About Child Support

Child Support is a private transfer of money between separated parents for the support of their children.

The objective of the Child Support Scheme is to ensure that:

- parents share in the costs of supporting their children according to their financial
- adequate financial support is available to all children not living with both parents Commonwealth involvement and expenditure is limited to the minimum amount necessary for ensuring children's needs are met
- work incentives for both parents to participate in the labour force are not impaired,

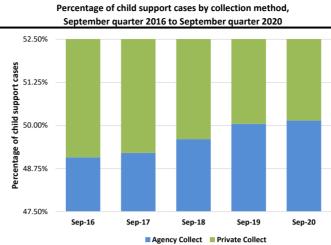
the overall arrangements are non-intrusive to personal privacy and are simple, flexible and efficient.

Cases that involve parents/carers who transfer child support through Services Australia are referred to as Agency Collect Cases. Cases that transfer child support by private arrangement are referred to as Private Collect Cases.

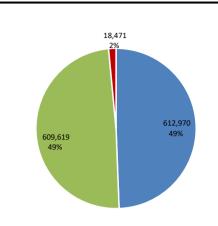
Child Support Program - September quarter 2020 Number of active child support cases, parents and children,

September quarter 2016 to September quarter 2020								
Quick Facts		Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20	Change Sep-16 to Sep-20	Change Sep-19 to Sep-20
	Agency Collect	345,285	344,160	343,432	342,486	341,084	-1.2%	-0.4%
	Private Collect	358,289	355,326	348,945	341,863	339,124	-5.3%	-0.8%
	Total	703,574	699,486	692,377	684,349	680,208	-3.3%	-0.6%
Parents/	Agency Collect	646,293	644,657	643,529	642,090	639,886	-1.0%	-0.3%
	Private Collect	698,812	692,673	679,840	665,865	660,192	-5.5%	-0.9%
	Total*	1,283,252	1,275,598	1,262,466	1,248,243	1,241,060	-3.3%	-0.6%
1	Agency Collect	505,596	505,989	507,063	507,097	506,138	0.1%	-0.2%
	Private Collect	574,780	571,858	561,075	549,669	545,981	-5.0%	-0.7%
	Total	1,080,376	1,077,847	1,068,138	1,056,766	1,052,119	-2.6%	-0.4%
Payers	Male	564,219	559,432	551,222	543,051	536,404	-4.9%	-1.2%
	Female	71,420	71,436	71,544	71,401	72,705	1.8%	1.8%
	Total**	652,588	648,854	642,183	634,972	631,441	-3.2%	-0.6%
	Male	70,583	70,434	70,327	69,876	71,075	0.7%	1.7%
	Female	565,438	561,138	552,849	544,243	536,966	-5.0%	-1.3%

Total** 649,406 645,599 638,979 631,741 628,090 -3.3% A parent can be in both collection methods for different children. Therefore, the components won't add to total



-0.6% In the September quarter 2020, child support cases with a liability being collected privately made up 50% of the active case load, the remaining 50% are collected by



Number of payers and payees,

September quarter 2020

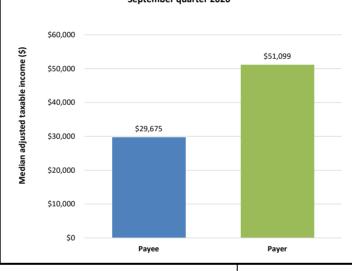
Payers only Payees only Both payers and payees

Parents by collection method and care arrangements, September quarter 2020²

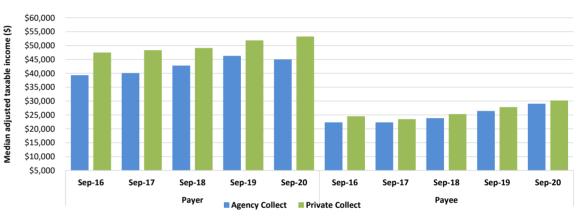
	Agency (Private Collect		
Amount of Care	Payers	Payees	Payers	Payees
Below regular care (0 to 51 nights per year or < 14%)	232,323	1,604	187,995	3,059
Regular care (52 to 127 nights per year or 14% to < 35%)	63,985	411	89,372	1,012
Shared care (128 to 237 nights per year or 35% to 65%)	27,759	27,914	52,961	53,011
Primary care (238 to 313 nights per year or > 65% to 86%)	411	64,015	1,014	89,394
Ahove primary care (314 to 365 pights per year or > 86%)	1.572	232,566	3.029	188.549

