Australian Government Department of Social Services

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Income support customers: a statistical overview 2012

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The opinions, comments and/or analysis expressed in the Statistical Paper series are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Minister for Social Services or the Department of Social Services (DSS), and cannot be taken in any way as expressions of Government policy.

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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](http://www.dss.gov.au/about-fahcsia/publications-articles/research-publications/statistical-paper-series).

For more information on FaHCSIA research publications, write to:

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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:

[Department of Social Services website](http://www.dss.gov.au/)

[Department of Human Services website](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

This figure is a representation of the data in Table 3, above, Age Pension recipients by sex, June 1992 to June 2012.
Figure 1 is a bar graph showing the numbers of Age Pension recipients between 1992 and 2012, split into males and females.
Along its horizontal axis are years, from 1992 through to 2012.
Along its vertical axis are numbers 0 to 2,500,000, indicating numbers of recipients.
A bar for each year indicates the number of female recipients and the number of male recipients. 
In 1992, male recipients = 447,888; female recipients = 998,280; total recipients = 1,446,168.
In 1993, male recipients = 481,196; female recipients = 1,034,486; total recipients = 1,515,682.
In 1994, male recipients = 514,217; female recipients = 1,067,657; total recipients = 1,581,874.
In 1995, male recipients = 544,571; female recipients = 1,034,127; total recipients = 1,578,698.
In 1996, male recipients = 570,328; female recipients = 1,032,506; total recipients = 1,602,834.
In 1997, male recipients = 597,859; female recipients = 1,082,355; total recipients = 1,680,214.
In 1998, male recipients = 618,607; female recipients = 1,072,987; total recipients = 1,691,594.
In 1999, male recipients = 639,008; female recipients = 1,085,581; total recipients = 1,724,589.
In 2000, male recipients = 659,188; female recipients = 1,079,027; total recipients = 1,738,215.
In 2001, male recipients = 688,563; female recipients = 1,404,863; total recipients = 2,093,426.
In 2002, male recipients = 714,324; female recipients = 1,103,881; total recipients = 1,818,205.
In 2003, male recipients = 739,187; female recipients = 1,121,868; total recipients = 1,861,055.
In 2004, male recipients = 761,025; female recipients = 1,115,225; total recipients = 1,876,250.
In 2005, male recipients = 782,977; female recipients = 1,132,059; total recipients = 1,915,036.
In 2006, male recipients = 800,310; female recipients = 1,121,819; total recipients = 1,922,129.
In 2007, male recipients = 815,912; female recipients = 1,136,774; total recipients = 1,987,038.
In 2008, male recipients = 868,179; female recipients = 1,171,126; total recipients = 2,039,305.
In 2009, male recipients = 906,769; female recipients = 1,210,761; total recipients = 2,117,530.
In 2010, male recipients = 939,442; female recipients = 1,218,861; total recipients = 2,158,303.
In 2011, male recipients = 967,291; female recipients = 1,257,836; total recipients = 2,225,127.
In 2012, male recipients = 1,011,456; female recipients = 1,271,136; total recipients = 2,282,592.

