National Disability Data Asset

What we learned from the National Disability Data Asset Pilot

Easy Read summary

June 2021

How to use this summary

The National Disability Data Asset Team wrote this summary. When you see the word 'we', it means the National Disability Data Asset Team.

We wrote this summary in an easy to read way.

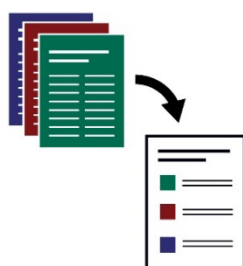We use pictures to explain some ideas.

We have written some words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.

We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 39.

This is an Easy Read summary of another document.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.

You can ask for help to read this summary.
A friend, family member or support person
may be able to help you.

What's in this summary?

What is the National Disability Data Asset (NDDA)?

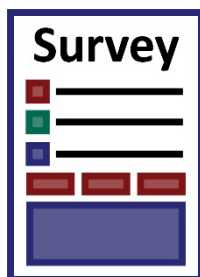The NDDA will be a new way to link **data** about people with disability.

When we talk about data, we mean:
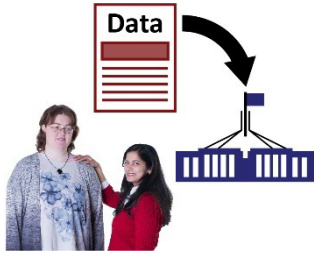
- facts

- information

- records.

The NDDA will get the data from:

- different parts of the government
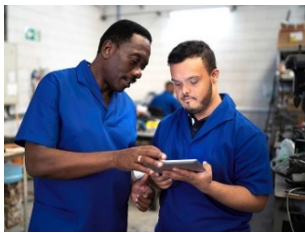
- surveys.

The NDDA will also get data from organisations that:

- work with people with disability

- give data to the government.

The NDDA will include data about people's lives, such as:

- school and learning

- their work and how they earn money

- what support they get from the government
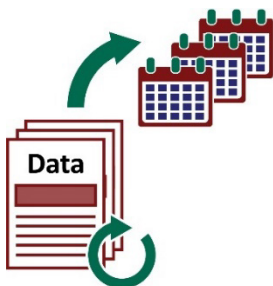

- health care.

The NDDA will help us understand the **outcomes** for people with disability.

Outcomes are the important results we want to get for people with disability.

The NDDA is a growing collection of data.

We will update it with new data over time.

Why do we need a National Disability Data Asset (NDDA)?

We need to get better outcomes for people with disability.
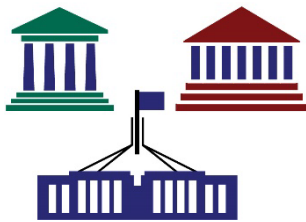
We can use data to help people make better decisions.

When we talk about people, we mean:

- people with disability

- all levels of government

- the **disability sector**.

The disability sector includes:

- people with disability

- service providers
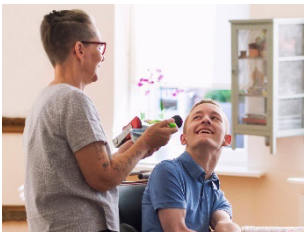
- support workers

- organisations that speak up for people with disability.

What was the NDDA Pilot?

A **pilot** is a trial that helps us find out what:

- works well

- needs to be better.

The NDDA Pilot was testing how to:

- link data about people with disability
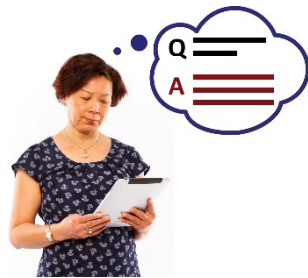
- study that data to answer questions

- share those answers with people with disability.

The NDDA Pilot also helped us understand the outcomes for people with disability.

The NDDA pilot ran from April 2020 to December 2021.

