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

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Income support customers:
a statistical overview 2004

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1 Introduction

The vision of the Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) in 2004 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 2004. 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 2004 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, 1994 to 2004^(a)

PAYMENT TYPE	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 ^(b)	2002	2003	2004
Age Pension (including Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Age Pensions)	1,581,874	1,578,698	1,602,834	1,680,214	1,682,618	1,718,792	1,738,215	1,793,426	1,818,205	1,861,055	1,876,250
Disability Support Pension	436,234	464,430	499,235	527,514	553,336	577,682	602,280	623,926	658,915	673,334	696,742
Wife Pension (partner receives Age Pension)	36,539	39,611	41,125	36,577	36,233	32,196	31,406	26,476	23,730	20,230	19,646
Wife Pension (partner receives Disability Support Pension)	116,036	121,839	107,803	91,307	79,892	68,532	59,935	51,225	44,238	37,880	33,183
Widow B Pension	59,916	54,936	49,875	18,820	13,579	10,519	8,892	6,456	5,130	2,986	1,879
Rehabilitation Allowance and Wives	198	41	14	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unemployment payments	848,598	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newstart Allowance	—	800,714	812,365	797,961	778,880	654,752	589,911	580,703	582,945	512,332	483,093
Mature Age Allowance	—	38,866	45,931	53,386	50,771	45,253	41,840	39,149	40,498	41,078	32,912
Sickness Allowance	45,848	46,050	34,578	15,633	16,285	11,181	10,773	10,942	9,522	8,755	8,478
Partner Allowance	237,500	216,739	69,840	72,117	75,021	81,359	89,684	92,492	103,892	102,811	90,936
Widow Allowance	—	8,733	11,723	17,508	24,759	27,524	32,570	36,416	41,659	43,209	45,328
Carer Payment	17,699	20,098	25,037	29,558	33,979	40,070	47,550	57,190	67,260	75,937	84,082
Parenting Payment (Single)	313,437	324,941	342,290	358,893	372,286	382,323	391,393	416,661	427,846	436,958	449,312
Parenting Payment (Partnered)	—	—	237,321	239,317	236,550	227,677	218,013	204,576	191,573	181,405	177,157
AUSTUDY	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	297,140
Youth Allowance (other)	—	—	—	—	—	84,773	82,408	85,053	90,339	87,486	84,665
Austudy Payment	—	—	—	—	—	47,170	42,838	41,992	41,187	38,779	35,026
Special Benefit	25,542	20,440	18,885	14,700	10,236	11,808	10,971	12,712	13,315	12,228	11,216
Other income support ^(c)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ABSTUDY	24,425	32,137	36,154	42,455	43,822	45,528	42,754	44,627	46,255	47,028	46,555
DVA service pension and income support supplement	352,883	411,838	399,989	387,054	387,596	382,287	373,076	378,058	370,721	368,572	341,020
Total	4,490,791	4,574,370	4,745,747	4,744,514	4,747,998	4,754,239	4,723,875	4,810,257	4,892,385	4,857,009	4,814,620

(a) Data sourced from Centrelink's Administrative data, numbers are point in time (June of year) or 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 Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS).

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

2.1 Age Pension

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

Table 2: Female qualifying age for Age Pension

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

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

- an Australian resident for at least 10 years continuously, or
- an Australian resident continuously for at least five years and have in total lived in Australia, on and off, for more than 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 1984 to June 2004^(a)

AS AT JUNE	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
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
2004	761,025	40.6	1,115,225	59.4	1,876,250	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	282,961	100.0
2004	129,241	45.0	158,085	55.0	287,326	100.0

- (a) Data includes Age Pension payments administered by Centrelink and the Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA). Sourced from Centrelink's 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 levels, 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 1984 to June 2004

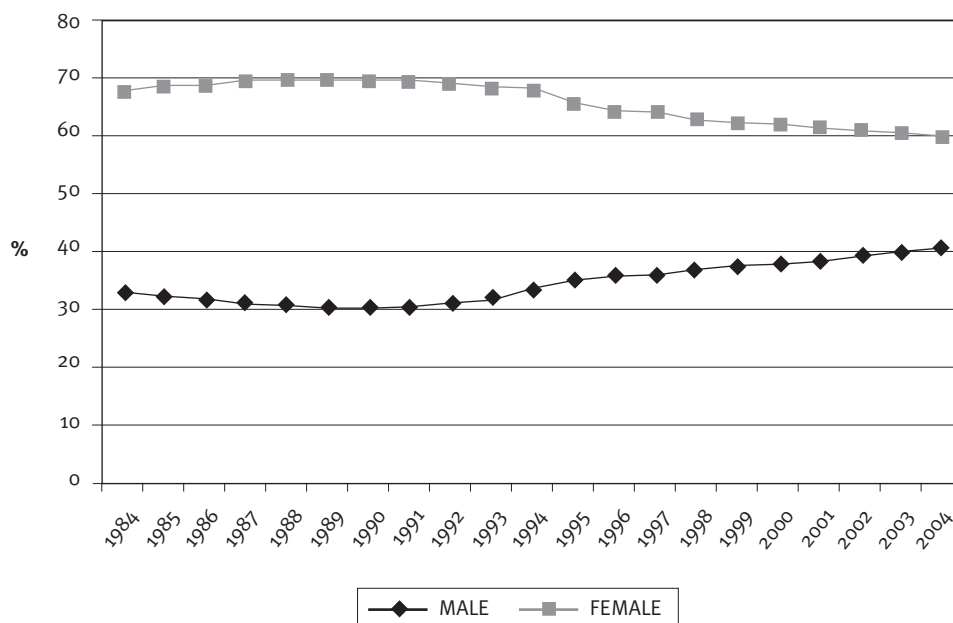


Table 4: Age Pension customers by state/territory and sex, June 2004^(a)

STATE/TERRITORY	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	240,625	39.8	364,139	60.2	604,764	100.0
Victoria	186,749	39.9	281,749	60.1	468,498	100.0
Queensland	131,546	41.0	189,055	59.0	320,601	100.0
Western Australia	61,738	40.1	92,087	59.9	153,825	100.0
South Australia	68,122	39.8	103,225	60.2	171,347	100.0
Tasmania	20,834	40.3	30,816	59.7	51,650	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	6,288	37.5	10,468	62.5	16,756	100.0
Northern Territory	2,690	44.4	3,370	55.6	6,060	100.0
Other ^(b)	38,760	50.9	37,351	49.1	76,111	100.0
Total	757,352	40.5	1,112,260	59.5	1,869,612	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Pensions 2004 Qtr 2 (11-06-04) Ver-01'. Excludes 6,638 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 2004^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Age Pensioner customers	757,352	100.0	1,112,260	100.0	1,869,612	100.0
Age (years)						
60-64	0	0.0	127,004	11.4	127,004	6.8
65-69	237,232	31.3	273,293	24.6	510,525	27.3
70-74	229,102	30.3	243,213	21.9	472,315	25.3
75-79	173,207	22.9	191,525	17.2	364,732	19.5
80-84	68,846	9.1	137,194	12.3	206,040	11.0
85-89	32,845	4.3	85,822	7.7	118,667	6.3
90-94	13,483	1.8	42,646	3.8	56,129	3.0
95 or more	2,637	0.3	11,563	1.0	14,200	0.8
Status						
<i>Couple</i>						
no dependants	543,696	71.8	494,130	44.4	1,037,826	55.5
with dependants	476	0.1	1,289	0.1	1,765	0.1
Total	544,172	71.9	495,419	44.5	1,039,591	55.6
<i>Single</i>						
no dependants	212,685	28.1	614,869	55.3	827,554	44.3
with dependants	495	0.1	1,972	0.2	2,467	0.1
Total	213,180	28.1	616,841	55.5	830,021	44.4
Rate						
Full rate	468,196	61.8	729,463	65.6	1,197,659	64.1
Part rate	289,156	38.2	382,797	34.4	671,953	35.9
Home ownership						
Home owner	558,223	73.7	750,183	67.4	1,308,406	70.0
Non-home owner	174,201	23.0	286,050	25.7	460,251	24.6
Home ownership not coded (including aged care)	24,928	3.3	76,027	6.8	100,955	5.4
Paid under income test						
<i>Income as assessed (\$ per week)</i>						
<i>Single</i>						
Nil	16,102	2.1	47,425	4.3	63,527	3.4
0.01-60.00	135,439	17.9	397,318	35.7	532,757	28.5
60.01-72.30	7,421	1.0	18,606	1.7	26,027	1.4
Over 72.30	55,221	7.3	140,232	12.6	195,453	10.5
<i>Partnered (each)</i>						
Nil	9,845	1.3	8,172	0.7	18,017	1.0
0.01-53.00	301,854	39.9	273,987	24.6	575,841	30.8
Over 53.00	166,044	21.9	149,674	13.5	315,718	16.9
Partner rate not coded	91	0.0	81	0.0	172	0.0
Non-home owners paid under assets test						
<i>Assets as assessed (\$) ^(b)</i>						
<i>Single</i>						
More than 257,500 to less than 414,250	673	0.1	1,204	0.1	1,877	0.1
<i>Partnered (each)</i>						
More than 160,250 to less than 290,500	674	0.1	623	0.1	1,297	0.1
Partner not coded	n.p.	0.0	n.p.	0.0	n.p.	0.0

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 149,500 to less than 306,250	10,066	1.3	21,181	1.9	31,247	1.7	
<i>Partnered (each)</i>							
More than 106,250 to less than 236,500	51,100	6.7	48,621	4.4	99,721	5.3	
Partner not coded	20	0.0	26	0.0	46	0.0	
Income/assets test not coded	1,194	0.2	1,541	0.1	2,735	0.1	
Country of birth (top five countries)							
Australia	438,149	57.9	710,835	63.9	1,148,984	61.5	
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	90,584	12.0	124,958	11.2	215,542	11.1	
Italy	55,428	7.3	53,682	4.8	109,110	5.8	
Greece	23,697	3.1	28,290	2.5	51,987	2.8	
Netherlands	13,971	1.8	16,073	1.4	30,044	1.6	
Other	135,523	17.9	178,422	16.0	313,945	16.8	

- (a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Pensions 2004 Qtr 2 (11-06-04) Ver-01'. Excludes 6,638 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 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 2004, the number of Disability Support Pension customers was 696,742, an increase of 3.5 per cent over June 2003 numbers.
- ▶ 60 per cent of Disability Support Pension recipients were males. The proportion of females continues to increase and represented 40 per cent of the Disability Support Pension population.
- ▶ 55 per cent of Disability Support Pension recipients were aged 50 years and over at June 2004, unchanged from June 2003. The number of Disability Support Pension customers in the 40–49 year age range increased from 144,032 at June 2003 to 148,962 (+3 per cent) at June 2004.
- ▶ At June 2004, 64 per cent of Disability Support Pension customers were single—a slight increase over the 63 per cent at June 2003.
- ▶ 64 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 1984 to June 2004 ^(a)

AS AT JUNE	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
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
2004	418,829	60.1	277,913	39.9	696,742	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 1984 to June 2004

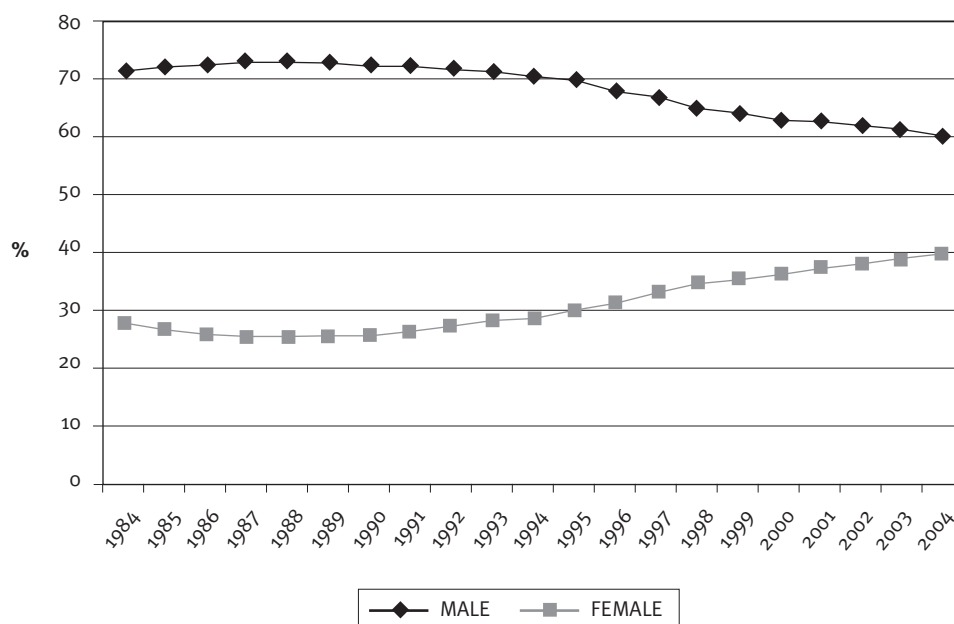


Table 7: Disability Support Pension customers by state/territory and sex, June 2004 ^(a)

STATE/TERRITORY	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	136,740	60.6	88,909	39.4	225,649	100.0
Victoria	96,224	58.1	69,353	41.9	165,577	100.0
Queensland	82,384	61.4	51,843	38.6	134,227	100.0
Western Australia	39,277	59.3	27,006	40.7	66,283	100.0
South Australia	35,280	60.1	23,448	39.9	58,728	100.0
Tasmania	14,993	60.7	9,694	39.3	24,687	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	3,879	55.6	3,103	44.4	6,982	100.0
Northern Territory	3,542	62.0	2,169	38.0	5,711	100.0
Overseas permanently	6,316	73.4	2,287	26.6	8,603	100.0
Unknown ^(b)	194	65.8	101	34.2	295	100.0
Total	418,829	60.1	277,913	39.9	696,742	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Pensions 2004 Qtr 2 (11-06-04) Ver-01'.

(b) State/territory not coded.

