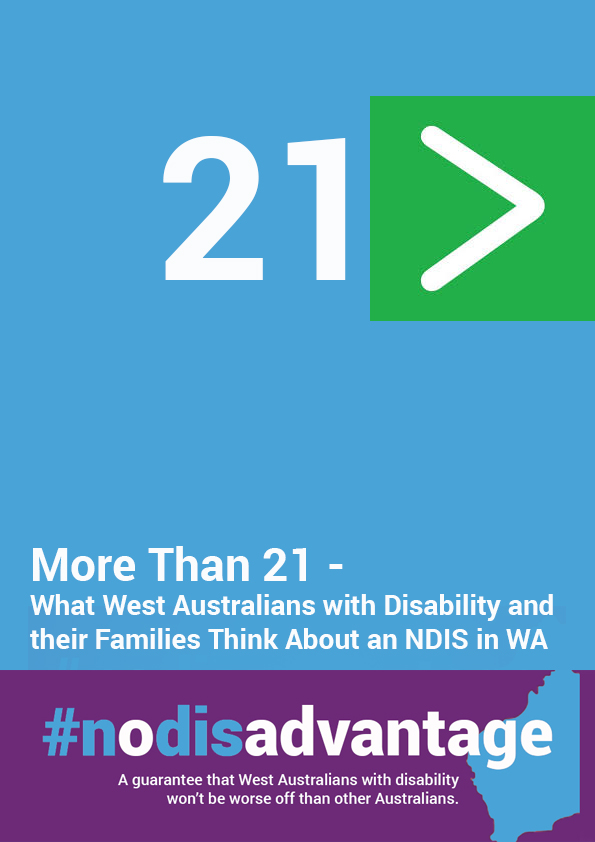
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**About this report**

This report did not cost $1.2 million dollars.

This report is not being kept secret.

This report was written by disabled people and their families who asked 289 disabled people and their families about the NDIS in WA.

The title of the report refers to the Disability Services Commission’s contracted evaluation (through Stantons) of the comparative trials of the NDIS and WA NDIS in WA.

It was a secret report and only surveyed 21 participants of more than 4000 participants in each trial site.

It cost over a million dollars and disabled people and families had to lobby for months for it to be released.

The ‘more than 21’ survey was conducted online through social media and disability networks over a course of ten days, from 29th March to 7 April, 2017.

It asked a number of simple questions around who people were, what support they currently received and how they received it, what support they’d received in the past and how they had received it, how much they knew about the two schemes, how people ranked the importance of key areas of potential disadvantage, how confident they were about the Disability Services Commission delivering a State-run system and finally, which scheme people with disability and their families preferred.

The survey was disseminated through peer support groups of disabled people and their families, through NDIS and WA NDIS specific groups and via the #nodisadvantage page. It was also disseminated through email networks via advocacy bodies and peer support networks. Our thanks go to those disabled people, family members, community and advocacy organisations and service providers who helped disseminate this survey to their networks.

The results will be delivered to Disability Minister Stephen Dawson, Premier Mark McGowan, Opposition Leader Mike Nahan, Shadow Minister for Disability Services Peter Collier, Federal Shadow Minister for Families and Social Services Jenny Macklin and Federal Minister for Social Services Christian Porter.

We’ve also included, separately, comments from a petition run by NDIS participant Bethany Nakoi supporting a Federal NDIS. There is no petition for a WA NDIS that we are aware of.

We want the WA State government to know what we, the people, think – because this scheme is for us, not for governments or services providers.

We hope they will use this information wisely as they make decisions over the next few weeks.

#nodisadvantage

The #nodisadvantage team  
(who wouldn’t mind being paid $12 million dollars for conducting this survey ☺)

**Who answered this survey?**

This survey was for disabled people and their families, but we also wanted to know what support people were receiving now and in the past. We also wanted to know who was in a trial site, who was still in the state scheme and who was receiving support.

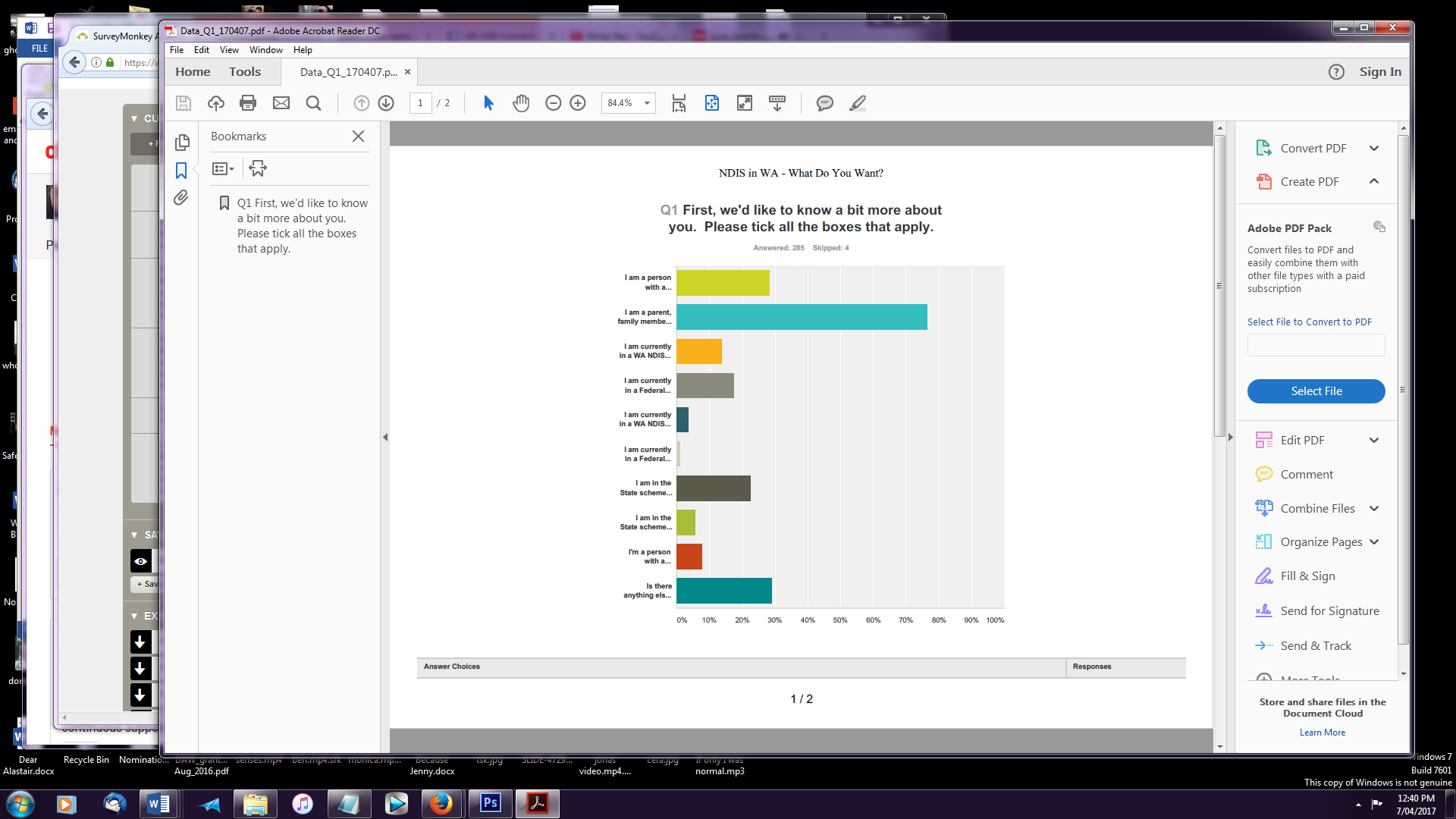
An additional question was asked about people with disability and family members around whether they worked for or ran an organisation who provided services.

