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**Department of Families, Community Services  
and Indigenous Affairs**

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Income support customers:  
a statistical overview 2002

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For more information on FaCSIA research publications, please contact:

Research Publications Unit

Research Strategies

Research and Analysis Branch

Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Box 7788

Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2610

Phone: (02) 6244 5458

Fax: (02) 6244 6589

Email: [publications.research@facsia.gov.au](mailto:publications.research@facsia.gov.au)

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# 1 Introduction

The vision for FaCS in 2002 was 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 FaCS, the 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 2002. 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 from the FaCSIA and Centrelink websites:

<http://centrenet/corp/index.htm>

<http://www.facsia.gov.au/>

## Confidentiality

Small cells have been suppressed and replaced with 'n.p.' (not published) for the purposes of confidentiality. Where a small cell can be derived by calculation, consequent suppression of the next smallest cell is performed until the small cell data is protected.

### **2004 Administrative Arrangements Changes**

In October 2004 responsibility for some income support payments (including Newstart Allowance, Parenting Payment, Partner Allowance, Youth Allowance (Other) and Disability Support Pension) was transferred to the Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations and responsibility for Youth Allowance (Students) and Austudy Payment was transferred to Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training.

### **2006 Administrative Arrangements Changes**

In January 2006 the Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination (OIPC) and the Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) merged to form the Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA).

As the statistics in this publication refer in the main to June 2002 data, the FaCS acronym has been used in most instances to refer to the Department now known as FaCSIA.



**Table 1: Summary of income support recipients by payment type, 1992 to 2002<sup>(a)</sup>**

PAYMENT TYPE	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 <sup>(b)</sup>	2002
Age Pension (including Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Age Pensions)	1,446,168	1,515,682	1,581,874	1,578,698	1,602,834	1,680,214	1,682,618	1,715,792	1,738,215	1,793,426	1,810,779
Disability Support Pension	378,558	406,572	436,234	464,430	499,235	527,514	553,336	577,682	602,280	623,926	658,915
Wife Pension (partner receives Age Pension)	30,902	33,520	36,539	39,611	41,125	36,577	36,233	32,196	31,406	26,476	23,730
Wife Pension (partner receives Disability Support Pension)	101,731	108,327	116,036	121,839	107,803	91,307	79,892	68,532	59,935	51,225	44,238
Widow B Pension	69,066	64,633	59,916	54,936	49,875	18,820	13,579	10,519	8,892	6,456	5,130
Rehabilitation Allowance and Wives	2,500	745	198	41	14	3	—	—	—	—	—
Unemployment payments	831,015	889,566	848,598	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newstart Allowance	—	—	—	800,714	812,365	797,961	778,880	654,752	589,911	580,703	582,945
Mature Age Allowance	—	—	—	38,866	45,931	53,386	50,771	45,253	41,840	39,149	40,498
Sickness Allowance	43,641	45,226	45,848	46,050	34,518	15,633	16,285	11,181	10,773	10,942	9,656
Partner Allowance	242,300	254,800	237,500	216,739	69,840	72,117	75,021	81,359	89,684	92,492	103,892
Widow Allowance	—	—	—	8,733	11,723	17,508	24,759	27,524	32,570	36,416	41,659
Carer Payment	12,630	15,045	17,699	20,098	25,037	29,558	33,979	40,070	47,550	57,190	67,260
Parenting Payment (Single)	287,228	298,444	313,437	324,941	342,290	358,893	372,286	384,821	397,278	424,614	436,661
Parenting Payment (Partnered)	—	—	—	—	237,321	239,317	236,550	227,677	—	214,721	201,585
AUSTUDY	381,749	341,129	394,062	394,259	410,808	361,497	352,148	—	—	—	—
Youth Allowance (Full-time students)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	307,813	309,366	308,177	315,152
Youth Allowance (other)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	84,773	82,408	85,053	90,339
Austudy Payment	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	47,170	42,838	41,992	41,187
Special Benefit	35,042	28,503	25,542	20,440	18,885	14,700	10,236	11,808	10,971	12,712	13,315
Other income support <sup>(c)</sup>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ABSTUDY	23,266	33,857	24,425	32,137	36,154	42,455	43,822	45,528	42,754	44,627	46,255
DVA service pension and income support supplement	371,606	371,551	352,883	411,838	399,989	387,054	387,596	382,287	373,076	378,058	370,721
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,277,497</b>	<b>4,429,498</b>	<b>4,514,842</b>	<b>4,601,411</b>	<b>4,774,052</b>	<b>4,774,645</b>	<b>4,778,248</b>	<b>4,788,704</b>	<b>4,540,444</b>	<b>4,859,565</b>	<b>4,937,976</b>

(a) Data at June 30 where possible. Not a complete list of Income support payments.

(b) Break in series for allowances. Previously customers counted on a 'paid' in the fortnight ending basis. Numbers now represent the customers 'current' at point in time (excludes suspended recipients).

(c) Payments administered by authorities other than FaCS.



## 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. Table 2 shows the age at which females qualify for the Age Pension.

**Table 2: Female qualifying age for Age Pension**

DATES OF BIRTH	QUALIFYING AGE
1 July 1935 to 31 December 1936	60.5
1 January 1937 to 30 June 1938	61
1 July 1938 to 31 December 1939	61.5
1 January 1940 to 30 June 1941	62
1 July 1941 to 31 December 1942	62.5
1 January 1943 to 30 June 1944	63
1 July 1944 to 31 December 1945	63.5
1 January 1946 to 30 June 1947	64
1 July 1947 to 31 December 1948	64.5
1 January 1949 and over	65

Other Age Pension 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 3: Age Pension customers by sex, June 1982 to June 2002** <sup>(a)</sup>

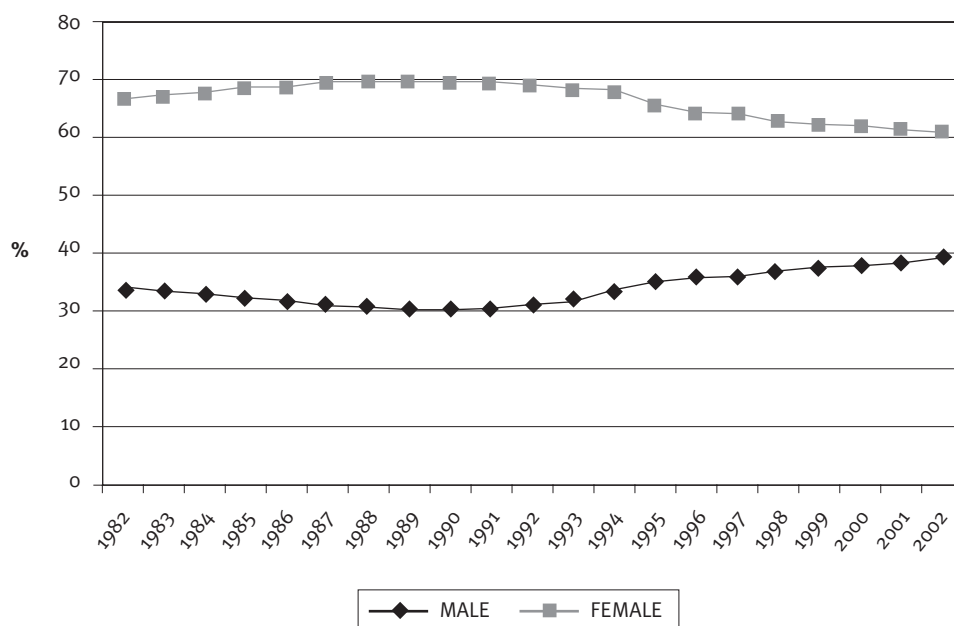
AS AT JUNE	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
1982	456,145	33.4	910,890	66.6	1,367,035	100.0
1983	460,667	33.1	930,171	66.9	1,390,838	100.0
1984	436,925	32.2	921,204	67.8	1,358,129	100.0
1985	419,714	31.5	912,068	68.5	1,331,782	100.0
1986	412,373	31.1	912,227	68.9	1,324,600	100.0
1987	407,698	30.8	914,476	69.2	1,322,174	100.0
1988 <sup>(b)</sup>	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
2002	714,324	39.3	1,103,881	60.7	1,818,205	100.0
<b>Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders (CSHC)</b> <sup>(c)</sup>						
2001	97,848	43.3	128,292	56.7	226,140	100.0
2002	122,613	44.2	155,068	55.8	277,681	100.0

(a) Includes Age Pension payments administered by Centrelink and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) Overseas customers have been included since 1988. Prior to 1988, the data on overseas customers by sex was unavailable.

(c) The CSHC is issued to people of Age Pension age who failed to qualify for the age pension because of their income or assets level, but whose income is below the applicable cut-offs for the CSHC. See Table 63 for characteristics of CSHC holders.

**Figure 1: Age Pension customers, proportion by sex, June 1982 to June 2002**



**Table 4: Age Pension customers by state/territory and sex, June 2002<sup>(a)</sup>**

STATE/TERRITORY	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	230,420	38.5	367,493	61.5	597,913	100.0
Victoria	177,765	38.6	282,545	61.4	460,310	100.0
Queensland	121,035	39.6	184,460	60.4	305,495	100.0
Western Australia	57,805	38.6	92,092	61.4	149,897	100.0
South Australia	65,570	38.6	104,234	61.4	169,804	100.0
Tasmania	19,061	38.8	30,125	61.2	49,186	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	5,929	36.4	10,368	63.6	16,297	100.0
Northern Territory	2,468	43.3	3,233	56.7	5,701	100.0
Other <sup>(a)</sup>	30,117	38.8	26,059	61.2	56,176	100.0
<b>Total<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>710,170</b>	<b>39.2</b>	<b>1,100,609</b>	<b>60.8</b>	<b>1,810,779</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Excludes 7,426 Age Pension payments administered by DVA.

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

**Table 5: Age Pension customers, characteristics by sex, June 2002<sup>(a)</sup>**

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Age Pensioner customers	710,170	100.0	1,100,609	100.0	1,810,779	100.0
<b>Age (years)</b>						
60–64	0	0.0	154,045	14.0	154,045	8.5
65–69	232,329	32.7	259,766	23.6	492,095	27.2
70–74	231,833	32.6	235,101	21.4	466,934	25.8
75–79	134,185	18.9	178,765	16.2	312,950	17.3
80–84	61,464	8.7	132,535	12.0	193,999	10.7
85–89	35,720	5.0	90,085	8.2	125,805	6.9
90–94	12,273	1.7	39,712	3.6	51,985	2.9
95 or more	2,366	0.3	10,600	1.0	12,966	0.7
<b>Status</b>						
<i>Couple</i>						
no dependants	509,166	71.7	479,146	43.5	988,312	54.6
with dependants	411	0.1	1,332	0.1	1,743	0.1
Total	509,577	71.8	480,478	43.7	990,055	54.7
<i>Single</i>						
no dependants	200,146	28.2	618,174	56.2	818,320	45.2
with dependants	447	0.1	1,957	0.2	2,404	0.1
Total	200,593	28.2	620,131	56.3	820,724	45.3
<b>Rate</b>						
Full rate	462,360	65.1	762,657	69.3	1,225,017	67.7
Part rate	247,810	34.9	337,952	30.7	585,762	32.3
<b>Home ownership</b>						
Home owner	521,492	73.4	736,326	66.9	1,257,818	69.5
Non-home owner	165,303	23.3	289,252	26.3	454,555	25.1
Home ownership not coded (including aged care)	23,375	3.3	75,031	6.8	98,406	5.4
<b>Paid under income test</b>						
<i>Income as assessed (\$ per week)</i>						
<i>Single</i>						
Nil	16,702	2.4	52,010	4.7	68,712	3.8
0.01–56.00	133,118	18.7	416,815	37.9	549,933	30.4
56.01–68.30	7,494	1.1	20,087	1.8	27,581	1.5
Over 68.30	43,538	6.1	117,224	10.7	160,762	8.9
<i>Partnered (each)</i>						
Nil	10,882	1.5	9,683	0.9	20,565	1.1
0.01–50.00	298,861	42.1	281,560	25.6	580,421	32.1
Over 50.00	136,398	19.2	127,594	11.6	263,992	14.6
Partner rate not coded	157	0.0	117	0.0	274	0.0
<b>Non-home owners paid under assets test</b>						
<i>Assets as assessed (\$) <sup>(b)</sup></i>						
<i>Single</i>						
More than 242,000 to less than 384,750	634	0.1	1,098	0.1	1,732	0.1
<i>Partnered (each)</i>						
More than 150,750 to less than 269,250	541	0.1	526	0.0	1,067	0.1
Partnered not coded	10	0.0	8	0.0	18	0.0

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

<b>Home owners paid under assets test</b>							
<i>Assets as assessed (\$)</i>							
<i>Single</i>							
More than 141,000 to less than 283,750	9,769	1.4	21,415	1.9	31,184	1.7	
<i>Partnered (each)</i>							
More than 100,250 to less than 218,750	49,054	6.9	47,724	4.3	96,778	5.3	
Partnered not coded	49	0.0	63	0.0	112	0.0	
Income/assets test not coded	1,663	0.2	1,730	0.2	3,393	0.2	
<b>Country of birth (top five countries)</b>							
Australia	413,927	58.3	711,436	64.6	1,125,363	62.1	
United Kingdom/Eire/Ireland	83,302	11.7	123,180	11.2	206,482	11.4	
Italy	53,876	7.6	52,733	4.8	106,609	5.9	
Greece	21,659	3.0	26,790	2.4	48,449	2.7	
Netherlands	13,401	1.9	15,794	1.4	29,195	1.6	
Other	124,005	17.5	170,676	15.5	294,681	16.3	

(a) Excludes Age Pension payments administered by DVA.

(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 permanent 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. At June 2002, the number of customers receiving a Disability Support Pension was 658,915—an increase of 6 per cent over June 2001 numbers.
- ▶ 62 per cent of the total Disability Support Pension recipients were males. The proportion of females continues to increase and represented 38 per cent of the Disability Support Pension population.
- ▶ 55 per cent of the total number of Disability Support Pension recipients were aged 50 years and over at June 2002 compared to 54 per cent at June 2001. The number of Disability Support Pension customers in the 40 to 49 year age range increased from 132,432 at June 2001 to 140,277 (+6 per cent) at June 2002.
- ▶ At June 2002, 62 per cent of people on Disability Support Pension were single—a slight increase over the 61 per cent at June 2001.
- ▶ The major proportion of Disability Support Pension customers were on a maximum rate of payment.
- ▶ 63 per cent of Disability Support Pension customers did not own their home.
- ▶ The majority of Disability Support Pension customers were Australian-born (72 per cent). European countries such as the United Kingdom/Ireland, Greece, Yugoslavia and Italy were the next largest categories.

