

# **2016 Family/Guardian Survey**Provincial Report

**Prepared by Advanis** 

For: Community and Social Services
Persons with Developmental Disabilities
February 6, 2017



### **Table of contents**

3: Background

4: Methodology

9: Executive Summary

11: Detailed Findings: Performance Measures

14: Detailed Findings: Community Involvement

22: Detailed Findings: Agency Services and Staff

34: Appendix A: PDD Survey

### **Background**

Alberta Community and Social Services conducts survey research every two years to assess family members and guardians satisfaction with the services individuals receive directly from the Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) program and from PDD-funded community-based agencies. The research is used to report program performance and inform continuous improvement of the program and service delivery.

After holding an open competition, Community and Social Services contracted Advanis to conduct the 2016 PDD Survey.

### Methodology

- The survey (see Appendix A) was adapted from the one used in previous years and includes a combination of qualitative and quantitative questions that allowed participants the opportunity for feedback and suggestions.
- In order to ensure that all guardians have the opportunity to respond, a census rather than sample approach was used.
- Accuracy targets on the number of surveys required by each region were set (see below) in order to ensure valid results. Targets were met for all regions, except for the Northwest, where the quality of the contact information prevented the target accuracy from being met.

Region	Surveys Sent Out	Target Accuracy	Total Completes	Actual Accuracy
South	681	+/- 5.0%	257	+/- 4.8%
Calgary	1,661	+/- 5.0%	413	+/- 4.2%
Central	1,051	+/- 5.0%	298	+/- 4.8%
Edmonton	2,062	+/- 5.0%	547	+/- 3.6%
North Central	256	+/- 7.0%	115	+/- 6.8%
Northwest	255	+/- 7.0%	91	+/- 8.3%
Northeast	24	n/a	9	+/- 26%
OPG	236	n/a	23	+/- 19%
All of Alberta	6,226	+/- 2.0%	1,753	+/- 2.0%

<sup>\*</sup> Given the small population of the Northeast region and OPG, there was no expectation on accuracy for these groups.



### Methodology (Continued)

An introductory letter to respondents was developed to inform guardians of the intention of the study, the voluntary nature of their involvement, and the confidentiality of the information they provided to the Consultant. The letter explicitly stated that their participation in the survey would in no way affect their status with the program.

### PDD Surveys were administered between Oct. 27 and Dec. 15:

- Initially, a letter was sent out to all family members/guardians.
  - The letter included a link to the online survey that family members/guardians could use to complete the survey.
  - Alternatively, family members/guardians could phone in and request a paper version of the survey to fill out.
- Phone calls were also made to allow family members/guardians to complete the survey over the phone.

### Methodology (Continued)

In total, 6,272 letters were mailed out and a total of 1,753 surveys were completed for a response rate of 27.9%. This included:

- 76 paper surveys
- 913 phone surveys —
- 766 web surveys

### These surveys were completed by:

- 1,429 Private guardians
- 301 Family members
- 23 Public guardians

	Completed surveys	Complete by call attempt
Call att	empt	
1	417	9%
2	291	9%
3	96	12%
4	46	8%
5	25	6%
6	15	4%
7	15	9%
8	4	6%
9	1	3%
10	2	Small base
11	1	Small base

### Methodology – Respondents vs. Population

The family members/guardians that responded to the survey are very representative of the overall PDD population. Note, however, that those represented by public guardians are under-represented. This is in large part due to a deliberate decision not to over-burden Public Guardians by limiting the number of surveys they were asked to complete.

	Completed Surveys	Total Population
Total		
Base	1,753	7,252
Guardian Type		
Private Guardian	82%	65%
Family or Friend	17%	17%
Public Guardian	1%	17%
<b>Uses Direct Operations Service</b>	s	
No	97%	97%
Yes	3%	3%

### **Methodology – Statistical Testing**

Throughout the report, statistical testing has been applied where applicable. When results between 2014 and 2016 are compared, an arrow ( $\uparrow$  or  $\downarrow$ ) indicates if 2016 is statistically larger or smaller (at the 95% confidence interval) than the 2014 response.

In all cases where true populations are known, a small population correction has been applied to the statistical testing.

### **Executive Summary**

- Satisfaction of guardians of adults with developmental disabilities with PDD-funded services is 88.2%, slightly up from 2014.
  - This overall satisfaction metric is determined using three questions on "services". The proportion of survey respondents "somewhat agreeing", "agreeing" or "strongly agreeing" with each of those three statements are as follows:
    - Services meet the person's needs; 84% agree
    - Overall, I am satisfied that the services provided enhance the person's quality of life; 91% agree
    - Overall, I am satisfied that the person's services help him/her to be a part of the community as much as he/she wants to be 89% agree (up from 2014)
- Fewer clients are volunteering in their community (49%) and have fewer relationships with people other than paid staff (79%) compared to 2014.
- 27% of clients have a job with half (52%) of those working up to 10 hours per week and most (80%) working as much as they want.
- Very few (4%) own their residence, but the vast majority are living where they want to live (92%) and with whom they want to live with (92%).

