

Child Support Program - March quarter 2024

About Child Support

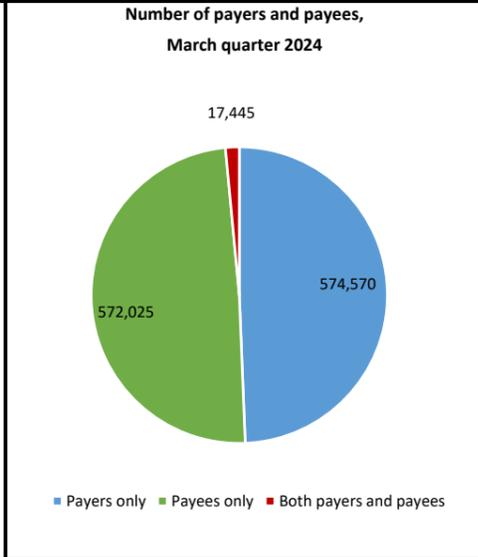
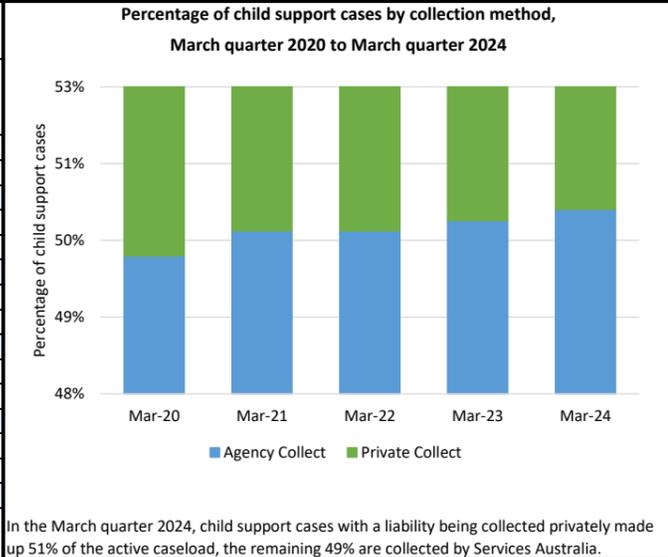
Child Support is a private transfer of money between separated parents for the support of their children.

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.

Quick Facts		Number of active child support cases, parents and children, March quarter 2020 to March quarter 2024						
		Mar-20	Mar-21	Mar-22	Mar-23	Mar-24	Change Mar-20 to Mar-24	Change Mar-23 to Mar-24
Active Cases	Agency Collect	339,835	337,780	332,235	328,120	321,715	-5.3%	-2.0%
	Private Collect	343,295	335,740	330,220	323,920	315,280	-8.2%	-2.7%
	Total	683,130	673,520	662,455	652,040	636,995	-6.8%	-2.3%
Parents/carers	Agency Collect	636,955	634,005	624,085	616,565	605,465	-4.9%	-1.8%
	Private Collect	668,755	653,550	642,525	630,000	613,160	-8.3%	-2.7%
	Total*	1,245,910	1,229,145	1,208,635	1,189,835	1,164,040	-6.6%	-2.2%
Children ¹	Agency Collect	501,890	500,755	491,225	484,140	473,305	-5.7%	-2.2%
	Private Collect	551,485	539,565	530,055	518,480	503,275	-8.7%	-2.9%
	Total	1,053,375	1,040,320	1,021,280	1,002,625	976,580	-7.3%	-2.6%
Payers	Male	543,005	529,610	516,840	506,895	493,390	-9.1%	-2.7%
	Female	70,765	72,520	72,980	71,545	69,940	-1.2%	-2.2%
	Total**	633,755	625,430	615,240	605,555	592,010	-6.6%	-2.2%
Payees	Male	69,425	70,720	70,970	69,245	67,465	-2.8%	-2.6%
	Female	544,475	530,210	517,505	507,555	494,410	-9.2%	-2.6%
	Total**	630,555	622,180	612,135	602,450	589,470	-6.5%	-2.2%



