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**Income support customers:
A statistical overview 2001**

Corporate Information and Mapping Services
Strategic Policy and Knowledge Branch
Department of Family and Community Services

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March 2003

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1 Introduction

The vision of FaCS is to create a fair and cohesive Australian society by strengthening the capacity of individuals, families and communities to contribute to, and benefit from, greater involvement in all aspects of life.

The Family and Community Services portfolio is responsible for a broad range of social policy issues affecting Australian society and the living standards of Australian families, communities and individuals. The portfolio consists of the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS), Child Support Agency, CRS Australia, Centrelink, the Social Security Appeals Tribunal, and the Australian Institute of Family Studies. Key responsibilities include income support, housing policy, disability services, child care services and family issues, including family payments, child support and family relationships.

FaCS advises the Government on all policy issues within the portfolio, and manages the delivery of FaCS services through a range of service providers. As part of its core business, FaCS works in many areas that affect the living standards of Australians— income, housing, taxation, superannuation, savings, and so on. As well as families, FaCS focuses on groups with differing needs such as young people and students, people living in rural and remote areas, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and people from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

This statistical overview covers all FaCS income support customers, and unless otherwise indicated, the statistics relate to the relevant pay periods closest to 30 June 2001. These periods will generally be within a fortnight either side of that date.

Key sections of the overview are:

- ▶ payments for older people, the sick, and people with disabilities and their carers
- ▶ labour market allowances and Parenting Program
- ▶ family assistance
- ▶ other income support payments
- ▶ expenditure and pensioners paid overseas.

Payment and allowance details, including eligibility criteria, are included within each section. Further information to assist with the interpretation of statistics is available in the glossary.

If you require further information about this publication, please contact the FaCS Data Helpdesk on (02) 6244 7882 or email helpdesk.facs.data@facs.gov.au.

2 Payments for older people, the sick, and people with disabilities or their carers

2.1 Age Pension

To qualify for the Age Pension a male must be aged 65 years, while the age at which a female may qualify depends upon her birth date. The qualifying age for females is being increased gradually to 65 years between 1 July 1995 and 2013. The following table shows the age at which females qualify for the Age Pension.

Dates of birth	Qualifying age
1 Jul 35 to 31 Dec 36	60.5
1 Jan 37 to 30 Jun 38	61
1 Jul 38 to 31 Dec 39	61.5
1 Jan 40 to 30 Jun 41	62
1 Jul 41 to 31 Dec 42	62.5
1 Jan 43 to 30 Jun 44	63
1 Jul 44 to 31 Dec 45	63.5
1 Jan 46 to 30 Jun 47	64
1 Jul 47 to 31 Dec 48	64.5
1 Jan 49 and over	65

Other eligibility requirements specify that the person claiming must have been:

- ▶ an Australian resident for at least 10 years continuously, or
- ▶ an Australian resident continuously for at least five years and have in total lived in Australia, on and off, for more than ten years, or
- ▶ a refugee, or
- ▶ a woman widowed in Australia and living in Australia for at least two years before claiming.

It should also be noted that certain absences from Australia count towards residence and other age pensioners may qualify under agreements Australia has with other countries.

Table 1: Age Pension customers: Sex, June 1981 to June 2001 (a)

AS AT JUNE	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
1981	450 959	33.5	896 471	66.5	1 347 430	100.0
1982	456 145	33.4	910 890	66.6	1 367 035	100.0
1983	460 667	33.1	930 171	66.9	1 390 838	100.0
1984	436 925	32.2	921 204	67.8	1 358 129	100.0
1985	419 714	31.5	912 068	68.5	1 331 782	100.0
1986	412 373	31.1	912 227	68.9	1 324 600	100.0
1987	407 698	30.8	914 476	69.2	1 322 174	100.0
1988 (b)	404 922	30.5	923 892	69.5	1 328 814	100.0
1989	403 339	30.2	930 971	69.8	1 334 310	100.0
1990	404 486	30.2	935 982	69.8	1 340 468	100.0
1991	418 383	30.4	957 466	69.6	1 375 849	100.0
1992	447 888	31.0	998 280	69.0	1 446 168	100.0
1993	481 196	31.7	1 034 486	68.3	1 515 682	100.0
1994	514 217	32.5	1 067 657	67.5	1 581 874	100.0
1995	544 571	34.5	1 034 127	65.5	1 578 698	100.0
1996	570 328	35.6	1 032 506	64.4	1 602 834	100.0
1997	597 859	35.6	1 082 355	64.4	1 680 214	100.0
1998	618 607	36.6	1 072 987	63.4	1 691 594	100.0
1999	639 008	37.1	1 085 581	62.9	1 724 589	100.0
2000	659 188	37.9	1 079 027	62.1	1 738 215	100.0
2001	688 563	38.4	1 104 863	61.6	1 793 426	100.0

Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders (c)

2001	97 848	43.3	128 292	56.7	226 140	100.0
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- (a) Includes Age Pension payments administered by Centrelink and the Department of Veterans' Affairs.
- (b) Overseas customers have been included since 1988. For years prior to 1988, the data on overseas customers broken down by gender are unavailable.
- (c) The CSHC is issued to people of Age Pension age who failed to qualify for the pension because of their income or assets levels but whose income is below the applicable cut-offs for the CSHC. See table 62 for characteristics.

Figure 1: Age Pension customers: Sex, June 1982 to June 2001

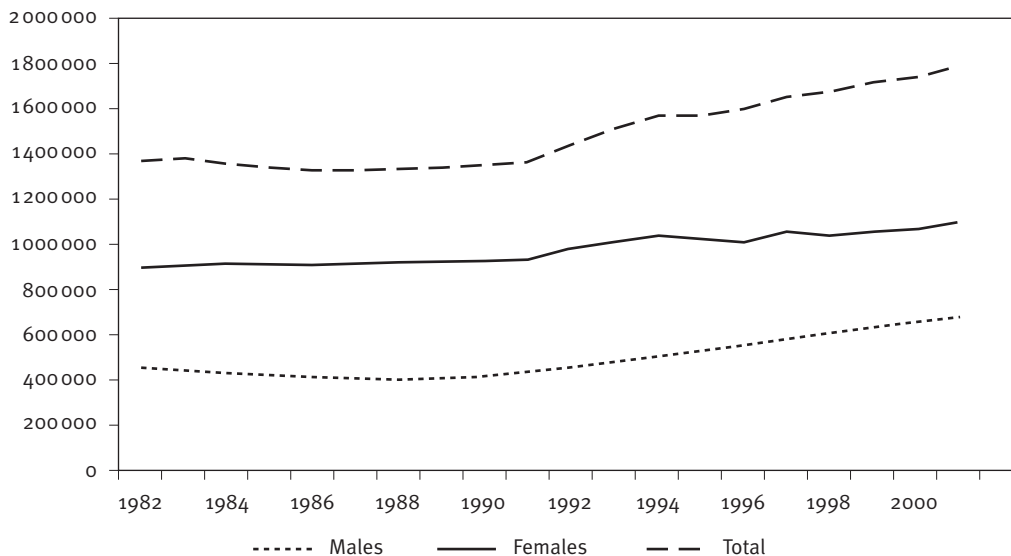


Table 2: Age Pension customers: State by sex, June 2001 (a)

STATE	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	221 338	32.3	367 593	33.4	588 931	33.0
Victoria	170 578	24.9	281 125	25.5	451 703	25.3
Queensland	115 289	16.8	183 302	16.6	298 591	16.7
South Australia	63 207	9.2	104 408	9.5	167 615	9.4
Western Australia	54 975	8.0	91 331	8.3	146 306	8.2
Tasmania	18 202	2.7	30 016	2.7	48 218	2.7
Northern Territory	2 311	0.3	3 193	0.3	5 504	0.3
Australian Capital Territory	5 602	0.8	10 137	0.9	15 739	0.9
Unknown	35	0.0	53	0.0	88	0.0
Overseas (b)	32 682	4.8	30 177	2.7	62 859	3.5
Total	684 219	100.0	1 101 335	100.0	1 785 554	100.0

(a) Excludes Age Pension payments administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

(b) Includes all overseas pensioners, regardless of their length of stay overseas.

Table 3: Age Pension customers: Characteristics by sex, June 2001 (a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Age Pension customers	684 219	100.0	1 101 335	100.0	1 785 554	100.0
Age (years)						
60–64	–	–	173 828	15.8	173 828	9.7
65–69	229 299	33.5	252 999	23.0	482 298	27.0
70–74	230 060	33.6	229 166	20.8	459 226	25.7
75–79	115 492	16.9	175 930	16.0	291 422	16.3
80–84	59 225	8.7	130 974	11.9	190 199	10.7
85–89	36 225	5.3	90 600	8.2	126 825	7.1
90–94	11 740	1.7	38 010	3.5	49 750	2.8
95 or more	2 178	0.3	9 828	0.9	12 006	0.7
Status						
<i>Couple</i>						
no dependants	490 672	71.7	474 810	43.1	965 482	54.1
with dependants	360	0.1	1 359	0.1	1 719	0.1
Total	491 032	71.8	476 169	43.2	967 201	54.2
<i>Single</i>						
no dependants	192 773	28.2	623 143	56.6	815 916	45.7
with dependants	414	0.1	2 023	0.2	2 437	0.1
Total	193 187	28.2	625 166	56.8	818 353	45.8
Rate						
Maximum rate	420 031	61.4	726 372	66.0	1 146 403	64.2
Reduced rate	264 188	38.6	374 963	34.0	639 151	35.8
Home ownership						
Home owner	501 633	73.3	733 766	66.6	1 235 399	69.2
Non home owner	159 419	23.3	291 896	26.5	451 315	25.3
Other	23 167	3.4	75 673	6.9	98 840	5.5
Paid under income test						
<i>Income as assessed (\$pw)</i>						
<i>Single</i>						
Nil	17 048	2.5	55 887	5.1	72 935	4.1
\$0.01–\$53.00	120 102	17.6	398 413	36.2	518 515	29.0
Over \$53.00	57 567	8.4	160 227	14.5	217 794	12.2
<i>Partnered (each)</i>						
Nil	11 399	1.7	10 602	1.0	22 001	1.2
\$0.01–47.00	267 597	39.1	257 656	23.4	525 253	29.4
Over \$47.00	152 118	22.2	148 376	13.5	300 494	16.8
Non-home owners paid under assets test						
<i>Assets as assessed (\$) (b)</i>						
<i>Single</i>						
More than 228 750 to less than 364 750	455	0.1	823	0.1	1278	0.1
<i>Partnered (each)</i>						
More than 142 500 to less than 255 500	435	0.1	423	0.0	858	0.0
Home owners paid under assets test						
<i>Assets as assessed (\$) (b)</i>						
<i>Single</i>						
More than 133 250 to less than 269 250	8 709	1.3	18 568	1.7	27 277	1.5
<i>Partnered (each)</i>						
More than 94 750 to less than 207 750 (b)	44 956	6.6	45 223	4.1	90 179	5.1
Not coded (b)	3 833	0.6	5 137	0.5	8 970	0.5
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	400 263	58.5	717 656	65.2	1 117 919	62.6
UK/Eire/Ireland	80 235	11.7	123 602	11.2	203 837	11.4
Italy	52 840	7.7	51 823	4.7	104 663	5.9
Greece	20 377	3.0	25 762	2.3	46 139	2.6
Netherlands	13 122	1.9	15 704	1.4	28 826	1.6
Other	117 382	17.2	166 788	15.1	284 170	15.9

(a) Excludes age pension payments administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

(b) The values indicated are the assets test upper and lower allowable limits. The pensioner population indicated includes only pensioners with assessable assets between the two allowable assets test limits who receive a part-rate pension based on the application of the assets test. All pensioners paid a full rate of pension are classified as income tested and included in the 'Paid under income test' population above. Note that for couples separated by illness, the upper limits are higher than those indicated.

2.2 Disability Support Pension

Disability Support Pension is intended to ensure that people with disabilities have adequate levels of income and maximum opportunities to participate in society.

To be eligible for Disability Support Pension, a person must have a permanent physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairment of at least 20 points under the Impairment Tables. An impairment is defined as permanent under the *Social Security Act 1991* if it is fully diagnosed, treated and stabilised and likely to last for at least two years without significant functional improvement. They must also be unable to do any full time work, or be re-skilled for work, for at least 30 hours per week at award wages for at least the next two years because of that impairment; or be permanently blind.

To qualify for the Disability Support Pension a person must be aged 16 years or over and have not reached Age Pension age. The person must also be an Australian resident, living in Australia at the time they claim and have 10 years qualifying residence.

There is no period of residence qualification required if the inability to work or blindness occurs while the person is an Australian resident.

Summary

- ▶ The number of Disability Support Pension customers has been steadily increasing, with the greatest growth occurring as a result of the Disability Reform Package. Other factors contributing to continued growth include: a general trend in the Australian population which shows that the incidence of disabilities increases with age, increases to the age which women qualify for Age Pension, the general decline in the proportion of mature age workers participating in the workforce, and wider demographic changes. In June 2001 the number of customers receiving a Disability Support Pension was 623 926.
- ▶ 63 per cent of the total Disability Support Pension recipients were males. The proportion of females is increasing and now represents 37 per cent of the total population.
- ▶ 54 per cent of the total number of Disability Support Pension recipients were aged 50 years and over at June 2001.
- ▶ At June 2001, 61 per cent of people on Disability Support Pension were single.
- ▶ 83 per cent of Disability Support Pension customers were on a maximum rate of payment.
- ▶ 63 per cent of Disability Support Pension customers did not own their own home.
- ▶ The majority of Disability Support Pension customers were Australian born (71%). European countries such as United Kingdom/Ireland, Greece, Yugoslavia and Italy were the next largest categories.

Table 4: Disability Support Pension customers: Sex, June 1981 to June 2001

AS AT JUNE	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
1981	153 889	69.3	68 062	30.7	221 951	100.0
1982	151 146	69.8	65 503	30.2	216 649	100.0
1983	155 672	70.7	64 617	29.3	220 289	100.0
1984	173 063	71.9	67 511	28.1	240 574	100.0
1985	188 713	72.8	70 449	27.2	259 162	100.0
1986	200 898	73.4	72 912	26.6	273 810	100.0
1987	213 290	73.8	75 760	26.2	289 050	100.0
1988	219 168	73.8	77 745	26.2	296 913	100.0
1989	227 285	73.8	80 510	26.2	307 795	100.0
1990 (a)	233 251	73.7	83 462	26.4	316 713	100.0
1991	244 699	73.2	89 535	26.8	334 234	100.0
1992	273 697	72.3	104 861	27.7	378 558	100.0
1993	291 471	71.7	115 101	28.3	406 572	100.0
1994	309 123	70.9	127 111	29.1	436 234	100.0
1995	324 672	69.9	139 758	30.1	464 430	100.0
1996	340 256	68.2	158 979	31.8	499 235	100.0
1997	352 607	66.8	174 907	33.2	527 514	100.0
1998	361 539	65.3	191 797	34.7	553 336	100.0
1999	373 340	64.6	204 342	35.4	577 682	100.0
2000	382 351	63.5	219 929	36.5	602 280	100.0
2001	392 354	62.9	231 572	37.1	623 926	100.0

(a) Figures revised.

Note: Disability Support Pension replaced Invalid Pension, Sheltered Employment Allowance and Rehabilitation Allowance from November 1991 as part of the Disability Reform Package.

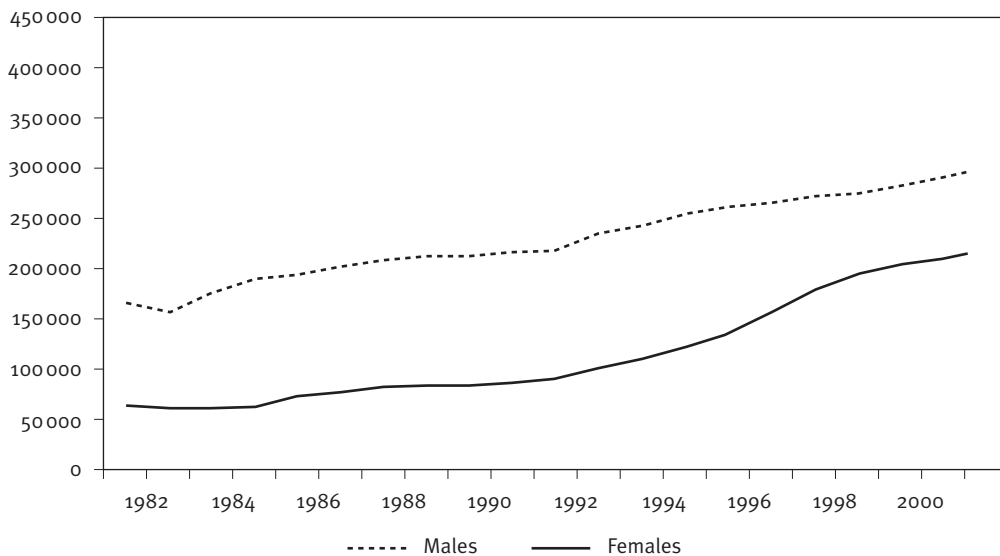
Figure 2: Disability Support Pension customers: Sex, June 1981 to June 2001

Table 5: Disability Support Pension customers: State by sex, June 2001

STATE	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	131 012	33.4	76 035	32.8	207 047	33.2
Victoria	89 824	22.9	57 256	24.7	147 080	23.6
Queensland	74 416	19.0	42 069	18.2	116 485	18.7
South Australia	37 253	9.5	22 687	9.8	59 940	9.6
Western Australia	32 510	8.3	19 093	8.2	51 603	8.3
Tasmania	20 378	5.2	9 974	4.3	30 352	4.9
Northern Territory	3 259	0.8	1 754	0.8	5 013	0.8
Australian Capital Territory	3 660	0.9	2 681	1.2	6 341	1.0
Overseas	42	0.0	23	0.0	65	0.0
Total	392 354	100.0	231 572	100.0	623 926	100.0

Table 6: Disability Support Pension customers: Characteristics by sex, June 2001

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Disability Support Pension Customers	392 354	100.0	231 572	100.0	623 926	100.0
Age (years)						
Under 20	9 245	2.4	6 148	2.7	15 393	2.5
20–29	31 097	7.9	21 883	9.4	52 980	8.5
30–39	52 379	13.3	32 410	14.0	84 789	13.6
40–49	77 674	19.8	54 758	23.6	132 432	21.2
50–59	122 360	31.2	97 696	42.2	220 056	35.3
60–64	96 851	24.7	18 420	8.0	115 271	18.5
65 and over	2 748	0.7	257	0.1	3 005	0.5
Status						
<i>Couple</i>						
no dependants	171 166	43.6	55 603	24.0	226 769	36.3
with dependants	1 500	0.4	12 692	5.5	14 192	2.3
Total	172 666	44.0	68 295	29.5	240 961	38.6
<i>Single</i>						
no dependants	215 896	55.0	151 871	65.6	367 767	58.9
with dependants	3 792	1.0	11 406	4.9	15 198	2.4
Total	219 688	56.0	163 277	70.5	382 965	61.4
Rate						
Maximum rate	324 985	82.8	190 854	82.4	515 839	82.7
Reduced rate	67 369	17.2	40 718	17.6	108 087	17.3
Home ownership						
Home owner	149 444	38.1	79 239	34.2	228 683	36.7
Non home owner	239 929	61.2	150 493	65.0	390 422	62.6
Not coded	2 981	0.8	1 840	0.8	4 821	0.8
Paid under income test						
<i>Income as assessed (\$pw)</i>						
<i>Single</i>						
Nil	55 535	14.2	32 862	14.2	88 397	14.2
\$0.01–\$53.00	137 844	35.1	111 249	48.0	249 093	39.9
Over \$53.00	21 375	5.4	16 987	7.3	38 362	6.1
<i>Partnered (each)</i>						
Nil	14 652	3.7	5 404	2.3	20 056	3.2
\$0.01–47.00	108 944	27.8	38 745	16.7	147 689	23.7
Over 47.00	40 423	10.3	20 812	9.0	61 235	9.8
Partner rate not coded	142	0.0	9	0.0	151	0.0
Non-home owners paid under assets test						
<i>Assets as assessed (\$)</i>						
<i>Single</i>						
More than 228 750 to less than 364 750	172	0.0	76	0.0	248	0.0
<i>Partnered (each)</i>						
More than 142 500 to less than 278 500	65	0.0	34	0.0	99	0.0
Home owners paid under assets test						
<i>Assets as assessed (\$)</i>						
<i>Single</i>						
More than 133 250 to less than 269 250	1 356	0.3	829	0.4	2 185	0.4
<i>Partnered (each)</i>						
More than 94 750 to less than 230 750	5 427	1.4	2 273	1.0	7 700	1.2
Not coded (a)	6 419	1.6	2 292	1.0	8 711	1.4
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	276 527	70.5	171 941	74.2	448 468	71.9
UK/Eire/Ireland	26 215	6.7	13 353	5.8	39 568	6.3
Italy	10 121	2.6	4 322	1.9	14 443	2.3
Greece	10 258	2.6	5 374	2.3	15 632	2.5
Former Yugoslavia	10 120	2.6	4 517	2.0	14 637	2.3
Other	59 113	15.1	32 065	13.8	91 178	14.6

(a) At least one variable required to determine the customers asset test category was not coded (partnership category, home ownership type, income or asset tested).

2.3 Wife Pension

The Wife Pension is gradually being phased out. No new grants have been made from 1 July 1995. However, women who received a Wife Pension at that date can continue to receive this payment. To qualify for Wife Pension a woman must be the wife of an Age or Disability Support pensioner and not receiving a pension in her own right.

Partners of new applicants for Age or Disability Support Pension (DSP) need to apply for another type of payment such as Age Pension, Parenting Payment, Partner Allowance, Carer Payment, Disability Support Pension, Newstart Allowance.

Summary

- ▶ The number of Wife Pension customers has decreased significantly as a result of the gradual phasing out of this pension in 1995. At June 2001 the number of customers receiving a Wife Pension (DSP) was 51 225.
- ▶ Wife Pensioners of Disability Support Pension customers comprised the majority of all Wife Pension customers (66% at June 2001).

