

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 (73.4 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 (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

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

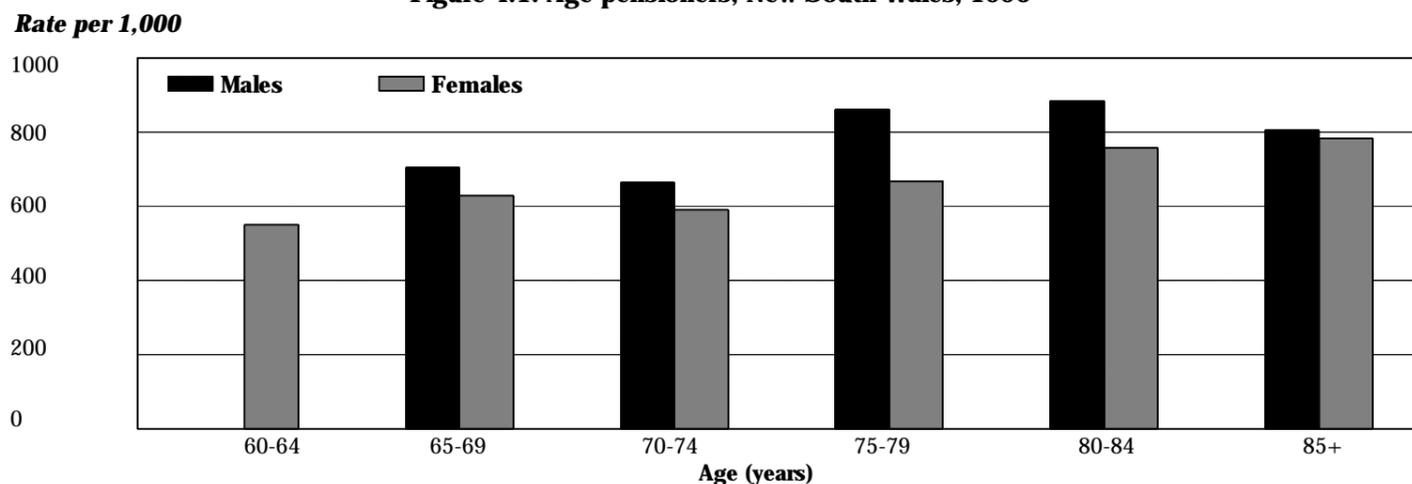
100, this would have concealed the problem and would not have represented the data for the areas as estimated. Percentages in excess of 100 per cent are noted separately in the text. Although the other pension or benefit types analysed only rarely have such high proportions, it is not possible to say 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, New South Wales, 1996

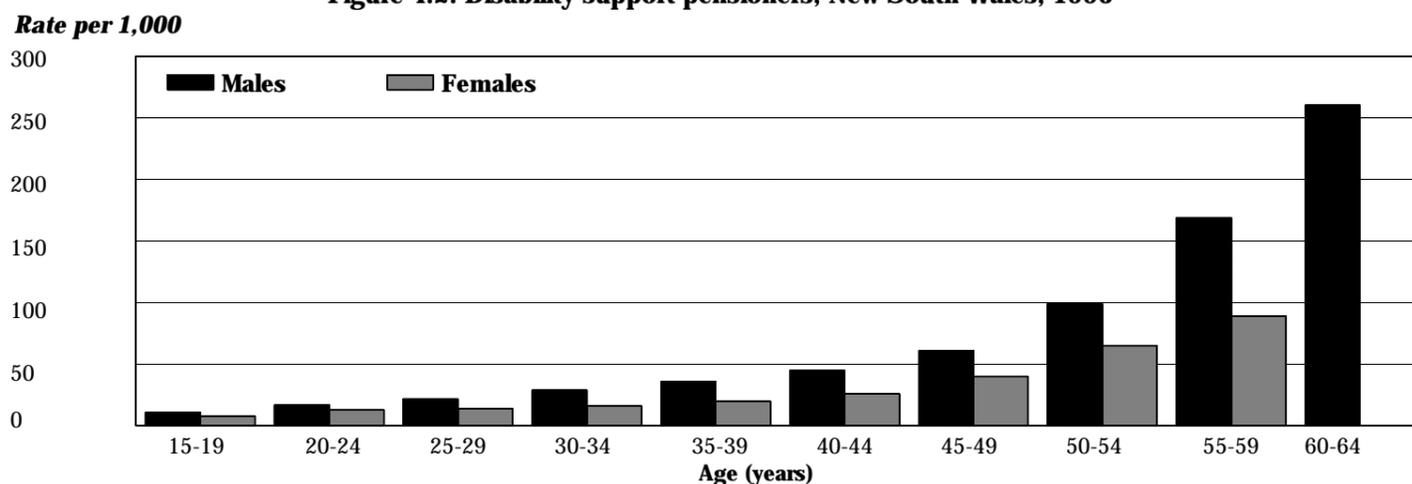


Source: Calculated on data supplied by DFACS (Age Pension) and DVA (Service Pension (Age))

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, New South Wales, 1996

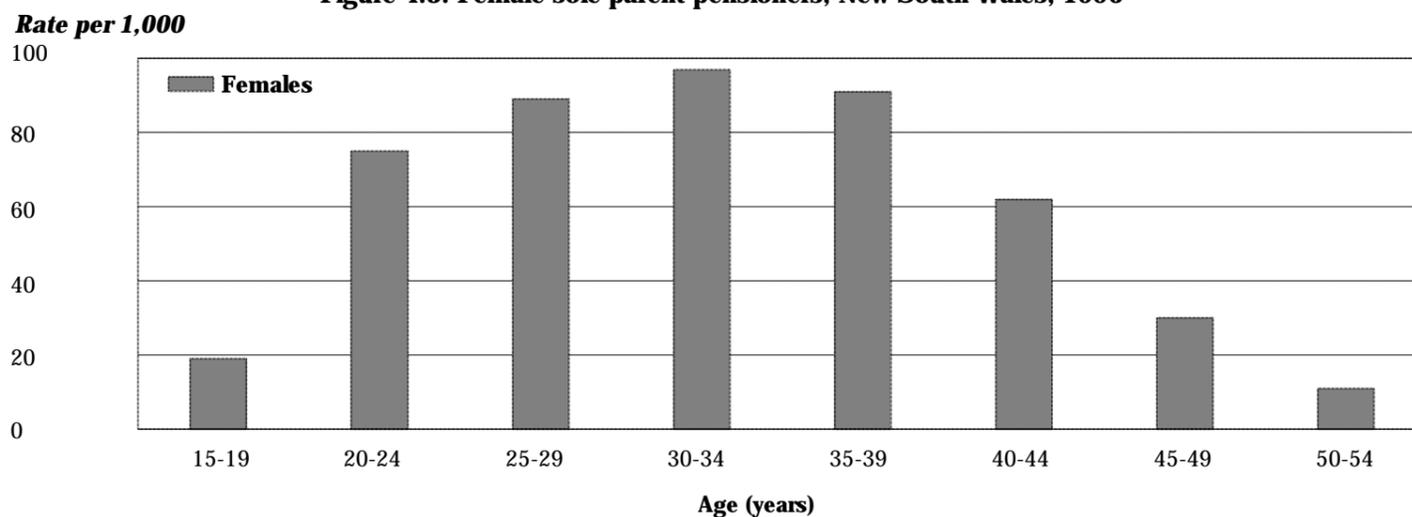


Source: Calculated on data supplied by DFACS (Disability Support Pension) and DVA (Service Pension (Permanently Incapacitated))

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, New South Wales, 1996

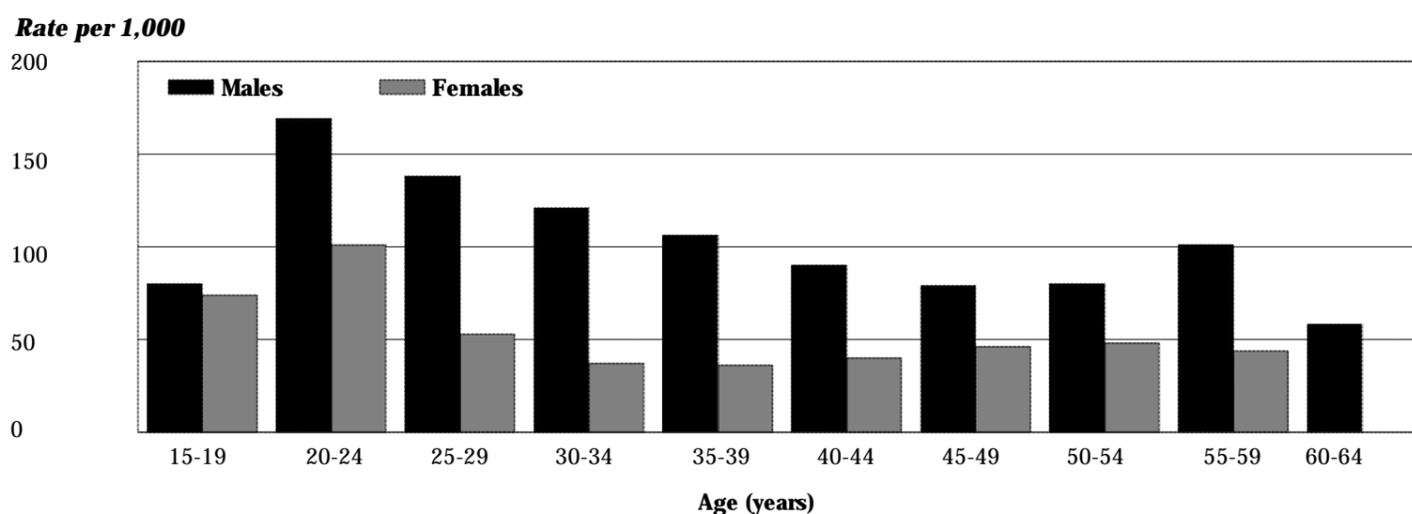


Source: Calculated on data supplied by DFACS

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, New South Wales, 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

Sydney

In 1989 there were 342,678 people in **Sydney** receiving an Age Pension, representing 69.8 per cent of the population of age-pensionable age. By 1996, the number had decreased to 328,548 and the proportion had fallen to 64.7 per cent.

