

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 (DSP) paid by DFACS. People in receipt of the Veteran Disability Pension (which includes the Totally and Permanently Incapacitated pension) were excluded from the analysis, as this pension is paid as compensation for service related incapacity, and is not regarded as an income support payment. Recipients of the War Widows pension were excluded on the same grounds.

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

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

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

the minimum rate¹) have been mapped as a percentage of all children aged under 16 years at the 1996 Census. Two groups of families are eligible for this payment. One includes families receiving one of the following income support payments: the DFACS Age, Disability Support and Sole Parent Pensions; Youth Training Allowance or Newstart Allowance; Sickness and Special Benefits; or the CDEP. These families are 'automatic' recipients of the Family Payment and account for just under three quarters (71.8 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	
Pensions	Pensions	Age group (years)	
Age ¹	Service (Age) ²	Males	65 & over
		Females	60 & over
Disability Support	Service (PF) ³	Males	15-64
		Females	15-59
Sole Parent ⁴	.. ⁵	Females	15-54
Unemployment benefits			
Youth Training Allowance & Newstart Allowance ⁶	..	Males	15-64
		Females	15-59
Children⁷	.. ⁸	Population	0-15

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

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

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

⁴Details for males were excluded from the analysis

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

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

⁷Includes children (aged under 16 years) in families 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

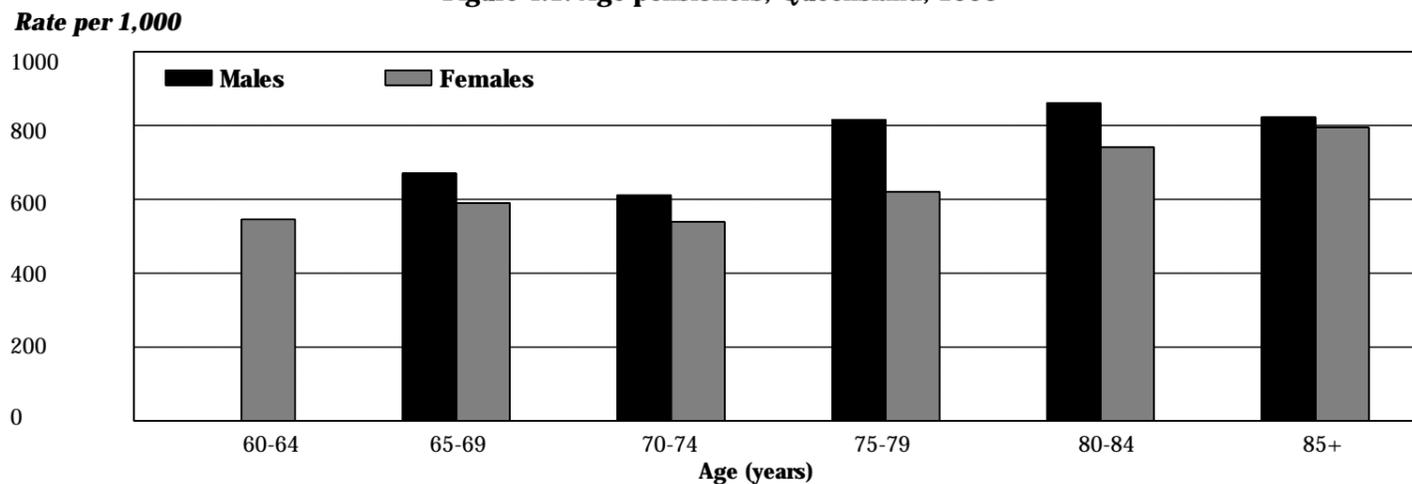
the percentages back to 100, or less than 100, this would have concealed the problem and would not have represented the data for the areas as estimated. Percentages in excess of 100 per cent are noted separately in the text. Although the other pension or benefit types analysed only rarely have such high 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, Queensland, 1996

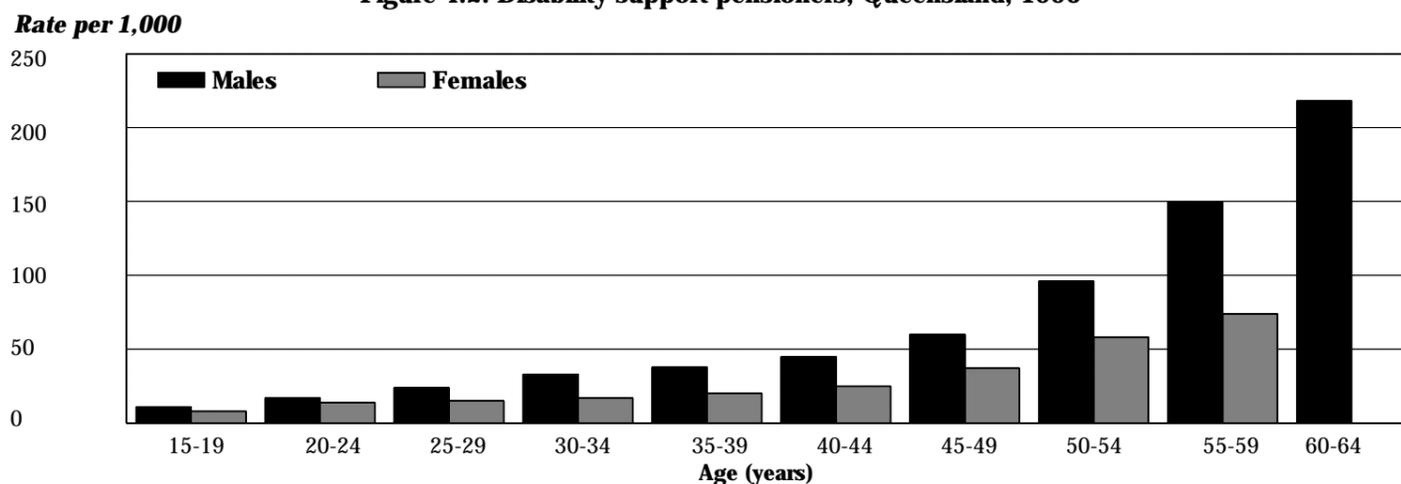


Source: Calculated on data supplied by DFACS (Age Pension) and DVA (Service Pension (Age))

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.

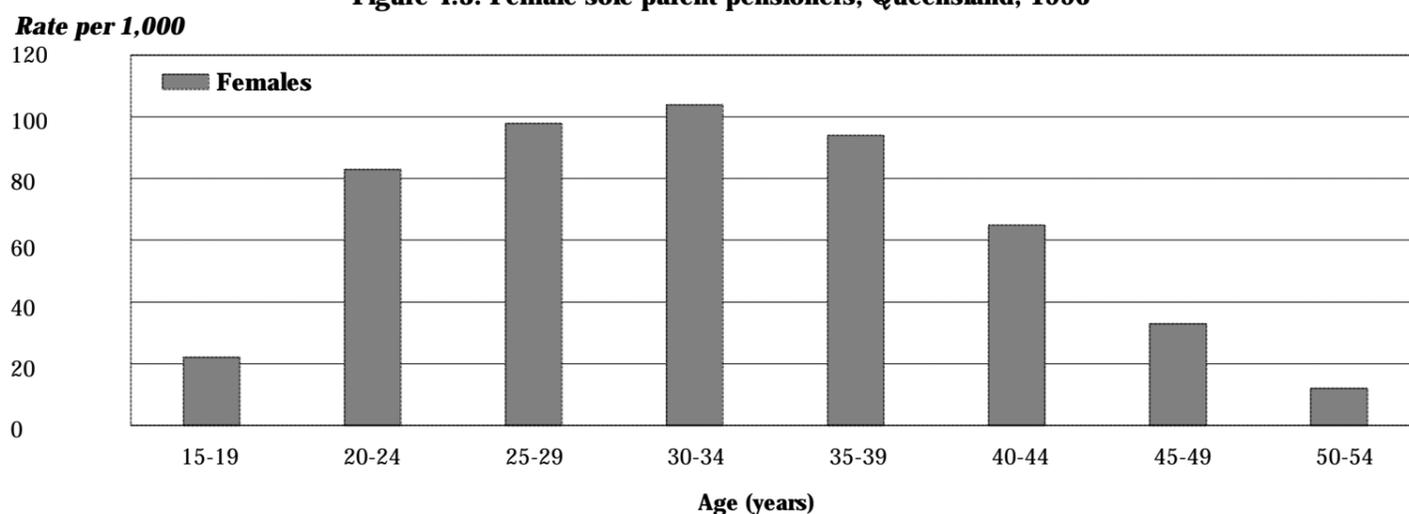
Figure 4.2: Disability support pensioners, Queensland, 1996