Table 7: Wife Pension customers: Pension type, June 1981 to June 2001

AS AT JUNE	AGE PENSION		DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION		REHABILITATION ALLOWANCE (a)		SHELTERED EMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCE (b)		TOTAL (c)	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
1981	29 241	33.8	57 092	65.9	..	..	304	0.4	86 637	100.0
1982	27 516	33.3	54 804	66.3	..	..	295	0.4	82 615	100.0
1983	26 380	31.3	57 011	67.8	458	0.5	300	0.4	84 149	100.0
1984	24 129	26.5	65 984	72.4	771	0.8	306	0.3	91 190	100.0
1985	22 931	23.5	73 770	75.5	736	0.8	319	0.3	97 756	100.0
1986	22 208	21.5	80 167	77.5	699	0.7	308	0.3	103 382	100.0
1987	22 106	20.2	86 304	78.9	611	0.6	306	0.3	109 327	100.0
1988	22 128	20.0	87 742	79.3	486	0.4	308	0.3	110 664	100.0
1989	22 609	20.0	89 890	79.3	482	0.4	315	0.3	113 296	100.0
1990	23 766	20.5	91 068	78.7	583	0.5	278	0.2	115 695	100.0
1991	26 537	21.8	94 006	77.1	1 128	0.9	262	0.2	121 933	100.0
1992	30 902	23.2	101 731	76.4	561	0.4	..	..	133 194	100.0
1993	33 520	23.6	108 327	76.3	166	0.1	..	..	142 013	100.0
1994	36 539	23.9	116 036	76.0	45	0	..	..	152 620	100.0
1995	39 611	24.5	121 839	75.5	7	0	..	..	161 457	100.0
1996	41 125	27.6	107 803	72.4	3	0	..	..	148 931	100.0
1997	36 577	28.6	91 307	71.4	1	0	..	..	127 885	100.0
1998	36 233	31.2	79 892	68.8	..	..	..	..	116 125	100.0
1999	32 196	32.0	68 523	68.0	..	..	..	..	100 719	100.0
2000	31 406	32.0	59 935	68.0	..	..	..	..	91 341	100.0
2001	26 476	34.1	51 225	65.9	..	..	..	..	77 701	100.0

(a) Rehabilitation Allowance began in March 1983 and was phased out in November 1991 as part of the Disability Reform Package. Rehabilitation allowees continue on their payment until completing their program.

(b) Sheltered Employment Allowance customers were transferred to Disability Support Pension in November 1991.

(c) Excludes Wife Disability Wage Supplement. From 1 January 1998, there were no further grants of Disability Wage Supplement.

Figure 3: Wife Pension customers: Pension type, June 1981 to June 2001

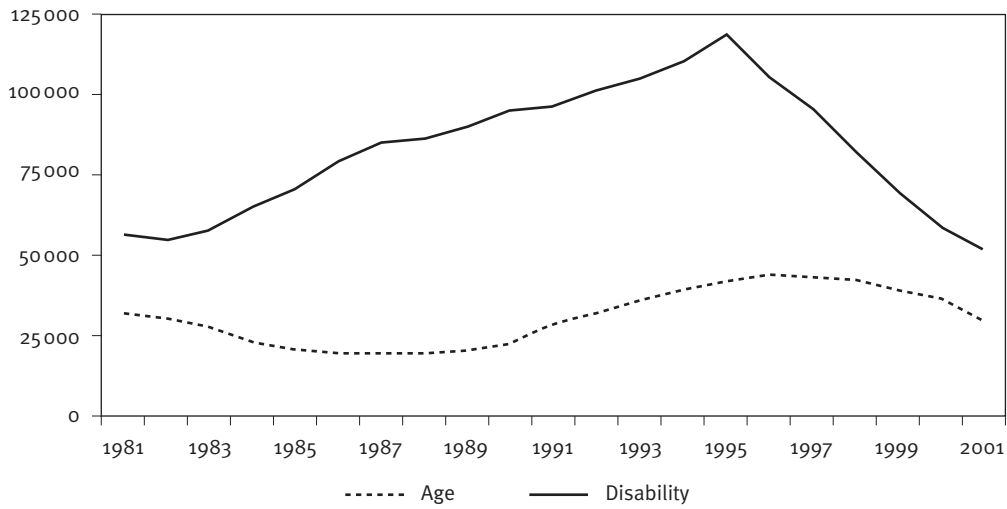


Table 8: Wife Pension customers: State by pension type, June 2001

STATE	PENSION AGE		DISABILITY SUPPORT		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	8 122	30.7	16 797	32.8	24 919	32.1
Victoria	6 612	25.0	11 867	23.2	18 479	23.8
Queensland	4 678	17.7	9 150	17.9	13 828	17.8
South Australia	2 641	10.0	4 884	9.5	7 525	9.7
Western Australia	2 154	8.1	4 455	8.7	6 609	8.5
Tasmania	1 979	7.5	3 576	7.0	5 555	7.1
Northern Territory	139	0.5	224	0.4	363	0.5
Australian Capital Territory	151	0.6	268	0.5	419	0.5
Unknown (a)	0	0.0	4	0.0	4	0.0
Total	26 476	100.0	51 225	100.0	77 701	100.0

Table 9: Wife Pension customers: Characteristics by pension type, June 2001

CHARACTERISTICS	AGE PENSION		DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Wife Pension Customers	26 476	100.0	51 225	100.0	77 701	100.0
Age (years)						
Under 40	317	1.2	4 319	8.4	4 636	6.0
40–49	1 849	7.0	13 434	26.2	15 283	19.7
50–59	14 740	55.7	28 548	55.7	43 288	55.7
60–64	8 301	31.4	4 829	9.4	13 130	16.9
65 and over	1 269	4.8	95	0.2	1 364	1.8
Status						
<i>Couple</i>						
no dependants	24 768	93.5	39 797	77.7	64 565	83.1
with dependants	1 564	5.9	11 285	22.0	12 849	16.5
Total	26 332	99.5	51 082	99.7	77 414	99.6
<i>Single</i>						
no dependants	132	0.5	122	0.2	254	0.3
with dependants	12	0.0	21	0.0	33	0.0
Total	144	0.5	143	0.3	287	0.4
Rate						
Maximum rate	18 769	70.9	39 556	77.2	58 325	75.1
Reduced rate	7 707	29.1	11 669	22.8	19 376	24.9
Home ownership						
Home owner	20 372	76.9	34 497	67.3	54 869	70.6
Non home owner	6 070	22.9	16 707	32.6	22 777	29.3
Not coded	34	0.1	21	0.0	55	0.1
Paid under income test						
<i>Income as assessed (\$pw)</i>						
<i>Single</i>						
Nil	39	0.1	60	0.1	99	0.1
\$0.01–\$53.00	220	0.8	207	0.4	427	0.5
Over \$53.00	100	0.4	112	0.2	212	0.3
<i>Partnered (each)</i>						
Nil	1 356	5.1	5 421	10.6	6 777	8.7
\$0.01–47.00	16 976	64.1	32 920	64.3	49 896	64.2
\$47.01–\$53.15	791	3.0	1 184	2.3	1 975	2.5
Over \$53.15	5 964	22.5	9 965	19.5	15 929	20.5
Partner rate not coded	74	0.3	129	0.3	203	0.3
Non-home owners paid under assets test						
<i>Assets as assessed (\$)</i>						
<i>Single</i>						
More than 228 750 to less than 364 750	–		1		1	0.0
<i>Partnered (each)</i>						0.0
More than 142 500 to less than 255 500	13	0.0	15	0.0	28	0.0
Home owners paid under assets test						
<i>Assets as assessed (\$)</i>						
<i>Single</i>						
More than 133 250 to less than 269 250	2	0.0	14	0.0	16	0.0
<i>Partnered (each)</i>						
More than 94 750 to less than 207 750	880	3.3	781	1.5	1661	2.1
Not Coded (a)	60	0	413	1	473	0.6
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	12 667	47.8	30 809	60.1	43 476	56.0
Italy	2 681	10.1	2 270	4.4	4 951	6.4
UK/Ireland/Eire	1 878	7.1	3 154	6.2	5 032	6.5
Greece	1 656	6.3	2 734	5.3	4 390	5.6
Former Yugoslavia	613	2.3	1 984	3.9	2 597	3.3
Other	6 981	26.4	10 274	20.1	17 255	22.2

(a) At least one of the variables required in determine the customers' asset test category was not coded (partnership category, home ownership type or whether income or asset tested).

Notes: Wife pensioners over age 65 years (and those aged 61 to 64 years) are most likely to be women who are not residentially qualified for Age Pension in their own right. Wife Pension can be paid at the single pension rate if the couple are living apart because of ill health—the 'partnered' income and assets test still apply.

2.4 Carer Payment

To qualify for Carer Payment a person must be caring for someone who has a severe disability or medical condition and who:

- is receiving a social security or Veterans' Affairs Income Support payment, or
- is not receiving payment solely for reasons of lack of sufficient period of residence in Australia, or
- is not receiving a social security or Veterans' Affairs Income Support payment but satisfies the special care receiver income and assets tests.

The person claiming must:

- be personally providing constant care to a care receiver who satisfies eligibility requirements, and
- not be in receipt of any other pension or benefit, and
- be in Australia at the time the care is given and be a permanent resident of Australia.

A care receiver satisfies the eligibility requirements if they:

- have a physical, intellectual or psychiatric disability, and
- are a person who is being provided with constant care, and
- are likely to suffer from that disability permanently or for an extended period, and
- have been assessed, rated and given a score of at least 25 under the Adult Disability Assessment Tool (ADAT), or
- have been assessed, rated and given a score of at least 20 under the ADAT, and have a Carer Allowance child under the age of 16 or a child under the age of six, or
- are a child that meets the definition of a profoundly disabled child, or
- are two or more children with disabilities and/or medical conditions who together require a level of care that is at least equivalent to the level of care required by a profoundly disabled child.

Prior to 1 July 1997, Carer Payment was known as Carer Pension.

Eligibility for Carer Payment for carers of children under 16 years of age was introduced on 1 July 1998.

Table 10: Carer Payment customers: Pension type, June 1984 to June 2001

AS AT JUNE	AGE PENSION		DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION		OTHER (a)		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
1984	432	25.1	1 289	74.9	..	..	1 721	100.0
1985	627	23.1	2 085	76.9	..	..	2 712	100.0
1986	1 975	39.3	3 045	60.7	..	..	5 020	100.0
1987	2 644	40.7	3 853	59.3	..	..	6 497	100.0
1988	3 162	42.8	4 231	57.2	..	..	7 393	100.0
1989	3 579	44.7	4 431	55.3	..	..	8 010	100.0
1990	4 025	45.8	4 771	54.2	..	..	8 796	100.0
1991	4 619	45.5	5 478	53.9	64	0.6	10 161	100.0
1992	5 574	44.1	6 790	53.8	267	2.1	12 631	100.0
1993	6 507	43.3	8 056	53.5	482	3.2	15 045	100.0
1994	7 441	42.0	9 450	53.4	808	4.6	17 699	100.0
1995	8 324	41.4	10 633	52.9	1 141	5.7	20 098	100.0
1996	9 500	37.9	13 483	53.9	2 054	8.2	25 037	100.0
1997	10 954	37.1	15 735	53.2	2 869	9.7	29 558	100.0
1998	11 740	34.6	18 556	54.6	3 683	10.8	33 979	100.0
1999	13 407	33.5	21 392	53.4	5 271	13.2	40 070	100.0
2000	15 346	32.3	24 500	51.5	7 704	16.2	47 550	100.0
2001	18 097	31.6	28 171	49.3	10 922	19.1	57 190	100.0

(a) Includes those caring for a person on a FaCS payment other than Age Pension or Disability Support Pension. It also includes those caring for a non-FaCS customer.

Figure 4: Carer Payment customers: Pension type, June 1991 to 2001

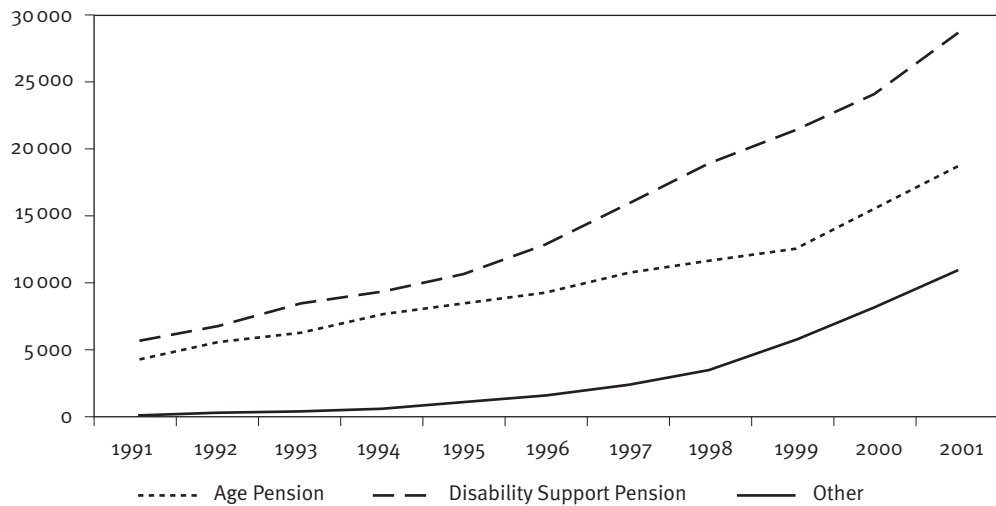


Table 11: Carer Payment customers: State by pension type of person being cared for, June 2001

STATE	AGE PENSION		DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION		OTHER (a)		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	6 639	36.7	9 619	34.1	3 854	35.3	20 112	35.2
Victoria	4 857	26.8	6 854	24.3	2 814	25.8	14 525	25.4
Queensland	3 405	18.8	6 002	21.3	2 225	20.4	11 632	20.3
South Australia	1 301	7.2	2 296	8.2	766	7.0	4 363	7.6
Western Australia	1 178	6.5	1 856	6.6	732	6.7	3 766	6.6
Tasmania	520	2.9	1 113	4.0	392	3.6	2 025	3.5
Northern Territory	78	0.4	191	0.7	35	0.3	304	0.5
Australian Capital Territory	118	0.7	238	0.8	103	0.9	459	0.8
Other (b)	1	0.0	2	0.0	1	0.0	4	0.0
Total	18 097	100.0	28 171	100.0	10 922	100.0	57 190	100.0

(a) Includes those caring for a person on a FaCS payment other than Age Pension or Disability Support Pension. It also includes those caring for a non-FaCS customer.

(b) Includes unknown postcodes and overseas recipients.

Table 12: Carer Payment customers: Characteristics by sex, June 2001

CHARACTERISTICS	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Carer Payment Customers	21 895	100.0	35 295	100.0	57 190	100.0
Age (years)						
Under 20	262	1.2	475	1.3	737	1.3
20–29	1 270	5.8	2 021	5.7	3 291	5.8
30–39	3 245	14.8	4 758	13.5	8 003	14.0
40–49	5 347	24.4	10 176	28.8	15 523	27.1
50–59	7 457	34.1	14 497	41.1	21 954	38.4
60–64	3 785	17.3	2 600	7.4	6 385	11.2
65 and over	529	2.4	768	2.2	1 297	2.3
Status						
<i>Couple</i>						
no dependants	13 424	61.3	14 683	41.6	28 107	49.1
with dependants	331	1.5	6 262	17.7	6 593	11.5
Total	13 755	62.8	20 945	59.3	34 700	60.7
<i>Single</i>						
no dependants	7 995	36.5	12 898	36.5	20 893	36.5
with dependants	145	0.7	1 452	4.1	1 597	2.8
Total	8 140	37.2	14 350	40.7	22 490	39.3
Rate						
Maximum rate	17 837	81.5	24 802	70.3	42 639	74.6
Reduced rate	4 058	18.5	10 493	29.7	14 551	25.4
Home ownership						
Home owner	9 426	43.1	18 106	51.3	27 532	48.1
Non home owner	12 457	56.9	17 182	48.7	29 639	51.8
Other	12	0.1	7	0.0	19	0.0
Paid under income test						
Income as assessed (\$pw)						
<i>Single</i>						
Nil	1 749	8.0	1 918	5.4	3 667	6.4
\$0.01–\$53.00	5 251	24.0	9 904	28.1	15 155	26.5
Over \$53.00	969	4.4	2 304	6.5	3 273	5.7
<i>Partnered (each)</i>						
Nil	1 125	5.1	1 218	3.5	2 343	4.1
\$0.01–\$47.00	9 456	43.2	11 358	32.2	20 814	36.4
Over \$47.00	2 562	11.7	7 354	20.8	9 916	17.3
Partner rate not coded	4	0.0	1	0.0	5	0.0
Non-home owners paid under assets test						
Assets as assessed (\$)						
<i>Single</i>						
More than 228 750 to less than 364 750	30	0.1	38	0.1	68	0.1
<i>Partnered (each)</i>						
More than 142 500 to less than 278 500	11	0.1	20	0.1	31	0.1
Home owners paid under assets test						
Assets as assessed (\$)						
<i>Single</i>						
More than 133 250 to less than 269 250	96	0.4	151	0.4	247	0.4
<i>Partnered (each)</i>						
More than 94 750 to less than 230 750	493	2.3	852	2.4	1 345	2.4
Not coded (a)	149	0.7	177	0.5	326	0.6
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	15 121	69.1	24 841	70.4	39 962	69.9
UK/Eire/Ireland	1 689	7.7	2 021	5.7	3 710	6.5
Italy	419	1.9	768	2.2	1 187	2.1
Lebanon	374	1.7	638	1.8	1 012	1.8
Greece	433	2.0	532	1.5	965	1.7
Other	3 859	17.6	6 495	18.4	10 354	18.1

(a) At least one variable required to determine the customers asset test category was not coded (partnership category, home ownership type, income or asset tested).

2.5 Sickness Allowance

Sickness Allowance is a payment that provides assistance for people who are employed or studying full time and who are temporarily unable to work or study due to a medical condition and have a job or study to return to.

To qualify for the Sickness Allowance a person must be 21 years of age or over and not have reached Age Pension age.

Sickness Allowance can be paid for up to three months when a customer is temporarily absent from Australia in order to seek medical treatment of a kind that is not available in Australia.

Summary

- ▶ As at June 2001 there were 10 942 people receiving Sickness Allowance.
- ▶ Sickness Allowance clients received payment for an average of 35 weeks.
- ▶ Around 87 per cent of Sickness Allowance recipients are aged between 20 and 54. Of these, 69 per cent are male and 31 per cent female.

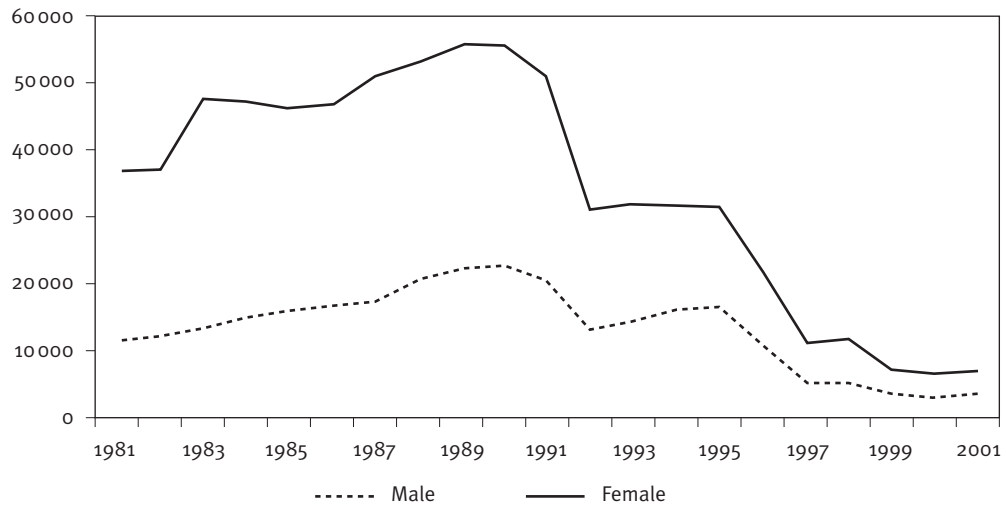
Table 13: Sickness Allowance customers: Sex, June 1981 to June 2001

JUNE	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
(a)						
1981	37 063	75.8	11 812	24.2	48 875	100.0
1982	38 185	75.8	12 165	24.2	50 350	100.0
1983	48 284	77.0	14 384	23.0	62 668	100.0
1984	47 338	75.7	15 163	24.3	62 501	100.0
1985	46 060	74.3	15 970	25.7	62 030	100.0
1986	47 114	73.5	17 022	26.5	64 136	100.0
1987	51 421	73.2	18 811	26.8	70 232	100.0
1988	54 609	72.6	20 580	27.4	75 189	100.0
1989	56 904	72.0	22 097	28.0	79 001	100.0
1990	56 674	71.6	22 521	28.4	79 195	100.0
1991	50 991	71.4	20 408	28.6	71 399	100.0
1992	30 844	69.8	13 328	30.2	44 172	100.0
1993	31 802	68.3	14 777	31.7	46 579	100.0
1994	31 274	66.4	15 858	33.6	47 132	100.0
1995	31 131	65.8	16 180	34.2	47 311	100.0
1996	22 254	67.0	10 961	33.0	33 215	100.0
1997	10 721	68.0	5 038	32.0	15 759	100.0
(b)						
1998	11 166	68.6	5 119	31.4	16 285	100.0
1999	7 799	69.8	3 382	30.2	11 181	100.0
2000	7 443	69.3	3 290	30.7	10 733	100.0
2001	7 504	68.6	3 438	31.4	10 942	100.0

a) These figures are an average of the weekly payments for the month ending June each year. Sex breakdown for this table was estimated based on the proportion of males and females receiving this allowance from a point in time in the relevant quarter.

(b) Break in series. Data from 1998 onward are derived from a point in time in the relevant quarter.

Notes: Sickness Allowance replaced Sickness Benefit from November 1991 as part of the Disability Reform Package. This resulted in some customers transferring to the Disability Support Pension. From March 1996, unemployed people who became ill did not transfer to Sickness Allowance after 13 weeks. They continued to be paid Youth Training Allowance, Job Search Allowance or Newstart Allowance, subject to Sickness Allowance conditions.

