



**Australian Government**

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

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Statistical Paper No. 4

**Income support customers:  
a statistical overview 2005**

**Improving the lives of Australians**

This is a reprint of Statistical Paper no. 4. This reissue replaces the version of the paper with the ISBN 978-1-921380-92, which contained data errors.

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### **Administrative Arrangements Orders 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 (DEWR) and responsibility for Youth Allowance (Students) and Austudy Payment was transferred to the Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST).

In December 2007, Administrative Arrangement Orders were announced which created a new Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) to replace the former Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA). At the same time the departments formerly known as the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR), and the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) were replaced with a new organisation titled the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).

Although the statistics in this publication refer in the main to June 2005 data, the current departmental name has been used.

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# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Payments for older people, people with disabilities and those caring for people with disabilities, severe medical conditions or those who are frail aged</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1	Age Pension	3
2.2	Disability Support Pension	8
2.3	Sickness Allowance	12
2.4	Mobility Allowance	16
2.5	Wife Pension	19
2.6	Carer Payment	23
2.7	Carer Allowance	28
<b>3</b>	<b>Student and labour market and related payments</b>	<b>31</b>
3.1	Austudy Payment	31
3.2	ABSTUDY scheme	34
3.3	Youth Allowance	36
3.4	Newstart Allowance	40
3.5	Partner Allowance	48
3.6	Mature Age Allowance	51
3.7	Widow Allowance	54
3.8	Parenting Payment	57
3.9	Special Benefit	65
<b>4</b>	<b>Family Assistance</b>	<b>71</b>
4.1	Family Tax Benefit	71
4.2	Maternity Payment and modified Maternity Immunisation Allowance	76
4.3	Child care support	79
4.4	Double Orphan Pension	81
<b>5</b>	<b>Other payments and services</b>	<b>85</b>
5.1	Commonwealth Seniors Health Card	85
5.2	Rent Assistance	87
<b>6</b>	<b>Pensioners paid overseas</b>	<b>91</b>
6.1	Payment rules	91
6.2	Australia's agreements as at June 2005	91
6.3	Overseas pensions	97
6.4	Total balance of payments	99

## List of tables

<b>Table 1:</b>	Summary of income support recipients by payment type, 1995 to 2005	2
<b>Table 2:</b>	Female qualifying age for Age Pension	3
<b>Table 3:</b>	Age Pension customers by sex, June 1985 to June 2005	4
<b>Table 4:</b>	Age Pension customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005	6
<b>Table 5:</b>	Age Pension customers by state/territory and sex, June 2005	7
<b>Table 6:</b>	Disability Support Pension customers by sex, June 1985 to June 2005	8
<b>Table 7:</b>	Disability Support Pension customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005	10
<b>Table 8:</b>	Disability Support Pension customers by state/territory and sex, June 2005	11
<b>Table 9:</b>	Sickness Allowance customers by sex, June 1985 to June 2005	12
<b>Table 10:</b>	Sickness Allowance customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005	14
<b>Table 11:</b>	Sickness Allowance customers by state/territory and sex, June 2005	15
<b>Table 12:</b>	Mobility Allowance customers by sex, June 1985 to June 2005	17
<b>Table 13:</b>	Mobility Allowance customers by state/territory and sex, June 2005	18
<b>Table 14:</b>	Wife Pension customers by partner pension type, June 1985 to June 2005	19
<b>Table 15:</b>	Wife Pension customers, characteristics by pension type, June 2005	21
<b>Table 16:</b>	Wife Pension customers by state/territory and pension type, June 2005	22
<b>Table 17:</b>	Carer Payment customers by payment type of caree, June 1985 to June 2005	24
<b>Table 18:</b>	Carer Payment customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005	26
<b>Table 19:</b>	Carer Payment customers by state/territory and sex, June 2005	27
<b>Table 20:</b>	Carer Allowance customers, June 1985 to June 2005	29
<b>Table 21:</b>	Carer Allowance customers by state/territory and carer type, June 2005	30
<b>Table 22:</b>	Austudy Payment customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005	32
<b>Table 23:</b>	Austudy Payment customers by state/territory and sex, June 2005	33
<b>Table 24:</b>	ABSTUDY scheme customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005	34
<b>Table 25:</b>	ABSTUDY customers by state/territory and sex, June 2005	35
<b>Table 26:</b>	Youth Allowance (full-time student) customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005	37
<b>Table 27:</b>	Youth Allowance (Other) customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005	38
<b>Table 28:</b>	Total Youth Allowance customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005	39
<b>Table 29:</b>	Short-term Newstart Allowance customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005	41
<b>Table 30:</b>	Long-term Newstart Allowance customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005	42
<b>Table 31:</b>	Newstart Allowance customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005	43
<b>Table 32:</b>	Short-term unemployed customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005	44
<b>Table 33:</b>	Long-term unemployed customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005	45
<b>Table 34:</b>	Total unemployed customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005	46
<b>Table 35:</b>	Unemployed customers by state/territory, June 2005	47
<b>Table 36:</b>	Partner Allowance customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005	49
<b>Table 37:</b>	Partner Allowance customers by state/territory and sex, June 2005	50
<b>Table 38:</b>	Mature Age Allowance customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005	52
<b>Table 39:</b>	Mature Age Allowance customers by state/territory and sex, June 2005	53
<b>Table 40:</b>	Widow Allowance customers, characteristics, June 2005	55
<b>Table 41:</b>	Widow Allowance customers by state/territory and sex, June 2005	56
<b>Table 42:</b>	Parenting Payment (Single) customers by sex, June 1985 to June 2005	58
<b>Table 43:</b>	Parenting Payment (Single) customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005	60
<b>Table 44:</b>	Parenting Payment (Single) customers by state/territory and sex, June 2005	61
<b>Table 45:</b>	Parenting Payment (Partnered) customers by sex, June 2001 to June 2005	61
<b>Table 46:</b>	Parenting Payment (Partnered) customers by payment category of partner, June 2001 to June 2005	62
<b>Table 47:</b>	Parenting Payment (Partnered) customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005	63
<b>Table 48:</b>	Parenting Payment (Partnered) customers by state/territory and sex, June 2005	64
<b>Table 49:</b>	Special Benefit customers by sex, June 1985 to June 2005	66
<b>Table 50:</b>	Special Benefit customers, Special Benefit category by sex, June 2005	68
<b>Table 51:</b>	Special Benefit customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005	69

<b>Table 52:</b> Special Benefit customers by state/territory and sex, June 2005	70
<b>Table 53:</b> Family Tax Benefit, customers and children, June 2005	72
<b>Table 54:</b> Family Tax Benefit customers, June 2001 to June 2005	72
<b>Table 55:</b> Family Tax Benefit Part A, customers and children by rate type, June 2005	72
<b>Table 56:</b> Family Tax Benefit Part A, customers and dependent children by age of child, June 2005	73
<b>Table 57:</b> Family Tax Benefit Part B, customers by rate type and age of youngest child, June 2005	73
<b>Table 58:</b> Family Tax Benefit customers, characteristics by payment type, June 2005	74
<b>Table 59:</b> Family Tax Benefit, customers and children by state/territory, June 2005	75
<b>Table 60:</b> Maternity Payment and Maternity Immunisation Allowance customers, 2004–05	76
<b>Table 61:</b> Maternity Payment customers and children by age and sex of customer, 2004–05	77
<b>Table 62:</b> Maternity Payment customers and children by family type, 2004–05	77
<b>Table 63:</b> Maternity Payment customers by payment type, 2004–05	78
<b>Table 64:</b> Maternity Payment by state/territory, 2004–05	78
<b>Table 65:</b> Customers using approved Child Care Benefit services by state/territory, 2004–05	79
<b>Table 66:</b> Customers using approved Child Care Benefit services by service type, 2004–05	79
<b>Table 67:</b> Customers using Child Care Benefit approved services by rate type, 2004–05	80
<b>Table 68:</b> Double Orphan Pension, customers and children, June 1985 to June 2005	82
<b>Table 69:</b> Double Orphan Pension, customers and children by state/territory, June 2005	83
<b>Table 70:</b> Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders, June 2001 to June 2005	85
<b>Table 71:</b> Commonwealth Senior Health Card holders, characteristics by sex, June 2005	86
<b>Table 72:</b> Commonwealth Senior Health Card holders, characteristics by state/territory, June 2005	86
<b>Table 73:</b> Rent Assistance income units, average rent and Rent Assistance by primary payment, June 2005	88
<b>Table 74:</b> Rent Assistance income units by primary payment type and sex, June 2005	89
<b>Table 75:</b> Persons paid overseas by Australia by payment type, June 1982 to June 2005	92
<b>Table 76:</b> Persons paid overseas by Australia, country of residence by payment type, June 2005	94
<b>Table 77:</b> Persons paid by Australia under a social security agreement by payment type, June 2005	96
<b>Table 78:</b> Number of Centrelink customers residing overseas receiving a foreign payment—country of residence and payment type, June 2005	98

## List of figures

<b>Figure 1:</b> Age Pension customers by sex, June 1985 to June 2005	5
<b>Figure 2:</b> Disability Support Pension customers by sex, June 1985 to June 2005	9
<b>Figure 3:</b> Sickness Allowance customers by sex, June 1985 to June 2005	13
<b>Figure 4:</b> Mobility Allowance customers by sex, June 1987 to June 2005	18
<b>Figure 5:</b> Wife Pension customers, June 1985 to June 2005	20
<b>Figure 6:</b> Carer Payment customers, June 1985 to June 2005	25
<b>Figure 7:</b> Carer Allowance customers, June 1985 to June 2005	30
<b>Figure 8:</b> Parenting Payment (Single) customers by sex, June 1985 to June 2005	59
<b>Figure 9:</b> Parenting Payment (Partnered) customers by sex, June 2001 to June 2005	62
<b>Figure 10:</b> Special Benefit customers by sex, June 1985 to June 2005	67
<b>Figure 11:</b> Double Orphan Pension customers, June 1985 to June 2005	83
<b>Figure 12:</b> Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders by sex, June 2001 to June 2005	85
<b>Figure 13:</b> Total persons paid overseas by Australia, June 1982 to June 2005	93



# 1 Introduction

The purpose of the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) is to improve the lives of Australians by creating opportunities for economic and social participation by individuals, families and communities.

FaHCSIA is the Australian Government's principal source of advice on social policy and is responsible for about one-quarter of the government's budgetary outlays.

The Department works in partnership with other government and non-government organisations to manage a diverse range of programs and services designed to support and improve the lives of Australians. FaHCSIA has whole-of-government responsibilities in relation to Indigenous affairs and women.

This statistical overview covers FaHCSIA income support customers, and some income support payments offered through other Australian Government departments. Unless otherwise indicated, the statistics relate to the relevant pay periods closest to 30 June 2005. These periods will generally be within a fortnight either side of that date.

Key sections of the overview are:

- payments for older people, people with disabilities and for those caring for people with disabilities, severe medical conditions, or those who are frail aged
- labour market allowances and parenting payments
- family assistance
- other payments and services
- pensioners paid overseas.

Payment and allowance information, including eligibility criteria, are included within each section. Further information to assist with the interpretation of statistics is available from the FaHCSIA and Centrelink websites:

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

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

## **Confidentiality**

In some cases, 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.

**Table 1: Summary of income support recipients by payment type, 1995 to 2005**

Payment type	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 <sup>(a)</sup>	2002	2003	2004	2005
Age Pension (incl. Dept of Veterans' Affairs Age Pensions <sup>(b)</sup> )	1,578,698	1,602,834	1,680,214	1,691,594	1,724,589	1,738,215	1,793,426	1,818,205	1,861,055	1,876,250	1,915,036
Disability Support Pension	464,430	499,235	527,514	553,336	577,682	602,280	623,926	658,913	673,334	696,742	706,782
Sickness Allowance	46,050	34,518	15,633	16,285	11,481	10,043	11,058	9,540	8,755	8,478	8,367
Bereavement Allowance	47	59	46	51	53	44	51	41	55	70	65
Widow B Pension	54,936	49,875	18,820	13,579	10,519	8,892	6,456	5,130	2,986	1,879	839
Wife Pension (partner receives Age Pension)	39,611	41,125	36,577	36,233	32,196	31,406	26,476	23,730	20,230	19,646	16,946
Wife Pension (partner receives Disability Support Pension)	121,839	107,803	91,307	79,892	68,532	59,935	51,225	44,238	37,880	33,183	28,144
Carer Payment	20,098	25,037	29,558	33,979	40,070	47,550	57,190	67,260	75,937	84,082	95,446
AUSTUDY	394,259	410,808	361,497	352,148	47,170	42,838	41,992	41,187	38,779	35,026	31,174
Austudy Payment											
ABSTUDY	32,137	36,154	42,455	43,822	45,528	42,754	44,627	46,255	47,028	46,555	45,629
Youth Allowance (full-time students)					303,692	309,528	308,663	313,068	304,946	297,140	285,383
Youth Allowance (Other)					84,210	81,984	84,542	90,339	87,486	84,665	79,573
Newstart Allowance	794,821	824,957	801,823	790,305	629,177	552,879	541,004	554,821	512,332	483,093	453,614
Partner Allowance	216,739	69,891	70,170	77,746	80,497	87,416	90,416	102,330	102,811	90,936	71,615
Mature Age Allowance	54,118	57,886	60,737	56,132	46,969	41,577	38,919	40,132	41,078	32,912	20,877
Widow Allowance	8,733	11,723	17,508	24,759	27,524	32,570	36,416	41,277	43,209	45,328	44,329
Parenting Payment (Single)	324,941	342,290	358,893	372,286	382,323	391,393	416,661	427,846	436,958	449,312	450,811
Parenting Payment (Partnered)		237,321	239,317	236,550	227,677	220,340	204,576	191,576	181,405	177,157	167,272
Special Benefit	20,884	18,885	14,700	10,236	11,808	10,971	12,712	13,091	12,228	11,216	9,408
DVA service pension and income support supplement	411,838	399,989	387,054	387,596	382,287	373,076	378,058	370,721	368,572	341,020	344,311
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,584,179</b>	<b>4,770,390</b>	<b>4,753,823</b>	<b>4,776,529</b>	<b>4,733,684</b>	<b>4,685,691</b>	<b>4,768,394</b>	<b>4,859,700</b>	<b>4,857,064</b>	<b>4,814,690</b>	<b>4,775,621</b>

(a) Break in series for allowances. Previously, customers were counted on a 'paid in the fortnight' basis. From this point, customer numbers now represent the customers 'current' at a point-in-time (excludes suspended recipients).

(b) For some years, Wife Age Pensions paid through DVA were captured in Age Pension figures.

Note: This is not a complete list of social security income support payments.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

## 2 Payments for older people, people with disabilities and those caring for people with disabilities, severe medical conditions or those who are frail aged

### 2.1 Age Pension

Age Pension is a safety net for older people who are not able to fully provide for themselves in retirement. It helps to ensure that everybody has an adequate income when they retire.

To qualify for the Age Pension, a male must be at least aged 65 years, while the age at which a female may qualify depends on 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 10 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.

The Age Pension is also subject to income and asset test provisions.

**Table 3: Age Pension customers by sex, June 1985 to June 2005**

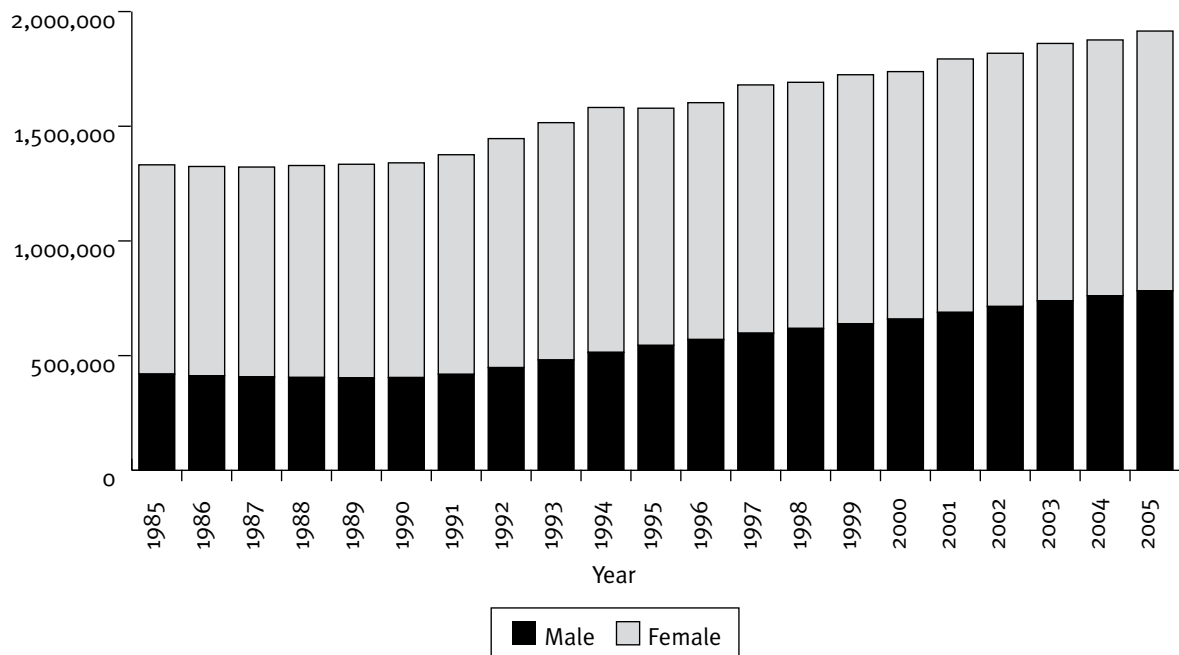
As at June	Male		Female		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.
1985	419,714	31.5	912,068	68.5	1,331,782
1986	412,373	31.1	912,227	68.9	1,324,600
1987	407,698	30.8	914,476	69.2	1,322,174
1988 <sup>(a)</sup>	404,922	30.5	923,892	69.5	1,328,814
1989	403,339	30.2	930,971	69.8	1,334,310
1990	404,486	30.2	935,982	69.8	1,340,468
1991	418,383	30.4	957,466	69.6	1,375,849
1992	447,888	31.0	998,280	69.0	1,446,168
1993	481,196	31.7	1,034,486	68.3	1,515,682
1994	514,217	32.5	1,067,657	67.5	1,581,874
1995	544,571	34.5	1,034,127	65.5	1,578,698
1996	570,328	35.6	1,032,506	64.4	1,602,834
1997	597,859	35.6	1,082,355	64.4	1,680,214
1998	618,607	36.6	1,072,987	63.4	1,691,594
1999	639,008	37.1	1,085,581	62.9	1,724,589
2000	659,188	37.9	1,079,027	62.1	1,738,215
2001	688,563	38.4	1,104,863	61.6	1,793,426
2002	714,324	39.3	1,103,881	60.7	1,818,205
2003	739,187	39.7	1,121,868	60.3	1,861,055
2004	761,025	40.6	1,115,225	59.4	1,876,250
2005	782,977	40.9	1,132,059	59.1	1,915,036

(a) Overseas customers have been included since 1988. For years prior to 1988, the data on overseas customers by sex was unavailable.

Note: Includes Age Pension payments administered by Centrelink and the Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA). For some years, Wife Age Pensions paid through DVA were captured in Age Pension figures.

Source: Centrelink and Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) administrative data.

Figure 1: Age Pension customers by sex, June 1985 to June 2005



Note: Includes Age Pension payments administered by Centrelink and the Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).

Source: Centrelink and Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) administrative data.

Table 4: Age Pension customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>779,423</b>	<b>40.8</b>	<b>1,129,130</b>	<b>59.2</b>	<b>1,908,553</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Age (years)						
62–64			124,784	11.1	124,784	6.5
65–69	239,333	30.7	278,136	24.6	517,469	27.1
70–74	227,678	29.2	246,232	21.8	473,910	24.8
75–79	187,313	24.0	198,755	17.6	386,068	20.2
80–84	75,173	9.6	139,357	12.3	214,530	11.2
85–89	33,175	4.3	85,560	7.6	118,735	6.2
90–94	13,919	1.8	43,983	3.9	57,902	3.0
95–99	2,594	0.3	10,957	1.0	13,551	0.7
100 and over	238	0.0	1,366	0.1	1,604	0.1
Marital status						
Married/defaulto	558,798	71.7	508,398	45.0	1,067,196	55.9
Single/separated/divorced/ widowed	220,625	28.3	620,732	55.0	841,357	44.1
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	448,744	57.6	717,375	63.5	1,166,119	61.1
United Kingdom	89,436	11.5	122,191	10.8	211,627	11.1
Italy	56,028	7.2	54,286	4.8	110,314	5.8
Greece	24,726	3.2	29,378	2.6	54,104	2.8
Netherlands	14,161	1.8	16,321	1.4	30,482	1.6
Other	146,328	18.8	189,579	16.8	335,907	17.6
Home ownership <sup>(a)</sup>						
Home owner	584,075	74.9	785,417	69.6	1,369,492	71.8
Not a home owner	195,348	25.1	343,712	30.4	539,060	28.2
Payment status						
Current—automatically assessed						
Maximum rate	474,857	60.9	728,788	64.5	1,203,645	63.1
Reduced rate	302,972	38.9	398,375	35.3	701,347	36.7
Total	777,829	99.8	1,127,163	99.8	1,904,992	99.8
Current—manually assessed	456	0.1	554	0.0	1,010	0.1
Current total	778,285	99.9	1,127,717	99.9	1,906,002	99.9
Suspended	1,138	0.1	1,413	0.1	2,551	0.1
Paid under income test <sup>(b)</sup>						
Single rate	220,161	28.2	604,047	53.5	824,208	43.2
Partnered rate	483,530	62.0	436,201	38.6	919,731	48.2
Home owner paid under assets test						
Single rate	12,654	1.6	26,113	2.3	38,767	2.0
Partnered rate	59,118	7.6	56,385	5.0	115,503	6.1
Not a home owner paid under assets test						
Single rate	1,556	0.2	3,682	0.3	5,238	0.3
Partnered rate	809	0.1	735	0.1	1,544	0.1
Income/asset test not coded <sup>(c)</sup>	1,595	0.2	1,967	0.2	3,562	0.2

(a) Excludes 'not specified'.