### **Executive Summary**

- Access to services has largely improved since 2014.
- Service information and decisions have remained fairly consistent with 2014, although fewer guardians find it easy to get information on services.
- More guardians are satisfied that the person's services help them be part of a community (89%) and are satisfied with the process used to resolve issues (84%) compared to 2014.
- Provider staff are dealing with concerns quicker (92%) and more are doing what they say they will do (91%) since 2014.
- The perceptions of PDD staff have improved since 2014.
- The top concerns guardians mentioned primarily deal with bureaucratic issues including communication, staff, funding, and accountability.

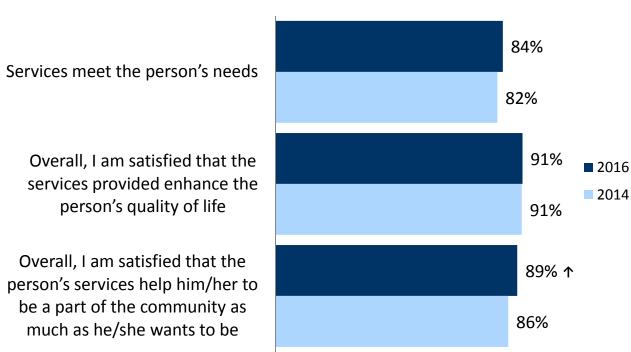
# Detailed Findings – Overall Satisfaction All of Alberta

### Performance Measure

Of the three performance measures, satisfaction with having the person be part of the community has increased. The other two measures have stayed consistent with 2014.

### **Performance Measures**

(% Agree)



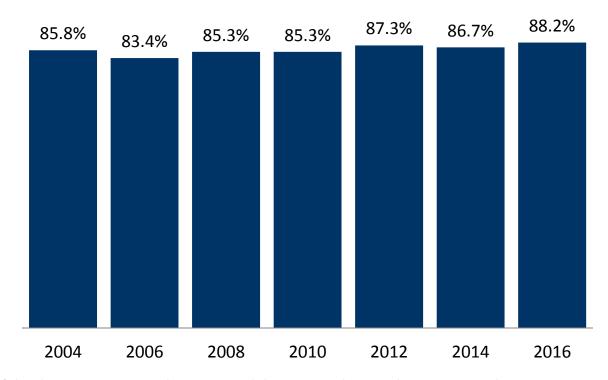
Base: G1 -- How much you agree with the following statements: (2014n=1771, 2016n=1706)
Base: G5 -- How much you agree with the following statements: (2014n=1771, 2016n=1715-1729)



### **Overall Satisfaction**

As a result, there has been a slight increase in the overall satisfaction performance measure to the highest score to date.

## Overall Satisfaction Performance Measure (2004 to 2016)



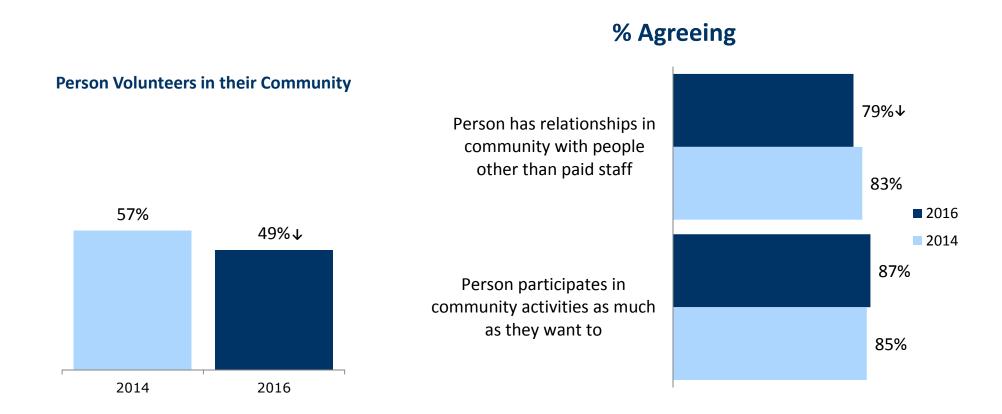
This score is the average of the three questions on the previous slide. Statistical testing between years has not been calculated as this is a summary measure and not a single question asked to respondents.



# Detailed Findings – Community Involvement All of Alberta

### **Community Engagement**

About half of persons with disabilities are volunteering in their community, down from 2014. Related, there are fewer who have relationships with people in the community other than those being paid.



