



National Disability Services

# Disability Data Snapshot

## Prevalence of disability

### Disability is a common yet varied experience

Of the 21.783 million people in Australia at the time of the census in 2009: <sup>1</sup>	% of population
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.026 million people had one or more disabilities (including 0.539 million people who did not report a specific limitation or restriction)</li> </ul>	18.5%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.144 million people had a core activity* limitation</li> <li>+ 0.343 million people had a schooling or employment restriction only</li> </ul>	
People with core activity limitations:	14.4%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.874 million people had a mild to moderate core activity* limitation</li> <li>+ 1.271 million people had a profound or severe core activity** limitation</li> </ul>	8.6%
	5.8%

\* Core activities comprise communication, mobility and /or self-care  
 \*\*Severe or profound limitation means sometimes or always need help with a core activity

The disability rate increases with age with 3.4% of children under 5 affected by disability, 18% of 45-54 year olds, 31% of 55-64 year olds and 40% of those aged 65 to 69.

In 2011, 6.1% of Australian indigenous males and 5.4% of indigenous females reported severe or profound disability compared to 4.5% of non-indigenous males and 5.2% of non-indigenous females.<sup>2</sup>

## Disability support service users

### Need for disability support is growing

★ About 3.7% of people aged 5-64 have a profound or severe disability.

**Trend:** The number of people with severe or profound disability is estimated to increase from 1.271 million to over 2.2 million by 2030 due to population growth and aging<sup>3</sup>.

### Increasing numbers of people are using disability support services

In 2010–11, **314,252** people used disability support services funded under the National Disability Agreement (NDA), an increase of 7% from 2009–10 and of 45% from 2005–06<sup>4</sup>.

In 2011-12, **207,315** people aged under 65 (or under 50 for indigenous Australians) used Home and Community Care Services (HACC).<sup>5</sup>

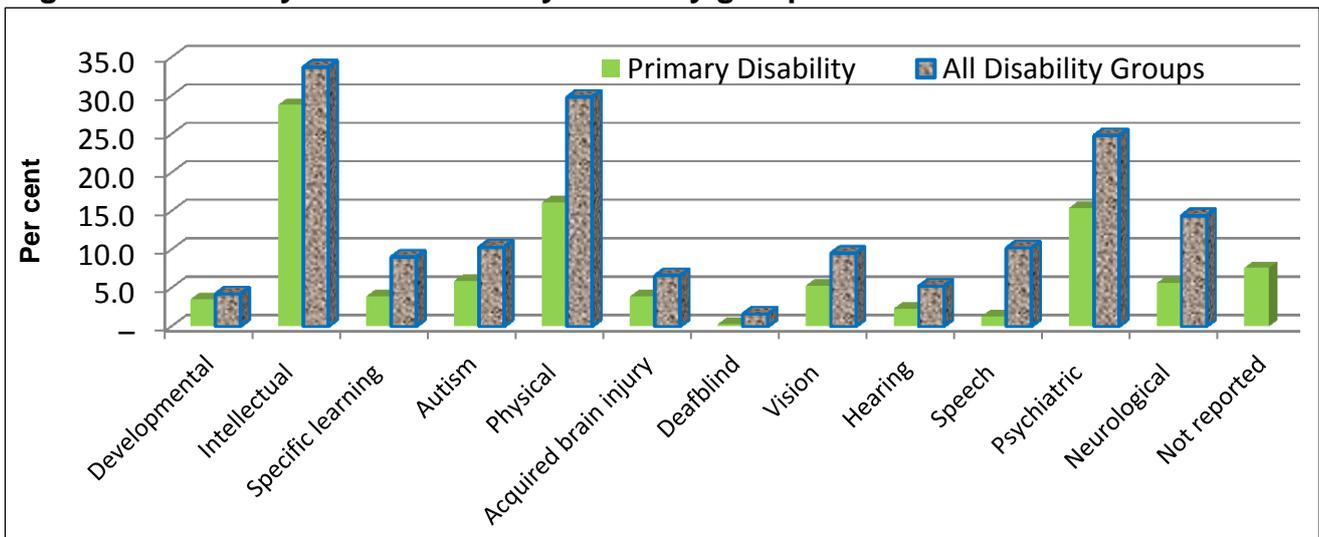
**Trends:** Since 2003 numbers of people using community support and employment services have increased significantly by 77% and almost 100% respectively. In contrast the numbers of users in other categories have only increased by about 20%.<sup>6</sup>

## Intellectual disability is most common amongst disability service users

About one third of disability service users have an intellectual disability. Almost 30% have a physical disability but only 16% report physical as the primary disability (Figure 1).

**Trend:** Psychiatric disability, as the primary disability, has increased from 8% of disability service users in 2003-04 to 15% in 2010-11. This corresponds with a decrease in the proportion who report intellectual disability as the primary disability, from 40% in 2003-04 to 29% in 2010-11.