(b) All pensioners paid a full rate of pension are classified as income tested and included in the 'paid under income test' population above.

(c) At least one of the variables required to determine the customer's income or assets test category was not coded (that is, partnership category, home ownership type or whether income or asset tested).

Note: Excludes 6,483 Age Pension payments administered by the Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Table 5: Age Pension customers by state/territory and sex, June 2005

State	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
New South Wales	246,680	40.2	367,220	59.8	613,900	32.2
Victoria	191,508	40.1	285,574	59.9	477,082	25.0
Queensland	136,014	41.4	192,847	58.6	328,861	17.2
Western Australia	64,032	40.5	94,126	59.5	158,158	8.3
South Australia	69,611	40.1	103,993	59.9	173,604	9.1
Tasmania	21,742	40.8	31,524	59.2	53,266	2.8
Australian Capital Territory	6,479	37.7	10,708	62.3	17,187	0.9
Northern Territory	2,819	45.2	3,420	54.8	6,239	0.3
Other <sup>(a)</sup>	40,538	50.5	39,718	49.5	80,256	4.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>779,423</b>	<b>40.8</b>	<b>1,129,130</b>	<b>59.2</b>	<b>1,908,553</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

Note: Excludes 6,483 Age Pension payments administered by the Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

## 2.2 Disability Support Pension

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

As at June 2005, 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. Eligible customers must 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.

Disability Support Pension is subject to income and asset test provisions.

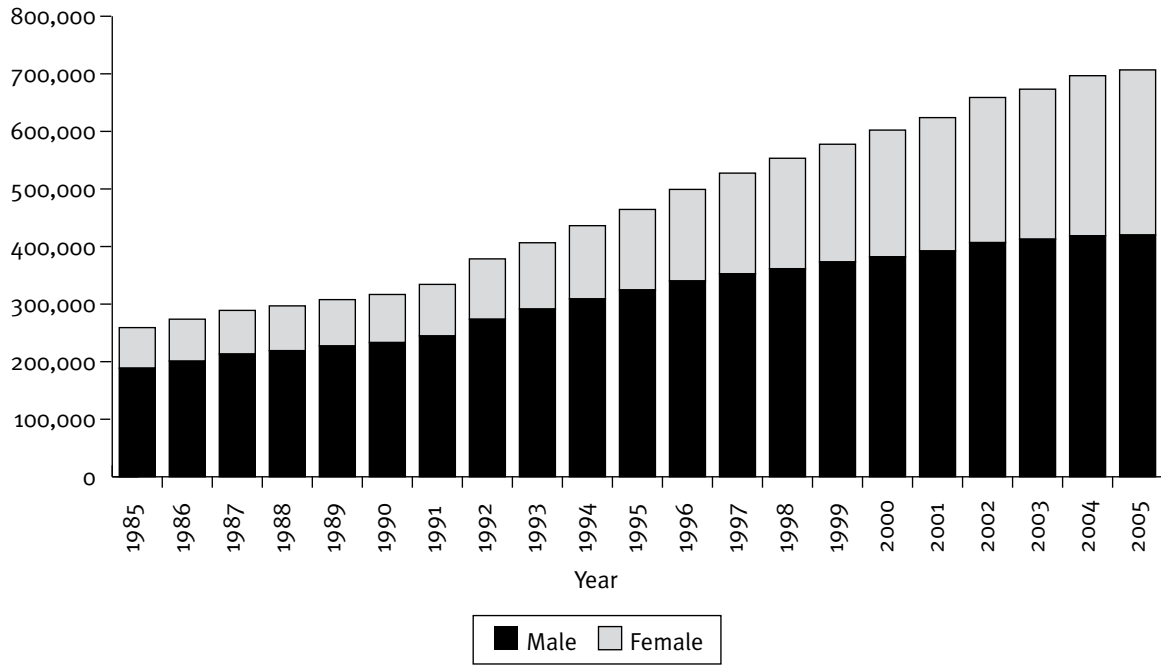
**Table 6: Disability Support Pension customers by sex, June 1985 to June 2005**

As at June	Male		Female		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.
1985	188,713	72.8	70,449	27.2	259,162
1986	200,898	73.4	72,912	26.6	273,810
1987	213,290	73.8	75,760	26.2	289,050
1988	219,168	73.8	77,745	26.2	296,913
1989	227,285	73.8	80,510	26.2	307,795
1990	233,251	73.6	83,462	26.4	316,713
1991 <sup>(a)</sup>	244,699	73.2	89,535	26.8	334,234
1992	273,697	72.3	104,861	27.7	378,558
1993	291,471	71.7	115,101	28.3	406,572
1994	309,123	70.9	127,111	29.1	436,234
1995	324,672	69.9	139,758	30.1	464,430
1996	340,256	68.2	158,979	31.8	499,235
1997	352,607	66.8	174,907	33.2	527,514
1998	361,539	65.3	191,797	34.7	553,336
1999	373,340	64.6	204,342	35.4	577,682
2000	382,351	63.5	219,929	36.5	602,280
2001	392,354	62.9	231,572	37.1	623,926
2002	406,893	61.8	252,022	38.2	658,915
2003	412,777	61.3	260,557	38.7	673,334
2004	418,829	60.1	277,913	39.9	696,742
2005	420,073	59.4	286,709	40.6	706,782

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

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Figure 2: Disability Support Pension customers by sex, June 1985 to June 2005



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

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Table 7: Disability Support Pension customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>420,073</b>	<b>59.4</b>	<b>286,709</b>	<b>40.6</b>	<b>706,782</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Age (years)						
Under 20	10,460	2.5	6,833	2.4	17,293	2.4
20–29	35,185	8.4	24,620	8.6	59,805	8.5
30–39	55,567	13.2	35,988	12.6	91,555	13.0
40–49	87,223	20.8	64,232	22.4	151,455	21.4
50–59	128,180	30.5	113,560	39.6	241,740	34.2
60–64	97,861	23.3	40,703	14.2	138,564	19.6
65 and over	5,597	1.3	773	0.3	6,370	0.9
Marital status						
Married/defaulto	162,936	38.8	89,363	31.2	252,299	35.7
Single/separated/divorced/ widowed	257,137	61.2	197,346	68.8	454,483	64.3
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	305,951	72.8	212,093	74.0	518,044	73.3
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	25,795	6.1	16,169	5.6	41,964	5.9
Greece	7,980	1.9	5,494	1.9	13,474	1.9
Yugoslavia	8,201	2.0	4,752	1.7	12,953	1.8
Italy	7,690	1.8	4,621	1.6	12,311	1.7
Other	64,456	15.3	43,580	15.2	108,036	15.3
Home ownership						
Home owner	144,802	34.5	100,733	35.1	245,535	34.7
Non-home owner	271,835	64.7	183,739	64.1	455,574	64.5
Not specified	3,436	0.8	2,237	0.8	5,673	0.8
Paid under income test						
Single rate	249,642	59.4	194,322	67.8	443,964	62.8
Partnered rate	155,772	37.1	85,289	29.7	241,061	34.1
Home owner paid under assets test						
Single rate	1,173	0.3	992	0.3	2,165	0.3
Partnered rate	3,568	0.8	2,594	0.9	6,162	0.9
Non-home owner paid under assets test						
Single rate	320	0.1	212	0.1	532	0.1
Partnered rate	109	0.0	76	0.0	185	0.0
Income/asset test not coded <sup>(a)</sup>	9,489	2.3	3,224	1.1	12,713	1.8

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

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Table 8: Disability Support Pension customers by state/territory and sex, June 2005

State/territory	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
New South Wales	136,466	60.0	91,158	40.0	227,624	32.2
Victoria	96,915	57.4	71,983	42.6	168,898	23.9
Queensland	82,575	60.7	53,360	39.3	135,935	19.2
Western Australia	35,340	59.2	24,381	40.8	59,721	8.4
South Australia	39,580	58.6	27,984	41.4	67,564	9.6
Tasmania	15,133	60.2	9,997	39.8	25,130	3.6
Australian Capital Territory	3,894	55.4	3,137	44.6	7,031	1.0
Northern Territory	3,654	62.1	2,234	37.9	5,888	0.8
Overseas permanently	6,330	72.9	2,359	27.1	8,689	1.2
Unknown <sup>(a)</sup>	186	61.6	116	38.4	302	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>420,073</b>	<b>59.4</b>	<b>286,709</b>	<b>40.6</b>	<b>706,782</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) State/territory not coded.

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

## 2.3 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.

Sickness Allowance is subject to residency, income and asset test provisions.

**Table 9: Sickness Allowance customers by sex, June 1985 to June 2005**

As at June	Male		Female		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.
1985	46,060	74.3	15,970	25.7	62,030
1986	47,114	73.5	17,022	26.5	64,136
1987	51,421	73.2	18,811	26.8	70,232
1988 <sup>(a)</sup>	54,609	72.6	20,580	27.4	75,189
1989	56,904	72.0	22,097	28.0	79,001
1990	56,674	71.6	22,521	28.4	79,195
1991 <sup>(b)</sup>	50,991	71.4	20,408	28.6	71,399
1992	30,844	69.8	13,328	30.2	44,172
1993	31,802	68.3	14,777	31.7	46,579
1994	31,274	66.4	15,858	33.6	47,132
1995	31,131	65.8	16,180	34.2	47,311
1996 <sup>(c)</sup>	22,254	67.0	10,961	33.0	33,215
1997	10,721	68.0	5,038	32.0	15,759
1998 <sup>(d)</sup>	11,166	68.6	5,119	31.4	16,285
1999	7,799	69.8	3,382	30.2	11,181
2000	6,990	69.6	3,053	30.4	10,043
2001	7,598	68.7	3,460	31.3	11,058
2002	6,414	67.2	3,126	32.8	9,540
2003	5,973	68.2	2,782	31.8	8,755
2004	5,613	66.2	2,865	33.8	8,478
2005	5,671	67.8	2,696	32.2	8,367

(a) Break in series. Data from 1988 onwards are derived from a point-in-time in June of the relevant year.

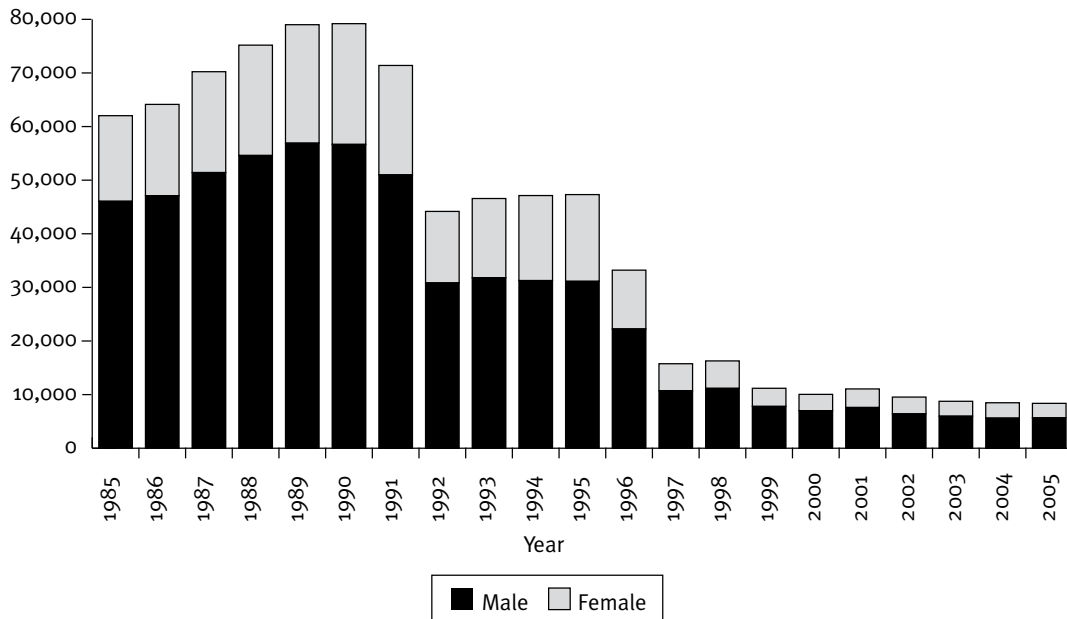
(b) Sickness Allowance replaced Sickness Benefit from November 1991 as part of the Disability Reform Package. This resulted in some customers transferring to the Disability Support Pension.

(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) Prior to 1998, these figures are an average of the 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. Data from 1998 onward are derived from a point-in-time in June of the relevant year.

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Figure 3: Sickness Allowance customers by sex, June 1985 to June 2005



Notes: Break in series. Data from 1988 onwards are derived from a point-in-time in June of the relevant year. Sickness Allowance replaced Sickness Benefit from November 1991 as part of the Disability Reform Package. This resulted in some customers transferring to the Disability Support Pension. From March 1996, unemployed people who became ill did not transfer to Sickness Allowance after 13 weeks. They continued to be paid Youth Training Allowance, Job Search Allowance or Newstart Allowance, subject to Sickness Allowance conditions. Prior to 1998, these figures are an average of the 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. Data from 1998 onward are derived from a point-in-time in June of the relevant year.

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Table 10: Sickness Allowance customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005<sup>(a)</sup>

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,671</b>	<b>67.8</b>	<b>2,696</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>8,367</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Age (years)						
21–24	694	12.2	316	11.7	1,010	12.1
25–34	1,500	26.5	584	21.7	2,084	24.9
35–44	1,436	25.3	533	19.8	1,969	23.5
45–54	1,157	20.4	843	31.3	2,000	23.9
55–59	501	8.8	328	12.2	829	9.9
60–64	383	6.8	92	3.4	475	5.7
Marital status						
Married/defacto	2,068	36.5	494	18.3	2,562	30.6
Single/separated/divorced/ widowed	3,603	63.5	2,202	81.7	5,805	69.4
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	4,379	77.2	2,111	78.3	6,490	77.6
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	336	5.9	171	6.3	507	6.1
New Zealand	158	2.8	54	2.0	212	2.5
Italy	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	83	1.0
Lebanon	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	80	1.0
Other	662	11.7	333	12.4	995	11.9
Duration <sup>(b)</sup>						
Up to 1 year—total	4,749	83.7	2,150	79.7	6,899	82.5
<7 weeks	1,510	26.6	593	22.0	2,103	25.1
7 weeks to <3 months	1,094	19.3	481	17.8	1,575	18.8
3 to <6 months	1,181	20.8	573	21.3	1,754	21.0
6 months to <1 year	964	17.0	503	18.7	1,467	17.5
Over 1 year—total	922	16.3	546	20.3	1,468	17.5
1 to <2 years	616	10.9	329	12.2	945	11.3
2 to <3 years	170	3.0	101	3.7	271	3.2
3 years and over	136	2.4	116	4.3	252	3.0
Mean (weeks)	31.2		41.6		34.5	
Median (weeks)	15.0		18.0		16.0	
Income (\$ per week) <sup>(c)</sup>						
Nil	5,428	95.7	2,409	89.4	7,837	93.7
0.01 and above	243	4.3	287	10.6	530	6.3

(a) These figures do not include people who received a nil rate of payment (176) due to their own or partner's income.

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

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

Note: n.p.=not published. See 'Confidentiality' on page 1.

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

**Table 11: Sickness Allowance customers by state/territory and sex, June 2005**

State/territory	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
New South Wales	1,597	69.5	701	30.5	2,298	27.5
Victoria	1,542	65.8	800	34.2	2,342	28.0
Queensland	1,286	69.1	576	30.9	1,862	22.3
Western Australia	509	65.2	272	34.8	781	9.3
South Australia	522	69.4	230	30.6	752	9.0
Tasmania	124	66.0	64	34.0	188	2.2
Australian Capital Territory	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	104	1.2
Northern Territory	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	40	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,671</b>	<b>67.8</b>	<b>2,696</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>8,367</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Note: The table figures do not include people who received a nil rate of payment (176) due to their own or partner's income.

n.p.=not published. See 'Confidentiality' on page 1.

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

## 2.4 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 aged 16 years or over, be undertaking an approved activity and be required to travel to and from their home for the purpose of undertaking that activity. A person is considered to be undertaking an approved activity if they are:

- engaged in paid or voluntary work or vocational training or any combination of these activities for at least 32 hours every four weeks, or
- undertaking job search activities under an agreement between Centrelink and a service provider funded by either the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) or the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), or
- receiving Newstart Allowance, Youth Allowance or Austudy Payment and meet the activity or study tests for these payments.

Mobility Allowance is not payable if a person has a car under the Vehicle Assistance Scheme from the Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs (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.

Mobility Allowance is not an income or asset tested payment; however, there are residential provisions.

Table 12: Mobility Allowance customers by sex, June 1985 to June 2005

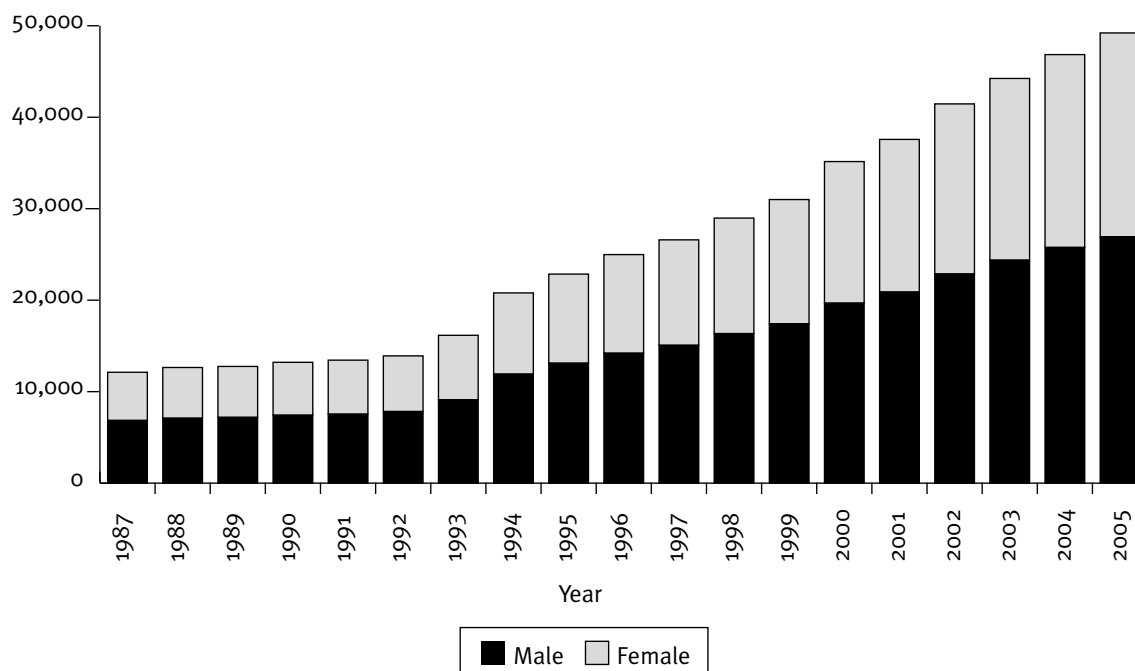
As at June	Male		Female		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.
1985					10,946
1986					11,420
1987	6,851	56.5	5,269	43.5	12,120
1988	7,092	56.1	5,549	43.9	12,641
1989	7,188	56.3	5,568	43.7	12,756
1990	7,422	56.2	5,785	43.8	13,207
1991	7,535	56.0	5,909	44.0	13,444
1992	7,826	56.3	6,085	43.7	13,911
1993 <sup>(a)</sup>	9,118	56.4	7,042	43.6	16,160
1994	11,916	57.3	8,879	42.7	20,795
1995	13,106	57.4	9,745	42.6	22,851
1996	14,200	56.8	10,785	43.2	24,985
1997	15,066	56.6	11,529	43.4	26,595
1998	16,346	56.4	12,629	43.6	28,975
1999	17,415	56.2	13,586	43.8	31,001
2000	19,673	56.0	15,481	44.0	35,154
2001	20,887	55.6	16,687	44.4	37,574
2002	22,863	55.2	18,593	44.8	41,456
2003	24,370	55.1	19,869	44.9	44,239
2004	25,763	55.0	21,084	45.0	46,847
2005	26,940	54.7	22,275	45.3	49,215

(a) Eligibility requirements were eased in March 1993 to include those undertaking eight hours or more of voluntary work, and to include Disability Support Pensioners and Sickness Allowance recipients who have job search incorporated into their activity plan.

