

4 Income support payments

Introduction

This section includes details of selected pensions, benefits and allowances paid by the Department of Family and Community Services (DFACS) and selected pensions paid by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA). The intention is to present data to indicate the proportion of the population in receipt of income support from the Commonwealth Government, to highlight variations in the distribution of this population across the State and to compare this distribution with other data in the atlas. Comparisons are made with data from 1989, published in the first edition of the atlas.

Explanatory notes

Data mapped

The pensions and benefits included in the analysis are listed in **Table 4.1**, which also shows the way in which the DFACS and DVA data were combined for mapping. Percentages were calculated on population figures representing as near as possible the ages applicable to the particular pensioner and beneficiary groups.

Details of those receiving the DVA Service Pension (Age) have been combined with those for the DFACS Age Pension and, similarly, details of recipients of the DVA Service Pension (Permanently Incapacitated) have been combined with those for the Disability Support Pension paid by DFACS. People in receipt of the Veteran Disability Pension (which includes the Totally and Permanently Incapacitated pension) were excluded from the analysis, as this pension is paid as compensation for service related incapacity, and is not regarded as an income support payment. Recipients of the War Widows pension were excluded on the same grounds.

In the case of the Sole Parent Pension, only females were mapped, as they comprise the majority of this pension group (93.6 per cent of all of such pensioners at 30 June 1996).

Data mapped for unemployment beneficiaries relate to Youth Training Allowance, the Newstart Allowance and the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP). The CDEP is a job creation scheme initiated in 1977 by Aboriginal communities to help remote, isolated Aboriginal communities develop an alternative to continued reliance on unemployment benefits. In 1985, the scheme was expanded to include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in urban and rural areas. Under the scheme, members of participating communities, organisations or groups forgo individual unemployment benefits for a wages grant paid to the community. Each community decides on its own work program. The program may include projects such as road works, house repairs and maintenance, and the production of artefacts and activities in support of traditional lifestyle and culture. Although the CDEP data were only available at 30 June 1998, they have been included with the other data for unemployment beneficiaries, which have a reference date of 30 June 1996.

The proportion of children aged under 16 years and living in families receiving the Family Payment (when paid at greater than

the minimum rate¹) have been mapped as a percentage of all children aged under 16 years at the 1996 Census. Two groups of families are eligible for this payment. One includes families receiving one of the following income support payments: the DFACS Age, Disability Support and Sole Parent Pensions; Youth Training Allowance or Newstart Allowance; Sickness and Special Benefits; or the CDEP. These families are 'automatic' recipients of the Family Payment and account for just under three quarters (71.7 per cent) of families receiving this payment at June 1999. The other group includes families with a family member in the workforce, but with a low income. Payments such as the double orphan's pension and the Family Payment (minimum rate) and Family Tax Payment have been specifically excluded from this analysis, as families in receipt of such payments may also receive relatively high incomes. Details of the small number of children of DVA pensioners were not available.

Table 4.1: Income support payments mapped, 30 June 1996

Department of Family & Community Services (DFACS)	Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA)	Denominator	
Pensions	Pensions	Age group (years)	
Age ¹	Service (Age) ²	Males	65 & over
		Females	60 & over
Disability Support	Service (PF) ³	Males	15-64
		Females	15-59
Sole Parent ⁴	.. ⁵	Females	15-54
Unemployment benefits			
Youth Training Allowance & Newstart Allowance ⁶	..	Males	15-64
		Females	15-59
Children⁷	.. ⁸	Population	0-15

¹Excludes wife pension, as recipients are under age-pensionable age. The small number of males under 65 years and females under 60 years of age receiving an Age Pension were also excluded from this analysis

²Includes wife/widow pension, as recipients are mainly of age-pensionable age

³Permanently Incapacitated: data for males aged 65 years and over and females aged 60 years and over were included with Age Pensions

⁴Details for males were excluded from the analysis

⁵DVA War Widows pensioners are excluded as this pension is primarily a compensation payment and not an income support payment

⁶Youth Training Allowance and Job Search Allowance are the unemployment benefit schemes: also includes people in Community Development Employment Programs at 30 June 1998

⁷Includes children (aged under 16 years) in families receiving the Family Payment (greater than minimum rate): see text

⁸Excludes children of DVA pensioners as details were not available

Source: Compiled from data from DFACS and DVA

The data are collected by the postcode of the postal address of the recipient of the income support payment. In the majority of

¹The Family Payment is designed to assist with the costs of bringing up children. Families with low incomes (around \$23,000 a year for families with two children at 30 June 1996) and those receiving an income support payment receive Family Payment at a rate above the minimum rate.

cases this is also the postcode of their usual residence. The postcode data were converted to Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) for mapping using a converter produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). This process is described in Appendix 1.2. In some instances, the number of people in receipt of a pension or benefit in a postcode exceeds the population in that postcode: this is particularly a problem with the Age Pension data. This is the case even when the pensioner/beneficiary data are compared with the population data by five year age group, separately for males and females. As a result, the calculation of the proportion of the population in receipt of a particular pension or benefit type can produce percentages of greater than 100 per cent. Other percentages of less than 100 per cent may also be overstated.

The reason for this is not clear. It is unlikely to be the result of people claiming both a DFACS Age and a DVA Service Pension (Age), as checks are made each year to ensure that such events do not occur. While it is likely in part to be a result of faults in the process of allocating pensions data, and it would have been possible to scale all the percentages back to 100, or less than

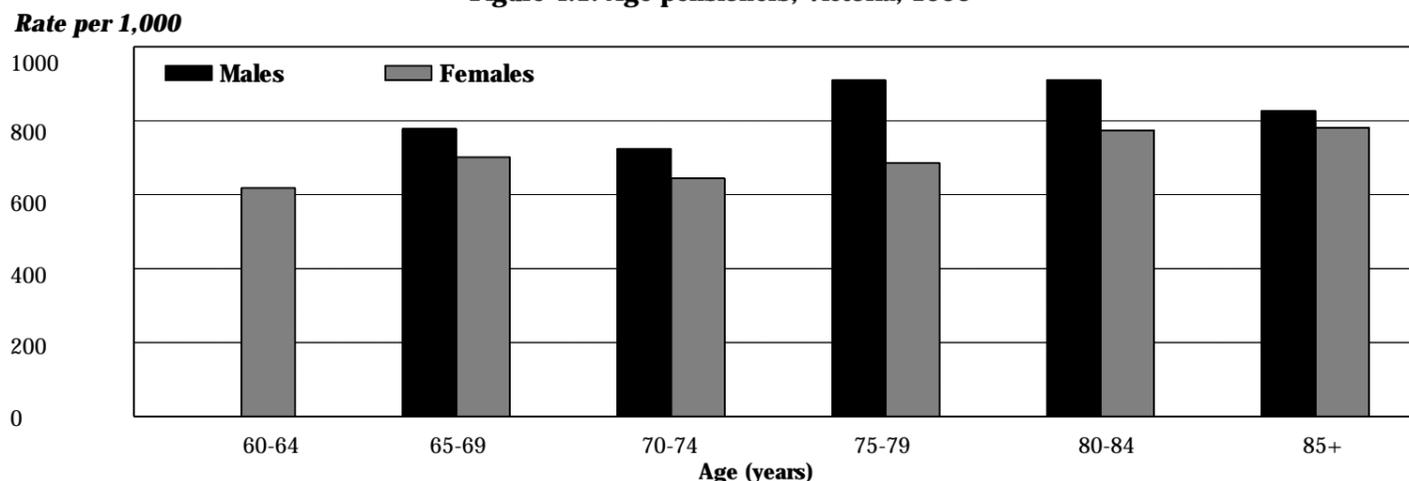
100, this would have concealed the problem and would not have represented the data for the areas as estimated. Percentages in excess of 100 per cent are noted separately in the text. Although the other pension or benefit types analysed only rarely have such high proportions, it is not possible to say to what extent they may also be overstated.

Details of age and sex of recipients

The age and sex profiles of recipients of the Age and Disability Support Pensions and unemployment benefits and the age profiles of female sole parent pensioners are shown in the following charts.

Females can receive the Age Pension from age 60 years and males from age 65 years (**Figure 4.1**). Although the numbers of females receiving this pension are higher from 65 years of age, their rates are lower in all age groups. Rates for both males and females follow a pattern of a decline in the 70 to 74 year age group, then increasing over the next two age groups before declining for men and slowing for women.

Figure 4.1: Age pensioners, Victoria, 1996

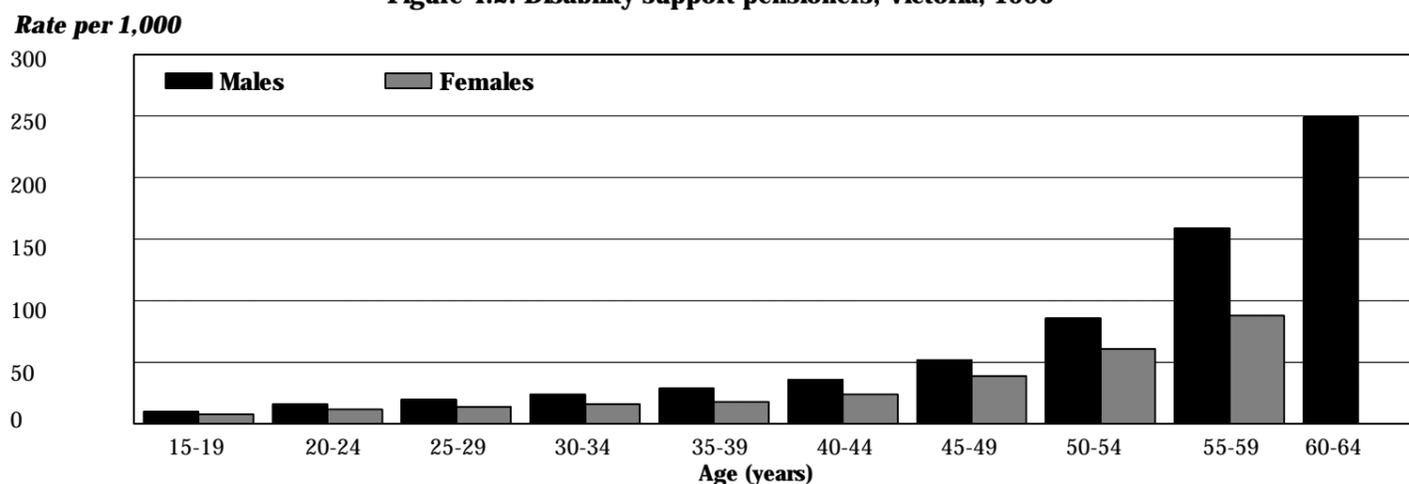


Source: Calculated on data supplied by DFACS (Age Pension) and DVA (Service Pension (Age))

Male rates are marginally higher in each age group under 40 years for those receiving the Disability Support Pension, with substantially higher rates at older ages (**Figure 4.2**). From age

60 years, females eligible for this pension are transferred to the Age Pension. The rates for both males and females grow steadily across the ages, most markedly from around 50 years of age.

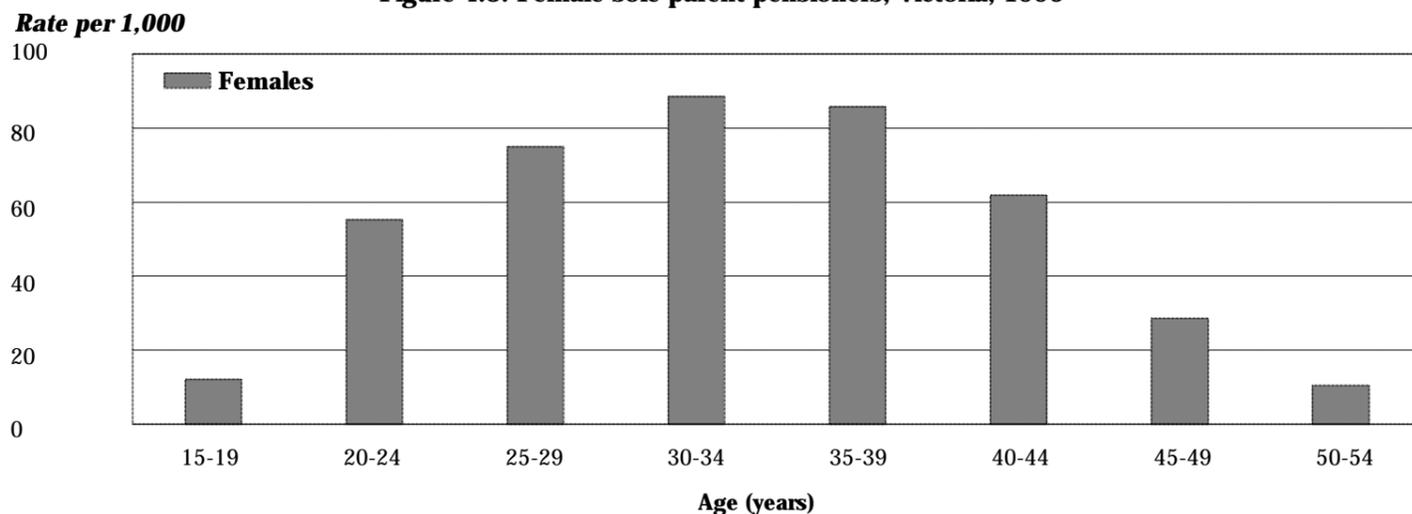
Figure 4.2: Disability support pensioners, Victoria, 1996



Source: Calculated on data supplied by DFACS (Disability Support Pension) and DVA (Service Pension (Permanently Incapacitated))

Age-specific rates for female sole parent pensioners reveal a near-normal distribution (in a statistical sense), with the highest rates in the 30 to 34 year age group (**Figure 4.3**).

