

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 the 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 (72.8 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 (percentage of the population)
Pensions	Pensions	Age group (years)
Age ¹	Service (Age) ²	Males 65 & over Females 60 & over
Disability Support	Service (PI) 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 cases this is also the postcode of their usual residence. The

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.

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

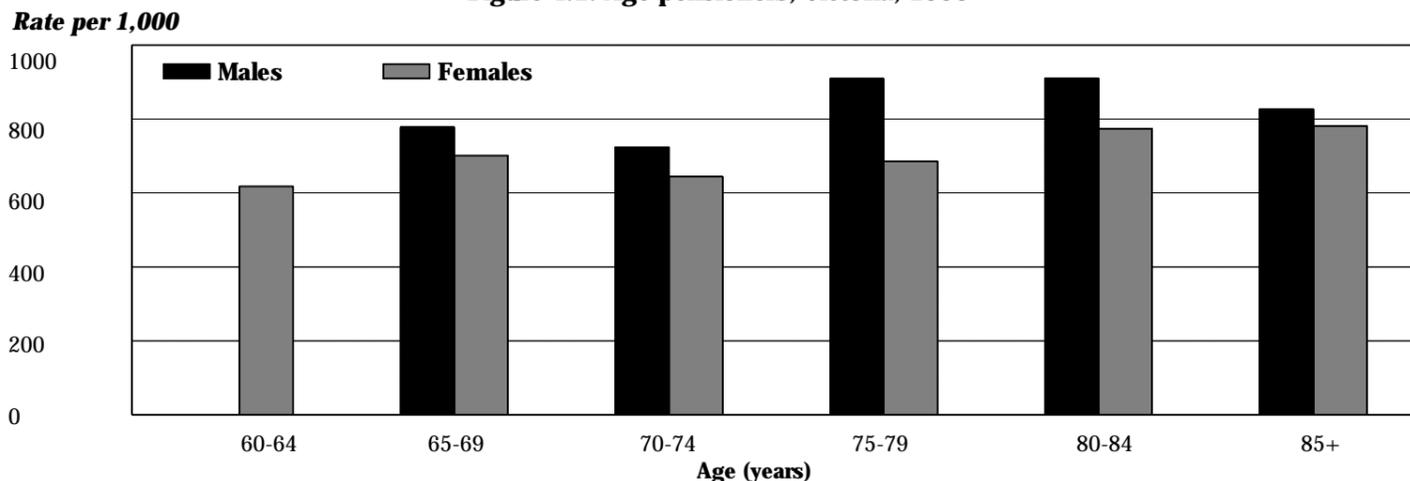
100, this would have concealed the problem and would not have represented the data for the areas as estimated. Percentages in excess of 100 per cent are noted separately in the text. Although the other pension or benefit types analysed only rarely have such high proportions, it is not possible to say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

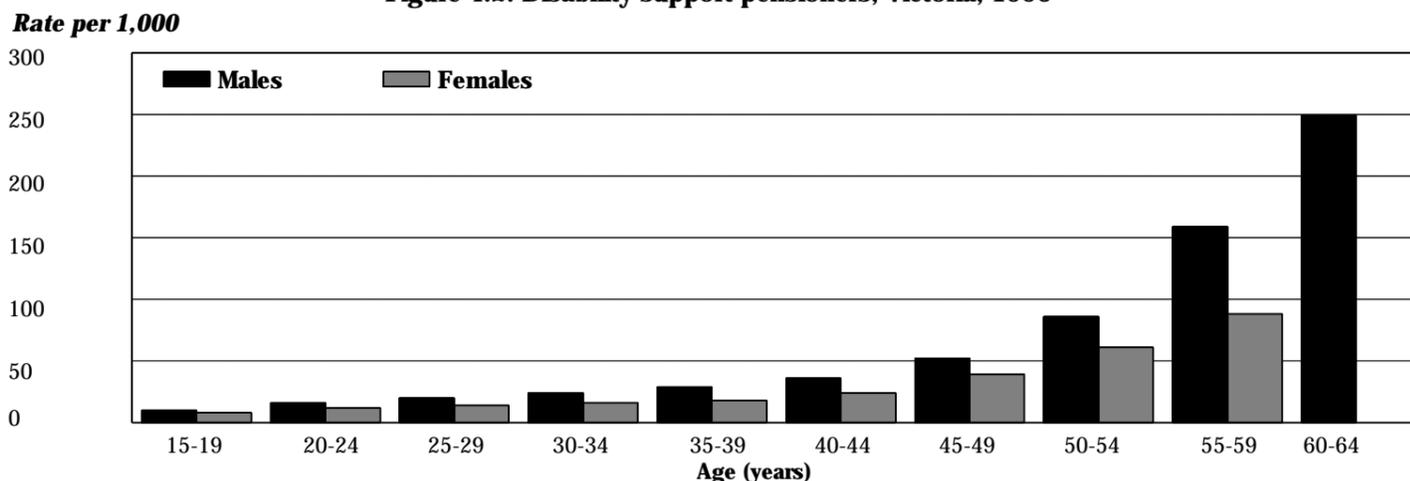


Source: Calculated on data supplied by DFACS (Age Pension) and DVA (Service Pension (Age))

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

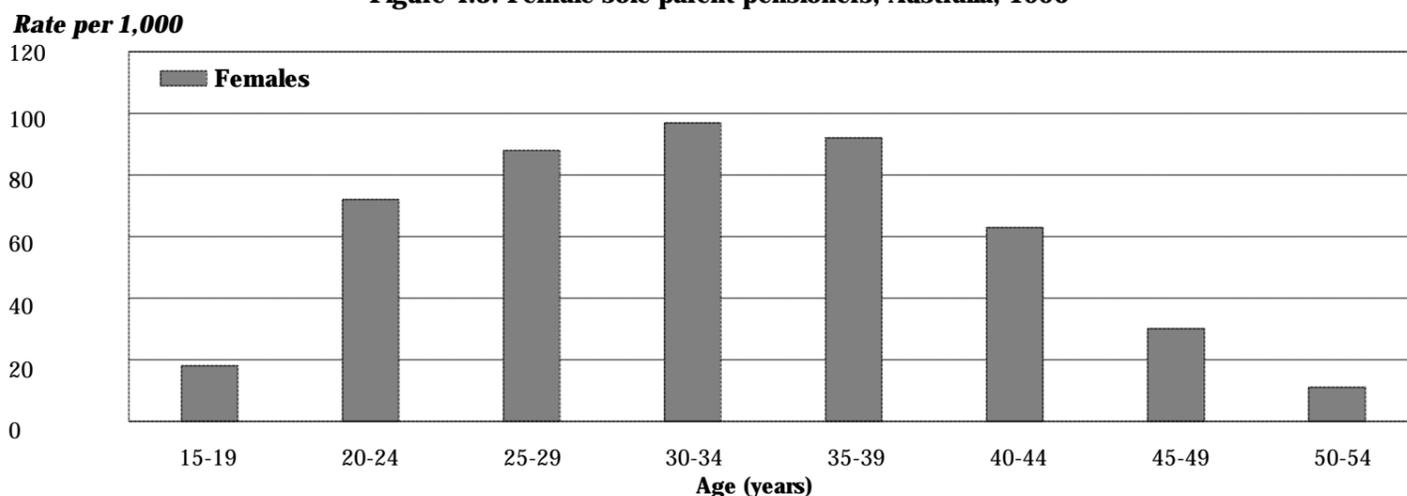


Source: Calculated on data supplied by DFACS (Disability Support Pension) and DVA (Service Pension (Permanently Incapacitated))

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, Australia, 1996

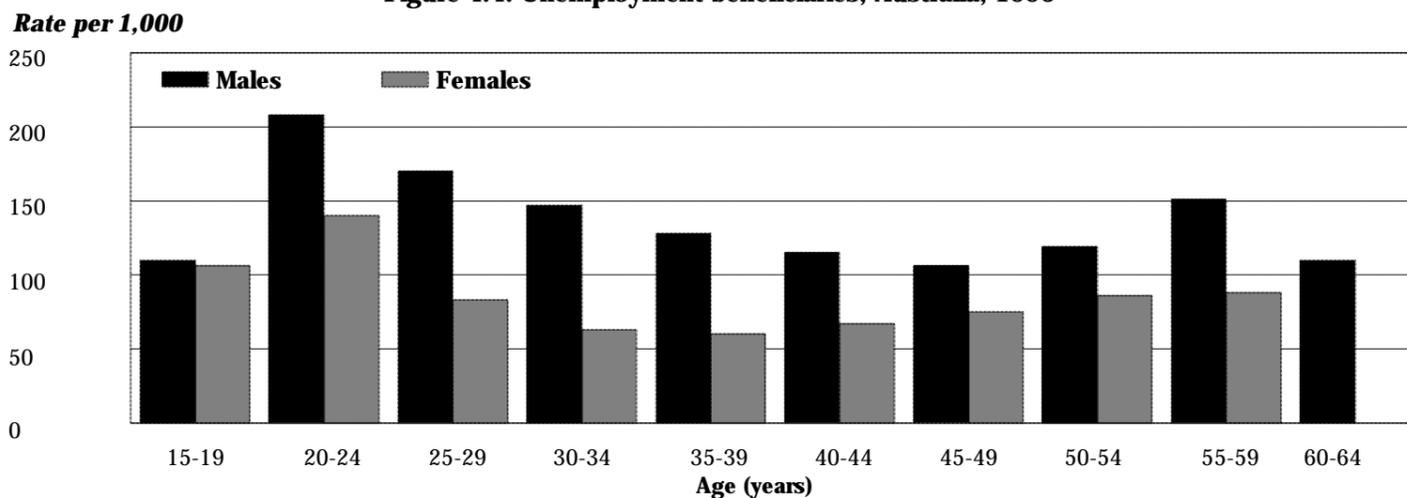


Source: Calculated on data supplied by DFACS

Both male and female unemployment rates are highest in the 20 to 24 year age group. Then they generally decline to the 45 to 49 year age groups for males, before increasing at the 50 to 54 year age group: this is followed by a decline in the 60 to 64 year

age group (**Figure 4.4**). Female rates are at their lowest in the 35 to 39 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, Australia, 1996



¹Excludes 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

Capital Cities

There were 342,678 age pensioners in **Sydney** in 1989; by 1996 the number had declined to 328,548. The highest proportions of age pensioners were located in **Gosford-Wyong** (with 74.7 per cent of its eligible population in receipt of the Age Pension), **Outer South Western Sydney** (72.3 per cent), **Blacktown-Baulkham Hills** (72.0 per cent) and **Canterbury-Bankstown** (71.9 per cent). The lowest proportions were in the high socioeconomic status Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) of **Hornsby-Ku-ring-gai** (42.0 per cent), **Lower Northern Sydney** (51.1 per cent) and **Northern Beaches** (54.7 per cent). The largest numbers of age pensioners were in **St George-Sutherland** (41,806) and **Gosford-Wyong** (38,632). The proportions of age pensioners in **Newcastle** (80.1 per cent; 58,708) and **Wollongong** (79.2; 28,556) were higher than in any of the areas mapped for **Sydney**.