The distribution across **Sydney** was consistent with many of the variables of socioeconomic status mapped in Chapter 3 (see **Map 4.1**).

The highest proportion of age pensioners was recorded in the south-western SLA of Wollondilly, with 78.8 per cent of its people in this category. Proportions of above 70 per cent were also recorded in the northern SLAs of Wyong (78.6 per cent) and Gosford (71.4 per cent); in the central western areas of Holroyd (76.9 per cent), Auburn (75.5 per cent), Liverpool (74.8 per cent), Bankstown (74.6 per cent), Penrith (72.6 per cent) and Blacktown (71.4 per cent); in the inner SLAs of Leichhardt (76.2 per cent), Marrickville (74.8 per cent), Botany (74.3 per cent), Ashfield (74.2 per cent), Drummoyne (70.8 per cent) and Rockdale (70.2 per cent); and in Baulkham Hills (73.1 per cent) and Campbelltown (72.5 per cent).

The lowest proportions were recorded in the higher socioeconomic status areas of Woollahra (34.0 per cent), Kuring-gai (34.0 per cent) and Mosman (36.6 per cent). Similarly low proportions were recorded in North Sydney (46.0 per cent), Lane Cove (46.5 per cent), Willoughby (46.7 per cent), Hunter's Hill (47.5 per cent), Manly (48.3 per cent) and Hornsby (49.5 per cent).

The SLA of Gosford had the largest number of people receiving an Age Pension (19,972 people) in **Sydney** in 1996. This was closely followed by the SLAs of Bankstown (19,579 people), Wyong (18,660 people), Sutherland (17,138 people), Blacktown (13,736 people) and Parramatta (13,123 people).

The correlation analysis revealed a positive association at the SLA level with the variables for early school leavers (0.84), unskilled and semi-skilled workers (0.74) and low income families (0.73). There were also inverse correlations with the variables for high income families (-0.78) and managers and administrators, and professionals (-0.78). These results, together with the inverse correlation of substantial significance with the IRSD (-0.77), indicate an association at the SLA level between high proportions of age pensioners and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Newcastle

Residents of **Newcastle** included 58,708 age pensioners in 1996, representing 80.1 per cent of the population of age-pensionable age. All five SLAs recorded proportions of above 75 per cent, ranging from 76.5 per cent in the City of Newcastle to 87.3 per cent in Maitland.

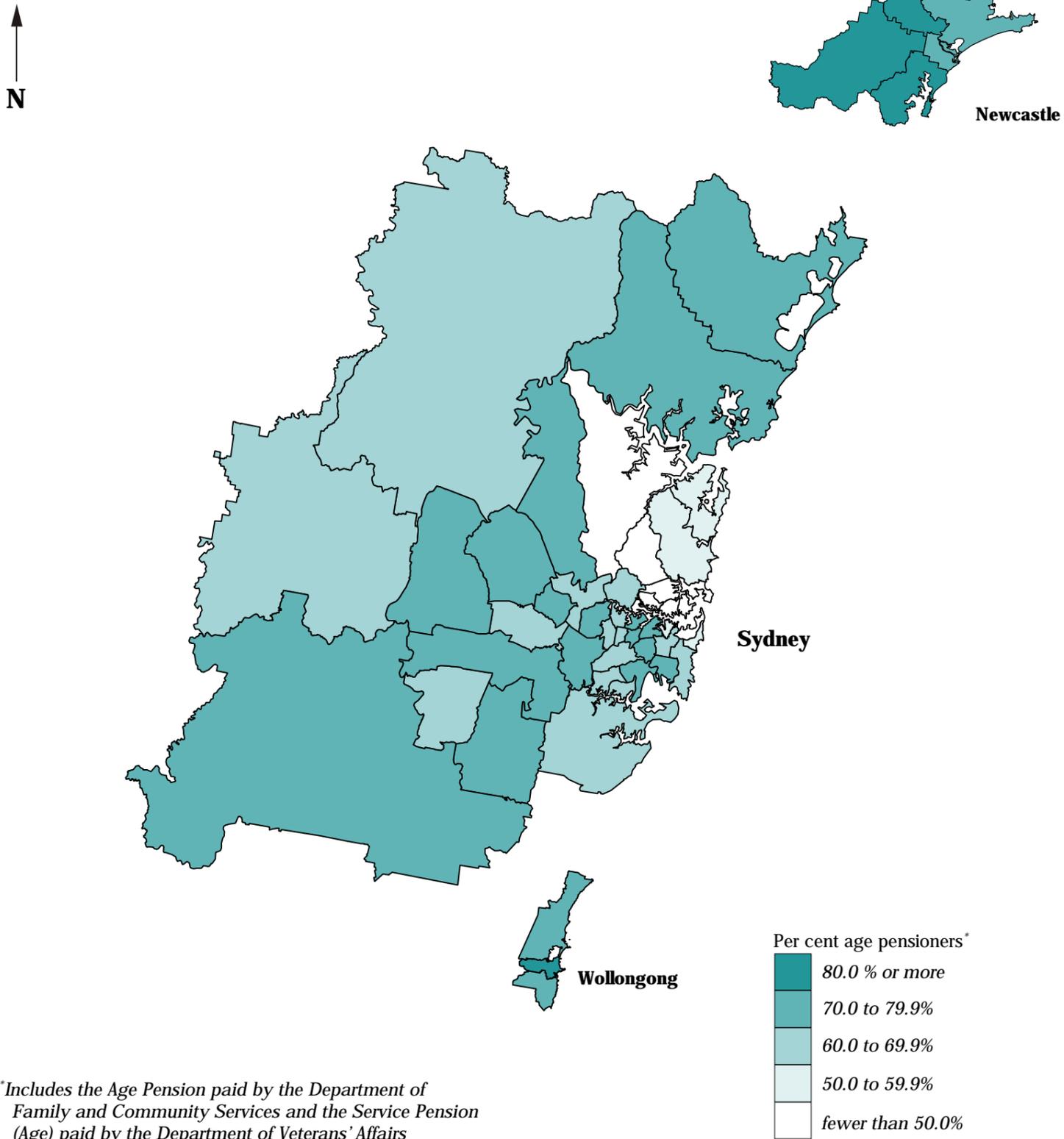
Wollongong

In 1996, 79.2 per cent of the population of age-pensionable age in **Wollongong** were receiving the Age Pension, a total of 28,556 people. The highest percentage was recorded in Shellharbour (84.7 per cent), followed by the City of Wollongong (79.1 per cent) and Kiama (70.9 per cent).

Map 4.1

Age pensioners*, Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong, 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: 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

Problems with the data

The data show a number of SLAs as having proportions in excess of 100 per cent. These are clearly not accurate: the notes on page 80 give some possible reasons for these results.

The areas in this category were Jervis Bay Territory (1,075.5 per cent of the population of pensionable age, 65 people); Unincorporated Far West (155.5 per cent and 159); Conargo (135.4 per cent and 183); Nymboida (117.6 per cent and 558); and Windouran (117.4 per cent and 47).

Rest of State

In 1989, there were 171,921 people in the non-metropolitan areas of New South Wales receiving an Age Pension, representing 80.3 per cent of the population of age-pensionable age. By 1996, the number had risen to 181,827 but the proportion had declined to 68.3 per cent.

SLAs with high proportions of age pensioners were distributed throughout the State in no notable pattern (**Map 4.2**). Relatively high proportions of age pensioners were recorded in Cabonne [Part B] (98.7 per cent), Junee (94.4 per cent), Rylstone (88.6 per cent), Brewarrina (88.5 per cent), Severn (86.7 per cent), Yarrowlumla [Part B] (86.1 per cent), Leeton (85.2 per cent) and Greater Lithgow (84.6 per cent).

In total, 61 SLAs were mapped in the middle range, with proportions of between 60 and 70 per cent. Proportions in this class interval ranged from 69.7 per cent in Griffith, Murrurundi and Tweed [Part B] to 60.6 per cent in Warren.

SLAs recording the lowest rates of age pensioners were generally those located in the south-eastern region of the State, and included Oberon (45.2 per cent), Cooma-Monaro (45.5 per cent), Gunning (46.9 per cent), Holbrook (48.8 per cent), Crookwell

(49.0 per cent), Tallaganda (56.2 per cent) and Bega Valley (56.6 per cent). Lord Howe Island (31.2 per cent), Maclean (50.6 per cent), Moree Plains (51.4 per cent) and Dumaresq (57.5 per cent), situated north of **Sydney**, and Narrandera (54.1 per cent), to the west, also had low levels of people receiving Age Pensions.