Table 8: Disability Support Pension customers, characteristics by sex, June 2004 ^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Disability Support Pension customers	418,829	60.1	277,913	39.9	696,742	100.0
Age (years)						
Under 20	10,139	2.4	6,692	2.4	16,831	2.4
20-29	34,670	8.3	23,998	8.6	58,668	8.4
30-39	55,321	13.2	35,572	12.8	90,893	13.0
40-49	86,222	20.6	62,740	22.6	148,962	21.4
50-59	128,892	30.8	110,841	39.9	239,733	34.4
60-64	98,103	23.4	37,514	13.5	135,617	19.5
65 and over	5,482	1.3	556	0.2	6,038	0.9
Status						
Couple	168,389	40.2	86,203	31.0	254,592	36.5
Single	250,440	59.8	191,710	69.0	442,150	63.5
Home ownership						
Home owner	149,014	35.6	98,136	35.3	247,150	35.5
Non-home owner	266,569	63.6	177,608	63.9	444,177	63.8
Not specified	3,246	0.8	2,169	0.8	5,415	0.8
Paid under income test						
Single	243,532	58.1	188,994	68.0	432,526	62.1
Partnered	161,627	38.6	82,474	29.7	244,101	35.0
Non-home owners paid under assets test						
Single	257	0.1	162	0.1	419	0.1
Partnered	106	0.0	64	0.0	170	0.0
Home owners paid under assets test						
Single	1,062	0.3	886	0.3	1,948	0.3
Partnered	3,375	0.8	2,308	0.8	5,683	0.8
Income/Asset test not coded ^(b)	8,870	2.1	3,025	1.1	11,895	1.7

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

Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	302,417	72.2	205,852	74.1	508,269	72.9
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	26,348	6.3	15,843	5.7	42,191	6.1
Greece	8,700	2.1	5,605	2.0	14,305	2.1
Yugoslavia	8,838	2.1	4,886	1.8	13,724	2.0
Italy	8,422	2.0	4,663	1.7	13,085	1.9
Other	64,104	15.3	41,064	14.8	105,168	15.1

- (a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Pensions 2004 Qtr 2 (11-06-04) Ver-01'.
- (b) At least one of the variables required to determine the customer's income or assets test category was not coded (that is, partnership category, home ownership type or whether income or asset tested).

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 2004, the number of customers receiving a Wife Pension (Age) was 19,646, a decrease of 2.9 per cent from June 2003 (20,230). At June 2004, the number of customers receiving a Wife Pension (Disability Support Pension) was 33,183, a decrease of 12.4 per cent from June 2003 (37,880).
- ▶ Wife Pensioners of Disability Support Pension customers comprised the majority of all Wife Pension customers (63 per cent at June 2004).

Table 9: Wife Pension customers by pension type, June 1984 to June 2004 ^(a)

AS AT JUNE	AGE PENSION		DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION		REHABILITATION ALLOWANCE ^(b)		SHELTERED EMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCE ^(c)		TOTAL ^(d)	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
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	n.p.	n.p.	-	-	161,457	100.0
1996	41,125	27.6	107,803	72.4	n.p.	n.p.	-	-	148,931	100.0
1997	36,577	28.6	91,307	71.4	n.p.	n.p.	-	-	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
2004	19,646	32.7	33,183	62.8	-	-	-	-	52,829	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.

Figure 3: Wife Pension customers by pension type, June 1984 to June 2004

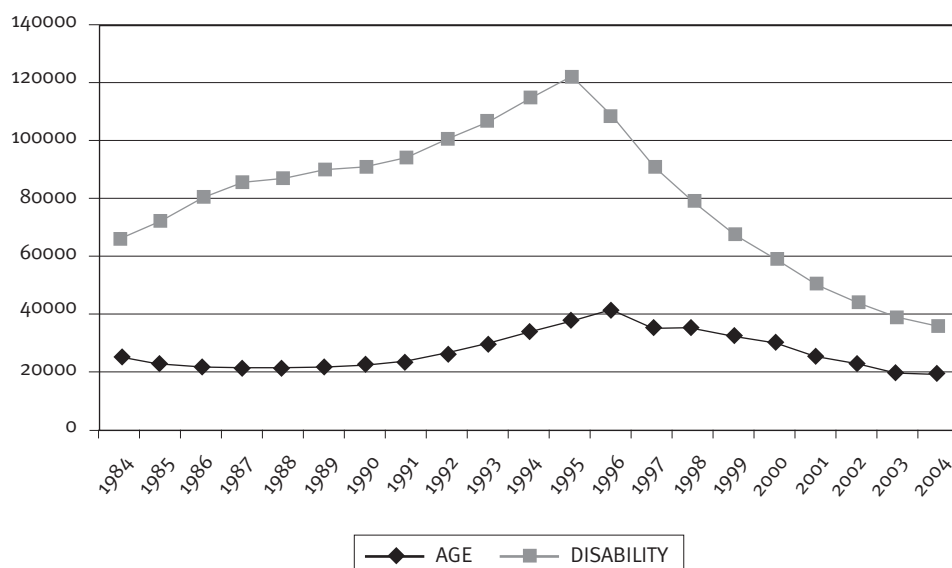


Table 10: Wife Pension customers by state/territory and pension type, June 2004 ^(a)

STATE/TERRITORY	AGE PENSION ^(b)		DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	6,221	36.8	10,699	63.2	16,920	100.0
Victoria	4,708	38.3	7,588	61.7	12,296	100.0
Queensland	3,640	37.5	6,079	62.5	9,719	100.0
Western Australia	1,578	35.7	2,845	64.3	4,423	100.0
South Australia	1,934	38.1	3,137	61.9	5,071	100.0
Tasmania	662	32.2	1,394	67.8	2,056	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	100	38.6	159	61.4	259	100.0
Northern Territory	101	44.3	127	55.7	228	100.0
Other ^(c)	702	37.8	1,155	62.2	1,857	100.0
Total	19,646	37.2	33,183	62.8	52,829	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Pensions 2004 Qtr 2 (11-06-04) Ver-01'.

(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 2004 ^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	AGE PENSION		DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Wife Pension customers	19,646	100.0	33,183	100.0	52,829	100.0
Age (years)						
Under 40	150	0.8	1,786	5.4	1,936	3.7
40-49	1,161	5.9	8,174	24.6	9,335	17.7
50-59	9,367	47.7	18,599	56.0	27,966	52.9
60-64	8,608	43.8	4,590	13.8	13,198	25.0
65 and over	360	1.8	34	0.1	394	0.7
Status						
<i>Couple</i>						
no dependants	18,456	93.9	26,703	80.5	45,159	85.5
with dependants	1,074	5.5	6,376	19.2	7,450	14.1
Total	19,530	99.4	33,079	99.7	52,609	99.6
<i>Single</i>						
no dependants	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	199	0.4
with dependants	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	21	0.0
Total	116	0.6	104	0.3	220	0.4
Rate						
Full rate	15,286	77.8	27,556	83.0	42,842	81.1
Part rate	4,360	22.2	5,627	17.0	9,987	18.9
Home ownership						
Home owner	14,778	75.2	22,018	66.4	36,796	69.7
Non-home owner	4,868	24.8	11,165	33.6	16,033	30.4

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.	47	0.1	
0.01–60.00	210	1.1	172	0.5	382	0.7	
60.01–72.30	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	
Over 72.30	62	0.3	65	0.2	127	0.2	
<i>Partnered (each)</i>							
Nil	1,053	5.4	3,425	10.3	4,478	8.5	
0.01–53.00	13,872	70.6	23,535	70.9	37,407	70.8	
Over 53.00	3,878	19.7	5,214	15.7	9,092	17.4	
Partner rate not coded	22	0.1	39	0.1	61	0.1	
Non-home owners paid under assets test							
<i>Assets as assessed (\$)</i>							
<i>Single</i>							
More than 257,500 to less than 414,250	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	
<i>Partnered (each)</i>							
More than 160,250 to less than 290,500	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	33	0.1	
Home owners paid under assets test							
<i>Assets as assessed (\$)</i>							
<i>Single</i>							
More than 149,500 to less than 306,250	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	
<i>Partnered (each)</i>							
More than 106,250 to less than 236,500	478	2.4	435	1.3	913	1.7	
Partner not coded	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	
Home ownership other (including aged care)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	38	0.1	
Income/assets test not coded ^(b)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	262	0.5	
Country of birth (top five countries)							
Australia	9,545	48.6	20,057	60.4	29,602	56.0	
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	1,204	6.1	1,890	5.7	3,094	5.9	
Greece	1,243	6.3	1,687	5.1	2,930	5.5	
Italy	1,597	8.1	1,286	3.9	2,883	5.5	
Lebanon	617	3.1	1,419	4.3	2,036	3.9	
Other	5,440	27.7	6,844	20.6	12,284	23.3	

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Pensions 2004 Qtr 2 (11-06-04) Ver-01'.

(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 tests 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 2004 ^(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
2004	-	-	-	-	-	-	84,082	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's Administrative data or Centrelink's SuperStar Pensions 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 2004 ^(a)

STATE/TERRITORY	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	10,717	35.9	19,139	64.1	29,856	100.0
Victoria	7,227	34.5	13,704	65.5	20,931	100.0
Queensland	5,901	34.8	11,058	65.2	16,959	100.0
Western Australia	2,019	34.4	3,853	65.6	5,872	100.0
South Australia	2,398	37.9	3,925	62.1	6,323	100.0
Tasmania	1,199	40.2	1,780	59.8	2,979	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	196	33.9	382	66.1	578	100.0
Northern Territory	148	30.6	336	69.4	484	100.0
Other ^(b)	33	33.0	67	67.0	100	100.0
Total	29,838	35.5	54,244	64.5	84,082	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Pensions 2004 Qtr 2 (11-06-04) Ver-01'.

(b) Includes unknown postcodes and overseas recipients.

Table 14: Carer Payment customers, characteristics by sex, June 2004 ^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Carer Payment customers	29,838	100.0	54,244	100.0	84,082	100.0
Age (years)						
Under 20	357	1.2	566	1.0	923	1.1
20-29	1,805	6.0	2,854	5.3	4,659	5.5
30-39	4,139	13.9	6,489	12.0	10,628	12.6
40-49	7,105	23.8	14,973	27.6	22,078	26.3
50-59	10,008	33.5	21,771	40.1	31,779	37.8
60-64	5,326	17.8	6,207	11.4	11,533	13.7
65 and over	1,098	3.7	1,384	2.6	2,482	3.0
Status						
<i>Couple</i>						
no dependants	17,856	59.8	25,033	46.1	42,889	51.0
with dependants	535	1.8	9,755	18.0	10,290	12.2
Total	18,391	61.6	34,788	64.1	53,179	63.2
<i>Single</i>						
no dependants	11,154	37.4	17,244	31.8	28,398	33.8
with dependants	293	1.0	2,212	4.1	2,505	3.0
Total	11,447	38.4	19,456	35.9	30,903	36.8
Rate						
Full rate	25,584	85.7	41,479	76.5	67,063	79.8
Part rate	4,254	14.3	12,765	23.5	17,019	20.2
Home ownership						
Home owner	12,640	42.4	28,829	53.1	41,469	49.3
Non-home owner	17,187	57.6	25,398	46.8	42,585	50.6
Other	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	28	0.0
Paid under income test						
<i>Income as assessed (\$ per week)</i>						
<i>Single</i>						
Nil	2,530	8.5	2,598	4.8	5,128	6.1
0.01-60.00	7,750	26.0	14,221	26.2	21,971	26.1
60.01-72.30	137	0.5	309	0.6	446	0.5
Over 72.30	846	2.8	2,072	3.8	2,918	3.5
<i>Partnered (each)</i>						
Nil	1,404	4.7	1,993	3.7	3,397	4.0
0.01-47.00	13,604	45.6	22,220	41.0	35,824	42.6
47.01-53.15	226	0.8	436	0.8	662	0.8
Over 53.15	2,598	8.7	8,795	16.2	11,393	13.5
Non-home owners paid under assets test						
<i>Assets as assessed (\$)</i>						
<i>Single</i>						
More than 228,750 to less than 364,750	43	0.1	45	0.1	88	0.1
<i>Partnered (each)</i>						
More than 142,500 to less than 255,500	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	53	0.1
Home owners paid under assets test						
<i>Assets as assessed (\$)</i>						
<i>Single</i>						
More than 133,250 to less than 269,250	78	0.3	188	0.3	266	0.3
<i>Partnered (each)</i>						
More than 94,750 to less than 207,750	440	1.5	1,086	2.0	1,526	1.8
Other ^(b)	165	0.6	245	0.5	410	0.5

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

Country of birth (top five countries)							
Australia	20,323	68.1	36,243	66.8	56,566	67.3	
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	2,118	7.1	3,125	5.8	5,243	6.2	
Lebanon	569	1.9	1,289	2.4	1,858	2.2	
Italy	494	1.7	1,124	2.1	1,618	1.9	
Vietnam	548	1.8	1,028	1.9	1,576	1.9	
Other	5,786	19.4	11,435	21.1	17,221	20.5	

- (a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Pensions 2004 Qtr 2 (11-06-04) Ver-01'.
- (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 2004, there were 8,478 people receiving Sickness Allowance. Of these, 66 per cent were male and 34 per cent were female.
- ▶ Sickness Allowance customers received payment for an average of 34 weeks.
- ▶ Around 74 per cent of Sickness Allowance customers were aged between 25 and 54 years.

Table 15: Sickness Allowance customers by sex, June 1984 to June 2004 ^(a)

AS AT JUNE ^(b)	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
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 ^(c)	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 ^(d)	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 ^(e)	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
2004	5,613	66.2	2,865	33.8	8,478	100.0

- (a) Sourced from Centrelink's Administrative data and Centrelink's SuperStar Newstart Population database.
- (b) 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.
- (c) 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.
- (d) 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.
- (e) Break in series. Data from 1998 onward are derived from a point in time in June of the relevant year.