Here was our question.

**Q1. ‘First, we’d like to know a bit more about you. Please tick all the boxes that apply.’**

The respondents had the choice of identifying as below, including disclosing multiple identities.

* Person with a disability
* Parent
* In WA NDIS trial area and receiving support
* In Federal NDIS trial area receiving support
* In WA NDIS trial area and weren’t receiving support
* In Federal NDIS trial area weren’t receiving support
* In State Scheme getting support
* In State Scheme not getting support
* PWD/carer working for a provider or running a service



*Image description – a visual chart describing the below data in percentages*

**Answer Choices and Responses**

* **I am a person with a disability or psychosocial disability (mental health condition)**

28.42% of all respondents - 81 respondents

* **I am a parent, family member and/or guardian of a person with a disability**

76.49% of all respondents - 218 respondents

* **I am currently in a WA NDIS trial site and am receiving support/have funding**

13.68% of all respondents - 39 respondents

* **I am currently in a Federal NDIS trial site and am receiving support/have funding**

17.54% of all respondents - 50 respondents

* **I am currently in a WA NDIS trial site and am not receiving support/have funding**

3.51% of all respondents - 10 respondents

* **I am currently in a Federal NDIS trial site and am not receiving support/have funding**

1.05% of all respondents - 3 respondents

* **I am in the State scheme and am receiving support/have funding**

22.46% of all respondents - 64 respondents

* **I am in the State scheme and am not receiving support**

5.61% of all respondents - 16 respondents

* **I'm a person with a disability and/or carer but I also work for a provider or run a service**

7.72% of all respondents - 22 respondents

**Sample responses – all responses at the end of the report**

**‘Yes, so far it’s a planning process that takes ten weeks and which has gone nowhere.’** – WA NDIS participant with a disability who is not receiving support or funding

**‘Our funding is hugely inadequate and the service providers do not gel with our family values at all.’** – Family member/carer/guardian of a person with a disability who is in the State scheme

**‘Have never been offered any free support during long periods of unemployment, due to disabilities. Had been given a brochure of services from Centrelink, i.e. cleaning, etc., however was cost prohibitive.’ –** Person with a disability who did not know if they were eligible for services and did not know the Disability Services Commission existed

**‘We have been through My Way trial and Federal NDIS trial but no one is interested in our thoughts on what works.’** – Family member/carer/guardian of a person with a disability who is in the Federal scheme

**Well, this is interesting.**

We thought these results were interesting.

* 56.25% of people with a disability wanted a Federal NDIS, as opposed to 5% who wanted a WA NDIS
* 13.11% of people with a disability did not know the Disability Services Commission existed
* More people with a disability or parent/carer who worked for a funded service wanted a Federal NDIS (77.27%) as opposed to 9.09% who wanted a WA NDIS.
* Of the disabled respondents and family members/guardians who responded to the survey, 13.7% were receiving support under a WA NDIS trial and 17.41% from the Federal NDIS.
* Of the disabled respondents and family members/guardians who responded to the survey, 3.7% lived in a WA NDIS trial site but were not receiving support and 1.11% lived in a Federal NDIS trial site but were not receiving support.
* Of the disabled respondents and family members/guardians who responded to the survey, 5.56% were in the State scheme and not receiving support as opposed to 23.70% who were receiving support or funding in the State scheme.

**How much did people know about the NDIS in WA?**

The Disability Services Commission have been running many weekly information sessions and we wanted to know what impact that had had on the knowledge and understanding of participants and whether it related to their decision.

In comparison, the Federal NDIS held relatively few information sessions, excluding forums at the commencement of each NDIS trial site.