Note: Male/female customer counts prior to 1987 are unavailable.

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Figure 4: Mobility Allowance customers by sex, June 1987 to June 2005



Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Table 13: Mobility Allowance customers by state/territory and sex, June 2005

State/territory	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
New South Wales	7,800	55.3	6,317	44.7	14,117	28.7
Victoria	7,103	54.3	5,974	45.7	13,077	26.6
Queensland	5,374	56.5	4,139	43.5	9,513	19.3
Western Australia	3,048	52.3	2,784	47.7	5,832	11.9
South Australia	2,331	55.1	1,896	44.9	4,227	8.6
Tasmania	807	50.6	788	49.4	1,595	3.2
Australian Capital Territory	308	56.2	240	43.8	548	1.1
Northern Territory	128	54.5	107	45.5	235	0.5
Other <sup>(a)</sup>	41	57.7	30	42.3	71	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,940</b>	<b>54.7</b>	<b>22,275</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>49,215</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

## 2.5 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, Carer Payment, Disability Support Pension or Newstart Allowance.

Wife Pension is subject to income and asset test provisions. Residential requirements may apply.

**Table 14: Wife Pension customers by partner pension type, June 1985 to June 2005**

As at June	Age Pension <sup>(a)</sup>		Disability Support Pension		Rehabilitation Allowance <sup>(b)</sup>		Sheltered Employment Allowance <sup>(c)</sup>		Total <sup>(d)</sup>
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
1985	22,931	23.5	73,770	75.5	736	0.8	319	0.3	97,756
1986	22,208	21.5	80,167	77.5	699	0.7	308	0.3	103,382
1987	22,106	20.2	86,304	78.9	611	0.6	306	0.3	109,327
1988	22,128	20.0	87,742	79.3	486	0.4	308	0.3	110,664
1989	22,609	20.0	89,890	79.3	482	0.4	315	0.3	113,296
1990	23,766	20.5	91,068	78.7	583	0.5	278	0.2	115,695
1991	26,537	21.8	94,006	77.1	1,128	0.9	262	0.2	121,933
1992	30,902	23.2	101,731	76.4	561	0.4			133,194
1993	33,520	23.6	108,327	76.3	166	0.1			142,013
1994	36,539	23.9	116,036	76.0	45	0.0			152,620
1995	n.p.	n.p.	121,839	75.5	n.p.	n.p.			161,457
1996	n.p.	n.p.	107,803	72.4	n.p.	n.p.			148,931
1997	n.p.	n.p.	91,307	71.4	n.p.	n.p.			127,885
1998	36,233	31.2	79,892	68.8					116,125
1999	32,196	32.0	68,523	68.0					100,719
2000	31,406	34.4	59,935	65.6					91,341
2001	26,476	34.1	51,225	65.9					77,701
2002	23,730	34.9	44,238	65.1					67,968
2003	20,230	34.8	37,880	65.2					58,110
2004	19,646	37.2	33,183	62.8					52,829
2005	16,946	37.6	28,144	62.4					45,090

(a) Excludes 'Age' payments administered by the Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).

(b) 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 their program is completed.

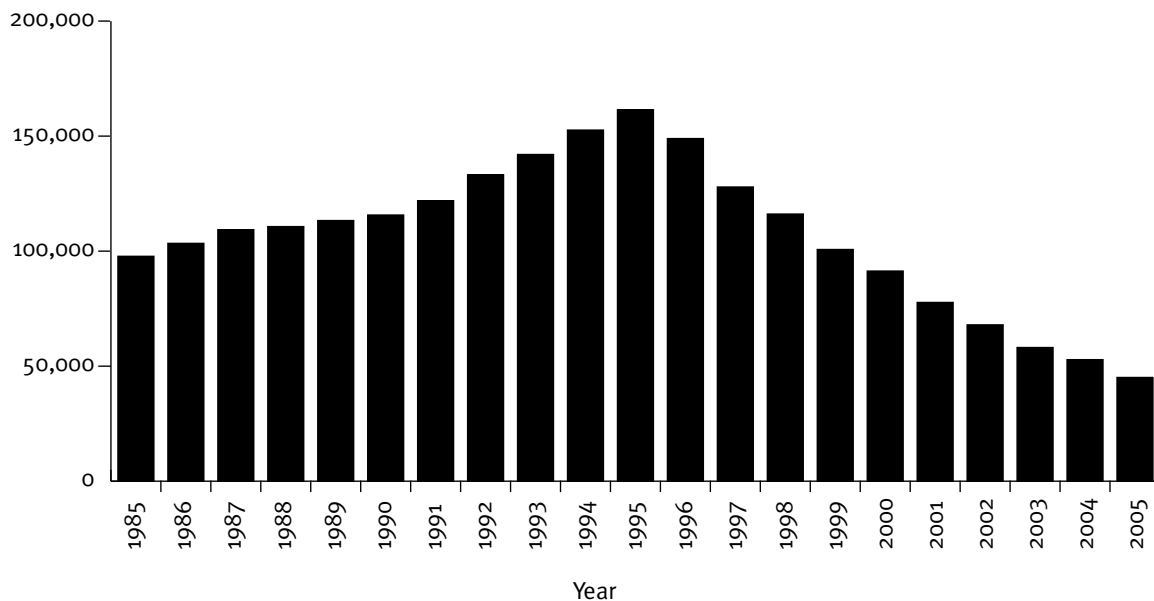
(c) Sheltered Employment Allowance customers were transferred to Disability Support Pension in November 1991.

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

Note: n.p.=not published. See 'Confidentiality' on page 1.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Figure 5: Wife Pension customers, June 1985 to June 2005



Note: Excludes Wife Disability Wage Supplement. From 1 January 1998, there were no further grants of Disability Wage Supplement.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Table 15: Wife Pension customers, characteristics by pension type, June 2005

Characteristics	Age Pension <sup>(a)</sup>		Disability Support Pension		Total <sup>(b)</sup>	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,946</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>28,144</b>	<b>62.4</b>	<b>45,090</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Age (years)						
Under 40	100	0.6	1,302	4.6	1,402	3.1
40–49	1,002	5.9	6,828	24.3	7,830	17.4
50–59	8,041	47.5	16,097	57.2	24,138	53.5
60–64	7,476	44.1	3,886	13.8	11,362	25.2
65 and over	327	1.9	31	0.1	358	0.8
Marital status						
Married/defaulto	16,822	99.3	28,076	99.8	44,898	99.6
Single/separated/divorced/ widowed	124	0.7	68	0.2	192	0.4
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	8,067	47.6	17,134	60.9	25,201	55.9
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	936	5.5	1,553	5.5	2,489	5.5
Greece	1,076	6.3	1,367	4.9	2,443	5.4
Italy	1,365	8.1	1,010	3.6	2,375	5.3
Lebanon	623	3.7	1,257	4.5	1,880	4.2
Other	4,879	28.8	5,823	20.7	10,702	23.7
Home ownership						
Home owner	12,606	74.4	18,611	66.1	31,217	69.2
Non-home owner	4,340	25.6	9,533	33.9	13,873	30.8
Rate <sup>(c)</sup>						
Full rate	13,348	78.9	23,445	83.3	36,793	81.7
Part rate	3,563	21.0	4,699	16.7	8,262	18.3
Paid under income test <sup>(d)</sup>						
Single (including separated)	293	1.7	229	0.8	522	1.2
Partnered	16,155	95.3	27,291	97.0	43,446	96.4
Home owner paid under assets test <sup>(d)</sup>	448	2.6	399	1.4	847	1.9
Non-home owner paid under assets test <sup>(d)</sup>	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	22	0.0
Not coded <sup>(d)</sup>	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	242	0.5

(a) Excludes 'Age' payments administered by the Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).

(b) 'Total' percentages based on combined 'Age' and 'Disability' payments.

(c) Customer numbers for 'Rate' and 'Paid under income and assets tests' exclude suspended and manually assessed customers. Percentages are expressed as a proportion of the total Wife Pension population.

(d) At least one of the variables required to determine the customer's income or assets test category was not coded (that is, 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 tests still apply.

n.p.=not published. See 'Confidentiality' on page 1.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Table 16: Wife Pension customers by state/territory and pension type, June 2005

State/territory	Age Pension <sup>(a)</sup>		Disability Support Pension		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
New South Wales	5,314	37.0	9,044	63.0	14,358	31.8
Victoria	3,938	38.2	6,384	61.8	10,322	22.9
Queensland	3,104	37.5	5,182	62.5	8,286	18.4
Western Australia	1,357	36.1	2,403	63.9	3,760	8.3
South Australia	1,632	38.2	2,635	61.8	4,267	9.5
Tasmania	557	19.9	2,249	80.1	2,806	6.2
Australian Capital Territory	92	41.6	129	58.4	221	0.5
Northern Territory	84	46.9	95	53.1	179	0.4
Other <sup>(b)</sup>	868	97.4	23	2.6	891	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,946</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>28,144</b>	<b>62.4</b>	<b>45,090</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Excludes 'Age' payments administered by the Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).

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

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

## 2.6 Carer Payment

Carer Payment is for carers who provide full-time care to someone in their own home, and who, because of the demands of their caring role, are unable to support themselves by participating substantially in the workforce.

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 an Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs (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 an Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs (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 a have Carer Allowance child under the age of 16 or a child under the age of 6, 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 17: Carer Payment customers by payment type of caree, June 1985 to June 2005

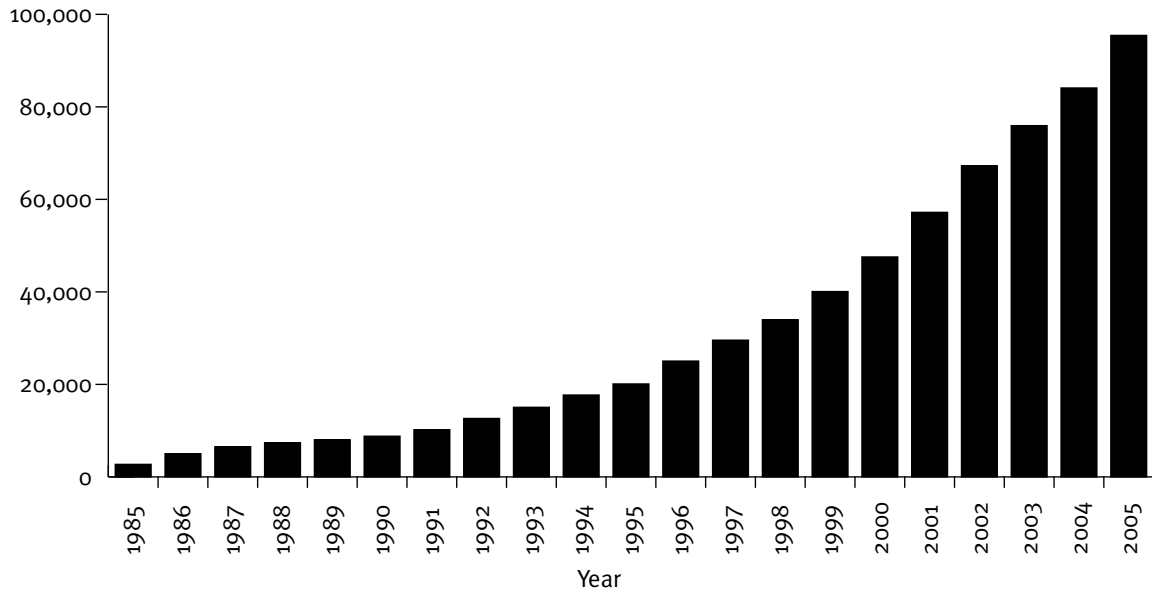
As at June	Age Pension		Disability Support Pension		Other <sup>(a)</sup>		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
1985	627	23.1	2,085	76.9			2,712
1986	1,975	39.3	3,045	60.7			5,020
1987	2,644	40.7	3,853	59.3			6,497
1988	3,162	42.8	4,231	57.2			7,393
1989	3,579	44.7	4,431	55.3			8,010
1990	4,025	45.8	4,771	54.2			8,796
1991	4,619	45.5	5,478	53.9	64	0.6	10,161
1992	5,574	44.1	6,790	53.8	267	2.1	12,631
1993	6,507	43.3	8,056	53.5	482	3.2	15,045
1994	7,441	42.0	9,450	53.4	808	4.6	17,699
1995	8,324	41.4	10,633	52.9	1,141	5.7	20,098
1996	9,500	37.9	13,483	53.9	2,054	8.2	25,037
1997	10,954	37.1	15,735	53.2	2,869	9.7	29,558
1998	11,740	34.6	18,556	54.6	3,683	10.8	33,979
1999	13,407	33.5	21,392	53.4	5,271	13.2	40,070
2000	15,346	32.3	24,500	51.5	7,704	16.2	47,550
2001	18,097	31.6	28,171	49.3	10,922	19.1	57,190
2002 <sup>(b)</sup>							67,260
2003							75,937
2004							84,082
2005							95,446

(a) Includes those caring for a person on an Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) payment other than Age Pension or Disability Support Pension. It also includes those caring for a person not on a FaHCSIA payment.

(b) Figures by payment type of caree are not available from 2002.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Figure 6: Carer Payment customers, June 1985 to June 2005



Notes: Includes those caring for a person on an Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) payment other than Age Pension or Disability Support Pension. It also includes those caring for a person not on a FaHCSIA payment.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Table 18: Carer Payment customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,870</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>62,576</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>95,446</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Age (years)						
Under 20	387	1.2	620	1.0	1,007	1.1
20–29	2,009	6.1	3,225	5.2	5,234	5.5
30–39	4,401	13.4	7,375	11.8	11,776	12.3
40–49	7,807	23.8	16,931	27.1	24,738	25.9
50–59	10,713	32.6	24,664	39.4	35,377	37.1
60–64	6,076	18.5	7,897	12.6	13,973	14.6
65 and over	1,477	4.5	1,864	3.0	3,341	3.5
Marital status						
Married/defacto	20,163	61.3	40,480	64.7	60,643	63.5
Single/separated/divorced/ widowed	12,707	38.7	22,096	35.3	34,803	36.5
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	22,090	67.2	40,993	65.5	63,083	66.1
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	2,272	6.9	3,550	5.7	5,822	6.1
Lebanon	712	2.2	1,690	2.7	2,402	2.5
Vietnam	646	2.0	1,330	2.1	1,976	2.1
Italy	521	1.6	1,288	2.1	1,809	1.9
Other	6,629	20.2	13,725	21.9	20,354	21.3
Home ownership						
Home owner	13,769	41.9	33,082	52.9	46,851	49.1
Non-home owner	19,101	58.1	29,494	47.1	48,595	50.9
Rate						
Full rate	28,223	85.9	48,551	77.6	76,774	80.4
Part rate	4,647	14.1	14,025	22.4	18,672	19.6
Paid under income test						
Single	12,473	37.9	21,814	34.9	34,287	35.9
Partnered	19,524	59.4	38,810	62.0	58,334	61.1
Home owner paid under assets test						
Single	97	0.3	196	0.3	293	0.3
Partnered	492	1.5	1,362	2.2	1,854	1.9
Non-home owner paid under assets test	60	0.2	114	0.2	174	0.2
Income/asset test not coded <sup>(a)</sup>	224	0.7	280	0.4	504	0.5

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

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Table 19: Carer Payment customers by state/territory and sex, June 2005

State/territory	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
New South Wales	12,055	35.1	22,288	64.9	34,343	36.0
Victoria	7,992	33.4	15,951	66.6	23,943	25.1
Queensland	6,272	33.4	12,520	66.6	18,792	19.7
Western Australia	2,146	33.2	4,324	66.8	6,470	6.8
South Australia	2,689	37.0	4,570	63.0	7,259	7.6
Tasmania	1,340	39.0	2,097	61.0	3,437	3.6
Australian Capital Territory	208	33.6	411	66.4	619	0.6
Northern Territory	142	28.1	363	71.9	505	0.5
Other <sup>(a)</sup>	26	33.3	52	66.7	78	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,870</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>62,576</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>95,446</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Includes unknown postcodes and overseas recipients.  
Source: Centrelink administrative data.

## 2.7 Carer Allowance

Carer Allowance is a supplementary payment available to parents or carers who provide daily care and attention for adults or children with a severe disability or medical condition.

Carer Allowance was introduced on 1 July 1999. It combined Child Disability Allowance with Domiciliary Nursing Care Benefit (the latter was 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 their care.
- Parents caring for two children with disabilities, who individually fall just below the qualification for Carer Allowance but whose combined assessment under the Child Disability Assessment Tool (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 were eligible for Carer Allowance until 30 June 2003, providing their circumstances did not change, and were not subject to Centrelink-initiated medical reviews during that period. These customers were subject to review against the current eligibility criteria from 1 July 2003.
- All Domiciliary Nursing Care Benefit recipients as at 30 June 1999 were automatically transferred to Carer Allowance (Adult) on 1 July 1999 when the new 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, or participate in the provision of care and attention given to the care receiver during a period of temporary hospitalisation, and
- provide at least 20 hours per week of personal care on a daily basis if not residing with the care receiver, and be in Australia at the time the care is given and be a permanent resident of Australia.

A care receiver satisfies the eligibility requirements if they are:

- aged 16 years or over with a disability that causes a substantial functional impairment (as assessed under the Adult Disability Assessment Tool (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 the CDAT as functioning at a level below the standard expected for his or her age, and
  - living with the claimant, 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).

A person can get either:

- a fortnightly payment plus a Health Care Card, or
- a Health Care Card.

Carer Allowance is not an income or asset tested payment.

Table 20: Carer Allowance customers, June 1985 to June 2005

As at June	Child	Adult <sup>(a)</sup>	Adult and child	Total
1985	28,154			28,154
1986	29,074			29,074
1987	29,486			29,486
1988	32,071			32,071
1989	34,671			34,671
1990	37,746			37,746
1991	42,405			42,405
1992	50,797			50,797
1993	61,174			61,174
1994	69,693			69,693
1995	78,898			78,898
1996	90,644			90,644
1997	95,520			95,520
1998	90,830			90,830
1999	100,452			100,452
2000 <sup>(b)</sup>	116,955	84,104		201,059
2001	111,691	121,755	1,595	235,041
2002	115,404	154,425	2,216	272,045
2003	119,003	177,862	2,744	299,609
2004 <sup>(c)</sup>	96,153	198,598	2,856	297,607
2005	102,535	233,859	3,611	340,005

(a) From 2002, includes customers not coded by carer type.

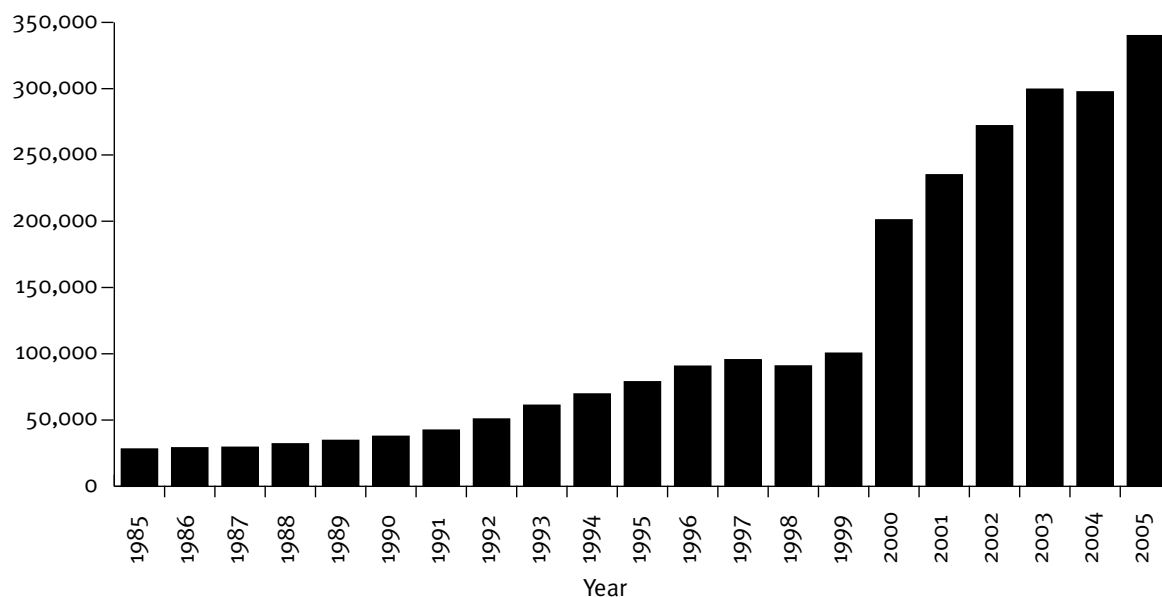
(b) Estimates for 2000 were derived from a different Centrelink data source. Caution should be exercised when utilising data for 2000 in conjunction with historical data and data from 2001 onwards.

