Carer Payment (CAR) - Payment Trends and Profile Report

June 2016

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## About Carer Payment

Carer Payment provides income support to people who, because of the demands of their caring role, are unable to support themselves through substantial paid employment.

## Carer Payment Quick Facts

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| **Carer Payment (CAR)**  |
| **Quick Facts** | **Jun-14** | **Jun-15** | **Jun-16** | **Jun-15 Jun-16** | **Avg. Jun-14** **Jun-16** |
|
| Carer total Population |  243,856  |  255,542  |  260,592  | 2.0% | 3.4% |
| Carer Qualification | Adult |  215,370  | 224,329 | 227,835 | 1.6% | 2.9% |
| Child | 28,486  | 31,213 | 32,757 | 4.9% | 7.3% |
| Gender | Male | 75,069  | 78,540 | 80,016 | 1.9% | 3.3% |
| Female | 168,787  | 177,002 | 180,576 | 2.0% | 3.4% |
| Duration | Less than 5 years |  158,868  | 157,908 | 151,764 | -3.9% | -2.2% |
| 5 years or more | 84,988  | 97,634 | 108,828 | 11.5% | 13.2% |
| Earnings | Earnings | 24,345  | 24,938 | 25,110 | 0.7% | 1.6% |
| Nil Earnings |  219,511  | 230,604 | 235,482 | 2.1% | 3.6% |
| Rate | Maximum |  183,569  | 192,776 | 197,069 | 2.2% | 3.6% |
| Other | 60,287  | 62,766 | 63,523 | 1.2% | 2.8% |
| Caree Qualification | Adult  |  214,538  |  223,432  |  226,870  | 1.5% | 2.8% |
| Child | 28,343  |  31,075  |  32,620  | 5.0% | 7.3% |

## Carer Payment Populations

Between June 2006 and June 2016 the Carer Payment population grew at an average annual rate of 9.6% per annum. The proportion of Carer Payment recipients caring for a child grew from 5.1% in June 2009 to 12.6% in June 2016.

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| **Table 1: Carer Payment Populations by Qualification** |
| **Year** | **Total Recipients** | **Adult** | **Child** |
| Jun-06 | 105,058 | N/A | N/A |
| Jun-07 | 116,614 | N/A | N/A |
| Jun-08 | 130,657 | 125,024 | 5,633 |
| Jun-09 | 146,870 | 139,343 | 7,527 |
| Jun-10 | 168,913 | 156,158 | 12,755 |
| Jun-11 | 186,065 | 169,604 | 16,461 |
| Jun-12 | 205,565 | 184,998 | 20,567 |
| Jun-13 | 221,954 | 196,220 | 25,734 |
| Jun-14 | 243,856 | 215,370 | 28,486 |
| Jun-15 | 255,542 | 224,329 | 31,213 |
| Jun-16 | 260,592 | 227,835 | 32,757 |

## Carer Payment Expenditure

As a proportion of GDP, Carer Payment expenditure has increased by around 0.1 of a percentage point since June 2012. This increase is primarily due to increases in the Carer Payment population growth, and pension payment rates.

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| **Table 2: Carer Payment Expenditure** |
| **Financial Year** | **Expenditure** | **Proportion of GDP** |
| 2011-12 |  $3,183,870,000  | 0.21% |
| 2012-13 |  $3,591,246,000  | 0.23% |
| 2013-14 |  $4,177,182,000  | 0.26% |
| 2014-15 |  $4,555,473,000  | 0.28% |
| 2015-16 |  $4,828,714,000  | 0.29% |

## Carer Payment by Age Group

Between June 2012 and June 2016 the proportion of Carer Payment recipients aged less than 55 decreased by around a percentage point to 55.7% of the total Carer Payment population. For the same period the proportion aged over 65 increased slightly from 12.3% to 15.5% of all Carer Payment recipients.

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| **Table 3: Carer Payment by Age Group** |
| **Age Group** | **Jun-12** | **Jun-13** | **Jun-14** | **Jun-15** | **Jun-16** |
| Less than 25 | 8,712 | 9,256 | 10,224 | 10,268 | 9,529 |
| 25 to 54 | 108,121 | 116,706 | 128,103 | 133,868 | 135,653 |
| 55 to 64 | 63,540 | 66,053 | 71,110 | 73,575 | 74,895 |
| 65 and over | 25,192 | 29,939 | 34,419 | 37,831 | 40,515 |

## Carer Payment by Gender

Since June 2012 the proportion of Carer Payment recipients who are female has remained steady at around 69% of the total Carer Payment population.

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| **Table 4: Carer Payment by Gender** |
| **Gender** | **Jun-12** | **Jun-13** | **Jun-14** | **Jun-15** | **Jun-16** |
| Female | 141,924 | 153,751 | 168,787 | 177,002 | 180,576 |
| Male | 63,641 | 68,203 | 75,069 | 78,540 | 80,016 |

## Carer Payment by Relationship Status

Between June 2012 and June 2016 the proportion of recipients who are partnered has dropped approximately four percentage points to 56.9%.