Figure 5: Sickness Allowance customers: Sex, June 1981 to June 2001

Table 14: Sickness Allowance customers: State by sex, June 2001

STATE	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	2 226	29.7	984	28.6	3 210	29.3
Victoria	1 989	26.5	945	27.5	2 934	26.8
Queensland	1 583	21.1	743	21.6	2 326	21.3
South Australia	608	8.1	278	8.1	886	8.1
Western Australia	768	10.2	321	9.3	1 089	10.0
Tasmania	201	2.7	86	2.5	287	2.6
Northern Territory	57	0.8	34	1.0	91	0.8
Australian Capital Territory	72	1.0	47	1.4	119	1.1
Total	7 504	100.0	3 438	100.0	10 942	100.0

Table 15: Sickness Allowance customers: Characteristics by sex, June 2001

CHARACTERISTICS	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Sickness Allowance customers	7 504	100.0	3 438	100.0	10 942	100.0
Age (years)						
21–24	772	10.3	376	10.9	1 148	10.5
25–34	2 071	27.6	872	25.4	2 943	26.9
35–44	1 984	26.4	805	23.4	2 789	25.5
45–54	1 614	21.5	1 036	30.1	2 650	24.2
55–59	680	9.1	306	8.9	986	9.0
60–64	383	5.1	43	1.3	426	3.9
Status						
<i>Couple</i>						
no dependants	3 084	41.1	501	14.6	3 585	32.8
with dependants	49	0.7	170	4.9	219	2.0
Total	3 133	41.8	671	19.5	3 804	34.8
<i>Single</i>						
no dependants	4 318	57.5	2 665	77.5	6 983	63.8
with dependants	53	0.7	102	3.0	155	1.4
Total	4 371	58.2	2 767	80.5	7 138	65.2
Income						
Nil	3 123	41.6	3 029	88.1	10 181	93.0
\$0.01–\$31.00 pw	3 797	50.6	20	0.6	64	0.6
Over \$31.00 pw	584	7.8	241	7.0	488	4.5
Duration						
<i>Up to 1 year</i>	6 208	82.7	2 826	82.2	9 034	82.6
Up to 7 weeks	1 616	21.5	788	22.9	2 404	22.0
Over 7 weeks to 3 months	1 438	19.2	641	18.6	2 079	19.0
Over 3 months to 6 months	1 661	22.1	717	20.9	2 378	21.7
Over 6 months to 1 year	1 493	19.9	680	19.8	2 173	19.9
<i>Over 1 year</i>	1 296	17.3	612	17.8	1 908	17.4
Over 1 year to 2 years	844	11.2	386	11.2	1 230	11.2
Over 2 years to 3 years	241	3.2	123	3.6	364	3.3
Over 3 years	211	2.8	103	3.0	314	2.9
Mean duration (weeks)	35.4	..	36.8	..	35.8	..
Median duration (weeks)	26.6	..	30.0	..	27.7	..
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	5 703	76.0	2 692	78.3	8 395	76.7
UK/Eire/Ireland	450	6.0	198	5.8	648	5.9
New Zealand	220	2.9	113	3.3	333	3.0
Italy	92	1.2	22	0.6	114	1.0
Vietnam	71	0.9	35	1.0	106	1.0
Other	968	12.9	378	11.0	1 346	12.3

2.6 Mobility Allowance and Carer Allowance

Mobility Allowance

The purpose of Mobility Allowance is to ensure that people with disabilities are encouraged to gain, retain or extend their independence. It assists with transport costs for people with disabilities who cannot use public transport without assistance.

To qualify for Mobility Allowance a person must be undertaking an approved activity and be required to travel to and from their home for the purpose of undertaking that activity. Approved activities must be at least eight hours a week of paid work, voluntary work, vocational training, including study, or a combination of paid work and vocational training.

A person who cannot use public transport without assistance may also qualify for Mobility Allowance if they:

- ▶ have an agreement to look for work through a Disability Employment Service or Job Network, or
- ▶ are receiving Newstart Allowance, Youth Allowance or Austudy Payment.

Mobility Allowance is not payable if a person:

- ▶ has received the benefit of a sales tax exemption on the purchase of a new motor vehicle within the last two years, or
- ▶ has a car under the Vehicle Assistance Scheme from the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

A person must be an Australian resident and be in Australia when claiming and receiving Mobility Allowance. Reviews of Mobility Allowance are conducted annually. Customers with a temporary medical condition undergo a medical review as part of their annual review.

Summary

- ▶ The numbers of people receiving Mobility Allowance continues to rise steadily with a 7 per cent increase since 2000. At June 2001 the total number of Mobility Allowance customers was 37 574.
- ▶ Of the total number of recipients receiving Mobility Allowance 56 per cent are male and 44 per cent female.

Carer Allowance

Carer Allowance was introduced on 1 July 1999. It combined Child Disability Allowance with Domiciliary Nursing Care Benefit, which was previously the responsibility of the Health and Aged Care portfolio.

- ▶ Carer Allowance may be paid for up to two adults who receive daily care and attention, and/or any number of dependent children with a disability. The carer or parent may be eligible to receive a fortnightly payment of Carer Allowance for each eligible person in their care.
- ▶ Parents caring for two children with disabilities, who individually fall just below the qualification for Carer Allowance but whose combined assessment under the Child Disability Assessment Tool meets the threshold for payment, will receive a single rate of Carer Allowance.

- ▶ Customers who were entitled to Child Disability Allowance on 30 June 1998 are eligible for Carer Allowance until 30 June 2003, providing their circumstances do not change, and will not be subject to Centrelink initiated medical reviews during that period.
- ▶ All Domiciliary Nursing Care Benefit beneficiaries as at 30 June 1999 were automatically transferred to Carer Allowance (adult) on 1 July 1999 when the new payment of Carer Allowance was introduced. Reviews of these customers have taken place over the subsequent two years to June 2001.

The person claiming must:

- ▶ be personally providing constant care to a care receiver who satisfies eligibility requirements, and
- ▶ provide care and attention in the home of the claimant and the person(s) cared for, or participate in the provision of care and attention given to the care receiver during a period of temporary hospitalisation, and
- ▶ be in Australia at the time the care is given and be a permanent resident of Australia.

A care receiver satisfies the eligibility requirements if they are:

- ▶ aged 16 years or over with a disability that causes a substantial functional impairment (as assessed under the Adult Disability Assessment Tool), or
- ▶ a dependent child aged under 16 years:
 - with a disability or medical condition that is included in the list of disabilities or conditions which result in automatic qualification, or
 - assessed under the Child Disability Assessment Tool as functioning at a level below the standard expected for his or her age, and
- ▶ be an Australian resident **and** living with the claimant; and be likely to suffer from the disability permanently or for an extended period of at least 12 months (unless their condition is terminal).

Table 16: Mobility Allowance customers: Sex, June 1983 to June 2001

AS AT JUNE	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
1983	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3 935	100.0
1984	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	9 480	100.0
1985	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10 946	100.0
1986	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	11 420	100.0
1987	6 851	56.5	5 269	43.5	12 120	100.0
1988	7 092	56.1	5 549	43.9	12 641	100.0
1989	7 188	56.3	5 568	43.7	12 756	100.0
1990	7 422	56.2	5 785	43.8	13 207	100.0
1991	7 535	56.0	5 909	44.0	13 444	100.0
1992	7 826	56.3	6 085	43.7	13 911	100.0
1993	9 118	56.4	7 042	43.6	16 160	100.0
1994	11 916	57.3	8 879	42.7	20 795	100.0
1995	13 106	57.4	9 745	42.6	22 851	100.0
1996	14 200	56.8	10 785	43.2	24 985	100.0
1997	15 066	56.6	11 529	43.4	26 595	100.0
1998	16 346	56.4	12 629	43.6	28 975	100.0
1999	17 415	56.2	13 586	43.8	31 001	100.0
2000	19 673	56.0	15 481	44.0	35 154	100.0
2001	20 887	55.6	16 687	44.4	37 574	100.0

Notes: Eligibility requirements were eased in March 1993 to include those undertaking eight hours or more of voluntary work, and Disability Support Pensioners and Sickness Allowees who have Job Search incorporated into their Department of Social Security activity plan.

Figure 6: Mobility Allowance customers: Sex, 1987 to 2001

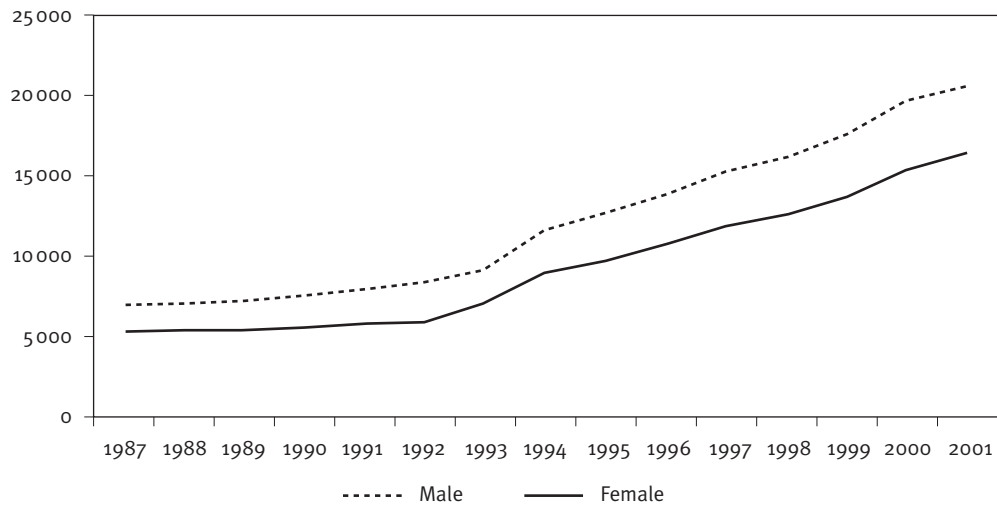


Table 17: Mobility Allowance customers: State by sex, June 2001

STATE	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	6 201	29.7	4 705	28.2	10 906	29.0
Victoria	5 975	28.6	5 072	30.4	11 047	29.4
Queensland	4 060	19.4	3 023	18.1	7 083	18.9
South Australia	2 055	9.8	1 782	10.7	3 837	10.2
Western Australia	1 625	7.8	1 282	7.7	2 907	7.7
Tasmania	600	2.9	539	3.2	1 139	3.0
Northern Territory	116	0.6	87	0.5	203	0.5
Australian Capital Territory	241	1.2	195	1.2	436	1.2
Other (a)	14	0.1	2	0.0	16	0.0
Total	20 887	100.0	16 687	100.0	37 574	100.0

(a) Other is defined as an unknown state or invalid postcode.

Table 18: Carer Allowance: Customers, June 1982 to June 2001 (a)

AS AT JUNE	CHILD (b)	ADULT	ADULT AND CHILD
1982	25 873	..	..
1983	26 693	..	..
1984	27 192	..	..
1985	28 154	..	..
1986	29 074	..	..
1987	29 486	..	..
1988	32 071	..	..
1989	34 671	..	..
1990	37 746	..	..
1991	42 405	..	..
1992	50 797	..	..
1993	61 174	..	..
1994	69 693	..	..
1995	78 898	..	..
1996	90 644	..	..
1997	95 520	..	..
1998	90 830	..	..
1999	100 452	..	..
2000 (c)	116 955	84 104	..
2001	111 691	121 755	1 595

(a) Carer Allowance was introduced on 1 July 1999. It combined Child Disability Allowance with Domiciliary Nursing Care Benefit, which was previously the responsibility of the Health and Aged Care portfolio.

(b) Excludes Health Care Card only customers.

(c) Preliminary data, subject to revision. Estimates made from different data source than preceding and following data series.

Table 19: Carer Allowance: Customers by state and carer type, June 2001 (a)

STATE	CHILD		ADULT		ADULT AND CHILD		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO	%	NO	%	NO	%
New South Wales	35 147	31.5	41 338	34.0	498	31.2	76 983	32.8
Victoria	29 768	26.7	31 403	25.8	425	26.6	61 596	26.2
Queensland	20 043	17.9	24 903	20.5	299	18.7	45 245	19.2
South Australia	9 285	8.3	9 837	8.1	160	10.0	19 282	8.2
Western Australia	11 771	10.5	8 787	7.2	133	8.3	20 691	8.8
Tasmania	3 051	2.7	3 693	3.0	52	3.3	6 796	2.9
Northern Territory	722	0.6	492	0.4	4	0.3	1 218	0.5
Australian Capital Territory	1 769	1.6	1 183	1.0	21	1.3	2 973	1.3
Other (b)	135	0.1	119	0.1	3	0.2	257	0.1
Total (c)	111 691	100.0	121 755	100.0	1 595	100.0	235 041	100.0

(a) Carer Allowance was introduced on 1 July 1999. It combined Child Disability Allowance with Domiciliary Nursing Care Benefit, which was previously the responsibility of the Health and Aged Care portfolio.

(b) Includes overseas payments and invalid postcodes.

(c) Excludes 11 296 child carers that only receive a Health Care Card.

3 Labour market allowances and parenting program

Table 20: FaCS labour market-related payments: June 1981 to June 2001

JUNE (a)	YOUTH ALLOWANCE (c)				YOUTH TRAINING ALLOWANCE (b)	MATURE AGE ALLOWANCE (d)				
	AUSTUDY	FULL-TIME STUDENT	OTHER	TOTAL		NEWSTART	PARTNER ALLOWANCE	WIDOW ALLOWANCE	SPECIAL BENEFIT	
1981	313 200	..	..	..	19 500
1982	374 525	..	..	..	16 659
1983	633 281	..	..	..	20 525
1984	588 123	..	..	..	18 141
1985	562 266	..	..	..	18 582
1986	568 716	..	..	..	18 136
1987	553 653	..	..	..	19 706
1988	478 049	..	..	..	22 592
1989	389 794	..	..	..	25 204
1990	419 785	..	..	..	27 913
1991	676 705	..	..	..	29 811
1992	851 831	..	..	..	34 792
1993	913 770	..	..	..	28 854
1994	878 278	..	..	..	25 947
1995	21 857	800 714	38 866	216 739	8 829	20 884
1996	34 191	812 365	45 931	69 840	11 748	18 727
1997	31 942	797 961	53 386	72 117	17 468	14 577
1998	30 674	778 880	50 771	75 021	24 003	10 236
1999	47 170	307 813	84 773	392 586	..	654 752	45 253	81 359	27 967	11 808
2000	42 838	309 366	82 408	391 774	..	589 911	41 840	89 684	32 995	11 103
2001	41 992	308 177	85 053	393 230	..	580 703	39 149	92 492	36 865	12 712

(a) These figures are monthly averages of the weekly figures (except for Austudy and Special Benefit which are based on 15 June 2001 data). They include people who receive a nil rate of payment. Figures in italics have been corrected from previously published figures.

(b) On 1 July 1998, many 16–20 year old Newstart and all Youth Training Allowance customers were transferred to Youth Allowance.

(c) Youth Allowance was introduced on 1 July 1998. The number of full-time students does not include those who have traded in their entire Youth Allowance entitlement for a loan under the Student Financial Supplement Loan Scheme.

(d) Includes people who are on Newstart Mature Age Allowance and who were on Mature Age and Mature Age Partner Allowance prior to July 1996 receiving the payment under pension conditions.

3.1 Austudy

Austudy was introduced on 1 July 1998 for full-time students 25 years of age and over undertaking qualified study. When Austudy was introduced, full-time students on the previous AUSTUDY payment who were 25 years of age and over as at 30 June 1998 were transferred to the new Austudy scheme. Since then, students who receive Youth Allowance at the time they turn 25, remain on Youth Allowance until they cease that particular course of study.

Austudy is subject to the personal income and assets tests and the partner income test. Rent Assistance is not payable.

The minimum rate of Austudy is equal to the 'Away from home' rate that applies to Youth Allowance.

Table 21: Austudy payment customers: Characteristics by gender, June 2001

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Austudy customers	24 496	100.0	17 496	100.0	41 992	100.0
Age (years)						
25–29	9 281	37.9	7 338	41.9	16 619	39.6
30–34	6 065	24.8	3 724	21.3	9 789	23.3
35–39	3 909	16.0	2 090	11.9	5 999	14.3
40–44	2 493	10.2	1 832	10.5	4 325	10.3
45–49	1 561	6.4	1 489	8.5	3 050	7.3
50–54	805	3.3	762	4.4	1 567	3.7
55–59	318	1.3	240	1.4	558	1.3
60–64	57	0.2	19	0.1	76	0.2
65 and over	7	0.0	2	0.0	9	0.0
Status						
Single or couple	18 568	75.8	14 805	84.6%	33 373	79.5
Single with children	168	0.7	653	3.7%	821	2.0
Couple with children	5 760	23.5	2 038	11.6%	7 798	18.6
Duration (a)						
Under 3 months	1 821	7.4	1 695	9.7	3 516	8.4
Between 3 and 6 months	4 537	18.5	3 989	22.8	8 526	20.3
Between 6 and 9 months	1 184	4.8	866	4.9	2 050	4.9
Between 9 months and 1 year	1 622	6.6	1 096	6.3	2 718	6.5
Between 1 and 2 years	5 510	22.5	3 942	22.5	9 452	22.5
2 years and over	9 822	40.1	5 908	33.8	15 730	37.5
Mean duration (weeks)	98.0	..	86.3	..	93.1	..
Median duration (weeks)	70.7	..	66.0	..	68.0	..
Income (b)						
Nil	19 314	78.8	12 435	71.1	31 749	75.6
\$0.01–\$118.00 pw	2 463	10.1	2 298	13.1	4 761	11.3
Over \$118.00 pw	2 719	11.1	2 763	15.8	5 482	13.1
Study Level						
Secondary	543	2.2	343	2.0	886	2.1
Tertiary Group A Course	1 548	6.3	1 252	7.2	2 800	6.7
Tertiary Group B Course	12 736	52.0	9 229	52.7	21 965	52.3
Tertiary Group C Course	5 324	21.7	3 548	20.3	8 872	21.1
Tertiary Group D Course	4 173	17.0	2 998	17.1	7 171	17.1
Not Applicable	172	0.7	126	0.7	298	0.7

(a) Duration is measured from the Income Security Start Date. For customers who previously received AUSTUDY this duration would have been reset when Austudy payment was introduced and thus their durations could be underestimated.

(b) Income is defined as earned income.

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100 per cent.

3.2 Youth Allowance

Youth Allowance is paid by Centrelink on behalf of the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services. Introduced on 1 July 1998, Youth Allowance replaced AUSTUDY for full-time students under 25 years, Sickness Allowance, Newstart and the Youth Training Allowance for young people under 21 years of age who are temporarily incapacitated or unemployed and looking for work.

These changes were introduced in response to concerns from the community about the need for income support arrangements that address changing labour market conditions, the need for increased flexibility, simplicity and the removal of disincentives to study.

Young people 16 to 21 years of age who are unemployed or 16 to 25 years of age (15 if considered independent) and undertaking full-time studies or, a combination of approved activities such as, part-time work and part-time study are eligible for Youth Allowance.

A parental means test applies unless the customer is assessed as independent. Independence for Youth Allowance purposes can be obtained in a number of ways, including through minimum levels of prior workforce participation, marital status, or where it is unreasonable for the young person to live at home. Single, dependent young people receive the 'at home' rate of payment unless they live apart from their parent(s) for approved reasons.

The personal income test for unemployed customers who are looking for work is the same as that which applies for Newstart Allowance. However, full-time students are allowed to earn \$236 per fortnight before their payments are affected and their unused income free area may accrue to a maximum of \$6000, in the form of an income bank (like a credit).

Table 22: Youth Allowance (full-time student) customers: Characteristics by sex, June 2001

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Youth Allowance (full-time student) customers (a)	141 354	100.0	167 309	100.0	308 663	100.0
Age (years)						
15	331	0.2	559	0.3	890	0.3
16	29 677	21.0	31 218	18.7	60 895	19.7
17	28 673	20.3	32 903	19.7	61 576	19.9
18	18 212	12.9	23 311	13.9	41 523	13.5
19	14 934	10.6	20 362	12.2	35 296	11.4
20	14 702	10.4	19 872	11.9	34 574	11.2
21	12 254	8.7	15 485	9.3	27 739	9.0
22	8 443	6.0	9 716	5.8	18 159	5.9
23	5 980	4.2	6 329	3.8	12 309	4.0
24	4 289	3.0	4 189	2.5	8 478	2.7
25 and over	3 859	2.7	3 365	2.0	7 224	2.3
Rate						
At home	95 334	67.4	103 717	62.0	199 051	64.5
Away from home or couple	46 020	32.6	63 592	38.0	109 612	35.5
Independent	41 311	29.2	52 771	31.5	94 082	30.5
Dependent	100 043	70.8	114 538	68.5	214 581	69.5
Duration (b)						
Under 3 months	14 687	10.4	16 330	9.8	31 017	10.0
Between 3 and 6 months	23 599	16.7	27 821	16.6	51 420	16.7
Between 6 and 9 months	10 361	7.3	11 341	6.8	21 702	7.0
Between 9 months and 1 year	11 932	8.4	13 312	8.0	25 244	8.2
Between 1 and 2 years	39 251	27.8	46 206	27.6	85 457	27.7
2 years and over	41 524	29.4	52 299	31.3	93 823	30.4
Mean duration (weeks)	74.9	..	77.0	..	76.0	..
Median duration (weeks)	64.0	..	66.3	..	66.0	..
Income (c)						
Nil	109 714	77.6	114 072	68.2	223 786	72.5
\$0.01–\$118.00 pw	19 265	13.6	31 742	19.0	51 007	16.5
Over \$118.00 pw	12 375	8.8	21 495	12.8	33 870	11.0
Study Level						
Secondary	61 434	43.5	65 481	39.1	126 915	41.1
Tertiary Group A Course	3 106	2.2	4 318	2.6	7 424	2.4
Tertiary Group B Course	50 133	35.5	66 967	40.0	117 100	37.9
Tertiary Group C Course	12 274	8.7	13 951	8.3	26 225	8.5
Tertiary Group D Course	12 513	8.9	14 481	8.7	26 994	8.7
Not recorded	1 894	1.3	2 111	1.3	4 005	1.3

(a) Youth Allowance customers that are full-time students. They include customers that received a nil rate of payment (3 333) due to their own or partner income. These figures are as at 15 June 2001.

(b) Duration is measured from the Income Security Start Date.

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100 per cent.