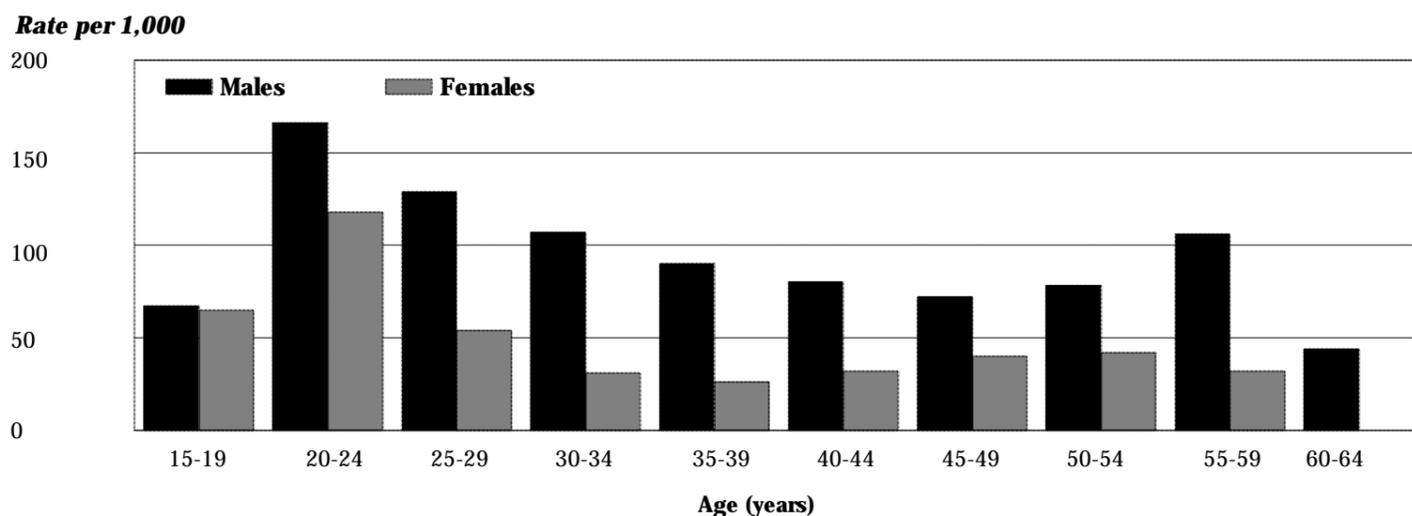
Figure 4.3: Female sole parent pensioners, Victoria, 1996



Source: Calculated on data supplied by DFACS

Both male and female unemployment rates are highest in the 20 to 24 year age group. They then generally decline to the 45 to 49 and 50 to 54 year age groups for males, before increasing at the 55 to 59 year age group: this is followed by a decline to their lowest level in the 60 to 64 year age group (**Figure 4.4**). Female rates are at their lowest in the 30 to 34 and 35 to 39 year age groups, after which they increase slightly, through to the 50 to 54 year age group.

Figure 4.4: Unemployment beneficiaries, Victoria, 1996



¹ Excludes people in the Community Development Employment Program

Source: Calculated on data supplied by DFACS (Youth Training and Newstart Allowances)

Age pensioners, 30 June 1996

Capital city comparison

People eligible for an Age Pension from the Department of Family and Community Services (DFACS), comprise females aged 60 years and over and males aged 65 years and over. The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) provides a service pension to eligible males at age 60 years and females at age 55 years. The data mapped are the sum of these pension types, referred to generally as age pensioners, expressed as a percentage of all females aged 60 years and over and all males aged 65 years and over at 30 June 1996.

The proportion of the population in receipt of an Age Pension declined in all capital cities between 1989 and 1996 (**Table 4.2**), although **Adelaide** remained as the capital city with the highest proportion. This decline has occurred because although there are now more people receiving the Age Pension than was the case in 1989, the population of pensionable age has increased at a faster rate. The largest declines were evident for **Darwin** (which became the capital base with the lowest proportion of its population on an Age Pension), **Hobart** and **Brisbane**, and the least for **Melbourne**.

Table 4.2: Age pensioners, capital cities
Per cent

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All Capitals
1996	64.7	71.3	69.9	76.2	69.9	72.3	41.3	53.5	68.9
1989	69.8	72.2	79.0	82.6	76.8	81.7	64.4	58.6	73.7

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Problems with the data

The data shows Wyndham North West as having in excess of 100 per cent (41 age pensioners: 456.8 per cent of the population of pensionable age) in receipt of an Age Pension. This is clearly not accurate; the notes on page 82 include some possible reasons for this high percentage.

Melbourne

In 1989, there were 285,090 **Melbourne** residents receiving the Age Pension, 72.2 per cent of the population of age-pensionable age. Although the number had increased to 299,422 by 1996, the proportion had fallen to 71.3 per cent.

The distribution across **Melbourne** of age pensioners (**Map 4.1**) is consistent with that for many of the variables of socioeconomic status mapped in Chapter 3. In particular, there were low proportions in the higher socioeconomic inner and suburban areas to the east of the city and high proportions were recorded in several long established localities, especially in the northern suburbs and on the western and south-eastern fringes.

The highest proportions of age pensioners were recorded in Nillumbik South-West and Croydon, where 92.4 per cent and 91.5 per cent respectively of the eligible population were in receipt of the Age Pension. Proportions of more than 85 per cent were reported in Melton East (89.8 per cent), Wyndham Balance (89.9 per cent) and Mornington Peninsula East (89.9 per cent). A further 13 SLAs had proportions of between 80 per cent and 85 per cent. The highest of these were in Altona (83.4 per cent), Kingston South (83.6 per cent), Brunswick (84.4 per cent) and Cardinia South (84.6 per cent).

The lowest proportions of people receiving an Age Pension were scattered throughout the eastern suburbs, the Yarra Valley and in Craigieburn. Levels of less than 60 per cent were recorded in Waverley West (59.5 per cent), Hawthorn (58.7 per cent), Manningham East (57.0 per cent), Craigieburn (56.6 per cent), Malvern (54.7 per cent), Brighton (52.8 per cent), Prahran (51.6 per cent), the City of Melbourne (49.4 per cent), Camberwell North (48.9 per cent) and Kew (48.2 per cent).

The largest numbers of age pensioners were in Preston (12,054 recipients), Kingston North (9,591) and Mornington Peninsula South (9,045). High numbers of age pensioners were also recorded in Frankston West (8,496 people), Caulfield (8,133), Maribyrnong (7,891) and Essendon (7,821).

The correlation analysis revealed a weak association at the SLA level with the indicators of social disadvantage, the strongest being with the variables for early school leavers (0.37) and unskilled and semi-skilled workers (0.24). These results, together with the weak inverse correlation with the IRSD (-0.14), suggest the existence of an association at the SLA level between high proportions of age pensioners and socioeconomic disadvantage.

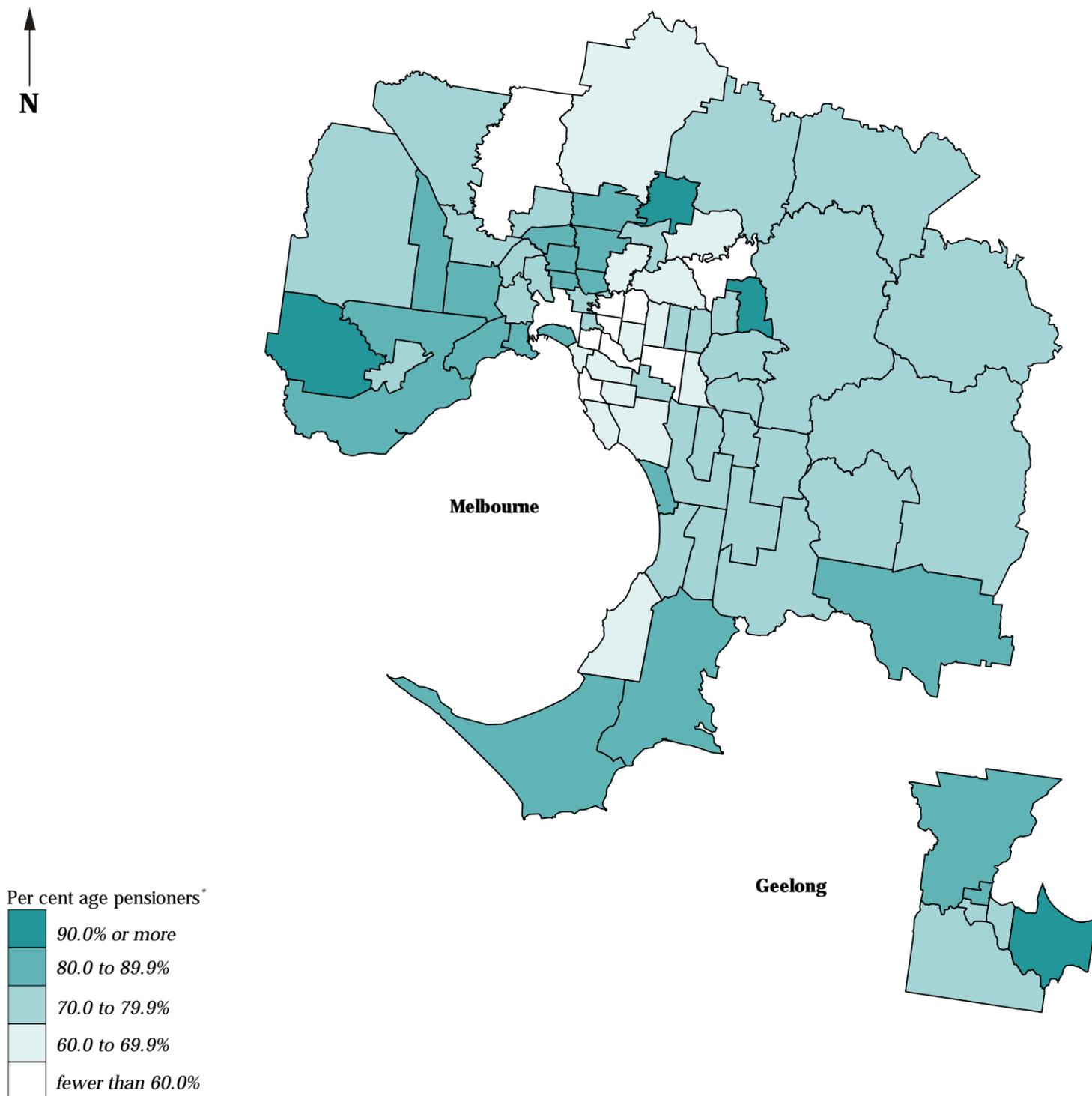
Geelong

In 1996, there were 18,869 age pensioners resident in **Geelong**, 82.7 per cent of the eligible population. The highest proportions of age pensioners were recorded in the northern and eastern SLAs of **Geelong**, in Bellarine Inner (90.1 per cent) and Corio Inner (89.4 per cent). The lowest proportions were recorded in the City of Geelong (70.4 per cent) and Newtown (73.7). There were 6,631 age pensioners living in Corio Inner, 4,642 in South Barwon Inner and 2,380 in Bellarine Inner.