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, Queensland, 1996

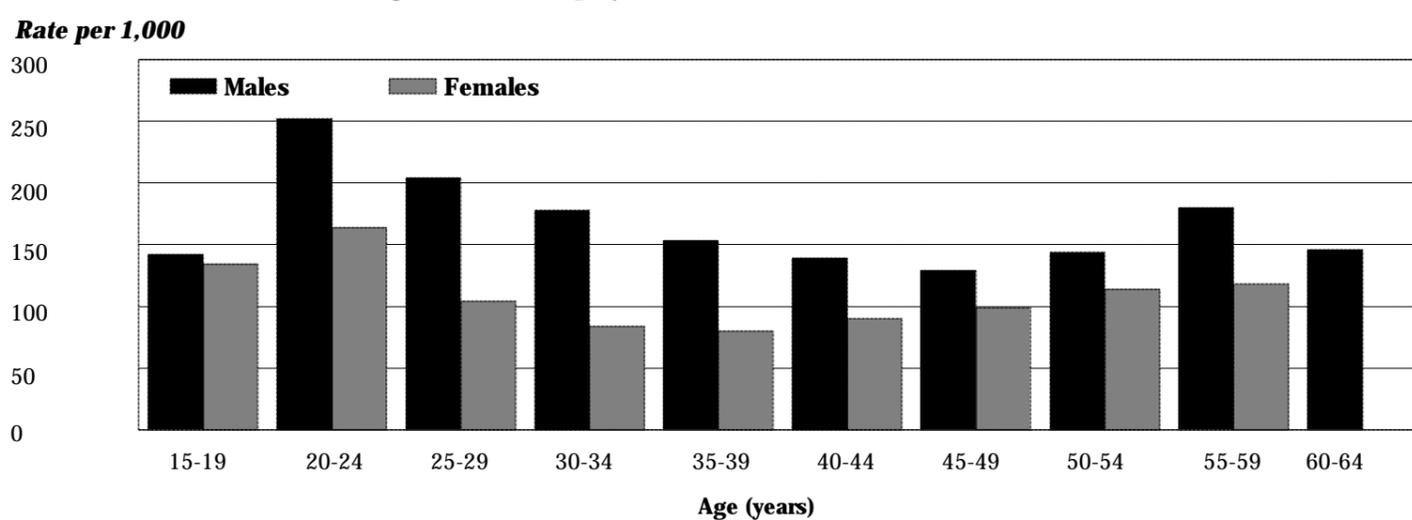


Source: Calculated on data supplied by DFACS

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 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 30 to 34 and 35 to 39 year age groups, after which they increase slightly, through to the 55 to 59 year age group.

Figure 4.4: Unemployment beneficiaries, Queensland, 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

Problems with the data

The data show a number of small areas as having population proportions in excess of 100 per cent. These are clearly not accurate: the notes on page 82 include some possible reasons for these results.

The areas in this category were Bray Park (429 age pensioners: 117.8 per cent of the population of pensionable age); Ferny Hills/Everton Hills (1,160: 113.4 per cent); and Burpengary-Narangba (917: 112.7 per cent).

Brisbane

In 1989 there were 128,038 people receiving the Age Pension, representing 79.0 per cent of population of pensionable age. By 1996, the number had increased to 130,526 but the proportion had fallen to 69.9 per cent.

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

Proportions of 80 per cent and above were recorded in the eastern areas of Cleveland (90.2 per cent), Murarrie (88.7 per cent), Thorneside (87.2 per cent), Pinkenba-Eagle Farm (82.7 per cent) and Chandler (80.0 per cent); in the northern area of Caboolture Balance (88.9 per cent); in the south-western areas of Darra-Sumner/Wacol (85.3 per cent); Ipswich-East (82.1 per cent), Ipswich-Central (82.0 per cent), Greenbank [Part A]/Beaudesert (82.0 per cent); and in Rocklea (84.7 per cent) and Berrinba Karawatha/Kingston (82.5 per cent).

The lowest proportions of age pensioners were in Moreton Island (19.4 per cent), St Lucia (28.8 per cent) and City/Spring Hill (31.2 per cent). Similarly low proportions were recorded in Upper Brookfield/Fig Tree Pocket (41.5 per cent), Herston/Newstead (41.7 per cent), Logan Balance (41.7 per cent), Keperra/Upper Kedron (45.3 per cent) and Anstead/Bellbowrie/Moggill (46.7 per cent).

The largest numbers of age pensioners in **Brisbane** in 1996 were in Redcliffe (7,984 people), Ipswich-Central (7,270 people), Bridgeman Downs/Boondall (4,764 people), Bracken Ridge/Sandgate (4,253 people) and Mt Gravatt/Rochedale (4,192 people).

There was a correlation of meaningful significance with the variable for early school leavers (0.53) and weaker correlations with the other indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage. These results, together with the weak inverse correlation with the IRSD (-0.33), suggest the existence of an association at the small area level between high proportions of age pensioners and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Gold Coast-Tweed Heads

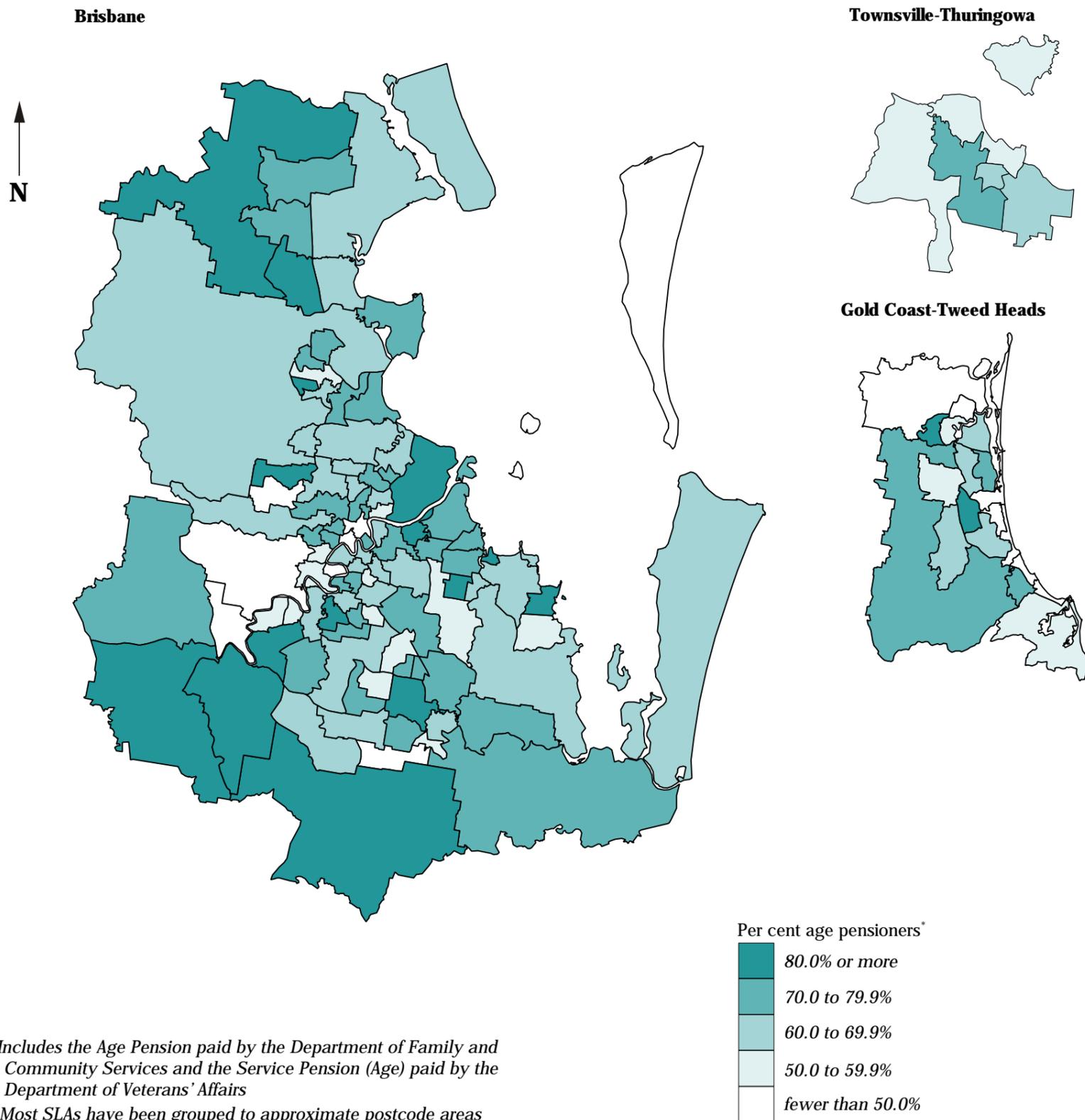
Gold Coast-Tweed Heads had 41,281 age pensioners in 1996, representing 55.2 per cent of the population of pensionable age. The proportion of age pensioners was comparatively low along the coast in areas such as Surfers Paradise/Benowa (33.0 per cent) and Coolangatta/Tugun (33.2 per cent). The highest proportions were recorded in the inner areas of Oxenford (81.8 per cent) and Carrara-Merrimac (81.7 per cent).

Townsville-Thuringowa

In 1996, 65.5 per cent of the population of pensionable age in **Townsville-Thuringowa** was receiving the Age Pension, a total of 8,665 people. All five areas recorded proportions of below 75 per cent, ranging from 59.0 per cent in Thuringowa [Part A] to 72.0 per cent in Murray/Mt Louisa.

Map 4.1: Age pensioners* Brisbane, Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa, 1996

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

#Most SLAs have been grouped to approximate postcode areas

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 areas as having population proportions in excess of 100 per cent. These are clearly not accurate: the notes on page 82 include some possible reasons for these results.

The areas in this category are Woocoo (337 age pensioners: 121.8 per cent of the population of pensionable age): Aurukun (33: 117.4 per cent): Tiaro (461: 109.7 per cent): Burnett [Part B] (1,221: 105.7 per cent): and Warwick-East (585: 100.4 per cent).

Rest of State

In 1986, there were 113,091 people in the non-metropolitan areas of Queensland receiving an Age Pension, representing 77.6 per cent of the population of pensionable age. By 1996, the number had decreased to 124,172 people and the proportion had fallen to 62.1 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 Mornington (90.7 per cent), Warwick-West (89.7 per cent), Mount Morgan (87.7 per cent), Laidley (86.7 per cent), Jondaryan (86.5 per cent) and Maroochy Balance (85.0 per cent).

In total, 42 SLAs were mapped in the middle range, with proportions of between 60 and 70 per cent of age pensioners. Proportions in this class interval ranged from 60.0 per cent in Roma to 68.6 per cent in Gayndah.

