



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

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Income support customers: a statistical overview 2012

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Administrative Arrangements Orders changes

In October 2004, responsibility for some income support payments (including Newstart Allowance, Parenting Payment, Partner Allowance, Youth Allowance (other) and Disability Support Pension) was transferred to the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) and responsibility for Youth Allowance (student) and Austudy Payment was transferred to the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST).

In December 2011, Administrative Arrangement Orders transferred responsibility for Youth Allowance (full-time student and apprentice) and Austudy Payment from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) to the Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIICCSRTE), previously the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research.

On 18 September 2013, the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) was renamed the Department of Social Services; the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) was renamed the Department of Health; and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) was renamed the Department of Immigration and Border Protection. References in this publication to FaHCSIA, DoHA and DIAC should be read in that context.

Revisions

From time to time, data previously published in the Statistical Paper series may be revised. Any such revision will be made available on the DSS website at <<http://www.dss.gov.au/about-fahcsia/publications-articles/research-publications/statistical-paper-series>>.

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Strategic Policy and Research
Department of Social Services
PO Box 7576
Canberra Business Centre ACT 2610

Or:

Phone: (02) 6146 8061
Fax: (02) 6293 3289
Email: publications.research@dss.gov.au

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1 Introduction

The Department of Social Services (DSS) is the Australian Government's principal source of advice on social policy. It works in partnership with other government and non-government organisations to manage a diverse range of programs and services designed to support and improve the lives of Australians.

DSS has responsibility for almost all Australian Government income support payments. Prior to the creation of DSS in September 2013, responsibility for income support payments was spread across a number of Australian Government agencies including the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), the Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (Innovation) and the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).

This statistical overview covers Australian Government income support payments. Unless otherwise indicated, the statistics relate to the relevant pay periods closest to 30 June 2012. These pay periods will generally be within a fortnight either side of that date.

Key sections of the overview are:

- > payments for older people, people with disability and those caring for people with disability, severe medical conditions, or those who are frail aged
- > student and labour market related payments
- > family assistance
- > other payments and services
- > pensioners paid overseas.

Payment and allowance information, including eligibility criteria, are included within each section. Further information to assist with the interpretation of statistics is available from the DSS and Department of Human Services (DHS) websites:

<<http://www.dss.gov.au>>

<<http://www.humanservices.gov.au>>

Confidentiality

In some cases, small cells in tables have been suppressed and replaced with 'n.p.' (not published) for the purposes of confidentiality. Where a small cell can be derived by calculation, consequent suppression of the next smallest cell is performed until the small cell data are protected.

Table 1: Summary of income support recipients by payment type, 2002 to 2012

Payment type	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Age Pension (incl. Dept of Veterans' Affairs Age Pensions) ^(a)	1,818,205	1,861,055	1,876,250	1,915,036	1,922,129	1,952,686	2,039,305	2,117,530	2,158,303	2,225,127	2,282,592
Disability Support Pension	658,915	673,334	696,742	706,782	712,163	714,156	732,367	757,118	792,581	818,850	827,460
Sickness Allowance	9,540	8,755	8,478	8,367	7,573	7,624	7,437	6,968	6,703	6,705	7,150
Widow B Pension	5,130	2,986	1,879	839	775	732	683	637	600	566	531
Wife Pension (partner receives Age Pension) ^(a)	23,730	20,230	19,646	16,946	16,254	14,045	13,395	11,590	10,873	9,333	9,117
Wife Pension (partner receives Disability Support Pension)	44,238	37,880	33,183	28,144	24,627	21,228	18,555	15,847	13,782	11,882	10,200
Carer Payment	67,260	75,937	84,082	95,446	105,058	116,614	130,657	146,870	168,913	186,065	205,565
Austudy	41,187	38,779	35,026	31,174	27,728	27,869	28,776	34,175	37,342	39,213	41,042
ABSTUDY	46,255	47,028	46,555	45,629	35,045	34,489	33,776	34,612	36,308	37,107	35,942
Youth Allowance (student)	313,068	304,946	297,140	285,383	271,408	264,008	256,634	278,664	297,023	325,224	271,472
Youth Allowance (other)	90,339	87,486	84,665	79,573	76,276	68,698	64,907	82,907	88,459	85,972	83,802
Newstart Allowance	554,821	512,332	483,093	453,614	437,667	417,793	399,401	520,194	553,893	527,480	549,773
Partner Allowance	102,330	102,811	90,936	71,615	59,800	45,988	38,456	29,369	24,054	17,147	13,945
Mature Age Allowance ^(b)	40,132	41,078	32,912	20,877	11,697	5,032	754	-	-	-	-
Widow Allowance	41,277	43,209	45,328	44,329	44,385	40,247	39,131	36,086	33,886	29,341	28,935
Parenting Payment (Single)	427,846	436,958	449,312	450,811	432,958	395,495	360,633	344,096	333,512	326,248	319,582
Parenting Payment (Partnered)	191,576	181,405	177,157	167,272	158,814	144,427	125,922	129,365	124,910	117,754	114,342
Special Benefit	13,091	12,228	11,216	9,408	6,841	6,244	6,003	5,809	6,307	6,385	5,828
DVA service pension and income support supplement	370,721	368,572	341,020	344,311	312,571	295,033	285,089	271,546	256,826	241,338	226,045
Total	4,859,661	4,857,009	4,814,620	4,775,556	4,663,769	4,572,408	4,581,881	4,823,383	4,944,275	5,011,737	5,033,323

(a) For some years, Wife (Age) Pensions paid through the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) are captured in Age Pension figures.

(b) Mature Age Allowance was closed to new claimants in September 2003 and there are no recipients of Mature Age Allowance from 2009.

Notes: This is not a complete list of social security income support payments. Numbers represent the recipients 'current' at a point in time (excludes suspended recipients). '-' = not applicable.

Source: DHS and DVA administrative data.

2 Payments for older people, people with disability and those caring for people with disability, severe medical conditions or those who are frail aged

2.1 Age Pension

The Age Pension is a non-contributory payment for people satisfying age and residence requirements and whose income and assets are below certain limits. It is designed to ensure that senior Australians have adequate means of support.

For men, the current qualifying age for Age Pension is 65 years. For women, the qualifying age is gradually being increased to 65 years.

Table 2a: Age Pension qualifying age for women born before 1 July 1952

Period within which a woman was born	Pension age	Date pension age changes
Prior to 1 July 1935	60 years	
From 1 July 1935 to 31 December 1936	60 years and 6 months	1 July 1995
From 1 January 1937 to 30 June 1938	61 years	1 July 1997
From 1 July 1938 to 31 December 1939	61 years and 6 months	1 July 1999
From 1 January 1940 to 30 June 1941	62 years	1 July 2001
From 1 July 1941 to 31 December 1942	62 years and 6 months	1 July 2003
From 1 January 1943 to 30 June 1944	63 years	1 July 2005
From 1 July 1944 to 31 December 1945	63 years and 6 months	1 July 2007
From 1 January 1946 to 30 June 1947	64 years	1 July 2009
From 1 July 1947 to 31 December 1948	64 years and 6 months	1 July 2011
From 1 January 1949 to 30 June 1952	65 years	1 July 2013

For both men and women born on or after 1 July 1952, the pension qualifying age will progressively increase from 65 years to 67 years, starting on 1 July 2017, and will reach 67 years in 2023. This change is part of the Secure and Sustainable Pensions reform package. People born before 1 July 1952 will not be affected.

Table 2b: Age Pension qualifying age for people born on or after 1 July 1952

Period within which a person was born	Pension age	Date pension age changes
From 1 July 1952 to 31 December 1953	65 years and 6 months	1 July 2017
From 1 January 1954 to 30 June 1955	66 years	1 July 2019
From 1 July 1955 to 31 December 1956	66 years and 6 months	1 July 2021
From 1 January 1957	67 years	1 July 2023

Other Age Pension eligibility requirements specify that the person claiming must:

- > have been an Australian resident for at least 10 years, with at least five of these years in one continuous period, or
- > have a qualifying residence exemption (arrived as a refugee or under a special humanitarian program), or
- > be a woman widowed in Australia, when both she and her late partner were Australian residents, and who has at least two years' residence immediately prior to claiming, or
- > be a person in receipt of Widow B Pension, Widow Allowance or Partner Allowance immediately before reaching Age Pension age.

Special rules apply to residence in countries with which Australia has an International Social Security Agreement.

The Age Pension is also subject to income and assets tests.

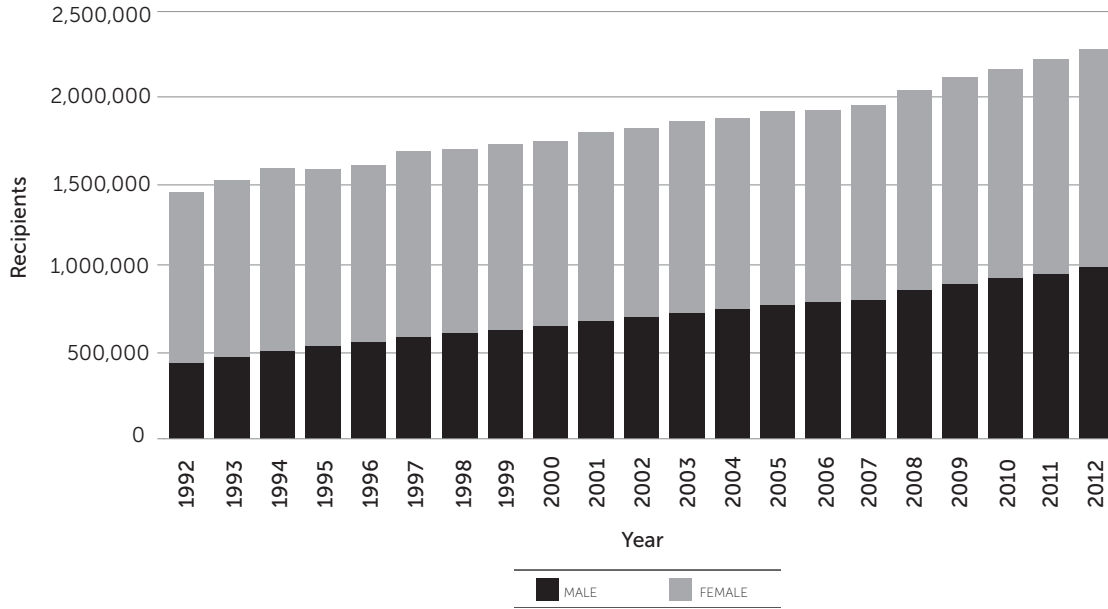
Table 3: Age Pension recipients by sex, June 1992 to June 2012

As at June	Male		Female		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.
1992	447,888	31.0	998,280	69.0	1,446,168
1993	481,196	31.7	1,034,486	68.3	1,515,682
1994	514,217	32.5	1,067,657	67.5	1,581,874
1995	544,571	34.5	1,034,127	65.5	1,578,698
1996	570,328	35.6	1,032,506	64.4	1,602,834
1997	597,859	35.6	1,082,355	64.4	1,680,214
1998	618,607	36.6	1,072,987	63.4	1,691,594
1999	639,008	37.1	1,085,581	62.9	1,724,589
2000	659,188	37.9	1,079,027	62.1	1,738,215
2001	688,563	38.4	1,104,863	61.6	1,793,426
2002	714,324	39.3	1,103,881	60.7	1,818,205
2003	739,187	39.7	1,121,868	60.3	1,861,055
2004	761,025	40.6	1,115,225	59.4	1,876,250
2005	782,977	40.9	1,132,059	59.1	1,915,036
2006	800,310	41.6	1,121,819	58.4	1,922,129
2007	815,912	41.8	1,136,774	58.2	1,952,686
2008	868,179	42.6	1,171,126	57.4	2,039,305
2009	906,769	42.8	1,210,761	57.2	2,117,530
2010	939,442	43.5	1,218,861	56.5	2,158,303
2011	967,291	43.5	1,257,836	56.5	2,225,127
2012	1,011,456	44.3	1,271,136	55.7	2,282,592

Note: Includes Age Pension payments administered by DHS and the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).

Source: DHS and DVA administrative data.

Figure 1: Age Pension recipients by sex, June 1992 to June 2012



Note: Includes Age Pension payments administered by DHS and DVA.

Source: DHS and DVA administrative data.

Table 4: Age Pension recipients, characteristics by sex, June 2012

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	1,009,109	44.3	1,269,106	55.7	2,278,215	100.0
Age (years)						
<65	–	–	27,626	2.2	27,626	1.2
65–69	275,242	27.3	332,551	26.2	607,793	26.7
70–74	272,279	27.0	303,996	24.0	576,275	25.3
75–79	217,114	21.5	249,065	19.6	466,179	20.5
80–84	159,528	15.8	187,210	14.8	346,738	15.2
85–89	65,577	6.5	105,640	8.3	171,217	7.5
90–94	15,686	1.6	47,117	3.7	62,803	2.8
95–99	3,330	0.3	13,918	1.1	17,248	0.8
≥100	353	<0.1	1,983	0.2	2,336	0.1
Marital status ^(a)						
Married/de facto	710,288	70.4	587,829	46.3	1,298,117	57.0
Single/separated/divorced/ widowed	298,821	29.6	681,277	53.7	980,098	43.0
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	585,366	58.0	792,774	62.5	1,378,140	60.5
United Kingdom	117,028	11.6	135,215	10.7	252,243	11.1
Italy	55,020	5.5	54,402	4.3	109,422	4.8
Greece	33,152	3.3	37,085	2.9	70,237	3.1
New Zealand	17,652	1.7	20,243	1.6	37,895	1.7
Other	200,891	19.9	229,387	18.1	430,278	18.9
Home ownership						
Home owner	774,135	76.7	929,408	73.2	1,703,543	74.8
Non-home owner	234,974	23.3	339,698	26.8	574,672	25.2
Payment status						
Current—automatically assessed						
Maximum rate	577,403	57.2	771,495	60.8	1,348,898	59.2
Reduced rate	430,414	42.7	496,443	39.1	926,857	40.7
Total	1,007,817	99.9	1,267,938	99.9	2,275,755	99.9
Current—manually assessed	219	0.0	247	<0.1	466	<0.1
Current total	1,008,036	99.9	1,268,185	99.9	2,276,221	99.9
Suspended	1,073	0.1	921	0.1	1,994	0.1
Paid under income test ^(b)						
Single	292,578	29.0	653,206	51.5	945,784	41.5
Partnered	578,307	57.3	469,559	37.0	1,047,866	46.0
Home owner paid under assets test						
Single	23,890	2.4	43,675	3.4	67,565	3.0
Partnered	109,906	10.9	97,232	7.7	207,138	9.1
Non-home owner paid under assets test						
Single	2,068	0.2	3,512	0.3	5,580	0.2
Partnered	1,434	0.1	1,188	0.1	2,622	0.1
Income/assets test not coded ^(c)	926	0.1	734	0.1	1,660	0.1

(a) Marital status figures will differ from figures on single and partnered pension rate as partnered pensioners may be eligible for a single rate of pension in some limited circumstances. (Social security law provides that where a couple is married or living together their social security pension payment is based on the partnered rate of payment. However, in special circumstances, a partnered person can be treated as single for social security purposes, for example, a member of a couple separated by illness or receiving respite care, or where a member of a couple is in gaol.)

(b) All pensioners paid a full rate of pension are classified as income tested and included in the 'paid under income test' category.

(c) At least one of the variables required to determine the customer's income or assets test category was not coded (that is, partnership category, home ownership type or whether income or assets tested).

Notes: Table excludes 4,377 Age Pension payments administered by DVA.

'–' = not applicable.

Source: DHS administrative data.

Table 5: Age Pension recipients by state/territory and sex, June 2012

State/territory	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
New South Wales	322,788	43.8	413,708	56.2	736,496	32.3
Victoria	244,509	43.3	319,831	56.7	564,340	24.8
Queensland	186,819	45.0	228,371	55.0	415,190	18.2
Western Australia	84,242	43.6	108,814	56.4	193,056	8.5
South Australia	85,386	43.1	112,553	56.9	197,939	8.7
Tasmania	28,235	44.8	34,856	55.2	63,091	2.8
Australian Capital Territory	8,793	40.5	12,907	59.5	21,700	1.0
Northern Territory	3,944	49.3	4,060	50.7	8,004	0.4
Other ^(a)	44,393	56.6	34,006	43.4	78,399	3.4
Total	1,009,109	44.3	1,269,106	55.7	2,278,215	100.0

(a) Includes all overseas pensioners, regardless of their length of stay overseas.

Note: Table excludes 4,377 Age Pension payments administered by DVA.

Source: DHS administrative data.

2.2 Disability Support Pension

Disability Support Pension is intended to ensure an adequate income for people who have a reduced capacity for work because of impairment.

As at June 2012, to be eligible for Disability Support Pension a person must be permanently blind or have a permanent physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairment of at least 20 points under the impairment tables. If at least 20 points are not allocated under a single impairment table, a person must have also actively participated in a program of support.

An 'impairment' is defined as permanent under the Social Security Act 1991 if it is fully diagnosed, treated and stabilised and likely to last for at least two years without significant functional improvement. The person must be unable to work for at least 15 hours per week at or above the relevant minimum wage for the next two years or be retrained for such work within the next two years because of that impairment.

To qualify for Disability Support Pension, a person must be aged 16 years or more but have not reached Age Pension age at the time of claiming. If already receiving Disability Support Pension, a person can continue to be paid Disability Support Pension after reaching Age Pension age. The person must also be an Australian resident, living in Australia at the time they claim, and have 10 years' qualifying residence.

There is no period of residence qualification required if the inability to work or permanent blindness occurs while the person is an Australian resident.

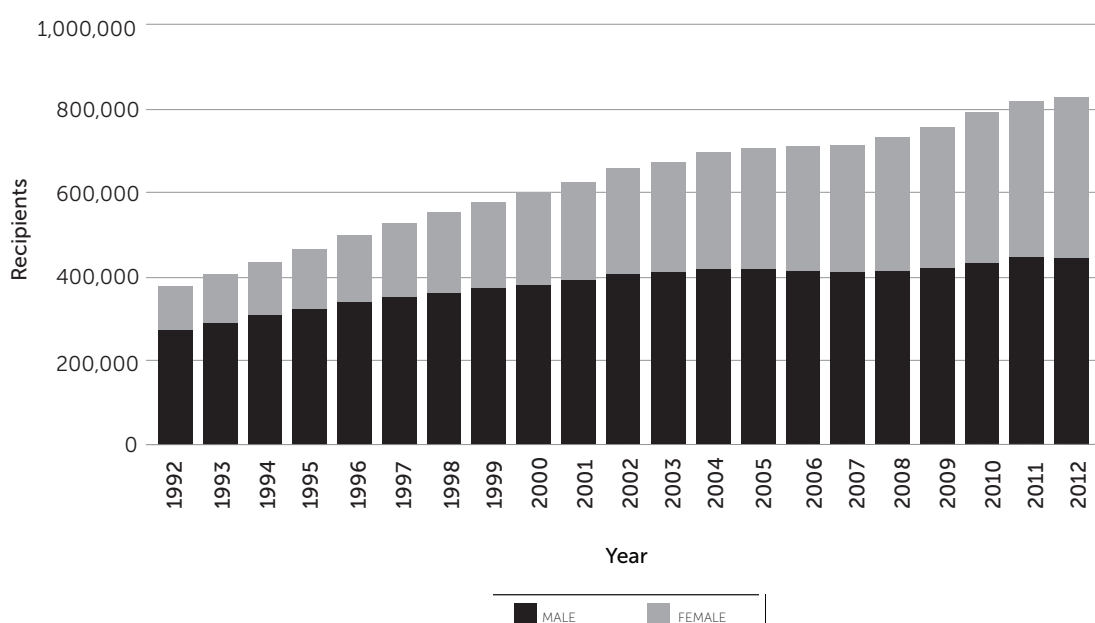
Disability Support Pension is subject to income and assets tests.

Table 6: Disability Support Pension recipients by sex, June 1992 to June 2012

As at June	Male		Female		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.
1992	273,697	72.3	104,861	27.7	378,558
1993	291,471	71.7	115,101	28.3	406,572
1994	309,123	70.9	127,111	29.1	436,234
1995	324,672	69.9	139,758	30.1	464,430
1996	340,256	68.2	158,979	31.8	499,235
1997	352,607	66.8	174,907	33.2	527,514
1998	361,539	65.3	191,797	34.7	553,336
1999	373,340	64.6	204,342	35.4	577,682
2000	382,351	63.5	219,929	36.5	602,280
2001	392,354	62.9	231,572	37.1	623,926
2002	406,893	61.8	252,022	38.2	658,915
2003	412,777	61.3	260,557	38.7	673,334
2004	418,829	60.1	277,913	39.9	696,742
2005	420,073	59.4	286,709	40.6	706,782
2006	415,618	58.4	296,545	41.6	712,163
2007	413,033	57.8	301,123	42.2	714,156
2008	413,484	56.5	318,883	43.5	732,367
2009	422,290	55.8	334,828	44.2	757,118
2010	433,456	54.7	359,125	45.3	792,581
2011	446,600	54.5	372,250	45.5	818,850
2012	444,690	53.7	382,770	46.3	827,460

Source: DHS administrative data.

Figure 2: Disability Support Pension recipients by sex, June 1992 to June 2012



Source: DHS administrative data.

Table 7: Disability Support Pension recipients, characteristics by sex, June 2012

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	444,690	53.7	382,770	46.3	827,460	100.0
Age (years)						
<20	12,829	2.9	7,488	2.0	20,317	2.5
20–29	42,238	9.5	30,239	7.9	72,477	8.8
30–39	57,336	12.9	41,698	10.9	99,034	12.0
40–49	92,790	20.9	77,501	20.2	170,291	20.6
50–59	130,778	29.4	129,384	33.8	260,162	31.4
60–64	92,874	20.9	86,532	22.6	179,406	21.7
≥65	15,845	3.6	9,928	2.6	25,773	3.1
Marital status						
Married/de facto	129,354	29.1	112,927	29.5	242,281	29.3
Single/separated/divorced/widowed	315,336	70.9	269,843	70.5	585,179	70.7
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	342,341	77.0	283,905	74.2	626,246	75.7
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	21,354	4.8	18,210	4.8	39,564	4.8
New Zealand	8,059	1.8	7,211	1.9	15,270	1.8
Labanon	6,140	1.4	5,660	1.5	11,800	1.4
Vietnam	5,251	1.2	4,985	1.3	10,236	1.2
Other	61,545	13.8	62,799	16.4	124,344	15.0
Home ownership						
Home owner	116,995	26.3	124,007	32.4	241,002	29.1
Non-home owner	327,695	73.7	258,763	67.6	586,458	70.9
Rate						
Full	361,648	81.3	306,440	80.1	668,088	80.7
Part	83,042	18.7	76,330	19.9	159,372	19.3
Paid under income test						
Single	313,391	70.5	267,831	70.0	581,222	70.2
Partnered	125,657	28.3	108,654	28.4	234,311	28.3
Home owner paid under assets test						
Single	1,519	0.3	1,630	0.4	3,149	0.4
Partnered	3,551	0.8	4,157	1.1	7,708	0.9
Non-home owner paid under assets test						
Single	426	0.1	382	0.1	808	0.1
Partnered	146	0.0	116	0.0	262	0.0
Duration ^(a)						
<1 year	23,049	5.2	15,128	4.0	38,177	4.6
1 to <2 years	22,543	5.1	17,999	4.7	40,542	4.9
2 to <3 years	25,337	5.7	20,629	5.4	45,966	5.6
3 to <4 years	27,648	6.2	21,556	5.6	49,204	5.9
4 to <5 years	21,505	4.8	17,309	4.5	38,814	4.7
5 to <10 years	88,210	19.8	72,908	19.0	161,118	19.5
≥10 years	236,398	53.2	217,241	56.8	453,639	54.8
Mean (weeks)	636.4		662.6		648.6	
Median (weeks)	578.0		621.0		597.0	

(a) Duration is measured from the income support start date (that is, duration may take into account periods on another income support payment before Disability Support Pension is granted).

