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 capacities
- 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, 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 Services
Australia are referred to as Agency Collect Cases. Cases that transfer child support by
private arrangement are referred to as Private Collect Cases.

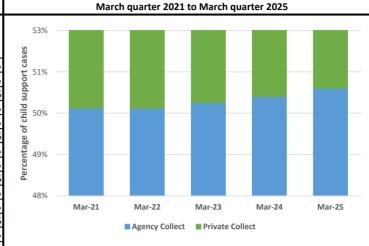
Child Support Program - March quarter 2025 Number of active child support cases, parents and children,

Number of active child support cases, parents and children March quarter 2021 to March quarter 2025

Quick Facts		Mar-21	Mar-22	Mar-23	Mar-24	Mar-25	Change Mar- 21 to Mar- 25	Change Mar-21 to Mar-25	
Active Cases	Agency Collect	337,780	332,235	328,120	321,715	318,750	-5.6%	-0.9%	
	Private Collect	335,740	330,220	323,920	315,280	309,250	-7.9%	-1.9%	l
	Total	673,520	662,455	652,040	636,995	628,000	-6.8%	-1.4%	
Parents/ carers	Agency Collect	634,005	624,085	616,565	605,465	600,625	-5.3%	-0.8%	
	Private Collect	653,550	642,525	630,000	613,160	601,500	-8.0%	-1.9%	l
	Total*	1,229,145	1,208,635	1,189,835	1,164,040	1,149,065	-6.5%	-1.3%	
	Agency Collect	500,755	491,225	484,140	473,305	468,040	-6.5%	-1.1%	l
Children ¹	Private Collect	539,565	530,055	518,480	503,275	492,910	-8.6%	-2.1%	l
	Total	1,040,320	1,021,280	1,002,625	976,580	960,950	-7.6%	-1.6%	l
Payers	Male	529,610	516,840	506,895	493,390	484,815	-8.5%	-1.7%	l
	Female	72,520	72,980	71,545	69,940	69,195	-4.6%	-1.1%	l
	Total**	625,430	615,240	605,555	592,010	584,355	-6.6%	-1.3%	l
Payees	Male	70,720	70,970	69,245	67,465	66,335	-6.2%	-1.7%	l
	Female	530,210	517,505	507,555	494,410	485,760	-8.4%	-1.7%	l
	Total**	622,180	612,135	602,450	589,470	581,800	-6.5%	-1.3%	lr

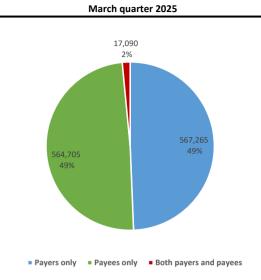
A parent can be in both collection methods for different children. Therefore, the components won't add to total.

* Total includes payers and payees with no gender recorded.



Percentage of child support cases by collection method,

In the March quarter 2025, child support cases with a liability being collected privately made up 49.2% of the active caseload, the remaining 50.8% are collected by Services Australia.



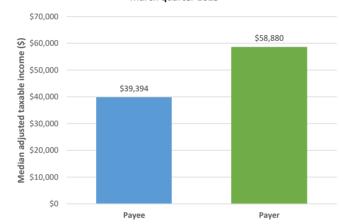
Number of payers and payees,

Payment by collection method and care arrangements, March quarter 2025²

	Agency	Collect	Private Collect		
Amount of Care	Payers	Payees	Payers	Payees	
Below regular care (0 to 51 nights per year or < 14%)	214,670	1,875	167,340	3,225	
Regular care (52 to 127 nights per year or 14% to < 35%)	57,580	360	78,290	950	
Shared care (128 to 237 nights per year or 35% to 65%)	31,705	31,845	56,000	55,990	
Primary care (238 to 313 nights per year or > 65% to 86%)	355	57,740	945	78,250	
Above primary care (314 to 365 nights per year or > 86%)	1.830	214.420	3.190	168.110	

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. Around 14% of child support parents have shared care arrangements.