Map 4.1

Age pensioners*, Melbourne and Geelong, 1996

as a percentage of males aged 65 years and over and females aged 60 years and over in each Statistical Local Area



*Includes the Age Pension paid by the Department of Family and Community Services and the Service Pension (Age) paid by the Department of Veterans' Affairs

Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Age pensioners, 30 June 1996

State/Territory comparison

In 1989, there were 517,855 people living in the non-metropolitan areas of Australia who received an Age Pension: by 1996 this had increased to 539,312. Over this period, the proportion of the population in receipt of an Age Pension declined in all States and the Northern Territory (**Table 4.3**): the non-metropolitan areas of Tasmania had the highest proportion in both periods. This decline has occurred because although the number of people receiving the Age Pension was higher in 1996 than was the case in 1989, the population of pensionable age has increased at a faster rate. The largest declines were evident for the Northern Territory (with the lowest proportion in both periods), Western Australia and Queensland, and the least for South Australia.

Table 4.3: Age pensioners, State/Territory
Per cent

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total ¹
1996									
Capital city	64.7	71.3	69.9	76.2	69.9	72.3	41.3	53.5 ²	68.9
Other major urban centres ³	79.8	82.7	56.2	..	..	..	..	..	71.5
Rest of State/Territory	68.3	74.3	62.1	75.1	60.8	77.6	37.3	- ⁴	68.1
Whole of State/Territory	67.7	72.5	64.3	75.9	67.5	75.4	39.1	55.4	68.9
1989									
Rest of State/Territory	80.3	76.0	77.6	75.7	76.6	85.6	65.9	- ⁴	78.2

¹Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

³Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

⁴Data unreliable: included with ACT total

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Problems with the data

The data shows a number of SLAs as having proportions in excess of 100 per cent. These are clearly not accurate; the notes on page 82 include some possible reasons for these results.

The areas in this category were Yarra Ranges [Part B] (81 age pensioners: 118 per cent of the population of age-pensionable age); La Trobe Balance (186: 115.8 per cent) and East Gippsland South-West (376; 110.3 per cent).

Rest of State

In 1989, there were 124,338 people living in the non-metropolitan areas of Victoria who received an Age Pension, 76 per cent of the population of pensionable age. By 1996, this had increased to 123,864 people, 74.3 per cent of the eligible population.

Areas with high proportions of pensioners were scattered throughout **Victoria**, in particular in the regional towns and their hinterlands (**Map 4.2**). Proportions of less than 50 per cent were recorded in only five SLAs.

There were six SLAs with between 90 and 100 per cent of the population of pensionable age receiving an Age Pension. Three of these were in the Goldfields region: Central Goldfields Balance (99.2 per cent), Strathfieldsaye (96.7 per cent) and Greater Bendigo Inner North (91.6 per cent). The other SLAs in this group were Baw Baw [Part B] East (97.1 per cent), Swan Hill Balance (93.1 per cent) and Colac (92.5 per cent).

Forty per cent of the State's SLAs had between 70 per cent and 80 per cent of their eligible populations in receipt of Age Pensions. The highest proportions within this group were

scattered throughout the State, in the SLAs of Maffra (79.3 per cent), Shepparton (79.2 per cent), Hepburn West (78.9 per cent), Bass Coast Balance (78.4 per cent) and Horsham Central (78.4 per cent).

There were 19 SLAs with proportions of less than 60 per cent, more than half of which were located in the Barwon, Western Districts' and Central Highlands' regions of the State. Within this group, the lowest proportions were recorded in Ballarat North (38.7 per cent), Wangaratta North (33.4 per cent) and Delatite North (32.8 per cent). The highest proportions were in Pyrenees North (58.7 per cent), Yarriambiack North (58.7 per cent), Golden Plains North-West (57.7 per cent) and Wannon (57.5 per cent).

Ballarat had the largest number of age pensioners, with 9,202, more than the 7,685 in Bendigo, and more than double the numbers in Mildura [Part A] (4,318 age pensioners), Shepparton (4,276) and Greater Geelong [Part B] (4,224). These were the only SLAs in Victoria with more than 4,000 age pensioners. Elsewhere, there were 3,482 age pensioners in Bairnsdale and 3,114 in Warrnambool.

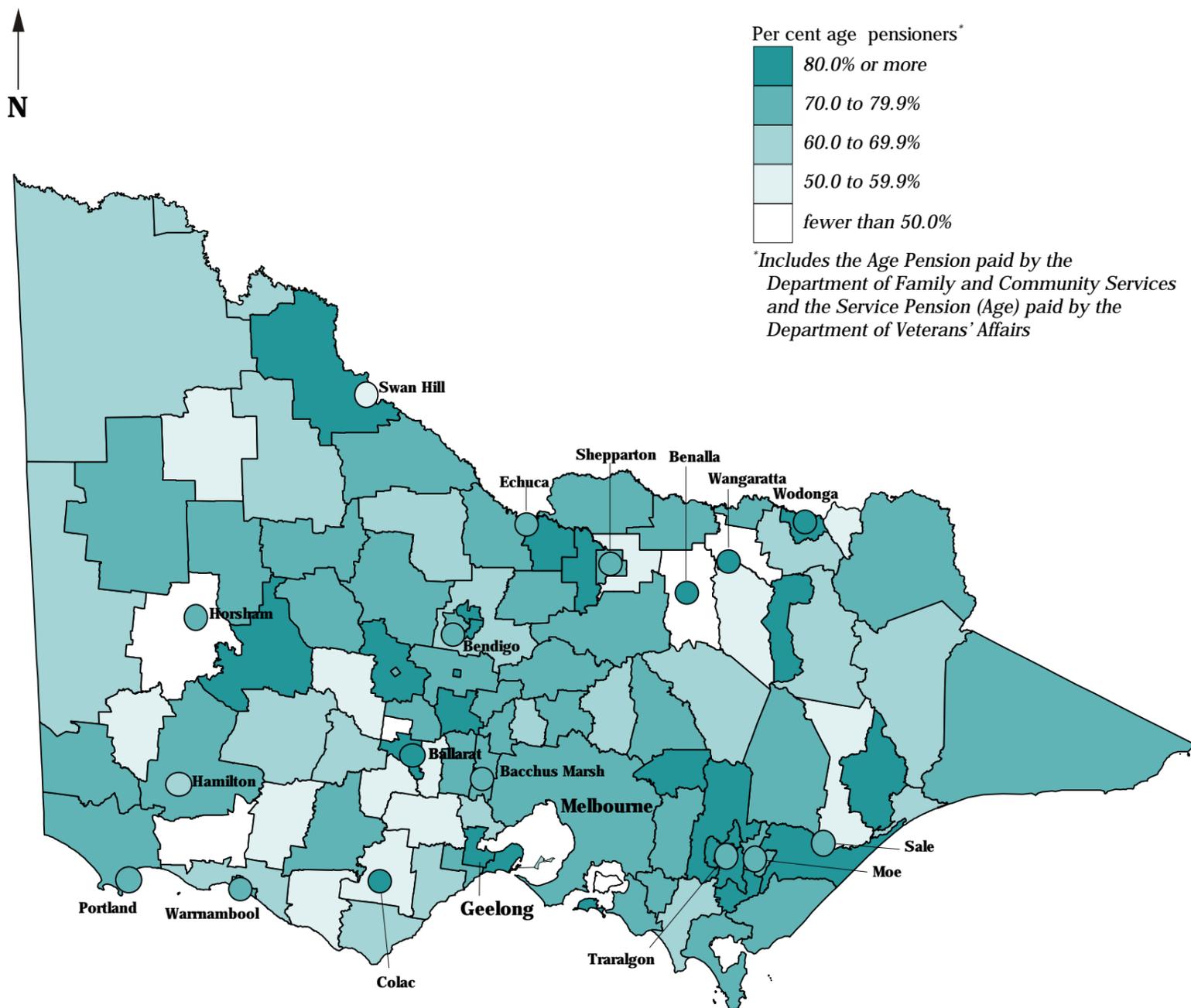
Of the other towns mapped, there were 2,327 age pensioners resident in Wodonga and 2,264 in Moe.

The correlation analysis revealed a weak association at the SLA level with the indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage, the strongest correlations were with the variables for single parent families (0.43) and unemployed people (0.33). These results, together with the weak inverse correlation with the IRSD (-0.28), suggest the existence of an association at the SLA level between high proportions of age pensioners and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Map 4.2

Age pensioners*, Victoria, 1996

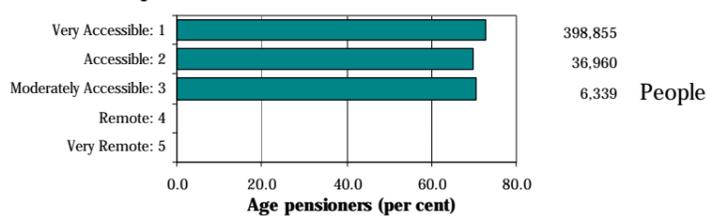
as a percentage of males aged 65 years and over and females aged 60 years and over in each Statistical Local Area



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



The proportion of the population of pensionable age in receipt of the Age Pension is similar across the three ARIA categories in Victoria, with proportions of 72.8 per cent in the Very Accessible, 70.0 per cent in the Accessible and 70.6 per cent in the Moderately Accessible areas.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Disability support pensioners, 30 June 1996

Capital city comparison

People eligible for a Disability Support Pension, paid by the Department of Family and Community Services (DFACS), must be aged 16 years or over and have not reached age-pensionable age; be permanently blind or have a physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairment level of 20 per cent or more and a continuing inability to work. Details of males under 65 years of age and females under 60 years of age receiving the DVA service pension (permanently incapacitated) have been combined with the Disability Support Pension data: details on people above these ages were included in the data for age pensioners.

The proportion of the population in the capital cities in receipt of the Disability Support Pension has increased considerably since 1989, rising from 2.6 per cent in 1989 to 3.9 per cent in 1996. High levels of unemployment have impacted significantly on the increase in the number of disability support pensioners (Centrelink 1997). This increase was evident in all capital cities, with the largest increases recorded in **Hobart, Adelaide, Sydney** and **Brisbane**. In both 1989 and 1996, **Hobart** and **Adelaide** had the largest proportions of disability support pensioners, while **Canberra** and **Darwin** had the lowest.

Table 4.4: Disability support pensioners, capital cities

	<i>Per cent</i>								
	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All Capitals
1996	3.8	3.7	4.1	5.1	3.9	5.6	3.1	2.2	3.9
1989	2.3	2.6	2.7	3.5	3.0	3.6	2.1	1.2	2.6

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Melbourne

In 1989, 51,981 **Melbourne** residents were receiving a Disability Support Pension, 2.6 per cent of the eligible population. By 1996, the number had increased to 77,310 and the proportion to 3.7 per cent.

SLAs with the highest proportions of disability support pensioners are located immediately to the north and west of the city centre, and in Mornington Peninsula South (**Map 4.3**). Most SLAs with low proportions of disability support pensioners were located in outer northern and south-eastern suburbs, as well as in some inner and middle eastern suburbs.

The highest proportions of people receiving a Disability Support Pension were recorded in Preston (7.2 per cent), Maribyrnong and Moreland North (both 6.6 per cent), Brunswick (6.4 per cent), Northcote and Coburg (both 6.3 per cent), Broadmeadows and Mornington Peninsula South (both 6.2 per cent) and Sunshine (6.1 per cent). A further six SLAs had proportions of five per cent or greater. The highest of these were Port Phillip West (5.6 per cent) and Dandenong (5.3 per cent).

The lowest proportions of disability support pensioners were scattered throughout the eastern suburbs and the Yarra Valley. Levels of two per cent and lower prevailed in Nillumbik South (1.1 per cent), Manningham East (1.2 per cent), Nillumbik South-West (1.4 per cent), Knox South (1.5 per cent), Frankston East (1.7 per cent), Nillumbik Balance, Berwick and Camberwell North (each with 1.8 per cent) and Brighton (2.0 per cent).

There were more than 2,000 people receiving a Disability Support Pension in Preston (with 3,570 pensioners), Whittlesea South (3,192), Sunshine (3,097), Broadmeadows (2,667), Maribyrnong (2,509) and Keilor (2,102 people).

The correlation analysis revealed a positive association at the SLA level with many of the indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage, including the variables for unemployment (0.86), low income families (0.85) and poor proficiency in English (0.72).

