

## Child Support Program - March quarter 2020

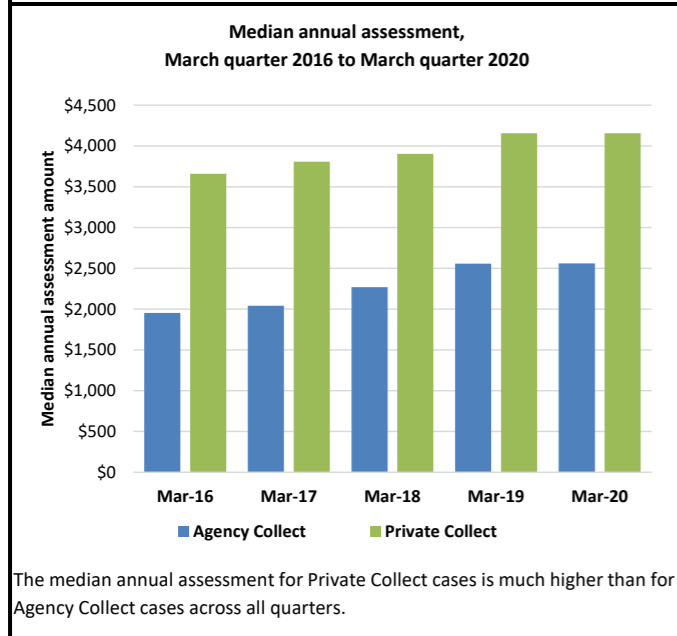
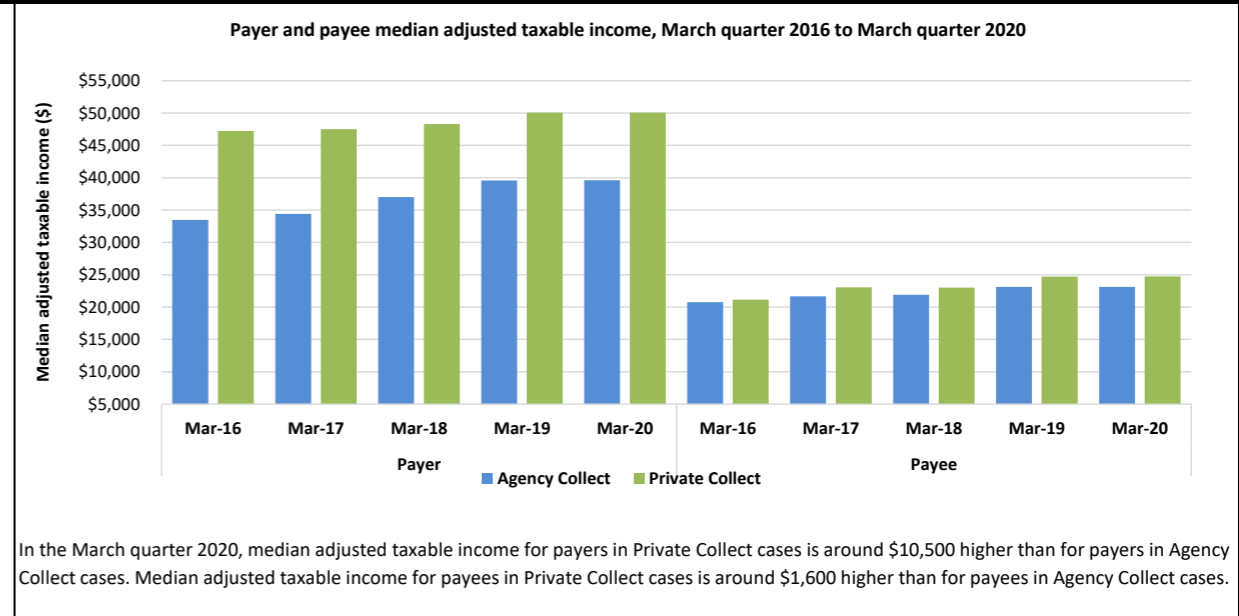
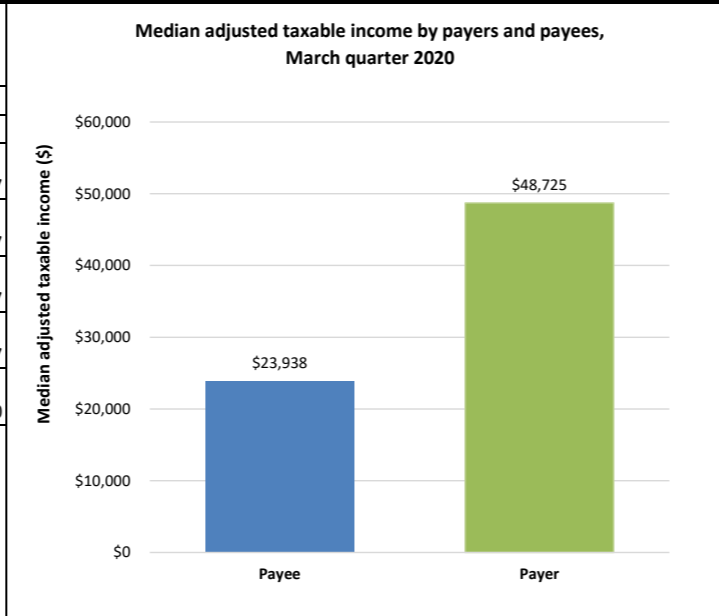
About Child Support	Number of active child support cases, parents and children, March quarter 2016 to March quarter 2020								Percentage of child support cases by collection method, March quarter 2016 to March quarter 2020					Number of payers and payees, March quarter 2020		
<p>Child Support is a Private transfer between separated parents for the support of their child.</p> <p>The objective of the Child Support Scheme is to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- parents share in the costs of supporting their children according to their capacity,</li> <li>- adequate support is available to all children not living with both parents, - Commonwealth involvement and expenditure is limited to the minimum necessary for ensuring children's needs are met,</li> <li>- work incentives for both parents to participate in the labour force are not impaired, and</li> <li>- the overall arrangements are non-intrusive to personal privacy and are simple, flexible and efficient.</li> </ul> <p>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.</p>	Quick Facts		Mar-16	Mar-17	Mar-18	Mar-19	Mar-20	Change Mar-16 to Mar-20	Change Mar-19 to Mar-20							
	Active Cases	Agency Collect	342,172	342,363	340,631	339,871	339,834	-0.7%	0.0%							
		Private Collect	359,728	355,091	351,056	343,258	343,295	-4.6%	0.0%							