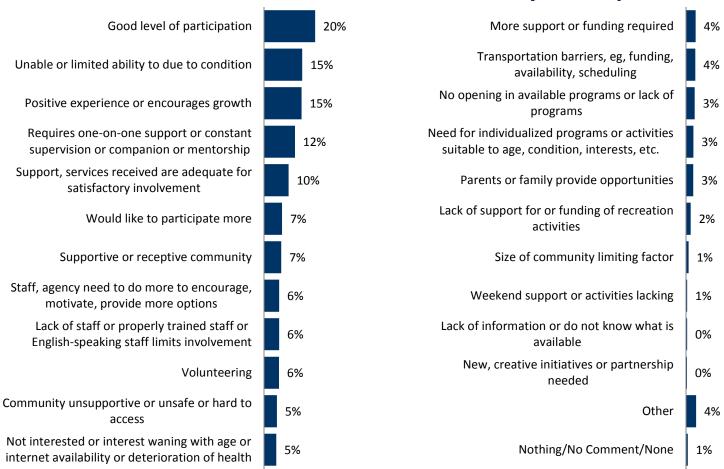
Base: C8 -- Does the person volunteer in their community? (2014n=1771, 2016n=1648-1655)
Base: C9 -- How much you agree with the following statements: (2014n=1572, 2016n=1715-1729)



### Community Engagement: Verbatim Comments

Top feedback on community participation includes there being a good level of participation, the person being unable due to their condition, and participation leading to growth for the person.

### **Comments Related to Community Participation**



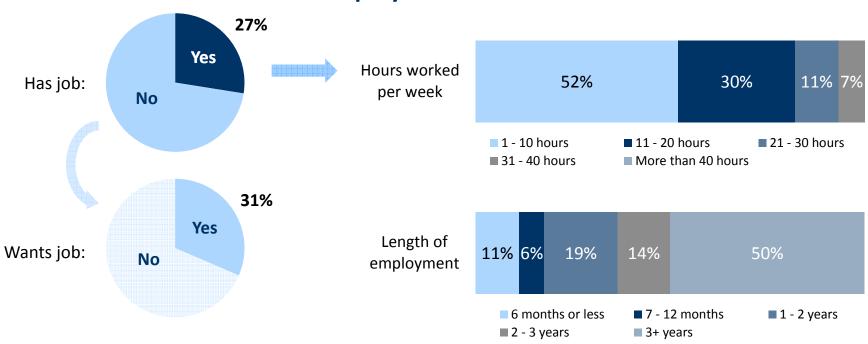
Base: C10 -- Do you want to add anything else about the person with respect to participation in the community? 2016 (n=680) ADVANIS 16 2014 limited to only allowing one code while in 2016 we allowed multiple code. Thus, trending not available.

### Working in the Community

A quarter of individuals with developmental disabilities have a job with half of those working more than 10 hours a week. Encouragingly, half have been working at their job for more than 3 years.

A third of those who do not have a job would like one.

### **Employment Details**



Note: Due to changes in how these questions were asked, no comparison to 2014 has been made.

Base: C1 -- Does the person have a job? 2016 (n=1,727)

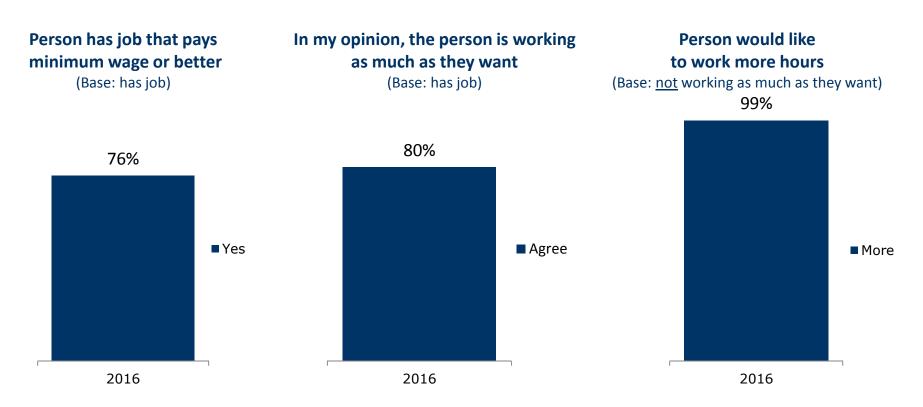
Base: C14 -- Does the person want a job? 2016 (n=1,093)

Base: C4 -- How many hours a week does this person work? 2016 (n=469)
Base: C6 -- How long has the person been at their current job? 2016 (n=488)



### Working in the Community

Three-quarters of those working are making minimum wage or better and most are working as much as they would like. Nearly all those who are not working as much as they would like wish they could be working more.



Note: Due to changes in how these questions were asked, no comparison to 2014 has been made.