These results, together with the inverse correlation of substantial significance with the IRSD (-0.78), indicate an association at the SLA level between high proportions of disability support pensioners and socioeconomic disadvantage.

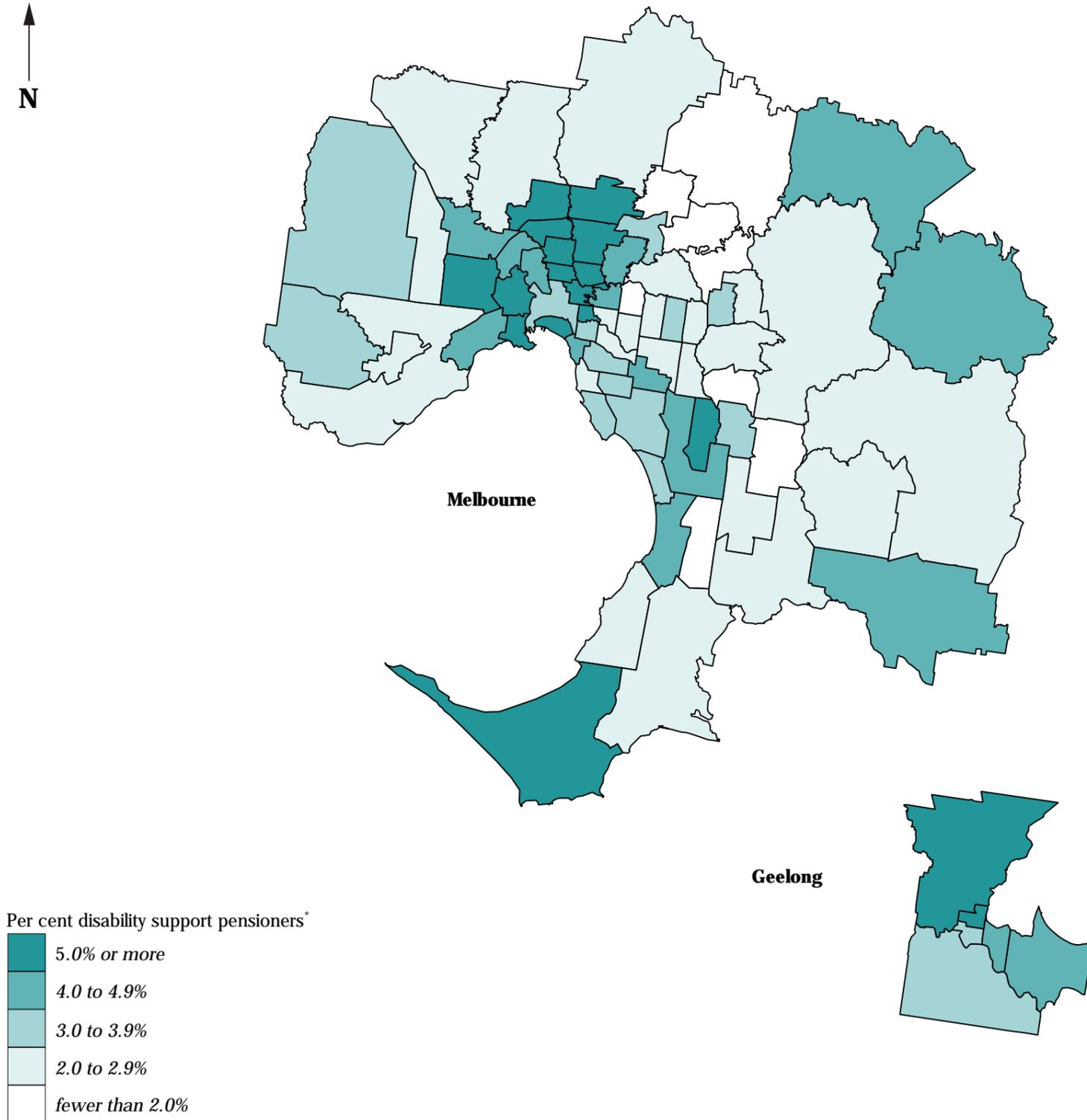
Geelong

In 1996, there were 4,333 disability support pensioners resident in **Geelong**, 4.7 per cent of the eligible population. The highest proportions of these pensioners were located in Corio Inner (5.9 per cent) and Geelong West (5.6 per cent). Proportions above four per cent were recorded in Bellarine Inner (4.3 per cent) and Geelong (4.7), while the lowest was in South Barwon Inner (3.2 per cent). There were 1,948 disability support pensioners living in Corio Inner and 807 in South Barwon Inner.

Map 4.3

Disability support pensioners*, Melbourne and Geelong, 1996

as a percentage of males ages 15 to 64 years and females aged 15 to 59 years in each Statistical Local Area



*Includes the Disability Support Pension paid by the Department of Family and Community Services and the Service Pension (Permanently Incapacitated) paid by the Department of Veterans' Affairs

Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Disability support pensioners, 30 June 1996

State/Territory comparison

In 1996, the proportions of people in receipt of the Disability Support Pension (see previous text page for details of those included) were generally higher in the non-metropolitan areas than in the capital cities, with the exception of South Australia, Western Australia and Northern Territory. The average for the *Rest of State/Territory* areas was 5.0 per cent, with similar proportions recorded in Queensland (4.6 per cent), Victoria (4.9 per cent) and South Australia (5.0 per cent). The highest proportion was in Tasmania (6.2 per cent) and the lowest in the Northern Territory (2.7 per cent). Comparisons between 1989 and 1996 show an increase in the proportions across all States and Territories, with the largest increases evident in Tasmania, South Australia and New South Wales.

Table 4.5: Disability support pensioners, State/Territory
Per cent

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total ¹
1996									
Capital city	3.8	3.7	4.1	5.1	3.9	5.6	3.1	2.2 ²	3.9
Other major urban centres ³	6.1	4.7	3.9	..	..	..	..	..	5.1
Rest of State/Territory	5.7	4.9	4.6	5.0	3.7	6.2	2.7	— ⁴	5.0
Whole of State/Territory	4.5	4.0	4.2	5.1	3.8	6.0	2.8	2.1	4.3
1989									
Rest of State/Territory	3.9	3.3	3.1	3.3	3.1	3.7	2.2	— ⁴	3.4

¹Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

³Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

⁴Data unreliable: included with ACT total

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Rest of State

In 1989, there were 23,118 people living in Victoria outside **Melbourne** and **Geelong** who received a Disability Support Pension, 3.3 per cent of the eligible population. By 1996, this number had increased substantially, to 32,358 people, and to 4.9 per cent of the population.

Areas with high proportions of disability support pensioners were mainly located in the Central Goldfields, Loddon and Campaspe regions (**Map 4.4**). Relatively low proportions were recorded in the State's western districts and in the eastern highlands.

Seven SLAs had more than seven per cent of their population receiving a Disability Support Pension. Apart from Colac (9.5 per cent), these SLAs were confined to the Central Goldfields and adjacent regions, where the highest proportions were recorded in Central Goldfields Balance (8.5 per cent), Maryborough (8.1 per cent), Campaspe South (7.9 per cent), Loddon South (7.8 per cent) and St Arnaud (7.5 per cent).

There were 16 SLAs with proportions of below three per cent. These stretched from Colac-Otway North through to the Surf Coast, around the outskirts of **Melbourne** and north-eastwards to Wangaratta, Towong and Alpine East. The lowest proportions of disability support pensioners were recorded in Alpine East (1.3 per cent), Surf Coast East and Greater Geelong [Part C] (both with 2.0 per cent).

Ballarat had the largest number of disability support pensioners, with 2,910 recipients. Other large numbers were recorded in the towns of Bendigo (2,188 recipients), Shepparton (1,555), Mildura [Part A] (1,418), Warrnambool (840) and Morwell (831).

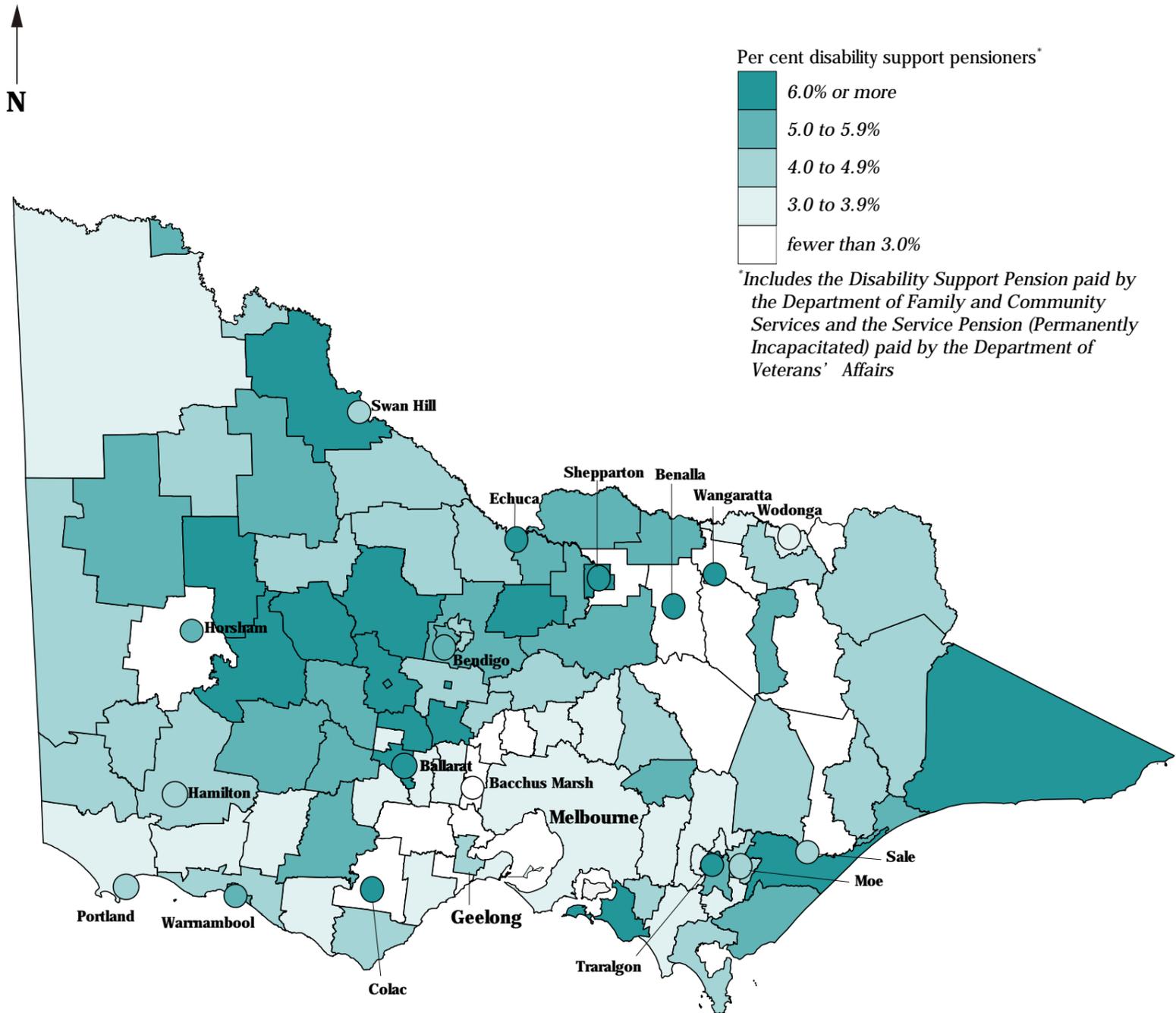
Of the towns mapped and not previously mentioned, there were 739 disability support pensioners in Wodonga, 642 in Moe and 627 in Traralgon.