SLAs recording the lowest levels of age pensioners were generally clustered in three areas: in the far northern and western regions of the State and along the central coast. The lowest of these, with more than 20 age pensioners, were recorded in the northern and western SLAs of Burke (22.5 per cent), Carpentaria (34.2 per cent), Etheridge (35.2 per cent), Douglas (36.0 per

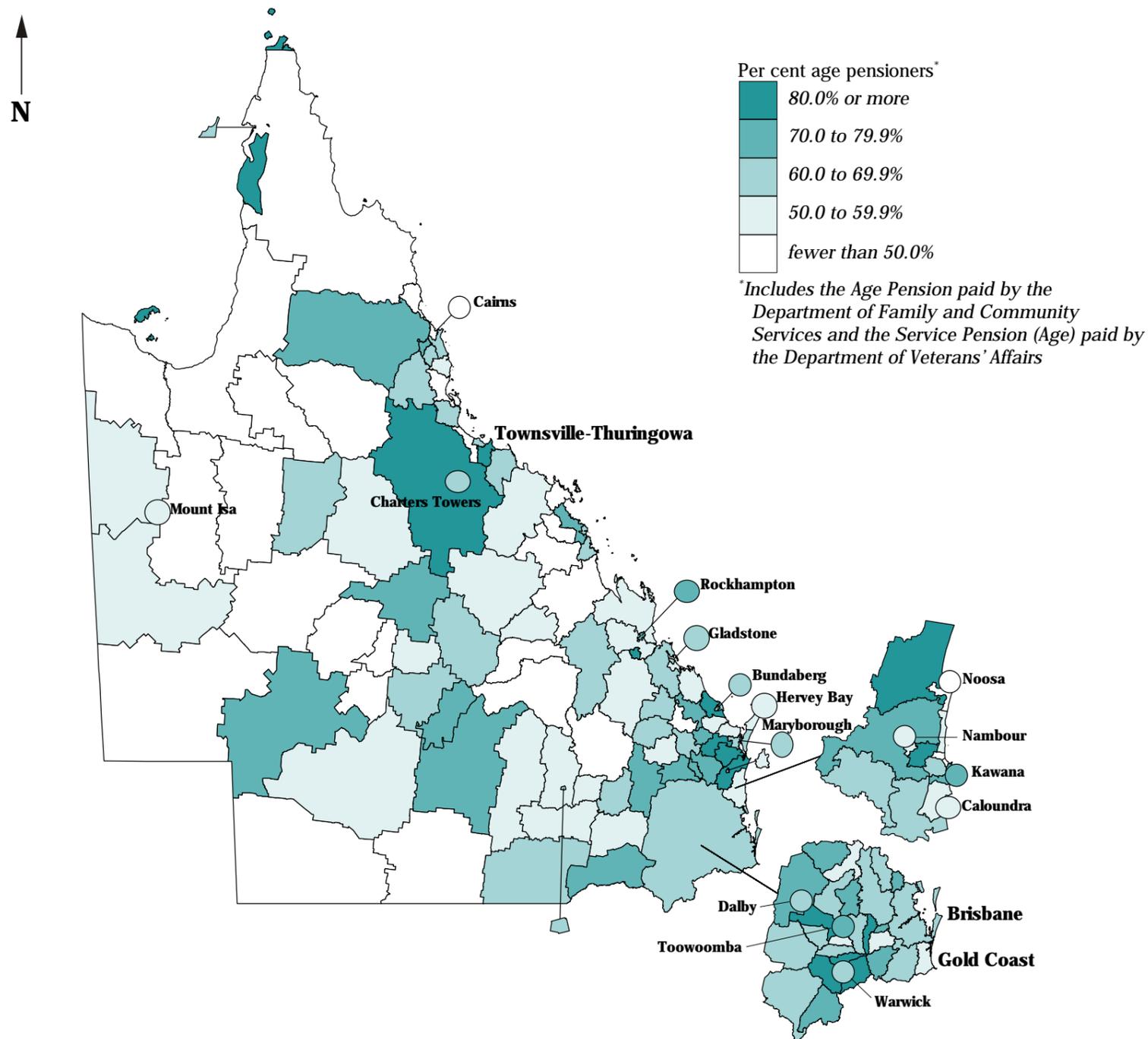
cent) and McKinlay (39.2 per cent). Mirani (20.2 per cent), Nebo (32.4 per cent) and Whitsunday (33.5 per cent), situated along the central coast, also had low levels of people receiving an Age Pension.

The towns of Toowoomba (9,531 people), Rockhampton (6,924), Cairns (5,193), Hervey Bay (5,734), Bundaberg (5,204), Caloundra (4,545), Maryborough (3,040) and Kawana (2,528) recorded among the largest numbers of age pensioners in the non-metropolitan areas.

There were weak correlations with the indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage, and weak inverse correlations with the indicators of high socioeconomic status. These results, together with the weak inverse correlation with the IRSD (-0.24), suggest the existence of an association at the SLA level between high proportions of age pensioners and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Map 4.2: Age pensioners*, Queensland, 1996

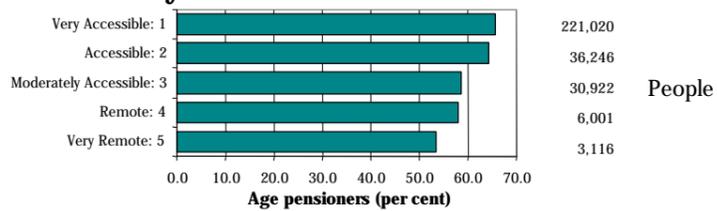
as a percentage of males aged 65 years and over and females aged 60 years and over in each Statistical Local Area



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 declines with increasing remoteness, from 65.6 per cent in the Very Accessible areas to 53.4 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

	<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

Brisbane

The number of people in **Brisbane** receiving the Disability Support Pension increased substantially from 22,241 people in 1989 to 39,634 people in 1996, up from 2.7 per cent to 4.1 per cent of the eligible population (of males aged from 15 to 64 years and females aged 15 to 59 years).

Proportions were highest in the outer southern and northern areas of Redland Balance (11.1 per cent) and Bribie Island (10.7 per cent) (**Map 4.3**). Other areas recording proportions well above the city average were New Farm (11.4 per cent), Darra-Sumner/Wacol (9.4 per cent), Dutton Park/Woolloongabba (8.3 per cent), West End/South Brisbane/Highgate Hill (8.0 per cent), Rocklea (7.4 per cent), Inala/Durack/Doolandella-Forest Lake/Richlands/Ellen Grove (6.4 per cent), Herston/Newstead (6.2 per cent), Windsor/Lutwyche/Woolloowin (5.9 per cent), Murarrie (5.7 per cent) and Hemmant-Lytton/Wynnum/Wynnum West (5.5 per cent), all of which are scattered along the Brisbane River; the outer southern areas of Berrinba-Karawatha/Kingston (7.7 per cent), Ipswich Central (6.5 per cent) and Loganlea (5.6 per cent); and the far northern areas of Redcliffe (7.6 per cent), Caboolture-East (6.9 per cent), Caboolture-Central (6.6 per cent) and Deception Bay (5.9 per cent).

A number of higher socioeconomic status SLAs, located just north of the Brisbane River, had notably lower percentages, with the lowest being in Anstead/Bellbowrie/Moggill with 0.8 per cent of the population receiving the Disability Support Pension. Similarly low proportions were recorded in St Lucia (0.9 per cent), Jindalee/River Hills (1.2 per cent), and Upper Brookfield/Fig Tree Pocket, Seventeen Mile Rocks, Albany Creek and Moreton Island (each with 1.3 per cent).

The largest numbers of people in receipt of a Disability Support Pension in 1996 were recorded in Ipswich-Central (2,712 people),

Redcliffe (2,142 people), Berrinba-Karawatha/Kingston (1,598 people) and Gold Coast [Part A] (1,345 people).

There were correlations of significance at the small area level with the variables for low income families (0.72), the Indigenous population (0.69), unemployed people (0.67), dwellings without a motor vehicle (0.66) and unskilled and semi-skilled workers (0.50). These results, together with the inverse correlation of substantial significance with the IRSD (-0.72), indicate an association at the small area level between high proportions of disability support pensioners and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Gold Coast-Tweed Heads