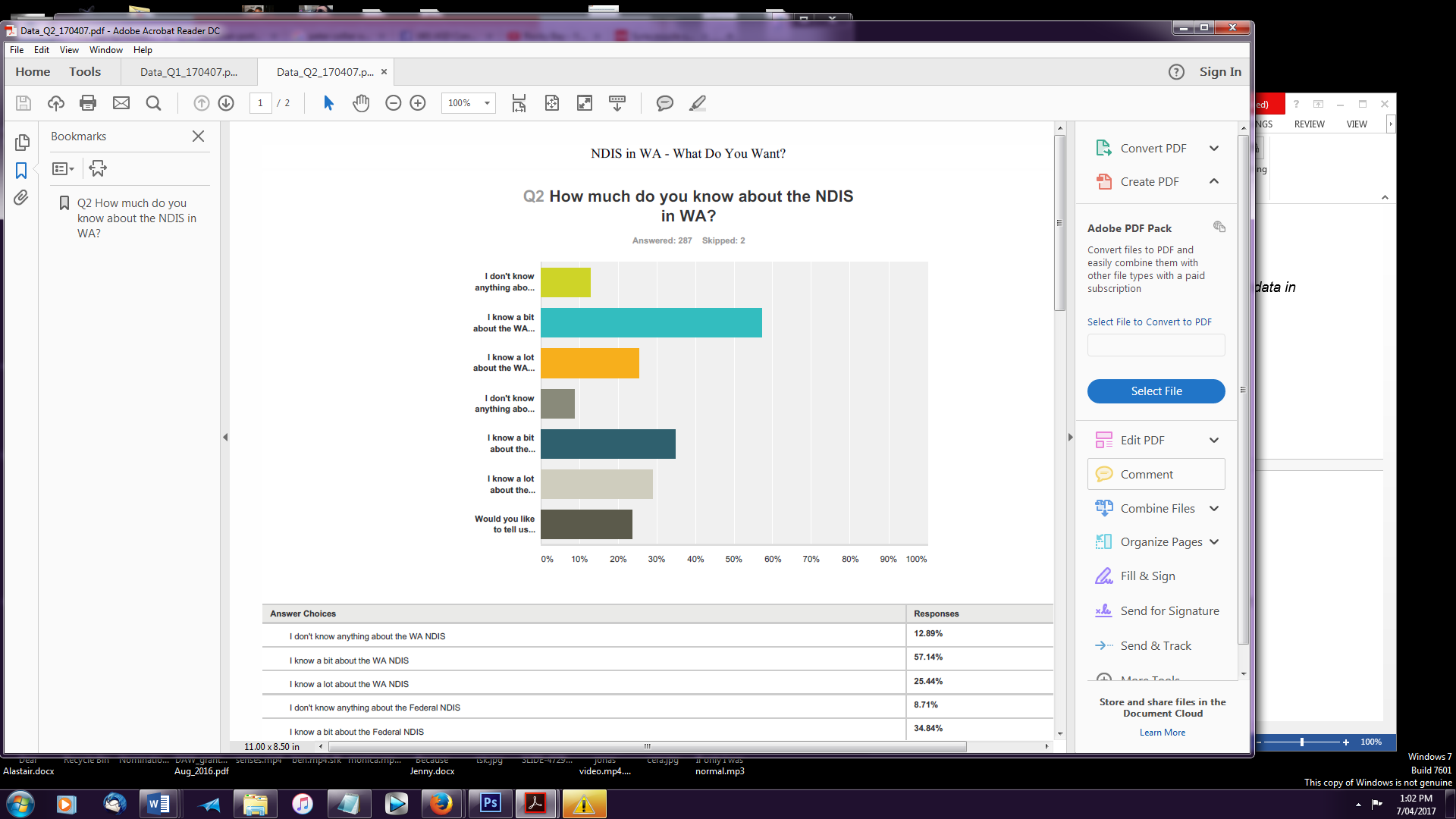
We wanted to understand how much participants in both schemes and non-participants thought they knew about the WA NDIS compared to the NDIS.

Here was our question.

**Q2. How much do you know about the NDIS in WA?**

Respondents could choose from the following options -

* I don't know anything about the WA NDIS
* I know a bit about the WA NDIS
* I know a lot about the WA NDIS
* I don't know anything about the Federal NDIS
* I know a bit about the Federal NDIS
* I know a lot about the Federal NDIS



*Image description – a visual chart describing the below data in percentages*

**Answer Choices and Responses**

* **I don't know anything about the WA NDIS**

12.89% of all respondents - 37 respondents

* **I know a bit about the WA NDIS**

57.14% of all respondents - 164 respondents

* **I know a lot about the WA NDIS**

25.44% of all respondents - 73 respondents

* **I don't know anything about the Federal NDIS**

8.71% of all respondents - 25 respondents

* **I know a bit about the Federal NDIS**

34.84% of all respondents - 100 respondents

* **I know a lot about the Federal NDIS**

28.92% of all respondents - 83 respondents

**Sample responses – all responses at the end of the report**

**‘Have been to a few meetings to learn about both. Confusing to say the least. Have held back on getting organised due to confusion. With change of govt hoping there is more clarity as to what is available. Hoping WANDIS is canned and we are all covered under the national NDIS.’ –** Parent/family member/guardian of a person with a disability receiving support in the State scheme

**‘I have been very involved as a Disability Advocate & a person with a disability with the National setup of the National NDIS, attending meetings, workshops, seminars and consultations prior to its roll out in various states & territories. I have been less involved with WA My Way and the new WANDIS. I have had no involvement as an end user in either WA trial sites (NDIA & WANDIS). I am not in a trial site. I have never used a LAC or LC. Any disability services products and programs I have sourced them out myself thru specific diagnostic disability service providers and paid for them from money I have earned.’** – Person with a disability and/or carer who works for a provider or service and did not know they could get support from DSC/has never had support from them

**Well, this is interesting.**

* Far more people overall said they knew ‘a bit’ or ‘a lot’ about the WA NDIS than the Federal NDIS.
* Disabled people said they knew less about the WA NDIS than parents did.
* People with disability and families in the WA NDIS scheme receiving funding were less likely to believe they knew more about the WA scheme than people in the Federal NDIS (46.15% of WA NDIS funded participants said they knew a bit about the WA NDIS and 48.72% said they knew a lot about the WA NDIS).
* In comparison, people receiving funding in the federal scheme were more likely to believe they knew a bit or a lot about the Federal NDIS (35.42% and 28.4%).
* People in the Federal NDIS were more likely to believe they knew a bit about the WA NDIS (48.00%) and a lot about the WA NDIS (26%) than people in the WA NDIS thought they knew about the Federal scheme. Fewer funded participants in the WA NDIS said they knew about the Federal NDIS - either a bit (17.95%) or a lot (15.38%)

**What support did people have before the trials commenced?**

One of the key questions for us was where people had come from in terms of funding, support and access to services before entering a trial. If you’ve never had any support, any support will look good to you. If you’ve come from an existing system, you’re in a better place to judge what good support looks like and have a basis of comparison for whether you are better or worse off under either trial.

