



## ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2019-20

# Update: Younger People in Residential Aged Care

### 1. The number of younger people in residential aged care (YPIRAC)

Latest data from the Department of Health (DoH) shows the number of younger people in residential aged care (YPIRAC) has fallen for the tenth consecutive quarter. As at 30 September 2019, there were 5,468 YPIRAC compared to 5,606 as at 30 June 2019.

As at 31 December 2019, there are 4,037 current National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participants aged under 65, with 3,878 having an approved NDIS plan.

**Table 1: Number of younger people in residential aged care aged under 65 (at reporting date) who have met the access requirements and the number who have exited from the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) as at 31 December 2019, by state and territory.**

	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Australia
Access met decision made	2,057	1,353	1,075	205	308	77	34	51	5,160
Exits from the Scheme	460	295	233	38	69	<10	10	<10	1,123
<b>Current participants</b>	<b>1,597</b>	<b>1,058</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>4,037</b>

**Table 2: Number of younger people residing in residential aged care who were NDIS participants with an active plan as at 31 December 2019.**

Age	Number of YPIRAC with an active plan	
	30 September 2019	31 December 2019
Under the age of 45 years	166	166
Between 45 and 54 years	773	781
Between 55 and 64 years	2,849	2,931
<b>Under the age of 65</b>	<b>3,788</b>	<b>3,878</b>

### NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME STATISTICAL INFORMATION AS AT 31 December 2019<sup>1</sup>

**Table 3: Cumulative numbers, as at 31 December 2019, of all younger people under age 65 (at reporting date) determined to be ineligible for the NDIS while living in residential aged care, broken down by state and territory.**

	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Australia
Ineligible	70	41	23	<5	<10	<5	<5	<5	<b>146</b>

<sup>1</sup> Data in this section was provided by the National Disability Insurance Agency. The statistics in this section are based on data extracted from the NDIS Data Warehouse on 31 December 2019. Future extracts of these data are subject to change.

The Department of Health periodically provides the National Disability Insurance Agency with information on people aged under 65 who are in receipt of Permanent Residential Aged Care. The most recent data exchange happened on 19 December 2019 but has not been loaded yet. The statistics in this section are concerned with potential participants and participants who were identified through that data exchange, or who have been identified by NDIA planners as being in permanent residential aged care.

- There may have been younger people with disabilities receiving permanent residential aged care on 30 September 2019 who were not part of the most recent data match. These people have been included in the statistics reported in this paper, where their residential care status was identified independently in the planning process.

Some of the young people included in the most recent data match may no longer have been in permanent residential aged care on 30 September 2019. These people are included in the statistics reported in this paper where they have had their eligibility for the NDIS assessed.

**Table 4: Number of younger people in residential aged care under age 65 (at reporting date) who have met the access requirements for the NDIS at 31 December 2019, by state and territory.**

Age group	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Australia
19 to 24	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<10
25 to 34	12	<10	<10	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	30
35 to 44	44	46	26	<5	<10	<10	<5	<5	133
45 to 54	295	245	155	42	38	21	<5	<10	806
55 to 64	1,243	758	655	121	191	41	21	33	3,063
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,597</b>	<b>1,058</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>4,037</b>

**Table 5: Number of younger people who are active participants in the NDIS and who as at 31 December 2019 had an approved plan while under 65 (at reporting date) and living in residential aged care, broken down by state and territory.**

Age group	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Australia
19 to 24	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<10
25 to 34	12	<10	<10	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	29
35 to 44	44	45	26	<5	<10	<10	<5	<5	132
45 to 54	294	235	150	34	38	21	<5	<10	781
55 to 64	1,231	711	630	95	172	38	21	33	2,931
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,584</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>3,878</b>

**Table 6: Active Participants under age 65 (at reporting date) with an approved plan as at 31 December 2019, by State/Territory, by disability group.**

Disability group	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Intellectual/Learning</b>									
Autism	<10	<10	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	24
Developmental Delay	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Down Syndrome	41	32	28	<5	10	<5	<5	<5	117
Global Developmental Delay	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Intellectual Disability	160	151	126	12	49	12	<5	<5	511
<b>Physical</b>									
ABI	298	226	138	27	36	11	<10	<10	751
Cerebral Palsy	26	38	28	<5	<10	<5	<5	<5	103
Multiple Sclerosis	65	80	22	<5	17	<5	<5	<5	193
Spinal Cord Injury	18	17	<10	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	51
Stroke	218	87	109	16	18	<5	<5	<10	461
Other Neurological	475	222	225	30	49	21	<10	14	1,045
Other Physical	62	47	46	<10	15	<5	<5	<5	180
<b>Psychosocial Disability</b>	185	80	70	31	15	<5	<5	<5	387
<b>Sensory/Speech</b>									
Hearing Impairment	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Visual Impairment	16	<10	<10	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	31
Other Sensory/Speech	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
<b>Other</b>	10	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,584</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>3,878</b>

**Table 7: Amounts included in under 65 (at reporting date) participant plans as at 31 December 2019<sup>2</sup>**

Annualised value of plan	Number of plans	Percent
Up to \$100,000	239	6%
\$100,000 to \$150,000	2,160	56%
\$150,000 to \$200,000	1,137	29%
Greater than \$200,000	342	9%
<b>All plans</b>	<b>3,878</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>2</sup> These amounts include the cross-billing payments made for participant care and NDIS supports.

