

2.4 Budgeted expenses and performance for Outcome 4

Outcome 4: Disability and Carers

Supporting the independence of people with disability and carers by providing targeted supports.

Programs contributing to Outcome 4

Program 4.1: Disability and Carers

Program 4.2: National Disability Insurance Scheme

Linked programs¹

Department of Social Services (DSS)
<p>Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program 1.4 – Financial Support for People with Disability • Program 1.5 – Financial Support for Carers • Program 2.1 – Families and Communities
<p>Contribution to Outcome 4 made by linked programs</p> <p>DSS contributes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – providing support to people with disability and carers by determining eligibility for Disability Support Pension and carer payments (4.1). – supporting all Australian Government agencies to undertake further action under the cross-cutting disability outcome of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, to focus on improved outcomes for First Nations people with disability (4.1). – the implementation and stewardship of Our Ways – Strong Ways – Our Voices: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Plan to End Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence 2026– 2036 (Our Ways – Strong Ways – Our Voices). Our Ways – Strong Ways – Our Voices addresses the high and disproportionate rates of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, children and families. Our Ways - Strong Ways - Our Voices was launched on 10 February 2026 and recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with disability face compounded exclusion and high rates of violence (4.1). – an Our Ways – Strong Ways – Our Voices Action Plan, to be developed by early 2027, alongside 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. This ensures a coordinated approach for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, children, and families. Responses under the Action Plan will include culturally safe, accessible supports that cater to the specific needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with disability, informed by the findings and recommendations of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (4.1).

¹ Relevant Department of Health, Disability and Ageing program linkages are shown in parenthesis at the end of each linked program.

National Disability Insurance Agency
Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Program 1.1 – Reasonable and Necessary Supports for Participants• Program 1.2 – National Disability Insurance Agency and General Supports
Contribution to Outcome 4 made by linked programs <p>These linked programs provide for the delivery of the NDIS (4.2).</p>
NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission
Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Program 1.1 – Support for National Disability Insurance Scheme providers in relation to registration
Contribution to Outcome 4 made by linked programs <p>The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission supports NDIS participants to exercise choice and control, ensure appropriate safeguards are in place for NDIS supports, and establish expectations for providers and their staff to deliver quality support (4.2).</p>

Budgeted expenses for Outcome 4

This table shows how much the entity intends to spend (on an accrual basis) on achieving the outcome, broken down by program, as well as by Administered and Departmental funding sources.

Table 2.4.1: Budgeted expenses for Outcome 4

Outcome 4: Supporting the independence of people with disability and carers by providing targeted supports.

	2025–26 Estimated actual \$'000	2026–27 Budget \$'000	2027–28 Forward estimate \$'000	2028–29 Forward estimate \$'000	2029–30 Forward estimate \$'000
Program 4.1: Disability and Carers ^(a)					
Administered expenses					
Ordinary annual services ^(b) to SOETM Special Account 2021	477,071 (9,029)	535,588 (165)	503,508 -	457,839 -	491,478 -
Special account expenses					
SOETM Special Account 2021	9,729	165	-	-	-
Total for Program 4.1	477,771	535,588	503,508	457,839	491,478
Program 4.2: National Disability Insurance Scheme ^(a)					
Administered expenses					
Ordinary annual services ^(b)	38,216,824	40,096,149	39,636,237	39,986,798	40,353,135
Payments to corporate entities	2,390,498	2,251,057	1,470,999	1,503,700	1,603,360
Total for Program 4.2	40,607,322	42,347,206	41,107,236	41,490,498	41,956,495
Outcome 4 totals by appropriation type					
Administered expenses					
Ordinary annual services ^(b) to Special accounts	38,693,895 (9,029)	40,631,737 (165)	40,139,745 -	40,444,637 -	40,844,613 -
Special accounts	9,729	165	-	-	-
Payments to corporate entities	2,390,498	2,251,057	1,470,999	1,503,700	1,603,360
Departmental expenses					
Departmental appropriation ^(c)	130,807	151,382	105,642	92,991	94,229
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year ^(d)	1,288	1,097	1,213	1,210	1,147
Total expenses for Outcome 4	41,217,188	43,035,273	41,717,600	42,042,538	42,543,349
	2025–26	2026–27			
Average staffing level (number)	424	458			