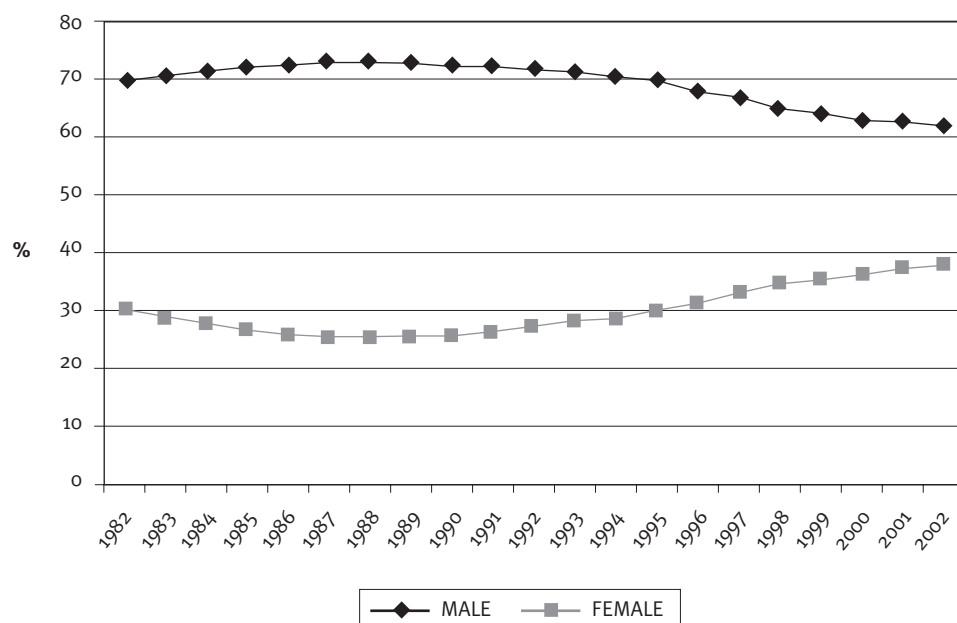


**Table 6: Disability Support Pension customers by sex, June 1982 to June 2002**

AS AT JUNE	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
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	233,251	73.6	83,462	26.4	316,713	100.0
1991 <sup>(a)</sup>	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
2002	406,893	61.8	252,022	38.2	658,915	100.0

(a) 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, proportion by sex, June 1982 to June 2002**



**Table 7: Disability Support Pension customers by state/territory and sex, June 2002**

STATE/TERRITORY	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	134,452	62.1	82,029	37.9	216,481	100.0
Victoria	92,530	59.9	62,055	40.1	154,585	100.0
Queensland	78,253	62.9	46,137	37.1	124,390	100.0
Western Australia	33,958	61.8	20,987	38.2	54,945	100.0
South Australia	38,340	61.0	24,501	39.0	62,841	100.0
Tasmania	14,331	62.4	8,629	37.6	22,960	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	3,359	64.4	1,860	35.6	5,219	100.0
Northern Territory	3,766	56.5	2,902	43.5	6,668	100.0
Overseas	7,690	73.1	2,827	26.8	10,517	100.0
Unknown	214	69.3	95	30.7	309	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>406,893</b>	<b>61.8</b>	<b>252,022</b>	<b>38.2</b>	<b>658,915</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 8: Disability Support Pension customers, characteristics by sex, June 2002**

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Disability Support Pension customers	406,893	100.0	252,022	100.0	658,915	100.0
<b>Age (years)</b>						
Under 20	9,648	2.4	6,436	2.6	16,084	2.4
20–29	32,650	8.0	22,769	9.0	55,419	8.4
30–39	54,141	13.3	34,102	13.5	88,243	13.4
40–49	81,767	20.1	58,510	23.2	140,277	21.3
50–59	126,643	31.1	104,402	41.4	231,045	35.1
60–64	98,886	24.3	25,503	10.1	124,389	18.9
65 and over	3,158	0.8	300	0.1	3,458	0.5
<b>Status</b>						
<i>Couple</i>						
no dependants	172,810	42.5	62,880	25.0	235,690	35.8
with dependants	1,764	0.4	13,566	5.4	15,330	2.3
Total	174,574	42.9	76,446	30.3	251,020	38.1
<i>Single</i>						
no dependants	227,927	56.0	163,089	64.7	391,016	59.3
with dependants	4,392	1.1	12,487	5.0	16,879	2.6
Total	232,319	57.1	175,576	69.7	407,895	61.9
<b>Rate</b>						
Full rate	343,773	84.5	208,810	82.9	552,583	83.9
Part rate	63,120	15.5	43,212	17.1	106,332	16.1
<b>Home ownership</b>						
Home owner	152,650	37.5	88,228	35.0	240,878	36.6
Non-home owner	251,324	61.8	161,854	64.2	413,178	62.7
Not specified	2,919	0.7	1,940	0.8	4,859	0.7
<b>Paid under income test</b>						
<i>Income as assessed (\$ per week)</i>						
<i>Single</i>						
Nil	58,846	14.5	34,570	13.7	93,416	14.2
0.01–56.00	145,587	35.8	119,066	47.2	264,653	40.2
56.01–68.30	5,555	1.4	4,675	1.9	10,230	1.6
Over 68.30	17,669	4.3	15,126	6.0	32,795	5.0

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

<i>Partnered (each)</i>							
Nil	14,275	3.5	5,682	2.3	19,957	3.0	
0.01–50.00	114,757	28.2	44,830	17.8	159,587	24.2	
50.01–56.15	3,008	0.7	1,228	0.5	4,236	0.6	
Over 56.15	35,893	8.8	21,549	8.6	57,442	8.7	
Partnered rate not coded	136	0.0	8	0.0	144	0.0	
<b>Non-home owners paid under assets test</b>							
<i>Assets as assessed (\$)</i>							
<i>Single</i>							
More than 228,750 to less than 364,750	195	0.0	85	0.0	280	0.0	
<i>Partnered (each)</i>							
More than 142,500 to less than 255,500	73	0.0	32	0.0	105	0.0	
<b>Home owners paid under assets test</b>							
<i>Assets as assessed (\$)</i>							
<i>Single</i>							
More than 133,250 to less than 269,250	1,117	0.3	829	0.3	1,946	0.3	
<i>Partnered (each)</i>							
More than 94,750 to less than 207,750	3,477	0.9	1,993	0.8	5,470	0.8	
Not coded <sup>(a)</sup>	6,305	1.5	2,349	0.9	8,654	1.3	
<b>Country of birth (top five countries)</b>							
Australia	289,169	71.1	187,296	74.3	476,465	72.3	
United Kingdom/Eire/Ireland	26,739	6.6	14,454	5.7	41,193	6.3	
Greece	9,821	2.4	5,520	2.2	15,341	2.3	
Yugoslavia	9,759	2.4	4,738	1.9	14,497	2.2	
Italy	9,561	2.3	4,491	1.8	14,052	2.1	
Other	61,844	15.2	35,523	14.1	97,367	14.8	

(a) At least one variable required to determine the customer's assets test category was not coded (that is, partnership category, home ownership type, income or assets 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 need to apply for another type of payment such as Age Pension, Parenting Payment, Partner Allowance, Carer Payment, Disability Support Pension and Newstart Allowance.

### Summary

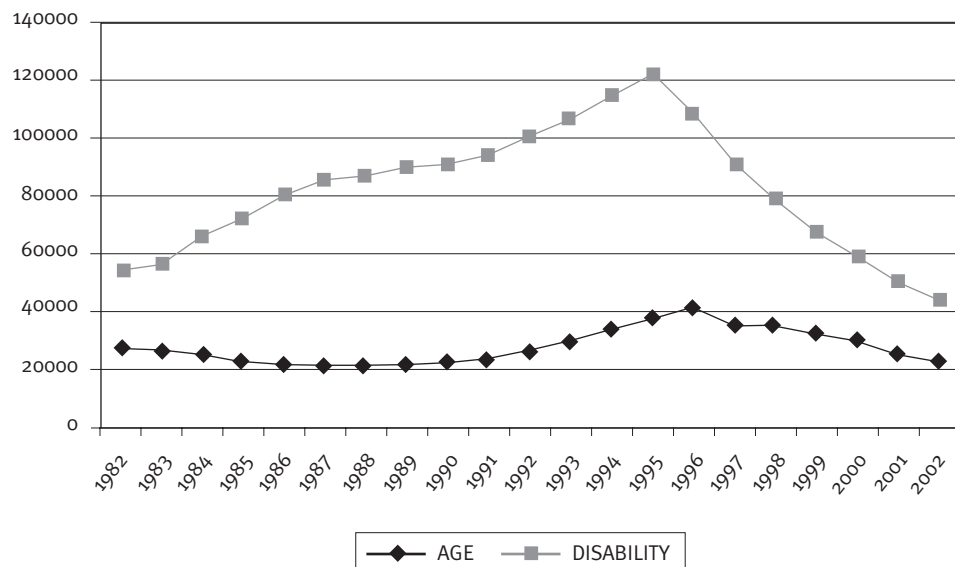
- ▶ The number of Wife Pension customers has decreased significantly as a result of the gradual phasing out of this pension in 1995. At June 2002, the number of customers receiving a Wife Pension (Age) was 23,730, a decrease of 10.4 per cent from June 2001 (26,476). At June 2002, the number of customers receiving a Wife Pension (Disability Support Pension) was 44,238, a decrease of 13.6 per cent from June 2001 (51,225).
- ▶ Wife pensioners of Disability Support Pension customers comprised the majority of all Wife Pension customers (65 per cent at June 2002).

**Table 9: Wife Pension customers by pension type, June 1982 to June 2002**

AS AT JUNE	AGE PENSION		DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION		REHABILITATION ALLOWANCE <sup>(a)</sup>		SHELTERED EMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCE <sup>(b)</sup>		TOTAL <sup>(c)</sup>	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
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	31.2	68,523	68.8	-	-	-	-	100,719	100.0
2000	31,406	34.4	59,935	65.6	-	-	-	-	91,341	100.0
2001	26,476	34.1	51,225	65.9	-	-	-	-	77,701	100.0
2002	23,730	34.9	44,238	65.1	-	-	-	-	67,968	100.0

- (a) Rehabilitation Allowance began in March 1983 and was phased out in November 1991 as part of the Disability Reform Package. Rehabilitation Allowance recipients 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 by pension type, June 1982 to June 2002**



**Table 10: Wife Pension customers by state/territory and pension type, June 2002<sup>(a)</sup>**

STATE/TERRITORY	AGE PENSION		DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	7,511	34.3	14,402	65.7	21,913	100.0
Victoria	5,741	36.1	10,168	63.9	15,909	100.0
Queensland	4,318	35.1	7,977	64.9	12,295	100.0
Western Australia	1,925	33.6	3,809	66.4	5,734	100.0
South Australia	2,368	36.3	4,162	63.7	6,530	100.0
Tasmania	737	28.6	1,840	71.4	2,577	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	138	38.4	221	61.6	359	100.0
Northern Territory	123	40.1	184	59.9	307	100.0
Other <sup>(b)</sup>	869	37.1	1,475	62.9	2,342	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,730</b>	<b>34.9</b>	<b>44,238</b>	<b>65.1</b>	<b>67,968</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Excludes Age Pension payments administered by DVA

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

**Table 11: Wife Pension customers, characteristics by pension type, June 2002**

CHARACTERISTICS	AGE PENSION		DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Wife Pension customers	23,730	100.0	44,238	100.0	67,968	100.0
<b>Age (years)</b>						
Under 39	241	1.0	3,203	7.2	3,444	5.1
40-49	1,564	6.6	11,455	25.9	13,019	19.2
50-59	12,604	53.1	24,580	55.6	37,184	54.7
60-64	8,920	37.6	4,964	11.2	13,884	20.4
65 and over	401	1.7	36	0.1	437	0.6
<b>Status</b>						
<i>Couple</i>						
no dependants	22,177	93.5	34,753	78.6	56,930	83.8
with dependants	1,405	5.9	9,384	21.2	10,789	15.9
Total	23,582	99.4	44,137	99.8	67,719	99.6
<i>Single</i>						
no dependants	142	0.6	93	0.2	235	0.3
with dependants	6	0.0	8	0.0	14	0.0
Total	148	0.6	101	0.2	249	0.4
<b>Rate</b>						
Full rate	18,051	76.1	34,739	78.5	52,790	77.7
Part rate	5,679	23.9	9,499	21.5	15,178	22.3
<b>Home ownership</b>						
Home owner	18,088	76.2	29,689	67.1	47,777	70.3
Non-home owner	5,616	23.7	14,530	32.8	20,146	29.6

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

<b>Paid under income test</b>						
<i>Income as assessed (\$ per week)</i>						
<i>Single (incl. separated)</i>						
Nil	28	0.1	47	0.1	75	0.1
0.01–56.00	235	1.0	179	0.4	414	0.6
56.01–68.30	11	0.0	5	0.0	16	0.0
Over 68.30	79	0.3	76	0.2	155	0.2
<i>Partnered (each)</i>						
Nil	1,238	5.2	4,592	10.4	5,830	8.6
0.01–50.00	16,458	69.4	29,272	66.2	45,730	67.1
Over 50.00	4,954	20.9	9,195	20.8	14,149	20.8
Partnered rate not coded	48	0.2	117	0.3	165	0.2
<b>Non-home owners paid under assets test</b>						
<i>Assets as assessed (\$)</i>						
<i>Single</i>						
More than 242,000 to less than 384,750	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<i>Partnered (each)</i>						
More than 150,750 to less than 269,250	10	0.0	13	0.0	23	0.0
Partnered not coded <sup>(a)</sup>	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Home owners paid under assets test</b>						
<i>Assets as assessed (\$)</i>						
<i>Single</i>						
More than 141,000 to less than 283,750	2	0.0	3	0.0	5	0.0
<i>Partnered (each)</i>						
More than 100,250 to less than 218,750	635	2.7	452	1.0	1,087	1.6
Partnered not coded	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Home ownership other (incl. aged care)</b>	26	0.1	19	0.0	45	0.1
Income/assets test not coded	29	0.1	283	0.6	312	0.5
<b>Country of birth (top five countries)</b>						
Australia	11,925	50.3	26,763	60.5	38,688	56.9
United Kingdom/Eire/Ireland	1,539	6.5	2,619	5.9	4,148	6.1
Italy	2,017	8.5	1,850	4.2	3,867	5.7
Greece	1,419	6.0	2,316	5.2	3,735	5.5
Yugoslavia	621	2.6	1,727	3.9	2,348	3.5
Other	6,209	26.2	8,963	20.3	15,172	22.3

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

Note: 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 a DVA 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 a DVA 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 12: Carer Payment customers by pension type, June 1984 to June 2002**

AS AT JUNE	AGE PENSION		DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION		OTHER <sup>(a)</sup>		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
2002 <sup>(b)</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	67,260	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) Figures by pension type are not available for 2002.

**Table 13: Carer Payment customers by state/territory and sex, June 2002**

STATE/TERRITORY	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	8,927	37.7	14,752	62.3	23,679	100.0
Victoria	5,989	35.5	10,889	64.5	16,878	100.0
Queensland	5,076	37.1	8,592	62.9	13,668	100.0
Western Australia	1,690	36.3	2,972	63.7	4,662	100.0
South Australia	2,049	40.2	3,049	59.8	5,098	100.0
Tasmania	1,000	41.9	1,384	58.1	2,384	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	181	35.8	325	64.2	506	100.0
Northern Territory	115	31.9	245	68.1	360	100.0
Other <sup>(a)</sup>	8	32.0	17	68.0	25	100.0
Total	25,035	37.2	42,225	62.8	67,260	100.0

(a) Includes unknown postcodes and overseas recipients.

**Table 14: Carer Payment customers, characteristics by sex, June 2002**

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Carer Payment customers	25,035	100.0	42,225	100.0	67,260	100.00
<b>Age (years)</b>						
Under 20	335	1.3	512	1.2	847	1.3
20-29	1,451	5.8	2,427	5.8	3,878	5.8
30-39	3,682	14.7	5,419	12.8	9,101	13.5
40-49	6,051	24.2	11,946	28.3	17,997	26.8
50-59	8,468	33.8	17,201	40.7	25,669	38.2
60-64	4,380	17.5	3,791	9.0	8,171	12.1
65 and over	668	2.7	929	2.2	1,597	2.4
<b>Status</b>						
<i>Couple</i>						
no dependants	15,217	60.8	18,390	43.6	33,607	49.9
with dependants	362	1.5	7,674	18.2	8,036	11.9
Total	15,579	62.2	26,064	61.7	41,643	61.6
<i>Single</i>						
no dependants	9,272	37.0	14,508	34.4	23,780	35.4
with dependants	184	0.7	1,653	3.9	1,837	2.7
Total	9,456	37.8	16,161	38.3	25,617	38.1
<b>Rate</b>						
Full rate	20,920	83.6	30,140	71.4	51,060	75.9
Part rate	4,115	16.4	12,085	28.6	16,200	24.1
<b>Home ownership</b>						
Home owner	10,713	42.8	22,222	52.6	32,935	48.9
Non-home owner	14,312	57.2	19,993	47.4	34,305	51.0
Other	10	0.0	10	0.0	20	0.0
<b>Paid under income test</b>						
<i>Income as assessed (\$ per week)</i>						
<i>Single</i>						
Nil	2,090	8.4	2,128	5.0	4,218	6.3
0.01-53.00	6,292	25.1	11,370	26.9	17,662	26.3
53.01-65.30	142	0.6	278	0.7	420	0.6
Over 65.30	775	3.1	2,178	5.2	2,953	4.4
<i>Partnered (each)</i>						
Nil	1,215	4.9	1,438	3.4	2,653	3.9
0.01-47.00	11,124	44.4	14,869	35.2	25,993	38.7
47.01-53.15	267	1.1	403	1.0	670	1.0
Over 53.15	2,453	9.8	8,315	19.7	10,768	16.0
Partnered rate not coded	3	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.0
<b>Non-home owners paid under assets test</b>						
<i>Assets as assessed (\$)</i>						
<i>Single</i>						
More than 228,750 to less than 364,750	40	0.2	42	0.1	82	0.1
<i>Partnered (each)</i>						
More than 142,500 to less than 255,500	8	0.0	25	0.1	33	0.0
Partnered not coded <sup>(a)</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

<b>Home owners paid under assets test</b>							
Assets as assessed (\$)							
Single							
More than 133,250 to less than 269,250	94	0.4	155	0.4	249	0.4	
Partnered (each)							
More than 94,750 to less than 207,750	418	1.7	852	2.0	1 270	1.9	
Partnered not coded	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Home ownership not coded	0	-	1	-	1	-	
Income/assets test not coded	114	0.5	171	0.4	285	0.4	
<b>Country of birth (top five countries)</b>							
Australia	17,333	69.2	29,274	69.3	46,607	69.3	
United Kingdom/Eire/Ireland	1,852	7.4	2,394	5.7	4,246	6.3	
Italy	457	1.8	890	2.1	1,347	2.0	
Lebanon	414	1.7	838	2.0	1,252	1.9	
Vietnam	408	1.6	708	1.7	1,116	1.7	
Other	4,571	18.3	8,121	19.2	12,692	18.9	

- (a) At least one variable required in determining the customer's assets test category was not coded (partnership category, home ownership type, income or assets 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 to seek medical treatment of a kind that is not available in Australia.