Source: DHS administrative data.

Table 8: Disability Support Pension recipients by state/territory and sex, June 2012

State/territory	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
New South Wales	145,519	54.2	123,065	45.8	268,584	32.5
Victoria	104,077	51.9	96,606	48.1	200,683	24.3
Queensland	89,459	54.9	73,578	45.1	163,037	19.7
Western Australia	33,906	53.2	29,881	46.8	63,787	7.7
South Australia	40,980	53.8	35,200	46.2	76,180	9.2
Tasmania	15,167	54.2	12,795	45.8	27,962	3.4
Australian Capital Territory	4,277	51.4	4,040	48.6	8,317	1.0
Northern Territory	5,768	56.2	4,489	43.8	10,257	1.2
Other ^(a)	5,537	64.0	3,116	36.0	8,653	1.0
Total	444,690	53.7	382,770	46.3	827,460	100.0

(a) State/territory not coded.

Source: DHS administrative data.

2.3 Sickness Allowance

Sickness Allowance is a payment that provides assistance for people who are employed or studying full-time and who are temporarily unable to work or study due to a medical condition and have a job or full-time study to which they can return.

To qualify for Sickness Allowance, a person must be 21 years of age or over (22 years of age or over from 1 July 2012) but have not reached Age Pension age.

Sickness Allowance may be paid for up to 13 weeks when a recipient is temporarily absent from Australia to seek medical treatment of a kind that is not available in Australia.

Sickness Allowance is subject to residence requirements and income and assets tests.

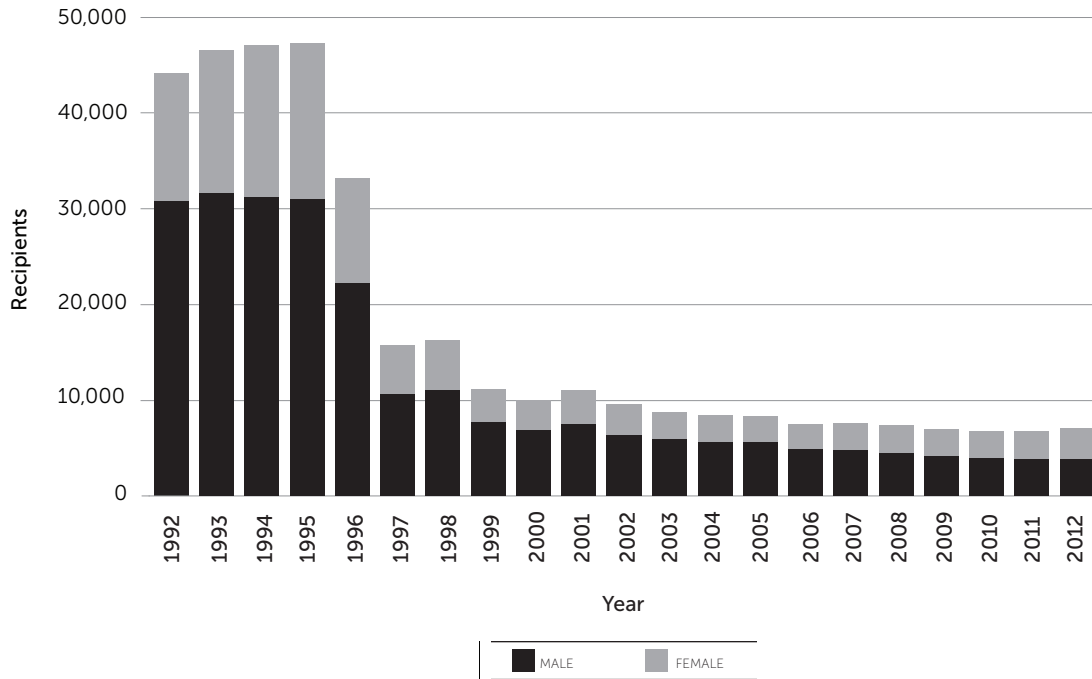
Table 9: Sickness Allowance recipients by sex, June 1992 to June 2012

As at June ^(a)	Male		Female		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.
1992	30,844	69.8	13,328	30.2	44,172
1993	31,802	68.3	14,777	31.7	46,579
1994	31,274	66.4	15,858	33.6	47,132
1995	31,131	65.8	16,180	34.2	47,311
1996 ^(b)	22,254	67.0	10,961	33.0	33,215
1997	10,721	68.0	5,038	32.0	15,759
1998 ^(c)	11,166	68.6	5,119	31.4	16,285
1999	7,799	69.8	3,382	30.2	11,181
2000	6,990	69.6	3,053	30.4	10,043
2001	7,598	68.7	3,460	31.3	11,058
2002	6,414	67.2	3,126	32.8	9,540
2003	5,973	68.2	2,782	31.8	8,755
2004	5,613	66.2	2,865	33.8	8,478
2005	5,671	67.8	2,696	32.2	8,367
2006	5,011	66.2	2,562	33.8	7,573
2007	4,877	64.0	2,747	36.0	7,624
2008	4,523	60.8	2,914	39.2	7,437
2009	4,182	60.0	2,786	40.0	6,968
2010	3,928	58.6	2,775	41.4	6,703
2011	3,812	56.9	2,893	43.1	6,705
2012	3,987	55.8	3,163	44.2	7,150

- (a) Prior to 1998, the table figures are an average of the number of weekly payments during June. Breakdown by sex for this table was estimated based on the proportion of males and females receiving this allowance at a point in time in the relevant quarter.
- (b) From March 1996, unemployed people who became ill did not transfer to Sickness Allowance after 13 weeks. They continued to be paid Youth Training Allowance, Job Search Allowance or Newstart Allowance, subject to Sickness Allowance conditions.
- (c) Break in series. Data from 1998 onward are derived at a point in time in June of the relevant year.

Source: DHS administrative data (Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) Blue Book dataset).

Figure 3: Sickness Allowance recipients by sex, June 1992 to June 2012



Notes: Prior to 1998, the table figures are an average of the number of weekly payments during June. Breakdown by sex for this table was estimated based on the proportion of males and females receiving this allowance at a point in time in the relevant quarter. Data from 1998 onward are derived at a point in time in June of the relevant year.

From March 1996, unemployed people who became ill did not transfer to Sickness Allowance after 13 weeks. They continued to be paid Youth Training Allowance, Job Search Allowance or Newstart Allowance, subject to Sickness Allowance conditions.

Source: DHS administrative data (DEEWR Blue Book dataset).

Table 10: Sickness Allowance recipients, characteristics by sex, June 2012

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	3,987	55.8	3,163	44.2	7,150	100.0
Age (years)						
21–24	443	11.1	248	7.8	691	9.7
25–34	921	23.1	535	16.9	1,456	20.4
35–44	877	22.0	637	20.1	1,514	21.2
45–54	967	24.3	1,016	32.1	1,983	27.7
55–59	404	10.1	412	13.0	816	11.4
60–64	375	9.4	315	10.0	690	9.7
Marital status						
Married/de facto	1,374	34.5	691	21.8	2,065	28.9
Single/separated/divorced/widowed	2,613	65.5	2,472	78.2	5,085	71.1
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	3,151	79.0	2,495	78.9	5,646	79.0
United Kingdom	203	5.1	160	5.1	363	5.1
New Zealand	100	2.5	81	2.6	181	2.5
Vietnam	40	1.0	25	0.8	65	0.9
Philippines	20	0.5	41	1.3	61	0.9
Other	473	11.9	361	11.4	834	11.7
Duration ^(a)						
<1 year—total	3,398	85.2	2,586	81.8	5,984	83.7
<7 weeks	803	20.1	564	17.8	1,367	19.1
7 weeks to <3 months	886	22.2	592	18.7	1,478	20.7
3 to <6 months	996	25.0	801	25.3	1,797	25.1
6 months to <1 year	713	17.9	629	19.9	1,342	18.8
≥1 year—total	589	14.8	577	18.2	1,166	16.3
1 to <2 years	433	10.9	368	11.6	801	11.2
2 to <3 years	81	2.0	114	3.6	195	2.7
≥3 years	75	1.9	95	3.0	170	2.4
Mean (weeks)	29.2		39.8		33.9	
Median (weeks)	16.0		18.0		17.0	
Income (\$ per week) ^(b)						
Nil	3,770	94.6	2,781	87.9	6,551	91.6
≥0.01	217	5.4	382	12.1	599	8.4

(a) Duration is measured from the allowance start date.

(b) Income is defined as earned income.

Note: The table figures exclude 157 people who received a nil rate of payment due to their own or their partner's income.

Source: DHS administrative data (DEEWR Blue Book dataset).

Table 11: Sickness Allowance recipients by state/territory and sex, June 2012

State/territory	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
New South Wales	1,150	58.6	811	41.4	1,961	27.4
Victoria	1,031	52.0	953	48.0	1,984	27.7
Queensland	925	56.3	717	43.7	1,642	23.0
Western Australia	334	54.9	274	45.1	608	8.5
South Australia	355	57.3	265	42.7	620	8.7
Tasmania	116	58.6	82	41.4	198	2.8
Australian Capital Territory	44	52.4	40	47.6	84	1.2
Northern Territory	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Other ^(a)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Total	3,987	55.8	3,163	44.2	7,150	100.0

(a) Includes unspecified state/territory.

Notes: The table figures exclude 157 people who received a nil rate of payment due to their own or their partner's income.

'n.p.' = not published. See 'Confidentiality' on page 1.

Source: DHS administrative data (DEEWR Blue Book dataset).

2.4 Mobility Allowance

The purpose of Mobility Allowance is to assist with transport costs for people with disability who are undertaking approved activities and who are unable to use public transport without assistance.

To qualify for Mobility Allowance, a person must be aged 16 years or over, be undertaking an approved activity and be required to travel to and from their home for the purpose of undertaking that activity. A person is considered to be undertaking an approved activity for the standard rate of Mobility Allowance if they are:

- > engaged in paid or voluntary work or vocational training or any combination of these activities for at least 32 hours every four weeks, or
- > undertaking job search activities under an agreement between DHS and a service provider funded by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), or
- > receiving Newstart Allowance, Youth Allowance or Austudy and meet the activity tests for these payments, or
- > participating in a Disability Employment Services—Disability Management Service.

A higher rate of Mobility Allowance may be paid to certain recipients who are undertaking or looking for work of 15 hours or more in the open labour market.

Mobility Allowance is not payable if a person has a car under the Vehicle Assistance Scheme from the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

A person must be an Australian resident and be in Australia when claiming and receiving Mobility Allowance. Reviews of Mobility Allowance are conducted annually. Recipients with a temporary medical condition undergo a medical review as part of their annual review.

Mobility Allowance is not an income- or assets-tested payment.

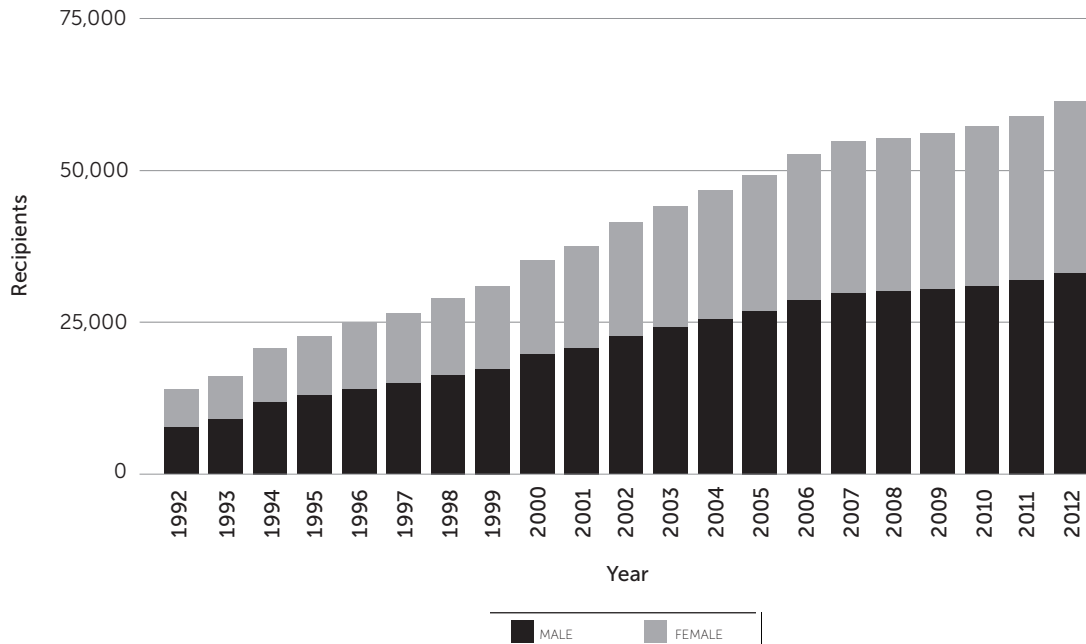
Table 12: Mobility Allowance recipients by sex, June 1992 to June 2012

As at June	Male		Female		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.
1992	7,826	56.3	6,085	43.7	13,911
1993 ^(a)	9,118	56.4	7,042	43.6	16,160
1994	11,916	57.3	8,879	42.7	20,795
1995	13,106	57.4	9,745	42.6	22,851
1996	14,200	56.8	10,785	43.2	24,985
1997	15,066	56.6	11,529	43.4	26,595
1998	16,346	56.4	12,629	43.6	28,975
1999	17,415	56.2	13,586	43.8	31,001
2000	19,673	56.0	15,481	44.0	35,154
2001	20,887	55.6	16,687	44.4	37,574
2002	22,863	55.2	18,593	44.8	41,456
2003	24,370	55.1	19,869	44.9	44,239
2004	25,763	55.0	21,084	45.0	46,847
2005	26,940	54.7	22,275	45.3	49,215
2006	28,755	54.6	23,897	45.4	52,652
2007	29,995	54.6	24,947	45.4	54,942
2008	30,151	54.5	25,148	45.5	55,299
2009	30,462	54.3	25,618	45.7	56,080
2010	31,199	54.4	26,150	45.6	57,349
2011	31,975	54.3	26,893	45.7	58,868
2012	33,236	54.2	28,107	45.8	61,343

(a) Eligibility requirements were eased in March 1993 to include those undertaking eight hours a week or more of voluntary work, and to include Disability Support Pension and Sickness Allowance recipients who have job searching incorporated in their activity plan.

Source: DHS administrative data (DEEWR Blue Book dataset).

Figure 4: Mobility Allowance recipients by sex, June 1992 to June 2012



Note: Eligibility requirements were eased in March 1993 to include those undertaking eight hours a week or more of voluntary work, and to include Disability Support Pension and Sickness Allowance recipients who have job searching incorporated in their activity plan.

Source: DHS administrative data (DEEWR Blue Book dataset).

Table 13: Mobility Allowance recipients by state/territory and sex, June 2012

State/territory	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
New South Wales	9,940	55.3	8,037	44.7	17,977	29.3
Victoria	8,984	53.7	7,748	46.3	16,732	27.3
Queensland	6,621	56.2	5,153	43.8	11,774	19.2
Western Australia	2,649	55.4	2,136	44.6	4,785	7.8
South Australia	3,560	49.3	3,664	50.7	7,224	11.8
Tasmania	1,021	51.2	972	48.8	1,993	3.2
Australian Capital Territory	311	53.8	267	46.2	578	0.9
Northern Territory	112	51.6	105	48.4	217	0.4
Other ^(a)	38	60.3	25	39.7	63	0.1
Total	33,236	54.2	28,107	45.8	61,343	100.0

(a) Includes unspecified state/territory.

Source: DHS administrative data (DEEWR Blue Book dataset).

2.5 Wife Pension

Wife Pension is gradually being phased out. No new grants have been made since 1 July 1995. However, women who received a Wife Pension at that date can continue to receive this payment. To qualify for Wife Pension, a woman must be the wife of an Age or Disability Support Pension recipient and not receiving a pension in her own right.

Partners of new applicants for Age or Disability Support Pension need to test their own eligibility for payments such as Age Pension, Parenting Payment, Carer Payment, Disability Support Pension or Newstart Allowance.

Wife Pension is subject to income and assets tests. Residence requirements may apply.

Table 14: Wife Pension recipients by partner pension type, June 1992 to June 2012

As at June	Age Pension ^(a)		Disability Support Pension		Rehabilitation Allowance ^(b)		Total ^(c)
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
1992	30,902	23.2	101,731	76.4	561	0.4	133,194
1993	33,520	23.6	108,327	76.3	166	0.1	142,013
1994	36,539	23.9	116,036	76.0	45	0.0	152,620
1995	39,611	24.5	121,839	75.5	7	0.0	161,457
1996	41,125	27.6	107,803	72.4	3	0.0	148,931
1997	36,577	28.6	91,307	71.4	1	0.0	127,885
1998	36,233	31.2	79,892	68.8	-	-	116,125
1999	32,196	32.0	68,523	68.0	-	-	100,719
2000	31,406	34.4	59,935	65.6	-	-	91,341
2001	26,476	34.1	51,225	65.9	-	-	77,701
2002	23,730	34.9	44,238	65.1	-	-	67,968
2003	20,230	34.8	37,880	65.2	-	-	58,110
2004	19,646	37.2	33,183	62.8	-	-	52,829
2005	16,946	37.6	28,144	62.4	-	-	45,090
2006	16,254	39.8	24,627	60.2	-	-	40,881
2007	14,045	39.8	21,228	60.2	-	-	35,273
2008	13,395	41.9	18,555	58.1	-	-	31,950
2009	11,590	42.2	15,847	57.8	-	-	27,437
2010	10,873	44.1	13,782	55.9	-	-	24,655
2011	9,333	44.0	11,882	56.0	-	-	21,215
2012	9,117	47.2	10,200	52.8	-	-	19,317

(a) Includes Wife (Age) Pension payments administered by DVA. For some years, Wife (Age) Pensions paid through DVA are captured in Age Pension figures.

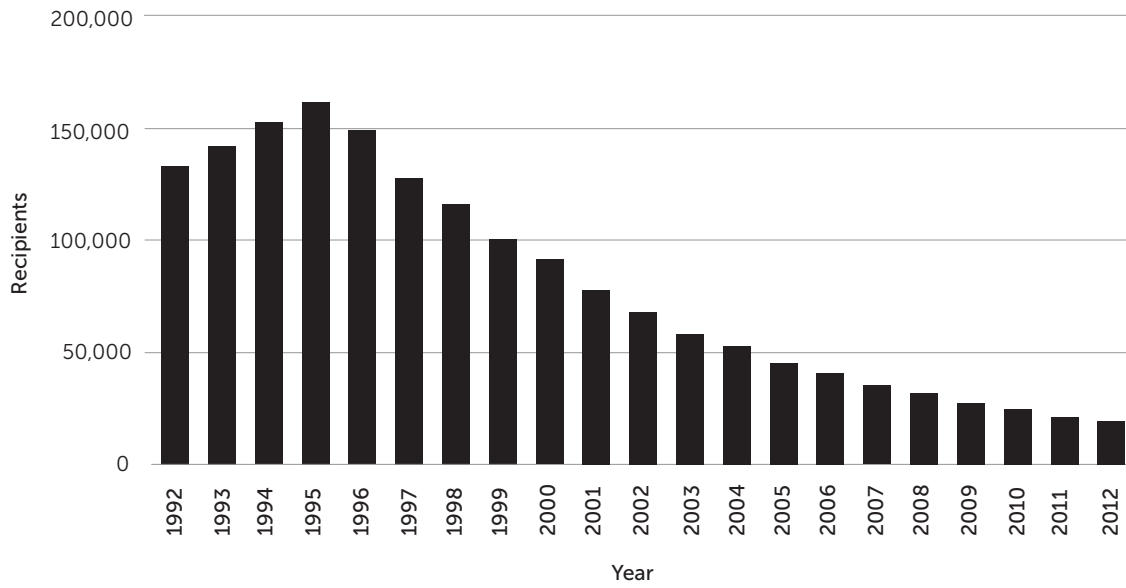
(b) Rehabilitation Allowance began in March 1983 and was phased out in November 1991 as part of the Disability Reform Package. Rehabilitation Allowance recipients continue on the payment until their program is completed.

(c) Excludes Wife Disability Wage Supplement. From 1 January 1998, there were no further grants of Disability Wage Supplement.

Note: '-' = not applicable.

Source: DHS administrative data.

Figure 5: Wife Pension recipients, June 1992 to June 2012



Note: Includes Wife (Age) Pension payments administered by DVA. For some years, Wife (Age) Pensions paid through DVA are captured in Age Pension figures. Excludes Wife Disability Wage Supplement. From 1 January 1998, there were no further grants of Disability Wage Supplement.

Source: DHS administrative data.

Table 15: Wife Pension recipients, characteristics by pension type, June 2012

Characteristics	Age Pension ^(a)		Disability Support Pension		Total ^(b)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	9,082	47.1	10,200	52.9	19,282	100.0
Age (years)						
<50	229	2.5	1,596	15.7	1,825	9.5
50–59	2,595	28.6	5,629	55.2	8,224	42.7
60–64	5,272	58.0	2,727	26.7	7,999	41.5
≥65	986	10.9	248	2.4	1,234	6.4
Marital status ^(c)						
Married/de facto	9,016	99.3	10,168	99.7	19,184	99.5
Single/separated/divorced/widowed	66	0.7	32	0.3	98	0.5
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	4,075	44.9	6,629	65.0	10,704	55.5
Lebanon	604	6.7	505	5.0	1,109	5.8
United Kingdom	377	4.2	524	5.1	901	4.7
Italy	641	7.1	241	2.4	882	4.6
Phillipines	690	7.6	161	1.6	851	4.4
Other	2,695	29.7	2,140	21.0	4,835	25.1
Home ownership						
Home owner	6,585	72.5	6,587	64.6	13,172	68.3
Non-home owner	2,497	27.5	3,613	35.4	6,110	31.7
Rate						
Full rate	7,156	78.8	7,133	69.9	14,289	74.1
Part rate	1,926	21.2	3,067	30.1	4,993	25.9
Paid under						
Income test ^(d)						
Single	203	2.2	32	0.3	235	1.2
Partnered	8,648	95.2	9,959	97.6	18,607	96.5
Assets test ^(d)						
Home owners	219	2.4	195	1.9	414	2.1
Non-home owners	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Not coded ^(e)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.

(a) Excludes 35 Wife (Age) Pension payments administered by DVA.

(b) 'Total' percentages based on combined 'Age' and 'Disability' payments.

(c) Occurrences of 'single' wife pensioners can be attributed to rules that state that if the loss of the survivor's entitlement occurs as a result of the partner's death they can continue to temporarily remain qualified for Wife Pension for up to 14 weeks after the partner's death.

