

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

Selected demographics – Carer Payments/Carer Allowance, Carer Gateway							Data sources			
Payments							DEX (used for Carer Gateway reporting)		SDAC (alternative definitions, not used in performance reporting)	
Carers receiving Carer Allowance: 630,685			Carers receiving both payments: 277,935 (91% of those receiving Carer Payment) * <i>as at March 2023</i>				CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) When reporting on CALD carers using Carer Gateway services, DEX uses the definition: <i>A client is considered Culturally and Linguistically Diverse where their country of birth is NOT Australia and their main spoken language is NOT English or Not Stated.</i>		CALD This definition differs from SDAC, which defines a called carer through the following definition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>The CALD cohort includes people born in countries other than main English-speaking countries, and/or those who mainly speak a language other than English at home.</i><i>People born in main English-speaking countries who mainly speak English at home, and/or those who are nonverbal, use Auslan, or speak an Australian Indigenous language are non-CALD.</i>	
Carers receiving Carer Payment: 304,500										
Carers Allowance: Demographics		Number and Percentage of Recipients		Carer Payment: Demographics		Number and Percentage of Recipients				
Gender	Female	469,305	74%	Gender	Female	216,250	71%			
	Male	161,380	26%		Male	88,250	29%			
First Nations		29,350	5%	First Nations		20,290	7%			
Age	Young carers	7,850	1%		Age	Young carers	7,050	2%		
	Older carers	189,340	30%	Older carers		60,845	20%			
Recipient income support payment type	Carer Payment	277,935	44%	Age						
	Age Pension	96,210	15%							
	Disability Support Pension	23,345	4%							
	No income support payment	204,750	33%							
Carer Gateway							Other definitions and data sources		Definitions	
Total carers registered with Carer Gateway: 163,403 <i>(as at June 2023)</i>							CALD		When reporting on CALD carers using Carer Gateway services, DEX uses the definition: <i>A client is considered Culturally and Linguistically Diverse where their country of birth is NOT Australia and their main spoken language is NOT English or Not Stated.</i>	
							First Nations		When reporting on First Nations carers using Carer Gateway services, the department relies on individuals to self identify.	
							Carer Payment		Carer Payment provides income support to people who, because of the demands of their caring role, are unable to support themselves through substantial paid employment.	
							Carer Allowance		Carer Allowance is a supplementary payment for carers who provide a certain level of daily care and attention for people who need significant additional care. An annual partnered income test threshold of \$250,000 applies.	
							Deloitte Access Economics Report		<i>‘The Value of informal care in 2020’</i> is a report by Deloitte Access Economics, commissioned by Carers Australia. The Department use this report to determine the economic value of informal care.	
							Carer Wellbeing Survey (CWS)		Commissioned by Carers Australia and facilitated by the University of Canberra, held annually since 2021.	
							Carer Payment/Allowance Survey		Conducted in 2020 and 2022 under the Carer Gateway Evaluations	
Selected Demographics		Number of Carers		Percentage of Carers registered with Carer Gateway local service providers						
Female		122,233		75%						
First Nations		6,733		4%						
CALD		9,583		6%						
Reported disability		26,813		16%						
Young carers (under 25yrs)		9,013		6%						
Older carers (65yrs and over)		59,391		36%						
Major cities		102,519		63%						
Regional (inner and outer)		57,853		35%						
Remote/very remote		3,028		2%						

Categories are not mutually exclusive