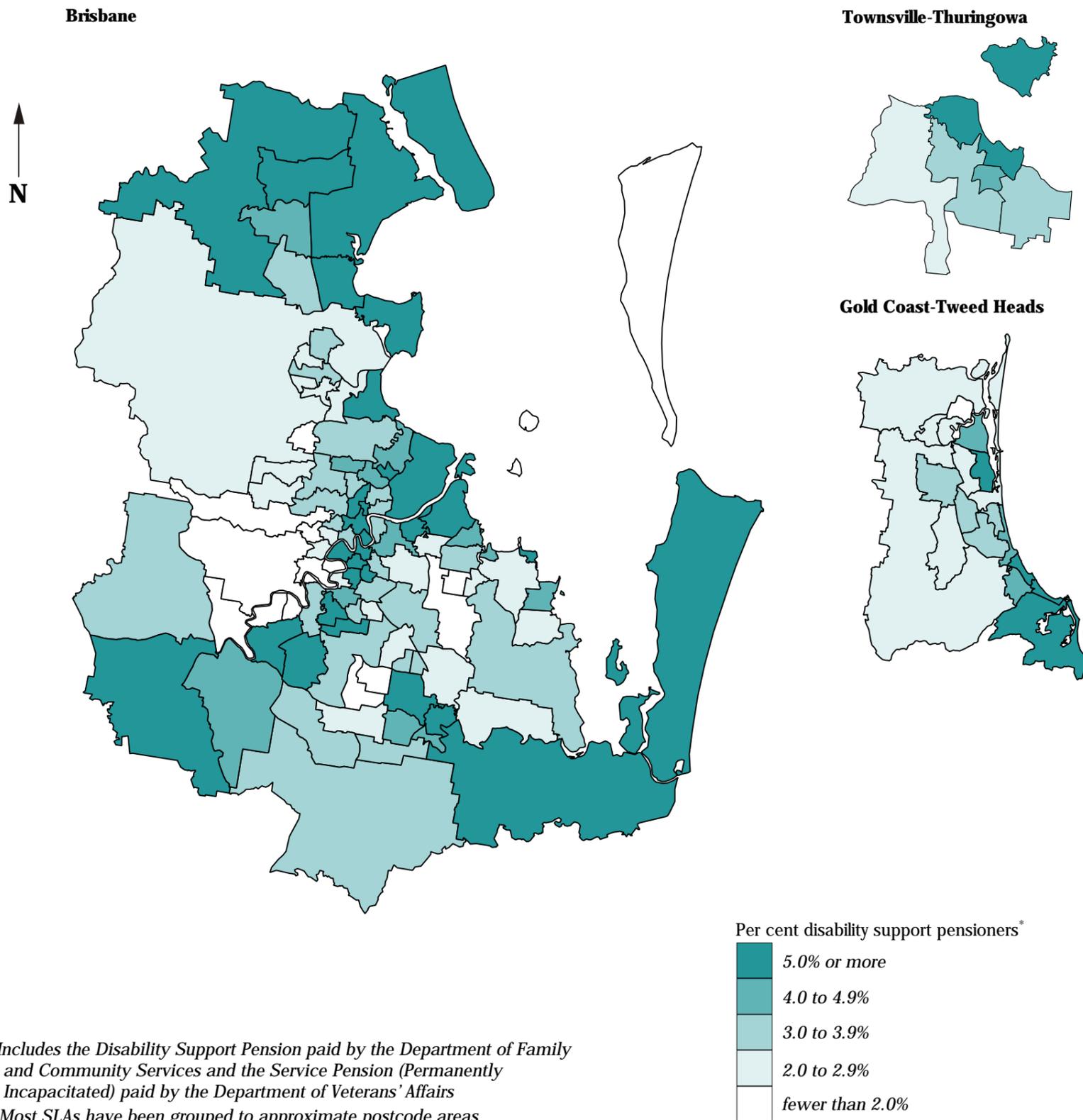
In 1996, there were 9,047 people in receipt of the Disability Support Pension in **Gold Coast-Tweed Heads**, 4.1 per cent of the eligible population. Tweed Heads had the highest proportion of disability support pensioners, with 7.5 per cent of its population in this category. High proportions were also recorded in the combined areas of Coolangatta/Tugun (7.2 per cent), Labrador/Southport (5.9 per cent) and Palm Beach/Currumbin (5.0 per cent). Hope Island and Surfers Paradise/Benowa recorded the lowest proportions of 1.9 per cent and 2.3 per cent respectively.

Townsville-Thuringowa

In 1996, 3.6 per cent of the eligible population in **Townsville-Thuringowa** were receiving a Disability Support Pension, a total of 2,901 people. Proportions in all five areas were below 6.0 per cent, ranging from 2.7 per cent in Thuringowa [Part A] to 5.5 per cent in Townsville Coastal/Magnetic Island.

Map 4.3: Disability support pensioners* Brisbane, Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa, 1996

as a percentage of males ages 15 to 64 years and females aged 15 to 59 years in each 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
 #Most SLAs have been grouped to approximate postcode areas

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, 23,151 people in the non-metropolitan areas of Queensland were receiving a Disability Support Pension (3.1 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 40,034 and the proportion had increased to 4.6 per cent.

As can be seen from **Map 4.4**, areas with high concentrations of disability support pensioners were generally located in the south-east of the State. Proportions of 7.0 per cent or above were recorded in the south-eastern SLAs of Mount Morgan (18.1 per cent), Biggenden (10.3 per cent), Perry (10.1 per cent), Nanango (9.1 per cent), Kolan (8.9 per cent), Esk (8.4 per cent), Tara (8.2 per cent), Hervey Bay (8.0 per cent), Isis and Stanthorpe (both with 7.2 per cent). The only areas outside of the south-eastern region to be mapped in the highest range were the SLAs of Herberton and Paroo (both 6.7 per cent) and Atherton (6.5 per cent).

In total, 31 SLAs were mapped in the middle class interval, ranging from 4.0 per cent in Cloncurry to 4.8 per cent in each of Warwick West, Rockhampton, Murilla, Millmerran and Mackay [Part B].

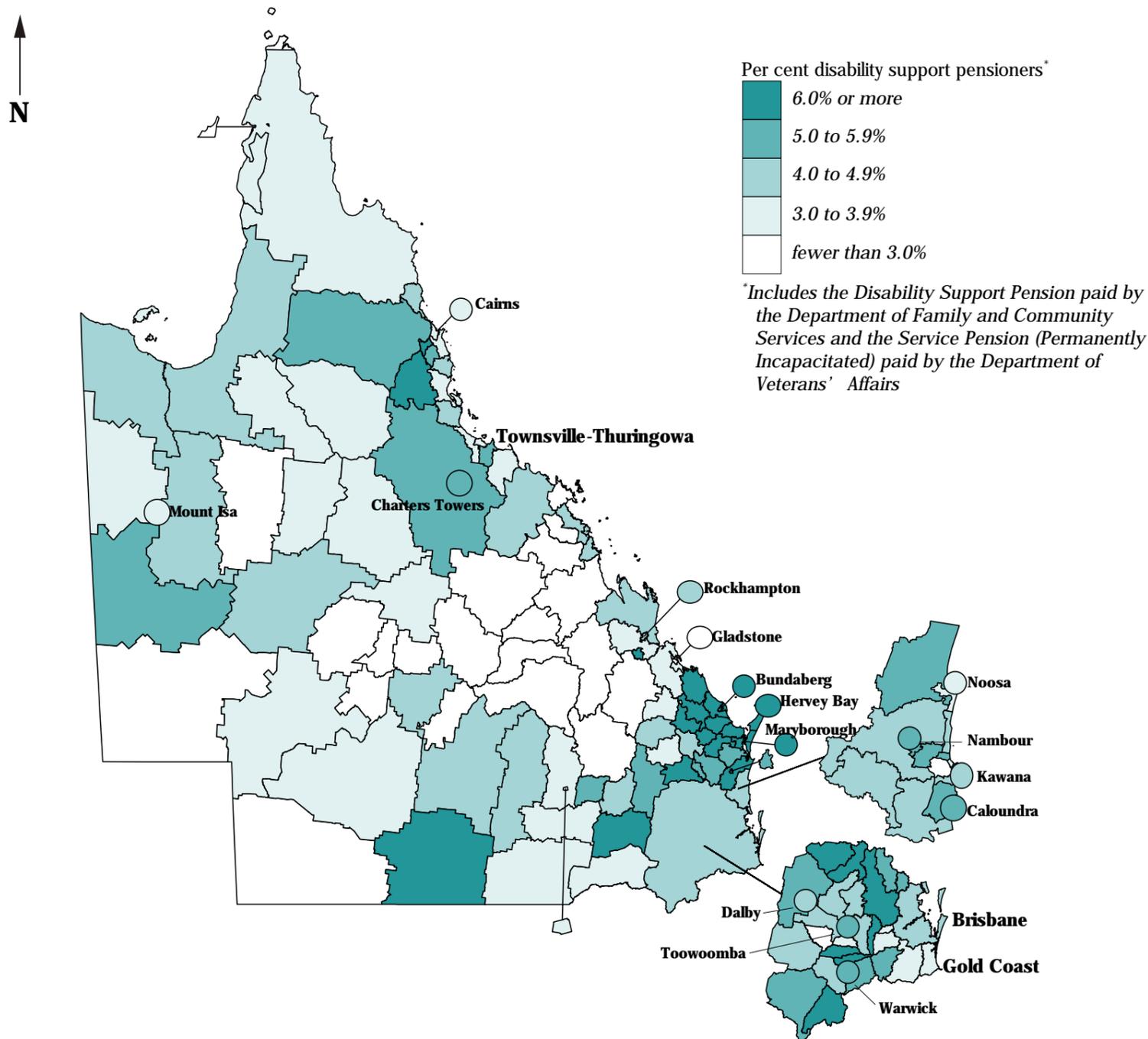
The majority of SLAs with low proportions of people in receipt of a Disability Support Pension were clustered in the middle region of the State close to the coast. These areas included Nebo (0.8 per cent), Mirani (0.9 per cent), Belyando (1.0 per cent), Emerald and Broadsound (both with 1.3 per cent), Duaringa (1.5 per cent) and Peak Downs (1.8 per cent). Also with proportions of below two per cent were the SLAs of Ilfracombe with no disability support pensioners, Isisford (0.4 per cent), Bulloo (0.8 per cent), McKinlay (1.0 per cent) and Weipa (1.3 per cent).

The town of Toowoomba had the largest number of people receiving a Disability Support Pension in 1996, a total of 2,902 people. Relatively large numbers were also recorded in the towns of Cairns (2,469 people), Hervey Bay (1,893 people), Rockhampton (1,800 people), Bundaberg (1,615 people), Maryborough (997 people) and Caloundra (882 people).