Base: C2 -- Does the person earn minimum wage (\$12.20/hour) or better? 2016 (n=435)

Base: C3 -- In my opinion, the person is working as much as they want to be. 2016 (n=479)

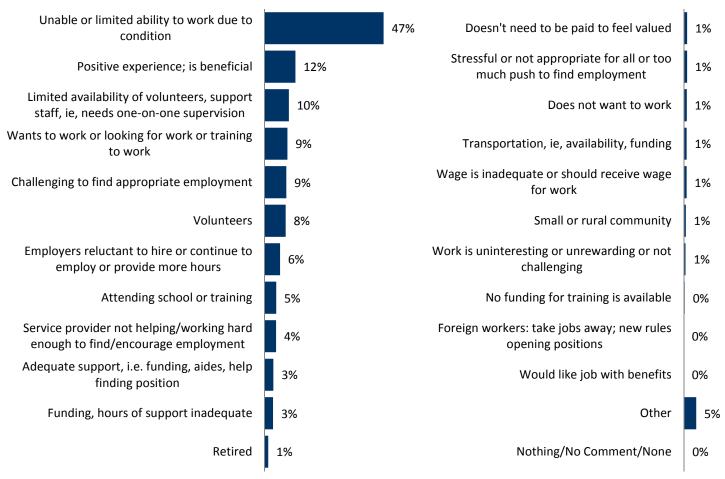
Base: C5 -- Would this person like to work more or fewer hours? 2016 (n=96)



### Working in the Community: Verbatim Comments

With regards to employment, nearly half of extra comments respondents provided indicated that the individual was unable to work.

### **Comments Related to Employment**

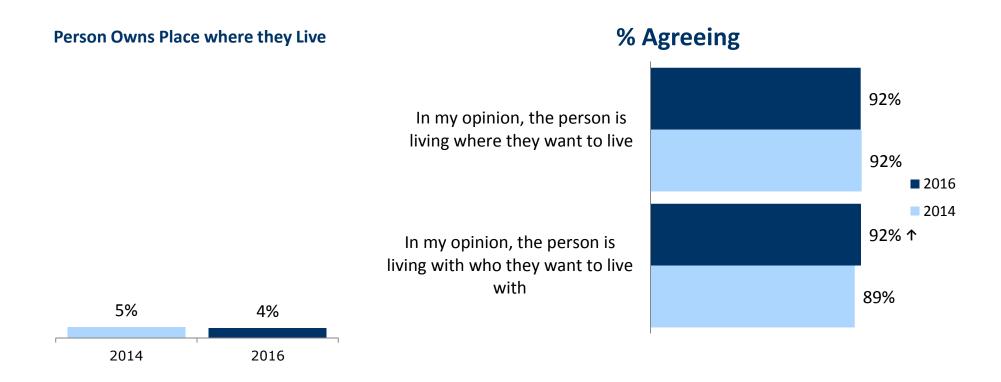






### Living in the Community

Similar to 2014, very few individuals own their residence. That said, most are living where they want to and with the people they would like to live with (which is up since 2014).



Base: C11 -- Does the person own the place where they live? (2014n=1,771, 2016n=1,683)

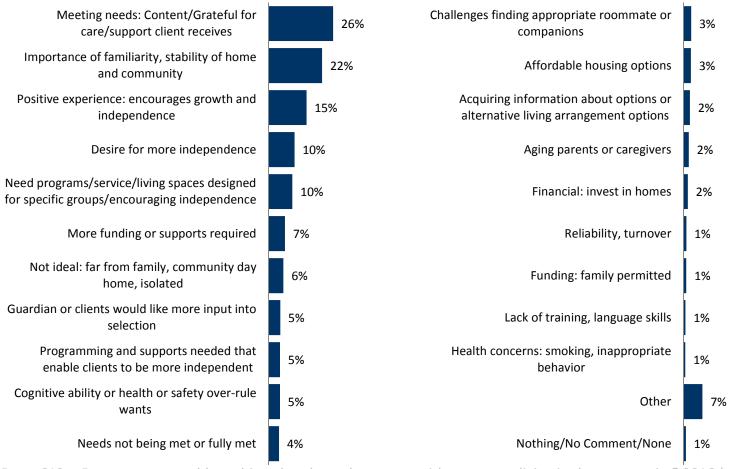
Base: C12 -- How much you agree with the following statements: (2014n=1,559-1,610, 2016n=1,642-1,686)



### Living in the Community: Verbatim Comments

Clients and guardians are grateful for the care received, they understand the importance of a suitable home, and feel their living arrangements have encouraged independence.