The correlation analysis revealed a positive association at the SLA level with many of the indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage, including the variables for low income families (0.65) and dwellings with no motor vehicle (0.60). An inverse correlation was recorded with the variable for high income families (-0.60). These results, together with the inverse correlation of substantial significance with the IRSD (-0.74), indicate an association at the SLA level between high proportions of disability support pensioners and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Map 4.4

Disability support pensioners*, Victoria, 1996

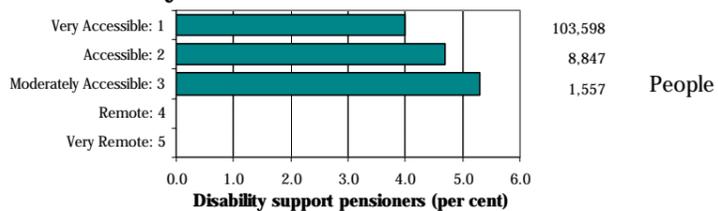
as a percentage of males aged 15 to 64 years and females aged 15 to 59 years in each Statistical Local Area



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



The proportion of the eligible population receiving a Disability Support Pension increases across the three ARIA categories in Victoria, from 4.0 per cent in the Very Accessible areas to 4.7 per cent in the Accessible and 5.3 per cent in the Moderately Accessible areas.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Female sole parent pensioners, 30 June 1996

Capital city comparison

People eligible for a Sole Parent Pension paid by the Department of Family and Community Services (DFACS) comprise female and male sole parents who have at least one child under 16 years of age (who meets certain qualifications, or attracts a child disability allowance). The majority (93.6 per cent) of sole parent pensioners at 30 June 1996 were females, of whom some eighty per cent were between the ages of 20 and 44 years. Only female sole parent pensioners have been mapped because they comprise such a large proportion of all sole parent pensioners.

In 1996, 5.5 per cent of the *All capitals* female population living in the capital cities and aged from 15 to 54 years were in receipt of the Sole Parent Pension (**Table 4.6**). Proportions varied little from the *All capitals* figure, ranging from 7.2 per cent in **Hobart** to 4.8 per cent in **Canberra**. Comparisons with the 1989 figures show that there has been an increase in the proportion of female sole parent pensioners, rising from 4.1 per cent. The largest increase was recorded in **Melbourne** (up by 47.1 per cent), with increases of around one third in all other capital cities excepting **Darwin** and **Hobart**.

Table 4.6: Female sole parent pensioners, capital cities
Per cent

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All Capitals
1996	5.2	5.0	6.0	6.6	6.0	7.2	6.8	4.8	5.5
1989	4.0	3.4	4.6	5.1	4.6	6.2	6.3	3.7	4.1

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Melbourne

In 1989, there were 30,965 female sole parent pensioners resident in **Melbourne**, 3.4 per cent of the population of females aged from 15 to 54 years. By 1996, the number had increased to 47,412, and the proportion to 5.0 per cent.

Generally, as **Map 4.5** shows, the highest proportions of female sole parent pensioners were found in outer SLAs which are characterised by cheaper housing and relatively high incidences of housing authority rental accommodation. There were however, significant concentrations in some inner and middle SLAs where public rental housing is available. In contrast, the lowest proportions were recorded in the higher socioeconomic inner eastern SLAs and those situated in the Yarra Valley.

Female sole parent pensioners represented more than ten per cent of females aged from 15 to 54 years in Mornington Peninsula South (10.2 per cent) and Yarra Ranges North (10.1 per cent). Relatively high proportions were also recorded in Frankston West (8.8 per cent), Wyndham North-West (8.5 per cent), Broadmeadows (8.4 per cent), and Maribyrnong and Yarra Ranges Central (both 8.2 per cent), with proportions of between six per cent and eight per cent in a further 16 SLAs.

Female sole parent pensioners represented less than four per cent of the population of females aged from 15 to 54 years in 21 SLAs. The lowest proportions were recorded in Hawthorn (1.5 per cent), Kew (1.6 per cent), Camberwell North (1.9 per cent), Prahran (2.1 per cent), Malvern (2.2 per cent) and Manningham West (2.3 per cent).

The largest numbers of female sole parent pensioners lived in Frankston West (1,885 females), Yarra Ranges South-West (1,760), Broadmeadows (1,662) and Preston (1,643). There were more than 1,500 recipients in each of Knox North, Sunshine and Whittlesea South.

There was a correlation of substantial significance with the variables for early school leavers (0.79), and of meaningful significance unskilled and semi-skilled workers (0.69) and single parent families (0.63). Inverse correlations were recorded with the variables for high income families (-0.83), female labour force participation (-0.72) and managers and administrators, and professionals (-0.68). The inverse correlation of substantial significance with the IRSD (-0.72) also indicates a positive association at the SLA level between high proportions of female sole parent pensioners and socioeconomic disadvantage.

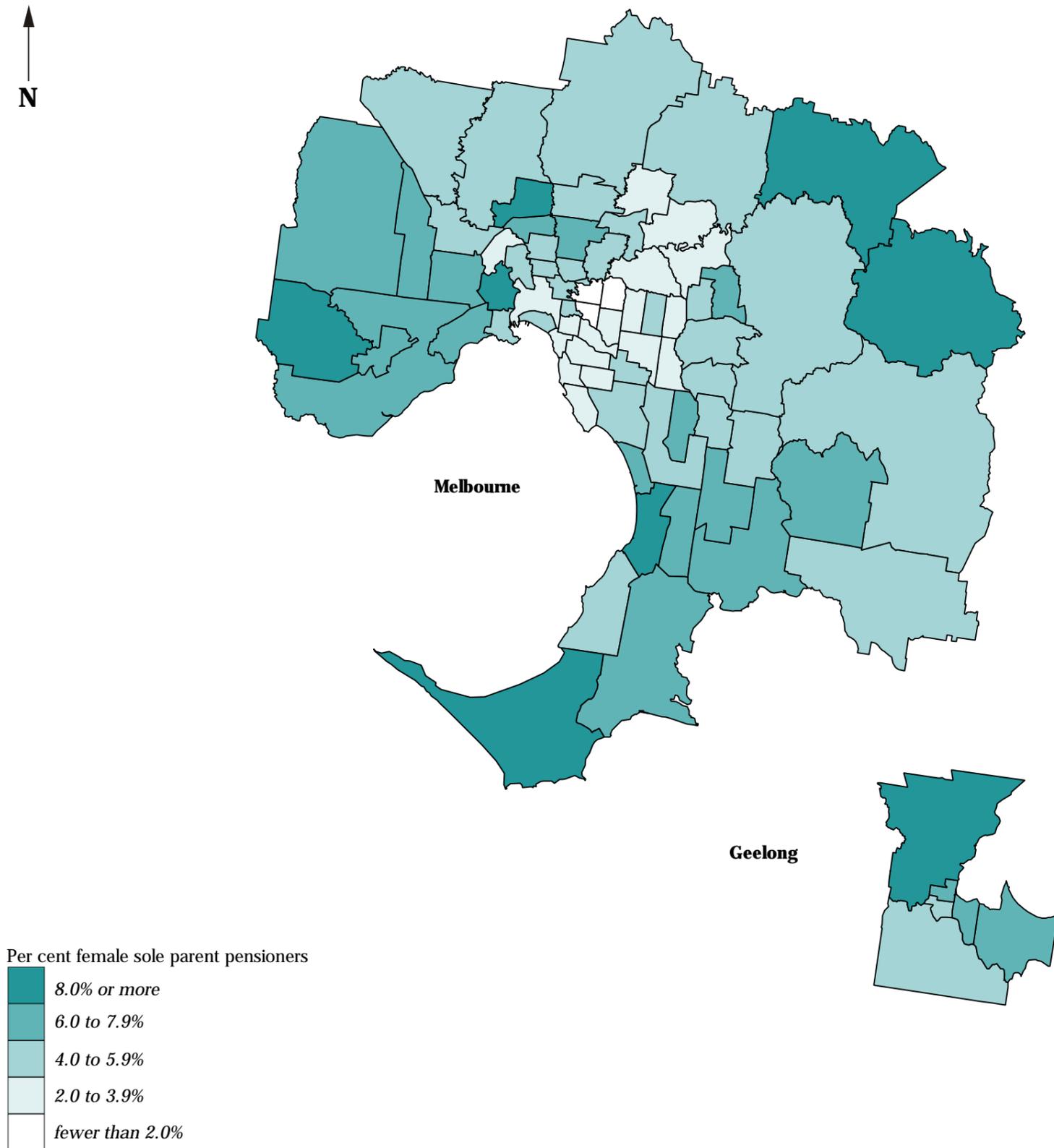
Geelong

Relatively high proportions of female sole parent pensioners were recorded in Corio Inner (9.1 per cent), Geelong West (7.8 per cent) and Geelong (7.6 per cent); the lowest proportion was in Newtown (4.8 per cent). The largest numbers of female sole parent pensioners were in Corio Inner (1,367 females), South Barwon Inner (585) and Bellarine Inner (412).

Map 4.5

Female sole parent pensioners, Melbourne and Geelong, 1996

as a percentage of all females aged 15 to 54 years in each Statistical Local Area



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Female sole parent pensioners, 30 June 1996

State/Territory comparison

In the non-metropolitan areas of Australia, 7.5 per cent of the female population aged from 15 to 54 years were in receipt of the Sole Parent Pension (defined on previous text page). Of the non-metropolitan areas, New South Wales had the highest proportion with 8.3 per cent of its population in this category, while South Australia had the lowest (6.7 per cent). **Table 4.7** indicates that the proportions of female sole parent pensioners have increased since 1989, with the exception of the Northern Territory where the percentage remained unchanged.

Table 4.7: Female sole parent pensioners, State/Territory
Per cent

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total ¹
1996									
Capital city	5.2	5.0	6.0	6.6	6.0	7.2	6.8	4.8 ²	5.5
Other major urban centres ³	7.5	7.3	7.4	..	..	..	..	..	7.4
Rest of State/Territory	8.3	6.8	7.2	6.7	7.1	7.2	7.6	.. ⁴	7.5
Whole of State/Territory	6.2	5.5	6.7	6.6	6.3	7.2	7.2	4.7	6.2
1989									
Rest of State/Territory	6.4	4.8	5.5	5.3	5.0	5.6	7.6	.. ⁴	5.6

¹Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

³Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

⁴Data unreliable: included with ACT total

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Rest of State

In 1989, there were 14,646 female sole parent pensioners living in the non-metropolitan areas of Victoria, 4.8 per cent of the population of females aged from 15 to 54 years. By 1996, this had increased to 19,692 females, 6.8 per cent of the eligible population.

Female sole parent pensioners in the non-metropolitan areas of Victoria were predominantly located in the towns and regional centres, particularly those to the north and north-west of **Melbourne (Map 4.6)**. Rather lower proportions were evident in the western half of the State.

The highest proportions of female sole parent pensioners were found in Castlemaine (11.5 per cent), Benalla (11.3 per cent), Colac (10.2 per cent), Morwell (9.9 per cent), Hepburn East (9.4 per cent), Maryborough and Robinvale (both 9.1 per cent) and Central Goldfields (9.0 per cent).

The lowest proportions were recorded in Alpine East and Delatite North (both with 1.8 per cent), and in Horsham Balance (2.3 per cent).

There were more than 500 female sole parent pensioners resident in Ballarat (1,760 females), Bendigo (1,509), Shepparton (942 people), Mildura [Part A] (801), Wodonga (728), Morwell (660) and Warrnambool (552).

Apart from the towns already mentioned, there were 499 female sole parent pensioners in Traralgon, 428 in Moe and 363 in Wangaratta-Central.