**Figure 1: Disability service users by disability group in 2010-2011<sup>7</sup>**

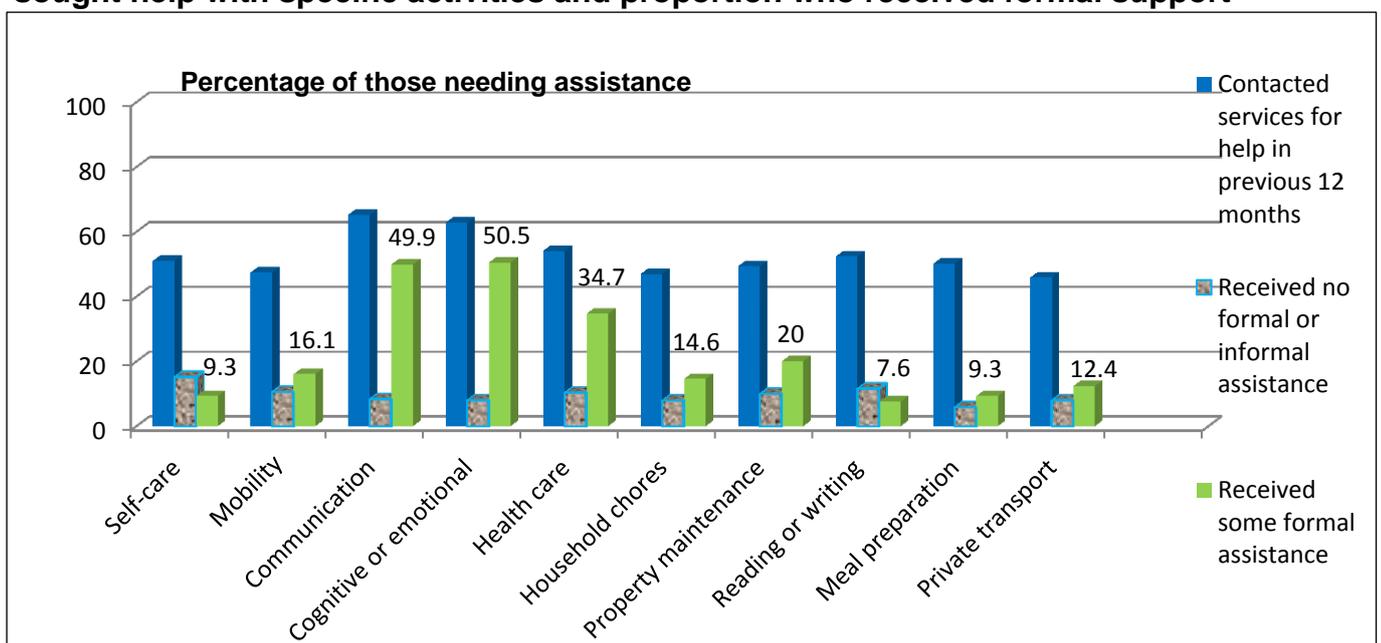


## Funded support is not accessed by everyone who might require it

In 2009, about half of people under 65 years with a severe or profound disability contacted services for help within the previous year.<sup>8</sup>

- ★ Half of the people who needed assistance with self-care or meal preparation contacted service providers for help, but only 9.3% received this support (Figure 2).<sup>9</sup>

**Figure 2: Proportion of people with profound or severe disability, under 65, who sought help with specific activities and proportion who received formal support**



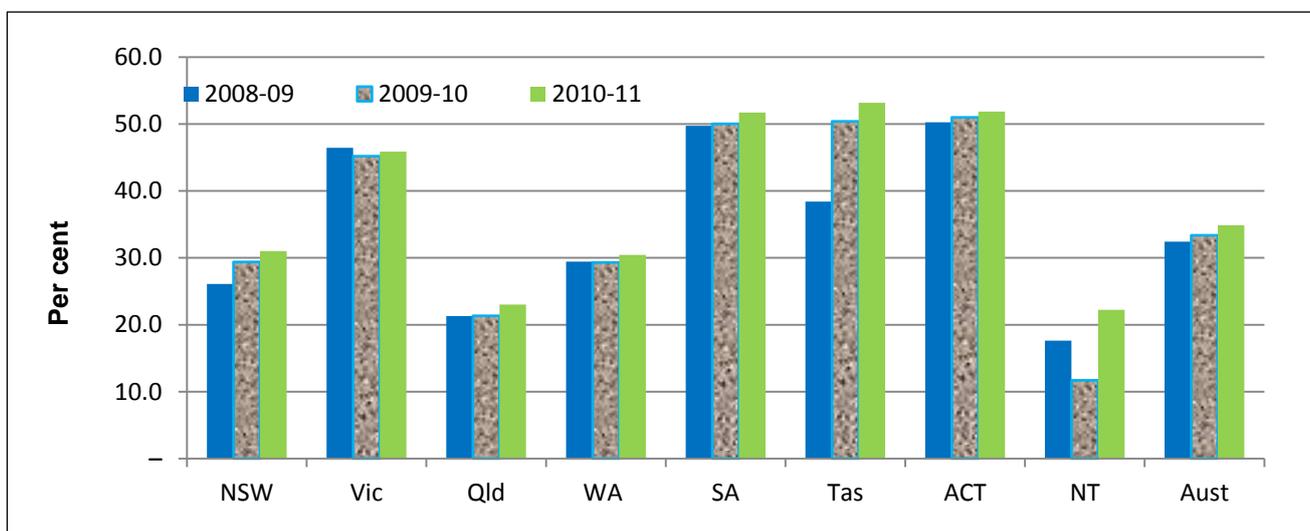
## There has been slight growth in the proportion of the estimated potential population that access disability support services