### **Comments Related to Living in the Community**









### **Getting Services**

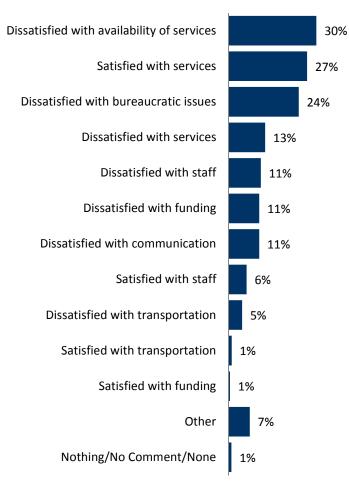
Access to services has largely improved since 2014, with more guardians finding that transportation is better, services are provided quicker, and respite services are more available. Additionally, it is easier to change services when necessary and there is a better choice of service providers.



### **Getting Services: Verbatim Comments**

That said, many of the extra comments about getting services mention being dissatisfied with service availability and bureaucratic issues.

### **Comments Related to Getting Services**

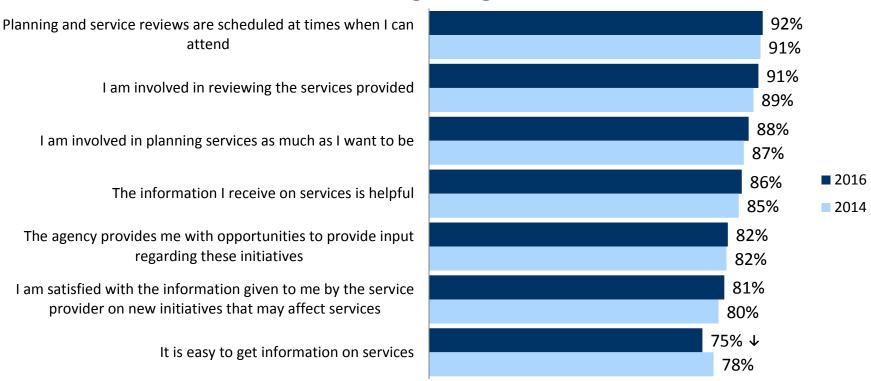




### Information

The information and decisions around services is very similar to 2014, although guardians have found it a little harder to get information on services.

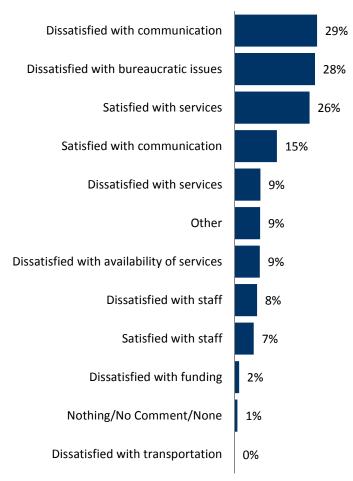
### % Agreeing



### Information: Verbatim Comments

The top issues regarding information refer to difficulty with communication and bureaucratic issues.

### **Comments Related to Information to Plan and Review Services**

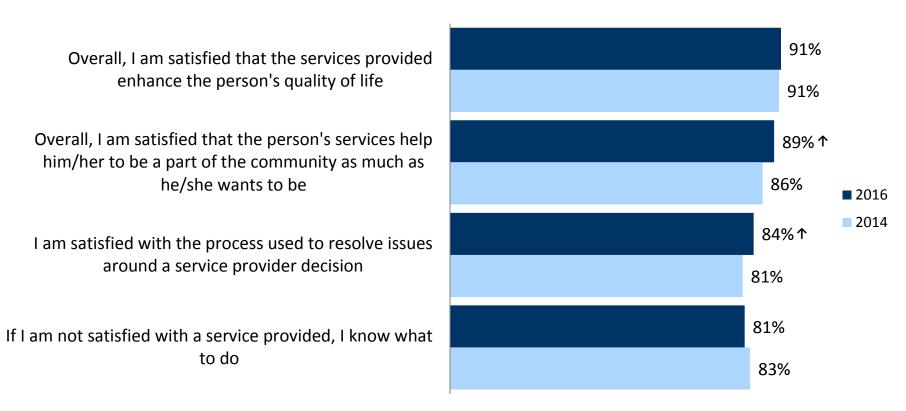




### Overall Satisfaction with Services Provided

Since 2014, services have done a better job at making the clients part of the community and more guardians are satisfied with the process used to resolve issues around a service provider decision.

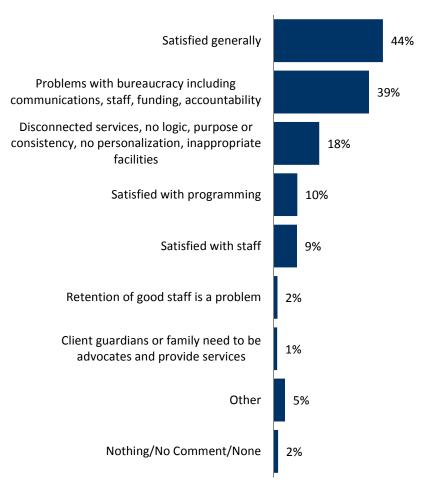
### % Agreeing



### Services Provided: Verbatim Comments

Again, the extra comments provided highlight bureaucratic issues as well as inconsistency and a lack of personalization of services.