### Summary

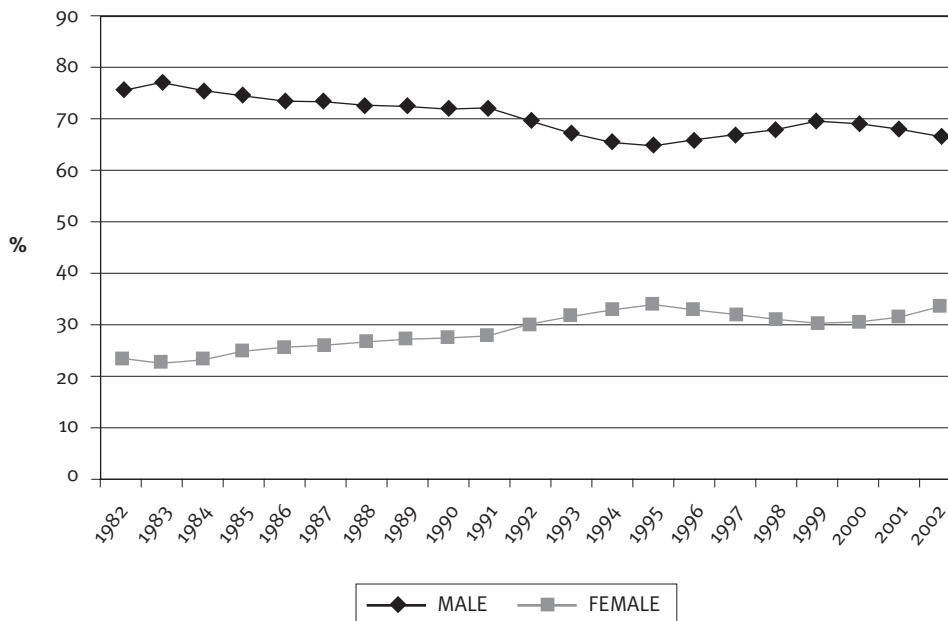
- ▶ As at June 2002, there were 9,522 people receiving Sickness Allowance.
- ▶ Sickness Allowance customers received payment for an average of 38 weeks.
- ▶ 26.0 per cent of Sickness Allowance recipients were aged between 25 and 34 years—25.7 per cent were aged between 35 and 44 years, and 23.2 per cent were aged between 45 and 54 years.
- ▶ 67 per cent of Sickness Allowance recipients were male.

**Table 15: Sickness Allowance customers by sex, June 1982 to June 2002 <sup>(a)</sup>**

AS AT JUNE	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
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 <sup>(b)</sup>	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 <sup>(c)</sup>	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
1998 <sup>(d)</sup>	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
2002	6,402	67.2	3,120	32.8	9,522	100.0

- (a) These figures are an average of weekly payments for the month ending June each year. Breakdown by sex 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) 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.
- (c) 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.
- (d) Break in series. Data from 1998 onward are derived from a point in time in the relevant quarter.

**Figure 4: Sickness Allowance customers, proportion by sex, June 1982 to June 2002**



**Table 16: Sickness Allowance customers by state/territory and sex, June 2002**

STATE/TERRITORY	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	1,872	68.3	868	31.7	2,740	100.0
Victoria	1,623	65.7	848	34.3	2,471	100.0
Queensland	1,398	67.4	675	32.6	2,073	100.0
Western Australia	722	70.6	301	29.4	1,023	100.0
South Australia	554	67.0	273	33.0	827	100.0
Tasmania	129	57.8	94	42.2	223	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	70	63.6	40	36.4	110	100.0
Northern Territory	34	61.8	21	38.2	55	100.0
Total	6,402	67.2	3,120	32.8	9,522	100.0

**Table 17: Sickness Allowance customers, characteristics by sex, June 2002**

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Sickness Allowance customers	6,402	100.0	3,120	100.0	9,522	100.0
<b>Age (years)</b>						
21-24	686	10.7	358	11.5	1,044	11.0
25-34	1,719	26.9	755	24.2	2,474	26.0
35-44	1,732	27.1	716	22.9	2,448	25.7
45-54	1,289	20.1	922	29.6	2,211	23.2
55-59	620	9.7	304	9.7	924	9.7
60-64	356	5.6	65	2.1	421	4.4
<b>Status</b>						
<i>Couple</i>						
no dependants	2,538	39.6	455	14.6	2,993	31.4
with dependants	47	0.7	142	4.6	189	2.0
Total	2,585	40.4	597	19.1	3,182	33.4
<i>Single</i>						
no dependants	3,770	58.9	2,437	78.1	6,207	65.2
with dependants	47	0.7	86	2.8	133	1.4
Total	3,817	59.6	2,523	80.9	6,340	66.6
<b>Income</b>						
Nil	6,094	95.2	2,802	89.8	8,896	93.4
0.01-31.00	34	0.5	18	0.6	52	0.5
Over 31.00	274	4.3	300	9.6	574	6.0
<b>Duration</b>						
<i>Up to 1 year</i>	5,176	80.8	2,524	80.9	7,700	80.9
< 7 weeks	1,377	21.5	671	21.5	2,048	21.5
7 weeks to < 3 months	1,259	19.7	564	18.1	1,823	19.1
3 months to < 6 months	1,340	20.9	707	22.7	2,047	21.5
6 months to < 1 year	1,200	18.7	582	18.7	1,782	18.7
<i>Over 1 year</i>	1,226	19.2	596	19.1	1,822	19.1
1 year to < 2 years	888	13.9	386	12.4	1,274	13.4
2 years to < 3 years	166	2.6	79	2.5	245	2.6
3 years and over	172	2.7	131	4.2	303	3.2
Mean duration (weeks)	36	-	41	-	38	-
Median duration (weeks)	18	-	18	-	18	-
<b>Country of birth (top five countries)</b>						
Australia	4,866	76.0	2,491	79.8	7,357	77.3
United Kingdom/Eire/Ireland	377	5.9	179	5.7	556	5.8
New Zealand	205	3.2	89	2.9	294	3.1
Italy	80	1.2	17	0.5	97	1.0
Yugoslavia	63	1.0	26	0.8	89	0.9
Other	811	12.7	318	10.2	1,129	11.9

## 2.6 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 DVA.

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 10 per cent increase since 2001. At June 2002, the total number of Mobility Allowance customers was 41,456.

Of the total number of Mobility Allowance customers, 55 per cent are male and 45 per cent are female.

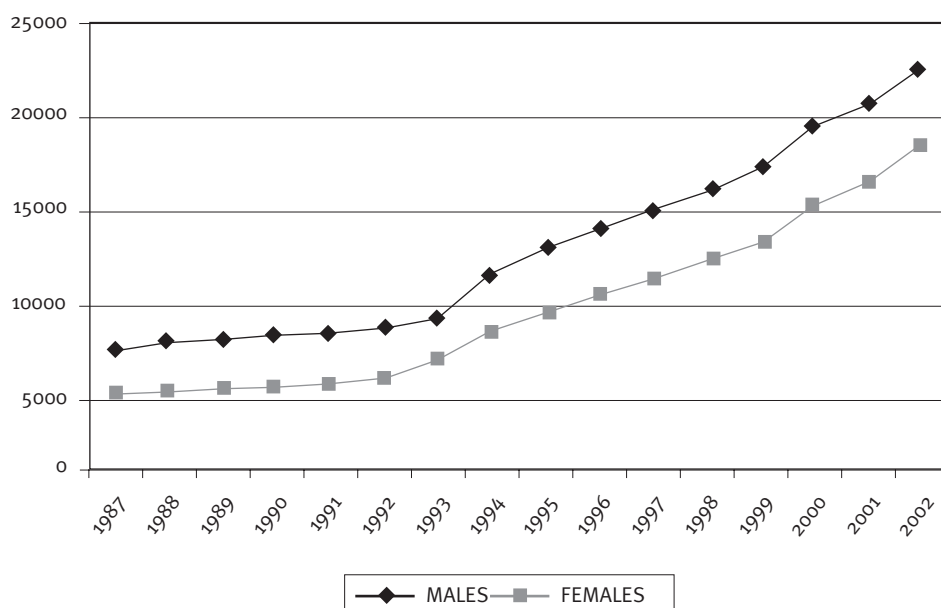


**Table 18: Mobility Allowance customers by sex, June 1983 to June 2002**

AS AT JUNE	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
1983	-	-	-	-	3,935	100.0
1984	-	-	-	-	9,480	100.0
1985	-	-	-	-	10,946	100.0
1986	-	-	-	-	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 <sup>(a)</sup>	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
2002	22,863	55.2	18,593	44.8	41,456	100.0

(a) 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 had job search incorporated into their Department of Social Security activity plan.

**Figure 5: Mobility Allowance customers by sex, 1987 to 2002**



**Table 19: Mobility Allowance customers by state/territory and sex, June 2002**

STATE/TERRITORY	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	6,692	56.2	5,211	43.8	11,903	100.0
Victoria	6,346	53.8	5,452	46.2	11,798	100.0
Queensland	4,510	57.3	3,367	42.7	7,877	100.0
Western Australia	1,866	54.7	1,543	45.3	3,409	100.0
South Australia	2,396	53.5	2,086	46.5	4,482	100.0
Tasmania	665	51.8	620	48.2	1,285	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	252	53.4	220	46.6	472	100.0
Northern Territory	123	57.5	91	42.5	214	100.0
Other <sup>(a)</sup>	13	81.3	3	18.8	16	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,863</b>	<b>55.2</b>	<b>18,593</b>	<b>44.8</b>	<b>41,456</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

## 2.7 Carer Allowance

Carer Allowance was introduced on 1 July 1999. It combined Child Disability Allowance with Domiciliary Nursing Care Benefit (the latter 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 or severe medical condition. The carer or parent may be eligible to receive a fortnightly payment of Carer Allowance for each eligible person in his or her 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 (CDAT) 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 Carer Allowance was introduced.

The person claiming must:

- ▶ be personally providing daily care to a care receiver who satisfies eligibility requirements, and
- ▶ provide care and attention in a private 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 ADAT), 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 CDAT as functioning at a level below the standard expected for his or her age, and
- ▶ an Australian resident, living with the claimant and likely to suffer from the disability permanently or for an extended period of at least 12 months (unless their condition is terminal).

**Table 20: Carer Allowance customers, June 1982 to June 2002<sup>(a)</sup>**

AS AT JUNE	CHILD <sup>(b)</sup>	ADULT <sup>(c)</sup>	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 <sup>(d)</sup>	116,955	84,104	–
2001	111,691	121,755	1,595
2002	115,404	154,425	2,216

- (a) Carer Allowance was introduced on 1 July 1999. It combined Child Disability Allowance with Domiciliary Nursing Care Benefit (the latter was previously the responsibility of the Health and Aged Care portfolio).
- (b) Excludes Health Care Card only customers.
- (c) From 2002, includes customers not coded by carer type.
- (d) Preliminary data, subject to revision. Estimates made from different data source than preceding and following data series.

**Table 21: Carer Allowance customers by state/territory and carer type, June 2002**

STATE/TERRITORY	CHILD <sup>(a)</sup>		ADULT <sup>(b)</sup>		ADULT AND CHILD		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	36,468	31.6	52,226	33.8	704	31.8	89,398	32.9
Victoria	30,555	26.5	40,014	25.9	591	26.7	71,160	26.2
Queensland	21,032	18.2	31,483	20.4	437	19.7	52,952	19.5
Western Australia	12,028	10.4	11,442	7.4	173	7.8	23,643	8.7
South Australia	9,656	8.4	12,396	8.0	211	9.5	22,263	8.2
Tasmania	3,123	2.7	4,666	3.0	68	3.1	7,857	2.9
Australian Capital Territory	1,836	1.6	1,416	0.9	26	1.2	3,278	1.2
Northern Territory	693	0.6	623	0.4	6	0.3	1,322	0.5
Other <sup>(c)</sup>	13	0.0	159	0.1	0	0.0	172	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>115,404</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>154,425</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,216</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>272,045</b>	<b>100.0</b>

- (a) Excludes 11,708 customers that only receive a Health Care Card.
- (b) Includes 562 customers not coded by carer type.
- (c) Includes overseas payments, unknown state/territory or invalid postcode.

### 3 Labour market allowances and parenting program

**Table 22: FaCS labour market-related payments, June 1982 to June 2002**

AS AT JUNE <sup>(a)</sup>	YOUTH ALLOWANCE <sup>(b)</sup>				YOUTH TRAINING ALLOWANCE <sup>(c)</sup>	NEWSTART ALLOWANCE	MATURE AGE ALLOWANCE <sup>(d)</sup>	PARTNER ALLOWANCE	WIDOW ALLOWANCE	SPECIAL BENEFIT
	AUSTUDY PAYMENT	FULL-TIME STUDENT	OTHER	TOTAL						
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	837,636	50,620	81,286	24,520	10,236
1999	47,170	314,301	89,060	403,361	–	684,737	45,538	84,589	28,190	11,808
2000	42,838	314,918	86,084	401,002	–	613,285	41,919	91,663	33,246	11,103
2001	41,992	313,112	91,418	404,168	–	611,998	39,101	93,650	37,089	12,712
2002	40,599	304,491	91,056	392,065	–	583,773	40,157	103,860	41,576	13,091

- (a) These figures are monthly averages of the weekly figures (except for Austudy Payment and Special Benefit, which are based on 15 June 2002 data). They include people who receive a nil rate of payment. Figures in italics have been corrected from previously published figures (*Sourced from Labour Market and Related Payments - a monthly profile*).
- (b) 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.
- (c) On 1 July 1998, many 16 to 20-year old Newstart Allowance and all Youth Training Allowance customers were transferred to Youth Allowance.
- (d) Includes people who are on Newstart Mature Age Allowance and who were on Mature Age Allowance and Mature Age Partner Allowance prior to July 1996 receiving the payment under pension conditions.

### 3.1 Austudy Payment

Austudy Payment was introduced on 1 July 1998 for full-time students, 25 years of age and over, undertaking qualified study. When Austudy Payment 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 years, remain on Youth Allowance until they cease that particular course of study.

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

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

**Table 23: Austudy Payment customers, characteristics by sex, June 2002<sup>(a)</sup>**

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Austudy customers	23,879	58.0	17,308	42.0	41,187	100.0
<b>Age (years)</b>						
25-29	9,090	38.1	7,230	41.8	16,320	39.6
30-34	6,056	25.4	3,845	22.2	9,901	24.0
35-39	3,619	15.2	1,957	11.3	5,576	13.5
40-44	2,389	10.0	1,770	10.2	4,159	10.1
45-49	1,517	6.4	1,466	8.5	2,983	7.2
50-54	753	3.2	759	4.4	1,512	3.7
55-59	378	1.6	253	1.5	631	1.5
60-64	77	0.3	28	0.2	105	0.2
<b>Status</b>						
Single or couple	17,626	73.8	14,478	83.6	32,104	77.9
Single with children	212	0.9	767	4.4	979	2.4
Couple with children	6,041	25.3	2,063	11.9	8,104	19.7
<b>Duration<sup>(b)</sup></b>						
< 3 months	2,237	9.4	1,704	9.8	3,941	9.6
3 to < 6 months	4,552	19.1	3,776	21.8	8,328	20.2
6 to < 9 months	1,153	4.8	882	5.1	2,035	4.9
9 months to < 1 year	1,558	6.5	1,174	6.8	2,732	6.6
1 to < 2 years	5,606	23.5	3,939	22.8	9,545	23.2
2 years and over	8,773	36.7	5,833	33.7	14,606	35.5
Mean duration (weeks)	100.2	-	100	-	100.1	-
Median duration (weeks)	69.0	-	66.4	-	68.0	-
<b>Income (\$ per week)<sup>(c)</sup></b>						
Nil	18,492	77.4	11,862	68.5	30,354	73.7
0.01-118.00	2,391	10.0	2,343	13.5	4,734	11.5
Over 118.00	2,996	12.5	3,103	17.9	6,099	14.8
<b>Study level</b>						
Secondary	536	2.2	365	2.1	901	2.2
Tertiary Group A Course	1,567	6.6	1,334	7.7	2,901	7.0
Tertiary Group B Course	12,539	52.5	9,176	53.0	21,715	52.7
Tertiary Group C Course	5,093	21.3	3,458	20.0	8,551	20.8
Tertiary Group D Course	3,996	16.7	2,893	16.7	6,889	16.7
Not recorded	148	0.6	82	0.5	230	0.6

(a) Customer numbers include those who received a nil rate of payment (588) due to their own or partner income. These figures are as at 21 June 2002.

(b) Duration is measured from the income support state date. For customers who previously received AUSTUDY, this duration would have been reset when Austudy payment was introduced and their durations could be underestimated.

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

## 3.2 Youth Allowance

Youth Allowance is paid by Centrelink on behalf of the Australian Government 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 Allowance 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 and simplicity, and the removal of disincentives to study.

Young people aged 16 to 21 years who are unemployed or aged 16 to 25 years (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 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 \$6,000, in the form of an income bank (like a credit).