The number of age pensioners in **Melbourne** increased from 285,090 in 1989 to 299,422 in 1996, while the proportion declined marginally. The highest proportion recorded for any capital city or other major urban centre SSD was in **Moreland** (81.9 per cent of the eligible population receiving an Age Pension). High proportions were also recorded in **Northern Outer Melbourne** (79.4 per cent), **Western Melbourne** (78.7 per cent) and **Mornington Peninsula** (77.5 per cent). The lowest proportions were in **Boroondara** (54.6 per cent) and **Inner Melbourne** (63.7 per cent). The largest numbers of age pensioners were in **Southern Melbourne** (42,191), **Eastern Middle Melbourne** (39,947) and **Western Melbourne** (39,834). **Geelong** had 18,869 age pensioners, 82.7 per cent of the eligible population.

There were 130,526 age pensioners in **Brisbane** in 1996, 69.9 per cent of the eligible population (down from 79.0 per cent in 1989). The highest proportions were in **Ipswich** and **Beaudesert** (both with 81.6 per cent), with slightly lower proportions in **Pine Rivers**, **Redcliffe** and **Gold Coast Part A** (all around 77 per cent). Although **Brisbane City** had the lowest proportion (66.5 per cent), it had the largest number (79,068) of age pensioners.

There were 41,280 pensioners in **Gold Coast-Tweed Heads** (55.2 per cent of the eligible population), and 8,665 in **Townsville-Thuringowa** (65.5 per cent).

There were 127,990 age pensioners in **Adelaide** in 1996, below the 1989 level of 129,358 age pensioners. The highest proportions were in **Northern** (with 81.4 per cent and the second highest proportion recorded for any capital city or other major urban centre SSD) and **Western** (80.9 per cent), while the lowest was in **Eastern** (68.1 per cent). There were 36,628 age pensioners in **Southern** and 33,704 in **Western**.

The number of age pensioners in **Perth** increased from 105,370 in 1989 to 108,706 in 1996, but again the proportion declined. The highest proportions were in **East Metropolitan** (75.3 per cent) and **South East Metropolitan** (74.2 per cent); **Central Metropolitan** had the lowest proportion (53.9 per cent). The largest numbers of age pensioners lived in **North Metropolitan** (30,674 pensioners) and **South East Metropolitan** (26,395 pensioners).

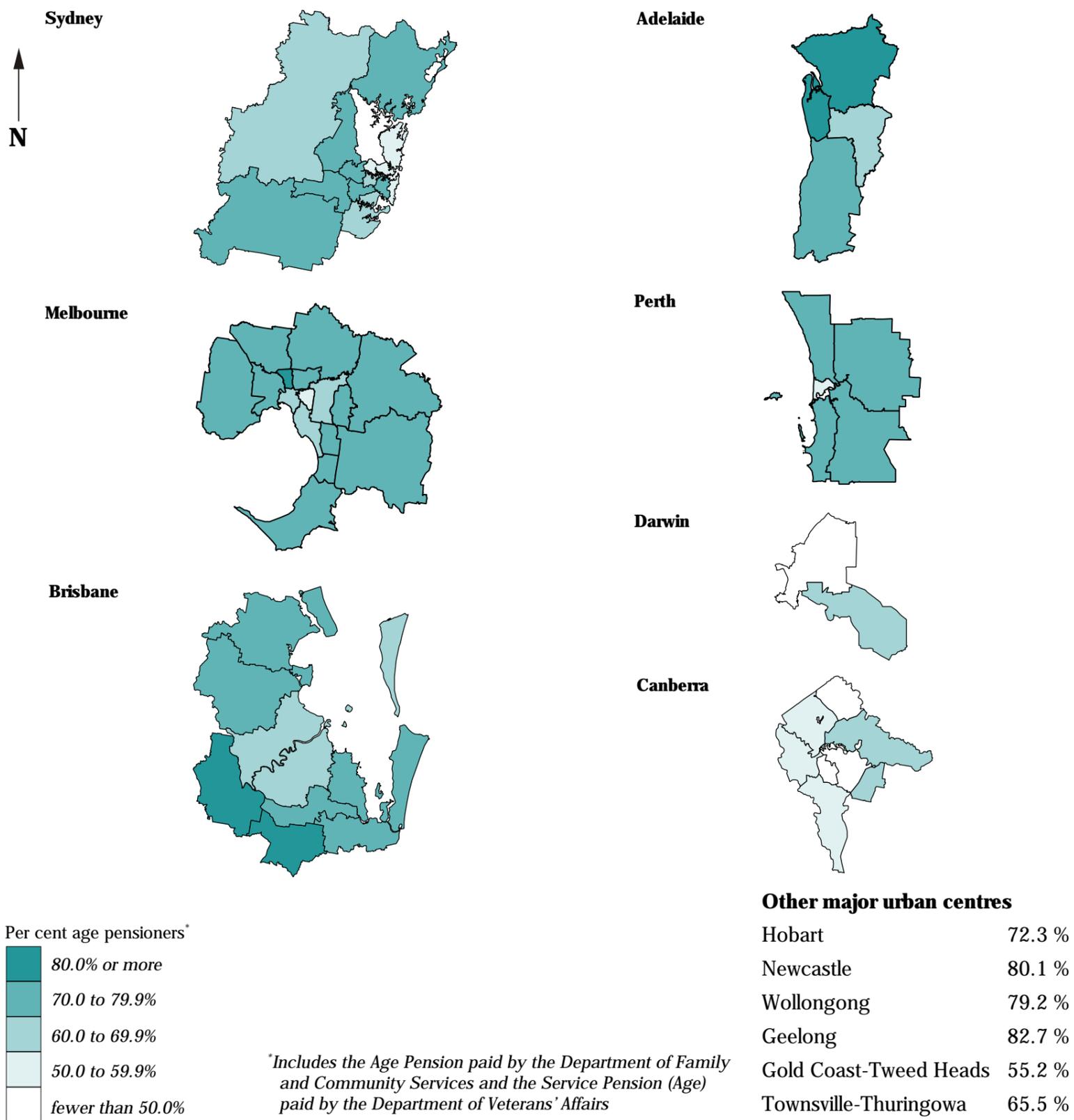
The number of age pensioners in **Hobart** declined by 1,197 to 19,732 between 1989 and 1996 and the proportion also declined, from 81.7 per cent in 1989 to 72.3 per cent in 1996.

In 1989, there were 1,605 age pensioners in **Darwin**, 64.4 per cent of the eligible population. This number had increased to 2,108 in 1996, although the proportion decreased to 41.3 per cent of the eligible population. There were 354 age pensioners in **Palmerston East Arm** (66.6 per cent) and 1,754 in **Darwin City** (38.4 per cent).

The number of age pensioners in **Canberra** increased from 10,986 in 1989 to 13,164 in 1996, although the proportion declined. The highest proportions were in **North Canberra** (60.5 per cent) and **Tuggeranong** (57.8 per cent), while the lowest was in **South Canberra** (43.4). The largest numbers were in **North Canberra** (3,268 age pensioners) and **Belconnen** (3,121 age pensioners).

Map 4.1: Age pensioners*, major urban centres, 1996

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



Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

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

Rest of Australia

In New South Wales, more than 80 per cent of the eligible population received an Age Pension in both **Far West** (82.1 per cent) and **Central Tablelands** (80.1 per cent), while there were also relatively high proportions in **Albury** (76.8 per cent), **Yarrowlumla Part A** (74.2 per cent), **Bathurst-Orange** and **Lower Murrumbidgee** (both with 73.7 per cent). Only **Snowy** (55.8 per cent), **North Central Plain** (59.3 per cent) and **Tweed Heads** (59.8 per cent) had less than 60 per cent of their eligible population in receipt of the Age Pension. The largest numbers of age pensioners lived in the north coast Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) of **Hastings** (18,729), **Richmond-Tweed SD Balance** (18,186) and **Clarence** (17,555).

The highest proportion of age pensioners in Victoria was in **Ballarat**, with 81.5 per cent of its eligible population in receipt of the pension, compared with 79.6 per cent in **Bendigo**, 79.4 per cent in **La Trobe Valley** and 79.2 per cent in **Shepparton**. No SSD had a proportion of less than 60 per cent, with the lowest proportions in **West Central Highlands** (62.6 per cent), **Mildura** (67.4 per cent) and **West Mallee** (67.5 per cent). There were 9,256 pensioners in **Ballarat**, 8,700 in **Bendigo** and 8,514 in **North Goulburn**.

The proportions of age pensioners were low in Queensland SSDs, relative to those in the other States. The highest proportions were in **Rockhampton** (75.4 per cent), **Toowoomba** (72.5 per cent), **Darling Downs** (70.5 per cent) and **Moreton SD Balance** (70.0 per cent). The three SSDs with proportions of less than 50 per cent were **Mackay SD Balance** (48.5), **Cairns** (49.0) and **North West** (49.4). The largest numbers of age pensioners lived in **Wide Bay-Burnett SD Balance** (19,719) and **Sunshine Coast** (19,598).

In South Australia, the highest proportion of age pensioners was in **Whyalla** (87.5 per cent of the eligible population). This was the second highest proportion of any non-metropolitan SSD in Australia. Relatively high proportions were also recorded in **Pirie** (78.8 per cent), **Riverland** (78.0 per cent) and **Murray Mallee** (77.8 per cent). The lowest proportion was in the remote **Far North** SSD, where only 39.7 per cent of the eligible population received an Age Pension. There were 4,923 age pensioners resident in **Fleurieu**, 4,224 in **Yorke** and 4,141 in **Riverland**.

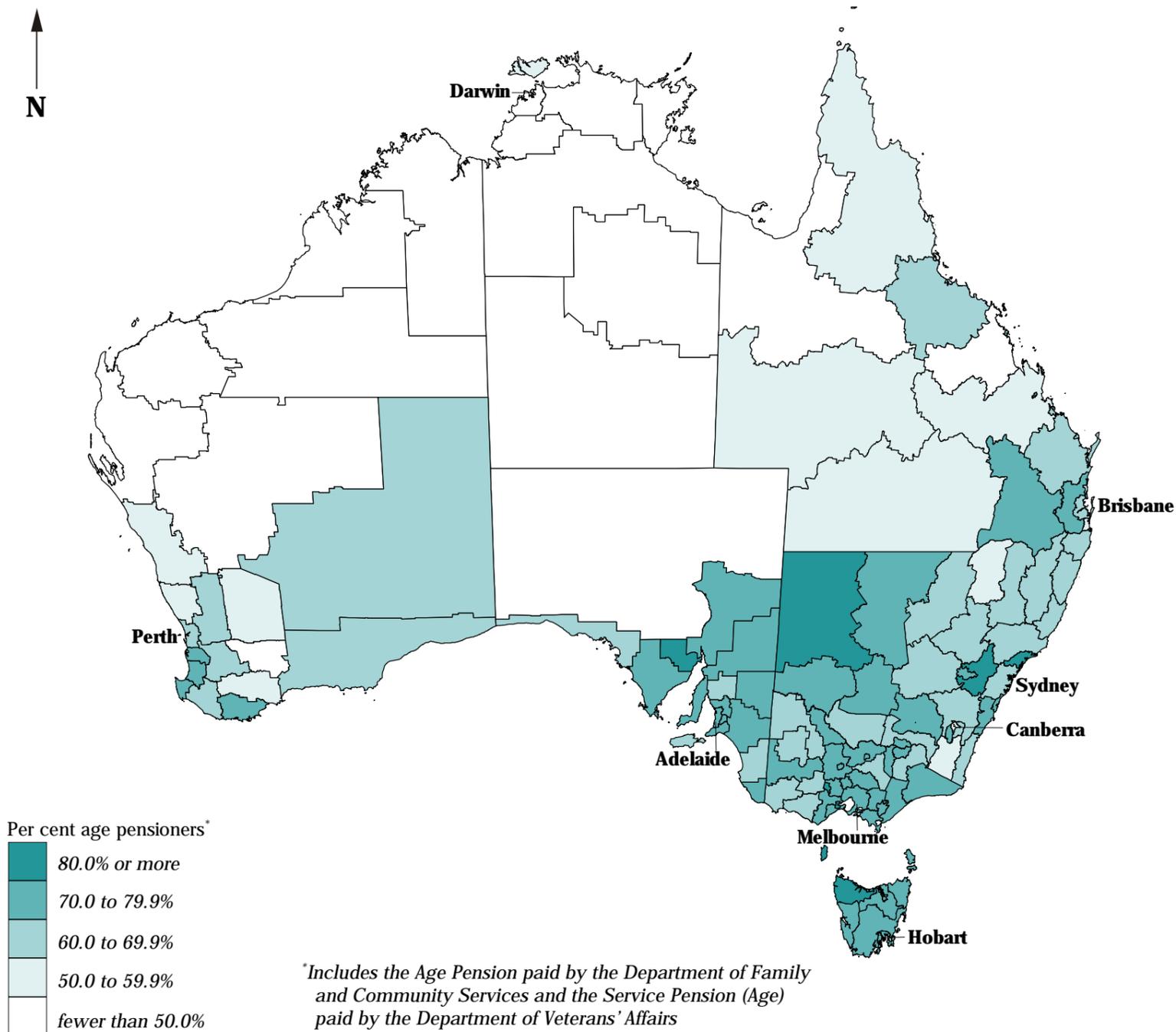
The highest proportions of age pensioners in the non-metropolitan areas of Western Australia were in **Dale** (78.0 per cent), **Preston** (76.3), **King** (71.7) and **Vasse** (70.3) in the State's south-west. In contrast, very low proportions were recorded in the remote SSDs of **Fortescue** (13.8), **Gascoyne** (17.8) and **Ord** (26.4). The largest numbers of age pensioners were in the SSDs with the highest proportions, with 6,892 age pensioners in **Dale**, 5,820 in **Preston** and 3,792 in **King**.