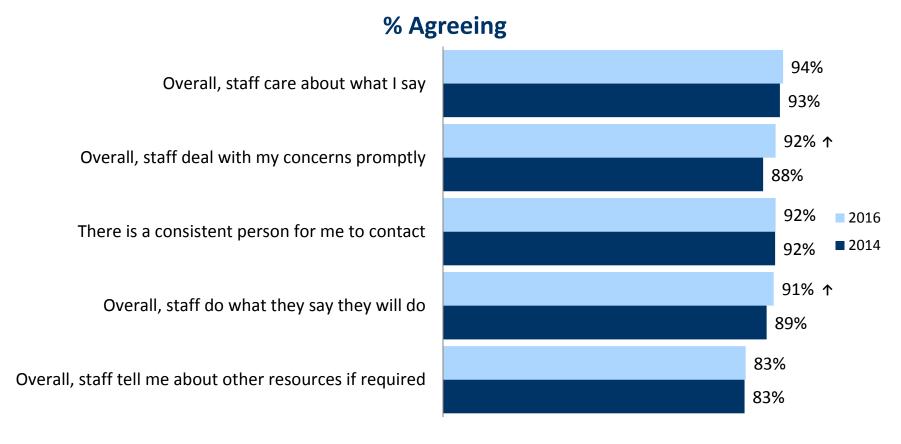
### **Comments Related to Services Overall**





### Service Provider Staff Perceptions

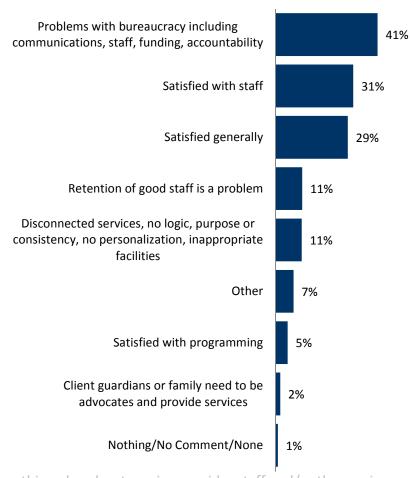
Staff perceptions have slightly improved since 2014 with more guardians feeling that staff deal with concerns quicker and follow through with what they say they will do.



### Service Provider Staff: Verbatim Comments

However, there is concern with service provider bureaucratic issues.

### **Comments Related to Service Provider Organization**



Base: S2 -- Do you want to add anything else about service provider staff and/or the service provider organization? 2016 (n=566)



### **PDD Staff Perceptions**

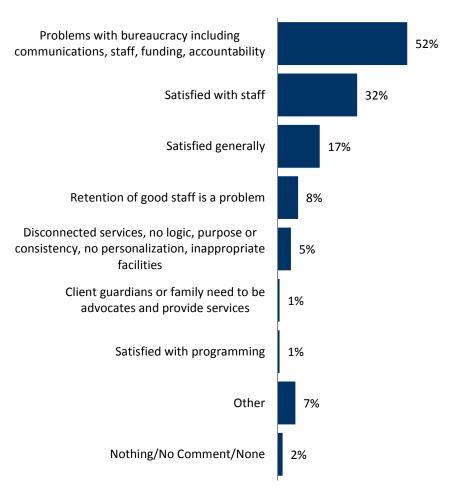
PDD staff continue to be rated highly, with more guardians saying the staff follow through with what they say they will do, are helpful with problem solving, and they are more satisfied with the process used to resolve issues around a PDD decision.



### PDD Staff: Verbatim Comments

That said, over half of feedback received once more mentions some type of bureaucratic issue.

### **Comments Related to PDD Staff**

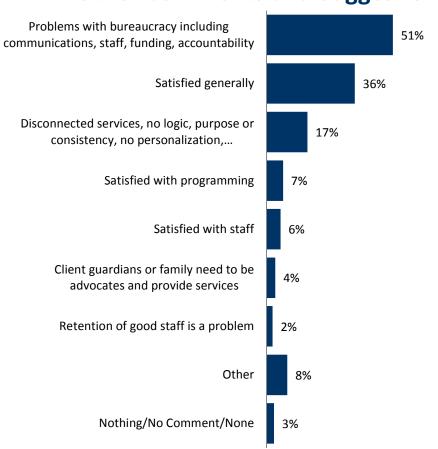




### Other Comments and Suggestions

Not surprisingly, when guardians are asked for any final feedback, half mention a bureaucratic issue. However, over a third mention that they are satisfied in general.