		<b>Total</b>	<b>701,900</b>	<b>697,454</b>	<b>691,687</b>	<b>683,129</b>	<b>683,129</b>	<b>-2.7%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>							
	Parents/ carers	Agency Collect	640,379	641,174	638,217	637,051	636,955	-0.5%	0.0%							
		Private Collect	701,691	692,445	684,094	668,696	668,753	-4.7%	0.0%							
		<b>Total*</b>	<b>1,280,322</b>	<b>1,272,292</b>	<b>1,261,521</b>	<b>1,245,912</b>	<b>1,245,912</b>	<b>-2.7%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>							
	Children <sup>1</sup>	Agency Collect	499,542	502,035	501,329	501,926	501,889	0.5%	0.0%							
		Private Collect	575,496	570,300	564,120	551,399	551,486	-4.2%	0.0%							
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1,075,038</b>	<b>1,072,335</b>	<b>1,065,449</b>	<b>1,053,325</b>	<b>1,053,375</b>	<b>-2.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>							
Payers	Male	563,802	558,209	551,998	542,897	543,006	-3.7%	0.0%								
	Female	70,809	71,470	71,019	70,851	70,764	-0.1%	-0.1%								
	<b>Total**</b>	<b>651,162</b>	<b>647,065</b>	<b>641,700</b>	<b>633,747</b>	<b>633,753</b>	<b>-2.7%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>								
Payees	Male	70,132	70,574	69,934	69,533	69,424	-1.0%	-0.2%								
	Female	564,482	560,106	553,710	544,410	544,473	-3.5%	0.0%								
	<b>Total**</b>	<b>647,894</b>	<b>644,057</b>	<b>638,550</b>	<b>630,587</b>	<b>630,557</b>	<b>-2.7%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>								