The NDDA pilot included 5 **test cases**.
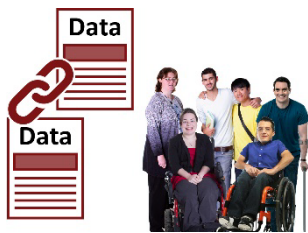
A test case is when we:

- work out the best way to link data

- show why linked data is good.

We made the test cases to show how linked data can:

- measure outcomes for people with disability

- make information to share with people with disability and their carers.

The test cases also show how linked data can:

- support new **policies** and research.

- make policies and services better.

A policy is a plan for how we should do things.

We talk more about what we learned from the test cases on page 18.

What did we learn from the NDDA Pilot?

Important things that affect the NDDA

We learned about important things that will affect the NDDA in the future.
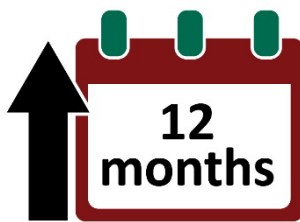
We learned it can take at least 12 months for governments to:

- say it's okay to do a project

- find, use and share data

- get the data to the people who do the research.

We also learned there are lots of steps that need to be done again each time data is used.

This is because it takes a long time to make a document that says it's okay for people to share and link data.

This makes it hard for governments to:

- use data to make decisions

- make services better.

We learned we need different ways to get data about people with disability that everyone agrees with.

We learned we must work with people with disability to look at things that are important to them.

We made a plan for how governments can support new ways to:

- get data about people with disability

- use data to get better outcomes for people with disability.
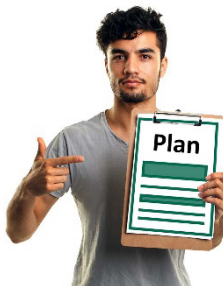
We will share this plan when the NDDA is agreed between governments.

Goals we reached

We reached some important goals during the NDDA pilot.
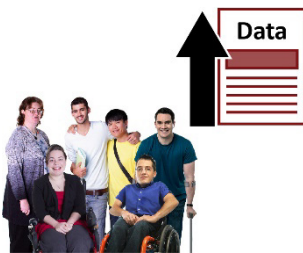
For the first time, different governments shared more data about people with disability than ever before.

For the first time, we could get data about the services people with disability use.

This includes:

- learning and training

- health services

- housing services that support people with disability where they live

- services that support people with disability in the **justice system**.

The justice system includes:

- police

- the courts

- the law

- prisons.

Testing different ways of getting data

Each test case looked at different ways to:

- link data

- use data.

This means we can work out how to make the ways we link data better.

It also means organisations are more likely to say yes to our new way of:
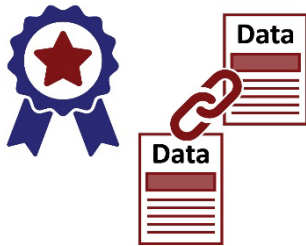
- sharing data

- linking data.

We faced some challenges when we got different data from each test case.

One of these challenges was how well our technology worked to:

- link the data

- analyse the data – work out what it means.

This means we will need to make our technology better so it can handle lots of data.

Using all types of data about people with disability gives us a good understanding of all people with disability.

Each test case used a different way to tell if someone was a person with disability.

This means we could look at the different ways to tell if someone was a person with disability and see what:

- worked well

- could be better.

What did we learn from our test cases?

Early childhood supports

This test case was about support for children with disability during their early childhood – before they start school.

This includes children with **developmental delay**.

When a child has a developmental delay, it means they don't grow or develop how other children their age do.
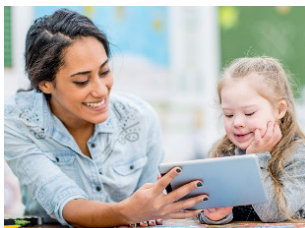
When we say children with disability, we also mean children with developmental delay.

This test case let us answer questions about:

- early childhood supports for children with disability

- children with disability taking part in early childhood learning

- learning outcomes

- missing data about children with disability.