Figure 4: Sickness Allowance customers, proportion by sex, June 1984 to June 2004

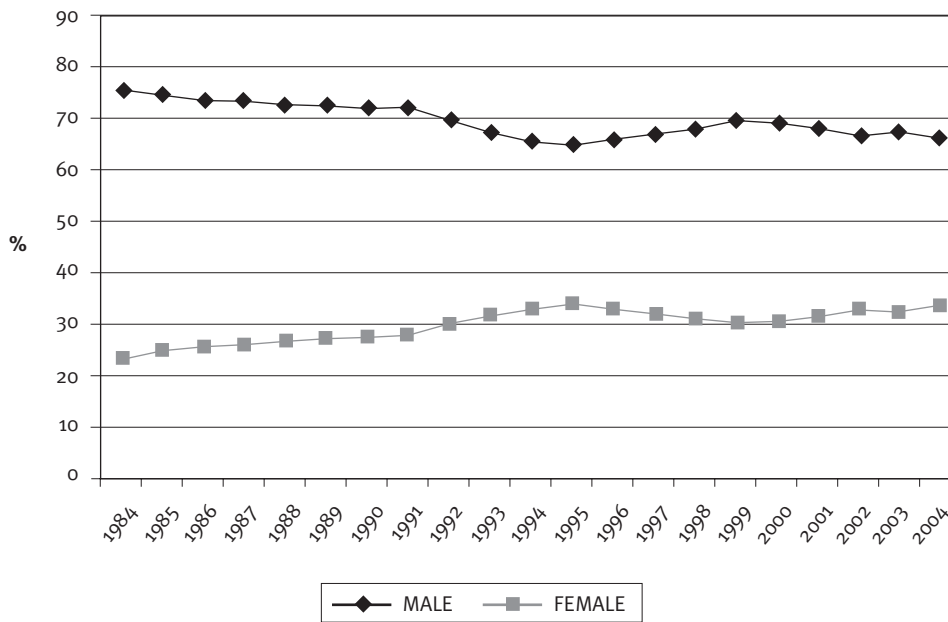


Table 16: Sickness Allowance customers by state/territory and sex, June 2004 (a)

STATE/TERRITORY	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	1,548	65.8	805	34.2	2,353	100.0
Victoria	1,678	67.1	821	32.9	2,499	100.0
Queensland	1,244	67.1	610	32.9	1,854	100.0
Western Australia	468	64.8	254	35.2	722	100.0
South Australia	478	64.8	260	35.2	738	100.0
Tasmania	109	61.9	67	38.1	176	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	81	100.0
Northern Territory	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	55	100.0
Total	5,613	66.2	2,865	33.8	8,478	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2004 06 (Jun) (18-06-04) Ver-01'.

Table 17: Sickness Allowance customers, characteristics by sex, June 2004 ^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Sickness Allowance customers	5,613	66.2	2,865	33.8	8,478	100.0
Age (years)						
21–24	623	11.1	306	10.7	929	11.0
25–34	1,562	27.8	639	22.3	2,201	26.0
35–44	1,446	25.8	616	21.5	2,062	24.3
45–54	1,132	20.2	913	31.9	2,045	24.1
55–59	480	8.6	312	10.9	792	9.3
60–64	370	6.6	79	2.8	449	5.3
Status						
<i>Couple</i>						
no dependants	2,047	36.5	412	14.4	2,459	29.0
with dependants	69	1.2	141	4.9	210	2.5
Total	2,116	37.7	553	19.3	2,669	31.5
<i>Single</i>						
no dependants	3,442	61.3	2,252	78.6	5,694	67.2
with dependants	55	1.0	60	2.1	115	1.4
Total	3,497	62.3	2,312	80.7	5,809	68.5
Income (\$ per week) ^(b)						
Nil	5,379	95.8	2,616	91.3	7,995	94.3
0.01–31.00	31	0.6	20	0.7	51	0.6
Over 31.00	203	3.6	229	8.0	432	5.1
Duration ^(c)						
<i>Up to 1 year</i>	4,641	82.7	2,343	81.8	6,984	82.4
< 7 weeks	1,500	26.7	685	23.9	2,185	25.8
7 weeks to < 3 months	1,030	18.4	522	18.2	1,552	18.3
3 to < 6 months	1,088	19.4	613	21.4	1,701	20.1
6 months to < 1 year	1,023	18.2	523	18.3	1,546	18.2
<i>Over 1 year</i>	972	17.3	522	18.2	1,494	17.6
1 to < 2 years	657	11.7	320	11.2	977	11.5
2 to < 3 years	173	3.1	100	3.5	273	3.2
3 years and over	142	2.5	102	3.6	244	2.9
Mean duration (weeks)	31.9	–	37.7	–	33.8	–
Median duration (weeks)	15.6	–	16.1	–	16.0	–
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	4,289	76.4	2,235	78.0	6,524	77.0
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	327	5.8	165	5.8	492	5.8
New Zealand	160	2.9	76	2.7	236	2.8
Italy	60	1.1	20	0.7	80	0.9
Vietnam	56	1.0	26	0.9	82	1.0
Other	721	12.8	343	12.0	1,064	12.6

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2004 06 (Jun) (18-06-04) Ver-01'.

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

- ▶ engaged in paid or voluntary work or vocational training or any combination of these activities for at least 32 hours every four weeks, or
- ▶ undertaking job search activities under an agreement between Centrelink and a service provider funded by either the Australian Government Department of 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 6 per cent increase since 2003. At June 2004, the total number of Mobility Allowance customers was 46,847.
- ▶ 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 1984 to June 2004 ^(a)

AS AT JUNE	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
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
2004	25,763	55.0	21,084	45.0	46,847	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 2004

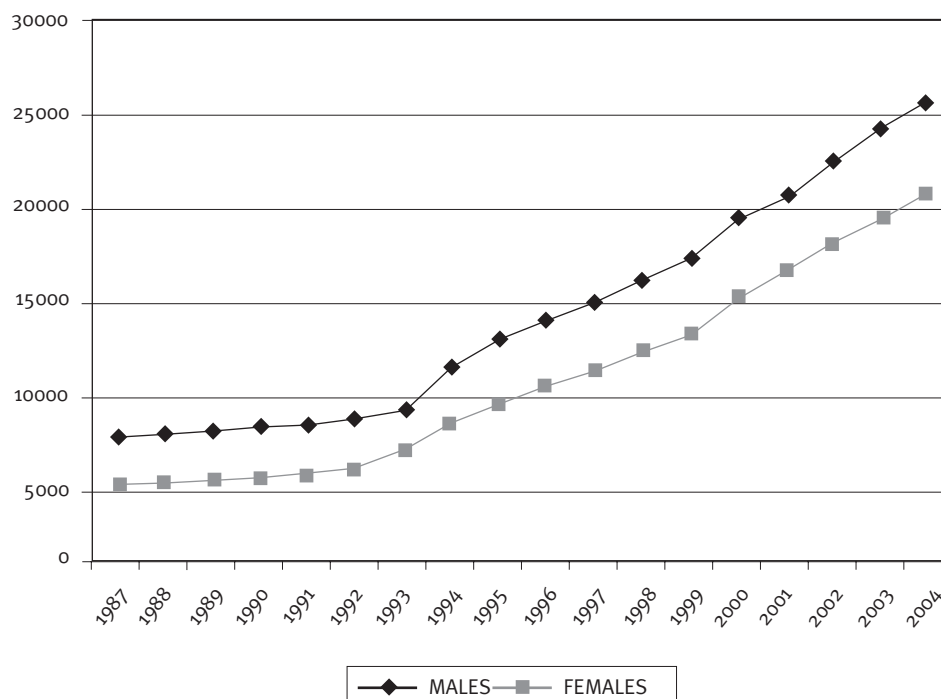


Table 19: Mobility Allowance customers by state/territory and sex, June 2004 ^(a)

STATE/TERRITORY	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	7,507	55.5	6,019	44.5	13,526	100.0
Victoria	6,773	54.2	5,722	45.8	12,495	100.0
Queensland	5,116	57.1	3,851	42.9	8,967	100.0
Western Australia	2,258	55.2	1,833	44.8	4,091	100.0
South Australia	2,917	53.1	2,579	46.9	5,496	100.0
Tasmania	755	51.1	723	48.9	1,478	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	291	54.8	240	45.2	531	100.0
Northern Territory	136	55.1	111	44.9	247	100.0
Other ^(b)	10	62.5	6	37.5	16	100.0
Total	25,763	55.0	21,084	45.0	46,847	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Populations 2004 Qtr 2 (11-06-04) 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 were 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 Adult Disability Assessment Tool (ADAT), or
- ▶ a dependent child aged under 16 years:
 - with a disability or medical condition that is included in the list of disabilities or conditions which result in automatic qualification, or
 - assessed under the CDAT as functioning at a level below the standard expected for his or her age, and
- ▶ 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 1984 to June 2004 ^(a)

AS AT JUNE	CHILD ^(b)	ADULT ^(c)	ADULT AND CHILD
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
2004	96,153	198,598	2,856

- (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 2004 ^(a)

STATE/TERRITORY	CHILD ^(b)		ADULT ^(c)		ADULT AND CHILD		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	30,639	31.9	66,572	33.5	913	32.0	98,124	33.0
Victoria	24,795	25.8	51,975	26.2	756	26.5	77,526	26.0
Queensland	18,168	18.9	40,384	20.3	584	20.4	59,136	19.9
Western Australia	9,483	9.9	15,085	7.6	236	8.3	24,804	8.3
South Australia	8,595	8.9	15,987	8.0	264	9.2	24,846	8.3
Tasmania	2,510	2.6	5,942	3.0	71	2.5	8,523	2.9
Australian Capital Territory	1,393	1.4	1,724	0.9	25	0.9	3,142	1.1
Northern Territory	n.p.	n.p.	834	0.4	n.p.	n.p.	1,404	0.5
Other ^(d)	n.p.	n.p.	95	0.0	n.p.	n.p.	102	0.0
Total	96,153	100.0	198,598	100.0	2,856	100.0	297,607	100.0

- (a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Carer Allowance 2004 Qtr 2 (02-07-04) Ver-01'.
- (b) Excludes 17,464 customers that only receive a Health Care Card.
- (c) Includes 515 customers not coded by carer type.
- (d) Includes overseas payments, unknown state/territory or invalid postcode.

3 Labour market allowances and parenting program

Table 22: Labour market-related allowances and payments to students, June 1984 to June 2004

AS AT JUNE ^(a)	YOUTH ALLOWANCE ^(b)				YOUTH TRAINING ALLOWANCE ^(c)	NEWSTART ALLOWANCE	MATURE AGE ALLOWANCE ^(d)	PARTNER ALLOWANCE	WIDOW ALLOWANCE	SPECIAL BENEFIT
	AUSTUDY PAYMENT	FULL-TIME STUDENT	OTHER	TOTAL						
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
2004	35,026	296,560	84,841	381,401	-	517,895	33,310	92,058	45,781	11,216

- (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's Administrative data). They include people who received a nil rate of payment.
- (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 2004^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Austudy customers	19,413	100.0	15,613	100.0	35,026	100.0
Age (years)						
25–29	7,507	38.7	6,744	43.2	14,251	40.7
30–34	4,984	25.7	3,408	21.8	8,392	24.0
35–39	2,798	14.4	1,698	10.9	4,496	12.8
40–44	1,880	9.7	1,483	9.5	3,363	9.6
45–49	1,162	6.0	1,338	8.6	2,500	7.1
50–54	658	3.4	661	4.2	1,319	3.8
55–59	344	1.8	244	1.6	588	1.7
60 and over	80	0.4	37	0.2	117	0.3
Status						
Single or couple	14,623	75.3	13,281	85.1	27,904	79.7
Single with children	188	1.0	646	4.1	834	2.4
Couple with children	4,602	23.7	1,686	10.8	6,288	18.0
Duration^(b)						
< 3 months	1,351	7.0	1,249	8.0	2,600	7.4
3 to < 6 months	3,675	18.9	3,345	21.4	7,020	20.0
6 to < 9 months	827	4.3	655	4.2	1,482	4.2
9 months to < 1 year	1,192	6.1	928	5.9	2,120	6.1
1 to < 2 years	4,569	23.5	3,448	22.1	8,017	22.9
2 years and over	7,799	40.2	5,988	38.4	13,787	39.4
Mean duration (weeks)	113.3	–	122.8	–	117.6	–
Median duration (weeks)	71.4	–	68.1	–	70	–
Income (\$ per week)^(c)						
Nil	14,380	74.1	10,183	65.2	24,563	70.1
0.01–118.00	2,032	10.5	2,190	14.0	4,222	12.1
Over 118.00	3,001	15.5	3,240	20.8	6,241	17.8
Study level						
Secondary	464	2.4	360	2.3	824	2.4
Tertiary Group A Course	1,284	6.6	1,186	7.6	2,470	7.1
Tertiary Group B Course	11,039	56.9	8,549	54.8	19,588	55.9
Tertiary Group C Course	3,583	18.5	2,822	18.1	6,405	18.3
Tertiary Group D Course	2,997	15.4	2,683	17.2	5,680	16.2
Not recorded	46	0.2	13	0.1	59	0.2

(a) Customer numbers include those who received a nil rate of payment (591) due to their own or partner income. Sourced from Centrelink SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2004 06 (Jun) (18-06-04) Ver-01'.

(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 2004^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Youth Allowance (full-time student) customers	133,635	100.0	163,505	100.0	297,140	100.0
Age (years)						
15	283	0.2	562	0.3	845	0.3
16	27,956	20.9	29,539	18.1	57,495	19.3
17	24,553	18.4	27,991	17.1	52,544	17.7
18	15,088	11.3	19,676	12.0	34,764	11.7
19	13,706	10.3	18,944	11.6	32,650	11.0
20	14,391	10.8	20,675	12.6	35,066	11.8
21	12,984	9.7	17,818	10.9	30,802	10.4
22	9,779	7.3	12,237	7.5	22,016	7.4
23	6,683	5.0	7,607	4.7	14,290	4.8
24	4,368	3.3	4,846	3.0	9,214	3.1
25 and over	3,844	2.9	3,610	2.2	7,454	2.5
Rate						
At home	90,076	67.4	100,544	61.5	190,620	64.2
Away from home or couple	43,559	32.6	62,961	38.5	106,520	35.8
Independent	43,617	32.6	60,586	37.1	104,203	35.1
Dependent	90,018	67.4	102,919	62.9	192,937	64.9
Duration^(b)						
< 3 months	15,036	11.3	17,105	10.5	32,141	10.8
3 to < 6 months	22,099	16.5	27,325	16.7	49,424	16.6
6 to < 9 months	9,421	7.0	11,103	6.8	20,524	6.9
9 months to < 1 year	11,683	8.7	13,663	8.4	25,346	8.5
1 to < 2 years	35,932	26.9	43,493	26.6	79,425	26.7
2 years and over	39,464	29.5	50,816	31.1	90,280	30.4
Mean duration (weeks)	83.5	–	85.2	–	84.4	–
Median duration (weeks)	62.6	–	65.1	–	64.0	–
Income (\$ per week)^(c)						
Nil	97,608	73.0	101,428	62.0	199,036	67.0
0.01–118.00	18,654	14.0	31,602	19.3	50,256	16.9
Over 118.00	17,373	13.0	30,475	18.6	47,848	16.1
Study level						
Secondary	56,601	42.4	60,613	37.1	117,214	39.4
Tertiary Group A Course	1,872	1.4	2,964	1.8	4,836	1.6
Tertiary Group B Course	53,676	40.2	73,480	44.9	127,156	42.8
Tertiary Group C Course	10,595	7.9	12,523	7.7	23,118	7.8
Tertiary Group D Course	10,652	8.0	13,664	8.4	24,316	8.2
Not recorded	239	0.2	261	0.2	500	0.2

(a) Youth Allowance customers that are full-time students. They include customers who received a nil rate of payment (2,992) due to their own or partner income. Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2004 06 (Jun) (18-06-04) Ver-01'.