We asked a range of questions around what kind of support and funding people had had in the past.

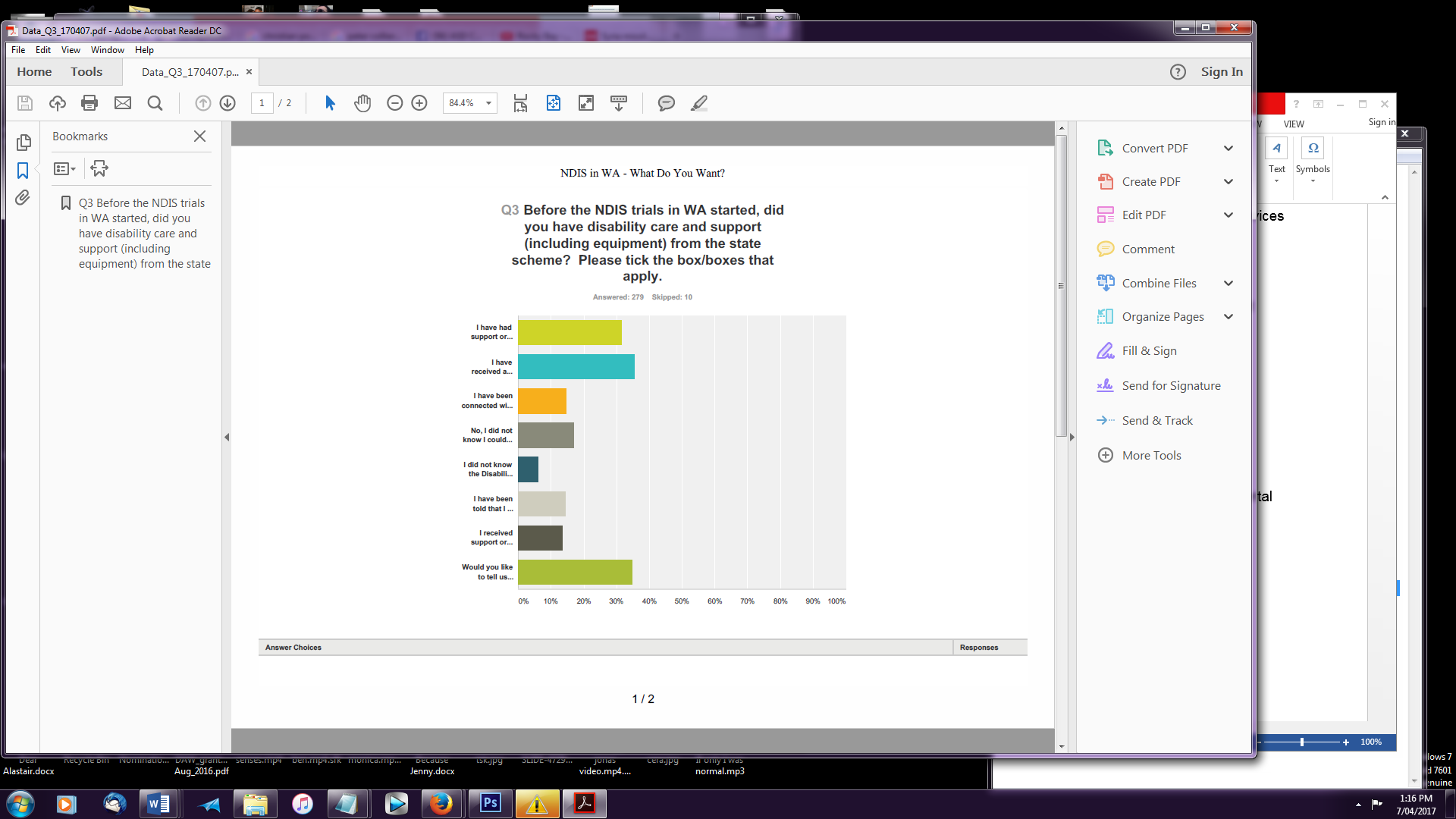
We also asked people about how much they knew about the Disability Services Commission prior to the trials in WA, including questions about being supported by health, being told that they were ineligible by the Commission and whether they knew about the Disability Services Commission. These questions related to previous statements by the Commission that their State scheme was essentially an ‘opt in scheme’, that they did not know how many people with disability lived in WA and their current assertion that there are only about 39,000 eligible people with disability in WA (as opposed to the ABS and Productivity Commission statistics which cited an estimate of about 50,000 eligible people with disability.)

We wanted to find out how previously supported and unsupported participants regarded the schemes.

Here was our question.

**Q3. ‘Before the NDIS trials in WA started, did you have disability care and support (including equipment) from the State scheme?’**

* I have had support or equipment through block funded services/organisations
* I have received a funding support package from the Disability Services Commission (like CAP or IFS)
* I have been connected with an LAC but have never received any funding from the Disability Services Commission or any other disability services
* No, I did not know I could get support from the Disability Services Commission and have never received support from them
* I did not know the Disability Services Commission existed
* I have been told that I was not eligible for support from the Disability Services Commission
* I received support or equipment through health services, not disability services



*Image description – a visual chart describing the below data in percentages*

**Answer Choices and Responses**

* **I have had support or equipment through block funded services/organisations**

**31.54**% of all respondents - 88 respondents

* **I have received a funding support package from the Disability Services Commission (like CAP or IFS)**

**35.48%** of all respondents - 99 respondents

* **I have been connected with an LAC but have never received any funding from the Disability Services Commission or any other disability services**

**14.70%** of all respondents - 41 respondents

* **No, I did not know I could get support from the Disability Services Commission and have never received support from them**

**17.20%** of all respondents - 48 respondents

* **I did not know the Disability Services Commission existed**

**6.09%** of all respondents – 17 respondents

* **I have been told that I was not eligible for support from the Disability Services Commission**

**14.34%** of all respondents - 40 respondents

* **I received support or equipment through health services, not disability services**