North Western Rural in Tasmania had the highest proportion (88.9 per cent) of age pensioners in any non-metropolitan SSD in Australia. The proportions in **Burnie-Devonport** and **Lyell** were 78.3 and 77.9 per cent respectively. The lowest proportions were in **Southern** (74.4 per cent) and **Central North** (75.3 per cent). The largest numbers of pensioners lived in the north coast SSDs of **Launceston** (11,045) and **Burnie-Devonport** (9,242).

The Northern Territory had among the lowest rates of age pensioners in Australia. The highest proportion was in **Bathurst-Melville** (50.5 per cent), with relatively high proportions in **East Arnhem** (46.8 per cent) and **Central NT** (44.8 per cent, and the largest number of pensioners, 1,201). The lowest proportions were in **Alligator** (21.6 per cent) and **Daly** (27.1 per cent).

Map 4.2: Age pensioners*, Australia, 1996

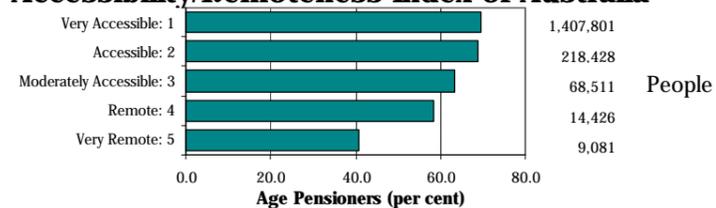
as a percentage of males aged 65 years and over and females aged 60 years and over in each Statistical Subdivision



Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

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 declines steadily, from 69.6 per cent in the Very Accessible category and 69.0 per cent in the Accessible category, to 58.4 per cent in the Remote category, before dropping sharply to 40.8 per cent in the Very Remote category.

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
Per cent

	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

In 1996, there were 330,475 disability support pensioners resident in the capital cities and other major urban centres, two thirds of all disability support pensioners in Australia. These areas contain 70.4 per cent of the population.

Capital Cities

In **Sydney**, **Inner Sydney** (6.1 per cent of males aged from 15 to 64 years and females aged from 15 to 59 years), **Gosford-Wyong** (5.9 per cent), **Central Western Sydney** (5.1 per cent) and **Fairfield-Liverpool** (4.8 per cent) had the highest proportions of disability support pensioners. Low proportions were recorded in the higher socioeconomic status Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) of **Hornsby-Ku-ring-gai** (1.5 per cent), and **Lower Northern Sydney** and **Northern Beaches** (both 2.1 per cent). The largest numbers of disability support pensioners lived in **Inner Sydney** (11,981 people), **Fairfield-Liverpool** (9,552) and **Central Western Sydney** (8,932). The proportion of disability support pensioners in **Newcastle** (6.7 per cent; 18,609 pensioners) was higher than in any area mapped for **Sydney**, and higher than the proportion in **Wollongong** (4.9 per cent; 7,709).

In **Melbourne**, 6.4 per cent of the eligible population of **Moreland** received a Disability Support Pension, compared with 5.3 per cent in **Northern Middle Melbourne**, 5.0 per cent in **Western Melbourne** and 4.6 per cent in both **Hume** and **Dandenong**. The lowest proportions were in SSDs to the east of the city centre, in **South East Outer Melbourne**, **Eastern Outer Melbourne** and **Eastern Middle Melbourne** (each with 2.6 per cent). There were 12,885 disability support pensioners living in **Western Melbourne**, 8,107 in **Northern Middle Melbourne** and 7,429 in **Inner Middle**. In **Geelong**, there were 4,333 disability support pensioners, representing 4.7 per cent of the eligible population.

The highest proportion of disability support pensioners in **Brisbane**, or any capital city or other major urban centre SSD, was in **Redcliffe**, where they comprised 7.6 per cent of the population. Relatively high proportions were also recorded in **Caboolture** (5.9 per cent) and **Ipswich** (5.6 per cent). **Pine**

Rivers and **Beaudesert** had the lowest proportions, with 2.5 per cent and 3.1 per cent respectively. In **Brisbane City** there were 20,084 disability support pensioners, more than four times the number in next ranked **Logan** (4,135) and **Ipswich** (4,117). There were 9,048 disability support pensioners resident in **Gold Coast-Tweed Heads** (4.1 per cent of the eligible population) and 2,901 in **Townsville-Thuringowa** (3.6 per cent).

Adelaide' snorthern and western suburbs housed the highest proportions of disability support pensioners, with 7.0 per cent in **Western** (the second highest rate for any capital city or other major urban centre SSD) and 5.5 per cent in **Northern**. These SSDs also contained the largest numbers of disability support pensioners, with 8,777 and 11,672 respectively. The lowest proportion was in **Eastern**, with 3.9 per cent of its eligible population in receipt of a Disability Support Pension.

In **Perth**, the highest proportions of disability support pensioners were in **South West Metropolitan** (4.3 per cent) and **East Metropolitan** (4.1 per cent), and the lowest were in **Central Metropolitan** and **North Metropolitan** (both 3.6 per cent). There were 8,966 disability support pensioners in **North Metropolitan**, compared with 7,423 in **South East Metropolitan** and 6,988 in **South West Metropolitan**.

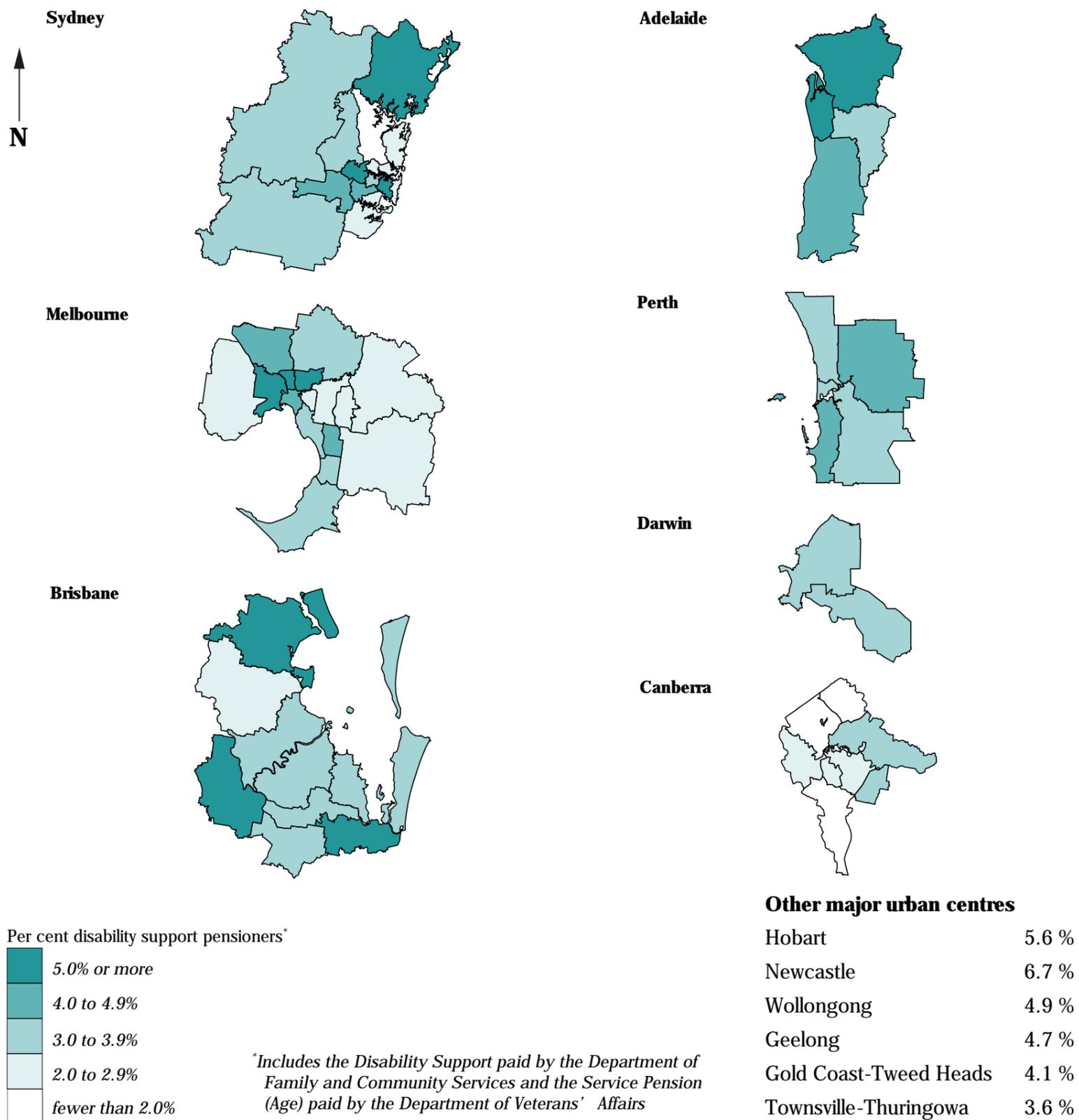
There were 6,702 disability support pensioners in **Hobart**, representing 5.6 per cent of the eligible population.

In **Darwin**, the highest proportion of disability support pensioners was in **Palmerston-East Arm** (3.6 per cent, 305 pensioners), with the lowest in **Darwin City** (3.0 per cent, 1,510 pensioners).

