

Table 1: Income Support⁽⁹⁾ recipients numbers as at June

	Disability Support Pension	Sickness Allowance	Newstart Allowance	Youth Allowance (other) ⁽¹⁾	Mature Age Allowance ⁽²⁾	Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance	Parenting Payment (Single)	Parenting Payment (Partnered)	Parenting Payment Total
1994-95	464,430	46,800*	773,659	N/A	38,900	216,739	8,829 ⁽³⁾	324,941	N/A ⁽⁴⁾	324,941
1995-96	490,300	34,500 ⁽⁵⁾	812,400	N/A	45,900	69,800 ⁽⁶⁾	11,748	341,960	632,605	974,565
1996-97	527,500	15,600	798,000 ⁽⁷⁾	N/A	53,400	72,100	17,593 ⁽⁸⁾	358,893	664,866	1,023,759
1997-98	553,383	16,285	837,636	N/A	50,800	75,000	24,656	372,286	645,731	1,018,017
1998-99	577,682	11,724	684,737	84,210	46,696	80,498	27,524	382,323	622,321	1,004,644
1999-00	602,280	10,733*	613,285	83,290	41,513	87,894	32,408	391,393	592,077	983,470
2000-01	623,926	10,942	575,971	84,452	38,903	92,106	36,786	416,661	205,379 ⁽⁹⁾	622,040
2001-02	658,915	9,522	545,535	87,304	40,125	102,325	41,271	427,846	191,576	619,422
2002-03	673,334	8,755 ⁽¹⁰⁾	512,332	90,971	41,070*	102,805*	43,202	436,958	181,405	618,363
2003-04	696,742	8,478	483,093	84,665	32,905	90,930	45,315	449,312	177,157	626,469

General Notes:

Data in this table has been primarily sourced from DSS/FaCS Annual Reports. Where there have been revisions to Annual Report data these have been sourced from administrative data. For example, Newstart Allowance figures for 1997-98 – 1999-00 are different from FaCS Annual Report figures as they reflect the revised methodology for counting recipient numbers introduced by FaCS in July 2002. Data for 2000-01 to 2003-04 uses a consistent definition, that is, excluding zero paid recipients and Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) participants. Original figures for recipient numbers updated in subsequent year's Annual Report are denoted by (*). Data is for June each year except Parenting Payment, Parenting Payment (partnered), Parenting Payment (single) which is based on point in time April to June quarter data for each financial year. Prior to March 1998, Parenting Payment (single) and Parenting Payment (partnered) were known respectively as Sole Parent Pension and Parenting Allowance.

Footnotes:

- ⁽¹⁾ Figures in this column list Youth Allowance (other) data only. Youth Allowance (YA) includes YA (other), administered by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) and YA (full-time students) administered by the Department of Education Science and Technology (DEST) since October 2004. YA was introduced on 1 July 1998. YA amalgamated five payments administered by the Department of Social Security (Youth Training Allowance, More than the Minimum Family Payment, Newstart Allowance and Sickness Allowance for 16 to 20-year-olds) and DEWR (AUSTUDY) for students aged 16 to 24). It replaced AUSTUDY for 16-24-year-olds and NSA, Youth Training Allowance and Sickness Allowance for under 21-year-olds. It also replaced Family Payment for 16 to 18-year-old secondary students. Source: DSS Annual Report, 1997-98 page 119.
- ⁽²⁾ Mature Age Allowance was introduced as an allowance payment on 1 July 1996. Prior to this it was paid as pension payment. Source: DSS Annual Report, 1996-97, page 125.
- ⁽³⁾ Widow Allowance (WA) was introduced on 1 January 1995. Figures for 1994-95 are for a six-month period only.
- ⁽⁴⁾ Parenting payment (partnered) (PPP) was not available prior to 1995-96. See footnote 6.
- ⁽⁵⁾ In 1996-97, the number of Sickness Allowance (SA) recipients decreased from 34,500 to 15,600, a decrease of 55 per cent. This decrease was the result of new rules implemented on 20 March 1996 which restricted qualification for SA to: (a) people who have a job to return to; or (b) former students who have lost their AUSTUDY or ABSTUDY payment as a result of their illness or injury and who intend to resume their study. The decrease in Sickness Allowance numbers was offset by an increase in the number of people receiving Newstart Allowance or Youth Training Allowance who are exempted from satisfying the activity test because of a temporary incapacity for work. Source: DSS Annual Report, 1996-97 pages 83-84.
- ⁽⁶⁾ The significant decrease in the number of Partner Allowance (PA) recipients from June 1995 to June 1996 results from the bulk of PA recipients transferring to Parenting Allowance. Source: DSS Annual Report, 1995-96 page 292.
- ⁽⁷⁾ Newstart Allowance (NSA) figures presented for 1994-95 and 1995-96 consist of numbers for both NSA and Job Search Allowance (JSA). In September 1996, JSA and NSA were combined into a single payment called Newstart Allowance. Source: DSS Annual Report, 1996-97, page 105.
- ⁽⁸⁾ The increase in the number of women receiving Widow Allowance (WA) from June 1996 to June 1997 can be attributed to a number of measures. These include, from March 1997 the extension of eligibility for WA to women aged at least 50 years who became widowed, divorced or separated after turning 40 years of age, the ongoing phase out of Widow B Pension and the increase in the Aged Pension qualifying age for women. Source: DSS Annual Report, 1996-97 page 218.
- ⁽⁹⁾ Parenting Payment (Partnered) numbers for 1995-96 to 1999-2000 include recipients of both benefit-Parenting Payment (Partnered) and non-benefit Parenting Payment (partnered). Only recipients of benefit-Parenting Payment (Partnered) were defined as income support recipients. Non-benefit Parenting Payment (partnered) recipients had partner income that reduced their rate of benefit-PPP to zero and they received Basic Parenting Payment Partnered only. From 1 July 2000 non-benefit PPP was abolished and replaced by Family Tax Benefit Part B. This led to a reduction in the number of recipients of Parenting Payment (partnered).
- ⁽¹⁰⁾ The Sickness Allowance (SA) figure for 2002-03 updates the equivalent SA figure contained in the 2002-03 FaCS Annual Report to exclude zero paid recipients.

