

Disability - The NT Context

The NT faces unique challenges in service delivery including the tyranny of distance, the lack of infrastructure, high costs relative to other jurisdictions, and the lack of economies of scale.

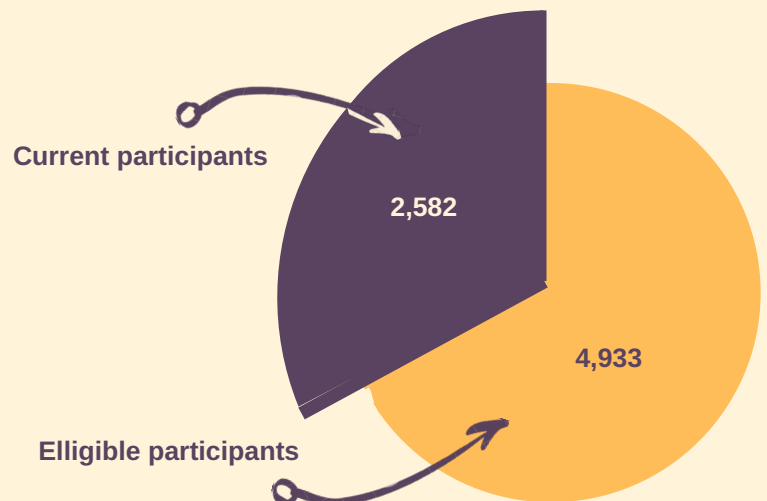
Population demographics

Over 26% of the NT population identifies as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, (79% in remote NT) compared with the second highest jurisdiction of Tasmania at 4.6%.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experience higher rates of disability than non-Indigenous people. In 2015, 7.3% of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians had a profound or severe core activity limitation - around 1.5 times the proportion for non-Indigenous Australians.

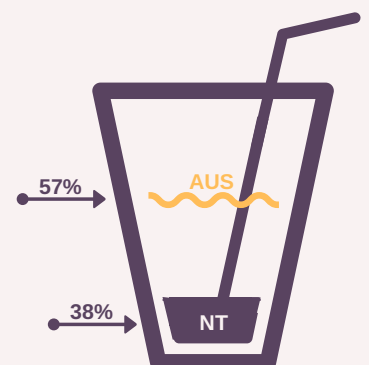
Participant eligibility

Potential participants in the NT were estimated at 4933 participants. It has been acknowledged that this figure is significantly understated because of a large Aboriginal population, mainly in remote locations, who either don't use the descriptor disabled and don't access services where disability may be identified. Even though there is a vast underestimation of eligibility for the scheme, take up in the NT is less than half of that estimated.



Utilisation of the scheme

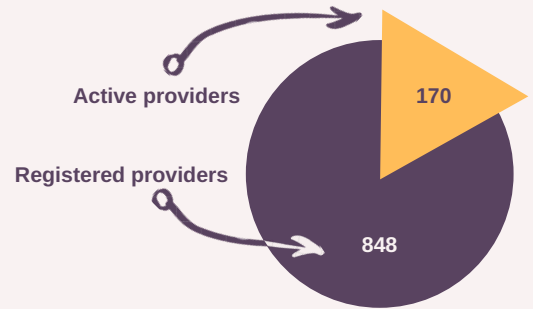
Utilisation of plans is low, at 38% compared to 57% on average across Australia. Underutilised plans are often reduced on renewal even though the main reason for underutilisation is lack of services not an absence of need.



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Service availability

Of the 848 Service providers registered in the NT only 170 are active, and yet applications for packages to include travel to enable access to services are rejected. Of 352 Specialist Disability Accommodation providers registered in the NT only 3 are active.



15%

of 848 service providers registered in the NT were active in 2018/19

1/3

Take up in the NT is about a third of that estimated

38%

is the rate of plan utilisation in the NT, compared to 57% nationally

Unscheduled reviews

The NT has by far the highest number of unscheduled plan reviews at 41% as opposed to that national average of 16%. This speaks to the inadequacy of original plans and we will argue the skill and understanding of planners, as well as indicating the bureaucracy associated with accessing necessary supports.