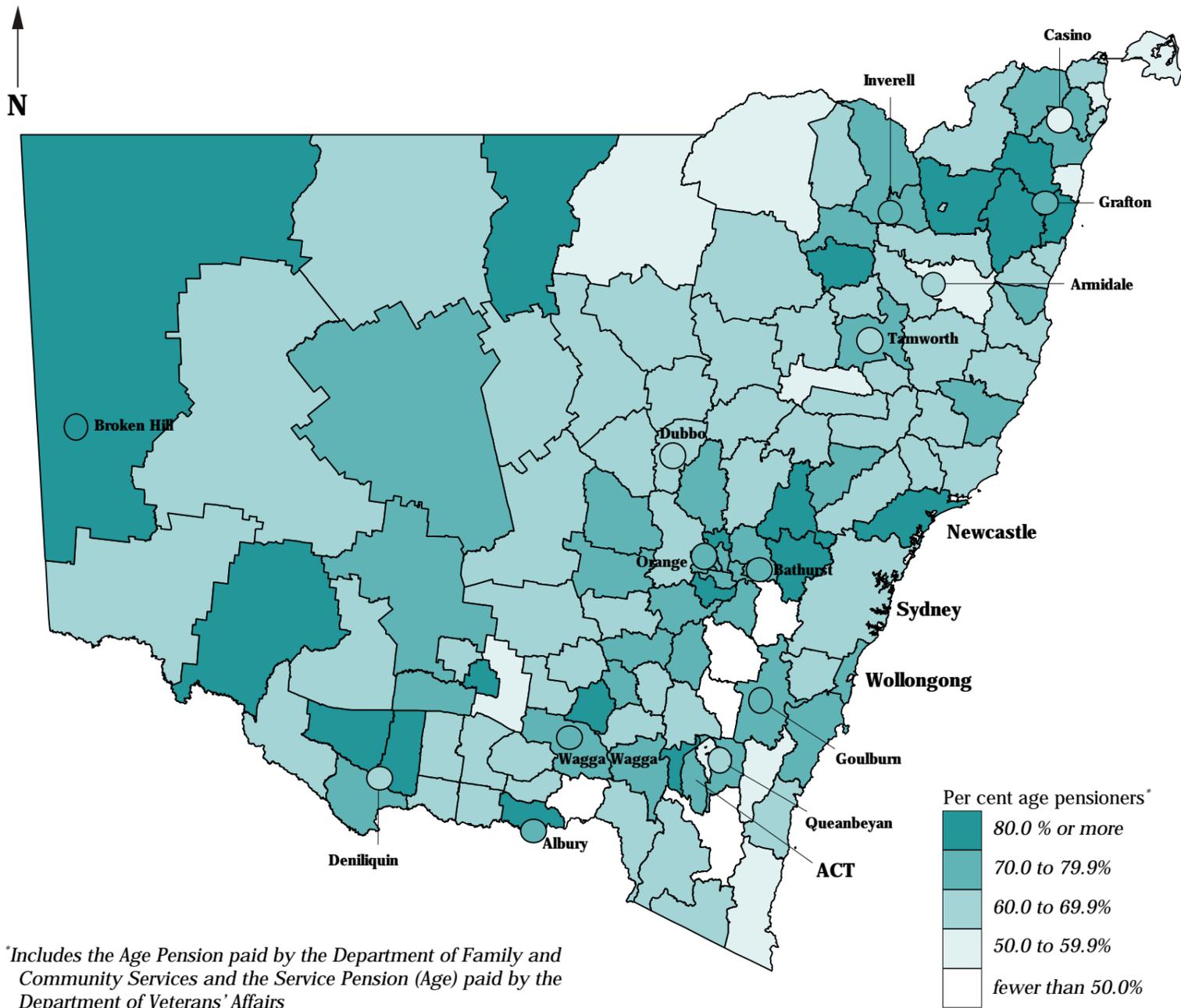
Residents of Shoalhaven (11,849 people), Hastings (9,357 people), Tweed Heads (7,333 people), Coffs Harbour (6,840 people) and Greater Taree (6,275 people) recorded the largest numbers of people receiving Age Pensions in the non-metropolitan areas of New South Wales.

There were no correlations of note with the other variables mapped: this is in part the result of the small number of cases in many of the SLAs.

Map 4.2

Age pensioners*, New South Wales, 1996

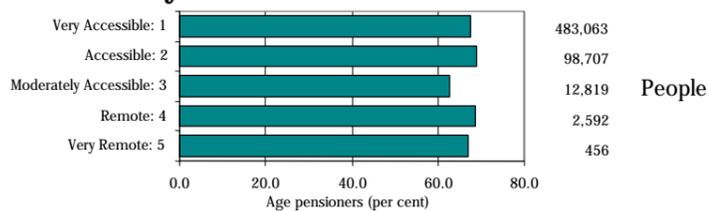
as a percentage of males aged 65 years and over and females aged 60 years and over in each Statistical Local Area



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 varies over a narrow range, from 69.0 per cent in the Accessible category to 67.1 per cent in the Very Remote category, with the exception of the lower proportion of 62.7 per cent in the Moderately Accessible 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

	<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

Sydney

The number and proportion of people in **Sydney** receiving the Disability Support Pension increased substantially, from 55,310 people in 1989 (2.3 per cent of the eligible population of males aged 15 to 64 years and females aged 15 to 59 years) to 91,668 people in 1996 (3.8 per cent).

Proportions were highest in the far northern, inner and western SLAs of South Sydney (7.6 per cent), Wyong (7.3 per cent) and Marrickville (6.1 per cent). The inner SLAs of Sydney (5.8 per cent) and Leichardt and Botany (both with 4.7 per cent); the central western SLAs of Auburn (5.7 per cent), Holroyd (5.5 per cent), Fairfield (5.0 per cent), Blacktown (4.9 per cent), Bankstown (4.7 per cent) and Parramatta and Liverpool (both with 4.6 per cent); and the far northern SLA of Gosford (4.9 per cent) also recorded proportions well above **Sydney's** average.

The higher socioeconomic status SLAs located just north of the city centre had notably lower percentages (**Map 4.3**). The lowest of these was in Ku-ring-gai, with 1.0 per cent of the population receiving the Disability Support Pension. Similarly low proportions were recorded in Mosman (1.1 per cent), North Sydney (1.5 per cent), Woollahra and Lane Cove (both with 1.6 per cent) and Pittwater (1.7 per cent).

The largest numbers of people in receipt of a Disability Support Pension in 1996 were recorded in Blacktown (7,345 people), Fairfield (5,921 people), Wyong (4,743 people), South Sydney (4,680 people), Bankstown (4,571 people), Parramatta (4,161 people) and Gosford (4,119 people).

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 (0.90), unemployed people (0.80) and single parent families (0.71). Inverse correlations were recorded with the variables for high income families (-0.79), female labour force participation (-0.66) and managers and administrators, and professionals (-0.55). These results, together with the inverse correlation of substantial significance with the IRSD (-0.84), indicate an association at the SLA level between high proportions of disability support pensioners and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Newcastle

There were 18,609 people in receipt of the Disability Support Pension in **Newcastle** in 1996, representing 6.7 per cent of the eligible population. All SLAs had in excess of 6.0 per cent of their population in this category, ranging from 6.1 per cent in Maitland to 7.2 per cent in both Cessnock and the City of Newcastle.

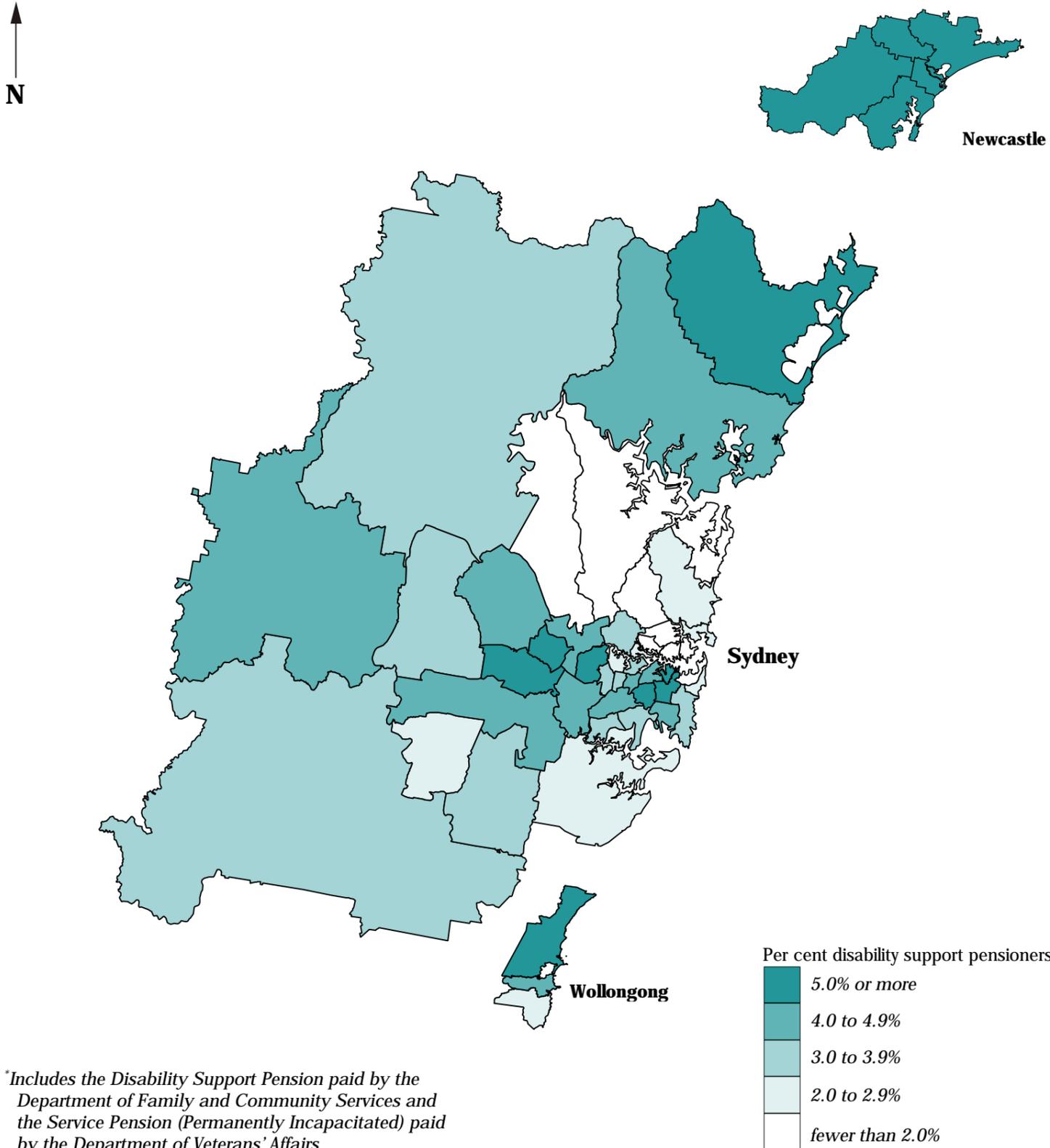
Wollongong

In 1996, 4.9 per cent of the eligible population in **Wollongong** were receiving a Disability Support Pension, a total of 7,709 people. The highest percentages were recorded in the SLAs of Wollongong (5.2 per cent) and Shellharbour (4.9 per cent). Kiama recorded the lowest proportion, of 2.9 per cent.

