people with disability who completed Year 10 (or equivalent)

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: ABS SDAC

Latest results: 2022

- 9 in 10 people with disability aged 20 and over completed Year 10 (or equivalent) in 2022. This was 4 percentage points more than at baseline (2018; 86%) indicating that the measure has improved since the start of the Strategy.
- There have been period to period increases in the proportion of people with disability who completed Year 10 from 2012 to 2022 (Figure 6.2).

Things to consider when interpreting results

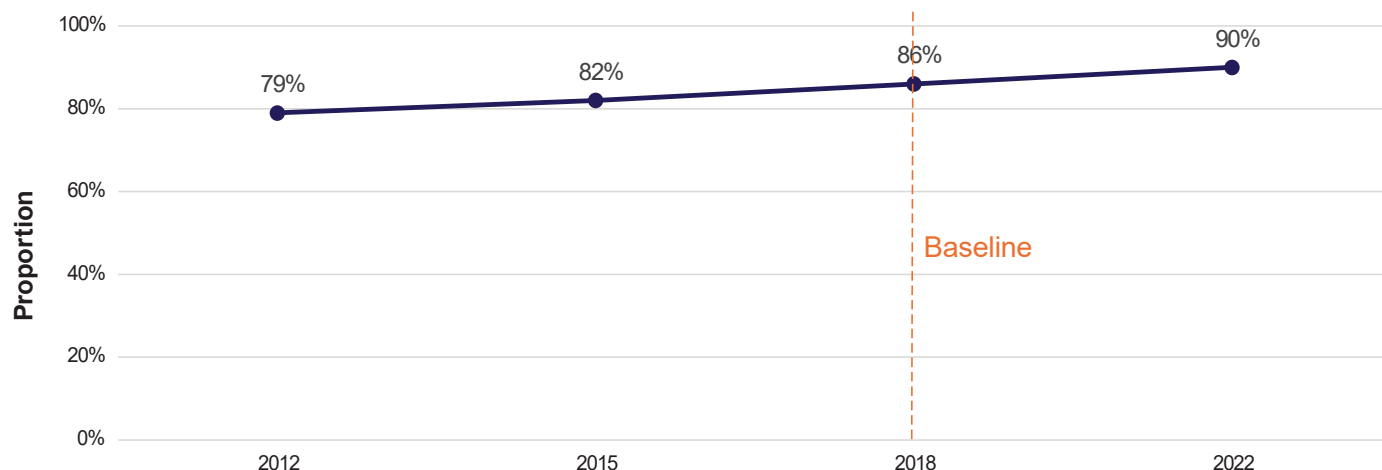
- The currently reported measure provides a retrospective look at adults aged 20 and over who had completed Year 10, rather than providing a forecast of completion rates for students with disability, or the proportion of current enrolments who complete Year 10 in a given year.

Latest results: 90.2% (2022)

Baseline: 85.5% (2018)

Progress status: Improving

Figure 6.2: Proportion of people with disability who completed year 10 (or equivalent)



Source: AIHW analysis of ABS SDAC 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2022 (detailed microdata).

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Year 10 completion](#).

Year 12 completion

A key milestone in the formal development of young people's skills and knowledge is completing Year 12 or an equivalent nonschool qualification (including VET qualifications) ([ACARA 2024](#)). Students who complete senior secondary education have a greater likelihood of continuing with further study or training, entering into the workforce, and improved living conditions ([AIHW 2023](#); [Department of Education 2018](#)).

The Outcomes Framework intended to track the proportion of students with disability who complete Year 12 or equivalent. Measure wording has been revised in this report to reflect available data more accurately (see [Appendix B: List of measures](#)).

Available data do not allow reporting on students specifically. The measure is reported here as:

- Proportion of people with disability who completed Year 12 (or equivalent).

The desired population outcome of this measure is to see an increase in young people with disability completing secondary school. Reporting is restricted to people aged 20–64.

Population measure: Proportion of people with disability who completed Year 12 (or equivalent)

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: ABS SDAC

Latest results: 2022

- In 2022, 58% of people with disability aged 20–64 completed Year 12 (or equivalent). This was 12 percentage points more than the proportion of people with disability who completed Year 12 at baseline (2018; 46%).
- There have been period to period increases in the proportion of people with disability who completed Year 12 from 2012 to 2022 (Figure 6.3).

Things to consider when interpreting results

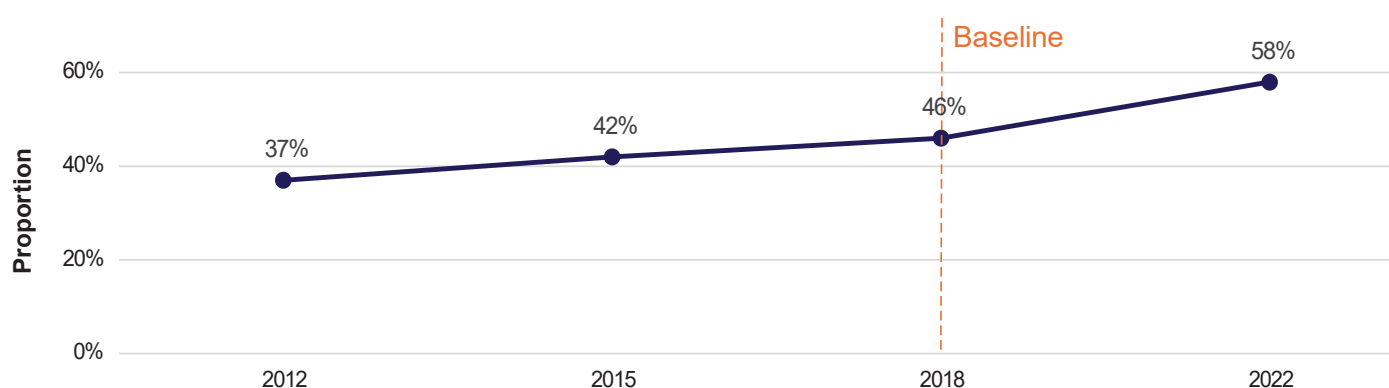
- The currently reported measure provides a retrospective look at adults aged 20 and over who had completed Year 12, rather than providing a forecast of completion rates for students with disability, or the proportion of current enrolments who complete Year 12 in a given year.

Latest results: 57.8% (2022)

Baseline: 45.5% (2018)

Progress status: Improving

Figure 6.3: Proportion of people with disability who completed year 12 (or equivalent)



Source: AIHW analysis of ABS SDAC 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2022 (detailed microdata).

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Year 12 completion](#).

References

ACARA (Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority) (2024) [National Report on Schooling in Australia 2022](#), ACARA website, accessed 28 October 2024.

AIHW (2024) 'Educational attainment', [People with disability in Australia](#), AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 1 September 2024.

AIHW (2023) 'Primary and secondary schooling', [Australia's Welfare](#), AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 28 October 2024.

Department of Education (2018) [Through Growth to Achievement: Report of the Review to Achieve Educational Excellence in Australian Schools](#), Department of Education, Australian Government, accessed 25 October 2023.

SCRGSP (2023) [Report on Government Services 2023, School education](#), Productivity Commission, Australian Government, accessed 1 September 2023.

Participation in tertiary education

Improving pathways and accessibility to post-school education and training for people with disability assists them to achieve their full potential, and to access the same opportunities as Australians without disability ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)). Having a higher level of education generally results in better employment outcomes and higher income, which are both key factors in economic security and independence ([AIHW 2024](#)).

VET participation

A focus for the VET sector is on providing individuals with the skills they need to get a job or change jobs. The VET sector supports the development of technical and employability skills to participate productively in the workforce ([NCVER 2020](#)). VET is also an important pathway for educational re-engagement for early school leavers ([Lim 2022](#)). The desired key system outcome of this measure is that VET supports people with disability to continue their learning.

Data are for domestic VET students.

System measure: Proportion of VET students with disability (aged 15–64)

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: NCVER

Latest results: 2022

- In 2022, the proportion of domestic VET students with disability aged 15–64 was 4.1%.
- The proportion of domestic VET students with disability aged 15–64 has changed little over the period from 2017 to 2022, remaining at less than 5% and ranging between 4.1% in 2022 and its highest point of 4.6% in 2020 (Figure 6.4).

Things to consider when interpreting results

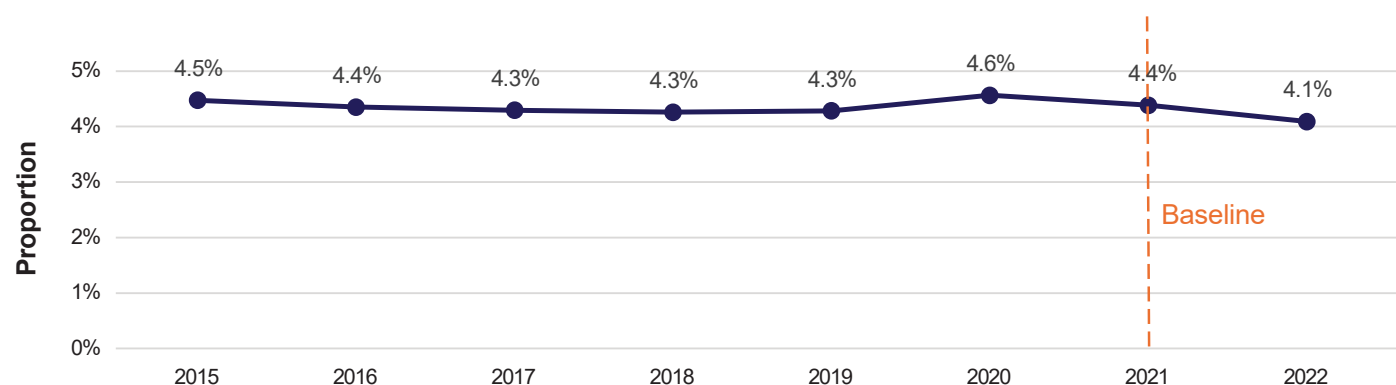
- Data for VET domestic student numbers has a relatively high proportion of students for whom disability status was unknown; results should be treated with some caution. In 2022, disability status was unknown for 11.2% of students, a drop since 2017 (14.9%).

Latest results: 4.1% (2022)

Baseline: 4.4% (2021)

Progress status: No change

Figure 6.4: Proportion of domestic VET students with disability aged 15–64, 2015 to 2022



Source: NCVER 2023, Australian vocational education and training statistics: Total VET students and courses 2022 (DataBuilder)

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | VET participation](#).

Undergraduate participation

Undergraduate higher education develops students' skills and knowledge to prepare them for more highly skilled or professional employment. It is also a pathway to postgraduate study. Undergraduate study in Australia includes an undergraduate certificate, a diploma or advanced diploma that is not accredited as a VET award, an associate degree, a bachelor degree or an honours program ([Department of Education 2022](#)).