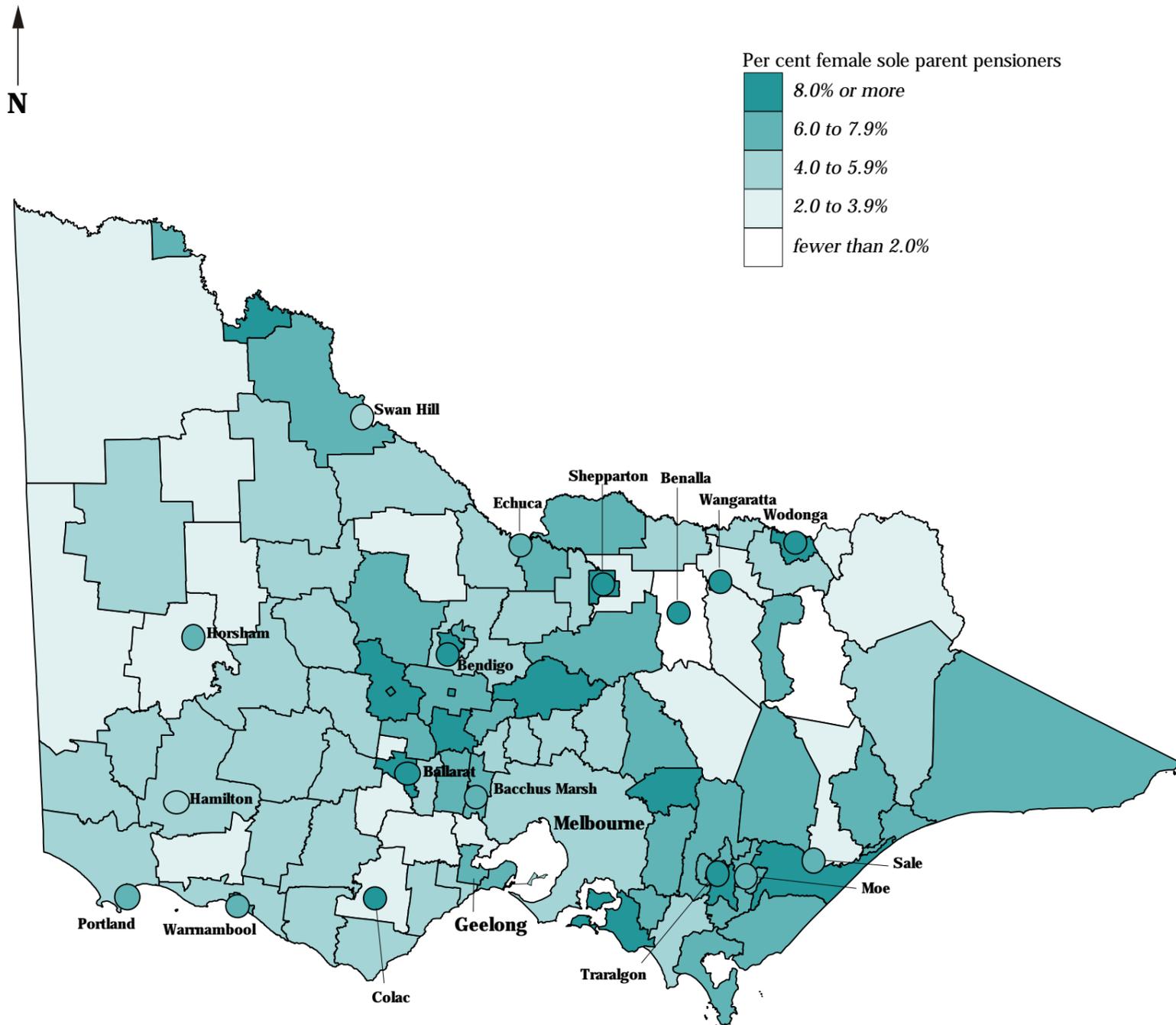
The correlation analysis revealed an association at the SLA level with many of the indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage, the strongest being, not surprisingly, with the variable for single parent families (0.84). Correlations of meaningful significance were also recorded with the variables for dwellings without a motor vehicle (0.66), housing authority rental dwellings (0.63), unemployed people (0.62) and managers and administrators,

and professionals (an inverse correlation of -0.66). These results, together with the inverse correlation of meaningful significance with the IRSD (-0.68), indicate an association at the SLA level between high proportions of female sole parent pensioners and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Map 4.6

Female sole parent pensioners, Victoria, 1996

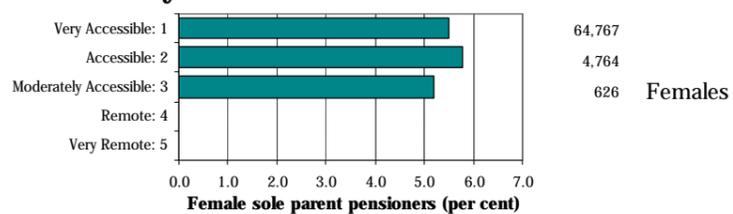
as a percentage of all females aged 15 to 54 years in each Statistical Local Area



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



The proportion of the eligible female population receiving a Sole Parent Pension is similar across the three ARIA categories in Victoria, representing 5.8 per cent in the Accessible areas, 5.5 per cent in the Very Accessible areas and 5.2 per cent in the Moderately Accessible areas.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

People receiving an unemployment benefit, 30 June 1996

Capital city comparison

People receiving an unemployment benefit, as described below, are shown as a percentage of the eligible population (of males aged 15 to 64 years and females aged 15 to 59 years), rather than as a percentage of the labour force as is usually the case. This approach has been adopted as the intention in this section is to examine the spatial pattern of distribution of income support payments.

The data mapped are the proportion of the population receiving 'unemployment benefits': it includes the Youth Training Allowance (YTA) and Newstart Allowance (NSA) paid by DFACS. The 792 residents of the capital cities and other major urban centres in the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) schemes in 1998 have also been included (see page 81 for details of the CDEP).

In 1996, 5.4 per cent of the eligible population, as defined above, were in receipt of an unemployment benefit, varying from 5.0 per cent in **Canberra** to 8.2 per cent in **Hobart**. Over the period from 1989 to 1996, the proportion of the population receiving an unemployment benefit has increased considerably across Australia and in each of the capital cities. The largest increase was evident in **Melbourne**, where the proportion increased from 1.9 per cent in 1989 to 6.9 per cent in 1996.

Table 4.8: People receiving an unemployment benefit, capital cities
Per cent

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All Capitals
1996	5.4	6.9	6.6	8.0	6.2	8.2	7.5	5.0	5.4
1989	2.8	1.9	3.0	4.2	2.7	5.3	5.7	2.0	2.7

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Melbourne

There were 38,323 unemployment benefit recipients resident in **Melbourne** in 1989, 1.9 per cent of the eligible population (of males aged 15 to 64 years and females aged 15 to 59 years). By 1996, the number had increased to 141,694 and the proportion to 6.9 per cent. The figures for 1996 include 53 people in CDEP schemes.

High proportions of unemployment beneficiaries were located generally in the inner and middle suburbs of **Melbourne** and in a group of SLAs running from Dandenong south-east along the length of the Mornington Peninsula (**Map 4.7**).

The highest proportion in **Melbourne** was recorded in Maribyrnong, with 14.3 per cent of its population (of males aged 15 to 64 years and females aged 15 to 59 years) in receipt of unemployment benefits. Proportions of greater than 12 per cent were recorded in Yarra North (13.4 per cent), St Kilda (12.9) and Brunswick (12.6). The proportions of unemployment benefit recipients in Coburg, Dandenong, Preston, Broadmeadows, Mornington Peninsula South, Richmond, Sunshine and Northcote ranged from 10 per cent to 11.6 per cent.

The lowest proportions of the eligible population in receipt of unemployment benefits were recorded in Nillumbik South (2.6 per cent), Manningham East (2.9) and Camberwell North (3.0 per cent), with proportions of between three and four per cent in the SLAs of Camberwell South, Kew, Berwick, Manningham West, Waverley East, Whittlesea North, Knox South and Nillumbik South-West.

There were more than 5,000 people receiving unemployment benefits in Sunshine (5,772 people), Maribyrnong (5,463) and Preston (5,016), and between 4,000 and 5,000 in Yarra North, Whittlesea South, Broadmeadows, St Kilda and Dandenong Balance.

There were correlations of substantial significance at the SLA level with the variables for unemployed people (0.92), low income families (0.84) and people reporting poor proficiency in English (0.73). The inverse correlation of substantial significance with the IRSD (-0.78) also indicates a positive association at the SLA level between high proportions of the population in receipt of an unemployment benefit and socioeconomic disadvantage.

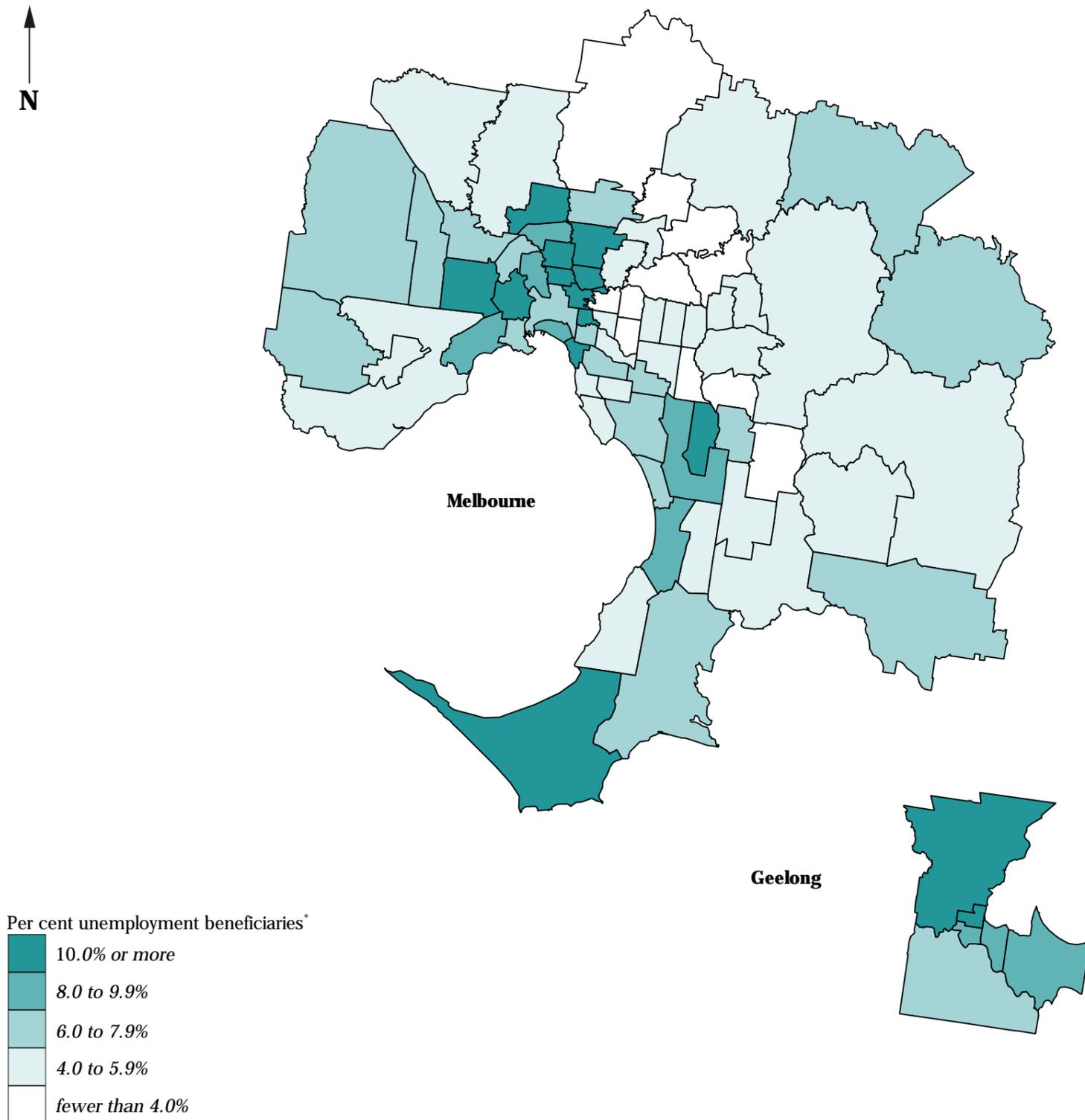
Geelong

In **Geelong**, there were 2,988 unemployment benefit recipients in 1989, 3.1 per cent of the eligible population. By 1996, the number had risen to 8,264 and the proportion to 9.0 per cent. Within **Geelong**, the proportions of unemployment benefit recipients were 10.4 per cent in Corio Inner and 10.7 per cent in Geelong West. The lowest proportion was recorded in South Barwon Inner (6.5 per cent). There were 3,446 recipients resident in Corio Inner and 1,627 in South Barwon Inner.

Map 4.7

Unemployment beneficiaries*, Melbourne and Geelong, 1996

as a percentage of males aged 15 to 64 years and females aged 15 to 59 years in each Statistical Local Area



*Includes people in receipt of Newstart Allowance, the Youth Training Allowance and those covered by the Community Development Employment Program

Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

People receiving an unemployment benefit, 30 June 1996

State/Territory comparison

In 1996, the proportions of people in receipt of an unemployment benefit (see previous text page for details of programs included) in the *Rest of State/Territory* areas were higher than those recorded in the capital cities. The difference was most notable in the Northern Territory, where the proportion recorded in **Darwin** (7.5 per cent) was considerably lower than that recorded in the non-metropolitan area (17.2 per cent). Excluding the Northern Territory, the non-metropolitan proportions varied little from the *Whole of State/Territory* total, ranging from 7.8 per cent in Victoria to 9.2 per cent in Tasmania. The 24,316 residents of the non-metropolitan areas of Australia in Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) schemes in 1998 (see page 81 for details of the CDEP) have also been included.