(d) All pensioners paid a full rate of pension are classified as income tested and included in the 'paid under income test' category. Wife Pension can be paid at the single pension rate if the couple is living apart because of ill health—the 'partnered' income and assets tests still apply.

(e) At least one of the variables required to determine the recipient's income or assets test category was not coded (that is, partnership category, home ownership type or whether income or assets tested).

Note: Wife pensioners over age 65 years are most likely to be women who are not residentially qualified for Age Pension in their own right (that is, women who have been on Wife Pension since before 1 July 1995 but have not been an Australian resident for 10 years).

n.p. = 'not published'. See 'Confidentiality' on page 1.

Source: DHS administrative data.

Table 16: Wife Pension recipients by state/territory and pension type, June 2012

State/territory	Age Pension ^(a)		Disability Support Pension		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
New South Wales	3,038	48.7	3,202	51.3	6,240	32.4
Victoria	2,176	50.5	2,132	49.5	4,308	22.3
Queensland	1,561	43.5	2,024	56.5	3,585	18.6
Western Australia	716	44.1	909	55.9	1,625	8.4
South Australia	812	45.8	961	54.2	1,773	9.2
Tasmania	308	41.5	434	58.5	742	3.8
Australian Capital Territory	49	54.4	41	45.6	90	0.5
Northern Territory	29	52.7	26	47.3	55	0.3
Other ^(b)	393	45.5	471	54.5	864	4.5
Total	9,082	47.1	10,200	52.9	19,282	100.0

(a) Excludes 35 Wife (Age) Pension payments administered by DVA.

(b) Includes all overseas pensioners, regardless of their length of stay overseas.

Source: DHS administrative data.

2.6 Carer Payment

Carer Payment is for carers who provide full-time care in the home of the person(s) being cared for, and who, because of the demands of their caring role, are unable to support themselves by participating substantially in the workforce.

To qualify for Carer Payment, a person must be caring for someone who has a severe disability or medical condition and who is:

- > receiving a social security or a Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) income support payment, or
- > not receiving payment solely for reasons of lack of sufficient period of residence in Australia, or
- > not receiving a social security or a DVA income support payment but satisfying the special care receiver income and assets tests.

The person claiming must:

- > be personally providing constant care to a care receiver who satisfies eligibility requirements
- > not be in receipt of any other income support payment, and
- > be in Australia at the time the care is given and be a permanent resident of Australia.

A care receiver satisfies the eligibility requirements if they:

- > have a physical, intellectual or psychiatric disability, and
- > are a person who is being provided with constant care, and
- > are likely to suffer from that disability permanently or for an extended period, and
- > have been assessed, rated and given a score of at least 25 using the Adult Disability Assessment Tool (ADAT), or
- > have been assessed, rated and given a score of at least 20 using the ADAT, and have a Carer Allowance child under the age of 16 years or a child under the age of 6 years, or
- > are a child that has been assessed under the Disability Care Load assessment as requiring an intense level of care.

Eligibility for Carer Payment for carers of children under 16 years of age was introduced on 1 July 1998.

From 1 July 2009, Carer Payment (Child) assessment changed to being assessed under the Disability Care Load Assessment and the following categories are now covered:

- > a child with severe disability or severe medical condition, or
- > two or more children with disability or medical condition, or
- > a disabled adult and one or more children each with a disability or medical condition, or
- > a child with severe disability or severe medical condition on a short term or episodic basis, or
- > a profoundly disabled child or a disabled child (continuing to qualify for a payment under previous legislation (prior to 1 July 2009)).

Prior to 1 July 1997, Carer Payment was known as Carer Pension.

Table 17: Carer Payment recipients by payment type of care receiver, June 1992 to June 2012

As at June	Age Pension		Disability Support Pension		Other ^(a)		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
1992	5,574	44.1	6,790	53.8	267	2.1	12,631
1993	6,507	43.3	8,056	53.5	482	3.2	15,045
1994	7,441	42.0	9,450	53.4	808	4.6	17,699
1995	8,324	41.4	10,633	52.9	1,141	5.7	20,098
1996	9,500	37.9	13,483	53.9	2,054	8.2	25,037
1997	10,954	37.1	15,735	53.2	2,869	9.7	29,558
1998	11,740	34.6	18,556	54.6	3,683	10.8	33,979
1999	13,407	33.5	21,392	53.4	5,271	13.2	40,070
2000	15,346	32.3	24,500	51.5	7,704	16.2	47,550
2001	18,097	31.6	28,171	49.3	10,922	19.1	57,190
2002 ^(b)	-	-	-	-	-	-	67,260
2003	-	-	-	-	-	-	75,937
2004	-	-	-	-	-	-	84,082
2005	-	-	-	-	-	-	95,446
2006	-	-	-	-	-	-	105,058
2007	-	-	-	-	-	-	116,614
2008	-	-	-	-	-	-	130,657
2009	-	-	-	-	-	-	146,870
2010	-	-	-	-	-	-	168,913
2011	-	-	-	-	-	-	186,065
2012	-	-	-	-	-	-	205,565

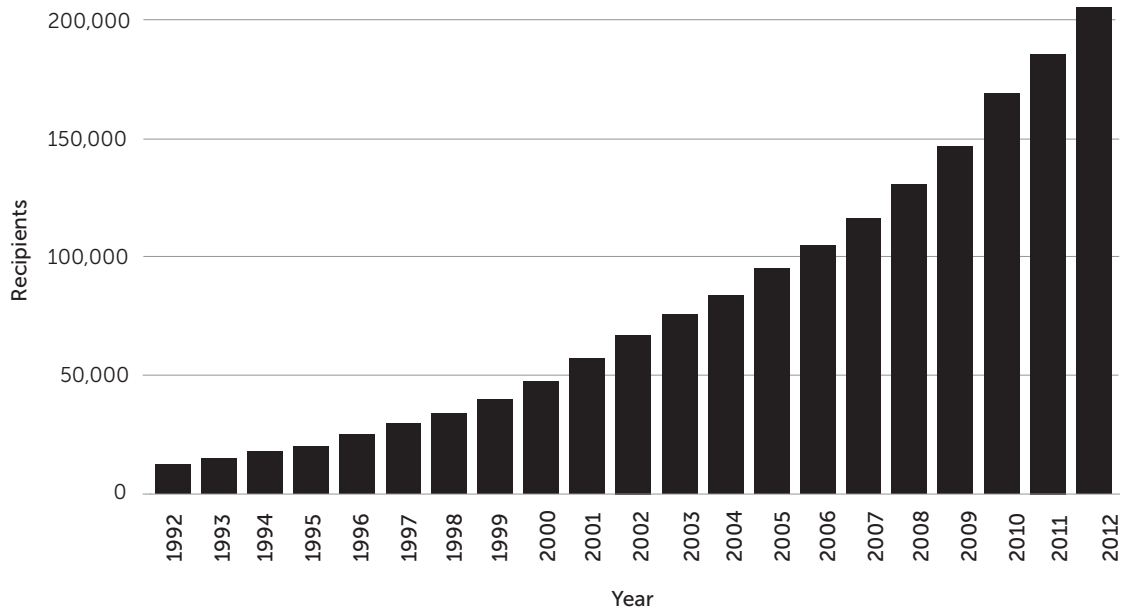
(a) Includes those caring for a person on a DSS payment other than Age Pension or Disability Support Pension. It also includes those caring for a person not on a DSS payment.

(b) Figures by pension type are not available from 2002.

Note: '-' = not applicable.

Source: DHS administrative data.

Figure 6: Carer Payment recipients, June 1992 to June 2012



Note: Includes those caring for a person on a DSS payment other than Age Pension or Disability Support Pension. It also includes those caring for a person not on a DSS payment.

Source: DHS administrative data.

Table 18: Carer Payment recipients, characteristics by sex, June 2012

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	63,641	31.0	141,924	69.0	205,565	100.0
Age (years)						
<20	916	1.4	1,309	0.9	2,225	1.1
20–29	5,348	8.4	9,163	6.5	14,511	7.1
30–39	7,680	12.1	19,020	13.4	26,700	13.0
40–49	13,079	20.6	32,799	23.1	45,878	22.3
50–59	16,026	25.2	41,222	29.0	57,248	27.8
60–64	10,027	15.8	23,784	16.8	33,811	16.4
≥65	10,565	16.6	14,627	10.3	25,192	12.3
Marital status						
Married/de facto	37,574	59.0	87,516	61.7	125,090	60.9
Single/separated/divorced/widowed	26,067	41.0	54,408	38.3	80,475	39.1
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	40,914	64.3	89,784	63.3	130,698	63.6
United Kingdom	3,576	5.6	6,128	4.3	9,704	4.7
Lebanon	1,705	2.7	5,142	3.6	6,847	3.3
Iraq	2,867	4.5	3,937	2.8	6,804	3.3
Vietnam	1,388	2.2	4,340	3.1	5,728	2.8
Other ^(a)	13,191	20.7	32,593	23.0	45,784	22.3
Home ownership						
Home owner	23,917	37.6	66,636	47.0	90,553	44.1
Non-home owner	39,724	62.4	75,288	53.0	115,012	55.9
Rate ^(b)						
Full rate	-	-	-	-	153,306	74.6
Part rate	-	-	-	-	52,259	25.4
Paid under income test						
Single	25,319	39.8	53,216	37.5	78,535	38.2
Partnered	35,494	55.8	82,119	57.9	117,613	57.2
Home owner paid under assets test						
Single	221	0.3	624	0.4	845	0.4
Partnered	1,598	2.5	4,088	2.9	5,686	2.8
Non-home owner paid under assets test	164	0.3	258	0.2	422	0.2
Income/assets test not coded ^(c)	845	1.3	1,619	1.1	2,464	1.2
Duration ^(d)						
<1 year	11,260	17.7	22,556	15.9	33,816	16.5
1 to <2 years	10,206	16.0	21,919	15.4	32,125	15.6
2 to <3 years	8,130	12.8	18,702	13.2	26,832	13.1
3 to <4 years	6,750	10.6	15,694	11.1	22,444	10.9
4 to <5 years	4,537	7.1	12,192	8.6	16,729	8.1
5 to <10 years	14,529	22.8	35,510	25.0	50,039	24.3
≥10 years	8,229	12.9	15,351	10.8	23,580	11.5
Mean (weeks)	244.5		236.5		239.0	
Median (weeks)	164.7		173.3		173.3	

(a) Includes any unknown country of birth.

(b) Full/part rate recipient counts unavailable due to data integrity issues with the data source. Overall percentage breakdown for 'Total' derived from the DSS Annual Report.

(c) At least one of the variables required to determine the customer's assets test category was not coded (that is, partnership category, home ownership type or whether income or assets tested).

(d) Duration is measured from the income support start date.

Note: '-' = not applicable.

Source: DHS administrative data.

Table 19: Carer Payment recipients by state/territory and sex, June 2012

State/territory	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
New South Wales	25,079	31.5	54,568	68.5	79,647	38.7
Victoria	15,567	30.0	36,392	70.0	51,959	25.3
Queensland	11,183	30.1	26,012	69.9	37,195	18.1
Western Australia	3,467	29.5	8,270	70.5	11,737	5.7
South Australia	5,179	33.9	10,108	66.1	15,287	7.4
Tasmania	2,479	33.8	4,845	66.2	7,324	3.6
Australian Capital Territory	360	33.5	716	66.5	1,076	0.5
Northern Territory	275	23.5	895	76.5	1,170	0.6
Other ^(a)	52	30.6	118	69.4	170	0.1
Total	63,641	31.0	141,924	69.0	205,565	100.0

(a) Includes unknown postcodes and overseas recipients.

Source: DHS administrative data.

2.7 Carer Allowance

Carer Allowance is a supplementary payment available to people who provide daily care and attention for adults or children with a disability or severe medical condition.

Carer Allowance was introduced on 1 July 1999. It combined Child Disability Allowance with Domiciliary Nursing Care Benefit (the latter of which was the responsibility of the Health and Aged Care portfolio).

From 1 July 2010 the Carer Allowance (child) assessment, applicable to children under 16 years, changed to assessment under the Disability Care Load Assessment (DCLA). The DCLA, introduced for Carer Payment (child) from 1 July 2009, recognises and assesses the level of care provided by the carer and required by the child.

Carer Allowance may be paid for up to two adults who receive daily care and attention, and/or any number of dependent children with a disability or severe medical condition. The carer or parent may be eligible to receive a fortnightly payment of Carer Allowance for each eligible person in their care.

People caring for two children with disabilities, who individually fall just below the qualification for Carer Allowance but whose combined assessment using the DCLA meets the threshold for payment, will receive a single rate of Carer Allowance.

People who were entitled to Child Disability Allowance on 30 June 1998 were eligible for Carer Allowance until 30 June 2003, providing their circumstances did not change, and were not subject to Centrelink-initiated medical reviews during that period. These recipients were subject to review against the current eligibility criteria from 1 July 2003.

All Domiciliary Nursing Care Benefit recipients as at 30 June 1999 were automatically transferred to Carer Allowance (Adult) on 1 July 1999 when the new Carer Allowance was introduced.

The person claiming must:

- > be personally providing daily care to a care receiver who satisfies eligibility requirements, and
- > provide care and attention in a private home, or participate in the provision of care and attention given to the care receiver during a period of temporary hospitalisation, and
- > provide at least 20 hours per week of personal care on a daily basis if not residing with the care receiver, and
- > be in Australia at the time the care is given and be a permanent resident of Australia.

A care receiver satisfies the eligibility requirements if they are:

- > aged 16 years or over with a disability that causes a substantial functional impairment as assessed using the Adult Disability Assessment Tool (ADAT), or
- > a dependent child aged under 16 years:
 - with a disability or medical condition that is included in the list of disabilities or conditions that result in automatic qualification, or
 - assessed using the DCLA as functioning at a level below the standard expected for his or her age, and
 - living with the claimant, and
- > an Australian resident, living with the claimant and likely to suffer from the disability permanently or for an extended period of at least 12 months (unless their condition is terminal).

In respect of a child care receiver only, a person can get either:

- > a fortnightly payment plus a Health Care Card, or
- > a Health Care Card.

Carer Allowance is neither income nor assets tested.

Table 20: Carer Allowance recipients by carer type, June 1992 to June 2012

As at June	Child	Adult ^(a)	Adult and child	Total
1992	50,797	-	-	50,797
1993	61,174	-	-	61,174
1994	69,693	-	-	69,693
1995	78,898	-	-	78,898
1996	90,644	-	-	90,644
1997	95,520	-	-	95,520
1998	90,830	-	-	90,830
1999	100,452	-	-	100,452
2000 ^(b)	116,955	84,104	-	201,059
2001	111,691	121,755	1,595	235,041
2002	115,404	154,425	2,216	272,045
2003	119,003	177,862	2,744	299,609
2004 ^(c)	96,153	198,598	2,856	297,607
2005	102,535	233,859	3,611	340,005
2006	106,622	256,107	4,231	366,960
2007	109,118	279,243	4,902	393,263
2008	113,549	303,661	5,695	422,905
2009	120,090	334,511	6,485	461,086
2010	126,315	362,185	7,233	495,733
2011	127,698	385,354	7,981	521,033
2012	131,238	409,946	8,454	549,638

(a) From 2002, includes recipients not coded by carer type.

(b) Estimates for 2000 were derived from a different DHS data source. Caution should be exercised when utilising data for 2000 in conjunction with historical data and data from 2001 onwards.

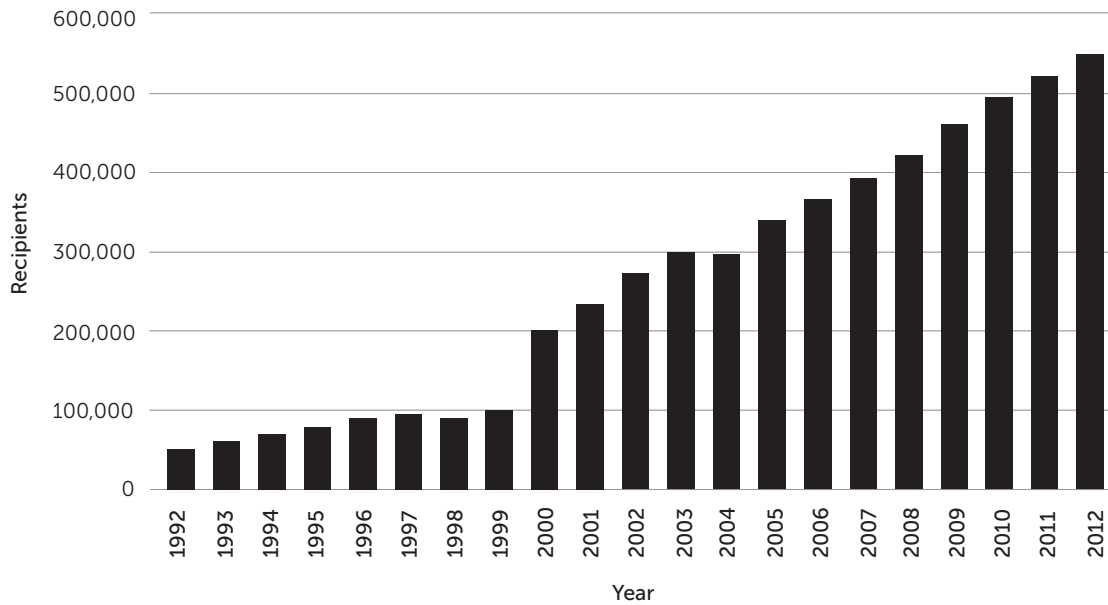
(c) 2004 reduction was due to cessation of saved (grandfathered) ex Child Disability Allowance recipients.

Notes: Carer Allowance was introduced on 1 July 1999. It combined Child Disability Allowance with Domiciliary Nursing Care Benefit (the latter of which was the responsibility of the Health and Aged Care portfolio). Excludes Health Care Card only customers.

'-' = not applicable.

Source: DHS administrative data.

Figure 7: Carer Allowance recipients, June 1992 to June 2012



Note: Carer Allowance was introduced on 1 July 1999. It combined Child Disability Allowance with Domiciliary Nursing Care Benefit (the latter of which was the responsibility of the Health and Aged Care portfolio). Excludes Health Care Card only customers. Estimates for 2000 were derived from a different DHS data source. Caution should be exercised when utilising data for 2000 in conjunction with historical data and data from 2001 onwards.

Source: DHS administrative data.

Table 21: Carer Allowance recipients, characteristics by sex, June 2012

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	143,639	26.1	405,999	73.9	549,638	100.0
Age (years)						
<20	1,242	0.9	1,886	0.5	3,128	0.6
20–29	6,596	4.6	19,635	4.8	26,231	4.8
30–39	11,943	8.3	70,094	17.3	82,037	14.9
40–49	22,139	15.4	99,723	24.6	121,862	22.2
50–59	26,630	18.5	82,407	20.3	109,037	19.8
60–69	31,657	22.0	78,047	19.2	109,704	20.0
70–79	27,354	19.0	40,318	9.9	67,672	12.3
≥80	16,078	11.2	13,889	3.4	29,967	5.5
Marital status						
Married/de facto	101,225	70.5	283,307	69.8	384,532	70.0
Single/separated/divorced/widowed	42,414	29.5	122,692	30.2	165,106	30.0
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	90,074	62.7	282,821	69.7	372,895	67.8
United Kingdom	10,185	7.1	20,728	5.1	30,913	5.6
Italy	5,264	3.7	8,659	2.1	13,923	2.5
Greece	4,209	2.9	6,616	1.6	10,825	2.0
Lebanon	2,387	1.7	7,739	1.9	10,126	1.8
Other	31,520	21.9	79,436	19.6	110,956	20.2
Duration ^(a)						
<1 year	24,069	16.8	51,065	12.6	75,134	13.7
1 to <2 years	23,224	16.2	54,100	13.3	77,324	14.1
2 to <3 years	17,942	12.5	47,097	11.6	65,039	11.8
3 to <4 years	16,463	11.5	44,379	10.9	60,842	11.1
4 to <5 years	11,309	7.9	33,831	8.3	45,140	8.2
5 to <10 years	36,159	25.2	113,804	28.0	149,963	27.3
≥10 years	14,473	10.1	61,723	15.2	76,196	13.9
Mean (weeks)	225.0		268.3		257.0	
Median (weeks)	169.0		212.3		199.3	

(a) Duration is measured from the allowance start date.

Note: Excludes 21,200 customers who receive a Health Care Card only.

Source: DHS administrative data.

Table 22: Carer Allowance recipients by state/territory and carer type, June 2012

State/territory	Child ^(a)		Adult ^(b)		Adult and child		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
New South Wales	43,306	33.0	146,938	35.8	3,172	37.5	193,416	35.2
Victoria	35,137	26.8	109,680	26.8	2,184	25.8	147,001	26.7
Queensland	25,975	19.8	75,508	18.4	1,556	18.4	103,039	18.7
Western Australia	10,102	7.7	27,192	6.6	443	5.2	37,737	6.9
South Australia	11,018	8.4	33,160	8.1	729	8.6	44,907	8.2
Tasmania	3,129	2.4	12,247	3.0	279	3.3	15,655	2.8
Australian Capital Territory	1,708	1.3	3,246	0.8	66	0.8	5,020	0.9
Northern Territory	n.p.	n.p.	1,862	0.5	n.p.	n.p.	2,703	0.5
Other ^(c)	n.p.	n.p.	113	0.0	n.p.	n.p.	160	0.0
Total	131,238	100.0	409,946	100.0	8,454	100.0	549,638	100.0

(a) Excludes 21,200 customers who receive a Health Care Card only.

(b) Includes 79 recipients not coded by carer type.

(c) Includes overseas payments, unknown state/territory and invalid postcodes.

Note: n.p. = 'not published'. See 'Confidentiality' on page 1.

Source: DHS administrative data.

3 Student- and labour market-related payments

3.1 Austudy

Austudy is a means-tested, fortnightly payment for students aged 25 years and over who are undertaking full-time qualifying study (in an approved course at an approved educational institution) or undertaking a full-time Australian Apprenticeship. Austudy was introduced in 1998, replacing the program formerly known as AUSTUDY.

Courses are approved by the Minister for Tertiary Education. Most higher education and Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses, including some masters by coursework programs, are approved courses for student payments. Other masters courses and doctorate level courses are not approved courses for Austudy.

Apprentices must be full-time and have a current Commonwealth Registration Identification number.

Austudy is subject to personal and partner (if applicable) means testing and to residence requirements.