Important information from the early childhood supports test case
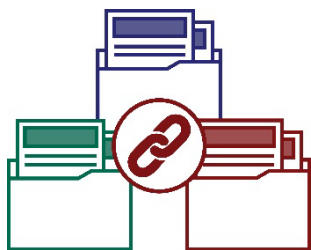
In this test case we used a different way of linking data about children with disability.

In this test case we looked at all children in New South Wales.

We found out which children used disability supports before they started school.

We also found out which children with disability:

- used childcare services

- visited doctors

- went to hospital.

We also found out which children didn't use disability support.

What will happen next in the early childhood supports test case?

We will work out which children used services before they started school.

We will look at the link between:

- children who use services before they start school

- their learning outcomes.

We will look at how different groups of children move between different services.

We will make a tool to look at data outside of this test case.

People with disability who are involved in the justice system

This test case was about people with disability who were involved with the justice system.

People with disability might be involved in the justice system if they're a **victim**.

A victim is someone who experiences a **crime**.
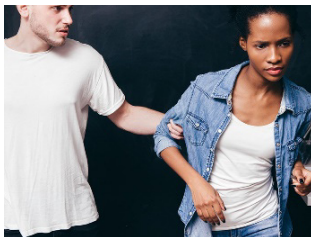
A crime is when someone:

- does something bad to someone else

- breaks the law.

People with disability might be involved in the justice system if they're an **offender**.

An offender is someone who:

- does something bad to someone else

- breaks the law.

This test case let us answer questions about:

- how many victims are people with disability

- why people with disability might come into contact with the justice system
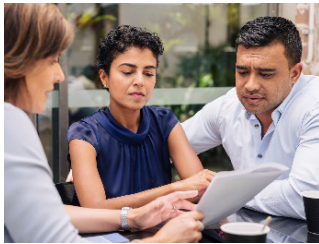
- how to support people with disabilities who are involved in the justice system

- what services people with disability use in the justice system.

Important information from the test case on people with disability who are involved in the justice system

↑99 million

We linked more than 99 million records.

We linked sets of:

- New South Wales data

- Australian data.

In our test case, we looked at 2.8 million people with disability who came into contact with:

- the justice system

- disability services.

3/10

About 3 in 10 people who used a disability service came into contact with the justice system.

1/10

About 1 in 10 people who were involved in the justice system came into contact with a disability service.

There are now better ways to tell if someone is a person with disability.

We worked with First Nations researchers to understand data about First Nations peoples in the justice system.
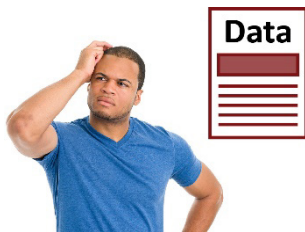
Data

We learned what data was missing.

What will happen next in the test case on people with disability who are involved in the justice system?

We will look at how different services tell if someone is a person with disability.

This includes disability services.

We will look at the outcomes for people with disability who are:

- victims

- offenders.

We will look at how people with disability use services when they're involved in the justice system.

This includes:

- before they're involved

- when they're involved

- after they're involved.

We will find more data about people with disability who are involved in the justice system.

Housing services data

This test case was about data about people with disability who use housing services.

Housing services support people with disability where they live.

In this test case we answered questions about:

- data that says who is a person with disability

- how many people with disability used housing services

- how housing services support people with disability.

In this test case we also answered questions about how we can use the new data for Australia's Disability Strategy (the Strategy).

The Strategy is a plan to make life better for people with disability.

Important information from the housing services data test case

This test case used data from different states and territories.

This test case talked about people with disability from all age groups.

There was a lot of linked data about people with disability who use housing services.

What will happen next in the housing services data test case?

We will look at how people with disability use:

- housing services

- **homelessness services**.

Homelessness services help people who:

- don't have a home

- must find a place to sleep each night.

We will look at how we tell who is a person with disability.

We will write a report based on what we found.

Mental health services for people with disability

This test case was about **mental health services**.

Mental health services support people with their mental health problems.

A mental health service can be an:

- organisation

- individual.