Table 23: Youth Allowance (other) customers: Characteristics by sex, June 2001

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Youth Allowance (other) customers (a)	46 862	100.0	37 680	100.0	84 542	100.0
Age (years)						
15	179	0.4	239	0.6	418	0.5
16	2 701	5.8	2 366	6.3	5 067	6.0
17	5 322	11.4	4 722	12.5	10 044	11.9
18	11 942	25.5	10 317	27.4	22 259	26.3
19	12 835	27.4	10 358	27.5	23 193	27.4
20	13 576	29.0	9 459	25.1	23 035	27.2
21 and over	307	0.7	219	0.6	526	0.6
Rate						
At home	21 874	46.7	15 259	40.5	37 133	43.9
Away from home or couple	24 988	53.3	22 421	59.5	47 409	56.1
Independent	25 551	54.5	20 960	55.6	46 511	55.0
Dependent	21 311	45.5	16 720	44.4	38 031	45.0
Duration (b)						
Under 3 months	10 067	21.5	6 686	17.7	16 753	19.8
Between 3 and 6 months	7 561	16.1	5 579	14.8	13 140	15.5
Between 6 and 9 months	3 994	8.5	2 842	7.5	6 836	8.1
Between 9 months and 1 year	2 904	6.2	2 194	5.8	5 098	6.0
Between 1 and 2 years	8 199	17.5	7 248	19.2	15 447	18.3
2 years and over	14 137	30.2	13 131	34.8	27 268	32.3
Mean duration (weeks)	76.8	..	82.5	..	79.3	..
Median duration (weeks)	46.9	..	63.9	..	55.7	..
Income (c)						
Nil	40 540	86.5	29 811	79.1	70 351	83.2
\$0.01–\$31.00 pw	964	2.1	1 116	3.0	2 080	2.5
\$31.01–\$118.00	2 866	6.1	3 730	9.9	6 596	7.8
Over \$118.00 pw	2 492	5.3	3 023	8.0	5 515	6.5
Main Activity Type						
Jobsearch	28 645	61.1	22 282	59.1	50 927	60.2
Intensive Assistance	7 470	15.9	5 444	14.4	12 914	15.3
Incapacitated	2 487	5.3	3 328	8.8	5 815	6.9
Work for the Dole	2 158	4.6	1 669	4.4	3 827	4.5
CDEP Participant	1 174	2.5	610	1.6	1 784	2.1
Jobs Placement, Employment and Training	303	0.6	262	0.7	565	0.7
Remote Location	590	1.3	424	1.1	1 014	1.2
Short course	522	1.1	495	1.3	1 017	1.2
Other	3 513	7.5	3 166	8.4	6 679	7.9

(a) Youth Allowance customers that are not full-time students. They include customers that received a nil rate of payment (4 061) due to their own or partner income. The figures also include 1 747 CDEP participants who receive a nil rate of basic YA but may receive CDEP Supplement and/or add-on payments (rent assistance, pharmaceutical allowance, remote area allowance). These figures are as at 15 June 2001.

(b) Duration is measured from the Income Security Start Date.

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100 per cent.

Table 24: Youth Allowance customers: Characteristics by sex, June 2001

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Youth Allowance customers (a)	188 216	100.0	204 989	100.0	393 205	100.0
Age (years)						
15	510	0.3	798	0.4	1 308	0.3
16	32 378	17.2	33 584	16.4	65 962	16.8
17	33 995	18.1	37 625	18.4	71 620	18.2
18	30 154	16.0	33 628	16.4	63 782	16.2
19	27 769	14.8	30 720	15.0	58 489	14.9
20	28 278	15.0	29 331	14.3	57 609	14.7
21	12 514	6.6	15 640	7.6	28 154	7.2
22	8 456	4.5	9 745	4.8	18 201	4.6
23	5 994	3.2	6 341	3.1	12 335	3.1
24	4 300	2.3	4 203	2.1	8 503	2.2
25 and over	3 868	2.1	3 374	1.6	7 242	1.8
Rate						
At home	117 208	62.3	118 976	58.0	236 184	60.1
Away from home or couple	71 008	37.7	86 013	42.0	157 021	39.9
Independent	66 862	35.5	73 731	36.0	140 593	35.8
Dependent	121 354	64.5	131 258	64.0	252 612	64.2
Duration (b)						
Under 3 months	24 754	13.2	23 016	11.2	47 770	12.1
Between 3 and 6 months	31 160	16.6	33 400	16.3	64 560	16.4
Between 6 and 9 months	14 355	7.6	14 183	6.9	28 538	7.3
Between 9 months and 1 year	14 836	7.9	15 506	7.6	30 342	7.7
Between 1 and 2 years	47 450	25.2	53 454	26.1	100 904	25.7
2 years and over	55 661	29.6	65 430	31.9	121 091	30.8
Mean duration (weeks)	75.4	..	78.0	..	76.7	..
Median duration (weeks)	62.0	..	66.0	..	64.0	..
Income (c)						
Nil	150 254	79.8	143 883	70.2	294 137	74.8
\$0.01-\$31.00 pw	3 454	1.8	4 644	2.3	8 098	2.1
\$31.01-\$118.00	19 641	10.4	31 944	15.6	51 585	13.1
Over \$118.00 pw	14 867	7.9	24 518	12.0	39 385	10.0
Student Status						
Full-time student	141 354	75.1	167 309	81.6	308 663	78.5
Part-time student	1 142	0.6	1 403	0.7	2 545	0.6
Non-student	45 720	24.3	36 277	17.7	81 997	20.9

(a) Youth Allowance customers that are either full-time students or YA(o). These figures are as at 15 June 2001.

(b) Duration is measured from the Income Security Start Date.

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100 per cent.

3.3 Newstart Allowance

Newstart Allowance (NSA) is paid to people between 21 years and Age Pension age who are unemployed and satisfy the activity test. A person satisfies the activity test if they are actively seeking and are willing to undertake suitable paid work, including casual and part-time work. The activity test can also be satisfied in other ways including, for example, undertaking a course of vocational training, participating in a labour market program, or entering and complying with the terms of an activity agreement requiring the person to engage in specified activities.

From 1 July 1998, mutual obligation (MO) requirements were placed on young people (18 to 24 years) unemployed for at least six months. These Newstart recipients and Youth Allowance (other) recipients were required to supplement their normal job search efforts with one of a range of activities, including part-time work, voluntary work, Work for the Dole, job search training, and intensive employment assistance. From 1 July 1999, MO requirements were extended to 25 to 34 year olds who have been unemployed for 12 months or more.

NSA is subject to income and assets tests. Newstart allowees are required to complete a fortnightly statement (in some circumstances this period may be extended), to advise of changes in circumstances that may affect entitlement to NSA or the rate payable, and, in most cases, to provide details of their job search efforts.

Jobseekers

The Jobseeker population is derived for NSA and YA (other) recipients by excluding all people who did not receive a payment and those known not to have been required to search for work. People receiving intensive assistance under Job Network arrangements are classified as Jobseekers. These people negotiate their activity agreement with their Job Network member. They may not always be undertaking Jobsearch. The total number of jobseekers is calculated by adding together the number of jobseekers in receipt of NSA and YA (other).

Table 25: Short-term Newstart Allowance customers: Characteristics by sex, June 2001

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Short-term Newstart customers (a)	164 359	100.0	64 622	100.0	228 981	100.0
Age (years)						
18–24	30 011	18.3	14 694	22.7	44 705	19.5
25–29	31 906	19.4	11 304	17.5	43 210	18.9
30–34	25 577	15.6	6 847	10.6	32 424	14.2
35–39	20 579	12.5	6 166	9.5	26 745	11.7
40–44	16 655	10.1	8 237	12.7	24 892	10.9
45–49	13 049	7.9	7 787	12.1	20 836	9.1
50–59	20 285	12.3	8 923	13.8	29 208	12.8
60 and over	6 297	3.8	664	1.0	6 961	3.0
Status						
Single	114 127	69.4	50 522	78.2	164 649	71.9
Couple	50 232	30.6	14 100	21.8	64 332	28.1
Country of birth						
Australia	121 182	73.7	47 978	74.2	169 160	73.9
UK/Ireland/Eire	9 330	5.7	3 106	4.8	12 436	5.4
New Zealand	5 423	3.3	2 040	3.2	7 463	3.3
Vietnam	3 793	2.3	1 661	2.6	5 454	2.4
Lebanon	1 575	1.0	415	0.6	1 990	0.9
Other	23 056	14.0	9 422	14.6	32 478	14.2
Duration (b)						
Up to 7 weeks	31 483	19.2	12 301	19.0	43 784	19.1
Over 7 weeks to 3 months	27 436	16.7	11 034	17.1	38 470	16.8
Over 3 months to 6 months	48 662	29.6	19 819	30.7	68 481	29.9
Over 6 months to 9 months	33 454	20.4	12 303	19.0	45 757	20.0
Over 9 months to 1 year	23 324	14.2	9 165	14.2	32 489	14.2
Mean duration (weeks)	21.2	..	21.1	..	21.2	..
Median duration	18.4	..	18.1	..	18.3	..
Income (c)						
Nil	143 830	87.5	51 005	78.9	194 835	85.1
\$0.01–\$31.00 pw	2 082	1.3	1 285	2.0	3 367	1.5
Over \$31.00 pw	18 447	11.2	12 332	19.1	30 779	13.4
Activity type						
Jobseekers	130 345	79.3	44 897	69.5	175 242	76.5
Incapacitated	21 126	12.9	12 366	19.1	33 492	14.6
Other (d)	12 888	7.8	7 359	11.4	20 247	8.8

(a) These figures do not include the people who receive a nil rate of payment (21 391).

(b) Duration as measured from the income security start date.

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

(d) 'Other' activity type includes customers involved in Community Development Employment Programs projects, paid employment, full-time and part-time voluntary work, part-time study, self employment development, training, or otherwise exempt from Jobsearch for reasons such as major personal crisis, remote location or jury duty.

Table 26: Long-term Newstart Allowance customers: Characteristics by sex, June 2001

CHARACTERISTICS	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Long-term Newstart customers (a)	223 640	100.0	88 383	100.0	312 023	100.0
Age (years)						
18–24	31 185	13.9	17 463	19.8	48 648	15.6
25–29	35 657	15.9	12 664	14.3	48 321	15.5
30–34	30 976	13.9	8 279	9.4	39 255	12.6
35–39	30 306	13.6	8 037	9.1	38 343	12.3
40–44	27 567	12.3	11 248	12.7	38 815	12.4
45–49	23 143	10.3	13 080	14.8	36 223	11.6
50–59	42 281	18.9	17 250	19.5	59 531	19.1
60 and over	2 525	1.1	362	0.4	2 887	0.9
Status						
Single	153 244	68.5	72 043	81.5	225 287	72.2
Couple	70 396	31.5	16 340	18.5	86 736	27.8
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	166 116	74.3	67 224	76.1	233 340	74.8
UK/Ireland/Eire	11 024	4.9	3 442	3.9	14 466	4.6
Vietnam	7 795	3.5	3 123	3.5	10 918	3.5
New Zealand	4 672	2.1	2 024	2.3	6 696	2.1
Lebanon	3 312	1.5	586	0.7	3 898	1.2
Other	30 721	13.7	11 984	13.6	42 705	13.7
Duration (b)						
More than 1 year to less than 2 years	56 296	25.2	24 117	27.3	80 413	25.8
2 years to less than 3 years	41 999	18.8	19 772	22.4	61 771	19.8
3 years to less than 4 years	29 474	13.2	11 622	13.1	41 096	13.2
4 years to less than 5 years	28 590	12.8	9 964	11.3	38 554	12.4
5 years and over	67 281	30.1	22 908	25.9	90 189	28.9
Mean duration (weeks)	220.2	..	212.4	..	218.0	..
Median duration (weeks)	180.1	..	158.1	..	174.8	..
Income (c)						
Nil	191 555	85.7	67 736	76.6	259 291	83.1
\$0.01–\$31.00 pw	3 909	1.7	2 259	2.6	6 168	2.0
Over \$31.00 pw	28 176	12.6	18 388	20.8	46 564	14.9
Activity type						
Jobseekers	171 092	76.5	61 895	70.0	232 987	74.7
Incapacitated	27 005	12.1	14 139	16.0	41 144	13.2
Other (d)	25 543	11.4	12 349	14.0	37 892	12.1

(a) These figures do not include the people who receive a nil rate of payment (17 933).

(b) Duration as measured from the income security start date.

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

(d) 'Other' activity type includes customers involved in Community Development Employment Programs projects, paid employment, full-time and part-time voluntary work, part-time study, self employment development, training, or otherwise exempt from Jobsearch for reasons such as major personal crisis, remote location or jury duty.

Table 27: Total Newstart Allowance customers: Characteristics by sex, June 2001

CHARACTERISTICS	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Newstart Allowance customers (a)	387 999	100.0	153 005	100.0	541 004	100.0
Age (years)						
18–24	61 196	15.8	32 157	21.0	93 353	17.3
25–29	67 563	17.4	23 968	15.7	91 531	16.9
30–34	56 553	14.6	15 126	9.9	71 679	13.2
35–39	50 885	13.1	14 203	9.3	65 088	12.0
40–44	44 222	11.4	19 485	12.7	63 707	11.8
45–49	36 192	9.3	20 867	13.6	57 059	10.5
50–59	62 566	16.1	26 173	17.1	88 739	16.4
60 and over	8 822	2.3	1 026	0.7	9 848	1.8
Status						
Single	267 371	68.9	122 565	80.1	389 936	72.1
Couple	120 628	31.1	30 440	19.9	151 068	27.9
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	287 298	74.0	115 202	75.3	402 500	74.4
UK/Ireland/Eire	20 354	5.2	6 548	4.3	26 902	5.0
Vietnam	11 588	3.0	4 784	3.1	16 372	3.0
New Zealand	10 095	2.6	4 064	2.7	14 159	2.6
Lebanon	4 887	1.3	1 001	0.7	5 888	1.1
Other	53 777	13.9	21 406	14.0	75 183	13.9
Duration (b)						
Up to a year	164 359	42.4	64 622	42.2	228 981	42.3
More than 1 year to less than 2 years	56 296	14.5	24 117	15.8	80 413	14.9
2 years to less than 3 years	41 999	10.8	19 772	12.9	61 771	11.4
3 years to less than 4 years	29 474	7.6	11 622	7.6	41 096	7.6
4 years to less than 5 years	28 590	7.4	9 964	6.5	38 554	7.1
more than 5 years	67 281	17.3	22 908	15.0	90 189	16.7
Mean duration (weeks)	135.9	..	131.6	..	134.7	..
Median duration (weeks)	76.0	..	74.0	..	75.1	..
Income (c)						
Nil	335 385	86.4	118 741	77.6	454 126	83.9
\$0.01–\$31.00 pw	5 991	1.5	3 544	2.3	9 535	1.8
Over \$31.00 pw	46 623	12.0	30 720	20.1	77 343	14.3
Activity type						
Jobseekers	301 437	77.7	106 792	69.8	408 229	75.5
Incapacitated	48 131	12.4	26 505	17.3	74 636	13.8
Other (d)	38 431	9.9	19 708	12.9	58 139	10.7

(a) These figures do not include the people who receive a nil rate of payment (39 324).

(b) Duration as measured from the income security start date.

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

(d) 'Other' activity type includes customers involved in Community Development Employment Programs projects, paid employment, full-time and part-time voluntary work, part-time study, self employment development, training, or otherwise exempt from Jobsearch for reasons such as major personal crisis, remote location or jury duty.

Table 28: Short-term unemployed customers: Characteristics by sex, June 2001

CHARACTERISTICS	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Short-term unemployed customers (a)	187 762	100.0	81 012	100.0	268 774	100.0
Age (years)						
Under 18	5 168	2.8	4 331	5.3	9 499	3.5
18–24	48 242	25.7	26 749	33.0	74 991	27.9
25–29	31 909	17.0	11 308	14.0	43 217	16.1
30–34	25 577	13.6	6 847	8.5	32 424	12.1
35–39	20 579	11.0	6 166	7.6	26 745	10.0
40–44	16 656	8.9	8 237	10.2	24 893	9.3
45–49	13 049	6.9	7 787	9.6	20 836	7.8
50–59	20 285	10.8	8 923	11.0	29 208	10.9
60 and over	6 297	3.4	664	0.8	6 961	2.6
Status						
Single	136 252	72.6	65 222	80.5	201 474	75.0
Couple	51 510	27.4	15 790	19.5	67 300	25.0
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	142 653	76.0	62 967	77.7	205 620	76.5
UK/Ireland/Eire	9 590	5.1	3 305	4.1	12 895	4.8
New Zealand	5 914	3.1	2 413	3.0	8 327	3.1
Vietnam	3 967	2.1	1 735	2.1	5 702	2.1
Lebanon	1 631	0.9	455	0.6	2 086	0.8
Other	24 007	12.8	10 137	12.5	34 144	12.7
Duration (b)						
Up to 7 weeks	36 727	19.6	15 741	19.4	52 468	19.5
Over 7 weeks to 3 months	31 910	17.0	13 944	17.2	45 854	17.1
Over 3 months to 6 months	55 834	29.7	25 112	31.0	80 946	30.1
Over 6 months to 9 months	37 236	19.8	15 003	18.5	52 239	19.4
Over 9 months to 1 year	26 055	13.9	11 212	13.8	37 267	13.9
Mean duration (weeks)	21.0	..	20.8	..	20.9	..
Median duration (weeks)	18.1	..	18.1	..	18.1	..
Income (c)						
Nil	164 880	87.8	64 507	79.6	229 387	85.3
\$0.01–\$31.00 pw	2 534	1.3	1 754	2.2	4 288	1.6
Over \$31.00 pw	20 348	10.8	14 751	18.2	35 099	13.1
Activity Type						
Jobseekers	149 896	79.8	57 844	71.4	207 740	77.3
Incapacitated	22 516	12.0	13 953	17.2	36 469	13.6
Other (d)	15 350	8.2	9 215	11.4	24 565	9.1

(a) These figures do not include people who receive a nil rate of payment (23 364). The number of unemployed customers comprises customers who are on Youth Allowance with a student status other than full-time student [generally referred to as Youth Allowance (other)] and Newstart Allowance.

(b) Duration as measured from the income security start date.

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

(d) 'Other' activity type includes customers involved in Community Development Employment Programs projects, paid employment, full-time and part-time voluntary work, part-time study, self employment development, training, or otherwise exempt from Jobsearch for reasons such as major personal crisis, remote location or jury duty.

Table 29: Long-term unemployed customers: Characteristics by sex, June 2001

CHARACTERISTICS	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Long-term unemployed (a)	245 033	100.0	107 712	100.0	352 745	100.0
Age (years)						
Under 18	2 674	1.1	2 640	2.5	5 314	1.5
18–24	49 900	20.4	34 147	31.7	84 047	23.8
25–29	35 661	14.6	12 669	11.8	48 330	13.7
30–34	30 976	12.6	8 279	7.7	39 255	11.1
35–39	30 306	12.4	8 037	7.5	38 343	10.9
40–44	27 567	11.3	11 248	10.4	38 815	11.0
45–49	23 143	9.4	13 080	12.1	36 223	10.3
50–59	42 281	17.3	17 250	16.0	59 531	16.9
60 and over	2 525	1.0	362	0.3	2 887	0.8
Status						
Single	173 269	70.7	89 692	83.3	262 961	74.5
Couple	71 764	29.3	18 020	16.7	89 784	25.5
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	185 979	75.9	85 145	79.0	271 124	76.9
UK/Ireland/Eire	11 172	4.6	3 561	3.3	14 733	4.2
New Zealand	7 981	3.3	3 277	3.0	11 258	3.2
Vietnam	4 964	2.0	2 330	2.2	7 294	2.1
Lebanon	3 353	1.4	609	0.6	3 962	1.1
Other	31 584	12.9	12 790	11.9	44 374	12.6
Duration (b)						
More than 1 year to less than 2 years	64 167	26.2	30 979	28.8	95 146	27.0
2 years to less than 3 years	52 061	21.2	29 831	27.7	81 892	23.2
3 years to less than 4 years	31 816	13.0	13 380	12.4	45 196	12.8
4 years to less than 5 years	29 614	12.1	10 552	9.8	40 166	11.4
5 years and over	67 375	27.5	22 970	21.3	90 345	25.6
Mean duration (weeks)	211.9	..	196.5	..	207.2	..
Median duration (weeks)	167.8	..	153.4	..	156.1	..
Income (c)						
Nil	210 440	85.9	83 589	77.6	294 029	83.4
\$0.01–\$31.00 pw	4 345	1.8	2 847	2.6	7 192	2.0
Over \$31.00 pw	30 248	12.3	21 276	19.8	51 524	14.6
Activity type						
Jobseekers	189 042	77.1	77 603	72.0	266 645	75.6
Incapacitated	28 035	11.4	15 757	14.6	43 792	12.4
Other (d)	27 956	11.4	14 352	13.3	42 308	12.0

(a) These figures do not include people who receive a nil rate of payment (20 021). The number of unemployed customers comprises customers who are on Youth Allowance with a student status other than full-time student [generally referred to as Youth Allowees (other)] and Newstart Allowance.

(b) Duration as measured from the income security start date.

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

(d) 'Other' activity type includes customers involved in Community Development Employment Programs projects, paid employment, full-time and part-time voluntary work, part-time study, self employment development, training, or otherwise exempt from Jobsearch for reasons such as major personal crisis, remote location or jury duty.