**Table 24: Youth Allowance (full-time student) customers, characteristics by sex, June 2002<sup>(a)</sup>**

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Youth Allowance (full-time student) customers	142,530	45.5	170,395	54.4	313,068	100.0
<b>Age (years)</b>						
15	185	0.1	537	0.3	865	0.3
16	29,141	20.4	30,525	17.9	59,666	19.1
17	26,757	18.8	30,444	17.9	57,201	18.3
18	17,631	12.4	22,823	13.4	40,454	12.9
19	15,152	10.6	21,006	12.3	36,158	11.5
20	15,672	11.0	21,604	12.7	37,276	11.9
21	13,571	9.5	17,487	10.3	31,058	9.9
22	9,617	6.7	11,097	6.5	20,714	6.6
23	6,348	4.5	6,765	4.0	13,113	4.2
24	4,489	3.1	4,540	2.7	9,029	2.9
25 and over	3,967	2.8	3,567	2.1	7,534	2.4
<b>Rate</b>						
At home	95,827	67.2	105,316	61.8	201,143	64.2
Away from home or couple	46,846	32.9	65,079	38.2	111,925	35.8
Independent	44,806	31.4	58,380	34.3	103,186	33.0
Dependent	97,867	68.7	112,015	65.7	209,882	67.0
<b>Duration<sup>(b)</sup></b>						
< 3 months	15,298	10.7	16,894	9.9	32,192	10.3
3 to < 6 months	23,261	16.3	28,004	16.4	51,265	16.4
6 months to < 9 months	11,110	7.8	12,765	7.5	23,875	7.6
9 months to < 1 year	12,314	8.6	13,896	8.2	26,210	8.4
1 to < 2 years	37,630	26.4	44,662	26.2	82,292	26.3
2 years and over	43,060	30.2	54,174	31.8	97,234	31.1
Mean duration (weeks)	79.3	–	81.5	–	80.5	–
Median duration (weeks)	64.0	–	66.0	–	65.0	–
<b>Income (\$ per week)<sup>(c)</sup></b>						
Nil	107,479	75.4	111,178	65.2	218,657	69.8
0.01–118.00	20,066	14.1	33,144	19.5	53,210	17.0
Over 118.00	15,128	10.6	26,073	15.3	41,201	13.2
<b>Study level</b>						
Secondary	59,789	41.9	63,557	37.3	123,346	39.4
Tertiary Group A Course	2,630	1.8	3,798	2.2	6,428	2.1
Tertiary Group B Course	54,778	38.4	73,619	43.2	128,397	41.0
Tertiary Group C Course	12,471	8.7	14,041	8.2	26,512	8.5
Tertiary Group D Course	12,538	8.8	14,812	8.7	27,350	8.7
Not recorded	467	0.3	568	0.3	1,035	0.3

(a) Youth Allowance customers that are full-time students. They include customers that received a nil rate of payment (2,484) due to their own or partner income. These figures are as at 21 June 2002.

(b) Duration is measured from the income support state date.

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

**Table 25: Youth Allowance (other) customers, characteristics by sex, June 2002**

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Youth Allowance (other) customers <sup>(a)</sup>	48,674	100.0	41,665	100.0	90,339	100.0
<b>Age (years)</b>						
15	185	0.4	246	0.6	431	0.5
16	3,404	7.0	3,243	7.8	6,647	7.4
17	6,176	12.7	5,827	14.0	12,003	13.3
18	12,077	24.8	11,167	26.8	23,244	25.7
19	13,526	27.8	11,323	27.2	24,849	27.5
20	13,306	27.3	9,859	23.7	23,165	25.6
<b>Rate</b>						
At home	23,869	49.0	17,891	42.9	41,760	46.2
Away from home or couple	24,805	51.0	23,774	57.1	48,579	53.8
Independent	24,817	51.0	22,317	53.6	47,134	52.2
Dependent	23,857	49.0	19,348	46.4	43,205	47.8
<b>Duration<sup>(b)</sup></b>						
< 3 months	10,064	20.7	7,436	17.8	17,500	19.4
3 to < 6 months	6,992	14.4	5,729	13.8	12,721	14.1
6 months to < 9 months	4,483	9.2	3,625	8.7	8,108	9.0
9 months to < 1 year	3,393	7.0	2,768	6.6	6,161	6.8
1 to < 2 years	9,259	19.0	8,043	19.3	17,302	19.2
More than 2 years	14,483	29.8	14,064	33.8	28,547	31.6
Mean duration (weeks)	72.6	–	78.3	–	75.2	–
Median duration (weeks)	50.0	–	59.6	–	54.0	–
<b>Income (\$ per week)<sup>(c)</sup></b>						
Nil	41,919	86.1	33,051	79.3	74,970	83.0
0.01–31.00	834	1.7	1,071	2.6	1,905	2.1
31.01–118.00	2,611	5.4	3,742	9.0	6,353	7.0
Over 118.00	3,310	6.8	3,801	9.1	7,111	7.9
<b>Main activity type</b>						
Job search	28,934	59.4	24,463	58.7	53,397	59.1
Intensive assistance	7,709	15.8	5,987	14.4	13,696	15.2
Incapacitated	2,471	5.1	3,293	7.9	5,764	6.4
Work for the Dole	2,193	4.5	1,593	3.8	3,786	4.2
CDEP participant	1,399	2.9	739	1.8	2,138	2.4
Jobs Placement, Employment and Training	884	1.8	686	1.6	1,570	1.7
Remote location	724	1.5	521	1.3	1,245	1.4
Short course	560	1.2	548	1.3	1,108	1.2
Other	3,800	7.8	3,835	9.2	7,635	8.5

(a) Youth Allowance customers who are not full-time students. They include customers who received a nil rate of payment (2,095) due to their own or partner income. The figures also include 2,123 CDEP participants who receive a nil rate of basic Youth Allowance but may receive CDEP Supplement and/or add-on payments (Rent Assistance, Pharmaceutical Allowance, Remote Area Allowance). These figures are as at 21 June 2002.

(b) Duration is measured from the income support start date. This may include periods of Youth Allowance as a full-time student.

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

**Table 26: Youth Allowance customers, characteristics by sex, June 2002**

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Youth Allowance customers <sup>(a)</sup>	191,347	100.0	212,060	100.0	403,407	100.0
<b>Age (years)</b>						
15	370	0.3	783	0.4	1,296	0.3
16	32,545	17.0	33,768	15.9	66,313	16.4
17	32,933	17.2	36,271	17.1	69,204	17.2
18	29,708	15.5	33,990	16.0	63,698	15.8
19	28,678	15.0	32,329	15.2	61,007	15.1
20	28,975	15.1	31,459	14.8	60,434	15.0
21	13,573	7.1	17,490	8.2	31,063	7.7
22	9,618	5.0	11,097	5.2	20,715	5.1
23	6,348	3.3	6,766	3.2	13,114	3.3
24	4,489	2.3	4,540	2.1	9,029	2.2
25 and over	3,967	2.1	3,567	1.7	7,534	1.9
<b>Rate</b>						
At home	119,696	62.6	123,207	58.1	242,903	60.2
Away from home or couple	71,651	37.4	88,853	41.9	160,504	39.8
Independent	69,623	36.4	80,697	38.1	150,320	37.3
Dependent	121,724	63.6	131,363	61.9	253,087	62.7
<b>Duration<sup>(b)</sup></b>						
< 3 months	25,362	13.3	24,330	11.5	49,692	12.3
3 to < 6 months	30,253	15.8	33,733	15.9	63,986	15.9
6 months to < 9 months	15,593	8.1	16,390	7.7	31,983	7.9
9 months to < 1 year	15,707	8.2	16,664	7.9	32,371	8.0
1 to < 2 years	46,889	24.5	52,705	24.9	99,594	24.7
2 years or more	57,543	30.1	68,238	32.2	125,781	31.2
Mean duration (weeks)	77.6	–	80.8	–	79.3	–
Median duration (weeks)	61.0	–	65.9	–	64.0	–
<b>Income (\$ per week)<sup>(c)</sup></b>						
Nil	149,398	78.1	144,229	68	293,627	72.8
0.01–31.00	3,258	1.7	4,838	2.3	8,096	2.0
31.01–118.00	20,199	10.6	33,040	15.6	53,239	13.2
Over 118.00	18,492	9.7	29,953	14.1	48,445	12.0
<b>Student status</b>						
Full-time student	142,673	74.6	170,395	80.4	313,068	77.6
Part-time student	863	0.5	1,118	0.5	1,981	0.5
Not a student	47,811	25.0	40,547	19.1	88,358	21.9

(a) Youth Allowance customers that are either full-time students or Youth Allowance (other). These figures are as at 21 June 2002.

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

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

### 3.3 Newstart Allowance

Newstart Allowance 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 requirements were placed on young people (18 to 24 years) who were unemployed for at least six months. These Newstart Allowance 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, mutual obligation requirements were extended to 25 to 34 year-olds who have been unemployed for 12 months or more.

Newstart Allowance is subject to income and assets tests. Newstart Allowance customers 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 the allowance or the rate payable, and, in most cases, to provide details of their job search efforts.

#### Jobseekers

The jobseeker population is derived for Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (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 job search. The total number of jobseekers is calculated by adding together the number of jobseekers in receipt of Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other).

**Table 27: Short-term Newstart Allowance customers, characteristics by sex, June 2002 <sup>(a)</sup>**

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Short-term Newstart Allowance customers <sup>(b)</sup>	162,441	100.0	66,142	100.0	228,583	100.0
<b>Age (years)</b>						
18–24	31,345	19.3	16,850	25.5	48,195	21.1
25–29	30,643	18.9	11,602	17.5	42,245	18.5
30–34	25,163	15.5	7,305	11.0	32,468	14.2
35–39	19,377	11.9	5,489	8.3	24,866	10.9
40–44	15,933	9.8	6,832	10.3	22,765	10.0
45–49	12,007	7.4	7,295	11.0	19,302	8.4
50–59	20,770	12.8	9,725	14.7	30,495	13.3
60 and over	7,203	4.4	1,044	1.6	8,247	3.6
<b>Status</b>						
Single	114,064	70.2	52,461	79.3	166,525	72.9
Couple	48,377	29.8	13,681	20.7	62,058	27.1
<b>Country of birth (top five countries)</b>						
Australia	120,211	74.0	49,403	74.7	169,614	74.2
United Kingdom/Eire/Ireland	8,611	5.3	3,044	4.6	11,655	5.1
New Zealand	4,935	3.0	2,092	3.2	7,027	3.1
Vietnam	3,938	2.4	1,633	2.5	5,571	2.4
Lebanon	1,554	1.0	354	0.5	1,908	0.8
Other	23,192	14.3	9,616	14.5	32,808	14.4
<b>Duration<sup>(c)</sup></b>						
< 7 weeks	34,716	21.4	13,226	20.0	47,942	21.0
7 weeks to < 3 months	24,355	15.0	9,719	14.7	34,074	14.9
3 months to < 6 months	43,045	26.5	17,573	26.6	60,618	26.5
6 months to < 9 months	34,963	21.5	14,934	22.6	49,897	21.8
9 months to < 1 year	25,362	15.6	10,690		36,052	15.8
Mean duration (weeks)	21.1	–	21.6	–	21.2	–
Median duration (weeks)	18.8	–	20.0	–	19.1	–
<b>Income (\$ per week)<sup>(d)</sup></b>						
Nil	140,272	86.4	51,670	78.1	191,942	84.0
0.01–32.00	1,683	1.0	1,083	1.6	2,766	1.2
Over 32.00	20,486	12.6	13,389	20.2	33,875	14.8
<b>Activity type</b>						
Jobseekers	127,650	78.6	47,737	72.2	175,387	76.7
Incapacitated	20,577	12.7	11,230	17.0	31,807	13.9
Other <sup>(e)</sup>	14,214	8.8	7,175	10.8	21,389	9.4

(a) Short Term Newstart allowees are persons who have been receiving income support for less than 12 months.

(b) These figures do not include the people who receive a nil rate of payment (14,778).

(c) Duration as measured from the income support start date.

(d) Income is defined as earned income.

(e) 'Other' activity type includes customers involved in CDEP, paid employment, full-time and part-time voluntary work, part-time study, self-employment development, training, or otherwise exempt from job search for reasons such as major personal crisis, remote location or jury duty.

**Table 28: Long-term Newstart Allowance customers, characteristics by sex, June 2002 <sup>(a)</sup>**

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Long-term Newstart Allowance customers <sup>(b)</sup>	229,067	100.0	97,171	100.0	326,238	100.0
<b>Age (years)</b>						
18–24	32,603	14.2	18,662	19.2	51,265	15.7
25–29	36,309	15.9	13,524	13.9	49,833	15.3
30–34	32,809	14.3	9,627	9.9	42,436	13.0
35–39	30,211	13.2	9,305	9.6	39,516	12.1
40–44	28,410	12.4	13,125	13.5	41,535	12.7
45–49	23,822	10.4	14,951	15.4	38,773	11.9
50–59	42,189	18.4	17,501	18.0	59,690	18.3
60 and over	2,714	1.2	476	0.5	3,190	1.0
<b>Status</b>						
Single	160,623	70.1	78,978	81.3	239,601	73.4
Couple	68,444	29.9	18,193	18.7	86,637	26.6
<b>Country of birth (top five countries)</b>						
Australia	171,452	74.8	74,090	76.2	245,542	75.3
United Kingdom/Eire/Ireland	11,054	4.8	3,776	3.9	14,830	4.5
Vietnam	7,525	3.3	3,307	3.4	10,832	3.3
New Zealand	4,836	2.1	2,248	2.3	7,084	2.2
Lebanon	3,182	1.4	687	0.7	3,869	1.2
Other	31,018	13.5	13,063	13.4	44,081	13.5
<b>Duration<sup>(c)</sup></b>						
1 year to < 2 years	64,828	28.3	27,218	28.0	92,046	28.2
2 years to < 3 years	35,602	15.5	15,743	16.2	51,345	15.7
3 years to < 4 years	31,727	13.9	15,781	16.2	47,508	14.6
4 years to < 5 years	22,022	9.6	8,759	9.0	30,781	9.4
5 years and over	74,888	32.7	29,670	30.5	104,558	32.0
Mean duration (weeks)	223.6	–	227.5	–	224.8	–
Median duration (weeks)	180.9	–	177.6	–	180.0	–
<b>Income (\$ per week)<sup>(d)</sup></b>						
Nil	192,821	84.2	74,252	76.4	267,073	81.9
0.01–31.00	3,578	1.6	2,114	2.2	5,692	1.7
Over 31.00	32,668	14.3	20,805	21.4	53,473	16.4
<b>Activity type</b>						
Jobseekers	169,774	74.1	65,608	67.5	235,382	72.2
Incapacitated	28,874	12.6	16,333	16.8	45,207	13.9
Other <sup>(e)</sup>	30,419	13.3	15,230	15.7	45,649	14.0

(a) Long Term Newstart allowees are persons who have been receiving income support for 12 months or more.

(b) These figures do not include the people who receive a nil rate of payment (13,336).

(c) Duration as measured from the income support start date.

(d) Income is defined as earned income.

(e) 'Other' activity type includes customers involved in CDEP, paid employment, full-time and part-time voluntary work, part-time study, self-employment development, training, or otherwise exempt from job search for reasons such as major personal crisis, remote location or jury duty.

**Table 29: Total Newstart Allowance customers, characteristics by sex, June 2002**

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Newstart Allowance customers <sup>(a)</sup>	391,508	100.0	163,313	100.0	554,821	100.0
<b>Age (years)</b>						
18–24	63,948	16.3	35,512	21.7	99,460	17.9
25–29	66,952	17.1	25,126	15.4	92,078	16.6
30–34	57,972	14.8	16,932	10.4	74,904	13.5
35–39	49,588	12.7	14,794	9.1	64,382	11.6
40–44	44,343	11.3	19,957	12.2	64,300	11.6
45–49	35,829	9.2	22,246	13.6	58,075	10.5
50–59	62,959	16.1	27,226	16.7	90,185	16.3
60 and over	9,917	2.5	1,520	0.9	11,437	2.1
<b>Status</b>						
Single	274,687	70.2	131,439	80.5	406,126	73.2
Couple	116,821	29.8	31,874	19.5	148,695	26.8
<b>Country of birth (top five countries)</b>						
Australia	291,663	74.5	123,493	75.6	415,156	74.8
United Kingdom/Eire/Ireland	19,665	5.0	6,820	4.2	26,485	4.8
Vietnam	11,463	2.9	4,940	3.0	16,403	3.0
New Zealand	9,771	2.5	4,340	2.7	14,111	2.5
Lebanon	4,736	1.2	1,041	0.6	5,777	1.0
Other	54,210	13.8	22,679	13.9	76,889	13.9
<b>Duration<sup>(b)</sup></b>						
< 1 year	162,441	41.5	66,142	40.5	228,583	41.2
1 year to < 2 years	64,828	16.6	27,218	16.7	92,046	16.6
2 years to < 3 years	35,602	9.1	15,743	9.6	51,345	9.3
3 years to < 4 years	31,727	8.1	15,781	9.7	47,508	8.6
4 years to < 5 years	22,022	5.6	8,759	5.4	30,781	5.5
5 years and over	74,888	19.1	29,670	18.2	104,558	18.8
Mean duration (weeks)	139.6	–	144.1	–	140.9	–
Median duration (weeks)	75.3	–	78.0	–	76.1	–
<b>Income (\$ per week)<sup>(c)</sup></b>						
Nil	333,093	85.1	125,922	77.1	459,015	82.7
0.01–31.00	5,261	1.3	3,197	2.0	8,458	1.5
Over 31.00	53,154	13.6	34,194	20.9	87,348	15.7
<b>Activity type</b>						
Jobseekers	297,424	76.0	113,345	69.4	410,769	74.0
Incapacitated	49,451	12.6	27,563	16.9	77,014	13.9
Other <sup>(d)</sup>	44,633	11.4	22,405	13.7	67,038	12.1

(a) These figures do not include the people who receive a nil rate of payment (28,114).