**13.62%** of all respondents - 38 respondents

**Sample responses – all responses at the end of the report**

**‘My daughter attended the Child development Centre in Perth during her youth but when became an adult the system said she was no longer eligible for assistance as she could catch a bus and had part time work. 4 hours a day four times a week is all she can manage without tiring. She has (a number of disabilities) (under the Visibility Centre for over three years for equipment at work and home to enable her to use computers etc. for her job.) Panic anxiety and developmental dyspraxia since a difficult birth. She has not enough sight to drive a car, cannot lift more than 3-4 kgs weight due to muscle weakness and borders on OCD most of the time. I am very happy with the help we have been given by NDIS Federal.’** - parent, family member and/or guardian of a person with a disability receiving support in the Federal NDIS site

‘**Child is blind, was told by DSC we are not eligible for LAC support or any funding.’** - parent, family member and/or guardian of a person with a disability not receiving support from the State or other schemes

**‘We were diagnosed whilst a trial was in our area so have never dealt with DSC or old system. Just heard stories of others who have in Federal trial area, and frustration of those in the state trial area.’** - parent, family member and/or guardian of a person with a disability receiving support in the Federal NDIS site

**‘Both family members were connected with an LAC from DSC for years prior to WA NDIS trial, including 14 LACs in 13 years. Both received small amounts of funding…one family member was approved for IFS funding at 50% of amount requested 6mths prior to commencement of WA NDIS trial.’ -** parent, family member and/or guardian of a person with a disability receiving support in the WA NDIS site

**Well, this is interesting.**

* People who were funded by the Disability Services Commission in the past said that they had far less confidence in the Disability Services Commission delivering a State run scheme than other funded people did. (59.06% versus 17.45%)
* They were also almost as likely to say that they wanted a Federal NDIS (51.01%) than people who had previously had no support or funding, who were ineligible or who didn’t know the Commission existed (59.48%).
* Of the respondents who said that they did not know the DSC existed prior to the trials, there were far fewer people in a WA NDIS trial site receiving funding (11.76%) than those in a Federal trial site (29.41%).
* People with disability were far less likely to know the DSC existed (64.71%) than parents (23.53%). More people in this category were unsure about which scheme they would choose than other categories.

**Should we be worse off – what matters to people with disability and their families?**

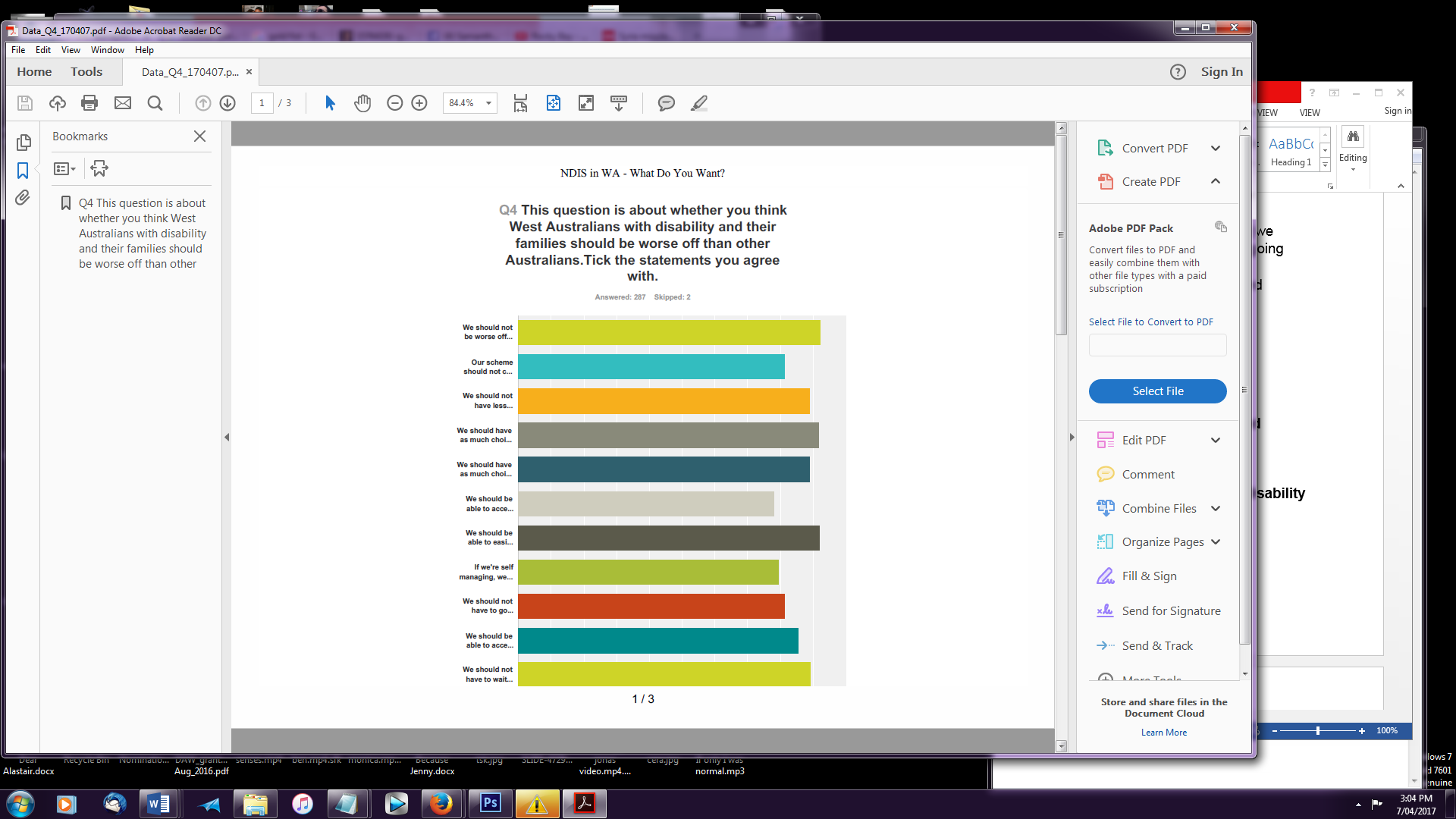
We asked people with disability and their families if West Australians with disability should be worse off than other Australians in key areas. Unsurprisingly, the majority of respondents said that we should not be worse off – we asked this question to see which of those areas were more or less important to the respondent.