The desired key system outcome for this measure is that the higher education system supports people with disability to participate in higher education.

Data are for domestic students aged 15 and over at [Table A and B providers only](#) (that is, public universities and private universities that receive Australian Government assistance) ([TCSI 2021](#)).

System measure: Proportion of undergraduate higher education students with disability

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: Higher Education Statistics Collection

Latest results: 2022

- There was a significant change in the disability data from 2021 which resulted in a steep increase in the number of higher education students reported with a disability. The increase is not reflective of a real-world increase. Data after 2021 cannot be reliably compared to data prior to 2021.
- In 2022, the proportion of domestic undergraduate higher education students aged 15 and over who reported they had a disability was 11%. This was one percentage point higher than in 2021 (10%) (Figure 6.5).

- The proportion of domestic undergraduate higher education students with disability increased between 2021 and 2022. Fitting a regression model to the data from 2021 to 2022 shows a modelled increase of 1.3 of a percentage point per year and a modelled increase of 13% over the reference period. The number of domestic undergraduate higher education students with disability in 2022 (87,100) was 7.0% higher than in 2021 (81,400).

Things to consider when interpreting results

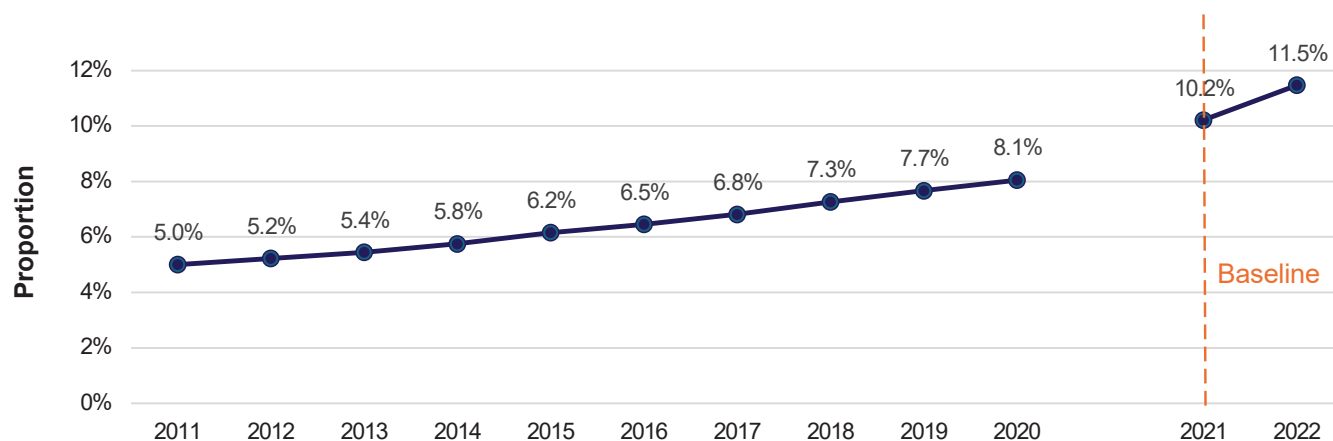
- Data on disability status are based on self-identification. This means that if a student does not self-identify, the student is considered to be without disability for the purposes of the data collection.
- Due to an issue related to implementation of the TCSI System over its first year of operation in 2020, enrolment numbers for students with disability were substantially under-reported in the case of several universities. As it is not possible to correct this oversight, the entire series has been reported as received and constitutes a break in time-series from 2021. For this reason, caution should be taken when considering 2020 enrolment data for students with disability, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Higher Education Statistics Collection](#).

Latest results: 11.5% (2022)

Baseline: 10.2% (2021)

Progress status: Improving

Figure 6.5: Proportion of undergraduate higher education students aged 15 and over who reported they had a disability, 2011 to 2022



Source: Department of Education Higher Education Statistics Collection.

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Undergraduate participation](#).

VET completion

Young people with disability face barriers to educational attainment. As a result, course completion rates tend to be lower among students with disability than among those without disability ([Fossey et al. 2015](#)).

The baseline rates reported here are observed actual completion rates for the cohort 2017–2021 – that is, students who started their qualifications in 2017 and completed them by 2021. This cohort analysis assumes that enough time has passed for all students who were going to complete their qualification to have done so.

A desired population outcome of the Strategy is an increase in young people transitioning into further study, training and completion of qualifications. This measure focuses on qualification completions.

Data are for domestic VET students.

Population measure: Qualification completion rate for VET students aged 15–64 with disability, compared with students without disability

Desired outcome: Reduction in gap

Data source: NCVER

Latest results: Cohort 2018–2022

- The qualification completion rate for cohort 2018–2022 domestic VET students with disability aged 15–64 was 42% compared with 49% for those without disability. This represents a gap of 7 percentage points. The gap increased by one percentage point compared to the 2017–2021 cohort, indicating that the measure has not improved since the start of the Strategy.
- Between cohorts 2015–2019 and 2018–2022, the completion rate for students with disability increased from 39% to 42% (3 percentage points). For students without disability, it increased from 43% to 49% (6 percentage points) (Figure 6.6).
- The gap in completion rates between students with disability and students without disability has increased year on year from 4 percentage points for cohort 2015–2019 to 7 percentage points for cohort 2018–2022.

Things to consider when interpreting results

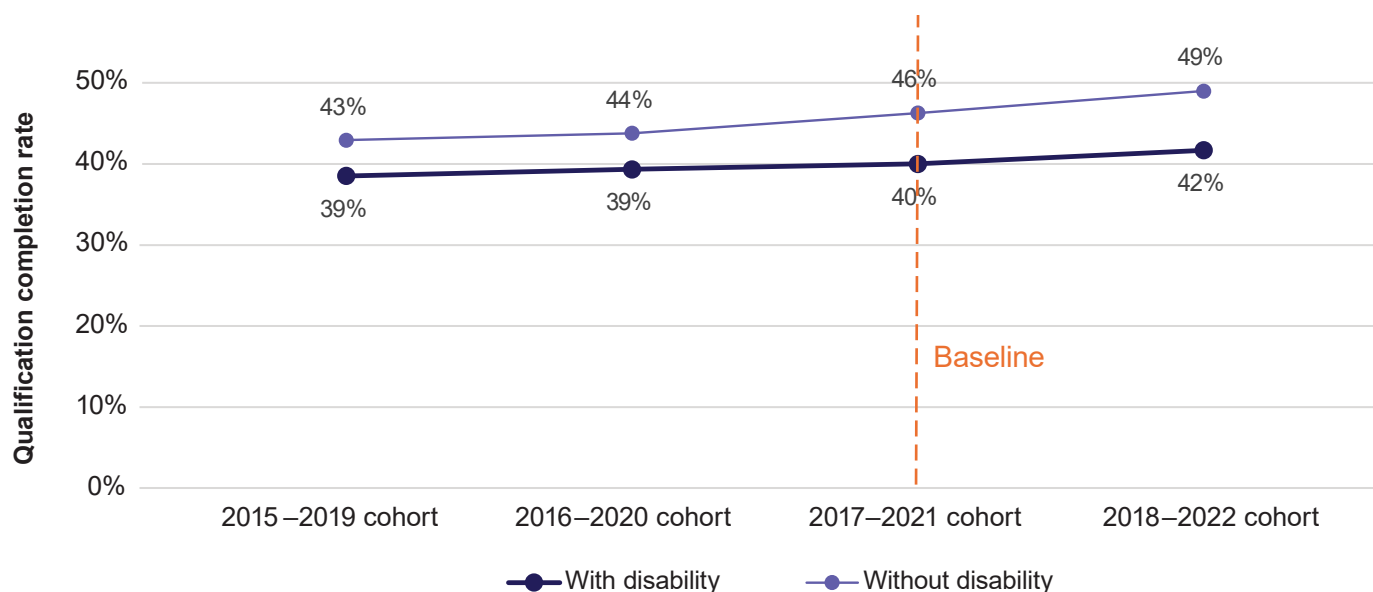
- These data on VET completion rates have a relatively high proportion of students for whom disability status was unknown, and results should be treated with some caution. For cohort 2018–2022, disability status was unknown for 19% of enrolled students. This was higher than the previous 3 cohorts: 18% in 2017–2021, 17% in 2016–2020, and 15% in 2015–2019.
- While completion rates improved, the number of VET students with and without disability who completed their qualification dropped. The number of students with disability in cohort 2018–2022 who completed their qualification was 8.2% lower (or 3,946 fewer) than for cohort 2015–2019. For those without disability, it was 24% lower (or 157,401 fewer students).

Latest results: 41.7% (with disability), 49.0% (without disability) (2018–2022)

Baseline: 40.0% (with disability), 46.3% (without disability) (2017–2021)

Progress status: Regress

Figure 6.6: Qualification completion rate for VET students aged 15–64 with and without disability, cohorts 2015–2019 to 2018–2022



Source: NCVER 2023. Australian vocational education and training statistics: total VET students and courses 2022 (customised data request).

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, visit [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | VET completion](#).

Higher education completion

Higher education in Australia consists of undergraduate (see [Undergraduate participation](#) for definition) and postgraduate study. Post-graduate awards include a graduate certificate or diploma that is not accredited as a VET award, a master's degree, and a doctoral degree ([Department of Education 2022](#)).

The desired population outcome of the Strategy is an increase in young people with disability transitioning into further study, training and completing qualifications. This measure focuses on students with disability who complete their higher education qualification.

Higher education qualification completion rates presented here are based on cohort analyses that track higher education student outcomes over time. Data relate to higher education students who commenced their studies in a given year and completed their studies over a 6-year period. For example, cohort 2017–2022 are students who commenced their studies in 2017 and completed them in any year between 2017 and 2022.

Data are for domestic onshore undergraduate and post-graduate students aged 15 and over at [Table A and B providers](#) only (that is public universities and private universities that receive Australian Government assistance).

Population measure: Proportion of students with disability who complete a higher education qualification

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: Higher Education Statistics Collection

Latest results: Cohort 2017–2022

- Over half (55%) of domestic students aged 15 and over who reported they had a disability and who commenced their studies in 2017 had completed a higher education qualification (undergraduate or post-graduate) by 2022 (cohort 2017–2022) (Figure 6.7). This is the same as for cohorts 2015–2020 and 2016–2021 (both 55%) but lower than for cohort 2005–2010 (59%).
- The proportion of domestic students who reported they had a disability and completed a higher education qualification over a 6-year period has consistently fallen over time (Figure 6.7). Fitting a regression model to the data for cohorts 2005–2010 to 2017–2022, there was a modelled decrease of 0.4 of a percentage point per year and a modelled decrease of 7.8% over the reference period.
- While the proportion has fallen, the number has consistently increased over the reference period. Almost 11,500 students with disability in the 2017–2022 cohort completed their qualification, compared with just under 4,700 students in 2005–2010 cohort.
- Fitting a regression model to the data shows a modelled increase in the number of students who completed a higher education qualification of 599 per year and a modelled increase of 168% over the reference period. It should be noted that the size of the increase, in part, reflects the relatively small size of the cohort of students with disability.