The 'potential disability services population' is the estimated number of people with the potential to require disability services and meet eligibility criteria.

In 2010-11:

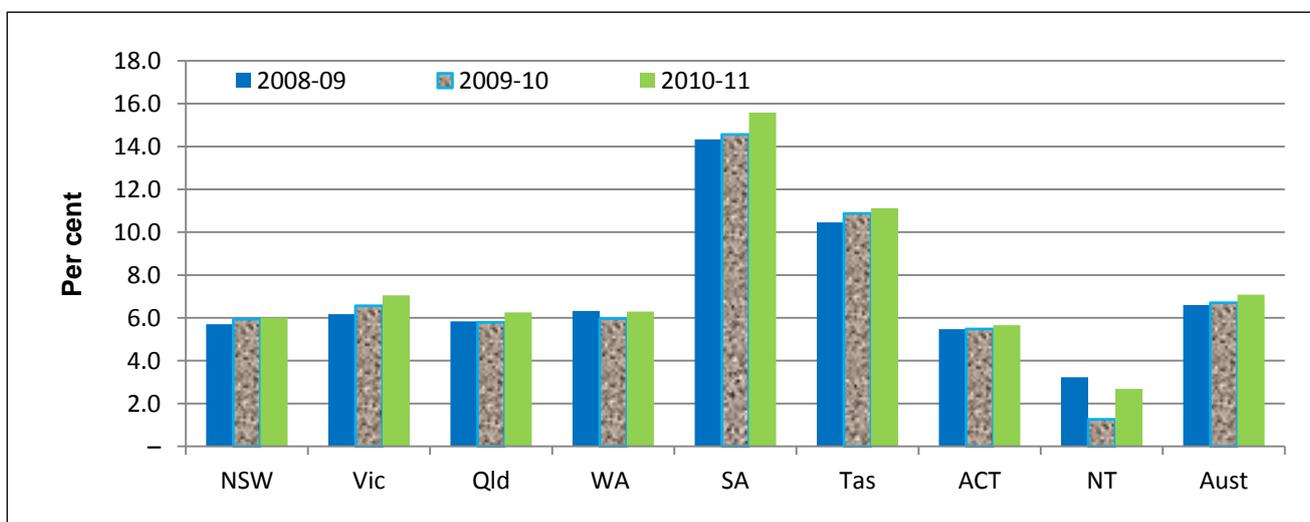
- the estimated potential population was **492 143** up from 478 828 in 2008-09
- about 61.2 % of the potential population used some form of disability support service, including Commonwealth employment services, up from 55.5% in 2008-09
- only 34.9 % of the potential population used State/Territory administered services, up from 32.4% in 2008-09 (Figure 3).

**Figure 3: Users of State/Territory administered disability services as a proportion of the potential population<sup>10</sup>**



★ The gap between service users and potential users is significantly more pronounced for accommodation support services (Figure 4).