Table 30: Total unemployed customers: Characteristics by sex, June 2001

CHARACTERISTICS	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Total unemployed customers (a)	432 795	100.0	188 724	100.0	621 519	100.0
Age (years)						
Under 18	7 842	1.3	6 971	3.7	14 813	2.4
18–24	98 142	15.8	60 896	32.3	159 038	25.6
25–29	67 570	10.9	23 977	12.7	91 547	14.7
30–34	56 553	9.1	15 126	8.0	71 679	11.5
35–39	50 885	8.2	14 203	7.5	65 088	10.5
40–44	44 223	7.1	19 485	10.3	63 708	10.3
45–49	36 192	5.8	20 867	11.1	57 059	9.2
50–59	62 566	10.1	26 173	13.9	88 739	14.3
60 and over	8 822	1.4	1 026	0.5	9 848	1.6
Status						
Single	309 521	49.8	154 914	82.1	464 435	74.7
Couple	123 274	19.8	33 810	17.9	157 084	25.3
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	328 632	52.9	148 112	78.5	476 744	76.7
UK/Ireland/Eire	20 762	3.3	6 866	3.6	27 628	4.4
New Zealand	11 948	1.9	5 012	2.7	16 960	2.7
Vietnam	10 878	1.8	4 743	2.5	15 621	2.5
Lebanon	4 984	0.8	1 064	0.6	6 048	1.0
Other	55 591	8.9	22 927	12.1	78 518	12.6
Duration (b)						
Up to 1 year	187 762	30.2	81 012	42.9	268 774	43.2
More than 1 year to less than 2 years	64 167	10.3	30 979	16.4	95 146	15.3
2 years to less than 3 years	52 061	8.4	29 831	15.8	81 892	13.2
3 years to 4 years	31 816	5.1	13 380	7.1	45 196	7.3
4 years to less than 5 years	29 614	4.8	10 552	5.6	40 166	6.5
5 years and over	67 375	10.8	22 970	12.2	90 345	14.5
Mean duration (weeks)	129.0	..	121.1	..	126.6	..
Median duration (weeks)	72.1	..	71.6	..	72.0	..
Income (c)						
Nil	375 320	86.7	148 096	78.5	523 416	84.2
\$0.01–\$31.00 pw	6 879	1.6	4 601	2.4	11 480	1.8
Over \$31.00 pw	50 596	11.7	36 027	19.1	86 623	13.9
Activity type						
Jobseekers	338 938	78.3	135 447	71.8	474 385	76.3
Incapacitated	50 551	11.7	29 710	15.7	80 261	12.9
Other (d)	43 306	10.0	23 567	12.5	66 873	10.8

(a) These figures do not include people who receive a nil rate of payment (43 385). The number of unemployed customers comprises customers who are on Youth Allowance with a student status other than full-time student [generally referred to as Youth Allowance (other)] and Newstart Allowance.

(b) Duration as measured from the income security start date.

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

(d) 'Other' activity type includes customers involved in Community Development Employment Programs projects, paid employment, full-time and part-time voluntary work, part-time study, self employment development, training, or otherwise exempt from Jobsearch for reasons such as major personal crisis, remote location or jury duty.

Table 31: Unemployed customers: State, June 2001 (a)

STATE	NEWSTART ALLOWANCE		YOUTH ALLOWANCE (b)		TOTAL	
	SHORT TERM NO.	LONG TERM NO.	SHORT TERM NO.	LONG TERM NO.	SHORT TERM NO.	LONG TERM NO.
New South Wales	68 746	94 047	11 420	11 253	80 166	105 300
Victoria	49 329	73 835	6 861	8 002	56 190	81 837
Queensland	55 573	63 555	10 509	10 203	66 082	73 758
South Australia	17 099	30 166	3 308	3 989	20 407	34 155
Western Australia	26 447	26 716	5 138	3 705	31 585	30 421
Tasmania	5 544	13 118	1 166	2 169	6 710	15 287
Northern Territory	4 152	7 320	1 041	995	5 193	8 315
Australian Capital Territory	2 038	2 896	339	387	2 377	3 283
Other	53	370	11	19	64	389
Total	228 981	312 023	39 793	40 722	268 774	352 745

(a) These figures do not include people who receive a nil rate of payment (43 385). The number of unemployed customers comprise of customers who are on Youth Allowance with a student status other than full-time student [generally referred to as Youth Allowees (other)] and Newstart Allowance.

(b) Youth Allowance customers whose student status is other than 'full-time students'.

Table 32: Monthly average number of unemployed customers: Allowance type and duration, June 1981 to June 2001

JUNE (b)	NEWSTART ALLOWANCE	YOUTH TRAINING ALLOWANCE	YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED CUSTOMERS (a)				TOTAL NO.	%
				SHORT-TERM NO.	%	LONG-TERM NO.	%		
1981	313 200	..	..	..	..	..	..	313 200	100.0
1982	374 525	..	..	..	..	..	..	374 525	100.0
1983	633 281	..	..	..	..	..	..	633 281	100.0
1984	588 123	..	..	..	..	..	..	588 123	100.0
1985	562 266	..	..	..	..	..	..	562 266	100.0
1986	568 716	..	..	..	..	..	..	568 716	100.0
1987	553 653	..	..	..	..	..	..	553 653	100.0
1988	478 049	..	..	..	..	..	..	478 049	100.0
1989	389 794	..	..	..	..	..	..	389 794	100.0
1990	419 785	..	..	..	..	..	..	419 785	100.0
1991	676 705	..	..	..	..	..	..	676 705	100.0
1992	851 831	..	..	529 538	62.2	322 294	37.8	851 832	100.0
1993	913 770	..	..	482 594	52.8	431 175	47.2	913 769	100.0
1994	878 278	..	..	449 268	51.2	429 010	48.8	878 278	100.0
1995 (c)	800 714	21 857	..	431 072	52.4	391 499	47.6	822 571	100.0
1996 (c)	812 365	34 191	..	500 596	59.1	345 960	40.9	846 556	100.0
1997 (c)	797 961	31 942	..	424 772	51.2	405 131	48.8	829 903	100.0
1998 (c)	778 880	30 674	..	376 631	46.5	432 923	53.5	809 554	100.0
1999	654 752	..	84 773	320 051	43.3	419 474	56.7	739 525	100.0
2000	589 911	..	82 408	265 522	39.5	406 797	60.5	672 319	100.0
2001	580 703	..	85 053	293 787	44.1	371 968	55.9	665 756	100.0

(a) Source: *Labour Market and Related Payment—a monthly profile* publication (Department of Family and Community Services).

(b) These figures are monthly averages of the weekly figures. They include people who receive a nil rate of payment. Before July 1998, the number of unemployed customers comprises of customers on Youth Training Allowance and Newstart Allowance. When Youth Training Allowance was replaced by Youth Allowance in July 1998, the number of unemployed customers comprises of customers who are on Youth Allowance with a student status of other than full-time student [generally referred to as Youth Allowees (other)] and Newstart Allowance.

(c) From 1995 to 1998, it is estimated that 80 per cent of customers on Youth Training Allowance were short-term unemployed and 20 per cent were long-term unemployed.

3.4 Mature Age Allowance

Mature Age Allowance (MAA) is a non-activity tested income support payment. This payment recognises the labour market difficulties faced by some older unemployed people who are close to retirement age.

To qualify for MAA since 1 July 1996, a person must:

- ▶ have turned 60 years of age and be less than Age Pension age,
- ▶ have no recent workforce experience (defined as at least 20 hours a week for a total of 13 weeks or more in the previous 12 months),
- ▶ and be an Australian resident and in Australia,
- ▶ and either:
 - be receiving Newstart Allowance and have been on an income support payment for a continuous period of at least nine months immediately before claiming MAA, or
 - have received at least one payment of Widow Allowance, Partner Allowance, Sickness Allowance, Austudy Payment, Parenting Payment, Department of Family and Community Services pension or Department of Veterans' Affairs service pension at any time within the 13 weeks immediately before claiming, or
 - have previously received MAA.

Until 1 July 1995, Mature Age Partner Allowance was paid to partners of MAA recipients. This payment is gradually being phased out, with no new grants since that date.

Since 1 July 1996, MAA has been paid under allowance income and assets tests rather than pension income and assets tests.

Mature Age allowees are eligible to receive a Pensioner Concession Card.

Table 33: Mature Age Allowance and Mature Age Partner Allowance customers: Characteristics by sex, June 2001

CHARACTERISTICS	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
MAA and MAPA customers (a)	36 536	100.0	2 383	100.0	38 919	100.0
Age (years)						
Under 60	2	0.0	2	0.1	4	0.0
60	3 994	10.9	1 305	54.8	5 299	13.6
61	6 057	16.6	1 075	45.1	7 132	18.3
62	7 400	20.3	1	0.0	7 401	19.0
63	8 628	23.6	0	0.0	8 628	22.2
64	10 282	28.1	0	0.0	10 282	26.4
65 and over	173	0.5	0	0.0	173	0.4
Duration (b)						
<i>Up to 1 year</i>						
Up to 7 weeks	81	0.2	21	0.9	102	0.3
Over 7 weeks to 3 months	69	0.2	5	0.2	74	0.2
Over 3 months to 6 months	141	0.4	29	1.2	170	0.4
Over 6 months to 9 months	264	0.7	51	2.1	315	0.8
Over 9 months to 1 year	992	2.7	125	5.2	1 117	2.9
<i>Over 1 year</i>						
More than 1 to less than 2 years	4 964	13.6	589	24.7	5 553	14.3
2 to less than 3 years	5 251	14.4	365	15.3	5 616	14.4
3 to less than 4 years	4 343	11.9	267	11.2	4 610	11.8
4 to less than 5 years	5 087	13.9	245	10.3	5 332	13.7
5 years and over	15 344	42.0	686	28.8	16 030	41.2
Mean duration (weeks)	260.8	..	207.0	..	257.5	..
Median duration (weeks)	232.4	..	158.0	..	228.1	..
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	20 725	56.7	1 466	61.5	22 191	57.0
UK/Ireland/Eire	5 556	15.2	305	12.8	5 861	15.1
Italy	937	2.6	26	1.1	963	2.5
Greece	800	2.2	26	1.1	826	2.1
China	720	2.0	89	3.7	809	2.1
Other	7 798	21.3	471	19.8	8 269	21.2
Paid under income test						
<i>Income as assessed (\$pw)</i>						
Nil	33 756	92.4	2 144	90.0	35 900	92.2
\$0.01-\$31.00	685	1.9	57	2.4	742	1.9
Over \$31	2 095	5.7	182	7.6	2 277	5.9
State						
New South Wales	11 471	31.4	839	35.2	12 310	31.6
Victoria	9 207	25.2	505	21.2	9 712	25.0
Queensland	7 692	21.1	518	21.7	8 210	21.1
South Australia	3 293	9.0	220	9.2	3 513	9.0
Western Australia	3 145	8.6	190	8.0	3 335	8.6
Tasmania	1 313	3.6	71	3.0	1 384	3.6
Northern Territory	187	0.5	17	0.7	204	0.5
Australian Capital Territory	222	0.6	21	0.9	243	0.6
Other (c)	6	0.0	2	0.1	8	0.0

(a) Mature Age Partner Allowance ceased from July 2001.

(b) Duration is measured from the income security start date.

(c) Includes not coded or invalid postcodes.

3.5 Widow Allowance

Widow Allowance (WA) is a non-activity-tested income support payment. It recognises the labour market difficulties faced by single older women who may have depended on the support of their partner.

WA is available to women over 50 years of age who were widowed, divorced or separated (including separated de facto) after the age of 40. To qualify for WA, older women must:

- ▶ have no recent workforce experience (defined as at least 20 hours a week for a total of 13 weeks or more in the previous 12 months),
- ▶ currently be in Australia and not be subject to an assurance of support,
- ▶ and either:
 - have been an Australian resident for a continuous period of at least 26 weeks immediately before claiming, or
 - have at any time been an Australian resident for a continuous period of at least 10 years, or
 - have a qualifying residence exemption, or
 - along with her former partner, have both been Australian residents at the time when she became widowed, divorced or separated.

WA is paid at allowance rates and under allowance income and assets tests. Widow allowees may also receive Rent Assistance, Remote Area Allowance and Pharmaceutical Allowance.

Table 34: Widow Allowance customers: Characteristics, June 2001

CHARACTERISTICS	FEMALES	
	NO.	%
Widow Allowance customers (a)	36 416	100.0
Age (years)		
50–54	9 836	27.0
55–59	16 276	44.7
60–64	6 451	17.7
65 and over	3 853	10.6
Duration (b)		
<i>Up to 1 year</i>		
Up to 7 weeks	628	1.7
Over 7 weeks to 3 months	786	2.2
Over 3 months to 6 months	1 817	5.0
Over 6 months to 9 months	1 536	4.2
Over 9 months to 1 year	1 667	4.6
<i>Over 1 year</i>		
More than 1 year to 2 years	5 927	16.3
2 years to less than 3 years	5 825	16.0
3 years less than 4 years	4 109	11.3
4 years to less than 5 years	3 534	9.7
5 years and over	10 587	29.1
Mean duration	191.4	..
Median duration	149.9	..
Country of birth (top five countries)		
Australia	20 793	57.1
UK/Ireland/Eire	2 886	7.9
Philippines	748	2.1
China	636	1.7
Vietnam	635	1.7
Other	10 718	29.4
Paid under income test		
<i>Income as assessed (\$pw)</i>		
Nil	32 389	88.9
\$0.01–\$31.00	753	2.1
Over \$31.00	3 274	9.0
State		
New South Wales	11 584	31.8
Victoria	9 785	26.9
Queensland	7 551	20.7
South Australia	2 905	8.0
Western Australia	3 120	8.6
Tasmania	955	2.6
Northern Territory	170	0.5
Australian Capital Territory	342	0.9
Unknown	4	0.0

(a) These figures are from the 18 June 2001. They exclude people on nil rate of payment (412).

(b) Includes not coded or invalid postcodes.

3.6 Partner Allowance

Prior to the introduction of Partner Allowance (PA) allowees with a partner received a married rate of allowance, which included an amount for the support of a dependent spouse. In September 1994, this combined married rate of payment was abolished and half the former married rate was paid directly to the dependent partner as Partner Allowance.

Since 1 July 1995 the payment has only been granted to persons born on or before 1 July 1955 who have no dependent children and no recent workforce experience. It is payable to partners of people aged over 21 years and receiving Youth Allowance, Austudy Payment, Sickness Allowance, ABSTUDY, Student Financial Supplement Scheme, Newstart Allowance, Special Benefit, Rehabilitation Allowance, Age Pension, Disability Support Pension, Mature Age Allowance or the Department of Veterans' Affairs Service Pension.

PA is a non-activity-tested payment subject to allowance income and assets tests. Partners who do not qualify for PA need to qualify for another income support payment in their own right, such as Parenting Payment or Newstart Allowance.

Table 35: Partner Allowance customers: Characteristics by sex, June 2001

CHARACTERISTICS	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Partner Allowance customers (a)	9 715	100.0	80 701	100.0	90 416	100.0
Age (years)						
under 50	512	5.3	8 763	10.9	9 275	12.4
50–54	1 184	12.2	21 681	26.9	22 865	25.5
55–59	2 117	21.8	33 872	42.0	35 989	38.8
60–64	3 487	35.9	14 321	17.7	17 808	18.7
65 and over	2 415	24.9	2 064	2.6	4 479	4.6
Duration (b)						
<i>Up to 1 year</i>						
Up to 7 weeks	237	2.4	1 820	2.3	2 057	2.1
Over 7 weeks to 3 months	298	3.1	2 221	2.8	2 519	2.8
Over 3 months to 6 months	605	6.2	4 466	5.5	5 071	5.5
Over 6 months to 9 months	593	6.1	4 227	5.2	4 820	5.8
Over 9 months to 1 year	558	5.7	3 830	4.7	4 388	5.5
<i>Over 1 year</i>						
More than 1 year to 2 years	1 534	15.8	13 400	16.6	14 934	19.1
2 years to less than 3 years	1 369	14.1	12 329	15.3	13 698	14.4
3 years less than 4 years	963	9.9	9 512	11.8	10 475	12.3
4 years to less than 5 years	746	7.7	8 147	10.1	8 893	10.7
5 years and over	2 812	28.9	20 749	25.7	23 561	21.7
Mean duration	177.1	..	150.5	..	153.2	..
Median duration	143.9	..	138	..	138.5	..
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	4 238	43.6	49 815	61.7	54 053	60.2
UK/Ireland/Eire	960	9.9	6 868	8.5	7 828	8.8
China	948	9.8	2 346	2.9	3 294	3.2
Italy	149	1.5	2 367	2.9	2 516	2.9
Vietnam	633	6.5	1 679	2.1	2 312	2.8
Other	2 787	28.7	17 626	21.8	20 413	22.1
Paid under income test						
<i>Income as assessed (\$pw)</i>						
Nil	9 006	92.7	74 081	91.8	83 087	92.2
\$0.01-\$31.00	139	1.4	1 059	1.3	1 198	1.3
Over \$31.00	570	5.9	5 561	6.9	6 131	6.4
State						
New South Wales	3 573	36.8	25 500	31.6	29 073	31.9
Victoria	2 578	26.5	20 764	25.7	23 342	26.5
Queensland	1 533	15.8	15 755	19.5	17 288	18.7
South Australia	966	9.9	7 894	9.8	8 860	10.0
Western Australia	614	6.3	6 913	8.6	7 527	8.0
Tasmania	360	3.7	3 178	3.9	3 538	4.0
Northern Territory	28	0.3	249	0.3	277	0.3
Australian Capital Territory	62	0.6	444	0.6	506	0.6
Others	1	0.0	4	0.0	5	0.0

(a) Excludes people who received a nil rate of payment (2022).

(b) As measured from the income security start date.

3.7 Special Benefit

Special Benefit is a discretionary payment. The circumstances under which it is granted are determined by the Secretary of the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services.

To qualify for Special Benefit a person must:

- be in severe financial hardship, and
- be unable to earn a sufficient livelihood for themselves and their dependants by reason of age, physical or mental disability or domestic circumstances or for any other reason over which the person has no control, and
- be unable to receive any social security pension or income support payment from Centrelink, or service pension from the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and
- be residing in Australia throughout the period for which payment is sought, except under certain rare circumstances, and
- be a permanent Australian resident or the holder of an approved visa.

Table 36: Special Benefit customers: Special Benefit category by sex, June 2001 (a)

SPECIAL BENEFIT CATEGORY	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	NO	%	NO	%	NO	%
Australian citizen child in custody of non-permanent resident	26	0.4	37	0.7	63	0.5
Assurance of support	25	0.3	34	0.7	59	0.5
Caring for child	13	0.2	26	0.5	39	0.3
Caring for incapacitated person	7	0.1	20	0.4	27	0.2
Applicant for DSP (pre-10/12/00)	4	0.1	3	0.1	7	0.1
Newly arrived migrants (NAM) in WP (conversion only)	–	–	4	0.1	4	0.0
NAM in waiting period for Special Benefit	20	0.3	22	0.4	42	0.3
NAM in two year waiting period (pre-10/12/2000)	269	3.7	377	7.3	646	5.2
NAM in two year waiting period for PTA/WDA/PPP/NMA/CAR/DWS	10	0.1	177	3.4	187	1.5
Not residentially qualified for Age Pension	3 124	42.7	2 545	49.1	5 669	45.4
Not residentially qualified for DSP (post-10/12/2000)	28	0.4	23	0.4	51	0.4
Not residentially qualified for other pension (pre-10/12/2000)	254	3.5	214	4.1	468	3.7
Other cases (long-term)	244	3.3	291	5.6	535	4.3
Other cases (short-term)	50	0.7	138	2.7	188	1.5
Applicant for Parenting Payment (single) (pre-10/12/00)	–	–	3	0.1	3	0.0
Spouse EETEP (pre-10/12/00)	133	1.8	374	7.2	507	4.1
Socially marginalised	19	0.3	8	0.2	27	0.2
Spouse provisional visa (post-10-12-2000)	209	2.9	362	7.0	571	4.6
Temporary protection visa	2 815	38.5	419	8.1	3 234	25.9
Under 16 years	49	0.7	67	1.3	116	0.9
Not coded	17	0.2	35	0.7	52	0.4
Total	7 316	100.0	5 179	100.0	12 495	100.0

(a) Data as at 18 June 2001, excludes zero paid customers (132)

Table 37: Special Benefit customers: Characteristics by sex, June 2001 (a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Special Benefit customers	7 316	100.0	5 179	100.0	12 495	100.0
Age (years)						
Under 16	92	1.3	108	2.1	200	1.6
16–17	117	1.6	42	0.8	159	1.3
18–20	244	3.3	155	3.0	399	3.2
21–24	498	6.8	439	8.5	937	7.5
25–34	1 650	22.6	758	14.6	2 408	19.3
35–44	842	11.5	445	8.6	1 287	10.3
45–54	287	3.9	232	4.5	519	4.2
55–59	63	0.9	72	1.4	135	1.1
60–64	71	1.0	414	8.0	485	3.9
65 and over	3 452	47.2	2 514	48.5	5 966	47.7
Status						
Single	3 796	51.9	2 646	51.1	6 442	51.6
Without children	3 763	51.4	2 468	47.7	6 231	49.9
With children	33	0.5	178	3.4	211	1.7
Couple	3 520	48.1	2 533	48.9	6 053	48.4
Country of birth (top five countries)						
China	1 435	19.6	943	18.2	2 378	19.0
Vietnam	362	4.9	507	9.8	869	7.0
Philippines	162	2.2	393	7.6	555	4.4
Afghanistan	1 072	14.7	125	2.4	1 197	9.6
Iraq	1 602	21.9	461	8.9	2 063	16.5
Other	2 683	36.7	2 750	53.1	5 433	43.5
Duration (b)						
<i>Up to 1 year</i>						
Up to 7 weeks	425	5.8	284	5.5	709	5.7
Over 7 weeks to 3 months	469	6.4	267	5.2	736	5.9
Over 3 months to 6 months	837	11.4	516	10.0	1 353	10.8
Over 6 months to 9 months	1 133	15.5	571	11.0	1 704	13.6
Over 9 months to 1 year	1 130	15.4	473	9.1	1 603	12.8
<i>Over 1 year</i>						
More than 1 year to 2 years	986	13.5	981	18.9	1 967	15.7
2 years to less than 3 years	920	12.6	782	15.1	1 702	13.6
3 years less than 4 years	582	8.0	457	8.8	1 039	8.3
4 years to less than 5 years	237	3.2	244	4.7	481	3.8
5 years and over	597	8.2	604	11.7	1 201	9.6
Mean Duration (weeks)	125.1	..	119.8	..	122.8	..
Median duration (weeks)	72.0	..	80.9	..	75.8	..
Income (c)						
Nil	7 213	98.6	5 133	99.1	12 346	98.8
\$0.01–\$31.00	15	0.2	16	0.3	31	0.2
Over \$31.00	88	1.2	30	0.6	118	0.9

(a) Data in this table are as at June 2001; they will differ from numbers derived as monthly averages.

(b) Duration as measured from the income security start date.

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

Table 38: Special Benefit customers: State by sex, June 2001 (a)

STATE	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	3 647	48.8	2 353	44.9	6 000	47.2
Victoria	2 097	28.1	1 494	28.5	3 591	28.2
Queensland	510	6.8	423	8.1	933	7.3
South Australia	451	6.0	328	6.3	779	6.1
Western Australia	594	8.0	416	7.9	1 010	7.9
Tasmania	45	0.6	80	1.5	125	1.0
Northern Territory	17	0.2	31	0.6	48	0.4
Australian Capital Territory	104	1.4	121	2.3	225	1.8
Total	7 466	100.0	5 246	100.0	12 712	100.0

(a) Data in this table are derived from a point in time in the relevant quarter, and as such produce totals that differ from monthly averages. Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100 per cent.