Map 4.3

Disability support pensioners*, Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong, 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: 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

Rest of State

In 1989, 35,871 people in the non-metropolitan areas of New South Wales were receiving a Disability Support Pension, 3.9 per cent of the population aged from 15 to 64 years for males and 15 to 59 years for females. By 1996, the number had risen to 54,792 and the proportion to 5.7 per cent.

Proportions of above 8.0 per cent were recorded in a number of areas throughout the State (**Map 4.4**). These included Broken Hill (11.2 per cent) and Unincorporated Far West (8.6 per cent) situated in the far west; Bingara (10.9 per cent), Manilla (9.4 per cent), Severn (9.2 per cent), Barraba (8.8 per cent) and Richmond River (8.3 per cent), all of which were located in the north; Brewarrina (10.4 per cent) and Walgett (8.3 per cent), situated in the far north-west; Rylstone (9.0 per cent), in the central west; Great Lakes (8.4 per cent) and Nambucca (8.2 per cent), on the coast north of **Sydney**; and Eurobodalla (8.3 per cent), situated in the south-east.

In total, 35 SLAs (26.3 per cent of all SLAs) were mapped in the middle class interval, ranging from 5.0 per cent in Windouran, Tumut, Hay, Copmanhurst and Bega Valley to 5.9 per cent in Ballina.

As can be seen in **Map 4.4**, the lowest proportions of people in receipt of a Disability Support Pension were found in the south-eastern region of the State. These areas included Snowy River (1.0 per cent), Gunning (2.5 per cent), Cooma-Monaro (2.6 per cent), Yarrolumla [Part A] (3.0 per cent), Holbrook (3.3 per cent) and Tumbarumba (3.4 per cent). Also mapped in the lowest range were the SLAs of Lord Howe Island (1.7 per cent), Oberon (2.4 per cent), Singleton and Cobar (both 3.2 per cent), Jerilderie (3.3 per cent), Wagga Wagga and Muswellbrook (both 3.4 per cent).

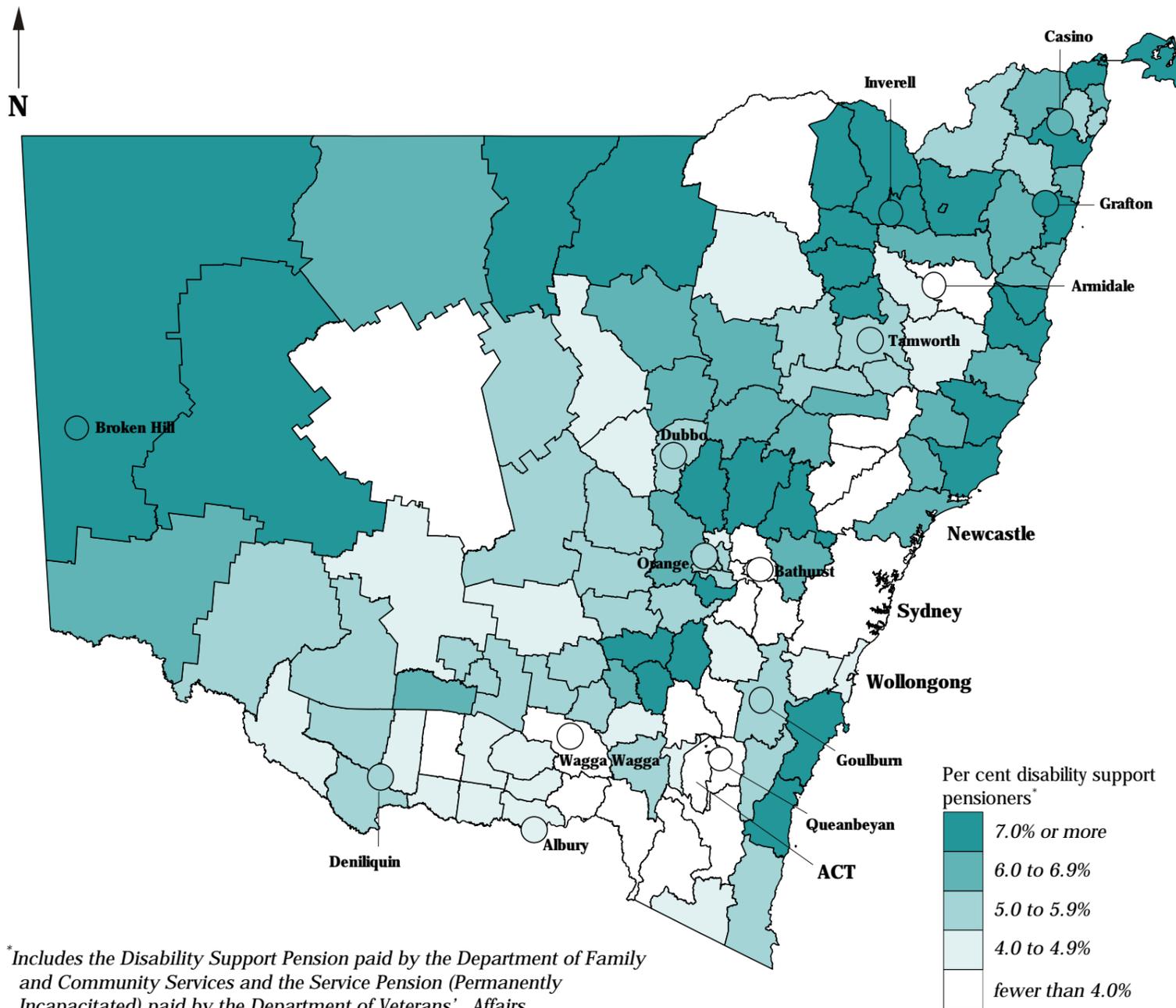
The SLA of Shoalhaven recorded the largest number of people receiving a Disability Support Pension in 1996, a total of 3,141 people. Relatively large numbers were also recorded in Coffs Harbour (2,268 people), Hastings (2,024 people), Greater Taree (1,887 people) and Tweed Heads (1,596 people).

The correlation analysis revealed an association at the SLA level with many of the indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage, the strongest being with the variable for low income families (0.71). Correlations of meaningful significance were recorded with the variables for unemployed people (0.57) and early school leavers (0.53). Inverse correlations of meaningful significance were recorded with the variables for female labour force participation (-0.60) and high income families (-0.56). These results, together with the inverse correlation of meaningful significance with the IRSD (-0.67), indicate an association at the SLA level between high proportions of disability support pensioners and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Map 4.4

Disability support pensioners*, New South Wales, 1996

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

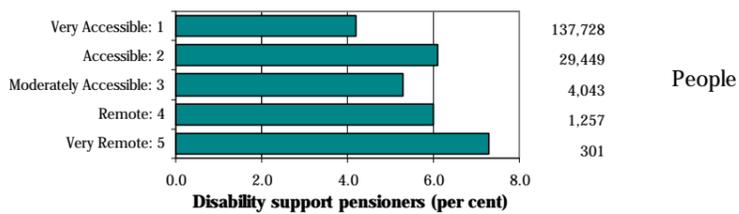


*Includes the Disability Support Pension paid by the Department of Family and Community Services and the Service Pension (Permanently Incapacitated) paid by the Department of Veterans' Affairs

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



The Very Remote and Accessible categories have the highest proportions of disability support pensioners, of 7.3 and 6.1 per cent, respectively. Proportions in the other categories range from 4.2 per cent in the Very Accessible category to 6.0 per cent in the 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

Sydney

In 1989 there were 42,120 females in receipt of the Sole Parent Pension, representing 4.0 per cent of the female population aged from 15 to 54 years. By 1996, this figure had increased to 57,616 people and the proportion had risen to 5.2 per cent.

High proportions of female sole parent pensioners were generally recorded in **Sydney's** far northern and inner western SLAs (**Map 4.5**). Wyong, Campbelltown and Blacktown had the highest proportions, of 11.1 per cent, 10.4 per cent and 8.9 per cent respectively. Other SLAs to record above average rates included Gosford (8.1 per cent), Penrith (7.7 per cent) and Liverpool (7.6 per cent).

Just over one quarter of the SLAs in **Sydney** (12 SLAs) recorded proportions of between 4.0 and 6.0 per cent. The SLAs within this class interval were generally located in the inner city area and included Bankstown (5.9 per cent), Canterbury (5.4 per cent), Auburn (5.2 per cent), Botany (5.1 per cent), Camden (5.1 per cent), Parramatta (4.9 per cent), Marrickville (4.8 per cent), Rockdale (4.8 per cent), Hurstville (4.5 per cent), South Sydney (4.5 per cent), Leichhardt (4.3 per cent) and Randwick (4.2 per cent).

The SLAs of Ku-ring-gai and North Sydney recorded the lowest proportions for this variable, each with 1.1 per cent of its female population in this category. The SLAs of Mosman (1.2 per cent), Woollahra (1.6 per cent) and Lane Cove (1.8 per cent), also located just north of the city centre, were the remaining three SLAs mapped in the lowest range.

The largest numbers of female sole parent pensioners were recorded in the SLAs of Blacktown (6,243 people), Campbelltown (4,640 people), Penrith (3,855 people), Fairfield (3,664 people), Wyong (3,244 people) and Gosford (3,096 people).

Correlations of substantial significance at the SLA level were recorded with many of the indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage, including the variables for early school leavers (0.85), Indigenous Australians (0.82), single parent families (0.79), unskilled and semi-skilled workers (0.74) and low income families (0.74). 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 female sole parent pensioners and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Newcastle

Newcastle recorded the highest proportion of female sole parent pensioners among the major urban centres in 1996, with 9,561 people, representing 7.7 per cent of the female population aged from 15 to 54 years. All five SLAs recorded proportions in excess of 7.0 per cent, ranging from 7.2 per cent in the city of Newcastle to 8.6 per cent in Cessnock.