Since 1989, the proportion of people receiving unemployment benefits in the areas outside of the major urban centres has increased markedly, rising from 4.9 per cent in 1989 to 8.8 per cent in 1996 (**Table 4.9**). This represented an additional 135,289 people in receipt of unemployment benefits, rising from 152,306 in 1989 to 287,595 in 1996.

Table 4.9: People receiving an unemployment benefit, State/Territory
Per cent

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total ¹
1996									
Capital city	5.4	6.9	6.6	8.0	6.2	8.2	7.5	5.0 ²	5.4
Other major urban centres ³	8.6	9.0	9.9	..	..	..	..	..	9.1
Rest of State/Territory	8.9	7.8	9.1	8.7	7.9	9.2	17.2	— ⁴	8.8
Whole of State/Territory	6.6	7.1	8.1	8.2	6.6	8.8	12.7	4.9	7.2
1989									
Rest of State/Territory	5.8	3.2	5.1	5.7	3.6	5.5	9.0	— ⁴	4.9

¹Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

³Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

⁴Data unreliable: included with ACT total

Source: See *Data sources, Appendix 1.3*

Rest of State

In 1989, there were 22,367 recipients of unemployment benefits resident in the non-metropolitan areas of Victoria, 3.4 per cent of the eligible population (of males aged 15 to 64 years and females aged 15 to 59 years). By 1996, the number had increased to 51,535 (7.8 per cent).

High proportions of unemployment benefit recipients were generally found in SLAs in central and eastern Victoria and the lowest proportions predominated in SLAs in the north-west, with more isolated pockets of the lowest rates in the north-east (**Map 4.8**).

More than 13 per cent of the population received unemployment benefits in Moe (13.4 per cent) and Morwell (13.1 per cent). In Hepburn East and Central Goldfields Balance, the proportions were 12.2 per cent and 12.8 per cent respectively, while slightly lower proportions were recorded in East Gippsland Balance and Loddon South (both with 11.8 per cent) and Rosedale (11.0 per cent).

The lowest proportions of unemployment benefit recipients were recorded in Yarriambiack North (2.5 per cent) and Delatite North (2.8 per cent). Proportions of between three per cent and four per cent were recorded in Alpine East, Wangaratta North, Shepparton East and Towong [Part A].

There were more than 2,000 unemployment benefit recipients in Ballarat (4,637 recipients), Bendigo (3,796), Shepparton (2,181) and Mildura [Part A] (2,232), with more than 1,300 recipients in Bairnsdale, Warrnambool, Moe, Wodonga and Morwell. Of the other towns mapped, only Traralgon (1,285 recipients) recorded more than 1,000 people receiving unemployment benefits.

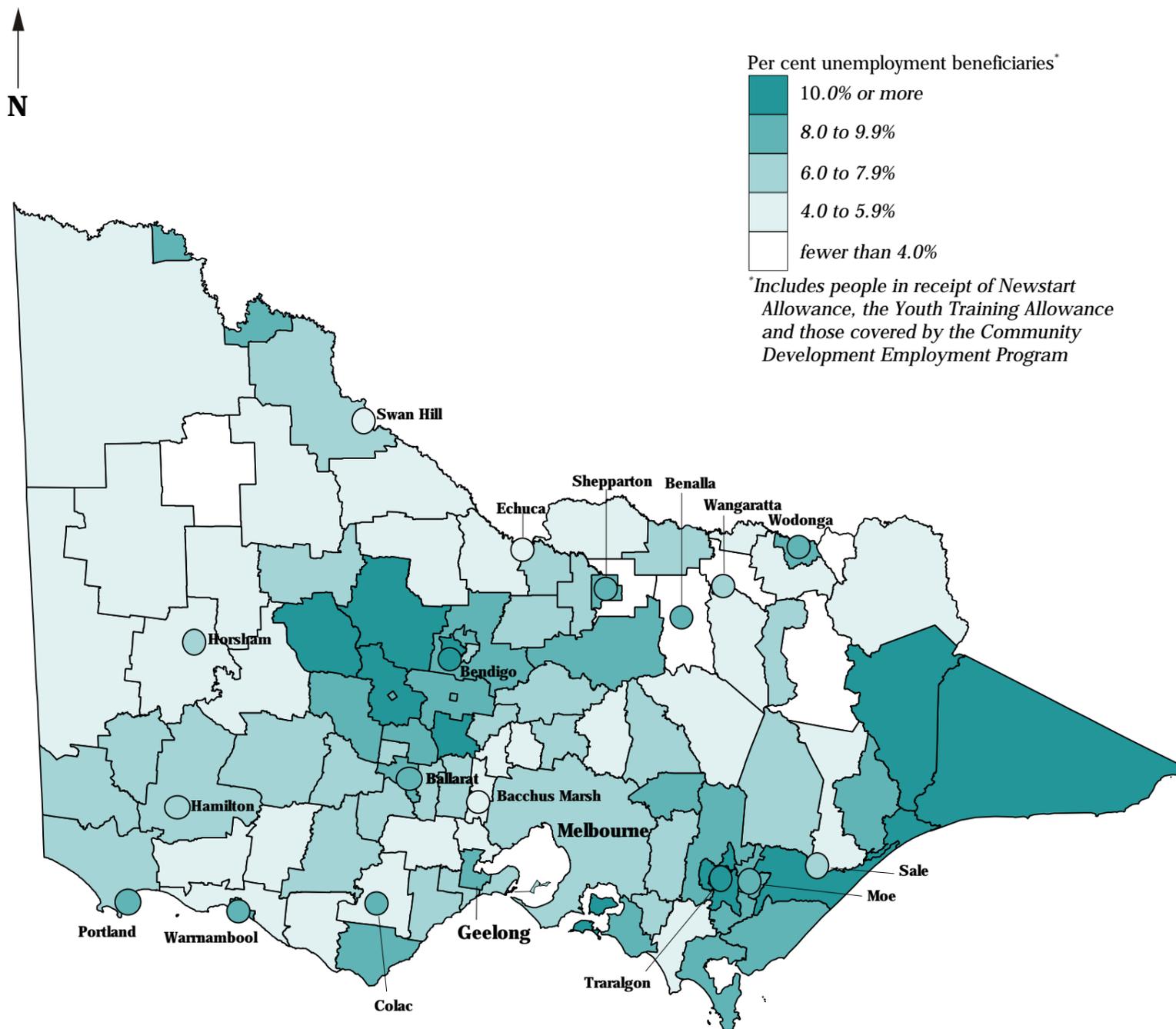
There were 266 Indigenous residents of the non-metropolitan areas of Victoria in CDEP schemes (included in the figures already discussed). The highest proportions were in Robinvale (1.3 per cent of the population of males aged 15 to 64 years and females aged 15 to 59 years), Shepparton West (1.0 per cent), Horsham Balance (0.7 per cent) and Bairnsdale (0.6 per cent). The largest numbers were in Bairnsdale (75 Indigenous people), Shepparton West (54), Warrnambool (35), Robinvale (29) and Morwell (26).

As would be expected, there was a correlation of substantial significance at the SLA level with the variable for unemployed people (0.87). Correlations of meaningful significance were recorded with single parent families (0.61) and low income families (0.55). These results, together with the inverse correlation of meaningful significance with the IRSD (-0.68), indicate an association at the SLA level between high proportions of the population in receipt of an unemployment benefit and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Map 4.8

Unemployment beneficiaries*, Victoria, 1996

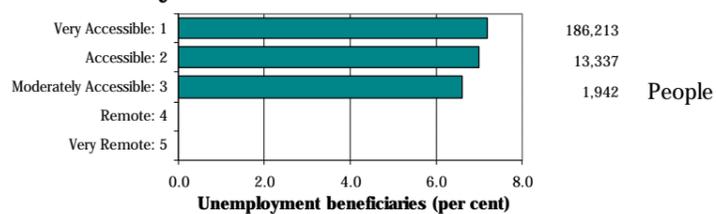
as a percentage of males aged 15 to 64 years and females aged 15 to 59 years in each Statistical Local Area



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



The graph of unemployment beneficiaries by ARIA categories shows decreasing rates across the three ARIA categories in Victoria, from 7.2 per cent in the Very Accessible areas, to 7.0 per cent in the Accessible and 6.6 per cent in the Moderately Accessible areas. These figures include participants in CDEP schemes.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Dependent children of selected pensioners and beneficiaries, 30 June 1996

Capital city comparison

Dependent children aged under 16 years and living in families receiving an income support payment or the family payment (at above the minimum rate) from the Department of Family and Community Services (DFACS) have been mapped as a percentage of all children aged under 16 years. Families included are those receiving the DFACS age, Disability Support and Sole Parent Pensions; Youth Training or Newstart Allowances; sickness and special benefits; and the family allowance payment (the explanatory notes on page 81 contain more detail). Families receiving these pension and benefit types represent the majority of families reliant on government welfare payments for their main source of income, or with wage earners on low incomes.

In 1989, 24.3 per cent of children aged under 16 years (554,177 children) were living in families receiving income support (**Table 4.10**). By 1996, the proportion had increased to 39.2 per cent and the number had risen to just under one million (968,923 children). While the number of children has risen by a substantial 56.8 per cent, their proportion of the population aged under 16 years has risen by 61.3 per cent. This indicates that the growth in the proportion of children in this welfare dependent population is outstripping the growth of the total population of this age. This trend was evident across all capital cities, with the biggest increases occurring in **Melbourne** (almost double the 1989 proportion), **Canberra** and **Sydney** and the smallest in **Darwin** and **Hobart**. **Canberra** recorded the lowest proportion in both 1989 (17.7 per cent) and 1996 (28.1 per cent).

Table 4.10: Dependent children of selected pensioners and beneficiaries, capital cities
Per cent

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All Capitals
1996	37.2	38.0	43.7	45.6	39.4	45.5	40.3	28.1	39.2
1989	23.2	20.0	30.2	31.2	26.4	34.7	29.9	17.7	24.3

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Melbourne

In 1989, there were 126,188 dependent children aged under 16 years living in families receiving an income support payment and resident in **Melbourne**, one fifth of all children under 16 years of age. By 1996, their number had increased to 257,691 children and their proportion to 38.0 per cent.

There were high proportions of children under 16 years of age in families receiving an income support payment across most of **Melbourne**, with the exception of a group of SLAs in the inner and middle east, on the bay south of St Kilda, and in the outer north-west (**Map 4.9**).

The highest proportions of children under 16 years of age in families receiving an income support payment were recorded in Maribyrnong, where they represented 63.4 per cent of the population under 16 years of age. Other SLAs with high proportions were Broadmeadows (60.0 per cent), Preston (59.0) and Mornington Peninsula South (58.5 per cent). Wyndham Balance, Moreland North, Dandenong and Sunshine each had proportions of dependent children in excess of 50 per cent.

The lowest proportions were recorded in Hawthorn (14.0 per cent), Kew (14.6 per cent) and Brighton (14.9 per cent), with relatively low proportions also in Camberwell North and Camberwell South (both 15.7 per cent) and in Manningham East (17.2 per cent).

The largest numbers of children under 16 years of age living in families receiving an income support payment were in Whittlesea South (10,572 children), Broadmeadows (10,469) and Yarra Ranges South-West (10,068).