The highest proportion of **Canberra** residents in receipt of a Disability Support Pension lived in **North Canberra** (3.7 per cent). **South Canberra** and **Woden Valley** had 2.6 per cent and 2.5 per cent of their populations in receipt of a Disability Support Pension, respectively. The lowest proportion was 0.8 per cent in **Gungahlin-Hall**. Two SSDs had more than 1,000 disability support pensioners: they were **Belconnen** (1,081 people) and **North Canberra** (1,006).

Map 4.3: Disability support pensioners, major urban centres, 1996

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



Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

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

In 1996, there were 162,453 people in receipt of a Disability Support Pension living outside the capital cities and other major urban centres, 33.1 per cent of all such pensioners in Australia.

Rest of Australia

The highest proportion of disability support pensioners in the non-metropolitan areas of New South Wales (and of any non-metropolitan Statistical Subdivision (SSD) in Australia) was in **Far West** (10.6 per cent of the population of males aged from 15 to 64 years and females from 15 to 59 years). Other SSDs with relatively high proportions were **Tweed Heads** (7.5 per cent), **Hastings** (7.0 per cent), **Clarence** and **Macquarie-Barwon** (both 6.8 per cent), **Lower South Coast** (6.6 per cent) and **Illawarra SD Balance** (6.3 per cent). The lowest proportions were in the adjacent SSDs of **Snowy** (1.7 per cent), **Yarrowlunla** (3.0 per cent) and **Queanbeyan** (3.7 per cent). There were 5,932 disability support pensioners living in **Richmond-Tweed SD Balance**, 5,354 in **Clarence** and 4,998 in **Hastings**.

In Victoria, the SSDs of **North Loddon** and **Shepparton** (both with 6.3 per cent) and **Ballarat** (6.1 per cent) had more than six per cent of their eligible population in receipt of a Disability Support Pension. The lowest proportions were in **East Ovens-Murray** (2.7 per cent), **South Loddon** (2.8 per cent) and **East Barwon** (3.4 per cent). The largest numbers of these pension recipients were resident in **Ballarat** (2,932 people), **Bendigo** (2,516) and **North Goulburn** (2,306).

Relatively high proportions of disability support pensioners were recorded in the Queensland SSDs of **Wide Bay-Burnett SD Balance** (6.8 per cent) and **Bundaberg** (6.4 per cent). High proportions were also recorded in **Toowoomba** (5.6 per cent), and **Moreton SD Balance** and **Darling Downs** (both with 4.9 per cent). The lowest proportions of disability support pensioners were in **Mackay SD Balance** (2.6 per cent) and **Gladstone** (2.9 per cent). There were 6,997 of these pensioners

resident in **Wide Bay-Burnett SD Balance**, 4,373 in **Moreton SD Balance** and 4,140 in **Sunshine Coast**.

In South Australia, the highest proportions of disability support pensioners were in **Yorke** (8.6 per cent and the second highest of any non-metropolitan SSD), **Pirie** (6.6 per cent), **Fleurieu** and **Murray Mallee** (both with 6.1 per cent) and **Whyalla** (6.0 per cent). The lowest proportions were in **Upper South East** (3.0 per cent) and **Onkaparinga** (3.1 per cent). The largest numbers of these pensioners lived in **Riverland** (1,180 people), **Murray Mallee** (1,175) and **Yorke** (1,105).

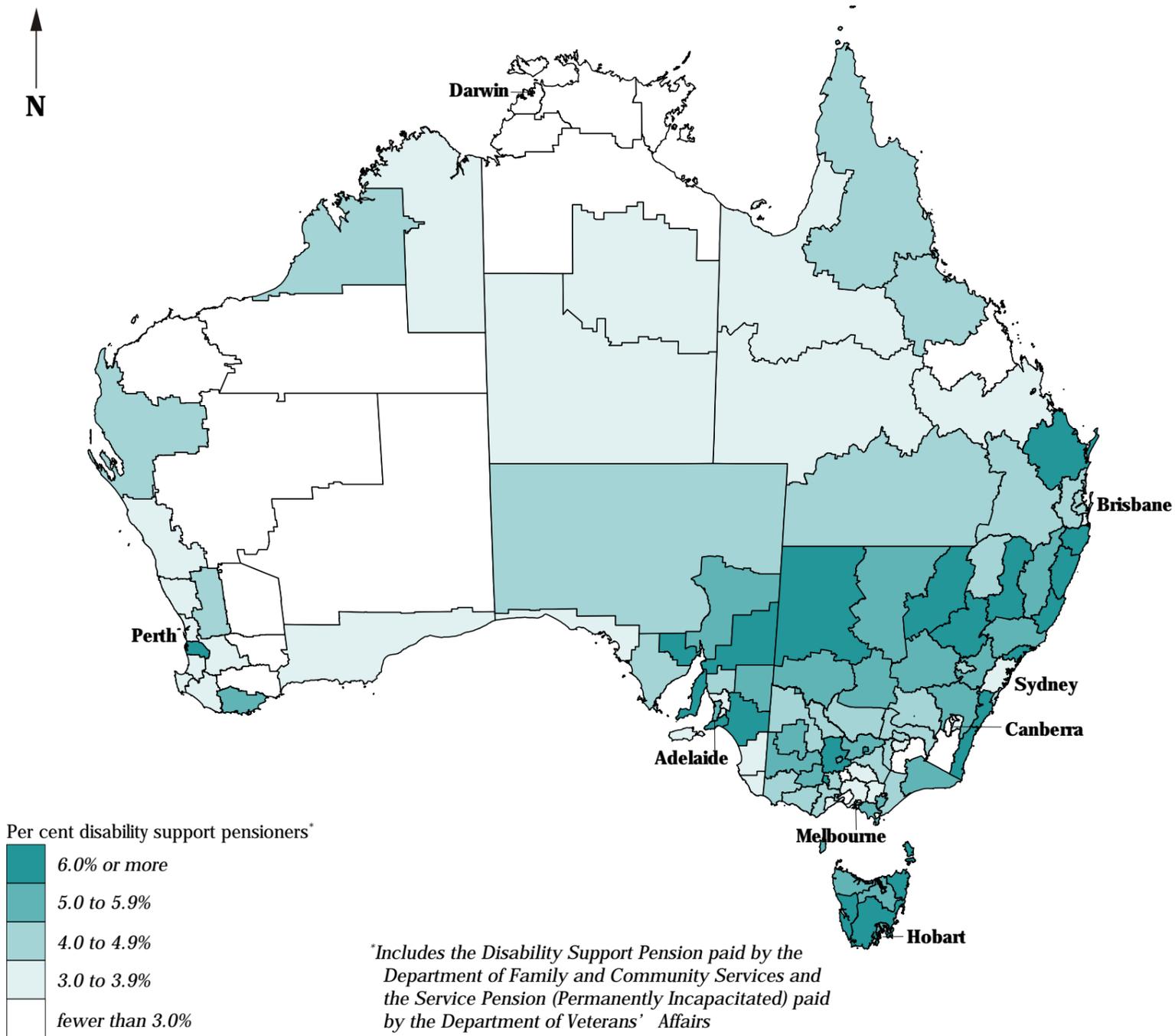
The highest proportion of disability support pensioners in Western Australia was recorded in **Dale** (6.7 per cent), while in **King**, **Avon** and **Gascoyne** the proportions were 5.2, 4.6 and 4.6 per cent respectively. High proportions were also recorded in **Fitzroy** (4.3 per cent) and **Ord** (3.9 per cent). The lowest proportions were in **Fortescue** (1.3 per cent) and **Carnegie** (1.7 per cent). There were more than 1,000 disability support pensioners in **Dale** (2,011 people), **Preston** (1,588), **King** (1,118) and **Greenough River** (1,007).

In Tasmania, more than six per cent of the population received a Disability Support Pension in **Southern** (7.7 per cent), **Burnie-Devonport** (7.3 per cent), **North Eastern** (6.9 per cent) and **Lyell** (6.3 per cent). The lowest proportions in Tasmania were in **Launceston** (5.3 per cent) and **North Western Rural** (5.4 per cent). There were 3,396 disability support pensioners living in **Burnie-Devonport**, 3,182 in **Launceston** and 1,592 in **Southern**.

There were relatively low proportions of the population in the Northern Territory receiving a Disability Support Pension. The highest proportions were in **Barkly** (3.7 per cent) and **Central NT** (3.2 per cent) and the lowest proportions were in **East Arnhem** (1.4 per cent) and **Alligator** (1.5 per cent). There were 842 recipients in **Central NT**, 329 in **Lower Top End NT** and 271 in **Darwin Rural Areas**.

Map 4.4: Disability support pensioners*, Australia, 1996

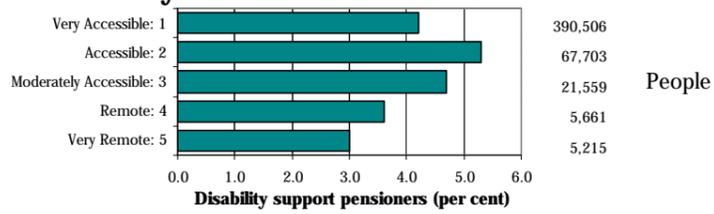
as a percentage of males ages 15 to 64 years and females aged 15 to 59 years in each Statistical Subdivision



Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



Access to services is of particular importance to people with a disability and is reflected in the graph adjacent. The proportion of the eligible population receiving a Disability Support Pension increases from 4.2 per cent in the Very Accessible category to 5.3 per cent in the Accessible category, before dropping away steadily to 3.0 per cent in the Very Remote category.

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

In 1996, there were 212,537 females receiving a Sole Parent Pension in the capital city and major urban centre Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs). They comprised two thirds of all female recipients in Australia.

Capital Cities

In **Sydney**, female recipients of the Sole Parent Pension comprised 9.4 per cent of the eligible population in **Gosford-Wyong** and nine per cent in **Outer South Western Sydney**, while in **Fairfield-Liverpool** and **Outer Western Sydney**, the proportions were 7.1 and 7.0 per cent respectively. The lowest proportions were in **Hornsby-Ku-ring-gai** (1.8 per cent), **Lower Northern Sydney** (2.0 per cent) and **Inner Western Sydney** (2.9 per cent). There were more than 6,000 female sole parent pensioners in each of **Fairfield-Liverpool** (6,406 females), **Gosford-Wyong** (6,340) and **Outer Western Sydney** (6,184). In **Newcastle** (9,561 recipients) and **Wollongong** (4,975 recipients) the proportions of female sole parent pensioners were 7.7 and 7.2 per cent respectively.

The highest proportion of female sole parent pensioners in **Melbourne** was in **Frankston** (8.1 per cent). Relatively high proportions were also recorded in **Mornington Peninsula** (7.9 per cent), **Hume** (6.9 per cent) and **Melton-Wyndham** (6.7 per cent). In contrast, the lowest proportions were in **Boroondara** (2.0 per cent) and **Eastern Middle Melbourne** (3.1 per cent). The largest numbers of female sole parent pensioners were living in **Western Melbourne** (6,705 females), **Southern Melbourne** (4,012) and in **Northern Middle Melbourne** (3,880). In **Geelong**, there were 3,053 female sole parent pensioners, 7.3 per cent of the eligible population.