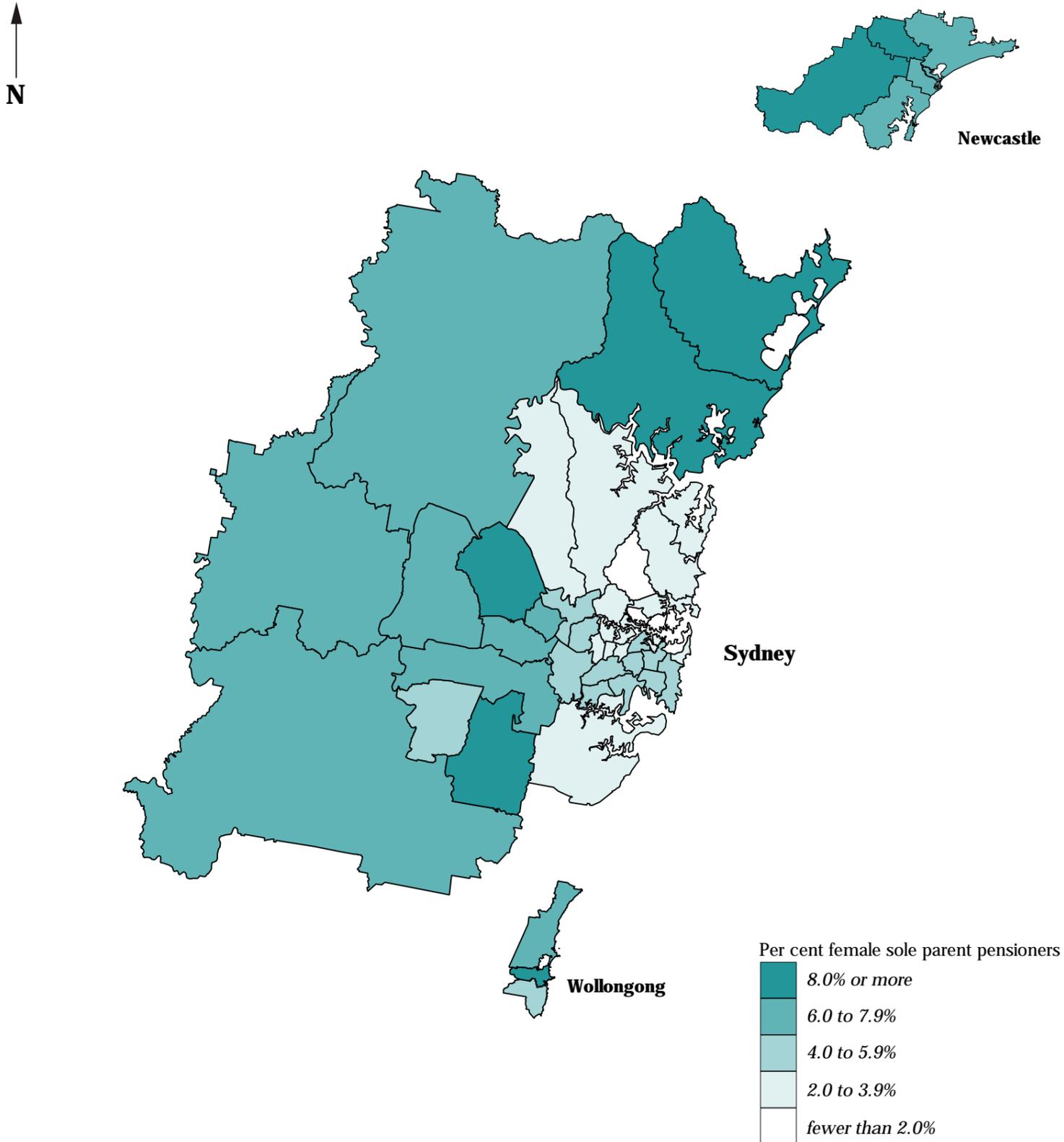
Wollongong

In 1996, 4,975 females in **Wollongong** were receiving the Sole Parent Pension, representing 7.2 per cent of the female population aged from 15 to 54 years. The highest proportion was recorded in Shellharbour, where 8.2 per cent of its female population were in this category. Average or below average proportions were recorded in the City of Wollongong (7.2 per cent) and Kiama (4.7 per cent).

Map 4.5

Female sole parent pensioners, Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong, 1996

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



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

Rest of State

The number of females (aged from 15 to 54 years) receiving the Sole Parent Pension in the non-metropolitan areas of New South Wales increased from 25,421 in 1989 to 34,460 in 1996. Whilst this was equivalent to an additional 9,039 people, the percentage also increased, rising from 6.4 per cent to 8.3 per cent over this time period.

The map shows that high proportions of female sole parent pensioners were generally distributed throughout the far north-western and northern regions of the State (**Map 4.6**). These areas included Brewarrina (17.0 per cent), Bourke (15.8 per cent), Central Darling (15.1 per cent), Walgett (12.4 per cent) and Coonamble (11.4 per cent), situated in the far north-west; and Byron (12.8 per cent), Moree Plains (12.4 per cent) and Richmond River (11.2 per cent), located in the far north. High proportions were also evident along the mid coastal SLAs of Nambucca (12.4 per cent) and Bellingen (12.3 per cent), and in the SLAs of Wellington (13.5 per cent), Rylstone (11.5 per cent) and Jervis Bay Territory (11.0 per cent).

Just over one third (35.1 per cent) of the State's SLAs recorded proportions of female sole parent pensioners of between 7.0 and 9.0 per cent. The highest proportions within this group were recorded in the SLAs of Ballina and Bogan (each with 8.9 per cent of its female population in this category), while the lowest were recorded in Dumaresq (7.0 per cent), Quirindi (7.1 per cent) and Manilla (7.1 per cent).

The lowest proportion was recorded in Lord Howe Island, with one female in receipt of the Sole Parent Pension (1.2 per cent of the female population aged from 15 to 54 years). Proportions in the lowest range mapped were also recorded for Snowy River (2.1 per cent), Tumbarumba (3.7 per cent), Cooma-Monaro (3.7 per cent), Gunning (3.8 per cent) and Yarrawlumla [Part A] (4.8 per cent), located in the south-east; Urana (3.9 per cent),

Jerilderie (4.2 per cent), Wakool (4.6 per cent), Lockhart (4.6 per cent), Corowa (4.8 per cent) and Holbrook (4.9 per cent), situated in the south; and Dungog (4.0 per cent), Weddin (4.5 per cent), Yallaroi (4.7 per cent) and Oberon (4.9 per cent).

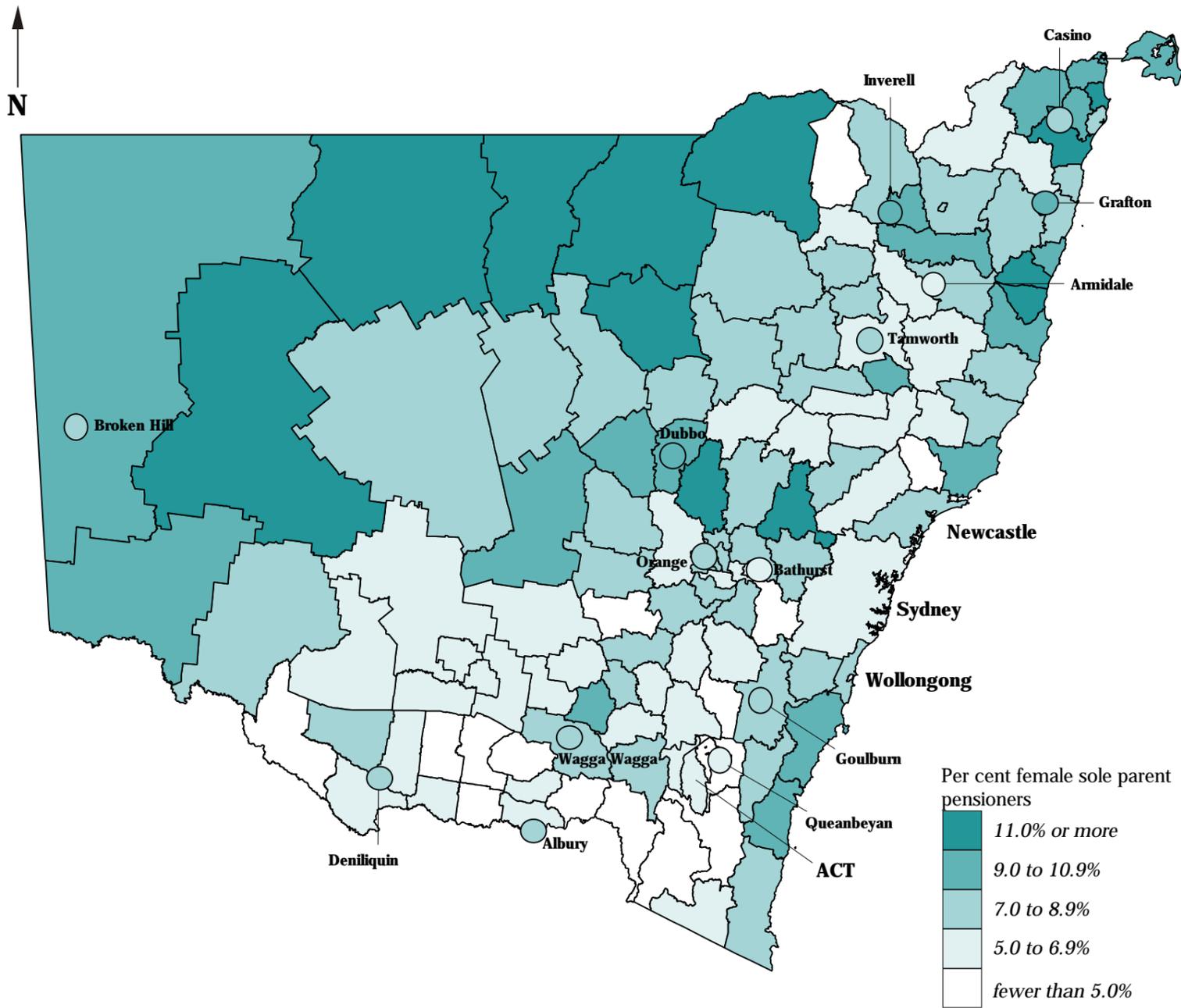
In 1996, the SLAs of Shoalhaven (with 1,857 people), Coffs Harbour (1,584 people), Wagga Wagga (1,222 people), Hastings (1,192 people), Lismore (1,153 people) and Albury (1,028 people) recorded the largest numbers of female sole parent pensioners.