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

This figure is a representation of the data in Table 6, above, Disability Support Pension recipients by sex, June 1992 to June 2012.
Figure 2 is a bar graph showing the numbers of Disability Support Pension recipients between 1992 and 2012, split into males and females.
Along its horizontal axis are years, from 1992 through to 2012.
Along its vertical axis are numbers 0 to 1,000,000, indicating numbers of recipients.
A bar for each year indicates the number of female recipients and the number of male recipients. 
In 1992, male recipients = 273,697; female recipients = 104,861; total recipients = 378,558.
In 1993, male recipients = 291,471; female recipients = 115,101; total recipients = 406,572.
In 1994, male recipients = 309,123; female recipients = 127,111; total recipients = 436,234.
In 1995, male recipients = 324,672; female recipients = 139,758; total recipients = 464,430.
In 1996, male recipients = 340,256; female recipients = 158,979; total recipients = 499,235.
In 1997, male recipients = 352,607; female recipients = 174,907; total recipients = 527,514.
In 1998, male recipients = 361,539; female recipients = 191,797; total recipients = 553,336.
In 1999, male recipients = 373,340; female recipients = 204,342; total recipients = 577,682.
In 2000, male recipients = 382,351; female recipients = 219,929; total recipients = 602,280.
In 2001, male recipients = 392,354; female recipients = 231,572; total recipients = 623,926.
In 2002, male recipients = 406,893; female recipients = 252,022; total recipients = 658,915.
In 2003, male recipients = 412,777; female recipients = 260,557; total recipients = 673,334.
In 2004, male recipients = 418,829; female recipients = 277,913; total recipients = 696,742.
In 2005, male recipients = 420,073; female recipients = 286,709; total recipients = 706,782.
In 2006, male recipients = 415,618; female recipients = 296,545; total recipients = 712,163.
In 2007, male recipients = 413,033; female recipients = 301,123; total recipients = 714,156.
In 2008, male recipients = 413,484; female recipients = 318,883; total recipients = 732,367.
In 2009, male recipients = 422,290; female recipients = 334,828; total recipients = 757,118.
In 2010, male recipients = 433,456; female recipients = 359,125; total recipients = 792,581.
In 2011, male recipients = 446,600; female recipients = 372,250; total recipients = 818,850.
In 2012, male recipients = 444,690; female recipients = 382,770; total recipients = 827,460.

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

This figure is a representation of the data in Table 9, above, Sickness Allowance recipients by sex, June 1992 to June 2012.
Figure 3 is a bar graph showing the numbers of Sickness Allowance recipients between 1992 and 2012, split into males and females.
Along its horizontal axis are years, from 1992 through to 2012.
Along its vertical axis are numbers 0 to 50,000, indicating numbers of recipients.
A bar for each year indicates the number of female recipients and the number of male recipients. 
In 1992, male recipients = 30,844; female recipients = 13,328; total recipients = 44,172.
In 1993, male recipients = 31,802; female recipients = 14,777; total recipients = 46,579.
In 1994, male recipients = 31,274; female recipients = 15,858; total recipients = 47,132.
In 1995, male recipients = 31,131; female recipients = 16,180; total recipients = 47,311.
In 1996, male recipients = 22,254; female recipients = 10,961; total recipients = 33,215.
In 1997, male recipients = 10,721; female recipients = 5,038; total recipients = 15,759.
In 1998, male recipients = 11,166; female recipients = 5,119; total recipients = 16,285.
In 1999, male recipients = 7,799; female recipients = 3,382; total recipients = 11,181.
In 2000, male recipients = 6,990; female recipients = 3,053; total recipients = 10,043.
In 2001, male recipients = 7,598; female recipients = 3,460; total recipients = 11,058.
In 2002, male recipients = 6,414; female recipients = 3,126; total recipients = 9,540.
In 2003, male recipients = 5,973; female recipients = 2,782; total recipients = 8,755.
In 2004, male recipients = 5,613; female recipients = 2,865; total recipients = 8,478.
In 2005, male recipients = 5,671; female recipients = 2,696; total recipients = 8,367.
In 2006, male recipients = 5,011; female recipients = 2,562; total recipients = 7,573.
In 2007, male recipients = 4,877; female recipients = 2,747; total recipients = 7,624.
In 2008, male recipients = 4,523; female recipients = 2,914; total recipients = 7,437.
In 2009, male recipients = 4,182; female recipients = 2,786; total recipients = 6,968.
In 2010, male recipients = 3,928; female recipients = 2,775; total recipients = 6,703.
In 2011, male recipients = 3,812; female recipients = 2,893; total recipients = 6,705.
In 2012, male recipients = 3,987; female recipients = 3,163; total recipients = 7,150.