The majority (around two-thirds) of payees have care of their child support child for more than 313 nights a year, whereas the majority (around two-thirds) of payers have care for less than 52 nights a year. Over 12% of child support parents have shared care arrangements. The number of parents with a shared care arrangement who use Private Collect is around double that of parents who use Agency Collect.

Median adjusted taxable income by payers and payees, September quarter 2020

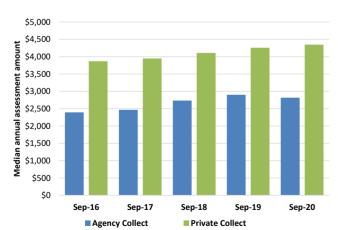


Payer and payee median adjusted taxable income, September quarter 2016 to September quarter 2020



In the September quarter 2020, the median adjusted taxable income for payers in Private Collect cases is around \$8,300 higher than for payers in Agency Collect cases. For the same quarter, the median adjusted taxable income for payees in Private Collect cases is around \$1,200 higher than for payees in Agency Collect cases.

Median annual assessment, September quarter 2016 to September quarter 2020



The median annual assessment for Private Collect cases is much higher than for Agency Collect cases across all quarters

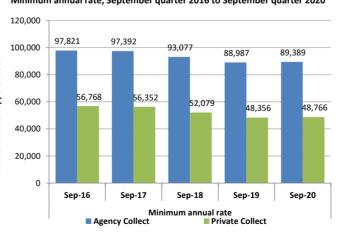
Number of payers in child support active cases by income type, September quarter 2016 to September quarter 2020

Income type	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20	
Declared taxable income	492,705	497,045	489,286	479,920	472,684	
Default or derived income	134,928	131,161	134,409	134,486	130,290	
Estimated income	30,637	25,579	23,763	25,403	33,228	
No income details	964	993	941	787	730	
Total ***	652,588	648,854	642,183	634,972	631,441	

* Payers in multiple cases can have different income for different cases. Therefore the components won't add to total.

Declared taxable income was used to calculate child support payable for the majority (around 76%) of payers in active cases from September 2016 to September 2020, and the proportion has remained stable over this period.