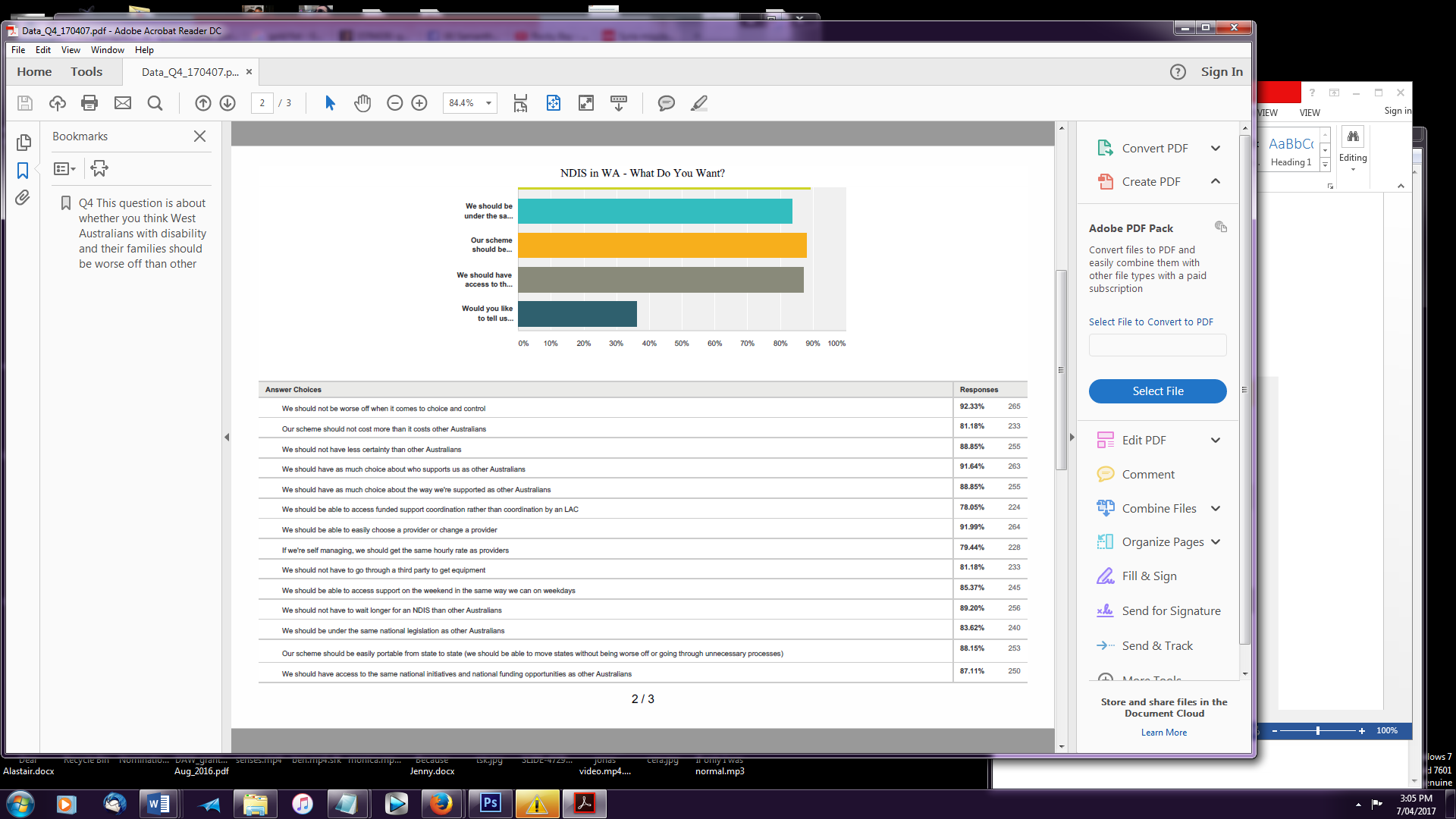
This information was collected for our own purposes to find out what people considered important and to focus our lobbying efforts around those key areas, but we have included the quantitative data (without responses) for transparency.

Here was our question.

**Q4. ‘This question is about whether you think West Australians with disability and their families should be worse off than other Australians. Tick the statements you agree with.’**

* We should not be worse off when it comes to choice and control
* Our scheme should not cost more than it costs other Australians
* We should not have less certainty than other Australians
* We should have as much choice about who supports us as other Australians
* We should have as much choice about the way we're supported as other Australians
* We should be able to access funded support coordination rather than coordination by an LAC
* We should be able to easily choose a provider or change a provider
* If we're self managing, we should get the same hourly rate as providers
* We should not have to go through a third party to get equipment
* We should be able to access support on the weekend in the same way we can on weekdays
* We should not have to wait longer for an NDIS than other Australians
* We should be under the same national legislation as other Australians
* Our scheme should be easily portable from state to state (we should be able to move states without being worse off or going through unnecessary processes)
* We should have access to the same national initiatives and national funding opportunities as other Australians





*Image description – a visual chart describing the below data in percentages*

**Answer Choices and Responses**

* **We should not be worse off when it comes to choice and control**

92.33% of all respondents - 265 respondents

* **Our scheme should not cost more than it costs other Australians**

81.18% of all respondents - 233 respondents

* **We should not have less certainty than other Australians**

88.85% of all respondents - 255 respondents

* **We should have as much choice about who supports us as other Australians**

91.64% of all respondents - 263 respondents

* **We should have as much choice about the way we're supported as other Australians**

88.85% of all respondents - 255 respondents

* **We should be able to access funded support coordination rather than coordination by an LAC**

78.05% of all respondents - 244 respondents

* **We should be able to easily choose a provider or change a provider**

91.99% of all respondents - 264 respondents

* **If we're self managing, we should get the same hourly rate as providers**

79.44% of all respondents – 228 respondents

* **We should not have to go through a third party to get equipment**

81.18% of all respondents - 233 respondents

* **We should be able to access support on the weekend in the same way we can on weekdays**

85.37% of all respondents - 245 respondents

* **We should not have to wait longer for an NDIS than other Australians**

89.20% of all respondents - 256 respondents

* **We should be under the same national legislation as other Australians**

83.62% of all respondents - 240 respondents

* **Our scheme should be easily portable from state to state (we should be able to move states without being worse off or going through unnecessary processes)**

88.15% of all respondents - 253 respondents

* **We should have access to the same national initiatives and national funding opportunities as other Australians**

87.11% of all respondents - 250 respondents

**Do people have confidence in the Disability Services Commission to run this scheme?**

We asked people the question, ‘Based on your experiences, do you have confidence that the Disability Services Commission would do a good job delivering a State-run system?’