The results of the correlation analysis were not as strong at the SLA level with those recorded in **Sydney**. The strongest, not surprisingly, was with the variable for single parent families (0.68). Correlations of meaningful significance were also recorded with the variables for Indigenous Australians (0.65), dwellings with no motor vehicle (0.59) and unemployed people (0.58). These results, together with the inverse correlation of meaningful significance with the IRSD (-0.63), indicate the existence of an association at the SLA level between high proportions of female sole parent pensioners and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Map 4.6

Female sole parent pensioners, New South Wales, 1996

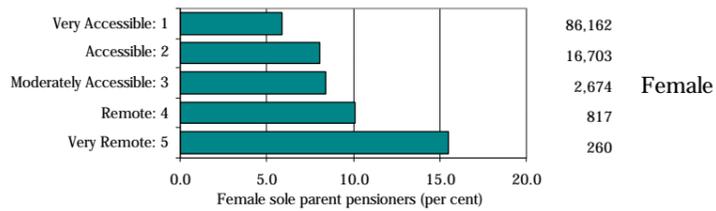
as a percentage of all females aged 15 to 54 years in each Statistical Local Area



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 almost doubles, from 5.9 per cent in the Very Accessible category to 10.1 per cent in the Remote category, before increasing by a further 50 per cent to 15.5 per cent in the Very Remote category. The high proportion of pensioners in the most remote areas is likely to reflect the high proportions of Indigenous females in these populations.

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 79 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

Sydney

In 1989, 2.8 per cent of the eligible population in **Sydney** were in receipt of an unemployment benefit. This proportion increased considerably to 5.4 per cent in 1996. Likewise the numbers have almost doubled, rising from 65,417 people in 1989 to 130,694 people in 1996. These figures include 134 people in CDEP schemes, of whom 47 were in South Sydney and 29 in Blacktown (these figures are included in the total numbers and percentages of unemployment beneficiaries).

SLAs with the highest proportions of people receiving an unemployment benefit were generally located in three distinct areas: in the central west, far north and south of the Sydney Harbour (**Map 4.7**). The highest proportions were in Fairfield (11.2 per cent), Auburn (9.8 per cent), Marrickville (9.7 per cent), South Sydney (9.3 per cent) and Wyong (9.3 per cent).

The SLA of Ku-ring-gai had the lowest proportion, with 1.1 per cent of its eligible population in receipt of unemployment benefits. Percentages of 2.5 per cent or lower were recorded in Lane Cove (1.9 per cent), Hunter's Hill (1.9 per cent), Hornsby (1.9 per cent), Mosman (2.0 per cent), Baulkham Hills (2.0 per cent), Warringah (2.3 per cent), Willoughby (2.4 per cent), Pittwater (2.5 per cent) and North Sydney (2.5 per cent).

The largest number of people receiving an unemployment benefit was recorded in Fairfield, with 13,396 people. Large numbers were also recorded in Blacktown (9,343 people), Bankstown (6,436 people), Canterbury (6,395 people) and Wyong (6,060 people).

There were correlations of substantial significance at the SLA level with the variables for unemployed people (0.95) and low income families (0.84), and of meaningful significance with single parent families (0.70), unskilled and semi-skilled workers (0.69), poor proficiency in English (0.59), Indigenous Australians (0.59) and early school leavers (0.53). These results, together with the inverse correlation of substantial significance with the IRSD (-0.86, indicate the existence of an association at the SLA level between high proportions of the population in receipt of an unemployment benefit and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Newcastle

There were 24,601 people in receipt of an unemployment benefit in **Newcastle** in 1996, 8.8 per cent of the eligible population. The City of Newcastle (9.7 per cent) had the highest percentage, with the lowest percentages in the SLAs of Lake Macquarie (8.4 per cent) and Maitland (7.5 per cent). There were 144 people in CDEP schemes in **Newcastle** in 1998, with 142 in Port Stephens.

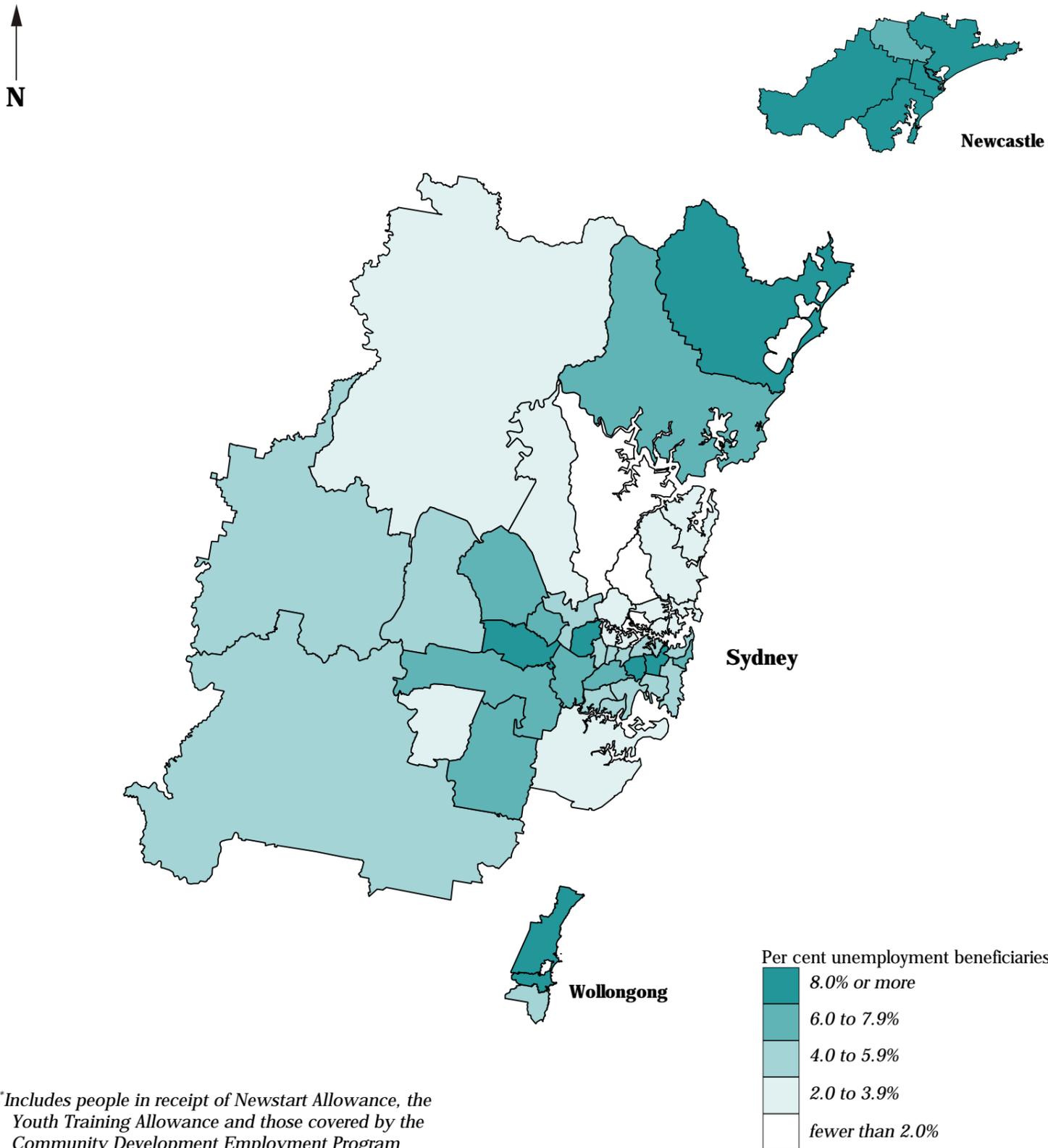
Wollongong

In 1996, 12,901 people in **Wollongong** were receiving an unemployment benefit, 8.3 per cent of the eligible population. Proportions ranged from 5.6 per cent in Kiama to 8.3 per cent in the City of Wollongong and 9.1 per cent in Shellharbour. There were 38 people in CDEP schemes in 1998, with 35 in Shellharbour.

Map 4.7

Unemployment beneficiaries*, Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong, 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: 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 79 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 the non-metropolitan areas of New South Wales, 5.8 per cent of the population in 1989 (aged 15 to 64 years for males and 15 to 59 years for females) were receiving an unemployment benefit. By 1996, the proportion had risen to 8.9 per cent and the number of people had increased by more than fifty per cent, from 53,377 people in 1989 to 85,010 people in 1996.

This figure includes 2,619 residents of the non-metropolitan areas of New South Wales who were in CDEP schemes. The highest proportions were in Brewarrina (8.2 per cent of the population, almost the same as the proportion in receipt of unemployment benefits), Walgett (5.5 per cent) and Coonamble (5.4 per cent): the largest numbers were in Walgett (316 people), Moree Plains (212), Kempsey (184 people), Armidale (169 people) and Coonamble (152 people).

As can be seen from **Map 4.8**, the SLAs in the far north and north-west generally had the highest proportions for this variable. The highest of these was recorded in Walgett, where 22.3 per cent of its eligible population were in receipt of an unemployment benefit, of which just under one third received payments through the CDEP. Well above average proportions were also recorded in Byron (18.3 per cent), Brewarrina (16.8 per cent), Bellingen (15.5 per cent), Nambucca (15.4 per cent), Richmond River (15.1 per cent), Kempsey (14.9 per cent), Coffs Harbour (14.3 per cent), Kyogle (13.9 per cent), Coonamble (13.6 per cent) and Central Darling (13.5 per cent).