Things to consider when interpreting results

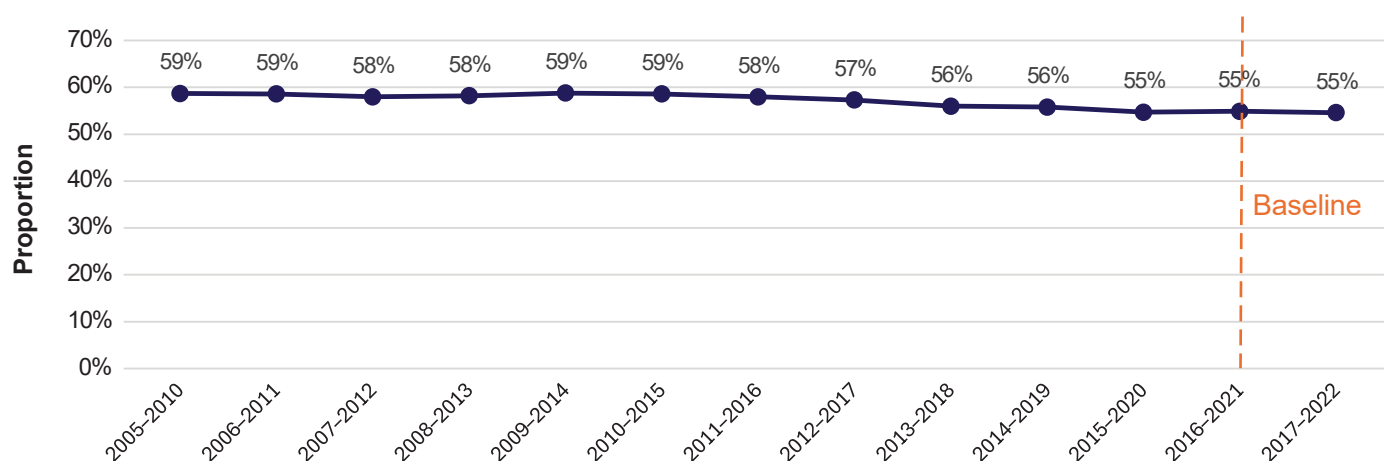
- Of the student cohorts who had not completed their degree within the reported 6-year period, many are still engaged in their study, and have the potential to do so over a longer period. For data relating completions over a 9-year period, see [3rd annual report | Data tables: Education and Learning](#).
- The data presented for this measure do not take into account that some students with disability may be studying part time, which is a factor in completion times. For the student population as a whole (that is, students with and without disability), lower completion rates may be observed in the older student cohort as they are more likely to be part-time students ([Department of Education 2017](#)).

Latest results: 54.6% (2017–2022)

Baseline: 54.9% (2016–2021)

Progress status: No change

Figure 6.7: Proportion of students aged 15 and over with a self-reported disability who completed a higher education qualification, cohorts 2005–2010 to 2017–2022



Source: Department of Education Higher Education Statistics Collection.

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Higher education completion](#).

References

AIHW (2024) 'Education and skills', [People with disability in Australia](#), AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 1 September 2023.

Department of Education (2017) [Completion rates of higher education students: Cohort analysis, 2005–2014](#), Department of Education website, Australian Government, accessed 28 October 2024.

— (2022) [Courses of study](#), Department of Education website, Australian Government, accessed 1 September 2023.

Fossey E, Chaffey L, Venville A, Ennals P, Douglas J and Bigby C (2015) [Supporting tertiary students with disabilities: individualised and institution-level approaches in practice](#), NCVER, accessed 12 September 2023.

Lim P (2022) [VET as a re-engagement pathway for early school leavers](#), NCVER, accessed 12 September 2023.

NCVER (National Centre for Vocational Education Research) (2020) [Workforce-ready: challenges and opportunities for VET](#), NCVER, accessed 12 September 2023.

TCSI (Tertiary Collection of Student Information) (2021) [Glossary](#), TCSI website, accessed 1 September 2023.

Participation in informal education

Lifelong learning has many benefits, including the acquisition of knowledge and the development of skills. Lifelong learning can also facilitate career advancement. Opportunities for learning should be equally accessible to people with disability in both formal and informal settings. These include adult and community education, continuing education and training, professional development and self-directed learning ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)).

Data are not yet available for measures under this policy priority (see also below).

Future measures

The education and learning measures listed in Table 6.2 will undergo future data development and will be included in future reports as data become available, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | About future data development](#).

Table 6.2: Education and learning measures requiring further development

Policy priority	Measure
Participation in early childhood education	Proportion of children with disability who meet school readiness indicators in first year of school (population measure)
Participation in school education	Proportion of students with disability attending school 90% or more of the time (system measure)
Participation in school education	Proportion of students with disability in Year 9 achieving above the 'needs additional support' proficiency level for reading (system measure)
Participation in informal education	Proportion of people with disability who reported satisfaction with their access to Adult and Community Education (ACE) (system measure)
Participation in informal education	Proportion of people with disability who report having participated in an informal learning activity in the last 12 months (population measure)



Health and wellbeing

7

7. Health and wellbeing

Outcome

People with disability attain the highest possible health and wellbeing outcomes throughout their lives

Why is this outcome area important?

The Strategy focuses on physical aspects of health and wellbeing as well as improving mental health outcomes for people with disability ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)).

Under the United Nations (UN) Convention on the *Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, Australia has an obligation that persons with disabilities have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and take all appropriate measures to ensure access for persons with disabilities to health services that are gender-sensitive, including health-related rehabilitation ([UN 2006](#)).

Good health and wellbeing are critical determinants of a person's quality of life. People with disability generally report poorer health and higher levels of psychological distress than people without disability ([AIHW 2024a](#)). People with disability may also experience disadvantage or inequality in social, cultural and economic determinants of health ([AIHW 2024b](#)). Addressing these determinants of health and wellbeing is important in improving overall health outcomes.

What are the policy priorities?

1. **Health and wellbeing:** Supporting the health of people with disability by improving their experience when they need to access health services.
2. **Prevention and early intervention:** Improving access to health care for people with disability.
3. **Mental health:** Supporting the mental health of people with disability and improving their experience of mental health care.
4. **Emergency responses:** Improving emergency service responses for people with disability.

Measures

For 3 policy priorities under this outcome area, data are available for 2 system measures, and 4 population measures (Table 7.1). Since the second annual report, one measure has updated pre-baseline data, and 5 have updated post-baseline data for the first time.

All 6 measures have updated post-baseline data in this report. Of these:

- 2 showed improving
- 3 showed no change
- one showed regress.

For future measures requiring development, see [Future measures](#).

Table 7.1: Health and wellbeing reference guide

Policy priority	Measure	Baseline time point	Baseline value	Latest time point	Latest value	Change since baseline ^(c)	Progress status
Health and wellbeing	Proportion of people with disability who reported unmet need for hospital admission in the last 12 months ^(a) (system measure)	2018	10.4%	2022	14.1%	3.6 pp	Regress
Health and wellbeing	Proportion of people with disability who reported excellent, very good or good health compared with people without disability (population measure)	2017–18	68.8% <i>with disability</i> 94.3% <i>without disability</i>	2022	67.6% <i>with disability</i> 94.6% <i>without disability</i>	1.2 pp	No change
Prevention and early intervention	Number of people with disability with GP-type emergency department presentations (system measure)	2018	119,500 (11.2%)	2022	154,500 (12.3%)	35,000 (1.1pp)	No change
Prevention and early intervention	Proportion of people with disability with difficulty accessing medical facilities (GP, dentist, hospital) ^(b) (population measure)	2018	13.8%	2022	11.2%	-2.6 pp	Improving
Mental health	Proportion of adults with disability with high or very high levels of psychological distress (population measure)	2018	30.7%	2022	31.4%	-0.7 pp	No change
Mental health	Proportion of NDIS participants who report feeling satisfied about their life in general now and in the future (population measure)	2020–21	45.7%	2023–24	47.2%	1.5 pp	Improving ^{**}

^{**} Confidence status: Care should be taken when looking at the reported progress status for this measure as there is some uncertainty in the data.

GP – general practitioner; n.a. – not available; pp – percentage points.

(a) This measure will be replaced in the future by 'Number of potentially avoidable deaths in hospital for people with disability compared with people without disability'.

(b) This measure will be replaced in the future by 'Proportion of people with disability who accessed prevention and early intervention services in the last 12 months without difficulty, compared with people without disability'.

(c) n.a. indicates that there has not been an additional data point post-baseline to enable an assessment of progress.

References

- AIHW (2024a) 'Health', [People with disability in Australia](#), AIHW, Australian Government, viewed 19 July 2024.
- AIHW (2024b) 'Social determinants of health', [Australia's Health](#), AIHW, Australian Government, viewed 19 July 2024.
- UN (2006) '[Article 25 – Health](#)', Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, UN, accessed 6 November 2023.

Health and wellbeing

Poorer health experiences among people with disability can be due to inadequate access to health care or the provision of inadequate care. Health care issues can include access to health services; the appropriateness of equipment, training or facilities; the operation of health systems and processes; and health care worker attitudes ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)).

Ensuring that health service providers have the capabilities to meet the needs of people with disability is essential to attaining the highest possible health and wellbeing outcomes for people with disability.

Unmet hospitalisation needs

A key system outcome of the Strategy is that hospitals provide high-quality and suitable services to people with disability. Currently, a transitional measure on unmet need for hospital admission is being reported – proportion of people with disability (of all ages) who reported unmet need for hospital admission (needed to go to hospital but did not go) in the last 12 months.

System measure: Proportion of people with disability who reported unmet need for hospital admission in the last 12 months

Desired outcome: Decrease in the proportion

Data source: ABS SDAC

This measure will be replaced in the future when available data are improved. During the life of the Strategy, it will be replaced by 'Number of potentially avoidable deaths in hospital for people with disability compared to people without disability'.

Latest results: 2022

- In 2022, 14% of people with disability reported the need to go to hospital but did not go (unmet need for hospital admission). This was 4 percentage points more than the proportion at baseline (2018; 10%) indicating a regress.
- Prior to baseline, the proportion of people with disability who reported unmet need for hospital admission in the last 12 months was steady (Figure 7.1).

