

Child Support Program - June quarter 2018

About Child Support

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

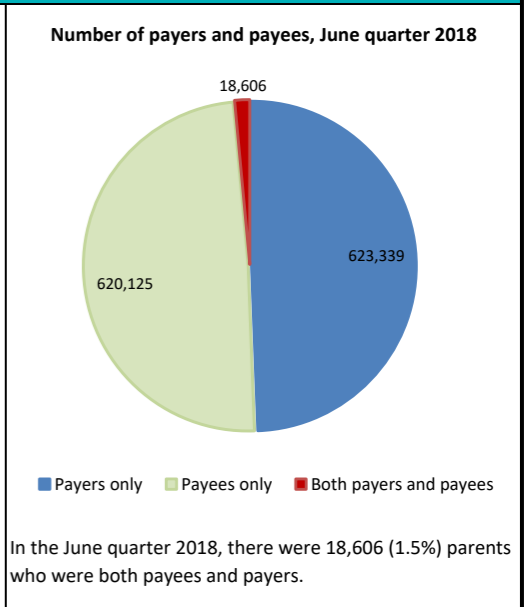
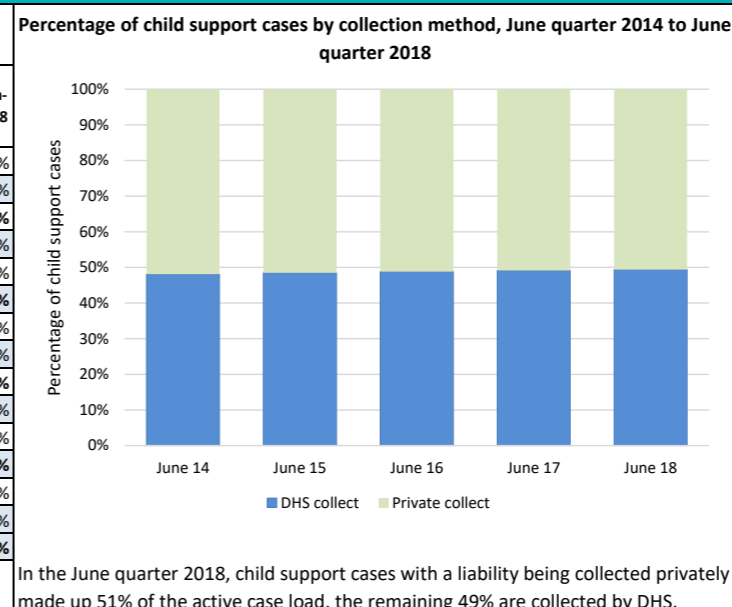
The objective of the Child Support Scheme is to ensure that:

- parents share in the costs of supporting their children according to their capacity,
- 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,
- work incentives for both parents to participate in the labour force are not impaired, and
- 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 the Department of Human Services (DHS) are referred to as DHS Collect Cases. Cases that transfer child support by private arrangement are referred to as Private Collect Cases.

Quick Facts		Jun-14	Jun-15	Jun-16	Jun-17	Jun-18	Change Jun-14 to Jun-18	Change Jun-17 to Jun-18
Active Cases	DHS collect	345,906	345,026	343,207	342,356	341,778	-1.2%	-0.2%
	Private collect	372,902	366,795	359,487	354,332	350,265	-6.1%	-1.1%
	Total	718,808	711,821	702,694	696,688	692,043	-3.7%	-0.7%
Parent/ carers	DHS collect	646,960	645,150	642,356	641,307	640,381	-1.0%	-0.1%
	Private collect	727,502	715,528	701,162	690,854	682,428	-6.2%	-1.2%
	Total*	1,310,710	1,297,830	1,281,655	1,270,859	1,262,072	-3.7%	-0.7%
Children ¹	DHS collect	502,788	503,077	501,749	502,688	503,944	0.2%	0.2%
	Private collect	594,664	586,301	575,735	569,682	562,899	-5.3%	-1.2%
	Total	1,097,452	1,089,378	1,077,484	1,072,370	1,066,843	-2.8%	-0.5%
Payers	Male	581,224	573,208	564,113	557,563	551,836	-5.1%	-1.0%
	Female	70,369	70,688	70,937	71,247	71,005	0.9%	-0.3%
	Total**	666,883	660,217	651,752	646,430	641,946	-3.7%	-0.7%
Payees	Male	69,986	70,054	70,199	70,256	69,832	-0.2%	-0.6%
	Female	579,268	572,896	565,124	559,418	553,549	-4.4%	-1.0%
	Total**	663,015	666,557	648,604	643,229	638,732	-3.7%	-0.7%