The largest proportion of SLAs were mapped in the second lowest class interval (50 SLAs), where percentages ranged from 5.0 per cent in Yarrolumla [Part A], Wingecarribee and Goulburn to 6.9 per cent in Armidale and Parkes.

The lowest proportion, of 3.1 per cent, was recorded for residents of Oberon, followed by Jerilderie (3.4 per cent), Crookwell (3.4 per cent) and Gunning (3.5 per cent). Relatively low percentages were also recorded in Tumbarumba, Murrumbidgee and Holbrook (each with 4.1 per cent), Griffith and Cooma-Monaro (both with 4.2 per cent) and Wakool, Urana, Singleton and Blayney (each with 4.3 per cent).

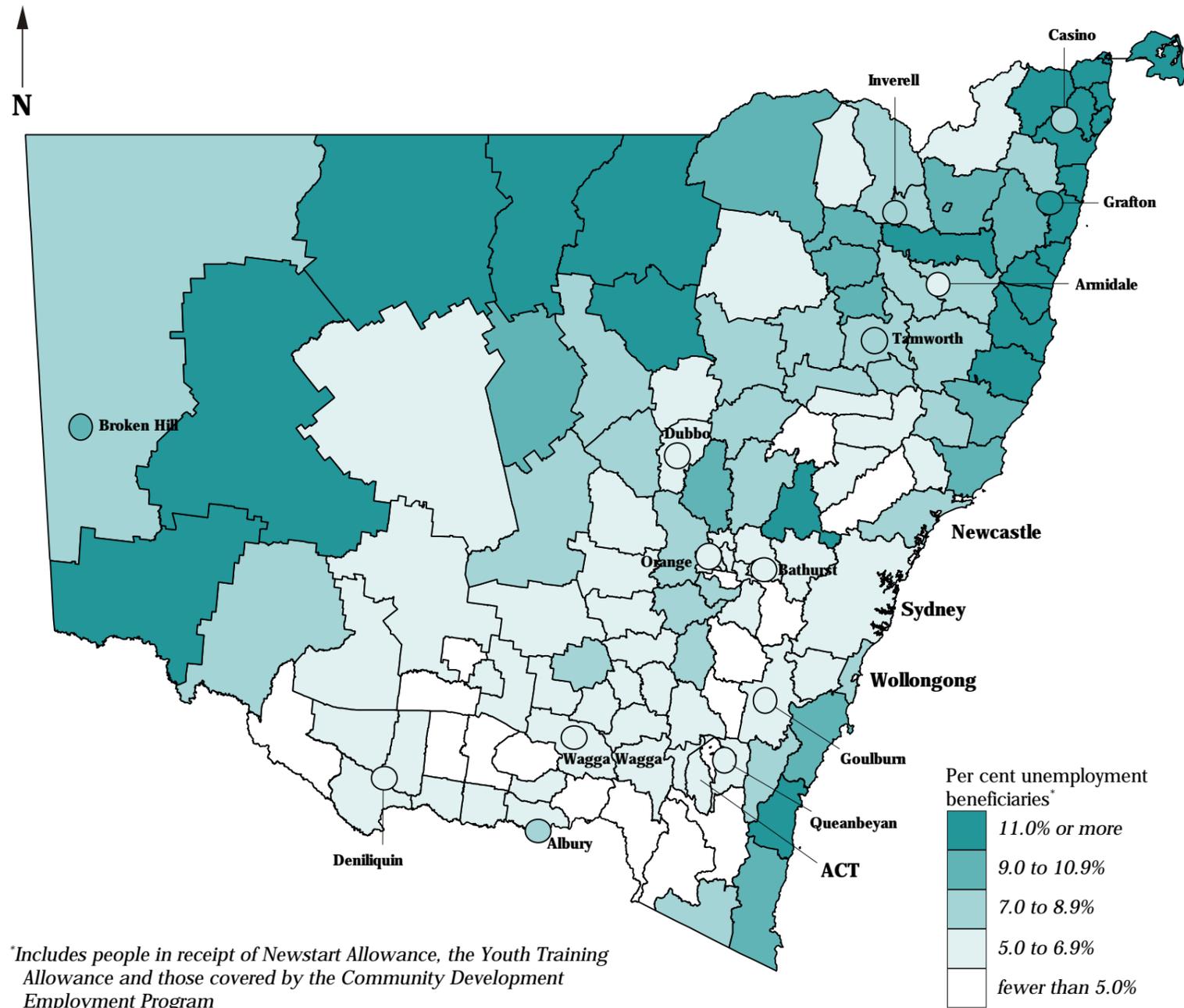
More than 2,500 people were receiving an unemployment benefit in the SLAs of Coffs Harbour (4,927 people), Shoalhaven (4,520 people), Hastings (3,816 people), Lismore (3,350 people), Byron (3,045 people), Tweed Heads (2,788 people) and Greater Taree (2,613 people).

As expected, there was a correlation of substantial significance at the SLA level with the variable for unemployed people (0.83). Correlations of meaningful significance were recorded with low income families (0.62) and single parent families (0.55). These results, together with the inverse correlation of meaningful significance with the IRSD (-0.64), indicate the existence of 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*, New South Wales, 1996

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

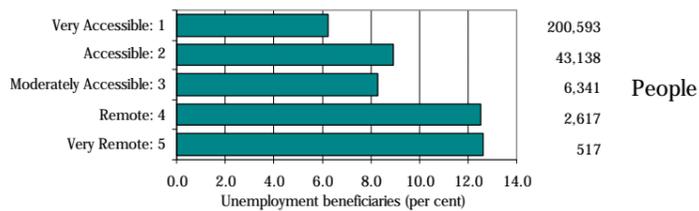


*Includes people in receipt of Newstart Allowance, the Youth Training Allowance and those covered by the Community Development Employment Program

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



The proportion of unemployment beneficiaries increases in a step-wise fashion across the ARIA categories, from 6.2 per cent in the Very Remote category, to 8.9 per cent and 8.3 per cent in the Accessible and Moderately Accessible categories, and to 12.5 per cent and 12.6 per cent in the Remote and Very Remote categories. The high proportions of unemployment beneficiaries in the most remote areas are likely to reflect the high proportions of Indigenous people in the population.

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 79 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

Sydney

Both the number and proportion of dependent children aged between 0 and 15 years in **Sydney** have increased since 1989. While the percentages rose from 23.2 per cent in 1989 to 37.2 per cent in 1996, the numbers have increased substantially, from 179,378 to 302,455 respectively.

The distribution of dependent children was similar to that for the other variables mapped in this chapter, with the highest proportions in the central western, far northern and southern SLAs, while those with the lowest proportions were distributed just north of Sydney Harbour (**Map 4.9**).

The SLAs of Auburn (63.9 per cent) and Fairfield (53.9 per cent), located in the central west; Canterbury (55.5 per cent) and Marrickville (51.0 per cent), situated south of the Sydney Harbour; and Wyong (52.5 per cent), located in the far north; were all mapped in the highest range. High proportions to the west of the city centre were also recorded in Holroyd (49.4 per cent), Bankstown (48.1 per cent), Liverpool (47.8 per cent), Blacktown (45.3 per cent) and Parramatta (42.6 per cent).

Proportions of less than 20.0 per cent were recorded in Ku-ring-gai (8.5 per cent), Mosman (8.9 per cent), Hunter's Hill (9.4 per cent), Woollahra (11.4 per cent), Lane Cove (14.5 per cent), North Sydney (15.3 per cent), Willoughby (16.1 per cent), Hornsby (17.2 per cent), Baulkham Hills (18.6 per cent) and Pittwater (19.7 per cent).

The largest numbers of dependent children were recorded in the SLAs of Blacktown (29,282 children), Fairfield (24,956 children), Campbelltown (21,750 children), Penrith (17,224 children), Bankstown (17,053 children) and Canterbury (16,211 children).

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 (0.92), unemployed people (0.92), unskilled and semi-skilled workers (0.85) and early school leavers (0.75), while inverse correlations were recorded with high income families (-0.93), managers and administrators and professionals (-0.80) and female labour force participation (-0.74). These results, together with the inverse correlation of substantial significance with the IRSD (-0.96), indicate the existence of an association at the SLA level between high proportions of dependent children and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Newcastle

In 1996, 42.3 per cent of children aged between 0 and 15 years lived in families who were in receipt of an income support payment (43,672 children). The largest number of these children were resident in Lake Macquarie (16,828 children, 41.4 per cent). The highest proportion was recorded in Port Stephens, with 45.7 per cent.