There were correlations of meaningful significance at the SLA level with the variables for unemployed people (0.68), low income families (0.66) and people aged 65 years and over (0.58). These results, together with the weak inverse correlation with the IRSD (-0.33), suggest the existence of an association at the SLA level between high proportions of disability support pensioners and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Map 4.4: Disability support pensioners*, Queensland, 1996

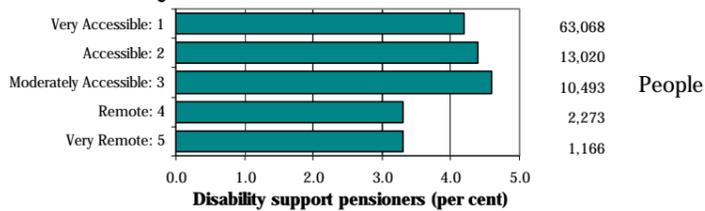
as a percentage of males aged 15 to 64 years and females aged 15 to 59 years in each Statistical Local Area



Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



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 4.6 per cent in the Moderately Accessible category, before dropping away to 3.3 per cent in both the Remote and Very Remote categories.

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

Brisbane

In 1989 there were 17,284 females in receipt of the Sole Parent Pension, representing 4.6 per cent of the female population aged from 15 to 54 years. By 1996, this figure had risen to 27,069 people, and the proportion had risen to 6.0 per cent.

High proportions of female sole parent pensioners were generally recorded in **Brisbane's** outer northern and southern areas (**Map 4.5**). The highest proportions were in Berrinba-Karawatha/Kingston (14.6 per cent), Loganlea (13.2 per cent) and Marsden (12.4 per cent). Other areas to record above average proportions included Inala/Durack/Doolandella-Forest Lake/Richlands/Ellen Grove, Deception Bay, Bribie Island, Thorneside, Waterford West, Ipswich-East, Redland Balance, Redcliffe and Caboolture-Central, all with percentages of 10.0 per cent or above.

Just under a quarter of the small areas in **Brisbane** (24 SLAs) had proportions of between 5.0 and 7.0 per cent of female sole parent pensioners. These included Mt Gravatt/Rochedale and Hemmant-Lyon/Wynnum/Wynnum West, where 5.0 per cent and 6.9 per cent respectively of the female population aged from 15 to 54 years, were recipients of the Sole Parent Pension.

The SLA of St Lucia recorded the lowest proportion for this variable, with 0.5 per cent of its female population in this category. Relatively low proportions were also recorded in the inner city areas of Herston/Newstead (1.1 per cent), City/Spring Hill (1.2 per cent), Nathan (1.5 per cent), Taringa and Toowong (1.6 per cent) and Red Hill/Kelvin Grove (1.9 per cent); to the west of the city in Anstead/Bellbowrie/Moggill (1.8 per cent) and Upper Brookfield/Fig Tree Pocket (2.0 per cent); and in the southern area of Calamvale/Stretton (2.0 per cent).

The largest numbers of female sole parent pensioners were recorded in the small areas of Ipswich-Central (1,789 females), Berrinba-Karawatha/Kingston (1,416 females), Redcliffe (1,256 females), Ipswich-East (1,185 females) and Gold Coast [Part A] (1,132 females).

Correlations of substantial significance at the small area level were recorded with the variables for unskilled and semi-skilled workers (0.83), early school leavers (0.78) and single parent families (0.74). There were also inverse correlations of substantial significance with the variables for high income families (-0.73) and managers and administrators, and professionals (-0.75). These results, together with the inverse correlation of substantial significance with the IRSD (-0.81), indicate an association at the small area level between high proportions of female sole parent pensioners and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Gold Coast-Tweed Heads

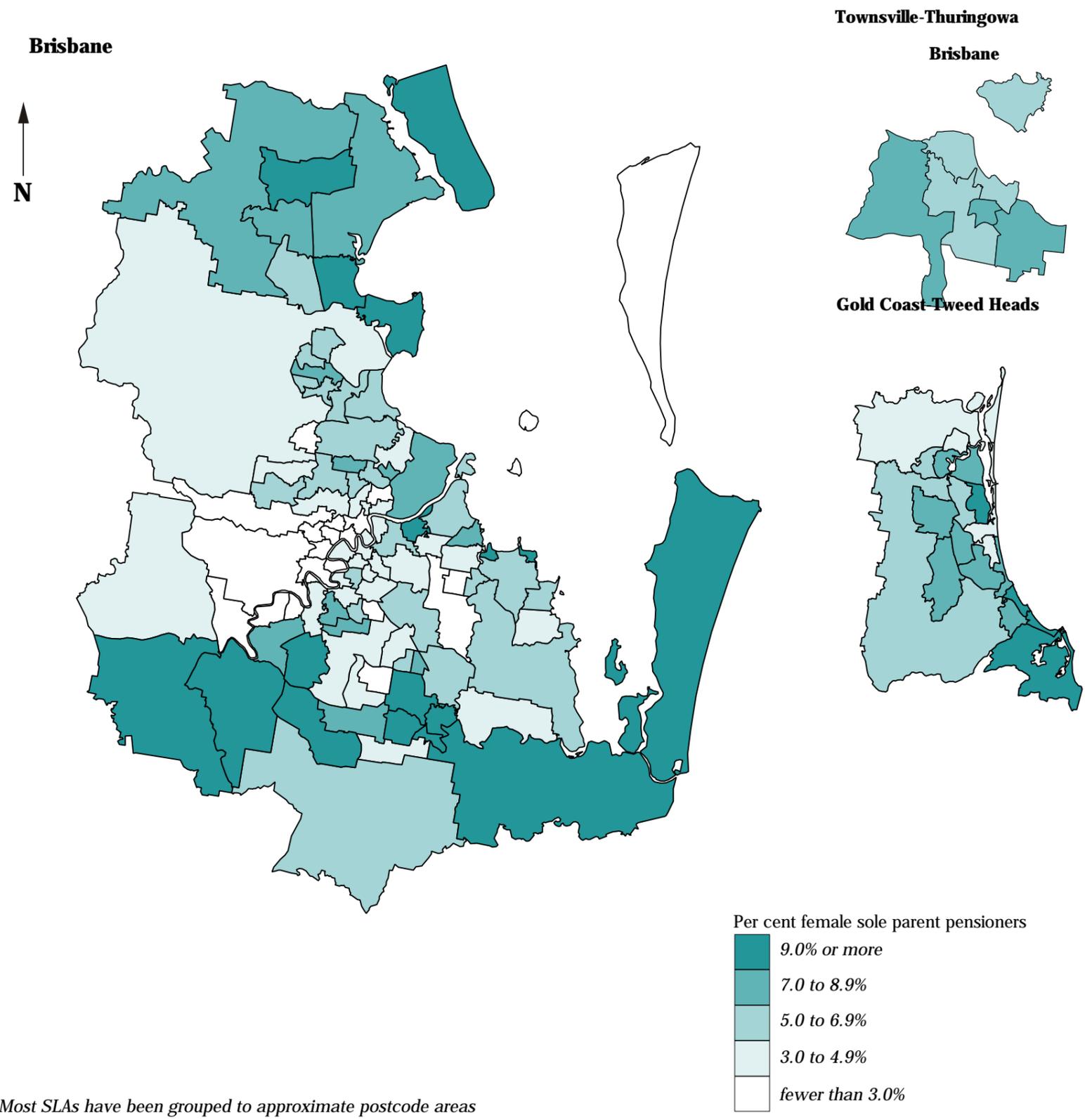
Gold Coast-Tweed Heads recorded the highest proportion of female sole parent pensioners among the major urban centres, 7.6 per cent of the female population aged from 15 to 54 years (7,580 people). The coastal areas of Labrador/Southport (10.6 per cent), Coolangatta/Tugun (10.2 per cent), Tweed Heads (10.0 per cent) and Palm Beach/Currumbin (9.2 per cent) were mapped in the highest range. At the other end of the scale, the lowest proportions were recorded in Surfers Paradise/Benowa (3.6 per cent), Hope Island (4.1 per cent), Broadbeach Waters/Mermaid Waters (4.7 per cent) and Coomera-Cedar Creek (4.8 per cent).

Townsville-Thuringowa

In 1996, 2,548 females in **Townsville-Thuringowa** were receiving the Sole Parent Pension, representing 6.9 per cent of the female population aged from 15 to 54 years. The areas of Townsville South East and Thuringowa [Part A] had 7.2 per cent of their female population in this category, while Murray/Mt Louisa and Townsville Coastal/Magnetic Island both recorded a proportion of 6.7 per cent.

Map 4.5: Female sole parent pensioners, Brisbane, Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa, 1996

as a percentage of all females aged 15 to 54 years in each area*



*Most SLAs have been grouped to approximate postcode areas

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 Queensland increased from 18,199 in 1989 to 27,433 in 1996. This was equivalent to an additional 9,234 people, the percentage also increasing, rising from 5.5 per cent to 7.2 per cent over this time period.

From **Map 4.6**, it can be seen that high proportions of female sole parent pensioners were generally distributed throughout the far northern region of the State and in the south-east of the State in the areas surrounding **Brisbane**. These areas included Murgon (15.6 per cent), Eidsvold (12.6 per cent), Mount Morgan (11.9 per cent), Hinterland (11.5 per cent), Coastal North (Maroochy) (11.2 per cent), Maroochydore (11.1 per cent), Perry (10.7 per cent), Caloundra (10.1 per cent), Kawana (9.9 per cent), Noosa Balance (9.8 per cent), Noosa (9.6 per cent), Hervey Bay (9.6 per cent) and Burnett [Part A] (9.4 per cent), situated in the areas surrounding **Brisbane**; and Burke (13.3 per cent), Croydon (12.4 per cent), Torres (11.3 per cent), Etheridge (10.9 per cent), Atherton (10.8 per cent), Cook (9.5 per cent), Herberton (9.5 per cent) and Mareeba (9.5 per cent), located in the far north.

Just over one quarter (28.8 per cent) of the State's SLAs recorded proportions of pensioners between 5.0 and 7.0 per cent. The highest proportions within this group were recorded in the SLAs of Dalby, Maryborough and Warwick-East (each with 6.9 per cent of its female population in this category), while the lowest were recorded in Fitzroy [Part B] (5.0 per cent) and Roma, Isis, Inglewood and Boonah (each with 5.1 per cent).