**Figure 4: Users of Accommodation Support Services as a proportion of the potential population<sup>11</sup>**

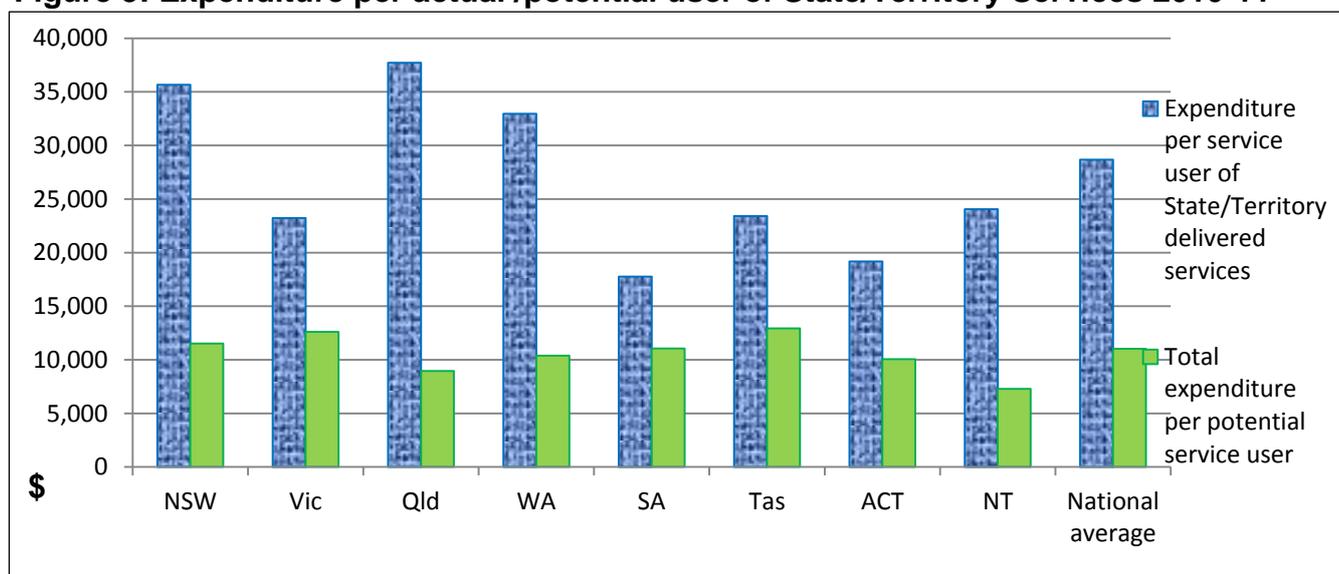


## Average expenditure per person varies across States and Territories

In 2010-11 the national expenditure per service user, including employment services, was \$18,087 and national expenditure per potential service user was \$11,063. <sup>\*12</sup>

The average expenditure per service user of State/Territory administered services was \$28,673. \* Expenditure per user of disability services is higher in States with lower coverage of the potential population (Figure 5). \*Figures include actual and imputed payroll tax

**Figure 5: Expenditure per actual /potential user of State/Territory Services 2010-11<sup>13</sup>**



## Almost half of the disability service budget is accommodation support

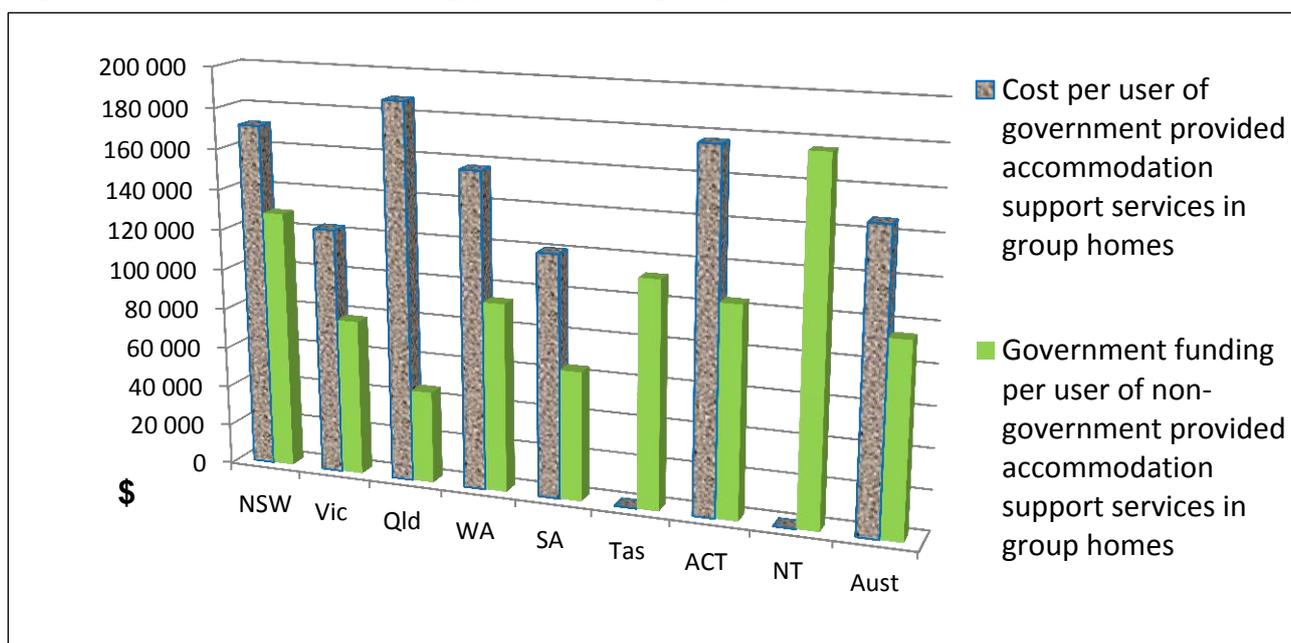
Total government expenditure on disability support services (including administration) in 2011-12 was \$6.9 billion a real increase of \$1.7 billion from 2010-11. The total direct expenditure, excluding administration was \$6.407 billion. Accommodation support comprised \$3.1 billion (Table 1).