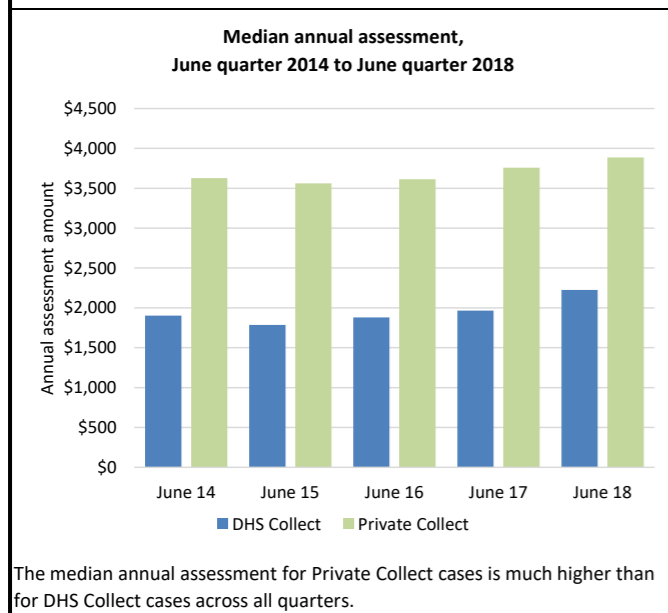
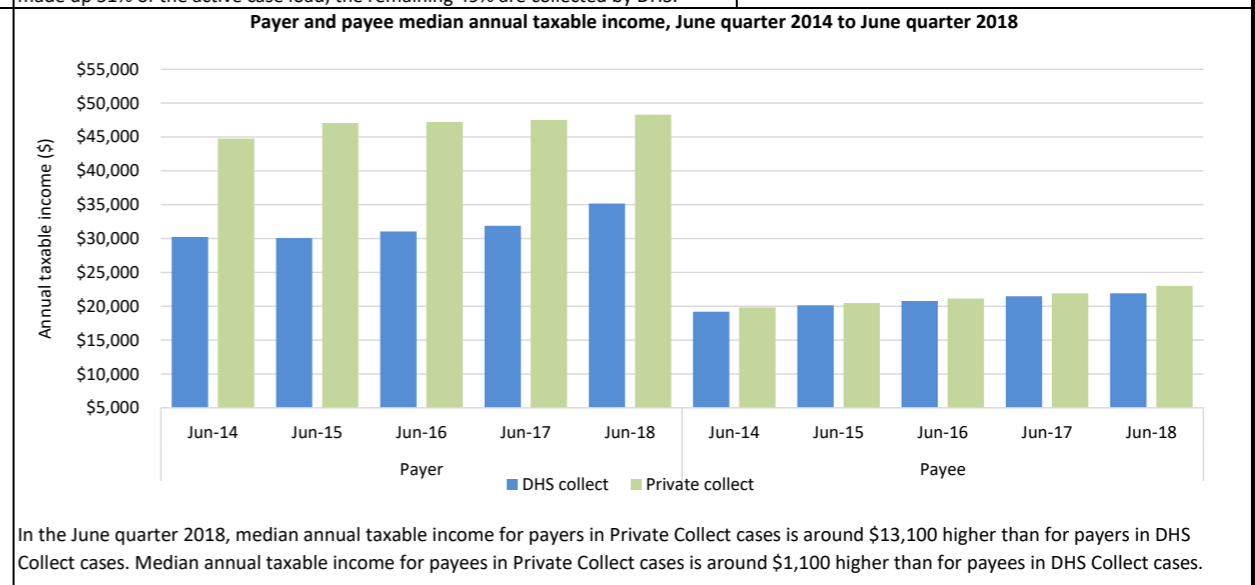
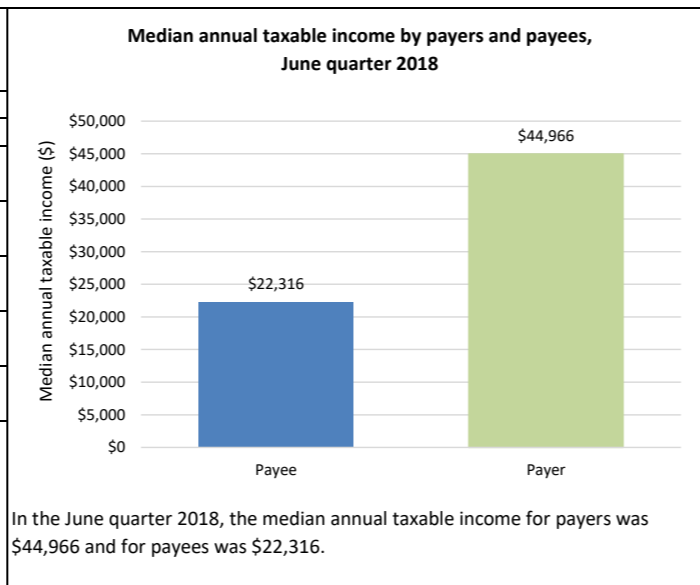
* A parent can be in both collection methods for different children. Therefore, the components won't add to total. ** Total includes payers and payees with no gender recorded.



