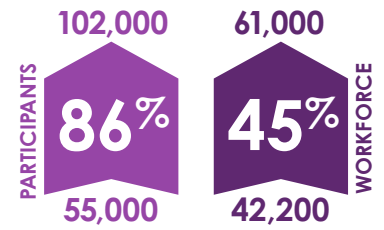


# Strengthening Queensland's NDIS Workforce 2021

Queensland's growing National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is set to create thousands more jobs in the disability and community services sector. New research released in the Strengthening Queensland's NDIS Workforce 2021 report led by WorkAbility Qld and funded by Jobs Queensland shows the number of National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participants has almost doubled from 55,000 in 2019 to 102,000 at 31 December 2021. To meet this increased demand the workforce has grown by 44.8 per cent (42,200 to 61,000) over a similar time.

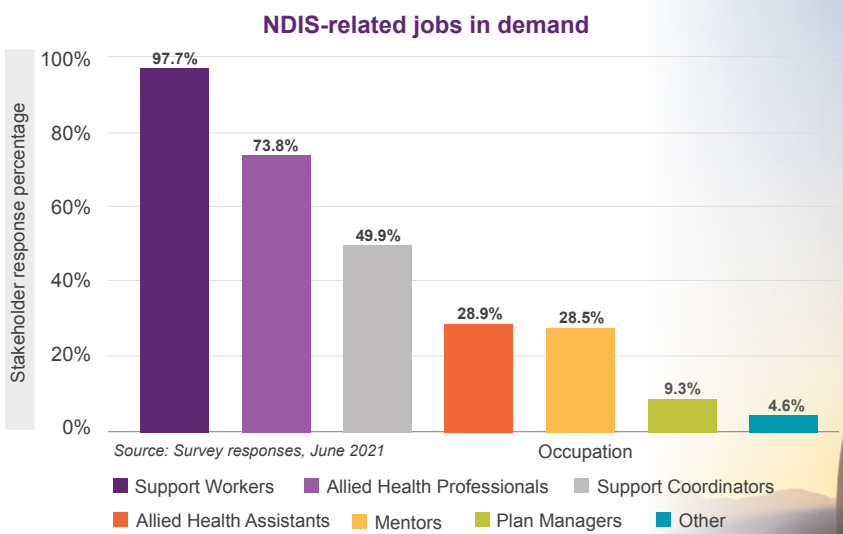


Data in this new report reveals that **the number of active NDIS participants is expected to more than double over the next decade.** This means additional demand for workers, with NDIS-related occupations, predicted to be some of the fastest growing jobs in Queensland. Jobs Queensland's Anticipating Future Skills projects an increase of 25 per cent aged and disabled care workers over the four years from 2020-21 to 2024-25.

The report is the second released as part of a three-year research project investigating the impacts on the labour force, as the scheme matures since its rollout in 2016. **Research involved 430 employers, employees, sole traders, and self-managed participants** who have shared regional insights into the NDIS, including impacts felt during COVID-19.



The research so far has identified that the occupations needed to support the growth of the NDIS are some of the fastest growing occupations in Queensland, and they are projected to continue grow in coming years.





The key findings of this investigation are:



A strategic approach to growing the NDIS workforce



Attracting, developing and retaining staff



Industry-led, place-based approaches



Coordinated, industry-led career promotion and guidance



Industry-led, high quality accredited and non-accredited training investment



Traineeship pathway for entry level roles in disability support



Allied health assistants



Quality data

The investigation has identified some **emerging issues that are important considerations for future investment in training and skills** by industry. These include increasing demand for:



Improved skills in using technologies



Industry investment in work placements



Non-accredited training



Assistive technologies

The project has developed a **suite of supporting resources** that includes:



Regional profiles



Online Funding and Support Mapping



Workforce Planning for the Disability Support Sector toolkit



Allied Health Assistants Good Practice Guide



Traineeship project (in progress)

The project concludes with a third and final state-wide report that completes the longitudinal research project.



**“** We need to encourage industry, NDIS service providers and all levels of government to continue investing in NDIS workforce development and local community service infrastructure. NDIS stakeholders are researching new service delivery models to overcome access barriers, boost productivity and widen service delivery for rural and remote Queensland. This includes continuing research and development of telehealth and virtual services, protocols and supervision arrangements, as appropriate, and solutions-focused consideration of greater use of hybrid staffing models such as community-based tri-party (health, disability, and aged care) labour hub arrangements and supervised allied health assistants. **”**

**Donna Bonney, Jobs Queensland Board Chair**