(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 2004^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Youth Allowance (other) customers	42,914	100.0	41,751	100.0	84,665	100.0
Age (years)						
15	196	0.5	282	0.7	478	0.6
16	3,484	8.1	3,430	8.2	6,914	8.2
17	6,037	14.1	6,313	15.1	12,350	14.6
18	10,681	24.9	11,346	27.2	22,027	26.0
19	11,339	26.4	10,893	26.1	22,232	26.3
20	11,177	26.1	9,487	22.8	20,664	24.4
Rate						
At home	22,169	51.7	18,764	44.9	40,933	48.3
Away from home or couple	20,745	48.3	22,987	55.1	43,732	51.7
Independent	20,377	47.5	21,437	51.3	41,814	49.4
Dependent	22,537	52.5	20,314	48.7	42,851	50.6
Duration^(b)						
< 3 months	8,847	20.6	6,907	16.5	15,754	18.6
3 to < 6 months	6,539	15.2	5,923	14.2	12,462	14.7
6 to < 9 months	3,450	8.0	3,171	7.6	6,621	7.8
9 months to < 1 year	2,794	6.5	2,695	6.5	5,489	6.5
1 to < 2 years	8,300	19.3	8,421	20.2	16,721	19.7
2 years and over	12,984	30.3	14,634	35.1	27,618	32.6
Mean duration (weeks)	74.3	–	82.0	–	78.1	–
Median duration (weeks)	51.9	–	65.7	–	57.9	–
Income (\$ per week)^(c)						
Nil	35,929	83.7	32,367	77.5	68,296	80.7
0.01–31.00	566	1.3	850	2.0	1,416	1.7
31.01–118.00	2,263	5.3	3,547	8.5	5,810	6.9
Over 118.00	4,156	9.7	4,987	11.9	9,143	10.8
Main activity type						
Job search	25,187	58.7	23,421	56.1	48,608	57.4
Incapacitated	1,735	4.0	2,195	5.3	3,930	4.6
Work for Dole	1,343	3.1	1,120	2.7	2,463	2.9
Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) participant	1,398	3.3	836	2.0	2,234	2.6
Jobs Placement, Employment and Training	806	1.9	728	1.7	1,534	1.8
Remote location	595	1.4	432	1.0	1,027	1.2
Short course	434	1.0	509	1.2	943	1.1
Other	11,416	26.6	12,510	30.0	23,926	28.3

(a) Youth Allowance customers that are not full-time students. They include customers that received a nil rate of payment (2,329) due to their own or partner income. The figures also include 2,233 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 2004 06 (Jun) (18-06-04) Ver-01'.

(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 2004^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Youth Allowance customers	176,549	100.0	205,256	100.0	381,805	100.0
Age (years)						
15	479	0.3	844	0.4	1,323	0.3
16	31,440	17.8	32,969	16.1	64,409	16.9
17	30,590	17.3	34,304	16.7	64,894	17.0
18	25,769	14.6	31,022	15.1	56,791	14.9
19	25,045	14.2	29,837	14.5	54,882	14.4
20	25,538	14.5	30,135	14.7	55,673	14.6
21	12,996	7.4	17,826	8.7	30,822	8.1
22	9,796	5.5	12,255	6.0	22,051	5.8
23	6,684	3.8	7,607	3.7	14,291	3.7
24	4,368	2.5	4,847	2.4	9,215	2.4
25 and over	3,844	2.2	3,610	1.8	7,454	2.0
Rate						
At home	112,245	63.6	119,308	58.1	231,553	60.6
Away from home or couple	64,304	36.4	85,948	41.9	150,252	39.4
Independent	63,994	36.2	82,023	40.0	146,017	38.2
Dependent	112,555	63.8	123,233	60.0	235,788	61.8
Duration^(b)						
< 3 months	23,883	13.5	24,012	11.7	47,895	12.5
3 to < 6 months	28,638	16.2	33,248	16.2	61,886	16.2
6 to < 9 months	12,871	7.3	14,274	7.0	27,145	7.1
9 months to < 1 year	14,477	8.2	16,358	8.0	30,835	8.1
1 to < 2 years	44,232	25.1	51,914	25.3	96,146	25.2
2 years and over	52,448	29.7	65,450	31.9	117,898	30.9
Mean duration (weeks)	81.3	–	84.5	–	83.0	–
Median duration (weeks)	60.1	–	65.1	–	63.3	–
Income (\$ per week)^(c)						
Nil	133,537	75.6	133,795	65.2	267,332	70.0
0.01–31.00	2,638	1.5	4,099	2.0	6,737	1.8
31.01–118.00	18,845	10.7	31,900	15.5	50,745	13.3
Over 118.00	21,529	12.2	35,462	17.3	56,991	14.9
Student status						
Full-time student	133,635	75.7	163,505	79.7	297,140	77.8
Part-time student	379	0.2	680	0.3	1,059	0.3
Not a student	42,535	24.1	41,071	20.0	83,606	21.9

(a) Youth Allowance customers that are either full-time students or Youth Allowance (other). Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2004 06 (Jun) (18-06-04) Ver-01'.

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

(c) Income is defined as earned income.

3.3 Newstart Allowance

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

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

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

Jobseekers

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

Table 27: Short-term Newstart Allowance customers, characteristics by sex, June 2004 ^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Short-term Newstart Allowance customers ^(b)	128,530	100.0	60,155	100.0	188,685	100.0
Age (years)						
18–24	25,605	19.9	15,091	25.1	40,696	21.6
25–29	23,218	18.1	9,174	15.3	32,392	17.2
30–34	19,902	15.5	5,925	9.8	25,827	13.7
35–39	14,964	11.6	3,984	6.6	18,948	10.0
40–44	12,410	9.7	4,927	8.2	17,337	9.2
45–49	9,636	7.5	6,026	10.0	15,662	8.3
50–59	16,215	12.6	12,347	20.5	28,562	15.1
60 and over	6,580	5.1	2,681	4.5	9,261	4.9
Status						
Single	94,461	73.5	45,390	75.5	139,851	74.1
Couple	34,069	26.5	14,765	24.5	48,834	25.9
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	94,209	73.3	43,206	71.8	137,415	72.8
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	6,619	5.1	3,108	5.2	9,727	5.2
New Zealand	3,569	2.8	1,799	3.0	5,368	2.8
Vietnam	3,115	2.4	1,384	2.3	4,499	2.4
China	986	0.8	826	1.4	1,812	1.0
Other	20,032	15.6	9,832	16.3	29,864	15.8
Duration ^(c)						
< 7 weeks	28,819	22.4	12,899	21.4	41,718	22.1
7 weeks to < 3 months	20,882	16.2	9,896	16.5	30,778	16.3
3 to < 6 months	35,489	27.6	17,682	29.4	53,171	28.2
6 to < 9 months	24,559	19.1	11,921	19.8	36,480	19.3
9 months to < 1 year	18,781	14.6	7,757	12.9	26,538	14.1
Mean duration (weeks)	20.2	–	19.9	–	20.1	–
Median duration (weeks)	17.4	–	17.4	–	17.4	–
Income (\$ per week) ^(d)						
Nil	111,915	87.1	47,737	79.4	159,652	84.6
0.01–32.00	1,166	0.9	852	1.4	2,018	1.1
Over 32.00	15,449	12.0	11,566	19.2	27,015	14.3
Activity type						
Jobseekers	80,878	62.9	34,302	57.0	115,180	61.0
Incapacitated	13,139	10.2	7,626	12.7	20,765	11.0
Other ^(e)	34,513	26.9	18,227	30.3	52,740	28.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2004 06 (Jun) (18-06-04) Ver-01'. These figures do not include people who received a nil rate of payment (12,446).

(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 2004 ^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Long-term Newstart Allowance customers ^(b)	196,006	100.0	98,402	100.0	294,408	100.0
Age (years)						
18–24	27,470	14.0	18,276	18.6	45,746	15.5
25–29	29,260	14.9	12,521	12.7	41,781	14.2
30–34	27,218	13.9	9,305	9.5	36,523	12.4
35–39	23,696	12.1	8,816	9.0	32,512	11.0
40–44	23,260	11.9	12,678	12.9	35,938	12.2
45–49	20,324	10.4	16,042	16.3	36,366	12.4
50–59	38,000	19.4	19,148	19.5	57,148	19.4
60 and over	6,778	3.5	1,616	1.6	8,394	2.9
Status						
Single	142,447	72.7	79,842	81.1	222,289	75.5
Couple	53,559	27.3	18,560	18.9	72,119	24.5
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	145,928	74.5	73,676	74.9	219,604	74.6
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	9,269	4.7	4,074	4.1	13,343	4.5
New Zealand	3,849	2.0	2,222	2.3	6,071	2.1
Vietnam	6,489	3.3	3,411	3.5	9,900	3.4
China	1,213	0.6	1,102	1.1	2,315	0.8
Other	29,258	14.9	13,917	14.1	43,175	14.7
Duration^(c)						
1 to < 2 years	49,846	25.4	21,353	21.7	71,199	24.2
2 to < 3 years	30,975	15.8	14,378	14.6	45,353	15.4
3 to < 4 years	23,219	11.8	11,190	11.4	34,409	11.7
4 to < 5 years	16,051	8.2	8,091	8.2	24,142	8.2
5 years or more	75,915	38.7	43,390	44.1	119,305	40.5
Mean duration (weeks)	249.4	–	280.1	–	259.6	–
Median duration (weeks)	192.6	–	222.8	–	201.9	–
Income (\$ per week)^(d)						
Nil	167,537	85.5	76,666	77.9	244,203	82.9
0.01–31.00	2,526	1.3	1,767	1.8	4,293	1.5
Over 31.00	25,943	13.2	19,969	20.3	45,912	15.6
Activity type						
Jobseekers	88,945	45.4	41,255	41.9	130,200	44.2
Incapacitated	18,532	9.5	11,727	11.9	30,259	10.3
Other ^(e)	88,529	45.2	45,420	46.2	133,949	45.5

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2004 06 (Jun) (18-06-04) Ver-01'. These figures do not include people who received a nil rate of payment (11,816).

(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 2004 ^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Newstart Allowance customers	324,536	100.0	158,557	100.0	483,093	100.0
Age (years)						
18–24	53,075	16.4	33,367	21.0	86,442	17.9
25–29	52,478	16.2	21,695	13.7	74,173	15.4
30–34	47,120	14.5	15,230	9.6	62,350	12.9
35–39	38,660	11.9	12,800	8.1	51,460	10.7
40–44	35,670	11.0	17,605	11.1	53,275	11.0
45–49	29,960	9.2	22,068	13.9	52,028	10.8
50–59	54,215	16.7	31,495	19.9	85,710	17.7
60 and over	13,358	4.1	4,297	2.7	17,655	3.7
Status						
Single	236,908	73.0	125,232	79.0	362,140	75.0
Couple	87,628	27.0	33,325	21.0	120,953	25.0
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	240,137	74.0	116,882	73.7	357,019	73.9
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	15,888	4.9	7,182	4.5	23,070	4.8
New Zealand	7,418	2.3	4,021	2.5	11,439	2.4
Vietnam	9,604	3.0	4,795	3.0	14,399	3.0
China	2,199	0.7	1,928	1.2	4,127	0.9
Other	49,290	15.2	23,749	15.0	73,039	15.1
Duration ^(b)						
< 1 year	128,530	39.6	60,155	37.9	188,685	39.1
1 to < 2 years	49,846	15.4	21,353	13.5	71,199	14.7
2 to < 3 years	30,975	9.5	14,378	9.1	45,353	9.4
3 to < 4 years	23,219	7.2	11,190	7.1	34,409	7.1
4 to < 5 years	16,051	4.9	8,091	5.1	24,142	5.0
5 years and over	75,915	23.4	43,390	27.4	119,305	24.7
Mean duration (weeks)	158.6	–	181.4	–	166.1	–
Median duration (weeks)	83.8	–	97.5	–	87.5	–
Income (\$ per week)^(c)						
Nil	279,452	86.1	124,403	78.5	403,855	83.6
0.01–31.00	3,692	1.1	2,619	1.7	6,311	1.3
Over 31.00	41,392	12.8	31,535	19.9	72,927	15.1
Activity type						
Jobseekers	169,823	52.3	75,557	47.7	245,380	50.8
Incapacitated	31,671	9.8	19,353	12.2	51,024	10.6
Other ^(d)	123,042	37.9	63,647	40.1	186,689	38.6

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2004 06 (Jun) (18-06-04) Ver-01'. These figures do not include people who received a nil rate of payment (24,262).