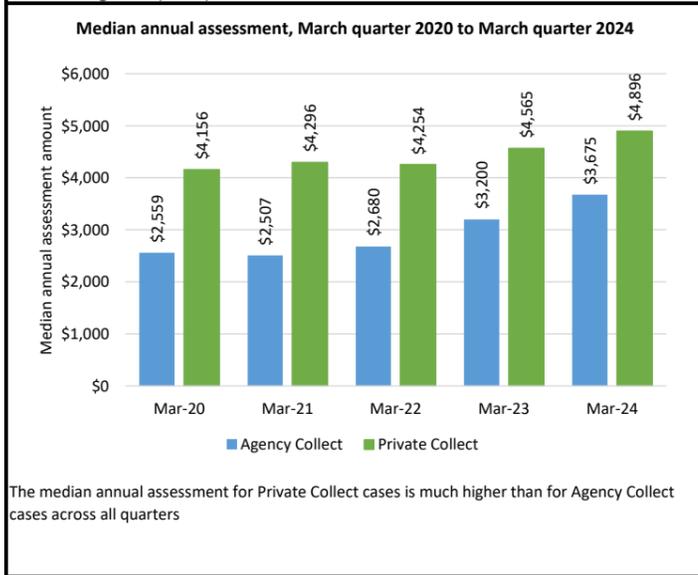
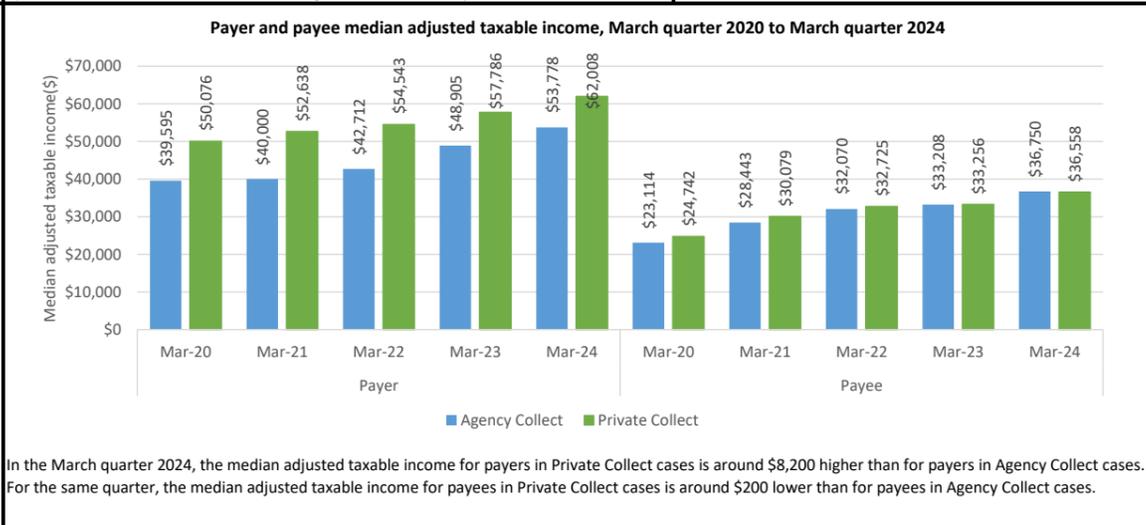
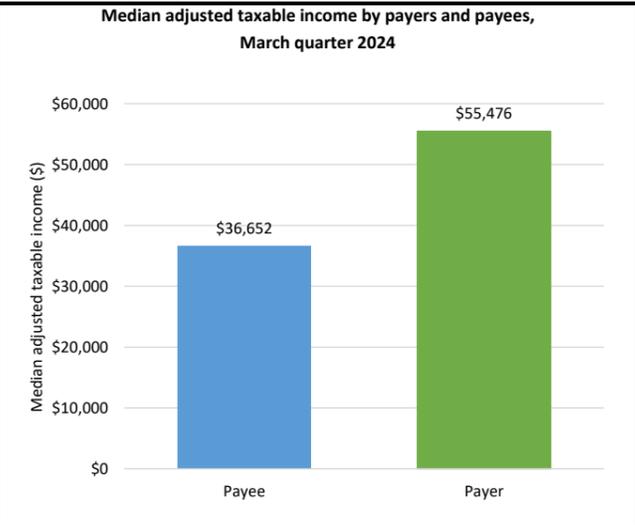
* A parent can be in both collection methods for different children. Therefore, the components won't add to total.
 ** Total includes payers and payees with no gender recorded.

In the March quarter 2024, child support cases with a liability being collected privately made up 51% of the active caseload, the remaining 49% are collected by Services Australia.

Payment by collection method and care arrangements, March quarter 2024²

Amount of Care	Agency Collect		Private Collect	
	Payers	Payees	Payers	Payees
Below regular care (0 to 51 nights per year or < 14%)	216,805	1,375	170,770	2,560
Regular care (52 to 127 nights per year or 14% to < 35%)	59,080	360	81,270	945
Shared care (128 to 237 nights per year or 35% to 65%)	30,795	30,945	55,730	55,785
Primary care (238 to 313 nights per year or > 65% to 86%)	360	59,215	945	81,290
Above primary care (314 to 365 nights per year or > 86%)	1,350	216,620	2,545	171,665

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 13% of child support parents have shared care arrangements. Payers are more likely to have shared care if they have a Private Coocet arrange(17.9%) andversus an Agency Collect arrangement (10.0%) .