Median adjusted taxable income by payers and payees, March quarter 2025

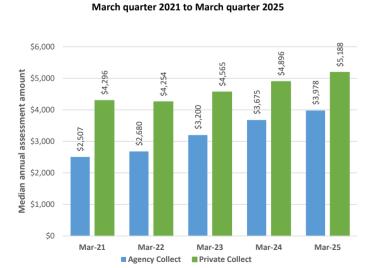


Payer and payee median adjusted taxable income, March quarter 2021 to March quarter 2025



In the March quarter 2025, the median adjusted taxable income for payers in Private Collect cases is almost \$8,700 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 \$820 lower than for payees in Agency Collect cases.

Median annual assessment,



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

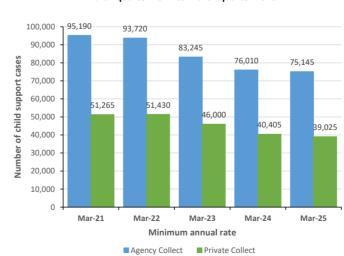
Number of payers in child support active cases by income type, March quarter 2021 to March quarter 2025

Income type	Mar-21	Mar-22	Mar-23 Mar-24		Mar-25
Tax assessment	361,270	370,895	380,115	364,565	353,765
Provisional income	215,055	202,995	190,390	192,795	195,595
Estimated income	49,775	41,845	35,365	34,990	35,390
Post-separation income	45	120	180	210	180
No income details	655	645	590	545	515
Total ***	625,430	615,240	605,555	592,010	584,355

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

Assessed taxable income was used to calculate child support payable for the majority of payers in active cases, increasing from 57.8% in March 2021 to 60.5% in March 2025. Tax returns are not due to be lodged until 31 October (if self-lodged) or later if lodged by a tax agent.

Minimum annual rate, March quarter 2021 to March quarter 2025



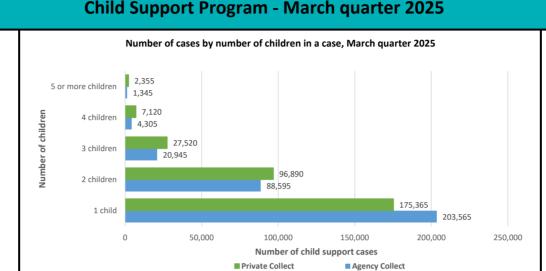
In the March quarter 2025, more than 114,000 cases were assessed at the Minimum Annual Rate, which equates to around \$10.2 per week. Over 65% of these were agency cases. The proportion of all cases that were assessed at the Minimal Annual Rate has reduced from over 21% in the March 2021 quarter to around 18% in the March 2025 quarter.

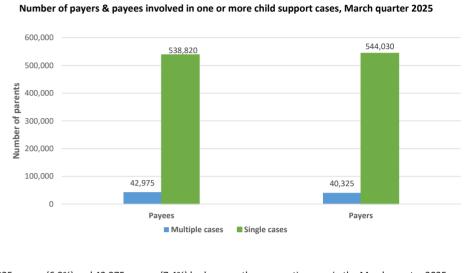
Number of child support cases by annual rate payable, March quarter 2021 to March quarter 2025

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Annual rate range	Mar-21	Mar-22	Mar-23	Mar-24	Mar-25		
\$0 - \$500	203,405	200,030	178,635	148,410	42,355		
\$501 - \$2,000	73,255	70,905	69,470	78,315	176,245		
\$2,001 - \$5,000	131,705	127,070	125,680	120,455	109,175		
\$5,001 - \$10,000	145,145	140,700	144,015	144,095	145,600		
\$10,001 - \$20,000	94,050	96,145	102,745	109,795	114,095		
\$20,001 +	25,960	27,605	31,495	35,925	40,530		
Total	673,520	662,455	652,040	636,995	628,000		

The proportion of active cases with an annual liability of \$0-\$500 has dropped significantly, from 23.3% in March 2024 to 6.7% in March 2025, with a corresponding increase in active cases with an annual liability of \$501-\$2000 from 12.3% to 28.1% over the same period. This reflects that the Minimum Annual Rate for child support periods beginning in 2025 increased to \$534 from \$519 in 2024. However, the proportion of cases below the \$2,000 liability level has been stable over time, from 35.6% in March 2024 to 34.8% in March 2025.