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| **Table 5: Carer Payment by relationship Status** |
| **Relationship Status** | **Jun-12** | **Jun-13** | **Jun-14** | **Jun-15** | **Jun-16** |
| Partnered | 125,090 | 131,730 | 142,150 | 147,010 | 148,313 |
| Not partnered | 80,475 | 90,224 | 101,706 | 108,532 | 112,279 |

## Carer Payment by Indigenous Indicator

As at June 2016 the number of recipients who identified as Indigenous was 13,423. Since June 2012 the proportion of those who identified as Indigenous has increased from 4.5% to 5.2%.

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| **Table 6: Carer Payment by Indigenous Indicator** |
| **Indigenous Indicator** | **Jun-12** | **Jun-13** | **Jun-14** | **Jun-15** | **Jun-16** |
| Non Indigenous | 196,271 | 211,654 | 232,094 | 242,922 | 247,169 |
| Indigenous | 9,294 | 10,300 | 11,762 | 12,620 | 13,423 |

## Carer Payment by Rate of Payment

Since June 2012 the proportion of recipients who receive a part rate of Carer Payment has decreased by 2.8 percentage points before remaining steady at around 25%.

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| **Table 7: Carer Payment by Rate of Payment**  |
| **Rate of Payment**  | **Jun-12** | **Jun-13** | **Jun-14** | **Jun-15** | **Jun-16** |
| Full rate | 153,670 | 166,585 | 183,569 | 192,776 | 197,069 |
| Other rate | 51,895 | 55,369 | 60,287 | 62,766 | 63,523 |

## Carer Payment by Earnings

Between June 2012 and June 2016 the proportion of recipients with earned income has decreased slightly by around 0.6 of a percentage point.

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| **Table 8: Carer Payment by Earnings** |
| **Earnings** | **Jun-12** | **Jun-13** | **Jun-14** | **Jun-15** | **Jun-16** |
| Earned income | 21,200 | 22,551 | 24,345 | 24,938 | 25,110 |
| No earned income | 184,365 | 199,403 | 219,511 | 230,604 | 235,482 |

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## Carer Payment by Duration on Payment

Over the past five years the proportion of recipients in receipt of Carer Payment for 10 years or more increased by five percentage points (9.2% to 14.3%).

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| **Table 9: Carer Payment by Duration on Payment** |
| **Duration on Payment** | **Jun-12** | **Jun-13** | **Jun-14** | **Jun-15** | **Jun-16** |
| Less than 5 years | 142,607 | 151,137 | 158,868 | 157,908 | 151,764 |
| 5 to 9 years | 43,965 | 47,942 | 56,905 | 64,738 | 71,449 |
| 10 to less than 15 years | 18,993 | 22,875 | 28,083 | 32,896 | 37,379 |

## Transfers from Carer Payment

Around 58% of Carer Payment recipients who exited Carer Payment moved onto another income support payment. See Glossary.

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| **Table 10: Transfers from Carer Payment** |
| **Transferred to:** | **Transfers** | **Percentage** |
| Non-recipient | 13,336 | 41.6% |
| Newstart Allowance | 9,036 | 28.2% |
| Age Pension | 6,444 | 20.1% |
| Parenting Payment Single | 1,266 | 4.0% |
| Disability Support Pension | 444 | 1.4% |
| Other payment | 1,504 | 4.7% |

## Care Receiver’s 1st Listed Medical Condition by Qualification Type

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| **Table 11: Carer Receiver’s 1st  Listed Medical Condition by Qualification Type** |
| **Adult medical conditions (top 5)** | **Jun-12** | **Jun-14** | **Jun-16** |
| Osteoarthritis |  20,420  |  21,977  |  22,227  |
| Major depression |  15,134  |  17,527  |  18,274  |
| Musculo-skeletal disorder – other |  12,094  |  14,648  |  16,170  |
| Circulatory system – other |  7,921  |  8,371  | 8,503  |
| Spinal disorder - Other |  5,092  |  6,986  |  8,132  |
| Sub total | 60,661  | 69,509  | 73,306  |
| **Child medical conditions (top 5)** | **Jun-12** | **Jun-14** | **Jun-16** |
| Autism spectrum disorder | 5,352 | 8,314 | 12,102 |
| Attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder | 2,228 | 3,067 | 3,307 |
| Asperger’s disorder | 1,664 | 2,243 | 2,031 |
| Learning disability | 1,853 | 2,198 | 1,872 |
| Cerebral Palsy | 793 | 996 | 1,157 |
| Sub total |  11,890  |  16,818  |  20,469  |
| **Total care receivers** |  **207,048**  |  **242,881**  |  **259,490**  |

## Carer Payment Care Receivers by Age

Between June 2012 and June 2016 the age of the care receiver population remained stable. As a result of changes to Carer payment policy in 2009, there has been a slight increase (2.5 percentage points) in the proportion of care receivers aged under 25.