\* A parent can be in both collection methods for different children. Therefore, the components won't add to total.  
 \*\* Total includes payers and payees with no gender recorded.

In the March 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 Services Australia.

Parents by collection method and care arrangements, March quarter 2020 <sup>2</sup>				
Amount of Care	Agency Collect		Private Collect	
	Payers	Payees	Payers	Payees
Below regular care (0 to 51 nights per year or < 14%)	232780	2147	194561	3547
Regular care (52 to 127 nights per year or 14% to < 35%)	63818	439	89437	1087
Shared care (128 to 237 nights per year or 35% to 65%)	25259	25468	49372	49417
Primary care (238 to 313 nights per year or > 65% to 86%)	440	63811	1089	89507
Above primary care (314 to 365 nights per year or > 86%)	2072	233262	3494	195080

The majority (around two-thirds) of payees have care of their child support child for at least 314 nights a year, whereas the majority (around two-thirds) of payers have care for less than 51 nights a year. Around 11% of child support parents have shared care arrangements. The number of Private Collect parents with a shared care arrangement is around double that of Agency Collect cases.

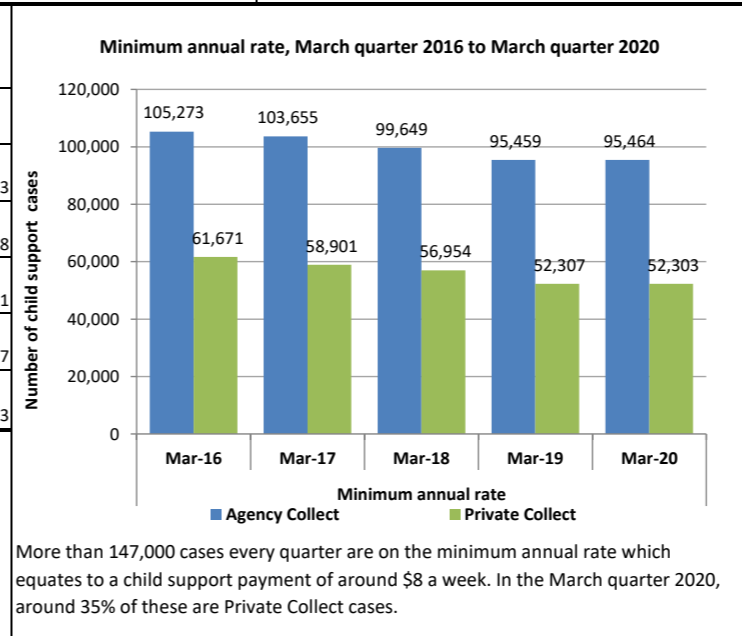


### Number of payers in child support active cases by income type, March quarter 2016 to March quarter 2020

Income type	Mar-16	Mar-17	Mar-18	Mar-19	Mar-20
Declared taxable income	480,839	478,610	482,591	473,239	473,263
Default or derived income	122,188	123,663	121,976	123,006	123,048
Estimated income	50,023	46,823	38,782	38,890	38,831
No income details	938	1,032	958	938	937
<b>Total ***</b>	<b>651,162</b>	<b>647,065</b>	<b>641,700</b>	<b>633,747</b>	<b>633,753</b>

\*\*\* 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 of payers in active cases (around 74%) from March 2016 to March 2020 and the proportion has remained stable over this period.



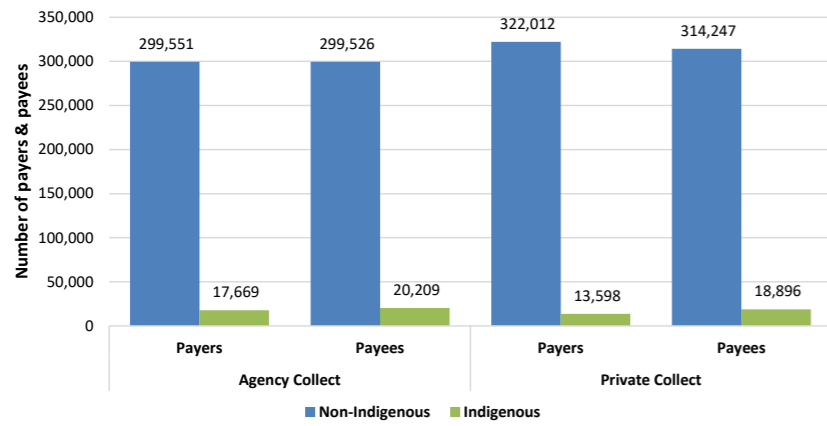
### Number of child support cases by the annual rate payable, March quarter 2016 to March quarter 2020