Indigenous status of payers and payees, March quarter 2025 350,000 282 770 300,000 277,720 276,690 250,000 200,000 <u>2</u> 150,000 100,000 **≥** 50,000 23.705 22.815 16,435 12.010 **Agency Collect Payers** Agency Collect Payees Private Collect Payers Private Collect Payees ■ Non-Indigenous ■ Indigenous





7% of payees and 4% of payers identify as indigenous.

n Agency Collect cases, almost 8% of payees and over 5% of payers identify as Indigenous. In Private Collect cases, over 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.

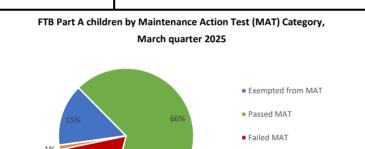
40,325 payers (6.9%) and 42,975 payees (7.4%) had a more than one active case in the March quarter 2025.

Number of children by age, March quarter 2021 to March quarter 2025****

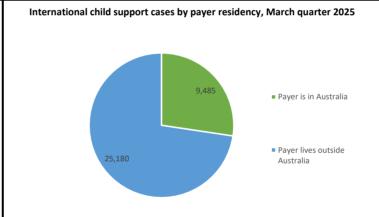
		Child age category (years)						
		0 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 and over			
	Mar-21	91,700	155,155	183,980	108,735			
	Mar-22	88,085	150,505	181,515	109,945			
Private Collect	Mar-23	83,985	144,530	177,315	112,655			
	Mar-24	79,160	138,475	173,475	112,160			
	Mar-25	77,285	133,685	170,400	111,535			
	Mar-21	52,605	136,315	191,895	119,935			
	Mar-22	49,115	131,455	188,995	121,655			
Agency Collect	Mar-23	46,220	126,325	186,250	125,350			
	Mar-24	43,145	121,080	182,855	126,230			
	Mar-25	42,450	117,745	181,110	126,735			

*** 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.

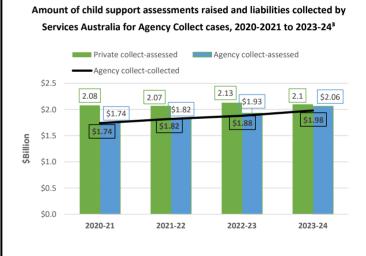


Under the Family Tax Benefit Part A Maintenance Action Test, separated parents must take reasonable action to obtain child support to be eligible for more than the base rate of FTB Part A. In certain circumstances parents may be exempt from the Maintenance Action Test. Percentages in this chart may not total 100 per cent due to rounding.



n the December quarter 2024, there were 34,665 international child support cases. I 9,485 cases, a payer living in Australia sent child support to a payee and child(ren) living overseas. In 25,180 cases, the payer lived overseas and sent child support to a payee and child(ren) living in Australia.

Source: Services Australia - International Business Area.



n 2023-24, Services Australia collected around \$1.98 billion in child support iabilities. In the same period, around \$2.06 billion of child assessments were raised in Agency Collect cases.

Services Australia 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.

MAT decision pending

Unknown MAT status

- 1. The number of children includes child support children only and excludes other dependent children
- 2. The data excludes 4,115 children in 2,375 cases for whom payer and payees may be counted in more than one 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.
- 4. To protect individuals' privacy, all cells including any totals and subtotals have been rounded to the nearest 5, values from 1 to 7 are rounded to 5. Zero cells are actual zeros. This may result in non-additivity for some totals. Caution should be taken in re-calculating totals from rounded data, as this may compound the effects of rounding.