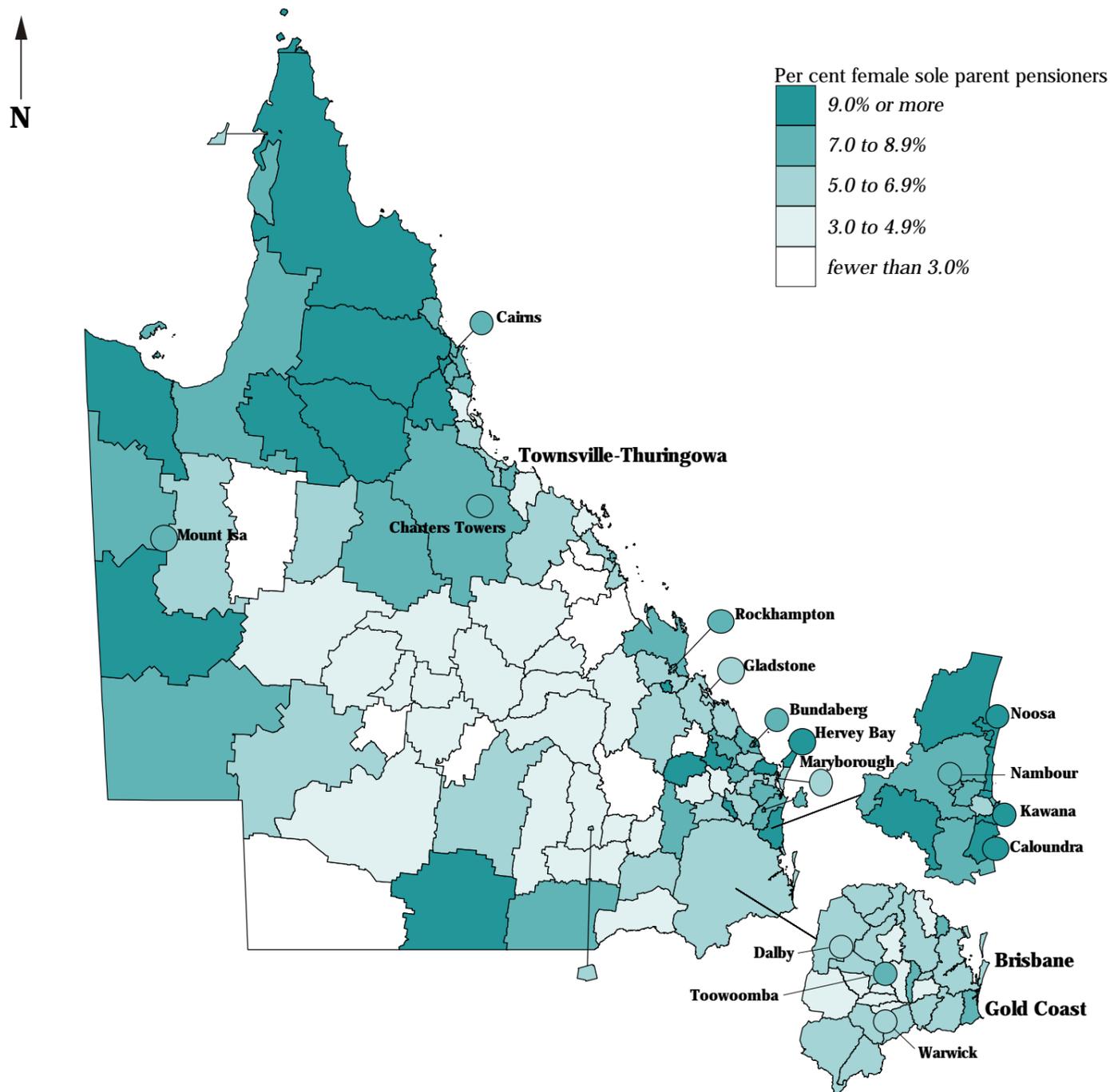
The lowest proportion was recorded in Mirani, with 1.0 per cent of females aged from 15 to 54 years in receipt of the Sole Parent Pension, however this figure represented only 14 females. The SLAs of Isisford (1.3 per cent), Nebo (1.8 per cent), Broadsound (1.8 per cent), Tambo (2.0 per cent), McKinlay (2.0 per cent), Bulloo (2.1 per cent), Taroom and Monto (both with 2.6 per cent) also had proportions in the lowest range mapped.

In 1996, the largest numbers of female sole parent pensioners were in the towns of Cairns (with 2,578 females), Toowoomba (1,705), Rockhampton (1,358), Bundaberg (1,000), and Hervey Bay (979).

There was a correlation of meaningful significance with the variable for single parent families (0.59) and of lesser significance with the other indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage. These results, together with the inverse correlation of meaningful significance with the IRSD (-0.50), suggest 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, Queensland, 1996

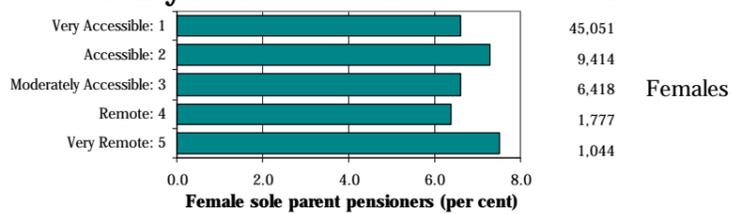
as a percentage of all females aged 15 to 54 years in each Statistical Local Area



Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



The highest proportions of female sole parent pensioners are resident in the Very Remote (7.5 per cent) and Accessible (7.3 per cent) categories. Proportions in the remaining areas are 6.6 per cent in both the Very Accessible and Moderately Accessible areas, and 6.4 per cent in the Remote areas.

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

People receiving an unemployment benefit, 30 June 1996

Capital city comparison

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

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

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

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

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

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Brisbane

In 1989, 3.0 per cent of the population in **Brisbane** (aged from 15 to 64 years for males and 15 to 59 years for females) were in receipt of an unemployment benefit. This proportion increased considerably to 6.6 per cent in 1996. Likewise, the numbers have more than doubled from 25,305 people in 1989 to 64,134 people in 1996. This number included 26 people in CDEP schemes in 1998, all of whom were located in Redland Balance.

SLAs with the highest proportions of people receiving an unemployment benefit were generally located in three distinct areas: in the far northern and southern areas and in the inner city region (**Map 4.7**). The highest proportions were recorded in the southern areas of Berrinba-Karawatha/Kingston (14.5 per cent), Redland Balance (11.3 per cent) and Inala/Durack/Doolandella-Forest Lake/Ellen Grove/Richlands (10.1 per cent). In the inner city, the areas with the highest proportions were in New Farm (14.5 per cent), Dutton Park/Woolloongabba (12.6 per cent), West End/South Brisbane/Highgate Hill and Rocklea (both with 12.0 per cent) and Albion (10.3 per cent); and in the outer north, the highest proportions were in Caboolture-Central (10.2 per cent) and Bribie Island (10.6 per cent).

The area of Moreton Island had the lowest proportion, with 1.6 per cent of its population (of males aged 15 to 64 years and females aged 15 to 59 years) in receipt of unemployment benefits. Percentages lower than 4.0 per cent were recorded in Seventeen Mile Rocks (2.3 per cent), Albany Creek (2.5 per cent), Anstead/Bellbowrie/Moggill (2.6 per cent), Calamvale/Stretton (2.7 per cent), Upper Brookfield/Fig Tree Pocket (2.8 per cent), St Lucia (3.0 per cent), Jindalee/River Hills (3.2 per cent), Burbank/Belmont-Mackenzie (3.5 per cent), Algester (3.8 per cent) and Thornlands (3.9 per cent).

The largest number of people receiving an unemployment benefit was recorded in Berrinba-Karawatha/Kingston (2,991 people). Large numbers were also recorded in Ipswich-Central (2,940 people), Redcliffe (2,693 people), Gold Coast [Part A] (2,415 people) and Ipswich-East (2,104 people).

There were correlations of meaningful significance at the small area level with the variables for unemployed people (0.70), dwellings without a motor vehicle (0.65), low income families (0.63), Indigenous people (0.59) and single parent families (0.53). These results, together with the inverse correlation of meaningful significance with the IRSD (-0.65), indicate an association at the small area level between high proportions of the population in receipt of an unemployment benefit and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Gold Coast-Tweed Heads