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 | 1016 | | | 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

This figure is a representation of the data in Table 12, above, Mobility Allowance recipients by sex, June 1992 to June 2012.
Figure 4 is a bar graph showing the numbers of Mobility Allowance recipients between 1992 and 2012, split into males and females.
Along its horizontal axis are years, from 1992 through to 2012.
Along its vertical axis are numbers 0 to 75,000, indicating numbers of recipients.
A bar for each year indicates the number of female recipients and the number of male recipients. 
In 1992, male recipients = 7,826; female recipients = 6,085; total recipients = 13,911.
In 1993, male recipients = 9,118; female recipients = 7,042; total recipients = 16,160.
In 1994, male recipients = 11,916; female recipients = 8,879; total recipients = 20,795.
In 1995, male recipients = 13,106; female recipients = 9,745; total recipients = 22,851.
In 1996, male recipients = 14,200; female recipients = 10,785; total recipients = 24,985.
In 1997, male recipients = 15,066; female recipients = 11,529; total recipients = 26,595.
In 1998, male recipients = 16,346; female recipients = 12,629; total recipients = 28,975.
In 1999, male recipients = 17,415; female recipients = 12,629; total recipients = 30,044.
In 2000, male recipients = 19,673; female recipients = 15,481; total recipients = 35,154.
In 2001, male recipients = 20,887; female recipients = 16,687; total recipients = 37,574.
In 2002, male recipients = 22,863; female recipients = 18,593; total recipients = 41,456.
In 2003, male recipients = 24,370; female recipients = 19,869; total recipients = 44,239.
In 2004, male recipients = 25,763; female recipients = 21,084; total recipients = 46,847.
In 2005, male recipients = 26,940; female recipients = 22,275; total recipients = 49,215.
In 2006, male recipients = 28,755; female recipients = 23,897; total recipients = 52,652.
In 2007, male recipients = 29,995; female recipients = 24,947; total recipients = 54,942.
In 2008, male recipients = 30,151; female recipients = 25,148; total recipients = 55,299.
In 2009, male recipients = 30,462; female recipients = 25,618; total recipients = 56,080.
In 2010, male recipients = 31,199; female recipients = 26,150; total recipients = 57,349.
In 2011, male recipients = 31,975; female recipients = 26,893; total recipients = 58,868.
In 2012, male recipients = 33,236; female recipients = 28,107; total recipients = 61,343.

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

This figure is a representation of the data in Table 14, above, Wife Pension recipients by partner pension type, June 1992 to June 2012.
Figure 5 is a bar graph showing the numbers of Wife Pension recipients between 1992 and 2012.
Along its horizontal axis are years, from 1992 through to 2012.
Along its vertical axis are numbers 0 to 200,000, indicating numbers of recipients.
A bar for each year indicates the number of recipients.
In 1992, recipients = 133,194.
In 1993, recipients = 142,013.
In 1994, recipients = 152,620.
In 1995, recipients = 161,457.
In 1996, recipients = 148,931.
In 1997, recipients = 127,885.
In 1998, recipients = 116,125.
In 1999, recipients = 100,719.
In 2000, recipients = 91,341.
In 2001, recipients = 77,701.
In 2002, recipients = 67,968.
In 2003, recipients = 58,110.
In 2004, recipients = 52,829.
In 2005, recipients = 45,090.
In 2006, recipients = 40,881.
In 2007, recipients = 35,273.
In 2008, recipients = 31,950.
In 2009, recipients = 27,347.
In 2010, recipients = 24,655.
In 2011, recipients = 21,215.
In 2012, recipients = 19,317.

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

This figure is a representation of the data in Table 17, above, Carer Payment recipients by payment type of care receiver, June 1992 to June 2012.
Figure 6 is a bar graph showing the numbers of Carer Payment recipients between 1992 and 2012.
Along its horizontal axis are years, from 1992 through to 2012.
Along its vertical axis are numbers 0 to 200,000, indicating numbers of recipients.
A bar for each year indicates the number of recipients.
In 1992, recipients = 12,631.
In 1993, recipients = 15,045.
In 1994, recipients = 17,699.
In 1995, recipients = 20,098.
In 1996, recipients = 25,037.
In 1997, recipients = 29,558.
In 1998, recipients = 33,979.
In 1999, recipients = 40,070.
In 2000, recipients = 47,550.
In 2001, recipients = 57,190.
In 2002, recipients = 67,260.
In 2003, recipients = 75,937.
In 2004, recipients = 84,082.
In 2005, recipients = 95,446.
In 2006, recipients = 105,058.
In 2007, recipients = 116,614.
In 2008, recipients = 130,657.
In 2009, recipients = 146,870.
In 2010, recipients = 168,913.
In 2011, recipients = 186,065.
In 2012, recipients = 205,565.