Things to consider when interpreting results

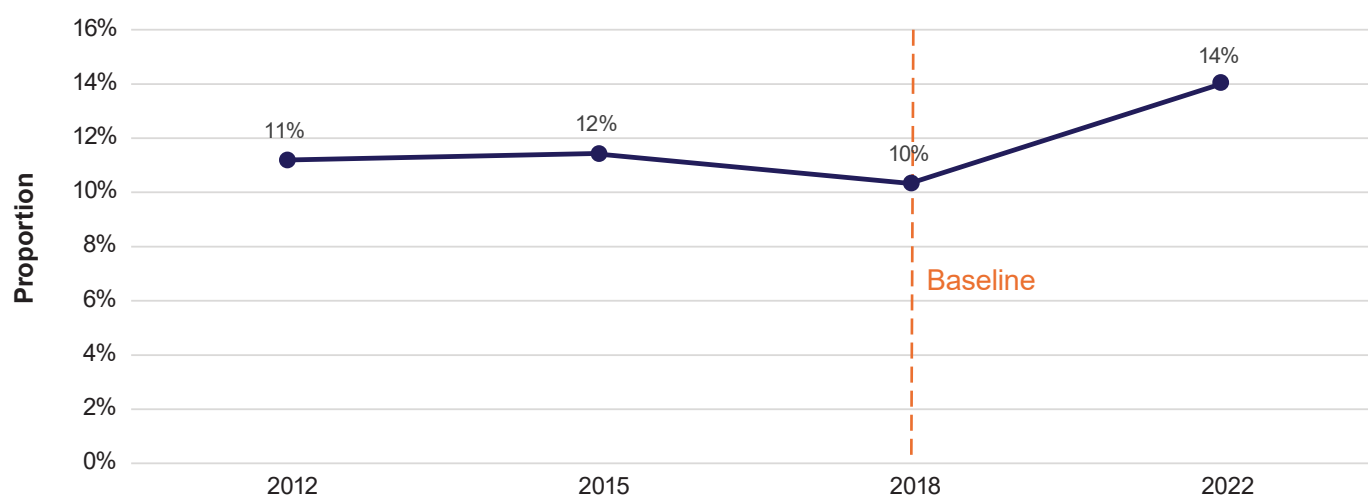
- Data for this measure are restricted to people with disability living in households who needed to go to hospital in the last 12 months.

Latest results: 14.1% (2022)

Baseline: 10.4% (2018)

Progress status: Regress

Figure 7.1: Proportion of people with disability who reported unmet need for hospital admission in the last 12 months



Source: AIHW analysis of ABS SDAC 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2022 (detailed microdata).

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Unmet hospitalisation needs](#).

Self-reported health

Self-assessed health status is a commonly used measure of overall health and reflects a person's perception of their own health at a given point. It also provides a broad picture of a population's overall health. It has some limitations, including being influenced by factors such as a person's access to health services (for example, to diagnosis and treatment) and level of education ([AIHW 2024](#)).

The desired population outcome for this measure is that the gap between the proportion of adults with disability and those without disability who report they are in good health is reduced.

Population measure: Proportion of people with disability who reported excellent, very good or good health compared with people without disability

Desired outcome: Reduction in the difference

Data source: ABS National Health Survey (NHS)

Latest results: 2022

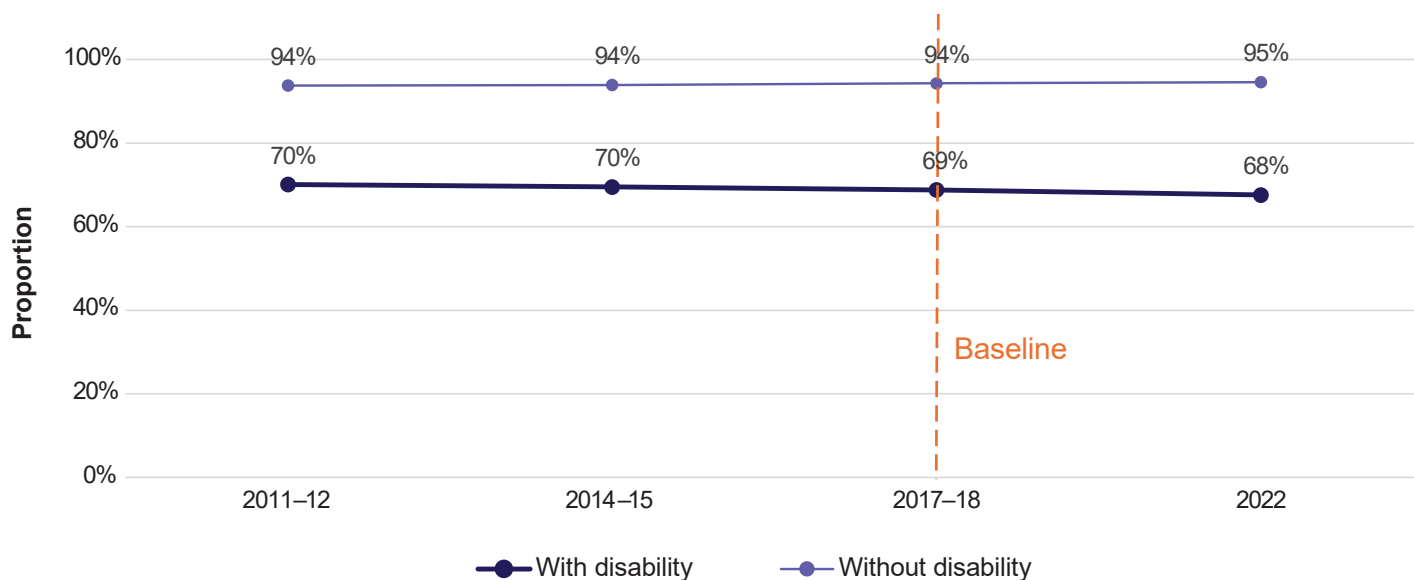
- In 2022, 67.6% of people with disability aged 15 and over self-reported having excellent, very good or good health compared with 94.6% of people without disability.
- The 2022 result was 1.2 percentage points lower than at baseline (68.8%, 2017–18). This indicates no change since the Strategy began.

Latest results: 68% with disability, 95% without disability (2022)

Baseline: 69% with disability, 94% without disability (2017–18)

Progress status: No changes

Figure 7.2: Proportion of people with disability who reported excellent, very good or good health, compared to people without disability



Sources: AIHW analysis of ABS NHS 2011–12, 2014–15, 2017–18 and 2022 (detailed microdata).

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Self-reported health](#).

References

AIHW (2024) 'Health status', [People with disability in Australia](#) AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 19 July 2024.

Prevention and early intervention

Preventive and early intervention health services that are timely, comprehensive, appropriate and effective support better overall health and wellbeing. People with disability experience preventable health conditions and comorbidities at higher rates than people without disability, placing them at substantially higher risk of adverse health outcomes. Access to early interventions, regular health assessments and rehabilitation improves long-term outcomes for individuals and can help to reduce future costs of care and support ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)).

Avoidable emergency presentations

A visit to a hospital emergency department where the care or service received in emergency could have, instead, been provided by a general practitioner (GP) is an avoidable emergency presentation. Factors such as cost, geographic location, accessibility of facilities and unavailability of other health services can affect which health service is visited ([AIHW 2020](#)).

The desired key system outcome for this measure is that primary health care provides people with disability with high-quality prevention and early intervention services when they need them.

System measure: Number of people with disability with GP-type emergency department presentations

Desired outcome: Decrease in the number of people

Data source: ABS SDAC

This measure will be replaced in the future when available data are improved. During the life of the Strategy, it will be replaced by 'Proportion of people with disability who accessed prevention and early intervention services in the last 12 months without difficulty compared with people without disability'.

Latest results: 2022

- In 2022, 154,500 people with disability felt a general practitioner (GP) could have provided care for their most recent visit to the emergency department within the past 12 months. This was 12% of the number of people with disability who had GP-type emergency department presentations.
- Although this was an increase of 35,000 people from baseline (2018; 119,500), the proportions of people with disability who had GP-type emergency department presentations were similar between 2022 (12%) and 2018 (11%), which is why the status is reported as 'no change'.

Things to consider when interpreting results

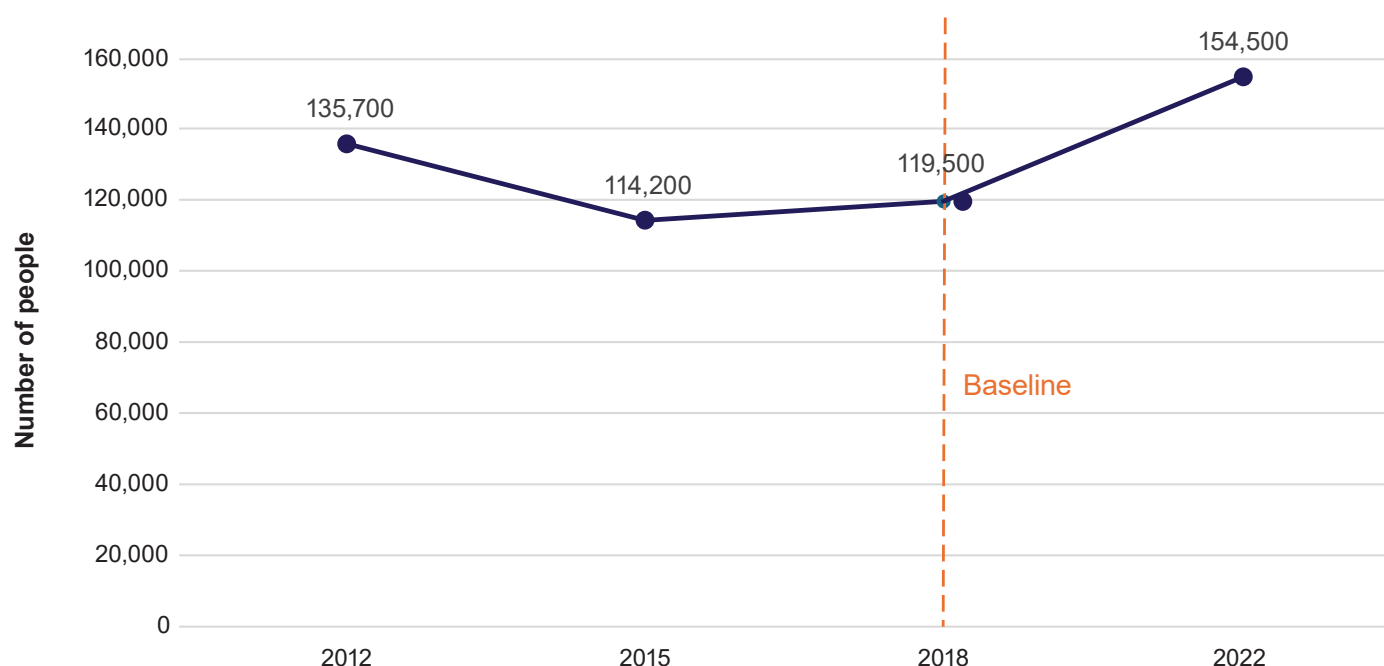
- The increase in the number of people with disability who had GP-type emergency department presentation between 2018 and 2022 is in line with the rise in the total number of people with disability between these years.
- Data for this measure exclude people who did not know if their GP could have provided care for the most recent time they went to the emergency department and is restricted to people with disability living in households who have been to a hospital emergency department for their own health in the last 12 months.