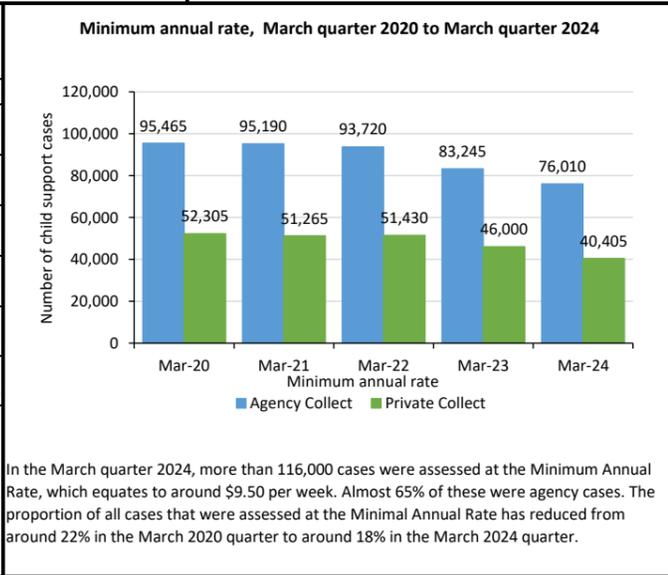


Number of payers in child support active cases by income type, March quarter 2020 to March quarter 2024

Income type	Mar-20	Mar-21	Mar-22	Mar-23	Mar-24
Tax assessment	355,540	361,270	370,895	380,115	364,565
Provisional income	239,910	215,055	202,995	190,390	192,795
Estimated income	38,830	49,775	41,845	35,365	34,990
Post-separation income	65	45	120	180	210
No income details	870	655	645	590	545
Total ***	633,755	625,430	615,240	605,555	592,010

*** Payers in multiple cases can have different incomes 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 62%) of payers in active cases from March 2020 to March 2024 and the proportion has remained stable over this period.

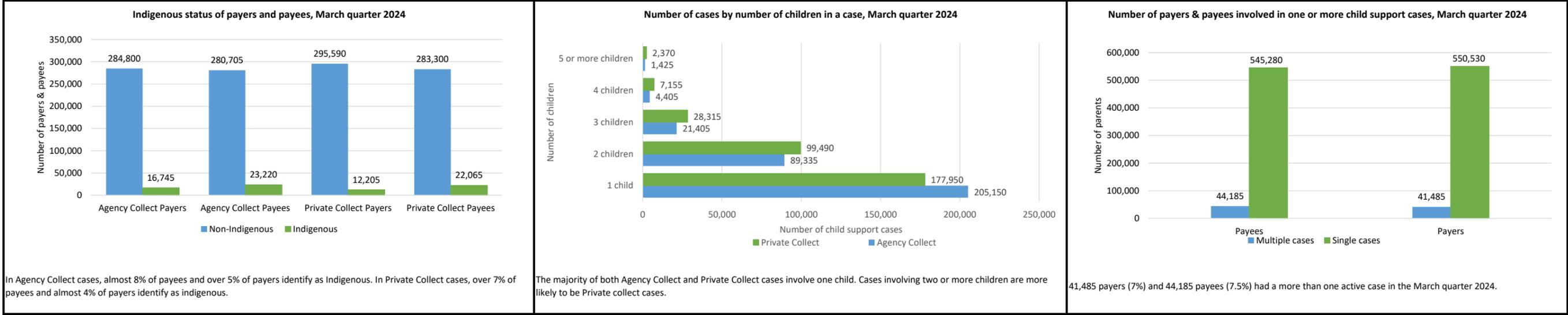


Number of child support cases by annual rate payable, March quarter 2020 to March quarter 2024

Annual rate range	Mar-20	Mar-21	Mar-22	Mar-23	Mar-24
\$0 - \$500	205,270	203,405	200,030	178,635	148,410
\$501 - \$2,000	73,860	73,255	70,905	69,470	78,315
\$2,001 - \$5,000	142,440	131,705	127,070	125,680	120,455
\$5,001 - \$10,000	148,930	145,145	140,700	144,015	144,095
\$10,001 - \$20,000	89,695	94,050	96,145	102,745	109,795
\$20,001 +	22,940	25,960	27,605	31,495	35,925
Total	683,130	673,520	662,455	652,040	636,995

The proportion of active cases with an annual liability of \$0-\$500 has reduced over the 5 years to March 2024 with around 23% of cases (148,410) having an annual liability of \$0-\$500 in the March quarter 2024.