^(a) Budget estimates for this program exclude National Partnership payments to state and territory governments by Treasury as part of the Federal Financial Relations framework. National Partnerships are listed in this chapter under each program. For Budget estimates relating to the National Partnership component of this program, please refer to Budget Paper 3 or Program 1.9 of Treasury's Portfolio Budget Statements.

^(b) Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2026–2027.

^(c) Departmental appropriation combines 'Ordinary annual services Appropriation Bill (No. 1)' and 'Revenue from independent sources (s74)'.

^(d) Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year are made up of depreciation expense, amortisation expense, makegood expense and audit fees.

Table 2.4.2: Program component expenses for Outcome 4

	2025–26 Estimated actual \$'000	2026–27 Budget \$'000	2027–28 Forward estimate \$'000	2028–29 Forward estimate \$'000	2029–30 Forward estimate \$'000
Program 4.1: Disability and Carers					
4.1.1 – Component 1 (Disability and Carers)					
Annual administered expenses:					
Ordinary annual services					
Disability and Carer Support to SOETM Special Account 2021	477,071	535,588	503,508	457,839	491,478
	(9,029)	(165)	-	-	-
Special account expenses					
SOETM Special Account 2021					
Special account to support the National Disability Data Asset	9,729	165	-	-	-
Total component 1 expenses	477,771	535,588	503,508	457,839	491,478
Total for Program 4.1	477,771	535,588	503,508	457,839	491,478
Program 4.2: National Disability Insurance Scheme					
4.2.1 – Component 1 (National Disability Insurance Scheme)					
Annual administered expenses:					
Ordinary annual services					
Sector Development Fund and Jobs and Market Fund					
	387	839	-	-	-
National Disability Insurance Scheme Participant Plans					
	38,216,437	40,095,310	39,636,237	39,986,798	40,353,135
Payments to corporate entities					
Payments to Corporate Entity - NDIA Agency costs					
	2,390,498	2,251,057	1,470,999	1,503,700	1,603,360
Total component 1 expenses	40,607,322	42,347,206	41,107,236	41,490,498	41,956,495
Total for Program 4.2	40,607,322	42,347,206	41,107,236	41,490,498	41,956,495
Total program expenses	41,085,093	42,882,794	41,610,744	41,948,337	42,447,973

Performance measures for Outcome 4

Table 2.4.3 – 2.4.4 details the performance measures for each program associated with Outcome 4. It is used by entities to describe the results they plan to achieve and the related key activities, as detailed in the current corporate plan, the context in which these activities are delivered, and how the performance of these activities will be measured. Where relevant, details of the 2026–27 Budget measures that have created new programs or materially changed existing programs are provided.

Table 2.4.3: Performance measures for Program 4.1

Outcome 4: Disability and Carers		
Supporting the independence of people with disability and carers by providing targeted supports.		
Program 4.1: Disability and Carers		
To support people with disabilities and carers to actively participate in community and economic life.		
Key Activity	Disability and Carer Support.	
Year	Performance Measure	Expected Performance Results
Current Year 2025–26	4.1A – Extent to which carers who are registered with Carer Gateway local service providers' wellbeing is assessed as improved.	<p>a. 29.0% Target: Percentage (at least 30%) of carers registered with Carer Gateway local service providers assessed as having improved carer wellbeing in the current reporting period.</p> <p>b. 34.0% Target: Percentage (at least 35%) of carers registered with Carer Gateway local service providers assessed as having improved carer wellbeing since the program commenced.</p> <p>Targets: At risk Data from 1 July 2025 to 31 December 2025 indicates the expected performance results are at risk of not being achieved. Survey data indicates that carer wellbeing has been trending down since 2021. Carer wellbeing is influenced by multiple factors.</p>