Latest results: 154,500 (12.3%) (2022)

Baseline: 119,500 (11.2%) (2018)

Progress status: No change

Figure 7.3: Number of people with disability with GP-type emergency department presentations



Source: AIHW analysis of ABS SDAC 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2022 (detailed microdata).

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Avoidable emergency presentations](#).

Medical facility accessibility

People with disability have a range of health care needs, and access a variety of health services and facilities, including GPs, dentists, hospitals, and allied health services. People with disability may encounter barriers that limit their access to these facilities, which can negatively affect their access to health care.

Better outcomes for people with disability are achieved when health providers deliver communication, services and facilities that are accessible and appropriate ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)).

The desired population outcome for this measure is to see an increase in long-term wellbeing for people with disability.

Population measure: Proportion of people with disability with difficulty accessing medical facilities (GP, dentist, hospital)

Desired outcome: Decrease in the proportion

Data source: ABS SDAC

Latest results: 2022

- In 2022, 11% of people with disability had difficulty accessing medical facilities, down from 14% in 2018, indicating an improvement since the Strategy began (Figure 7.4).

Things to consider when interpreting results

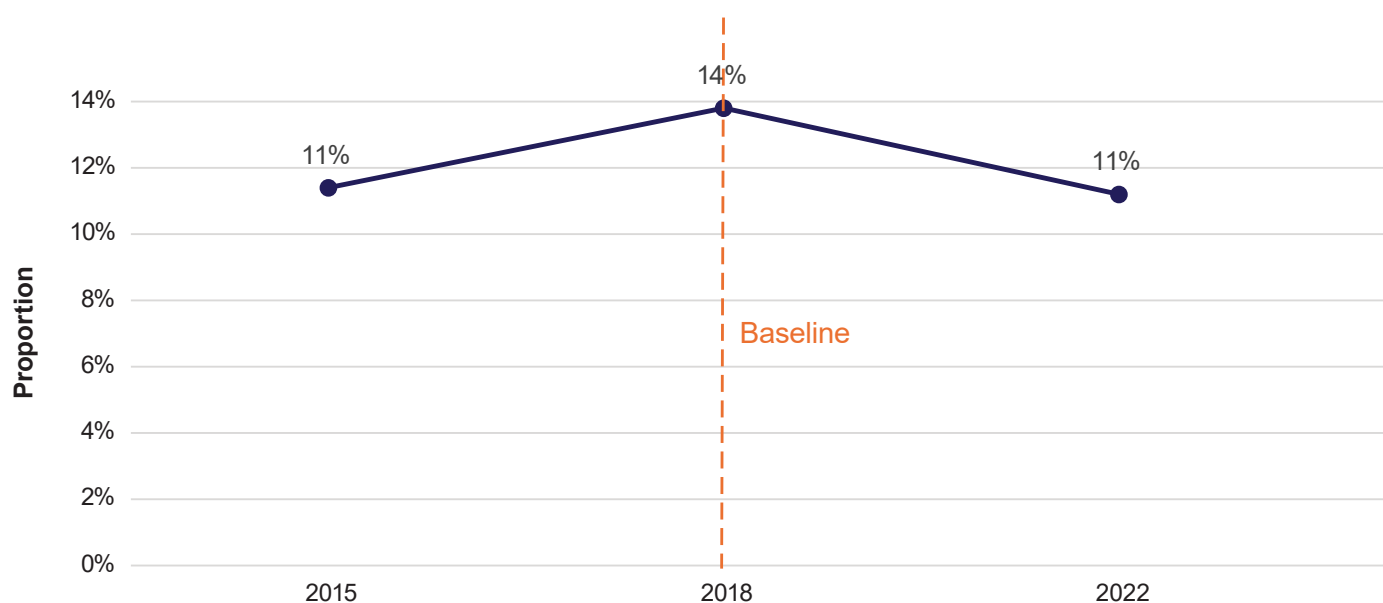
- Data for this measure are restricted to people with disability aged 5 and over living in households, who leave home and need assistance or have difficulty with communication or mobility because of disability.

Latest results: 11.2% (2022)

Baseline: 13.8% (2018)

Progress status: Improving

Figure 7.4: Proportion of people with disability with difficulty accessing medical facilities (GP, dentist, hospital)



Source: AIHW analysis of ABS SDAC 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2022 (detailed microdata).

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Medical facility accessibility](#).

References

AIHW (2020) [Coordination of health care: experiences of barriers to accessing health services among patients aged 45 and over](#), AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 30 August 2023.

Mental health

A person's mental health is a major determinant of general health and wellbeing and affects the ability to lead a productive and fulfilling life. Poor mental health can lead to lower levels of social and community engagement – and poorer education, employment and housing outcomes – which, in turn, can worsen mental health. Having appropriate, effective and accessible mental health supports and services that meet the needs of people with disability, and embedding a cross-sector approach to building mental health and wellbeing, are essential ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)).

High psychological distress

Psychological distress refers to a person's overall level of psychological strain or pain. Self-reported psychological distress is an important indication of the overall mental health of a population ([AIHW 2024](#)).

Data for this measure are based on the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale-10 (K10). Questions in the K10 ask about negative emotional states experienced by the participant in the last 4 weeks ([ABS 2019](#)). Higher levels of psychological distress indicate that a person may have, or is at risk of developing, mental health issues ([AIHW 2024](#)).

The desired population outcome for this measure is to see an increase in people with disability experiencing good mental health.

Population measure: Proportion of adults with disability with high or very high levels of psychological distress

Desired outcome: Decrease in the proportion

Data source: ABS SDAC

Latest results: 2022

- In 2022, 31% of adults with disability had high or very high levels of psychological distress. This proportion is the same as the value at baseline (2018; 31%), indicating no change since the Strategy began (Figure 7.5).

Things to consider when interpreting results

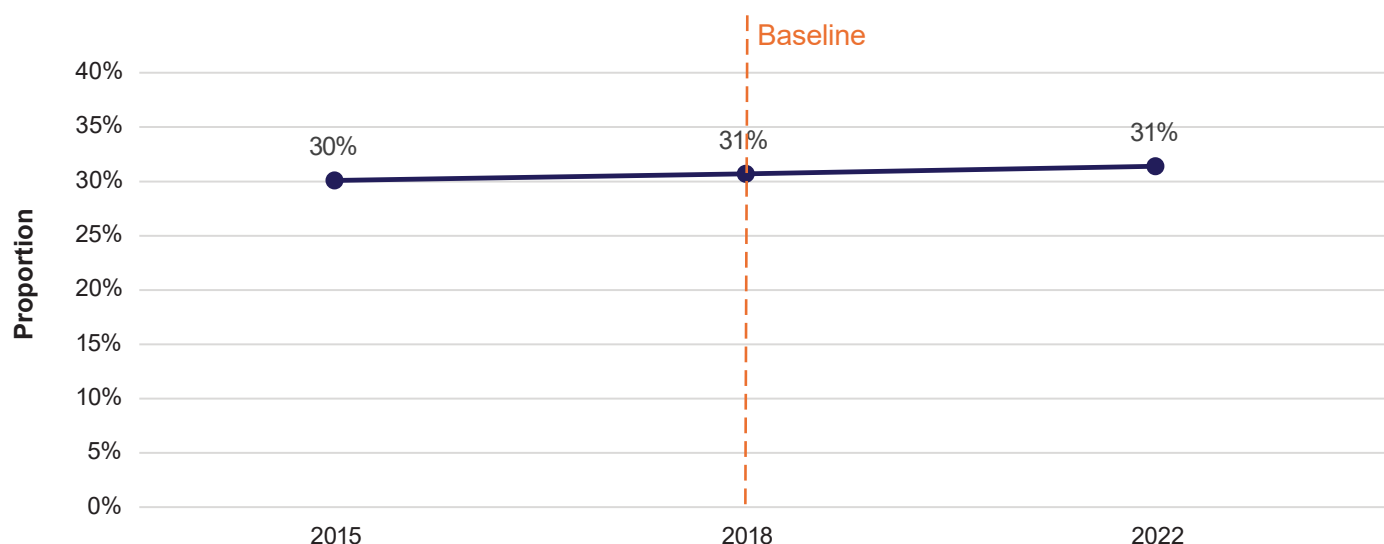
- Data for this measure are restricted to people with disability aged 18 and over living in households, excluding those who were not asked the psychological stress questions or where it was not possible to determine score.

Latest results: 31.4% (2022)

Baseline: 30.7% (2018)

Progress status: No change

Figure 7.5: Proportion of people with disability with high or very high levels of psychological distress



Source: AIHW analysis of ABS SDAC 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2022 (detailed microdata).

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | High psychological distress](#).

NDIS participants life satisfaction

Life satisfaction measures how people evaluate their life as a whole rather than their current feelings. Measuring life satisfaction can be helpful for understanding happiness and subjective wellbeing ([OECD 2022](#)).

The desired population outcome for this measure is to see an increase in people with disability reporting that they are happy with the life they live. Data for this measure are from the NDIS Long Form Outcomes Framework questionnaire, and include participants who responded 'Delighted', 'Pleased' or 'Mostly satisfied' to the question 'Thinking about my life in general now and in the future, I feel'.

Care should be taken when looking at reported progress for this measure as there is some uncertainty in the data see, [Things to consider when interpreting results](#).

Population measure: Proportion of NDIS participants who report feeling satisfied about their life in general now and in the future

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: NDIA – Business Systems

Latest results: 2023–24

- In 2023–24, 47.2% of NDIS participants aged 15–64 reported feeling satisfied about their life in general now and in the future.
- The 2023–24 result was 1.5 percentage points higher than at baseline (2020–21) (45.7%), indicating improvement since the Strategy began. However, this is similar to the 2022–23 result (47.4%).

Things to consider when interpreting results

- Data for this measure come from the NDIS Long Form Questionnaire, and are collected from a voluntary, non-probability sample of NDIS participants over a 3month period (September through November). In 2023–24, the sample for the age range 15–64 was around 2,200 NDIS participants.
- The data collection has been established for NDIS longitudinal reporting, rather than the cross-sectional reporting used here. The nature of the sampling methods means that results may not be representative of the whole NDIS population. For this reason, care should be taken when looking at reported progress for this measure as there is some uncertainty in the data.
- Time series analysis for the NDIS data presented here is different from the longitudinal approach taken in NDIS reporting. See [Data sources | National Disability Insurance Agency \(NDIA\)](#) for more details.

