PwC cites statistics which indicate that Australia ranks 21st out of 29 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries in employment rates for people with a disability. It also highlights the fact that Australia is ranked 27th out of 27 OECD countries when it comes to relative poverty risk for people with a disability.

Where is the Scheme now? From 1 July 2016, the full rollout of the Scheme will commence with an anticipated target of 460 000 people participating in the Scheme by 2019. A three-year trial of the Scheme commenced in 2013. Seven selected sites were launched across Australia, and with the addition of two early transition sites, the Scheme has reached 35 695 participants by July 2016. From 2020 and beyond, the Scheme will continue to support existing participants and bring on any new participants.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) commenced on 1 July 2013. At 30 June 2014, the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) had approved 7316 plans for people with disability, allowing them access to the reasonable and necessary support they require to lead an ordinary life.

The input data for the heat map includes organisations that though headquartered in the state that they’ve been classified under, operate on a pan Australia level. To not distort the state-wise community engagement levels of disabled people in the states where such organisations are located, listed below are all the not-for-profits and community organisations that operate on a national level.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of the organisation** | **Funding** |
| Deakin University (VIC) | $148500 |
| Print Handicap Radio (NSW) | $39340 |
| SDN Child and Family Services Pty. Ltd (NSW) | $55000 |
| Social Ventures Australia Ltd- HQ couldn’t be located | $450000 |
| Summer Foundation Ltd. | $76837 |
| Young people in Nursing Home Alliance | $77033 |

Key insights:

1. New South Wales is the state with the highest amount in funding for not-for-profits. With 8 organisations, per unit funding comes to $321,590
2. ACT has the highest per-unit state funding at $1,304,406
3. Northern Territory, the state with maximum no. of organisations working for Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders has the lowest per-unit funding, at $$59,166
4. Department of Family and Community Services, Ageing, Disability and Home Care–NSW Government receives the highest amount in Funding: $1723379

Inclusion in community life extends to NDIS’s own organisational structure as well. The double bar graph below depicts state-wise percentages of staff that was disables over a 2-year period (2013-14 to 2014-15). Northern Territory lead the way during both years. The National Disability Insurance Agency set a target of 15% for the same, which was surpassed last year when figure notched an impressive 16%.

The average annual compensation to participants of the scheme has hovered around $35,000 for the three-year period ending 2015-16. The number of participants though, has grown by about 5 times over the same period.

Total funding to NDIS has grown from $148.8 million at the start of the trial to $2.4 billion by the end of June 2016, a 16-fold increase.

Of the 29 OCED countries the world over, Australia ranks 21st out of 29 in term of employment opportunities for the disabled. The generous disability support schemes of the Nordic European countries like Sweden and Switzerland have often been contrasted with that of Australia, often termed the ‘liberal disability program’.

When the National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013 (NDIS Act) came into force in the year 2013, Australians for the first time had access to a disability support system that operated on a national level. Previously, under the state funded disability schemes, the support funds were a one-size-fits-all fixed dollar amount. The present scheme is based on insurance principles that entail early planning for support that will be entailed over the course of a lifetime. The trial run began in July 2013 and culminated in June 2016. By means of this research, I attempt to track the progress of NDIS through its trial phase before it fully rolled out in July last year.

Service providers across Australia work to fulfil the objectives of NDIS by providing clients with specially tailored services that can help the specially abled live more ‘ordinary’ lives. With 1350 service providers in its first year of trial, NDIS now works with 3519 service providers across the country.