Parents by collection method and care arrangements, June Quarter 2018²

Amount of Care	DHS Collect		Private Collect	
	Payers	Payees	Payers	Payees
Below regular care (0 to 51 nights per year or <14%)	235,397	1,953	201,195	3,620
Regular care (52 to 127 nights per year or 14% to 34%)	63,851	487	90,331	1,135
Shared care (128 to 237 nights per year or 35% to 65%)	24,605	24,804	48,835	48,905
Primary care (238 to 313 nights per year or 66% to 86%)	486	63,809	1,139	90,395
Above primary care (314 to 365 nights per year or >86%)	1,887	236,028	3,579	201,595

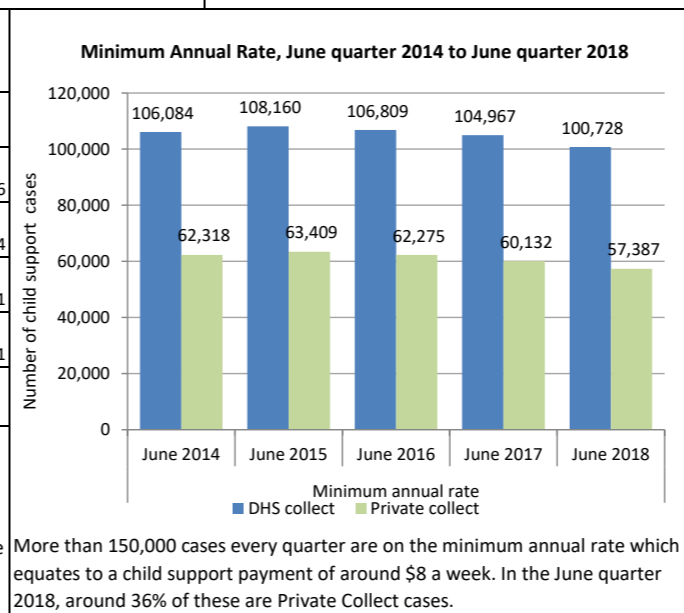
The majority (around two-thirds) of payees have care of their child support child for at least 314 nights a year. Whereas the majority of payers have care for less than 51 nights a year. Around 11% of child support parents have shared care arrangements. The number of Private Collect parents with a Shared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