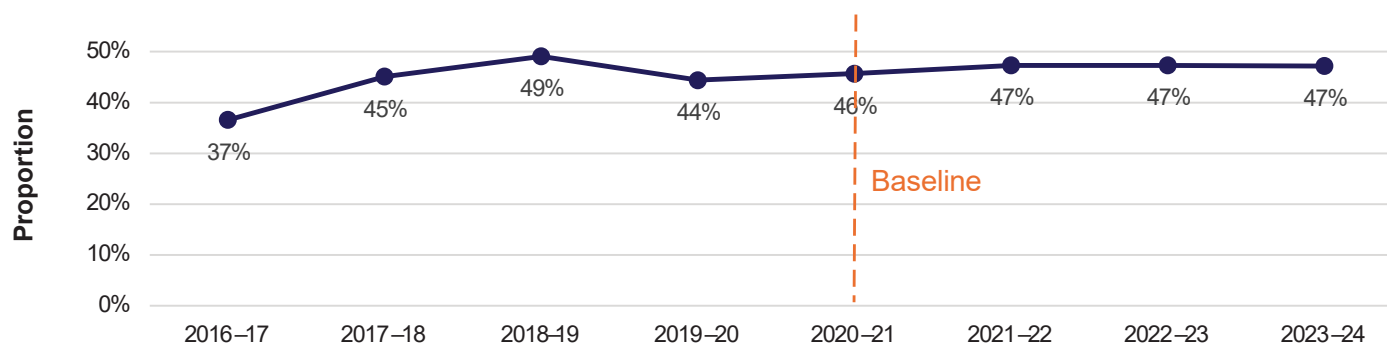
Latest results: 47.2% (2023–24)

Baseline: 45.7% (2020–21)

Progress status: Improving

Confidence status: Care should be taken when looking at the reported progress status for this measure as there is some uncertainty in the data

Figure 7.6: Proportion of NDIS participants aged 15–64 who report feeling satisfied about their life in general now and in the future, 2016–17 to 2023–24



Source: NDIA Business System.

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | NDIS participants life satisfaction](#).

References

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) (2019) 'Kessler Psychological Distress Scale-10 (K10)', [National Health Survey: Users Guide, 2017–18, ABS website, accessed 30 August 2023](#).

AIHW (2024) 'Health status', [People with disability in Australia](#), AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 19 July 2024.

OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) (2022) [Life satisfaction](#), OECD website, accessed 30 August 2023.

Future measures

The health and wellbeing measures listed in Table 7.2 will undergo future data development and will be included in future reports as data become available, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | About future data development](#).

Table 7.2: Health and wellbeing measures requiring further development

Policy priority	Measure
Health and wellbeing	Number of potentially avoidable deaths in hospital for people with disability compared with people without disability ^(a) (system measure)
Health and wellbeing	Proportion of people with disability who are satisfied with the quality of care provided by the allied and community health sector (system measure)
Prevention and early intervention	Proportion of people with disability who accessed prevention and early intervention services in the last 12 months without difficulty, compared with people without disability ^(b) (population measure)
Mental health	Rates of restraint of people with disability in acute mental health hospital services (system measure)
Mental health	Number of involuntary hospital admissions (system measure)
Emergency response	Proportion and number of disaster management services that have disability-inclusive plans in place (system measure)
Emergency response	Proportion of people with disability reporting satisfaction in the accessibility of emergency, disaster preparedness and response information and services (population measure)

(a) In the future, this measure will replace 'Proportion of people with disability who reported unmet need for hospital admission in the last 12 months'.

(b) In the future, this measure will replace 'Proportion of people with disability with difficulty accessing medical facilities (GP, dentist, hospital)'.



Community attitudes

8

8. Community attitudes

Outcome

Community attitudes support equality, inclusion and participation in society for people with disability

Why is this outcome area important?

Positive community attitudes play a pivotal role in ensuring people with disability are included and supported to participate in all aspects of society. People with disability report the greatest barriers they face are stigma, unconscious bias and a lack of understanding of disability. Positively changing community attitudes, both social and professional, will provide more choice and independence, and lead to better support and more respect for people with disability ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)).

However, poor attitudes and perceptions, and a lack of understanding of disability, remain significant issues ([The Social Deck 2019](#)). In particular, disability literacy of professionals requires improvement, especially in regard to people with invisible disabilities (for example, Crohn's disease and Multiple Sclerosis), and First Nations and CALD people with disability ([The Social Deck 2019](#)).

Under the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Australia has an obligation to raise awareness throughout society, including at the family level, regarding persons with disabilities, and to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities. This includes promoting positive perceptions and greater social awareness towards persons with disabilities and to promote recognition of the skills, merits and abilities of persons with disabilities, and of their contributions to the workplace and the labour market ([UN 2006](#)).

What are the policy priorities?

1. **Employer attitudes to employing people with disability:** Helping more employers understand the benefits of employing people with disability.
2. **Key sector attitudes to people with disability:** Supporting more positive attitudes towards people with disability by workers in key sectors.
3. **People with disability in leadership roles:** Supporting more people with disability to become leaders.
4. **Value and respect for people with disability:** Making sure people with disability feel respected and valued by their community.

Measures

At the launch of the Strategy 4 measures, one for each policy priority, were identified for inclusion in the Community attitudes outcome area (see the [Outcomes Framework](#) and [Appendix B: List of measures](#)). Australia's Disability Strategy Survey – Share with us (the ADS survey), was commissioned by the Department of Social Services as part of the Strategy to provide data that could inform progress of the identified measures. The first wave of the ADS survey was conducted between September 2022 and January 2023.

Initial analysis of the results from the ADS survey showed that additional insights were able to be drawn for the key sector attitudes measure. These insights allow the target key sectors of education, health, personal and community support, and justice and legal, to be reported as 4 separate measures in the Outcomes Framework.

As a result, for the 4 policy priorities under this outcome area, baseline data are available for 7 community attitudes measures (Table 8.1).

The next iteration of the survey is planned to be conducted in 2024 with results expected to be published in the 4th annual report in 2026. For more information on, and data from, Australia's Disability Strategy Survey – Share with us, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Community attitudes](#).

Table 8.1: Community attitudes reference guide

Policy priority	Measure	Baseline time point	Baseline value	Latest time point	Latest value	Change since baseline ^(b)	Progress status
Employer attitudes to employing people with disability	Proportion of employers who value the contribution and benefits of employing people with disability [†] (community attitude measure)	2022	77%	2022	77%	n.a.	Not known yet
Key sector attitudes to people with disability	Educators ^(a) are disability confident and respond positively to people with disability [†] (community attitude measure)	2022	63%	2022	63%	n.a.	Not known yet
Key sector attitudes to people with disability	Health workers are disability confident and respond positively to people with disability [†] (community attitude measure)	2022	71%	2022	71%	n.a.	Not known yet
Key sector attitudes to people with disability	Personal and community support workers are disability confident and respond positively to people with disability [†] (community attitude measure)	2022	79%	2022	79%	n.a.	Not known yet
Key sector attitudes to people with disability	Justice and legal workers are disability confident and respond positively to people with disability [†] (community attitude measure)	2022	66%	2022	66%	n.a.	Not known yet
People with disability in leadership roles	Proportion of people with disability who report feeling represented in leadership roles (community attitude measure)	2022	19%	2022	19%	n.a.	Not known yet
Value and respect for people with disability	Proportion of people with disability who report feeling valued and respected in their community (community attitude measure)	2022	54%	2022	54%	n.a.	Not known yet

[†] Measure wording has been revised to reflect available data more accurately or clarify the measure's intent. See relevant measure section below for more information (See [Appendix B: List of measures](#)).

n.a. – not available.

(a) People aged 18 and over who are employed in the education sector (including childcare, preschools, primary, secondary, and special schools, technical and vocational education, universities and other higher education institutions, adult education, and community education).

(b) n.a. indicates that there has not been an additional data point post-baseline to enable an assessment of progress.

References

The Social Deck (2019) [Right to opportunity – Consultation report to help shape the next national disability strategy](#), report to the Australian Government Department of Social Services, The Social Deck Pty Ltd.

UN (United Nations) (2006) [‘Article 8 – Awareness-raising’](#), Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, UN, accessed 6 November 2023.

Employer attitudes to employing people with disability

Having career opportunities and finding and keeping a job are significant issues for people with disability (see also the Employment and financial security outcome area). Many of the perceived obstacles to employing people with disability stem from negative attitudes and misconceptions ([Australia’s Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)).

Employer attitudes

More people with disability in employment can help lower negative attitudes, and increase knowledge and understanding around how people with disability can positively contribute to the workplace ([Kantar Public 2017](#)).

The Outcomes Framework was set to track the percentage of employers who value the contribution and benefits of employing people with disability. Measure wording has been revised to clarify its intent (see [Appendix B: List of measures](#)).

Data for this measure are drawn from Australia’s Disability Strategy Survey – Share with us. Employers are defined as employed people aged 18 and over who had been involved in hiring employees in the past 12 months. Hiring employees included completing tasks such as writing job descriptions, reviewing applications, interviewing people, and having a say in who was hired.

Employers were asked 6 questions about employing people with disability. The questions were:

- Employing people with disability improves a company’s image
- People with disability do not want to work, they do not look for a job
- People with disability work less efficiently than people without any disability
- It is easier for people with disability to do their job if they have the right support and equipment at work
- Hiring people with disability benefits your workplace
- People with disability would make a valuable contribution to your workplace

The revised measure reports the average rate of positive attitudes to employing people with disability, recognising that for each employer the attitude is varied.

The desired key community attitude outcome for this measure is that the capabilities of people with disability are recognised, leading to increased employment.