Year	Performance Measure ²	Planned Performance Results
Budget Year 2026–27	4.1A – Extent to which carers who are registered with Carer Gateway local service providers' wellbeing is assessed as improved.	a. Percentage (at least 30%) of carers registered with Carer Gateway local service providers assessed as having improved carer wellbeing in the current reporting period. b. Percentage (at least 35%) of carers registered with Carer Gateway local service providers assessed as having improved carer wellbeing since the program commenced.
Forward Estimates 2027–30	As per 2026–27	a. As per 2026–27 b. As per 2026–27

Program 4.1: Disability and Carers		
Key Activity	Disability and Carer Support.	
Year	Performance Measure	Expected Performance Results
Current Year 2025–26	4.1B – Extent to which the evidence base is built for Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031 (the Strategy).	The number of measures under the Strategy's Outcomes Framework with data reported is an increase on the previous reporting year. Target: On track
Year	Performance Measure	Planned Performance Results
Budget Year 2026–27	4.1B – Extent to which the evidence base is built for Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031 (the Strategy).	Increase on previous year.
Forward Estimates 2027–30	As per 2026–27	As per 2026–27
Material changes to Program 4.1 resulting from 2026–27 Budget Measures: Nil		

² The department is reviewing Performance Measure 4.1A for 2026–27. New performance measures and targets will be published in the department's Corporate Plan 2026–27.

Table 2.4.4: Performance measures for Program 4.2

Program 4.2: National Disability Insurance Scheme		
To improve the wellbeing and social and economic participation of people with disability, and their families and carers, by building a NDIS that delivers individualised support through an insurance approach. This program also includes the Jobs and Market Fund.		
Key Activity	Sector development Fund and Jobs and Market Fund.	
Year	Performance Measure	Expected Performance Results
Current Year 2025–26	4.2A – The extent to which the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing is advising on and/or delivering market initiatives that influence the development of the market and workforce for NDIS participants.	The department has advised on and/or delivered 8 market initiatives to develop the market and workforce. Target: On track
Year	Performance Measure	Planned Performance Results
Budget Year 2026–27	4.2A – The extent to which the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing is advising on and/or delivering market initiatives that influence the development of the market and workforce for NDIS participants.	The department has advised on and/or delivered at least 8 market initiatives to develop the market and workforce.
Forward Estimates 2027–30	As per 2026–27	As per 2026–27

Program 4.2: National Disability Insurance Scheme		
Key Activity	NDIS Participant Plans.	
Year	Performance Measure	Expected Performance Results
Current Year 2025–26	4.2B – NDIS cost growth is sustainable.	Annual growth in the total cost of the Scheme tracking to achieve the target of no more than 8% by 1 July 2026, with further moderation of growth as the Scheme matures. Target: On track
Year	Performance Measure	Planned Performance Results
Budget Year 2026–27	4.2B – NDIS cost growth is sustainable.	Annual Scheme cost growth no more than 8%.
Forward Estimates 2027–30	As per 2026–27	As per 2026–27

Program 4.2: National Disability Insurance Scheme		
Key Activity	NDIS Participant Plans.	
Year	Performance Measure	Expected Performance Results
Current Year 2025–26	4.2C – Legislative amendments developed for Government.	Criterion is met if 3 of the 3 progress milestones are delivered. Target: On track
Year	Performance Measure	Planned Performance Results
Budget Year 2026–27	4.2C – Legislative amendments developed for Government.	Participants transition to new framework planning and access reform enables diversion of children to foundational supports.
Forward Estimates 2027–30	As per 2026–27	As per 2026–27
Material changes to Program 4.2 resulting from 2026–27 Budget Measures: Nil		