We wanted to find out what people with disability and their families thought about the Commission running a new scheme in WA.

We also wanted to know if there was a difference in confidence rating between the State and Federal participants and those not yet in the scheme.

Here was our question.

**Q5. ‘Based on your experiences, do you have confidence that the Disability Services Commission would do a good job in delivering a State-run system?’**

* Yes
* No
* Unsure



*Image description – a visual chart describing the below data in percentages*

**Answer Choices and Responses**

* **Yes**

11.85% of all respondents - 34 respondents

* **No**

62.37% of all respondents - 179 respondents

* **Unsure**

25.78% of all respondents - 74 respondents

**Sample responses – all responses at the end of the report**

**‘I have been blatantly lied to by the local manager, and have evidence of this in complaint files in DSC. The DSC was completely unwilling to provide services for at risk children, even when complaints were made to Ministers and HADSCO’ -** a parent, family member and/or guardian of a person with a disability receiving supports under the Federal NDIS

**‘There is no transparency and there has been no consultation with people with disability and their families here in the Perth Hills. And I think the Perth Hills is first to migrate across to WA NDIS. Secondly, there needs to be AGREED standards LACs should work to - and they need to be enforceable. LACs can be great or completely useless and we need to ensure they are doing their job which is providing real and practical support to families.**’ a parent, family member and/or guardian of a person with a disability receiving supports under the Federal NDIS

**‘We have received major cuts to our funding because of the elimination of the CAP system and transfer to both individualised and NDIS funding- it has meant major cuts to what we were receiving and reductions in support. Interactions with DSC have been about complying with a dollar value set by DSC rather than about needed supports**.’ a parent, family member and/or guardian of a person with a disability receiving supports under the WA NDIS

**‘Have been an advocate and consumer for many years as well as live with partner who has lived experience of disability Have experience in another state and also seen first hand how other countries organise their services Squeaky wheel is not good practice. Mental health issues need to be addressed alongside disability equitably The reason there were 2 trials was to get best of both schemes and make one united better scheme that could continue to improve. Not fall back on 'WA does it best'. Far too many gaps. Dependent on individual personalities and LACs., Uniform standards required. Consideration to group homes and large orgs working out how to enable participants/ users/ pwds to choose a mix of providers needed. Not heard how this might happen to date. Computer system already up and running and teething issues begun to be ironed out. WA state system has no such system and delay will disadvantage people even longer than needed or go back to the drawing board. Moving people's support from dsc to national back to dsc is beyond frustrating.’** a parent, family member and/or guardian of a person with a disability receiving supports under the WA NDIS

**Which scheme do people want?**

Nobody has ever asked the crucial question – which scheme people wanted.

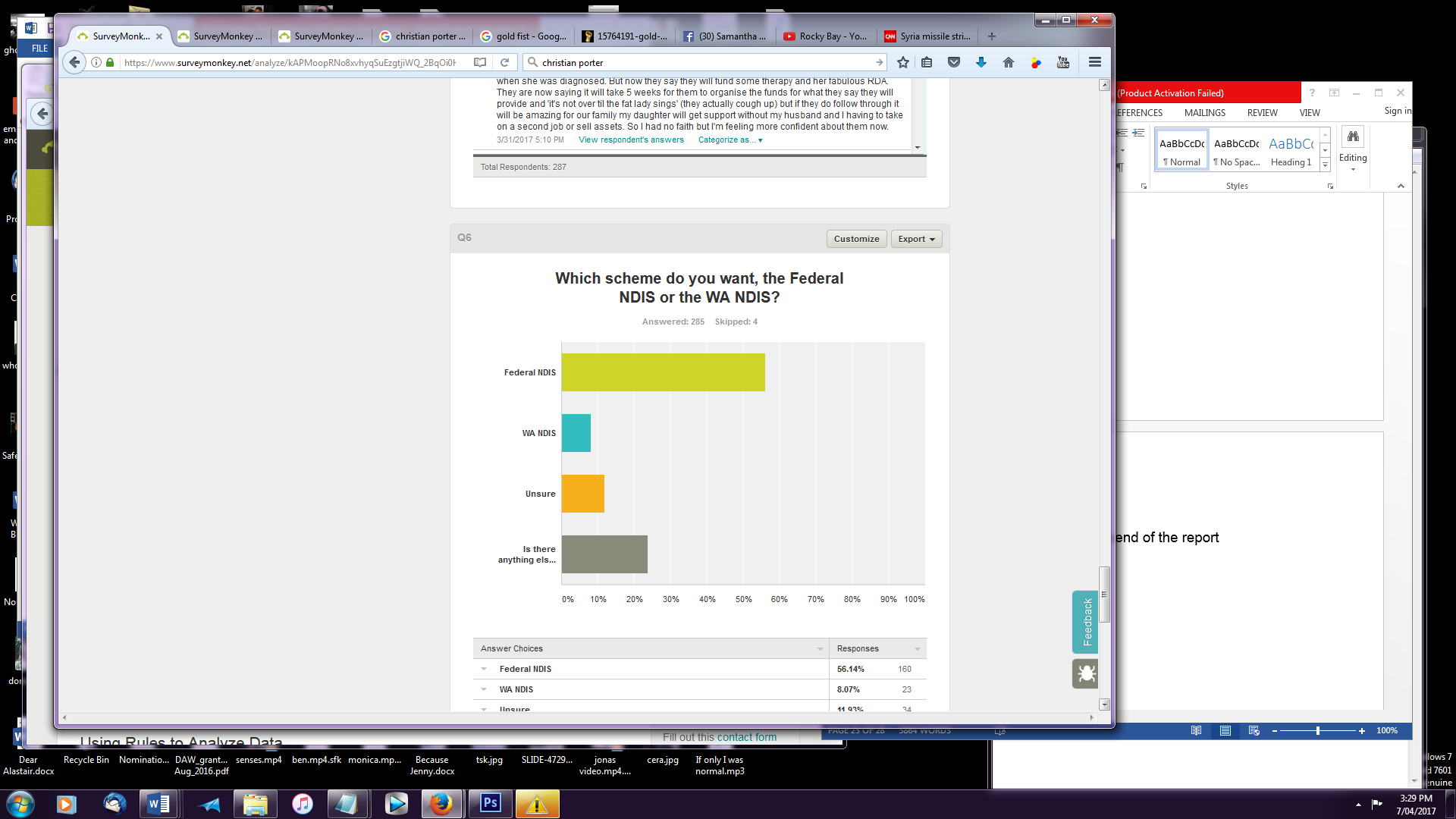
We know that 5,370 people want a Federal NDIS – according to a petition by federal NDIS participant Bethany Nakoi. We’re not aware of a similar petition to lobby for a WA NDIS.