Community attitude measure: Proportion of employers who value the contribution and benefits of employing people with disability

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: Australia's Disability Strategy Survey – Share with us 2022

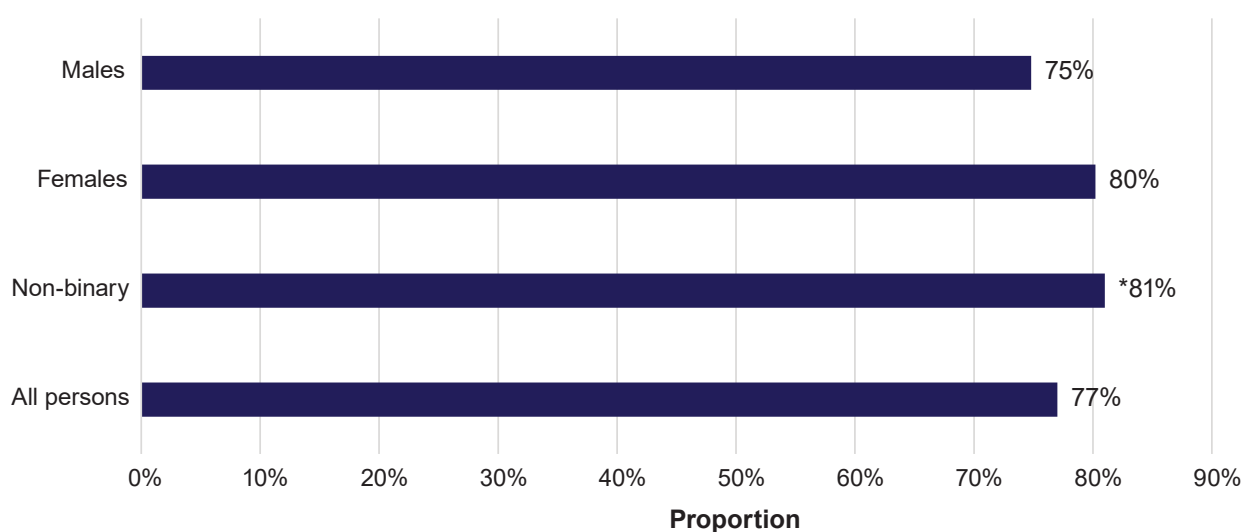
Latest results: 2022 (Baseline)

- In 2022, 77% of employer responses were positive on valuing the contribution and benefits of employing people with disability.
- A higher proportion of responses from female than male employers (80% and 75% respectively) were positive about the value of contribution and benefits of employing people with disability (Figure 8.1).

Things to consider when interpreting results

- For further details on the 6 questions about employing people with disability see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Data Dictionary | Employer attitudes](#)

Figure 8.1: Proportion of employers who value the contribution and benefits of employing people with disability, by gender, 2022



* Should be used with caution: proportion has a Margin of Error (MoE) > 10 percentage points or proportion \pm MoE is <0% or >100.

Source: Australia's Disability Strategy Survey – Share with us

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Employer attitudes](#).

References

Kantar Public (2017) [Building Employer Demand](#), DSS website, accessed 18 September 2023.

Key sector attitudes to people with disability

An improved understanding of disability by workers in professions, with whom people with disability often interact, will increase access to, and the quality of, the services and supports needed by people with disability ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)).

Training and professional development, together with improvements to legislation, regulation, workplace structures, policies and culture, play a crucial role in developing occupational and workplace attitudes and behaviours towards people with disability ([Australian Council of Learned Academies 2022](#)).

Data for the 4 key sector measures are drawn from Australia's Disability Strategy Survey – Share with us. The list of measures report the average percentage of positive responses.

Educators, health workers, personal and community support workers, and justice and legal workers, were asked 6 questions about confidence in responding positively to and ability to advise, assist or treat people with disability. Valid responses could be positive ('Very confident'; 'Quite confident') or negative ('Not very confident', 'Not at all confident'). The questions were:

- How confident are you that you respond in a positive way to people with disability?
- In your current job, how confident are you in your ability to advise, assist or treat people with:
 - an intellectual disability such as Down syndrome?
 - a neurological condition such as autism or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)?
 - a physical disability such as reduced mobility or movement?
 - a psychosocial condition such as severe anxiety or depression?
 - a sensory or communication impairment such as being deaf or blind?

Educator attitudes

Educators are defined as people aged 18 and over who are employed in the education sector (including childcare, preschools, primary, secondary, and special schools, technical and vocational education, universities and other higher education institutions, adult education, and community education).

The desired community attitude outcome for this measure is that attitudinal barriers toward people with disability within key workforces are removed.

Community attitude measure: Educators are disability confident and respond positively to people with disability

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: Australia's Disability Strategy Survey – Share with us 2022

Latest results: 2022 (Baseline)

- In 2022, 63% of educator responses were positive about being disability confident and responding positively to people with disability (Figure 8.2).
- A higher proportion of female educator responses than male educator responses (66% and 58% respectively) were positive about being disability confident and responding positively to people with disability.

Things to consider when interpreting results

- For further details on the 6 questions about confidence in responding positively to and ability to advise, assist or treat people with disability see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Data Dictionary | Educator attitudes](#).

Health worker attitudes

Health workers are defined as people aged 18 and over who are employed in the health care sector (including hospitals, doctors and dentists, pathology, medical imaging, optometrists, allied and other health services (such as physiotherapy, homeopathy, psychology), and ambulances).

The desired community attitude outcome for this measure is that attitudinal barriers toward people with disability within key workforces are removed.

Community attitude measure: Health workers are disability confident and respond positively to people with disability

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: Australia's Disability Strategy Survey – Share with us 2022

Latest results: 2022 (Baseline)

- In 2022, 71% of responses from health workers were positive about being disability confident and responding positively to people with disability (Figure 8.2).
- Responses from cultural and linguistic diverse (CALD) health workers were less positive (62%) about being disability confident and responding positively to people with disability than health workers with a non-CALD background (75%).

Things to consider when interpreting results

- For further details on the 6 questions about confidence in responding positively to and ability to advise, assist or treat people with disability see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Data Dictionary | Health worker attitudes](#).

Personal and community support worker attitudes

Personal and community support workers are defined as people aged 18 and over who are employed in the residential care (including aged care, hospices, crisis care, group homes) or social and community services sector (including adult day care, disability assistance services, youth welfare, and family support and counselling).

The desired community attitude outcome for this measure is that attitudinal barriers toward people with disability within key workforces are removed.

Community attitude measure: Personal and community support workers are disability confident and respond positively to people with disability

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: Australia's Disability Strategy Survey – Share with us 2022

Latest results: 2022 (Baseline)

- In 2022, 79% of responses from personal and community support workers were positive about being disability confident and responding positively to people with disability (Figure 8.2).

Things to consider when interpreting results

- For further details on the 6 questions about confidence in responding positively to and ability to advise, assist or treat people with disability see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Data Dictionary | Personal and community support worker attitudes](#).

Justice and legal worker attitudes

Justice and legal workers are defined as people aged 18 and over who are employed in the legal services (including barristers and solicitors, conveyancing, legal aid, courts) or public order and safety sector (including police, gaols, correctional centres, juvenile detention, remand centres).

The desired community attitude outcome for this measure is that attitudinal barriers toward people with disability within key workforces are removed.

Community attitude measure: Justice and legal workers are disability confident and respond positively to people with disability

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: Australia's Disability Strategy Survey – Share with us 2022

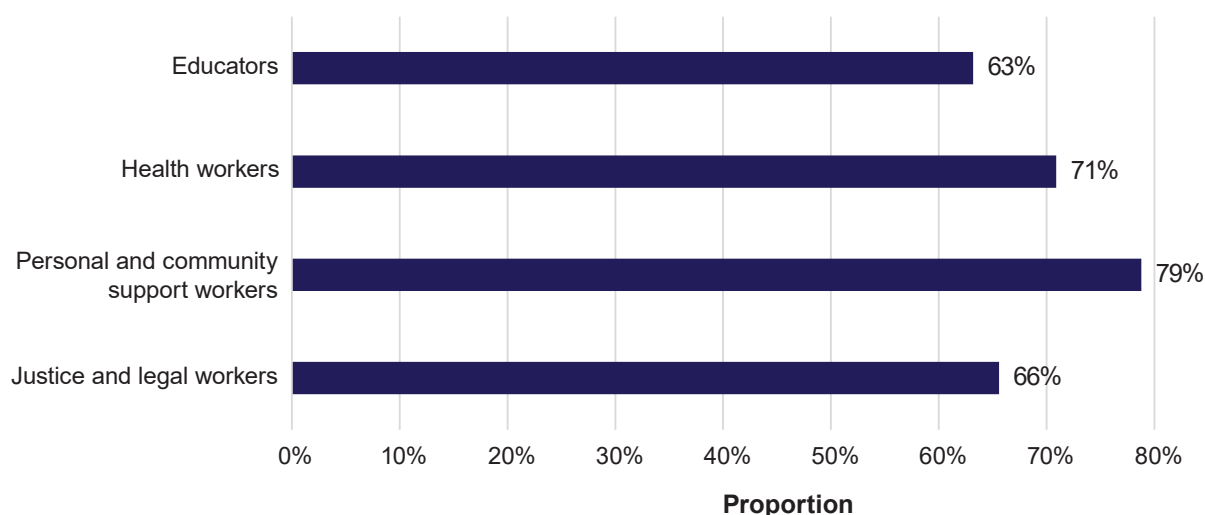
Latest results: 2022 (Baseline)

- In 2022, 66% of responses from justice and legal workers were positive about being disability confident and responding positively to people with disability (Figure 8.2).

Things to consider when interpreting results

- For further details on the 6 questions about confidence in responding positively to and ability to advise, assist or treat people with disability see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Data Dictionary | Justice and legal worker attitudes](#).

Figure 8.2: Proportion of key professionals who are disability confident and respond positively to people with disability, by key sector, 2022



Source: Australia's Disability Strategy Survey – Share with us

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Key sector attitudes](#).

References

Australian Council of Learned Academies (2022) [Ensuring Occupations are Responsive to People with Disability](#), Disability Gateway website, Australian Government, accessed 18 September 2023.

People with disability in leadership roles

People with disability are significantly underrepresented on boards, in politics and in other leadership roles in Australian society. Increased inclusion of people with disability in leadership roles will facilitate the inclusion of the perspectives of people with disability in decision-making. This will make decisions more reflective of the community ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)).

The inclusion of people with disability in leadership roles can play a key role in progressing disability responsiveness throughout the workforce and demonstrate commitment to supporting diversity ([Australian Council of Learned Academies 2022](#)).

Feel represented in leadership

People with disability were asked 'Do you feel that people with disability are well represented in leadership roles?' as part of Australia's Disability Strategy Survey – Share with us.

The desired key community attitude outcome for this measure is to see an increase in people with disability in leadership roles.