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

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

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

**Table 30: Short-term unemployed customers, characteristics by sex, June 2002**

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Short-term unemployed customers <sup>(a)</sup>	186,915	100.0	85,233	100.0	272,148	100.0
<b>Age (years)</b>						
Under 18	6,455	3.5	5,795	6.8	12,250	4.5
18–24	49,364	26.4	30,146	35.4	79,510	29.2
25–29	30,643	16.4	11,602	13.6	42,245	15.5
30–34	25,163	13.5	7,305	8.6	32,468	11.9
35–39	19,377	10.4	5,489	6.4	24,866	9.1
40–44	15,933	8.5	6,832	8.0	22,765	8.4
45–49	12,007	6.4	7,295	8.6	19,302	7.1
50–59	20,770	11.1	9,725	11.4	30,495	11.2
60 and over	7,203	3.9	1,044	1.2	8,247	3.0
<b>Status</b>						
Single	137,323	73.5	69,700	81.8	207,023	76.1
Couple	49,592	26.5	15,533	18.2	65,125	23.9
<b>Country of birth (top five countries)</b>						
Australia	142,713	76.3	66,938	78.5	209,651	77.0
United Kingdom/Eire/Ireland	8,862	4.7	3,257	3.8	12,119	4.5
New Zealand	5,399	2.9	2,533	3.0	7,932	2.9
Vietnam	4,094	2.2	1,718	2.0	5,812	2.1
Lebanon	1,604	0.9	390	0.5	1,994	0.7
Other	24,243	13.0	10,397	12.2	34,640	12.7
<b>Duration<sup>(b)</sup></b>						
< 7 weeks	40,459	21.6	17,291	20.3	57,750	21.2
7 weeks to < 3 months	28,505	15.3	12,926	15.2	41,431	15.2
3 months to < 6 months	49,897	26.7	23,141	27.2	73,038	26.8
6 months to < 9 months	39,353	21.1	18,473	21.7	57,826	21.2
9 months to < 1 year	28,701	15.4	13,402	15.7	42,103	15.5
Mean duration (weeks)	20.9	–	21.3	–	21.0	–
Median duration (weeks)	18.2	–	19.0	–	18.4	–
<b>Income (\$ per week)<sup>(c)</sup></b>						
Nil	161,992	86.7	67,364	79.4	229,356	84.3
0.01–31.00	2,063	1.1	1,514	1.8	3,577	1.3
Over 31.00	22,860	12.2	16,355	19.2	39,215	14.4
<b>Activity type</b>						
Jobseekers	148,213	79.3	63,263	74.2	211,476	77.7
Incapacitated	21,938	11.7	12,817	15.0	34,755	12.8
Other <sup>(d)</sup>	16,764	9.0	9,153	10.7	25,917	9.5

(a) These figures do not include people who receive a nil rate of payment (15,713). 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 support start date.

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

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



**Table 31: Long-term unemployed customers, characteristics by sex, June 2002**

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Long-term unemployed <sup>(a)</sup>	252,276	100.0	118,641	100.0	370,917	100.0
<b>Age (years)</b>						
Under 18	3,164	1.3	3,409	2.9	6,573	1.8
18–24	52,648	20.9	36,723	31.0	89,371	24.1
25–29	36,309	14.4	13,524	11.4	49,833	13.4
30–34	32,809	13.0	9,627	8.1	42,436	11.4
35–39	30,211	12.0	9,305	7.8	39,516	10.7
40–44	28,410	11.3	13,125	11.1	41,535	11.2
45–49	23,822	9.4	14,951	12.6	38,773	10.5
50–59	42,189	16.7	17,501	14.8	59,690	16.1
60 and over	2,714	1.1	476	0.4	3,190	0.9
<b>Status</b>						
Single	182,393	72.3	98,768	83.2	281,161	75.8
Couple	69,883	27.7	19,873	16.8	89,756	24.2
<b>Country of birth (top five countries)</b>						
Australia	192,910	76.5	93,970	79.2	286,880	77.3
United Kingdom/Eire/Ireland	11,208	4.4	3,911	3.3	15,119	4.1
Vietnam	5,151	2.0	2,598	2.2	7,749	2.1
Lebanon	7,707	3.1	3,459	2.9	11,166	3
New Zealand	3,237	1.3	732	0.6	3,969	1.1
Other	32,063	12.7	13,971	11.8	46,034	12.4
<b>Duration<sup>(b)</sup></b>						
1 year to < 2 years	73,916	29.3	35,080	29.6	108,996	29.4
2 years to < 3 years	42,632	16.9	22,693	19.1	65,325	17.6
3 years to < 4 years	37,744	15.0	21,735	18.3	59,479	16.0
4 years to < 5 years	23,016	9.1	9,407	7.9	32,423	8.7
5 years and over	74,968	29.7	29,726	25.1	104,694	28.2
Mean duration (weeks)	214.8	–	209.7	–	213.2	–
Median duration (weeks)	170.0	–	161.5	–	168.3	–
<b>Income (\$ per week)<sup>(c)</sup></b>						
Nil	212,846	84.4	91,446	77.1	304,292	82.0
0.01–31.00	4,030	1.6	2,750	2.3	6,780	1.8
Over 31.00	35,400	14.0	24,445	20.6	59,845	16.1
<b>Activity type</b>						
Jobseekers	189,160	75.0	83,279	70.2	272,439	73.4
Incapacitated	29,952	11.9	17,958	15.1	47,910	12.9
Other <sup>(d)</sup>	33,164	13.1	17,404	14.7	50,568	13.6

(a) These figures do not include people who receive a nil rate of payment (14,506). 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 support start date.

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

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

**Table 32: Total unemployed customers, characteristics by sex, June 2002**

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Total unemployed customers <sup>(a)</sup>	439,191	100.0	203,874	100.0	643,065	100.0
<b>Age (years)</b>						
Under 18	9,619	2.2	9,204	4.5	18,823	2.9
18–24	102,012	23.2	66,869	32.8	168,881	26.3
25–29	66,952	15.2	25,126	12.3	92,078	14.3
30–34	57,972	13.2	16,932	8.3	74,904	11.6
35–39	49,588	11.3	14,794	7.3	64,382	10.0
40–44	44,343	10.1	19,957	9.8	64,300	10.0
45–49	35,829	8.2	22,246	10.9	58,075	9.0
50–59	62,959	14.3	27,226	13.4	90,185	14.0
60 and over	9,917	2.3	1,520	0.7	11,437	1.8
<b>Status</b>						
Single	319,716	72.8	168,468	82.6	488,184	75.9
Couple	119,475	27.2	35,406	17.4	154,881	24.1
<b>Country of Birth (top five countries)</b>						
Australia	335,547	76.4	160,887	78.9	496,434	77.2
United Kingdom/Eire/Ireland	20,070	4.6	7,168	3.5	27,238	4.2
New Zealand	10,550	2.4	5,131	2.5	15,681	2.4
Vietnam	11,801	2.7	5,177	2.5	16,978	2.6
Lebanon	4,841	1.1	1,122	0.6	5,963	0.9
Other	56,382	12.8	24,389	12.0	80,771	12.6
<b>Duration<sup>(b)</sup></b>						
< 1 year	186,915	42.6	85,233	41.8	272,148	42.3
1 year to < 2 years	73,916	16.8	35,080	17.2	108,996	16.9
2 years to < 3 years	42,632	9.7	22,693	11.1	65,325	10.2
3 years to < 4 years	37,744	8.6	21,735	10.7	59,479	9.2
4 years to < 5 years	23,016	5.2	9,407	4.6	32,423	5.0
5 years and over	74,968	17.1	29,726	14.6	104,694	16.3
Mean duration (weeks)	132.3	–	130.9	–	131.9	–
Median duration (weeks)	70.1	–	72.0	–	70.3	–
<b>Income (\$ per week)<sup>(c)</sup></b>						
Nil	374,838	85.3	158,810	77.9	533,648	83.0
0.01–31.00	6,093	1.4	4,264	2.1	10,357	1.6
Over 31.00	58,260	13.3	40,800	20.0	99,060	15.4
<b>Activity type</b>						
Jobseekers	337,373	76.8	146,542	71.9	483,915	110.2
Incapacitated	51,890	11.8	30,775	15.1	82,665	18.8
Other <sup>(d)</sup>	49,928	11.4	26,557	13.0	76,485	17.4

(a) These figures do not include people who receive a nil rate of payment (30,219). 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 support start date.

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

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

**Table 33: Unemployed customers by state/territory, June 2002<sup>(a)</sup>**

STATES/TERRITORY	NEWSTART ALLOWANCE		YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) <sup>(b)</sup>		TOTAL	
	SHORT-TERM	LONG-TERM	SHORT-TERM	LONG-TERM	SHORT-TERM	LONG-TERM
New South Wales	69,631	99,257	12,837	12,644	82,468	111,901
Victoria	52,367	73,855	7,455	8,612	59,822	82,467
Queensland	51,332	67,097	10,859	10,826	62,191	77,923
Western Australia	26,934	30,294	5,830	4,391	32,764	34,685
South Australia	16,402	29,583	3,483	4,066	19,885	33,649
Tasmania	5,745	13,159	1,406	2,301	7,151	15,460
Australian Capital Territory	2,117	2,955	351	453	2,468	3,408
Northern Territory	4,055	10,038	1,344	1,386	5,399	11,424
<b>Total</b>	<b>228,583</b>	<b>326,238</b>	<b>43,565</b>	<b>44,679</b>	<b>272,148</b>	<b>370,917</b>

(a) These figures do not include people who receive a nil rate of payment (30,219). The number of unemployed customers comprise 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) Youth Allowance customers whose student status is other than full-time students.

**Table 34: Monthly average number of unemployed customers by allowance type and duration, June 1982 to June 2002**

AS AT JUNE <sup>(b)</sup>	NEWSTART ALLOWANCE	YOUTH TRAINING ALLOWANCE	YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED CUSTOMERS <sup>(a)</sup>					
				SHORT-TERM		LONG-TERM		TOTAL	
				NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
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 <sup>(c)</sup>	800,714	21,857	-	431,072	52.4	391,499	47.6	822,571	100.0
1996 <sup>(c)</sup>	812,365	34,191	-	500,596	59.1	345,960	40.9	846,556	100.0
1997 <sup>(c)</sup>	797,961	31,942	-	424,772	51.2	405,131	48.8	829,903	100.0
1998 <sup>(c)</sup>	837,636	30,674	-	419,377	41.8	452,224	51.9	871,541	100.0
1999	684,737	-	89,060	348,444	45.0	425,353	55.0	773,797	100.0
2000	613,285	-	86,084	287,179	41.1	412,190	58.9	699,369	100.0
2001	611,988	-	91,418	321,584	45.7	381,822	54.3	703,406	100.0
2002	583,773	-	91,056	289,047	42.8	385,782	57.2	674,829	100.0

(a) Source: *Labour market and related payments—a monthly profile (FaCS)*.

(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 customers on Youth Training Allowance and Newstart Allowance. When Youth Allowance replaced Youth Training Allowance in July 1998, the number of unemployed customers comprised customers who were on Youth Allowance with a student status of other than full-time student [generally referred to as Youth Allowance (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 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 Mature Age Allowance 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 Mature Age Allowance, or
  - have received at least one payment of Widow Allowance, Partner Allowance, Sickness Allowance, Austudy Payment, Parenting Payment, a FaCS pension or a DVA service pension at any time within the 13 weeks immediately before claiming, or
  - have previously received Mature Age Allowance.

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

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

Mature Age Allowance recipients are eligible to receive a Pensioner Concession Card.

**Table 35: Mature Age Allowance customers, characteristics by sex, June 2002**

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Mature Age Allowance customers	36,801	100.0	3,331	100.0	40,132	100.0
<b>Age (years)</b>						
60	4,362	11.9	1,288	38.7	5,650	14.1
61	6,310	17.1	2,043	61.2	8,350	20.8
62	7,690	20.9	0	0.0	7,693	19.2
63	8,724	23.7	0	0.0	8,724	21.7
64	9,715	26.4	0	0.0	9,715	24.2
<b>Duration<sup>(a)</sup></b>						
< 7 weeks	1,627	4.4	248	7.4	1,875	4.7
7 weeks to < 3 months	1,454	4.0	185	5.6	1,639	4.1
3 months to < 6 months	309	0.8	49	1.5	358	0.9
6 months to < 9 months	267	0.7	43	1.3	310	0.8
9 months to < 1 year	853	2.3	79	2.4	932	2.3
<i>More than 1 year</i>						
1 year to < 2 years	4,937	13.4	622	18.7	5,559	13.9
2 to < 3 years	4,638	12.6	527	15.8	5,165	12.9
3 to < 4 years	4,376	11.9	336	10.1	4,712	11.7
4 to < 5 years	3,542	9.6	278	8.3	3,820	9.5
5 years and over	14,798	40.2	964	28.9	15,762	39.3
Total	36,801	100.0	3,331	100.0	40,132	100.0
Mean duration (weeks)	244.8	–	197.7	–	240.9	–
Median duration (weeks)	207.8	–	146.1	–	204	–
<b>Country of birth (top five countries)</b>						
Australia	21,245	57.7	2,113	63.4	23,358	58.2
United Kingdom/Eire/Ireland	5,467	14.9	387	11.6	5,854	14.6
Italy	868	2.4	27	0.8	895	2.2
Greece	729	2.0	27	0.8	756	1.9
China	654	1.8	128	3.8	782	1.9
Other	7,838	21.3	649	19.5	8,487	21.1
<b>Paid under income test</b>						
<i>Income as assessed (\$ per week)</i>						
Nil	34,172	92.9	3,028	90.9	37,200	92.7
0.01–31.00	597	1.6	62	1.9	659	1.6
Over 31.00	2,032	5.5	241	7.2	2,273	5.7
<b>State/territory</b>						
New South Wales	11,571	31.4	1,203	36.1	12,774	31.8
Victoria	9,004	24.5	712	21.4	9,716	24.2
Queensland	8,152	22.2	773	23.2	8,925	22.2
Western Australia	3,187	8.7	233	7.0	3,420	8.5
South Australia	3,104	8.4	239	7.2	3,343	8.3
Tasmania	1,403	3.8	121	3.6	1,524	3.8
Australian Capital Territory	203	0.6	20	0.6	223	0.6
Northern Territory	177	0.5	30	0.9	207	0.5

(a) Duration measured from income support start date.

## 3.5 Widow Allowance

Widow Allowance 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.

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

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

**Table 36: Widow Allowance customers, characteristics, June 2002**

CHARACTERISTICS	FEMALE	
	NO.	%
Widow Allowance customers <sup>(a)</sup>	41,277	100.0
<b>Age (years)</b>		
50–54	9,577	23.2
55–59	18,480	44.8
60–64	8,711	21.1
65 and over	4,509	10.9
<b>Duration<sup>(b)</sup></b>		
Up to 1 year		
< 7 weeks	798	1.9
7 weeks to < 3 months	720	1.7
3 months to < 6 months	965	2.3
6 months to < 9 months	1,542	3.7
9 months to < 1 year	1,904	4.6
Over 1 year		
1 year to < 2 years	6,164	14.9
2 years to < 3 years	5,537	13.4
3 years < 4 years	5,521	13.4
4 years to < 5 years	3,906	9.5
5 years and over	14,220	34.5
Mean duration (weeks)	191.4	–
Median duration (weeks)	149.9	–
<b>Country of birth (top five countries)</b>		
Australia	23,633	57.3
United Kingdom/Eire/Ireland	3,249	7.9
Philippines	832	2.0
China	1,639	4.0
Vietnam	1,114	2.7
Other	10,810	26.2
<b>Paid under income test</b>		
<i>Income as assessed (\$ per week)</i>		
Nil	36,789	89.1
0.01–31.00	819	2.0
Over 31.00	3,669	8.9
<b>State/territory</b>		
New South Wales	13,239	32.1
Victoria	10,847	26.3
Queensland	8,759	21.2
Western Australia	3,625	8.8
South Australia	3,173	7.7
Tasmania	1,089	2.6
Australian Capital Territory	356	0.9
Northern Territory	189	0.5

(a) These figures are from the 21 June 2002. They exclude people on nil rate of payment (382).

(b) Duration measured from income support start date.

## 3.6 Partner Allowance

Prior to the introduction of Partner Allowance, 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 (defined as at least 20 hours a week for a total of 13 weeks or more in the previous 12 months – as per Mature Age Allowance and Widow Allowance in the previous sections). 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 a DVA Service Pension.