### **Other Comments and Suggestions**





# Appendix A: PDD Survey



# Alberta Human Services PDD Family/Guardian Satisfaction Survey 2016

managed in compliance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will remain confidential. For About this questionnaire: We value your input to help improve services. The information you provide is collected and your convenience, we have provided you with a number of options to complete the survey. You may:

- Complete this paper survey and mail it back in the postage paid self-addressed envelope provided; or
- Fax the completed survey to Advanis at 780-426-7622.

"The person" refers to your family member, or the person you have guardianship for, who is receiving PDD services. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Advanis at 866-539-7841 or <u>sday+pdd@advanis.net.</u>

[ASK IF NOT OPGT] <b>This survey is being completed by:</b> ———————————————————————————————————
How long has the person received services as an adult? $\Box$ less than 2 years $\Box$ 2 - 5 years $\Box$ 6 - 10 years $\Box$ more than 10 years
How old is the person receiving services? $\Box$ 18 - 25 years $\Box$ 26 years $\Box$ 26 years $\Box$ 26 years $\Box$ 46 - 65 years $\Box$ 66 years or older
[ASK IF OPGT] Complete this statement: I am a public guardian representative in the PDD region



# Part Two: Community Involvement

This section refers to the person's participation in the community.

Working in the Community	
Does the person have a job? □ Yes □ No	
(If "No" above) Does the person want a job?	
□Yes □No □Don'tknow	
Does the person earn minimum wage (\$12.20/hour) or better?	
In my opinion, the person is working as much as they want to be.	
□Strongly □ Agree □Somewhat □ Somewhat □ Disagree □Strongly □ Don't □ agree agree disagree thow n	n't 🗖 Does ow not apply
How many hours a week does the person work?	
□ 1-10 hours/week □ 11—20 hours/week □ 21—30 hours/week □ 31—40 hours/week □ >40 hours/week	ek 🗖 >40 hours/week
Would this person like to work more or fewer hours?	
□ More □ Fewer □ Don'tknow	
How long has the person been at their current job?	
$\square$ 6 months or less $\square$ 7—12 months $\square$ 1—2 years $\square$ 2—3 years $\square$ > than 3	□ > than 3 years

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Do you want to add anything else about the person with respect to employment?	anything else al	bout the	person with res	pect to employ	ment?		
Participating in Community Activities	nmunity Activi	ilies					
Does this person volunteer in their community?	unteer in their co	ommoni	ty?				
□ Yes □ No □	■ Don't know	□ Doe	Does not apply				
The person has relationships in the community with people other than paid staff.	ionships in the c	ommon	ity with people	other than paid	staff.		
□Strongly □ Agree agree	ee 🗖 Somewhat agree		<ul><li>■ Somewhat disagree</li></ul>	■ Disagree	□ Strongly disagree	□ Don'† know	□ Does not apply
In my opinion, the person participates in community activities (recreational, spiritual, social, etc.) as much as they want to.	erson participat	es in co	mmunity activiti	es (recreationa	l, spiritual, soci	al, etc) as m	nuch as
□Strongly □ Agree agree	ee 🛮 Somewhat agree		<ul><li>■ Somewhat disagree</li></ul>	□ Disagree	□ Strongly disagree	□ Don't know	<ul><li>□ Does not apply</li></ul>
Do you want to add anything else about the person with respect to participation in the community?	anything else al	bout the	person with res	pect to particip	ation in the co	mmunity?	



Living in the Community	e Commu	nity						
[ASK IF DIRE	CT OPSJ The	∍ person own:	s the pla	[ASK IF DIRECT OPS] The person owns the place where they live.	live.			
□ Yes □	No O	□Yes □No □Don't know □Does not apply	□ Doe	s not apply				
In my opinic	on, the per	son is living w	here the	In my opinion, the person is living where they want to live.				
■Strongly agree	□ Agre∈	e □Somew agree	what	□Strongly □Agree □Somewhat □Somewhat agree disagree	■ Disagree	■ Strongly disagree	□ Don'† know	<ul><li>□ Does not apply</li></ul>
In my opinic	on, the per	son is living w	ith who	In my opinion, the person is living with who they want to live with.	with.			
□Strongly □ Agree agree	□ Agre∈		what	□ Somewhat □ Somewhat agree disagree	□ Disagree	■ Strongly disagree	□ Don'† know	<ul><li>□ Does not apply</li></ul>
Do you wan	ıt to add ar	nything else a	ibout th	Do you want to add anything else about the person with respect to living in the community?	spect to living in	the communit	h/?	



## Part Three: Agency Services & Staff

This section asks questions about the services that the person receives. By "services" we mean PDD-funded employment support, day programs, residential support, respite, and/or coordination.