(c) 2004 reduction was due to cessation of saved (grandfathered) ex Child Disability Allowance customers.

Note: Carer Allowance was introduced on 1 July 1999. It combined Child Disability Allowance with Domiciliary Nursing Care Benefit (the latter was the responsibility of the Health and Aged Care portfolio). Excludes Health Care Card only customers.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Figure 7: Carer Allowance customers, June 1985 to June 2005



Note: Carer Allowance was introduced on 1 July 1999. It combined Child Disability Allowance with Domiciliary Nursing Care Benefit (the latter was the responsibility of the Health and Aged Care portfolio). Excludes Health Care Card only customers.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Table 21: Carer Allowance customers by state/territory and carer type, June 2005

State/territory	Child <sup>(a)</sup>		Adult <sup>(b)</sup>		Adult and child		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
New South Wales	32,965	32.1	79,167	33.9	1,157	32.0	113,289	33.3
Victoria	26,301	25.7	61,564	26.3	956	26.5	88,821	26.1
Queensland	19,481	19.0	46,495	19.9	720	19.9	66,696	19.6
Western Australia	9,884	9.6	17,615	7.5	278	7.7	27,777	8.2
South Australia	9,191	9.0	19,045	8.1	334	9.2	28,570	8.4
Tasmania	2,645	2.6	6,917	3.0	116	3.2	9,678	2.8
Australian Capital Territory	n.p.	n.p.	921	0.4	n.p.	n.p.	1,544	0.5
Northern Territory	n.p.	n.p.	2,037	0.9	n.p.	n.p.	3,525	1.0
<b>Total<sup>(c)</sup></b>	<b>102,535</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>233,859</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,611</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>340,005</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Excludes 17,073 customers who only receive a Health Care Card.

(b) Includes 527 customers not coded by carer type.

(c) Includes overseas payments, unknown state/territory or invalid postcodes.

Note: n.p.=not published. See 'Confidentiality' on page 1.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

## 3 Student and labour market and related payments

### 3.1 Austudy Payment

Austudy Payment provides support for students and Australian apprentices aged 25 and over. Austudy Payment was introduced on 1 July 1998 and replaced the program formerly known as AUSTUDY.

Students must be full-time and undertaking an approved course with an approved institution. Approved courses generally include secondary education courses, undergraduate courses, associate diplomas and some other diplomas, TAFE courses and some postgraduate courses.

Apprentices must be full-time and have a current Commonwealth Registration Identification number.

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

Austudy Payment is subject to residential provisions.

Table 22: Austudy Payment customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>16,931</b>	<b>54.3</b>	<b>14,243</b>	<b>45.7</b>	<b>31,174</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Age (years)						
25–29	6,612	39.1	6,139	43.1	12,751	40.9
30–34	4,227	25.0	3,064	21.5	7,291	23.4
35–39	2,463	14.5	1,553	10.9	4,016	12.9
40–44	1,642	9.7	1,321	9.3	2,963	9.5
45–49	1,014	6.0	1,235	8.7	2,249	7.2
50–54	576	3.4	600	4.2	1,176	3.8
55–59	302	1.8	281	2.0	583	1.9
60 and over	95	0.6	50	0.4	145	0.5
Marital status						
Single or partnered (no child)	12,632	74.6	12,178	85.5	24,810	79.6
Single with children	186	1.1	611	4.3	797	2.6
Partnered with children	4,113	24.3	1,454	10.2	5,567	17.9
Duration <sup>(b)</sup>						
<3 months	1,309	7.7	1,260	8.8	2,569	8.2
3 to <6 months	3,206	18.9	3,045	21.4	6,251	20.1
6 to <9 months	716	4.2	604	4.2	1,320	4.2
9 months to <1 year	1,053	6.2	837	5.9	1,890	6.1
1 to <2 years	3,828	22.6	3,065	21.5	6,893	22.1
2 years and over	6,819	40.3	5,432	38.1	12,251	39.3
Mean (weeks)	113.3		122.8		117.6	
Median (weeks)	71.4		68.1		70.0	
Income (\$ per week) <sup>(c)</sup>						
Nil	12,377	73.1	9,132	64.1	21,509	69.0
0.01–118.00	1,727	10.2	1,939	13.6	3,666	11.8
Over 118.00	2,827	16.7	3,172	22.3	5,999	19.2
Study level						
Secondary	432	2.6	340	2.4	772	2.5
Tertiary Group A	1,087	6.4	1,079	7.6	2,166	6.9
Tertiary Group B	9,635	56.9	7,687	54.0	17,322	55.6
Tertiary Group C	3,114	18.4	2,603	18.3	5,717	18.3
Tertiary Group D	2,450	14.5	2,330	16.4	4,780	15.3
Not recorded	213	1.3	204	1.4	417	1.3

(a) Customer numbers include those who received a nil rate of payment (637) due to their own or partner's income.

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

Note: Tertiary Group 'A' refers to postgraduate bachelor degrees or postgraduate/graduate diplomas. Tertiary Group 'B' refers to undergraduate bachelor degrees. Tertiary Group 'C' refers to associate diplomas/degrees and TAFE diplomas that require completion of Year 12 for entry, or 2 year undergraduate diploma and certificate courses. Tertiary Group 'D' refers to certificate courses.

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Table 23: Austudy Payment customers by state/territory and sex, June 2005

State/territory	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
New South Wales	4,569	53.9	3,904	46.1	8,473	27.2
Victoria	4,074	53.1	3,595	46.9	7,669	24.6
Queensland	3,497	53.8	2,999	46.2	6,496	20.8
Western Australia	2,033	54.2	1,716	45.8	3,749	12.0
South Australia	1,639	57.3	1,220	42.7	2,859	9.2
Tasmania	679	57.6	499	42.4	1,178	3.8
Australian Capital Territory	343	59.8	231	40.2	574	1.8
Northern Territory	97	55.1	79	44.9	176	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,931</b>	<b>54.3</b>	<b>14,243</b>	<b>45.7</b>	<b>31,174</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

### 3.2 ABSTUDY scheme

The purpose of the ABSTUDY scheme is to address the particular educational disadvantages faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by improving educational outcomes to a level commensurate with the Australian population in general. ABSTUDY policy aims to encourage eligible Indigenous students to take full advantage of available educational opportunities and improve their employment opportunities.

The main objectives of the ABSTUDY scheme are to:

- encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to take full advantage of the educational opportunities available
- promote equity of educational opportunity, and
- improve educational outcomes.

ABSTUDY is subject to residential, income and asset test provisions dependent on the person's individual circumstances. Provisions could include personal or parental income test, and/or family assets test, family actual means test, independent assets test, or independent partner income test.

**Table 24: ABSTUDY scheme customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005**

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,594</b>	<b>45.1</b>	<b>25,035</b>	<b>54.9</b>	<b>45,629</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Age (years)						
12 or less	3,203	15.6	3,407	13.6	6,610	14.5
13	3,229	15.7	3,275	13.1	6,504	14.3
14	3,259	15.8	3,186	12.7	6,445	14.1
15	2,732	13.3	2,769	11.1	5,501	12.1
16	1,902	9.2	2,059	8.2	3,961	8.7
17	886	4.3	1,137	4.5	2,023	4.4
18	466	2.3	703	2.8	1,169	2.6
19	307	1.5	514	2.1	821	1.8
20	269	1.3	378	1.5	647	1.4
21 and over	4,341	21.1	7,607	30.4	11,948	26.2
Marital status						
Married/defacto	1,226	6.0	2,065	8.2	3,291	7.2
Single/separated/ divorced/widowed	19,368	94.0	22,970	91.8	42,338	92.8
Study level						
Secondary	15,290	74.2	16,281	65.0	31,571	69.2
Tertiary	5,130	24.9	8,572	34.2	13,702	30.0
Other	174	0.8	182	0.7	356	0.8
Student status						
Full-time	19,347	93.9	21,436	85.6	40,783	89.4
Part-time (incl. others) <sup>(a)</sup>	1,247	6.1	3,599	14.4	4,846	10.6

(a) Includes concessional and other student status categories.

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Table 25: ABSTUDY customers by state/territory and sex, June 2005

State/territory <sup>(a)</sup>	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
New South Wales	7,007	45.5	8,382	54.5	15,389	33.7
Victoria	1,153	44.7	1,425	55.3	2,578	5.6
Queensland	5,527	44.8	6,816	55.2	12,343	27.1
Western Australia	3,393	46.2	3,944	53.8	7,337	16.1
South Australia	1,234	44.7	1,525	55.3	2,759	6.0
Tasmania	649	45.0	793	55.0	1,442	3.2
Australian Capital Territory	133	43.5	173	56.5	306	0.7
Northern Territory	1,497	43.1	1,977	56.9	3,474	7.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,594</b>	<b>45.1</b>	<b>25,035</b>	<b>54.9</b>	<b>45,629</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) State is the home or residential state of the scheme participant. Participants may be attending an educational institution in a state other than their home state.

Note: Data includes one male whose state was not specified in the data.

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

### 3.3 Youth Allowance

Introduced on 1 July 1998, Youth Allowance (full-time student) replaced AUSTUDY for full-time students under 25 years and Youth Allowance (Other) replaced Sickness Allowance, Youth Training Allowance, and Newstart 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 20 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 considered by a Centrelink Social Worker 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.

Residential provisions apply.

Table 26: Youth Allowance (full-time student) customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>127,789</b>	<b>44.8</b>	<b>157,594</b>	<b>55.2</b>	<b>285,383</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Age (years)						
15	286	0.2	442	0.3	728	0.3
16	26,907	21.1	28,452	18.1	55,359	19.4
17	23,452	18.4	27,030	17.2	50,482	17.7
18	14,615	11.4	18,712	11.9	33,327	11.7
19	12,594	9.9	17,670	11.2	30,264	10.6
20	13,960	10.9	20,104	12.8	34,064	11.9
21	12,392	9.7	17,282	11.0	29,674	10.4
22	9,346	7.3	11,926	7.6	21,272	7.5
23	6,433	5.0	7,568	4.8	14,001	4.9
24	4,242	3.3	4,876	3.1	9,118	3.2
25 and over	3,562	2.8	3,532	2.2	7,094	2.5
Rate						
At home	86,700	67.8	97,624	61.9	184,324	64.6
Away from home or couple	41,089	32.2	59,970	38.1	101,059	35.4
Independent	42,382	33.2	59,424	37.7	101,806	35.7
Dependent	85,407	66.8	98,170	62.3	183,577	64.3
Duration <sup>(b)</sup>						
<3 months	14,446	11.3	16,217	10.3	30,663	10.7
3 to <6 months	21,092	16.5	26,392	16.7	47,484	16.6
6 to <9 months	9,314	7.3	10,481	6.7	19,795	6.9
9 months to <1 year	11,051	8.6	13,193	8.4	24,244	8.5
1 to <2 years	34,684	27.1	42,646	27.1	77,330	27.1
2 years and over	37,202	29.1	48,665	30.9	85,867	30.1
Mean (weeks)	82.8		85.2		84.1	
Median (weeks)	62.1		65.6		64.1	
Income (\$ per week) <sup>(c)</sup>						
Nil	92,317	72.2	96,058	61.0	188,375	66.0
0.01–118.00	17,641	13.8	29,993	19.0	47,634	16.7
Over 118.00	17,831	14.0	31,543	20.0	49,374	17.3
Study level						
Secondary	54,472	42.6	58,531	37.1	113,003	39.6
Tertiary Group A	1,414	1.1	2,560	1.6	3,974	1.4
Tertiary Group B	51,590	40.4	70,815	44.9	122,405	42.9
Tertiary Group C	9,589	7.5	11,666	7.4	21,255	7.4
Tertiary Group D	9,803	7.7	12,611	8.0	22,414	7.9
Not recorded	921	0.7	1,411	0.9	2,332	0.8

(a) Youth Allowance customers that are full-time students. They include customers who received a nil rate of payment (3,255) due to their own or partner's income.

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

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

Note: Tertiary Group 'A' refers to postgraduate bachelor degrees or postgraduate/graduate diplomas. Tertiary Group 'B' refers to undergraduate bachelor degrees. Tertiary Group 'C' refers to associate diplomas/degrees and TAFE diplomas that require completion of Year 12 for entry, or 2 year undergraduate diploma and certificate courses. Tertiary Group 'D' refers to certificate courses.

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Table 27: Youth Allowance (Other) customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>40,297</b>	<b>50.6</b>	<b>39,276</b>	<b>49.4</b>	<b>79,573</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Age (years)						
15	138	0.3	263	0.7	401	0.5
16	3,499	8.7	3,533	9.0	7,032	8.8
17	5,905	14.7	6,261	15.9	12,166	15.3
18	10,043	24.9	10,555	26.9	20,598	25.9
19	10,414	25.8	9,993	25.4	20,407	25.6
20	10,298	25.6	8,671	22.1	18,969	23.8
Rate						
At home	21,572	53.5	17,900	45.6	39,472	49.6
Away from home or couple	18,725	46.5	21,376	54.4	40,101	50.4
Independent	18,300	45.4	19,846	50.5	38,146	47.9
Dependent	21,997	54.6	19,430	49.5	41,427	52.1
Duration <sup>(b)</sup>						
<3 months	8,713	21.6	6,579	16.8	15,292	19.2
3 to <6 months	6,336	15.7	5,615	14.3	11,951	15.0
6 to <9 months	3,356	8.3	3,084	7.9	6,440	8.1
9 months to <1 year	2,711	6.7	2,467	6.3	5,178	6.5
1 to <2 years	7,497	18.6	8,184	20.8	15,681	19.7
2 years and over	11,684	29.0	13,347	34.0	25,031	31.5
Mean (weeks)	71.7		80.6		76.1	
Median (weeks)	47.3		64.0		55.4	
Income (\$ per week) <sup>(c)</sup>						
Nil	33,265	82.5	30,025	76.4	63,290	79.5
0.01–31.00	424	1.1	670	1.7	1,094	1.4
31.01–118.00	2,002	5.0	3,248	8.3	5,250	6.6
Over 118.00	4,606	11.4	5,333	13.6	9,939	12.5
Main activity type						
Jobsearch	22,044	54.7	20,660	52.6	42,704	53.7
Intensive Support Customised Assistance	6,740	16.7	7,311	18.6	14,051	17.7
Incapacitated	1,586	3.9	2,049	5.2	3,635	4.6
Work for dole	1,624	4.0	1,332	3.4	2,956	3.7
CDEP participant	1,783	4.4	1,106	2.8	2,889	3.6
Jobsearch training	1,139	2.8	1,119	2.8	2,258	2.8
Jobs placement, employment & training	835	2.1	888	2.3	1,723	2.2
Other	4,546	11.3	4,811	12.2	9,357	11.8

(a) Youth Allowance customers that are not full-time students. They include customers that received a nil rate of payment (2,208) due to their own or partner's income. The figures also include 2,889 Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) participants who receive a nil rate of basic Youth Allowance but may receive Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) Supplement and/or add-on payments (Rent Assistance, Pharmaceutical Allowance, Remote Area Allowance).

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

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Table 28: Total Youth Allowance customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>168,086</b>	<b>46.1</b>	<b>196,870</b>	<b>53.9</b>	<b>364,956</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Age (years)						
15	424	0.3	705	0.4	1,129	0.3
16	30,406	18.1	31,985	16.2	62,391	17.1
17	29,357	17.5	33,291	16.9	62,648	17.2
18	24,658	14.7	29,267	14.9	53,925	14.8
19	23,008	13.7	27,663	14.1	50,671	13.9
20	24,253	14.4	28,773	14.6	53,026	14.5
21	12,396	7.4	17,284	8.8	29,680	8.1
22	9,346	5.6	11,926	6.1	21,272	5.8
23	6,433	3.8	7,568	3.8	14,001	3.8
24	4,243	2.5	4,876	2.5	9,119	2.5
25 and over	3,562	2.1	3,532	1.8	7,094	1.9
Rate						
At home	108,272	64.4	115,524	58.7	223,796	61.3
Away from home or couple	59,814	35.6	81,346	41.3	141,160	38.7
Independent	60,682	36.1	79,270	40.3	139,952	38.3
Dependent	107,404	63.9	117,600	59.7	225,004	61.7
Duration <sup>(b)</sup>						
<3 months	23,197	13.8	22,828	11.6	46,025	12.6
3 to <6 months	27,468	16.3	32,054	16.3	59,522	16.3
6 to <9 months	12,603	7.5	13,494	6.9	26,097	7.2
9 months to <1 year	13,795	8.2	15,686	8.0	29,481	8.1
1 to <2 years	42,137	25.1	50,796	25.8	92,933	25.5
2 years and over	48,886	29.1	62,012	31.5	110,898	30.4
Mean (weeks)	80.1		84.3		82.4	
Median (weeks)	59.2		65.1		62.2	
Income (\$ per week) <sup>(c)</sup>						
Nil	125,582	74.7	126,083	64.0	251,665	69.0
0.01–31.00	2,234	1.3	3,579	1.8	5,813	1.6
31.01–118.00	17,833	10.6	30,332	15.4	48,165	13.2
Over 118.00	22,437	13.3	36,876	18.7	59,313	16.3
Student status						
Full-time	127,789	76.0	157,594	80.0	285,383	78.2
Part-time	296	0.2	529	0.3	825	0.2
Not a student	40,001	23.8	38,747	19.7	78,748	21.6

(a) Youth Allowance customers that are either full-time students or Youth Allowance (Other).

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

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

## 3.4 Newstart Allowance

Newstart Allowance is paid to people between 21 years and the 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 residential, income and assets test provisions. 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 29: Short-term Newstart Allowance customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005**

The number of short-term customers comprise those who have been in receipt of Newstart Allowance for a period less than 12 months.

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>123,340</b>	<b>68.1</b>	<b>57,777</b>	<b>31.9</b>	<b>181,117</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Age (years)						
18–24	24,093	19.5	13,933	24.1	38,026	21.0
25–29	22,199	18.0	8,459	14.6	30,658	16.9
30–34	18,986	15.4	5,212	9.0	24,198	13.4
35–39	14,607	11.8	3,871	6.7	18,478	10.2
40–44	11,884	9.6	4,593	7.9	16,477	9.1
45–49	9,282	7.5	5,761	10.0	15,043	8.3
50–59	15,622	12.7	12,761	22.1	28,383	15.7
60 and over	6,667	5.4	3,187	5.5	9,854	5.4
Marital status						
Single/separated/divorced/ widowed	91,868	74.5	42,931	74.3	134,799	74.4
Married/defacto	31,472	25.5	14,846	25.7	46,318	25.6
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	89,664	72.7	41,510	71.8	131,174	72.4
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	5,946	4.8	2,936	5.1	8,882	4.9
New Zealand	3,276	2.7	1,640	2.8	4,916	2.7
Vietnam	2,884	2.3	1,303	2.3	4,187	2.3
China	1,027	0.8	867	1.5	1,894	1.0
Other	20,543	16.7	9,521	16.5	30,064	16.6
Duration <sup>(b)</sup>						
<7 weeks	26,926	21.8	11,831	20.5	38,757	21.4
7 weeks to <3 months	20,812	16.9	9,384	16.2	30,196	16.7
3 to <6 months	35,819	29.0	17,448	30.2	53,267	29.4
6 to <9 months	22,645	18.4	11,009	19.1	33,654	18.6
9 months to <1 year	17,138	13.9	8,105	14.0	25,243	13.9
Mean (weeks)	20.2		20.6		20.3	
Median (weeks)	17.6		18.0		18.0	
Income (\$ per week) <sup>(c)</sup>						
Nil	107,870	87.5	46,169	79.9	154,039	85.0
0.01–32.00	952	0.8	676	1.2	1,628	0.9
Over 32.00	14,518	11.8	10,932	18.9	25,450	14.1
Activity type						
Jobseekers	74,480	60.4	31,441	54.4	105,921	58.5
Incapacitated	12,515	10.1	7,247	12.5	19,762	10.9
Other <sup>(d)</sup>	36,345	29.5	19,089	33.0	55,434	30.6

(a) These figures exclude customers that received a nil rate of payment (11,912) due to their own or partner's income and Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) participants (3,116) who receive a nil rate of basic Newstart Allowance but may receive CDEP Supplement and/or add-on payments (Rent Assistance, Pharmaceutical Allowance, Remote Area Allowance).

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

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

(d) 'Other' activity types include customers involved in 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.