(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 2004^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Short-term unemployed customers	148,966	100.0	77,821	100.0	226,787	100.0
Age (years)						
Under 18	5,935	4.0	5,909	7.6	11,844	5.2
18–24	40,106	26.9	26,848	34.5	66,954	29.5
25–29	23,218	15.6	9,174	11.8	32,392	14.3
30–34	19,902	13.4	5,925	7.6	25,827	11.4
35–39	14,964	10.0	3,984	5.1	18,948	8.4
40–44	12,410	8.3	4,927	6.3	17,337	7.6
45–49	9,636	6.5	6,026	7.7	15,662	6.9
50–59	16,215	10.9	12,347	15.9	28,562	12.6
60 and over	6,580	4.4	2,681	3.4	9,261	4.1
Status						
Single	113,971	76.5	61,571	79.1	175,542	77.4
Couple	34,995	23.5	16,250	20.9	51,245	22.6
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	112,904	75.8	59,423	76.4	172,327	76.0
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	6,785	4.6	3,272	4.2	10,057	4.4
New Zealand	3,986	2.7	2,168	2.8	6,154	2.7
Vietnam	3,210	2.2	1,447	1.9	4,657	2.1
China	1,000	0.7	840	1.1	1,840	0.8
Other	21,081	14.2	10,671	13.7	31,752	14.0
Duration^(b)						
< 7 weeks	33,625	22.6	16,585	21.3	50,210	22.1
7 weeks to < 3 months	24,508	16.5	12,764	16.4	37,272	16.4
3 to < 6 months	41,291	27.7	22,917	29.4	64,208	28.3
6 to < 9 months	28,152	18.9	15,229	19.6	43,381	19.1
9 months to < 1 year	21,390	14.4	10,326	13.3	31,716	14.0
Mean duration (weeks)	158.6	–	181.4	–	166.1	–
Median duration (weeks)	17.8	–	17.5	–	17.7	–
Income (\$ per week)^(c)						
Nil	130,368	87.5	62,403	80.2	192,771	85.0
0.01–31.00	1,430	1.0	1,229	1.6	2,659	1.2
Over 31.00	17,168	11.5	14,189	18.2	31,357	13.8
Activity type						
Jobseekers	94,096	63.2	45,092	57.9	139,188	61.4
Incapacitated	14,191	9.5	8,709	11.2	22,900	10.1
Other ^(d)	40,679	27.3	24,020	30.9	64,699	28.5

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2004 06 (Jun) (18-06-04) Ver-01'. These figures do not include people who received a nil rate of payment (13,430). The number of unemployed customers 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 2004 ^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Long-term unemployed customers	216,091	100.0	120,318	100.0	336,409	100.0
Age (years)						
Under 18	3,288	1.5	3,728	3.1	7,016	2.1
18–24	44,267	20.5	36,464	30.3	80,731	24.0
25–29	29,260	13.5	12,521	10.4	41,781	12.4
30–34	27,218	12.6	9,305	7.7	36,523	10.9
35–39	23,696	11.0	8,816	7.3	32,512	9.7
40–44	23,260	10.8	12,678	10.5	35,938	10.7
45–49	20,324	9.4	16,042	13.3	36,366	10.8
50–59	38,000	17.6	19,148	15.9	57,148	17.0
60 and over	6,778	3.1	1,616	1.3	8,394	2.5
Status						
Single	161,378	74.7	100,069	83.2	261,447	77.7
Couple	54,713	25.3	20,249	16.8	74,962	22.3
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	164,361	76.1	93,865	78.0	258,226	76.8
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	9,381	4.3	4,204	3.5	13,585	4.0
Vietnam	6,637	3.1	3,561	3.0	10,198	3.0
New Zealand	4,108	1.9	2,576	2.1	6,684	2.0
Lebanon	2,909	1.3	958	0.8	3,867	1.1
Other	28,695	13.3	15,154	12.6	43,849	13.0
Duration^(b)						
1 to < 2 years	57,641	26.7	29,363	24.4	87,004	25.9
2 to < 3 years	37,212	17.2	21,561	17.9	58,773	17.5
3 to < 4 years	26,958	12.5	15,445	12.8	42,403	12.6
4 to < 5 years	18,261	8.5	10,449	8.7	28,710	8.5
5 years and over	76,019	35.2	43,500	36.2	119,519	35.5
Mean duration (weeks)	228.6	–	234.9	–	230.7	–
Median duration (weeks)	175.3	–	173.9	–	174.6	–
Income (\$ per week)^(c)						
Nil	184,969	85.6	94,294	78.4	279,263	83.0
0.01–31.00	2,827	1.3	2,238	1.9	5,065	1.5
Over 31.00	28,295	13.1	23,786	19.8	52,081	15.5
Activity type						
Jobseekers	100,268	46.4	53,034	44.1	153,302	45.6
Incapacitated	19,209	8.9	12,824	10.7	32,033	9.5
Other ^(d)	96,614	44.7	54,460	45.3	151,074	44.9

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2004 06 (Jun) (18-06-04) Ver-01'. These figures do not include people who received a nil rate of payment. (13,160). The number of unemployed customers 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 type include customers involved in paid employment, full-time and part-time voluntary work, part-time study, self-employment development, training, or otherwise exempt from job search for reasons such as major personal crisis, remote location or jury duty.

Table 32: Total unemployed customers, characteristics by sex, June 2004^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Total unemployed customers	365,057	100.0	198,139	100.0	563,196	100.0
Age (years)						
Under 18	9,223	2.5	9,637	4.9	18,860	3.3
18–24	84,373	23.1	63,312	32.0	147,685	26.2
25–29	52,478	14.4	21,695	10.9	74,173	13.2
30–34	47,120	12.9	15,230	7.7	62,350	11.1
35–39	38,660	10.6	12,800	6.5	51,460	9.1
40–44	35,670	9.8	17,605	8.9	53,275	9.5
45–49	29,960	8.2	22,068	11.1	52,028	9.2
50–59	54,215	14.9	31,495	15.9	85,710	15.2
60 and over	13,358	3.7	4,297	2.2	17,655	3.1
Status						
Single	275,349	75.4	161,640	81.6	436,989	77.6
Couple	89,708	24.6	36,499	18.4	126,207	22.4
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	277,265	76.0	153,288	77.4	430,553	76.4
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	16,166	4.4	7,476	3.8	23,642	4.2
Vietnam	9,847	2.7	5,008	2.5	14,855	2.6
New Zealand	8,094	2.2	4,744	2.4	12,838	2.3
Lebanon	4,170	1.1	1,305	0.7	5,475	1.0
Other	49,515	13.6	26,318	13.3	75,833	13.5
Duration^(b)						
< 1 year	148,966	40.8	77,821	39.3	226,787	40.3
1 to < 2 years	57,641	15.8	29,363	14.8	87,004	15.4
2 to < 3 years	37,212	10.2	21,561	10.9	58,773	10.4
3 to < 4 years	26,958	7.4	15,445	7.8	42,403	7.5
4 to < 5 years	18,261	5.0	10,449	5.3	28,710	5.1
5 years and over	76,019	20.8	43,500	22.0	119,519	21.2
Mean duration (weeks)	141.5	–	151.2	–	144.7	–
Median duration (weeks)	76.9	–	86.1	–	80.0	–
Income (\$ per week)^(c)						
Nil	315,337	86.4	156,697	79.1	472,034	83.8
0.01–31.00	4,257	1.2	3,467	1.7	7,724	1.4
Over 31.00	45,463	12.5	37,975	19.2	83,438	14.8
Activity type						
Jobseekers	194,364	53.2	98,126	49.5	292,490	51.9
Incapacitated	33,400	9.1	21,533	10.9	54,933	9.8
Other ^(d)	137,293	37.6	78,480	39.6	215,773	38.3

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2004 06 (Jun) (18-06-04) Ver-01'. These figures do not include people who received a nil rate of payment (26,590). The number of unemployed customers 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 33: Unemployed customers by state/territory, June 2004^(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	58,481	93,359	11,724	12,836	70,205
Victoria	46,927	71,782	7,225	8,981	54,152	80,763
Queensland	40,644	56,088	9,202	9,199	49,846	65,287
Western Australia	19,244	25,156	4,408	3,690	23,652	28,846
South Australia	13,863	25,503	3,210	3,873	17,073	29,376
Tasmania	4,986	12,102	1,093	2,102	6,079	14,204
Australian Capital Territory	1,817	2,777	393	393	2,210	3,170
Northern Territory	2,723	7,641	847	927	3,570	8,568
Total	188,685	294,408	38,102	42,001	226,787	336,409

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2004 06 (Jun) (18-06-04) Ver-01'. These figures do not include people who received a nil rate of payment (26,590). 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 1984 to June 2004

AS AT JUNE ^(b)	NEWSTART ALLOWANCE	YOUTH TRAINING ALLOWANCE	YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED CUSTOMERS ^(a)					
				SHORT-TERM		LONG-TERM		TOTAL	
				NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
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
2004	517,895	-	84,841	244,306	40.5	358,430	59.5	602,736	100.0

(a) Sourced from 'Labour market and related payments - a monthly profile' (Australian Government Department 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),
- 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.

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

Table 35: Mature Age Allowance customers, characteristics by sex, June 2004 ^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Mature Age Allowance customers	29,681	100.0	3,231	100.0	32,912	100.0
Age (years)						
60	991	3.3	332	10.3	1,323	4.0
61	4,949	16.7	1,832	56.7	6,781	20.6
62	6,862	23.1	1,067	33.0	7,929	24.1
63	7,908	26.6	0	0.0	7,908	24.0
64	8,971	30.2	0	0.0	8,971	27.3
Duration^(b)						
Up to 1 year	281	0.9	51	1.6	332	1.0
1 to < 2 years	5,041	17.0	774	24.0	5,815	17.7
2 to < 3 years	6,381	21.5	776	24.0	7,157	21.7
3 to < 4 years	3,607	12.2	305	9.4	3,912	11.9
4 to < 5 years	2,843	9.6	218	6.7	3,061	9.3
5 years and over	11,528	38.8	1,107	34.3	12,635	38.4
Mean duration (weeks)	262.9	–	245.1	–	261.2	–
Median duration (weeks)	201.9	–	157.1	–	197.9	–
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	17,985	60.6	2,214	68.5	20,199	61.4
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	4,154	14.0	378	11.7	4,532	13.8
Italy	604	2.0	20	0.6	624	1.9
Germany	565	1.9	37	1.1	602	1.8
New Zealand	530	1.8	52	1.6	582	1.8
Other	5,843	19.7	530	16.4	6,373	19.4
Paid under income test						
<i>Income as assessed (\$ per week)^(c)</i>						
Nil	27,633	93.1	2,923	90.5	30,556	92.8
0.01–31.00	447	1.5	42	1.3	489	1.5
Over 31.00	1,601	5.4	266	8.2	1,867	5.7
State/territory						
New South Wales	9,201	31.0	1,164	36.0	10,365	31.5
Victoria	7,023	23.7	711	22.0	7,734	23.5
Queensland	6,803	22.9	749	23.2	7,552	22.9
Western Australia	2,620	8.8	223	6.9	2,843	8.6
South Australia	2,525	8.5	237	7.3	2,762	8.4
Tasmania	1,247	4.2	116	3.6	1,363	4.1
Australian Capital Territory	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	157	0.5
Northern Territory	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	136	0.4

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2004 06 (Jun) (18-06-04) Ver-01'. These figures do not include people who received a nil rate of payment (260).

(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.

Widow Allowance will be closed to new claimants from 1 July 2005 unless the woman was born on or before 1 July 1955.

Table 36: Widow Allowance customers, characteristics, June 2004^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	FEMALE	
	NO.	%
Widow Allowance customers	45,328	100.0
Age (years)		
50–54	8,587	18.9
55–59	19,476	43.0
60–64	12,323	27.2
65 and over	4,942	10.9
Duration^(b)		
Up to 1 year		
< 7 weeks	361	0.8
7 weeks to < 3 months	357	0.8
3 to < 6 months	842	1.9
6 to < 9 months	779	1.7
9 months to < 1 year	1,061	2.3
Over 1 year		
1 to < 2 years	4,527	10.0
2 to < 3 years	5,264	11.6
3 to < 4 years	5,147	11.4
4 to < 5 years	4,550	10.0
5 years and over	22,440	49.5
Mean duration (weeks)	301.6	–
Median duration (weeks)	258.0	–
Country of birth (top five countries)		
Australia	25,600	56.5
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	3,545	7.8
China	1,958	4.3
Vietnam	1,252	2.8
Philippines	970	2.1
Other	12,003	26.5
Paid under income test		
<i>Income as assessed (\$ per week)^(c)</i>		
Nil	40,712	89.8
0.01–31.00	712	1.6
Over 31.00	3,904	8.6
State/territory		
New South Wales	14,840	32.7
Victoria	11,607	25.6
Queensland	9,542	21.1
Western Australia	4,070	9.0
South Australia	3,382	7.5
Tasmania	1,355	3.0
Australian Capital Territory	352	0.8
Northern Territory	180	0.4

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2004 06 (Jun) (18-06-04) Ver-01'. These figures do not include people who received a nil rate of payment (439).

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

(c) Income 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.

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

Table 37: Partner Allowance customers, characteristics by sex, June 2004 ^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Partner Allowance customers	10,842	100.0	80,094	100.0	90,936	100.0
Age (years)						
Under 50	146	1.3	1,940	2.4	2,086	2.3
50–54	971	9.0	15,124	18.9	16,095	17.7
55–59	2,608	24.1	35,158	43.9	37,766	41.5
60–64	5,419	50.0	25,168	31.4	30,587	33.6
65 and over	1,698	15.7	2,704	3.4	4,402	4.8
Duration ^(b)						
< 7 weeks	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	65	0.1
7 weeks to < 3 months	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
3 to < 6 months	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
6 to < 9 months	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	495	0.5
9 months to < 1 year	642	5.9	3,354	4.2	3,996	4.4
<i>Over 1 year</i>						
1 to < 2 years	2,614	24.1	12,399	15.5	15,013	16.5
2 to < 3 years	2,134	19.7	12,739	15.9	14,873	16.4
3 to < 4 years	1,155	10.7	9,479	11.8	10,634	11.7
4 to < 5 years	836	7.7	8,108	10.1	8,944	9.8
5 years and over	3,397	31.3	33,491	41.8	36,888	40.6
Mean duration (weeks)	216.7	–	248.1	–	244.3	–
Median duration (weeks)	155.8	–	219.1	–	210.8	–
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	5,749	53.0	50,018	62.4	55,767	61.3
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	1,190	11.0	6,724	8.4	7,914	8.7
China	982	9.1	2,429	3.0	3,411	3.8
Italy	132	1.2	2,290	2.9	2,422	2.7
Greece	202	1.9	1,885	2.4	2,087	2.3
Other	2,587	23.9	16,748	20.9	19,335	21.3
Paid under income test						
<i>Income as assessed (\$ per week) ^(c)</i>						
Nil	10,059	92.8	73,890	92.3	83,949	92.3
0.01–31.00	123	1.1	906	1.1	1,029	1.1
Over 31.00	660	6.1	5,298	6.6	5,958	6.6
State/territory						
New South Wales	3,898	36.0	25,548	31.9	29,446	32.4
Victoria	2,528	23.3	20,102	25.1	22,630	24.9
Queensland	2,069	19.1	15,990	20.0	18,059	19.9
Western Australia	712	6.6	6,960	8.7	7,672	8.4
South Australia	1,025	9.5	7,595	9.5	8,620	9.5
Tasmania	523	4.8	3,304	4.1	3,827	4.2
Australian Capital Territory	58	0.5	371	0.5	429	0.5
Northern Territory	29	0.3	223	0.3	252	0.3

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2004 06 (Jun) (18-06-04) Ver-01'. These figures do not include people who received a nil rate of payment (909).

