

# Carers Placemat: *Carer Gateway, Government Payments and Data Sources*

## Key statistics – unpaid carers

**Primary Carers:**  
**861, 000 (2018 SDAC)**

SDAC primary carer: a person aged 15 years and over who provides the most informal assistance to a person for core activities.

### Carer Recognition Act 2010 defines a carer as:

‘an individual who provides personal care, support and assistance to another individual who needs it because that other individual has a disability, a medical condition (including a terminal or chronic illness), a mental illness; or is frail and aged.’

#### 2.65 Million (2018 SDAC)

- The Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) defines carers as a person who provides any informal assistance to people with disability (any limitation which restricts everyday activities and has lasted at least six months) or older people (aged 65 years and over).

#### 2.48 Million (2021 Census)

- Carers are those providing unpaid assistance to others with a disability, long-term health condition or due to old age (SCOPE: those aged 15yrs and over, those who have provided care in the last two weeks).

### Demographic Highlights

- Younger carers are over represented in Carer Gateway registrations (6%) compared to payment recipients (1-2%) and 9% of carers in SDAC.
- Older carers are over represented in Carer Gateway registration (36%) compared to 30% on carer allowance and 17% of carers in SDAC (2018).

### Carer Gateway Service Highlights

- Very remote carers enter the program with lower wellbeing than the overall population.
- 58% of carers in the reporting period from June 2022 to December 2022 only accessed one service type.
- Around 45% of clients registered in the program since its inception in April 2020, have received a service other than ‘intake and assessment’, ‘information/advice/referral’, or ‘service review’.

### Emergency Respite

- Emergency respite sessions this period represent 9.4% of the total number of all sessions delivered, a significant decrease from the previous period.
- 34% of carers who accessed emergency respite from June 2022 to December 2022, also accessed preventative services.
- For a carer who has previously received a preventative service, the number of days between emergency respite sessions is approximately 50 days, compared to a carer who has not had any preventative sessions has an average of 25 days between instances of emergency respite.

## Australian Government payments

**Carer Payment** provides income support to **304,500** people who, because of the demands of their caring role, are unable to support themselves through substantial paid employment.

**Carer Allowance** is a supplementary payment for **630,685** carers who provide daily care for people who need significant additional care. An annual partnered income test threshold of \$250,000 applies.

**277,935** (91%) of those receiving Carer Payment are also receiving Carer Allowance.

## Service Supports - Carer Gateway

Carer Gateway began in April 2020, and is an Australian Government program providing free services and support for carers. These services range from in-person and online peer support groups to counselling and respite services.

As at June 2023, there were **163,403** carers registered with Carer Gateway.

**158,264** of Carer Gateway clients were able to be linked to DSS payment data, of those **61,534** (39%) were accessing a carer payment (as at June 2023).

## Other Government Supports

- National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)
- My Aged Care