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

**Table 30: Long-term Newstart Allowance customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005**

The number of long-term customers comprise those who have been in receipt of Newstart Allowance for a period equal to or greater than 12 months.

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>176,314</b>	<b>64.7</b>	<b>96,183</b>	<b>35.3</b>	<b>272,497</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Age (years)						
18–24	22,739	12.9	16,241	16.9	38,980	14.3
25–29	25,321	14.4	11,168	11.6	36,489	13.4
30–34	23,492	13.3	8,376	8.7	31,868	11.7
35–39	20,924	11.9	8,092	8.4	29,016	10.6
40–44	20,248	11.5	11,527	12.0	31,775	11.7
45–49	17,713	10.0	15,227	15.8	32,940	12.1
50–59	34,118	19.4	21,762	22.6	55,880	20.5
60 and over	11,759	6.7	3,790	3.9	15,549	5.7
Marital status						
Single/separated/divorced/ widowed	127,660	72.4	75,242	78.2	202,902	74.5
Married/defacto	48,654	27.6	20,941	21.8	69,595	25.5
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	130,615	74.1	71,061	73.9	201,676	74.0
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	8,685	4.9	4,235	4.4	12,920	4.7
Vietnam	5,528	3.1	3,227	3.4	8,755	3.2
New Zealand	3,409	1.9	2,085	2.2	5,494	2.0
Lebanon	2,520	1.4	921	1.0	3,441	1.3
Other	25,557	14.5	14,654	15.2	40,211	14.8
Duration <sup>(b)</sup>						
1 to <2 years	43,706	24.8	21,664	22.5	65,370	24.0
2 to <3 years	27,631	15.7	12,474	13.0	40,105	14.7
3 to <4 years	19,350	11.0	9,651	10.0	29,001	10.6
4 to <5 years	15,837	9.0	7,942	8.3	23,779	8.7
5 years or more	69,790	39.6	44,452	46.2	114,242	41.9
Mean (weeks)	261.0		296.5		273.5	
Median (weeks)	202.0		234.0		212.0	
Income (\$ per week) <sup>(c)</sup>						
Nil	151,096	85.7	75,386	78.4	226,482	83.1
0.01–31.00	1,866	1.1	1,415	1.5	3,281	1.2
Over 31.00	23,352	13.2	19,382	20.2	42,734	15.7
Activity type						
Jobseekers	69,708	39.5	35,077	36.5	104,785	38.5
Incapacitated	16,451	9.3	11,063	11.5	27,514	10.1
Other <sup>(d)</sup>	90,155	51.1	50,043	52.0	140,198	51.4

(a) These figures exclude customers that received a nil rate of payment (11,659) due to their own or partner's income and Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) participants (7,473) who receive a nil rate of basic Newstart Allowance but may receive CDEP Supplement and/or add-on payments (Rent Assistance, Pharmaceutical Allowance, Remote Area Allowance).

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

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

(d) 'Other' activity types include customers involved in 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.

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Table 31: Newstart Allowance customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>299,654</b>	<b>66.1</b>	<b>153,960</b>	<b>33.9</b>	<b>453,614</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Age (years)						
18–24	46,832	15.6	30,174	19.6	77,006	17.0
25–29	47,520	15.9	19,627	12.7	67,147	14.8
30–34	42,478	14.2	13,588	8.8	56,066	12.4
35–39	35,531	11.9	11,963	7.8	47,494	10.5
40–44	32,132	10.7	16,120	10.5	48,252	10.6
45–49	26,995	9.0	20,988	13.6	47,983	10.6
50–59	49,740	16.6	34,523	22.4	84,263	18.6
60 and over	18,426	6.1	6,977	4.5	25,403	5.6
Marital status						
Single/separated/divorced/ widowed	219,528	73.3	118,173	76.8	337,701	74.4
Married/defacto	80,126	26.7	35,787	23.2	115,913	25.6
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	220,279	73.5	112,571	73.1	332,850	73.4
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	14,631	4.9	7,171	4.7	21,802	4.8
Vietnam	8,412	2.8	4,530	2.9	12,942	2.9
New Zealand	6,685	2.2	3,725	2.4	10,410	2.3
Lebanon	3,853	1.3	1,304	0.8	5,157	1.1
Other	45,794	15.3	24,659	16.0	70,453	15.5
Duration <sup>(b)</sup>						
<1 year	123,340	41.2	57,777	37.5	181,117	39.9
1 to <2 years	43,706	14.6	21,664	14.1	65,370	14.4
2 to <3 years	27,631	9.2	12,474	8.1	40,105	8.8
3 to <4 years	19,350	6.5	9,651	6.3	29,001	6.4
4 to <5 years	15,837	5.3	7,942	5.2	23,779	5.2
5 years or more	69,790	23.3	44,452	28.9	114,242	25.2
Mean (weeks)	161.9		192.9		172.4	
Median (weeks)	80.0		96.1		84.9	
Income (\$ per week) <sup>(c)</sup>						
Nil	258,966	86.4	121,555	79.0	380,521	83.9
0.01–31.00	2,818	0.9	2,091	1.4	4,909	1.1
Over 31.00	37,870	12.6	30,314	19.7	68,184	15.0
Activity type						
Jobseekers	144,188	48.1	66,518	43.2	210,706	46.5
Incapacitated	28,966	9.7	18,310	11.9	47,276	10.4
Other <sup>(d)</sup>	126,500	42.2	69,132	44.9	195,632	43.1

(a) These figures exclude customers that received a nil rate of payment (23,571) due to their own or partner's income and Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) participants (10,589) who receive a nil rate of basic Newstart Allowance but may receive CDEP Supplement and/or add-on payments (Rent Assistance, Pharmaceutical Allowance, Remote Area Allowance).

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

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

(d) 'Other' activity types include customers involved in 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.

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

**Table 32: Short-term unemployed customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005**

The number of short-term customers comprise those who have been in receipt of either Youth Allowance with a student status other than full-time student [generally referred to as Youth Allowance (Other)] or Newstart Allowance for a period less than 12 months.

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>144,456</b>	<b>65.7</b>	<b>75,522</b>	<b>34.3</b>	<b>219,978</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Age (years)						
Under 18	6,279	4.3	6,053	8.0	12,332	5.6
18–24	38,930	26.9	25,625	33.9	64,555	29.3
25–29	22,199	15.4	8,459	11.2	30,658	13.9
30–34	18,986	13.1	5,212	6.9	24,198	11.0
35–39	14,607	10.1	3,871	5.1	18,478	8.4
40–44	11,884	8.2	4,593	6.1	16,477	7.5
45–49	9,282	6.4	5,761	7.6	15,043	6.8
50–59	15,622	10.8	12,761	16.9	28,383	12.9
60 and over	6,667	4.6	3,187	4.2	9,854	4.5
Marital status						
Single/separated/divorced/ widowed	111,979	77.5	59,268	78.5	171,247	77.8
Married/defacto	32,477	22.5	16,254	21.5	48,731	22.2
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	108,920	75.4	57,884	76.6	166,804	75.8
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	6,102	4.2	3,077	4.1	9,179	4.2
New Zealand	3,621	2.5	1,994	2.6	5,615	2.6
Vietnam	2,975	2.1	1,345	1.8	4,320	2.0
Sudan	1,783	1.2	304	0.4	2,087	0.9
Other	21,055	14.6	10,918	14.5	31,973	14.5
Duration <sup>(b)</sup>						
<7 weeks	31,891	22.1	15,381	20.4	47,272	21.5
7 weeks to <3 months	24,560	17.0	12,413	16.4	36,973	16.8
3 to <6 months	42,155	29.2	23,063	30.5	65,218	29.6
6 to <9 months	26,001	18.0	14,093	18.7	40,094	18.2
9 months to <1 year	19,849	13.7	10,572	14.0	30,421	13.8
Mean (weeks)	20.1		20.5		20.2	
Median (weeks)	17.1		18.0		17.7	
Income (\$ per week) <sup>(c)</sup>						
Nil	125,510	86.9	59,935	79.4	185,445	84.3
0.01–31.00	1,157	0.8	984	1.3	2,141	1.0
Over 31.00	17,789	12.3	14,603	19.3	32,392	14.7
Activity type						
Jobseekers	86,522	59.9	41,231	54.6	127,753	58.1
Incapacitated	13,478	9.3	8,248	10.9	21,726	9.9
Other <sup>(d)</sup>	44,456	30.8	26,043	34.5	70,499	32.0

(a) These figures exclude Newstart Allowance customers that received a nil rate of payment (11,912) due to their own or partner's income and Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) participants (3,116) who receive a nil rate of basic Newstart Allowance but may receive CDEP Supplement and/or add-on payments (Rent Assistance, Pharmaceutical Allowance, Remote Area Allowance).

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

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

(d) 'Other' activity types include customers involved in 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.

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

**Table 33: Long-term unemployed customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005**

The number of long-term customers comprise those who have been in receipt of either Youth Allowance with a student status other than full-time student [generally referred to as Youth Allowance (Other)] or Newstart Allowance for a period equal to or greater than 12 months.

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>195,495</b>	<b>62.4</b>	<b>117,714</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>313,209</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Age (years)						
Under 18	3,263	1.7	4,004	3.4	7,267	2.3
18–24	38,657	19.8	33,768	28.7	72,425	23.1
25–29	25,321	13.0	11,168	9.5	36,489	11.7
30–34	23,492	12.0	8,376	7.1	31,868	10.2
35–39	20,924	10.7	8,092	6.9	29,016	9.3
40–44	20,248	10.4	11,527	9.8	31,775	10.1
45–49	17,713	9.1	15,227	12.9	32,940	10.5
50–59	34,118	17.5	21,762	18.5	55,880	17.8
60 and over	11,759	6.0	3,790	3.2	15,549	5.0
Marital status						
Single/separated/divorced/ widowed	145,703	74.5	95,084	80.8	240,787	76.9
Married/de facto	49,792	25.5	22,630	19.2	72,422	23.1
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	148,372	75.9	91,056	77.4	239,428	76.4
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	8,783	4.5	4,373	3.7	13,156	4.2
Vietnam	5,630	2.9	3,328	2.8	8,958	2.9
New Zealand	3,651	1.9	2,414	2.1	6,065	1.9
Lebanon	2,561	1.3	973	0.8	3,534	1.1
Other	26,498	13.6	15,570	13.2	42,068	13.4
Duration <sup>(b)</sup>						
1 to <2 years	51,203	26.2	29,848	25.4	81,051	25.9
2 to <3 years	33,689	17.2	19,408	16.5	53,097	17.0
3 to <4 years	22,871	11.7	13,751	11.7	36,622	11.7
4 to <5 years	17,848	9.1	10,139	8.6	27,987	8.9
5 years or more	69,884	35.7	44,568	37.9	114,452	36.5
Mean (weeks)	248.0		266.1		254.8	
Median (weeks)	184.0		191.4		187.0	
Income (\$ per week) <sup>(c)</sup>						
Nil	166,721	85.3	91,645	77.9	258,366	82.5
0.01–31.00	2,085	1.1	1,777	1.5	3,862	1.2
Over 31.00	26,689	13.7	24,292	20.6	50,981	16.3
Activity type						
Jobseekers	79,710	40.8	45,947	39.0	125,657	40.1
Incapacitated	17,074	8.7	12,111	10.3	29,185	9.3
Other <sup>(d)</sup>	98,711	50.5	59,656	50.7	158,367	50.6

(a) These figures exclude Newstart Allowance customers that received a nil rate of payment (11,659) due to their own or partner's income and Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) participants (7,473) who receive a nil rate of basic Newstart Allowance but may receive CDEP Supplement and/or add-on payments (Rent Assistance, Pharmaceutical Allowance, Remote Area Allowance).

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

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

(d) 'Other' activity type include customers involved in 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.

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

**Table 34: Total unemployed customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005**

The number of unemployed customers comprise those 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.

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>339,951</b>	<b>63.8</b>	<b>193,236</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>533,187</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Age (years)						
Under 18	9,542	2.8	10,057	5.2	19,599	3.7
18–24	77,587	22.8	59,393	30.7	136,980	25.7
25–29	47,520	14.0	19,627	10.2	67,147	12.6
30–34	42,478	12.5	13,588	7.0	56,066	10.5
35–39	35,531	10.5	11,963	6.2	47,494	8.9
40–44	32,132	9.5	16,120	8.3	48,252	9.0
45–49	26,995	7.9	20,988	10.9	47,983	9.0
50–59	49,740	14.6	34,523	17.9	84,263	15.8
60 and over	18,426	5.4	6,977	3.6	25,403	4.8
Marital status						
Single/separated/divorced/ widowed	257,682	75.8	154,352	79.9	412,034	77.3
Married/de facto	82,269	24.2	38,884	20.1	121,153	22.7
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	257,292	75.7	148,940	77.1	406,232	76.2
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	14,885	4.4	7,450	3.9	22,335	4.2
Vietnam	8,605	2.5	4,673	2.4	13,278	2.5
New Zealand	7,272	2.1	4,408	2.3	11,680	2.2
Lebanon	3,937	1.2	1,379	0.7	5,316	1.0
Other	47,960	14.1	26,386	13.7	74,346	13.9
Duration <sup>(b)</sup>						
<1 year	144,456	42.5	75,522	39.1	219,978	41.3
1 to <2 years	51,203	15.1	29,848	15.4	81,051	15.2
2 to <3 years	33,689	9.9	19,408	10.0	53,097	10.0
3 to <4 years	22,871	6.7	13,751	7.1	36,622	6.9
4 to <5 years	17,848	5.3	10,139	5.2	27,987	5.2
5 years or more	69,884	20.6	44,568	23.1	114,452	21.5
Mean (weeks)	151.2		170.1		158.0	
Median (weeks)	74.0		85.0		78.1	
Income (\$ per week) <sup>(c)</sup>						
Nil	292,231	86.0	151,580	78.4	443,811	83.2
0.01–31.00	3,242	1.0	2,761	1.4	6,003	1.1
Over 31.00	44,478	13.1	38,895	20.1	83,373	15.6
Activity type						
Jobseekers	166,232	48.9	87,178	45.1	253,410	47.5
Incapacitated	30,552	9.0	20,359	10.5	50,911	9.5
Other <sup>(d)</sup>	143,167	42.1	85,699	44.3	228,866	42.9

(a) These figures exclude Newstart Allowance customers that received a nil rate of payment (23,571) due to their own or partner's income and Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) participants (10,589) who receive a nil rate of basic Newstart Allowance but may receive CDEP Supplement and/or add-on payments (Rent Assistance, Pharmaceutical Allowance, Remote Area Allowance).

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

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

(d) 'Other' activity types include customers involved in 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.

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

**Table 35: Unemployed customers by state/territory, June 2005**

The number of unemployed customers comprise those who are in receipt of either Youth Allowance with a student status other than full-time student [generally referred to as Youth Allowance (Other)] or Newstart Allowance.

State/territory	Newstart Allowance		Youth Allowance (Other)		Total	
	Short-term	Long-term	Short-term	Long-term	Short-term	Long-term
New South Wales	59,216	88,863	12,305	12,961	71,521	101,824
Victoria	44,361	67,195	7,101	8,779	51,462	75,974
Queensland	38,520	49,544	9,265	8,249	47,785	57,793
Western Australia	15,984	21,657	4,250	3,310	20,234	24,967
South Australia	14,086	23,909	3,189	3,864	17,275	27,773
Tasmania	4,704	11,150	1,081	1,847	5,785	12,997
Australian Capital Territory	1,796	2,605	386	387	2,182	2,992
Northern Territory	2,450	7,574	1,284	1,315	3,734	8,889
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>181,117</b>	<b>272,497</b>	<b>38,861</b>	<b>40,712</b>	<b>219,978</b>	<b>313,209</b>

- (a) These figures exclude Newstart Allowance customers that received a nil rate of payment (23,571) due to their own or partner's income and Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) participants (10,589) who receive a nil rate of basic Newstart Allowance but may receive CDEP Supplement and/or add-on payments (Rent Assistance, Pharmaceutical Allowance, Remote Area Allowance).

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

### 3.5 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 was only granted to persons born on or before 1 July 1955 who had no dependent children under the age of 16 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. It was 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, Age Pension, Disability Support Pension, Mature Age Allowance or an Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Service Pension.

Partner Allowance is a non-activity tested payment subject to residential requirements, and 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.

Partner Allowance recipients aged over 60 who have been receiving income support continuously for nine months or more may be eligible for a Pensioner Concession Card.

Partner Allowance was closed to new claimants on 20 September 2003. People already receiving Partner Allowance will continue to receive it while they remain eligible.

Table 36: Partner Allowance customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>8,153</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>63,462</b>	<b>88.6</b>	<b>71,615</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Age (years)						
Under 50	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	59	0.1
50–54	698	8.6	11,191	17.6	11,889	16.6
55–59	1,835	22.5	27,684	43.6	29,519	41.2
60–64	4,213	51.7	22,206	35.0	26,419	36.9
65 and over	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	3,729	5.2
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	4,223	51.8	39,221	61.8	43,444	60.7
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	886	10.9	5,102	8.0	5,988	8.4
China	848	10.4	2,053	3.2	2,901	4.1
Italy	104	1.3	1,880	3.0	1,984	2.8
Greece	147	1.8	1,557	2.5	1,704	2.4
Other	1,945	23.9	13,649	21.5	15,594	21.8
Duration <sup>(b)</sup>						
Less than <2 years	522	6.4	2,984	4.7	3,506	4.9
2 to <3 years	1,841	22.6	9,616	15.2	11,457	16.0
3 to <4 years	1,521	18.7	9,964	15.7	11,485	16.0
4 to <5 years	882	10.8	7,551	11.9	8,433	11.8
5 years or more	3,387	41.5	33,347	52.5	36,734	51.3
Mean (weeks)	276.0		301.8		298.9	
Median (weeks)	218.1		274.2		267.9	
Income (\$ per week) <sup>(c)</sup>						
Nil	7,552	92.6	58,557	92.3	66,109	92.3
0.01–31.00	101	1.2	675	1.1	776	1.1
Over 31.00	500	6.1	4,230	6.7	4,730	6.6

(a) These figures exclude customers that received a nil rate of payment (558) due to their own or partner's income and Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) participants (2) who receive a nil rate of basic Partner Allowance but may receive CDEP Supplement and/or add-on payments (Rent Assistance, Pharmaceutical Allowance, Remote Area Allowance).

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

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

Note: n.p.=not published. See 'Confidentiality' on page 1.

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Table 37: Partner Allowance customers by state/territory and sex, June 2005

State/territory	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
New South Wales	2,956	12.7	20,394	87.3	23,350	32.6
Victoria	1,907	10.7	15,981	89.3	17,888	25.0
Queensland	1,505	10.8	12,464	89.2	13,969	19.5
Western Australia	531	9.0	5,381	91.0	5,912	8.3
South Australia	790	11.5	6,078	88.5	6,868	9.6
Tasmania	403	12.9	2,709	87.1	3,112	4.3
Australian Capital Territory	39	12.5	274	87.5	313	0.4
Northern Territory	22	10.8	181	89.2	203	0.3
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>8,153</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>63,462</b>	<b>88.6</b>	<b>71,615</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) These figures exclude customers that received a nil rate of payment (558) due to their own or partner's income and Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) participants (2) who receive a nil rate of basic Partner Allowance but may receive CDEP Supplement and/or add-on payments (Rent Assistance, Pharmaceutical Allowance, Remote Area Allowance).

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

## 3.6 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.

Until 1 July 1995, Mature Age Partner Allowance was paid to partners of Mature Age Allowance recipients. Mature Age Partner Allowance has been phased out, with no people in receipt of this payment since July 2001.

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 was closed to new claimants on 20 September 2003. People already receiving Mature Age Allowance will continue to receive it while they remain eligible.

Mature Age Allowance is subject to residential, income and asset test provisions.

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

Table 38: Mature Age Allowance customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>19,705</b>	<b>94.4</b>	<b>1,172</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>20,877</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Age (years)						
61	958	4.9	318	27.1	1,276	6.1
62	4,711	23.9	854	72.9	5,565	26.7
63	6,536	33.2	0	0.0	6,536	31.3
64	7,500	38.1	0	0.0	7,500	35.9
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	12,208	62.0	796	67.9	13,004	62.3
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	2,720	13.8	152	13.0	2,872	13.8
Italy	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	376	1.8
Germany	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	359	1.7
New Zealand	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	351	1.7
Other	3,726	18.9	189	16.1	3,915	18.8
Duration <sup>(b)</sup>						
Less than <2 years	214	1.1	20	1.7	234	1.1
2 to <3 years	3,887	19.7	195	16.6	4,082	19.6
3 to <4 years	4,686	23.8	222	18.9	4,908	23.5
4 to <5 years	2,412	12.2	116	9.9	2,528	12.1
5 years and over	8,506	43.2	619	52.8	9,125	43.7
Mean duration (weeks)	300.0		340.4		302.3	
Median duration (weeks)	229.7		278.1		232.0	
Income (\$ per week) <sup>(c)</sup>						
Nil	18,367	93.2	1,080	92.2	19,447	93.2
0.01 and over	1,338	6.8	92	7.8	1,430	6.8

(a) These figures exclude customers that received a nil rate of payment (148) due to their own or partner's income and Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) participants (4) who receive a nil rate of basic Mature Age Allowance but may receive CDEP Supplement and/or add-on payments (Rent Assistance, Pharmaceutical Allowance, Remote Area Allowance).