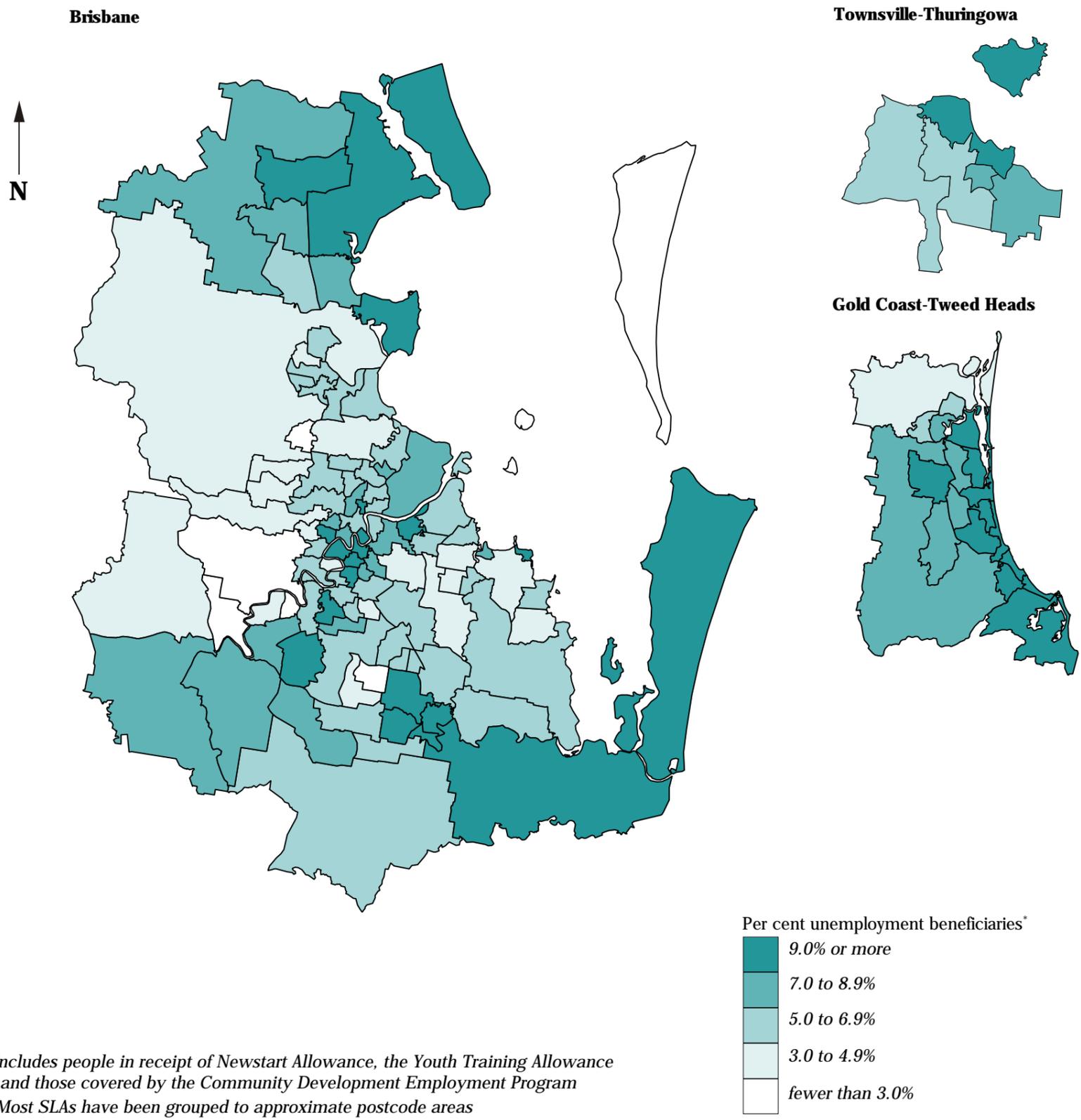
There were 24,078 people in receipt of an unemployment benefit in **Gold Coast-Tweed Heads** in 1996, 10.8 per cent of the eligible population. The highest proportions were recorded in the coastal areas of Coolangatta/Tugun (17.2 per cent) and Broadbeach/Burleigh Heads (14.2 per cent), while the lowest were recorded in Coomera-Cedar Creek (4.7 per cent) and Hope Island (6.0 per cent).

Townsville-Thuringowa

In 1996, 5,949 people in **Townsville-Thuringowa** were receiving an unemployment benefit, 7.4 per cent of the eligible population. Proportions ranged from 10.9 per cent in Townsville Coastal/Magnetic Island and 8.2 per cent in Gulliver/Hermit Park to 5.9 per cent in Murray/Mt Louisa and 6.1 per cent in Thuringowa [Part A].

Map 4.7: Unemployment beneficiaries*, Brisbane, Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa, 1996

as a percentage of males aged 15 to 64 years and females aged 15 to 59 years in each area#



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

#Most SLAs have been grouped to approximate postcode areas

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 State

In the non-metropolitan areas of Queensland, 5.1 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 9.1 per cent and the number of people had increased from 38,454 people in 1989 to 79,238 in 1996.

These figures include 6,971 residents of the non-metropolitan areas of Queensland who were in CDEP schemes in 1998. The highest proportions were in Torres (36.7 per cent of the population, almost the same as the proportion in receipt of unemployment benefits), Burke (19.7 per cent) and Weipa (17.9 per cent): the largest numbers were in Torres (1,797 people), Douglas (829), Cook (734 people) and Mareeba (542 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 proportion was recorded in Torres, where 43.5 per cent of the eligible population was in receipt of an unemployment benefit. Well above average proportions were also recorded in Burke (31.3 per cent), Aurukun (23.1 per cent), Croydon (22.2 per cent), Mornington (21.6 per cent), Perry (21.5 per cent), Cook (20.9 per cent), Weipa (20.0 per cent), Etheridge (19.6 per cent), Kolan (18.9 per cent) and Townsville [Part B] (17.5 per cent).

The largest proportion of SLAs was mapped in the second lowest class interval (45 SLAs), where percentages of unemployment beneficiaries ranged from 4.0 per cent in Blackall to 6.9 per cent in Richmond.

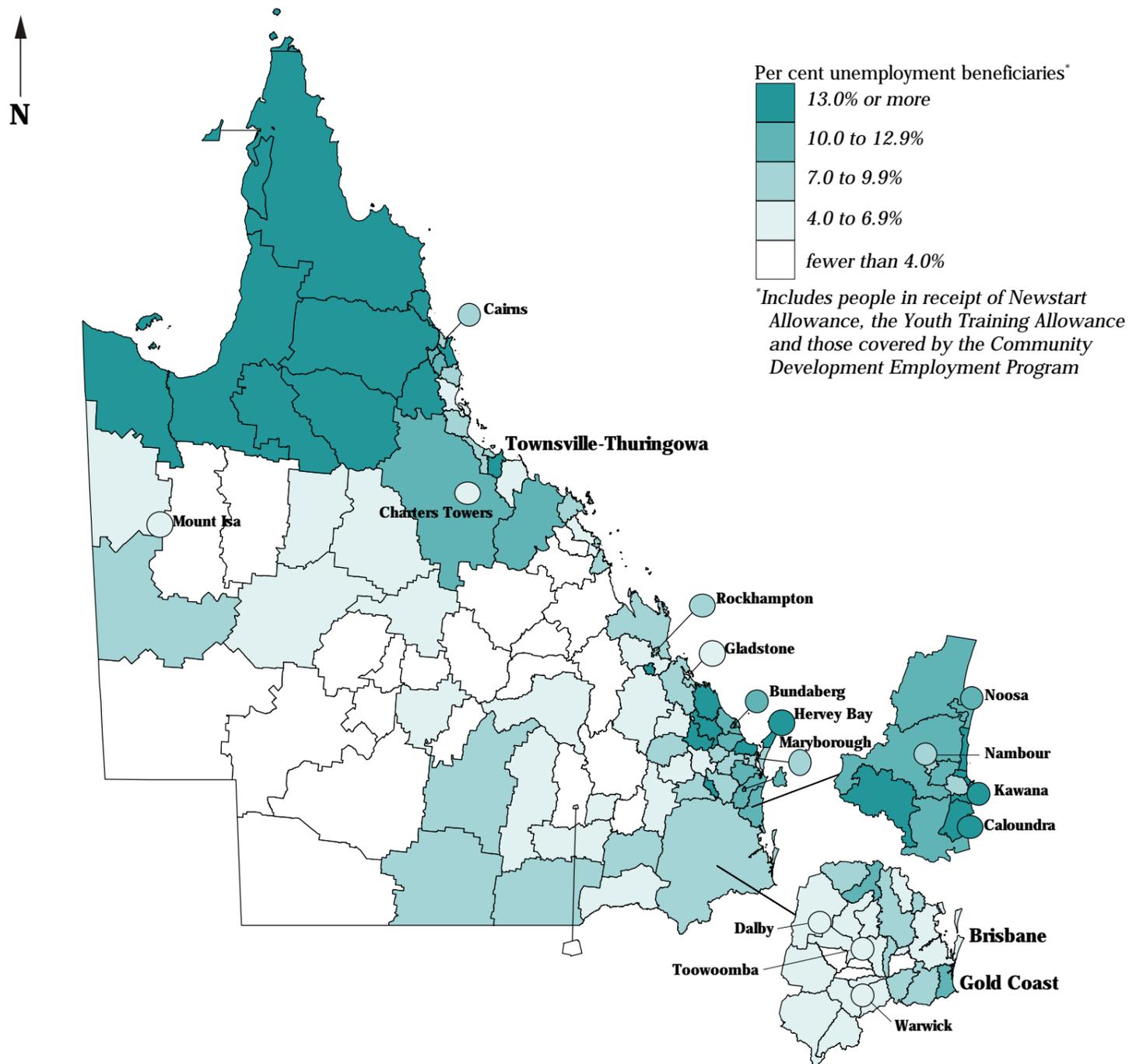
The lowest proportion, of 0.3 per cent, was recorded for residents of Bulloo, followed by Ilfracombe (0.9 per cent), Nebo (1.0 per cent) and McKinlay (1.1 per cent). Relatively low percentages were also recorded in Quilpie, Mirani and Isisford (each with 1.3 per cent), Broadsound (2.1 per cent) and Barcoo (2.5 per cent).

More than 2,000 people were receiving an unemployment benefit in the towns of Cairns (6,791 people), Hervey Bay (3,272 people), Bundaberg (3,220 people), Rockhampton (3,195 people), Toowoomba (2,954 people), Caloundra (2,133 people) and Noosa (2,121 people).