Annual rate range	Mar-16	Mar-17	Mar-18	Mar-19	Mar-20
\$0 - \$500	231,006	225,276	217,622	205,267	205,270
\$501 - \$2,000	78,124	77,276	75,879	73,865	73,859
\$2,001 - \$5,000	147,643	146,305	145,510	142,434	142,438
\$5,001 - \$10,000	144,117	145,143	145,816	148,935	148,931
\$10,001 - \$20,000	80,784	82,849	85,489	89,692	89,693
\$20,001 +	20,226	20,605	21,371	22,936	22,938
<b>Total</b>	<b>701,900</b>	<b>697,454</b>	<b>691,687</b>	<b>683,129</b>	<b>683,129</b>

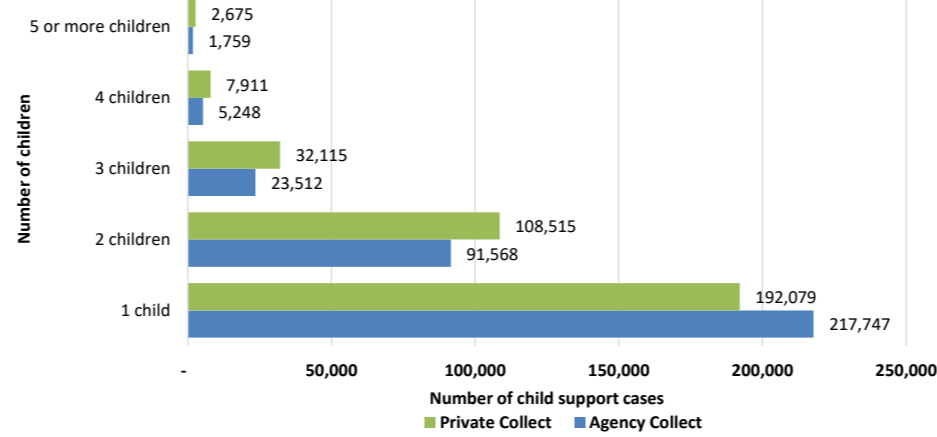
The proportion of active cases with an annual liability of \$0-\$500 has stayed relatively constant over the five years to March 2020, with 30% of cases (205,270) having an annual liability of \$0-\$500 in the March quarter 2020.

## Child Support Program - March quarter 2020

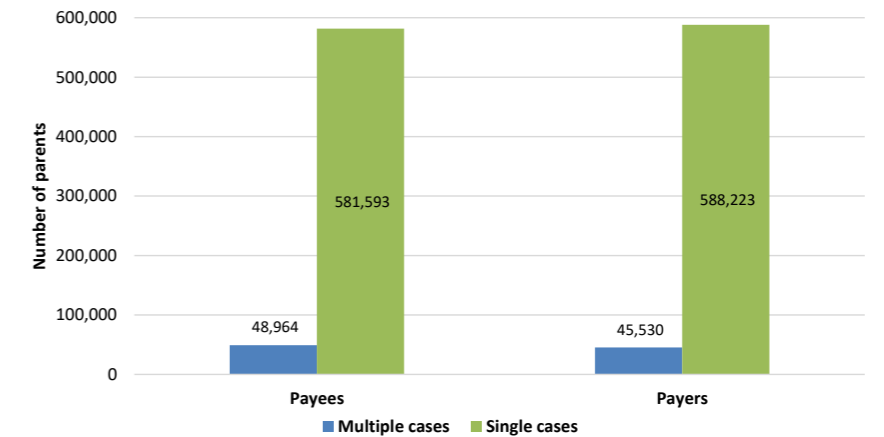
**Indigenous status of payers and payees, March quarter 2020**



**Number of cases by number of children in a case, March quarter 2020**



**Number of payers & payees involved in one or more child support cases, March quarter 2020**



Around 6% of payees identify as Indigenous for both Agency Collect and Private Collect. Nearly 6% of payers in Agency Collect cases identify as Indigenous, compared to 4% of payers in Private Collect cases.

The majority of both Agency Collect and Private Collect cases involve one child. Cases involving two or more children are more likely to be Private Collect cases.

45,530 payers (7.2%) and 48,964 payees (7.8%) had more than one active case in the March quarter 2020.