We could answer questions about:

- who might have a mental health problem

- what supports people with disability and mental health problems use

- what supports can help make health outcomes better for people with disability and mental health problems
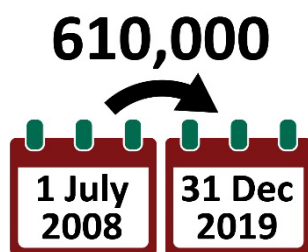

- what data about mental health services is missing.

Important information from the test case on mental health services for people with disability

We linked data about people with mental health problems from Victoria with Australian data.

The linked data looked at around 610,000 Victorians who used disability supports:

- from 1 July 2008

- to 31 December 2019.

This test case will help understand how to make mental health services better.

What will happen next in the test case on mental health services for people with disability?

We will look at how we tell who is a person with disability and see what:

- works well

- can be better.

We will look at how people with disability use mental health services.

This will help us find missing data on mental health services.

Leaving school and starting work

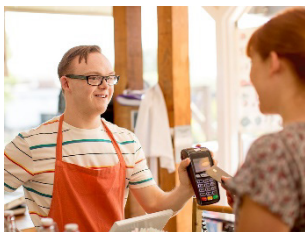This test case was about young people with disability who:

- leave school
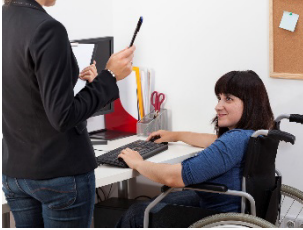

- start new learning or training

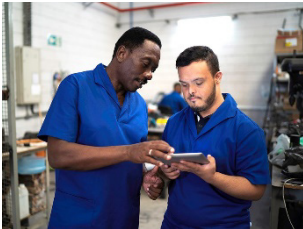- keep studying when they leave school

- start working.

This test case let us answer questions about:

- learning and working outcomes for young people with disability

- supporting young adults with disability to leave school and start work

- missing data about learning and working outcomes for young people with disability.

Important information from the test case on leaving school and starting work

There was a lot of linked data in this test case.

We looked at different data about young people with disability.

Organisations that wouldn't usually work together, did work well together.

There are things we can do to get better data about young people with disability.

This test case helps us understand how many people with disability start:

- new learning or training

- working.

What will happen next in the test case on leaving school and starting work?

We will understand what might make it better for young people with disability when they:
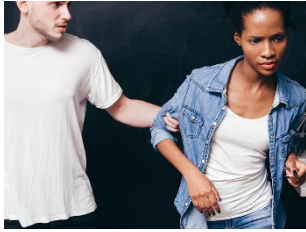
- leave school

- start work.

We will look at data about young people with disability and see what data can be better.

We will look at the learning outcomes of young people with disability who have left school.

Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this summary mean.

Crime

A crime is when someone:

- does something bad to someone else

- breaks the law.

Data

When we talk about data, we mean:

- facts

- information

- records.

Developmental delay

When a child has a developmental delay, it means they don't grow or develop how other children their age do.

Disability sector

The disability sector includes:

- people with disability

- service providers

- support workers

- organisations that speak up for people with disability.

Homelessness services

Homelessness services help people who:

- don't have a home

- must find a place to sleep each night.

Justice system

The justice system includes:

- police

- the courts

- the law

- prisons.

Mental health services

Mental health services support people with their mental health problems.

Offender

An offender is someone who:

- does something bad to someone else

- breaks the law.

Outcomes

Outcomes are the important results we want to get for people with disability.

Pilot

A pilot is a trial that helps us find out what:

- works well

- needs to be better.

Policy

A policy is a plan for how we should do things.

Test case

A test case is when we:

- work out how to get good data

- show why linked data is good.

Victim

A victim is someone who experiences a crime.

Contact us

You can visit our website.

www.ndda.gov.au

You can also email the Department of Social Services (DSS) for more information.

NDDA@dss.gov.au

If you have trouble hearing or speaking, you can contact the National Relay Service.

You can call them.

133 677

You can also visit their website.

www.relayservice.gov.au

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