Table 23: Austudy recipients, characteristics by sex, June 2012

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	19,942	48.6	21,100	51.4	41,042	100.0
Age (years)						
25–29	9,039	45.3	9,044	42.9	18,083	44.1
30–34	4,613	23.1	3,807	18.0	8,420	20.5
35–39	2,674	13.4	2,404	11.4	5,078	12.4
40–44	1,555	7.8	2,111	10.0	3,666	8.9
45–49	963	4.8	1,717	8.1	2,680	6.5
50–54	593	3.0	1,266	6.0	1,859	4.5
55–59	363	1.8	574	2.7	937	2.3
≥60	142	0.7	177	0.8	319	0.8
Marital status						
Single or partnered (no child)	15,883	79.6	16,461	78.0	32,344	78.8
Single with children	378	1.9	2,426	11.5	2,804	6.8
Partnered with children	3,681	18.5	2,213	10.5	5,894	14.4
Duration ^(a)						
<3 months	1,377	6.9	1,597	7.6	2,974	7.2
3 to <6 months	4,117	20.6	4,527	21.5	8,644	21.1
6 to <9 months	1,027	5.1	1,105	5.2	2,132	5.2
9 months to <1 year	1,353	6.8	1,316	6.2	2,669	6.5
1 to <2 years	4,726	23.7	4,838	22.9	9,564	23.3
2 to <3 years	3,026	15.2	2,972	14.1	5,998	14.6
≥3 years	4,316	21.6	4,745	22.5	9,061	22.1
Mean (weeks)	107.1		127.6		117.6	
Median (weeks)	70.0		70.0		70.0	
Income (\$ per week) ^(b)						
Nil	15,159	76.0	14,366	68.1	29,525	71.9
0.01–118.00	1,097	5.5	1,604	7.6	2,701	6.6
>118.00	3,686	18.5	5,130	24.3	8,816	21.5
Study level						
Secondary	285	1.4	206	1.0	491	1.2
Tertiary Group A	988	5.0	1,140	5.4	2,128	5.2
Tertiary Group B	11,421	57.3	11,140	52.8	22,561	55.0
Tertiary Group C	2,331	11.7	2,951	14.0	5,282	12.9
Tertiary Group D	2,634	13.2	3,250	15.4	5,884	14.3
Other	1,743	8.7	1,989	9.4	3,732	9.1
Not recorded	540	2.7	424	2.0	964	2.3

(a) Duration is measured from the income support start date. For recipients who previously received AUSTUDY, this duration would have been reset when Austudy was introduced and their durations may be underestimated.

(b) Income is defined as earned income.

Note: Customer numbers include 1,389 people whose last fortnightly payment prior to the end of June 2012 was nil due to their own or partner's income. Tertiary Group 'A' refers to postgraduate bachelor degrees or postgraduate/graduate diplomas. Tertiary Group 'B' refers to undergraduate bachelor degrees. Tertiary Group 'C' refers to associate diplomas/degrees and TAFE diplomas that require completion of Year 12 for entry, or two-year undergraduate diploma and certificate courses. Tertiary Group 'D' refers to certificate courses. Table figures show recipient numbers at the end of June 2012 and are not comparable to Annual Report published figures, which are annual averages.

Source: DHS administrative data.

Table 24: Austudy recipients by state/territory and sex, June 2012

State/territory	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
New South Wales	6,303	48.6	6,659	51.4	12,962	31.6
Victoria	5,767	48.4	6,156	51.6	11,923	29.1
Queensland	3,608	46.4	4,168	53.6	7,776	18.9
Western Australia	1,483	48.2	1,593	51.8	3,076	7.5
South Australia	1,794	52.8	1,605	47.2	3,399	8.3
Tasmania	576	50.6	563	49.4	1,139	2.8
Australian Capital Territory	336	56.9	254	43.1	590	1.4
Northern Territory	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	136	0.3
Other ^(a)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	41	0.1
Total	19,942	48.6	21,100	51.4	41,042	100.0

(a) Includes unspecified state/territory.

Note: Customer numbers include 1,389 people whose last fortnightly payment prior to the end of June 2012 was nil due to their own or partner's income. Table figures show recipient numbers at the end of June 2012 and are not comparable to Annual Report published figures, which are annual averages.

'n.p.' = not published. See 'Confidentiality' on page 1.

Source: DHS administrative data.

3.2 ABSTUDY scheme

The ABSTUDY scheme is an ongoing special measure to assist in addressing the educational disadvantages of Indigenous Australians. It provides a means-tested living allowance and a range of supplementary benefits for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander full-time students and apprentices. Some supplementary benefits are available to part-time students. Assistance based on the Australian Postgraduate Awards model is also provided for students to undertake higher degrees at the masters and doctorate levels.

The main objectives of the ABSTUDY scheme are to:

- > encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to take full advantage of the educational opportunities available
- > promote equity of educational opportunity, and
- > improve educational outcomes.

The recipient must be enrolled in an approved course or apprenticeship, and not receive any other government assistance to study.

Table 25: ABSTUDY scheme customers, characteristics by sex, June 2012

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	17,012	47.3	18,930	52.7	35,942	100.0
Age (years)						
≤12	1,291	7.6	1,396	7.4	2,687	7.5
13	2,723	16.0	2,733	14.4	5,456	15.2
14	3,007	17.7	2,832	15.0	5,839	16.2
15	2,831	16.6	2,620	13.8	5,451	15.2
16	1,507	8.9	1,451	7.7	2,958	8.2
17	1,627	9.6	1,675	8.8	3,302	9.2
18	678	4.0	853	4.5	1,531	4.3
19	390	2.3	541	2.9	931	2.6
20	287	1.7	417	2.2	704	2.0
≥21	2,671	15.7	4,412	23.3	7,083	19.7
Marital status						
Married/de facto	805	4.7	1,511	8.0	2,316	6.4
Single/separated/divorced/ widowed	16,207	95.3	17,419	92.0	33,626	93.6
Duration ^(a)						
<3 months	954	5.6	1,112	5.9	2,066	5.7
3 to <6 months	5,878	34.6	6,885	36.4	12,763	35.5
6 to <9 months	586	3.4	614	3.2	1,200	3.3
9 months to <1 year	813	4.8	973	5.1	1,786	5.0
1 to <2 years	5,114	30.1	5,405	28.6	10,519	29.3
2 to <3 years	2,499	14.7	2,605	13.8	5,104	14.2
≥3 years	1,168	6.9	1,336	7.1	2,504	7.0
Mean (weeks)	66.9		64.9		65.9	
Median (weeks)	54.5		50.0		52.0	
Income (\$ per week) ^(b)						
Nil	16,311	95.9	17,577	92.9	33,888	94.3
0.01–118.00	192	1.1	391	2.1	583	1.6
>118.00	509	3.0	962	5.1	1,471	4.1
Study level						
Secondary	13,263	78.0	12,945	68.4	26,208	72.9
Tertiary	3,120	18.3	5,620	29.7	8,740	24.3
Other	629	3.7	365	1.9	994	2.8
Student status						
Full-time	15,663	92.1	17,103	90.3	32,766	91.2
Part-time ^(c)	1,349	7.9	1,827	9.7	3,176	8.8

(a) Duration is measured from the ABSTUDY start date.

(b) Income is defined as earned income.

(c) Includes concessional and other student status categories.

Note: Table figures are not comparable to Annual Report published figures due to a different attribution of student income support recipient data.

Source: DHS administrative data.

Table 26: ABSTUDY scheme customers by state/territory and sex, June 2012

State/territory ^(a)	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
New South Wales	6,261	47.4	6,957	52.6	13,218	36.8
Victoria	1,070	45.0	1,310	55.0	2,380	6.6
Queensland	4,714	47.3	5,245	52.7	9,959	27.7
Western Australia	1,892	50.0	1,894	50.0	3,786	10.5
South Australia	899	44.5	1,122	55.5	2,021	5.6
Tasmania	420	46.6	481	53.4	901	2.5
Australian Capital Territory	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	279	0.8
Northern Territory	1,608	47.7	1,766	52.3	3,374	9.4
Other ^(b)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	24	0.1
Total	17,012	47.3	18,930	52.7	35,942	100.0

(a) State/territory is the home or residential state/territory of the scheme participant. Participants may be attending an educational institution in a state/territory other than their home state/territory.

(b) Includes unspecified state/territory.

Notes: Table figures are not comparable to Annual Report published figures due to a different attribution of student income support recipient data.

'n.p.' = not published. See 'Confidentiality' on page 1.

Source: DHS administrative data.

3.3 Youth Allowance

Introduced on 1 July 1998, Youth Allowance (student) replaced AUSTUDY for full-time students under 25 years and Youth Allowance (other) replaced Sickness Allowance, Youth Training Allowance and Newstart Allowance for young people under 21 years (increased to under 22 years from 1 July 2012) who are temporarily incapacitated or unemployed and looking for work.

These changes were introduced in response to concerns from the community about the need for income support arrangements that address changing labour market conditions, the need for increased flexibility and simplicity, and the removal of disincentives to study.

From 1 January 2012, family assistance payments became the primary form of government support for dependent full-time secondary students aged 16–19 years who live at home, until they finish school. Youth Allowance then provides ongoing support to young people as they finish school and progress to further education and training.

Young people aged 16 to 20 years who are unemployed or aged 16 to 25 years (15 years if considered independent) and undertaking full-time studies in an approved course, or a combination of approved activities such as part-time work and part-time study, are eligible for Youth Allowance.

A parental means test applies unless the recipient is assessed as independent. All students aged 22 years and older are considered independent for Youth Allowance purposes. Independence for Youth Allowance can be obtained in a number of ways, including through minimum levels of prior workforce participation; marital status; or determination by a DHS social worker that it is unreasonable for the young person to live at home. Single, dependent young people receive the 'at home' rate of payment unless they live apart from their parent(s) for approved reasons.

Residence and activity test requirements apply.

Table 27: Youth Allowance (student) recipients, characteristics by sex, June 2012

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	121,979	44.9	149,493	55.1	271,472	100.0
Age (years)						
15	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	48	0.0
16	8,328	6.8	8,809	5.9	17,137	6.3
17	21,800	17.9	23,842	15.9	45,642	16.8
18	18,517	15.2	22,828	15.3	41,345	15.2
19	15,582	12.8	20,695	13.8	36,277	13.4
20	13,544	11.1	18,201	12.2	31,745	11.7
21	12,034	9.9	16,238	10.9	28,272	10.4
22	12,533	10.3	16,134	10.8	28,667	10.6
23	8,774	7.2	10,708	7.2	19,482	7.2
24	6,158	5.0	7,120	4.8	13,278	4.9
≥25	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	9,579	3.5
Rate						
At home	62,521	51.3	69,702	46.6	132,223	48.7
Away from home or couple	59,458	48.7	79,791	53.4	139,249	51.3
Independent	46,420	38.1	60,431	40.4	106,851	39.4
Dependent	75,559	61.9	89,062	59.6	164,621	60.6
Duration ^(a)						
<3 months	5,522	4.5	6,543	4.4	12,065	4.4
3 to <6 months	16,785	13.8	21,993	14.7	38,778	14.3
6 to <9 months	6,839	5.6	7,617	5.1	14,456	5.3
9 months to <1 year	9,368	7.7	10,516	7.0	19,884	7.3
1 to <2 years	37,511	30.8	44,421	29.7	81,932	30.2
2 to <3 years	22,836	18.7	28,826	19.3	51,662	19.0
≥3 years	23,118	19.0	29,577	19.8	52,695	19.4
Mean (weeks)	97.0		98.1		97.6	
Median (weeks)	78.0		79.0		79.0	
Income (\$ per week) ^(b)						
Nil	90,031	73.8	95,191	63.7	185,222	68.2
0.01–118.00	10,309	8.5	17,686	11.8	27,995	10.3
>118.00	21,639	17.7	36,616	24.5	58,255	21.5
Study level						
Secondary	35,936	29.5	36,986	24.7	72,922	26.9
Tertiary Group A	1,425	1.2	2,262	1.5	3,687	1.4
Tertiary Group B	63,118	51.7	84,964	56.8	148,082	54.5
Tertiary Group C	6,280	5.1	7,829	5.2	14,109	5.2
Tertiary Group D	8,148	6.7	10,704	7.2	18,852	6.9
Apprentices/other	6,398	5.2	5,850	3.9	12,248	4.5
Not recorded	674	0.6	898	0.6	1,572	0.6

(a) Duration is measured from the income support start date.

(b) Income is defined as earned income.

Notes: Data include 6,943 customers whose last fortnightly payment prior to the end of June 2012 was nil due to their own or partner's income. These data also include 4,911 apprentices. Table figures show recipient numbers at the end of June 2012 and are not comparable to Annual Report published figures which are annual averages.

Tertiary Group 'A' refers to postgraduate bachelor degrees or postgraduate/graduate diplomas. Tertiary Group 'B' refers to undergraduate bachelor degrees. Tertiary Group 'C' refers to associate diplomas/degrees and TAFE diplomas that require completion of Year 12 for entry, or two-year undergraduate diploma and certificate courses. Tertiary Group 'D' refers to certificate courses.

'n.p.' = not published. See 'Confidentiality' on page 1.

Source: DHS administrative data.

Table 28: Youth Allowance (other) recipients, characteristics by sex, June 2012

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	43,835	52.3	39,967	47.7	83,802	100.0
Age (years)						
15	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
16	1,859	4.2	1,835	4.6	3,694	4.4
17	5,894	13.4	5,890	14.7	11,784	14.1
18	11,694	26.7	11,241	28.1	22,935	27.4
19	12,576	28.7	11,338	28.4	23,914	28.5
20	11,735	26.8	9,570	23.9	21,305	25.4
≥21	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Rate						
At home	22,513	51.4	18,260	45.7	40,773	48.7
Away from home or couple	21,322	48.6	21,707	54.3	43,029	51.3
Independent	17,921	40.9	17,701	44.3	35,622	42.5
Dependent	25,914	59.1	22,266	55.7	48,180	57.5
Duration ^(a)						
<3 months	6,436	14.7	4,531	11.3	10,967	13.1
3 to <6 months	6,441	14.7	5,114	12.8	11,555	13.8
6 to <9 months	3,338	7.6	2,817	7.0	6,155	7.3
9 months to <1 year	2,723	6.2	2,427	6.1	5,150	6.1
1 to <2 years	9,554	21.8	9,354	23.4	18,908	22.6
2 to <3 years	7,906	18.0	8,027	20.1	15,933	19.0
≥3 years	7,437	17.0	7,697	19.3	15,134	18.1
Mean (weeks)	82.5		90.3		86.2	
Median (weeks)	68.0		80.0		73.0	
Income (\$ per week) ^(b)						
Nil	38,066	86.8	31,584	79.0	69,650	83.1
0.01–31.00	245	0.6	351	0.9	596	0.7
31.01–118.00	1,653	3.8	2,364	5.9	4,017	4.8
>118.00	3,871	8.8	5,668	14.2	9,539	11.4
Main activity type						
Jobsearch	14,363	32.8	14,392	36.0	28,755	34.3
Incapacitated	1,346	3.1	1,450	3.6	2,796	3.3
Work for dole	573	1.3	319	0.8	892	1.1
CDEP participant	74	0.2	29	0.1	103	0.1
Other	27,479	62.7	23,777	59.5	51,256	61.2

(a) Duration is measured from the income support start date. This may include periods on Youth Allowance as a full-time student.

(b) Income is defined as earned income.

Notes: Data include 2,649 customers who received a nil rate of payment due to their own or partner's income. The table figures also include 103 Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) participants who received a nil rate of basic Youth Allowance but received CDEP Supplement.

'n.p.' = not published. See 'Confidentiality' on page 1.

Source: DHS administrative data.

3.4 Newstart Allowance

Newstart Allowance is available to people aged between 21 years (22 years from 1 July 2012) and Age Pension age who are unemployed, or treated as unemployed, and are:

- > looking for work, or
- > participating in approved activities designed to facilitate entry into employment, or
- > exempt from activity requirements, or
- > undertaking sufficient work for their circumstances.

In most circumstances, eligibility to receive Newstart Allowance requires a person to enter into an Employment Pathway Plan with their Job Services Australia provider. An Employment Pathway Plan is an individual plan setting out the activities a person will undertake to assist their entry into employment. The terms of an Employment Pathway Plan must be adhered to in order for a person to satisfy their activity test requirements and continue to receive payment.

Newstart Allowance is subject to residence requirements and income and assets tests. In the following tables, customers are defined as short-term (in receipt of a payment for less than 12 months) and long-term (in receipt of a payment for one year or more).

Activity type

The jobseeker population, for both Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) payments, is derived by excluding all people who did not receive a payment and those known not to have been required to search for work. People receiving assistance under Job Services Australia arrangements are classified as jobseekers. 'Other' activity types include customers involved in paid employment, full-time and part-time voluntary work, part-time study, self-employment development, training, or otherwise exempt from job search for reasons such as major personal crisis, remote location or jury duty.

Table 29: Short-term Newstart Allowance recipients, characteristics by sex, June 2012

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	135,053	64.5	74,269	35.5	209,322	100.0
Age (years)						
21–24	23,549	17.4	13,322	17.9	36,871	17.6
25–29	22,524	16.7	8,814	11.9	31,338	15.0
30–34	18,151	13.4	6,397	8.6	24,548	11.7
35–39	16,140	12.0	6,594	8.9	22,734	10.9
40–44	14,771	10.9	8,383	11.3	23,154	11.1
45–49	11,827	8.8	8,646	11.6	20,473	9.8
50–59	19,139	14.2	15,370	20.7	34,509	16.5
≥60	8,952	6.6	6,743	9.1	15,695	7.5
Marital status						
Married/de facto	32,496	24.1	19,825	26.7	52,321	25.0
Single/separated/divorced/widowed	102,557	75.9	54,444	73.3	157,001	75.0
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	98,982	73.3	52,464	70.6	151,446	72.4
United Kingdom	4,723	3.5	2,942	4.0	7,665	3.7
New Zealand	3,508	2.6	2,055	2.8	5,563	2.7
Vietnam	2,083	1.5	1,409	1.9	3,492	1.7
China	1,416	1.0	1,644	2.2	3,060	1.5
Other	24,341	18.0	13,755	18.5	38,096	18.2
Duration ^(a)						
<7 weeks	24,936	18.5	12,464	16.8	37,400	17.9
7 weeks to <3 months	22,409	16.6	11,793	15.9	34,202	16.3
3 to <6 months	40,479	30.0	22,532	30.3	63,011	30.1
6 to <9 months	26,814	19.9	15,625	21.0	42,439	20.3
9 months to <1 year	20,415	15.1	11,855	16.0	32,270	15.4
Mean (weeks)	20.8		21.6		21.1	
Median (weeks)	18.0		19.0		19.0	
Income (\$ per week) ^(b)						
Nil	118,859	88.0	58,375	78.6	177,234	84.7
0.01–31.00	461	0.3	445	0.6	906	0.4
>31.00	15,733	11.6	15,449	20.8	31,182	14.9
Activity type						
Jobseekers	82,505	61.1	38,814	52.3	121,319	58.0
Incapacitated	10,399	7.7	7,148	9.6	17,547	8.4
Other	42,149	31.2	28,307	38.1	70,456	33.7

(a) Duration is measured from the income support start date.

(b) Income is defined as earned income.

Note: Table figures are not comparable to the Labour Market and Related Payments (LMRP) publication due to different extract rules. The LMRP reports average numbers over the reporting period and the above table is reporting point-in-time numbers as at June 2012. The table figures exclude 13,599 customers who received a nil rate of payment due to their own or partner's income and 461 CDEP participants who received a nil rate of basic Newstart Allowance but received CDEP Supplement.

Source: DHS administrative data (DEEWR Blue Book dataset).

Table 30: Long-term Newstart Allowance recipients, characteristics by sex, June 2012

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	186,686	54.8	153,765	45.2	340,451	100.0
Age (years)						
21–24	27,217	14.6	19,669	12.8	46,886	13.8
25–29	26,108	14.0	13,661	8.9	39,769	11.7
30–34	22,393	12.0	12,058	7.8	34,451	10.1
35–39	21,469	11.5	15,472	10.1	36,941	10.9
40–44	20,956	11.2	20,030	13.0	40,986	12.0
45–49	18,144	9.7	20,640	13.4	38,784	11.4
50–59	31,917	17.1	36,169	23.5	68,086	20.0
≥60	18,482	9.9	16,066	10.4	34,548	10.1
Marital status						
Married/de facto	43,584	23.3	38,618	25.1	82,202	24.1
Single/separated/divorced/widowed	143,102	76.7	115,147	74.9	258,249	75.9
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	138,813	74.4	108,454	70.5	247,267	72.6
United Kingdom	6,540	3.5	5,549	3.6	12,089	3.6
Vietnam	4,059	2.2	5,297	3.4	9,356	2.7
New Zealand	3,689	2.0	3,430	2.2	7,119	2.1
China	2,060	1.1	3,728	2.4	5,788	1.7
Other	31,525	16.9	27,307	17.8	58,832	17.3
Duration ^(a)						
1 to <2 years	52,040	27.9	35,455	23.1	87,495	25.7
2 to <3 years	34,433	18.4	25,120	16.3	59,553	17.5
3 to <4 years	31,508	16.9	20,318	13.2	51,826	15.2
4 to <5 years	16,119	8.6	12,041	7.8	28,160	8.3
≥5 years	52,586	28.2	60,831	39.6	113,417	33.3
Mean (weeks)	239.5		323.4		277.4	
Median (weeks)	166.0		194.0		176.0	
Income (\$ per week) ^(b)						
Nil	158,957	85.1	113,497	73.8	272,454	80.0
0.01–31.00	926	0.5	985	0.6	1,911	0.6
>31.00	26,803	14.4	39,283	25.5	66,086	19.4
Activity type						
Jobseekers	74,159	39.7	48,219	31.4	122,378	35.9
Incapacitated	11,586	6.2	10,889	7.1	22,475	6.6
Other	100,941	54.1	94,657	61.6	195,598	57.5

(a) Duration is measured from the income support start date.

(b) Income is defined as earned income.

Note: The table figures are not comparable to the LMRP publication due to different extract rules. The LMRP reports average numbers over the reporting period and the above table is reporting point-in-time numbers as at June 2012. The table figures exclude 15,344 customers who received a nil rate of payment due to their own or partner's income and 2,244 CDEP participants who received a nil rate of basic Newstart Allowance but received CDEP Supplement.

Source: DHS administrative data (DEEWR Blue Book dataset).

Table 31: Total Newstart Allowance recipients, characteristics by sex, June 2012

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	321,739	58.5	228,034	41.5	549,773	100.0
Age (years)						
21–24	50,766	15.8	32,991	14.5	83,757	15.2
25–29	48,632	15.1	22,475	9.9	71,107	12.9
30–34	40,544	12.6	18,455	8.1	58,999	10.7
35–39	37,609	11.7	22,066	9.7	59,675	10.9
40–44	35,727	11.1	28,413	12.5	64,140	11.7
45–49	29,971	9.3	29,286	12.8	59,257	10.8
50–59	51,056	15.9	51,539	22.6	102,595	18.7
≥60	27,434	8.5	22,809	10.0	50,243	9.1
Marital status						
Married/de facto	76,080	23.6	58,443	25.6	134,523	24.5
Single/separated/divorced/widowed	245,659	76.4	169,591	74.4	415,250	75.5
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	237,795	73.9	160,918	70.6	398,713	72.5
United Kingdom	11,263	3.5	8,491	3.7	19,754	3.6
Vietnam	6,142	1.9	6,706	2.9	12,848	2.3
New Zealand	7,197	2.2	5,485	2.4	12,682	2.3
China	3,476	1.1	5,372	2.4	8,848	1.6
Other	55,866	17.4	41,062	18.0	96,928	17.6
Duration ^(a)						
<1 year	135,053	42.0	74,269	32.6	209,322	38.1
1 to <2 years	52,040	16.2	35,455	15.5	87,495	15.9
2 to <3 years	34,433	10.7	25,120	11.0	59,553	10.8
3 to <4 years	31,508	9.8	20,318	8.9	51,826	9.4
4 to <5 years	16,119	5.0	12,041	5.3	28,160	5.1
≥5 years	52,586	16.3	60,831	26.7	113,417	20.6
Mean (weeks)	147.7		225.1		179.8	
Median (weeks)	73.0		112.0		88.0	
Income (\$ per week) ^(b)						
Nil	277,816	86.3	171,872	75.4	449,688	81.8
0.01–31.00	1,387	0.4	1,430	0.6	2,817	0.5
>31.00	42,536	13.2	54,732	24.0	97,268	17.7
Activity type						
Jobseekers	156,664	48.7	87,033	38.2	243,697	44.3
Incapacitated	21,985	6.8	18,037	7.9	40,022	7.3
Other	143,090	44.5	122,964	53.9	266,054	48.4

(a) Duration is measured from the income support start date.