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 FaHCSIA 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

This figure is a representation of the data in Table 20, above, Carer Allowance recipients by carer type, June 1992 to June 2012.
Figure 7 is a bar graph showing the numbers of Carer Allowance recipients between 1992 and 2012.
Along its horizontal axis are years, from 1992 through to 2012.
Along its vertical axis are numbers 0 to 600,000, indicating numbers of recipients.
A bar for each year indicates the number of recipients.
In 1992, recipients = 50,797.
In 1993, recipients = 61,174.
In 1994, recipients = 69,693.
In 1995, recipients = 78,898.
In 1996, recipients = 90,644.
In 1997, recipients = 95,520.
In 1998, recipients = 90,830.
In 1999, recipients = 100,452.
In 2000, recipients = 201,059.
In 2001, recipients = 235,041.
In 2002, recipients = 272,045.
In 2003, recipients = 299,609.
In 2004, recipients = 297,607.
In 2005, recipients = 340,005.
In 2006, recipients = 366,960.
In 2007, recipients = 393,263.
In 2008, recipients = 422,905.
In 2009, recipients = 461,086.
In 2010, recipients = 495,733.
In 2011, recipients = 521,033.
In 2012, recipients = 549,638.

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

This figure is a representation of the data in Table 40, above, Parenting Payment (Single) recipients by sex, June 1992 to June 2012.
Figure 8 is a bar graph showing the numbers of Parenting Payment (Single) recipients between 1992 and 2012, split into males and females.
Along its horizontal axis are years, from 1992 through to 2012.
Along its vertical axis are numbers 0 to 600,000 , indicating numbers of recipients.
A bar for each year indicates the number of female recipients and the number of male recipients. 
In 1992, male recipients = 16,444; female recipients = 270,784; total recipients = 287,228.
In 1993, male recipients = 17,529; female recipients = 280,915; total recipients = 298,444.
In 1994, male recipients = 18,897; female recipients = 294,540; total recipients = 313,437.
In 1995, male recipients = 19,913; female recipients = 305,028; total recipients = 324,941.
In 1996, male recipients = 21,964; female recipients = 320,326; total recipients = 342,290.
In 1997, male recipients = 23,920; female recipients = 334,973; total recipients = 358,893.
In 1998, male recipients = 25,546; female recipients = 346,740; total recipients = 372,286.
In 1999, male recipients = 26,830; female recipients = 355,493; total recipients = 382,323.
In 2000, male recipients = 27,951; female recipients = 363,442; total recipients = 391,393.
In 2001, male recipients = 31,661; female recipients = 385,000; total recipients = 416,661.
In 2002, male recipients = 32,966; female recipients = 394,880; total recipients = 427,846.
In 2003, male recipients = 33,909; female recipients = 403,049; total recipients = 436,958.
In 2004, male recipients = 34,866; female recipients = 414,446; total recipients = 449,312.
In 2005, male recipients = 34,565; female recipients = 416,246; total recipients = 450,811.
In 2006, male recipients = 32,368; female recipients = 400,590; total recipients = 432,958.
In 2007, male recipients = 25,677; female recipients = 369,818; total recipients = 395,495.
In 2008, male recipients = 20,559; female recipients = 240,074; total recipients = 260,633.
In 2009, male recipients = 18,348; female recipients = 325,748; total recipients = 344,096.