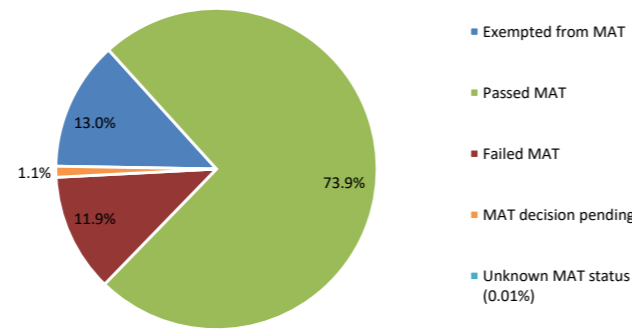
**Number of children by age, March quarter 2016 to March quarter 2020 \*\*\*\***

		Child age category (years)			
		0 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 and over
Private Collect	Mar-16	114,547	170,766	177,410	112,773
	Mar-17	111,181	168,869	178,773	111,476
	Mar-18	106,552	166,435	182,148	108,979
	Mar-19	99,405	161,442	183,199	107,348
	Mar-20	99,399	161,466	183,270	107,346
Agency Collect	Mar-16	60,351	140,210	177,216	121,764
	Mar-17	59,874	140,634	180,664	120,863
	Mar-18	57,711	139,943	184,832	118,843
	Mar-19	56,375	139,211	188,487	117,853
	Mar-20	56,374	139,194	188,476	117,845

\*\*\*\* There are children with missing age values. Therefore, row totals for a quarter may not match with the child population shown elsewhere.

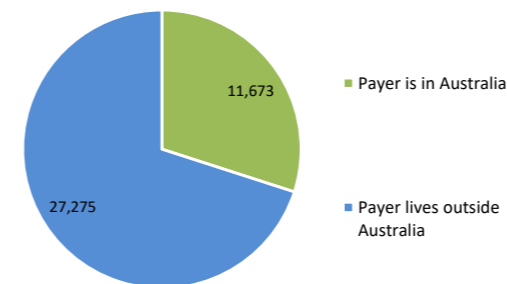
Agency Collect cases have a smaller number of children aged 0-4 years and a larger number involving 15 years and over, compared to Private Collect cases.

**FTB Part A children by Maintenance Action Test (MAT) Category, March quarter 2020**



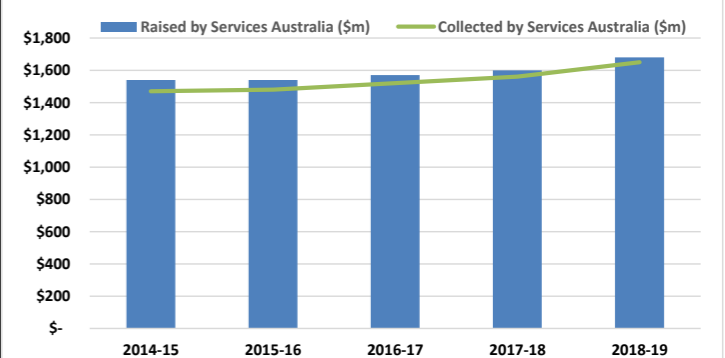
When parents separate, the child's primary carer is expected to seek financial support from the other parent. This is known as the Maintenance Action Test. If a parent does not take action they are limited to the base rate of Family Tax Benefit Part A. In certain circumstances parents may be exempt from the Maintenance Action Test. Percentages in this chart may not total 100 per cent due to rounding.

**International child support cases by payer residency, March quarter 2020**



In the March quarter 2020, there were 38,948 international child support cases. In 11,673 cases, a payer living in Australia sent child support to a payee and child(ren) living overseas. In 27,275 cases, the payer lived overseas and sent child support to Australia. Source: Services Australia's International Business Area.

**Amount of child support assessments raised and liabilities collected by Services Australia for Agency Collect cases, 2014-15 to 2018-19<sup>3</sup>**



In 2018-19, Services Australia collected \$1.65 billion in child support liabilities. In the same period, \$1.68 billion of child support assessments were raised.

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.

Notes:

- The number of children includes child support children only and excludes other dependent children.
- The data excludes 5,778 children in 3,129 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 levels that payers and payees have for different children may vary, a payer or payee may be counted in more than one care level category.
- 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.