(b) Income is defined as earned income.

Note: The table figures are not comparable to the LMRP publication due to different extract rules. The LMRP reports average numbers over the reporting period and the above table is reporting point-in-time numbers as at June 2012. The table figures exclude 28,903 customers who received a nil rate of payment due to their own or partner's income and 2,705 CDEP participants who received a nil rate of basic Newstart Allowance but received CDEP Supplement.

Source: DHS administrative data (DEEWR Blue Book dataset).

Table 32: Short-term unemployed customers, characteristics by sex, June 2012

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	153,991	63.3	89,158	36.7	243,149	100.0
Age (years)						
<18	4,494	2.9	4,098	4.6	8,592	3.5
18–24	37,993	24.7	24,113	27.0	62,106	25.5
25–29	22,524	14.6	8,814	9.9	31,338	12.9
30–34	18,151	11.8	6,397	7.2	24,548	10.1
35–39	16,140	10.5	6,594	7.4	22,734	9.3
40–44	14,771	9.6	8,383	9.4	23,154	9.5
45–49	11,827	7.7	8,646	9.7	20,473	8.4
50–59	19,139	12.4	15,370	17.2	34,509	14.2
≥60	8,952	5.8	6,743	7.6	15,695	6.5
Marital status						
Married/de facto	33,656	21.9	21,284	23.9	54,940	22.6
Single/separated/divorced/widowed	120,335	78.1	67,874	76.1	188,209	77.4
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	116,242	75.5	66,363	74.4	182,605	75.1
United Kingdom	4,869	3.2	3,073	3.4	7,942	3.3
New Zealand	3,783	2.5	2,277	2.6	6,060	2.5
Vietnam	2,101	1.4	1,416	1.6	3,517	1.4
China	1,444	0.9	1,667	1.9	3,111	1.3
Other	25,552	16.6	14,362	16.1	39,914	16.4
Duration ^(a)						
<7 weeks	28,300	18.4	14,589	16.4	42,889	17.6
7 weeks to <3 months	25,481	16.5	14,199	15.9	39,680	16.3
3 to <6 months	46,920	30.5	27,646	31.0	74,566	30.7
6 to <9 months	30,152	19.6	18,442	20.7	48,594	20.0
9 months to <1 year	23,138	15.0	14,282	16.0	37,420	15.4
Mean (weeks)	20.8		21.6		21.1	
Median (weeks)	18.0		19.0		19.0	
Income (\$ per week) ^(b)						
Nil	135,766	88.2	70,584	79.2	206,350	84.9
0.01–31.00	553	0.4	576	0.6	1,129	0.5
>31.00	17,672	11.5	17,998	20.2	35,670	14.7
Activity type						
Jobseekers	88,556	57.5	44,303	49.7	132,859	54.6
Incapacitated	11,108	7.2	7,757	8.7	18,865	7.8
Other	54,327	35.3	37,098	41.6	91,425	37.6

(a) Duration is measured from the income support start date.

(b) Income is defined as earned income.

Note: Unemployed customers are those who are in receipt of either Youth Allowance with a student status other than full-time student—generally referred to as Youth Allowance (other)—or Newstart Allowance. The table figures are not comparable to the LMRP publication due to different extract rules. The LMRP reports average numbers over the reporting period and this table is reporting point-in-time numbers as at June 2012. The table figures exclude 13,559 Newstart Allowance customers who received a nil rate of payment due to their own or partner's income and 461 CDEP participants who received a nil rate of basic Newstart Allowance but received CDEP Supplement.

Source: DHS administrative data (DEEWR Blue Book dataset).

Table 33: Long-term unemployed customers, characteristics by sex, June 2012

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	211,583	54.2	178,843	45.8	390,426	100.0
Age (years)						
<18	3,266	1.5	3,637	2.0	6,903	1.8
18–24	48,848	23.1	41,110	23.0	89,958	23.0
25–29	26,108	12.3	13,661	7.6	39,769	10.2
30–34	22,393	10.6	12,058	6.7	34,451	8.8
35–39	21,469	10.1	15,472	8.7	36,941	9.5
40–44	20,956	9.9	20,030	11.2	40,986	10.5
45–49	18,144	8.6	20,640	11.5	38,784	9.9
50–59	31,917	15.1	36,169	20.2	68,086	17.4
≥60	18,482	8.7	16,066	9.0	34,548	8.8
Marital status						
Married/de facto	45,225	21.4	40,794	22.8	86,019	22.0
Single/separated/divorced/widowed	166,358	78.6	138,049	77.2	304,407	78.0
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	161,616	76.4	131,742	73.7	293,358	75.1
United Kingdom	6,660	3.1	5,668	3.2	12,328	3.2
Vietnam	4,097	1.9	5,328	3.0	9,425	2.4
New Zealand	3,968	1.9	3,776	2.1	7,744	2.0
China	2,096	1.0	3,752	2.1	5,848	1.5
Other	33,146	15.7	28,577	16.0	61,723	15.8
Duration ^(a)						
1 to <2 years	61,594	29.1	44,809	25.1	106,403	27.3
2 to <3 years	42,339	20.0	33,147	18.5	75,486	19.3
3 to <4 years	36,352	17.2	25,306	14.1	61,658	15.8
4 to <5 years	18,618	8.8	14,624	8.2	33,242	8.5
≥5 years	52,680	24.9	60,957	34.1	113,637	29.1
Mean (weeks)	226.6		296.4		258.6	
Median (weeks)	158.0		176.0		166.0	
Income (\$ per week) ^(b)						
Nil	180,116	85.1	132,872	74.3	312,988	80.2
0.01–31.00	1,079	0.5	1,205	0.7	2,284	0.6
>31.00	30,388	14.4	44,766	25.0	75,154	19.2
Activity type						
Jobseekers	82,471	39.0	57,122	31.9	139,593	35.8
Incapacitated	12,223	5.8	11,730	6.6	23,953	6.1
Other	116,889	55.2	109,991	61.5	226,880	58.1

(a) Duration is measured from the income support start date.

(b) Income is defined as earned income.

Note: Unemployed customers are those who are in receipt of either Youth Allowance with a student status other than full-time student—generally referred to as Youth Allowance (other)—or Newstart Allowance. The table figures are not comparable to the LMRP publication due to different extract rules. The LMRP reports average numbers over the reporting period and this table is reporting point-in-time numbers as at June 2012. The table figures exclude 15,344 Newstart Allowance customers who received a nil rate of payment due to their own or partner's income and 2,244 CDEP participants who received a nil rate of basic Newstart Allowance but received CDEP Supplement.

Source: DHS administrative data (DEEWR Blue Book dataset).

Table 34: Total unemployed customers, characteristics by sex, June 2012

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	365,574	57.7	268,001	42.3	633,575	100.0
Age (years)						
<18	7,760	2.1	7,735	2.9	15,495	2.4
18–24	86,841	23.8	65,223	24.3	152,064	24.0
25–29	48,632	13.3	22,475	8.4	71,107	11.2
30–34	40,544	11.1	18,455	6.9	58,999	9.3
35–39	37,609	10.3	22,066	8.2	59,675	9.4
40–44	35,727	9.8	28,413	10.6	64,140	10.1
45–49	29,971	8.2	29,286	10.9	59,257	9.4
50–59	51,056	14.0	51,539	19.2	102,595	16.2
≥60	27,434	7.5	22,809	8.5	50,243	7.9
Marital status						
Married/de facto	78,881	21.6	62,078	23.2	140,959	22.2
Single/separated/divorced/widowed	286,693	78.4	205,923	76.8	492,616	77.8
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	277,858	76.0	198,105	73.9	475,963	75.1
United Kingdom	11,529	3.2	8,741	3.3	20,270	3.2
New Zealand	7,751	2.1	6,053	2.3	13,804	2.2
Vietnam	6,198	1.7	6,744	2.5	12,942	2.0
China	3,540	1.0	5,419	2.0	8,959	1.4
Other	58,698	16.1	42,939	16.0	101,637	16.0
Duration ^(a)						
<1 year	153,991	42.1	89,158	33.3	243,149	38.4
1 to <2 years	61,594	16.8	44,809	16.7	106,403	16.8
2 to <3 years	42,339	11.6	33,147	12.4	75,486	11.9
3 to <4 years	36,352	9.9	25,306	9.4	61,658	9.7
4 to <5 years	18,618	5.1	14,624	5.5	33,242	5.2
≥5 years	52,680	14.4	60,957	22.7	113,637	17.9
Mean (weeks)	139.9		205.0		167.5	
Median (weeks)	72.0		104.0		85.0	
Income (\$ per week) ^(b)						
Nil	315,882	86.4	203,456	75.9	519,338	82.0
0.01–31.00	1,632	0.4	1,781	0.7	3,413	0.5
>31.00	48,060	13.1	62,764	23.4	110,824	17.5
Activity type						
Jobseekers	171,027	46.8	101,425	37.8	272,452	43.0
Incapacitated	23,331	6.4	19,487	7.3	42,818	6.8
Other	171,216	46.8	147,089	54.9	318,305	50.2

(a) Duration is measured from the income support start date.

(b) Income is defined as earned income.

Note: Unemployed customers are those who are in receipt of either Youth Allowance with a student status other than full-time student—generally referred to as Youth Allowance (other)—or Newstart Allowance. The table figures are not comparable to the LMRP publication due to different extract rules. The LMRP reports average numbers over the reporting period and this table is reporting point-in-time numbers as at June 2012. The table figures exclude 28,903 Newstart Allowance customers who received a nil rate of payment due to their own or partner's income and 2,705 CDEP participants who received a nil rate of basic Newstart Allowance but received CDEP Supplement.

Source: DHS administrative data (DEEWR Blue Book dataset).

Table 35: Total unemployed customers by state/territory, June 2012

State/territory	Newstart Allowance		Youth Allowance (other)		Total	
	Short-term	Long-term	Short-term	Long-term	Short-term	Long-term
New South Wales	62,799	111,776	9,442	15,266	72,241	127,042
Victoria	52,273	80,422	6,362	10,211	58,635	90,633
Queensland	47,815	69,514	9,775	12,835	57,590	82,349
Western Australia	17,790	25,492	3,338	3,525	21,128	29,017
South Australia	17,511	32,133	2,632	4,853	20,143	36,986
Tasmania	6,034	12,191	1,029	2,042	7,063	14,233
Australian Capital Territory	1,787	2,308	270	383	2,057	2,691
Northern Territory	3,244	6,529	954	832	4,198	7,361
Other ^(a)	69	86	25	28	94	114
Total	209,322	340,451	33,827	49,975	243,149	390,426

(a) Includes unspecified state/territory.

Note: Unemployed customers are those who are in receipt of either Youth Allowance with a student status other than full-time student—generally referred to as Youth Allowance (other)—or Newstart Allowance. The table figures are not comparable to the LMRP publication due to different extract rules. The LMRP reports average numbers over the reporting period and this table is reporting point-in-time numbers as at June 2012. The table figures exclude 28,903 Newstart Allowance customers who received a nil rate of payment due to their own or partner's income and 2,705 CDEP participants who received a nil rate of basic Newstart Allowance but received CDEP Supplement.

Source: DHS administrative data (DEEWR Blue Book dataset).

3.5 Partner Allowance

Prior to the introduction of Partner Allowance, allowance recipients with a partner received a married rate of allowance, which included an amount for the support of a dependent spouse. In September 1994, this combined married rate of payment was abolished and half the former married rate was paid directly to the dependent partner as Partner Allowance.

Since 1 July 1995, the payment was only granted to persons born on or before 1 July 1955 who had no dependent children under the age of 16 years and no recent workforce experience defined as at least 20 hours a week for a total of 13 weeks or more in the previous 12 months. It was payable to partners of people aged over 21 years and receiving Youth Allowance, Austudy, Sickness Allowance, ABSTUDY, Student Financial Supplement Scheme, Newstart Allowance, Special Benefit, Age Pension, Disability Support Pension, Mature Age Allowance or a DVA Service Pension.

Partner Allowance is a payment subject to residence requirements, and income and assets tests, but is not activity tested. Partners who do not qualify for Partner Allowance need to qualify for another income support payment in their own right, such as Parenting Payment or Newstart Allowance.

Partner Allowance recipients aged over 60 years who have been receiving income support continuously for nine months or more may be eligible for a Pensioner Concession Card.

Partner Allowance was closed to new claimants on 20 September 2003. People already receiving Partner Allowance will continue to receive it while they remain eligible.

Table 36: Partner Allowance recipients, characteristics by sex, June 2012

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	849	6.1	13,096	93.9	13,945	100.0
Age (years)						
55–59	179	21.1	3,166	24.2	3,345	24.0
60–64	660	77.7	9,916	75.7	10,576	75.8
≥65	10	1.2	14	0.1	24	0.2
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	472	55.6	7,803	59.6	8,275	59.3
United Kingdom	100	11.8	818	6.2	918	6.6
Vietnam	32	3.8	465	3.6	497	3.6
Italy	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	447	3.2
Greece	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	328	2.4
Other	221	26.0	3,259	24.9	3,480	25.0
Duration ^(a)						
<3 years	0	0.0	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
3 to <4 years	0	0.0	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
4 to <5 years	0	0.0	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
≥5 years	849	100.0	13,078	99.9	13,927	99.9
Mean (weeks)	716.5		704.2		704.9	
Median (weeks)	705.0		686.0		687.0	
Income (\$ per week) ^(b)						
Nil	789	92.9	12,234	93.4	13,023	93.4
0.01–31.00	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	81	0.6
>31.00	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	841	6.0

(a) Duration is measured from the income support start date.

(b) Income is defined as earned income.

Notes: The table figures exclude 33 customers who received a nil rate of payment due to their own or partner's income.

'n.p.' = not published. See 'Confidentiality' on page 1.

Source: DHS administrative data (DEEWR Blue Book dataset).

Table 37: Partner Allowance recipients by state/territory and sex, June 2012

State/territory	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
New South Wales	276	6.2	4,145	93.8	4,421	31.7
Victoria	187	5.3	3,313	94.7	3,500	25.1
Queensland	172	6.5	2,463	93.5	2,635	18.9
Western Australia	46	4.3	1,034	95.7	1,080	7.7
South Australia	97	6.6	1,370	93.4	1,467	10.5
Tasmania	61	8.8	635	91.2	696	5.0
Australian Capital Territory	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	56	0.4
Northern Territory	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	50	0.4
Other ^(a)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	40	0.3
Total	849	6.1	13,096	93.9	13,945	100.0

(a) Includes unspecified state/territory.

Notes: The table figures exclude 33 customers who received a nil rate of payment due to their own or partner's income.

'n.p.' = not published. See 'Confidentiality' on page 1.

Source: DHS administrative data (DEEWR Blue Book dataset).

3.6 Widow Allowance

Widow Allowance is an income support payment that is not activity tested. It recognises the labour market difficulties faced by single older women who may have depended on the support of their partner.

Widow Allowance was closed to new claimants from 1 July 2005 unless the woman was born on or before 1 July 1955.

Widow Allowance is available to women over 50 years of age who were widowed, divorced or separated (including separated de facto) after the age of 40 years. To qualify for Widow Allowance, women must:

- > have no recent workforce experience (defined as at least 20 hours a week for a total of 13 weeks or more in the previous 12 months)
- > currently be in Australia and not be subject to an assurance of support
- > and either:
 - have been an Australian resident for a continuous period of at least 26 weeks immediately before claiming, or
 - entered Australia on or after 1 April 1996 and have at any time been an Australian resident for a continuous period of at least two years, or
 - have 10 years' qualifying Australian residence (an Australian resident for 10 years continuously or for a total of 10 years including one period of at least 5 continuous years), or
 - have a qualifying residence exemption, or
 - along with her former partner, have been an Australian resident at the time when she became widowed, divorced or separated.

Widow Allowance is subject to residence requirements and income and assets tests.

Widow Allowance recipients are eligible to receive a Health Care Card. Recipients aged over 60 years who have been receiving income support continuously for nine months or more may be eligible to receive a Pension Concession Card.

Table 38: Widow Allowance recipients, characteristics, June 2012

Characteristics	Female	
	No.	%
Total	28,935	100.0
Age (years)		
55–59	7,500	25.9
60–64	19,165	66.2
≥65	2,270	7.8
Country of birth (top five countries)		
Australia	15,388	53.2
United Kingdom	1,766	6.1
China	1,334	4.6
Vietnam	1,127	3.9
Philippines	957	3.3
Other	8,363	28.9
Duration ^(a)		
<1 year—total	2,265	7.8
<7 weeks	193	0.7
7 weeks to <3 months	267	0.9
3 to <6 months	614	2.1
6 to <9 months	598	2.1
9 months to <1 year	593	2.0
≥1 year—total	26,670	92.2
1 to <2 years	2,284	7.9
2 to <3 years	2,140	7.4
3 to <4 years	2,167	7.5
4 to <5 years	1,710	5.9
≥5 years	18,369	63.5
Mean (weeks)	470.1	
Median (weeks)	393.0	
Income (\$ per week) ^(b)		
Nil	26,174	90.5
0.01–31.00	206	0.7
>31.00	2,555	8.8

(a) Duration is measured from the income support start date.

(b) Income is defined as earned income.

Note: Table figures exclude 271 customers who either received a nil rate of payment due to their own or partner's income or were CDEP participants who received a nil rate of basic Widow Allowance but received CDEP Supplement.

Source: DHS administrative data (DEEWR Blue Book dataset).

Table 39: Widow Allowance recipients by state/territory, June 2012

State/territory	No.	%
New South Wales	10,179	35.2
Victoria	7,513	26.0
Queensland	5,704	19.7
Western Australia	2,276	7.9
South Australia	1,978	6.8
Tasmania	866	3.0
Australian Capital Territory	168	0.6
Northern Territory	141	0.5
Other ^(a)	110	0.4
Total	28,935	100.0

(a) Includes unspecified state/territory.

Note: Table figures exclude 271 customers who either received a nil rate of payment due to their own or partner's income or were CDEP participants who received a nil rate of basic Widow Allowance but received CDEP Supplement.

Source: DHS administrative data (DEEWR Blue Book dataset).

3.7 Parenting Payment

Parenting Payment was introduced to help people with children, particularly low-income families, by providing an independent income. Parenting Payment is available to people with sole or primary responsibility for the care of a child and is payable to both single and partnered parents—although to only one member of a couple.

Parenting Payment is subject to residence requirements and income and assets tests.

Parenting Payment (Single)

From 1 July 2006, to qualify for Parenting Payment (Single), single parents must have principal care of a child or children under the age of 8 years. When the youngest qualifying child is aged 6 years or over, the parent must enter into an Employment Pathway Plan and satisfy part-time participation requirements.

Parents in receipt of Parenting Payment (Single) prior to 1 July 2006 may continue to receive this payment until their youngest child turns 16 years old, as long as they remain eligible. This reflects the eligibility criteria that were in place before 1 July 2006. These parents will have participation requirements when their youngest child turns 7 years old.

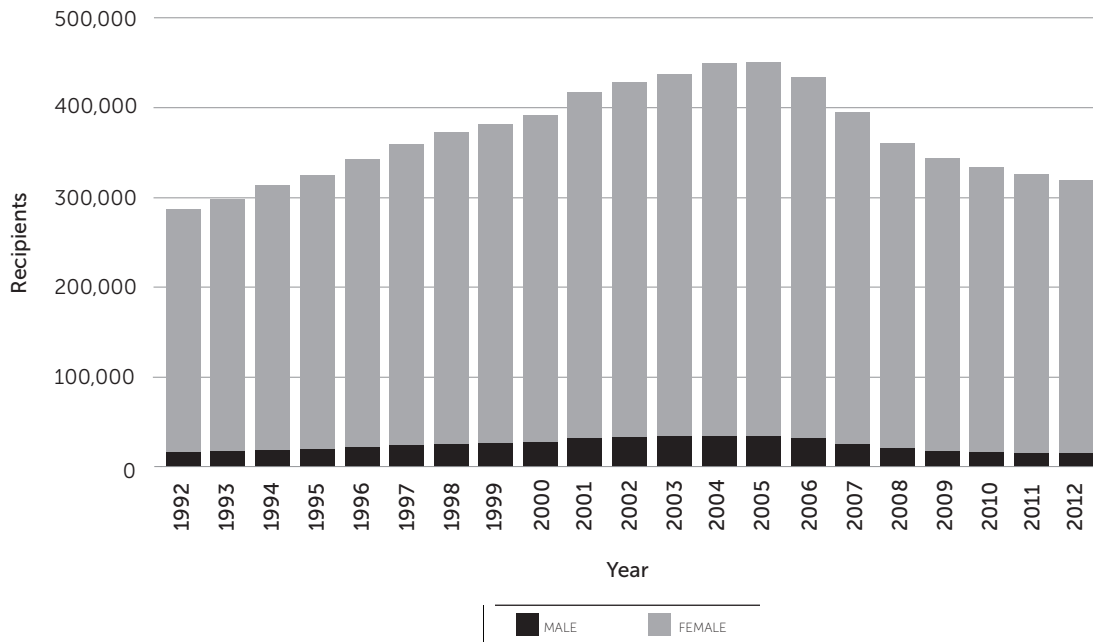
Table 40: Parenting Payment (Single) recipients by sex, June 1992 to June 2012

As at June	Male		Female		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.
1992	16,444	5.7	270,784	94.3	287,228
1993	17,529	5.9	280,915	94.1	298,444
1994	18,897	6.0	294,540	94.0	313,437
1995	19,913	6.1	305,028	93.9	324,941
1996	21,964	6.4	320,326	93.6	342,290
1997	23,920	6.7	334,973	93.3	358,893
1998 ^(a)	25,546	6.9	346,740	93.1	372,286
1999	26,830	7.0	355,493	93.0	382,323
2000	27,951	7.1	363,442	92.9	391,393
2001	31,661	7.6	385,000	92.4	416,661
2002	32,966	7.7	394,880	92.3	427,846
2003	33,909	7.8	403,049	92.2	436,958
2004	34,866	7.8	414,446	92.2	449,312
2005	34,565	7.7	416,246	92.3	450,811
2006	32,368	7.5	400,590	92.5	432,958
2007	25,677	6.5	369,818	93.5	395,495
2008	20,559	5.7	340,074	94.3	360,633
2009	18,348	5.3	325,748	94.7	344,096
2010	16,793	5.0	316,719	95.0	333,512
2011	15,749	4.8	310,499	95.2	326,248
2012	15,214	4.8	304,368	95.2	319,582

(a) In March 1998, Parenting Payment was introduced. It replaced Sole Parent Pension and Parenting Allowance.

Source: DHS administrative data (DEEWR Blue Book dataset).

Figure 8: Parenting Payment (Single) recipients by sex, June 1992 to June 2012



Note: In March 1998, Parenting Payment was introduced. It replaced Sole Parent Pension and Parenting Allowance.

Source: DHS administrative data (DEEWR Blue Book dataset).