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

This figure is a representation of the data in Table 43, above, Parenting Payment (Partnered) recipients by sex, June 2001 to June 2012.
Figure 9 is a bar graph showing the numbers of Parenting Payment (Single) recipients between 1992 and 2012, split into males and females.
Along its horizontal axis are years, from 2001 through to 2012.
Along its vertical axis are numbers 0 to 250,000, indicating numbers of recipients.
A bar for each year indicates the number of female recipients and the number of male recipients. 
In 2001, male recipients = 20,263; female recipients = 184,313; total recipients = 204,576.
In 2002, male recipients = 19,576; female recipients = 172,000; total recipients = 191,576.
In 2003, male recipients = 19,196; female recipients = 162,209; total recipients = 181,405.
In 2004, male recipients = 18,917; female recipients = 158,240; total recipients = 177,157.
In 2005, male recipients = 17,255; female recipients = 150,017; total recipients = 167,272.
In 2006, male recipients = 15,353; female recipients = 143,461; total recipients = 158,814.
In 2007, male recipients = 12,742; female recipients = 131,685; total recipients = 144,427.
In 2008, male recipients = 10,246; female recipients = 115,676; total recipients = 125,922.
In 2009, male recipients = 10,735; female recipients = 118,630; total recipients = 129,365.
In 2010, male recipients = 10,329; female recipients = 114,581; total recipients = 124,910.
In 2011, male recipients = 10,025; female recipients = 107,729; total recipients = 117,754.
In 2012, male recipients = 9,992; female recipients = 104,350; total recipients = 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).

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

This figure is a representation of the data in Table 47, above, Special Benefit recipients by sex, June 1992 to June 2012.
Figure 10 is a bar graph showing the numbers of Special Benefit recipients between 1992 and 2012, split into males and females.
Along its horizontal axis are years, from 1992 through to 2012.
Along its vertical axis are numbers 0 to 35,000, indicating numbers of recipients.
A bar for each year indicates the number of female recipients and the number of male recipients. 
In 1992, male recipients = 16,168; female recipients = 18,624; total recipients = 34,792.
In 1993, male recipients = 12,989; female recipients = 15,865; total recipients = 28,854.
In 1994, male recipients = 11,957; female recipients = 13,990; total recipients = 25,947.
In 1995, male recipients = 10,446; female recipients = 10,438; total recipients = 20,884.
In 1996, male recipients = 9,125; female recipients = 9,602; total recipients = 18,727.
In 1997, male recipients = 6,811; female recipients = 7,765; total recipients = 14,576.
In 1998, male recipients = 4,733; female recipients = 5,503; total recipients = 10,236.
In 1999, male recipients = 5,232; female recipients = 6,576; total recipients = 11,808.
In 2000, male recipients = 5,313; female recipients = 5,658; total recipients = 10,971.
In 2001, male recipients = 7,466; female recipients = 5,246; total recipients = 12,712.
In 2002, male recipients = 8,060; female recipients = 5,031; total recipients = 13,091.
In 2003, male recipients = 7,585; female recipients = 4,643; total recipients = 12,228.
In 2004, male recipients = 6,918; female recipients = 4,298; total recipients = 11,216.
In 2005, male recipients = 5,625; female recipients = 3,783; total recipients = 9,408.
In 2006, male recipients = 3,665; female recipients = 3,176; total recipients = 6,841.
In 2007, male recipients = 3,104; female recipients = 3,140; total recipients = 6,244.
In 2008, male recipients = 2,856; female recipients = 3,147; total recipients = 6,003.
In 2009, male recipients = 2,571; female recipients = 3,238; total recipients = 5,809.
In 2010, male recipients = 2,645; female recipients = 3,662; total recipients = 6,307.
In 2011, male recipients = 2,654; female recipients = 3,731; total recipients = 6,385.
In 2012, male recipients = 2,546; female recipients = 3,282; total recipients = 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.