One tenth of the female population aged from 15 to 54 years received a Sole Parent Pension in **Brisbane's Redcliffe** SSD, compared with slightly lower levels in **Gold Coast Part A** (9.6 per cent), **Ipswich** (9.2) and **Logan** (9.0). The lowest levels were reported for **Brisbane City** (4.5 per cent) and **Pine Rivers** (5.2 per cent). The largest numbers of recipients lived in **Brisbane**

City (10,927), **Logan** (4,483) and **Ipswich** (3,110). In **Gold Coast-Tweed Heads**, there were 7,580 female sole parent pensioners (7.6 per cent of the eligible population), while in **Townsville-Thuringowa** there were 2,548 (6.9 per cent).

In **Adelaide**, the highest proportion of female sole parent pensioners was recorded in **Northern** (8.4 per cent) and the lowest in **Eastern** (3.5). There were 8,063 pensioners resident in **Northern** and a further 5,622 in **Southern**.

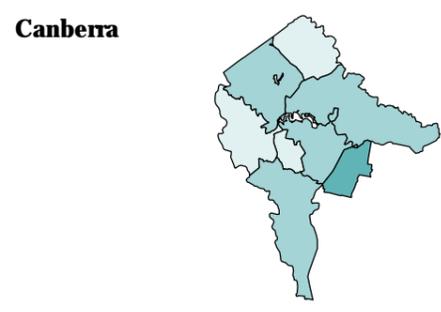
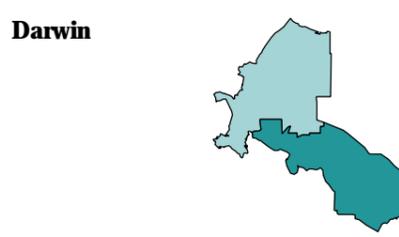
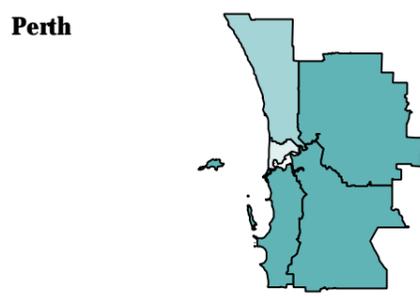
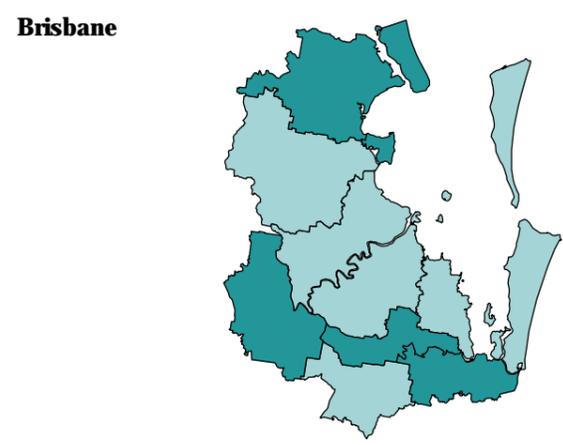
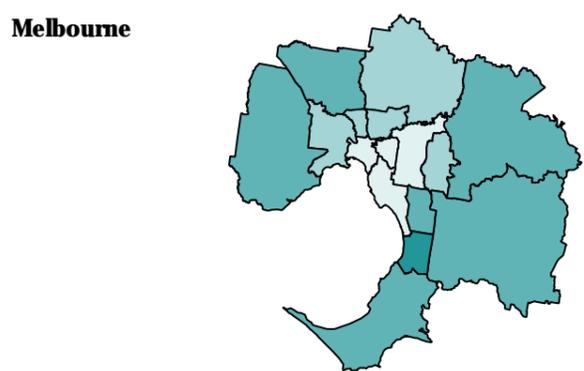
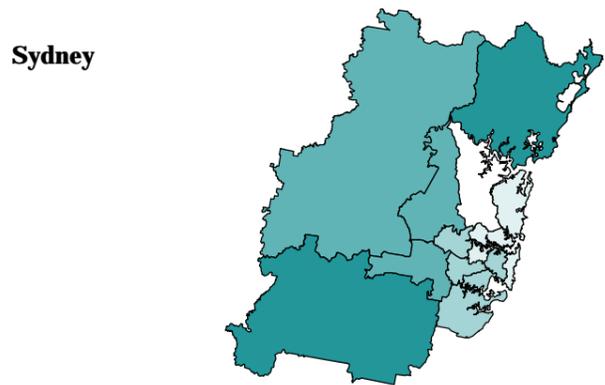
Relatively similar proportions were recorded in the **Perth** SSDs of **South East Metropolitan** (6.8 per cent), **South West Metropolitan** (6.6 per cent) and **East Metropolitan** (6.5 per cent). The lowest proportion was in **Central Metropolitan** (2.6 per cent). The largest numbers of female sole parent pensioners lived in **North Metropolitan** (6,748 females) and **South East Metropolitan** (5,924).

In **Hobart**, there were 3,975 females receiving a Sole Parent Pension, 7.2 per cent of the eligible population.

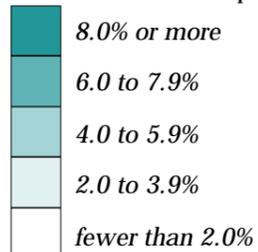
In **Darwin**, there were 504 female sole parent pensioners in **Palmerston-East Arm** SSD (12.5 per cent of the eligible population, the highest proportion of any capital city or other major urban centre SSD). There were 1,308 female sole parent pensioners in **Darwin City** (5.8 per cent).

Female sole parent pensioners comprised more than five per cent of the eligible population in three of **Canberra's** SSDs; these were **North Canberra** and **South Canberra** (both 5.6 per cent) and **Tuggeranong** (5.3 per cent). The lowest proportions were in **Woden Valley** (3.2 per cent) and **Gungahlin-Hall** (3.3 per cent). The largest numbers of recipients were in **Tuggeranong** (1,494 females) and **Belconnen** (1,248 females).

Map 4.5: Female sole parent pensioners, major urban centres, 1996
as a percentage of all females aged 15 to 54 years in each Statistical Subdivision



Per cent female sole parent pensioners



Other major urban centres

Hobart	7.2 %
Newcastle	7.7 %
Wollongong	7.2 %
Geelong	7.3 %
Gold Coast-Tweed Heads	7.6 %
Townsville-Thuringowa	6.9 %

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

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

In 1996, one third of female sole parent pensioners, or 105,616 recipients, lived in the non-metropolitan areas beyond the capital cities and other major urban centres.

Rest of Australia

In New South Wales, the highest proportion of female sole parent pensioners was in **Upper Darling**, 12.3 per cent of females aged from 15 to 54 years. This proportion was the highest of all the non-metropolitan Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) in Australia. Ten or more per cent of the eligible female population in **Macquarie-Barwon** (10.9 per cent), **Clarence** and **Richmond-Tweed SD Balance** (both with 10.1 per cent), and **North Central Plain** and **Tweed Heads** (both with 10.0 per cent) received a Sole Parent Pension. Only **Snowy** (2.8 per cent) had a proportion of less than three per cent. The largest numbers were the 4,342 female recipients resident in **Richmond-Tweed SD Balance**, 3,436 in **Clarence** and 2,850 in **Hastings**.

The highest proportions of female sole parent pensioners in Victoria were in **La Trobe Valley** and **Shepparton** (both with 8.4 per cent) and **Bendigo** (8.3 per cent). Relatively high percentages were also recorded in **Ballarat** (7.9 per cent), **North Loddon** (7.7 per cent) and **Mildura** (7.4 per cent). The lowest levels were 2.9 per cent in **East Ovens-Murray** and 3.9 per cent in both **North Wimmera** and **West Mallee**. The largest numbers were in **Ballarat** (1,769 females), **La Trobe Valley** (1,716) and **Bendigo** (1,707).

In Queensland, the highest proportions of female sole parent pensioners were in **Sunshine Coast** (9.3 per cent), **Bundaberg** (8.9 per cent) and **Far North SD Balance** (8.6 per cent). Proportions of between seven and eight per cent were also recorded in five other SSDs. The lowest proportions were recorded in **Mackay SD Balance** (3.9 per cent) and **Central West** (4.3 per cent). There were more than 3,000 recipients in

Sunshine Coast (3,940 females) and **Wide Bay-Burnett SD Balance** (3,475).

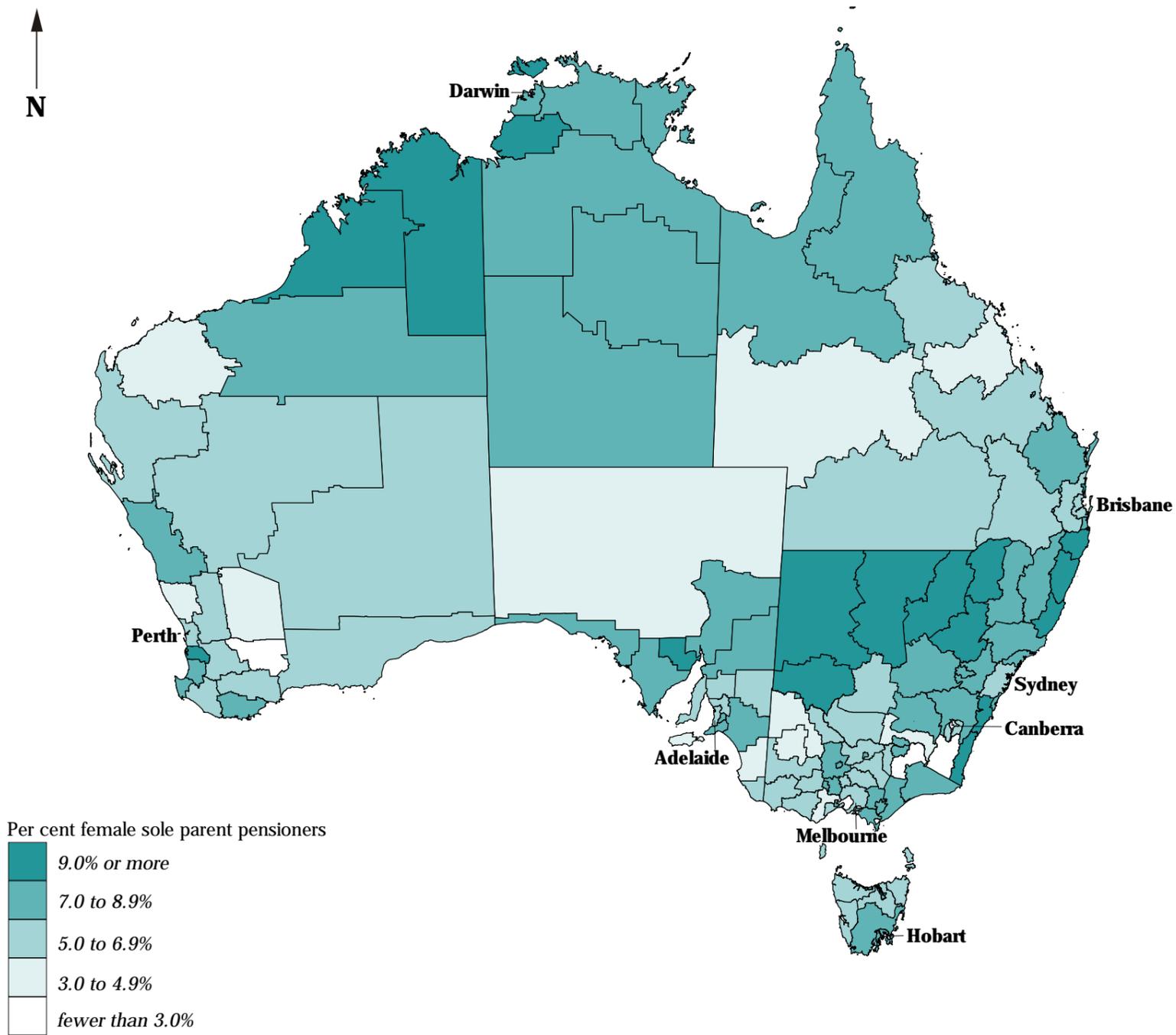
High proportions of female sole parent pensioners were recorded in South Australia's "Iron Triangle", with proportions of 9.9, 8.2 and 8.0 per cent in **Whyalla**, **Pirie** and **Flinders Ranges**, respectively. The lowest proportions were in **Upper South East** (4.0 per cent) and **Far North** (4.2 per cent). The largest numbers of recipients lived in **Lower South East** (716 females), **Whyalla** (652) and **Murray Mallee** (612).