**Table 1: Specialist disability support services (Commonwealth, State/Territory)<sup>14</sup>**

National Disability Agreement categories	Total direct expenditure 2011-12	% of Total expenditure	Number of users in 2010-11
Accommodation Support	\$3.10 billion	48.4%	34,838
Community Support	\$1.02 billion	15.9%	139,725
Community Access	\$0.72 billion	11.2%	51,353
Respite	\$0.39 billion	6%	33,980
Employment Support	\$0.75 billion	11.6%	128,321
Advocacy, information and communication	\$0.06 billion	0.9%	N/A
Other (research, training)	\$0.37 billion	4.79%	N/A

★ In 2010-11, the estimated annual government funding of non-government provided accommodation support in group homes was \$95 216 per service user compared to \$146 229 per service user in government provided group homes (Figure 6).<sup>15</sup>

**Figure 6: Government funding per user of group homes 2010-11**



### Real expenditure on disability support has been steadily increasing

Between 2005-06 and 2011-12, total spending on disability services rose by 37% in real terms. Each State and Territory experienced a unique growth path (Table 2).

**Table 2: Annual % change in real disability services funding (2011-12 baseline)**<sup>16</sup>

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	*Total transfer	Aus Gov	Total Australia
<b>2005-06</b>	1%	3%	<b>11%</b>	4%	-5%	6%	7%	1%	13%	2%	<b>3%</b>
<b>2006-07</b>	<b>11%</b>	1%	<b>18%</b>	4%	6%	4%	-2%	4%	10%	0%	<b>7%</b>
<b>2007-08</b>	1%	0%	3%	5%	9%	3%	2%	2%	4%	16%	<b>4%</b>
<b>2008-09</b>	8%	2%	12%	<b>13%</b>	-3%	-2%	4%	4%	<b>18%</b>	4%	<b>6%</b>
<b>2009-10</b>	5%	5%	13%	<b>11%</b>	7%	6%	2%	<b>35%</b>	6%	17%	<b>8%</b>
<b>2010-11</b>	2%	1%	-2%	5%	3%	<b>7%</b>	2%	1%	0%	3%	<b>2%</b>
<b>2011-12</b>	<b>14%</b>	2%	8%	<b>20%</b>	<b>10%</b>	0%	<b>13%</b>	<b>10%</b>	1%	12%	<b>10%</b>

\*The transfer from the Australian Government to States/Territories

**Trends:** The percentage of total State/Territory expenditure that is funded by a transfer from the Australian Government has risen from 17.4% in 2005/06 to 20.3% in 2011-12.

## Low levels of wealth

45% of Australians with disability live in poverty compared to an OECD average of 22%<sup>17</sup>. Two-thirds of people with disability earn less than \$320 per week compared with one-third of the general population.<sup>18</sup>

Primary carers are likely to be in the poorest two-fifths of all households and 55% receive income support as their main source of cash income<sup>19</sup>. This is partly due to lower levels of labour force participation. In 2009, the estimated labour force participation rate of primary carers aged 15–64 years was 53.7% compared to 68.7% for all carers and 79.9% for non-carers<sup>20</sup>

## Many people with disability and carers receive income support

In 2011-12 the government spent \$20.400 billion on disability related income support and allowances (Table 2).

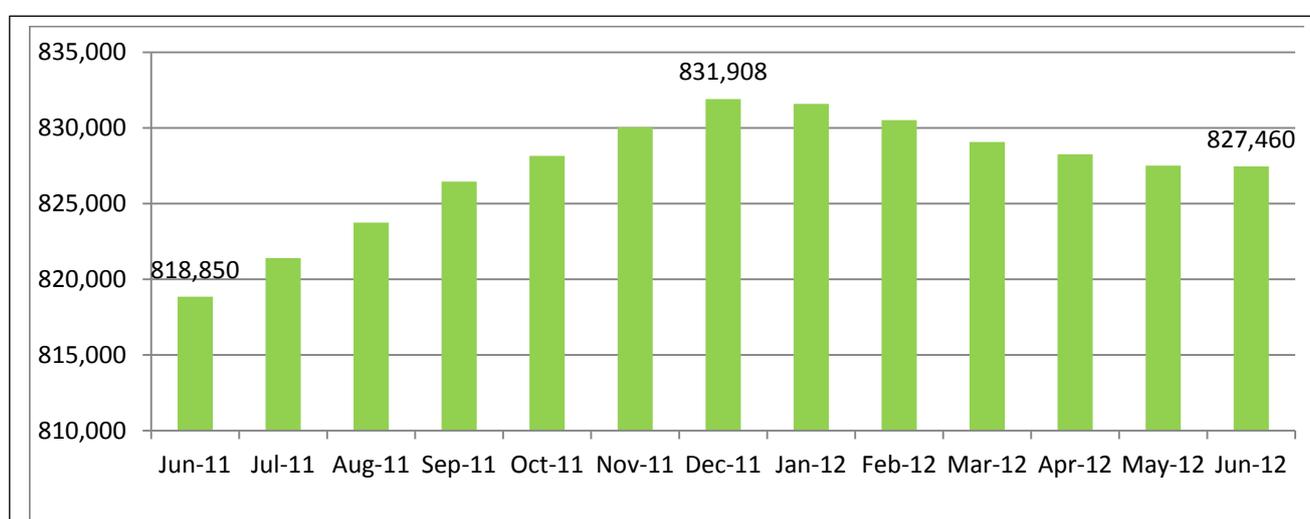
Table 2: Expenditure on disability related income support (Commonwealth)<sup>21</sup>