<ol> <li>Services         A. Getting Services    </li> </ol>		11. It is easy to get services.	12. Services are orovided quickly when needed.	13. Services meet the person's needs.	14. Services can be changed whenever necessary.	15. Transportation to and from services is good.
8	Strongly agree			0		_
	Agree					
	Somewhat Somewhat agree disagree	0		0	0	0
	Somewhat disagree	0	_	0	_	0
	Disagree		_	_	_	
	Disagree Strongly Don't Does not disagree know apply	_		_	_	0
	Don't know					_
	Does not apply	0	0	0	0	0

16. There is a choice of service providers.	0	_	<u> </u>				_	
17. It is easy to change service providers.	0	0		0	0	0	0	
18. [ASK IF DIRECT OPS] Respite services are available when needed.	0	0	0	_	0	0	0	0
Do you want to say anything else about getting services?	ything else	about get	Hingservice	¿s				

B. Information to Plan and Review Services	lan and Re	view Serv	ices	100000		Age of the state o	2	
	Strongly agree	Agree	somewnat agree	somewnat somewnat agree disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Lont Does not know apply	ddb dbb
19. It is easy to get information on services.	_	0	0	0	0	0		
20. The information I receive on services is helpful.		_	_	0	_	0	_	
21. I am satisfied with the information given to me by the service provider on new initiatives that may affect services.		0	О	0				
22. The agency provides me with opportunities to provide input regarding these initiatives.	0				0			

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0	0		ervices?
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0	0	_	ion to plan c
0	0		fing informat
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_	_		rthing els
23. I am involved in planning services as much as I want to be.	24. I am involved in reviewing the services provided.	25. Planning and service reviews are scheduled at times when I can attend.	Do you want to add anything else about getting information to plan and review services?

C. Overall Satisfaction with Services Provided	ces Prov	ided					
	Strongly agree	Agree	Somewhat agree	Strongly Agree Somewhat Somewhat agree disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Does not know apply
26. Overall, I am satisfied that the services provided enhance the person's quality of life.							
27. Overall, I am satisfied that the person's services help him/her to be a part of the community as much as he/she wants to be.	_	0	0	0	0	0	_
28. If I am not satisfied with a service provided, I know what to do.		0				_	_
29. I am satisfied with the process used to resolve issues around a service provider decision.		0	_		_		
Do you want to add anything else about your services overall?	out you	service	ss overall?				

2. Staff								
A. Service Provider Staff								
	Strongly agree	Agree	Agree Somewhat Disagree agree	Somewhat disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree		Don't Does not know apply
30. There is a consistent person for me to contact.		0						
31. Overall, staff care about what I say.		0	_					
32. Overall, staff do what they say they will do.								
33. Overall, staff deal with my concerns promptly.		0	_		0			
34. Overall, staff tell me about other resources if required.			_		0	_		
Do you want to add anything else about service provider staff and/or the service provider organization?	out servi	ce pro	vider staff ar	id/orthe se	rvice provi	der organi	zation?	

B. Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) Staff Your PDD Region has staff who partner with communities to develop services, determine whether individuals are eligible for PDD-funded services, identify and/or help access services needed and approve funding for	Them. Please answer based on vour involvement with these statt.
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B. Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) Staff Your PDD Region has staff who partner with communities to develop services, determine whether individuals are eligible for PDD-funded services, identify and/or help access services needed and approve funding for them. Please answer based on your involvement with these staff.	evelopment has staff was table bunded swer based	tal Disabi ho partne services, i on your ir	lities (PDD) Ste or with communication of the commu	unities to devorthelp access with these staff	elop service s services ne f.	s, determine eded and o	whethe	r individua
	agree	Agree	somewnat somewnat agree disagree	disagree	Disagree	disagree	know	apply
35. I know how to contact PDD.	0				0		0	
36. Overall, PDD staff care about what I say.		_	_	_		0		
37. Overall, PDD staff do what they say they will do.		_			_			
38. Overall, PDD staff deal with my concerns promptly.	_	_		_	_	0		
39. Overall, PDD staff are helpful in problem solving.	0	_		0	0	0		

0	0	0		
0		0		
0	0	0		
0	0	0		
0	0	0		
	_		D staff?	
0		0	e about PD	
0			nything els	
40. Overall, PDD staff tell me about other resources if required.	41. If I am not satisfied with a PDD decision I know what to do.	42. I am satisfied with the processes used to resolve issues around a PDD decision.	Do you want to add anything else about PDD staff?	

## Thank you for taking your time to fill out our survey. Your response is very important to us!

For more information about this survey, or if you wish to discuss something further, please contact your PDD Satisfaction Survey representative:

Gloria Wesley (780) 644-4677 Gloria.wesley@gov.ab.ca

We've enclosed a postage-paid envelope for your convenience in returning the survey.