Table 39: Special Benefit customers: By sex, June 1981 to June 2001 (a)

JUNE	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
1981	8 324	42.7	11 176	57.3	19 500	100.0
1982	7 189	43.2	9 470	56.8	16 659	100.0
1983	9 252	45.1	11 273	54.9	20 525	100.0
1984	7 758	42.8	10 383	57.2	18 141	100.0
1985	7 863	42.3	10 719	57.7	18 582	100.0
1986	7 966	43.9	10 170	56.1	18 136	100.0
1987	8 957	45.5	10 749	54.5	19 706	100.0
1988	10 796	47.8	11 796	52.2	22 592	100.0
1989	12 048	47.8	13 156	52.2	25 204	100.0
1990	13 592	48.7	14 321	51.3	27 913	100.0
1991	13 830	46.4	15 981	53.6	29 811	100.0
1992	16 168	46.5	18 624	53.5	34 792	100.0
1993	12 989	45.0	15 865	55.0	28 854	100.0
1994	11 957	46.1	13 990	53.9	25 947	100.0
1995	10 446	50.0	10 438	50.0	20 884	100.0
1996	9 125	48.7	9 602	51.3	18 727	100.0
1997	6 811	46.7	7 765	53.3	14 577	100.0
1998 (b)	4 733	46.2	5 503	53.8	10 236	100.0
1999 (b)	5 232	44.3	6 576	55.7	11 808	100.0
2000 (b)	5 313	48.4	5 658	51.6	10 971	100.0
2001 (b)	7 466	58.7	5 246	41.3	12 712	100.0

(a) These figures are an average of the weekly payments for the month ending June each year.

(b) These figures are point of time and as such will differ from averages of weekly payments.

3.8 Parenting Payment

Parenting Payment is available to the primary carer of children and is paid to both single and partnered parents—although to only one member of a couple.

To qualify for Parenting Payment a person must:

- ▶ be caring for a child under 16, and
- ▶ satisfy income and assets tests, and
- ▶ have been an Australian resident for at least two years, be a refugee, or have become a sole parent while an Australian resident.

Table 40: Parenting Payment (single) customers: Sex, June 1981 to June 2001

AS AT JUNE	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
1981	5 048	2.6	189 420	97.4	194 468	100.0
1982	5 923	2.8	202 819	97.2	208 742	100.0
1983	7 870	3.5	216 619	96.5	224 489	100.0
1984	8 909	3.8	225 856	96.2	234 765	100.0
1985	9 736	4.0	236 559	96.0	246 295	100.0
1986	10 070	4.0	240 840	96.0	250 910	100.0
1987	10 236	4.1	238 671	95.9	248 907	100.0
1988	9 929	4.2	228 727	95.8	238 656	100.0
1989	10 180	4.3	229 289	95.7	239 469	100.0
1990	11 305	4.5	237 581	95.5	248 886	100.0
1991	13 616	5.1	252 104	94.9	265 720	100.0
1992	16 444	5.7	270 784	94.3	287 228	100.0
1993	17 529	5.9	280 915	94.1	298 444	100.0
1994	18 897	6.0	294 540	94.0	313 437	100.0
1995	19 913	6.1	305 028	93.9	324 941	100.0
1996	21 964	6.4	320 326	93.6	342 290	100.0
1997	23 920	6.7	334 973	93.3	358 893	100.0
1998	25 546	6.9	346 740	93.1	372 286	100.0
1999	27 118	7.0	357 703	93.0	384 821	100.0
2000	28 458	7.2	368 820	92.8	397 278	100.0
2001	32 429	7.6	392 185	92.4	424 614	100.0

Notes: Sole Parent Pension replaced the Supporting Parents' benefit and Widow Pension Class A in March 1989. In March 1998 Parenting Payment was introduced. It replaced Sole Parent Pension and Parenting Allowance.

Table 41: Parenting Payment (single) customers: State by sex, June 2001

STATE	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	10 377	32.0	127 645	32.5	138 022	32.5
Victoria	5 915	18.2	86 807	22.1	92 722	21.8
Queensland	7 765	23.9	84 172	21.5	91 937	21.7
South Australia	3 105	9.6	31 209	8.0	34 314	8.1
Western Australia	3 277	10.1	40 377	10.3	43 654	10.3
Tasmania	1 116	3.4	11 615	3.0	12 731	3.0
Northern Territory	499	1.5	5 269	1.3	5 768	1.4
Australian Capital Territory	373	1.2	5 028	1.3	5 401	1.3
Other (a)	2	0.0	63	0.0	65	0.0
Total	32 429	100.0	392 185	100.0	424 614	100.0

(a) Includes not coded or invalid postcodes.

Table 42: Parenting Payment (single) customers: Characteristics by sex, June 2001(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Parenting Payment (single) customers	32 429	100.0	392 185	100.0	424 614	100.0
Age (years)						
Under 20	122	0.4	10 458	2.7	10 580	2.5
20–29	4 802	14.8	116 950	29.8	121 752	28.7
30–39	13 482	41.6	161 875	41.3	175 357	41.3
40–49	10 942	33.7	91 335	23.3	102 277	24.1
50–59	2 762	8.5	11 243	2.9	14 005	3.3
60 and over	319	1.0	324	0.1	643	0.2
Rate						
Maximum rate	26 821	82.7	295 210	75.3	322 031	75.8
Reduced rate	5 608	17.3	96 975	24.7	102 583	24.2
Income (b)						
Nil	6 871	21.2%	59 172	15.1%	66 043	15.6%
\$0.01–\$50.00 pw	16 181	49.9%	192 117	49.0%	208 298	49.1%
\$50.01–\$62.00	185	0.6%	1 956	0.5%	2 141	0.5%
Over \$62.00	9 192	28.3%	138 940	35.4%	148 132	34.9%
Home ownership						
Home owner	6 706	20.7	78 216	19.9	84 922	20.0
Non home owner	25 722	79.3	313 960	80.1	339 682	80.0
Not coded	1	0.0	9	0.0	10	0.0
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	25 908	79.9	313 715	80.0	339 623	80.0
UK/Eire/Ireland	1 828	5.6	16 923	4.3	18 751	4.4
New Zealand	1 082	3.3	12 670	3.2	13 752	3.2
Vietnam	495	1.5	9 256	2.4	9 751	2.3
Lebanon	221	0.7	2 962	0.8	3 183	0.7
Other	2 895	8.9	36 659	9.3	39 554	9.3

(a) Includes suspended clients, sourced from Centrelink SuperStar databases of 4 June 2001.

(b) Income is defined as total earned income.

Table 43: Parenting Payment (partnered) customers: State by payment category, June 2001 (a)

STATE	PARTNERED BY					TOTAL
	YOUTH ALLOWANCE (PARTNER)	LOW INCOME PARTNER	NEWSTART ALLOWANCE PARTNER (a)	PENSION PARTNER	OTHER	
New South Wales	47	30 672	29 851	7 107	18	67 695
Victoria	20	22 860	21 174	4 952	20	49 026
Queensland	50	18 596	22 315	4 700	31	45 692
South Australia	14	7 409	8 688	2 347	10	18 468
Western Australia	15	8 855	10 042	1 805	13	20 730
Tasmania	11	2 558	4 060	985	6	7 620
Northern Territory	34	1 073	2 504	222	4	3 837
Australian Capital Territory	2	769	676	201	0	1 648
Other (b)	0	5	0	0	0	5
Total	193	92 797	99 310	22 319	102	214 721

(a) Includes persons whose partner receives Newstart Allowance, Sickness Allowance or Special Benefit.

(b) Includes not coded or invalid postcodes.

Table 44: Parenting Payment (partnered) customers: Characteristics by sex, June 2001 (a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Parenting Payment (partnered) Customers—additional rate (a)	21 195	100.0	193 526	100.0	214 721	100.0
Age (years)						
Under 20	42	0.2	3 473	1.8	3 515	1.6
20–29	2 513	11.9	49 219	25.4	51 732	24.1
30–39	8 673	40.9	88 563	45.8	97 236	45.3
40–49	7 699	36.3	46 143	23.8	53 842	25.1
50–59	2 057	9.7	5 926	3.1	7 983	3.7
60 and over	211	1.0	202	0.1	413	0.2
Rate						
Maximum rate	12 748	60.1	133 891	69.2	146 639	68.3
Broken rate	8 447	39.9	59 635	30.8	68 082	31.7
Duration of allowance (b)						
Up to 6 months	8 026	37.9	53 925	27.9	61 951	28.9
Over 6 months to 1 year	3 486	16.4	26 259	13.6	29 745	13.9
Over 1 year to 2 years	3 873	18.3	24 908	12.9	28 781	13.4
Over 2 years to 3 years	1 873	8.8	15 590	8.1	17 463	8.1
Over 3 years	3 937	18.6	72 844	37.6	76 781	35.8
Mean duration (weeks)	67.5	..	93.0	..	90.5	..
Median duration (weeks)	44.3	..	83.6	..	75.9	..
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	14 915	70.4	129 746	67.0	144 661	67.4
Vietnam	530	2.5	8 609	4.4	9 139	4.3
UK/Eire/Ireland	1 143	5.4	6 478	3.3	7 621	3.5
Lebanon	316	1.5	6 128	3.2	6 444	3.0
China	532	2.5	4 925	2.5	5 457	2.5
Other	3 759	17.7	37 640	19.4	41 399	19.3

(a) Includes suspended customers.

(b) Duration is defined as time on this payment. Data sourced from Centrelink SuperStar databases of 26 June 2001.

3.9 Jobs, Education and Training (JET)

The Jobs, Education and Training (JET) program is a voluntary program with the aim of improving the financial circumstances of eligible customers by assisting with educational attainment, skill development and/or aiding their entry or re-entry into the workforce, to achieve higher levels of earnings from employment.

For the period 1999–2000, JET eligible income support payments included:

- ▶ Parenting Payment
- ▶ Widow Allowance
- ▶ Partner Allowance
- ▶ Widow B Pension
- ▶ Carer Payment.

Recipients of Special Benefit are also eligible providing they are a sole parent and the only reason they are not qualified for Parenting Payment is that they do not satisfy the residence requirements.

JET encourages participation particularly from three groups of Parenting Payment recipients:

- ▶ Teenagers
- ▶ Those who earn less than \$150 per week and whose youngest child has turned six years old
- ▶ Those who earn less than \$150 per week and whose youngest child has turned 12 years old.

Over the period March 1989 to June 2001:

- ▶ 508 315 customers have participated in a first JET interview
- ▶ 186 580 JET customers have gained paid employment
- ▶ 190 091 JET customers have furthered their skills or education
- ▶ 57 863 temporary and 35 523 permanent childcare places were provided.

During 2000–01, 54 932 JET clients actively participated in skill development and education while 2432 clients engaged in employment assistance. Around 31 650 clients received some income from employment.

4 Family Assistance

4.1 Family Tax Benefit

Family Assistance is designed to provide income support to families to help with the costs of raising children, including newborns, in a way that recognises the needs and choices of both single and dual income families.

The reforms to family assistance introduced in July 2000 restructured 10 payments and tax rebates into two payments:

- ▶ Family Tax Benefit, Part A
- ▶ Family Tax Benefit, Part B.

Families can choose to receive Family Tax Benefit as a fortnightly payment during the tax year, or as a lump-sum payment at the end of the tax year. Payment is based on adjusted taxable income for the year. Customers who choose fortnightly payment provide an estimate of their income, and their entitlement is reconciled against their actual income at the end of the tax year.

The new arrangements for Family Tax Benefit involve about \$2 billion each year of additional payments to Australian families. On average, Australian families are receiving \$208 in fortnightly family payments at June 2001.

Family Tax Benefit, Part A

Family Tax Benefit, Part A replaces a complex system of Centrelink payments and tax rebates, comprising:

- ▶ Minimum Family Allowance
- ▶ Family Allowance
- ▶ Family Tax Payment, Part A
- ▶ Family Tax Assistance, Part A.

When Family Tax Benefit, Part A was introduced on 1 July 2000, it increased the amount of assistance available to families by \$140 a year for each dependent child. There was also an increase in the level of income at which family assistance is income tested—up from \$23 800 to \$28 200. That is, the maximum rate of Family Tax Benefit, Part A is paid if the income of the customer and their partner does not exceed the threshold amount of \$28 200. The fortnightly rate only reduces by 30 cents for each extra dollar earned over the threshold until the base rate is reached, compared to 50 cents under the previous system. Payment continues at the base rate until income reaches \$73 000 (plus \$3 000 for each child after the first), and then reduces by 30 cents for each dollar over this amount.

The maximum rates are:

For each child	Per fortnight
Aged under 13 yrs	\$116.20
Aged 13–15 yrs	\$147.28
Aged 16–17 yrs	\$37.38
Aged 18–24 yrs	\$50.12

The base rates are:

For each child	Per fortnight
Aged under 18 yrs	\$37.38
Aged 18–24 yrs	\$50.12

Family Tax Benefit, Part B

Family Tax Benefit, Part B provides extra assistance to families with only one main income earner, including sole parents, particularly those with children under five.

It replaces a complex system of Centrelink payments and tax rebates, comprising:

- Basic Parenting Payment
- With-child Dependent Spouse Rebate
- Guardian Allowance
- Sole Parent Rebate
- Family Tax Payment, Part B
- Family Tax Assistance, Part B.

The maximum rate of Family Tax Benefit, Part B is \$99.82 per fortnight where the youngest child is under five, and \$69.58 per fortnight where the youngest child is aged five to 18. There is no income test for sole parents. For couples, the rate is based on the income of the partner who earns the least, with the maximum rate being paid until that partner's annual income reaches \$1 616. Payment reduces by 30 cents for each extra dollar earned over that amount, with some payment received until income reaches \$10 291 where the youngest child is under five, or \$7 663 where the youngest child is aged five to 18. Under the new payment scheme, single income families with a child under five years received an increase of \$350 a year, or an additional \$61 where the youngest child is aged over five years.

Other allowances

A number of additional allowances are also available to assist families in particular circumstances, including:

- Large Family Supplement
- Multiple Birth Allowance
- Rent Assistance.

Large Family Supplement

The Large Family Supplement payment is for families who have four or more Family Tax Benefit children. This payment is paid in addition to Family Tax Benefit, Part A for the fourth and subsequent child at the rate of \$7.98 per fortnight per child.

Multiple Birth Allowance

Multiple Birth Allowance is an increase in the rate of Family Tax Benefit, Part A for people who have triplets, quadruplets, or larger multiple birth sets, under the age of six. It is paid in recognition of the special costs and workforce barriers associated with the simultaneous birth of three or more children. Eligibility for the allowance automatically ceases on the day of the children's sixth birthday. The rate of Multiple Birth Allowance is \$97.16 per fortnight for triplets and \$129.64 per fortnight for quadruplets or more.

Rent Assistance

Rent Assistance is an increase in the rate of Family Tax Benefit, Part A for low-income families renting in the private market, in recognition of the housing costs that they face. The rate of Rent Assistance depends on the number of children, relationship status and amount of rent paid. As an example, a couple with one or two children who pay more than \$289.29 rent per fortnight are eligible for a maximum payment of \$103.04 in Rent Assistance.

Summary

- ▶ As at 29 June 2001, Family Tax Benefit assisted 1 827 856 families and 3 534 720 children. The total number of families receiving Family Tax Benefit has increased by 4.5 per cent since the reform in July 2000.
- ▶ As at 29 June 2001, close to one-third (32.0%) of Family Tax Benefit customers resided in New South Wales, about a quarter (24.2%) in Victoria, and just over one-fifth (21.4%) in Queensland.
- ▶ As at 29 June 2001, over three-quarters of customers receiving FTB(A) and FTB(B) payments (77% and 77.4% respectively) had two children or fewer.

Table 45: Family Tax Benefit: customers and children, June 2001

	CUSTOMERS NO.	CHILDREN NO.
Method 1		
Family Tax Benefit Part A	1 801 285	3 485 923
Family Tax Benefit Part B	1 181 069	2 256 892
Family Tax Benefit total (a)	1 827 856	3 534 720
Method 2		
Family Tax Benefit Part A and B	1 154 498	2 208 095
Family Tax Benefit Part A only	646 787	1 277 828
Family Tax Benefit Part B only	26 571	48 797
Family Tax Benefit total	1 827 856	3 534 720

(a) The Family Tax Benefit total of customers and children is the total number who received FTB(A) and/or FTB(B). It is not the arithmetic total of FTB(A) and FTB(B) customers and children as most customers receive both FTB(A) and FTB(B).

Figure 7: Family Tax Benefit: Customers, July 2000 to June 2001

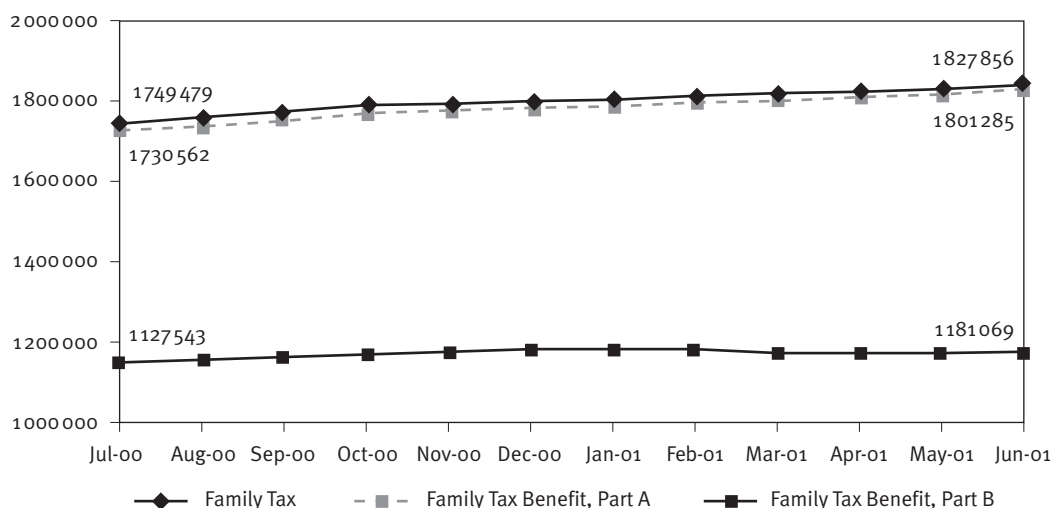


Table 46: Family Tax Benefit Part A: Customers and children by rate type, June 2001

	CUSTOMERS		CHILDREN	
	NO.	%	NO.	%
Max FTB(A) rate with ISP (a)	509 785	28.3	962 202	27.6
Max FTB(A) rate without ISP (a)	127 231	7.1	243 831	7.0
Broken	406 105	22.5	874 747	25.1
Base	725 392	40.3	1 333 047	38.2
Tapered base rate	31 193	1.7	68 463	2.0
Invalid code	1 579	0.1	3 633	0.1
Total	1 801 285	100.0	3 485 923	100.0

(a) ISP = Income Support Payment (e.g. Newstart Allowance)

Table 47: Family Tax Benefit Part A: Customers and children by age of child, June 2001

	CUSTOMERS		CHILDREN	
	NO.	%	NO.	%
Under 13	1 514 162	84.1	2 707 493	77.7
13-15	493 555	27.4	562 819	16.1
16-17	142 341	7.9	147 339	4.2
18-20	60 957	3.4	64 578	1.9
21-24	3 591	0.2	3 690	0.1
Invalid code	4	0.0	4	0.0
Total	1 801 285	100.0	3 485 923	100.0

Table 48: Family Tax Benefit Part B: Customers by rate type and age of youngest child, June 2001

	CUSTOMERS	
	NO.	%
Maximum Family Tax Benefit, Part B rate		
Child under 5	385 387	32.6
Child 5 years +	463 966	39.3
Total	849 353	71.9
Broken Family Tax Benefit, Part B rate		
Child under 5	224 601	19.0
Child 5 years +	107 115	9.1
Total	331 716	28.1
Total		
Child under 5	609 988	51.6
Child 5 years +	571 081	48.4
Total	1 181 069	100.0

Table 49: Family Tax Benefit: Customers and children by state, June 2001

STATE	FAMILY TAX BENEFIT PART A				FAMILY TAX BENEFIT PART B				FAMILY TAX BENEFIT			
	CUSTOMERS		CHILDREN		CUSTOMERS		CHILDREN		CUSTOMERS		CHILDREN	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	573 867	31.9	1 111 813	31.9	380 450	32.2	727 427	32.2	584 611	32.0	1 131 638	32.0
Victoria	434 916	24.1	842 801	24.2	277 275	23.5	528 565	23.4	441 695	24.2	855 202	24.2
Queensland	365 282	20.3	709 368	20.3	243 132	20.6	469 028	20.8	369 296	20.2	716 795	20.3
South Australia	145 148	8.1	273 263	7.8	92 505	7.8	172 194	7.6	146 318	8.0	275 364	7.8
Western Australia	179 645	10.0	350 136	10.0	121 450	10.3	233 365	10.3	182 544	10.0	355 418	10.1
Tasmania	50 442	2.8	96 642	2.8	32 863	2.8	62 717	2.8	50 704	2.8	97 105	2.7
Northern Territory	21 366	1.2	42 160	1.2	14 488	1.2	28 117	1.2	21 509	1.2	42 419	1.2
Australian Capital Territory	24 450	1.4	47 391	1.4	16 172	1.4	30 422	1.3	24 965	1.4	48 351	1.4
Invalid code	6 169	0.3	12 349	0.3	2 734	0.2	5 057	0.2	6 106	0.3	12 428	0.4
Total	1 801 285	100.0	3 485 923	100.0	1 181 069	100.0	2 256 892	100.0	1 827 856	100.0	3 534 720	100.0

Table 50: Family Tax Benefit customers: Characteristics by payment type, June 2001

	FAMILY TAX BENEFIT (A)		FAMILY TAX BENEFIT (B)		FAMILY TAX BENEFIT	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Family type						
Partnered	1 237 838	68.7	621 680	52.6	1 262 084	69.0
<i>Sole parents</i>						
female	502 086	27.9	498 810	42.2	503 995	27.6
male	61 222	3.4	60 550	5.1	61 638	3.4
All sole parents	563 308	31.3	559 360	47.4	565 633	30.9
Not specified	139	0.0	29	0.0	139	0.0
Total	1 801 285	100.0	1 181 069	100.0	1 827 856	100.0
Number of FTB(A) and FTB(B) children in the family						
One	681 397	37.8	479 586	40.6	..	..
Two	706 850	39.2	434 828	36.8	..	..
Three	300 394	16.7	188 417	16.0	..	..
Four	85 426	4.7	57 704	4.9	..	..
Five or more	27 218	1.5	20 503	1.7	..	..
Invalid code	0	0	31	0.0	..	..
Total	1 801 285	100.0	1 181 069	100.0	..	..
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	1 392 047	77.3	908 347	76.9	1 413 194	77.3
UK/Eire/Ireland	3 768	0.2	2 368	0.2	3 890	0.2
Vietnam/Laos	34 139	1.9	24 193	2.0	34 239	1.9
New Zealand	44 024	2.4	32 627	2.8	44 718	2.4
Lebanon	16 976	0.9	11 671	1.0	17 035	0.9
Other	310 331	17.2	201 863	17.1	314 780	17.2
Total	1 801 285	100.0	1 181 069	100.0	1 827 856	100.0
Age of customer (years)						
Under 20	16 160	0.9	15 505	1.3	16 167	0.9
20–24	98 040	5.4	86 377	7.3	98 328	5.4
25–29	238 035	13.2	183 937	15.6	240 286	13.1
30–34	383 356	21.3	269 549	22.8	390 654	21.4
35–39	436 517	24.2	276 433	23.4	444 837	24.3
40–44	359 840	20.0	203 867	17.3	365 141	20.0
45–49	183 403	10.2	97 961	8.3	185 666	10.2
50–54	63 540	3.5	34 001	2.9	64 283	3.5
55–59	14 523	0.8	8 267	0.7	14 605	0.8
60–64	4 325	0.2	2 838	0.2	4 341	0.2
65+	3 438	0.2	2 334	0.2	3 440	0.2
Invalid code	108	0.0	0	0.0	108	0.0
Total	1 801 285	100.0	1 181 069	100.0	1 827 856	100.0

4.2 Double Orphan Pension

Double Orphan Pension (DOP) was first introduced in September 1973. DOP is a non-means-tested payment paid for children under 16 years of age in the care of a guardian, and for full-time dependent students aged between 16 and 21 years.