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



**Table 37: Partner Allowance customers, characteristics by sex, June 2002**

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Partner Allowance customers <sup>(a)</sup>	11,985	100.0	90,345	100.0	102,330	100.0
<b>Age (years)</b>						
Under 50	419	3.5	7,004	7.8	7,423	7.3
50–54	1,262	10.5	21,119	23.4	22,381	21.9
55–59	2,732	22.8	39,294	43.5	42,026	41.1
60–64	5,494	45.8	20,555	22.8	26,049	25.5
65 and over	2,078	17.3	2,373	2.6	4,451	4.3
<b>Duration<sup>(b)</sup></b>						
< 7 weeks	484	4.0	2,437	2.7	2,921	2.9
7 weeks to < 3 months	445	3.7	2,162	2.4	2,607	2.5
3 months to < 6 months	748	6.2	4,170	4.6	4,918	4.8
6 months to < 9 months	807	6.7	4,895	5.4	5,702	5.6
9 months to < 1 year	1,539	12.8	6,202	6.9	7,741	7.6
<i>Over 1 year</i>						
1 year to < 2 years	1,947	16.2	13,880	15.4	15,827	15.5
2 years to < 3 years	1,199	10.0	11,474	12.7	12,673	12.4
3 years to < 4 years	1,104	9.2	10,838	12.0	11,942	11.7
4 years to < 5 years	837	7.0	8,283	9.2	9,120	8.9
5 years and over	2,875	24.0	26,004	28.8	28,879	28.2
Mean duration (weeks)	162.2	–	180.5	–	178.4	–
Median duration (weeks)	105.5	–	156.1	–	152	–
<b>Country of birth (top five countries)</b>						
Australia	6,122	51.1	56,665	62.7	62,787	61.4
United Kingdom/Eire/Ireland	1,344	11.2	7,680	8.5	9,024	8.8
China	991	8.3	2,578	2.9	3,569	3.5
Italy	165	1.4	2,556	2.8	2,721	2.7
Vietnam	376	3.1	1,696	1.9	2,072	2.0
Other	2,987	24.9	19,170	21.2	22,157	21.7
<b>Paid under income test</b>						
<i>Income as assessed (\$ per week)</i>						
Nil	11,142	93.0	82,826	91.7	93,968	91.8
0.01–31.00	153	1.3	1,123	1.2	1,276	1.2
Over 31.00	690	5.8	6,396	7.1	7,086	6.9
<b>State/territory</b>						
New South Wales	4,409	36.8	28,559	31.6	32,968	32.2
Victoria	2,894	24.1	22,922	25.4	25,816	25.2
Queensland	2,106	17.6	17,879	19.8	19,985	19.5
Western Australia	753	6.3	7,921	8.8	8,674	8.5
South Australia	1,195	10.0	8,691	9.6	9,886	9.7
Tasmania	507	4.2	3,614	4.0	4,121	4.0
Australian Capital Territory	91	0.8	486	0.5	577	0.6
Northern Territory	30	0.3	273	0.3	303	0.3

(a) Excludes zero paid customers (1,561).

(b) Duration measured from income support 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 Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services.

To qualify for Special Benefit a person must:

- ▶ be in severe financial hardship
- ▶ 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
- ▶ be unable to receive any social security pension or income support payment from Centrelink, or service pension from DVA
- ▶ 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 38: Special Benefit customers, Special Benefit category by sex,  
June 2002<sup>(a)</sup>**

SPECIAL BENEFIT CATEGORY	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Assurance of support	21	0.3	29	0.6	50	0.4
Australian citizen child in custody of non-permanent resident	28	0.3	24	0.5	52	0.4
Caring for child	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	42	0.3
Caring for incapacitated person	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Newly arrived migrants (NAM) in Waiting Period (conversion only)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
NAM in waiting period for Special Benefit	21	0.3	22	0.4	43	0.3
NAM in two-year waiting period (pre-10 December 2000)	347	4.3	360	7.2	707	5.4
NAM in two-year waiting period for:						
▶ Partner Allowance						
▶ Widow Allowance						
▶ Parenting Payment Partnered						
▶ Newstart Mature Age Allowance						
▶ Carer Payment						
▶ Disability Wage Supplement	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	163	1.2
Not residentially qualified for Age Pension	3,044	37.8	2,143	42.6	5,187	39.6
Not residentially qualified for Disability Support Pension (post-10 December 2000)	68	0.8	69	1.4	137	1.0
Not residentially qualified for other pension (pre-10 December 2000)	130	1.6	99	2.0	229	1.7
Other cases (long-term)	190	2.4	197	3.9	387	3.0
Other cases (short-term)	67	0.8	91	1.8	158	1.2
Socially marginalised	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	24	0.2
Spouse Extended Eligibility Temporary Entry Permit (pre-10 December 2000)	43	0.5	94	1.9	137	1.0
Spouse provisional visa (post-10 December 2000)	408	5.1	696	13.8	1,104	8.4
Temporary protection visa	3,618	44.9	920	18.3	4,538	34.7
Under 16 years	32	0.4	73	1.5	105	0.8
Not coded	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Total	8,060	100.0	5,031	100.0	13,091	100.0

(a) Data as at June 2002, excludes zero paid (224).

**Table 39: Special Benefit customers, characteristics by sex, June 2002<sup>(a)</sup>**

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Special Benefit customers	8,223	100.0	5,092	100.0	13,315	100.0
<b>Age (years)</b>						
Under 16	65	0.8	101	2.0	166	1.2
16–17	168	2.0	70	1.4	238	1.8
18–20	344	4.2	212	4.2	556	4.2
21–24	734	8.9	482	9.5	1,216	9.1
25–34	2,082	25.3	976	19.2	3,058	23.0
35–44	1,011	12.3	479	9.4	1,490	11.2
45–54	374	4.5	267	5.2	641	4.8
55–59	79	1.0	81	1.6	160	1.2
60–64	67	0.8	267	5.2	334	2.5
65 and over	3,299	40.1	2,157	42.4	5,456	41.0
<b>Status</b>						
<i>Single</i>	4,331	52.7	2,321	45.6	6,652	50.0
without children	4,296	52.2	2,114	41.5	6,410	48.1
with children	35	0.4	207	4.1	242	1.8
<i>Couple</i>	3,892	47.3	2,771	54.4	6,663	50.0
<b>Country of birth (top five countries)</b>						
Iraq	2,179	26.5	807	15.8	2,986	22.4
China	1,528	18.6	890	17.5	2,418	18.2
Islamic State of Afghanistan	1,304	15.9	212	4.2	1,516	11.4
Lebanon	389	4.7	273	5.4	662	5.0
Vietnam	215	2.6	337	6.6	552	4.1
Other	2,608	31.7	2,573	50.5	5,181	38.9
<b>Duration<sup>(b)</sup></b>						
< 7 weeks	433	5.3	327	6.4	760	5.7
7 weeks to < 3 months	497	6.0	292	5.7	789	5.9
3 months to < 6 months	871	10.6	602	11.8	1,473	11.1
6 months to < 9 months	680	8.3	455	8.9	1,135	8.5
9 months to < 1 year	684	8.3	430	8.4	1,114	8.4
<i>Over 1 year</i>						
1 year to < 2 years	2,634	32.0	1,214	23.8	3,848	28.9
2 years to < 3 years	677	8.2	455	8.9	1,132	8.5
3 years to < 4 years	740	9.0	485	9.5	1,225	9.2
4 years to < 5 years	505	6.1	324	6.4	829	6.2
5 years and over	502	6.1	508	10.0	1,010	7.6
Mean duration (weeks)	98.8	–	108.1	–	102.4	–
Median duration (weeks)	78.1	–	69.3	–	74.3	–
<b>Income (\$ per week)<sup>(c)</sup></b>						
Nil	7,909	96.2	5,020	98.6	12,929	97.1
Greater than Nil	314	3.8	72	1.4	386	2.9

(a) Data as at June 2002, excludes zero paid customers (224).

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

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

**Table 40: Special Benefit customers by state/territory and sex, June 2002<sup>(a)</sup>**

STATE/TERRITORY	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	4,135	63.7	2,359	36.3	6,494	100.0
Victoria	2,201	59.6	1,492	40.4	3,693	100.0
Queensland	526	59.0	366	41.0	892	100.0
Western Australia	512	63.8	290	36.2	802	100.0
South Australia	550	64.3	305	35.7	855	100.0
Tasmania	40	33.3	80	66.7	120	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	86	43.0	114	57.0	200	100.0
Northern Territory	10	28.6	25	71.4	35	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,060</b>	<b>61.6</b>	<b>5,031</b>	<b>38.4</b>	<b>13,091</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Data as at June 2002, excludes zero paid customers (224).

**Table 41: Special Benefit customers by sex, June 1982 to June 2002<sup>(a)</sup>**

AS AT JUNE	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
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	4,733	46.2	5,503	53.8	10,236	100.0
1999	5,232	44.3	6,576	55.7	11,808	100.0
2000	5,313	48.4	5,658	51.6	10,971	100.0
2001	7,466	58.7	5,246	41.3	12,712	100.0
2002	8,060	61.6	5,031	38.4	13,091	100.0

(a) From 1982 to 1997, these figures are an average of the weekly payments for the month ending June each year. From 1998 to 2002, these figures are point in time and as such will differ from averages of the 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 years
- ▶ 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 42: Parenting Payment (Single) customers by sex, June 1981 to June 2002**

AS AT JUNE	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	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 <sup>(a)</sup>	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 <sup>(b)</sup>	25,546	6.9	346,740	93.1	372,286	100.0
1999	26,830	7.0	355,493	93.0	382,323	100.0
2000	27,951	7.1	363,442	92.9	391,393	100.0
2001	31,661	7.6	385,000	92.4	416,661	100.0
2002	32,966	7.7	394,880	92.3	427,846	100.0

(a) Sole Parent Pension replaced the Supporting Parents' benefit and Widow Pension Class A in March 1989.

(b) In March 1998 Parenting Payment was also introduced. It replaced Sole Parent Pension and Parenting Allowance.

**Table 43: Parenting Payment (Single) customers by state/territory and sex, June 2002**

STATE/TERRITORY	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	10,552	7.6	128,118	92.4	138,670	100.0
Victoria	6,040	6.5	87,500	93.5	93,540	100.0
Queensland	7,851	8.4	85,362	91.6	93,213	100.0
Western Australia	3,401	7.7	40,633	92.3	44,034	100.0
South Australia	3,121	9.0	31,420	91.0	34,541	100.0
Tasmania	1,153	9.1	11,529	90.9	12,682	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	358	6.9	4,847	93.1	5,205	100.0
Northern Territory	482	8.4	5,269	91.6	5,751	100.0
Other <sup>(a)</sup>	8	3.8	202	96.2	210	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,966</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>394,880</b>	<b>92.3</b>	<b>427,846</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Includes not coded or invalid postcodes.

**Table 44: Parenting Payment (Single) customers, characteristics by sex, June 2002<sup>(a)</sup>**

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Parenting Payment (Single) customers	32,966	100.0	394,880	100.0	427,846	100.0
<b>Age (years)</b>						
Under 20	99	0.3	10,027	2.5	10,126	2.4
20–29	4,709	14.3	112,142	28.4	116,851	27.3
30–39	13,517	41.0	163,141	41.3	176,658	41.3
40–49	11,407	34.6	97,003	24.6	108,410	25.3
50–59	2,899	8.8	12,174	3.1	15,073	3.5
60 and over	335	1.0	393	0.1	728	0.2
<b>Rate</b>						
Full rate	26,961	81.8	290,676	73.6	317,637	74.2
Part rate	6,005	18.2	104,204	26.4	110,209	25.8
<b>Duration<sup>(b)</sup></b>						
< 6 months	7,130	21.6	52,054	13.2	59,184	13.8
6 months to < 1 year	5,014	15.2	43,164	10.9	48,178	11.3
1 year to < 2 years	7,424	22.5	70,980	18.0	78,404	18.3
2 years to < 3 years	4,325	13.1	53,651	13.6	57,976	13.6
3 years and over	9,073	27.5	175,031	44.3	184,104	43.0
Mean duration (weeks)	102.7	–	135.7	–	133.2	–
Median duration (weeks)	79.8	–	131.9	–	126.6	–
<b>Home ownership</b>						
Home owner	6,815	20.7	82,098	20.8	88,913	20.8
Non-home owner	26,151	79.3	312,782	79.2	338,933	79.2
<b>Country of birth (top five countries)</b>						
Australia	26,289	79.7	315,042	79.8	341,331	79.8
United Kingdom/Eire/Ireland	1,797	5.5	16,630	4.2	18,427	4.3
New Zealand	1,100	3.3	12,754	3.2	13,854	3.2
Vietnam	559	1.7	9,768	2.5	10,327	2.4
Philippines	87	0.3	3,227	0.8	3,314	0.8
Other	3,134	9.5	37,459	9.5	40,593	9.5

(a) Excludes 8,815 suspended customers, sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar databases of 21 June 2002.

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

**Table 45: Parenting Payment (Partnered) customers by state/territory and payment category, June 2002**

STATE/TERRITORY	PARTNERED BY			TOTAL
	LOW INCOME PARTNER	NEWSTART ALLOWANCE PARTNER <sup>(a)</sup>	PENSION PARTNER AND LOW INCOME PARTNER	
New South Wales	28,022	26,079	7,893	61,994
Victoria	19,949	18,180	5,552	43,681
Queensland	15,644	18,358	5,409	39,411
Western Australia	7,735	8,943	2,094	18,772
South Australia	6,065	7,029	2,489	15,583
Tasmania	2,195	3,646	1,118	6,959
Australian Capital Territory	662	575	217	1,454
Northern Territory	766	2,569	297	3,632
Other <sup>(b)</sup>	40	43	7	90
<b>Total</b>	<b>81,078</b>	<b>85,422</b>	<b>25,076</b>	<b>191,576</b>

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

(b) Includes not coded or invalid postcodes.

**Table 46: Parenting Payment (Partnered) customers, characteristics by sex, June 2002<sup>(a)</sup>**

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Parenting Payment Partnered	19,576	100.0	172,000	100.0	191,576	100.0
<b>Age (years)</b>						
Under 20	56	0.3	3,201	1.9	3,257	1.7
20–29	2,136	10.9	41,814	24.3	43,950	22.9
30–39	7,882	40.3	77,755	45.2	85,637	44.7
40–49	7,300	37.3	43,172	25.1	50,472	26.3
50–59	1,995	10.2	5,851	3.4	7,846	4.1
60 and over	207	1.1	207	0.1	414	0.2
<b>Rate</b>						
Full rate	11,225	57.3	111,504	64.8	122,729	64.1
Part rate <sup>(b)</sup>	8,351	42.7	60,496	35.2	68,847	35.9
<b>Duration<sup>(c)</sup></b>						
< 6 months	6,487	33.1	39,669	23.1	46,156	24.1
6 months to < 1 year	3,480	17.8	24,365	14.2	27,845	14.5
1 year to < 2 years	3,953	20.2	30,825	17.9	34,778	18.2
2 years to < 3 years	2,006	10.2	14,780	8.6	16,786	8.8
3 years and over	3,650	18.6	62,361	36.3	66,011	34.5
Mean duration (weeks)	78.1	–	111.5	–	108.0	–
Median duration (weeks)	50.6	–	85.5	–	80.1	–
<b>Country of birth (top five countries)</b>						
Australia	13,306	68.0	112,324	65.3	125,630	65.6
Vietnam	608	3.1	8,196	4.8	8,804	4.6
United Kingdom/Eire/Ireland	1,063	5.4	5,537	3.2	6,600	3.4
Lebanon	318	1.6	5,892	3.4	6,210	3.2
China	612	3.1	5,043	2.9	5,655	3.0
Other	3,669	18.7	35,008	20.4	38,677	20.2

(a) Excludes suspended customers.

(b) Customers receiving less than maximum rate but more than base rate.

(c) Duration is defined as time on this payment. Data sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar databases of 21 June 2002.



### 3.9 Jobs, Education and Training (JET) program

The 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 2001–02, 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 those whose youngest child has turned six or 12 years old.

For 2001–02:

- ▶ 91,233 customers were assisted
- ▶ 57,438 new interviews were conducted
- ▶ 30,000 (estimated) follow-up interviews were conducted.

During 2001–02, 48,003 JET clients actively participated in skill development and education while 2,070 customers engaged in employment assistance. Around 23,425 customers received some income from employment.



## 4 Family assistance

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 were receiving \$208 in fortnightly family payments at June 2001.

### 4.1 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:

<b>For each child</b>	<b>Per fortnight (\$)</b>
Aged under 13 years	116.20
Aged 13–15 years	147.28
Aged 16–17 years	37.38
Aged 18–24 years	50.12

The base rates are:

<b>For each child</b>	<b>Per fortnight (\$)</b>
Aged under 18 years	37.38
Aged 18–24 years	50.12

## 4.2 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 years.

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 years, and \$69.58 per fortnight where the youngest child is aged five to 18 years. 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 years. 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.

## 4.3 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 their housing costs. The rate of Rent Assistance depends on the number of children, relationship status and amount of rent paid. As an example, at June 2002, a couple with one or two children who pay more than \$298.34 rent per fortnight are eligible for a maximum payment of \$106.26 in Rent Assistance. (See also 5.4 'Rent Assistance'.)