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

(c) Income 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 2004^(a)**

SPECIAL BENEFIT CATEGORY	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Assurance of support	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	35	0.3
Australian citizen child in custody of non-permanent resident	50	0.7	38	0.9	88	0.8
Caring for child	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	35	0.3
Caring for incapacitated person	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Newly arrived refugees in two-year waiting period for Newstart Allowance/ Sickness Allowance	80	1.2	69	1.6	149	1.3
Newly arrived migrants (NAM) in waiting period for Special Benefit	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
NAM in two-year waiting period for:						
▶ Partner Allowance						
▶ Widow Allowance						
▶ Parenting Payment (Partnered)						
▶ Newstart Mature Age Allowance						
▶ Carer Payment						
▶ Disability Wage Supplement	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	47	0.4
Not residentially qualified for Age Pension	3,083	44.6	1,822	42.4	4,905	43.7
Not residentially qualified for Disability Support Pension (post-10 December 2000)	129	1.9	108	2.5	237	2.1
Not residentially qualified for other pension (pre-10 December 2000)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	23	0.2
Other cases (long-term)	30	0.4	42	1.0	72	0.6
Other cases (short-term)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	94	0.8
Socially marginalised	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	21	0.2
Spouse Extended Eligibility Temporary Entry Permit (pre-10 December 2000)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Spouse provisional visa (previously Special entry visa) (post-10 December 2000)	551	8.0	876	20.4	1,427	12.7
Temporary protection visa	1,858	26.9	816	19.0	2,674	23.8
Temporary protection visa from 1 January 2003	994	14.4	196	4.6	1,190	10.6
Temporary protection visa ineligible for Disability Support Pension	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Temporary protection visa (not of workforce age)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Under 16 years	60	0.9	98	2.3	158	1.4
Not coded	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Total	6,918	100.0	4,298	100.0	11,216	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2004 06 (Jun) (18-06-04) Ver-01'. These figures do not include zero paid customers (146).

Table 39: Special Benefit customers, characteristics by sex, June 2004^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Special Benefit customers	6,918	100.0	4,298	100.0	11,216	100.0
Age (years)						
Under 16	115	1.7	143	3.3	258	2.3
16–17	94	1.4	69	1.6	163	1.5
18–20	197	2.8	213	5.0	410	3.7
21–24	461	6.7	394	9.2	855	7.6
25–34	1,579	22.8	823	19.1	2,402	21.4
35–44	859	12.4	435	10.1	1,294	11.5
45–54	333	4.8	226	5.3	559	5.0
55–59	74	1.1	65	1.5	139	1.2
60–64	55	0.8	151	3.5	206	1.8
65 and over	3,151	45.5	1,779	41.4	4,930	44.0
Status						
<i>Single</i>	3,232	46.7	1,735	40.4	4,967	44.3
without children	3,204	46.3	1,500	34.9	4,704	41.9
with children	28	0.4	235	5.5	263	2.3
<i>Couple</i>	3,686	53.3	2,563	59.6	6,249	55.7
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Iraq	1,857	26.8	865	20.1	2,722	24.3
China	1,578	22.8	818	19.0	2,396	21.4
Islamic State of Afghanistan	829	12.0	196	4.6	1,025	9.1
Lebanon	363	5.2	261	6.1	624	5.6
Iran	251	3.6	132	3.1	383	3.4
Other	2,040	29.5	2,026	47.1	4,066	36.3
Duration^(b)						
Less than 7 weeks	253	3.7	205	4.8	458	4.1
7 weeks to < 3 months	224	3.2	255	5.9	479	4.3
3 to < 6 months	459	6.6	406	9.4	865	7.7
6 to < 9 months	361	5.2	288	6.7	649	5.8
9 months to < 1 year	329	4.8	270	6.3	599	5.3
<i>Over 1 year</i>						
1 to < 2 years	1,073	15.5	774	18.0	1,847	16.5
2 to < 3 years	1,242	18.0	726	16.9	1,968	17.5
3 to < 4 years	1,424	20.6	550	12.8	1,974	17.6
4 to < 5 years	414	6.0	218	5.1	632	5.6
5 years or more	1,139	16.5	606	14.1	1,745	15.6
Mean duration (weeks)	147.6	-	126.6	-	139.5	-
Median duration (weeks)	134.1	-	101.6	-	121.6	-
Income (\$ per week)^(c)						
Nil	6,731	97.3	4,260	99.1	10,991	98.0
0.01–31.00	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	28	0.2
Over 31.00	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	197	1.8

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2004 06 (Jun) (18-06-04) Ver-01'. These figures do not include zero paid customers (146).

(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 2004^(a)

STATE/TERRITORY	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	3,685	63.9	2,084	36.1	5,769	100.0
Victoria	1,932	61.0	1,235	39.0	3,167	100.0
Queensland	379	56.0	298	44.0	677	100.0
Western Australia	339	59.2	234	40.8	573	100.0
South Australia	471	60.7	305	39.3	776	100.0
Tasmania	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	84	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	65	43.9	83	56.1	148	100.0
Northern Territory	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	22	100.0
Total	6,918	61.7	4,298	38.3	11,216	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Newstart Population 2004 06 (Jun) (18-06-04) Ver-01'. These figures do not include zero paid customers (146).

Table 41: Special Benefit customers by sex, June 1984 to June 2004^(a)

AS AT JUNE	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
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
2004	6,918	61.7	4,298	38.3	11,216	100.0

(a) From 1984 to 1997, these figures are an average of the weekly payments for the month ending June each year. From 1998 to 2004, these 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 1984 to June 2004^(a)

AS AT JUNE	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
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
2004	34,866	7.8	414,446	92.2	449,312	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 2004^(a)

STATE/TERRITORY	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	11,159	7.7	133,154	92.3	144,313	100.0
Victoria	6,565	6.6	92,751	93.4	99,316	100.0
Queensland	8,258	8.3	90,743	91.7	99,001	100.0
Western Australia	3,499	7.6	42,284	92.4	45,783	100.0
South Australia	3,256	9.1	32,625	90.9	35,881	100.0
Tasmania	1,273	9.5	12,131	90.5	13,404	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	368	7.1	4,833	92.9	5,201	100.0
Northern Territory	457	7.7	5,475	92.3	5,932	100.0
Other ^(b)	31	6.4	450	93.6	481	100.0
Total	34,866	7.8	414,446	92.2	449,312	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Pensions 2004 Qtr 2 (11-06-04) Ver-01'.

(b) Includes not coded or invalid postcodes.

Table 44: Parenting Payment (Single) customers, characteristics by sex, June 2004^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Parenting Payment (Single) customers	34,866	100.0	414,446	100.0	449,312	100.0
Age (years)						
Under 20	121	0.3	9,665	2.3	9,786	2.2
20–29	4,644	13.3	113,282	27.3	117,926	26.2
30–39	13,993	40.1	168,446	40.6	182,439	40.6
40–49	12,399	35.6	108,368	26.1	120,767	26.9
50–59	3,349	9.6	14,111	3.4	17,460	3.9
60 and over	360	1.0	574	0.1	934	0.2
Duration on payment^(b)						
< 6 months	6,336	18.2	45,852	11.1	52,188	11.6
6 months to < 1 year	5,297	15.2	44,947	10.8	50,244	11.2
1 to < 2 years	7,168	20.6	71,248	17.2	78,416	17.5
2 to < 3 years	4,704	13.5	52,207	12.6	56,911	12.7
3 years and over	11,361	32.6	200,192	48.3	211,553	47.1
Home ownership						
Home owner	6,942	19.9	87,559	21.1	94,501	21.0
Non-home owner	27,924	80.1	326,887	78.9	354,811	79.0
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	27,764	79.6	329,567	79.5	357,331	79.5
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	1,815	5.2	16,508	4.0	18,323	4.1
New Zealand	1,147	3.3	13,706	3.3	14,853	3.3
Vietnam	719	2.1	10,743	2.6	11,462	2.6
Philippines	102	0.3	3,544	0.9	3,646	0.8
Other	3,319	9.5	40,378	9.7	43,697	9.7

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Pensions 2004 Qtr 2 (11-06-04) Ver-01'. Excludes 6,279 suspended clients.

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

Table 45: Parenting Payment (Partnered) customers by sex, June 2001 to June 2004 ^(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
2004	18,917	10.7	158,240	89.3	177,157	100.0

(a) Parenting Payment (Partnered) replaced the Parenting Allowance in March 1998. From July 2000, the basic rate of Parenting Payment (Partnered) became part of Family Tax Benefit. 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 2004 ^(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
2004	144	87,945	63,571	25,497	177,157

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

(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 2004 ^(a)

STATE/TERRITORY	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	5,719	9.7	52,987	90.3	58,706	100.0
Victoria	4,292	10.2	37,891	89.8	42,183	100.0
Queensland	4,300	12.2	30,817	87.8	35,117	100.0
Western Australia	1,684	10.3	14,681	89.7	16,365	100.0
South Australia	1,837	13.4	11,922	86.6	13,759	100.0
Tasmania	730	11.7	5,498	88.3	6,228	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	130	10.9	1,063	89.1	1,193	100.0
Northern Territory	187	5.3	3,321	94.7	3,508	100.0
Unknown ^(b)	38	38.8	60	61.2	98	100.0
Total	18,917	10.7	158,240	89.3	177,157	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Parenting Payment Partnered 2004 Qtr 2 (09-07-04) Ver-01'.

(b) Includes not coded or invalid postcodes.

**Table 48: Parenting Payment (Partnered) customers, characteristics by sex,
June 2004^(a)**

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Parenting Payment (Partnered) customers	18,917	100.0	158,240	100.0	177,157	100.0
Age (years)						
Under 20	20	0.1	2,817	1.8	2,837	1.6
20–29	2,025	10.7	37,594	23.8	39,619	22.4
30–39	7,380	39.0	69,489	43.9	76,869	43.4
40–49	7,186	38.0	42,288	26.7	49,474	27.9
50–59	2,077	11.0	5,845	3.7	7,922	4.5
60 and over	229	1.2	207	0.1	436	0.2
Duration on Allowance^(b)						
< 6 months	5,312	28.1	32,084	20.3	37,396	21.1
6 months to < 1 year	3,557	18.8	22,889	14.5	26,446	14.9
1 to < 2 years	4,145	21.9	28,525	18.0	32,670	18.4
2 to < 3 years	2,145	11.3	17,890	11.3	20,035	11.3
3 years and over	3,758	19.9	56,852	35.9	60,610	34.2
Country of birth (top five countries)						
Australia	12,566	66.4	98,607	62.3	111,173	62.8
Vietnam	695	3.7	8,018	5.1	8,713	4.9
Lebanon	325	1.7	5,971	3.8	6,296	3.6
China	590	3.1	5,489	3.5	6,079	3.4
United Kingdom/Ireland /Eire	990	5.2	4,742	3.0	5,732	3.2
Other	3,751	19.8	35,413	22.4	39,164	22.1

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Parenting Payment Partnered 2004 Qtr 2 (09-07-2004) Ver-02'. Excludes 4,655 suspended customers.

(b) Duration is measured from the 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 \$216 in fortnightly family payments at June 2004.

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 \$31,755. 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 \$82,052 (plus \$3,285 for each child after the first), and then reduces by 30 cents for each dollar after this amount.

The maximum rates are:

For each child	Per fortnight (\$)
Aged under 13 years	130.48
Aged 13–15 years	165.48
Aged 16–17 years	42.00
Aged 18–24 years	56.42

The base rates are:

For each child	Per fortnight (\$)
Aged under 18 years	42.00
Aged 18–24 years	56.42

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 \$112.00 per fortnight where the youngest child is under five years, and \$78.12 per fortnight where the youngest child is aged five to 15 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 \$1,825. Payment reduces by 30 cents for each extra dollar earned over that amount, with some payment received until income reaches \$11,559 where the youngest child is under five years, or \$8,614 where the youngest child is aged five to 18 years.

More Help for Families Package

Under the More Help for Families Package announced in the 2004–05 Budget, an additional one-off payment of \$600 per Family Tax Benefit, Part A eligible child was paid before 30 June 2004.

A further Family Tax Benefit, Part A lump-sum of \$600 per child is also to be paid following reconciliation for each Family Tax Benefit, Part A child eligible during the 2003–04 year. This will be indexed and continued in future years.

4.3 Other allowances

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

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

Large Family Supplement

The Large Family Supplement payment is for families who have four or more Family Tax Benefit children. This payment is 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 \$109.20 per fortnight for triplets and \$145.60 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 2004 a couple with one or two children who pay more than \$314.86 rent per fortnight are eligible for a maximum payment of \$112.14 in Rent Assistance. (See also 5.4 'Rent Assistance'.)

Summary

- ▶ As at 25 June 2004, fortnightly payments of Family Tax Benefit assisted 1,840,004 families and 3,559,707 children.
- ▶ As at 25 June 2004, close to one-third (31.8 per cent) of Family Tax Benefit fortnightly customers resided in New South Wales, about one-quarter (24.3 per cent) in Victoria, and just over one-fifth (20.7 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 (77.3 and 77.7 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 2004 ^(a)

	CUSTOMERS NO.	CHILDREN NO.
Method 1		
Family Tax Benefit, Part A	1,809,122	3,499,686
Family Tax Benefit, Part B	1,205,760	2,297,091
Family Tax Benefit Total ^(b)	1,840,004	3,559,707
Method 2		
Family Tax Benefit, Part A and B	1,174,878	2,237,070
Family Tax Benefit, Part A only	634,244	1,262,616
Family Tax Benefit, Part B only	30,882	60,021
Family Tax Benefit Total	1,840,004	3,559,707

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'FAO Family Tax Benefit 2003-04 13 (25-06-04) Ver-01'.

(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 eligible for Family Tax Benefit, Part B payment, and vice versa.