Minimum annual rate, September quarter 2016 to September quarter 2020



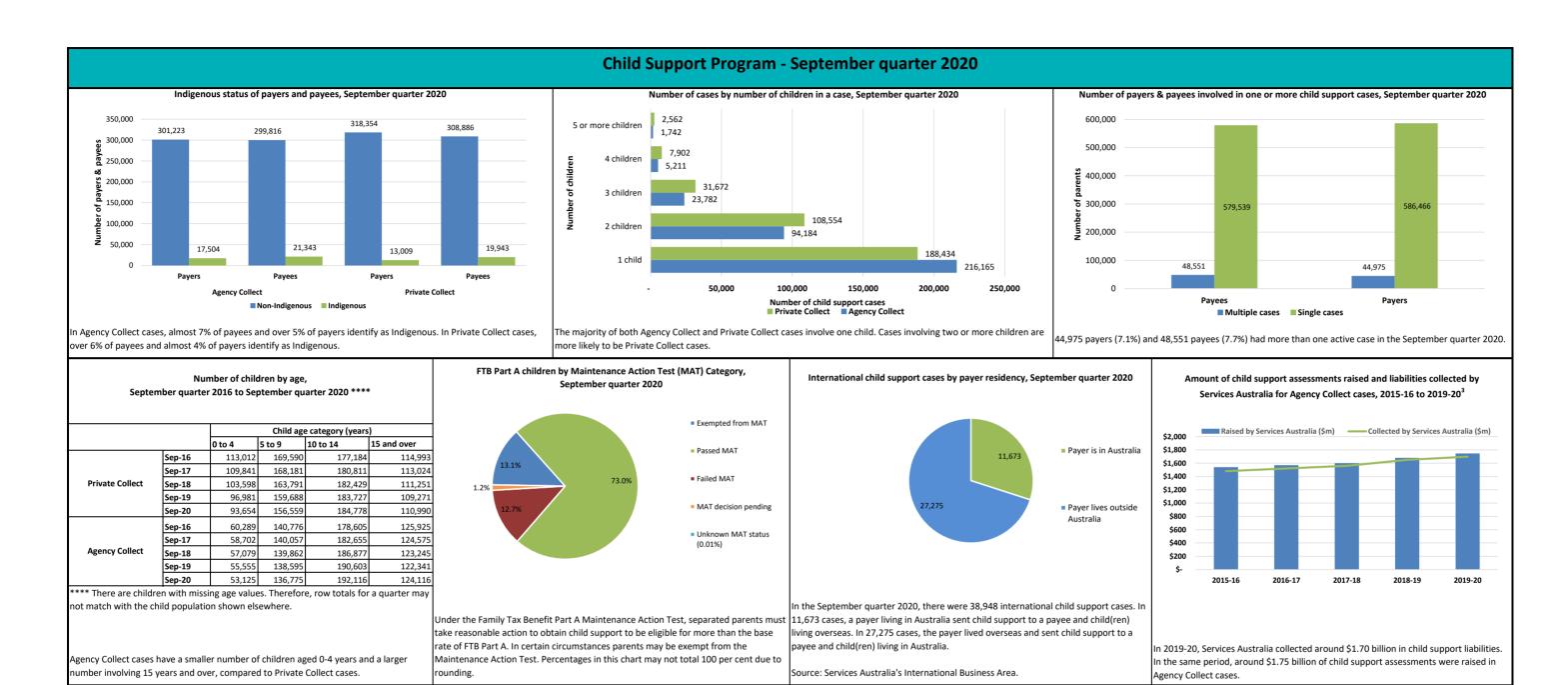
In the September guarter 2020, more than 138,000 cases were assessed at the Minimum Annual Rate, which equates to around \$8.50 per week. Almost 65% of these were Agency Collect cases. The proportion of all cases that were assessed at the Minimum Annual Rate has reduced from around 22% in the September 2016 quarter to constant over the five years to September 2020, with over 28% of cases (192,774) around 20% in the September 2020 quarter.

Number of child support cases by the annual rate payable,

September quarter 2016 to September quarter 2020							
Annual rate range	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20		
\$0 - \$500	215,882	214,720	202,421	192,077	192,774		
\$501 - \$2,000	79,169	76,360	75,203	71,932	75,688		
\$2,001 - \$5,000	152,551	149,282	147,770	143,316	138,352		
\$5,001 - \$10,000	150,068	149,814	152,615	155,584	150,793		
\$10,001 - \$20,000	84,553	87,441	91,114	96,359	96,432		
\$20,001 +	21,351	21,869	23,254	25,081	26,169		
Total	703,574	699,486	692,377	684,349	680,208		

The proportion of active cases with an annual liability of \$0-\$500 has stayed relatively having an annual liability of \$0-\$500 in the September quarter 2020.

^{*} Total includes payers and payees with no gender recorded.



Source:

Services Australia's Child Support Extract Data (CSED) unless stated otherwise. Data is based on the relationship case count, excludes spousal maintenance cases, and includes Agency Collect and Private Collect cases. These figures may not align with those published elsewhere due to different reporting methodologies.

Note

- 1. The number of children includes child support children only and excludes other dependent children.
- 2. The data excludes 4,912 children in 2,722 cases for whom payer and payee care details cannot be determined (e.g. data invalid as it exceeds 365 care nights combined). As the care level category.
- 3. This figure includes child support received by Services Australia in the financial year for liabilities raised in previous years. The percentage collected for assessments raised in the financial year is not able to be calculated based on current available data.