Pension/ allowance type	Number of recipients June-12	Outlay in 2011-12
Disability Support Pension (DSP)	827.5 thousand	\$14.600 billion
Carer Allowance	570.8 thousand	\$1.700 billion
Carer Supplement	557.2 thousand	\$0.48 billion
Carer Payment	205.6 thousand	\$3.200 billion
Child Disability Assistance Payment	148.9 thousand	\$0.16 billion
Mobility Allowance	61.3 thousand	\$0.14 billion
Sickness Allowance	7.2 thousand	\$0.09 billion

★ **Only 8.5% (about 70,000) of Disability Support Pension recipients, report other earnings<sup>22</sup>.**

**Trends:** Up until the end of 2011 the number of people receiving the DSP was growing despite relative stability in the rate of disability in the general population. However, this trend reversed following the introduction of revised impairment tables in January 2012 (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Total DSP recipients June 2011 to June 2012<sup>23</sup>

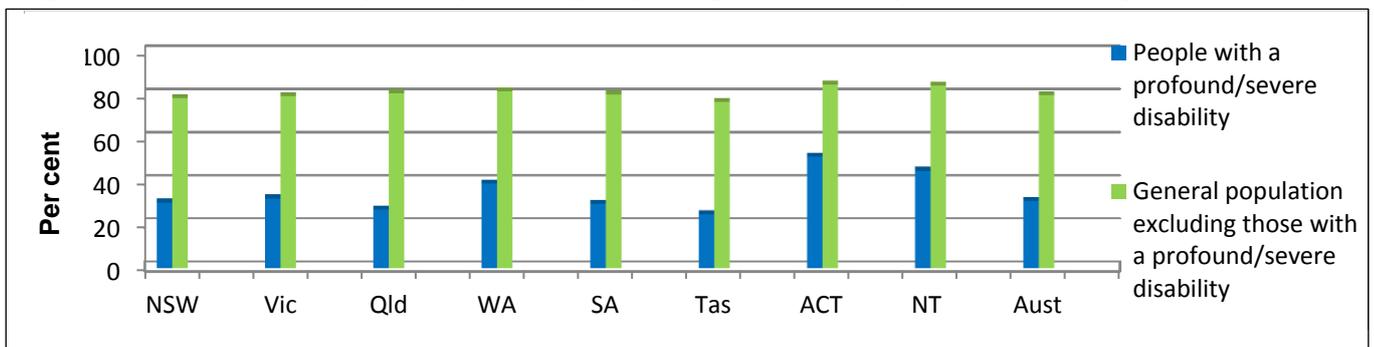


## Labour force and employment participation is relatively poor

- ★ In 2010 Australia's employment rate for people with disability was ranked 21st out of 29 OECD countries.<sup>24</sup>

In 2009 the labour force participation rate for all people with disability was 54.3% and the employment rate was 50%, compared to 82.8% and 78.6% for people without disability. The comparative rates for people with profound or severe disability were 31.3% and 28%, ACT recorded the highest participation rate for this group of 51.7%. (Figure 9)

**Figure 9: Labour force participation (people aged 15-64) by State/Territory, 2009<sup>25</sup>**



**Trends:** Labour force participation of all people with disability in Western Australia increased from 54.5% in 2003 to 62.4% in 2009. However, there was no nationally significant change during this period despite increases for people without disability<sup>26</sup>.

**Hours of work:** Employed people with profound or severe disability were more likely to work part-time hours than those with less severe disability. Nevertheless, almost half (49%) of those with profound or severe disability who were working, worked full time<sup>27</sup>.