Table 41: Parenting Payment (Single) recipients, characteristics by sex, June 2012

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	15,214	4.8	304,368	95.2	319,582	100.0
Age (years)						
<20	60	0.4	8,185	2.7	8,245	2.6
20–29	3,513	23.1	102,160	33.6	105,673	33.1
30–39	5,991	39.4	115,758	38.0	121,749	38.1
40–49	4,196	27.6	67,586	22.2	71,782	22.5
50–59	1,292	8.5	10,151	3.3	11,443	3.6
≥60	162	1.1	528	0.2	690	0.2
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	12,725	83.6	248,877	81.8	261,602	81.9
New Zealand	454	3.0	8,491	2.8	8,945	2.8
Vietnam	284	1.9	7,362	2.4	7,646	2.4
United Kingdom	389	2.6	6,810	2.2	7,199	2.3
Sudan	40	0.3	2,605	0.9	2,645	0.8
Other	1,322	8.7	30,223	9.9	31,545	9.9
Home ownership						
Home owner	1,835	12.1	45,167	14.8	47,002	14.7
Non-home owner	13,379	87.9	259,201	85.2	272,580	85.3
Rate						
Full	11,386	74.8	204,029	67.0	215,415	67.4
Part	3,545	23.3	95,257	31.3	98,802	30.9
Zero	255	1.7	4,744	1.6	4,999	1.6
Undetermined	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	274	0.1
Manual	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	92	0.0
Duration ^(a)						
<6 months	1,191	7.8	16,212	5.3	17,403	5.4
6 months to <1 year	1,232	8.1	15,722	5.2	16,954	5.3
1 to <2 years	2,009	13.2	30,448	10.0	32,457	10.2
2 to <3 years	1,743	11.5	28,915	9.5	30,658	9.6
3 to <4 years	1,611	10.6	27,030	8.9	28,641	9.0
4 to <5 years	1,014	6.7	20,913	6.9	21,927	6.9
≥5 years	6,414	42.2	165,128	54.3	171,542	53.7
Mean (weeks)	284.8		365.6		361.7	
Median (weeks)	201.0		299.0		294.0	

(a) Duration is measured from the income support start date.

Notes: Table figures exclude 4,255 suspended clients.

'n.p.' = not published. See 'Confidentiality' on page 1.

Source: DHS administrative data (DEEWR Blue Book dataset).

Table 42: Parenting Payment (Single) recipients by state/territory and sex, June 2012

State/territory	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
New South Wales	4,999	4.9	97,557	95.1	102,556	32.1
Victoria	2,841	4.0	67,892	96.0	70,733	22.1
Queensland	3,908	5.3	69,156	94.7	73,064	22.9
Western Australia	1,247	4.0	30,292	96.0	31,539	9.9
South Australia	1,400	5.6	23,643	94.4	25,043	7.8
Tasmania	519	5.6	8,800	94.4	9,319	2.9
Australian Capital Territory	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	3,230	1.0
Northern Territory	160	4.0	3,874	96.0	4,034	1.3
Other ^(a)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	64	0.0
Total	15,214	4.8	304,368	95.2	319,582	100.0

(a) Includes unspecified state/territory.

Notes: Table figures exclude 4,255 suspended clients.

'n.p.' = not published. See 'Confidentiality' on page 1.

Source: DHS administrative data (DEEWR Blue Book dataset).

Parenting Payment (Partnered)

Parenting Payment (Partnered) is payable to only one member of a couple.

From 1 July 2006, to qualify for Parenting Payment (Partnered), partnered parents must have principal care of a child or children under the age of 6 years.

Parents in receipt of Parenting Payment (Partnered) prior to 1 July 2006 may continue to receive this payment until their youngest child turns 16 years old, as long as they remain eligible. This reflects the eligibility criteria that were in place before 1 July 2006. These parents will have participation requirements from when their youngest child turns 7 years old.

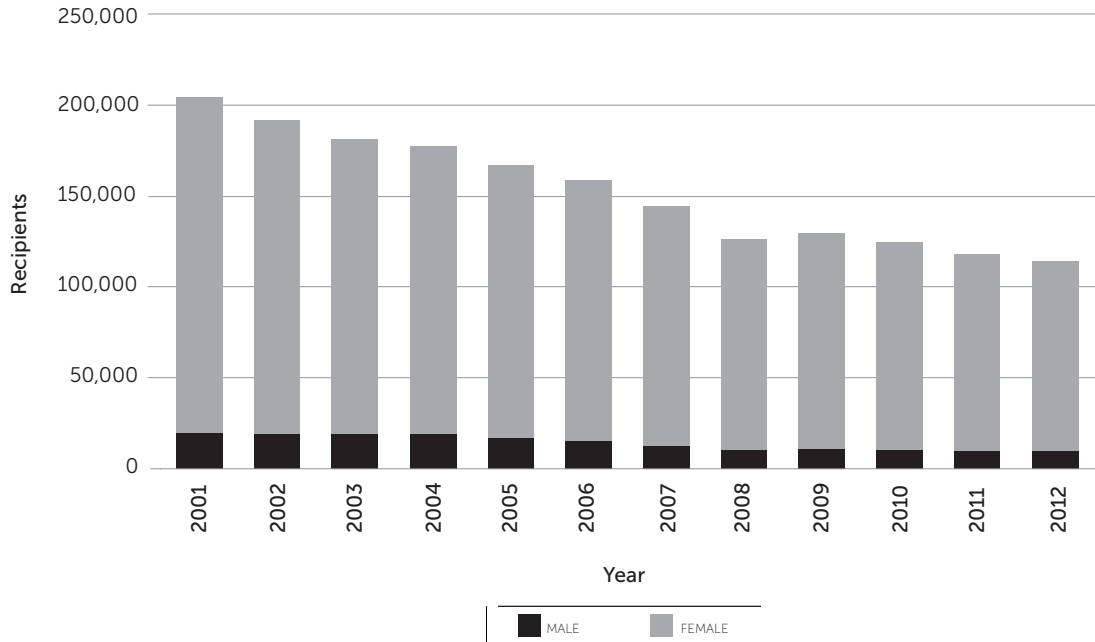
Table 43: Parenting Payment (Partnered) recipients by sex, June 2001 to June 2012

As at June	Male		Female		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.
2001	20,263	9.9	184,313	90.1	204,576
2002	19,576	10.2	172,000	89.8	191,576
2003	19,196	10.6	162,209	89.4	181,405
2004	18,917	10.7	158,240	89.3	177,157
2005	17,255	10.3	150,017	89.7	167,272
2006	15,353	9.7	143,461	90.3	158,814
2007	12,742	8.8	131,685	91.2	144,427
2008	10,246	8.1	115,676	91.9	125,922
2009	10,735	8.3	118,630	91.7	129,365
2010	10,329	8.3	114,581	91.7	124,910
2011	10,025	8.5	107,729	91.5	117,754
2012	9,992	8.7	104,350	91.3	114,342

Note: Parenting Payment (Partnered) replaced Parenting Allowance in March 1998. From July 2000, the basic rate of Parenting Payment (Partnered) became part of Family Tax Benefit.

Source: DHS administrative data (DEEWR Blue Book dataset).

Figure 9: Parenting Payment (Partnered) recipients by sex, June 2001 to June 2012



Note: Parenting Payment (Partnered) replaced Parenting Allowance in March 1998. From July 2000, the basic rate of Parenting Payment (Partnered) became part of Family Tax Benefit.

Source: DHS administrative data (DEEWR Blue Book dataset).

Table 44: Parenting Payment (Partnered) recipients by payment category of partner, June 2001 to June 2012

As at June	Partner's payment				Total
	Youth Allowance	Low income	Newstart Allowance ^(a)	Pension	
2001	193	86,329	95,812	22,242	204,576
2002	204	81,078	85,424	24,870	191,576
2003	195	81,792	74,268	25,150	181,405
2004	144	87,945	63,571	25,497	177,157
2005	164	86,184	56,087	24,837	167,272
2006	220	82,292	52,891	23,411	158,814
2007	195	82,251	41,181	20,080	143,707
2008	152	73,904	34,575	17,291	125,922
2009	200	71,457	41,483	16,225	129,365
2010	236	67,867	41,307	15,500	124,910
2011	213	65,175	37,577	14,789	117,754
2012	217	63,787	36,206	14,132	114,342

(a) Includes persons whose partner received Newstart Allowance, Sickness Allowance, Special Benefit or other payments.

Source: DHS administrative data (DEEWR Blue Book dataset).

Table 45: Parenting Payment (Partnered) recipients, characteristics by sex, June 2012

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	9,992	8.7	104,350	91.3	114,342	100.0
Age (years)						
<20	38	0.4	2,724	2.6	2,762	2.4
20–29	1,855	18.6	37,564	36.0	39,419	34.5
30–39	4,427	44.3	44,758	42.9	49,185	43.0
40–49	2,741	27.4	17,206	16.5	19,947	17.4
50–59	812	8.1	1,971	1.9	2,783	2.4
≥60	119	1.2	127	0.1	246	0.2
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	6,132	61.4	62,432	59.8	68,564	60.0
China	375	3.8	4,324	4.1	4,699	4.1
Vietnam	468	4.7	4,020	3.9	4,488	3.9
Iraq	222	2.2	3,293	3.2	3,515	3.1
Lebanon	258	2.6	3,090	3.0	3,348	2.9
Other	2,537	25.4	27,191	26.1	29,728	26.0
Home ownership						
Home owner	2,906	29.1	31,470	30.2	34,376	30.1
Non-home owner	7,086	70.9	72,880	69.8	79,966	69.9
Rate						
Full	5,928	59.3	64,602	61.9	70,530	61.7
Part	3,222	32.2	31,876	30.5	35,098	30.7
Zero	789	7.9	7,297	7.0	8,086	7.1
Undetermined	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	603	0.5
Manual	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	25	0.0
Duration ^(a)						
<6 months	1,891	18.9	11,147	10.7	13,038	11.4
6 months to <1 year	1,394	14.0	9,357	9.0	10,751	9.4
1 to <2 years	1,883	18.8	14,505	13.9	16,388	14.3
2 to <3 years	1,245	12.5	12,080	11.6	13,325	11.7
3 to <4 years	1,016	10.2	10,285	9.9	11,301	9.9
4 to <5 years	522	5.2	7,085	6.8	7,607	6.7
≥5 years	2,041	20.4	39,891	38.2	41,932	36.7
Mean (weeks)	171.7		268.9		260.4	
Median (weeks)	97.0		179.0		172.0	

(a) Duration is measured from the income support start date.

Notes: Table figures exclude 1,483 suspended customers.

'n.p.' = not published. See 'Confidentiality' on page 1.

Source: DHS administrative data (DEEWR Blue Book dataset).

Table 46: Parenting Payment (Partnered) recipients by state/territory and sex, June 2012

State/territory	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
New South Wales	3,364	8.4	36,542	91.6	39,906	34.9
Victoria	2,391	8.5	25,624	91.5	28,015	24.5
Queensland	2,301	10.2	20,174	89.8	22,475	19.7
Western Australia	577	6.9	7,748	93.1	8,325	7.3
South Australia	808	9.6	7,572	90.4	8,380	7.3
Tasmania	403	11.5	3,111	88.5	3,514	3.1
Australian Capital Territory	72	10.5	613	89.5	685	0.6
Northern Territory	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	2,885	2.5
Other ^(a)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	157	0.1
Total	9,992	8.7	104,350	91.3	114,342	100.0

(a) Includes unspecified state/territory.

Notes: Table figures exclude 1,483 suspended customers.

'n.p.' = not published. See 'Confidentiality' on page 1.

Source: DHS administrative data (DEEWR Blue Book dataset).

3.8 Special Benefit

Special Benefit is an income support payment for people in severe financial hardship due to circumstances beyond their control. Special Benefit is a discretionary payment. The circumstances under which it is granted are determined by the Secretary of the Department of Social Services.

To qualify for Special Benefit a person must be:

- > in severe financial hardship
- > unable to earn a sufficient livelihood for themselves and their dependants by reason of age, physical or mental disability or domestic circumstances or for any other reason over which the person has no control
- > ineligible to receive any other income support payment
- > residing in Australia throughout the period for which payment is sought, except under certain rare circumstances, and
- > a permanent Australian resident or the holder of an approved visa.

Special Benefit is subject to income and assets tests.

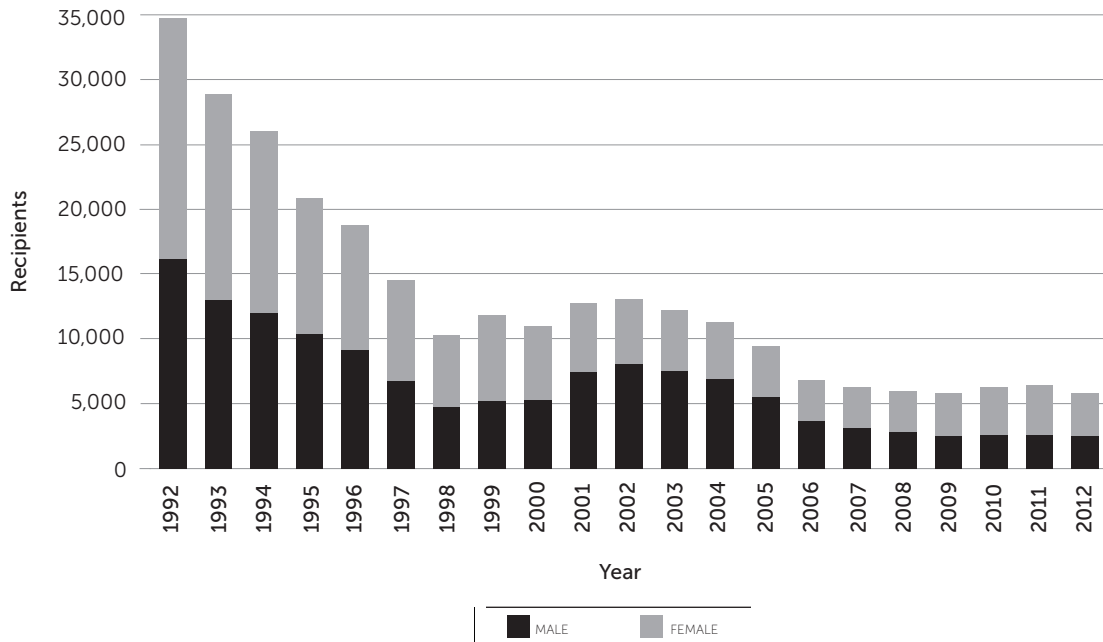
Table 47: Special Benefit recipients by sex, June 1992 to June 2012

As at June	Male		Female		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.
1992	16,168	46.5	18,624	53.5	34,792
1993	12,989	45.0	15,865	55.0	28,854
1994	11,957	46.1	13,990	53.9	25,947
1995	10,446	50.0	10,438	50.0	20,884
1996	9,125	48.7	9,602	51.3	18,727
1997	6,811	46.7	7,765	53.3	14,576
1998	4,733	46.2	5,503	53.8	10,236
1999	5,232	44.3	6,576	55.7	11,808
2000	5,313	48.4	5,658	51.6	10,971
2001	7,466	58.7	5,246	41.3	12,712
2002	8,060	61.6	5,031	38.4	13,091
2003	7,585	62.0	4,643	38.0	12,228
2004	6,918	61.7	4,298	38.3	11,216
2005	5,625	59.8	3,783	40.2	9,408
2006	3,665	53.6	3,176	46.4	6,841
2007	3,104	49.7	3,140	50.3	6,244
2008	2,856	47.6	3,147	52.4	6,003
2009	2,571	44.3	3,238	55.7	5,809
2010	2,645	41.9	3,662	58.1	6,307
2011	2,654	41.6	3,731	58.4	6,385
2012	2,546	43.7	3,282	56.3	5,828

Note: Until 1997, the table figures are averages of the numbers of weekly payments during June. From 1998, the table figures are recipient numbers at a point in time. The table figures exclude customers who received a nil rate of payment.

Source: DHS administrative data.

Figure 10: Special Benefit recipients by sex, June 1992 to June 2012



Note: Until 1997, the table figures are averages of the numbers of weekly payments during June. From 1998, the table figures are recipient numbers at a point in time. The table figures exclude customers who received a nil rate of payment.

Source: DHS administrative data.

Table 48: Special Benefit recipients, Special Benefit category by sex, June 2012

Category	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Assurance of support	26	1.0	37	1.1	63	1.1
Australian citizen child in custody of non-permanent resident	68	2.7	77	2.3	145	2.5
Newly arrived refugees in two-year waiting period for Newstart Allowance/Sickness Allowance	54	2.1	79	2.4	133	2.3
Newly arrived migrant (NAM) in waiting period for other payment	25	1.0	48	1.5	73	1.3
Not residentially qualified for Age Pension	1,843	72.4	1,788	54.5	3,631	62.3
Not residentially qualified for Disability Support Pension (pre-10 December 2000)	69	2.7	75	2.3	144	2.5
Partner Provisional Visa holder	65	2.6	251	7.6	316	5.4
Spouse provisional visa (previously Special entry visa) (post-10 December 2000)	200	7.9	603	18.4	803	13.8
Under 16 years	130	5.1	258	7.9	388	6.7
Other cases (includes cases not coded)	66	2.6	66	2.0	132	2.3
Total	2,546	43.7	3,282	56.3	5,828	100.0

Note: The table figures exclude customers who received a nil rate of payment.

Source: DHS administrative data.

Table 49: Special Benefit recipients, characteristics by sex, June 2012

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	2,546	43.7	3,282	56.3	5,828	100.0
Age (years)						
<16	203	8.0	332	10.1	535	9.2
16–20	38	1.5	86	2.6	124	2.1
21–24	47	1.8	239	7.3	286	4.9
25–34	189	7.4	407	12.4	596	10.2
35–44	91	3.6	180	5.5	271	4.6
45–54	49	1.9	130	4.0	179	3.1
55–64	37	1.5	91	2.8	128	2.2
≥65	1,892	74.3	1,817	55.4	3,709	63.6
Marital status						
Married/de facto ^(a)	1,766	69.4	1,971	60.1	3,737	64.1
Single/separated/divorced/widowed	780	30.6	1,311	39.9	2,091	35.9
Country of birth (top five countries)						
China	891	35.0	798	24.3	1,689	29.0
Australia	173	6.8	307	9.4	480	8.2
Philippines	84	3.3	256	7.8	340	5.8
India	150	5.9	186	5.7	336	5.8
Vietnam	106	4.2	171	5.2	277	4.8
Other	1,142	44.9	1,564	47.7	2,706	46.4
Duration						
<1 year—total	848	33.3	1,356	41.3	2,204	37.8
<7 weeks	112	4.4	169	5.1	281	4.8
7 weeks to <3 months	97	3.8	168	5.1	265	4.5
3 to <6 months	218	8.6	360	11.0	578	9.9
6 to <9 months	247	9.7	365	11.1	612	10.5
9 months to <1 year	174	6.8	294	9.0	468	8.0
≥1 year—total	1,698	66.7	1,926	58.7	3,624	62.2
1 to <2 years	492	19.3	734.0	22.4	1,226	21.0
2 to <3 years	267	10.5	280.0	8.5	547	9.4
3 to <4 years	259	10.2	246.0	7.5	505	8.7
4 to <5 years	185	7.3	186.0	5.7	371	6.4
≥5 years	495	19.4	480.0	14.6	975	16.7
Mean (weeks)	137.2		115.5		125.5	
Median (weeks)	94.0		68.0		78.0	
Income (\$ per week) ^(b)						
Nil	2,520	99.0	3,224	98.2	5,744	98.6
≥0.01	26	1.0	58	1.8	84	1.4

(a) Includes any 'not required' counts.

(b) Income is defined as earned income.

Note: The table figures exclude customers who received a nil rate of payment.

Source: DHS administrative data.

Table 50: Special Benefit recipients by state/territory and sex, June 2012

State/territory	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
New South Wales	1,356	48.2	1,460	51.8	2,816	48.3
Victoria	738	43.8	947	56.2	1,685	28.9
Queensland	170	32.0	362	68.0	532	9.1
Western Australia	93	32.9	190	67.1	283	4.9
South Australia	134	36.9	229	63.1	363	6.2
Tasmania	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	55	0.9
Australian Capital Territory	28	37.3	47	62.7	75	1.3
Northern Territory	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	19	0.3
Total	2,546	43.7	3,282	56.3	5,828	100.0

Note: The table figures exclude customers who received a nil rate of payment.

n.p. = 'not published'. See 'Confidentiality' on page 1.

Source: DHS administrative data.

4 Family assistance

The Australian Government offers a range of payments to support families with their work and family responsibilities.

Each payment is different, depending on the needs of each family.

The main payments are:

- > Family Tax Benefit Part A
- > Family Tax Benefit Part B
- > Child Care Benefit
- > Child Care Rebate
- > Baby Bonus
- > Parental Leave Pay
- > Maternity Immunisation Allowance
- > Double Orphan Pension.

4.1 Family Tax Benefit

Family Tax Benefit (FTB) was introduced to help with the cost of raising children.

Residence requirements apply.

Part A

This is the most common payment to help with the cost of raising children and is paid per child. It includes a supplement per child that becomes payable after the end of the financial year.

Part A is income tested on family income.

Part B

This payment gives extra assistance to single-parent families and to couple families where one income is low. It is paid on a per family basis and includes a supplement that becomes payable after the end of the financial year.

Part B is income tested for single parents, and is income tested on both the lower income earner and the main income earner for two-parent families.

Reconciliation

After the end of each financial year, when an FTB customer and their partner (if applicable) have lodged their tax returns (if required), a reconciliation process occurs that compares the customer's FTB entitlement calculated on their actual income with the amount they were paid during the year based on their estimated income.

Table 51 shows 'entitled' customers who, after reconciliation processes, have been found to have at least one day of entitlement to FTB. Note that, for a range of reasons, FTB may be claimed during an entitlement year but there may be no entitlement following reconciliation.

Table 51: Family Tax Benefit, customers by category, 2004–05 to 2010–11 entitlement years post-reconciliation, as at June 2012

	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11 ^(a)
Lump sums							
Entitled	200,494	210,324	222,788	247,866	159,921	144,120	113,650
Not entitled (post)	1,357	1,420	1,633	1,887	901	513	882
Total	201,851	211,744	224,421	249,753	160,822	144,633	114,532
Instalments							
Entitled	1,929,702	1,923,378	1,906,783	1,882,838	1,897,315	1,874,485	1,622,560
Not entitled (post)	72,279	90,132	100,263	97,357	93,887	92,625	71,085
Total	2,001,981	2,013,510	2,007,046	1,980,195	1,991,202	1,967,110	1,693,645
All entitled ^(b)	2,130,196	2,133,702	2,129,571	2,130,704	2,057,236	2,018,605	1,736,210
Not yet reconciled ^(b)	15,296	17,351	19,331	17,296	28,478	43,336	243,344
Total	2,219,128	2,242,605	2,250,798	2,247,244	2,180,502	2,155,079	2,051,521

(a) Preliminary figures as at the end of June 2012. The number of lump-sum customers is not yet final because the claim period for 2010–11 lump-sum payments extends until June 2013.

(b) The number of 'not yet reconciled' customers will decrease by the end of June 2013 and the number of customers in the 'all entitled' category will increase.

Notes: The reconciliation process continues for several years, so it is not unexpected for numbers of entitled customers to increase and the number of customers not yet reconciled to decrease.

