

**National Disability Insurance Agency**

**Response to Notice to Give Information NTG-0806**

**30 October 2020**

**Background**

- 1 This is a response to the Notice to Give Information No NTG-0806 dated 8 October 2020 (the **Notice**), which has been issued by the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety (**Royal Commission**) to the National Disability Insurance Agency (**NDIA**).
- 2 This information is produced to the Royal Commission on the basis that it will be tendered and received in evidence by the Royal Commission pursuant to the Notice and on the basis that the information will be treated as evidence pursuant to section 6DD of the *Royal Commissions Act 1902* (Cth).
- 3 This response refers to and builds on previous responses of the NDIA to Notices relating to younger people in residential aged care (**YPIRAC**), including the joint response of the Department of Health, the Department of Social Services, and the NDIA to NTG-0730, NTG-0732 and NTG-0733 dated 11 February 2020 (**Joint Response**), the response of the NDIA to NTG-0761 dated 26 June 2020, and the response of the NDIA to NTG-0795 dated 27 August 2020.

Question 3

On 27 August 2020, the NDIA provided the Royal Commission with information set out in the below table. Provide additional data for each State and Territory as at 30 September 2020.

**Table 1. Cumulative Intake into and exit from the NDIS for participants residing in RAC aged under 65 years as at 30 June 2020, by State/Territory**

	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	National
Access met decision made	2,263	1,689	1,186	331	366	114	35	57	6,043 <sup>2</sup>
Exits from the Scheme	712	539	375	111	126	31	14	15	1,925
Exits from RAC	189	74	81	5	14	6	6	2	377
<b>Current participants</b>	<b>1,362</b>	<b>1,076</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>3,741</b>

- 4 **Table 1** in the Appendix to this response sets out the number of YPIRAC:
  - (a) who have met the access requirements as at 30 September 2020 (Access met decision made);
  - (b) who have exited the National Disability Insurance Scheme (**NDIS**) as at 30 September 2020 (Exits from the Scheme); and



- (c) who have exited from Residential Aged Care (**RAC**) as at 30 September 2020 (Exits from RAC).<sup>1</sup>

Question 4

State how many younger people living in residential aged care in each State and Territory have an approved NDIS plan as at 30 September 2020.

- a. State how many of those people have provision for Specialist Disability Accommodation (**SDA**) in their approved plan
  - b. State how many of those people have provision for Supported Independent Living (**SIL**) in their approved plan
  - c. State how many of those people have provision for SDA and SIL in their approved plan.
- 5 **Table 2** in the Appendix to this response sets out the numbers of YPIRAC in each state and territory who have an approved NDIS plan as at 30 September 2020.
- 6 **Table 3** in the Appendix to this response sets out, as at 30 September 2020, the number of YPIRAC in each state and territory with an approved plan with provisions for:
- (a) Specialist Disability Accommodation (**SDA**);
  - (b) Supported Independent Living (**SIL**); or
  - (c) both SDA and SIL.

<sup>1</sup> Exits from Residential Aged Care are usually due to alternative accommodation, exits from the Scheme usually occur due to mortality.

Question 5

State how many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in residential aged care as at 30 September 2020, have been assessed for NDIS eligibility.

- a. State how many of those people are 49 years old and under
- b. State how many of those people are between 50-64 years of age (inclusive)
- c. State how many of those people are 65 years and over.

Question 6

State how many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in residential aged care as at 30 September 2020, who have been assessed for NDIS eligibility, are receiving NDIS funding.

- a. State how many of those people are 49 years and under.
- b. State how many of those people are between 50-64 years of age (inclusive).
- c. State how many of those people are 65 years and over.

- 7 **Table 4** in the Appendix to this response sets out the numbers of younger Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in RAC who have been assessed for NDIS eligibility, and the numbers of this cohort who are receiving NDIS funding, as at 30 September 2020.

Question 7

Provide the number of younger people in residential aged care who, as at 30 September 2020, either have been assessed as not eligible for NDIS or have not yet been assessed for NDIS.

- 8 As at 30 September 2020, 141 YPIRAC were assessed as ineligible for the NDIS. The reasons for ineligibility were as follows:
- (a) 120 people were found ineligible due to not meeting the disability requirements;
  - (b) 6 people were found ineligible due to not meeting the age requirements;
  - (c) 14 people were found ineligible due to not meeting the residence requirements; and
  - (d) 1 person whose reason for ineligibility was not documented.
- 9 In addition to the 141 YPIRAC who were assessed as ineligible for the NDIS, as at 30 September 2020 there were also 295 NDIS eligibility assessment requests which were in progress or in the draft stage. These 295 eligibility assessment requests do not include those YPIRAC who as at 30 September 2020 may qualify for the NDIS, but had not applied to become an NDIS participant.

**Question 7**

Provide any additional information on what the National Disability Insurance Agency is and has been doing to meet the Younger People Action Plan Targets.