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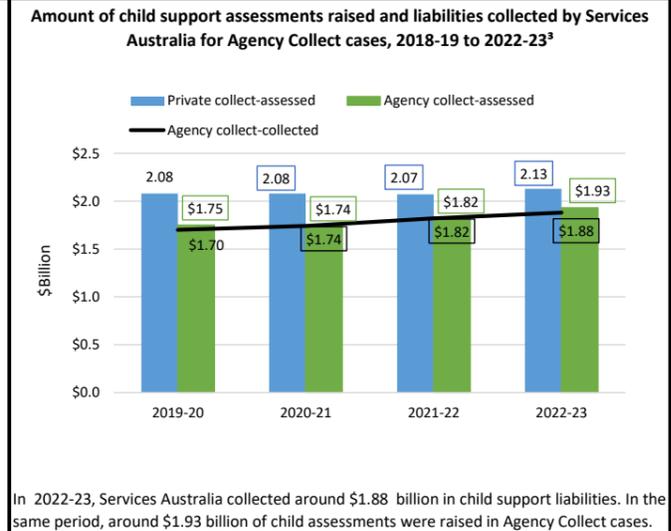
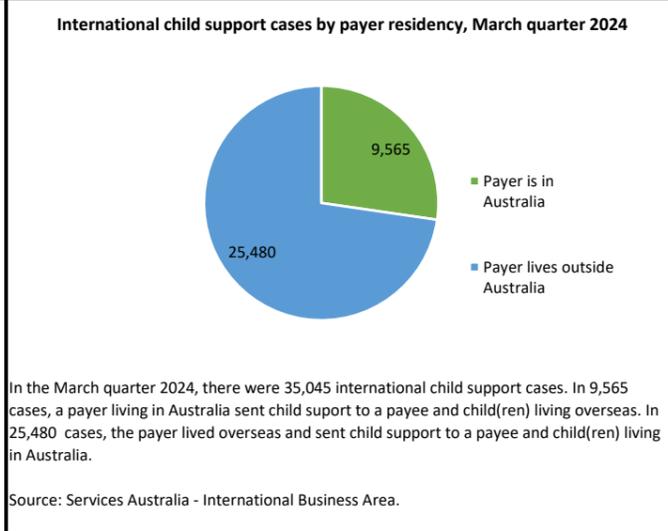
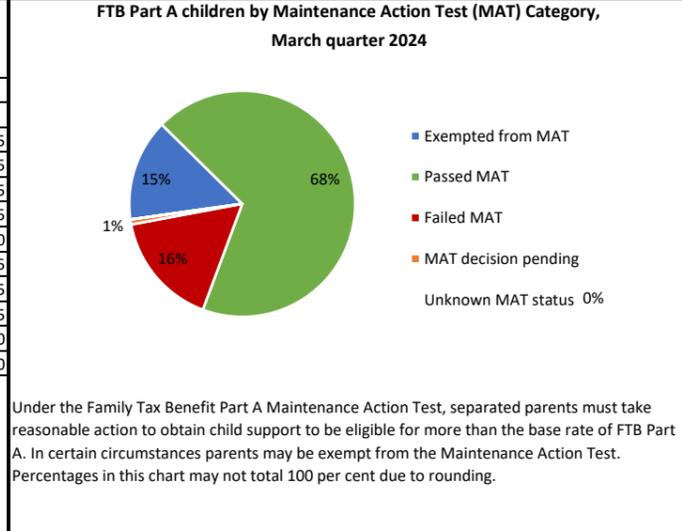


Number of children by age, March quarter 2020 to March quarter 2024****

		Child age category (years)			
		0 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 and over
Private Collect	Mar-20	99,400	161,465	183,270	107,345
	Mar-21	91,700	155,155	183,980	108,735
	Mar-22	88,085	150,505	181,515	109,945
	Mar-23	83,985	144,530	177,315	112,655
	Mar-24	79,160	138,475	173,475	112,160
Agency Collect	Mar-20	56,375	139,195	188,475	117,845
	Mar-21	52,605	136,315	191,895	119,935
	Mar-22	49,115	131,455	188,995	121,655
	Mar-23	46,220	126,325	186,250	125,350
	Mar-24	43,145	121,080	182,855	126,230

**** 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.



Source: 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.

- Notes:
- The number of children includes child support children only and excludes other dependent children
 - The data excludes 4,058 children in 2,337 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 of different children in a case may vary, a payer or payee may be counted in more than one 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.
- Last updated May 2, 2024