## **2. Update on the measures, including what has been achieved in supporting younger people moving out of residential aged care**

### Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety

In July 2019, representatives from the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA), the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Department of Health (DoH) participated in the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety (ACRC) roundtable on the issue of younger people in residential aged care.

In September 2019, senior officials from the NDIA, DSS and DoH gave testimony to the ACRC's Melbourne hearing.

In October 2019, the ACRC released its interim report, which noted 'priorities for action' for younger people in residential aged care. The ACRC noted the need for "urgent action" in particular to "stop the flow of younger people with disability going into aged care and expediting the process of getting those younger people who are already in aged care out"

The NDIA, DSS and DOH recognise and acknowledge the interim findings regarding the appropriateness of people under 65 years old having to be cared for in residential aged care facilities around the country, and is committed to reducing these numbers.

### Government Response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety's Interim Report

In November 2019, the Australian Government announced revised targets for the YPIRAC Action Plan in response to the ACRCs Interim Report.

The revised targets, apart from in exceptional circumstances, seek to ensure there are:

- No people under the age of 65 entering residential aged care by 2022
- No people under the age of 45 living in residential aged care by 2022
- No people under the age of 65 living in residential aged care by 2025.

To support these revised targets, the Australian Government has:

- established a Joint Agency Taskforce (JATF) to develop a new strategy that builds on the YPIRAC Action Plan to ensure the revised targets are met
- established a specialist team within the NDIA to prevent younger people who are eligible for the NDIS, from entering aged care.

The Government is also progressing work to:

- work with industry to identify all available Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) supports across the country to develop a database of existing and new housing options available now and in the future
- undertake a detailed analysis of younger people currently living in aged care, as well as up to 2,000 young people at risk of entering aged care, to better inform new policies and pathways to find alternate accommodation.

### Specialist Disability Accommodation

If an NDIS participant has identified a goal to transition into more suitable age appropriate accommodation, the NDIA may fund additional supports to inform and explore housing options. This can include support coordination (short-term/goal-focused support) and assessments from allied health professionals to consider the most suitable age appropriate housing option to meet individual support needs.

This process may also consider eligibility for funding Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA). SDA is specialised housing designed to support people with extreme functional impairment or very high support needs, where these needs are unlikely to be met through reasonable adjustment in the home, be it social housing or private rental. SDA does not refer to the support services, but the homes in which these supports are delivered. SDA may include specialist designs for people with very high needs or may have a location or features that make it suitable for providing complex supports for more independent living.

Following agreement of the Disability Reform Council (DRC), the Government implemented a number of reforms in March 2019, responding to the 2018 Review of the SDA Pricing and Payment Framework. These measures improve choice and control for participants (by removing the need to have considered all other possible options before eligibility for SDA can be determined) and build market confidence to invest in SDA. The Government is working on a second stage of reforms, which, among other things, will improve flexibility for families and couples to live together in SDA. Both stages of reforms will have positive impacts for SDA eligible YPIRAC who wish to leave aged care.

Active NDIS participants living in residential aged care facilities are prioritised through the SDA Assessment Panel.

### Complex Support Needs Pathway

The NDIA has rolled out a specialist pathway for NDIS participants who have been identified as having complex support needs (CSN).

The CSN Pathway is resourced with planners skilled to work with participants with complex support needs. All younger people in residential aged care, or in hospital and at risk of entering aged care due to their complex support needs and lack of suitable accommodation options, will be included in this Pathway.

The CSN Pathway provides specialised support for participants including specialised planning teams, NDIA liaison and support coordinators – people who have the networks, skill and knowledge of government and community services to provide the support required for complex needs.

### Urgent pathway for younger people to access aged care services

Younger people in urgent circumstances (e.g. at risk of homelessness) can receive an Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT) assessment to determine eligibility and entrance to aged care where there are no other age-appropriate options available to them.

In January 2020, the DoH published updated ACAT Supplementary Guidelines for younger people, under the age of 65, and include an urgent circumstances pathway process.

The urgent pathway facilitates rapid liaison between the NDIA and the DoH to establish, within 48 hours, that there are no other accommodation alternatives, and supports through the NDIS are not imminently available.

### Health Liaison Officers

The Health Liaison Officer (HLO) initiative is being rolled out nationally by March 2020. HLOs will work at a system and individual level with hospital and rehab discharge staff to improve capability and understanding of the intersection of the two systems to maximise the timely and successful transition of participants, including younger people at risk of entering aged care, from hospital to a community setting.

## Supports for NDIS participants

The Australian Government takes the issue of younger people having to live in residential aged care very seriously. The rollout of the NDIS has provided an opportunity to address this issue on a scale and in a manner not previously possible. The Government is committed to using the NDIS to improve the lives of YPIRAC by supporting them to live as they choose, and to ensure they have the supports in place for that choice to be meaningful.

NDIS participants in aged care have access to NDIS supports, if they are assessed as having a need beyond those that should be provided in aged care. This may include functional supports, support to explore housing options, capacity building to prepare participants to transition into the community, assistive technology supports, and community inclusion and social participation supports.