Figure 6: Family Tax Benefit customers, June 2003 to June 2004

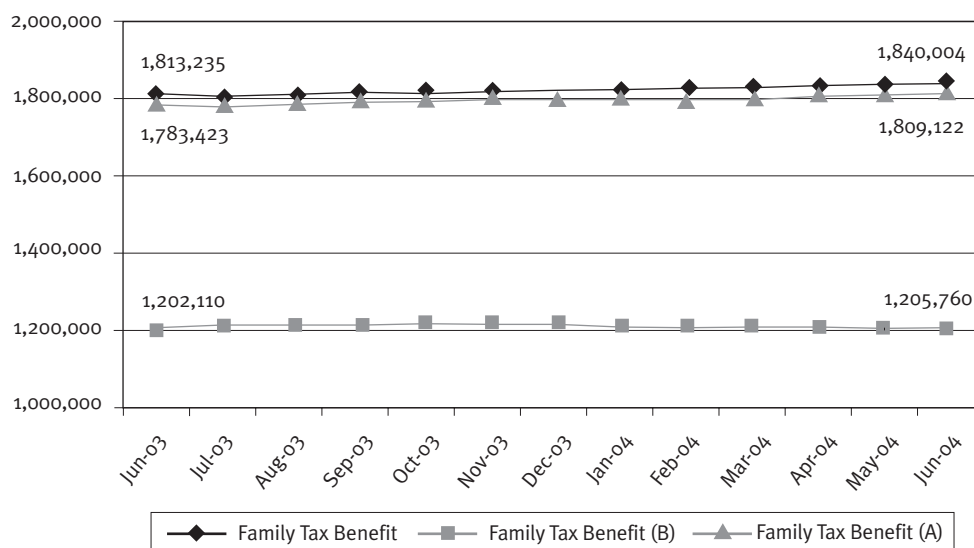


Table 50: Family Tax Benefit, Part A, customers and children by rate type, June 2004^(a)

RATE TYPE	CUSTOMERS		CHILDREN	
	NO.	%	NO.	%
Maximum Family Tax Benefit, Part A rate with income support payment, for example Newstart Allowance	473,444	26.2	886,748	25.3
Maximum Family Tax Benefit, Part A rate without income support payment	142,387	7.9	258,891	7.4
Part rate ^(b)	423,531	23.4	912,753	26.1
Base rate	721,391	39.9	1,332,099	38.0
Tapered base rate	46,968	2.6	106,339	3.0
Invalid code	1,401	0.1	2,856	0.1
Total	1,809,122	100.0	3,499,686	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'FAO Family Tax Benefit 2003-04 13 (25-06-04) Ver-01'.

(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 2004 ^(a)

AGE OF CHILD (YEARS)	CUSTOMERS		CHILDREN	
	NO.	%	NO.	%
Under 13	1,494,393	82.6	2,650,801	75.7
13-15	507,102	28.0	578,917	16.5
16-17	151,893	8.4	157,978	4.5
18-20	97,210	5.4	103,993	3.0
21-24	7,699	0.4	7,994	0.2
Unknown	3	0.0	3	0.0
Total ^(b)	1,809,122	100.0	3,499,686	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'FAO Family Tax Benefit 2003-04 13 (25-06-04) Ver-01'.

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

Table 52: Family Tax Benefit, Part B, customers by rate type and age of youngest child, June 2004 ^(a)

RATE TYPE AND AGE OF CHILD (YEARS)	CUSTOMERS	
	NO.	%
Maximum Rate Family Tax Benefit, Part B rate		
Child under 5 years	383,445	31.8
Child 5 years +	510,520	42.3
Invalid Code	8	0.0
Total	893,973	74.1
Part Rate Family Tax Benefit, Part B rate ^(b)		
Child under 5 years	204,521	17.0
Child 5 years +	107,261	8.9
Invalid code	5	0.0
Total	311,787	25.9
Total		
Child under 5 years	587,966	48.8
Child 5 years +	617,781	51.2
Invalid code	13	0.0
Total	1,205,760	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar Database 'FAO Family Tax Benefit 2003-04 13 (25-06-04) Ver-01'.

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

Table 53: Family Tax Benefit, customers and children by state/territory, June 2004 ^(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	573,655	31.7	1,111,298	31.8	389,031	32.3	740,704	32.2	585,888	31.8	1,135,265	31.9
Victoria	438,376	24.2	847,895	24.2	284,975	23.6	540,961	23.5	446,335	24.3	863,329	24.3
Queensland	375,854	20.8	731,647	20.9	251,079	20.8	484,865	21.1	380,673	20.7	741,044	20.8
Western Australia	181,462	10.0	352,893	10.1	125,262	10.4	240,093	10.5	185,015	10.1	359,692	10.1
South Australia	143,694	7.9	270,063	7.7	91,787	7.6	169,732	7.4	145,018	7.9	272,572	7.7
Tasmania	50,685	2.8	96,787	2.8	32,766	2.7	62,064	2.7	50,941	2.8	97,269	2.7
Australian Capital Territory	23,320	1.3	44,978	1.3	15,823	1.3	29,603	1.3	23,901	1.3	46,109	1.3
Northern Territory	21,318	1.2	42,197	1.2	14,850	1.2	28,733	1.3	21,470	1.2	42,491	1.2
Unknown	758	0.0	1,928	0.1	187	0.0	336	0.0	763	0.0	1,936	0.1
Total	1,809,122	100.0	3,499,686	100.0	1,205,760	100.0	2,297,091	100.0	1,840,004	100.0	3,559,707	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'FAO Family Tax Benefit 2003-04 13 (25-06-04) Ver-01'.

**Table 54: Family Tax Benefit customers, characteristics by payment type,
June 2004 ^(a)**

Family type	FAMILY TAX BENEFIT, PART A		FAMILY TAX BENEFIT, PART B		FAMILY TAX BENEFIT	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Partnered	1,207,273	66.7	610,626	50.6	1,236,712	67.2
Sole parents						0.0
Female	527,679	29.2	522,220	43.3	528,687	28.7
Male	73,918	4.1	72,801	6.0	74,351	4.0
All sole parents	601,597	33.3	595,021	49.3	603,038	32.8
Not specified	252	0.0	113	0.0	254	0.0
Total	1,809,122	100.0	1,205,760	100.0	1,840,004	100.0
Number of Family Tax Benefit, Part A and Family Tax Benefit, Part B: Children in the family						
One	683,314	37.8	493,114	40.9	–	–
Two	714,575	39.5	444,321	36.8	–	–
Three	298,663	16.5	189,113	15.7	–	–
Four	84,339	4.7	57,716	4.8	–	–
Five or more	28,231	1.6	21,467	1.8	–	–
Invalid code	0	0.0	29	0.0	–	–
Total	1,809,122	100.0	1,205,760	100.0	–	–
Country of Birth (top five countries)						
Australia	1,373,427	75.9	909,684	75.4	1,397,334	75.9
United Kingdom	76,313	4.2	50,355	4.2	78,190	4.2
New Zealand	47,700	2.6	35,151	2.9	48,525	2.6
Vietnam/Laos	35,526	2.0	26,314	2.2	35,653	1.9
China	26,496	1.5	17,552	1.5	26,643	1.4
Other	249,660	13.8	166,704	13.8	253,659	13.8
Total	1,809,122	100.0	1,205,760	100.0	1,840,004	100.0
Age of customer (years)						
Under 18	3,015	0.2	2,977	0.2	3,016	0.2
18–20	22,866	1.3	21,867	1.8	22,881	1.2
21–24	82,974	4.6	73,476	6.1	83,177	4.5
25–34	578,731	32.0	429,978	35.7	588,149	32.0
35–44	796,594	44.0	498,425	41.3	813,480	44.2
45–54	294,505	16.3	161,048	13.4	298,631	16.2
55–59	20,741	1.1	11,671	1.0	20,945	1.1
60–64	5,545	0.3	3,511	0.3	5,566	0.3
65+	4,016	0.2	2,807	0.2	4,024	0.2
Invalid code	135	0.0	0	0.0	135	0.0
Total	1,809,122	100.0	1,205,760	100.0	1,840,004	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'FAO Family Tax Benefit 2003-04 13 (25-06-04) Ver-01'.

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 2004 was \$45.20 per fortnight, per child. An additional component of Double Orphan Pension may be payable. It is equal to the difference between the Family Allowance/Family Tax Benefit received for the young person immediately before they became an orphan and the carer's entitlement to Family Tax Benefit for the young person.

Summary

- The increase in Double Orphan Pension customers in the early 1980s reflected the extension of the payment to refugee children in November 1981. As immigration programs changed in the mid-1980s, refugee numbers started to fall. Thus, the number of unaccompanied refugee children also declined. Ageing of the refugee population also led to a decline in customer numbers in the late 1980s and early 1990s.
- The average number of children for whom Double Orphan Pension is paid 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 (335 or 29.1 per cent) and children (463 or 30.7 per cent) were residing in New South Wales at June 2004. The proportion of these customers and children living in other states was:
 - 21.4 per cent and 21.7 per cent, respectively for Victoria;
 - 21.5 per cent and 20.6 per cent, respectively for Queensland
 - 12.4 per cent and 12.7 per cent, respectively for Western Australia.

Table 55: Double Orphan Pension, customers and children, June 1984 to June 2004 ^(a)

AS AT JUNE	CUSTOMERS		CHILDREN ^(b)				TOTAL	
	NO.	UNDER 16		OVER 16		NO.	%	
		NO.	%	NO.	%			
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	
2004	1,151	1,411	93.6	97	6.4	1,508	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 1984 to June 2004

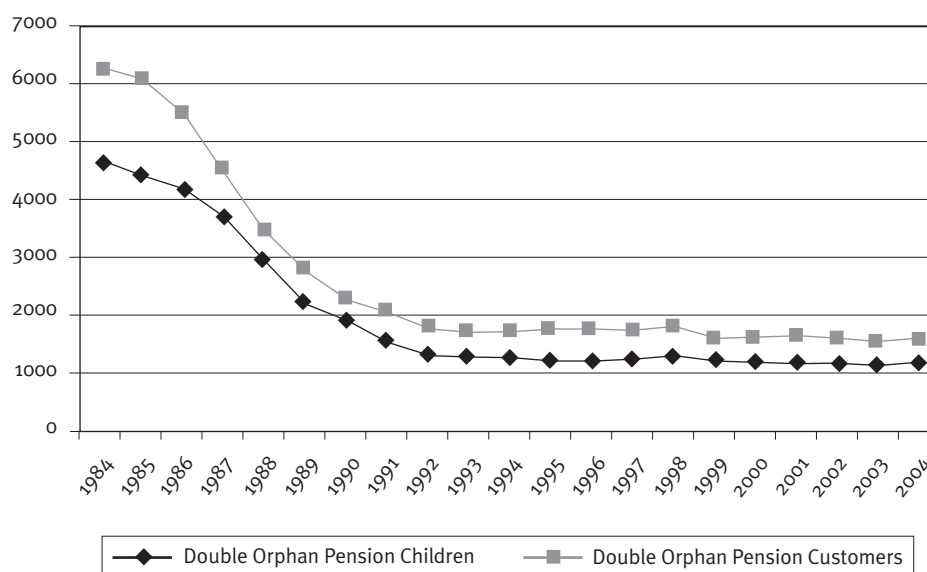


Table 56: Double Orphan Pension, customers and children, state/territory and age of children, June 2004 ^(a)

STATE/TERRITORY	CUSTOMERS		CHILDREN ^(b)					
	NO.	%	UNDER 16		16 AND OVER		TOTAL	
			NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	335	29.1	433	30.7	30	30.9	463	30.7
Victoria	246	21.4	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	327	21.7
Queensland	247	21.5	288	20.4	23	23.7	311	20.6
Western Australia	143	12.4	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	192	12.7
South Australia	101	8.8	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	120	8.0
Tasmania	35	3.0	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	45	3.0
Australian Capital Territory	29	2.5	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	33	2.2
Northern Territory	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Unknown ^(c)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Total	1,151	100.0	1,411	100.0	97	100.0	1,508	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Double Orphan Pension 2003-04 13 (25-06-04) 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 2004, Maternity Allowance was \$842.64 per child and Maternity Immunisation Allowance was \$210.66 per child.

Summary

- ▶ In 2003–04, the total number of customers who received Maternity Allowance was 209,218 and the total number of children was 211,589.
- ▶ The number of customers who received Maternity Immunisation Allowance during this period was 203,658 and the total number of children was 205,431.

Table 57: Maternity Allowance and Maternity Immunisation Allowance customers, June 2004^(a)

PAYMENT TYPE	FAMILIES NO.	CHILDREN NO.
Maternity Allowance	209,218	211,589
Maternity Immunisation Allowance	203,658	205,431

(a) Data is based on the number of customers who received a payment at any time in 2003–04. 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, 2003–04 ^(a)

STATE/TERRITORY ^(b)	NO.
New South Wales	223,881
Victoria	158,353
Queensland	177,326
Western Australia	59,321
South Australia	54,482
Tasmania	17,277
Australian Capital Territory	13,981
Northern Territory	6,692
Total ^(c)	703,975

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's Administrative data at June 2004.

(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, 2003–04 ^(a)

SERVICE TYPE	NO.
Long day care ^(b)	462,138
Community long day care	145,026
Private long day care	336,803
Family day care	111,310
Occasional care	16,242
Outside school hours care	179,728
Vacation care	135,914
Total ^(c)	703,975

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's Administrative data at June 2004.

(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, 2003–04^(a)

RATE TYPE	NO.	%
Full rate	250,160	35.5
Part rate ^(b)	321,968	45.7
Minimum rate	109,071	15.5
Undetermined ^(c)	201	0.0
Lump Sum	22,575	3.2
Total	703,975	100.0

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's Administrative data at June 2004.

(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, 2003–04^(a)

QUARTER	NO.
September 2003	34,399
December 2003	32,137
March 2004	34,999
June 2004	37,590

(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 2004^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	FEMALE	
	NO.	%
Widow B Pension customers	1,879	100.0
Age (years)		
60–64	1,053	56.0
65 and over	826	44.0
Rate		
Full rate	1,409	75.0
Part rate	470	25.0
Paid under income test		
<i>Income as assessed (\$ per week)</i>		
Nil	377	20.1
0.01–60.00	1,018	54.2
60.01–68.30	55	2.9
Over 68.30	410	21.8
Paid under assets test		
<i>Assets as assessed (\$)</i>		
Under 125,750	n.p.	n.p.
125,750 to 215,750	n.p.	–
Over 215,750	n.p.	–
Home ownership		
Home owner	887	47.2
Non-home owner	992	52.8
Country of birth (top five countries)		
Australia	726	38.6
Italy	336	17.9
United Kingdom/Ireland/Eire	195	10.4
Greece	195	10.4
Malta	58	3.1
Other	369	19.6

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Pensions 2004 Qtr 2 (11-06-04) Ver-01'.