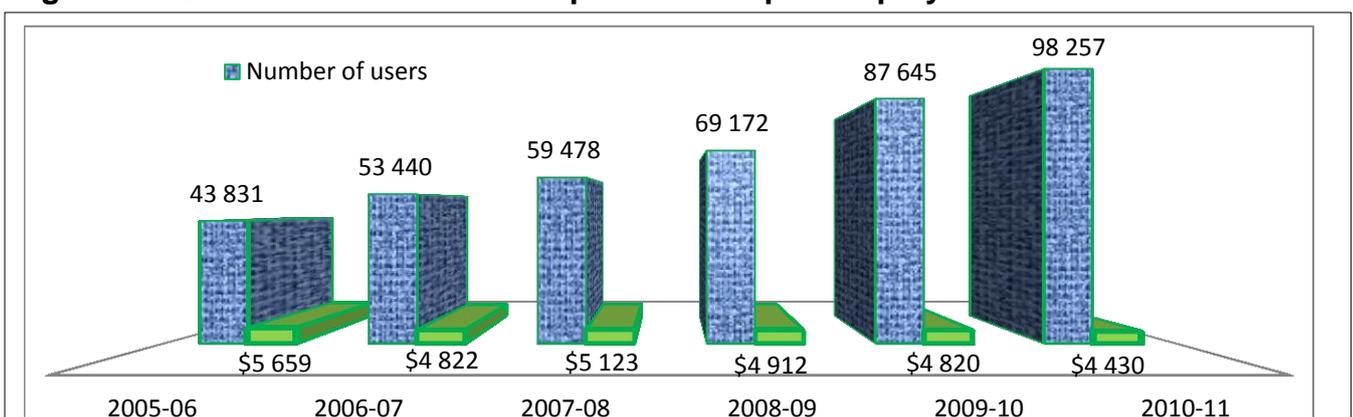
## Assistance with employment

In 2009, 10% of employed people with moderate or mild disability and 20% of those with profound or severe disability required a special work arrangement such as special equipment or being allocated different duties.<sup>28</sup>

In 2010-11 Australian Disability Enterprises (ADEs) supported 21,636 people at an average cost to government, per service user, of \$9,892.

**Trends:** In 2010-11 Disability Employment Services (DES) supported around 98,257 people which is more than double the number supported in 2005-06. This increase followed the uncapping of funding and corresponds to a decrease in the average cost per user of almost 22% (from \$5,659 in 2005-06 to \$4,430 in 2010-11) (Figure 10).<sup>29</sup>

**Figure 10: Government contribution per user of open employment services**



### Sub-standard outcomes

Australians with a severe disability and their families have sub-standard outcomes on every indicator of community participation and wellbeing.<sup>30</sup>

Only half of people with severe or profound disability progress past year 10 at school, compared with 80% in the general population.<sup>31</sup>

In 2010, it is estimated that over 10% of people aged 18-64 years, with a severe or profound disability, did not have face-to-face contact with family or friends at least once a month, compared to less than 5% of people without disability.<sup>32</sup>

- ★ People aged under 65 years with severe or profound disability had a higher prevalence rate of long-term health conditions than people without disability. About 48% had mental health problems, compared to 6% of people without disability.<sup>33</sup>

**Trends:** In June 2011 there were 657 people aged under 50 years living in permanent residential care. This represents a 34.8% decrease since 2006. However, for the group aged 50-65 years there has been an increase of 3.1% to 5,723.<sup>34</sup>

64% of adults in Australia who have been homeless in the last 10 years report having a disability or long-term health condition.<sup>35</sup>

## Families and carers

### Informal carers provide the majority of support

In 2009, 575,500 informal primary carers aged 15–64 years provided the majority of assistance with self-care, mobility and communication for people with disability, including older people, 68% were women<sup>36</sup>.

Primary carers comprise 29% of the 2.6 million carers overall who provided assistance to those who needed help because of disability or old age in 2009.

41.2% of people with disability who accessed specialist disability services in 2010-11, have an informal carer and 33.6 % reported their informal carer was a primary carer.

The total replacement cost of informal care in 2010 was estimated by 'Access Economics' to be \$40.9 billion (equivalent to 3.2% of Gross Domestic Product and 60% of other formal care) comprising an estimated 1.3 billion hours of care. (These figures do not take into account potential efficiencies if the care was provided formally. The figures also do not include opportunity costs or other economic effects related to under employment.)<sup>37</sup>

**Trends:** The availability of informal care is declining due to a combination of ageing carers, growth in the number of women entering the paid workforce and burn-out<sup>38</sup>.

Carers have the lowest level of wellbeing of any groups studied<sup>39</sup>.

## Estimated workforce data

There is inadequate data available on the disability workforce in Australia. The data presented in this section was used and tested by the productivity commission in 2011, and is based on survey by the National Institute of Labour Studies. The survey had a sample of 397 service providers and 1507 workers. However, it is important to note that some other estimates indicate double the number of full-time equivalents.

The best estimate of the total number of disability workers is around **70,000** employees (and around 34,000 full-time equivalents). Of these, about:

- 62% were Support and/or Care Workers (79% of these workers had some form of post school qualification e.g. certificate 3 or 4)
- 25% Managers and Coordinators
- 8% Social workers and Case Managers
- 4% Allied Health Workers

80% of the disability workforce is female irrespective of their job category. The workforce also has a older / middle-aged profile compared to the female workforce overall.