A double orphan is a child whose parents or adoptive parents have both died, or a child who has one deceased parent and:

- ▶ the whereabouts of the other parent are not known, or
- ▶ the other parent is imprisoned for at least 10 years or is being held in custody on a charge for an offence punishable by imprisonment for at least 10 years, or
- ▶ the other parent is residing indefinitely in a mental hospital, nursing home or similar institution.

A double orphan is also a child who has not lived in Australia with either parent and has been granted refugee status by the Australian Government or is in similar circumstances to a refugee and has been admitted into Australia under an approved special humanitarian program and:

- ▶ whose parents are outside Australia, or
- ▶ whose parents whereabouts are unknown.

To qualify for the Double Orphan Pension:

- ▶ a person must have care of a double orphan and be eligible for Family Tax Benefit, or would be eligible but for the Family Tax Benefit income test, or
- ▶ a student aged 16 to 21 receiving certain education scheme payments (for example, ABSTUDY).

The base rate of Double Orphan Pension in June 2001 was \$41.10 per fortnight, per child. An additional component of DOP may be payable. It is equal to the difference between the Family Allowance/Family Tax Benefit received for the young person immediately before they became an orphan and the carer's entitlement to Family Tax Benefit for the young person.

Summary

- ▶ The increase in Double Orphan Pension customers in the early 1980s reflected the extension of the payment to refugee children in November 1981. As immigration programs changed in the mid-80s, refugee numbers started to fall. Thus, the number of unaccompanied refugee children also declined. Ageing of the refugee population lead to a decline in customer numbers in the late 80s and early 90s.
- ▶ The average number of children for whom Double Orphan Pension is paid appears to have stabilised at around 1 700, principally because of a declining number of unaccompanied refugee children and the ageing of current recipients (Refer to graph following). Since June 1993, the number of customers have stabilised at around 1 300.
- ▶ Close to one-third of Double Orphan Pension customers (393 or 31.6%) and children (520 or 31.9%) were residing in New South Wales at June 2001. The proportion of these customers and children living in other States was:
 - 24 per cent and 25 per cent, respectively for Victoria
 - 18.2 per cent and 17.4 per cent, respectively for Queensland
 - 10.7 per cent and 10.8 per cent, respectively for Western Australia.

Table 51: Double Orphan Pension: Customers and children, June 1981 to June 2001

YEAR	CUSTOMERS NO.	CHILDREN (a)					
		UNDER 16 NO.	%	16 AND OVER NO.	%	TOTAL NO.	%
1981	2 766	3 252	81.5	736	18.5	3 988	100.0
1982	3 650	3 930	76.1	1 236	23.9	5 166	100.0
1983	4 420	4 192	69.0	1 881	31.0	6 073	100.0
1984	4 644	4 238	65.7	2 210	34.3	6 448	100.0
1985	4 509	3 961	64.6	2 168	35.4	6 129	100.0
1986	4 216	3 547	64.9	1 919	35.1	5 466	100.0
1987	3 750	3 164	69.7	1 373	30.3	4 537	100.0
1988	2 974	2 758	80.6	664	19.4	3 422	100.0
1989	2 227	2 381	86.0	388	14.0	2 769	100.0
1990	1 873	2 170	93.6	149	6.4	2 319	100.0
1991	1 639	1 908	93.9	124	6.1	2 032	100.0
1992	1 404	1 666	95.0	87	5.0	1 753	100.0
1993	1 356	1 605	95.3	79	4.7	1 684	100.0
1994	1 330	1 599	95.2	81	4.8	1 680	100.0
1995	1 314	1 616	95.0	85	5.0	1 701	100.0
1996	1 319	1 569	92.1	134	7.9	1 703	100.0
1997	1 313	1 537	91.2	149	8.8	1 686	100.0
1998	1 346	1 567	89.8	178	10.2	1 745	100.0
1999	1 243	1 490	92.4	122	7.6	1 612	100.0
2000	1 236	1 447	87.9	200	12.1	1 647	100.0
2001	1 242	1 503	92.2	127	7.8	1 630	100.0

(a) Total number of children attracting a Double Orphan Pension.

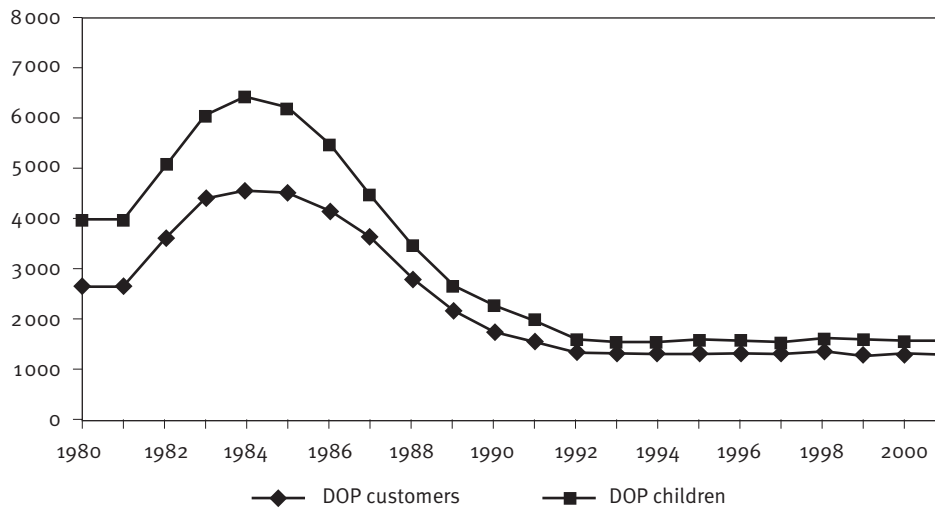
Figure 8: Double Orphan Pension: Customers and children, June 1980 to June 2001

Table 52: Double Orphan Pension: Customers and children, state and age of children, June 2001

	CUSTOMERS		CHILDREN (a)				TOTAL	
	NO.	%	UNDER 16 NO.	%	16 AND OVER NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	393	31.6	479	31.9	41	32.3	520	31.9
Victoria	298	24	371	24.7	36	28.3	407	25
Queensland	226	18.2	263	17.5	20	15.7	283	17.4
South Australia	128	10.3	156	10.4	8	6.3	164	10.1
Western Australia	133	10.7	159	10.6	17	13.4	176	10.8
Tasmania	26	2.1	29	1.9	0	0	29	1.8
Northern Territory	17	1.4	17	1.1	3	2.4	20	1.2
Australian Capital Territory	14	1.1	21	1.4	1	0.8	22	1.3
Invalid code	7	0.6	8	0.5	1.0	0.8	5	0.3
Total	1 242	100	1 503	100.0	127	100	1 630	100.0

(a) Total number of children attracting a Double Orphan Pension.

4.3 Maternity Allowance and Maternity Immunisation Allowance

Maternity Allowance (MAT) was introduced on 1 February 1996 to assist families with the extra costs associated with a newborn baby (or babies) and is available to families who qualify for Family Tax Benefit (FTB) within 13 weeks of the baby's birth. MAT is a lump-sum payment paid immediately after the birth of each newborn child, including each child in a multiple birth. It may also be paid to foster carers or adoptive parents who take the care of a child shortly after the child's birth, if payment has not already been made to another person for the child.

As part of a government strategy designed to increase immunisation levels in children and to improve the timeliness of immunisation, in 1998 Maternity Allowance was restructured to provide a one-off lump-sum bonus (Maternity Immunisation Allowance) to parents for ensuring that their child's immunisation coverage is complete up to two years of age.

MIA is paid 18 months after a child's birth, subject to the child being immunised in accordance with the National Health and Research Council's Standard Vaccination Schedule, or having a valid exemption.

The two components of MAT can also be paid for babies who are stillborn, or who die shortly after the birth.

In June 2001, Maternity Allowance was \$780 per child and Maternity Immunisation Allowance was \$208 per child.

Summary

- ▶ In the 2000–01 financial year, the total number of customers who received Maternity Allowance was 210 120 and the total number of children was 214 355.
- ▶ The number of customers who received Maternity Immunisation Allowance during this period was 203 939 and the total number of children was 207 547.

Table 53: Maternity Allowance customers: June 2001 (a)

STATE	FAMILIES NO.	CHILDREN NO.
Maternity Allowance	210 120	214 355
Maternity Immunisation Allowance	203 939	207 547

(a) The number of customers who received a payment at any time in the financial year 2000–01.

4.4 Child care support

Child care support policies have been developed to help families to participate in the economic and social life of the community through providing support for child care.

Child Care Benefit (CCB), which replaced Childcare Assistance and the Childcare Rebate from 1 July 2000, helps families with the cost of child care, with financial assistance proportionally higher for lower income families. Eligible families can have the benefit paid directly to the child care service to reduce their ongoing fees. Alternatively they can receive the benefit as a lump sum after the end of the financial year. Families using registered care (such as informal care provided by a friend or neighbour), rather than formal care in an approved service are eligible for the minimum rate of CCB. This is paid for up to 50 hours per week of work related child care.

Table 54: Customers using approved child care benefit services: State, 2000 to 2001

STATE/TERRITORY	NO.
New South Wales	206 314
Victoria	141 875
Queensland	153 086
South Australia	48 243
Western Australia	53 641
Tasmania	15 116
Northern Territory	5 870
Australian Capital Territory	12 705
Total (a)	630 156

(a) Total count does not represent an aggregation of state and territory data as some customers may have used services in more than one state/territory during the period.

Table 55: Customers using approved child care benefit services: Service type, 2000 to 2001

SERVICE TYPE	NO.
<i>Long day care (a)</i>	423 671
Community long day care	142 418
Private long day care	300 428
Family day care	109 588
Occasional care	17 866
<i>Outside school hours care (a)</i>	141 356
After school hours care	135 608
Before school hours care	54 440
Vacation care	104 780
Total (b)	630 156

(a) Minor groups do not add to major group as customers may use more than one service type during the period.

(b) Total count does not represent an aggregation of different service types as some customers may have used more than one type of service during the period.

Table 56: Customers using approved child care benefit services: Rate type, 2000 to 2001

RATE TYPE QUARTER	MAXIMUM		BROKEN		MINIMUM		LUMP SUM		UNDETERMINED (a)		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Sep 2000	159 107	35.1	193 021	42.6	51 592	11.4	38 401	8.5	10 616	2.3	452 736	100.0
Dec 2000	163 540	35.1	202 865	43.6	56 499	12.1	33 968	7.3	8 758	1.9	465 630	100.0
Mar 2001	173 557	36.0	208 437	43.3	61 306	12.7	32 163	6.7	6 362	1.3	481 826	100.0
Jun 2001	173 064	35.5	214 292	44.0	64 810	13.3	31 415	6.5	3 339	0.7	486 920	100.0

(a) Indicates cases where a customer's rate type could not be determined.

Table 57: Customers using registered care: Quarter, 2000 to 2001

QUARTER	NO.
Sep 2000	24 285
Dec 2000	23 546
Mar 2001	29 155
Jun 2001	31 363
Total	108 349

5 Other income support payments

5.1 Exceptional Circumstances Relief Payment and Farm Family Restart Scheme

Exceptional Circumstances Relief Payment

The Exceptional Circumstances Relief Payment is provided to assist farmers in exceptional circumstances drought affected areas who are experiencing difficulties in meeting family and personal living expenses. This payment replaced the Drought Relief Payment from 1 December 1997.

The Exceptional Circumstances Relief Payment is delivered by Centrelink on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Australia.

To qualify for the Exceptional Circumstances Relief Payment a person must:

- ▶ be a farmer, and
- ▶ be 18 years or over, and
- ▶ be an Australian resident and living in Australia, and
- ▶ be identified as living in an exceptional circumstances drought affected area as declared by the Minister for the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Australia, and
- ▶ have an Exceptional Circumstances Certificate issued by the State Rural Assistance Authority.

Farm Family Restart Scheme

The Farm Family Restart Scheme commenced on 1 December 1997. It provides assistance for low-income farmers experiencing financial hardship who cannot borrow further against their assets.

Farm Family Restart Scheme is delivered by Centrelink on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Australia.

To qualify for the scheme a person must:

- ▶ be a farmer, and
- ▶ be 18 years or over, and
- ▶ is an Australian resident and living in Australia, and
- ▶ hold a certificate of inability to obtain finance from a financial institution, and
- ▶ not be involved in bankruptcy proceedings or have been issued with an eviction order or in any other way have lost control of the management of the farm.

The scheme consists of separate options for farmers considering their future in the farming industry. The assistance provided consists of:

- ▶ *Restart Income Support*: which is payable for a maximum of 12 months to farmers who are unable to obtain commercial finance.
- ▶ *Restart Re-establishment Grant*: a grant of up to \$45 000 payable to Farm Family Restart Scheme farmers who complete the sale of the farm within certain time limits.

- Restart Advice Scheme:** additional assistance of up to \$3000 per farm which is provided to farmers to access professional advice on future options and the financial viability of the farm.

Within three months of claiming under the Farm Family Restart Scheme a farmer must access the Restart Advice Scheme and obtain professional advice on their farm enterprise's financial viability.

Table 58: Exceptional Circumstance Payment And Farm Family Restart customers: Customer Service Centre, June 2001

EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES PAYMENT			FARM FAMILY RESTART		
CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE	NO.	%	CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE	NO.	%
Sale	463	28.7	Shepparton	122	9.2
Swan Hill	338	21.0	Warrnambool	69	5.2
Rockhampton	205	12.7	Hamilton	67	5.0
Mildura	109	6.8	Port Lincoln	51	3.8
Bundaberg	92	5.7	Kingaroy	44	3.3
Cooma	85	5.3	Sale	42	3.2
Gladstone	75	4.6	Horsham	35	2.6
Biloela	72	4.5	Morwell	35	2.6
Charters Towers	34	2.1	Wangaratta	30	2.3
Griffith	24	1.5	Mackay	26	2.0
Mackay	18	1.1	Mt Gambier	26	2.0
Launceston	16	1.0	Swan Hill	22	1.7
Yeppoon	13	0.8	Echuca	21	1.6
Emerald	10	0.6	Emerald	21	1.6
Tumut	10	0.6	Murray Bridge	20	1.5
Other	49	3.0	Port Pirie	20	1.5
Total	1 613	100.0	Dalby	19	1.4
			Gympie	19	1.4
			Ipswich	19	1.4
			Toowoomba	19	1.4
			Armidale	18	1.4
			Bendigo	18	1.4
			Moree	18	1.4
			Whyalla	18	1.4
			Deniliquin	17	1.3
			Albury	16	1.2
			Colac	16	1.2
			Warwick	16	1.2
			Burnie	14	1.1
			Ingham	14	1.1
			Bundaberg	13	1.0
			Biloela	12	0.9
			Dubbo	12	0.9
			Launceston	12	0.9
			Tamworth	12	0.9
			Albury 2	11	0.8
			Atherton	11	0.8
			Charleville	11	0.8
			Innisfail	11	0.8
			Griffith	10	0.8
			Kadina	10	0.8
			Wagga	10	0.8
			Other	300	22.6
			Total	1 327	100.0

5.2 Widow B Pension, Widow Allowance and Bereavement Allowance

Widow B Pension

Widow B Pension is gradually being phased out, and ceased to be granted after 1 July 1987 except to the following:

- ▶ women aged 50 years or over at 1 July 1987 who were or subsequently became widows,
- ▶ women aged at least 45 years at 1 July 1987 who received Parenting Payment (single) (or its equivalent) on or after that date and who are widows able to transfer to a Widow B Pension after they ceased to qualify for Parenting Payment (single),
- ▶ women who were receiving a Widow B Pension immediately before 1 July 1987.

From 20 March 1997, there have been no new entrants to Widow B Pension. Existing recipients continue to receive this pension until they are disqualified or transferred to another payment, such as Age Pension.

Bereavement Allowance

Bereavement Allowance is a payment made to widowed persons, both male and female, in the period immediately following the death of their partner where the person is not qualified for Parenting Payment (single) (for example, does not have a child).

Bereavement Allowance is usually paid for a maximum of 14 weeks from the partner's death. However, this is extended in the case of a pregnant woman until the birth of the child, at which time Parenting Payment (single) would usually become payable.

There is no period of prior residence required where the person and his or her deceased partner were Australian residents at the date of death. This is also the case for refugees who have a nominated class of visa, or for a woman who was receiving a Wife Pension from Family and Community Services or a partner service pension from Veterans' Affairs and who was not in Australia when her partner died. In other cases, the person must have been an Australian resident for a period of five years immediately before claiming, or for 10 years at any time.

Table 59: Widow B Pension customers: State, June 1998 to June 2001

STATE	1998		1999		2000		2001	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	4 138	30.5	3 050	29	2 520	28.3	1 728	26.8
Victoria	3 087	22.7	2 352	22.4	1 993	22.4	1 383	21.4
Queensland	2 240	16.5	1 749	16.6	1 457	16.4	1 016	15.7
South Australia	1 083	8	833	7.9	680	7.6	460	7.1
Western Australia	1 029	7.6	800	7.6	645	7.3	454	7.0
Tasmania	345	2.5	279	2.7	238	2.7	174	20.3
Northern Territory	124	0.9	93	0.9	73	0.8	45	0.7
Australian Capital Territory	142	1	110	1	87	1.0	59	0.9
Overseas	1 391	10.2	1 253	11.9	1 199	13.5	1 137	0.0
Total	13 579	100	10 519	100	8 892	100.0	6 456	100.0

Table 60: Widow B Pension customers: Characteristics, June 2001

CHARACTERISTICS	FEMALES	
	NO.	%
Widow B Pension customers	8 892	100.0
Age (years)		
Under 50	4	0.0
50–54	5	0.1
55–59	4 318	48.6
60–64	3 583	40.3
65 and over	982	11.0
Rate		
Maximum rate	7 331	82.4
Reduced rate	1 561	17.6
Paid under income test		
<i>Income as assessed (\$pw)</i>		
Nil	1 901	21.4
\$0.01–\$50.00	5 356	60.2
\$50.01–\$62.00	229	2.6
Over \$62.00	1 335	15.0
Paid under assets test		
<i>Assets as assessed (\$)</i>		
Under \$125 750	–	–
\$125 750 to \$215 750	32	0.4
Over \$215 750	9	0.1
Home ownership		
Home owner	4 310	48.5
Non-home owner	4 555	51.2
Country of birth		
Australia	5 410	60.8
UK/Ireland/Eire	857	9.6
Italy	605	6.8
Greece	444	5.0
Former Republic of Yugoslavia	218	2.5
Other	1 358	15.3

Table 61: Bereavement Allowance customers: Sex, June 1991 to June 2001

AS AT JUNE	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.
1991	12	3.8	303	96.2	315
1992	15	4.4	327	95.6	342
1993	8	9.6	75	90.4	83
1994	8	8.3	88	91.7	96
1995	5	10.6	42	89.4	47
1996	9	15.3	50	84.7	59
1997	5	10.9	41	89.1	46
1998	8	15.7	43	84.3	51
1999	5	9.4	48	90.6	53
2000	9	20.5	35	79.5	44
2001	14	27.5	37	72.5	51

Notes: Bereavement Allowance is payable for up to 14 weeks from the date of the partner's death. Bereavement Allowance was previously called Widowed Person Allowance. A number of widows previously included in Widowed Person Allowance were transferred to Widow B Pension from November 1992.