Table 63: Widow B Pension customers by state/territory, June 1999 to June 2004^(a)

STATE/TERRITORY	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
New South Wales	3,050	29.0	2,520	28.3	1,728	26.8	1,306	25.5	644	21.6	319	17.0
Victoria	2,352	22.4	1,993	22.4	1,383	21.4	1,041	20.3	494	16.5	266	14.2
Queensland	1,749	16.6	1,457	16.4	1,016	15.7	770	15.0	374	12.5	196	10.4
Western Australia	800	7.6	645	7.3	454	7.0	352	6.9	167	5.6	78	4.2
South Australia	833	7.9	680	7.6	460	7.1	346	6.7	177	5.9	84	4.5
Tasmania	279	2.7	238	2.7	174	2.7	133	2.6	65	2.2	32	1.7
Australian Capital Territory	110	1.0	87	1.0	59	0.9	48	0.9	26	0.9	n.p.	–
Northern Territory	93	0.9	73	0.8	45	0.7	36	0.7	n.p.	–	n.p.	–
Other ^(b)	1,253	11.9	1,199	13.5	1,137	17.6	1,098	21.4	^(c) –	–	880	46.8
Total	10,519	100.0	8,892	100.0	6,456	100.0	5,130	100.0	2,986	100.0	1,879	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) The precise total for 'Other' for 2003 is not reported, as this would allow small cell data to be inferred in breach of confidentiality requirements. The total for 'Other' 2003 is in the range 1,019 to 1,039.

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 2004 ^(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
2004	70	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 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 2004 ^(a)

CHARACTERISTICS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Total	129,241	100.0	158,085	100.0	287,326	100.0
Age (years)						
60-64	0	0.0	22,967	14.5	22,967	8.0
65-69	45,753	35.4	47,841	30.3	93,594	32.6
70-74	37,744	29.2	33,370	21.1	71,114	24.8
75-79	27,096	21.0	25,695	16.3	52,791	18.4
80-84	11,846	9.2	15,999	10.1	27,845	9.7
85-89	4,814	3.7	8,187	5.2	13,001	4.5
90-94	1,662	1.3	3,207	2.0	4,869	1.7
95+	326	0.3	819	0.5	1,145	0.4
Status						
Couple	103,378	80.0	100,117	63.3	203,495	70.8
Single	25,863	20.0	57,968	36.7	83,831	29.2
State/territory						
New South Wales	46,968	36.3	58,323	36.9	105,291	36.6
Victoria	31,481	24.4	38,998	24.7	70,479	24.5
Queensland	23,192	17.9	27,471	17.4	50,663	17.6
Western Australia	12,069	9.3	14,633	9.3	26,702	9.3
South Australia	9,011	7.0	10,632	6.7	19,643	6.8
Tasmania	2,585	2.0	3,082	1.9	5,667	2.0
Australian Capital Territory	2,435	1.9	3,234	2.0	5,669	2.0
Northern Territory	393	0.3	416	0.3	809	0.3
Other (includes overseas)	1,107	0.9	1,296	0.8	2,403	0.8

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Concession Cards 2004 06 (11-06-04) 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 principal home
- ▶ be an Australian resident in Australia (except for temporary absences 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 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 2004, there were 949,698 'income units' in receipt of Rent Assistance. Newstart Allowance customers made up 19 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 \$277 per fortnight. The average amount of Rent Assistance received was \$78 per fortnight.

Table 66: Rent Assistance income units, average rent and Rent Assistance by primary payment, June 2004^(a)

PRIMARY PAYMENT TYPE^(b)	INCOME UNITS NO. ^(c)	AVERAGE RENT \$ PER FORTNIGHT ^(f)	AVERAGE RENT ASSISTANCE \$ PER FORTNIGHT ^(f)
Age Pension	162,602	241	72
Disability Support Pension	173,825	243	79
Newstart Allowance	182,984	249	74
Parenting Payment (Single)	200,460	329	90
Parenting Payment (Partnered) ^(d)	27,492	391	102
Youth Allowance	87,940	208	63
Family Tax Benefit, Part A only ^(e)	77,469	405	76
Other payments	36,926	263	77
Total	949,698	277	78

(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 11 June 2004, 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 348,000 families were paid Rent Assistance with Family Tax Benefit in June 2004.

(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 11 June 2004.

Note: Income units were sourced from Centrelink's SuperStar database 'Rent Assistance (Income units) 2004 Qtr 2 (11-06-04) Ver-01'. Average Rent and Average Rent Assistance were derived from the Census of Income Support Customers June 2004.

Table 67: Rent Assistance income units by primary payment type and sex, June 2004^(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	162,602	17.1	30,480	87,763	44,359
Disability Support Pension	173,825	18.3	13,419	71,149	89,257
Newstart Allowance	182,984	19.3	7,092	75,955	99,937
Parenting Payment (Single)	200,460	21.1	–	185,897	14,563
Parenting Payment (Partnered) ^(d)	27,492	2.9	251	24,998	2,243
Youth Allowance	87,940	9.3	1,154	52,240	34,546
Family Tax Benefit, Part A only ^(e)	77,469	8.2	357	65,369	11,743
Other payments	36,926	3.9	3,874	22,663	10,389
Total	949,698	100.0	56,627	586,034	307,037

(a) to (e) See previous table.

Table 68: Rent Assistance rates, 20 March 2004 to 30 June 2004 ^(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	95.40	84.80	212.00
Single, no children, sharer	63.60	84.80	169.60
Single, 1 or 2 children	112.14	111.72	261.24
Single, 3 or more children	126.70	111.72	280.65
Couple, no children (combined)	90.20	138.20	258.47
Couple, 1 or 2 children (combined)	112.14	165.34	314.86
Couple, 3 or more children (combined)	126.70	165.34	334.27
One of a couple who are separated due to illness, no children	95.40	84.80	212.00
One of a couple who are temporarily separated, no children	90.20	84.80	205.07

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's 'A Guide to Australian Government Payments 20 March – 30 June 2004'.

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 years AWLR are paid the full basic means-tested rate of pension if they leave Australia permanently.

Portability rules introduced on 1 July 2004

From 1 July 2004, all payments are generally portable for temporary absences of up to 13 weeks. Age Pension can be paid overseas indefinitely.

Portability is defined in terms of ‘payability’—that is, as long as a person qualifies for a payment, the payment can generally be paid for a temporary absence of up to 13 weeks. Ancillary payments such as Rent Assistance and Pharmaceutical Allowance, are generally also portable for temporary absences of up to 13 weeks or 26 weeks in the case of an Age Pension.

6.2 Australia’s agreements as at June 2004

Australia has social security agreements with 14 countries—Austria, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain and the United States of America.

Agreements with Chile and Croatia also came into force from 1 July 2004.

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 and are eligible to receive overseas pensions, known as 'comparable foreign payments'.

Under the comparable foreign payments legislation, customers may be required to claim their overseas pension if they are entitled.

Legislation requires customers who are likely to be eligible for a foreign payment to claim that payment which helps to 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 2004 on Australia's pension payments to people living overseas was A\$399.9 million. At the same time, pensions from overseas countries being paid to people residing in Australia totalled A\$1.12 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 1982 to June 2004 ^(a)

AS AT JUNE ^(a)	AGE PENSION	DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION	WIFE PENSION	WIDOW B PENSION	PARENTING PAYMENT ^(b)	TOTAL
1982	9,159	3,619	2,060	1,580	1,224	17,642
1983	9,640	3,800	2,166	1,681	1,334	18,621
1984	10,112	4,313	2,482	1,825	1,497	20,229
1985	11,220	5,111	2,918	1,967	1,717	22,933
1986	11,860	5,799	3,322	2,041	1,786	24,808
1987	12,201	6,237	3,553	2,127	1,698	25,816
1988	11,474	6,402	3,608	2,291	1,266	25,041
1989	12,670	7,105	3,883	2,492	956	27,106
1990	13,996	7,504	4,385	2,385	199	28,469
1991	16,658	7,814	4,755	1,845	167	31,239
1992	19,846	8,148	4,682	1,790	159	34,625
1993	23,948	8,455	3,478	1,683	154	37,718
1994	27,287	8,493	3,594	1,665	136	41,175
1995	29,712	8,780	3,807	1,658	121	44,078
1996	32,288	9,074	4,045	1,684	110	47,201
1997	35,662	9,061	3,867	1,526	89	50,205
1998	38,136	8,964	3,572	1,391	76	52,139
1999	38,136	8,964	3,718	1,251	55	52,124
2000	42,066	8,707	2,943	1,156	43	54,915
2001	43,280	8,686	2,689	1,141	42	55,838
2002	44,150	8,485	2,098	1,082	38	55,853
2003	45,399	8,129	998	1,875	23	56,424
2004	47,259	7,867	1,773	859	–	57,758

(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, June 2004 ^(a)

COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE	AGE PENSION	DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION	OTHER ^(b)	TOTAL
Europe				
Austria	1,008	n.p.	n.p.	1,134
Belgium	130	n.p.	n.p.	138
Bosnia/Herzegovina	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	20
Croatia	167	n.p.	n.p.	199
Czech Republic	41	n.p.	n.p.	44
Denmark	91	n.p.	n.p.	105
Finland	57	n.p.	n.p.	68
France	397	n.p.	n.p.	427
Germany	1,507	n.p.	n.p.	1,584
Greece	691	105	69	865
Hungary	106	n.p.	n.p.	118
Ireland	178	n.p.	n.p.	191
Italy	18,793	457	1,279	20,529
Macedonia (Former Republic of Yugoslavia)	140	n.p.	n.p.	175
Malta	1,823	886	60	2,769
Netherlands	6,353	n.p.	n.p.	6,381
Poland	47	n.p.	n.p.	57
Portugal	453	n.p.	n.p.	596
Serbia & Montenegro	128	n.p.	n.p.	189
Slovenia	59	n.p.	n.p.	63
Spain	2,670	255	40	2,965
Sweden	37	n.p.	n.p.	38
Switzerland	184	n.p.	n.p.	192
United Kingdom	3,239	110	156	3,505
Other Europe ^(c)	45	n.p.	n.p.	49
Total Europe	38,354	2,331	1,716	42,401
Americas				
Argentina	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Canada	2,511	77	35	2,623
Chile	51	n.p.	n.p.	63
United States of America	466	n.p.	n.p.	485
Uruguay	27	n.p.	n.p.	34
Other Americas ^(d)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Total Americas	3,080	108	49	3,237
Asia				
Total Asia ^(e)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	31
Africa/Middle East				
Cyprus	373	n.p.	n.p.	443
Israel	38	n.p.	n.p.	41
Turkey	88	n.p.	n.p.	149
Other Africa/Middle East ^(f)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	30
Africa/Middle East Totals	527	n.p.	n.p.	663
Oceania				
Total Oceania ^(g)	1,471	n.p.	n.p.	1,521
Total	43,462	2,601	1,790	47,853

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's Administrative data as at June 2004.

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

(c) Comprised of Bulgaria, Estonia, Gibraltar, Isle of Man, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Norway, Romania, Slovakia and other European countries not elsewhere classified (n.e.c).

(d) Comprised of Bermuda, Brazil, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Netherlands Antilles, Peru and other North and South American countries n.e.c.

- (e) Comprised of Hong Kong, India, Japan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and other Asian countries n.e.c.
 (f) Comprised of Botswana, Egypt, Ghana, Lebanon, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa and other African/Middle Eastern countries n.e.c.
 (g) Comprised of Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Norfolk Island, Western Samoa and other Oceania countries n.e.c.

**Table 71: Persons paid by Australia under a social security agreement —
 agreement country and payment type, June 2004 ^(a)**

AGREEMENT COUNTRY	AGE PENSION	OTHER ^(b)	TOTAL
Austria	808	52	869
Canada	1,035	48	1,083
Cyprus	250	26	276
Denmark	n.p.	n.p.	66
Germany	590	29	619
Ireland	185	21	206
Italy	16,262	904	17,166
Malta	1,874	1,244	3,118
Netherlands	n.p.	n.p.	4,161
Portugal	367	133	500
Spain	2,540	311	2,851
United States of America	n.p.	n.p.	193
Total	28,326	2,802	31,128

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's Administrative data as at June 2004.

(b) Includes Disability Support Pension, 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 2004 ^(a)

ZONE	COUNTRY	AGE		TOTAL
		PENSION	OTHER ^(b)	
Europe	Austria	875	67	942
	Belgium	n.p.	n.p.	28
	Bosnia/Herzegovina	68	74	142
	Bulgaria	n.p.	n.p.	28
	Croatia	779	433	1,212
	Czech Republic	93	30	123
	Denmark	n.p.	n.p.	82
	Finland	n.p.	n.p.	71
	France	n.p.	n.p.	141
	Germany	762	52	814
	Greece	5,311	2,525	7,836
	Hungary	322	66	388
	Ireland	338	39	377
	Italy	18,232	1,380	19,612
	Latvia	n.p.	n.p.	27
	Lithuania	n.p.	n.p.	28
	Macedonia (Former Republic of Yugoslavia)	627	395	1,022
	Malta	2,209	1,588	3,797
	Netherlands	4,293	37	4,330
	Poland	214	84	298
	Portugal	761	331	1,092
	Romania	n.p.	n.p.	44
	Serbia & Montenegro	534	485	1,019
	Slovakia	n.p.	n.p.	32
	Slovenia	105	27	132
	Spain	3,184	497	3,681
	Sweden	n.p.	n.p.	26
	Switzerland	n.p.	n.p.	28
	United Kingdom	2,320	344	2,664
	Other Europe ^(c)	n.p.	n.p.	53
Total Europe	41,509	8,650	50,069	
Americas	Argentina	78	52	130
	Brazil	n.p.	n.p.	30
	Canada	1,144	70	1,214
	Chile	140	65	205
	Colombia	n.p.	n.p.	28
	Ecuador	n.p.	n.p.	21
	United States of America	513	73	586
	Uruguay	149	60	209
	Other Americas ^(d)	n.p.	n.p.	56
	Total Americas	2,093	386	2,479
Asia	China	n.p.	n.p.	33
	Hong Kong	n.p.	n.p.	53
	India	n.p.	n.p.	35
	Philippines	124	46	170
	Thailand	34	22	56
	Other Asia ^(e)	75	26	101
	Total Asia	324	124	448

Pensioners paid overseas

Africa/Middle East	Cyprus	593	168	761
	Egypt	50	59	109
	Israel	n.p.	n.p.	129
	Lebanon	410	215	625
	Mauritius	n.p.	n.p.	25
	South Africa	n.p.	n.p.	43
	Syrian Arab Republic	26	34	60
	Turkey	596	844	1,440
	Other Africa/Middle East ^(f)	28	24	52
Total Africa/Middle East	1,880	1,364	3,244	
Oceania	Fiji	n.p.	n.p.	22
	New Zealand	1,383	48	1,431
	Papua New Guinea	n.p.	n.p.	27
	Other Oceania ^(g)	n.p.	n.p.	38
	Total Oceania	1,453	65	1,518
Total	47,259	10,499	57,758	

(a) Sourced from Centrelink's Administrative data as at June 2004.

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

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

(d) Comprised of El Salvador, 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 and Other Oceania countries n.e.c.