In the north of Western Australia, high proportions of female sole parent pensioners were recorded in **Ord** (10.9 per cent) and **Fitzroy** (9.6 per cent), while in the south there were similarly high proportions in **Dale** (9.5 per cent) and **King** (8.1 per cent). The lowest proportions were in the wheat-belt SSDs of **Lakes** (2.6 per cent) and **Campion** (3.8 per cent). **Preston**, with 1,342 female recipients, and **Dale**, with 1,260, were the only SSDs with more than 1,000 female sole parent pensioners.

Three SSDs in Tasmania had high proportions female of sole parent pensioners: these were **Southern** and **Burnie-Devonport** (both with 7.9 per cent) and **Launceston** (7.4 per cent). The lowest proportions were in **North Western Rural** (5.4 per cent) and **Central North** (5.8 per cent). There were 2,050 female recipients in **Launceston** and 1,660 in **Burnie-Devonport**.

In the Northern Territory, high proportions of female sole parent pensioners were recorded in **Daly** (9.6 per cent) and **Bathurst-Melville** (9.2 per cent). The lowest proportions were in **Central NT** (7.2 per cent), **Alligator** and **Barkly** (both with 7.3 per cent). There were 855 female recipients resident in **Central NT**, more than twice the number in the next ranked **Lower Top End NT** (396).

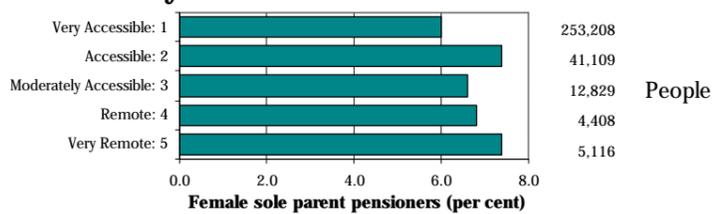
Map 4.6: Female sole parent pensioners, Australia, 1996
as a percentage of all females aged 15 to 54 years in each Statistical Subdivision



Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



The proportion of female sole parent pensioners increases in a step like fashion, from 6.0 per cent in the Very Accessible category to 7.4 per cent in the Very Remote category, with the exception of the higher rate in the Accessible category (7.4 per cent).

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

In 1996, there were 540,262 people in receipt of unemployment benefits who lived in capital cities and major urban centres, 65.1 per cent of all unemployment beneficiaries in Australia.

Capital Cities

The highest proportion of unemployment beneficiaries in **Sydney** was in **Fairfield-Liverpool**, where 9.7 per cent of the eligible population received these benefits. Relatively high proportions were also recorded in **Inner Sydney** (7.9 per cent), **Gosford-Wyong** (7.8) and **Canterbury-Bankstown** (7.0 per cent). The lowest proportions were in **Hornsby-Ku-ring-gai**, with 1.6 per cent, and in **Lower Northern Sydney**, with 2.5 per cent. There were 19,246 recipients resident in **Fairfield-Liverpool**, 15,531 in **Inner Sydney** and 12,831 in **Canterbury-Bankstown**. There were high proportions of unemployment benefit recipients in **Newcastle** (8.8 per cent; 24,601 beneficiaries) and **Wollongong** (8.3 per cent; 12,901 beneficiaries).

The highest rate in Australia was recorded in **Moreland** SSD, in **Melbourne**, with 10.9 per cent of the eligible population in receipt of unemployment benefits. In **Inner Melbourne**, the proportion was 10.1 per cent. High proportions were also reported for **Dandenong** (9.9 per cent) and **Western Melbourne** (9.3 per cent). The lowest proportions were in **Boroondara** (3.8 per cent) and **Eastern Middle Melbourne** (4.4 per cent). The largest numbers of recipients were in **Western Melbourne** (23,878), **Inner Melbourne** (17,156) and **Southern Melbourne** (13,033). In **Geelong**, there were 8,264 beneficiaries, nine per cent of the eligible population.

In **Brisbane**, the highest proportions of unemployment benefit recipients were in **Redcliffe** (9.6 per cent) and **Gold Coast Part A** (9.5 per cent). The lowest proportion was in **Pine Rivers** (4.6 per cent). The largest numbers of recipients were in **Brisbane City** (32,296 beneficiaries) and **Logan** (8,810). **Gold Coast-Tweed Heads** had the second highest proportion of any capital city or other major urban centre SSD in Australia, with 10.8 per

cent and 24,079 recipients). In **Townsville-Thuringowa**, there were 5,949 recipients (7.4 per cent).

In **Adelaide**, the highest proportions of unemployment beneficiaries were in **Western** (9.9 per cent) and **Northern** (8.9 per cent). The lowest proportion was in **Eastern**, with 6.3 per cent. There were 18,731 recipients living in **Northern** and 13,564 in **Southern**.

The proportions of unemployment beneficiaries were reasonably consistent at the SSD level throughout **Perth**. The lowest proportion was in **East Metropolitan** (5.5 per cent). Levels in the other Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) were between 6.1 per cent and 6.4 per cent. The largest numbers were in **North Metropolitan** (16,053 recipients) and **South East Metropolitan** (11,846).

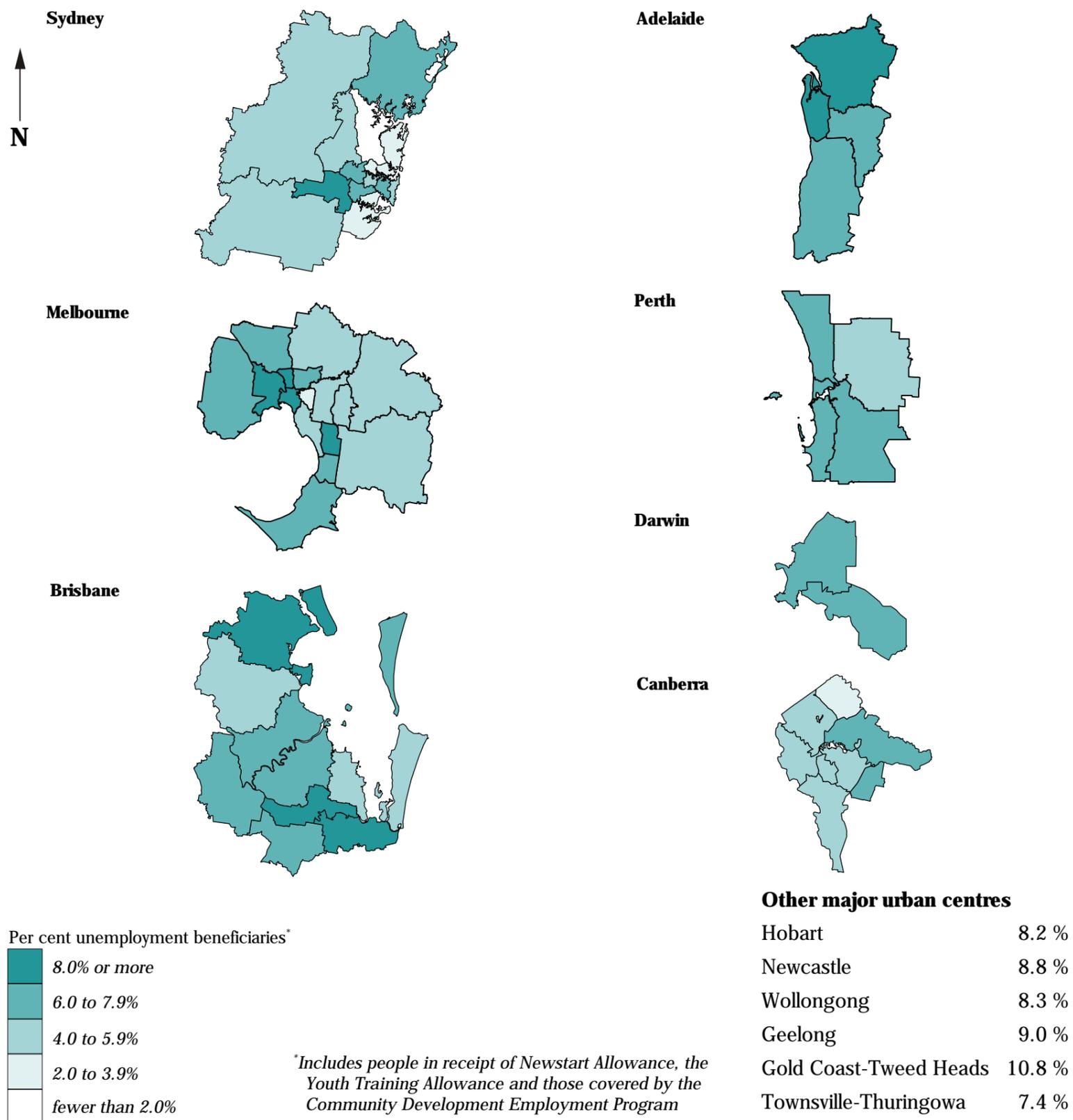
In **Hobart**, the 9,871 unemployment beneficiaries comprised 8.2 per cent of the population.

Each of **Darwin's** SSDs had 7.5 per cent of their population receiving unemployment benefits, with 3,821 recipients in **Darwin City** and 636 in **Palmerston-East Arm**.

The highest proportion of unemployment beneficiaries in **Canberra** was in **North Canberra** (7.3 per cent of the eligible population). Rates in the other SSDs were relatively low, with the lowest in **Gungahlin-Hall** (3.5 per cent). There were 2,866 recipients in **Belconnen** and 2,275 in **Tuggeranong**.

Map 4.7: Unemployment beneficiaries*, major urban centres, 1996

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



Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

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 Australia

There were high proportions of unemployment benefit recipients in the New South Wales Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) of **Macquarie-Barwon** (15.9 per cent), **Clarence** (13.5 per cent) and **Richmond-Tweed SD Balance** (13.2 per cent). The lowest proportions were in **Snowy** (4.6 per cent) and **Lower Murrumbidgee** (4.7 per cent). The largest numbers of recipients lived in **Richmond-Tweed SD Balance** (12,692) and **Clarence** (10,520).

The highest proportions of unemployment beneficiaries in Victoria were in **La Trobe Valley** and **East Gippsland**, with 11.2 and 10.1 per cent respectively of their eligible population. In **Ballarat**, the proportion was 9.8 per cent. The lowest proportions were in **East Ovens-Murray** (4.3 per cent) and **North Wimmera** (4.6 per cent). The largest numbers were in **La Trobe Valley** (5,020 beneficiaries), **Ballarat** (4,677) and **Bendigo** (4,391).

