

Senate Community Affairs References Committee
Barriers to consistent, timely and best practice assessment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and support services for people with ADHD

Public Hearing – 29 June 2023
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE
National Disability Insurance Agency

Topic: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder - Eligibility

Question reference number: IQ23-000032

Question asked by: Jordon Steele-John

Type of Question: Spoken. Hansard Page: 46

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2023

Question:

Senator Steele-John: You've been able to provide me with the number of access requests made in the last 12 months by people who have ADHD as a primary or secondary disability and the approval or rejection rate of those applications. To clarify: is the 61 per cent approval rate that you gave me for requests made and then agency approved or is that for requests made, agency rejection of the initial decision, the participant then appealing and then eventual approval? Can you shed any light on that for us?

Mr McNaughton: I'd have to take that on notice. I don't have that level of detail. I'll check the figures for the time series over which those access decisions were made and come back to you.

Senator Steele-John: That would be good. This is so we can understand whether the number of approved you've given us are approved as the result of the conclusion of an appeal—a request for a review and a decision, or a process through the AAT—or simply granted. Could you also provide me with the access request numbers and also the acceptance and rejection figures for the last 24 months and the last three years so we can get a slightly larger data set of the trends we're looking at.

Answer:

As at 31 March 2023, the below table shows 63% of access decisions made for an applicant with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) (as a primary or non-primary disability) were determined eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The total access met rate shown over the history of the NDIS (63%) is marginally different to that previously stated (61%) due to a revision of methodology.

The number of applicants with ADHD as a primary disability who were determined eligible for the NDIS via the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) is less than 11 out of 118 active NDIS participants with ADHD as the primary disability.

Access decisions for applicants with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder as at 31 March 2023.

	Decisions made	Access Met	Access Not Met	Access Met Rate
ADHD Primary or Secondary Condition				
Access decisions made from 31 March 2021 to 31 March 2023 (24 months)	5,870	2,741	3,129	47%
Access decisions made from 31 March 2020 to 31 March 2023 (36 months)	7,580	4,108	3,472	54%
All access decisions	9,696	6,129	3,567	63%
ADHD Primary Condition				
Access decisions made from 31 March 2021 to 31 March 2023 (24 months)	1,907	50	1,857	3%
Access decisions made from 31 March 2020 to 31 March 2023 (36 months)	2,478	87	2,391	4%
All access decisions	2,641	189	2,452	7%
ADHD Secondary Condition				
Access decisions made from 31 March 2021 to 31 March 2023 (24 months)	3,963	2,691	1,272	68%
Access decisions made from 31 March 2020 to 31 March 2023 (36 months)	5,102	4,021	1,081	79%
All access decisions	7,055	5,940	1,115	84%