### Summary

- ▶ As at 29 June 2002, Family Tax Benefit assisted 1,823,371 families and 3,525,697 children. The total number of families receiving Family Tax Benefit has increased by 4 per cent since the reform in July 2000.
- ▶ As at 29 June 2002, close to one-third (31.8 per cent) of Family Tax Benefit customers resided in New South Wales, about one-quarter (23.8 per cent) in Victoria, and just over one-fifth (20.5 per cent) in Queensland.
- ▶ As at 29 June 2002, over three-quarters of customers receiving Family Tax Benefit, Part A and Family Tax Benefit, Part B payments (77.2 per cent and 77.4 per cent, respectively) had one or two children.

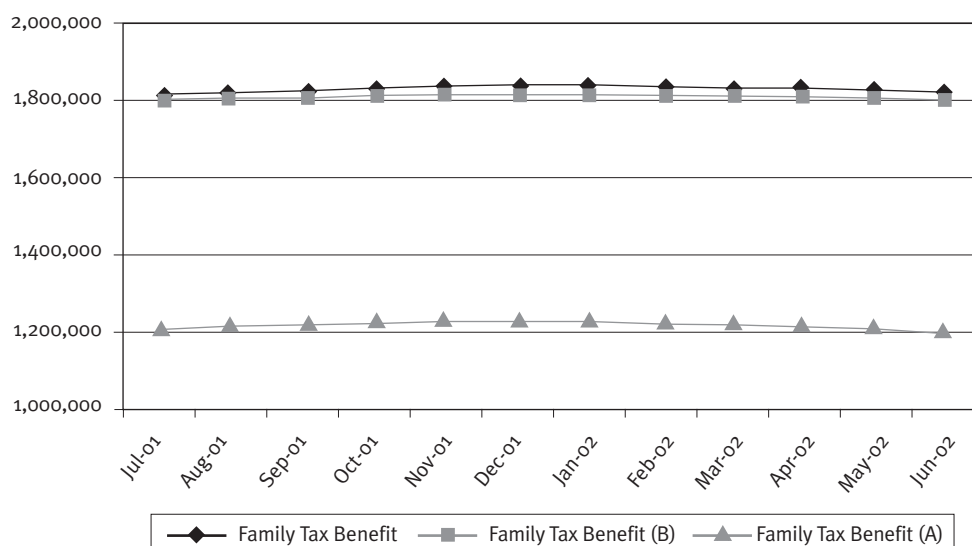
The following tables relate to fortnightly payments of Family Tax Benefit.

**Table 47: Family Tax Benefit, customers and children, June 2002**

	<b>CUSTOMERS NO.</b>	<b>CHILDREN NO.</b>
Family Tax Benefit, Part A	1,795,355	3,472,463
Family Tax Benefit, Part B	1,199,233	2,293,516
Family Tax Benefit Total <sup>(a)</sup>	1,823,371	3,525,697
Family Tax Benefit, Part A and B	1,171,217	2,240,282
Family Tax Benefit, Part A only	624,138	1,232,181
Family Tax Benefit, Part B only	28,016	53,234
Family Tax Benefit Total	1,823,371	3,525,697

(a) The Family Tax Benefit total customer and children count is the total number of customers and children who received Family Tax Benefit, Part A and/or Family Tax Benefit, Part B. It is not, however, the arithmetic total of Family Tax Benefit, Part A and Family Tax Benefit, Part B customer and children count, as the above totals also include some customers with the other type of payment. That is, the Family Tax Benefit, Part A customer count also includes some customers/children who are also eligible for Family Tax Benefit, Part B payment, and vice versa.

**Figure 6: Family Tax Benefit customers, July 2001 to June 2002**



**Table 48: Family Tax Benefit, Part A, customers and children by rate type, June 2002**

RATE TYPE	CUSTOMERS		CHILDREN	
	NO.	%	NO.	%
Maximum Family Tax Benefit, Part A rate with income support payment, for example, Newstart Allowance	485,918	27.1	914,808	26.3
Maximum Family Tax Benefit, Part A rate without income support payment	134,436	7.5	253,659	7.3
Part Rate <sup>(a)</sup>	431,552	24.0	927,669	26.7
Base	708,709	39.5	1,298,498	37.4
Tapered base rate	34,233	1.9	76,496	2.2
Invalid code	507	0.0	1,333	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,795,355</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,472,463</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Customers receiving less than maximum rate but more than base rate.

**Table 49: Family Tax Benefit, Part A, customers and children by age of child, June 2002**

AGE OF CHILD (YEARS)	CUSTOMERS		CHILDREN	
	NO.	%	NO.	%
Under 13	1,501,401	83.6	2,677,573	77.1
13-15	489,818	27.3	558,298	16.1
16-17	154,790	8.6	160,687	4.6
18-20	66,435	3.7	70,849	2.0
21-24	4,804	0.3	4,938	0.1
Unknown	118	0.0	118	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,795,355</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,472,463</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Table 50: Family Tax Benefit, Part B, customers by rate type and age of youngest child, June 2002**

RATE TYPE AND AGE OF CHILD (YEARS)	CUSTOMERS	
	NO.	%
<b>Maximum Family Tax Benefit, Part B rate</b>		
Child under 5 years	395,480	33.0
Child 5 years+	475,787	39.7
Total	871,267	72.7
<b>Part Rate, Family Tax Benefit, Part B rate<sup>(a)</sup></b>		
Child under 5 years	214,229	17.9
Child 5 years+	113,737	9.5
Total	327,966	27.3
<b>Total</b>		
Child under 5 years	609,709	50.8
Child 5 years +	589,524	49.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,199,233</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Customers receiving less than maximum rate but more than base rate.

Table 51: Family Tax Benefit, customers and children by state/territory, June 2002

STATE/TERRITORY	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	571,592	31.8	1,107,505	31.9	388,005	32.4	742,006	32.4	582,907	32.0	1,129,117	32.0
Victoria	427,938	23.8	828,129	23.8	277,915	23.2	529,413	23.1	435,197	23.9	841,815	23.9
Queensland	367,866	20.5	714,000	20.6	247,717	20.7	479,022	20.9	372,054	20.4	722,028	20.5
Western Australia	179,824	10.0	349,896	10.1	124,052	10.3	238,784	10.4	182,854	10.0	355,635	10.1
South Australia	144,541	8.1	271,981	7.8	92,831	7.7	173,027	7.5	145,736	8.0	274,201	7.8
Tasmania	50,112	2.8	95,806	2.8	32,913	2.7	62,751	2.7	50,373	2.8	96,274	2.7
Australian Capital Territory	30,775	1.7	59,946	1.7	20,682	1.7	39,221	1.7	31,375	1.7	61,092	1.07
Northern Territory	21,363	1.2	42,144	1.2	14,629	1.2	28,381	1.2	21,516	1.2	42,448	1.2
Invalid Code	1,344	0.1	3,056	0.1	489	0.0	911	0.0	1,359	0.1	3,087	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,795,355</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,472,463</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,199,233</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,293,516</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,823,371</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,525,697</b>	<b>100.0</b>



**Table 52: Family Tax Benefit customers, characteristics by payment type,  
June 2002**

FAMILY TYPE	FAMILY TAX BENEFIT, PART A		FAMILY TAX BENEFIT, PART B		FAMILY TAX BENEFIT	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Partnered	1,219,974	68.0	628,323	52.4	1,246,437	68.4
Sole parents						
Female	508,579	28.3	504,962	42.1	509,757	28.0
Male	66,642	3.7	65,931	5.5	67,016	3.7
All sole parents	575,221	32	570,893	47.6	576,773	31.6
Not specified	160	0.0	17	0.0	161	0.0
Total	1,795,355	100.0	1,199,233	100.0	1,823,371	100.0
<b>Number of Family Tax Benefit, Part A and Family Tax Benefit, Part B: Children in the family</b>						
One	680,044	37.9	485,638	40.5	–	–
Two	705,037	39.3	442,666	36.9	–	–
Three	298,130	16.6	191,081	15.9	–	–
Four	84,738	4.7	58,562	4.9	–	–
Five or more	27,406	1.5	21,120	1.8	–	–
Invalid code	0	0.0	166	0.0	–	–
Total	1,795,355	100.0	1,199,233	100.0	–	–
<b>Country of Birth (top five countries)</b>						
Australia	1,380,827	76.9	915,821	76.4	1,402,917	76.9
United Kingdom/Eire/Ireland	3,732	0.2	2,374	0.2	3,854	0.2
Vietnam/Laos	34,893	1.9	25,818	2.2	35,008	1.9
New Zealand	44,850	2.5	33,273	2.8	45,609	2.5
Lebanon	16,965	0.9	12,411	1.0	17,045	0.9
Other	314,088	17.5	209,536	17.5	318,938	17.5
Total	1,795,355	100.0	1,199,233	100.0	1,823,371	100.0
<b>Age of customer (years)</b>						
Under 18	3,134	0.2	3,062	0.3	3,134	0.2
18–20	24,203	1.3	23,089	1.9	24,212	1.3
21–24	84,518	4.7	74,453	6.2	84,738	4.6
25–34	605,778	33.7	447,599	37.3	615,484	33.8
35–44	791,601	44.1	490,892	40.9	806,120	44.2
45–54	260,683	14.5	144,601	12.1	264,090	14.5
55–59	16,939	0.9	9,872	0.8	17,072	0.9
60–64	4,720	0.3	3,126	0.3	4,739	0.3
65+	3,636	0.2	2,539	0.2	3,639	0.2
Invalid code	143	0.0	0	0.0	143	0.0
Total	1,795,355	100.0	1,199,233	100.0	1,823,371	100.0

## 4.5 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
- ▶ 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 person must be 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 Double Orphan Pension 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-1980s, refugee numbers started to fall. Thus, the number of unaccompanied refugee children also declined. Ageing of the refugee population also led to a decline in customer numbers in the late 1980s and early 1990s.
- ▶ 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 (see Figure 7). Since June 1993, the number of customers has stabilised at around 1,200.

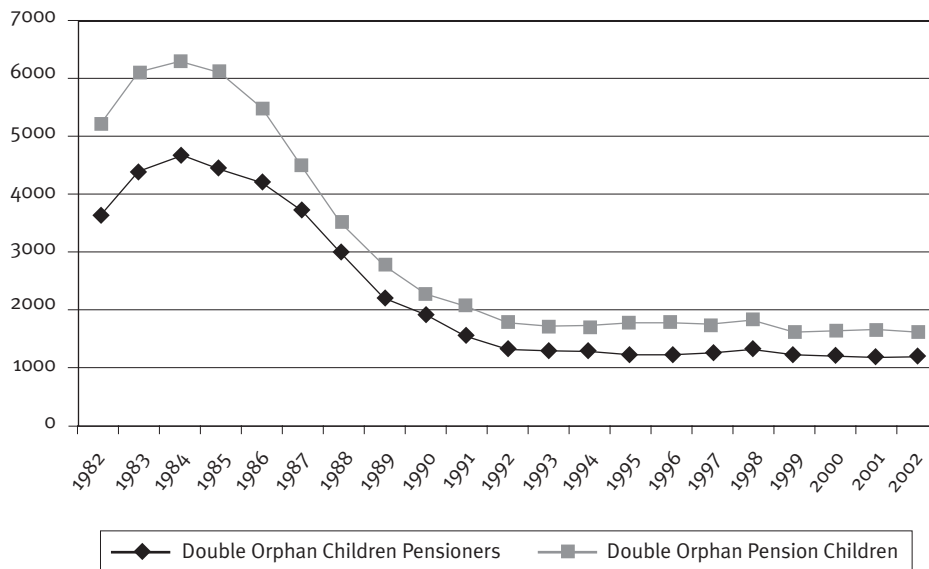
- Close to one-third of Double Orphan Pension customers (393 or 31.6 per cent) and children (520 or 31.9 per cent) were residing in New South Wales at June 2002. The proportion of these customers and children living in other states was:
- 22.0 per cent and 22.0 per cent, respectively for Victoria
  - 18.1 per cent and 17.1 per cent, respectively for Queensland
  - 10.9 per cent and 11.1 per cent respectively for Western Australia.

**Table 53: Double Orphan Pension, customers and children, June 1982 to June 2002**

AS AT JUNE	CUSTOMERS		CHILDREN <sup>(a)</sup>				
	NO.	UNDER 16		OVER 16		TOTAL	
		NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
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
2002	1,207	1,494	94.1	93	5.9	1,587	100.0

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

**Figure 7: Double Orphan Pension, customers and children, June 1982 to June 2002**



**Table 54: Double Orphan Pension, customers and children, by state/territory and age of children, June 2002**

STATE/TERRITORY	CUSTOMERS		CHILDREN <sup>(a)</sup>				TOTAL	
	NO.	%	UNDER 16		16 AND OVER		NO.	%
			NO.	%	NO.	%		
New South Wales	364	30.2	464	31.1	33	35.5	497	31.3
Victoria	268	22.2	325	21.8	26	28.0	351	22.1
Queensland	218	18.1	257	17.2	15	16.1	272	17.1
Western Australia	131	10.9	171	11.4	5	5.4	176	11.1
South Australia	135	11.2	166	11.1	10	10.8	176	11.1
Tasmania	37	3.1	41	2.7	0	0.0	41	2.6
Australian Capital Territory	21	1.7	26	1.7	3	3.2	29	1.8
Northern Territory	30	2.5	40	2.7	1	1.1	41	2.6
Invalid code	3	0.2	4	0.3	0	0.0	4	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,207</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,494</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,587</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

## 4.6 Maternity Allowance and Maternity Immunisation Allowance

Maternity Allowance 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 within 13 weeks of the baby's birth. Maternity Allowance 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, Maternity Allowance was restructured in 1998 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.

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

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

In June 2002, Maternity Allowance was \$780 per child and Maternity Immunisation Allowance was \$208 per child.

### Summary

In 2001–02, the total number of customers who received Maternity Allowance was 212,237 and the total number of children was 216,126.

The number of customers who received Maternity Immunisation Allowance during this period was 206,803 and the total number of children was 210,623.

**Table 55: Maternity Allowance customers, June 2002** <sup>(a)</sup>

PAYMENT TYPE	CUSTOMERS		CHILDREN	
	NO.	% OF ALL CUSTOMERS	NO.	% OF ALL CHILDREN
Family Tax Benefit, Part A	53,910	3.0	113,444	3.3
Family Tax Benefit, Part B	44,867	3.7	93,662	4.1
<b>Family Tax Benefit</b>	<b>53,990</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>113,606</b>	<b>3.2</b>

(a) Numbers at point in time.

## 4.7 Child Care Support

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

Child Care Benefit, 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 (that is, informal care provided by a friend or neighbour), rather than formal care in an approved service are eligible for the minimum rate of Child Care Benefit. This is paid for up to 50 hours per week of work-related child care.

**Table 56: Customers using approved Child Care Benefit services by state/territory, 2001–02**

STATE/TERRITORY <sup>(a)</sup>	NO.
New South Wales	217,571
Victoria	150,436
Queensland	165,427
Western Australia	57,351
South Australia	52,337
Tasmania	16,657
Australian Capital Territory	13,263
Northern Territory	6,525
Total <sup>(b)</sup>	672,016

(a) Based on location of child care centre.

(b) 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 57: Customers using Child Care Benefit approved services by service type, 2001–02**

SERVICE TYPE	NO.
Long day care <sup>(a)</sup>	442,189
Community long day care	146,963
Private long day care	314,740
Family day care	113,923
Occasional care	18,291
Outside school hours care	165,437
Vacation care	123,488
Total <sup>(b)</sup>	672,016

(a) Includes before and after school hours care.

(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 58: Customers using Child Care Benefit approved services by rate type, 2001–02**

<b>RATE TYPE</b>	<b>NO.</b>	<b>%</b>
Full Rate	246,099	36.6
Part Rate <sup>(a)</sup>	305,437	45.5
Minimum	80,744	12.0
Undetermined <sup>(b)</sup>	7,904	1.2
Lump sum	31,832	4.7
Total	672,016	100.0

(a) Customers receiving less than maximum rate but more than base rate.

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

**Table 59: Customers using registered care by quarter, 2001–02<sup>(a)</sup>**

<b>QUARTER</b>	<b>NO.</b>
September 2001	30,851
December 2001	28,050
March 2002	30,522
June 2002	33,226

(a) Customers using a registered care provider where Child Care Benefit was claimed at the Family Assistance Office, on at least one occasion, for the relevant quarter.





# 5 Other income support

## 5.1 Widow B Pension

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

- ▶ 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.