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

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Table 39: Mature Age Allowance customers by state/territory and sex, June 2005

State/territory	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
New South Wales	6,103	93.6	419	6.4	6,522	31.2
Victoria	4,643	94.9	249	5.1	4,892	23.4
Queensland	4,500	94.3	274	5.7	4,774	22.9
Western Australia	1,748	95.5	83	4.5	1,831	8.8
South Australia	1,676	94.6	95	5.4	1,771	8.5
Tasmania	879	95.3	43	4.7	922	4.4
Australian Capital Territory	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	90	0.4
Northern Territory	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	75	0.4
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>19,705</b>	<b>94.4</b>	<b>1,172</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>20,877</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) These figures exclude customers that received a nil rate of payment (148) due to their own or partner's income and Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) participants (4) who receive a nil rate of basic Mature Age Allowance but may receive CDEP Supplement and/or add-on payments (Rent Assistance, Pharmaceutical Allowance, Remote Area Allowance).

Note: n.p.=not published. See 'Confidentiality' on page 1.

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

### 3.7 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 was closed to new claimants from 1 July 2005 unless the woman was born on or before 1 July 1955.

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. 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 2 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 subject to residential, income and asset test provisions.

Widow Allowance recipients are eligible to receive a Health Care Card. Recipients aged over 60 who have been receiving income support continuously for nine months or more may be eligible to receive a Pension Concession Card.

Table 40: Widow Allowance customers, characteristics, June 2005

Characteristics	Female	
	No.	%
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>44,329</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Age (years)		
50–54	7,463	16.8
55–59	19,014	42.9
60–64	12,972	29.3
65 and over	4,880	11.0
Country of birth (top five countries)		
Australia	24,613	55.5
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	3,401	7.7
China	1,988	4.5
Vietnam	1,274	2.9
Philippines	1,025	2.3
Other	12,028	27.1
Duration <sup>(b)</sup>		
Less than one year		
<7 weeks	377	0.9
7 weeks to <3 months	406	0.9
3 to <6 months	864	1.9
6 to <9 months	800	1.8
9 months to <1 year	868	2.0
One year and longer		
1 to <2 years	3,384	7.6
2 to <3 years	4,101	9.3
3 to <4 years	4,604	10.4
4 to <5 years	4,514	10.2
5 years or more	24,411	55.1
Mean (weeks)	331.3	
Median (weeks)	291.3	
Income (\$ per week) <sup>(c)</sup>		
Nil	39,820	89.8
0.01–31.00	642	1.4
Over 31.00	3,867	8.7

(a) These figures exclude customers that received a nil rate of payment (494) due to their own or partner's income and Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) participants (12) who receive a nil rate of basic Widow Allowance but may receive CDEP Supplement and/or add-on payments (Rent Assistance, Pharmaceutical Allowance, Remote Area Allowance).

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

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

**Table 41: Widow Allowance customers by state/territory and sex, June 2005**

State/territory	Female	
	No.	%
New South Wales	14,795	33.4
Victoria	11,335	25.6
Queensland	9,220	20.8
Western Australia	3,977	9.0
South Australia	3,210	7.2
Tasmania	1,283	2.9
Australian Capital Territory	313	0.7
Northern Territory	196	0.4
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>44,329</b>	<b>100.0</b>

- (a) These figures exclude customers that received a nil rate of payment (494) due to their own or partner's income and Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) participants (12) who receive a nil rate of basic Widow Allowance but may receive CDEP Supplement and/or add-on payments (Rent Assistance, Pharmaceutical Allowance, Remote Area Allowance).

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

## 3.8 Parenting Payment

Parenting Payment was introduced to help people with children, particularly low-income families, by providing an independent income.

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.

Parenting Payment is subject to the residential, income and assets test provisions.

### **Parenting Payment (Single)**

From 1 July 2006 Parenting Payment (Single) is an income support payment to a single parent who is the principle carer of a child or children under the age of 8. Parents on Parenting Payment (Single) before 1 July 2006 will continue to receive this payment until their youngest child turns 16, as long as they remain eligible.

Table 42: Parenting Payment (Single) customers by sex, June 1985 to June 2005

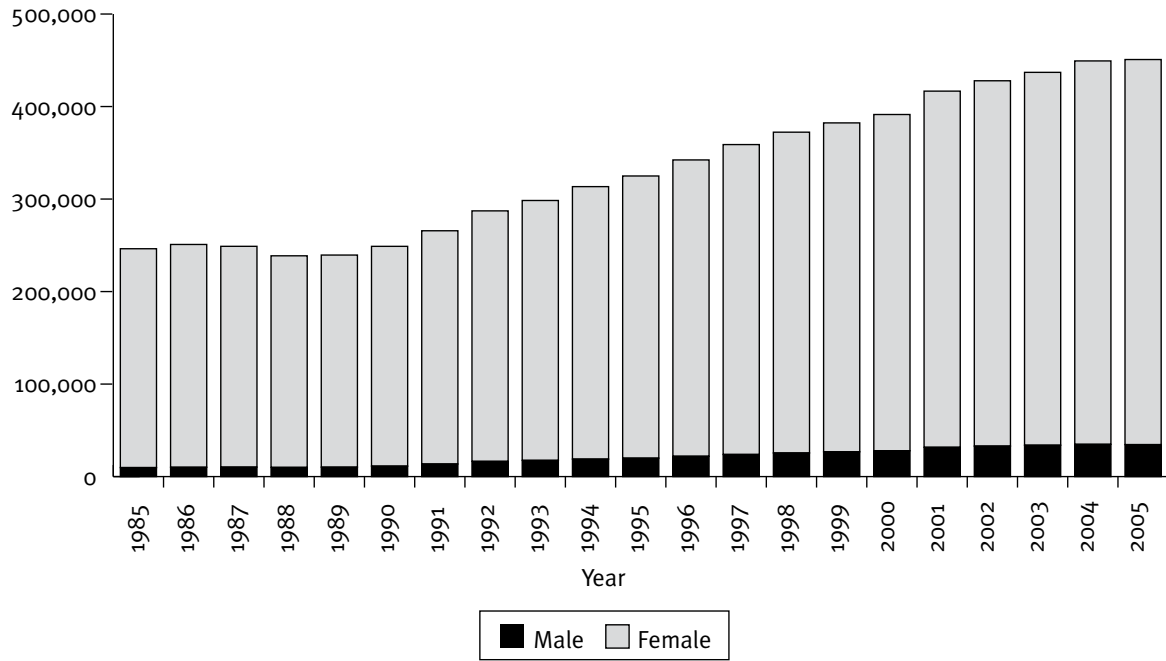
As at June	Male		Female		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.
1985	9,736	4.0	236,559	96.0	246,295
1986	10,070	4.0	240,840	96.0	250,910
1987	10,236	4.1	238,671	95.9	248,907
1988	9,929	4.2	228,727	95.8	238,656
1989 <sup>(a)</sup>	10,180	4.3	229,289	95.7	239,469
1990	11,305	4.5	237,581	95.5	248,886
1991	13,616	5.1	252,104	94.9	265,720
1992	16,444	5.7	270,784	94.3	287,228
1993	17,529	5.9	280,915	94.1	298,444
1994	18,897	6.0	294,540	94.0	313,437
1995	19,913	6.1	305,028	93.9	324,941
1996	21,964	6.4	320,326	93.6	342,290
1997	23,920	6.7	334,973	93.3	358,893
1998 <sup>(b)</sup>	25,546	6.9	346,740	93.1	372,286
1999	26,830	7.0	355,493	93.0	382,323
2000	27,951	7.1	363,442	92.9	391,393
2001	31,661	7.6	385,000	92.4	416,661
2002	32,966	7.7	394,880	92.3	427,846
2003	33,909	7.8	403,049	92.2	436,958
2004	34,866	7.8	414,446	92.2	449,312
2005	34,565	7.7	416,246	92.3	450,811

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

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

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Figure 8: Parenting Payment (Single) customers by sex, June 1985 to June 2005



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

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Table 43: Parenting Payment (Single) customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total <sup>(a)</sup>	34,565	7.7	416,246	92.3	450,811	100.0
Age (years)						
Under 20	108	0.3	9,543	2.3	9,651	2.1
20–29	4,490	13.0	111,777	26.9	116,267	25.8
30–39	13,563	39.2	168,350	40.4	181,913	40.4
40–49	12,569	36.4	110,887	26.6	123,456	27.4
50–59	3,463	10.0	15,081	3.6	18,544	4.1
60 and over	372	1.1	608	0.1	980	0.2
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	27,464	79.5	330,269	79.3	357,733	79.4
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	1,731	5.0	16,129	3.9	17,860	4.0
New Zealand	1,140	3.3	13,588	3.3	14,728	3.3
Vietnam	744	2.2	10,968	2.6	11,712	2.6
Philippines	118	0.3	3,659	0.9	3,777	0.8
Other	3,368	9.7	41,633	10.0	45,001	10.0
Home ownership						
Home owner	6,924	20.0	87,569	21.0	94,493	21.0
Non-home owner	27,641	80.0	328,677	79.0	356,318	79.0
Duration <sup>(b)</sup>						
<6 months	6,007	17.4	43,709	10.5	49,716	11.0
6 months to <1 year	4,603	13.3	37,657	9.0	42,260	9.4
1 to <2 years	6,990	20.2	68,792	16.5	75,782	16.8
2 to <3 years	4,793	13.9	55,577	13.4	60,370	13.4
3 years and over	12,172	35.2	210,511	50.6	222,683	49.4

(a) Excludes 7,264 suspended clients.

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

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

**Table 44: Parenting Payment (Single) customers by state/territory and sex, June 2005**

State/territory	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
New South Wales	11,253	7.7	134,162	92.3	145,415	32.3
Victoria	6,650	6.6	93,684	93.4	100,334	22.3
Queensland	7,921	8.0	90,694	92.0	98,615	21.9
Western Australia	3,350	7.4	42,076	92.6	45,426	10.1
South Australia	3,241	9.0	32,746	91.0	35,987	8.0
Northern Territory	459	7.7	5,484	92.3	5,943	1.3
Australian Capital Territory	378	7.4	4,732	92.6	5,110	1.1
Tasmania	1,275	9.5	12,088	90.5	13,363	3.0
Other <sup>(a)</sup>	38	6.1	580	93.9	618	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,565</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>416,246</b>	<b>92.3</b>	<b>450,811</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Includes not coded or invalid postcodes.  
Source: Centrelink administrative data.

### Parenting Payment (Partnered)

From 1 July 2006 Parenting Payment (Partnered) is an income support payment to a partnered parent who is the principle carer of a child/ren under the age of 6. It is only payable to one member of a couple. Parents on Parenting Payment (Partnered) before 1 July 2006 will continue to receive this payment until their youngest child turns 16, as long as they remain eligible.

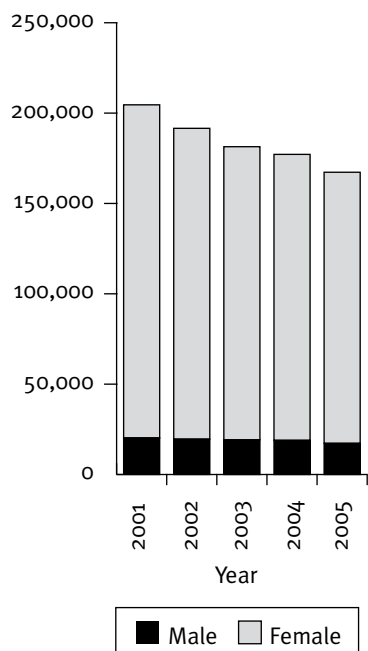
**Table 45: Parenting Payment (Partnered) customers by sex, June 2001 to June 2005**

As at June	Male		Female		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.
2001	20,263	9.9	184,313	90.1	204,576
2002	19,576	10.2	172,000	89.8	191,576
2003	19,196	10.6	162,209	89.4	181,405
2004	18,917	10.7	158,240	89.3	177,157
2005	17,255	10.3	150,017	89.7	167,272

Note: Parenting Payment (Partnered) replaced the Parenting Allowance in March 1998. From July 2000, the basic rate of Parenting Payment (Partnered) became part of Family Tax Benefit.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Figure 9: Parenting Payment (Partnered) customers by sex, June 2001 to June 2005



Note: Parenting Payment (Partnered) replaced the Parenting Allowance in March 1998. From July 2000, the basic rate of Parenting Payment (Partnered) became part of Family Tax Benefit.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Table 46: Parenting Payment (Partnered) customers by payment category of partner, June 2001 to June 2005

As at June	Partner's payment				Total
	Youth Allowance	Low income	Newstart Allowance <sup>(a)</sup>	Pension	
2001	193	86,329	95,812	22,242	204,576
2002	204	81,078	85,424	24,870	191,576
2003	195	81,792	74,268	25,150	181,405
2004	144	87,945	63,571	25,497	177,157
2005	164	86,184	56,087	24,837	167,272

(a) Includes persons whose partner received Newstart Allowance, Sickness Allowance, Special Benefit or other payments.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Table 47: Parenting Payment (Partnered) customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>17,255</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>150,017</b>	<b>89.7</b>	<b>167,272</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Age (years)						
Under 20	32	0.2	2,789	1.9	2,821	1.7
20–29	1,845	10.7	36,400	24.3	38,245	22.9
30–39	6,542	37.9	65,287	43.5	71,829	42.9
40–49	6,622	38.4	39,546	26.4	46,168	27.6
50–59	1,978	11.5	5,785	3.9	7,763	4.6
60 and over	236	1.4	210	0.1	446	0.3
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	11,356	65.8	92,020	61.3	103,376	61.8
Vietnam	670	3.9	7,649	5.1	8,319	5.0
Lebanon	286	1.7	5,815	3.9	6,101	3.6
China	532	3.1	5,489	3.7	6,021	3.6
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	930	5.4	4,145	2.8	5,075	3.0
Other	3,481	20.2	34,899	23.3	38,380	22.9
Duration <sup>(b)</sup>						
<6 months	4,716	27.3	31,094	20.7	35,810	21.4
6 months to <1 year	3,001	17.4	19,565	13.0	22,566	13.5
1 to <2 years	3,700	21.4	26,857	17.9	30,557	18.3
2 to <3 years	2,180	12.6	17,420	11.6	19,600	11.7
3 years and over	3,658	21.2	55,081	36.7	58,739	35.1

(a) Excludes 5,377 suspended customers.

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

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Table 48: Parenting Payment (Partnered) customers by state/territory and sex, June 2005

State/territory	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
New South Wales	5,303	9.4	51,215	90.6	56,518	33.8
Victoria	3,917	9.7	36,475	90.3	40,392	24.1
Queensland	3,930	12.1	28,612	87.9	32,542	19.5
Western Australia	1,484	10.0	13,333	90.0	14,817	8.9
South Australia	1,676	13.1	11,129	86.9	12,805	7.7
Tasmania	658	11.7	4,958	88.3	5,616	3.4
Australian Capital Territory	118	10.2	1,036	89.8	1,154	0.7
Northern Territory	145	4.3	3,214	95.7	3,359	2.0
Unknown <sup>(a)</sup>	24	34.8	45	65.2	69	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,255</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>150,017</b>	<b>89.7</b>	<b>167,272</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Includes not coded or invalid postcodes.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

### 3.9 Special Benefit

Special Benefit is an income support payment for people in severe financial hardship due to circumstances beyond their control, and who are unable to get any other social security pension or 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 Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA).

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 the Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs (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.

Special Benefit is subject to income and assets tests.

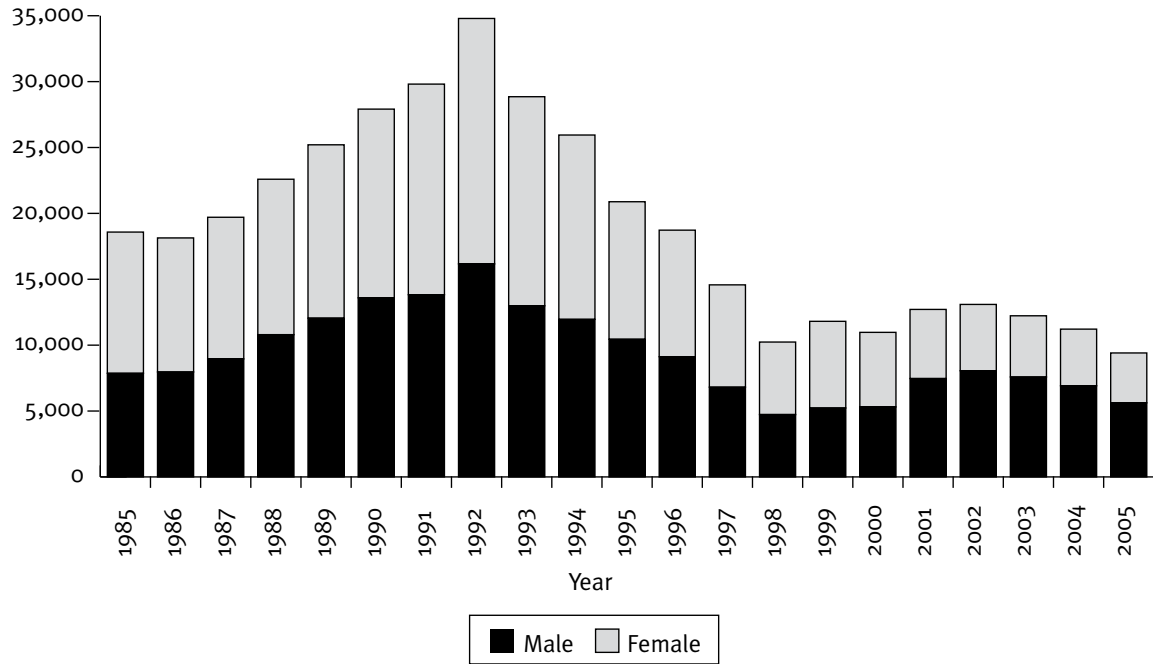
Table 49: Special Benefit customers by sex, June 1985 to June 2005

As at June	Male		Female		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.
1985	7,863	42.3	10,719	57.7	18,582
1986	7,966	43.9	10,170	56.1	18,136
1987	8,957	45.5	10,749	54.5	19,706
1988	10,796	47.8	11,796	52.2	22,592
1989	12,048	47.8	13,156	52.2	25,204
1990	13,592	48.7	14,321	51.3	27,913
1991	13,830	46.4	15,981	53.6	29,811
1992	16,168	46.5	18,624	53.5	34,792
1993	12,989	45.0	15,865	55.0	28,854
1994	11,957	46.1	13,990	53.9	25,947
1995	10,446	50.0	10,438	50.0	20,884
1996	9,125	48.7	9,602	51.3	18,727
1997	6,811	46.7	7,765	53.3	14,577
1998	4,733	46.2	5,503	53.8	10,236
1999	5,232	44.3	6,576	55.7	11,808
2000	5,313	48.4	5,658	51.6	10,971
2001	7,466	58.7	5,246	41.3	12,712
2002	8,060	61.6	5,031	38.4	13,091
2003	7,585	62.0	4,643	38.0	12,228
2004	6,918	61.7	4,298	38.3	11,216
2005	5,625	59.8	3,783	40.2	9,408

Note: From 1985 to 1997, these figures are an average of the weekly payments for the month ending June each year. From 1998 to 2005, these figures are point-in-time and as such will differ from averages of the weekly payments. These figures exclude customers who received a nil rate of payment.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Figure 10: Special Benefit customers by sex, June 1985 to June 2005



Note: From 1985 to 1997, these figures are an average of the weekly payments for the month ending June each year. From 1998 to 2005, these figures are point-in-time and as such will differ from averages of the weekly payments. These figures exclude customers who received a nil rate of payment.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Table 50: Special Benefit customers, Special Benefit category by sex, June 2005

Category	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>5,625</b>	<b>59.8</b>	<b>3,783</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>9,408</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Assurance of Support	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	32	0.3
Australian citizen child in custody of non-permanent resident	61	1.1	46	1.2	107	1.1
Caring for child	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Caring for incapacitated person	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Newly arrived refugees in two-year waiting period for Newstart Allowance/Sickness Allowance	58	1.0	47	1.2	105	1.1
Newly arrived migrants (NAM) in waiting period for Special Benefit	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
NAM in two-year waiting period for:						
Widow Allowance/Parenting Payment/Mature Age Allowance/Carer Payment	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	28	0.3
Not residentially qualified for Age Pension	2,914	51.8	1,763	46.6	4,677	49.7
Not residentially qualified for Disability Support Pension (post-10 December 2000)	135	2.4	113	3.0	248	2.6
Not residentially qualified for other pension (pre-10 December 2000)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Other cases (long-term)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	77	0.8
Other cases (short-term)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	51	0.5
Socially marginalised	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Spouse Extended Eligibility Temporary Entry Permit (pre-10 December 2000)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Spouse provisional visa (previously Special entry visa) (post-10 December 2000)	413	7.3	789	20.9	1,202	12.8
Temporary protection visa	1,036	18.4	508	13.4	1,544	16.4
Temporary protection visa from 1 January 2003	886	15.8	246	6.5	1,132	12.0
Temporary protection visa ineligible for Disability Support Pension	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Temporary protection visa (not of workforce age)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Under 16 years	42	0.7	82	2.2	124	1.3

(a) Excludes customers who received a nil rate of payment (126).