There was a strong association at the SLA level with many indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage. Correlations of substantial significance were recorded with the variables for low income families (0.84), unemployed people (0.83) and unskilled

and semi-skilled workers (0.72), while inverse correlations were recorded with high income families (-0.88) and female labour force participation rates (-0.75). These results, together with the inverse correlation with the IRSD (-0.93), indicate an association at the SLA level between high proportions of dependent children under 16 years of age living in families receiving an income support payment and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Geelong

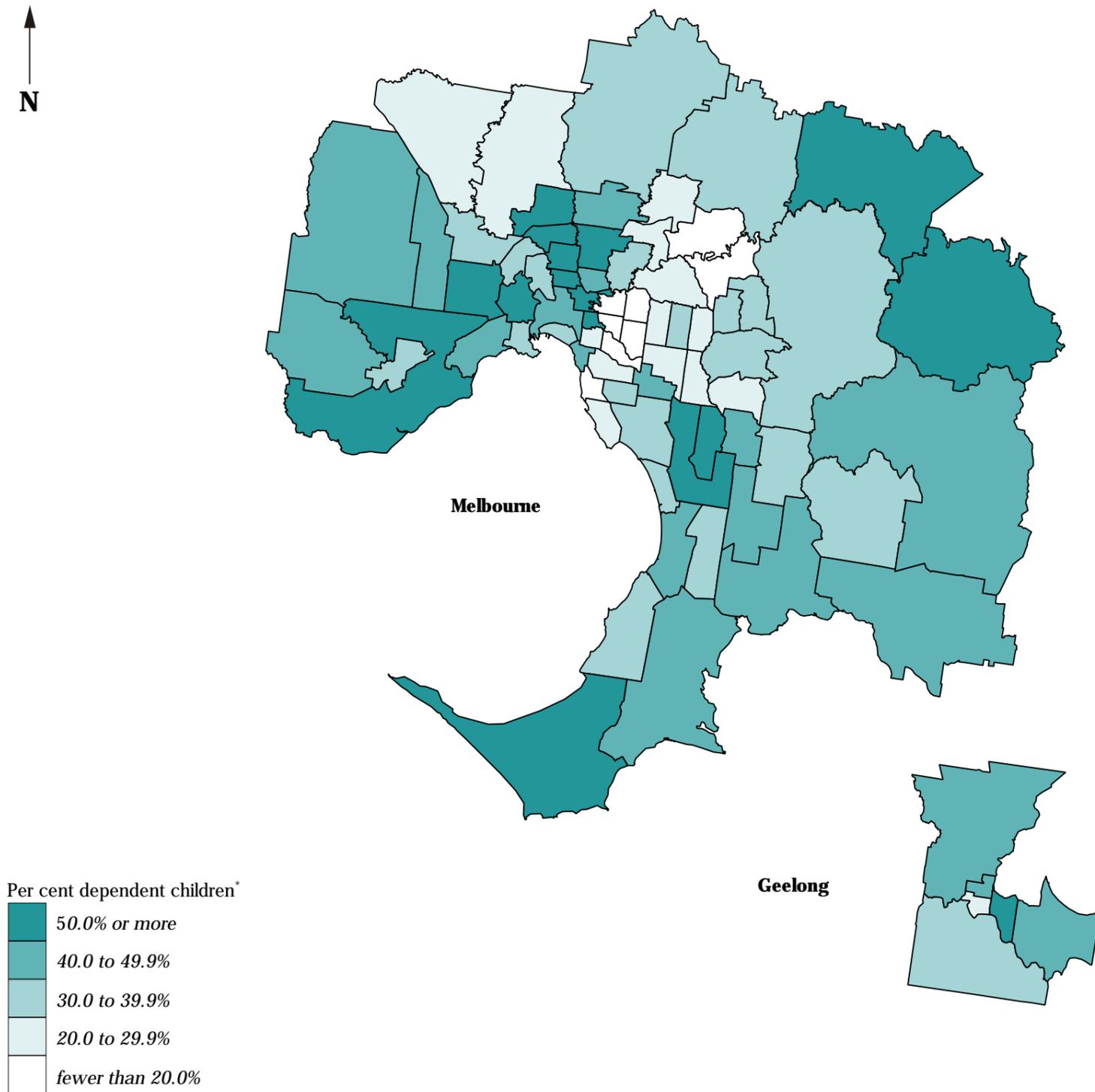
There were 8,445 children aged under 16 years and living in families receiving an income support payment in **Geelong** in 1989, 28 per cent of all children under 16 years of age; by 1996 the number had increased substantially, to 14,244 children (43.4 per cent).

The highest proportions were in the City of Geelong (54.1 per cent) and Corio Inner (49.8 per cent), and the lowest proportion was in Newtown (27.3 per cent). There were 6,334 dependent children aged under 16 years living in families receiving an income support payment in Corio Inner and 3,076 in South Barwon Inner.

Map 4.9

Dependent children of selected pensioners and beneficiaries*, Melbourne and Geelong, 1996

as a percentage of all children aged from 0 to 15 years in each Statistical Local Area



*Includes children aged under 16 years and living in families receiving the Family Payment (when paid at greater than the minimum rate)

Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Dependent children of selected pensioners and beneficiaries, 30 June 1996

State/Territory comparison

In 1996, 51.4 per cent of the population aged under 16 years and living outside of the major urban centres were living in families in receipt of an income support payment from the Department of Family and Community Services (see page 81 for further details). Proportions varied little across the non-metropolitan areas, with the highest recorded in New South Wales (54.1 per cent) and Tasmania (53.2 per cent) and the lowest in Western Australia (43.7 per cent) and Victoria (49.1 per cent).

Both the numbers and proportions have increased since 1989, rising from 37.8 per cent and 450,900 children in 1989 to 51.4 per cent and 686,689 children in 1996 (**Table 4.11**). The largest proportional increase was recorded in Victoria, where the 1996 figure was a 57.7 per cent increase from 1989. The overall increase from 37.8 per cent of the population aged under 16 years in 1989 to 51.4 per cent in 1996 represents a rise of 33.3 per cent, around half that of the increase for the capital cities (61.3 per cent).

Table 4.11: Dependent children of selected pensioners and beneficiaries, State/Territory
Per cent

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total ¹
1996									
Capital city	37.2	38.0	43.7	45.6	39.4	45.5	40.3	28.1 ²	39.2
Other major urban centres ³	41.4	43.4	48.4	..	..	..	..	..	44.0
Rest of State/Territory	54.1	49.1	52.5	51.5	43.7	53.2	52.9	— ⁴	51.4
Whole of State/Territory	42.6	41.3	48.2	47.3	40.7	50.1	47.8	27.4	43.5
1989									
Rest of State/Territory	41.4	31.3	41.0	38.8	31.9	38.3	42.6	— ⁴	37.8

¹Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

³Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

⁴Data unreliable: included with ACT total

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Rest of State

In 1989, there were 83,219 dependent children under 16 years of age living in families receiving an income support payment and resident in the non-metropolitan areas of Victoria, 31.3 per cent of all children aged under 16 years of age. By 1996, their number had increased to 135,990, and the proportion to 49.1 per cent.

The highest proportions of children under 16 years of age in families receiving an income support payment are generally concentrated in the Central Highlands area, as well as in the towns mapped (**Map 4.10**).

The highest proportions were recorded in Central Goldfields Balance (70.3 per cent), Loddon South (69.8 per cent), St Arnaud (67.7 per cent), Colac (67.2 per cent) and Robinvale (67.1 per cent). Lower proportions, of between 60 and 65 per cent, were recorded in Strathboggy, Campaspe South, Benalla, Hepburn East, East Gippsland Balance and Castlemaine.

The lowest proportions of children under 16 years of age living in families receiving an income support payment were in Alpine East (20.5 per cent), Greater Geelong [Part C] (26.9 per cent), Queenscliffe (28.8 per cent), Delatite North (29.5 per cent) and Macedon Ranges Balance (29.9 per cent).

The largest numbers of children under 16 years of age living in families receiving an income support payment were in Ballarat (9,860 children), Bendigo (7,871), Mildura [Part A] (5,771), Shepparton (5,477), Wodonga (3,781), Morwell (3,259), Baw Baw West [Part B] (3,200), Warrnambool (3,123) and Bairnsdale (3,051).

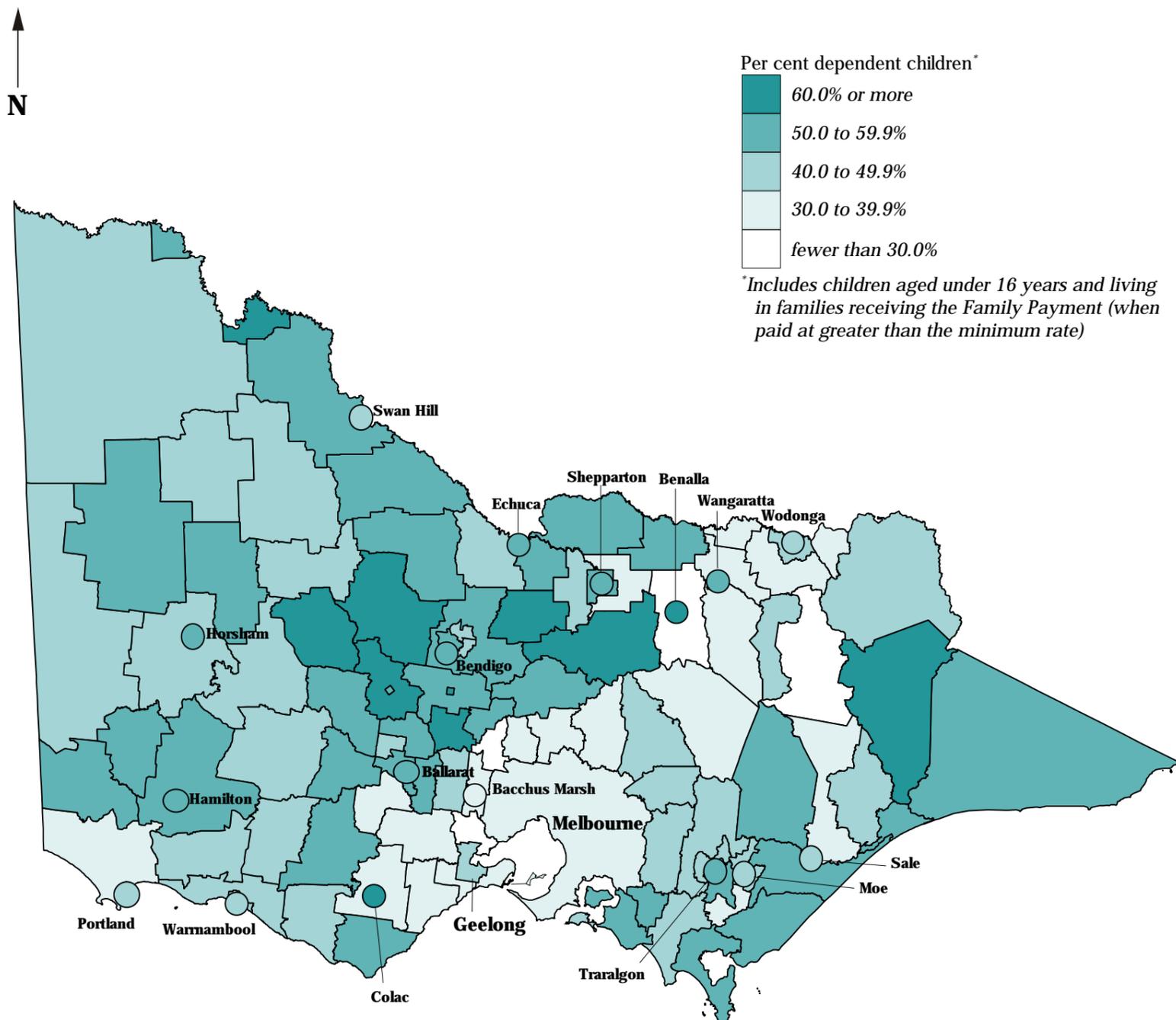
There were also relatively large numbers of dependent children of income support recipients in the SLAs of Traralgon (2,735 children), Moe (2,447), Wangaratta (1,932) and Colac (1,583).

The correlation coefficients recorded in the non-metropolitan areas were far less significant than those recorded in **Melbourne**. Correlations of meaningful significance were recorded with the variables for low income families (0.65) and early school leavers (0.58), while an inverse correlation was recorded with high income families (-0.63). These results, together with the inverse correlation of substantial significance with the IRSD (-0.73), indicate the existence of an association at the SLA level between high proportions of dependent children under 16 years of age living in families receiving an income support payment and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Map 4.10

Dependent children of selected pensioners and beneficiaries*, Victoria, 1996

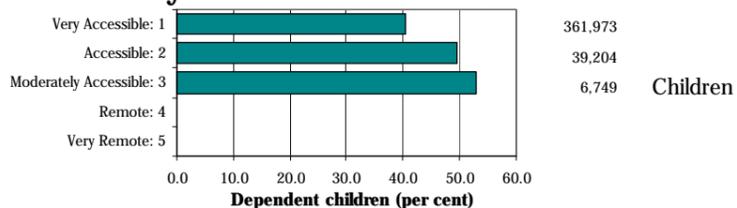
as a percentage of all children aged from 0 to 15 years in each Statistical Local Area



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



The proportion of the population aged under 16 years living in families receiving an income support payment is high in all of the ARIA categories, ranging from 40.5 per cent in the Very Accessible category, to 49.4 per cent in the Accessible and 53.0 per cent in the Moderately Accessible categories.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

This page intentionally left blank