On 1 March 2011, the major repository of management information relating to FTB Reconciliation and Lump Sum Claim formally moved to a new reporting product. As a part of this change, the quality and breadth of information was improved, with a number of corrections being made to historical data.

Source: DHS administrative data.

Instalments

The following tables relate to customers eligible to receive fortnightly payments of FTB as at June 2012.

Table 52: Family Tax Benefit, instalment customers and children, June 2012

	Customers	Children
	No.	No.
Family Tax Benefit, both Part A and B	1,260,412	2,427,660
Family Tax Benefit, Part A (includes Regular Care Children)	355,103	721,784
Total Part A	1,615,515	3,149,444
Family Tax Benefit, Part B only	95,138	169,936
Total Part B	1,355,550	2,597,596
Total ^(a)	1,710,653	3,319,380

(a) The FTB total of customers and children is the total number who received FTB Part A and/or FTB Part B. It is not the arithmetic total of FTB Part A and FTB Part B customers and children as most customers receive both FTB Part A and FTB Part B.

Source: DHS administrative data.

Table 53: Family Tax Benefit Part A, instalment customers and children by rate type, June 2012

Family Tax Benefit rate type	Customers		Children	
	No.	%	No.	%
Maximum FTB (A) rate with ISP ^(a)	408,478	25.3	788,379	25.0
Maximum FTB (A) rate without ISP ^(a)	145,058	9.0	273,693	8.7
Part rate ^(b)	623,866	38.6	1,356,336	43.1
Base rate	319,110	19.8	496,126	15.8
Tapered base rate	106,692	6.6	215,817	6.9
Regular care rate	12,311	0.8	19,093	0.6
Total	1,615,515	100.0	3,149,444	100.0

(a) ISP=Income Support Payment (for example, Newstart Allowance, Disability Support Pension).

(b) Customers receiving less than maximum rate but more than base rate.

Source: DHS administrative data.

Table 54: Family Tax Benefit Part A, instalment customers and dependent children by age of child, June 2012

Age of child (years)	Customers ^(a)		Children ^(c)	
	No.	%	No.	%
<13	1,321,870	81.8	2,381,257	75.6
13–15	452,018	28.0	518,012	16.4
16–17	174,142	10.8	181,129	5.8
18–20	56,401	3.5	60,213	1.9
21–24	8,465	0.5	8,827	0.3
Total^(b)	1,615,515	100.0	3,149,444	100.0

(a) The customer count is the number of customers with at least one dependent child in the age group—hence a particular customer may be counted in more than one category. The total, however, counts each customer once only and is therefore less than the sum of the categories.

(b) Includes 'Invalid code'.

(c) Includes regular care children.

Source: DHS administrative data.

Table 55: Family Tax Benefit Part B, instalment customers by rate type and age of youngest child, June 2012

	Customers	
	No.	%
Maximum rate Family Tax Benefit Part B		
Child <5 years	394,241	29.1
Child ≥5 years	528,353	39.0
Total	922,594	68.1
Part rate Family Tax Benefit Part B		
Child <5 years	258,958	19.1
Child ≥5 years	173,998	12.8
Total	432,956	31.9
Total Family Tax Benefit Part B		
Child <5 years	653,199	48.2
Child ≥5 years	702,351	51.8
Total	1,355,550	100.0

Note: 'Child ≥5 years' includes any counts where customer records have an 'Invalid' code.

Source: DHS administrative data.

Table 56: Family Tax Benefit instalment customers, characteristics by payment type, June 2012

Characteristics	Family Tax Benefit Part A		Family Tax Benefit Part B		Family Tax Benefit	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	1,615,515	100.0	1,355,550	100.0	1,710,653	100.0
Age of customer (years)						
<18	2,381	0.1	2,374	0.2	2,383	0.1
18–20	20,525	1.3	20,142	1.5	20,628	1.2
21–24	77,575	4.8	73,618	5.4	79,224	4.6
25–34	469,135	29.0	418,845	30.9	498,621	29.1
35–44	677,628	41.9	558,127	41.2	723,587	42.3
45–54	320,971	19.9	244,989	18.1	337,486	19.7
55–59	30,371	1.9	23,004	1.7	31,518	1.8
60–64	9,740	0.6	8,030	0.6	9,956	0.6
≥65	7,189	0.4	6,421	0.5	7,250	0.4
Family type						
Partnered	981,644	60.8	733,184	54.1	1,068,584	62.5
Single parents—total	633,358	39.2	621,874	45.9	641,524	37.5
Female	551,795	34.2	547,558	40.4	557,312	32.6
Male	81,563	5.0	74,316	5.5	84,212	4.9
Not specified	513	0.0	492	0.0	545	0.0
Number of children in the family						
One	633,648	39.2	544,460	40.2	669,514	39.1
Two	600,590	37.2	494,749	36.5	645,526	37.7
Three	261,922	16.2	214,817	15.8	275,095	16.1
Four	84,568	5.2	70,607	5.2	85,705	5.0
Five or more	34,787	2.2	30,917	2.3	34,813	2.0
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	1,148,032	71.1	963,470	71.1	1,218,436	71.2
United Kingdom	56,315	3.5	46,269	3.4	61,354	3.6
New Zealand	56,963	3.5	48,613	3.6	59,940	3.5
Vietnam	35,977	2.2	28,508	2.1	37,112	2.2
China	34,887	2.2	29,843	2.2	35,567	2.1
Other	283,341	17.5	238,847	17.6	298,244	17.4

Source: DHS administrative data.

Table 57: Family Tax Benefit, instalment customers and children by state/territory, June 2012

State/territory	Family Tax Benefit Part A			Family Tax Benefit Part B			Total Family Tax Benefit					
	Customers		Children ^(b)	Customers		Children ^(b)	Customers		Children ^(b)			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
New South Wales	510,931	31.6	987,752	31.7	429,816	31.7	823,938	31.7	538,901	31.5	1,046,508	31.5
Victoria	400,511	24.8	764,656	24.5	329,994	24.3	626,260	24.1	422,634	24.7	812,160	24.5
Queensland	347,035	21.5	680,076	21.8	291,205	21.5	568,237	21.9	367,194	21.5	725,110	21.8
Western Australia	147,189	9.1	286,114	9.2	134,541	9.9	258,454	9.9	162,957	9.5	317,194	9.6
South Australia	127,242	7.9	237,799	7.6	101,035	7.5	188,458	7.3	132,308	7.7	249,990	7.5
Tasmania	44,365	2.7	84,813	2.7	35,384	2.6	68,101	2.6	45,666	2.7	88,582	2.7
Australian Capital Territory	17,367	1.1	32,960	1.1	15,524	1.1	28,721	1.1	19,183	1.1	36,398	1.1
Northern Territory	18,738	1.2	37,255	1.2	16,737	1.2	32,765	1.3	19,546	1.1	38,885	1.2
Other ^(a)	2,137	0.1	4,293	0.1	1,314	0.1	2,662	0.1	2,264	0.1	4,553	0.1
Total	1,615,515	100.0	3,115,718	100.0	1,355,550	100.0	2,597,596	100.0	1,710,653	100.0	3,319,380	100.0

(a) Includes invalid state/territory codes.

(b) Includes regular care children.

Note: The FTB total of customers is the total number who received FTB Part A and/or FTB Part B. It is not the arithmetic total of FTB Part A and FTB Part B as most customers receive both FTB Part A and FTB Part B.

Source: DHS administrative data.

4.2 Baby Bonus, Parental Leave Pay and Maternity Immunisation Allowance

Maternity Payment was introduced in 2004 to replace the Maternity Allowance and the First Child Tax Offset. Maternity Payment was renamed Baby Bonus on 1 July 2007. Baby Bonus assists families with the extra costs associated with newborn or adopted children and is available to eligible families who apply within 52 weeks of the baby's birth (including stillbirth) or the date an adopted child came into care.

To be eligible for Baby Bonus, a family's estimated adjusted taxable income for the six months following the birth of the child must be \$75,000 or less. Baby Bonus may be paid to foster carers who take on the care of a child shortly after the child's birth, if payment has not already been made to another person for the baby. Baby Bonus may also be paid to parents who adopt a child up to the age of 16 years. Baby Bonus is generally paid as 13 fortnightly instalments with the first instalment being larger than the remaining instalments.

The Paid Parental Leave (PPL) scheme is an entitlement for working parents of children born or adopted from 1 January 2011. Paid Parental Leave allows parents to spend time at home with their new baby or recently adopted child and helps employers retain valuable and skilled staff.

The PPL scheme provides Parental Leave Pay (PLP) at the rate of the National Minimum Wage for a maximum period of 18 weeks. Parental Leave Pay is taxable.

To be eligible for PLP, the claimant (usually the birth mother or initial primary carer of an adopted child) must be the primary carer of their child and meet the residency, work and income requirements. The claimant must also be on paid or unpaid leave or not working from the time they become the child's primary carer until the end of their PLP period. Full-time, part-time, casual, seasonal, contract and self-employed workers may be eligible.

Parental Leave Pay must be paid in one continuous 18-week period. It can start from the day a child is born or adopted, or a later date. It must be fully paid within 52 weeks from the date of birth or adoption.

An individual cannot receive Parental Leave Pay and the Baby Bonus for the same child. For multiple births, Parental Leave Pay may be paid for the first child (if eligible) and Baby Bonus for the other child(ren) (if eligible).

Maternity Immunisation Allowance (MIA) is designed to increase immunisation levels in children and to improve the timeliness of immunisation. From 1 January 2009, MIA is paid in two payments. The first payment is paid if a child is fully immunised between 18 and 24 months of age. The second amount is paid if a child is fully immunised between 4 and 5 years of age. Before 2009, MIA was paid in a single payment when the child was between 18 and 24 months of age. Eligibility is subject to the child being immunised in accordance with the National Health and Medical Research Council's Standard Vaccination Schedule, or having a valid exemption. There is no means test for MIA.

Table 58: Baby Bonus, Parental Leave Pay and Maternity Immunisation Allowance customers, 2011–12 financial year

	Families	Children
Baby Bonus	157,581	160,496
Parental Leave Pay	125,177	–
Maternity Immunisation Allowance	470,407	520,011

Note: The Maternity Immunisation Allowance program was discontinued on 1 July 2012.

‘–’ = not applicable.

Source: DHS administrative data.

Baby Bonus

The following Baby Bonus tables provide information by age of customer at date of payment.

Table 59: Baby Bonus customers and children by age and sex of customer, 2011–12 financial year

Age of customer at date of payment (years)	Customers						Children	
	Male		Female		Total		No.	%
	No.	% of age group	No.	% of age group	No.	%		
<20	59	0.6	9,259	99.4	9,318	5.9	9,427	5.9
20–24	755	2.8	26,491	97.2	27,246	17.3	27,660	17.2
25–29	3,565	8.9	36,269	91.1	39,834	25.3	40,489	25.2
30–34	7,124	16.7	35,650	83.3	42,774	27.1	43,561	27.1
35–39	5,426	19.9	21,800	80.1	27,226	17.3	27,825	17.3
40–44	2,639	30.7	5,950	69.3	8,589	5.5	8,795	5.5
≥45	1,842	69.7	799	30.3	2,641	1.7	2,739	1.7
Total	21,400	13.6	136,181	86.4	157,581	100.0	160,496	100.0

Note: Customers may be granted more than one payment during a 12-month period (for two different births at two different ages); however, each customer will be counted once only in the total, so the total figure may not equal the sum of the column.

Source: DHS administrative data.

Table 60: Baby Bonus customers and children by customer age and family type, 2011–12 financial year

Age of customer at date of payment (years)	Customers			Children		
	Partnered	Single parent	Total ^(a)	Partnered	Single parent	Total ^(a)
<20	3,533	5,776	9,318	3,583	5,835	9,427
20–24	15,669	11,566	27,246	15,902	11,746	27,660
25–29	30,385	9,447	39,834	30,898	9,589	40,489
30–34	36,576	6,192	42,774	37,234	6,321	43,561
35–39	23,614	3,612	27,226	24,125	3,700	27,825
40–44	7,299	1,289	8,589	7,471	1,323	8,795
≥45	2,307	334	2,641	2,392	347	2,739
Total^(b)	119,350	38,202	157,581	121,605	38,861	160,496

(a) Totals include 29 customers and 30 children whose family type was not specified.

(b) Customers may be granted more than one payment during a 12-month period (for two different births at two different ages); however, each customer will be counted once only in the total, so the total figure may not equal the sum of the column.

Source: DHS administrative data.

Table 61: Baby Bonus customers by state/territory, 2011–12 financial year

	Customers	
	No.	%
New South Wales	50,334	31.9
Victoria	36,630	23.2
Queensland	34,732	22.0
Western Australia	16,740	10.6
South Australia	10,683	6.8
Tasmania	3,571	2.3
Australian Capital Territory	1,999	1.3
Northern Territory	2,637	1.7
Other ^(a)	255	0.2
Total	157,581	100.0

(a) Includes unspecified state/territory.

Source: DHS administrative data.

Parental Leave Pay

The count of PLP recipients in the 2011–12 financial year comprises individuals whose payment started in the 2011–12 financial year (including those whose payments did not finish until after 30 June 2012). Individuals whose payment started in the 2010–11 financial year and finished in the 2011–12 financial year are not included in the 2011–12 count as they were included in the 2010–11 count.

Table 62: Parental Leave Pay recipients by age and sex, 2011–12 financial year

Age of recipient at date of payment (years)	Recipients					
	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	% of age group	No.	% of age group	No.	%
<20	0	0.0	304	100.0	304	0.2
20–24	18	0.2	7,862	99.8	7,880	6.3
25–29	92	0.3	30,399	99.7	30,491	24.4
30–34	263	0.5	48,771	99.5	49,034	39.2
35–39	237	0.8	29,138	99.2	29,375	23.5
40–44	116	1.5	7,445	98.5	7,561	6.0
≥45	44	8.3	488	91.7	532	0.4
Total^(a)	770	0.6	124,407	99.4	125,177	100.0

Source: DHS administrative data.

Table 63: Parental Leave Pay recipients by age and family type, 2011–12 financial year

Age of recipient at date of payment (years)	Recipients		
	Partnered	Single parent	Total
<20	147	157	304
20–24	6,233	1,647	7,880
25–29	28,667	1,824	30,491
30–34	47,444	1,590	49,034
35–39	28,319	1,056	29,375
40–44	7,042	519	7,561
≥45	472	60	532
Total^(a)	118,324	6,853	125,177

Source: DHS administrative data.

Table 64: Parental Leave Pay recipients by state/territory, 2011–12 financial year

State/territory	Recipients	
	No.	%
New South Wales	41,175	32.9
Victoria	32,157	25.7
Queensland	24,274	19.4
Western Australia	12,300	9.8
South Australia	8,549	6.8
Tasmania	2,458	2.0
Australian Capital Territory	2,934	2.3
Northern Territory	1,242	1.0
Other ^(a)	88	0.1
Total	125,177	100.0

(a) Includes all recipients whose state/territory is unknown.

Source: DHS administrative data.

4.3 Child care support

Child care support policies have been developed to help families participate in the economic and social life of the community by providing support for child care.

Child Care Benefit (CCB) helps families with the cost of approved child care, with proportionally more financial assistance for lower-income families. Eligible families can have the benefit paid directly to the child care service to reduce their ongoing fees. Alternatively, they can receive the benefit as a lump sum after the end of the financial year. In addition to CCB, families may also receive the Child Care Rebate (CCR) (formerly known as the Child Care Tax Rebate) that pays up to 50 per cent of out-of-pocket costs. The CCR is available quarterly to better align with when child care costs are incurred. Final CCR assessments are subject to CCB reconciliation based on taxable income as assessed by the Australian Taxation Office. Families using registered care (that is, informal care provided by a friend or neighbour registered with the Family Assistance Office), rather than care in an approved service, are eligible for the registered care rate of CCB. This is paid for up to 50 hours per week of work-related child care.

Table 65: Customers using approved Child Care Benefit services by state/territory, 2011–12 financial year

State/territory ^(a)	No.
New South Wales	294,070
Victoria	203,070
Queensland	216,860
Western Australia	71,970
South Australia	64,440
Tasmania	19,870
Australian Capital Territory	18,170
Northern Territory	7,790
Total	887,090

(a) Based on location of child care service.

Note: Table figures are rounded to the nearest 10. As customers may use services in more than one state/territory and due to rounding, the sum of the component parts does not equal the total.

Source: DEEWR administrative data.

Table 66: Customers using approved Child Care Benefit services by service type, 2011–12 financial year

Service type	No.
Long day care	630,130
Family day care ^(a)	108,780
Occasional care	9,690
Before school hours care	117,260
After school hours care	240,770
Vacation care	175,910
Total	887,090

(a) Family day care includes in-home care.

Note: Table figures are rounded to the nearest 10. As customers may use more than one type of service during the period and due to rounding, the sum of the component parts does not equal the total.

Source: DEEWR administrative data.

Table 67: Families and children using approved Child Care Benefit services by region, 2011–12 financial year

Region ^(a)	Families	Children
Major cities	656,550	948,280
Inner regional	175,770	258,420
Outer regional	70,760	104,020
Remote and very remote	10,070	14,410
Total	887,090	1,292,440

(a) Region is classified according to the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) classification.

Note: Table figures are rounded to the nearest 10. As families and children may use services in more than one region and due to rounding, the sum of the component parts does not equal the total.

Source: DEEWR administrative data.

4.4 Double Orphan Pension

Double Orphan Pension was first introduced in September 1973. It is paid for children under 16 years of age in the care of a guardian, and for full-time dependent students aged between 16 and 21 years who do not receive Youth Allowance. It is not means tested.

A double orphan is a child whose parents or adoptive parents have both died, or a child who has one deceased parent and:

- > the whereabouts of the other parent are unknown
- > the other parent is imprisoned for at least 10 years or is being held in custody on a charge for an offence punishable by imprisonment for at least 10 years, or
- > the other parent is residing indefinitely in a mental hospital, nursing home or similar institution.

Refugee children may qualify as double orphans in some circumstances.

To qualify for the Double Orphan Pension a person must have care of a double orphan and be eligible for FTB for the child, or would be eligible for FTB but for the income test. There are also residence and citizenship or visa requirements.

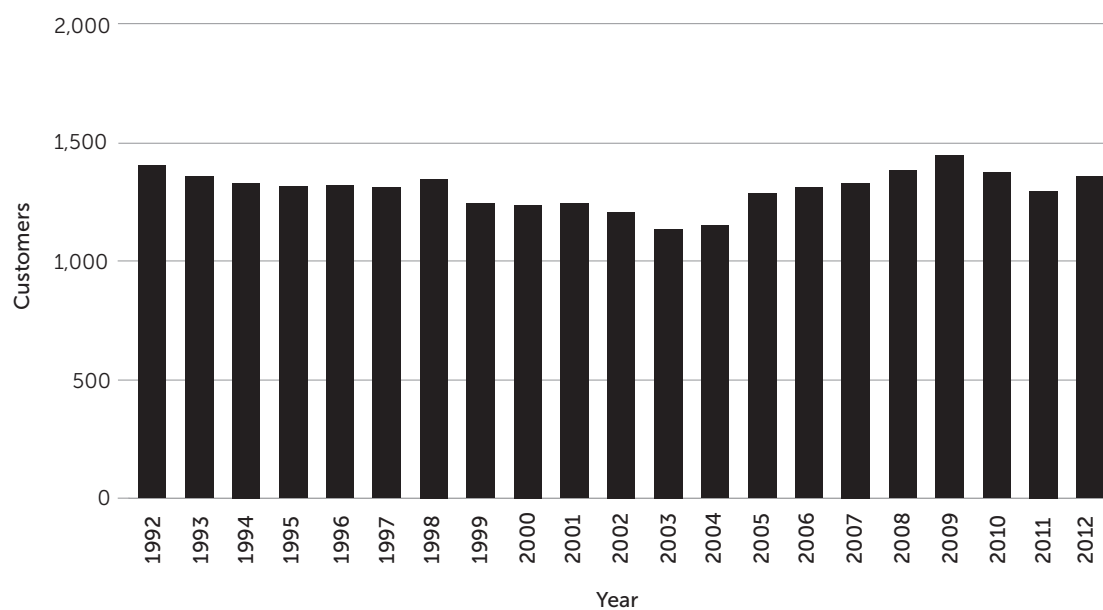
Table 68: Double Orphan Pension, customers and children, June 1992 to June 2012

As at June	Customers No.	Children ^(a)				Total No.
		Under 16		16 to 21		
		No.	%	No.	%	
1992	1,404	1,666	95.0	87	5.0	1,753
1993	1,356	1,605	95.3	79	4.7	1,684
1994	1,330	1,599	95.2	81	4.8	1,680
1995	1,314	1,616	95.0	85	5.0	1,701
1996	1,319	1,569	92.1	134	7.9	1,703
1997	1,313	1,537	91.2	149	8.8	1,686
1998	1,346	1,567	89.8	178	10.2	1,745
1999	1,243	1,490	92.4	122	7.6	1,612
2000	1,236	1,447	87.9	200	12.1	1,647
2001	1,242	1,503	92.2	127	7.8	1,630
2002	1,207	1,494	94.1	93	5.9	1,587
2003	1,137	1,391	93.9	91	6.1	1,482
2004	1,151	1,411	93.6	97	6.4	1,508
2005	1,286	1,635	94.3	99	5.7	1,734
2006	1,312	1,667	94.2	102	5.8	1,769
2007	1,330	1,728	93.9	112	6.1	1,840
2008	1,382	1,806	93.6	123	6.4	1,929
2009	1,444	1,829	91.4	173	8.6	2,002
2010	1,374	1,739	90.1	192	9.9	1,931
2011	1,296	1,664	89.6	194	10.4	1,858
2012	1,356	1,604	82.7	336	17.3	1,940

(a) Total number of children attracting a Double Orphan Pension.

Source: DHS administrative data.

Figure 11: Double Orphan Pension customers, June 1992 to June 2012



Source: DHS administrative data.

Table 69: Double Orphan Pension, customers and children by state/territory, June 2012

State/territory	Customers		Children ^(a)	
	No.	%	No.	%
New South Wales	319	23.5	446	23.0
Victoria	384	28.3	572	29.5
Queensland	245	18.1	346	17.8
Western Australia	171	12.6	249	12.8
South Australia	169	12.5	234	12.1
Tasmania	45	3.3	63	3.2
Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory	23	1.7	30	1.6
Total	1,356	100.0	1,940	100.0

(a) Total number of children attracting a Double Orphan Pension.

Source: DHS administrative data.