We also wanted to see whether there was a difference between the ways participants in both schemes thought about this.

Here was our question.

**Q6. ‘Which scheme do you want, the Federal NDIS or the WA NDIS?’**

* Federal NDIS
* WA NDIS
* Unsure



*Image description – a visual chart describing the below data in percentages*

**Answer Choices and Responses**

* **Federal NDIS**

56.14% of all respondents - **160** respondents

* **WA NDIS**

8.07% of all respondents - **23** respondents

* **Unsure**

11.93% of all respondents - **34** respondents

**Sample responses – all responses at the end of the report**

**‘This has to be a Federal scheme because the convenience to move money from health into a local NDIS or the reverse is a State budgetary matter. This money cannot be quarantined. We live under a two party controlled system and no part of that system within a State is answerable too its Federal counter part. The Federal Parliament is subject to scrutiny where each party has an interest in exposing the impropriety of the opposition. At least the oversight of the Australian Senate the NDIS needs this oversight.’** a person with a disability or psychosocial disability (mental health condition) in the state system

**‘The federal NDIS which we are funded under at the moment (we were in the Hills trial site) is creating a level of bureaucratic complexity for DSC, who are our chosen providers for equipment, assessments, etc. Our concern all along was that DSC would become less available as the federal NDIS was rolled out, and this may still happen.’** - a parent, family member and/or guardian of a person with a disability funded under the Federal NDIS

**‘As WA is so far away from the Eastern States and yes, things are a little different here; the best scheme for WA should be able to encompass the best from both schemes. Under the United Nations Convention of Rights for Persons with a Disability there are points that state about a PwD being treated with dignity, respect and having choices. The NDIS Act pretty much states similar points. Every PwD is an individual with individual needs and here in WA a PwD should be able to have those individual needs seen to. In my own instance, one home modification would be a one of costing under $4,000. Under the WA NDIS the 'alternate suggestion' would cost $150,000 per year for the next 20+ years. Unfortunately because I live in a HomesWest home if I don't accept the 'alternative suggestion' which would cause much unnecessary stress both physically, mentally and emotionally then I get nothing from the WA NDIS and am not allowed to seek any funding from anywhere else. Thus I have to pay for this home modification myself, which I am unable to and because of this I'm having health issues which are increasing.’ -** a parent, family member and/or guardian of a person with a disability funded under the WA NDIS

**Well, that’s interesting.**

* There were more funded people with disability overall who wanted a Federal NDIS (54.35%) than those who did not (15%)
* There were more funded parents, carers and guardians overall who wanted a Federal NDIS (55.14%) than those who did not (9.05%)
* There were more unfunded people with disability overall who wanted a Federal NDIS (57.58%) than those who did not (6.06%)
* There were more unfunded parents, carers and guardians overall who wanted a Federal NDIS (55.45%) than those who did not (9.09%)
* There were more people with disability, parents, carers and guardians who worked for a provider or ran a service overall who wanted a Federal NDIS (71.43%) than those who did not (4.76%)
* There were more funded people with disability (50%) in the WA NDIS trial site who wanted a Federal NDIS than those who did not (8.77%)
* There were more funded parents, carers and guardians in the WA NDIS trial site who wanted a Federal NDIS (43.48%) than those who did not (13.04%)
* There were more funded people with disability in the federal NDIS trial site who wanted a Federal NDIS (59.65%) than those who did not (6.14%)
* There were more funded parents, carers and guardians in the federal NDIS trial site who wanted a Federal NDIS (55.95%) than those who did not (8.81%)
* People who said that they knew about the WA NDIS (56.65%) were more likely to want a Federal NDIS than those who did not (9.44%)
* People who said that they knew about the Federal NDIS (62.36%) were more likely to want a Federal NDIS than those who did not (5.62%)
* People who said they had no confidence that the DSC would do a good job in delivering a State-run system were more far likely to want a Federal NDIS (71.19%) than those who did not (1.69%)

**What else did people want us to know?**

Finally, we asked people if there was anything else they wanted to tell us about the NDIS or WA NDIS.

There were a large number of responses, which we have tabled at the end of this report to send to government.

We also tabled the responses from Bethany’s petition, but have removed both for public dissemination as many of the results disclose people’s identities.

These responses are from the people. We know that there are conflicting agendas and that many service providers consider this scheme is better for them. Government has an opinion – unions have an opinion.

We need a robust workforce.

We need a sustainable scheme.

We need good workers and we need certainty.

But most of all, we need to be able to direct what our funding, services and supports will look like for a future for all West Australians. It’s about us, not them.

It’s about our lives. And we should not be worse off than other Australians.

#nodisadvantage

#nodisadvantage