Youth Allowance (Student and Apprentice) (YA(s)) is the primary payment for full-time students and apprentices aged 16-24 years.

The proportion of YA(s) recipients aged 20 years and over grew from 48% in June 2012 to 65% in June 2016. This is the result of a decrease in the total YA(s) population, led by a decrease in the number of 16-19 year olds on payment. This is reflective of the changes made to Family Tax Benefit (FTB) in 2012 to make it the primary payment for dependent secondary students in the 16-19 years cohort.

At June 2016, there were more females than males on YA(s), with 43.8% male and 56.2% female. These proportions have remained reasonably steady over time.

As at June 2016, 66.6% of YA(s) recipients were single. The proportion has remained stable over the reporting periods.

As at June 2016, 96.6% of YA(s) recipients were single. The proportion has remained reasonably steady over the period.

When the payment was only available to youth, and the payment was not available to apprentices, about 40,000 apprentices transferred to Newstart, and only 3,000 apprentices were switched to the new apprenticeship payment. Since the Youth Allowance (Apprentice) payment was introduced, the number of apprentices transferred to Newstart has been nearly eliminated, and the number of apprentices transferring to the Youth Allowance (Apprentice) payment increased.

As at June 2016, 59% of recipients had been on payment for longer than one year. This is a decrease from 68.6% at June 2012. The high proportion is expected as education courses are generally longer than one year.

As at June 2016, 51.7% of YA(s) recipients were classified as dependent. The number has decreased by 5.7% from June 2014, but the proportion of dependent recipients has remained reasonably steady over the period.

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Youth Allowance (Student and Apprentice) (YA(s)) numbers are more in line with general state population trends.

The total YA(s) population decreased by 16.5% from June 2006 to June 2016. The population peaked in June 2011 at 325,224 recipients. This may be a reflection of tightening in the labour market due to the Global Financial Crisis (GFC). From June 2011 to June 2016, the population decreased by 30.4%.

Expenditure on YA(s) has been relatively stable over time, with an increase in 2011-12 aligning with the higher population. The 2015-16 expenditure on YA(s) is $2.44 billion. Expenditure on YA(s) makes up approximately 0.15% of Gross Domestic Product (ABS National Accounts).

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The percentage of YA(s) recipients aged 20 years and over grew from 48% in June 2012 to 65% in June 2016. This is the result of a decrease in the total YA(s) population, led by a decrease in the number of 16-19 year olds on payment. This is reflective of the changes made to Family Tax Benefit (FTB) in 2012 to make it the primary payment for dependent secondary students in the 16-19 years cohort.

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Data Descriptions

Youth Allowance (student and apprentice) is the primary payment for full-time students and apprentices aged under 25 years.

Recipient Numbers: Recipients of Youth Allowance (student and apprentice) who are determined to be current (i.e. entitled to be paid) on the Centrelink payment system.

Report Details: Payment trends and profiles report - June 2016 - Produced by the Department of Social Services

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Source: Department of Human Services Administrative data (DSS Extracts)

Data Date: Data as at the 24th of June 2016.

Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product: Table 34 Time Series Spreadsheets (cat. no. 5206.0).


Glossary:

Age Group: The age group of the recipient.

Circumstances after YA(s)/YA(a): This data compares two points in time, one year apart. 'Not Receiving Income Support' describes those who were in receipt of YA(s)/YA(a) at the first point in time, who were not receiving an income support payment at the second point in time. This data does not take into account Family Tax Benefit.

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Duration: Duration refers to duration on Income Support and may not reflect duration on current payment type.

Earnings: Earnings refer to employment earnings reported in the last fortnight of the reported period.

Expenditure: Expenditure amount, as reported in the Department’s Annual Report. ‘% of GDP’ is the expenditure on the payment as a percentage of Australia’s Gross Domestic Product (ABS data - see data source above).

Indigenous: Indigenous recipients include only those who have voluntarily identified as indigenous. This data may therefore represent an undercount.

Independent: Recipients who are classified as independent for the purposes of the Social Security Act, reasons include evidence of self-support through employment, member of a couple, have a dependent child, unable to live at home or be supported by parents/guardians, over 18 and educationally disadvantaged, or have a partial capacity to work.

Remoteness Area: Remoteness Areas are based on the recipient’s geo-coded address against the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) 2011.

Rate: The rate of the recipients payment (‘other’ include those recipients who, as at the data date, were yet to be paid).

Relationship Status: Partnered includes recipients who are married, defacto or registered.

Sector: The type of educational institution the student is enrolled in. Unspecified occurs where there is no current educational institution recorded, these figures are generally higher between semesters of study.

State: The State or Territory recorded in the recipient’s address.