Table 62: Commonwealth Senior Health Card holders: Characteristics by sex, June 2001

CHARACTERISTICS	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Total	97 848	100.0	128 292	100.0	226 140	100.0
Age (Years)						
60-64	0	0.0	26 675	20.8	26 675	11.8
65-69	35 615	36.4	34 749	27.1	70 364	31.1
70-74	32 259	33.0	28 127	21.9	60 386	26.7
75-79	17 218	17.6	19 594	15.3	36 812	16.3
80-84	7 680	7.8	11 018	8.6	18 698	8.3
80-89	3 707	3.8	5 687	4.4	9 394	4.2
90-94	1 156	1.2	1 974	1.5	3 130	1.4
95+	213	0.2	468	0.4	681	0.3
Status						
Couple	79 838	81.6	85 023	66.3	164 861	72.9
Single	18 010	18.4	43 269	33.7	61 279	27.1
State						
New South Wales	35 802	36.6	47 297	36.9	83 099	36.7
Victoria	23 747	24.3	31 542	24.6	55 289	24.4
Queensland	17 469	17.9	22 249	17.3	39 718	17.6
South Australia	6 704	6.9	8 509	6.6	15 213	6.7
Western Australia	9 100	9.3	12 012	9.4	21 112	9.3
Tasmania	2 068	2.1	2 677	2.1	4 745	2.1
Northern Territory	256	0.3	295	0.2	551	0.2
Australian Capital Territory	1 910	2.0	2 744	2.1	4 654	2.1

5.3 Rent Assistance

Rent Assistance (RA) is a non-taxable income supplement paid to individuals and families who rent in the private rental market. Pensioners, allowees and those receiving more than the base rate of Family Tax Benefit Part A (FTB A) may be eligible for RA.

Rent can be a payment for services or maintenance fees in a retirement village, lodging, board and lodging, site fees in a caravan park or mooring fees at a marina.

To qualify for RA, a person must:

- pay or be liable to pay private rent above the applicable minimum rent threshold for their principle home, and
- be an Australian resident in Australia (except for temporary absence of up to 26 weeks), and
- not be a home owner (except for mobile homes or people in care situations), and
- not have a partner receiving more than the base rate of FTB Part A, and
- if an allowee, not have a partner who receives RA with their pension.

Special rules apply to some people:

RA is **not** paid:

- to people paying rent to a government housing authority, although in some situations sub-tenants may qualify for Rent Assistance,
- a person who lives in a care facility in an approved Commonwealth funded bed,
- to single disability support pensioners aged under 21, without dependants, living with parents,
- to other single people aged under 25, living with parents,
- to students without dependants, who receive Austudy Payment.

Special rules apply to single sharers, people who pay board and lodging or live in a retirement village.

Rent Certificates are required to verify rent where a customer does not have a formal written tenancy agreement or is not named as a tenant on a formal written tenancy agreement.

Rent Assistance and the GST

From 1 July 2000, the maximum rates of Rent Assistance were increased by 10 per cent, made up of an 8 per cent real increase and a 2 per cent advance on the March 2001 CPI indexation. This formed part of the Government's GST compensation package. The increase ensured that those who were already receiving the maximum rate would not have to bear the full cost of any increase in rents.

Customers who go overseas temporarily

As from 20 September 2000, Rent Assistance is payable to customers who travel overseas for up to 26 weeks, if they have continuing rent liability for their home in Australia.

Summary

- ▶ In June 2001, there were 1 029 064 customers in receipt of Rent Assistance. Newstart Allowance customers made up 20 per cent of this population, while 19 per cent were Parenting Payment (single) recipients, 17 per cent were Age Pension recipients and 15 per cent were Disability Support recipients.
- ▶ The average rent paid by Rent Assistance recipients in June 2001 was \$240 per fortnight. The average amount of Rent Assistance paid was \$65 per fortnight.

Table 63: Rent Assistance customers: Average Rent Assistance and rent paid, June 2001

CHARACTERISTICS	CUSTOMERS (a) PER FORTNIGHT	AVERAGE RENT (b)	AVERAGE RA PER FORTNIGHT
Age Pension	178 894	\$212.35	\$53.25
Carer Payment	10 299	\$241.79	\$59.06
Disability Support Pension	156 928	\$206.42	\$63.91
Wife Pension	7 662	\$268.04	\$46.08
Sickness Allowance	3 283	\$234.44	\$61.87
Austudy (c)	1 087	\$325.90	\$91.27
Youth Allowance	92 493	\$181.68	\$52.84
Newstart Allowance	200 937	\$206.74	\$58.69
Newstart Mature Age Allowance	6 208	\$221.79	\$55.80
Mature Age Allowance	54	\$205.52	\$50.60
Partner Allowance	7 544	\$287.57	\$39.12
Family Tax Benefit Part A (d)	88 904	\$344.97	\$68.42
Parenting Payment (partnered)	64 134	\$321.08	\$88.89
Parenting Payment (single)	193 360	\$280.81	\$81.17
Special Benefit	6 515	\$219.80	\$47.96
Widow B Pension	843	\$209.65	\$68.66
Widow Allowance	9 907	\$214.28	\$66.88
Bereavement Allowance	12	\$284.97	\$75.67
Total	1 029 064	\$240.36	\$64.78

(a) Customer numbers relate to those with an ongoing entitlement to a social security or FTB payment at 1 June 2001, and paid Rent Assistance (RA) in the preceding fortnight. Some have no ongoing entitlement to RA.

(b) Rents refer to the combined rent for a couple, even if rent assistance is paid to both members of the couple. Where a customer pays for both accommodation and meals, and cannot separately identify an accommodation charge, two thirds of the payment is treated as rent. Average rent and RA relate only to customers with ongoing entitlement to RA.

(c) Austudy payment customers are ineligible to receive RA unless they also receive Family Tax Benefit (FTB). In such cases the RA is paid as part of their FTB.

(d) RA is generally paid with FTB if the customer has children under 16. However, if the customer also receives an income support payment they have been reported under the relevant social security payment type. The number of customers who received RA with FTB (regardless of other payments they receive) was 359 356. The average rent paid by these customers was \$307 per fortnight, and the average amount of RA received was \$80.29 per fortnight.

Table 64: Rent Assistance customers: Payment type by sex, June 2001

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NOS. (a)	%	NO. (a)	%	NOS. (a)	%
Age Pension	65 114	17	113 780	17	178 894	17
Carer Payment	3 692	1	6 607	1	10 299	1
Disability Support Pension	95 751	25	61 177	9	156 928	15
Wife Pension	0	0	7 662	1	7 662	1
Sickness Allowance	2 015	1	1 268	0	3 283	0
Austudy (b)	284	0	803	0	1 087	0
Youth Allowance	38 478	10	54 015	8	92 493	9
Newstart Allowance	135 133	36	65 804	10	200 937	20
Newstart Mature Age Allowance	5 778	2	430	0	6 208	1
Mature Age Allowance	54	0	0	0	54	0
Partner Allowance	817	0	6 727	1	7 544	1
Family Tax Benefit Part A (c)	9 007	2	79 897	12	88 904	9
Parenting Payment (partnered)	1 755	0	62 379	10	64 134	6
Parenting Payment (single)	14 036	4	179 324	27	193 360	19
Special Benefit	4 002	1	2 513	0	6 515	1
Widow B Pension	0	0	843	0	843	0
Widow Allowance	0	0	9 907	2	9 907	1
Bereavement Allowance	6	0	6	0	12	0
Total	375 922	100	653 142	100	1 029 064	100

(a) Customer numbers relate to those with an ongoing entitlement to a social security or FTB payment at 1 June 2001, and paid RA in the preceding fortnight. Some have no ongoing entitlement to RA.

(b) Austudy payment customers are ineligible to receive RA unless they also receive Family Tax Benefit (FTB). In such cases the RA is paid as part of their FTB.

(c) RA is generally paid with FTB if the customer has children under 16. However, if the customer also receives an income support payment they have been reported under the relevant social security payment type.

6 Expenditure and pensioners paid overseas

Payment expenditure

Expenditure comprises the payment and any additional allowances paid to the customer. It does not include running costs and corporate overheads. Expenditure data can be found under the special appropriations heading against each program type in the FaCs annual report

Pensioners paid overseas

Simplified payment rules

The overseas payment rules were simplified in September 2000. In general, Australian income support payments are paid during temporary overseas absences of up to 26 weeks (subject to continuing qualification); and indefinitely if a person receives a pension such as age pension or disability support pension for the severely disabled.

Additional payments such as rent assistance, telephone allowance and pharmaceutical benefit are also paid for the first 26 weeks of temporary absence. After 26 weeks overseas absence pensioners with less than 25 years of Australian Working Life Residence (the years between 16 years of age and age pension age) are paid in proportion to their past links to Australia. For example, a person with 20 years AWLR is paid 20/25ths of their normal rate.

Australia's Agreements

Currently, Australia has social security agreements with eleven countries: Austria, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal and Spain. Australia's social security agreement with the United Kingdom was terminated from 1 March 2001.

Australia's international social security agreements:

- ▶ facilitate access to Australian pensions upon arrival in Australia for people who have had periods of social security coverage in an agreement country
- ▶ play an important role in helping Australian residents to claim their entitlements to social security payments from other countries
- ▶ regulate payments of social security benefits to people moving between agreement countries.

Overseas pensions

Many Centrelink customers have lived and worked overseas. Many of these people are eligible to receive overseas pensions, known as 'comparable foreign payments' (CFP).

Under the CFP legislation customers may be required to claim their entitlements from any overseas country.

The CFP legislation was first introduced in 1994 and expanded in September 2000. It ensures that Australian social security claimants and recipients (mainly pensioners) maximise their income by accessing all available income sources. A successful CFP claim increases a customer's overall disposable income and also reduces their dependence on the taxpayer funded Australian social security system.

Total balance of payments

As at December 2000, Australia paid around \$316 million annually to Australian pensioners staying overseas on a long-term basis. At the same time other countries were paying over four times this amount annually or just over \$1.4 billion to Australian pensioners.

Table 65: Persons paid overseas by Australia: Payment type, June 1981 to June 2001

AS AT JUNE (a)	AGE PENSION	DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION	WIFE PENSION	WIDOW B PENSION	PARENTING PAYMENT (b)	TOTAL
1981	8 877	3 612	2 026	1 544	1 171	17 230
1982	9 159	3 619	2 060	1 580	1 224	17 642
1983	9 640	3 800	2 166	1 681	1 334	18 621
1984	10 112	4 313	2 482	1 825	1 497	20 229
1985	11 220	5 111	2 918	1 967	1 717	22 933
1986	11 860	5 799	3 322	2 041	1 786	24 808
1987	12 201	6 237	3 553	2 127	1 698	25 816
1988	11 474	6 402	3 608	2 291	1 266	25 041
1989	12 670	7 105	3 883	2 492	956	27 106
1990	13 996	7 504	4 385	2 385	199	28 469
1991	16 658	7 814	4 755	1 845	167	31 239
1992	19 846	8 148	4 682	1 790	159	34 625
1993	23 948	8 455	3 478	1 683	154	37 718
1994	27 287	8 493	3 594	1 665	136	41 175
1995	29 712	8 780	3 807	1 658	121	44 078
1996	32 288	9 074	4 045	1 684	110	47 201
1997	35 662	9 061	3 867	1 526	89	50 205
1998	38 136	8 964	3 572	1 391	76	52 139
1999	38 136	8 964	3 718	1 251	55	52 124
2000	42 066	8 707	2 943	1 156	43	54 915
2001	43 280	8 686	2 689	1 141	42	55 838

(a) All payments where person has been outside Australia for more than 12 months.

(b) Parenting Payment (single) replaced Sole Parent Pension on 20 March 1998.

Table 66: Persons paid overseas by Australia: Country of residence by payment type, June 2001

COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE	AGE PENSION	DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION	WIDOW B PENSION	WIFE PENSION	PARENTING PAYMENT (SINGLE)	TOTAL
Europe and former USSR						
Austria	724	149	3	14	0	890
Belgium	26	7	0	0	0	33
Bosnia-Herzegovina	55	62	2	9	1	129
Bulgaria	21	5	0	0	0	26
Croatia	728	414	23	71	0	1 236
Czech Republic	105	36	1	2	0	144
Denmark	19	7	1	1	0	28
Estonia	14	0	0	0	0	14
Finland	61	12	2	0	0	75
France	153	18	4	3	0	178
Germany	218	20	9	7	0	254
Greece	5 331	2 076	215	644	4	8 270
Hungary	338	66	4	10	0	418
Ireland	351	40	2	11	0	404
Italy	16 602	857	393	783	3	18 638
Latvia	32	1	0	0	0	33

COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE	AGE PENSION	DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION	WIDOW B PENSION	WIFE PENSION	PARENTING PAYMENT (SINGLE)	TOTAL
Macedonia (FYR)	683	364	23	64	1	1 135
Malta	1 915	1 119	74	316	8	3 432
Netherlands	4 236	16	4	28	0	4 284
Poland	213	85	7	4	0	309
Portugal	666	248	13	65	5	997
Romania	27	28	0	0	0	55
Russian Federation	3	0	0	1	0	4
Slovakia	22	11	0	0	0	33
Slovenia	77	32	0	3	0	112
Spain	2 718	371	38	153	2	3 282
Sweden	26	4	0	2	0	32
Switzerland	29	6	0	3	0	38
Ukraine	9	1	1	0	0	11
United Kingdom	2 713	292	139	30	2	3 176
Other Europe	567	430	19	52	0	1 068
Total	38 682	6 777	977	2 276	26	48 738
Americas						
Argentina	79	51	6	12	0	148
Brazil	8	7	2	1	0	18
Canada	968	52	14	12	1	1 047
Chile	151	62	11	8	2	234
Colombia	12	16	1	2	0	31
Ecuador	6	13	1	2	0	22
Uruguay	160	51	10	14	0	235
USA	392	67	15	7	1	482
Other Americas	47	18	0	3	1	69
Total	1 823	337	60	61	5	2 286
Asia						
China	32	2	2	0	0	36
Hong Kong	55	3	7	1	1	67
India	39	20	1	0	0	60
Philippines	148	56	2	6	1	213
Thailand	33	21	0	0	0	54
Other Asia	104	36	8	2	0	150
Total	411	138	20	9	2	580
Africa/Middle East						
Cyprus	566	122	19	26	1	
Egypt	51	60	5	10	1	127
Israel	137	13	5	0	0	155
Jordan	9	8	0	0	0	17
Lebanon	465	206	17	62	1	751
Mauritius	19	4	2	1	0	26
Seychelles	9	9	1	0	0	19
South Africa	50	2	1	0	0	53
Syrian Arab Rep	35	32	0	8	1	76
Turkey	635	877	30	217	5	1 764
Other Africa/Middle East	17	10	1	2	0	30
Total	1 993	1 343	81	326	9	3 752
Oceania						
Fiji	20	6	0	1	0	27
New Zealand	6	4	0	0	0	10
Norfolk Island	8	4	2	1	0	15
New Caledonia	6	1	0	0	0	7
PNG	57	0	0	0	0	57
Other Oceania	28	6	0	2	0	36
Total	125	21	2	4	0	152
Other	246	70	1	13	0	330
Total	43 280	8 686	1 141	2 689	42	55 838

Table 67: Persons paid by Australia under a Social Security Agreement: Agreement country by country of residence by payment type, June 2001

AGREEMENT COUNTRY	COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE	AGE PENSION	DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION	WIDOW B PENSION	WIFE PENSION	PARENTING PAYMENT (SINGLE)	TOTAL
Austria	Australia	6	1	0	0	0	7
	Austria	645	131	1	12	0	789
	Other	10	0	0	0	0	10
	Total	661	132	1	12	0	806
Canada	Australia	19	1	0	0	0	20
	Canada	779	32	3	9	1	824
	Other	26	3	0	0	0	29
	Total	824	36	3	9	1	873
Cyprus	Australia	5	0	0	0	0	5
	Cyprus	197	11	1	0	0	209
	Other	4	5	0	0	0	9
	Total	206	16	1	0	0	223
Denmark	Denmark	8	0	0	0	0	8
	Total	8	0	0	0	0	8
Spain	Australia	4	2	0	0	0	6
	Spain	2029	184	23	116	1	2 353
	Other	4	2	1	1	0	8
	Total	2 037	188	24	117	1	2 367
Ireland	Australia	5	2	0	0	0	7
	Ireland	145	13	1	8	0	167
	Other	2	0	0	0	1	3
	Total	152	15	1	8	1	177
Italy	Australia	26	2	0	1	0	29
	Italy	14 326	440	310	704	0	15 780
	Other	40	0	0	6	0	46
	Total	14 392	442	310	711	0	15 855
Malta	Australia	3	2	0	0	0	5
	Malta	1 523	798	55	260	4	2 640
	Other	8	4	0	1	0	13
	Total	1 531	802	55	261	4	2 653
Netherlands	Australia	14	0	0	0	0	14
	Netherlands	3 989	0	0	26	0	4 015
	Other	36	0	0	1	0	37
	Total	4 039	0	0	27	0	4 066
Portugal	Australia	8	2	0	1	0	11
	Portugal	254	72	1	27	4	358
	Other	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Total	262	74	2	28	4	370
Total		24 112	1 705	397	1 173	11	27 398

Table 68: Number of Centrelink customers residing in Australia receiving a foreign payment: Payment country by payment type, December 2001

COUNTRY	AGE PENSION	INVALIDITY PENSION	WIDOW	OTHER	TOTAL
Europe and former USSR					
Austria	3 863	214	366	473	4 916
Belgium	268	6	26	102	402
Bosnia and Herzegovina	73	9	2	7	91
Bulgaria	2	0	1	1	4
Croatia	319	23	33	24	399
Czech Republic	218	3	1	9	231
Denmark	274	15	2	13	304
Estonia	1	0	0	0	1
Finland	316	54	16	170	556
France	852	61	62	355	1 330
Germany	8 958	206	1 242	1 355	11 761
Greece	134	11	24	70	239
Hungary	345	4	13	24	386
Ireland	726	177	100	70	1 073
Italy	35 345	3 626	41	10 765	49 777
Latvia	4	0	0	0	4
Macedonia (FYR)	71	5	10	6	92
Malta	1 500	438	254	200	2 392
Netherlands	7 182	57	179	826	8 244
Poland	149	9	11	16	185
Portugal	419	212	36	80	747
Romania	20	0	0	3	23
Russian Federation	69	0	0	5	74
Slovakia	16	0	0	1	17
Slovenia	40	2	5	10	57
Spain	1 412	384	89	127	2 012
Sweden	244	17	10	52	323
Switzerland	629	12	17	69	727
Ukraine	1	0	0	0	1
United Kingdom	145 229	423	4 814	17 978	168 444
Total	208 679	5 968	7 354	32 811	254 812
Americas					
Argentina	65	4	20	15	104
Brazil	2	0	0	1	3
Canada	1 537	71	41	369	2 018
Chile	259	13	49	59	380
Colombia	2	0	0	1	3
Ecuador	1	0	0	0	1
Uruguay	139	1	14	17	171
United States	1 192	57	142	501	1 892
Total	3 197	146	266	963	4 572
Asia					
China	768	3	0	555	1 326
Hong Kong	54	0	10	39	103
India	69	1	13	82	165
Philippines	142	2	19	50	213
Thailand	2	0	0	2	4
Total	1 035	6	42	728	1 811

COUNTRY	AGE PENSION	INVALIDITY PENSION	WIDOW	OTHER	TOTAL
Africa/Middle East					
Cyprus	801	271	103	23	1 198
Egypt	27	1	8	16	52
Israel	23	0	2	6	31
Jordan	3	1	0	6	10
Lebanon	3	0	0	7	10
Mauritius	240	2	130	123	495
Seychelles	5	0	0	2	7
South Africa	212	3	70	339	624
Turkey	104	14	13	74	205
Total	1 418	292	326	596	2 632
Oceania					
Fiji	99	0	32	41	172
New Zealand	44	10	39	1 305	1 398
New Caledonia	18	3	1	10	32
Papua New Guinea	0	0	0	1	1
Total	161	13	72	1 357	1 603
Other	1 544	56	435	708	2 743
Total	216 034	6 481	8 495	37 163	268 173

Table 69: Number of Centrelink customers residing overseas receiving a foreign payment: Payment country by payment type, December 2001

COUNTRY	AGE PENSION	INVALIDITY PENSION	WIDOW	OTHER	TOTAL
Europe and former USSR					
Austria	910	113	64	60	1 147
Belgium	103	5	2	25	135
Bosnia and Herzegovina	9	8	1	1	19
Bulgaria	2	0	1	0	3
Croatia	138	25	9	34	206
Czech Republic	41	2	2	1	46
Denmark	37	6	0	7	50
Estonia	1	0	0	0	1
Finland	45	6	1	22	74
France	271	17	6	73	367
Germany	476	31	53	111	671
Greece	590	53	58	197	898
Hungary	113	5	8	10	136
Ireland	134	14	11	26	185
Italy	14 635	5 138	0	2 583	22 356
Latvia	1	0	0	0	1
Macedonia (FYR)	133	7	21	15	176
Malta	1 574	647	103	208	2 532
Netherlands	4 368	16	33	2 007	6 424
Poland	47	10	0	9	66
Portugal	314	139	12	41	506
Romania	5	0	0	0	5
Russian Federation	0	0	0	0	0
Slovakia	9	1	0	0	10
Slovenia	13	2	1	5	21

COUNTRY	AGE PENSION	INVALIDITY PENSION	WIDOW	OTHER	TOTAL
Spain	2 013	423	85	117	2 638
Sweden	26	1	0	7	34
Switzerland	110	10	2	18	140
Ukraine	0	0	0	1	1
United Kingdom	3 137	55	64	599	3 855
Total	29 255	6 734	537	6 177	42 703
Americas					
Argentina	15	2	3	3	23
Brazil	0	1	1	0	2
Canada	1 215	80	8	400	1 703
Chile	39	4	7	9	59
Colombia	0	0	0	0	0
Ecuador	0	0	0	0	0
Uruguay	24	0	6	10	40
United States	217	18	9	92	336
Total	1 510	105	34	514	2 163
Asia					
China	1	0	0	0	1
Hong Kong	8	0	0	0	8
India	1	0	1	0	2
Philippines	4	0	2	1	7
Thailand	0	0	0	0	0
Total	14	0	3	1	18
Africa/Middle East					
Cyprus	331	42	26	9	408
Egypt	3	1	2	3	9
Israel	41	2	1	11	55
Jordan	0	0	0	0	0
Lebanon	1	1	0	1	3
Mauritius	14	0	0	1	15
Seychelles	1	0	0	0	1
South Africa	5	0	0	5	10
Turkey	86	9	7	45	147
Total	482	55	36	75	648
Oceania					
Fiji	0	0	2	0	2
New Zealand	7	0	0	8	15
New Caledonia	1	0	0	0	1
Papua New Guinea	0	0	0	0	0
Total	8	0	2	8	18
Other	154	51	15	58	278
Total	31 423	6 945	627	6 833	45 828