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 | 1.7 |
| **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

| **Rate type and age of child** | **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.** | **%** | **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.** | **% of age group** | **No.** | **% of age group** | **No.** | % | **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

| **State/territory** | **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** | **Children**(a) | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Under 16** | | **16 to 21** | | **Total** |
| **No.** | **No.** | **%** | **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

This figure represents the data in Table 68, above, Double Orphan Pension customers and children, June 1992 to June 2012.
Figure 11 is a bar graph showing the numbers of Double Orphan Pension recipients between 1992 and 2012.
Along its horizontal axis are years, from 1992 through to 2012.
Along its vertical axis are numbers 0 to 2,000, indicating numbers of recipients.
A bar for each year indicates the number of recipients. 
In 1992, recipients = 1,404.
In 1993, recipients = 1,356.
In 1994, recipients = 1,330.
In 1995, recipients = 1,314.
In 1996, recipients = 1,319.
In 1997, recipients = 1,313.
In 1998, recipients = 1,346.
In 1999, recipients = 1,243.
In 2000, recipients = 1,236.
In 2001, recipients = 1,242.
In 2002, recipients = 1,207.
In 2003, recipients = 1,137.
In 2004, recipients = 1,151.
In 2005, recipients = 1,286.
In 2006, recipients = 1,312.
In 2007, recipients = 1,330.
In 2008, recipients = 1,382.
In 2009, recipients = 1,444.
In 2010, recipients = 1,374.
In 2011, recipients = 1,296.
In 2012, recipients = 1,356.

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 | 1.5 |
| **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

This figure represents the data in Table 70, above, Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders by sex, June 2001 to June 2012.
Figure 12 is a bar graph showing the numbers of Special Benefit recipients between 1992 and 2012, split into males and females.
Along its horizontal axis are years, from 2001 through to 2012.
Along its vertical axis are numbers 0 to 350,000, indicating numbers of recipients.
A bar for each year indicates the number of female recipients and the number of male recipients. 
In 2001, male recipients = 97,848; female recipients = 128,292; total recipients = 226,140.
In 2002, male recipients = 122,613; female recipients = 155,068; total recipients = 277,681.
In 2003, male recipients = 125,261; female recipients = 157,340; total recipients = 282,601.
In 2004, male recipients = 129,241; female recipients = 158,085; total recipients = 287,326.
In 2005, male recipients = 136,012; female recipients = 164,153; total recipients = 300,165.
In 2006, male recipients = 143,476; female recipients = 167,157; total recipients = 310,633.
In 2007, male recipients = 148,233; female recipients = 170,045; total recipients = 318,278.
In 2008, male recipients = 132,336; female recipients = 146,042; total recipients = 278,378.
In 2009, male recipients = 134,774; female recipients = 144,790; total recipients = 279,564.
In 2010, male recipients = 134,689; female recipients = 140,091; total recipients = 274,780.
In 2011, male recipients = 137,641; female recipients = 144,545; total recipients = 282,186.
In 2012, male recipients = 139,537; female recipients = 144,094; total recipients = 283,631.

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 Aonly | 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) | **%** |
| 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 Aonly | 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** | **73,150** | **726,025** | **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

This figure represents the data in Table 75, above, persons paid overseas by Australia by payment type, June 1992 to June 2012.
Figure 13 is a bar graph showing the numbers of persons paid overseas by Australia, between 1992 and 2012.
Along its horizontal axis are years, from 1992 through to 2012.
Along its vertical axis are numbers 0 to 80,000, indicating numbers of recipients.
A bar for each year indicates the number of recipients. 
In 1992, recipients = 34,625.
In 1993, recipients = 37,718.
In 1994, recipients = 41,180.
In 1995, recipients = 44,087.
In 1996, recipients = 47,210.
In 1997, recipients = 50,218.
In 1998, recipients = 52,155.
In 1999, recipients = 52,143.
In 2000, recipients = 54,932.
In 2001, recipients = 55,856.
In 2002, recipients = 55,869.
In 2003, recipients = 56,461.
In 2004, recipients = 57,800.
In 2005, recipients = 59,120.
In 2006, recipients = 67,048.
In 2007, recipients = 67,235.
In 2008, recipients = 68,234.
In 2009, recipients = 68,230.
In 2010, recipients = 71,360.
In 2011, recipients = 78,025.
In 2012, recipients = 81,932.

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** |
| 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)