Note: n.p.=not published. See 'Confidentiality' on page 1.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Table 51: Special Benefit customers, characteristics by sex, June 2005

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>5,625</b>	<b>59.8</b>	<b>3,783</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>9,408</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Age (years)						
Under 16	107	1.9	135	3.6	242	2.6
16–17	64	1.1	62	1.6	126	1.3
18–20	106	1.9	167	4.4	273	2.9
21–24	283	5.0	328	8.7	611	6.5
25–34	1,105	19.6	655	17.3	1,760	18.7
35–44	650	11.6	355	9.4	1,005	10.7
45–54	252	4.5	183	4.8	435	4.6
55–59	59	1.0	52	1.4	111	1.2
60–64	43	0.8	132	3.5	175	1.9
65 and over	2,956	52.6	1,714	45.3	4,670	49.6
Marital status						
Married/defaulto	3,240	57.6	2,360	62.4	5,600	59.5
Single/separated/divorced/ widowed	2,385	42.4	1,423	37.6	3,808	40.5
Country of birth (top five countries)						
China	1,548	27.5	840	22.2	2,388	25.4
Iraq	1,415	25.2	676	17.9	2,091	22.2
Afghanistan	413	7.3	145	3.8	558	5.9
Lebanon	263	4.7	219	5.8	482	5.1
Vietnam	140	2.5	170	4.5	310	3.3
Other	1,846	32.8	1,733	45.8	3,579	38.0
Duration <sup>(b)</sup>						
Less than one year						
<7 weeks	205	3.6	201	5.3	406	4.3
7 weeks to <3 months	177	3.1	182	4.8	359	3.8
3 to <6 months	312	5.5	344	9.1	656	7.0
6 to <9 months	302	5.4	307	8.1	609	6.5
9 months to <1 year	249	4.4	253	6.7	502	5.3
One year and longer						
1 to <2 years	752	13.4	619	16.4	1,371	14.6
2 to <3 years	649	11.5	434	11.5	1,083	11.5
3 to <4 years	893	15.9	513	13.6	1,406	14.9
4 to <5 years	901	16.0	350	9.3	1,251	13.3
5 years or more	1,185	21.1	580	15.3	1,765	18.8
Mean (weeks)	171.0		135.4		156.7	
Median (weeks)	166.4		103.0		142.6	
Income (\$ per week) <sup>(c)</sup>						
Nil	5,508	97.9	3,749	99.1	9,257	98.4
0.01 and over	117	2.1	34	0.9	151	1.6

(a) These figures exclude customers who received a nil rate of payment (126).

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

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Table 52: Special Benefit customers by state/territory and sex, June 2005

State/territory	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
New South Wales	3,026	62.2	1,841	37.8	4,867	51.7
Victoria	1,551	59.0	1,080	41.0	2,631	28.0
Queensland	307	54.8	253	45.2	560	6.0
Western Australia	269	57.2	201	42.8	470	5.0
South Australia	374	58.0	271	42.0	645	6.9
Tasmania	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	80	0.9
Australian Capital Territory	50	37.6	83	62.4	133	1.4
Northern Territory	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	22	0.2
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>5,625</b>	<b>59.8</b>	<b>3,783</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>9,408</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) These figures exclude customers who received a nil rate of payment (126).

Note: n.p.=not published. See 'Confidentiality' on page 1.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

## 4 Family Assistance

The Australian Government offers a range of payments through the Family Assistance Office to support families with their work and family responsibilities.

Each payment is different, depending on the needs of each family.

The main payments are:

- Family Tax Benefit Part A
- Family Tax Benefit Part B
- Childcare Benefit
- Childcare Tax Rebate
- Maternity Payment (now known as Baby Bonus)
- Maternity Immunisation Allowance.

### 4.1 Family Tax Benefit

Family Tax Benefit was introduced to help with the cost of raising children.

Residential requirements apply.

#### **Part A**

This is the most common payment to help with the cost of raising children and is paid per child. It includes a supplement per child which becomes payable after the end of the financial year.

Part A is income tested on family income.

#### **Part B**

This payment gives extra assistance to single-parent families and to two-parent families with one main income. It is paid on a per family basis and includes a supplement which becomes payable after the end of the financial year.

Part B is not means tested for sole parents, and is means tested on the lower income earner for two-parent families.

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

**Table 53: Family Tax Benefit, customers and children, June 2005**

	Customer	Children
	No.	No.
Family Tax Benefit, both Part A and B	1,355,916	2,584,332
Family Tax Benefit, Part A only	472,579	960,067
Total Part A	1,828,495	3,544,399
Family Tax Benefit, Part B only	41,002	79,094 <sup>(a)</sup>
Total Part B	1,396,918	2,704,839 <sup>(a)</sup>
<b>Total<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>1,869,497</b>	<b>3,623,493</b>

(a) The number of children shown for Family Tax Benefit Part B is the number of children in the families of FTB Part B customers.

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

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

**Table 54: Family Tax Benefit customers, June 2001 to June 2005**

Year	FTB Part A	FTB Part B	Total FTB customers
2001	1,801,285	1,181,069	1,827,856
2002	1,795,355	1,199,233	1,823,371
2003	1,783,423	1,202,110	1,813,235
2004	1,809,122	1,205,760	1,840,004
2005	1,828,495	1,396,918	1,869,497

Note: The Family Tax Benefit total of customers is the total number who received FTB Part A and/or FTB Part B. It is not the arithmetic total of FTB Part A and FTB Part B as most customers receive both FTB Part A and FTB Part B.

**Table 55: Family Tax Benefit Part A, customers and children by rate type, June 2005**

Family Tax Benefit rate type	Customers		Children	
	No.	%	No.	%
Maximum FTB Part A rate with ISP <sup>(a)</sup>	464,996	25.4	870,732	24.6
Maximum FTB Part A rate without ISP <sup>(a)</sup>	145,999	8.0	259,353	7.3
Part rate <sup>(b)</sup>	536,838	29.4	1,176,488	33.2
Base rate	617,879	33.8	1,097,073	31.0
Tapered base rate	62,549	3.4	139,789	3.9
Invalid code	234	0.0	964	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,828,495</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,544,399</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) ISP=Income Support Payment (for example, Newstart Allowance, Disability Support Pension, and so on).

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

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

**Table 56: Family Tax Benefit Part A, customers and dependent children by age of child, June 2005**

Age of child (years)	Customers <sup>(a)</sup>		Children	
	No.	%	No.	%
Under 13	1,497,647	81.9	2,655,978	74.9
13–15	517,727	28.3	591,254	16.7
16–17	159,478	8.7	166,112	4.7
18–20	111,924	6.1	120,614	3.4
21–24 <sup>(b)</sup>	10,040	0.5	10,441	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,828,495</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,544,399</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) The customer count is the number of customers with at least one dependent child in the age group—hence a particular customer may be counted in more than one category. The total, however, counts each customer once only and is therefore less than the sum of the categories.

(b) Includes 'Invalid code'.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

**Table 57: Family Tax Benefit Part B, customers by rate type and age of youngest child, June 2005**

Rate type and age of child (years)	Customers	
	No.	%
Maximum rate Family Tax Benefit Part B rate		
Child under 5 years	420,192	30.1
Child 5 years and over	550,190	39.4
Total	970,382	69.5
Part rate Family Tax Benefit Part B rate		
Child under 5 years	232,765	16.7
Child 5 years and over	193,771	13.9
Total	426,536	30.5
Total Family Tax Benefit Part B		
Child under 5 years	652,957	46.7
Child 5 years and over	743,961	53.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,396,918</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Note: 'Child 5 years and over' includes any counts where customers records have an 'Invalid' code.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Table 58: Family Tax Benefit customers, characteristics by payment type, June 2005

Characteristics	Family Tax Benefit Part A		Family Tax Benefit Part B		Family Tax Benefit	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,828,495</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,396,918</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,869,497</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Age of customer (years)						
Under 18	3,000	0.2	3,002	0.2	3,002	0.2
18–20	22,642	1.2	22,337	1.6	22,665	1.2
21–24	82,435	4.5	77,465	5.5	82,787	4.4
25–34	565,589	30.9	476,080	34.1	578,358	30.9
35–44	804,639	44.0	591,358	42.3	826,875	44.2
45–54	316,395	17.3	202,823	14.5	321,730	17.2
55–59	23,315	1.3	15,167	1.1	23,556	1.3
60–64	6,086	0.3	4,826	0.3	6,117	0.3
65 and over	4,253	0.2	3,860	0.3	4,266	0.2
Invalid code	141	0.0	0	0.0	141	0.0
Family type						
Partnered	1,215,103	66.5	792,994	56.8	1,254,338	67.1
Sole parents						
Female	535,213	29.3	527,525	37.8	536,420	28.7
Male	77,770	4.3	76,138	5.5	78,322	4.2
All sole parents	612,983	33.5	603,663	43.2	614,742	32.9
Not specified	409	0.0	261	0.0	417	0.0
Number of children in the family						
One	686,738	37.6	542,448	38.8		
Two	724,578	39.6	532,855	38.1		
Three	302,600	16.5	227,212	16.3		
Four	85,325	4.7	68,731	4.9		
Five or more	29,195	1.6	25,619	1.8		
Invalid code	59	0.0	53	0.0		
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	1,376,739	75.3	1,043,123	74.7	1,408,299	75.3
United Kingdom	77,268	4.2	58,161	4.2	79,798	4.3
New Zealand	49,941	2.7	40,527	2.9	51,065	2.7
Vietnam	36,497	2.0	30,994	2.2	36,684	2.0
China	28,030	1.5	21,467	1.5	28,212	1.5
Other	260,020	14.2	202,646	14.5	265,439	14.2

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Table 59: Family Tax Benefit, customers and children by state/territory, June 2005

State/territory	Family Tax Benefit Part A			Family Tax Benefit Part B			Total Family Tax Benefit					
	Customers		Children	Customers		Children	Customers		Children			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
New South Wales	578,156	31.6	1,122,032	31.7	448,101	32.1	867,672	32.1	593,709	31.8	1,152,283	31.8
Victoria	445,064	24.3	861,686	24.3	334,356	23.9	644,919	23.8	455,519	24.4	881,743	24.3
Queensland	382,024	20.9	746,864	21.1	290,673	20.8	570,307	21.1	388,781	20.8	759,962	21.0
Western Australia	182,578	10.0	355,282	10.0	143,937	10.3	280,381	10.4	187,697	10.0	365,124	10.1
South Australia	144,814	7.9	272,517	7.7	106,178	7.6	199,316	7.4	146,580	7.8	275,790	7.6
Tasmania	50,867	2.8	97,366	2.7	38,245	2.7	73,294	2.7	51,181	2.7	97,928	2.7
Australian Capital Territory	23,034	1.3	44,594	1.3	17,427	1.2	33,363	1.2	23,818	1.3	46,100	1.3
Northern Territory	21,314	1.2	42,399	1.2	17,895	1.3	35,403	1.3	21,567	1.2	42,903	1.2
Invalid code	644	0.0	1,659	0.0	106	0.0	184	0.0	645	0.0	1,660	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,828,495</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,544,399</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,396,918</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,704,839</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,869,497</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,623,493</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

## 4.2 Maternity Payment and modified Maternity Immunisation Allowance

Maternity Payment was introduced on 1 July 2004 to replace the previous Maternity Allowance. Maternity Payment assists families with the extra costs associated with a newborn or adopted child(ren) and is available to all families who apply within 26 weeks of the baby's birth (including stillbirths). It may also be paid to foster carers or adoptive parents who take on the care of a child shortly after the child's birth, if payment has not already been made to another person for the baby. Payments may be made as a lump sum or a series of instalments.

As part of a Government strategy designed to increase immunisation levels in children and to improve the timeliness of immunisation, the previous Maternity Immunisation Allowance was restructured. The new modified Maternity Immunisation Allowance (MIA) was introduced in July 2004 as a universal payment to parents for ensuring that their child's immunisation coverage is complete up to 2 years of age. MIA is paid around 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.

Neither Maternity Payment nor Maternity Immunisation Allowance are subject to the income and assets test.

Note that an additional 22,292 customers were paid the former Maternity Allowance in 2004–05.

**Table 60: Maternity Payment and Maternity Immunisation Allowance customers, 2004–05**

	Families	Children
Maternity Payment	237,256	241,485
Maternity Immunisation Allowance	200,343	203,441

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

### Maternity Payment

#### *Table notes*

The following Maternity Payment tables provide information against age of customer at date of payment. These numbers may differ from those previously reported in the 2004–05 Annual Report due to a difference in how the underlying populations are identified.

Customers may be granted more than one payment during a 12-month period (for two different births at two different ages); however, since they could be captured in different age ranges depending on how the age ranges are defined, they are counted only once in the total.

Table 61: Maternity Payment customers and children by age and sex of customer, 2004–05

Age of customer at date of payment	Customers						Children	
	Male		Female		Total		No.	%
	No.	% of age group	No.	% of age group	No.	%		
Under 18								
18–19	30	0.3	10,741	99.7	7,526	3.2	7,590	3.1
20–24	659	1.9	33,219	98.1	33,878	14.3	34,293	14.2
25–29	3,641	5.9	57,569	94.1	61,210	25.8	62,186	25.8
30–34	7,934	10.0	71,743	90.0	79,677	33.6	81,204	33.6
35–39	5,508	13.4	35,503	86.6	41,011	17.3	41,979	17.4
40–44	2,312	25.5	6,756	74.5	9,068	3.8	9,264	3.8
45+	1,215	73.5	438	26.5	1,653	0.7	1,697	0.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,299</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>215,957</b>	<b>91.0</b>	<b>237,256</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>241,485</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Note: Due to a count of less than 20 males in either the under 18 or 18–19 age range the sex counts have been combined. The difference between the sum of the column and the column total is 12—please refer to the notes prior to Maternity Payment tables.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Table 62: Maternity Payment customers and children by family type, 2004–05

Age of customer at date of payment	Customer			Children		
	Couple	Sole parent	Total <sup>(a)</sup>	Couple	Sole parent	Total
Under 18	848	2,397	3,245	857	2,415	3,272
18–19	2,732	4,794	7,526	2,757	4,833	7,590
20–24	20,133	13,745	33,878	20,387	13,906	34,293
25–29	50,180	11,030	61,210	50,962	11,224	62,186
30–34	71,155	8,522	79,677	72,512	8,692	81,204
35–39	36,498	4,513	41,011	37,332	4,647	41,979
40–44	7,910	1,158	9,068	8,086	1,178	9,264
45+	1,487	166	1,653	1,527	170	1,697
<b>Total</b>	<b>190,940</b>	<b>46,316</b>	<b>237,256</b>	<b>194,420</b>	<b>47,065</b>	<b>241,485</b>

(a) The difference between the sum of the column and the column total is 12—please refer to the notes prior to Maternity Payment tables.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Table 63: Maternity Payment customers by payment type, 2004–05

Age of customer at date of payment	Payment type		
	Instalment	Lump sum	Total
Under 18	372	2,873	3,245
18–19	23	7,504	7,526
20–24	32	33,846	33,878
25–29	22	61,188	61,210
30 and over	30	131,379	131,409
<b>Total</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>236,778</b>	<b>237,256</b>

Note: Customers may be granted more than one payment during a 12-month period (for two different births at two different ages); however, since they could be captured in different age ranges depending on how the age ranges are defined, they are counted only once in the total.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Table 64: Maternity Payment by state/territory, 2004–05

State/territory	Customer	
	No.	%
New South Wales	78,494	33.1
Victoria	56,104	23.6
Queensland	49,508	20.9
Western Australia	23,525	9.9
South Australia	16,293	6.9
Tasmania	5,421	2.3
Australian Capital Territory	3,672	1.5
Northern Territory	3,125	1.3
Not specified	1,114	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>237,256</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

### 4.3 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 65: Customers using approved Child Care Benefit services by state/territory, 2004–05**

State/territory <sup>(a)</sup>	No.
New South Wales	230,411
Victoria	161,451
Queensland	183,586
Western Australia	62,076
South Australia	55,787
Tasmania	18,101
Australian Capital Territory	14,099
Northern Territory	6,881
<b>Total<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>725,044</b>

(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.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

**Table 66: Customers using approved Child Care Benefit services by service type, 2004–05**

Service type	No.
Long day care	478,666
Family day care <sup>(a)</sup>	108,337
Occasional care	15,296
Outside school hours care <sup>(b)</sup>	188,981
Vacation care	145,179
<b>Total<sup>(c)</sup></b>	<b>725,044</b>

(a) Family day care includes in-home care.

(b) Includes before and after school hours care.

(c) 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.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

**Table 67: Customers using Child Care Benefit approved services by rate type, 2004–05**

<b>Rate type</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Full rate	250,822	34.6
Part rate <sup>(a)</sup>	325,750	44.9
Minimum rate	121,993	16.8
(Potential) Lump sum	26,480	3.7
<b>Total<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>725,044</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

(b) Customers can be on more than one rate type within a single year. The rate type here represents the last recorded rate type for each customer in the year. Where a customer was both fee relief and potential lump sum in the year, their most recent episode as a fee relief customer has been used to determine their rate type.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

## 4.4 Double Orphan Pension

Double Orphan Pension was first introduced in September 1973. It 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.

Double Orphan Pension is payable to a guardian or approved care organisation.

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
- ▶ be a student aged 16 to 21 years receiving an education scheme payment (for example, ABSTUDY).

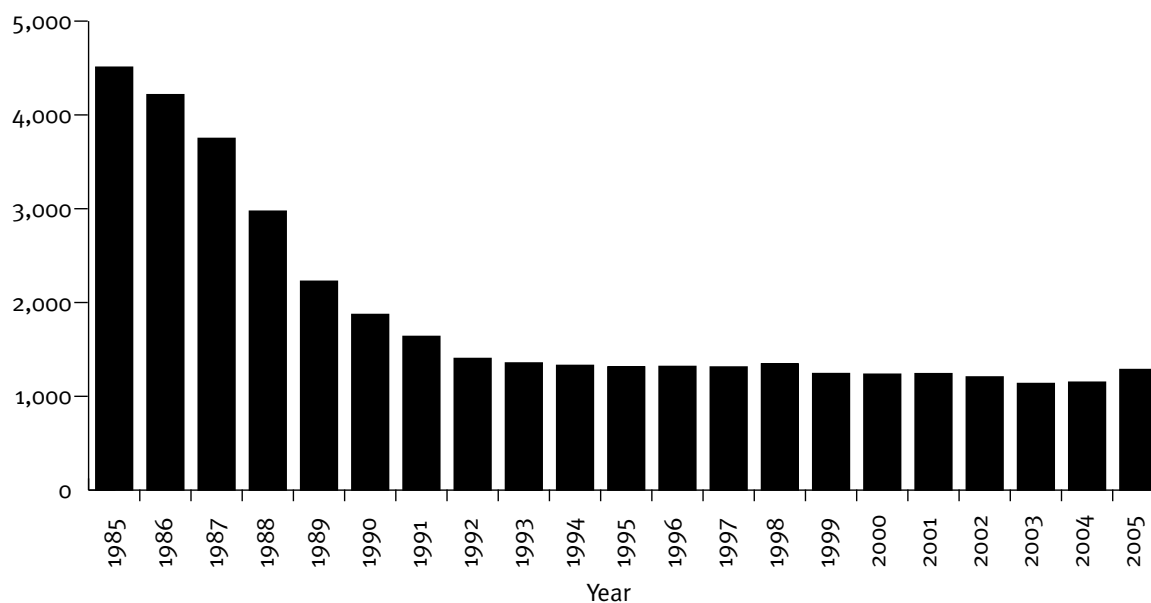
Table 68: Double Orphan Pension, customers and children, June 1985 to June 2005

As at June	Customer No.	Children <sup>(a)</sup>				Total No.
		Under 16		16 to 21		
		No.	%	No.	%	
1985	4,509	3,961	64.6	2,168	35.4	6,129
1986	4,216	3,547	64.9	1,919	35.1	5,466
1987	3,750	3,164	69.7	1,373	30.3	4,537
1988	2,974	2,758	80.6	664	19.4	3,422
1989	2,227	2,381	86.0	388	14.0	2,769
1990	1,873	2,170	93.6	149	6.4	2,319
1991	1,639	1,908	93.9	124	6.1	2,032
1992	1,404	1,666	95.0	87	5.0	1,753
1993	1,356	1,605	95.3	79	4.7	1,684
1994	1,330	1,599	95.2	81	4.8	1,680
1995	1,314	1,616	95.0	85	5.0	1,701
1996	1,319	1,569	92.1	134	7.9	1,703
1997	1,313	1,537	91.2	149	8.8	1,686
1998	1,346	1,567	89.8	178	10.2	1,745
1999	1,243	1,490	92.4	122	7.6	1,612
2000	1,236	1,447	87.9	200	12.1	1,647
2001	1,242	1,503	92.2	127	7.8	1,630
2002	1,207	1,494	94.1	93	5.9	1,587
2003	1,137	1,391	93.9	91	6.1	1,482
2004	1,151	1,411	93.6	97	6.4	1,508
2005	1,286	1,635	94.3	99	5.7	1,734

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

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Figure 11: Double Orphan Pension customers, June 1985 to June 2005



Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Table 69: Double Orphan Pension, customers and children by state/territory, June 2005

State/territory	Customers		Children <sup>(a)</sup>	
	No.	%	No.	%
New South Wales	344	26.7	486	28.0
Victoria	309	24.0	419	24.2
Queensland	248	19.3	317	18.3
Western Australia	162	12.6	233	13.4
South Australia	141	11.0	173	10.0
Tasmania	37	2.9	52	3.0
Australian Capital Territory	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Northern Territory	27	2.1	32	1.8
Invalid code <sup>(b)</sup>	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,286</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,734</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

(b) State/territory not coded or invalid.

Note: n.p.=not published. See 'Confidentiality' on page 1.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.



## 5 Other payments and services

### 5.1 Commonwealth Seniors Health Card

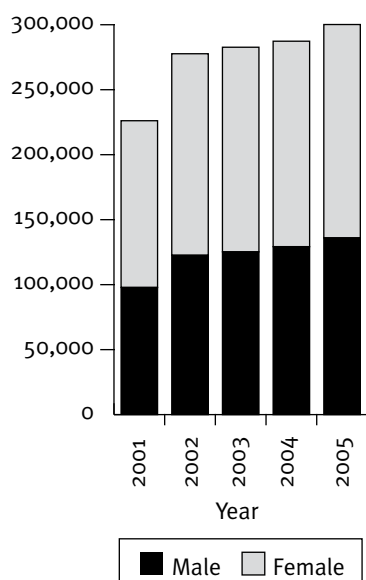
The Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC) may be issued to people of Age Pension age who do not qualify for a pension. To qualify for the CSHC, a person must be an Australian resident and living in Australia. The card is subject to a test on a person's adjusted taxable income. There is no assets test.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

Table 70: Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders, June 2001 to June 2005

As at June	Male		Female		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.
2001	97,848	43.3	128,292	56.7	226,140
2002	122,613	44.2	155,068	55.8	277,681
2003	125,261	44.3	157,430	55.7	282,691
2004	129,241	45.0	158,085	55.0	287,326
2005	136,012	45.3	164,153	54.7	300,165

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Figure 12: Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders by sex, June 2001 to June 2005



Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Table 71: Commonwealth Senior Health Card holders, characteristics by sex, June 2005

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>136,012</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>164,153</b>	<b>54.7</b>	<b>300,165</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Age of customer						
60-64	0	0.0	23,451	14.3	23,451	7.8
65-69	48,771	35.9	50,035	30.5	98,806	32.9
70-74	38,446	28.3	34,188	20.8	72,634	24.2
75-79	28,770	21.2	26,436	16.1	55,206	18.4
80-84	13,026	9.6	17,129	10.4	30,155	10.0
85-89	4,877	3.6	8,525	5.2	13,402	4.5
90-94	1,792	1.3	3,503	2.1	5,295	1.8
95+	330	0.2	886	0.5	1,216	0.4
Status						
Couple	108,815	80.0	103,282	62.9	212,097	70.7
Single	27,197	20.0	60,871	37.1	88,068	29.3

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Table 72: Commonwealth Senior Health Card holders, characteristics by state/territory, June 2005

State/territory	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
New South Wales	49,366	45.0	60,448	55.0	109,814	36.6
Victoria	32,757	45.1	39,916	54.9	72,673	24.2
Queensland	24,949	46.1	29,223	53.9	54,172	18.0
Western Australia	12,943	45.6	15,420	54.4	28,363	9.4
South Australia	9,524	46.0	11,189	54.0	20,713	6.9
Tasmania	2,716	45.9	3,207	54.1	5,923	2.0
Australian Capital Territory	2,475	43.3	3,241	56.7	5,716	1.9
Northern Territory	417	47.8	455	52.2	872	0.3
Other (includes overseas)	865	45.1	1,054	54.9	1,919	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>136,012</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>164,153</b>	<b>54.7</b>	<b>300,165</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

## 5.2 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
- single Disability Support Pension recipients aged under 21 years, without dependants, living with parents
- other single people aged under 25 years, living with parents
- Austudy recipients (unless payable with Family Tax Benefit Part A).

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

Table 73: Rent Assistance income units, average rent and Rent Assistance by primary payment, June 2005<sup>(a)</sup>

Primary payment type <sup>(b)</sup>	Income units	Average rent	Average Rent Assistance
	No. <sup>(c)</sup>	\$ per fortnight <sup>(d)</sup>	\$ per fortnight <sup>(d)</sup>
Age Pension	168,472	249	74
Disability Support Pension	179,843	254	82
Newstart Allowance	170,098	260	77
Parenting Payment (Single)	204,993	346	93
Parenting Payment (Partnered) <sup>(e)</sup>	28,710	411	106
Youth Allowance	83,721	217	65
Family Tax Benefit, Part A only <sup>(f)</sup>	94,216	428	78
Other payments	35,176	271	80
<b>Total</b>	<b>965,229</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>81</b>

- (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 payment 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 to understand 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 10 June 2005, and paid Rent Assistance in the preceding fortnight. Some have no ongoing entitlement to Rent Assistance.
- (d) 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 10 June 2005.
- (e) 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.
- (f) 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 370,200 families were paid Rent Assistance with Family Tax Benefit in June 2005.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Table 74: Rent Assistance income units by primary payment type and sex, June 2005<sup>(a)</sup>

Primary payment type <sup>(b)</sup>	Income units		Both in receipt of Rent Assistance	Female in receipt of Rent Assistance	Male in receipt of Rent Assistance
	No. <sup>(c)</sup>	%			
Age Pension	168,472	17.5	32,371	89,859	46,242
Disability Support Pension	179,843	18.6	13,932	74,348	91,563
Newstart Allowance	170,098	17.6	6,182	71,076	92,840
Parenting Payment (Single)	204,993	21.2	–	190,432	14,561
Parenting Payment (Partnered) <sup>(d)</sup>	28,710	3.0	306	25,945	2,459
Youth Allowance	83,721	8.7	1,051	49,829	32,841
Family Tax Benefit, Part A only <sup>(e)</sup>	94,216	9.8	499	78,476	15,241
Other payments	35,176	3.6	3,372	22,665	9,139
<b>Total</b>	<b>965,229</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>57,713</b>	<b>602,630</b>	<b>304,886</b>

- (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 payment 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 to understand 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 10 June 2005, 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 370,200 families were paid Rent Assistance with Family Tax Benefit in June 2005.

Note: '–' = not applicable.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.



## 6 Pensioners paid overseas

### 6.1 Payment rules

Generally there are two standard portability periods:

- unlimited portability period, and
- limited 13 weeks portability.

Age pensioners and some Widow B and Wife Pensioners are entitled to be paid overseas indefinitely if they leave Australia permanently. In special circumstances recipients of Disability Support Pension who have a terminal illness may be granted unlimited portability if they are severely disabled and the purpose of the absence is to be near or with a family member, or to return to their country of origin.

All other payments generally have a maximum portability period of 13 weeks. Ancillary payments such as Rent Assistance and Pharmaceutical Allowance are also generally portable for temporary overseas absences.

### 6.2 Australia's agreements as at June 2005

Australia has social security agreements with 16 countries—Austria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain and the United States.

Australia's international social security agreements are designed to share social security costs between countries by:

- facilitating access to Australian pensions upon arrival in Australia for people who have had periods of social security coverage in an agreement country
- helping Australian residents claim their entitlements to social security from other countries
- regulating payment of social security benefits to people moving between agreement countries.

Table 75: Persons paid overseas by Australia by payment type, June 1982 to June 2005

As at June <sup>(a)</sup>	Age Pension	Disability Support Pension	Wife Pension	Widow B Pension	Parenting Payment <sup>(b)</sup>	Total <sup>(c)</sup>
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
2003	45,399	8,129	998	1,875	23	56,424
2004	47,259	7,867	1,773	859	0	57,758
2005	48,871	7,816	1,570	n.p.	n.p.	59,066

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

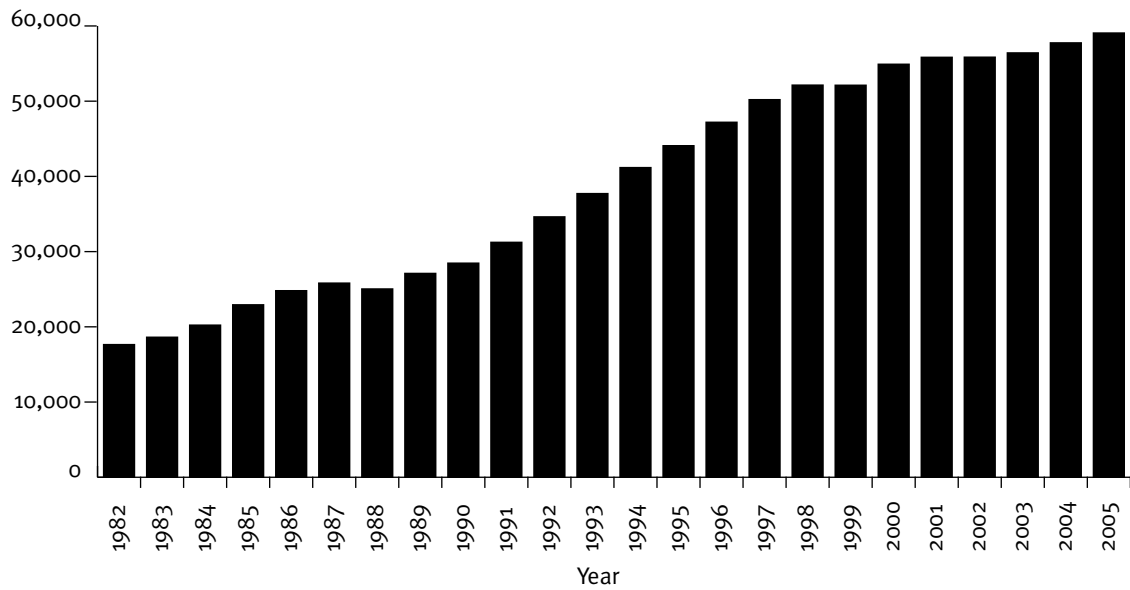
(b) Parenting Payment (Single) replaced Sole Parent Pension on 20 March 1998.

(c) Does not include Carer Pension.

Note: n.p.=not published. See 'Confidentiality' on page 1.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Figure 13: Total persons paid overseas by Australia, June 1982 to June 2005



Notes: All payments where person has been outside Australia for more than 12 months.  
 Parenting Payment (Single) replaced Sole Parent Pension on 20 March 1998.  
 Does not include Carer Pension.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Table 76: Persons paid overseas by Australia, country of residence by payment type, June 2005

Zone	Country of residence	Age Pension	Disability Support Pension	Other <sup>(a)</sup>	Total
Europe	Austria	929	n.p.	n.p.	1,033
	Belgium	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	24
	Bosnia & Herzegovina	n.p.	73	n.p.	153
	Bulgaria	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	23
	Croatia	1,029	354	53	1,436
	Cyprus	586	134	33	753
	Czech Republic	85	n.p.	n.p.	113
	Denmark	74	n.p.	n.p.	90
	Finland	56	n.p.	n.p.	68
	France	119	n.p.	n.p.	136
	Germany	971	n.p.	n.p.	1,033
	Greece	5,133	1,820	582	7,535
	Hungary	312	n.p.	n.p.	375
	Ireland	342	n.p.	n.p.	379
	Italy	18,546	679	618	19,843
	Latvia	25	0	0	25
	Lithuania	24	n.p.	n.p.	25
	Macedonia (FYR)	586	328	57	971
	Malta	2,288	1,242	292	3,822
	Netherlands	4,354	n.p.	n.p.	4,388
	Poland	198	n.p.	n.p.	279
	Portugal	777	263	62	1,102
	Romania	26	n.p.	n.p.	41
	Serbia & Montenegro	534	417	52	1,003
	Slovakia	23	n.p.	n.p.	32
	Slovenia	154	n.p.	n.p.	180
	Spain	3,306	347	142	3,795
	Sweden	20	n.p.	n.p.	24
Switzerland	21	n.p.	n.p.	24	
United Kingdom	2,174	211	102	2,487	
Other Europe <sup>(b)</sup>	45	n.p.	n.p.	55	
<b>Total Europe</b>	<b>42,845</b>	<b>6,327</b>	<b>2,075</b>	<b>51,247</b>	
Americas	Argentina	83	n.p.	n.p.	138
	Brazil	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	30
	Canada	1,193	n.p.	n.p.	1,256
	Chile	170	n.p.	n.p.	243
	Colombia	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	28
	Ecuador	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	22
	Uruguay	147	n.p.	n.p.	204
	USA	579	n.p.	n.p.	650
	Other Americas <sup>(c)</sup>	43	n.p.	n.p.	61
	<b>Total Americas</b>	<b>2,247</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>2,632</b>

Zone	Country of residence	Age Pension	Disability Support Pension	Other <sup>(a)</sup>	Total
Asia	China	20	n.p.	n.p.	28
	Hong Kong	44	n.p.	n.p.	50
	India	25	n.p.	n.p.	40
	Indonesia	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	24
	Philippines	124	n.p.	n.p.	191
	Sri Lanka	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	20
	Thailand	40	n.p.	n.p.	74
	Other Asia <sup>(d)</sup>	54	n.p.	n.p.	70
	<b>Total Asia</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>n.p.</b>	<b>n.p.</b>	<b>497</b>
Africa/Middle East	Egypt	n.p.	46	n.p.	101
	Israel	103	n.p.	n.p.	113
	Lebanon	366	148	44	558
	Mauritius	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	23
	South Africa	35	n.p.	n.p.	38
	Syrian Arab Rep	n.p.	29	n.p.	57
	Turkey	532	642	155	1,329
	Other <sup>(e)</sup>	n.p.	23	n.p.	46
	<b>Total Africa/Middle East</b>	<b>1,144</b>	<b>903</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>2,265</b>
Oceania	Fiji	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	22
	New Zealand	2,232	n.p.	n.p.	2,358
	Papua New Guinea	23	0	0	23
	Other Oceania <sup>(f)</sup>	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	39
		<b>Total Oceania</b>	<b>2,302</b>	<b>n.p.</b>	<b>n.p.</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>48,871</b>	<b>7,816</b>	<b>2,396</b>	<b>59,083</b>

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

(b) Comprised of Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Estonia, Faeroe Islands, Luxembourg, Norway, Russian Federation and Ukraine.

(c) Comprised of Barbados, Bolivia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela.

(d) Comprised of Bangladesh, Cambodia, East Timor, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam.

(e) Comprised of Djibouti, Ghana, Iran, Jordan, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Namibia, Reunion, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe.

(f) Comprised of American Samoa, Cook Islands, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Norfolk Island, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu and Western Samoa.

Note: n.p.=not published. See 'Confidentiality' on page 1.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Table 77: Persons paid by Australia under a social security agreement by payment type, June 2005

Agreement country	Age Pension	Disability Support Pension	Other <sup>(a)</sup>	Total
Austria	868	n.p.	n.p.	959
Canada	1,079	n.p.	n.p.	1,122
Chile	35	n.p.	n.p.	41
Croatia	239	n.p.	n.p.	246
Cyprus	265	n.p.	n.p.	307
Denmark	66	n.p.	n.p.	78
Germany	823	n.p.	n.p.	860
Ireland	190	n.p.	n.p.	209
Italy	16,681	325	515	17,521
Malta	1,992	978	224	3,194
Netherlands	4,210	n.p.	n.p.	4,224
Portugal	410	110	38	558
Slovenia	76	n.p.	n.p.	80
Spain	2,695	206	110	3,011
United States of America	295	n.p.	n.p.	304
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,924</b>	<b>1,863</b>	<b>927</b>	<b>32,714</b>

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

Note: Excludes New Zealand.

n.p.=not published. See 'Confidentiality' on page 1.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

## 6.3 Overseas pensions

Many Centrelink customers have lived and worked overseas and are eligible to receive overseas pensions, known as Comparable Foreign Payments.

Under the Comparable Foreign Payments legislation, customers may be required to claim their overseas pension if they are entitled.

Requiring customers who are likely to be eligible for a foreign payment to claim ensures a fairer social security system. It ensures that those in need receive income support, while at the same time avoiding any unnecessary costs to Australian taxpayers. It also recognises that many Australians are part of the new global labour market.

Table 78: Number of Centrelink customers residing overseas receiving a foreign payment—country of residence and payment type, June 2005

Zone	Country of residence	Age Pension	Disability Support Pension	Other <sup>(a)</sup>	Total
Europe					
	Austria	1,088	n.p.	n.p.	1,199
	Belgium	133	n.p.	n.p.	140
	Bosnia & Herzegovina	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	21
	Croatia	430	n.p.	n.p.	470
	Cyprus	381	n.p.	n.p.	450
	Czech Republic	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	40
	Denmark	107	n.p.	n.p.	124
	Finland	61	n.p.	n.p.	72
	France	433	n.p.	n.p.	464
	Germany	1,846	n.p.	n.p.	1,926
	Greece	677	106	67	850
	Hungary	104	n.p.	n.p.	115
	Ireland	183	n.p.	n.p.	195
	Italy	19,275	438	533	20,246
	Macedonia (FYR)	137	n.p.	n.p.	172
	Malta	1,924	869	59	2,852
	Netherlands	6,520	n.p.	n.p.	6,542
	Poland	51	n.p.	n.p.	63
	Portugal	498	n.p.	n.p.	642
	Serbia & Montenegro	136	n.p.	n.p.	192
	Slovenia	128	n.p.	n.p.	136
	Spain	2,802	249	38	3,089
	Sweden	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	36
	Switzerland	220	n.p.	n.p.	228
	United Kingdom	3,195	106	116	3,417
	Other Europe <sup>(b)</sup>	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	53
	<b>Total Europe</b>	<b>40,463</b>	<b>2,365</b>	<b>906</b>	<b>43,734</b>
Americas					
	Canada	2,690	n.p.	n.p.	2,781
	United States	569	n.p.	n.p.	588
	Chile	85	n.p.	n.p.	105
	Uruguay	28	n.p.	n.p.	34
	Argentina	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
	Other Americas <sup>(c)</sup>	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
	<b>Total Americas</b>	<b>3,393</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>3,535</b>
Asia <sup>(d)</sup>					
	<b>Total Asia</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>n.p.</b>	<b>n.p.</b>	<b>34</b>

Zone	Country of residence	Age Pension	Disability Support Pension	Other <sup>(a)</sup>	Total
Africa/Middle East					
	Israel	35	n.p.	n.p.	38
	Turkey	94	n.p.	n.p.	156
	Other <sup>(e)</sup>	27	n.p.	n.p.	28
	<b>Total Africa/Middle East</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>n.p.</b>	<b>n.p.</b>	<b>222</b>
Oceania <sup>(f)</sup>					
	<b>Total Oceania</b>	<b>2,376</b>	<b>n.p.</b>	<b>n.p.</b>	<b>2,503</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>46,421</b>	<b>2,658</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>50,028</b>

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

(b) Comprised of Bulgaria, Estonia, Gibraltar, Isle of Man, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Norway, Romania, Slovak Republic and Ukraine.

(c) Comprised of Brazil, Ecuador, El Salvador and Peru.

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

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

(f) Comprised of Fiji, Micronesia, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Norfolk Island and Western Samoa.

Note: n.p.=not published. See 'Confidentiality' on page 1.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

## 6.4 Total balance of payments

Yearly expenditure as at June 2005 on Australia's pension payments to people living overseas was A\$414.9 million. At the same time, pensions from overseas countries being paid to people residing in Australia totalled A\$1.36 billion, representing a significant inflow of funds into Australia, an increase in the disposable income for pensioners, and a saving for Australian taxpayers.



# Statistical Papers

1. *Income support customers: a statistical overview 2002*  
(March 2006)
2. *Income support customers: a statistical overview 2003*  
(May 2006)
3. *Income support customers: a statistical overview 2004*  
(May 2006)