Number of payers in child support active cases by Income type, June quarter 2014 to June quarter 2018

Income type	Jun-14	Jun-15	Jun-16	Jun-17	Jun-18
Declared taxable income	504,781	504,299	499,188	498,098	504,506
Default or derived income	103,426	98,517	97,781	97,373	94,974
Estimated income	59,503	58,132	55,552	51,244	42,941
No income details	1,037	984	948	1,416	1,031
Total	666,883	660,217	651,752	646,430	641,946

Declared taxable income was used to calculate child support payable for the majority of payers in active cases (over 75%) from June 2014 to June 2018 and the proportion has remained stable over this period. Payers in multiple cases can have different income type for different cases. Therefore, the components won't add to totals.

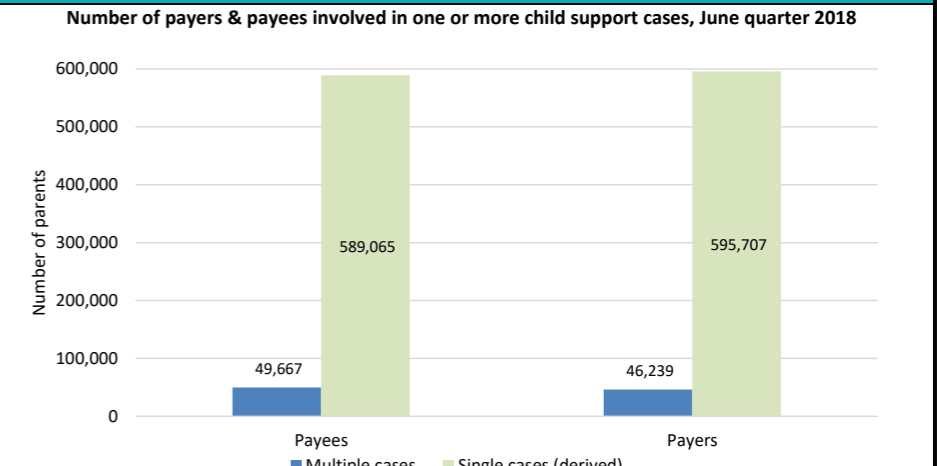
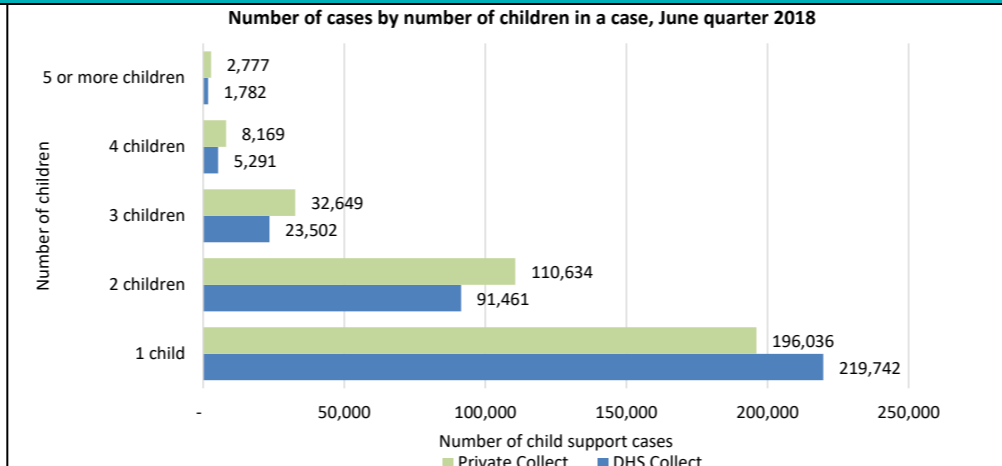
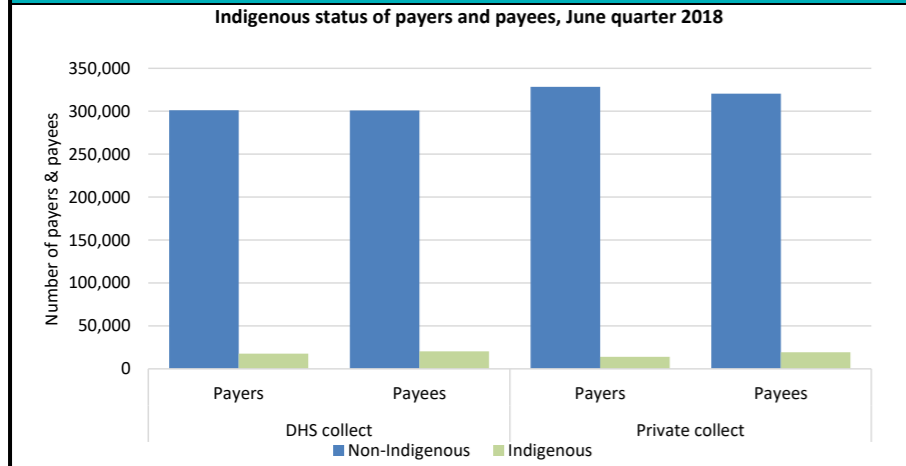