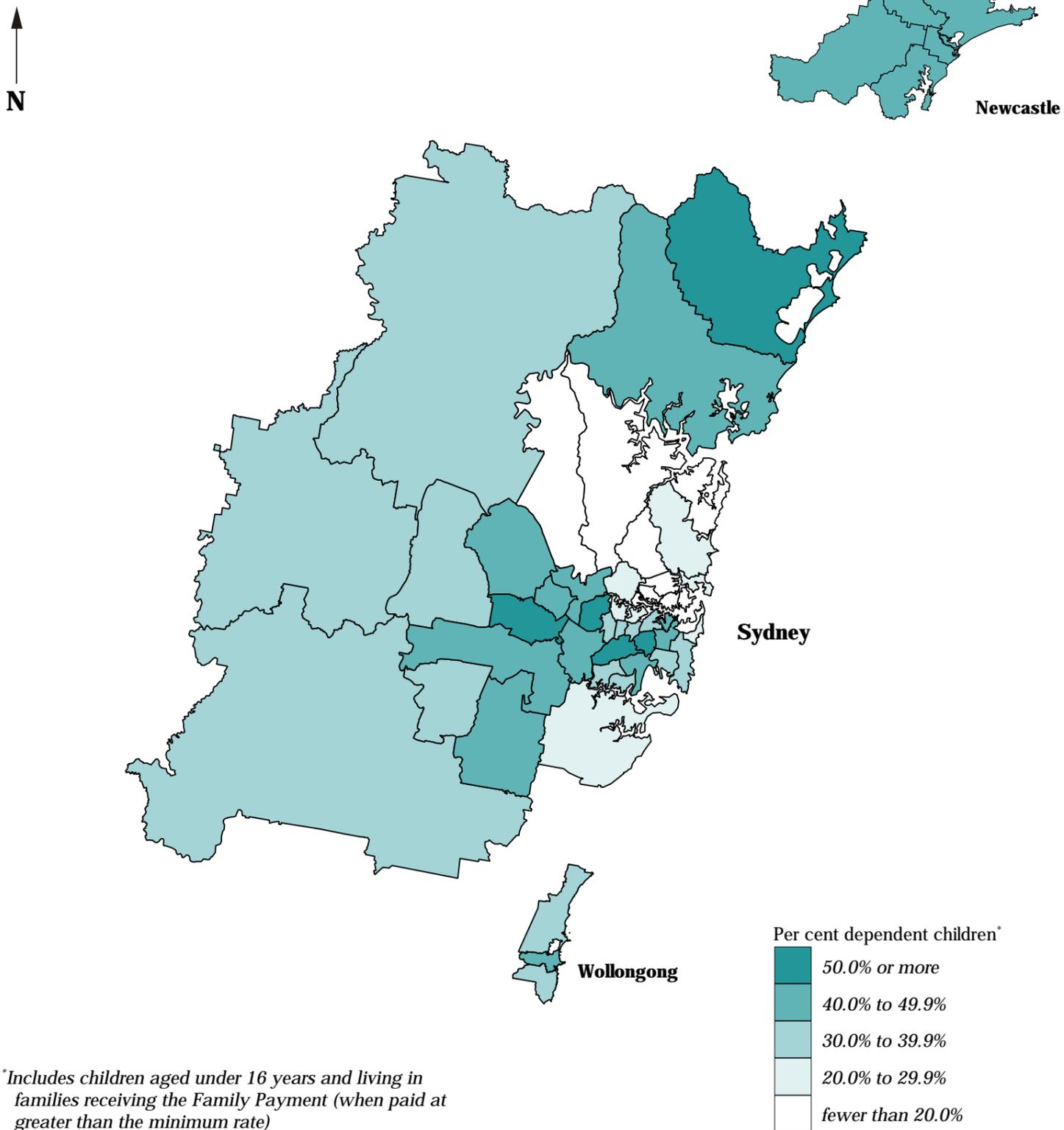
Wollongong

Wollongong (39.7 per cent) had the lowest proportion of dependent children among the major urban centres, with 22,798 children in this category. The majority of these children lived in the City of Wollongong (15,443 children, 39.7 per cent). Kiama (30.2 per cent) recorded the lowest proportion, while Shellharbour (42.8 per cent) recorded the highest.

Map 4.9

Dependent children of selected pensioners and beneficiaries*, Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong, 30 June 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: 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 79 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

Problems with the data

The postcode based data show Central Darling as having a proportion in excess of 100 per cent: 597 children, 101.3 per cent of the population aged from 0 to 15 years. This is clearly not accurate: the notes on page 80 give some possible reasons for this result.

Rest of State

In 1989, 142,967 children in the non-metropolitan areas of New South Wales were living in families that were receiving an income support payment (41.4 per cent of the population aged between 0 to 15 years). By 1996, the number of children had increased by fifty per cent (rising to 214,444 children) and the proportion had risen to 54.1 per cent of the eligible population.

Areas with extremely high percentages for this variable were Brewarrina (80.5 per cent), Walgett (77.9 per cent), Bourke (76.2 per cent), Coonamble (73.5 per cent), Wentworth (72.7 per cent) and Unincorporated Far West (72.1 per cent), situated in the far western and north-western SLAs; and Manilla (76.3 per cent), Richmond River (75.9 per cent), Barraba (75.2 per cent), Severn (73.6 per cent), Nambucca (73.5 per cent), Guyra (73.3 per cent), Kyogle (73.0 per cent), Byron (72.1 per cent) and Bingara (70.6 per cent), all of which were located in the north-east. Also mapped in the highest range were the SLAs of Blayney [Part B] (72.5 per cent) and Wellington (70.1 per cent).

The lowest percentages (but still with at least 20 per cent of children in this population group) were generally located in the south-east (**Map 4.10**) and included Snowy River (21.9 per cent), Cooma-Monaro (29.3 per cent), Yarrowlunla [Part A] (29.6 per cent), Gunning (33.3 per cent), Queanbeyan (35.4 per cent), Yarrowlunla [Part B] (36.5 per cent), Tumbarumba (37.3 per cent), Holbrook (38.9 per cent) and Wingecarribee (39.5 per cent). Relatively low proportions were also recorded in Lord Howe Island (24.2 per cent), Singleton (27.0 per cent), Jerilderie (28.5 per cent) and Oberon (30.2 per cent).

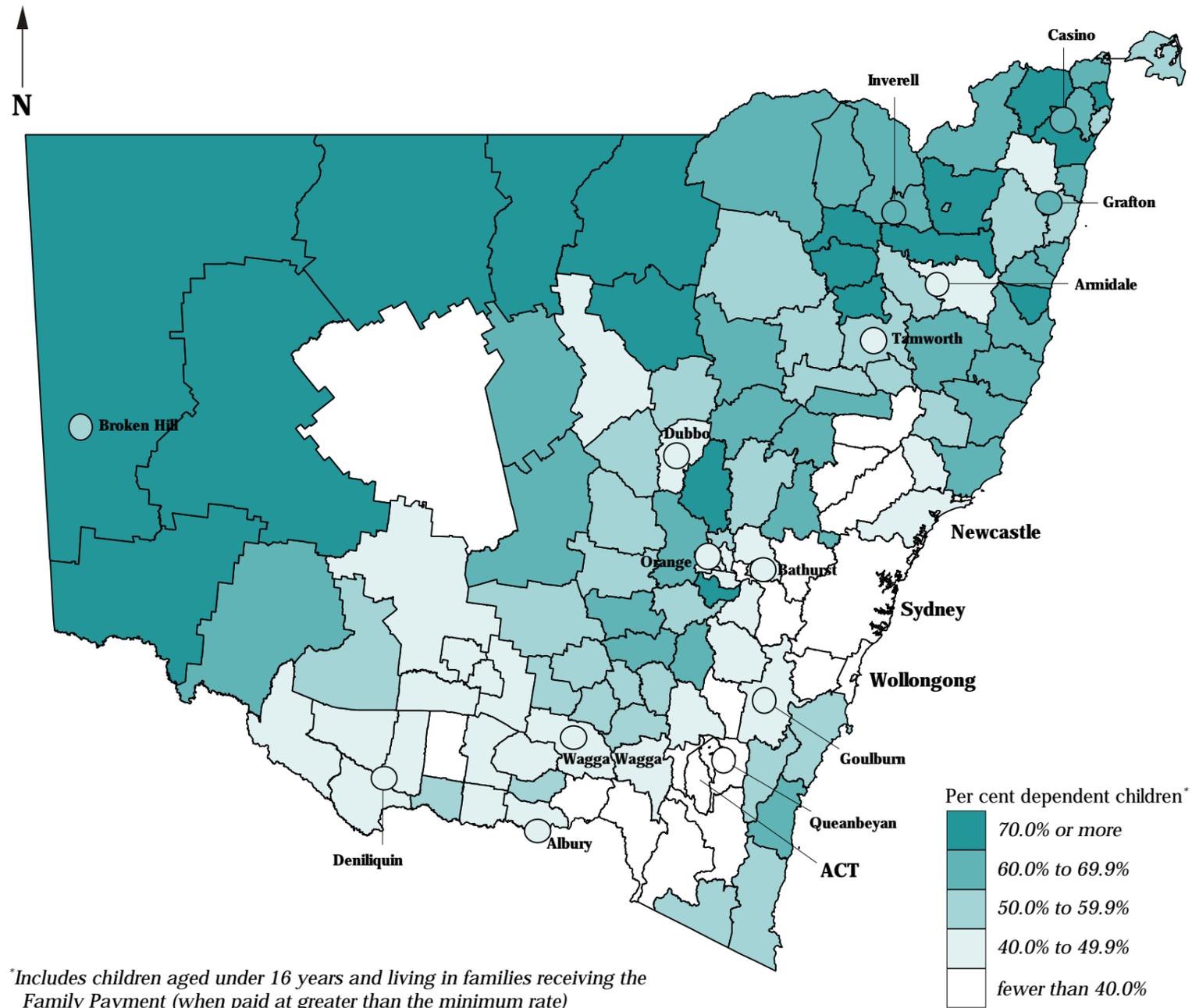
More than 6,000 dependent children were recorded in the SLAs of Shoalhaven (10,985 children), Coffs Harbour (9,660 children), Hastings (7,856 children), Greater Taree (6,819 children), Lismore (6,584 children) and Wagga Wagga (6,063 children).

There was a correlation of substantial significance recorded with the variable for low income families (0.73), and of meaningful significance with unemployed people (0.58), while inverse correlations were recorded with high income families (-0.70) and female labour force participation (-0.60). These results, together with the inverse correlation of substantial significance with the IRSD (-0.72), indicate the existence of an association at the SLA level between high proportions of dependent children and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Map 4.10

Dependent children of selected pensioners and beneficiaries*, New South Wales, 30 June 1996

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

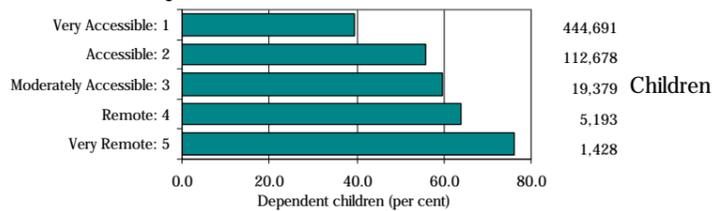


*Includes children aged under 16 years and living in families receiving the Family Payment (when paid at greater than the minimum rate)

Source: 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 39.5 per cent in the Very Accessible category to almost twice that level in the Very Remote category (76.0 per cent). The high proportions of children in these families in the most remote areas are likely to reflect the high proportions of Indigenous people in the population.

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

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