In Queensland, high proportions of unemployment beneficiaries were recorded in **Far North SD Balance** (14.9 per cent), **Sunshine Coast** (12.9), **Bundaberg** (12.7) and **Wide Bay-Burnett SD Balance** (11.5). The lowest proportions were in **Central West** (3.7 per cent) and **Darling Downs** and **Mackay SD Balance**, both with five per cent. The largest numbers of beneficiaries were in **Sunshine Coast** (12,207 people), **Wide Bay-Burnett SD Balance** (11,826) and **Far North SD Balance** (10,276).

The highest proportions of unemployment beneficiaries in South Australia were in **West Coast** (17.5 per cent), **Flinders Ranges** (13.2 per cent) and **Far North** (12.7 per cent) SSDs. The lowest

proportions were in **Upper South East** (3.6 per cent) and **Barossa** (5.4 per cent). However, the largest numbers were the 1,877 recipients in **Riverland**, 1,831 in **Pirie** and 1,775 in **Murray Mallee**.

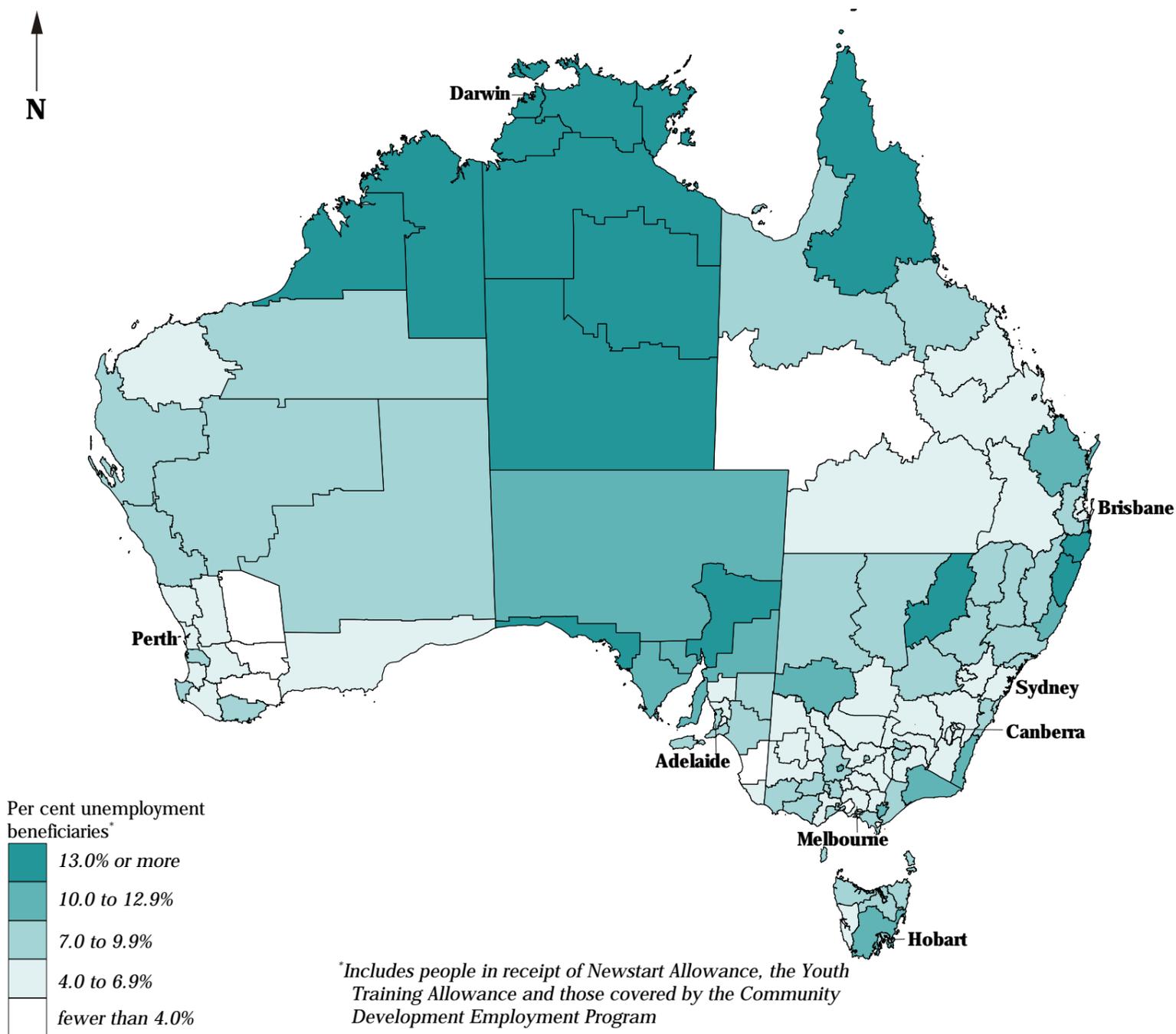
In Western Australia, more than one quarter of the population in **Fitzroy** received unemployment benefits (25.8 per cent), with 23.2 per cent in **Ord** the next highest. These two SSDs had the highest proportion of any SSD in the non-metropolitan areas of Australia. The lowest proportions were in **Lakes** (1.9 per cent) and **Campion** (2.4 per cent). The largest numbers of recipients lived in **Fitzroy** (3,432 people), **Dale** (2,651) and **Lefroy** (2,396).

In Tasmania, unemployment beneficiaries comprised more than ten per cent of the eligible population in the **Southern** (10.6 per cent) and **Burnie-Devonport** (10.3 per cent) SSDs. The lowest proportions were in **Lyell** (6.8 per cent) and **North Western Rural** (8.0 per cent). The largest numbers were in **Launceston** (5,107 people) and **Burnie-Devonport** (4,772).

In the Northern Territory, there were high levels of unemployment beneficiaries in **Daly** (23.1 per cent), **East Arnhem** (19.9 per cent) and **Lower Top End NT** (18.9 per cent). The lowest levels were in **Barkly** (14.9 per cent) and **Central NT** (15.6 per cent). There were 4,096 recipients in **Central NT** and 2,315 in **Lower Top End NT**.

Map 4.8: Unemployment beneficiaries*, Australia, 1996

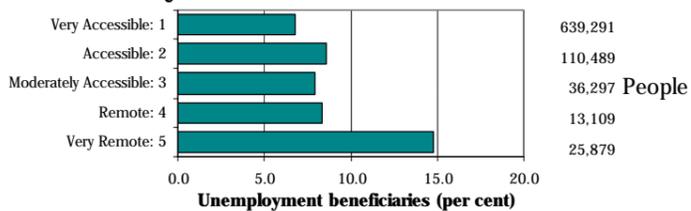
as a percentage of males aged 15 to 64 years and females aged 15 to 59 years in each Statistical Subdivision



Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



There are three levels of unemployment beneficiaries across the ARIA categories. The first is the Very Accessible category, with 6.8 per cent of the eligible population receiving an unemployment benefit; the second (with values of around 8 per cent) includes the three middle categories; and the third is the Very Remote category, with a higher unemployment rate, of 14.8 per cent. The distribution of the Indigenous population is likely to have influenced the high proportion in the Very Remote areas.

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

Capital Cities

Dependent children of income support recipients comprised more than 50 per cent of all children under 16 years of age in **Fairfield-Liverpool** and **Canterbury-Bankstown** (both with 51.4 per cent). Proportions of above 40 per cent were recorded in four other Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) in **Sydney**. The lowest proportion was in **Hornsby-Ku-ring-gai** (13.7 per cent). The largest numbers of dependent children were in **Fairfield-Liverpool** (39,929 children), **Blacktown-Baulkham Hills** (34,511) and **Canterbury-Bankstown** (33,264). In **Newcastle**, there were 43,672 dependent children of income support recipients, 42.3 per cent of all dependent children. In **Wollongong**, the comparable values were 22,798 and 39.7 per cent.

In **Melbourne**, dependent children of income support recipients comprised more than 50 per cent of children under 16 years of age in the SSDs of **Dandenong** (55.3 per cent) and **Moreland** (54.7 per cent). The lowest proportions were in **Boroondara** (15.2 per cent), **South Melbourne** (28.6 per cent) and **Eastern Middle Melbourne** (28.7 per cent). There were 38,458 dependent children in families receiving income support living in **Western Melbourne**, 20,823 in **Eastern Middle Melbourne** and 20,715 in **South Eastern Outer Melbourne**. In **Geelong**, there were 14,244 dependent children, 43.4 per cent of the eligible population.

More than 50 per cent of children in **Gold Coast Part A** (58.7 per cent) and the highest for all capital cities and other major urban centres), **Redcliffe** (58.4 per cent), **Caboolture Part A** (58.3 per cent), **Ipswich** (54.6 per cent) and **Logan** (54.4 per cent) had parents receiving income support payments. The lowest proportions were in **Brisbane City** (36.0 per cent) and **Pine Rivers** (36.7 per cent). The largest numbers of children in these families lived in **Brisbane City** (55,219), **Logan** (24,749) and **Ipswich** (17,033). In **Gold Coast-Tweed Heads**, there were

35,305 dependent children (50.8 per cent of the eligible population) compared with 12,542 in **Townsville-Thuringowa** (42.6 per cent).

High proportions of dependent children of income support recipients were recorded in **Adelaide's Northern** (54.0 per cent) and **Western** (51.2 per cent) SSDs. The lowest proportion was recorded for children in **Eastern** (29.0 per cent). There were 42,795 dependent children living in **Northern** and 27,918 in **Southern**.

In **Perth**, the highest proportion of children aged under 16 years living in families in receipt of income support payments was in **South East Metropolitan** (44.9 per cent) and the lowest was in **Central Metropolitan** (18.8). The largest numbers were in **North Metropolitan** (35,340 dependent children of income support recipients) and **South East Metropolitan** (29,637).