Number of child support cases by the annual rate payable, June quarter 2014 to June quarter 2018

Annual rate range	Jun-14	Jun-15	Jun-16	Jun-17	Jun-18
\$0 - \$500	234,757	238,650	233,854	228,488	219,078
\$501 - \$2,000	82,062	80,273	78,288	76,848	76,250
\$2,001 - \$5,000	153,025	148,215	146,186	143,685	143,910
\$5,001 - \$10,000	147,147	143,117	143,213	143,450	144,943
\$10,001 - \$20,000	82,158	80,913	80,716	83,254	86,018
\$20,001 +	19,659	20,653	20,437	20,963	21,844
Total	718,808	711,821	702,694	696,688	692,043

The proportion of active cases with an annual liability of \$0-\$500 has stayed relatively constant over the five years to June 2018, with nearly one-third of cases (around 219,000) having an annual liability of \$0- 500 in the June quarter 2018.

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Around 6% of Payees identify as Indigenous for both DHS and Private Collect. Nearly 6% of Payers in DHS collect cases identify as Indigenous, compared to 4% of Payers in Private Collect cases.

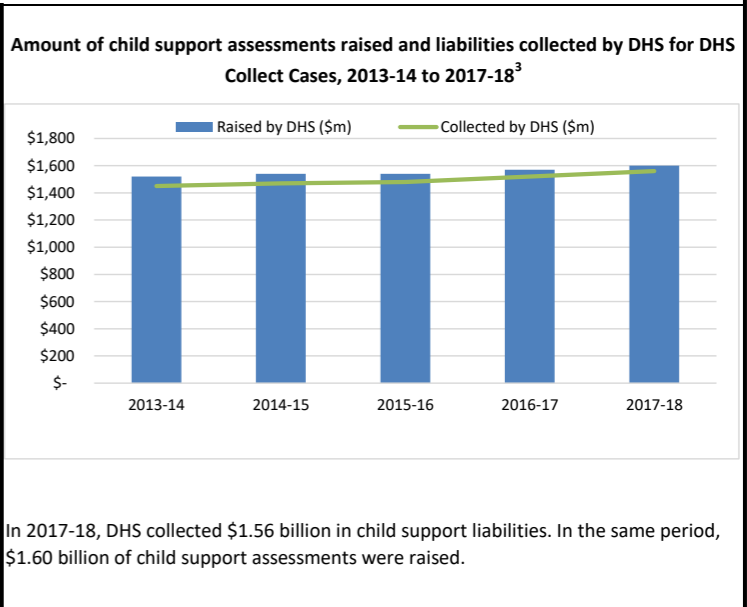
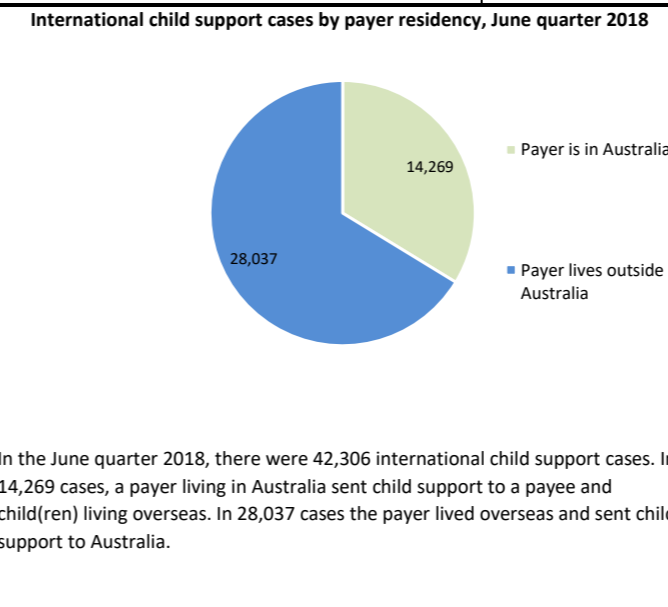
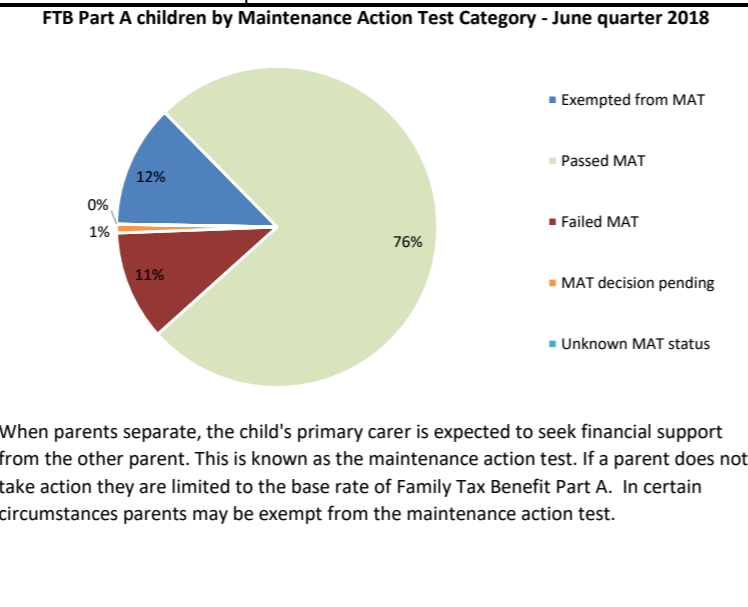
The majority of both DHS Collect and Private Collect cases involve one child. Cases involving two or more children are more likely to be Private Collect cases.

46,239 payers (7.2%) and 49,667 payees (7.8%) had more than one active case in the June quarter 2018.

Number of children by age, June quarter 2014 to June quarter 2018 ***

		Child age category (years)			
		0 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 and over
Private Collect	June 2014	121,867	175,163	182,397	115,236
	June 2015	118,653	173,645	178,988	115,014
	June 2016	114,176	170,567	177,251	113,741
	June 2017	109,576	168,235	179,542	112,328
	June 2018	105,308	165,202	182,592	109,790
DHS Collect	June 2014	62,576	138,250	177,621	124,341
	June 2015	61,696	140,461	176,867	124,051
	June 2016	60,119	140,514	177,703	123,411
	June 2017	58,582	140,146	181,196	122,764
	June 2018	57,373	139,944	185,912	120,715

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



Source: Department of Human Services and Child Support Extract Data (CSED). Data is based on the relationship case count, excludes spousal maintenance cases, and includes Department of Human Services 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 5,219 children in 2,856 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 DHS 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.