**Table 60: Widow B Pension customers, characteristics, June 2002**

CHARACTERISTICS	FEMALE	
	NO.	%
Widow B Pension customers	5,110	100.0
<b>Age (years)</b>		
55–59	94	1.9
60–64	4,043	79.1
65 and over	973	19.0
<b>Rate</b>		
Full rate	4,095	80.1
Part rate	1,015	19.9
<b>Paid under income test</b>		
<i>Income as assessed (\$ per week)</i>		
Nil	971	19.0
0.01–50.00	1,670	32.7
50.00–62.00	57	1.1
Over 62.00	2,412	47.2
<b>Paid under assets test</b>		
<i>Assets as assessed (\$)</i>		
Under 125,750	5,027	98.4
125,750 to 215,750	83	1.6
<b>Home ownership</b>		
Home owner	2,480	48.5
Non-home owner	2,630	51.5
<b>Country of birth (top five countries)</b>		
Australia	2,905	56.8
United Kingdom/Eire/Ireland	472	9.2
Italy	496	9.7
Greece	302	5.9
Yugoslavia	120	2.3
Other	815	15.9

**Table 61: Widow B Pension customers by state/territory, June 1998 to June 2002<sup>(a)</sup>**

STATE/TERRITORY	1998		1999		2000		2001		2002	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	4,138	30.5	3,050	29.0	2,520	28.3	1,728	26.8	1,309	25.6
Victoria	3,087	22.7	2,352	22.4	1,993	22.4	1,383	21.4	1,045	20.5
Queensland	2,240	16.5	1,749	16.6	1,457	16.4	1,016	15.7	768	15.0
Western Australia	1,029	7.6	800	7.6	645	7.3	454	7.0	355	6.9
South Australia	1,083	8.0	833	7.9	680	7.6	460	7.1	347	6.8
Tasmania	345	2.5	279	2.7	238	2.7	174	2.7	972	19.0
Australian Capital Territory	142	1.0	110	1.0	87	1.0	59	0.9	48	0.9
Northern Territory	124	0.9	93	0.9	73	0.8	45	0.7	36	0.7
Other <sup>(b)</sup>	1,391	10.2	1,253	11.9	1,199	13.5	1,137	17.6	230	4.5
Total	13,579	100.0	10,519	100.0	8,892	100.0	6,456	100.0	5,110	100.0

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

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

## 5.2 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 date of 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 FaCS Wife Pension or a partner DVA service pension 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 62: Bereavement Allowance customers by sex, June 1991 to June 2002**

AS AT JUNE	TOTAL	
	NO.	%
1991	315	100.0
1992 <sup>(a)</sup>	342	100.0
1993	83	100.0
1994	96	100.0
1995	47	100.0
1996	59	100.0
1997	46	100.0
1998	51	100.0
1999	53	100.0
2000	44	100.0
2001	51	100.0
2002	41	100.0

(a) 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 on Widowed Person Allowance were transferred to Widow B Pension from November 1992.

### 5.3 Commonwealth Seniors Health Card

The Commonwealth Seniors Health Card is issued to people of Age Pension age who do not qualify for a pension. To qualify, a person must be an Australian resident and living in Australia. The card is subject to a test on a person's taxable income. There is no assets test. The card allows holders (but not their dependants) to get Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme medicines at the concessional rate.

**Table 63: Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders, characteristics by sex, June 2002**

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Total	122,613	100.0	155,068	100.0	277,681	100.0
<b>Age (years)</b>						
60-64	0	0.0	31,837	20.5	31,837	11.5
65-69	46,755	38.1	43,299	27.9	90,054	32.4
70-74	37,855	30.9	32,927	21.2	70,782	25.5
75-79	22,314	18.2	23,245	15.0	45,559	16.4
80-84	9,596	7.8	13,502	8.7	23,098	8.3
85-89	4,428	3.6	7,124	4.6	11,552	4.2
90-94	1,381	1.1	2,538	1.6	3,919	1.4
95+	284	0.2	596	0.4	880	0.3
<b>Status</b>						
Couple	98,469	80.3	100,007	64.5	198,476	71.5
Single	24,144	19.7	55,061	35.5	79,205	28.5
<b>State/territory</b>						
New South Wales	44,751	36.5	57,110	36.8	101,861	36.7
Victoria	29,999	24.5	38,336	24.7	68,335	24.6
Queensland	21,623	17.6	26,419	17.0	48,042	17.3
Western Australia	11,381	9.3	14,580	9.4	25,961	9.4
South Australia	8,573	7.0	10,620	6.8	19,193	6.9
Tasmania	2,500	2.0	3,105	2.0	5,605	2.0
Australian Capital Territory	2,359	1.9	3,246	2.1	5,605	2.0
Northern Territory	348	0.3	406	0.3	754	0.3
Other (includes overseas)	1,063	0.9	1,237	0.8	2,300	0.8

## 5.4 Rent Assistance

Rent Assistance 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 may be eligible for Rent Assistance.

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 Rent Assistance, a person must:

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

Special rules apply to some people:

Rent Assistance 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 Australian Government funded bed
- ▶ to single Disability Support Pension recipients aged under 21 years, without dependants, living with parents
- ▶ to other single people aged under 25 years, living with parents
- ▶ to students without dependants, who receive Austudy Payment.

Special rules apply to single sharers, and 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 goods and services tax

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 Consumer Price Index rise. This formed part of the Government's Goods and Services Tax 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

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 2002, there were 943,877 'income units' in receipt of Rent Assistance. Newstart Allowance customers made up 22 per cent of this population, while 20 per cent were Parenting Payment (Single) recipients, 16 per cent were Age Pension recipients and 17 per cent were Disability Support Pension recipients.

The average rent paid by recipients was \$253 per fortnight. The average amount of Rent Assistance received was \$73 per fortnight.

**Table 64: Rent Assistance income units, average rent, and Rent Assistance by primary payment, June 2002<sup>(a)</sup>**

PRIMARY PAYMENT TYPE <sup>(b)</sup>	INCOME UNITS NO. <sup>(c)</sup>	AVERAGE RENT \$ PER FORTNIGHT <sup>(f)</sup>	AVERAGE RENT ASSISTANCE PER FORTNIGHT <sup>(f)</sup>
Age Pension	151,120	222	67
Disability Support Pension	162,048	223	73
Newstart Allowance	206,317	231	70
Parenting Payment (Single)	189,782	297	85
Parenting Payment (Partnered) <sup>(d)</sup>	26,160	355	96
Youth Allowance	90,741	191	58
Family Tax Benefit Part A only <sup>(e)</sup>	81,179	366	73
Other payments	36,530	242	72
Total	943,877	253	73

- (a) Income units may consist of a single person or a couple, and any dependent children for whom they receive Family Tax Benefit. Eligibility for Rent Assistance depends upon family circumstances including the combined rent paid by members of a couple. Where both members of a couple living together qualify for Rent Assistance, the maximum payment is halved.
- (b) Members of an income unit may receive more than one type of social security or Family Tax Benefit. The primary payment type is based on an order of priority starting with pensions, allowances, then Parenting Payment (Partnered), and lastly Family Tax Benefit. Most families with children are paid Rent Assistance with Family Tax Benefit, but use of primary payments helps in understanding the extent of reliance on social security payments.
- (c) Income unit numbers relate to those with an ongoing entitlement to a social security or Family Tax Benefit payment at 14 June 2002, and paid Rent Assistance in the preceding fortnight. Some have no ongoing entitlement to Rent Assistance.
- (d) Where a member of a couple receiving Parenting Payment (Partnered) has a partner receiving a social security income support payment that will become the primary payment type. Parenting Payment (Partnered) will only be the primary payment if the partner does not receive another income support payment.
- (e) Although families with children are generally paid Rent Assistance with Family Tax Benefit, Part A this is only reported as the primary payment if neither member of a couple receive a social security income support payment. Approximately 345,000 families were paid Rent Assistance with Family Tax Benefit in June 2002.
- (f) Rents refer to the combined rent for a 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 Rent Assistance relate only to customers who were paid a daily rate of Rent Assistance on the last day of the fortnight ending 14 June 2002.

Note: Previous versions of the Statistical Overview reported on average rents and Rent Assistance of individual customers with an ongoing entitlement to Rent Assistance. The change to using income units and daily rates of assistance better reflects the nature of the program and aligns reporting units between the Statistical Overviews and the FaCS Annual Reports.

**Table 65: Rent Assistance income units<sup>(a)</sup> by primary payment type and sex, June 2002**

PRIMARY PAYMENT TYPE <sup>(b)</sup>	INCOME UNITS		BOTH IN	FEMALES IN	MALES IN
	NO. <sup>(c)</sup>	%	RECEIPT OF RENT ASSISTANCE	RECEIPT OF RENT ASSISTANCE	RECEIPT OF RENT ASSISTANCE
Age Pension	151,120	16.0	26,014	85,129	39,977
Disability Support Pension	162,048	17.0	12,222	65,307	84,519
Newstart Allowance	206,317	22.0	8,558	83,593	114,166
Parenting Payment (Single)	189,782	20.0	–	176,067	13,715
Parenting Payment (Partnered) <sup>(d)</sup>	26,160	3.0	207	24,306	1,647
Youth Allowance	90,741	10.0	1,228	53,026	36,487
Family Tax Benefit, Part A only <sup>(e)</sup>	81,179	9.0	312	71,130	9,737
Other payments	36,530	4.0	4,061	21,284	11,185
Total	943,877	100.0	52,602	579,842	311,433

(a) to (e) See previous table.

**Table 66: Rent Assistance rates, 20 March 2002 to 30 June 2002**

STATUS	MAXIMUM PAYMENT PER FORTNIGHT (\$)	NO PAYMENT IF FORTNIGHTLY RENT IS LESS THAN (\$)	MAXIMUM PAYMENT IF FORTNIGHTLY RENT IS MORE THAN (\$)
Single, no children	90.60	80.40	201.20
Single, no children, sharer	60.40	80.40	160.93
Single, 1 or 2 children	106.26	105.84	247.52
Single, 3 or more children	120.12	105.84	266.00
Couple, no children (combined)	85.40	131.00	244.87
Couple, 1 or 2 children (combined)	106.26	156.66	298.34
Couple, 3 or more children (combined)	120.12	156.66	316.82
One of a couple who are separated due to illness, no children	90.60	80.40	201.20
One of a couple who are temporarily separated, no children	85.40	80.40	194.27



# 6 Pensioners paid overseas

## 6.1 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)
- ▶ 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 Australian Working Life Experience is paid 20/25<sup>th</sup>s of their normal rate.

## 6.2 Australia's agreements as at June 2002

Currently, Australia has social security agreements with 11 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 claim their entitlements to social security payments from other countries
- ▶ regulate payments of social security benefits to people moving between agreement countries.

## 6.3 Overseas pensions as at June 2002

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

Under the comparable foreign payments legislation, customers may be required to claim their entitlements from any overseas country.

The 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 comparable foreign payments claim increases a customer's overall disposable income and also reduces their dependence on the taxpayer-funded Australian social security system.

## 6.4 Total balance of payments

As at December 2000, Australia paid around \$31 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 67: Persons paid overseas by Australia, payment type, June 1981 to June 2002**

AS AT JUNE <sup>(a)</sup>	AGE PENSION	DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION	WIFE PENSION	WIDOW B PENSION	PARENTING PAYMENT <sup>(b)</sup>	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
2002	44,150	8,485	2,098	1,082	38	55,853

(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 68: Persons paid overseas by Australia, country of residence by payment type, June 2002**

COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE	AGE PENSION	DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION	OTHER <sup>(a)</sup>	TOTAL
<b>Europe and Former USSR</b>				
Austria	790	145	14	949
Belgium	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	33
Bosnia-Herzegovina	64	n.p.	n.p.	131
Bulgaria	20	n.p.	n.p.	26
Croatia	755	406	87	1,248
Czech Republic	103	n.p.	n.p.	138
Denmark	46	n.p.	n.p.	57
Estonia	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Finland	62	n.p.	n.p.	74
France	143	n.p.	n.p.	167
Germany	211	n.p.	n.p.	241
Greece	5,323	2,053	772	8,148
Hungary	335	n.p.	n.p.	411
Ireland	340	n.p.	n.p.	387
Italy	17,215	783	816	18,814
Latvia	30	n.p.	n.p.	31
Macedonia (FYR)	649	347	77	1,073
Malta	2,015	1,177	360	3,552
Netherlands	4,277	n.p.	n.p.	4,321
Poland	218	n.p.	n.p.	311
Portugal	675	260	78	1,013
Romania	25	27	0	52
Russian Federation	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Slovakia	24	n.p.	n.p.	34
Slovenia	78	n.p.	n.p.	113
Spain	2,899	367	171	3,437
Sweden	28	n.p.	n.p.	32
Switzerland	24	n.p.	n.p.	29
Ukraine	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
United Kingdom	2,576	282	151	3,009
Other Europe	579	444	75	1,098
Total Europe	39,556	6,697	2,706	48,959
<b>Americas</b>				
Argentina	78	n.p.	n.p.	140
Brazil	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Canada	996	55	21	1,072
Chile	145	n.p.	n.p.	213
Colombia	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	29
Ecuador	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	20
Uruguay	156	46	21	223
USA	346	57	21	424
Other Americas	47	n.p.	n.p.	71
Total Americas	1,793	311	109	2,213

Pensioners paid overseas

<b>Asia</b>				
China	27	n.p.	n.p.	33
Hong Kong	51	n.p.	n.p.	63
India	40	n.p.	n.p.	55
Philippines	136	n.p.	n.p.	191
Thailand	30	n.p.	n.p.	48
Other Asia	88	n.p.	n.p.	128
Total Asia	372	119	27	518
<b>Africa/Middle East</b>				
Cyprus	569	131	40	740
Egypt	53	n.p.	n.p.	125
Israel	133	n.p.	n.p.	148
Jordan	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Lebanon	428	193	73	694
Mauritius	20	n.p.	n.p.	27
Seychelles	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
South Africa	46	n.p.	n.p.	48
Syrian Arab Rep	32	n.p.	n.p.	67
Turkey	576	783	207	1 566
Other Africa/Middle East	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	21
Total Africa/Middle East	1,890	1,230	349	3,469
<b>Oceania</b>				
Fiji	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	25
New Zealand	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Norfolk Island	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
New Caledonia	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Papua New Guinea	45	0	0	45
Other Oceania	24	n.p.	n.p.	31
Total Oceania	100	n.p.	n.p.	121
OTHER	439	112	22	573
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44,150</b>	<b>8,485</b>	<b>3,218</b>	<b>55,853</b>

(a) Includes Widow B pension, Wife Pension and Parenting Payment Single.

**Table 69: Persons paid by Australia under a social security agreement – agreement country payment type, June 2002**

<b>AGREEMENT COUNTRY</b>	<b>AGE PENSION</b>	<b>DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION</b>	<b>OTHER <sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Austria	730	n.p.	n.p.	870
Canada	861	n.p.	n.p.	912
Cyprus	222	n.p.	n.p.	251
Denmark	222	n.p.	n.p.	251
Ireland	158	n.p.	n.p.	180
Italy	15,097	395	680	16,173
Malta	1,649	874	286	2,809
Netherlands	4,088	0	24	4,112
Portugal	281	86	30	397
Spain	2,239	200	124	2,564
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,359</b>	<b>1,767</b>	<b>1,170</b>	<b>28,307</b>

(a) Includes Widow B Pension, Wife Pension and Parenting Payment Single.

**Table 70: Number of Centrelink customers residing overseas receiving a foreign payment — payment country by payment type, September 2002**

ZONE	COUNTRY	AGE PENSION	DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION	OTHER <sup>(a)</sup>	TOTAL
Europe	Austria	993	126	138	1,257
	Belgium	100	n.p.	n.p.	134
	Croatia	145	26	39	210
	Czech Republic	44	n.p.	n.p.	52
	Denmark	57	n.p.	n.p.	75
	Finland	42	n.p.	n.p.	67
	France	277	n.p.	n.p.	370
	Germany	517	29	147	693
	Greece	589	52	257	898
	Hungary	116	n.p.	n.p.	140
	Ireland	134	n.p.	n.p.	193
	Italy	15,057	5,018	613	20,688
	Macedonia	140	n.p.	n.p.	182
	Malta	1,635	705	290	2,630
	Netherlands	4,461	n.p.	n.p.	6,622
	Poland	53	n.p.	n.p.	71
	Portugal	334	153	30	517
	Spain	2,151	437	125	2,713
	Switzerland	119	n.p.	n.p.	149
	United kingdom	3,100	52	630	3,782
Yugoslavia	119	45	44	208	
Other <sup>(b)</sup>	90	n.p.	n.p.	125	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30,273</b>	<b>6,769</b>	<b>4,734</b>	<b>41,776</b>
Americas	Canada	1,287	85	375	1,747
	Chile	39	n.p.	n.p.	57
	United States	220	n.p.	n.p.	330
	Uruguay	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	37
	Other <sup>(c)</sup>	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	29
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,589</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>2,200</b>
Asia <sup>(d)</sup>		n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	24
Africa/Middle East	Cyprus	356	45	40	441
	Israel	39	n.p.	n.p.	52
	Turkey	88	n.p.	n.p.	144
	Other <sup>(e)</sup>	27	n.p.	n.p.	39
	<b>Total</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>676</b>
Oceania <sup>(f)</sup>		n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
<b>Total</b>		<b>32,392</b>	<b>6,935</b>	<b>5,361</b>	<b>44,688</b>

(a) Includes Widow B Pension, Wife Pension and Parenting Payment Single.

(b) Comprised of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Norway, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine.

(c) Comprised of Argentina, Bermuda, Brazil, El Salvador, Mexico and Peru.

(d) Comprised of China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines and Sri Lanka.

(e) Comprised of Botswana, Egypt, Lebanon, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

(f) Comprised of Fiji, New Zealand and Norfolk Island.

