

**Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme -
hearing into the Inquiry into Current Scheme Implementation and
Forecasting for the NDIS**

Public Hearing – 1 February 2022
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme - hearing into the Inquiry into Current Scheme Implementation and Forecasting for the NDIS

Question reference number: IQ22-000010

Senator: Jordon Steele-John

Type of Question: Spoken. **Hansard Page/s:** 17

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 28 February 2022

Question:

Senator STEELE-JOHN: In terms of when those exits [deaths] we can potentially link to COVID occurred in that two-year period, can you tell me how many have occurred during the latest Omicron wave?

Mr Mansfield: I don't have with me a time series, as you're describing, but I can take that on notice and follow up with the commission in relation to that.

Senator STEELE-JOHN: Yes, if you could. I can see the challenge of doing it through COVID, but could you provide me with a time line of when those 54 exits [deaths] were recorded.

Mr Mansfield: It's 51, and I will do that.

Answer:

Data on National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participants who died with COVID-19 is published daily on the Australian Government Department of Health website at: www.health.gov.au/health-alerts/covid-19/case-numbers-and-statistics#cases-in-ndis-services.

Registered NDIS providers must notify the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (NDIS Commission) within 24 hours of being made aware of the death of a participant, under the *National Disability Insurance Scheme (Incident Management and Reportable Incidents) Rules 2018*.

The known number of participants who had died with COVID-19 at the time of the Committee hearing which was published on the Department of Health Website was 51. Any variation between the number of deaths reported daily on the Department of Health

website and the numbers in the table below are due to updates in information available to the NDIS Commission since initial publication.

Table: NDIS participants who have died with COVID-19, disaggregated by calendar year quarters

Quarter	Count of deaths
Q1, 2020	0
Q2, 2020	3
Q3, 2020	7
Q4, 2020	0
Q1, 2021	0
Q2, 2021	0
Q3, 2021	7
Q4, 2021	11
Q1, 2022	29
Total	57*

* Data of all deaths reported to the NDIS Commission up to and including 1 February 2022. The date of death as reported by the registered provider has been used. Where the date of death has not yet been verified, the date the death was reported to the NDIS Commission has been used.

Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme Committee

Public Hearing – 04 February 2022
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme - Inquiry into the current Scheme implementation and forecasting for the NDIS Hearing Tuesday 1 February 2022

Question reference number: IQ22-000009

Senator: Carol Brown

Type of Question: Written. **Hansard Page/s:**

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 28 February 2022

Question:

Please update the committee on the recent work for the Disability Reform Ministers meetings in relation to NDIS interfaces.

Answer:

Following its establishment after the dissolution of the former Disability Reform Council, the Disability Reform Ministers' Meetings (DRMM) first met in December 2020 and met five times over 2021. NDIS system reform and mainstream interfaces remains a priority focus area.

Recent DRMM work across interface areas includes:

- Joint efforts to support vaccination of people with disability against COVID-19, including significant progress by all governments to accelerate COVID-19 vaccination rates for people with disability and disability workers.
- Facilitating the sharing of data between the Commonwealth and states and territories to guide the vaccination rollout to people with disability going forward.
- Coordinating services to support prompt discharge from hospital for NDIS participants, including recent actions by the National Disability Insurance Agency to enhance co-ordination between agencies and jurisdictions, with this work to be reported on in 2022.
- Focus on developing options to improve the supply of affordable and appropriate mainstream housing and NDIS funded accommodation for people with disability, noting DRMM will look to engage with Ministers for Housing in each jurisdiction as part of this work in 2022.
- Endorsement of the NDIS Psychosocial Disability Recovery-Oriented Framework, supporting participants living with psychosocial disability in their personal recovery to live a meaningful life.

- Monitoring and reviewing issues at the interface with justice programs and work to strengthen collaboration and joint solutions around transition from custody of NDIS participants, including planning approaches.

In 2021, Ministers also endorsed Australia's Disability Strategy and associated Targeted Action Plans, noting the implementation of the Strategy will play an important role in improving the experience of people with disability, including NDIS participants, of mainstream services and the broader environment in areas such as health, education, justice and housing.

Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme Committee

Public Hearing – 04 February 2022
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme - Inquiry into the current Scheme implementation and forecasting for the NDIS Hearing Tuesday 1 February 2022

Question reference number: IQ22-000007

Senator: Carol Brown

Type of Question: Written. **Hansard Page/s:**

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 28 February 2022

Question:

Please provide an update on implementation of recommendations from the 2019 Tune Review

Answer:

The 2019 Review of the *National Disability Insurance Agency Act 2013* conducted by Mr David Tune AO PSM (Tune Review) made 29 recommendations to improve the participant experience, including new standards and processes to support the delivery of the Participant Service Guarantee.

As of February 2022, implementation across all of these recommendations are in different stages of delivery.

Recommendations 6, 8, 9, 11, 12a, 12c, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27: Provisions included in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (Participant Service Guarantee and Other Measures) Bill 2021 address these recommendations.

Recommendations 1a, 1b, 1d, 2, 3, 4a, 4c, 4e, 4d, 5, 12b, 18, 28: The implementation and legislative options for these recommendations are currently under development across the Department of Social Services and the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA)

Recommendations 1c, 10, 14, 24, 29: These recommendations have been implemented and are currently in operation.

Recommendations 4b, 7, 15: On 9 July 2021, Disability Reform Ministers agreed that Independent Assessments will not proceed and instead co-design of a person centred model of assessment will be undertaken. Implementation of these recommendations may be considered as part of this co-design process.