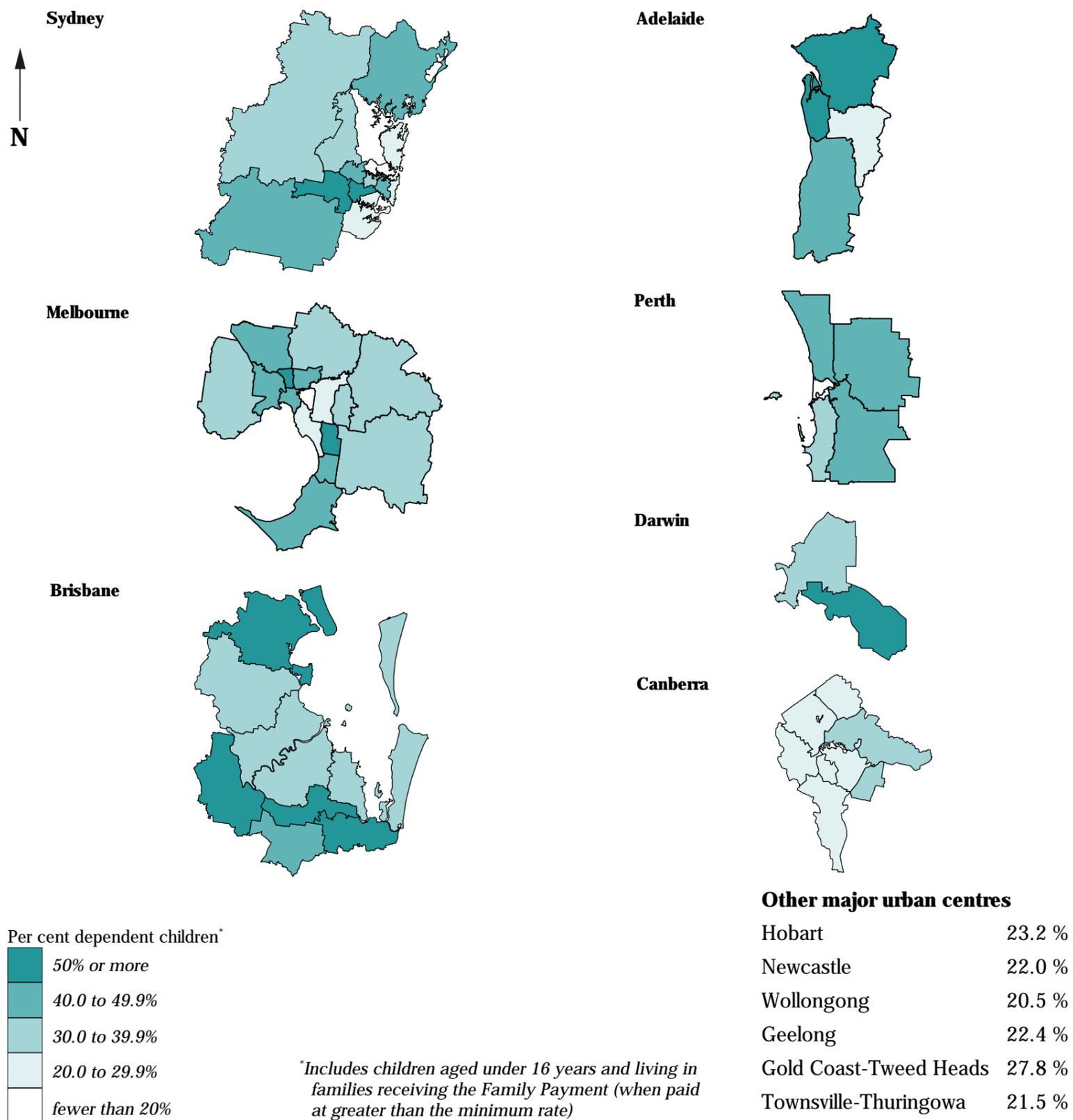
There were 20,336 dependent children of income support recipients in **Hobart**, 45.5 per cent of all children under 16 years of age.

In **Darwin**, the highest proportion of dependent children of income support recipients was in **Palmerston-East Arm** (51.7 per cent of all children under 16 years of age, 2,222 children), compared with the lower proportion in **Darwin City** (37.3 per cent, 6,051 children).

In **Canberra**, the highest proportion was in **North Canberra**, with 34.3 per cent of children under 16 years of age in families receiving income support payments, and the lowest was in **Woden Valley** and **Gungahlin Hall** (both with 21.8 per cent), with the other SSDs having proportions of between 25 and 30 per cent. There were 7,380 dependent children of income support recipients in **Tuggeranong** and 5,692 in **Belconnen**.

Map 4.9: Dependent children of selected pensioners and beneficiaries, major urban centres, 30 June 1996

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



Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

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

	<i>Per cent</i>								
	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

The low proportions in many remote SSDs are likely to be influenced by the location of families with incomes derived from mining activities (and not receiving benefits), which offset the high rates for this variable among Indigenous populations.

Rest of Australia

Dependent children in families receiving income support in New South Wales comprised more than 60 per cent of all children under 16 years of age in **Murray-Darling** (71.9 per cent and the highest of any SSD in non-metropolitan Australia), **Macquarie-Barwon** (70.1 per cent, the second highest), **Clarence** (66.1 per cent), **Richmond-Tweed SD Balance** (65.3 per cent), **Hastings** (63.9 per cent) and **Lower South Coast** (63.0 per cent). The lowest proportions were in **Snowy** (28.0 per cent) and **Yarrowlumla Part A** (29.6 per cent). The largest numbers were in **Richmond-Tweed SD Balance** (26,045 children), **Clarence** (22,040) and **Hastings** (19,275).

In Victoria, the highest proportions of dependent children of income support recipients were in **North Loddon** (58.8 per cent), **Mildura** (56.6 per cent), **East Gippsland** (55.3 per cent), **Ballarat** (54.7 per cent), **East Mallee** (54.3 per cent), **Shepparton** (54.2 per cent) and **Bendigo** (53.4 per cent). The lowest proportions were in **East Ovens-Murray** (31.0 per cent) and **South Loddon** (35.2 per cent). The largest numbers were in **Ballarat** (9,990 children), **La Trobe Valley** (9,316) and **Bendigo** (9,303).

In Queensland, high proportions of dependent children with parents on income support were recorded in **Wide Bay-Burnett SD Balance** (64.5 per cent), **Bundaberg** (64.2 per cent) and **Far North SD Balance** (60.1 per cent), **Sunshine Coast** (59.6 per cent), **Moreton SD Balance** (56.8 per cent) and **Darling Downs SD Balance** (55.9 per cent). The lowest rates were in

Mackay SD Balance (29.1 per cent) and **Gladstone** (37.3 per cent). **Wide Bay-Burnett SD Balance** had the largest number, with 27,221 dependent children, with another 22,081 in **Moreton SD Balance** and 20,724 in **Sunshine Coast**.

In South Australia, high proportions of dependent children with parents receiving income support payments were recorded in **West Coast** (67.0 per cent), **Murray Mallee** (62.3 per cent), **Yorke** (59.4 per cent), **Fleurieu** (57.6 per cent), **Riverland** (56.4 per cent), **Kangaroo Island** (56.3 per cent) and **Lower North** (55.5 per cent) SSDs. The lowest proportions were in **Far North** (38.8 per cent) and **Barossa** (43.0 per cent). The largest numbers of children were in **Murray Mallee** (4,794), **Lower South East** (4,603) and **Riverland** (4,586).

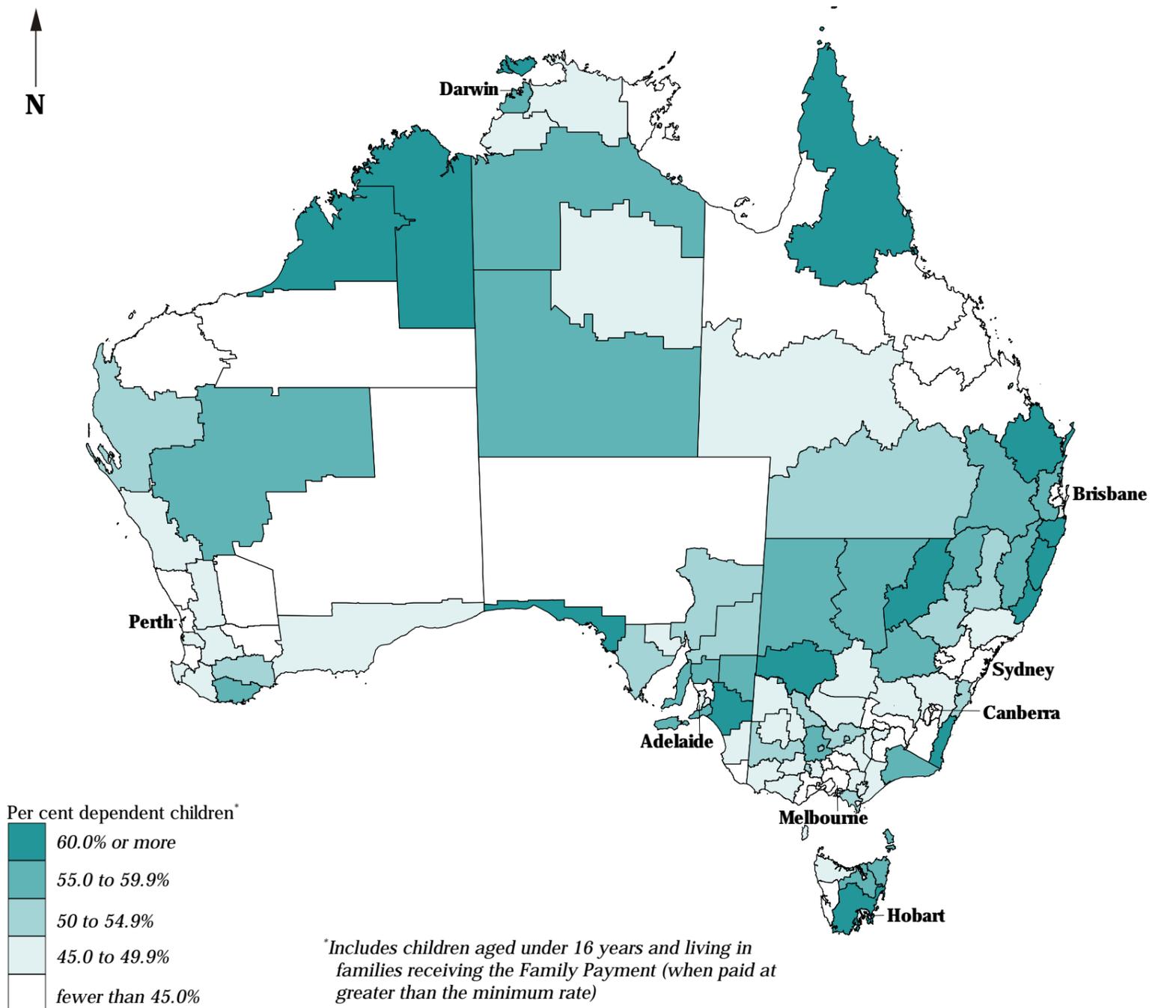
The highest proportions of dependent children of income support recipients in Western Australia were in **Ord** (67.4 per cent) and **Fitzroy** (66.9 per cent). The lowest proportions were in **Fortescue** (19.4 per cent) and **Lefroy** (24.9 per cent). There were 6,740 dependent children in **Preston**, 6,236 in adjacent **Dale** and 5,625 in **Greenough River**.

In Tasmania, the highest proportions of children of income support recipients were in **Southern** (62.9 per cent), **North Eastern** (58.5 per cent) and **Central North** (57.8 per cent) and the lowest was in **Lyell** (33.5 per cent). There were 11,048 children in **Launceston** and 10,074 in **Burnie-Devonport**.

In the Northern Territory, the highest proportions were in **Bathurst-Melville** (60.6 per cent), **Central NT** (57.1 per cent) and **Darwin Rural Areas** (56.5 per cent) and the lowest were in **East Arnhem** (44.1 per cent) and **Daly** (45.2 per cent). There were 5,968 dependent children in **Central NT** and 3,011 in **Lower Top End NT**.

Map 4.10: Dependent children of selected pensioners and beneficiaries*, Australia, 1996

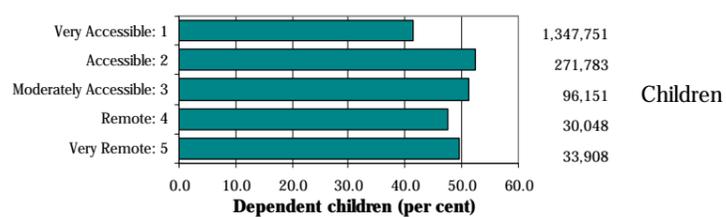
as a percentage of all children aged from 0 to 15 years in each Statistical Subdivision



Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

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 41.4 per cent in the Very Accessible category to 52.3 per cent in the Accessible category. The Remote and Very Remote categories had proportions of just under 50 per cent.

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

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