- 10 The NDIA has been working as part of the Joint Agency Taskforce (**JATF**) with the Department of Social Services and the Department of Health to design the new Younger People in Residential Aged Care Strategy 2020-25 (**YPIRAC Strategy**).<sup>2</sup> The YPIRAC Strategy was announced by the Australian Government on 30 September 2020 and provides a roadmap for achieving the Younger People in Residential Aged Care Action Plan Targets (**YPIRAC Targets**). The YPIRAC Strategy was co-designed through a process involving the Younger People in Residential Aged Care Stakeholder Reference Group (**Stakeholder Reference Group**), and consultation with all the states and territories.
- 11 The NDIA's ongoing work as part of the JATF to develop the Implementation Plan for the YPIRAC Strategy. The JATF endorsed the Implementation Plan on 19 October 2020. The Implementation Plan will be a living document and the NDIA will continue to investigate new initiatives that will help achieve the YPIRAC Targets. These initiatives will be included in the Implementation Plan as it develops.
- 12 These initiatives include:
- (a) The development of an approach to commission dedicated housing support coordinators for YPIRAC who are NDIS participants and need more specialised support to achieve their housing goals. These coordinators will have proven experience navigating housing systems to connect participants to accommodation options other than aged care.
  - (b) The continuing work of the NDIA's Health Liaison Officers (**HLOs**).<sup>3</sup> HLOs are intended to provide participants with an NDIA point of contact within the hospital setting to streamline NDIS access and planning for a younger person with disability, and to facilitate a safe and timely transition out of RAC. The HLOs continue to work with the NDIA Engagement and Housing teams to further educate and inform hospital staff on the various housing options available for current and prospective NDIS participants, including younger people. In October 2020, a factsheet on HLOs was developed and is now being distributed in hospital settings.
  - (c) The continuing work of NDIA staff in focusing on housing goal discussions at planning meetings and supporting NDIS participants to make informed choices about their accommodation goals. For NDIS participants aged under 45 who are currently living in aged care and who have a goal to move from aged care, the NDIA is liaising monthly with support coordinators to ensure implementation is progressing as agreed and to provide further advice

<sup>2</sup> The YPIRAC Strategy is available on the Department of Social Services website:

[https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/09\\_2020/dac\\_younger-people-residential-aged-care\\_20092020.pdf](https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/09_2020/dac_younger-people-residential-aged-care_20092020.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Further information on HLOs is provided at paragraphs 59 to 61 of the Joint Response, paragraph 25(e) of the response to NTG-0761, and at paragraph 14(d) and (e) of the response to NTG-0795.

and support if required. For NDIS participants aged under 65 who are currently living in aged care, streamlined assessments of housing supports are currently underway having commenced in September 2020.

- (d) The publication of a new webpage on the NDIS website on 16 October 2020 identifying existing SDA vacancy matching platforms to assist participants with searching for housing solutions that meet their requirements.<sup>4</sup>
- (e) The NDIA's ongoing work to improve flexibility and access to accommodation supports for YPIRAC, including through the development and refinement of operational guidelines for NDIA staff and NDIS participants, including younger people (as referred to in paragraph 26 of the response to NTG-0761). The NDIA published the Medium Term Accommodation Operational Guideline in June 2020,<sup>5</sup> and the Younger People in Residential Aged Care Operational Guideline in September 2020.<sup>6</sup>
- (f) A review by the NDIA, which focused on the influences of housing on people with profound disability, including younger people. The findings of this review will inform the NDIA's understanding of interventions and programs designed to promote optimal home and living options as the NDIA continues to carry out its work towards meeting the YPIRAC Targets. The review will also inform the NDIA's design of internal practice guides, operational guidelines, home and living policy, and ways to raise awareness of home and living options amongst participants, families, carers and key stakeholders.
- (g) Publication of data relating to SDA enrolled dwellings and NDIS demand (to 30 September 2020), including data on the number of active participants in each service district receiving SDA and SIL, the number and types of dwellings, and regional demand for SDA within the NDIS.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> This webpage is available at: <https://www.ndis.gov.au/participants/housing-and-ndis/sda-vacancy-matching-platforms>.

<sup>5</sup> The Medium Term Accommodation Operational Guideline is available on the NDIS website at: <https://ourguidelines.ndis.gov.au/supports-you-can-access-menu/home-and-living-supports/medium-term-accommodation>.

<sup>6</sup> The Younger People in Residential Aged Care Operational Guideline is available on the NDIS website at: <https://ourguidelines.ndis.gov.au/supports-you-can-access-menu/home-and-living-supports/younger-people-residential-aged-care>.

<sup>7</sup> This data is available on the NDIS website at: <https://data.ndis.gov.au/data-downloads>.

## Appendix

**Table 1. Cumulative intake into and exit from the NDIS for participants residing in RAC aged under 65 years as at 30 September 2020, by State/Territory**

Intake / Exit	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	National
Access met decision made	2,238	1,722	1,184	387	377	121	29	58	6,116
Exits from the NDIS	735	566	396	118	135	31	12	17	2,010
Active participants – all ages	222	103	91	7	17	8	5	3	456
<b>Current participants</b>	<b>1,281</b>	<b>1,053</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>3,650</b>

**Table 2. Numbers of YPIRAC in each state and territory who have an approved NDIS plan as at 30 June 2020**

NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	National
1,277	1,041	688	249	222	78	12	36	3,603

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**Table 3. Numbers of younger active participants residing in RAC with SIL and SDA supports in approved plans as at 30 June 2020**

Component	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	National
SIL only	16	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	22
SDA only	140	150	123	20	20	8	1	6	468
SIL & SDA	16	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>509</b>

**Table 4. Numbers of younger Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in RAC as at 30 September 2020 who have been assessed for NDIS eligibility**

Age Group	Younger Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in RAC who have been Assessed for NDIS Eligibility		
	Eligible, not receiving NDIS funding <sup>8</sup>	Eligible, receiving NDIS funding <sup>9</sup>	Total Assessed for Eligibility
49 years old and under	0	28	28
50-64 years of age (inclusive)	7	240	247
65 years and over	0	52	52
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>327</b>

<sup>8</sup> "Receiving NDIS funding" means that NDIS funding is made available to these participants.

<sup>9</sup> "Receiving NDIS funding" means that NDIS funding is made available to these participants.