## The disability workforce in the not-for-profit sector is on lower wages

- 73% of the disability workforce are employed by not-for-profit service providers.
- 22% of the disability workforce are employed by government.
- 5% of the disability workforce are employed by privately owned for-profit providers.

★ In 2010 the average hourly wage in the disability sector was 13% less than the average for all female employees. Government sector workers earned significantly more than non-government workers, with 65% of government employees earning more than \$25 an hour compared with only 35% of non-government employees.

**Trends:** An analysis of the broader Social and Community Services workforce found that in the decade to 2006 the workforce increased 66.2% while the economy wide workforce increased 19.2%. Some estimates suggest the workforce will need to further double to meet predicted increased demand under the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

## Limitations and reliability

This document only provides a snapshot of data available in March 2013. Please refer to the original sources to understand the reliability limitations of this data including, quality issues, definitions, margins of error and more. We recommend you quote from the following original sources. If you have any queries regarding this data snapshot please contact Tessa Thompson ([tessa.thompson@nds.org.au](mailto:tessa.thompson@nds.org.au)).

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<sup>1</sup> **ABS (2011)** Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia, 2009: Summary of Findings. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Commonwealth of Australia. (Pg 4); and

**ROGS (2013)**: Australian Government Productivity Commission (2013) Report on Government Services (ROGS): Chapter 14 Services for people with disability. (Pg 14.10); and

**ABS (2012A)** Disability and Work: Australian Social Trends, March Quarter 2012, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra.

<sup>2</sup> **Biddle, N. Yap, M. Gray, M. (2013)** CAEPR Indigenous Population Project: 2011 Census Papers Australian National University

<sup>3</sup> **AIHW (2010A)** Australia's welfare 2009. Australia Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) Australia's welfare series no. 9. Cat. no. AUS 117. Canberra. (Pg 138)

<sup>4</sup> **AIHW (2012A)** Disability support services: services provided under the National Disability Agreement 2010–11. AIHW Cat. no. DIS 60. Canberra. (Pg vii)

<sup>5</sup> ROGS (2013) (Pg 14.19)

<sup>6</sup> ROGS (2013) (Table 14A.13)

<sup>7</sup> ROGS (2013) (Figure 14.7)

<sup>8</sup> **AIHW (2012B)** Australia's welfare 2011: AIHW Australia's welfare series no. 10. Cat. no. AUS 142. Canberra. (Pg 140)

<sup>9</sup> **AIHW (2012B)** (Table A5.6) and ROGS (2013) (Table 14A.136)

<sup>10</sup> ROGS (2013) (Table 14A.16)

<sup>11</sup> ROGS (2013) (Table 14A.17)

<sup>12</sup> ROGS (2013) (Tables 14A.13 and 14A.84)

<sup>13</sup> ROGS (2013) (Tables 14A.5, 14A.13 and 14A.84)

<sup>14</sup> ROGS (2013) (Table 14A.8)

<sup>15</sup> ROGS (2013) (Table 14A.81)

<sup>16</sup> ROGS (2013) (Table 14A.5)

<sup>17</sup> **OECD (2010)** Sickness, Disability And Work: Breaking The Barriers (Pg 56)

<sup>18</sup> **Price Waterhouse Coopers (2011)** *Disability expectations*.

<sup>19</sup> Price Waterhouse Coopers (2011)

<sup>20</sup> ROGS (2013) (Pg 14.71)

<sup>21</sup> ROGS (2013) (Table 14.A.1 and Pg14.7)

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- <sup>22</sup> **FaHCSIA (2012)** Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs : Annual Report
- <sup>23</sup> FaHCSIA (2012)
- <sup>24</sup> **OECD (2010)** (Pg 51)
- <sup>25</sup> ROGS (2013) (Table 14A.86)
- <sup>26</sup> **COAG Reform Council (2012)** Disability 2010-11: Comparing performance across Australia
- <sup>27</sup> ABS (2012A)
- <sup>28</sup> ABS (2012A)
- <sup>29</sup> ROGS (2013) (Table 14A.83)
- <sup>30</sup> Australian Government Productivity Commission (2011) Disability Care and Support. Report No 54 Canberra
- <sup>31</sup> ABS (2010)
- <sup>32</sup> ROGS (2013) (Pg 14.51)
- <sup>33</sup> **AIHW (2010B)** Health of Australians with disability: health status and risk factors, bulletin 83, cat no. AUS 132, AIHW, Canberra.
- <sup>34</sup> ROGS (2013) (Pg 14.50)
- <sup>35</sup> **ABS (2012B)** Life after Homelessness: Social Trends March Quarter 2012 Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra.
- <sup>36</sup> ROGS (2013) (Pg 14.13)
- <sup>37</sup> Access Economics (2010) The Economic Value of Informal Care: Report for Carers Australia
- <sup>38</sup> **Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS).** (2008). The nature and impact of caring for family members with a disability in Australia, Research report no. 16, AIFS, Melbourne.
- <sup>39</sup> Price Waterhouse Coopers (2011).