Community attitude measure: Proportion of people with disability who report feeling represented in leadership roles

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: Australia's Disability Strategy Survey – Share with us 2022

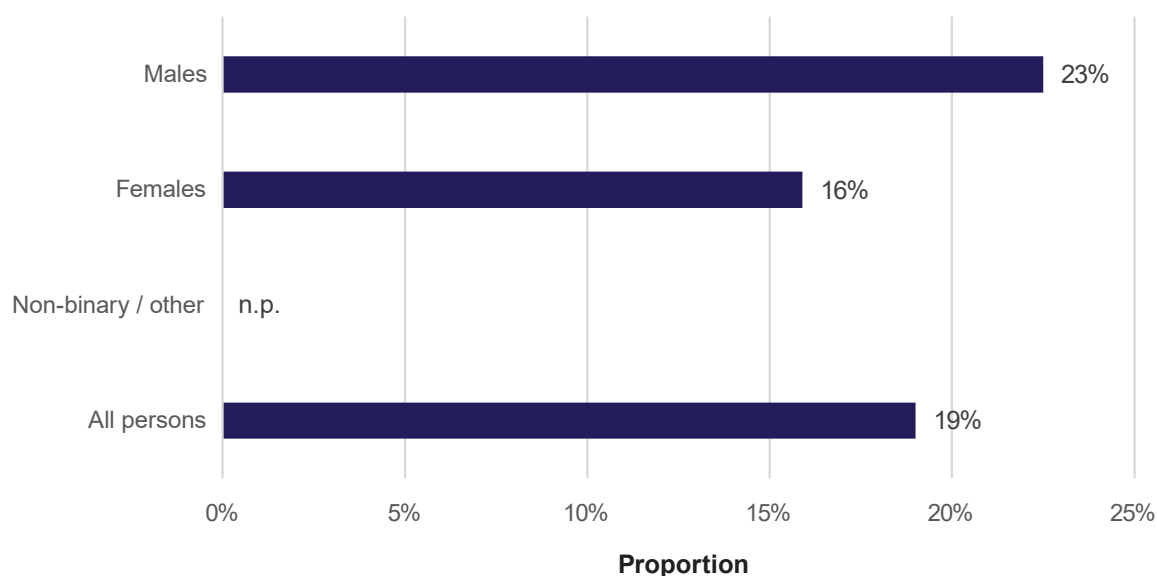
Latest results: 2022 (Baseline)

- In 2022, 19% of people with disability aged 18 and over reported feeling represented in leadership roles.
- A higher proportion of males with disability aged 18 and over (23%) reported feeling represented in leadership roles than females (16%) (Figure 8.3).

Things to consider when interpreting results

- People with disability who responded 'Not sure' or 'Prefer not to answer' were excluded from the calculation.

Figure 8.3: Proportion of people with disability who report feeling represented in leadership roles, by gender, 2022



Source: Australia's Disability Strategy Survey – Share with us

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Feel represented in leadership](#)

References

Australian Council of Learned Academies (2022) [Ensuring Occupations are Responsive to People with Disability](#), Disability Gateway website, Australian Government, accessed 25 September 2023.

Value and respect for people with disability

For many people with disability, it is not simply having an impairment or impairments that is disabling, but rather the interaction of impairment(s) with barriers to participation in society ([CRE-DH 2021](#)).

Improved community awareness and understanding of disability will increase inclusion and accessibility for people with disability so that people with disability achieve the same outcomes as people without disability ([Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#)).

Feel valued and respected

As part of Australia's Disability Strategy Survey – Share with us, people with disability were asked 'In general, how often do you feel valued and respected in your community?'.

The desired key community attitude outcome for this measure is that more people with disability feel respected and valued by their community.

Community attitude measure: Proportion of people with disability who report feeling represented in leadership roles

Desired outcome: Increase in the proportion

Data source: Australia's Disability Strategy Survey – Share with us 2022

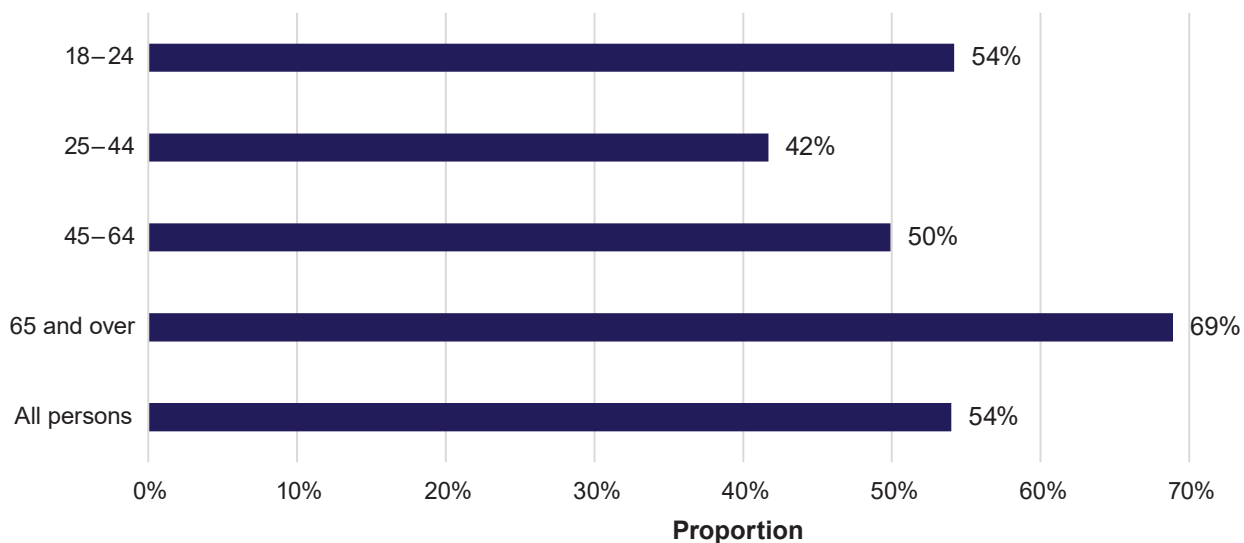
Latest results: 2022 (Baseline)

- In 2022, 54% of people with disability aged 18 and over felt valued and respected by their community.
- There was some variation by age group for this measure. A higher proportion of people with disability aged 65 years and over reported feeling valued and respected in their community (69%) compared to people with disability aged 25–44 (42%).

Things to consider when interpreting results

- Responses to this question were limited to people with disability who also self-identified as having disability or a long-term health condition.

Figure 8.4: Proportion of people with disability who report feeling valued and respected in their community, by age group, 2022



Source: Australia's Disability Strategy Survey – Share with us

For figure notes, see [Appendix C: Figure notes and sources](#).

For the latest data and breakdowns of the data, see [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework | Feel valued and respected](#).

References

Centre of Research Excellence in Disability and Health (CRE-DH) (2021) [Community Attitudes towards People with Disability – National Survey Results](#), CRE-DH website, accessed 18 September 2023.

Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ADE	Australian Disability Enterprise
ADII	Australian Digital Inclusion Index
ADS	Australia's Disability Strategy
AHRC	Australian Human Rights Commission
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
APS	Australian Public Service
APSED	Australian Public Service Employment Database
CALD	culturally and linguistically diverse
CI	confidence interval
COVID-19	coronavirus disease
DES	Disability Employment Services
DEWR	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
DEWR-EBIW	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations-Employment Business Intelligence Warehouse
DRC	Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability
DSS	Department of Social Services
ECEI	Early Childhood Early Intervention
HESC	Higher Education Statistics Collection
K10	Kessler Psychological Distress Scale-10
LGBTIQ+	lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer/questioning and asexual
NCVER	National Centre for Vocational Education Research
NDAP	National Disability Advocacy Program
NDDA	National Disability Data Asset
NDIA	National Disability Insurance Agency
NDIS	National Disability Insurance Scheme
NHADR	National Housing Assistance Data Repository
NHS	National Health Survey
PSS	Personal Safety Survey
RoGS	Report on Government Services
RTO	registered training organisation
SDAC	Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers
SHSC	Specialist Homelessness Services Collection
SIH	Survey of Income and Housing
SOMIH	state owned and managed Indigenous housing
SWS	Supported Wage System
VET	Vocational Education and Training
YBFS	year before full-time schooling

Appendix A: Methods

Methodology for reporting on the progress of measures over time

To report on the progress over time of each measure in the Outcomes Framework, the most recent data point is compared to the baseline data (that is, the latest data available before December 2021, the starting point of the Strategy).

The change observed between the most recent data and the baseline data is used to assign one of the following 4 categories:

- *Improving*: measures with 2 or more data points, where the latest observed change since the baseline is in the direction that the Strategy wants to achieve.
- *No change*: measures with 2 or more data points, where the latest data remain similar to the baseline.
- *Regress*: measures with 2 or more data points where the latest observed change since the baseline is in the opposite direction to what the Strategy wants to achieve.
- *Not enough data*: measures where there is only a single data point available (usually the baseline).

Measures with no available data (future measures) are listed at the end of each domain section.

Measuring progress

Commenting on whether a measure has improved or not, considers the following:

- *Confidence*: Is there confidence in the change (that is, that the change is real and not a product of chance or some underlying uncertainty in the data)?
- *Importance*: Is the change important (that is, the size of the change)?

Confidence

Determining confidence in the change is based on a technical evaluation. Where appropriate, statistical methods are used to assist with determining confidence where there are 2 or more data points.

For sampled data, sampling error is considered for determining whether the change is statistically significant, based on overlapping confidence intervals and z-tests. Ninety-five per cent significance level is used to determine whether the change is statistically significant.

For administrative data, the following criteria are considered:

- the source of the data
- whether the data are complete for the full population or only covers a sub-set
- the timeliness of the data
- the reliability of any disability indicator including:
 - the likely accuracy of the data collected
 - the level of missing data and whether that level is changing over time

- whether there are any changes to, or inconsistencies in, the metadata between subpopulations (for example, jurisdictions), or over time
- the magnitude of any observed difference
- whether there is any seasonality observed in the data
- where historical data are available for the measure:
 - whether the observed difference from the benchmark is consistent with past observations and trends (based on linear regression analysis)
 - the size of any change compared to the variability historically observed in the data.

Importance

Importance refers to whether an observed change is worthwhile in the context of a set of subject-specific considerations. For example, a change may be 'real' in statistical terms, but not important if the change is small.

Information is provided in relation to the size of the change, so that readers can determine whether the change is an important one.

To avoid the misinterpretation of very small changes, those that are <0.5 of a percentage point in either direction have been classified as 'no change'.

Regression analysis

The linear regression analysis used for reporting looks only at changes over time for the summary measure. It does not control for multiple characteristics, as would be done, for example, with multiple regression modelling.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare undertook all regression analysis.

Rounding

Percentages in the report are generally rounded to whole numbers except for those less than 10% which are rounded to one decimal place. Exceptions include for the reporting on latest results, where rounding to whole numbers would obscure differences between the baseline and the latest results.

Impact of COVID-19 on baseline results

The Strategy's start date, and the baseline data point for many indicators, fall within the period that restrictions were still in place in Australia to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the community. This should be taken into account when reviewing changes over time against the baseline, particularly in relation to measures in the [Employment and financial security outcome area](#).

This is the 3rd annual report for Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031 Outcomes Framework. It provides an overview of the progress being made on outcomes for people with disability in 2024.

In 2024, 36 measures have updated post-baseline data. Twenty measures were given a progress status update for the first time, including 18 measures from the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers.