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

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Income support customers:
a statistical overview 2003

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1 Introduction

The vision of the Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) in 2003 was to create a fair and cohesive Australian society by strengthening the capacity of individuals, families and communities to contribute to, and benefit from, greater involvement in all aspects of life.

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

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

This statistical overview covers all FaCS income support customers, and unless otherwise indicated, the statistics relate to the relevant pay periods closest to 30 June 2003. These periods will generally be within a fortnight either side of that date.

Key sections of the overview are:

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

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

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

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

Confidentiality

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

2004 Administrative Arrangements Changes

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

2006 Administrative Arrangements Changes

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

As the statistics in this publication refer in the main to June 2003 data, the FaCS acronym has been used in most instances to refer to the Department now known as FaCSIA.

Table 1: Summary of income support recipients by payment type, 1993 to 2003^(a)

PAYMENT TYPE	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 ^(b)	2002	2003
Age Pension											
(including Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Age Pensions)	1,515,682	1,581,874	1,578,698	1,602,834	1,680,214	1,682,618	1,715,792	1,738,215	1,793,426	1,818,205	1,861,055
Disability Support Pension	406,572	436,234	464,430	499,235	527,514	553,336	577,682	602,280	623,926	658,915	673,334
Wife Pension (partner receives Age Pension)	33,520	36,539	39,611	41,125	36,577	36,233	32,196	31,406	26,476	23,730	20,230
Wife Pension (partner receives Disability Support Pension)	108,327	116,036	121,839	107,803	94,307	79,892	68,532	59,935	51,225	44,238	37,880
Widow B Pension	64,633	59,916	54,936	49,875	18,820	13,579	10,519	8,892	6,456	5,130	2,986
Rehabilitation Allowance and Wives	745	198	41	14	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unemployment payments	889,566	848,598	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newstart Allowance	—	—	800,714	812,365	797,961	778,880	654,732	589,911	580,703	582,945	512,332
Mature Age Allowance	—	—	38,866	45,931	53,386	50,771	45,253	41,840	39,149	40,498	41,078
Sickness Allowance	45,226	45,848	46,050	34,578	15,633	16,285	11,181	10,773	10,942	9,522	8,755
Partner Allowance	254,800	237,500	216,739	69,840	72,117	75,021	81,359	89,684	92,492	103,892	102,811
Widow Allowance	—	—	8,733	11,723	17,508	24,759	27,524	32,570	36,416	41,659	43,209
Carer Payment	15,045	17,699	20,098	25,037	29,558	33,979	40,070	47,550	57,190	67,260	75,937
Parenting Payment (Single)	298,444	313,437	324,941	342,290	358,893	372,286	382,323	394,393	416,661	427,846	436,958
Parenting Payment (Partnered)	—	—	—	237,321	239,317	236,550	227,677	218,013	204,576	194,573	181,405
AUSTUDY	341,129	394,062	394,259	410,808	361,497	352,148	—	—	—	—	—
Youth Allowance (Full-time students)	—	—	—	—	—	—	307,813	309,366	308,177	315,152	304,946
Youth Allowance (other)	—	—	—	—	—	—	84,773	82,408	85,053	90,339	87,486
Austudy Payment	—	—	—	—	—	—	47,170	42,838	41,992	41,187	38,779
Special Benefit	28,503	25,542	20,440	18,885	14,700	10,236	11,808	10,971	12,712	13,315	12,228
Other income support ^(c)											
ABSTUDY	33,857	24,425	32,137	36,154	42,455	43,822	45,528	42,754	44,627	46,255	47,028
DVA service pension and income support supplement	371,551	352,883	411,838	399,989	387,054	387,596	382,287	373,076	378,058	370,721	368,572
Total	4,407,600	4,490,791	4,574,370	4,745,747	4,744,514	4,747,991	4,754,239	4,723,875	4,810,257	4,892,385	4,857,009

(a) Data sourced from Centrelink's Administrative data, numbers are point in time (June of year) or monthly averages as available.

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

(c) Payments administered by authorities other than the Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS).

Note: Figures in italics have been updated/corrected since the publication of Statistical Paper No. 1, *Income support customers: a statistical overview 2002*.

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

2.1 Age Pension

To qualify for the Age Pension, a male must be aged 65 years, while the age at which a female may qualify depends upon her birth date. The qualifying age for females is being increased gradually to 65 years between 1 July 1995 and 2013. Table 2 shows the age at which females qualify for the Age Pension.

Table 2: Female qualifying age for Age Pension

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

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

- ▶ an Australian resident for at least 10 years continuously, or
- ▶ an Australian resident continuously for at least five years and have in total lived in Australia, on and off, for more than 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.

Table 3: Age Pension customers by sex, June 1983 to June 2003 ^(a)

AS AT JUNE	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
1983	460,667	33.1	930,171	66.9	1,390,838	100.0
1984	436,925	32.2	921,204	67.8	1,358,129	100.0
1985	419,714	31.5	912,068	68.5	1,331,782	100.0
1986	412,373	31.1	912,227	68.9	1,324,600	100.0
1987	407,698	30.8	914,476	69.2	1,322,174	100.0
1988 ^(b)	404,922	30.5	923,892	69.5	1,328,814	100.0
1989	403,339	30.2	930,971	69.8	1,334,310	100.0
1990	404,486	30.2	935,982	69.8	1,340,468	100.0
1991	418,383	30.4	957,466	69.6	1,375,849	100.0
1992	447,888	31.0	998,280	69.0	1,446,168	100.0
1993	481,196	31.7	1,034,486	68.3	1,515,682	100.0
1994	514,217	32.5	1,067,657	67.5	1,581,874	100.0
1995	544,571	34.5	1,034,127	65.5	1,578,698	100.0
1996	570,328	35.6	1,032,506	64.4	1,602,834	100.0
1997	597,859	35.6	1,082,355	64.4	1,680,214	100.0
1998	618,607	36.6	1,072,987	63.4	1,691,594	100.0
1999	639,008	37.1	1,085,581	62.9	1,724,589	100.0
2000	659,188	37.9	1,079,027	62.1	1,738,215	100.0
2001	688,563	38.4	1,104,863	61.6	1,793,426	100.0
2002	714,324	39.3	1,103,881	60.7	1,818,205	100.0
2003	739,187	39.7	1,121,868	60.3	1,861,055	100.0
Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders (CSHC) ^(c)						
2001	97,848	43.3	128,292	56.7	226,140	100.0
2002	122,613	44.2	155,068	55.8	277,681	100.0
2003	125,261	44.3	157,430	55.7	282,691	100.0

(a) Data includes Age Pension payments administered by Centrelink and the Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA). Sourced from the Centrelink SuperStar Pensions and Concession Card databases and DVA Administrative data.

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

(c) The Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC) is issued to people of Age Pension age who failed to qualify for the Age Pension because of their income or assets level, but whose income is below the applicable cut-offs for the CSHC. See Table 65 for characteristics.

Figure 1: Age Pension customers, proportion by sex, June 1983 to June 2003

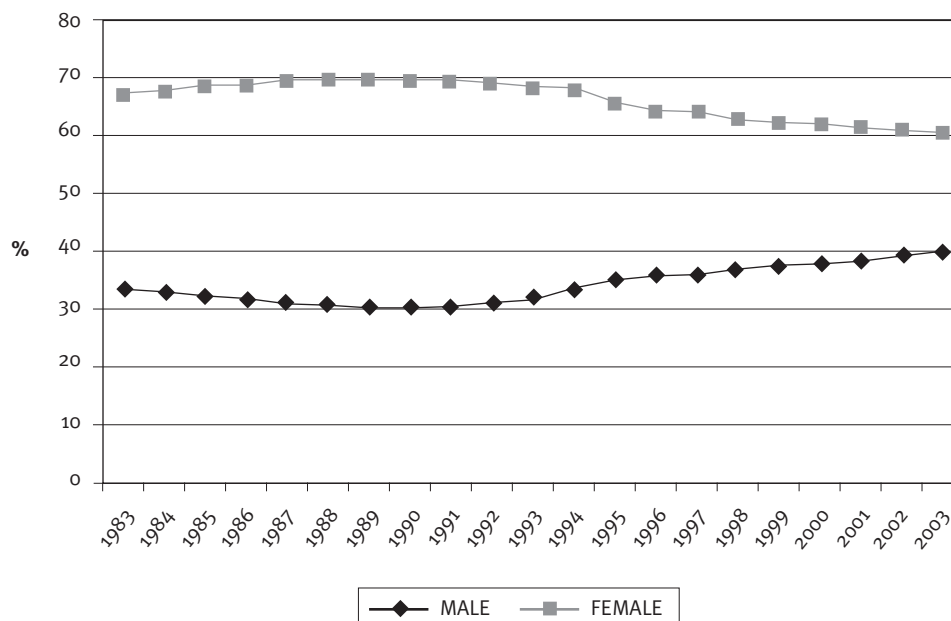


Table 4: Age Pension customers by state/territory and sex, June 2003^(a)

STATE/TERRITORY	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	235,925	39.0	369,474	61.0	605,399	100.0
Victoria	182,083	39.0	284,613	61.0	466,696	100.0
Queensland	126,665	40.1	189,239	59.9	315,904	100.0
Western Australia	60,346	39.1	93,840	60.9	154,186	100.0
South Australia	66,511	38.9	104,525	61.1	171,036	100.0
Tasmania	19,900	39.3	30,774	60.7	50,674	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	6,187	36.9	10,594	63.1	16,781	100.0
Northern Territory	2,546	43.4	3,319	56.6	5,865	100.0
Other ^(b)	35,100	52.0	32,371	48.0	67,471	100.0
Total	735,263	39.7	1,118,749	60.3	1,854,012	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Pensions 2003 Qtr 2 (13-06-03) Ver-02'. Excludes 7,043 Age Pension payments administered by the Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).

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

Table 5: Age Pension customers, characteristics by sex, June 2003 ^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Age Pensioner customers	735,263	100.0	1,118,749	100.0	1,854,012	100.0
Age (years)						
60-64	0	0.0	151,190	13.5	151,190	8.2
65-69	233,869	31.8	266,391	23.8	500,260	27.0
70-74	230,860	31.4	239,920	21.4	470,780	25.4
75-79	155,903	21.2	184,780	16.5	340,683	18.4
80-84	64,642	8.8	134,908	12.1	199,550	10.8
85-89	34,350	4.7	88,875	7.9	123,225	6.6
90-94	13,104	1.8	41,350	3.7	54,454	2.9
95 or more	2,535	0.3	11,335	1.0	13,870	0.7
Status						
<i>Couple</i>						
no dependants	527,493	71.7	495,115	44.3	1,022,608	55.2
with dependants	461	0.1	1,382	0.1	1,843	0.1
Total	527,954	71.8	496,497	44.4	1,024,451	55.3
<i>Single</i>						
no dependants	206,815	28.1	620,273	55.4	827,088	44.6
with dependants	494	0.1	1,979	0.2	2,473	0.1
Total	207,309	28.2	622,252	55.6	829,561	44.7
Rate						
Full rate	474,437	64.5	765,447	68.4	1,239,884	66.9
Part rate	260,826	35.5	353,302	31.6	614,128	33.1
Home ownership						
Home owner	540,836	73.6	752,460	67.3	1,293,296	69.8
Non-home owner	170,417	23.2	290,923	26.0	461,340	24.9
Home ownership not coded (Including aged care)	24,010	3.3	75,366	6.7	99,376	5.4
Paid under income test						
<i>Income as assessed (\$ per week)</i>						
<i>Single</i>						
Nil	16,551	2.3	50,500	4.5	67,051	3.6
0.01-58.00	136,477	18.6	414,984	37.1	551,461	29.7
58.01-70.30	8,638	1.2	22,365	2.0	31,003	1.7
Over 70.30	46,217	6.3	120,491	10.8	166,708	9.0
<i>Partnered (each)</i>						
Nil	10,613	1.4	9,404	0.8	20,017	1.1
0.01-52.00	305,067	41.5	287,304	25.7	592,371	32.0
Over 52.00	148,783	20.2	138,058	12.3	286,841	15.5
Partner rate not coded	120	0.0	96	0.0	216	0.0
Non-home owners paid under assets test						
<i>Assets as assessed (\$) ^(b)</i>						
<i>Single</i>						
More than 249,750 to less than 398,500	658	0.1	1,241	0.1	1,899	0.1
<i>Partnered (each)</i>						
More than 155,500 to less than 279,000	585	0.1	554	0.0	1,139	0.1
Partner not coded	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.

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

Home owners paid under assets test							
<i>Assets as assessed (\$)</i>							
<i>Single</i>							
More than 145,250							
to less than 294,000	9,827	1.3	21,160	1.9	31,987	1.7	
<i>Partnered (each)</i>							
More than 103,250							
to less than 226,750	48,392	6.6	47,127	4.2	95,519	5.2	
Partner not coded	36	0.0	38	0.0	74	0.0	
Income/assets test not coded	1,831	0.2	1,986	0.2	3,817	0.2	
Country of birth (top five countries)							
Australia	427,461	58.1	718,898	64.3	1,146,359	61.8	
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	87,090	11.8	125,410	11.2	212,500	11.5	
Italy	54,700	7.4	53,867	4.8	108,567	5.9	
Greece	22,670	3.1	28,082	2.5	50,752	2.7	
Netherlands	13,697	1.9	16,116	1.4	29,813	1.6	
Other	129,645	17.6	176,376	15.8	306,021	16.5	

- (a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Pensions 2003 Qtr 2 (13-06-03) Ver-02'. Excludes 7,043 Age Pension payments administered by the Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).
- (b) The values indicated are the assets test upper and lower allowable limits. The pensioner population indicated includes only pensioners with assessable assets between the two allowable assets test limits who receive a part-rate pension based on the application of the assets test. All pensioners paid a full-rate of pension are classified as income tested and included in the 'paid under income test' population above. Note that for couples separated by illness, the upper limits are higher than those indicated.

2.2 Disability Support Pension

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

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

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

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

Summary

- ▶ The number of Disability Support Pension customers has been steadily increasing, with the greatest growth occurring as a result of the Disability Reform Package in 1991. Other factors contributing to continued growth include: a general trend in the Australian population which shows that the incidence of disabilities increases with age, increases to the age which women qualify for Age Pension, the general decline in the proportion of mature age workers participating in the workforce, and wider demographic changes. At June 2003, the number of customers receiving a Disability Support Pension was 673,334—an increase of 2.2 per cent over June 2002 numbers.
- ▶ 61 per cent of Disability Support Pension recipients were males. The proportion of females continues to increase and represented 39 per cent of the Disability Support Pension population.
- ▶ 55 per cent of Disability Support Pension recipients were aged 50 years and over at June 2003, the same as at June 2002. The number of Disability Support Pension customers in the 40 to 49 year age range increased from 140,277 at June 2002 to 144,032 (+3 per cent) at June 2003.
- ▶ At June 2003, 62.6 per cent of Disability Support Pension customers were single—a slight increase from June 2002.
- ▶ The majority of Disability Support Pension customers were on a maximum rate of payment.
- ▶ 63 per cent of Disability Support Pension customers did not own their home.
- ▶ The majority of Disability Support Pension customers were Australian-born (73 per cent). European countries such as United Kingdom/Ireland, Greece, Yugoslavia and Italy were the next largest categories.

Table 6: Disability Support Pension customers by sex, June 1983 to June 2003 ^(a)

AS AT JUNE	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
1983	155,672	70.7	64,617	29.3	220,289	100.0
1984	173,063	71.9	67,511	28.1	240,574	100.0
1985	188,713	72.8	70,449	27.2	259,162	100.0
1986	200,898	73.4	72,912	26.6	273,810	100.0
1987	213,290	73.8	75,760	26.2	289,050	100.0
1988	219,168	73.8	77,745	26.2	296,913	100.0
1989	227,285	73.8	80,510	26.2	307,795	100.0
1990	233,251	73.6	83,462	26.4	316,713	100.0
1991 ^(b)	244,699	73.2	89,535	26.8	334,234	100.0
1992	273,697	72.3	104,861	27.7	378,558	100.0
1993	291,471	71.7	115,101	28.3	406,572	100.0
1994	309,123	70.9	127,111	29.1	436,234	100.0
1995	324,672	69.9	139,758	30.1	464,430	100.0
1996	340,256	68.2	158,979	31.8	499,235	100.0
1997	352,607	66.8	174,907	33.2	527,514	100.0
1998	361,539	65.3	191,797	34.7	553,336	100.0
1999	373,340	64.6	204,342	35.4	577,682	100.0
2000	382,351	63.5	219,929	36.5	602,280	100.0
2001	392,354	62.9	231,572	37.1	623,926	100.0
2002	406,893	61.8	252,022	38.2	658,915	100.0
2003	412,777	61.3	260,557	38.7	673,334	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's Administrative data and Centrelink's SuperStar Pensions database.

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

Figure 2: Disability Support Pension customers, proportion by sex, June 1983 to June 2003

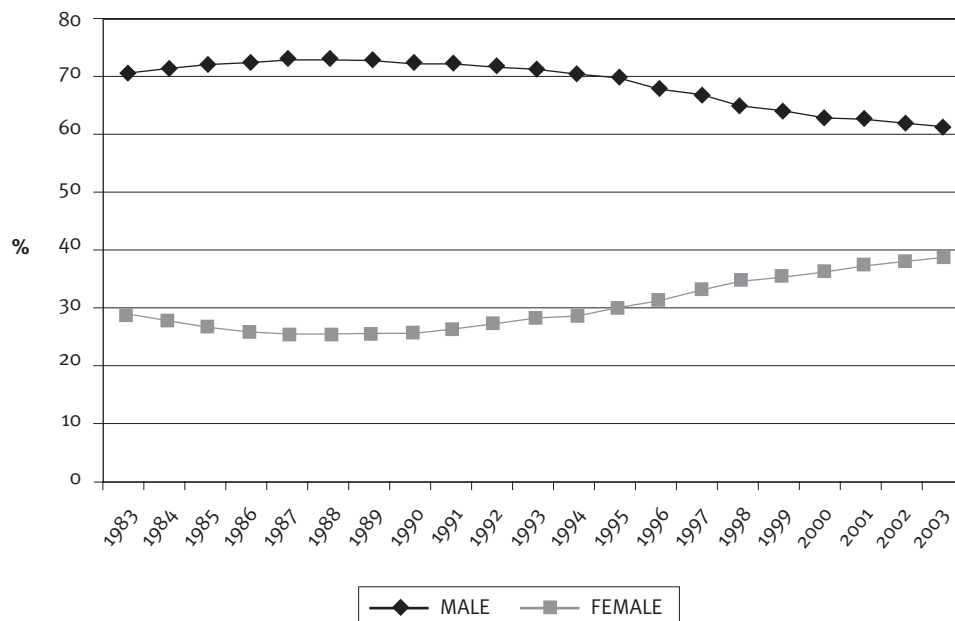


Table 7: Disability Support Pension customers by state/territory and sex, June 2003 ^(a)

STATE/TERRITORY	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	135,743	61.8	84,077	38.2	219,820	100.0
Victoria	94,295	59.3	64,586	40.7	158,881	100.0
Queensland	80,785	62.4	48,600	37.6	129,385	100.0
Western Australia	38,938	60.5	25,383	39.5	64,321	100.0
South Australia	34,494	61.3	21,779	38.7	56,273	100.0
Tasmania	14,652	62.0	8,982	38.0	23,634	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	3,885	56.7	2,965	43.3	6,850	100.0
Northern Territory	3,371	63.4	1,943	36.6	5,314	100.0
Overseas permanently	6,432	74.9	2,159	25.1	8,591	100.0
Unknown ^(b)	182	68.7	83	31.3	265	100.0
Total	412,777	61.3	260,557	38.7	673,334	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Pensions 2003 Qtr 2 (13-06-03) Ver-02'.

(b) State/territory not coded.

Table 8: Disability Support Pension customers, characteristics by sex, June 2003 ^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Disability Support Pension Customers	412,777	61.3	260,557	38.7	673,334	100.0
Age (years)						
Under 20	9,449	2.3	6,399	2.5	15,848	2.4
20-29	33,651	8.2	23,243	8.9	56,894	8.4
30-39	54,651	13.2	34,751	13.3	89,402	13.3
40-49	83,894	20.3	60,138	23.1	144,032	21.4
50-59	128,285	31.1	107,596	41.3	235,881	35.0
60-64	98,078	23.8	28,044	10.8	126,122	18.7
65 and over	4,769	1.2	386	0.1	5,155	0.8
Status						
<i>Couple</i>						
no dependants	170,164	41.2	65,561	25.2	235,725	35.0
with dependants	1,934	0.5	13,994	5.4	15,928	2.4
Total	172,098	41.7	79,555	30.5	251,653	37.4
<i>Single</i>						
no dependants	235,722	57.1	167,702	64.4	403,424	59.9
with dependants	4,957	1.2	13,300	5.1	18,257	2.7
Total	240,679	58.3	181,002	69.5	421,681	62.6
Rate						
Full rate	348,348	84.4	214,675	82.4	563,023	83.6
Part rate	64,429	15.6	45,882	17.6	110,311	16.4
Home ownership						
Home owner	151,369	36.7	90,753	34.8	242,122	36.0
Non-home owner	258,392	62.6	167,833	64.4	426,225	63.3
Not specified	3,016	0.7	1,971	0.8	4,987	0.7
Paid under income test						
<i>Income as assessed (\$ per week)</i>						
<i>Single</i>						
Nil	60,055	14.5	34,731	13.3	94,786	14.1
0.01-58.00	153,261	37.1	125,252	48.1	278,513	41.4
58.01-70.30	3,132	0.8	2,654	1.0	5,786	0.9
Over 70.30	18,696	4.5	16,076	6.2	34,772	5.2

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

<i>Partnered (each)</i>							
Nil	13,730	3.3	5,837	2.2	19,567	2.9	
0.01–51.01	124,935	30.3	51,365	19.7	176,300	26.2	
51.01–57.15	1,725	0.4	709	0.3	2,434	0.4	
Over 57.15	25,569	6.2	18,550	7.1	44,119	6.6	
Non-home owners paid under assets test							
<i>Assets as assessed (\$)</i>							
<i>Single</i>							
More than 249,750 to less than 398,500	199	0.0	129	0.0	328	0.0	
<i>Partnered (each)</i>							
More than 155,500 to less than 279,000	75	0.0	47	0.0	122	0.0	
Home owners paid under assets test							
<i>Assets as assessed (\$)</i>							
<i>Single</i>							
More than 133,250 to less than 269,250	915	0.2	731	0.3	1,646	0.2	
<i>Partnered (each)</i>							
More than 94,750 to less than 207,750	2,849	0.7	1,840	0.7	4,689	0.7	
Not coded ^(b)	13	0.0	8	0.0	21	0.0	
Country of birth (top five countries)							
Australia	295,432	71.6	193,877	74.4	489,309	72.7	
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	26,538	6.4	14,788	5.7	41,326	6.1	
Greece	9,306	2.3	5,393	2.1	14,699	2.2	
Yugoslavia	9,353	2.3	4,720	1.8	14,073	2.1	
Italy	8,986	2.2	4,358	1.7	13,344	2.0	
Other	63,162	15.3	37,421	14.4	100,583	14.9	

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Pensions 2003 Qtr 2 (13-06-03) Ver-02'.

(b) 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).

2.3 Wife Pension

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

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

Summary

- ▶ The number of Wife Pension customers has decreased significantly as a result of the gradual phasing out of this pension in 1995. At June 2003, the number of customers receiving a Wife Pension (Age) was 20,230, a decrease of 14.7 per cent from June 2002 (23,730). At June 2003, the number of customers receiving a Wife Pension (Disability Support Pension) was 37,880, a decrease of 14.4 per cent from June 2002 (44,238).
- ▶ Wife Pensioners of Disability Support Pension customers comprised the majority of all Wife Pension customers (65 per cent at June 2003).

Table 9: Wife Pension customers by pension type, June 1983 to June 2003 ^(a)

AS AT JUNE	AGE PENSION		DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION		REHABILITATION ALLOWANCE ^(b)		SHELTERED EMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCE ^(c)		TOTAL ^(d)	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
1983	26,380	31.3	57,011	67.8	458	0.5	300	0.4	84,149	100.0
1984	24,129	26.5	65,984	72.4	771	0.8	306	0.3	91,190	100.0
1985	22,931	23.5	73,770	75.5	736	0.8	319	0.3	97,756	100.0
1986	22,208	21.5	80,167	77.5	699	0.7	308	0.3	103,382	100.0
1987	22,106	20.2	86,304	78.9	611	0.6	306	0.3	109,327	100.0
1988	22,128	20.0	87,742	79.3	486	0.4	308	0.3	110,664	100.0
1989	22,609	20.0	89,890	79.3	482	0.4	315	0.3	113,296	100.0
1990	23,766	20.5	91,068	78.7	583	0.5	278	0.2	115,695	100.0
1991	26,537	21.8	94,006	77.1	1,128	0.9	262	0.2	121,933	100.0
1992	30,902	23.2	101,731	76.4	561	0.4	-	-	133,194	100.0
1993	33,520	23.6	108,327	76.3	166	0.1	-	-	142,013	100.0
1994	36,539	23.9	116,036	76.0	45	0.0	-	-	152,620	100.0
1995	39,611	24.5	121,839	75.5	-	-	-	-	161,457	100.0
1996	41,125	27.6	107,803	72.4	-	-	-	-	148,931	100.0
1997	36,577	28.6	91,307	71.4	-	-	-	-	127,885	100.0
1998	36,233	31.2	79,892	68.8	-	-	-	-	116,125	100.0
1999	32,196	32.0	68,523	68.0	-	-	-	-	100,719	100.0
2000	31,406	34.4	59,935	65.6	-	-	-	-	91,341	100.0
2001	26,476	34.1	51,225	65.9	-	-	-	-	77,701	100.0
2002	23,730	34.9	44,238	65.1	-	-	-	-	67,968	100.0
2003	20,230	34.8	37,880	65.2	-	-	-	-	58,110	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's Administrative data and Centrelink's SuperStar Pensions database.

(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 completing their program.

(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: Figures in italics have been updated/corrected since the publication of Statistical Paper No 1, *Income support customers: a statistical overview 2002*.

Figure 3: Wife Pension customers by pension type, June 1983 to June 2003

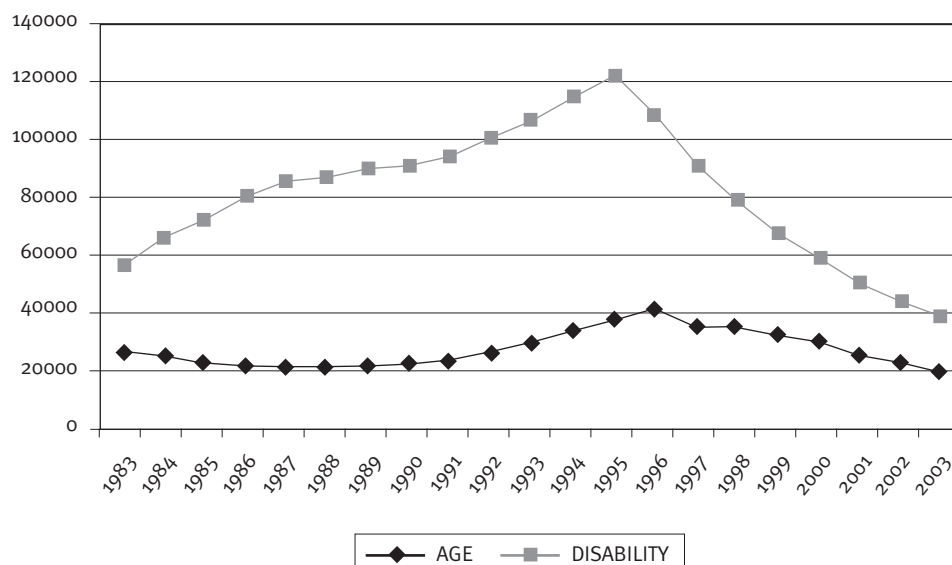


Table 10: Wife Pension customers by state/territory and pension type, June 2003^(a)

STATE/TERRITORY	AGE PENSION ^(b)		DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	6,457	34.5	12,253	65.5	18,710	100.0
Victoria	4,785	35.5	8,689	64.5	13,474	100.0
Queensland	3,797	35.4	6,927	64.6	10,724	100.0
Western Australia	1,631	33.5	3,240	66.5	4,871	100.0
South Australia	1,991	35.7	3,583	64.3	5,574	100.0
Tasmania	640	28.5	1,606	71.5	2,246	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	111	37.8	183	62.2	294	100.0
Northern Territory	111	42.4	151	57.6	262	100.0
Other ^(c)	707	36.2	1,248	63.8	1,955	100.0
Total	20,230	34.8	37,880	65.2	58,110	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Pensions 2003 Qtr 2 (13-06-03) Ver-02'.

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

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

Table 11: Wife Pension customers, characteristics by pension type, June 2003^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	AGE PENSION		DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Wife Pension customers	20,230	100.0	37,880	100.0	58,110	100.0
Age (years)						
Under 40	185	0.9	2,337	6.2	2,522	4.3
40-49	1,357	6.7	9,679	25.6	11,036	19.0
50-59	10,822	53.5	21,414	56.5	32,236	55.5
60-64	7,481	37.0	4,419	11.7	11,900	20.5
65 and over	385	1.9	31	0.1	416	0.7
Status						
<i>Couple</i>						
no dependants	18,876	93.3	30,069	79.4	48,945	84.2
with dependants	1,226	6.1	7,726	20.4	8,952	15.4
Total	20,102	99.4	37,795	99.8	57,897	99.6
<i>Single</i>						
no dependants	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
with dependants	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Total	128	0.6	85	0.2	213	0.4
Rate						
Full rate	15,382	76.0	29,466	77.8	44,848	77.2
Part rate	4,848	24.0	8,414	22.2	13,262	22.8
Home ownership						
Home owner	15,201	75.1	25,208	66.5	40,409	69.5
Non-home owner	5,029	24.9	12,672	33.5	17,701	30.5

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

Paid under income test						
<i>Income as assessed (\$ per week)</i>						
<i>Single (including separated)</i>						
Nil	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
0.01–58.00	201	1.0	169	0.4	370	0.6
58.01–70.30	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Over 70.30	60	0.3	74	0.2	134	0.2
<i>Partnered (each)</i>						
Nil	1,073	5.3	3,802	10.0	4,875	8.4
0.01–52.00	13,966	69.0	24,859	65.6	38,825	66.8
Over 52.00	4,352	21.5	8,281	21.9	12,633	21.7
Partner rate not coded	34	0.2	96	0.3	130	0.2
Non-home owners paid under assets test						
<i>Assets as assessed (\$)</i>						
<i>Single</i>						
More than 249,750 to less than 398,500	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
<i>Partnered (each)</i>						
More than 155,500 to less than 279,000	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Home owners paid under assets test						
<i>Assets as assessed (\$)</i>						
<i>Single</i>						
More than 145,250 to less than 294,000	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
<i>Partnered (each)</i>						
More than 103,250 to less than 226,750	472	2.3	304	0.8	776	1.3
Home ownership other (including aged care)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	31	0.1
Other ^(b)	26	0.1	236	0.6	262	0.5
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	10,012	49.5	22,886	60.4	32,898	56.6
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	1,261	6.2	2,191	5.8	3,452	5.9
Greece	1,202	5.9	1,962	5.2	3,164	5.4
Italy	1,630	8.1	1,520	4.0	3,150	5.4
Lebanon	596	2.9	1,535	4.1	2,131	3.7
Other	5,529	27.3	7,786	20.6	13,315	22.9

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Pensions 2003 Qtr 2 (13-06-03) Ver-02'.

(b) 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).

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

2.4 Carer Payment

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

- is receiving a social security or a 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 a 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 have a Carer Allowance child under the age of 16 or a child under the age of six, or
- are a child that meets the definition of a profoundly disabled child, or
- are two or more children with disabilities and/or medical conditions who together require a level of care that is at least equivalent to the level of care required by a profoundly disabled child.

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

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

Table 12: Carer Payment customers by pension type, June 1984 to June 2003 ^(a)

AS AT JUNE	AGE PENSION		DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION		OTHER ^(b)		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
1984	432	25.1	1,289	74.9	-	-	1,721	100.0
1985	627	23.1	2,085	76.9	-	-	2,712	100.0
1986	1,975	39.3	3,045	60.7	-	-	5,020	100.0
1987	2,644	40.7	3,853	59.3	-	-	6,497	100.0
1988	3,162	42.8	4,231	57.2	-	-	7,393	100.0
1989	3,579	44.7	4,431	55.3	-	-	8,010	100.0
1990	4,025	45.8	4,771	54.2	-	-	8,796	100.0
1991	4,619	45.5	5,478	53.9	64	0.6	10,161	100.0
1992	5,574	44.1	6,790	53.8	267	2.1	12,631	100.0
1993	6,507	43.3	8,056	53.5	482	3.2	15,045	100.0
1994	7,441	42.0	9,450	53.4	808	4.6	17,699	100.0
1995	8,324	41.4	10,633	52.9	1,141	5.7	20,098	100.0
1996	9,500	37.9	13,483	53.9	2,054	8.2	25,037	100.0
1997	10,954	37.1	15,735	53.2	2,869	9.7	29,558	100.0
1998	11,740	34.6	18,556	54.6	3,683	10.8	33,979	100.0
1999	13,407	33.5	21,392	53.4	5,271	13.2	40,070	100.0
2000	15,346	32.3	24,500	51.5	7,704	16.2	47,550	100.0
2001	18,097	31.6	28,171	49.3	10,922	19.1	57,190	100.0
2002 ^(c)	-	-	-	-	-	-	67,260	100.0
2003	-	-	-	-	-	-	75,937	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's Administrative data and Centrelink's SuperStar Pension database.

(b) Includes those caring for a person on a Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) payment other than Age Pension or Disability Support Pension. It also includes those caring for a non-FaCS customer.

(c) Figures by pension type are not available from 2002.

Table 13: Carer Payment customers by state/territory and sex, June 2003 ^(a)

STATE/TERRITORY	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	9,900	36.8	17,010	63.2	26,910	100.0
Victoria	6,641	35.2	12,229	64.8	18,870	100.0
Queensland	5,497	35.8	9,870	64.2	15,367	100.0
Western Australia	1,891	35.3	3,466	64.7	5,357	100.0
South Australia	2,228	38.9	3,493	61.1	5,721	100.0
Tasmania	1,113	41.1	1,592	58.9	2,705	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	187	34.9	349	65.1	536	100.0
Northern Territory	128	31.2	282	68.8	410	100.0
Other ^(b)	18	29.5	43	70.5	61	100.0
Total	27,603	36.3	48,334	63.7	75,937	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Pensions 2003 Qtr 2 (13-06-03) Ver-02'.

(b) Includes unknown postcodes and overseas recipients.

Table 14: Carer Payment customers, characteristics by sex, June 2003^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Carer Payment customers	27,603	100.0	48,334	100.0	75,937	100.0
Age (years)						
Under 20	352	1.3	562	1.2	914	1.2
20–29	1,601	5.8	2,624	5.4	4,225	5.6
30–39	3,937	14.3	5,954	12.3	9,891	13.0
40–49	6,627	24.0	13,570	28.1	20,197	26.6
50–59	9,338	33.8	19,796	41.0	29,134	38.4
60–64	4,849	17.6	4,738	9.8	9,587	12.6
65 and over	899	3.3	1,090	2.3	1,989	2.6
Status						
<i>Couple</i>						
no dependants	16,664	60.4	21,611	44.7	38,275	50.4
with dependants	439	1.6	8,841	18.3	9,280	12.2
Total	17,103	62.0	30,452	63.0	47,555	62.6
<i>Single</i>						
no dependants	10,269	37.2	15,929	33.0	26,198	34.5
with dependants	231	0.8	1,953	4.0	2,184	2.9
Total	10,500	38.0	17,882	37.0	28,382	37.4
Rate						
Full rate	23,118	83.8	34,599	71.6	57,717	76.0
Part rate	4,485	16.2	13,735	28.4	18,220	24.0
Home ownership						
Home owner	11,746	42.6	25,544	52.8	37,290	49.1
Non-home owner	15,857	57.4	22,790	47.1	38,647	50.9
Paid under income test						
<i>Income as assessed (\$ per week)</i>						
<i>Single</i>						
Nil	2,340	8.5	2,350	4.9	4,690	6.2
0.01–58.00	6,984	25.3	12,548	26.0	19,532	25.7
58.01–70.30	145	0.5	339	0.7	484	0.6
Over 70.30	876	3.2	2,429	5.0	3,305	4.4
<i>Partnered (each)</i>						
Nil	1,313	4.8	1,611	3.3	2,924	3.9
0.01–51.00	12,238	44.3	17,727	36.7	29,965	39.5
51.01–57.15	246	0.9	449	0.9	695	0.9
Over 57.15	2,801	10.1	9,551	19.8	12,352	16.3
Non-home owners paid under assets test						
<i>Assets as assessed (\$)</i>						
<i>Single</i>						
More than 249,750 to less than 398,500	33	0.1	38	0.1	71	0.1
<i>Partnered (each)</i>						
More than 155,500 to less than 279,000	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	46	0.1

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

Home owners paid under assets test							
<i>Assets as assessed (\$)</i>							
<i>Single</i>							
More than 133,250 to less than 269,250	88	0.3	168	0.3	256	0.3	
<i>Partnered (each)</i>							
More than 94,750 to less than 207,750	389	1.4	878	1.8	1,267	1.7	
Other ^(b)	138	0.5	212	0.4	350	0.5	
Country of birth (top five countries)							
Australia	18,974	68.7	33,052	68.4	52,026	68.5	
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	2,024	7.3	2,738	5.7	4,762	6.3	
Lebanon	491	1.8	1,032	2.1	1,523	2.0	
Italy	475	1.7	1,008	2.1	1,483	2.0	
Vietnam	479	1.7	876	1.8	1,355	1.8	
Other	5,160	18.7	9,628	19.9	14,788	19.5	

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Pensions 2003 Qtr 2 (13-06-03) Ver-02'.

(b) 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).

2.5 Sickness Allowance

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

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

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

Summary

- ▶ As at June 2003, there were 8,755 people receiving Sickness Allowance. Of these, 68 per cent were male and 32 per cent were female.
- ▶ Sickness Allowance customers received payment for an average of 35 weeks.
- ▶ Around 75 per cent of Sickness Allowance customers were aged between 25 and 54 years.

Table 15: Sickness Allowance customers by sex, June 1983 to June 2003

AS AT JUNE ^(a)	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
1983	48,284	77.0	14,384	23.0	62,668	100.0
1984	47,338	75.7	15,163	24.3	62,501	100.0
1985	46,060	74.3	15,970	25.7	62,030	100.0
1986	47,114	73.5	17,022	26.5	64,136	100.0
1987	51,421	73.2	18,811	26.8	70,232	100.0
1988	54,609	72.6	20,580	27.4	75,189	100.0
1989	56,904	72.0	22,097	28.0	79,001	100.0
1990	56,674	71.6	22,521	28.4	79,195	100.0
1991 ^(b)	50,991	71.4	20,408	28.6	71,399	100.0
1992	30,844	69.8	13,328	30.2	44,172	100.0
1993	31,802	68.3	14,777	31.7	46,579	100.0
1994	31,274	66.4	15,858	33.6	47,132	100.0
1995	31,131	65.8	16,180	34.2	47,311	100.0
1996 ^(c)	22,254	67.0	10,961	33.0	33,215	100.0
1997	10,721	68.0	5,038	32.0	15,759	100.0
1998 ^(d)	11,166	68.6	5,119	31.4	16,285	100.0
1999	7,799	69.8	3,382	30.2	11,181	100.0
2000	6,990	69.6	3,053	30.4	10,043	100.0
2001	7,598	68.7	3,460	31.3	11,058	100.0
2002	6,414	67.2	3,126	32.8	9,540	100.0
2003	5,973	68.2	2,782	31.8	8,755	100.0

- (a) 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. From 1998, data is sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar Newstart Population database.
- (b) Sickness Allowance replaced Sickness Benefit from November 1991 as part of the Disability Reform Package. This resulted in some customers transferring to the Disability Support Pension.
- (c) From March 1996, unemployed people who became ill did not transfer to Sickness Allowance after 13 weeks. They continued to be paid Youth Training Allowance, Job Search Allowance or Newstart Allowance, subject to Sickness Allowance conditions.
- (d) Break in series. Data from 1998 onward are derived from a point in time in June of the relevant year.

Note: Figures in italics have been corrected from previously published figures.

Figure 4: Sickness Allowance customers, proportion by sex, June 1983 to June 2003

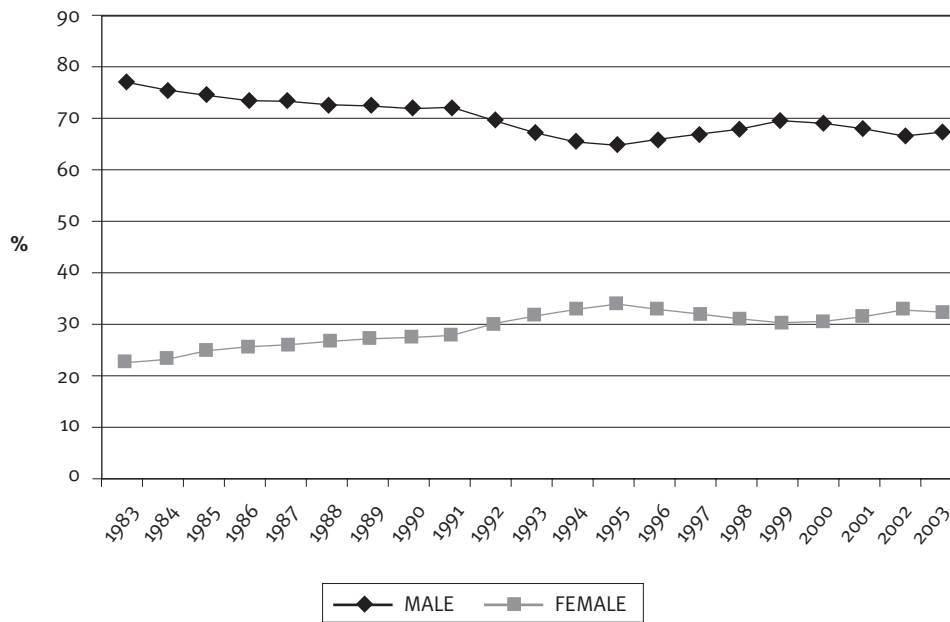


Table 16: Sickness Allowance customers by state/territory and sex, June 2003^(a)

STATE/TERRITORY	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	1,644	68.8	744	31.2	2,388	100.0
Victoria	1,654	67.3	804	32.7	2,458	100.0
Queensland	1,339	69.6	585	30.4	1,924	100.0
Western Australia	597	70.2	254	29.8	851	100.0
South Australia	527	66.3	268	33.7	795	100.0
Tasmania	97	60.2	64	39.8	161	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	69	62.7	41	37.3	110	100.0
Northern Territory	46	67.6	22	32.4	68	100.0
Total	5,973	68.2	2,782	31.8	8,755	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2003 06 (Jun) (20-06-03) Ver-03'.

Table 17: Sickness Allowance customers, characteristics by sex, June 2003 ^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Sickness Allowance customers	5,973	68.2	2,782	31.8	8,755	100.0
Age (years)						
21–24	718	12.0	308	11.1	1,026	11.7
25–34	1,636	27.4	653	23.5	2,289	26.1
35–44	1,516	25.4	611	22.0	2,127	24.3
45–54	1,240	20.8	852	30.6	2,092	23.9
55–59	537	9.0	294	10.6	831	9.5
60–64	326	5.5	64	2.3	390	4.5
Status						
<i>Couple</i>						
no dependants	2,297	38.5	377	13.6	2,674	30.5
with dependants	60	1.0	155	5.6	215	2.5
Total	2,357	39.5	532	19.1	2,889	33.0
<i>Single</i>						
no dependants	3,558	59.6	2,182	78.4	5,740	65.6
with dependants	58	1.0	68	2.4	126	1.4
Total	3,616	60.5	2,250	80.9	5,866	67.0
Income (\$ per week) ^(b)						
Nil	5,733	96.0	2,533	91.0	8,266	94.4
0.01–31.00	37	0.6	27	1.0	64	0.7
Over 31.00	203	3.4	222	8.0	425	4.9
Duration ^(c)						
<i>Up to 1 year</i>						
< 7 weeks	4,966	83.1	2,208	79.4	7,174	81.9
7 weeks to < 3 months	1,628	27.3	663	23.8	2,291	26.2
3 to < 6 months	1,147	19.2	509	18.3	1,656	18.9
6 months to < 1 year	1,111	18.6	513	18.4	1,624	18.5
<i>Over 1 year</i>						
1 to < 2 years	1,007	16.9	574	20.6	1,581	18.1
2 to < 3 years	670	11.2	365	13.1	1,035	11.8
3 years and over	207	3.5	94	3.4	301	3.4
3 years and over	130	2.2	115	4.1	245	2.8
Mean duration (weeks)	31.3	–	42.5	–	34.9	–
Median duration (weeks)	14.2	–	17.2	–	15.3	–
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	4,539	76.0	2,158	77.6	6,697	76.5
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	362	6.1	167	6.0	529	6.0
New Zealand	191	3.2	86	3.1	277	3.2
Italy	71	1.2	16	0.6	87	1.0
Vietnam	57	1.0	28	1.0	85	1.0
Other	753	12.6	327	11.8	1,080	12.3

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2003 06 (Jun) (20-06-03) Ver-03'.

(b) Income is defined as earned income.

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

2.6 Mobility Allowance

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

To qualify for Mobility Allowance, a person must be aged 16 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 Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) or the Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR), 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.

Summary

The number of people receiving Mobility Allowance continues to rise steadily with a 7 per cent increase since 2002. At June 2003, the total number of Mobility Allowance customers was 44,239.

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

Table 18: Mobility Allowance customers by sex, June 1983 to June 2003 ^(a)

AS AT JUNE	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
1983	-	-	-	-	3,935	100.0
1984	-	-	-	-	9,480	100.0
1985	-	-	-	-	10,946	100.0
1986	-	-	-	-	11,420	100.0
1987	6,851	56.5	5,269	43.5	12,120	100.0
1988	7,092	56.1	5,549	43.9	12,641	100.0
1989	7,188	56.3	5,568	43.7	12,756	100.0
1990	7,422	56.2	5,785	43.8	13,207	100.0
1991	7,535	56.0	5,909	44.0	13,444	100.0
1992	7,826	56.3	6,085	43.7	13,911	100.0
1993 ^(b)	9,118	56.4	7,042	43.6	16,160	100.0
1994	11,916	57.3	8,879	42.7	20,795	100.0
1995	13,106	57.4	9,745	42.6	22,851	100.0
1996	14,200	56.8	10,785	43.2	24,985	100.0
1997	15,066	56.6	11,529	43.4	26,595	100.0
1998	16,346	56.4	12,629	43.6	28,975	100.0
1999	17,415	56.2	13,586	43.8	31,001	100.0
2000	19,673	56.0	15,481	44.0	35,154	100.0
2001	20,887	55.6	16,687	44.4	37,574	100.0
2002	22,863	55.2	18,593	44.8	41,456	100.0
2003	24,370	55.1	19,869	44.9	44,239	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's Administrative data and Centrelink's SuperStar Population database.

(b) 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.

Figure 5: Mobility Allowance customers by sex, June 1987 to June 2003

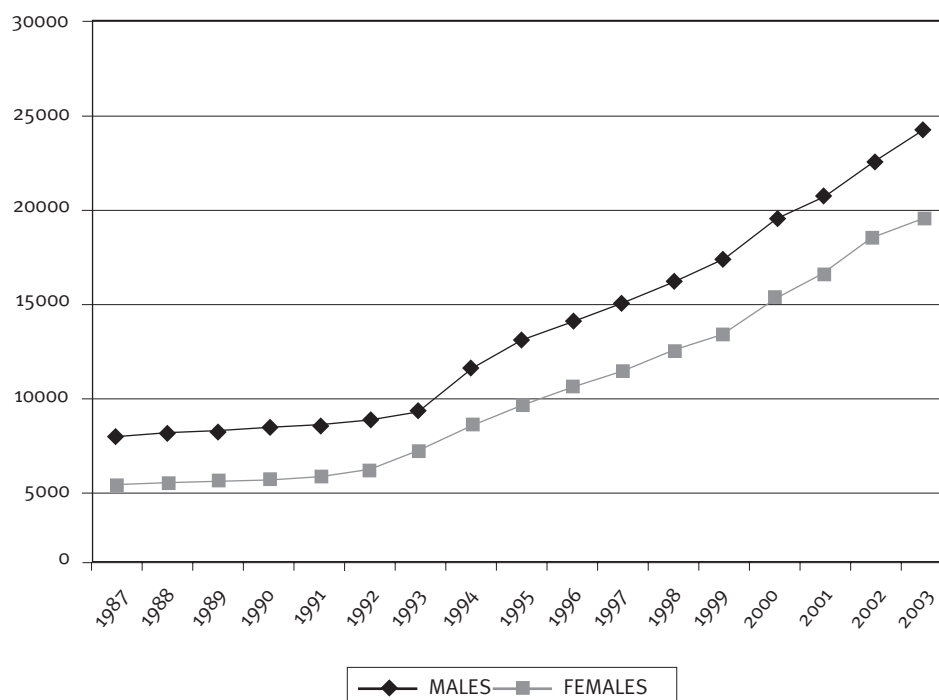


Table 19: Mobility Allowance customers by state/territory and sex, June 2003 ^(a)

STATE/TERRITORY	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	7,103	55.6	5,665	44.4	12,768	100.0
Victoria	6,536	54.0	5,557	46.0	12,093	100.0
Queensland	4,849	57.2	3,628	42.8	8,477	100.0
Western Australia	2,042	54.8	1,681	45.2	3,723	100.0
South Australia	2,702	53.8	2,322	46.2	5,024	100.0
Tasmania	710	51.9	659	48.1	1,369	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	285	53.4	249	46.6	534	100.0
Northern Territory	133	56.4	103	43.6	236	100.0
Other ^(b)	10	66.7	5	33.3	15	100.0
Total	24,370	55.1	19,869	44.9	44,239	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Populations 2003 Qtr 2 (13-06-03) Ver-01'.

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

2.7 Carer Allowance

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

- ▶ Carer Allowance may be paid for up to two adults who receive daily care and attention, and/or any number of dependent children with a disability or severe medical condition. The carer or parent may be eligible to receive a fortnightly payment of Carer Allowance for each eligible person in his or her care.
- ▶ Parents caring for two children with disabilities, who individually fall just below the qualification for Carer Allowance but whose combined assessment under the Child Disability Assessment Tool (CDAT) meets the threshold for payment, will receive a single rate of Carer Allowance.
- ▶ Customers who were entitled to Child Disability Allowance on 30 June 1998 are eligible for Carer Allowance until 30 June 2003, providing their circumstances do not change, and will not be subject to Centrelink initiated medical reviews during that period. 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 of the claimant and the person(s) cared for, or participate in the provision of care and attention given to the care receiver during a period of temporary hospitalisation, and
- ▶ be in Australia at the time the care is given and be a permanent resident of Australia.

A care receiver satisfies the eligibility requirements if they are:

- ▶ aged 16 years or over with a disability that causes a substantial functional impairment (as assessed under the Australian 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
- ▶ an Australian resident, living with the claimant and likely to suffer from the disability permanently or for an extended period of at least 12 months (unless their condition is terminal).

Table 20: Carer Allowance customers, June 1983 to June 2003 ^(a)

AS AT JUNE	CHILD ^(b)	ADULT ^(c)	ADULT AND CHILD
1983	26,693	–	–
1984	27,192	–	–
1985	28,154	–	–
1986	29,074	–	–
1987	29,486	–	–
1988	32,071	–	–
1989	34,671	–	–
1990	37,746	–	–
1991	42,405	–	–
1992	50,797	–	–
1993	61,174	–	–
1994	69,693	–	–
1995	78,898	–	–
1996	90,644	–	–
1997	95,520	–	–
1998	90,830	–	–
1999	100,452	–	–
2000 ^(d)	116,955	84,104	–
2001	111,691	121,755	1,595
2002	115,404	154,425	2,216
2003	119,003	177,862	2,744

(a) Carer Allowance was introduced on 1 July 1999. It combined Child Disability Allowance with Domiciliary Nursing Care Benefit (the latter was previously the responsibility of the Health and Aged Care portfolio). Sourced from Centrelink's Administrative data and Centrelink's SuperStar Carer Allowance database.

(b) Excludes Health Care Card only customers.

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

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

Table 21: Carer Allowance customers by state/territory and carer type, June 2003 ^(a)

STATE/TERRITORY	CHILD ^(b)		ADULT ^(c)		ADULT AND CHILD		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	37,598	31.6	60,156	33.8	859	31.3	98,613	32.9
Victoria	31,497	26.5	46,045	25.9	721	26.3	78,263	26.1
Queensland	21,805	18.3	36,411	20.5	541	19.7	58,757	19.6
Western Australia	12,291	10.3	13,204	7.4	244	8.9	25,739	8.6
South Australia	10,071	8.5	14,257	8.0	259	9.4	24,587	8.2
Tasmania	3,183	2.7	5,316	3.0	78	2.8	8,577	2.9
Australian Capital Territory	1,859	1.6	1,561	0.9	30	1.1	3,450	1.2
Northern Territory	n.p.	n.p.	727	0.4	n.p.	n.p.	1,434	0.5
Other ^(d)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Total	119,003	100.0	177,862	100.0	2,744	100.0	299,609	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Carer Allowance 2003 Qtr 2 (11-07-03) Ver-01'.

(b) Excludes 11,749 customers that only receive a Health Care Card.

(c) Includes 611 customers not coded by carer type.

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

3 Labour market allowances and parenting program

Table 22: FaCS labour market-related allowances and payments to students, June 1983 to June 2003

AS AT JUNE ^(a)	AUSTUDY PAYMENT	YOUTH ALLOWANCE ^(b)			YOUTH TRAINING ALLOWANCE ^(c)	NEWSTART ALLOWANCE	MATURE AGE ALLOWANCE ^(d)	PARTNER ALLOWANCE	WIDOW ALLOWANCE	SPECIAL BENEFIT
		FULL-TIME STUDENT	OTHER	TOTAL						
1983	-	-	-	-	-	633,281	-	-	-	20,525
1984	-	-	-	-	-	588,123	-	-	-	18,141
1985	-	-	-	-	-	562,266	-	-	-	18,582
1986	-	-	-	-	-	568,716	-	-	-	18,136
1987	-	-	-	-	-	553,653	-	-	-	19,706
1988	-	-	-	-	-	478,049	-	-	-	22,592
1989	-	-	-	-	-	389,794	-	-	-	25,204
1990	-	-	-	-	-	419,785	-	-	-	27,913
1991	-	-	-	-	-	676,705	-	-	-	29,811
1992	-	-	-	-	-	851,831	-	-	-	34,792
1993	-	-	-	-	-	913,770	-	-	-	28,854
1994	-	-	-	-	-	878,278	-	-	-	25,947
1995	-	-	-	-	21,857	800,714	38,866	216,739	8,829	20,884
1996	-	-	-	-	34,191	812,365	45,931	69,840	11,748	18,727
1997	-	-	-	-	31,942	797,961	53,386	72,117	17,468	14,577
1998	-	-	33,905	-	30,674	837,636	50,620	81,286	24,520	10,236
1999	47,170	314,301	89,060	403,361	-	684,737	45,358	84,589	28,190	11,808
2000	42,838	314,918	86,084	401,002	-	613,285	41,919	91,663	33,246	11,103
2001	41,992	313,796	91,418	405,214	-	611,988	39,101	93,650	37,089	12,712
2002 ^(e)	41,187	313,112	91,056	404,168	-	583,773	40,157	103,860	41,576	13,091
2003	38,779	304,491	87,574	392,065	-	545,685	41,372	104,080	43,550	12,228

- (a) These figures are monthly averages of the weekly figures, sourced from the Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) publication 'Labour market and related payments - a monthly profile' (except for Austudy Payment and Special Benefit, which are based on Centrelink Administrative data). They include people who received a nil rate of payment. Figures in italics have been corrected from previously published figures.
- (b) Youth Allowance was introduced on 1 July 1998. The number of full-time students does not include those who have traded in their entire Youth Allowance entitlement for a loan under the Student Financial Supplement Loan Scheme.
- (c) On 1 July 1998, many 16 to 20-year old Newstart Allowance and all Youth Training Allowance customers were transferred to Youth Allowance.
- (d) Includes people who are on Newstart Mature Age Allowance and who were on Mature Age Allowance and Mature Age Partner Allowance prior to July 1996 receiving the payment under pension conditions.
- (e) From July 2002, a revised method of measuring the number of people receiving labour market payments was introduced. More information is available from the DEWR publication 'Labour market and related payments - a monthly profile' (July 2002).

3.1 Austudy Payment

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

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

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

Table 23: Austudy Payment customers, characteristics by sex, June 2003 ^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Austudy customers	21,887	56.4	16,892	43.6	38,779	100.0
Age (years)						
25–29	8,206	37.5	7,011	41.5	15,217	39.2
30–34	5,669	25.9	3,724	22.0	9,393	24.2
35–39	3,233	14.8	1,914	11.3	5,147	13.3
40–44	2,191	10.0	1,751	10.4	3,942	10.2
45–49	1,396	6.4	1,472	8.7	2,868	7.4
50–54	736	3.4	727	4.3	1,463	3.8
55–59	386	1.8	262	1.6	648	1.7
60–64	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
65 and over	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Status						
Single or couple	16,231	74.2	14,153	83.8	30,384	78.4
Single with children	242	1.1	761	4.5	1,003	2.6
Couple with children	5,414	24.7	1,978	11.7	7,392	19.1
Duration ^(b)						
< 3 months	1,469	6.7	1,363	8.1	2,832	7.3
3 to < 6 months	4,060	18.5	3,616	21.4	7,676	19.8
6 to < 9 months	1,014	4.6	739	4.4	1,753	4.5
9 months to < 1 year	1,727	7.9	1,217	7.2	2,944	7.6
1 to < 2 years	5,250	24.0	3,849	22.8	9,099	23.5
2 years and over	8,367	38.2	6,108	36.2	14,475	37.3
Mean duration (weeks)	107.4	–	115.4	–	110.9	–
Median duration (weeks)	69.9	–	68.0	–	68.9	–
Income (\$ per week) ^(c)						
Nil	16,862	77.0	11,585	68.6	28,447	73.4
0.01–118.00	2,187	10.0	2,199	13.0	4,386	11.3
Over 118.00	2,838	13.0	3,108	18.4	5,946	15.3
Study level						
Secondary	544	2.5	405	2.4	949	2.4
Tertiary Group A Course	1,345	6.1	1,266	7.5	2,611	6.7
Tertiary Group B Course	11,911	54.4	8,976	53.1	20,887	53.9
Tertiary Group C Course	4,495	20.5	3,245	19.2	7,740	20.0
Tertiary Group D Course	3,424	15.6	2,853	16.9	6,277	16.2
Not recorded	168	0.8	147	0.9	315	0.8

(a) Customer numbers include those who received a nil rate of payment (462) due to their own or partner income. Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2003 06 (Jun) (20-06-03) Ver-03'.

(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.

3.2 Youth Allowance

Youth Allowance is paid by Centrelink on behalf of the Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) (Youth Allowance [other]) and the Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) (Youth Allowance [Full-time Students]).

Introduced on 1 July 1998, Youth Allowance replaced AUSTUDY for full-time students under 25 years, Sickness Allowance, Newstart Allowance and Youth Training Allowance for young people under 21 years of age who are temporarily incapacitated or unemployed and looking for work.

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

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

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

The personal income test for unemployed customers who are looking for work is the same as that which applies for Newstart Allowance. However, full-time students are allowed to earn \$236 per fortnight before their payments are affected and their unused income free area may accrue to a maximum of \$6,000, in the form of an income bank (like a credit).

Table 24: Youth Allowance (full-time student) customers, characteristics by sex, June 2003^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Youth Allowance (full-time student) customers	138,093	100.0	166,853	100.0	304,946	100.0
Age (years)						
15	304	0.2	501	0.3	805	0.3
16	28,234	20.4	29,640	17.8	57,874	19.0
17	25,203	18.3	28,709	17.2	53,912	17.7
18	16,339	11.8	21,041	12.6	37,380	12.3
19	14,185	10.3	20,049	12.0	34,234	11.2
20	15,327	11.1	21,264	12.7	36,591	12.0
21	13,377	9.7	17,882	10.7	31,259	10.3
22	9,990	7.2	11,883	7.1	21,873	7.2
23	6,583	4.8	7,342	4.4	13,925	4.6
24	4,543	3.3	4,773	2.9	9,316	3.1
25 and over	4,008	2.9	3,769	2.3	7,777	2.6
Rate						
At home	93,148	67.5	103,267	61.9	196,415	64.4
Away from home or couple	44,945	32.5	63,586	38.1	108,531	35.6
Independent	44,650	32.3	60,162	36.1	104,812	34.4
Dependent	93,443	67.7	106,691	63.9	200,134	65.6
Duration^(b)						
< 3 months	14,022	10.2	15,725	9.4	29,747	9.8
3 to < 6 months	22,261	16.1	27,478	16.5	49,739	16.3
6 to < 9 months	10,717	7.8	12,047	7.2	22,764	7.5
9 months to < 1 year	12,414	9.0	13,902	8.3	26,316	8.6
1 to < 2 years	37,186	26.9	44,831	26.9	82,017	26.9
2 years and over	41,493	30.0	52,870	31.7	94,363	30.9
Mean duration (weeks)	83.0	-	85.1	-	84.2	-
Median duration (weeks)	64.0	-	66.0	-	65.9	-
Income (\$ per week)^(c)						
Nil	103,799	75.2	109,208	65.5	213,007	69.9
0.01–118.00	18,522	13.4	30,604	18.3	49,126	16.1
Over 118.00	15,772	11.4	27,041	16.2	42,813	14.0
Study level						
Secondary	57,607	41.7	61,325	36.8	118,932	39.0
Tertiary Group A Course	2,244	1.6	3,351	2.0	5,595	1.8
Tertiary Group B Course	53,943	39.1	73,028	43.8	126,971	41.6
Tertiary Group C Course	11,830	8.6	13,714	8.2	25,544	8.4
Tertiary Group D Course	11,642	8.4	14,303	8.6	25,945	8.5
Other/Not Recorded	827	0.6	1,132	0.7	1,959	0.6

(a) Youth Allowance customers that are full-time students. They include customers who received a nil rate of payment (2,417) due to their own or partner income. Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2003 06 (Jun) (20-06-03) Ver-03'.

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

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

Table 25: Youth Allowance (other) customers, characteristics by sex, June 2003 ^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Youth Allowance (other) customers	46,211	100.0	41,275	100.0	87,486	100.0
Age (years)						
15	188	0.4	249	0.6	437	0.5
16	3,356	7.3	3,169	7.7	6,525	7.5
17	6,196	13.4	6,040	14.6	12,236	14.0
18	11,312	24.5	11,129	27.0	22,441	25.7
19	12,378	26.8	10,792	26.1	23,170	26.5
20	12,781	27.7	9,896	24.0	22,677	25.9
Rate						
At home	23,122	50.0	18,106	43.9	41,228	47.1
Away from home or couple	23,089	50.0	23,169	56.1	46,258	52.9
Independent	22,912	49.6	21,758	52.7	44,670	51.1
Dependent	23,299	50.4	19,517	47.3	42,816	48.9
Duration ^(b)						
< 3 months	9,446	20.4	6,887	16.7	16,333	18.7
3 to < 6 months	7,199	15.6	5,941	14.4	13,140	15.0
6 to < 9 months	3,701	8.0	3,091	7.5	6,792	7.8
9 months to < 1 year	3,093	6.7	2,660	6.4	5,753	6.6
1 to < 2 years	8,830	19.1	8,482	20.5	17,312	19.8
2 years and over	13,942	30.2	14,214	34.4	28,156	32.2
Mean duration (weeks)	74.3	–	81.6	–	77.8	–
Median duration (weeks)	50.8	–	64.0	–	57.2	–
Income (\$ per week) ^(c)						
Nil	40,174	86.9	33,138	80.3	73,312	83.8
0.01–31.00	689	1.5	954	2.3	1,643	1.9
31.01–118.00	2,197	4.8	3,378	8.2	5,575	6.4
Over 118.00	3,151	6.8	3,805	9.2	6,956	8.0
Main activity type						
Job search	28,700	62.1	25,705	62.3	54,405	62.2
Intensive assistance	6,200	13.4	5,002	12.1	11,202	12.8
Incapacitated	1,813	3.9	2,221	5.4	4,034	4.6
Work for Dole	1,492	3.2	1,183	2.9	2,675	3.1
Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) participant	1,326	2.9	723	1.8	2,049	2.3
Jobs Placement, Employment and Training	814	1.8	791	1.9	1,605	1.8
Remote location	652	1.4	493	1.2	1,145	1.3
Short course	487	1.1	487	1.2	974	1.1
Other	4,727	10.2	4,670	11.3	9,397	10.7

(a) Youth Allowance customers that are not full-time students. They include customers that received a nil rate of payment (2,157) due to their own or partner income. The figures also include 2,025 Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) participants who received a nil rate of basic Youth Allowance but may receive CDEP Supplement and/or add-on payments (Rent Assistance, Pharmaceutical Allowance, Remote Area Allowance). Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2003 06 (Jun) (20-06-03) Ver-03'.

(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.

Table 26: Youth Allowance customers, characteristics by sex, June 2003^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Youth Allowance customers	184,304	100.0	208,128	100.0	392,432	100.0
Age (years)						
15	492	0.3	750	0.4	1,242	0.3
16	31,590	17.1	32,809	15.8	64,399	16.4
17	31,399	17.0	34,749	16.7	66,148	16.9
18	27,651	15.0	32,170	15.5	59,821	15.2
19	26,563	14.4	30,841	14.8	57,404	14.6
20	28,066	15.2	31,124	15.0	59,190	15.1
21	13,418	7.3	17,918	8.6	31,336	8.0
22	9,991	5.4	11,883	5.7	21,874	5.6
23	6,583	3.6	7,342	3.5	13,925	3.5
24	4,543	2.5	4,773	2.3	9,316	2.4
25 and over	4,008	2.2	3,769	1.8	7,777	2.0
Rate						
At home	115,943	62.9	120,589	57.9	236,532	60.3
Away from home or couple	68,361	37.1	87,539	42.1	155,900	39.7
Independent	67,562	36.7	81,920	39.4	149,482	38.1
Dependent	116,742	63.3	126,208	60.6	242,950	61.9
Duration^(b)						
< 3 months	23,899	13.0	23,075	11.1	46,974	12.0
3 to < 6 months	30,178	16.4	34,242	16.5	64,420	16.4
6 to < 9 months	13,613	7.4	14,234	6.8	27,847	7.1
9 months to < 1 year	15,274	8.3	16,295	7.8	31,569	8.0
1 to < 2 years	45,945	24.9	53,246	25.6	99,191	25.3
2 years and over	55,395	30.1	67,036	32.2	122,431	31.2
Mean duration (weeks)	80.8	–	84.5	–	82.7	–
Median duration (weeks)	61.9	–	65.9	–	64.0	–
Income (\$ per week)^(c)						
Nil	143,973	78.1	142,346	68.4	286,319	73.0
0.01–31.00	2,879	1.6	4,125	2.0	7,004	1.8
31.01–118.00	18,529	10.1	30,811	14.8	49,340	12.6
Over 118.00	18,923	10.3	30,846	14.8	49,769	12.7
Student status						
Full-time student	138,093	74.9	166,853	80.2	304,946	77.7
Part-time student	517	0.3	835	0.4	1,352	0.3
Not a student	45,694	24.8	40,440	19.4	86,134	21.9

(a) Youth Allowance customers that are either full-time students or Youth Allowance (other). Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2003 06 (Jun) (20-06-03) Ver-03'.

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

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

3.3 Newstart Allowance

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

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

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

Jobseekers

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

Table 27: Short-term Newstart Allowance customers, characteristics by sex, June 2003^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Short-term Newstart Allowance customers ^(b)	144,691	100.0	58,744	100.0	203,435	100.0
Age (years)						
18–24	28,915	20.0	15,937	27.1	44,852	22.0
25–29	26,667	18.4	10,420	17.7	37,087	18.2
30–34	23,137	16.0	6,469	11.0	29,606	14.6
35–39	17,105	11.8	4,378	7.5	21,483	10.6
40–44	14,175	9.8	5,352	9.1	19,527	9.6
45–49	10,826	7.5	6,202	10.6	17,028	8.4
50–59	18,027	12.5	9,004	15.3	27,031	13.3
60 and over	5,839	4.0	982	1.7	6,821	3.4
Status						
Single	104,556	72.3	47,630	81.1	152,186	74.8
Couple	40,135	27.7	11,114	18.9	51,249	25.2
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	106,533	73.6	43,045	73.3	149,578	73.5
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	7,252	5.0	2,689	4.6	9,941	4.9
New Zealand	4,346	3.0	1,944	3.3	6,290	3.1
Vietnam	3,594	2.5	1,435	2.4	5,029	2.5
Lebanon	1,509	1.0	317	0.5	1,826	0.9
Other	21,457	14.8	9,314	15.9	30,771	15.1
Duration^(c)						
< 7 weeks	31,452	21.7	12,855	21.9	44,307	21.8
7 weeks to < 3 months	22,914	15.8	9,441	16.1	32,355	15.9
3 to < 6 months	40,990	28.3	17,048	29.0	58,038	28.5
6 to < 9 months	28,744	19.9	11,391	19.4	40,135	19.7
9 months to < 1 year	20,591	14.2	8,009	13.6	28,600	14.1
Mean duration (weeks)	20.3	–	20.0	–	20.3	–
Median duration (weeks)	18.0	–	17.5	–	18.0	–
Income (\$ per week)^(d)						
Nil	128,006	88.5	47,006	80.0	175,012	86.0
0.01–32.00	1,511	1.0	899	1.5	2,410	1.2
Over 32.00	15,174	10.5	10,839	18.5	26,013	12.8
Activity type						
Jobseekers	116,058	80.2	44,222	75.3	160,280	78.8
Incapacitated	14,285	9.9	7,370	12.5	21,655	10.6
Other ^(e)	14,348	9.9	7,152	12.2	21,500	10.6

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2003 06 (Jun) (20-06-03) Ver-03'. These figures do not include people who received a nil rate of payment (12,412).

(b) Short-term Newstart allowees are persons who have been receiving income support for less than 12 months.

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

(d) Income is defined as earned income.

(e) '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.

Table 28: Long-term Newstart Allowance customers, characteristics by sex, June 2003 ^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Long-term Newstart Allowance customers ^(b)	210,834	100.0	98,063	100.0	308,897	100.0
Age (years)						
18–24	29,928	14.2	18,503	18.9	48,431	15.7
25–29	32,495	15.4	13,096	13.4	45,591	14.8
30–34	29,827	14.1	9,712	9.9	39,539	12.8
35–39	26,820	12.7	9,121	9.3	35,941	11.6
40–44	25,893	12.3	13,615	13.9	39,508	12.8
45–49	22,335	10.6	15,777	16.1	38,112	12.3
50–59	41,117	19.5	17,801	18.2	58,918	19.1
60 and over	2,419	1.1	438	0.4	2,857	0.9
Status						
Single	151,860	72.0	80,592	82.2	232,452	75.3
Couple	58,974	28.0	17,471	17.8	76,445	24.7
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	157,410	74.7	74,393	75.9	231,803	75.0
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	10,025	4.8	3,819	3.9	13,844	4.5
New Zealand	4,279	2.0	2,297	2.3	6,576	2.1
Vietnam	7,013	3.3	3,342	3.4	10,355	3.4
Lebanon	3,063	1.5	822	0.8	3,885	1.3
Other	29,044	13.8	13,390	13.7	42,434	13.7
Duration ^(c)						
1 to < 2 years	54,044	25.6	23,262	23.7	77,306	25.0
2 to < 3 years	36,098	17.1	16,100	16.4	52,198	16.9
3 to < 4 years	22,957	10.9	10,665	10.9	33,622	10.9
4 to < 5 years	22,582	10.7	12,542	12.8	35,124	11.4
5 years and over	75,153	35.6	35,494	36.2	110,647	35.8
Mean duration (weeks)	238.6	–	257.7	–	244.7	–
Median duration (weeks)	189.1	–	203.5	–	193.3	–
Income (\$ per week) ^(d)						
Nil	183,911	87.2	77,484	79.0	261,395	84.6
0.01–31.00	2,963	1.4	1,920	2.0	4,883	1.6
Over 31.00	23,960	11.4	18,659	19.0	42,619	13.8
Activity type						
Jobseekers	161,480	76.6	69,069	70.4	230,549	74.6
Incapacitated	19,985	9.5	12,233	12.5	32,218	10.4
Other ^(e)	29,369	13.9	16,761	17.1	46,130	14.9

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2003 06 (Jun) (20-06-03) Ver-03'. These figures do not include the people who received a nil rate of payment (11,169).

(b) Long-term Newstart allowees are persons who have been receiving income support for 12 months or more.

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

(d) Income is defined as earned income.

(e) '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.

Table 29: Total Newstart Allowance customers, characteristics by sex, June 2003^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Newstart Allowance customers	355,525	100.0	156,807	100.0	512,332	100.0
Age (years)						
18–24	58,843	16.6	34,440	22.0	93,283	18.2
25–29	59,162	16.6	23,516	15.0	82,678	16.1
30–34	52,964	14.9	16,181	10.3	69,145	13.5
35–39	43,925	12.4	13,499	8.6	57,424	11.2
40–44	40,068	11.3	18,967	12.1	59,035	11.5
45–49	33,161	9.3	21,979	14.0	55,140	10.8
50–59	59,144	16.6	26,805	17.1	85,949	16.8
60 and over	8,258	2.3	1,420	0.9	9,678	1.9
Status						
Single	256,416	72.1	128,222	81.8	384,638	75.1
Couple	99,109	27.9	28,585	18.2	127,694	24.9
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	263,943	74.2	117,438	74.9	381,381	74.4
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	17,277	4.9	6,508	4.2	23,785	4.6
New Zealand	8,625	2.4	4,241	2.7	12,866	2.5
Vietnam	10,607	3.0	4,777	3.0	15,384	3.0
Lebanon	4,572	1.3	1,139	0.7	5,711	1.1
Other	50,501	14.2	22,704	14.5	73,205	14.3
Duration^(b)						
< 1 year	144,691	40.7	58,744	37.5	203,435	39.7
1 to < 2 years	54,044	15.2	23,262	14.8	77,306	15.1
2 to < 3 years	36,098	10.2	16,100	10.3	52,198	10.2
3 to < 4 years	22,957	6.5	10,665	6.8	33,622	6.6
4 to < 5 years	22,582	6.4	12,542	8.0	35,124	6.9
5 years and over	75,153	21.1	35,494	22.6	110,647	21.6
Mean duration (weeks)	149.8	–	168.7	–	155.6	–
Median duration (weeks)	81.7	–	95.6	–	85.9	–
Income (\$ per week)^(c)						
Nil	311,917	87.7	124,490	79.4	436,407	85.2
0.01–31.00	4,447	1.3	2,792	1.8	7,239	1.4
Over 31.00	39,161	11.0	29,525	18.8	68,686	13.4
Activity type						
Jobseekers	277,538	78.1	113,291	72.2	390,829	76.3
Incapacitated	34,270	9.6	19,603	12.5	53,873	10.5
Other ^(d)	43,717	12.3	23,913	15.2	67,630	13.2

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2003 06 (Jun) (20-06-03) Ver-03'. These figures do not include people who received a nil rate of payment (23,581).

(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.

Table 30: Short-term unemployed customers, characteristics by sex, June 2003 ^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Short-term unemployed customers	167,037	100.0	76,460	100.0	243,497	100.0
Age (years)						
Under 18	6,093	3.6	5,464	7.1	11,557	4.7
18–24	45,168	27.0	28,189	36.9	73,357	30.1
25–29	26,667	16.0	10,420	13.6	37,087	15.2
30–34	23,137	13.9	6,469	8.5	29,606	12.2
35–39	17,105	10.2	4,378	5.7	21,483	8.8
40–44	14,175	8.5	5,352	7.0	19,527	8.0
45–49	10,826	6.5	6,202	8.1	17,028	7.0
50–59	18,027	10.8	9,004	11.8	27,031	11.1
60 and over	5,839	3.5	982	1.3	6,821	2.8
Status						
Single	125,868	75.4	63,834	83.5	189,702	77.9
Couple	41,169	24.6	12,626	16.5	53,795	22.1
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	126,853	75.9	59,240	77.5	186,093	76.4
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	7,465	4.5	2,874	3.8	10,339	4.2
New Zealand	4,868	2.9	2,359	3.1	7,227	3.0
Vietnam	3,711	2.2	1,494	2.0	5,205	2.1
Lebanon	1,568	0.9	355	0.5	1,923	0.8
Other	22,572	13.5	10,138	13.3	32,710	13.4
Duration ^(b)						
< 7 weeks	36,645	21.9	16,499	21.6	53,144	21.8
7 weeks to < 3 months	26,760	16.0	12,342	16.1	39,102	16.1
3 to < 6 months	47,447	28.4	22,410	29.3	69,857	28.7
6 to < 9 months	32,646	19.5	14,628	19.1	47,274	19.4
9 months to < 1 year	23,539	14.1	10,581	13.8	34,120	14.0
Mean duration (weeks)	20.2	–	20.1	–	20.2	–
Median duration (weeks)	18.0	–	17.7	–	17.9	–
Income (\$ per week) ^(c)						
Nil	148,604	89.0	62,037	81.1	210,641	86.5
0.01–31.00	1,827	1.1	1,316	1.7	3,143	1.3
Over 31.00	16,606	9.9	13,107	17.1	29,713	12.2
Activity type						
Jobseekers	135,491	81.1	59,334	77.6	194,825	80.0
Incapacitated	15,327	9.2	8,420	11.0	23,747	9.8
Other ^(d)	16,219	9.7	8,706	11.4	24,925	10.2

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2003 06 (Jun) (20-06-03) Ver-03'. These figures do not include people who received a nil rate of payment (13,365). The number of unemployed customers is comprised of customers who are on Youth Allowance with a student status other than full-time student [generally referred to as Youth Allowance (other)] and Newstart Allowance.

(b) Duration 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.

Table 31: Long-term unemployed customers, characteristics by sex, June 2003 ^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Long-term unemployed customers	232,434	100.0	119,693	100.0	352,127	100.0
Age (years)						
Under 18	3,198	1.4	3,635	3.0	6,833	1.9
18–24	48,330	20.8	36,498	30.5	84,828	24.1
25–29	32,495	14.0	13,096	10.9	45,591	12.9
30–34	29,827	12.8	9,712	8.1	39,539	11.2
35–39	26,820	11.5	9,121	7.6	35,941	10.2
40–44	25,893	11.1	13,615	11.4	39,508	11.2
45–49	22,335	9.6	15,777	13.2	38,112	10.8
50–59	41,117	17.7	17,801	14.9	58,918	16.7
60 and over	2,419	1.0	438	0.4	2,857	0.8
Status						
Single	172,179	74.1	100,407	83.9	272,586	77.4
Couple	60,255	25.9	19,286	16.1	79,541	22.6
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	177,205	76.2	94,302	78.8	271,507	77.1
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	10,151	4.4	3,957	3.3	14,108	4.0
New Zealand	4,594	2.0	2,685	2.2	7,279	2.1
Vietnam	7,213	3.1	3,512	2.9	10,725	3.0
Lebanon	3,115	1.3	870	0.7	3,985	1.1
Other	30,156	13.0	14,367	12.0	44,523	12.6
Duration^(b)						
1 to < 2 years	62,350	26.8	31,359	26.2	93,709	26.6
2 to < 3 years	42,761	18.4	22,955	19.2	65,716	18.7
3 to < 4 years	27,049	11.6	14,801	12.4	41,850	11.9
4 to < 5 years	25,056	10.8	15,018	12.5	40,074	11.4
5 years and over	75,218	32.4	35,560	29.7	110,778	31.5
Mean duration (weeks)	228.6	–	234.9	–	230.7	–
Median duration (weeks)	175.5	–	174.0	–	174.8	–
Income (\$ per week)^(c)						
Nil	203,428	87.5	95,528	79.8	298,956	84.9
0.01–31.00	3,298	1.4	2,423	2.0	5,721	1.6
Over 31.00	25,708	11.1	21,742	18.2	47,450	13.5
Activity type						
Jobseekers	180,306	77.6	87,438	73.1	267,744	76.0
Incapacitated	20,739	8.9	13,345	11.1	34,084	9.7
Other ^(d)	31,389	13.5	18,910	15.8	50,299	14.3

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2003 06 (Jun) (20-06-03) Ver-03'. These figures do not include people who received a nil rate of payment (12,361). The number of unemployed customers is comprised of customers who are on Youth Allowance with a student status other than full-time student [generally referred to as Youth Allowance (other)] and Newstart Allowance.

(b) Duration 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.

Table 32: Total unemployed customers, characteristics by sex, June 2003^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Total unemployed customers	399,471	100.0	196,153	100.0	595,624	100.0
Age (years)						
Under 18	9,291	2.3	9,099	4.6	18,390	3.1
18–24	93,498	23.4	64,687	33.0	158,185	26.6
25–29	59,162	14.8	23,516	12.0	82,678	13.9
30–34	52,964	13.3	16,181	8.2	69,145	11.6
35–39	43,925	11.0	13,499	6.9	57,424	9.6
40–44	40,068	10.0	18,967	9.7	59,035	9.9
45–49	33,161	8.3	21,979	11.2	55,140	9.3
50–59	59,144	14.8	26,805	13.7	85,949	14.4
60 and over	8,258	2.1	1,420	0.7	9,678	1.6
Status						
Single	298,047	74.6	164,241	83.7	462,288	77.6
Couple	101,424	25.4	31,912	16.3	133,336	22.4
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	304,058	76.1	153,542	78.3	457,600	76.8
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	17,616	4.4	6,831	3.5	24,447	4.1
New Zealand	9,462	2.4	5,044	2.6	14,506	2.4
Vietnam	10,924	2.7	5,006	2.6	15,930	2.7
Lebanon	4,683	1.2	1,225	0.6	5,908	1.0
Other	52,728	13.2	24,505	12.5	77,233	13.0
Duration^(b)						
< 1 year	167,037	41.8	76,460	39.0	243,497	40.9
1 to < 2 years	62,350	15.6	31,359	16.0	93,709	15.7
2 to < 3 years	42,761	10.7	22,955	11.7	65,716	11.0
3 to < 4 years	27,049	6.8	14,801	7.5	41,850	7.0
4 to < 5 years	25,056	6.3	15,018	7.7	40,074	6.7
5 years and over	75,218	18.8	35,560	18.1	110,778	18.6
Mean duration (weeks)	141.5	–	151.2	–	144.7	–
Median duration (weeks)	77.1	–	86.2	–	80.1	–
Income (\$ per week)^(c)						
Nil	352,032	88.1	157,565	80.3	509,597	85.6
0.01–31.00	5,125	1.3	3,739	1.9	8,864	1.5
Over 31.00	42,314	10.6	34,849	17.8	77,163	13.0
Activity type						
Jobseekers	315,797	79.1	146,772	74.8	462,569	77.7
Incapacitated	36,066	9.0	21,765	11.1	57,831	9.7
Other ^(d)	47,608	11.9	27,616	14.1	75,224	12.6

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2003 06 (Jun) (20-06-03) Ver 03'. These figures do not include people who received a nil rate of payment (25,726). The number of unemployed customers is comprised of customers who are on Youth Allowance with a student status other than full-time student [generally referred to as Youth Allowance (other)] and Newstart Allowance.

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

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

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

Table 33: Unemployed customers by state/territory, June 2003^(a)

STATE/TERRITORY	NEWSTART ALLOWANCE		YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) ^(b)		TOTAL	
	SHORT-TERM	LONG-TERM	SHORT-TERM	LONG-TERM	SHORT-TERM	LONG-TERM
New South Wales	63,204	97,204	12,133	12,770	75,337	109,974
Victoria	48,921	71,800	7,165	8,756	56,086	80,556
Queensland	46,058	61,356	10,245	9,982	56,303	71,338
Western Australia	20,437	27,953	4,773	4,018	25,210	31,971
South Australia	14,778	27,238	3,349	3,941	18,127	31,179
Tasmania	5,251	12,926	1,210	2,382	6,461	15,308
Australian Capital Territory	1,880	2,881	330	399	2,210	3,280
Northern Territory	2,906	7,539	857	982	3,763	8,521
Total	203,435	308,897	40,062	43,230	243,497	352,127

- (a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2003 06 (Jun) (20-06-03) Ver-03'. These figures do not include people who received a nil rate of payment (25,726). The number of unemployed customers is comprised of customers who are on Youth Allowance with a student status other than full-time student [generally referred to as Youth Allowance (other)] and Newstart Allowance.
- (b) Youth Allowance customers whose student status is other than full-time students.

Table 34: Monthly average number of unemployed customers on activity-tested payments by allowance type and duration, June 1983 to June 2003

AS AT JUNE ^(b)	NEWSTART ALLOWANCE	YOUTH TRAINING ALLOWANCE	YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED CUSTOMERS ^(a)					
				SHORT-TERM		LONG-TERM		TOTAL	
				NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
1983	633,281	-	-	-	-	-	-	633,281	100.0
1984	588,123	-	-	-	-	-	-	588,123	100.0
1985	562,266	-	-	-	-	-	-	562,266	100.0
1986	568,716	-	-	-	-	-	-	568,716	100.0
1987	553,653	-	-	-	-	-	-	553,653	100.0
1988	478,049	-	-	-	-	-	-	478,049	100.0
1989	389,794	-	-	-	-	-	-	389,794	100.0
1990	419,785	-	-	-	-	-	-	419,785	100.0
1991	676,705	-	-	-	-	-	-	676,705	100.0
1992	851,831	-	-	529,538	62.2	322,294	37.8	851,832	100.0
1993	913,770	-	-	482,594	52.8	431,175	47.2	913,769	100.0
1994	878,278	-	-	449,268	51.2	429,010	48.8	878,278	100.0
1995 ^(c)	800,714	21,857	-	431,072	52.4	391,499	47.6	822,571	100.0
1996 ^(c)	812,365	34,191	-	500,596	59.1	345,960	40.9	846,556	100.0
1997 ^(c)	797,961	31,942	-	424,772	51.2	405,131	48.8	829,903	100.0
1998 ^(c)	837,636	30,674	33,905	419,317	48.1	452,224	51.9	871,541	100.0
1999	684,737	-	89,060	348,444	45.0	425,353	55.0	773,797	100.0
2000	613,285	-	86,084	287,179	41.1	412,190	58.9	699,369	100.0
2001	611,988	-	91,418	321,584	45.7	381,822	54.3	703,406	100.0
2002 ^(d)	583,773	-	91,056	289,047	42.8	385,782	57.2	674,829	100.0
2003	545,685	-	87,574	260,034	41.1	373,225	58.9	633,259	100.0

- (a) Sourced from 'Labour market and related payments - a monthly profile' (Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations) [DEWR].
- (b) These figures are monthly averages of the weekly figures. They include people who received a nil rate of payment. Before July 1998, the number of unemployed customers comprised of customers on Youth Training Allowance and Newstart Allowance. When Youth Allowance replaced Youth Training Allowance in July 1998, the number of unemployed customers comprised of customers who were on Youth Allowance with a student status of other than full-time student [generally referred to as Youth Allowance (other)] and Newstart Allowance.
- (c) From 1995 to 1998, it is estimated that 80 per cent of customers on Youth Training Allowance were short-term unemployed and 20 per cent were long-term unemployed.
- (d) From July 2002, a revised method of measuring the number of people receiving labour market payments was introduced. More information is available from the DEWR publication 'Labour market and related payments - a monthly profile' (July 2002).

3.4 Mature Age Allowance

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

To qualify for Mature Age Allowance since 1 July 1996, a person must:

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

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

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

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

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

Table 35: Mature Age Allowance customers, characteristics by sex, June 2003 ^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Mature Age Allowance customers	37,491	100.0	3,587	100.0	41,078	100.0
Age (years)						
60	4,360	11.6	1,526	42.5	5,886	14.3
61	6,615	17.6	2,061	57.5	8,676	21.1
62	7,810	20.8	0	0.0	7,810	19.0
63	8,976	23.9	0	0.0	8,976	21.9
64	9,730	26.0	0	0.0	9,730	23.7
Duration ^(b)						
< 3 months	204	0.5	41	1.1	245	0.6
3 to < 6 months	248	0.7	56	1.6	304	0.7
6 to < 9 months	526	1.4	106	3.0	632	1.5
9 months to < 1 year	3,406	9.1	491	13.7	3,897	9.5
<i>Over 1 year</i>						
1 to < 2 years	7,537	20.1	947	26.4	8,484	20.7
2 to < 3 years	4,580	12.2	421	11.7	5,001	12.2
3 to < 4 years	3,956	10.6	283	7.9	4,239	10.3
4 to < 5 years	3,413	9.1	225	6.3	3,638	8.9
5 years and over	13,621	36.3	1,017	28.4	14,638	35.6
Mean duration (weeks)	235.6	–	198.7	–	232.4	–
Median duration (weeks)	186.9	–	120	–	181.3	–
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	22,276	59.4	2,419	67.4	24,695	60.1
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	5,442	14.5	400	11.2	5,842	14.2
Italy	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	836	2.0
Germany	712	1.9	43	1.2	755	1.8
Greece	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	718	1.7
Other	7,551	20.1	681	19.0	8,232	20.0
Paid under income test						
<i>Income as assessed (\$ per week) ^(c)</i>						
Nil	34,953	93.2	3,256	90.8	38,209	93.0
0.01–31.00	545	1.5	51	1.4	596	1.5
Over 31.00	1,993	5.3	280	7.8	2,273	5.5
State/territory						
New South Wales	11,741	31.3	1,309	36.5	13,050	31.8
Victoria	8,840	23.6	751	20.9	9,591	23.3
Queensland	8,496	22.7	823	22.9	9,319	22.7
Western Australia	3,330	8.9	250	7.0	3,580	8.7
South Australia	3,192	8.5	287	8.0	3,479	8.5
Tasmania	1,536	4.1	131	3.7	1,667	4.1
Australian Capital Territory	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	207	0.5
Northern Territory	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	185	0.5

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2003 06 (Jun) (20-06-03) Ver-03'. These figures do not include people who received a nil rate of payment (338).

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

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

3.5 Widow Allowance

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

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

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

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

Table 36: Widow Allowance customers, characteristics, June 2003 ^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	FEMALE	
	NO.	%
Widow Allowance customers	43,209	100.0
Age (years)		
50–54	9,403	21.8
55–59	19,708	45.6
60–64	9,197	21.3
65 and over	4,901	11.3
Duration ^(b)		
<i>Up to 1 year</i>		
< 7 weeks	467	1.1
7 weeks to < 3 months	417	1.0
3 to < 6 months	1,050	2.4
6 to < 9 months	1,013	2.3
9 months to < 1 year	1,573	3.6
<i>Over 1 year</i>		
1 to < 2 years	5,615	13.0
2 to < 3 years	5,544	12.8
3 to < 4 years	4,868	11.3
4 to < 5 years	4,982	11.5
5 years and over	17,680	40.9
Mean duration (weeks)	263.3	–
Median duration (weeks)	219.9	–
Country of birth (top five countries)		
Australia	24,591	56.9
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	3,329	7.7
China	1,875	4.3
Vietnam	1,173	2.7
Philippines	889	2.1
Other	11,352	26.3
Paid under income test		
<i>Income as assessed (\$ per week) ^(c)</i>		
Nil	38,827	89.9
0.01–31.00	727	1.7
Over 31.00	3,655	8.5
State/territory		
New South Wales	14,041	32.5
Victoria	11,110	25.7
Queensland	9,141	21.2
Western Australia	3,888	9.0
South Australia	3,297	7.6
Tasmania	1,193	2.8
Australian Capital Territory	355	0.8
Northern Territory	184	0.4

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2003 06 (Jun) (20-06-03) Ver-03'. These figures do not include people who received a nil rate of payment (369).

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

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

3.6 Partner Allowance

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

Since 1 July 1995, the payment has only been granted to persons born on or before 1 July 1955 who have no dependent children 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 – as per Mature Age Allowance [MAA] and Widow Allowance [WA] in previous sections). It is payable to partners of people aged over 21 years and receiving Youth Allowance, Austudy Payment, Sickness Allowance, ABSTUDY, Student Financial Supplement Scheme, Newstart Allowance, Special Benefit, Rehabilitation Allowance, Age Pension, Disability Support Pension, Mature Age Allowance or a Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Service Pension.

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

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.

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

Table 37: Partner Allowance customers, characteristics by sex, June 2003 ^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Partner Allowance customers	12,946	100.0	89,865	100.0	102,811	100.0
Age (years)						
Under 50	306	2.4	4,676	5.2	4,982	4.8
50–54	1,246	9.6	19,620	21.8	20,866	20.3
55–59	3,173	24.5	41,170	45.8	44,343	43.1
60–64	6,259	48.3	21,656	24.1	27,915	27.2
65 and over	1,962	15.2	2,743	3.1	4,705	4.6
Duration ^(b)						
< 7 weeks	401	3.1	2,157	2.4	2,558	2.5
7 weeks to < 3 months	398	3.1	1,941	2.2	2,339	2.3
3 to < 6 months	840	6.5	3,877	4.3	4,717	4.6
6 to < 9 months	797	6.2	3,754	4.2	4,551	4.4
9 months to < 1 year	983	7.6	3,970	4.4	4,953	4.8
<i>Over 1 year</i>						
1 to < 2 years	2,948	22.8	15,216	16.9	18,164	17.7
2 to < 3 years	1,526	11.8	11,204	12.5	12,730	12.4
3 to < 4 years	1,003	7.7	9,427	10.5	10,430	10.1
4 to < 5 years	925	7.1	8,952	10.0	9,877	9.6
5 years and over	3,125	24.1	29,367	32.7	32,492	31.6
Mean duration (weeks)	170.1	–	201.7	–	197.7	–
Median duration (weeks)	106.8	–	172.9	–	163.9	–
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	6,913	53.4	56,492	62.9	63,405	61.7
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	1,459	11.3	7,591	8.4	9,050	8.8
China	1,066	8.2	2,600	2.9	3,666	3.6
Italy	164	1.3	2,471	2.7	2,635	2.6
Greece	247	1.9	2,052	2.3	2,299	2.2
Other	3,097	23.9	18,659	20.8	21,756	21.2
Paid under income test						
<i>Income as assessed (\$ per week) ^(c)</i>						
Nil	11,974	92.5	81,561	90.8	93,535	91.0
0.01–31.00	112	0.9	944	1.1	1,056	1.0
Over 31.00	860	6.6	7,360	8.2	8,220	8.0
State/territory						
New South Wales	4,696	36.3	28,601	31.8	33,297	32.4
Victoria	3,024	23.4	22,403	24.9	25,427	24.7
Queensland	2,463	19.0	18,084	20.1	20,547	20.0
Western Australia	875	6.8	7,925	8.8	8,800	8.6
South Australia	1,214	9.4	8,529	9.5	9,743	9.5
Tasmania	560	4.3	3,623	4.0	4,183	4.1
Australian Capital Territory	82	0.6	449	0.5	531	0.5
Northern Territory	32	0.2	251	0.3	283	0.3

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2003 06 (Jun) (20-06-03) Ver-03'. These figures do not include people who received a nil rate of payment (1,254).

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

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

3.7 Special Benefit

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

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.

Table 38: Special Benefit customers, Special Benefit category by sex, June 2003 ^(a)

SPECIAL BENEFIT CATEGORY	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Assurance of support	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	51	0.4
Australian citizen child in custody of non-permanent resident	38	0.5	31	0.7	69	0.6
Caring for child	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	41	0.3
Caring for incapacitated person	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Newly arrived migrants (NAM) in waiting period for Special Benefit	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	28	0.2
NAM in two-year waiting period (pre-10 December 2000)	225	3.0	251	5.4	476	3.9
NAM in two-year waiting period for:						
▶ Partner Allowance						
▶ Widow Allowance						
▶ Parenting Payment (Partnered)						
▶ Newstart Mature Age Allowance						
▶ Carer Payment						
▶ Disability Wage Supplement	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	95	0.8
Not residentially qualified for Age Pension	3,035	40.0	1,834	39.5	4,869	39.8
Not residentially qualified for Disability Support Pension (post-10 December 2000)	82	1.1	88	1.9	170	1.4
Not residentially qualified for other pension (pre-10 December 2000)	78	1.0	59	1.3	137	1.1
Other cases (long-term)	117	1.5	138	3.0	255	2.1
Other cases (short-term)	34	0.4	97	2.1	131	1.1
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.	22	0.2
Spouse provisional visa (post-10 December 2000)	587	7.7	834	18.0	1,421	11.6
Temporary protection visa (not of workforce age)	2,704	35.6	954	20.5	3,658	29.9
Under 16 years	57	0.8	100	2.2	157	1.3
Not coded	566	7.5	53	1.1	618	5.1
Total	7,585	100.0	4,643	100.0	12,228	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2003 06 (Jun) (20-06-03) Ver-03'. These figures do not include zero paid customers (148).

Table 39: Special Benefit customers, characteristics by sex, June 2003^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Special Benefit customers	7,585	100.0	4,643	100.0	12,228	100.0
Age (years)						
Under 16	101	1.3	144	3.1	245	2.0
16–17	116	1.5	78	1.7	194	1.6
18–20	277	3.7	232	5.0	509	4.2
21–24	613	8.1	454	9.8	1,067	8.7
25–34	1,811	23.9	911	19.6	2,722	22.3
35–44	981	12.9	469	10.1	1,450	11.9
45–54	359	4.7	252	5.4	611	5.0
55–59	66	0.9	74	1.6	140	1.1
60–64	55	0.7	161	3.5	216	1.8
65 and over	3,206	42.3	1,868	40.2	5,074	41.5
Status						
<i>Single</i>	3,723	49.1	1,959	42.2	5,682	46.5
without children	3,691	48.7	1,735	37.4	5,426	44.4
with children	32	0.4	224	4.8	256	2.1
<i>Couple</i>	3,862	50.9	2,684	57.8	6,546	53.5
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Iraq	2,078	27.4	872	18.8	2,950	24.1
China	1,596	21.0	813	17.5	2,409	19.7
Islamic State of Afghanistan	979	12.9	186	4.0	1,165	9.5
Lebanon	431	5.7	274	5.9	705	5.8
Philippines	147	1.9	270	5.8	417	3.4
Other	2,354	31.0	2,228	48.0	4,582	37.5
Duration^(b)						
< 7 weeks	322	4.2	267	5.8	589	4.8
7 weeks to < 3 months	300	4.0	198	4.3	498	4.1
3 to < 6 months	618	8.1	435	9.4	1,053	8.6
6 to < 9 months	466	6.1	387	8.3	853	7.0
9 months to < 1 year	358	4.7	339	7.3	697	5.7
<i>Over 1 year</i>						
1 to < 2 years	1,756	23.2	1,146	24.7	2,902	23.7
2 to < 3 years	1,878	24.8	750	16.2	2,628	21.5
3 to < 4 years	506	6.7	273	5.9	779	6.4
4 to < 5 years	633	8.3	332	7.2	965	7.9
5 and over	748	9.9	516	11.1	1,264	10.3
Mean duration (weeks)	122.1	–	113.8	–	118.9	–
Median duration (weeks)	134.1	–	101.6	–	121.6	–
Income (\$ per week)^(c)						
Nil	7,416	97.8	4,599	99.1	12,015	98.3
0.01–31.00	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	45	0.4
Over 31.00	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	168	1.4

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2003 06 (Jun) (20-06-03) Ver-03'. These figures do not include zero paid customers (148).

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

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

Table 40: Special Benefit customers by state/territory and sex, June 2003^(a)

STATE/TERRITORY	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	3,976	63.7	2,269	36.3	6,245	100.0
Victoria	2,113	61.9	1,301	38.1	3,414	100.0
Queensland	427	56.3	332	43.7	759	100.0
Western Australia	396	63.2	231	36.8	627	100.0
South Australia	546	62.6	326	37.4	872	100.0
Tasmania	40	36.7	69	63.3	109	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	174	100.0
Northern Territory	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	28	100.0
Total	7,585	62.0	4,643	38.0	12,228	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2003 06 (Jun) (20-06-03) Ver-03'. These figures do not include zero paid customers (148).

Table 41: Special Benefit customers by sex, June 1983 to June 2003^(a)

AS AT JUNE	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
1983	9,252	45.1	11,273	54.9	20,525	100.0
1984	7,758	42.8	10,383	57.2	18,141	100.0
1985	7,863	42.3	10,719	57.7	18,582	100.0
1986	7,966	43.9	10,170	56.1	18,136	100.0
1987	8,957	45.5	10,749	54.5	19,706	100.0
1988	10,796	47.8	11,796	52.2	22,592	100.0
1989	12,048	47.8	13,156	52.2	25,204	100.0
1990	13,592	48.7	14,321	51.3	27,913	100.0
1991	13,830	46.4	15,981	53.6	29,811	100.0
1992	16,168	46.5	18,624	53.5	34,792	100.0
1993	12,989	45.0	15,865	55.0	28,854	100.0
1994	11,957	46.1	13,990	53.9	25,947	100.0
1995	10,446	50.0	10,438	50.0	20,884	100.0
1996	9,125	48.7	9,602	51.3	18,727	100.0
1997	6,811	46.7	7,765	53.3	14,577	100.0
1998	4,733	46.2	5,503	53.8	10,236	100.0
1999	5,232	44.3	6,576	55.7	11,808	100.0
2000	5,313	48.4	5,658	51.6	10,971	100.0
2001	7,466	58.7	5,246	41.3	12,712	100.0
2002	8,060	61.6	5,031	38.4	13,091	100.0
2003	7,585	62.0	4,643	38.0	12,228	100.0

(a) From 1983 to 1997, these figures are an average of the weekly payments for the month ending June each year. From 1998 to 2003, the figures are point in time and as such will differ from averages of the weekly payments. Sourced from Centrelink's Administrative data and Centrelink's SuperStar Newstart Population database.

3.8 Parenting Payment

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

To qualify for Parenting Payment a person must:

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

Table 42: Parenting Payment (Single) customers by sex, June 1983 to June 2003^(a)

AS AT JUNE	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
1983	7,870	3.5	216,619	96.5	224,489	100.0
1984	8,909	3.8	225,856	96.2	234,765	100.0
1985	9,736	4.0	236,559	96.0	246,295	100.0
1986	10,070	4.0	240,840	96.0	250,910	100.0
1987	10,236	4.1	238,671	95.9	248,907	100.0
1988	9,929	4.2	228,727	95.8	238,656	100.0
1989 ^(b)	10,180	4.3	229,289	95.7	239,469	100.0
1990	11,305	4.5	237,581	95.5	248,886	100.0
1991	13,616	5.1	252,104	94.9	265,720	100.0
1992	16,444	5.7	270,784	94.3	287,228	100.0
1993	17,529	5.9	280,915	94.1	298,444	100.0
1994	18,897	6.0	294,540	94.0	313,437	100.0
1995	19,913	6.1	305,028	93.9	324,941	100.0
1996	21,964	6.4	320,326	93.6	342,290	100.0
1997	23,920	6.7	334,973	93.3	358,893	100.0
1998 ^(c)	25,546	6.9	346,740	93.1	372,286	100.0
1999	26,830	7.0	355,493	93.0	382,323	100.0
2000	27,951	7.1	363,442	92.9	391,393	100.0
2001	31,661	7.6	385,000	92.4	416,661	100.0
2002	32,966	7.7	394,880	92.3	427,846	100.0
2003	33,909	7.8	403,049	92.2	436,958	100.0

(a) Data sourced from Centrelink's Administrative data and Centrelink's SuperStar Pensions database for June each year.

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

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

Table 43: Parenting Payment (Single) customers by state/territory and sex, June 2003^(a)

STATE/TERRITORY	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	10,861	7.7	130,080	92.3	140,941	100.0
Victoria	6,266	6.5	89,827	93.5	96,093	100.0
Queensland	8,076	8.4	87,784	91.6	95,860	100.0
Western Australia	3,450	7.7	41,362	92.3	44,812	100.0
South Australia	3,187	9.1	31,737	90.9	34,924	100.0
Tasmania	1,239	9.4	11,873	90.6	13,112	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	350	6.8	4,820	93.2	5,170	100.0
Northern Territory	471	8.1	5,345	91.9	5,816	100.0
Other ^(b)	9	3.9	221	96.1	230	100.0
Total	33,909	7.8	403,049	92.2	436,958	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Pensions 2003 Qtr 2 (13-06-03) Ver-02'.

(b) Includes not coded or invalid postcodes.

Table 44: Parenting Payment (Single) customers, characteristics by sex, June 2003^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Parenting Payment (Single) customers	33,909	100.0	403,049	100.0	436,958	100.0
Age (years)						
Under 20	122	0.4	9,462	2.3	9,584	2.2
20–29	4,668	13.8	111,545	27.7	116,213	26.6
30–39	13,706	40.4	165,652	41.1	179,358	41.0
40–49	11,929	35.2	102,654	25.5	114,583	26.2
50–59	3,135	9.2	13,232	3.3	16,367	3.7
60 and over	349	1.0	504	0.1	853	0.2
Duration on payment^(b)						
< 6 months	6,633	19.6	49,739	12.3	56,372	12.9
6 months to < 1 year	4,967	14.6	42,923	10.6	47,890	11.0
1 to < 2 years	7,066	20.8	67,800	16.8	74,866	17.1
2 to < 3 years	4,982	14.7	53,535	13.3	58,517	13.4
3 years and over	10,261	30.3	189,052	46.9	199,313	45.6
Home ownership						
Home owner	6,863	20.2	85,230	21.1	92,093	21.1
Non-home owner	27,046	79.8	317,819	78.9	344,865	78.9
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	27,022	79.7	320,958	79.6	347,980	79.6
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	1,760	5.2	16,412	4.1	18,172	4.2
New Zealand	1,145	3.4	13,320	3.3	14,465	3.3
Vietnam	636	1.9	10,259	2.5	10,895	2.5
Philippines	102	0.3	3,374	0.8	3,476	0.8
Other	3,244	9.6	38,726	9.6	41,970	9.6

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Pensions 2003 Qtr 2 (13-06-03) Ver-02'. Excludes 5,962 suspended clients.

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

Table 45: Parenting Payment (Partnered) customers by sex, June 2001 to June 2003^(a)

AS AT JUNE	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
2001	20,263	9.9	184,313	90.1	204,576	100.0
2002	19,576	10.2	172,000	89.8	191,576	100.0
2003	19,196	10.6	162,209	89.4	181,405	100.0

(a) Parenting Payment (Partnered) replaced Parenting Allowance in March 1998. From July 2000, the basic rate of Parenting Payment (Partnered) became part of Family Tax Benefit. Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar Parenting Payment Partnered database for June of each respective year.

Table 46: Parenting Payment (Partnered) customers by payment category, June 2001 to June 2003^(a)

YEAR	PARTNERED BY				TOTAL
	YOUTH ALLOWANCE (PARTNER)	LOW INCOME PARTNER	NEWSTART ALLOWANCE PARTNER ^(b)	PENSION PARTNER	
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

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar Parenting Payment Partnered database.

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

Table 47: Parenting Payment (Partnered) customers by state/territory and sex, June 2003^(a)

STATE/TERRITORY	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	5,704	9.5	54,171	90.5	59,875	100.0
Victoria	4,256	10.0	38,119	90.0	42,375	100.0
Queensland	4,445	12.2	32,124	87.8	36,569	100.0
Western Australia	1,818	10.6	15,261	89.4	17,079	100.0
South Australia	1,873	13.2	12,284	86.8	14,157	100.0
Tasmania	710	11.3	5,593	88.7	6,303	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	156	11.9	1,152	88.1	1,308	100.0
Northern Territory	209	5.7	3,445	94.3	3,654	100.0
Unknown ^(b)	25	29.4	60	70.6	85	100.0
Total	19,196	10.6	162,209	89.4	181,405	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Parenting Payment Partnered 2003 Qtr 2 (11-06-2003) Ver-02'. Excludes 7,984 suspended customers.

(b) Includes not coded or invalid postcodes.

**Table 48: Parenting Payment (Partnered) customers, characteristics by sex,
June 2003 ^(a)**

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Parenting Payment (Partnered) customers	19,196	100.0	162,209	100.0	181,405	100.0
Age (years)						
Under 20	37	0.2	2,886	1.8	2,923	1.6
20–29	2,061	10.7	38,549	23.8	40,610	22.4
30–39	7,491	39.0	72,305	44.6	79,796	44.0
40–49	7,332	38.2	42,510	26.2	49,842	27.5
50–59	2,080	10.8	5,751	3.5	7,831	4.3
60 and over	195	1.0	208	0.1	403	0.2
Duration on Allowance ^(b)						
< 6 months	5,841	30.4	34,923	21.5	40,764	22.5
6 months to < 1 year	3,619	18.8	22,969	14.1	26,588	14.6
1 to < 2 years	4,004	20.8	28,907	17.8	32,911	18.2
2 to < 3 years	2,036	10.6	18,516	11.4	20,552	11.3
3 years and over	3,696	19.3	56,894	35.1	60,590	33.4
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	12,879	67.1	102,927	63.5	115,806	63.8
Vietnam	668	3.5	8,153	5.0	8,821	4.9
Lebanon	307	1.6	6,046	3.7	6,353	3.5
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	1,048	5.5	4,967	3.1	6,015	3.3
China	613	3.2	5,378	3.3	5,991	3.3
Other	3,681	19.2	34,738	21.4	38,419	21.2

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Parenting Payment Partnered 2003 Qtr 2 (11-06-2003) Ver-02'. Excludes 7,984 suspended customers.

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

4 Family Assistance

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

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

On average, Australian families were receiving \$219 in fortnightly family payments at June 2003.

4.1 Family Tax Benefit, Part A

The maximum rate of Family Tax Benefit, Part A is paid if the income of the customer and their partner does not exceed the threshold amount of \$30,806. The fortnightly rate reduces by 30 cents for each extra dollar earned over the threshold until the base rate is reached. Payment continues at the base rate until income reaches \$79,643 (plus \$3,212 for each child after the first), and then reduces by 30 cents for each dollar over this amount.

The maximum rates are:

For each child	Per fortnight (\$)
Aged under 13 years	126.70
Aged 13–15 years	160.72
Aged 16–17 years	40.74
Aged 18–24 years	54.74

The base rates are:

For each child	Per fortnight (\$)
Aged under 18 years	40.74
Aged 18–24 years	54.74

4.2 Family Tax Benefit, Part B

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

The maximum rate of Family Tax Benefit, Part B is \$108.78 per fortnight where the youngest child is under five years, and \$75.88 per fortnight where the youngest child is aged five to 18 years (or 16 to 18 years if a full-time student). There is no income test for sole parents. For couples, the rate is based on the income of the partner who earns the least, with the maximum rate being paid until that partner's annual income reaches \$1,752. Payment reduces by 30 cents for each extra dollar earned over that amount, with some payment received until income reaches \$11,206 where the youngest child is under five years, or \$8,347 where the youngest child is aged five to 18 years.

4.3 Other allowances

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

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

Large Family Supplement

The Large Family Supplement payment is for families who have four or more Family Tax Benefit children. This payment in addition to Family Tax Benefit, Part A for the fourth and subsequent child at the rate of \$8.68 per fortnight per child.

Multiple Birth Allowance

Multiple Birth Allowance is an increase in the rate of Family Tax Benefit, Part A for people who have triplets, quadruplets, or larger multiple birth sets, under the age of six. It is paid in recognition of the special costs and workforce barriers associated with the simultaneous birth of three or more children. Eligibility for the allowance automatically ceases on the day of the children's sixth birthday. The rate of Multiple Birth Allowance is \$105.98 per fortnight for triplets and \$141.40 per fortnight for quadruplets or more.

Rent Assistance

Rent Assistance is an increase in the rate of Family Tax Benefit, Part A for low-income families renting in the private market, in recognition of their housing costs. The rate of Rent Assistance depends on the number of children, relationship status and amount of rent paid. As an example, at June 2003, a couple with one or two children who pay more than \$307.39 rent per fortnight are eligible for a maximum payment of \$109.48 in Rent Assistance. (See also 5.4 'Rent Assistance'.)

Summary

- ▶ As at 27 June 2003, fortnightly payments of Family Tax Benefit assisted 1,813,235 families and 3,504,000 children.
- ▶ As at 27 June 2003, close to one-third (32.0 per cent) of Family Tax Benefit fortnightly customers resided in New South Wales, about one-quarter (24.2 per cent) in Victoria, and just over one-fifth (20.5 per cent) in Queensland.
- ▶ In the same period, over three-quarters of customers receiving Family Tax Benefit, Part A and Family Tax Benefit, Part B fortnightly payments (77.2 and 77.6 per cent, respectively) had one or two children.

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

Table 49: Family Tax Benefit, customers and children, June 2003^(a)

	CUSTOMERS NO.	CHILDREN NO.
Method 1		
Family Tax Benefit, Part A	1,783,423	3,446,799
Family Tax Benefit, Part B	1,202,110	2,316,014
Family Tax Benefit Total ^(b)	1,813,235	3,504,000
Method 2		
Family Tax Benefit, Part A and B	1,172,327	2,258,813
Family Tax Benefit, Part A only	611,096	1,187,986
Family Tax Benefit, Part B only	29,783	57,201
Family Tax Benefit Total	1,813,235	3,504,000

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'FAO Family Tax Benefit 2002-03 13 (27-06-03) Ver-02'.

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

Figure 6: Family Tax Benefit customers, June 2002 to June 2003

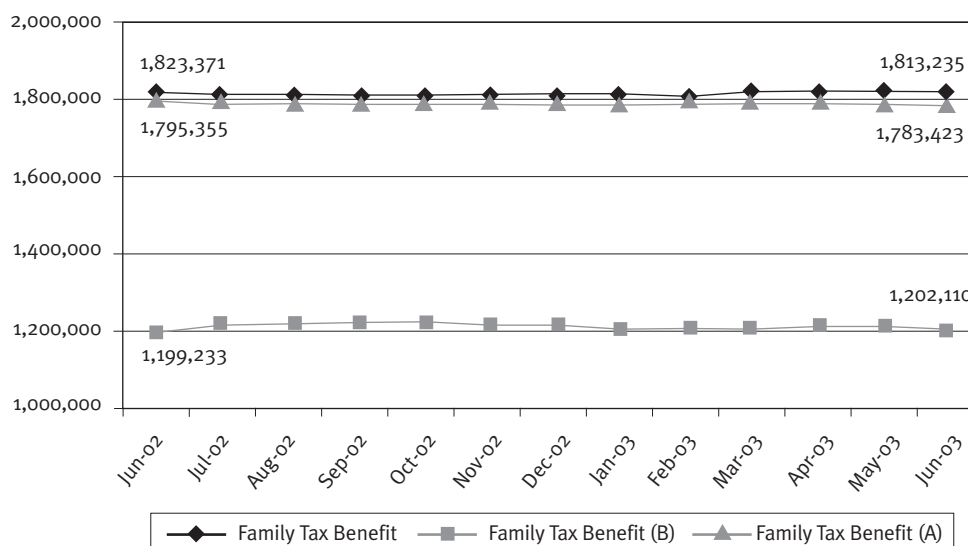


Table 50: Family Tax Benefit, Part A, customers and children by rate type, June 2003^(a)

RATE TYPE	CUSTOMERS		CHILDREN	
	NO.	%	NO.	%
Maximum Family Tax Benefit, Part A rate with income support payment, for example Newstart Allowance	475,790	26.7	894,658	26.0
Maximum Family Tax Benefit, Part A rate without income support payment	139,417	7.8	258,733	7.5
Part rate ^(b)	427,482	24.0	919,688	26.7
Base rate	701,280	39.3	1,286,489	37.3
Tapered base rate	39,277	2.2	86,392	2.5
Invalid code	177	0.0	839	0.0
Total	1,783,423	100.0	3,446,799	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'FAO Family Tax Benefit 2002-03 13 (27-06-03) Ver-02'.

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

Table 51: Family Tax Benefit, Part A, customers and children by age of child, June 2003^(a)

AGE OF CHILD (YEARS)	CUSTOMERS		CHILDREN	
	NO.	%	NO.	%
Under 13	1,484,609	83.2	2,641,323	76.6
13-15	494,310	27.7	563,595	16.4
16-17	147,821	8.3	153,668	4.5
18-20	76,931	4.3	81,996	2.4
21-24	6,008	0.3	6,212	0.2
Unknown	5	0.0	5	0.0
Total^(b)	1,783,423	100.0	3,446,799	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'FAO Family Tax Benefit 2002-03 13 (27-06-03) Ver-02'.

(b) The customer count is the number of customers with at least one child in that 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.

Table 52: Family Tax Benefit, Part B, customers by rate type and age of youngest child, June 2003^(a)

RATE TYPE AND AGE OF CHILD (YEARS)	CUSTOMERS	
	NO.	%
Maximum Rate Family Tax Benefit, Part B rate		
Child under 5 years	385,899	32.1
Child 5 years +	498,550	41.5
Invalid code	6	0.0
Total	884,455	73.6
Part Rate Family Tax Benefit, Part B rate^(b)		
Child under 5 years	205,671	17.1
Child 5 years +	111,982	9.3
Invalid code	2	0.0
Total	317,655	26.4
Total		
Child under 5 years	591,570	49.2
Child 5 years +	610,532	50.8
Invalid code	8	0.0
Total	1,202,110	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'FAO Family Tax Benefit 2002-03 13 (27-06-03) Ver-02'.

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

Table 53: Family Tax Benefit, customers and children by state/territory, June 2003 ^(a)

STATE/TERRITORY	FAMILY TAX BENEFIT, PART A				FAMILY TAX BENEFIT, PART B				FAMILY TAX BENEFIT			
	CUSTOMERS		CHILDREN		CUSTOMERS		CHILDREN		CUSTOMERS		CHILDREN	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	568,189	31.9	1,100,134	31.9	389,597	32.4	751,159	32.4	580,058	32.0	1,123,103	32.1
Victoria	431,416	24.2	834,619	24.2	283,024	23.5	544,021	23.5	439,165	24.2	849,420	24.2
Queensland	367,942	20.6	714,312	20.7	249,166	20.7	485,217	21.0	372,421	20.5	722,924	20.6
Western Australia	178,361	10.0	346,442	10.1	124,315	10.3	240,997	10.4	181,788	10.0	352,944	10.1
South Australia	142,157	8.0	266,994	7.7	92,146	7.7	172,215	7.4	143,464	7.9	269,467	7.7
Tasmania	49,883	2.8	95,084	2.8	32,984	2.7	62,934	2.7	50,128	2.8	95,540	2.7
Australian Capital Territory	23,543	1.3	45,374	1.3	16,010	1.3	30,339	1.3	24,119	1.3	46,464	1.3
Northern Territory	21,128	1.2	41,756	1.2	14,704	1.2	28,819	1.2	21,281	1.2	42,044	1.2
Unknown	804	0.0	2,084	0.1	164	0.0	313	0.0	811	0.0	2,094	0.1
Total	1,783,423	100.0	3,446,799	100.0	1,202,110	100.0	2,316,014	100.0	1,813,235	100.0	3,504,000	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database (FAO Family Tax Benefit 2002-03 13 (27-06-03) Ver-02).

**Table 54: Family Tax Benefit customers, characteristics by payment type,
June 2003 ^(a)**

FAMILY TYPE	FAMILY TAX BENEFIT, PART A		FAMILY TAX BENEFIT, PART B		FAMILY TAX BENEFIT	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Partnered	1,195,420	67.0	619,157	51.5	1,223,692	67.5
Sole parents						
Female	517,287	29.0	513,193	42.7	518,403	28.6
Male	70,556	4.0	69,748	5.8	70,979	3.9
All sole parents	587,843	33.0	582,941	48.5	589,382	32.5
Not specified	160	0.0	12	0.0	161	0.0
Total	1,783,423	100.0	1,202,110	100.0	1,813,235	100.0
Number of Family Tax Benefit, Part A and Family Tax Benefit, Part B: Children in the family						
One	676,572	37.9	488,915	40.7	–	–
Two	701,097	39.3	443,547	36.9	–	–
Three	294,849	16.5	190,153	15.8	–	–
Four	83,309	4.7	58,148	4.8	–	–
Five or more	27,596	1.5	21,315	1.8	–	–
Invalid code	0	0.0	32	0.0	–	–
Total	1,783,423	100.0	1,202,110	100.0	–	–
Country of Birth (top five countries)						
Australia	1,362,320	76.4	911,401	75.8	1,385,565	76.4
United Kingdom	74,419	4.2	50,058	4.2	76,233	4.2
New Zealand	45,530	2.6	33,863	2.8	46,342	2.6
Vietnam	34,419	1.9	25,897	2.2	34,553	1.9
China	25,601	1.4	17,186	1.4	25,723	1.4
Other	241,134	13.5	163,705	13.6	244,819	13.5
Total	1,783,423	100.0	1,202,110	100.0	1,813,235	100.0
Age of customer (years)						
Under 18	3,178	0.2	3,121	0.3	3,178	0.2
18–20	23,568	1.3	22,551	1.9	23,585	1.3
21–24	82,946	4.7	73,477	6.1	83,155	4.6
25–34	588,054	33.0	438,984	36.5	597,852	33.0
35–44	784,514	44.0	493,751	41.1	800,291	44.1
45–54	273,518	15.3	153,131	12.7	277,304	15.3
55–59	18,625	1.0	10,991	0.9	18,816	1.0
60–64	5,067	0.3	3,368	0.3	5,093	0.3
65+	3,807	0.2	2,736	0.2	3,815	0.2
Invalid code	146	0.0	0	0.0	146	0.0
Total	1,783,423	100.0	1,202,110	100.0	1,813,235	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'FAO Family Tax Benefit 2002-03 13 (27-06-03) Ver-02'.

4.4 Double Orphan Pension

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

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

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

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

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

To qualify for the Double Orphan Pension, a person:

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

The base rate of Double Orphan Pension in June 2003 was \$44.00 per fortnight, per child. An additional component of Double Orphan Pension may be payable. It is equal to the difference between the Family Allowance/Family Tax Benefit received for the young person immediately before they became an orphan and the carer's entitlement to Family Tax Benefit for the young person.

Summary

- ▶ The increase in Double Orphan Pension customers in the early 1980s reflected the extension of the payment to refugee children in November 1981. As immigration programs changed in the mid-1980s, refugee numbers started to fall. Thus, the number of unaccompanied refugee children also declined. Ageing of the refugee population also led to a decline in customer numbers in the late 1980s and early 1990s.
- ▶ The number of children for whom Double Orphan Pension is paid is now declining at a much slower rate and is currently around 1,500. This reflects the declining number of unaccompanied refugee children and the ageing of current recipients (see Figure 7). Since June 1993, the rate of decline in the number of customers has also slowed with the latest figure around 1,100.

- Close to one-third of Double Orphan Pension customers (352 or 31.0 per cent) and children (472 or 31.8 per cent) were residing in New South Wales at June 2003. The proportion of these customers and children living in other states was:
- 21.5 per cent and 21.4 per cent, respectively for Victoria
 - 19.2 per cent and 18.4 per cent, respectively for Queensland
 - 11.7 per cent and 12.3 per cent, respectively for Western Australia.

Table 55: Double Orphan Pension, customers and children, June 1983 to June 2003 ^(a)

AS AT JUNE	CUSTOMERS		CHILDREN ^(b)				
	NO.	UNDER 16		OVER 16		TOTAL	
		NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
1983	4,420	4,192	69.0	1,881	31.0	6,073	100.0
1984	4,644	4,238	65.7	2,210	34.3	6,448	100.0
1985	4,509	3,961	64.6	2,168	35.4	6,129	100.0
1986	4,216	3,547	64.9	1,919	35.1	5,466	100.0
1987	3,750	3,164	69.7	1,373	30.3	4,537	100.0
1988	2,974	2,758	80.6	664	19.4	3,422	100.0
1989	2,227	2,381	86.0	388	14.0	2,769	100.0
1990	1,873	2,170	93.6	149	6.4	2,319	100.0
1991	1,639	1,908	93.9	124	6.1	2,032	100.0
1992	1,404	1,666	95.0	87	5.0	1,753	100.0
1993	1,356	1,605	95.3	79	4.7	1,684	100.0
1994	1,330	1,599	95.2	81	4.8	1,680	100.0
1995	1,314	1,616	95.0	85	5.0	1,701	100.0
1996	1,319	1,569	92.1	134	7.9	1,703	100.0
1997	1,313	1,537	91.2	149	8.8	1,686	100.0
1998	1,346	1,567	89.8	178	10.2	1,745	100.0
1999	1,243	1,490	92.4	122	7.6	1,612	100.0
2000	1,236	1,447	87.9	200	12.1	1,647	100.0
2001	1,242	1,503	92.2	127	7.8	1,630	100.0
2002	1,207	1,494	94.1	93	5.9	1,587	100.0
2003	1,137	1,391	93.9	91	6.1	1,482	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's Administrative data and Centrelink's SuperStar FAO Double Orphan Pensions database.

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

Figure 7: Double Orphan Pension, customers and children, June 1983 to June 2003

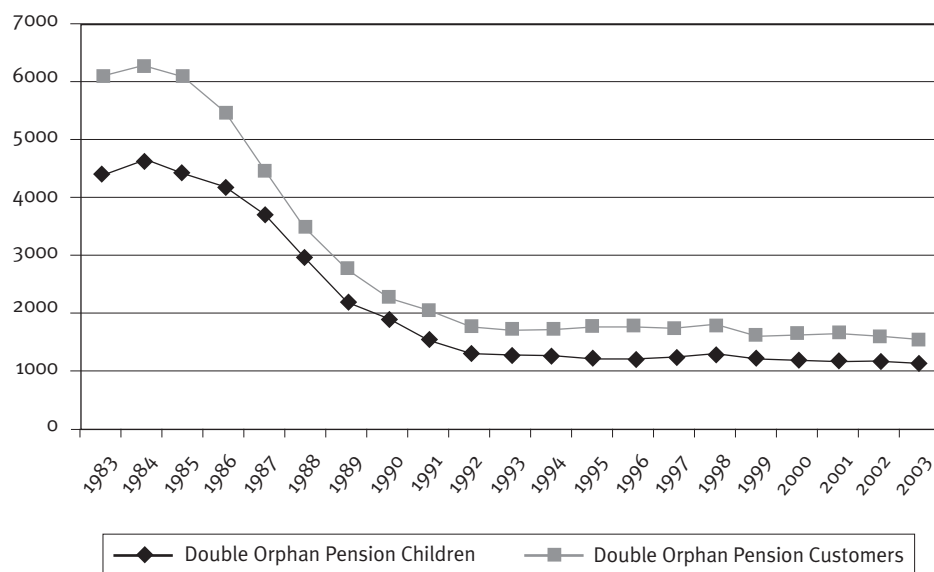


Table 56: Double Orphan Pension, customers and children, state/territory and age of children, June 2003^(a)

STATE/TERRITORY	CUSTOMERS		CHILDREN ^(b)				TOTAL	
	NO.	%	UNDER 16		16 AND OVER		NO.	%
			NO.	%	NO.	%		
New South Wales	352	31.0	440	31.6	32	35.2	472	31.8
Victoria	244	21.5	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	317	21.4
Queensland	218	19.2	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	272	18.4
Western Australia	133	11.7	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	182	12.3
South Australia	108	9.5	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	138	9.3
Tasmania	35	3.1	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	45	3.0
Australian Capital Territory	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Northern Territory	28	2.5	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	34	2.3
Unknown ^(c)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Total	1,137	100.0	1,391	100.0	91	100.0	1,482	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Double Orphan Pension 2002-03 13 (27-06-03) Ver-02'.

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

(c) State/territory not coded or invalid.

4.5 Maternity Allowance and Maternity Immunisation Allowance

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

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

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

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

In June 2003, Maternity Allowance was \$822.74 per child and Maternity Immunisation Allowance was \$208 per child.

Summary

- ▶ In the 2002–03, the total number of customers who received Maternity Allowance was 207,029 and the total number of children was 210,504.
- ▶ The number of customers who received Maternity Immunisation Allowance during this period was 203,900 and the total number of children was 206,253.

Table 57: Maternity Allowance and Maternity Immunisation Allowance customers, June 2003 ^(a)

PAYMENT TYPE	FAMILIES NO.	CHILDREN NO.
Maternity Allowance	207,029	210,504
Maternity Immunisation Allowance	203,900	206,253

(a) Data is based on the number of customers who received a payment at any time during 2002–03. Sourced from a Centrelink extract of Customer Administrative data.

4.6 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 58: Customers using approved Child Care Benefit services by state/territory, 2002–03 ^(a)

STATE/TERRITORY ^(b)	NO.
New South Wales	224,820
Victoria	157,966
Queensland	172,535
Western Australia	58,473
South Australia	54,350
Tasmania	16,605
Australian Capital Territory	14,153
Northern Territory	6,485
Total ^(c)	697,912

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's Administrative data.

(b) Based on location of child care centre.

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

Table 59: Customers using Child Care Benefit approved services by service type, 2002–03 ^(a)

SERVICE TYPE	NO.
Long day care ^(b)	454,458
Community long day care	147,450
Private long day care	326,408
Family day care	115,044
Occasional care	17,697
Outside school hours care	177,510
Vacation care	135,833
Total ^(c)	697,912

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's Administrative data.

(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.

Table 60: Customers using Child Care Benefit approved services by rate type, 2002–03 ^(a)

RATE TYPE	NO.	%
Full rate	244,656	35.1
Part rate ^(b)	310,446	44.5
Minimum rate	101,106	14.5
Undetermined ^(c)	17,390	2.5
Lump Sum	24,314	3.5
Total	697,912	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's Administrative data.

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

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

Table 61: Customers using registered care by quarter, 2002–03 ^(a)

QUARTER	NO.
September 2002	33,450
December 2002	30,004
March 2003	33,097
June 2003	36,231

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

5 Other income support payments

5.1 Widow B Pension

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

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

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

Table 62: Widow B Pension customers, characteristics, June 2003 ^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	FEMALE	
	NO.	%
Widow B Pension customers	2,986	100.0
Age (years)		
60–64	2,053	68.8
65 and over	933	31.2
Rate		
Full rate	2,287	76.6
Part rate	699	23.4
Paid under income test		
<i>Income as assessed (\$ per week)</i>		
Nil	562	19.0
0.01–56.00	1,712	58.0
56.01–68.30	80	2.7
Over 68.30	600	20.3
Paid under assets test		
<i>Assets as assessed (\$)</i>		
Under 125,750	n.p.	n.p.
125,750 to 215,750	n.p.	n.p.
Over 215,750	n.p.	n.p.
Home ownership		
Home owner	1,471	49.3
Non-home owner	1,515	50.7
Country of birth (top five countries)		
Australia	1,431	47.9
Italy	424	14.2
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	294	9.8
Greece	229	7.7
Malta	67	2.2
Other	541	18.1

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Pensions 2003 Qtr 2 (13-06-03) Ver-02'.

Table 63: Widow B Pension customers by state/territory, June 1998 to June 2003 ^(a)

STATE/TERRITORY	1998		1999		2000		2001		2002		2003	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	4,138	30.5	3,050	29.0	2,520	28.3	1,728	26.8	1,306	25.5	644	21.6
Victoria	3,087	22.7	2,352	22.4	1,993	22.4	1,383	21.4	1,041	20.3	494	16.5
Queensland	2,240	16.5	1,749	16.6	1,457	16.4	1,016	15.7	770	15.0	374	12.5
Western Australia	1,029	7.6	800	7.6	645	7.3	454	7.0	352	6.9	167	5.6
South Australia	1,083	8.0	833	7.9	680	7.6	460	7.1	346	6.7	177	5.9
Tasmania	345	2.5	279	2.7	238	2.7	174	2.7	133	2.6	65	2.2
Australian Capital Territory	142	1.0	110	1.0	87	1.0	59	0.9	48	0.9	26	0.9
Northern Territory	124	0.9	93	0.9	73	0.8	45	0.7	36	0.7	n.p.	n.p.
Other ^(b)	1,391	10.2	1,253	11.9	1,199	13.5	1,137	17.6	1,098	21.4	— ^(c)	—
Total	13,579	100.0	10,519	100.0	8,892	100.0	6,456	100.0	5,130	100.0	2,986	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar Pensions database for June of each respective year.

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

(c) A precise total for 'Other' for 2003 is not reported, as this would allow small cells to be inferred in breach of confidentiality requirements. The total for 'Other' is in the range 1,019 to 1,039.

Note: Data for 2002 amended/corrected since originally released.

5.2 Bereavement Allowance

Bereavement Allowance is a payment made to widowed persons, both male and female, in the period immediately following the death of their partner where the person is not qualified for Parenting Payment (Single) (for example, does not have a child). Bereavement Allowance is usually paid for a maximum of 14 weeks from the date of the partner's death. However, this is extended in the case of a pregnant woman until the birth of the child, at which time Parenting Payment (Single) would usually become payable.

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

Table 64: Bereavement Allowance customers, June 1991 to June 2003 ^(a)

AS AT JUNE	TOTAL	
	NO.	%
1991	315	100.0
1992 ^(b)	342	100.0
1993	83	100.0
1994	96	100.0
1995	47	100.0
1996	59	100.0
1997	46	100.0
1998	51	100.0
1999	53	100.0
2000	44	100.0
2001	51	100.0
2002	41	100.0
2003	55	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar Population databases for June of each year or Centrelink Administrative data.

(b) A number of widows previously on Widowed Person Allowance were transferred to Widow B Pension from November 1992.

Note: Bereavement Allowance is payable for up to 14 weeks from the date of the partner's death. Bereavement Allowance was previously called Widowed Person Allowance.

5.3 Commonwealth Seniors Health Card

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

Table 65: Commonwealth Senior Health Card holders, characteristics by sex, June 2003^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Total	125,261	100.0	157,430	100.0	282,691	100.0
Age (years)						
60-64	0	0.0	28,135	17.9	28,135	10.0
65-69	45,368	36.2	45,532	28.9	90,900	32.2
70-74	37,840	30.2	33,143	21.1	70,983	25.1
75-79	24,929	19.9	24,537	15.6	49,466	17.5
80-84	10,632	8.5	14,816	9.4	25,448	9.0
85-89	4,633	3.7	7,686	4.9	12,319	4.4
90-94	1,558	1.2	2,891	1.8	4,449	1.6
95+	301	0.2	690	0.4	991	0.4
Status						
Couple	100,314	80.1	100,371	63.8	200,685	71.0
Single	24,947	19.9	57,059	36.2	82,006	29.0
State/territory						
New South Wales	45,780	36.5	58,073	36.9	103,853	36.7
Victoria	30,778	24.6	39,082	24.8	69,860	24.7
Queensland	22,123	17.7	26,970	17.1	49,093	17.4
Western Australia	11,596	9.3	14,664	9.3	26,260	9.3
South Australia	8,650	6.9	10,653	6.8	19,303	6.8
Tasmania	2,516	2.0	3,064	1.9	5,580	2.0
Australian Capital Territory	2,379	1.9	3,271	2.1	5,650	2.0
Northern Territory	376	0.3	418	0.3	794	0.3
Other (includes overseas)	1,063	0.8	1,235	0.8	2,298	0.8

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Concession Cards 2003 06 (13-06-03) Ver-01'.

5.4 Rent Assistance

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

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

To qualify for Rent Assistance, a person must:

- ▶ pay or be liable to pay private rent above the applicable minimum rent threshold for their principle 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
- ▶ to a person who lives in a care facility in an approved Australian Government funded bed
- ▶ to single Disability Support Pension recipients aged under 21 years, without dependants, living with parents
- ▶ to other single people aged under 25 years, living with parents
- ▶ to Austudy Payment 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.

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

Summary

In June 2003, there were 940,708 'income units' in receipt of Rent Assistance. Newstart Allowance customers made up 20 per cent of this population, while 21 per cent were Parenting Payment (Single) recipients, 17 per cent were Age Pension recipients and 18 per cent were Disability Support Pension recipients.

The average rent paid by recipients was \$264 per fortnight. The average amount of Rent Assistance received was \$75 per fortnight.

Table 66: Rent Assistance income units, average rent and Rent Assistance by primary payment, June 2003 ^(a)

PRIMARY PAYMENT TYPE^(b)	INCOME UNITS NO.^(c)	AVERAGE RENT \$ PER FORTNIGHT^(f)	AVERAGE RENT ASSISTANCE \$ PER FORTNIGHT^(f)
Age Pension	157,518	232	70
Disability Support Pension	166,163	233	76
Newstart Allowance	192,819	238	72
Parenting Payment (Single)	193,583	311	88
Parenting Payment (Partnered) ^(d)	25,347	373	100
Youth Allowance	88,653	199	60
Family Tax Benefit, Part A only ^(e)	79,551	384	75
Other payments	37,074	253	75
Total	940,708	264	75

- (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 13 June 2003, 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 343,000 families were paid Rent Assistance with Family Tax Benefit in June 2003.
- (f) Rents refer to the combined rent for a couple. Where a customer pays for both accommodation and meals, and cannot separately identify an accommodation charge, two thirds of the payment is treated as rent. Average rent and Rent Assistance relate only to customers who were paid a daily rate of Rent Assistance on the last day of the fortnight ending 13 June 2003.

Note: Income units were sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Rent Assistance (Income units) 2003 Qtr 2 (13-06-03) Ver-02'. Average Rent and Average Rent Assistance were derived from the Census of Income Support Customers June 2003.

Table 67: Rent Assistance income units by primary payment type and sex, June 2003 ^(a)

PRIMARY PAYMENT TYPE ^(b)	INCOME UNITS		BOTH IN RECEIPT OF RENT ASSISTANCE	FEMALES IN RECEIPT OF RENT ASSISTANCE	MALES IN RECEIPT OF RENT ASSISTANCE
	NO. ^(c)	%			
Age Pension	157,518	16.7	28,264	87,265	41,989
Disability Support Pension	166,163	17.7	12,774	67,132	86,257
Newstart Allowance	192,819	20.5	7,680	78,686	106,453
Parenting Payment (Single)	193,583	20.6	-	179,430	14,153
Parenting Payment (Partnered) ^(d)	25,347	2.7	236	23,217	1,894
Youth Allowance	88,653	9.4	1,188	52,154	35,311
Family Tax Benefit, Part A only ^(e)	79,551	8.5	369	68,428	10,754
Other payments	37,074	3.9	4,145	21,845	11,084
Total	940,708	100.0	54,656	578,157	307,895

(a) to (e) See previous table.

Table 68: Rent Assistance rates, 20 March 2003 to 30 June 2003 ^(a)

STATUS	MAXIMUM PAYMENT PER FORTNIGHT (\$)	NO PAYMENT IF FORTNIGHTLY RENT IS LESS THAN (\$)	MAXIMUM PAYMENT IF FORTNIGHTLY RENT IS MORE THAN (\$)
Single, no children	93.20	82.80	207.07
Single, no children, sharer	62.13	82.80	165.64
Single, 1 or 2 children	109.48	109.06	255.03
Single, 3 or more children	123.76	109.06	274.07
Couple, no children (combined)	88.00	134.80	252.13
Couple, 1 or 2 children (combined)	109.48	161.42	307.39
Couple, 3 or more children (combined)	123.76	161.42	326.43
One of a couple who are separated due to illness, no children	93.20	82.80	207.07
One of a couple who are temporarily separated, no children	88.00	82.80	200.13

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's 'A Guide to Australian Government Payments 20 March – 30 June 2003'.

6 Pensioners paid overseas

6.1 Payment rules

In general, Australian income support payments are paid:

- ▶ during temporary overseas absences of up to 26 weeks (subject to continuing qualification)
- ▶ indefinitely if a person receives a pension such as Age Pension or Disability Support Pension for the severely disabled.

After 26 weeks overseas absence, pensioners with less than 25 years of Australian Working Life Residence (AWLR—the years between 16 years of age and Age Pension age) are paid in proportion to their past links to Australia. For example, a person with 20 years AWLR is paid 20/25^{ths} of their basic means-tested rate of pension. Age Pension customers with 25 AWLR are paid the full basic means-tested rate of pension if they leave Australia permanently.

6.2 Australia's agreements as at June 2003

Australia has social security agreements with 12 countries—Austria, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the United States of America.

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 payments from other countries
- ▶ regulating payment of social security benefits to people moving between agreement countries.

6.3 Overseas pensions

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

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

Legislation requires customers who are likely to be eligible for a foreign payment to claim that payment, which helps ensure 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.

6.4 Total Balance of Payments

Yearly expenditure as at June 2003 on Australia's pension payments to people living overseas was A\$370.5 million. At the same time, pensions from overseas countries being paid to people residing in Australia totalled A\$1.11 billion, representing a significant inflow of funds into Australia, an increase in the disposable income for pensioners, and a saving for Australian taxpayers.

Table 69: Persons paid overseas by Australia by payment type, June 1981 to June 2003 ^(a)

AS AT JUNE	AGE PENSION	DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION	WIFE PENSION	WIDOW B PENSION	PARENTING PAYMENT ^(b)	TOTAL
1981	8,877	3,612	2,026	1,544	1,171	17,230
1982	9,159	3,619	2,060	1,580	1,224	17,642
1983	9,640	3,800	2,166	1,681	1,334	18,621
1984	10,112	4,313	2,482	1,825	1,497	20,229
1985	11,220	5,111	2,918	1,967	1,717	22,933
1986	11,860	5,799	3,322	2,041	1,786	24,808
1987	12,201	6,237	3,553	2,127	1,698	25,816
1988	11,474	6,402	3,608	2,291	1,266	25,041
1989	12,670	7,105	3,883	2,492	956	27,106
1990	13,996	7,504	4,385	2,385	199	28,469
1991	16,658	7,814	4,755	1,845	167	31,239
1992	19,846	8,148	4,682	1,790	159	34,625
1993	23,948	8,455	3,478	1,683	154	37,718
1994	27,287	8,493	3,594	1,665	136	41,175
1995	29,712	8,780	3,807	1,658	121	44,078
1996	32,288	9,074	4,045	1,684	110	47,201
1997	35,662	9,061	3,867	1,526	89	50,205
1998	38,136	8,964	3,572	1,391	76	52,139
1999	38,136	8,964	3,718	1,251	55	52,124
2000	42,066	8,707	2,943	1,156	43	54,915
2001	43,280	8,686	2,689	1,141	42	55,838
2002	44,150	8,485	2,098	1,082	38	55,853
2003	45,399	8,129	998	1,875	23	56,424

(a) All payments where person has been outside Australia for more than 12 months. Sourced from Centrelink's Administrative customer data.

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

Table 70: Persons paid overseas by Australia, country of residence by payment type, September 2003 ^(a)

COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE	AGE PENSION	OTHER ^(b)	TOTAL
Europe			
Austria	915	146	1,061
Belgium	n.p.	n.p.	136
Bosnia/Herzegovina	n.p.	n.p.	20
Croatia	154	31	185
Czech Republic	n.p.	n.p.	50
Denmark	n.p.	n.p.	93
Finland	n.p.	n.p.	68
France	356	34	390
Germany	829	49	878
Greece	665	169	834
Hungary	n.p.	n.p.	120
Ireland	n.p.	n.p.	175
Italy	18,322	1,764	20,086
Macedonia (Former Republic of Yugoslavia)	140	34	174
Malta	1,749	926	2,675
Netherlands	6,181	31	6,212
Poland	n.p.	n.p.	54
Portugal	422	136	558
Slovenia	n.p.	n.p.	21
Spain	2,544	303	2,847
Sweden	n.p.	n.p.	35
Switzerland	n.p.	n.p.	151
United Kingdom	3,191	294	3,485
Yugoslavia	123	62	185
Other Europe ^(c)	n.p.	n.p.	49
Total Europe	36,461	4,081	40,542
Americas			
Argentina	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Canada	2,292	107	2,399
Chile	n.p.	n.p.	62
United States of America	324	21	345
Uruguay	n.p.	n.p.	36
Other Americas ^(d)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Total Americas	2,717	154	2,871
Asia			
Total Asia ^(e)	n.p.	n.p.	21
Africa/Middle East			
Cyprus	360	67	427
Israel	n.p.	n.p.	44
Turkey	82	60	142
Other Africa/Middle East ^(f)	n.p.	n.p.	31
Total Africa/Middle East	511	133	644
Oceania			
Total Oceania ^(g)	n.p.	n.p.	632
Total	40,325	4,385	44,710

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's Administrative customer data as at September 2003.

(b) Includes Disability Support Pension, Widow B Pension, Wife Pension and Parenting Payment (Single).

(c) Comprised of Bulgaria, Estonia, Gibraltar, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Norway, Romania and Slovakia.

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

(e) Comprised of Hong Kong, India, Japan, Philippines and Sri Lanka.

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

(g) Comprised of Fiji and New Zealand.

**Table 71: Persons paid by Australia under a social security agreement—
agreement country and payment type, June 2003 ^(a)**

AGREEMENT COUNTRY	AGE PENSION	DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION	OTHER ^(b)	TOTAL
Austria	747	n.p.	n.p.	875
Canada	946	n.p.	n.p.	993
Cyprus	238	n.p.	n.p.	261
Denmark	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	56
Germany	100	n.p.	n.p.	107
Ireland	177	n.p.	n.p.	200
Italy	15,854	349	629	16,832
Malta	1,781	948	267	2,996
Netherlands	4,127	n.p.	n.p.	4,144
Portugal	332	99	32	463
Spain	2,440	213	122	2,775
United States of America	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	53
Total	26,839	1,826	1,090	29,755

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's Administrative data as at June 2003.

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

Table 72: Number of Centrelink customers residing overseas receiving a foreign payment— payment country and payment type, June 2003 ^(a)

ZONE	COUNTRY	AGE PENSION	DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION	OTHER ^(b)	TOTAL
Europe	Austria	815	n.p.	n.p.	958
	Belgium	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	28
	Bosnia/Herzegovina	n.p.	63	n.p.	133
	Bulgaria	20	n.p.	n.p.	26
	Croatia	757	389	74	1,220
	Czech Republic	97	n.p.	n.p.	132
	Denmark	58	n.p.	n.p.	74
	Finland	60	n.p.	n.p.	72
	France	134	n.p.	n.p.	157
	Germany	296	n.p.	n.p.	329
	Greece	5,392	1,975	697	8,064
	Hungary	331	n.p.	n.p.	404
	Ireland	340	n.p.	n.p.	384
	Italy	17,883	724	747	19,354
	Latvia	28	n.p.	n.p.	28
	Lithuania	26	n.p.	n.p.	27
	Macedonia (Former Republic of Yugoslavia)	662	345	68	1,075
	Malta	2,133	1,240	340	3,713
	Netherlands	4,293	n.p.	n.p.	4,331
	Poland	206	n.p.	n.p.	296
	Portugal	728	265	75	1,068
	Romania	26	n.p.	n.p.	47
	Serbia & Montenegro	525	430	63	1,018
	Slovakia	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	34
	Slovenia	82	n.p.	n.p.	112
	Spain	3,114	368	167	3,649
	Sweden	25	n.p.	n.p.	28
Switzerland	21	n.p.	n.p.	26	
United Kingdom	2,445	252	132	2,829	
Other Europe ^(c)	43	n.p.	n.p.	53	
Total Europe	40,644	6,557	2,468	49,669	
Americas	Argentina	76	n.p.	n.p.	133
	Brazil	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	25
	Canada	1,063	n.p.	n.p.	1,136
	Chile	140	n.p.	n.p.	207
	Colombia	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	30
	Uruguay	156	n.p.	n.p.	221
	United States of America	391	n.p.	n.p.	465
	Other Americas ^(d)	44	n.p.	n.p.	80
Total Americas	1,893	307	97	2,297	

Pensioners paid overseas

Asia	China	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	29
	Hong Kong	45	n.p.	n.p.	56
	India	31	n.p.	n.p.	43
	Mauritius	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	24
	Philippines	122	n.p.	n.p.	167
	Thailand	28	n.p.	n.p.	44
	Other Asia ^(e)	82	n.p.	n.p.	110
	Total Asia	352	98	23	473
Africa/Middle East	Cyprus	593	143	39	775
	Egypt	54	n.p.	n.p.	117
	Israel	128	n.p.	n.p.	141
	Lebanon	422	170	62	654
	South Africa	42	n.p.	n.p.	44
	Syrian Arab Republic	22	n.p.	n.p.	51
	Turkey	595	719	185	1,499
	Other Africa/Middle East ^(f)	31	n.p.	n.p.	52
	Total Africa/Middle East	1,887	1,143	303	3,333
Oceania	Fiji	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	21
	New Zealand	547	n.p.	n.p.	560
	Papua New Guinea	35	n.p.	n.p.	35
	Other Oceania ^(g)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	36
	Total Oceania	623	n.p.	n.p.	652
Total	45,399	8,129	2,896	56,424	

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's Administrative data as at June 2003.

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

(c) Comprised of Estonia, Norway and Other Europe not elsewhere classified (n.e.c).

(d) Comprised of Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Peru and Other North and South American countries n.e.c.

(e) Comprised of Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Other Asian countries n.e.c.

(f) Comprised of Jordan, Seychelles and Other Africa/Middle Eastern countries n.e.c.

(g) Comprised of Norfolk Island, Tonga and Other Oceania countries n.e.c.