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| **Table 12: Carer Payment Care Receivers by Age** |
| **Age** | **Jun-12** | **Jun-13** | **Jun-14** | **Jun-15** | **Jun-16** |
| Less than 25 | 33,423 | 38,969 | 42,499 | 45,968 | 48,145 |
| 25-54 | 55,248 | 57,561 | 61,161 | 62,363 | 61,995 |
| 55-65 | 41,473 | 43,180 | 46,095 | 47,169 | 47,072 |
| 65 and over | 76,904 | 83,906 | 93,126 | 99,007 | 102,278 |

## Carer Payment Carers relationship to Care receivers

Between June 2012 and June 2016 the proportion of recipients caring for a partner fell by 3.6 percentage points. This corresponds to the drop in the proportion of Carer Payment recipients who are partnered versus who are single.

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| **Table 13: Carer Payment Carers relationship to Care Receivers** |
| **Relationship** | **Jun-12** | **Jun-13** | **Jun-14** | **Jun-15** | **Jun-16** |
| Partner | 90,440 | 94,915 | 101,167 | 103,425 |  104,033  |
| Parent | 41,561 | 43,376 | 52,177 | 56,633 |  59,765  |
| Child | 43,724 | 46,949 | 52,733 | 55,414 |  56,208  |
| Other related | 18,002 | 18,876 | 24,010 | 24,982 |  24,910  |
| Other Unrelated/Unknown | 13,321 | 14,986 | 12,794 | 14,053 |  14,574  |

## Transfers to Carer Payment

Almost 50% of new recipients were not in receipt of an income support payment immediately before claiming Carer Payment. See Glossary.

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| **Table 14: Transfers to Carer Payment** |
| **Transferred to:** | **Transfers** | **Percentage** |
| Non Recipient | 17,463 | 47.1% |
| Newstart Allowance | 11,534 | 31.1% |
| Parenting Payment Single | 3,085 | 8.3% |
| Parenting Payment Partnered | 1,507 | 4.1% |
| Age Pension | 1,405 | 3.8% |
| Other payment | 2,085 | 5.6% |

## Data Descriptions

### Standard Definitions:

**Recipient Numbers:** Recipients of Carer Payment who are determined to be current and suspended and paid by the Department of Human Services.

**Note:** Recipient numbers are point-in-time as at the end of the quarter.

**Report Details:** Payment trends and profiles report - June 2016 - Produced by the Department of Social Services.

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Source: Department of Human Services Administrative data (DSS Extracts)

**Data Date:** Data as at 24 June 2016.

**Australian National Accounts:** National Income, Expenditure and Product: Table 34 Time Series Spreadsheets (cat. no. 5206.0).

**IMPORTANT:** A break-in-series exists for Carers data from 1 July 2013, care should be taken when comparing time series data crossing this date.

### Glossary:

**Care receivers:** Care receivers are person's that due to their medical condition or disability requires constant care.

**Adult care receivers:** An adult care receiver is a person aged at least 16 years of age at claim.

**Child care receivers:** A child care receiver is a person aged less than 16 years of age at claim.

**Expenditure:** For previous financial years, the data reflects actual expenditure, for future or current financial years the data is sourced from the relevant Portfolio Budget Statement.

**Age range chart:** Age based on whole years since the recipient’s date of birth to the data extraction date (e.g. a person age 31 years and 363 days = 31).

**Relationship Status:** Relationship Status refers to the recipient’s marital status rather than their rate of payment.

**Indigenous:** Indigenous recipients include only those who have voluntarily identified as indigenous. This data may therefore represent an undercount.

**Rate of Payment and Test:** The rate and the test of the recipient’s payment.

**Earnings:** Earnings refers to employment income reported in the recipient’s last reporting period.

**Duration:** Duration refers to the Carer Payment recipient’s current episode and ignores breaks in continuity of less than 14 days.

**Care receiver medical conditions:** Care receivers can list up to four separate medical conditions, the table only illustrates the first listed i.e. not a complete count of medical conditions.

**Transfer from Carer Payment:** Income support status of people at 30 June 2016 who were receiving Carer Payment on 30 June 2015.

**Transfers to Carer Payment:** Income support status of people at 30 June 2015 who were receiving Carer Payment on 30 June 2016.

## Further Information

The Department of Social Services publishes statistics about the various pensions, benefits and family payments which the Department administers, on a quarterly basis on the Australian Government’s centralised data publishing site, [data.gov.au](http://www.data.gov.au/organization/about/department-of-social-services) (http://www.data.gov.au/organization/about/department-of-social-services). A statistical overview is published on an annual basis on the Department’s website, [DSS - Statistical Paper Series](http://www.dss.gov.au/about-the-department/publications-articles/research-publications/statistical-paper-series) (http://www.dss.gov.au/about-the-department/publications-articles/research-publications/statistical-paper-series).

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