5 Other payments and services

5.1 Commonwealth Seniors Health Card

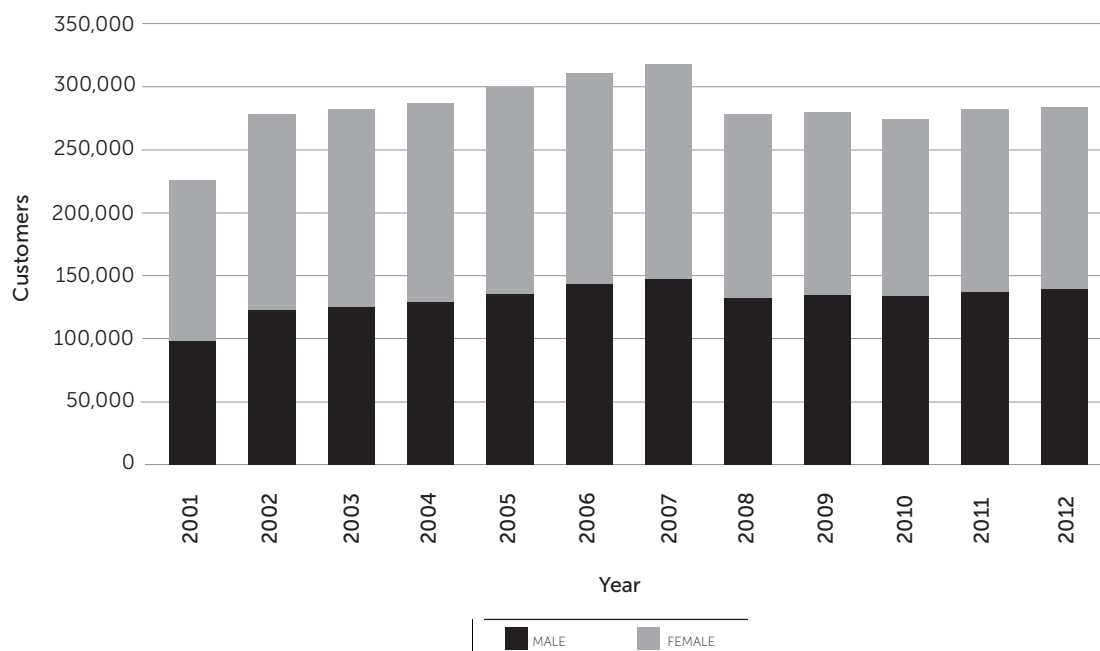
The Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC) may be issued to people who have reached the qualifying age for Age Pension but who do not qualify for the pension. To qualify for the CSHC, a person must also be an Australian resident, living in Australia and meet the adjusted taxable income test. There is no assets test. The CSHC provides access to Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme prescription items at a cheaper rate and a lower Extended Medical Safety Net threshold. Cardholders receive the Seniors Supplement and concessional travel on Great Southern Rail services.

Table 70: Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders by sex, June 2001 to June 2012

As at June	Male		Female		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.
2001	97,848	43.3	128,292	56.7	226,140
2002	122,613	44.2	155,068	55.8	277,681
2003	125,261	44.3	157,430	55.7	282,691
2004	129,241	45.0	158,085	55.0	287,326
2005	136,012	45.3	164,153	54.7	300,165
2006	143,476	46.2	167,157	53.8	310,633
2007	148,233	46.6	170,045	53.4	318,278
2008	132,336	47.5	146,042	52.5	278,378
2009	134,774	48.2	144,790	51.8	279,564
2010	134,689	49.0	140,091	51.0	274,780
2011	137,641	48.8	144,545	51.2	282,186
2012	139,537	49.2	144,094	50.8	283,631

Source: DHS administrative data.

Figure 12: Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders by sex, June 2001 to June 2012



Source: DHS administrative data.

Table 71: Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders, characteristics by sex, June 2012

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	139,537	49.2	144,094	50.8	283,631	100.0
Age of customer (years)						
60–64	–	–	2,213	1.5	2,213	0.8
65–69	45,448	32.6	51,750	35.9	97,198	34.3
70–74	41,964	30.1	38,265	26.6	80,229	28.3
75–79	26,349	18.9	23,643	16.4	49,992	17.6
80–84	16,590	11.9	15,462	10.7	32,052	11.3
85–89	7,209	5.2	8,652	6.0	15,861	5.6
90–94	1,646	1.2	3,200	2.2	4,846	1.7
≥95	331	0.2	909	0.6	1,240	0.4
Status						
Partnered	114,408	82.0	94,141	65.3	208,549	73.5
Single	25,127	18.0	49,950	34.7	75,077	26.5
Other ^(a)	2	0.0	3	0.0	5	0.0

(a) Includes customers whose marital status was not specified.

Note: '–' = not applicable.

Source: DHS administrative data.

Table 72: Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders by state/territory and sex, June 2012

State/territory	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
New South Wales	48,243	48.7	50,759	51.3	99,002	34.9
Victoria	35,916	49.0	37,341	51.0	73,257	25.8
Queensland	25,504	49.9	25,587	50.1	51,091	18.0
Western Australia	14,269	49.6	14,494	50.4	28,763	10.1
South Australia	9,598	49.8	9,671	50.2	19,269	6.8
Tasmania	2,803	51.1	2,684	48.9	5,487	1.9
Australian Capital Territory	2,369	46.3	2,748	53.7	5,117	1.8
Northern Territory	441	52.4	401	47.6	842	0.3
Other ^(a)	394	49.1	409	50.9	803	0.3
Total	139,537	49.2	144,094	50.8	283,631	100.0

(a) Includes overseas customers.

Source: DHS administrative data.

5.2 Rent Assistance

Rent Assistance is a non-taxable income support supplement paid to individuals and families who rent in the private rental market and community housing. Pensioners, allowance recipients and those receiving more than the base rate of Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A may be eligible for Rent Assistance.

Rent Assistance can be a payment for site fees in caravan parks and residential parks, mooring fees at a marina, board and lodgings, some retirement village fees and fees paid to occupy non-Australian Government funded beds in an aged care facility such as a hostel or nursing home.

To qualify for Rent Assistance, a person must:

- > qualify for a social security pension, benefit or allowance, and/or qualify to receive more than the base rate of FTB Part A
- > pay or be liable to pay private rent above the applicable minimum rent threshold for their principal home
- > be an Australian resident in Australia (except for temporary absence of up to 26 weeks)
- > not be a home owner (except for mobile homes or people in care situations)
- > not have a partner receiving more than the base rate of FTB Part A
- > if an allowance recipient, not have a partner who receives Rent Assistance with their pension.

Rent Assistance is not paid to:

- > people paying rent to a government housing authority, although in some situations subtenants may qualify for Rent Assistance
- > a person who lives in a care facility in an approved Australian Government funded bed
- > single Disability Support Pension recipients aged under 21 years, without dependants, who are living with their parents
- > other single people aged less than 25 years, without dependent children, who are living with their parents.

Special rules apply to single sharers and people who pay board and lodging.

Table 73: Rent Assistance income units, average rent and Rent Assistance by primary payment type, June 2012

Primary payment type ^(a)	Income units	Average rent	Average Rent Assistance
	No. ^(b)	\$ per fortnight ^(c)	\$ per fortnight ^(c)
Age Pension	210,475	350	98
Disability Support Pension	249,747	363	108
Newstart Allowance	213,289	390	100
Parenting Payment (Single)	166,137	497	118
Parenting Payment (Partnered) ^(d)	24,623	601	135
Youth Allowance	87,187	313	86
Family Tax Benefit, Part A only	163,059	643	97
Other payments	73,950	426	107
Total	1,188,467	428	104

(a) Members of an income unit may receive more than one type of social security payment and/or FTB. The primary payment type is based on the following hierarchy: pensions, followed by allowances, Parenting Payment (Partnered) and then FTB Part A. Most families with children are paid Rent Assistance with FTB, but use of primary payments helps to understand the extent of reliance on social security payments.

(b) Income unit numbers relate to those with an ongoing entitlement to a social security or FTB Part A payment at more than the base rate at 1 June 2012 (Housing dataset June 2012).

(c) Rent refers to the combined rent for a couple. Where a recipient pays for both accommodation and meals, and cannot separately identify an accommodation charge, two-thirds of the payment is treated as rent. Average rent and Rent Assistance relate only to recipients who were paid a daily rate of Rent Assistance at 1 June 2012 (Housing dataset June 2012).

(d) Where a member of a couple receiving Parenting Payment (Partnered) has a partner receiving a social security income support payment, the partner's income support payment will become the primary payment type. Parenting Payment (Partnered) will be the primary payment type only if the partner does not receive an income support payment.

Note: Income units consist of a single person or a couple, with or without dependent children. Eligibility for Rent Assistance depends upon family circumstances including the combined rent paid by members of a couple. Where both members of a couple living together qualify for Rent Assistance, the maximum payment is halved.

Source: DHS administrative data.

Table 74: Rent Assistance income units by primary payment type and sex, June 2012

Primary payment type ^(a)	Income units		Both in receipt of Rent Assistance	Female in receipt of Rent Assistance	Male in receipt of Rent Assistance
	No. ^(b)	%	No.	No.	No.
Age Pension	210,475	17.7	40,627	103,343	66,505
Disability Support Pension	249,747	21.0	18,793	111,788	119,166
Newstart Allowance	213,289	17.9	6,548	99,625	107,116
Parenting Payment (Single)	166,137	14.0	–	158,883	7,254
Parenting Payment (Partnered) ^(c)	24,623	2.1	–	23,486	1,137
Youth Allowance	87,187	7.3	1,493	50,016	35,678
Family Tax Benefit, Part A only	163,059	13.7	558	131,331	31,170
Other payments	73,950	6.2	5,131	47,553	21,266
Total	1,188,467	100.0	73,151	726,024	389,292

(a) Members of an income unit may receive more than one type of social security payment and/or FTB. The primary payment type is based on the following hierarchy: pensions, followed by allowances, Parenting Payment (Partnered) and then FTB Part A. Most families with children are paid Rent Assistance with FTB, but use of primary payments helps to understand the extent of reliance on social security payments.

(b) Income unit numbers relate to those with an ongoing entitlement to a social security or FTB Part A payment at more than the base rate at 1 June 2012 (Housing dataset June 2012).

(c) Where a member of a couple receiving Parenting Payment (Partnered) has a partner receiving a social security income support payment, the partner's income support payment will become the primary payment type. Parenting Payment (Partnered) will be the primary payment only if the partner does not receive another income support payment.

Notes: Income units consist of a single person or a couple, with or without dependent children. Eligibility for Rent Assistance depends upon family circumstances including the combined rent paid by members of a couple. Where both members of a couple living together qualify for Rent Assistance, the maximum payment is halved.

'–' = not applicable.

Source: DHS administrative data.

6 Pensioners paid overseas

6.1 Payment rules

Generally there are two standard portability periods:

- > unlimited portability, and
- > limited 13 weeks portability.

Age pensioners and some Widow B and wife pensioners are entitled to be paid overseas indefinitely if they leave Australia permanently. Generally the rate of pension paid outside Australia on a long-term basis is proportionalised according to the person's Australian residence.

In certain circumstances, recipients of Disability Support Pension (DSP) may be paid overseas for an extended period of time. These circumstances include undertaking approved study overseas and those who are terminally ill and returning to their country of origin to be near family. From 1 July 2012, these circumstances include DSP recipients with a severe and permanent disability and no future work capacity.

All other payments, with the exception of Newstart Allowance, Sickness Allowance, Special Benefit and Youth Allowance (other), generally have a maximum portability period of 13 weeks. Ancillary payments such as Rent Assistance and Pharmaceutical Allowance are also generally portable for temporary overseas absences.

6.2 Australia's agreements as at June 2012

Australia has social security agreements with 27 countries—Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea (South), Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and the United States of America.

Australia's international social security agreements are designed to share social security costs between countries by:

- > facilitating access to Australian pensions for former residents living in agreement countries and in Australia
- > helping Australian residents claim their entitlements to social security from other countries
- > guaranteeing payment of relevant social security benefits to people moving between agreement countries.

Table 75: Persons paid overseas by Australia by payment type, June 1992 to June 2012

As at June ^(a)	Age Pension	Disability Support Pension	Wife Pension	Widow B Pension	Carer Payment	Parenting Payment ^(b)	Total
1992	19,846	8,148	4,682	1,790	-	159	34,625
1993	23,948	8,455	3,478	1,683	-	154	37,718
1994	27,287	8,493	3,594	1,665	5	136	41,180
1995	29,712	8,780	3,807	1,658	9	121	44,087
1996	32,288	9,074	4,045	1,684	9	110	47,210
1997	35,662	9,061	3,867	1,526	13	89	50,218
1998	38,136	8,964	3,572	1,391	16	76	52,155
1999	38,136	8,964	3,718	1,251	19	55	52,143
2000	42,066	8,707	2,943	1,156	17	43	54,932
2001	43,280	8,686	2,689	1,141	18	42	55,856
2002	44,150	8,485	2,098	1,082	16	38	55,869
2003	45,399	8,129	998	1,875	37	23	56,461
2004	47,259	7,867	1,773	859	42	0	57,800
2005	48,871	7,816	1,570	799	54	10	59,120
2006	54,966	9,459	1,602	740	103	178	67,048
2007	56,165	8,849	1,431	658	88	44	67,235
2008	57,811	8,365	1,305	657	78	18	68,234
2009	58,012	8,174	1,136	610	187	111	68,230
2010	62,148	7,572	969	575	93	3	71,360
2011	68,947	7,504	898	549	123	4	78,025
2012	73,158	7,313	818	512	126	5	81,932

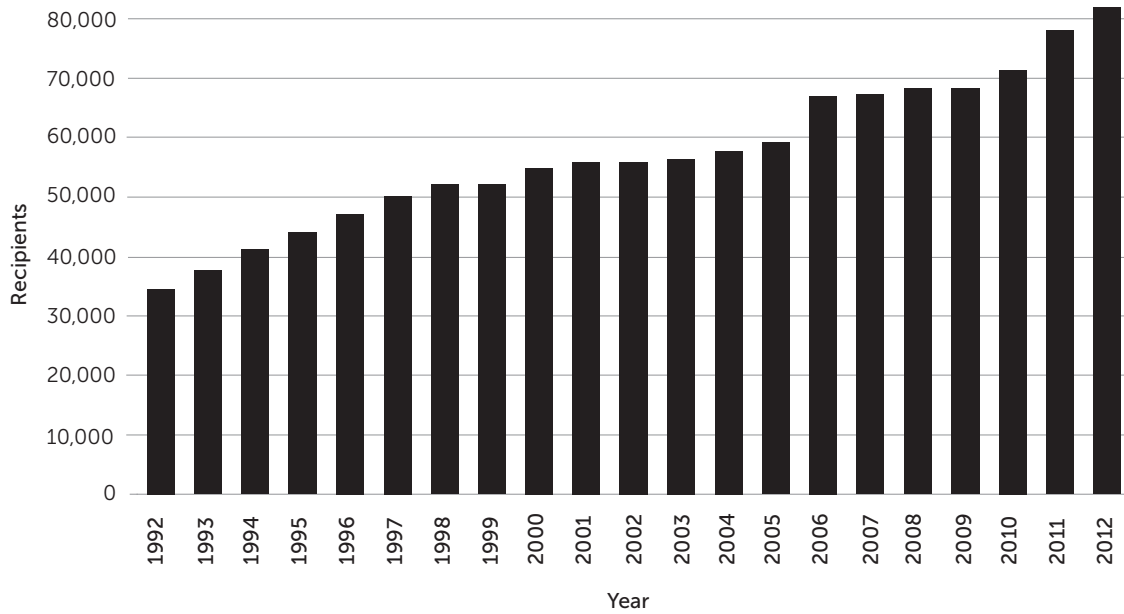
(a) All payments where person is outside Australia long-term (currently defined as more than six months—prior to 2006 the cut-off was 12 months).

(b) Parenting Payment (Single) replaced Sole Parent Pension on 20 March 1998.

Note: '-' = not applicable.

Source: DHS administrative data.

Figure 13: Persons paid overseas by Australia, June 1992 to June 2012



Notes: All payments where person is outside Australia long-term (currently defined as more than six months—prior to 2006 the cut-off was 12 months).

Parenting Payment (Single) replaced Sole Parent Pension on 20 March 1998.

Source: DHS administrative data.

Table 76: Persons paid overseas by Australia, country of residence by payment type, June 2012

Zone	Country of residence	Age Pension	Disability Support Pension	Other ^(a)	Total
Europe	Austria	978	53	6	1,037
	Belgium	71	10	0	81
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	194	76	1	271
	Bulgaria	27	7	1	35
	Croatia	2,117	506	27	2,650
	Cyprus	736	220	46	1,002
	Czech Republic	164	23	0	187
	Denmark	157	14	0	171
	Finland	212	7	1	220
	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1,838	213	24	2,075
	France	131	16	2	149
	Germany	1,734	108	9	1,851
	Greece	11,401	1,242	280	12,923
	Hungary	308	36	5	349
	Ireland	483	34	4	521
	Italy	17,050	402	368	17,820
	Malta	3,266	769	160	4,195
	Montenegro	37	24	3	64
	Netherlands	3,919	29	7	3,955
	Norway	41	12	0	53
	Poland	393	97	4	494
	Portugal	1,144	205	40	1,389
	Romania	45	15	0	60
	Serbia	741	246	30	1,017
	Slovakia	31	9	0	40
	Slovenia	276	27	0	303
	Spain	3,976	256	86	4,318
Sweden	26	4	1	31	
Switzerland	55	9	0	64	
United Kingdom	2,046	140	45	2,231	
Other Europe ^(b)	79	7	0	86	
Total Europe	53,676	4,816	1,150	59,642	
Americas	Argentina	172	25	6	203
	Brazil	38	9	2	49
	Canada	1,296	53	12	1,361
	Chile	498	101	13	612
	Colombia	34	16	3	53
	Ecuador	29	6	2	37
	El Salvador	24	4	1	29
	Peru	33	3	0	36
	United States of America	1,068	171	12	1,251
	Uruguay	228	29	5	262
	Other Americas ^(c)	46	5	1	52
	Total Americas	3,466	422	57	3,945

**Table 76: Persons paid overseas by Australia, country of residence by payment type, June 2012
(continued)**

Zone	Country of residence	Age Pension	Disability Support Pension	Other ^(a)	Total
Asia	Cambodia	34	0	0	34
	China	125	5	0	130
	Hong Kong	78	1	0	79
	India	87	16	0	103
	Indonesia	83	13	1	97
	Japan	35	3	1	39
	Korea (South)	28	1	0	29
	Malaysia	64	4	2	70
	Philippines	457	49	4	510
	Singapore	29	0	1	30
	Sri Lanka	38	4	1	43
	Thailand	379	39	1	419
	Vietnam	81	6	1	88
	Other Asia ^(d)	53	8	0	61
Total Asia	1,571	149	12	1,732	
Africa/Middle East	Egypt	62	30	5	97
	Israel	86	9	3	98
	Jordan	16	7	0	23
	Lebanon	512	117	30	659
	Mauritius	19	3	1	23
	South Africa	39	2	0	41
	Syria	39	19	2	60
	Turkey	849	385	71	1,305
	Other Africa/Middle East ^(e)	80	22	2	104
Total Africa/Middle East	1,702	594	114	2,410	
Oceania	Fiji	26	1	0	27
	New Zealand	8,174	870	51	9,095
	Samoa	19	1	0	20
	Other Oceania ^(f)	41	4	2	47
	Total Oceania	8,260	876	53	9,189
Total^(g)	73,158	7,313	1,461	81,932	

(a) Includes Wife Pension, Widow B Pension, Carer Payment and Parenting Payment (Single).

(b) Comprised of Albania, Belarus, Estonia, Former Serbia and Montenegro, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Russian Federation and Ukraine.

(c) Comprised of Aruba, Barbados, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Puerto Rico, St Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela.

(d) Comprised of Afghanistan, Armenia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Burma (Myanmar), Georgia, Kazakhstan, Korea (North), Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, Taiwan and Timor-Leste.

(e) Comprised of Algeria, Bahrain, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Kuwait, Liberia, Malawi, Morocco, Namibia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles Islands, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates and Zambia.

(f) Comprised of Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Norfolk Island, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

(g) Includes additional 5,014 recipients from unknown or unspecified countries.

Source: DHS administrative data.

Table 77: Persons paid by Australia under a social security agreement by payment type, June 2012

Agreement country	Age Pension	Disability Support Pension	Other ^(a)	Total
Austria	931	49	5	985
Belgium	49	6	0	55
Canada	1,355	55	5	1,415
Chile	244	58	0	302
Croatia	1,213	292	0	1,505
Cyprus	464	126	27	617
Czech Republic	52	0	0	52
Denmark	130	15	0	145
Finland	165	0	0	165
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1,247	0	0	1,247
Germany	1,770	109	3	1,882
Greece	6,710	0	0	6,710
Ireland	330	27	2	359
Italy	16,154	210	313	16,677
Japan	21	0	0	21
Korea (South)	11	0	0	11
Malta	3,052	610	133	3,795
Netherlands	4,040	23	7	4,070
New Zealand	12,828	2,133	224	15,185
Norway	31	8	0	39
Poland	117	0	0	117
Portugal	855	101	22	978
Slovak Republic	6	0	0	6
Slovenia	178	10	0	188
Spain	3,540	165	71	3,776
Switzerland	58	7	0	65
United States of America	1,011	169	4	1,184
Total	56,562	4,173	816	61,551

(a) Includes Wife Pension, Widow B Pension, Carer Payment and Parenting Payment (Single).

Note: Includes payments made in Australia, the agreement country and in third countries.

Source: DHS administrative data.

6.3 Overseas pensions

Many DHS customers have lived and worked overseas and are eligible to receive overseas pensions, known as comparable foreign payments.

Under the comparable foreign payments legislation, customers are generally required to claim their overseas pension if they are entitled.

Requiring customers who are likely to be eligible for a foreign payment to claim ensures a fairer social security system. It reinforces the objective of directing income support towards those in need while at the same time avoiding any unnecessary costs to Australian taxpayers. It also recognises that many Australians are part of the new global labour market.

6.4 Total balance of payments

Expenditure for the financial year ending 30 June 2012 on Australia's pension payments to people living overseas was A\$692.6 million. At April 2012, pensions from overseas countries being paid to DHS pensioners residing in Australia totalled A\$1.2 billion per annum, representing a significant inflow of funds into Australia, an increase in the disposable income for pensioners and a saving for Australian taxpayers.

List of shortened forms

ADAT	Adult Disability Assessment Tool
ARIA	Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia
CCB	Child Care Benefit
CCR	Child Care Rebate
CDAT	Child Disability Assessment Tool
CDEP	Community Development Employment Project
CSHC	Commonwealth Seniors Health Card
DCLA	Disability Care Load Assessment
DEEWR	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
DHS	Department of Human Services
DIICCSRTE	Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education
DSP	Disability Support Pension
DSS	Department of Social Services
DVA	Department of Veterans' Affairs
FaHCSIA	Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
FTB	Family Tax Benefit
ISP	Income Support Payment
LMRP	Labour Market and Related Payments
MIA	Maternity Immunisation Allowance
NAM	newly arrived migrant
n.p.	not published
PLP	Parental Leave Pay
PPL	Paid Parental Leave
RCC	Regular Care Child (a child cared for, by the customer, between 14 per cent and less than 35 per cent of the time. Customer will not be eligible to receive the child related components of Family Tax Benefit payments, but may be eligible to receive associated benefits such as Rent Assistance)

Statistical Papers

1. *Income support customers: a statistical overview 2002*
(2006)
2. *Income support customers: a statistical overview 2003*
(2006)
3. *Income support customers: a statistical overview 2004*
(2006)
4. *Income support customers: a statistical overview 2005*
(2009)
5. *Income support customers: a statistical overview 2006*
(2010)
6. *Income support customers: a statistical overview 2007*
(2010)
7. *Income support customers: a statistical overview 2008*
(2010)
8. *Income support customers: a statistical overview 2009*
(2010)
9. *Income support customers: a statistical overview 2010*
(2011)
10. *Income support customers: a statistical overview 2011*
(2012)