There were correlations of meaningful significance at the SLA level with early school leavers (0.65), single parent families (0.64) and dwellings without a motor vehicle (0.62). These results, together with the inverse correlation of meaningful significance with the IRSD (-0.64), indicate an association at the SLA level between high proportions of the population in receipt of an unemployment benefit and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Map 4.8: Unemployment beneficiaries*, Queensland, 1996

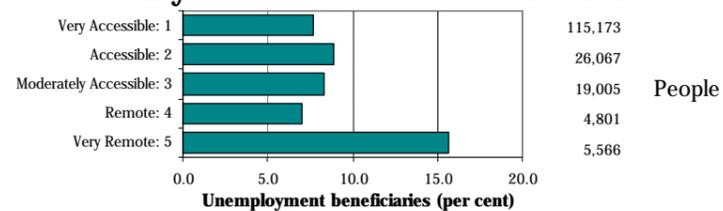
as a percentage of males aged 15 to 64 years and females aged 15 to 59 years in each Statistical Local Area



Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



Unemployment beneficiaries range from 7.0 per cent of the eligible population in the Remote areas to 8.9 per cent in the Accessible areas. There is a much higher unemployment rate, of 15.7 per cent, in the Very Remote areas. 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

Brisbane

Both the number and proportion of dependent children in **Brisbane** in families receiving an income support payment have increased since 1989. While the percentage rose from 30.2 per cent in 1989 to 43.7 per cent in 1996, the numbers have also risen substantially, increasing from 83,788 to 148,015.

The distribution of dependent children in families receiving an income support payment is similar to the other variables mapped in this chapter, with the highest proportions in the far northern, southern and inner areas, while areas with the lowest proportions were distributed north and south of the Brisbane River (Map 4.9).

The highest proportions of dependent children in families receiving an income support payment were in Berrinba-Karawatha/Kingston (78.5 per cent), Loganlea (69.5 per cent), Inala/Durack/Doolandella-Forest Lake/Ellen Grove/Richlands (67.0 per cent), Redland Balance (63.9 per cent), Marsden (61.3 per cent) and Ipswich-East (60.6 per cent), located in the south; Bribie Island (68.3 per cent), Caboolture-East (65.0 per cent) and Deception Bay (63.8 per cent), situated in the far north; and Rocklea (61.1 per cent), located in the inner city region.

Residents of Moreton Island had the lowest proportion, with 12.7 per cent of children aged from 0 to 15 years living in families receiving income support. Proportions of less than 20.0 per cent were also recorded in Herston/Newstead (13.7 per cent), Anstead/Bellbowrie/Moggill (14.0 per cent), Upper Brookfield/Fig Tree Pocket (14.0 per cent), St Lucia (15.4 per cent), City/Spring Hill (15.6 per cent), Bardon (15.8 per cent) and Chelmer/Taringa (18.1 per cent).

There were correlations of substantial significance with the variables for unskilled and semi-skilled workers (0.84) and early school leavers (0.76), and inverse correlations with the variables

for high income families (-0.80) and managers and administrators, and professionals (-0.75). There were also correlations of meaningful significance with the variables for single parent families (0.68), Indigenous people (0.67), low income families (0.66) and housing authority rented dwellings and unemployment (both 0.63). These results, together with the inverse correlation of substantial significance with the IRSD (-0.87), indicate an association at the small area level between high proportions of dependent children in families receiving an income support payment and socioeconomic disadvantage.

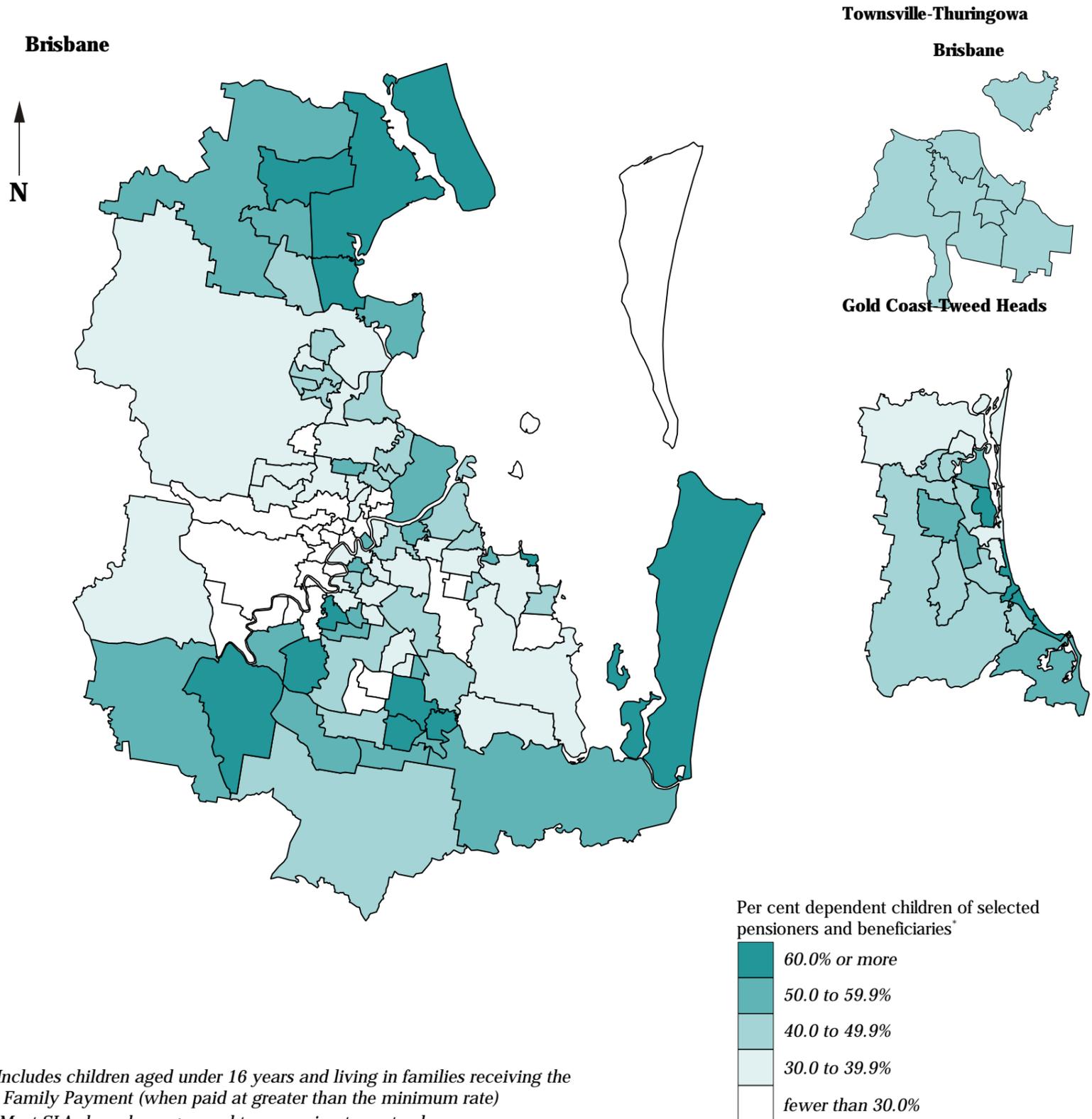
Gold Coast-Tweed Heads

In **Gold Coast-Tweed Heads**, 35,305 children (50.8 per cent of children aged under 16 years) were living in families receiving an income support payment. The coastal areas of Broadbeach/Burleigh Heads (67.8 per cent), Palm Beach/Currumbin (67.2 per cent), Labrador/Southport (66.0 per cent) and Coolangatta/Tugun (61.8 per cent) had the highest proportions. The lowest proportions were recorded in Hope Island (34.3 per cent), Surfers Paradise/Benowa (34.5 per cent), Coomera-Cedar Creek (35.9 per cent) and Broadbeach Waters/Mermaid Waters (36.6 per cent).

Townsville-Thuringowa

In 1996, 42.6 per cent of children aged under 16 years in **Townsville-Thuringowa** lived in families in receipt of an income support payment, some 12,542 children. More than one third (36.9 per cent) of these children were resident in Thuringowa [Part A] (4,737 children, 40.4 per cent). The highest proportions were recorded in Townsville Coastal/Magnetic Island (46.1 per cent), Townsville South East (45.8 per cent) and Murray/Mt Louisa (43.3 per cent).

**Map 4.9: Dependent children of selected pensioners and beneficiaries*,
Brisbane,
Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa, 1996**
as a percentage of all children aged from 0 to 15 years in each area#



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

#Most SLAs have been grouped to approximate postcode areas

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

Problems with the data

The postcode based data show two SLAs as having a proportion in excess of 100 per cent. This is clearly not accurate: the notes on page 82 include some possible reasons for this result.

The areas in this category were Perry (84 children: 110.7 per cent of the population aged between 0 to 15 years) and Burke (412 children, 102.5 per cent).

Rest of State

In 1989, 119,465 children under 16 years of age in the non-metropolitan areas of Queensland were living in families receiving an income support payment (41.0 per cent of the population aged from 0 to 15 years). By 1996, the number of children had increased by more than fifty per cent (rising to 181,638 children) and the proportion had risen to 52.5 per cent of the eligible population.

The highest proportions for this variable were recorded for: Mount Morgan (94.4 per cent), Kolan (86.6 per cent), Biggenden (72.0 per cent), Hinterland (72.0 per cent), Miriam Vale (71.9 per cent), Murgon (71.4 per cent), Hervey Bay (71.2 per cent), Maroochydore (71.1 per cent) and Eidsvold (71.0 per cent), situated in the areas surrounding **Brisbane**; and Etheridge (94.3 per cent), Torres (77.1 per cent) and Douglas (75.4 per cent), all of which were located in the far north (**Map 4.10**). Also mapped in the highest range were the SLAs of Boulia (78.8 per cent), Paroo (73.8 per cent) and Aramac (71.7 per cent).

SLAs with less than 40.0 per cent of children aged under 16 years living in families receiving an income support payment were generally clustered in two distinct areas: in the western region and in the area along the coast north of **Brisbane**.

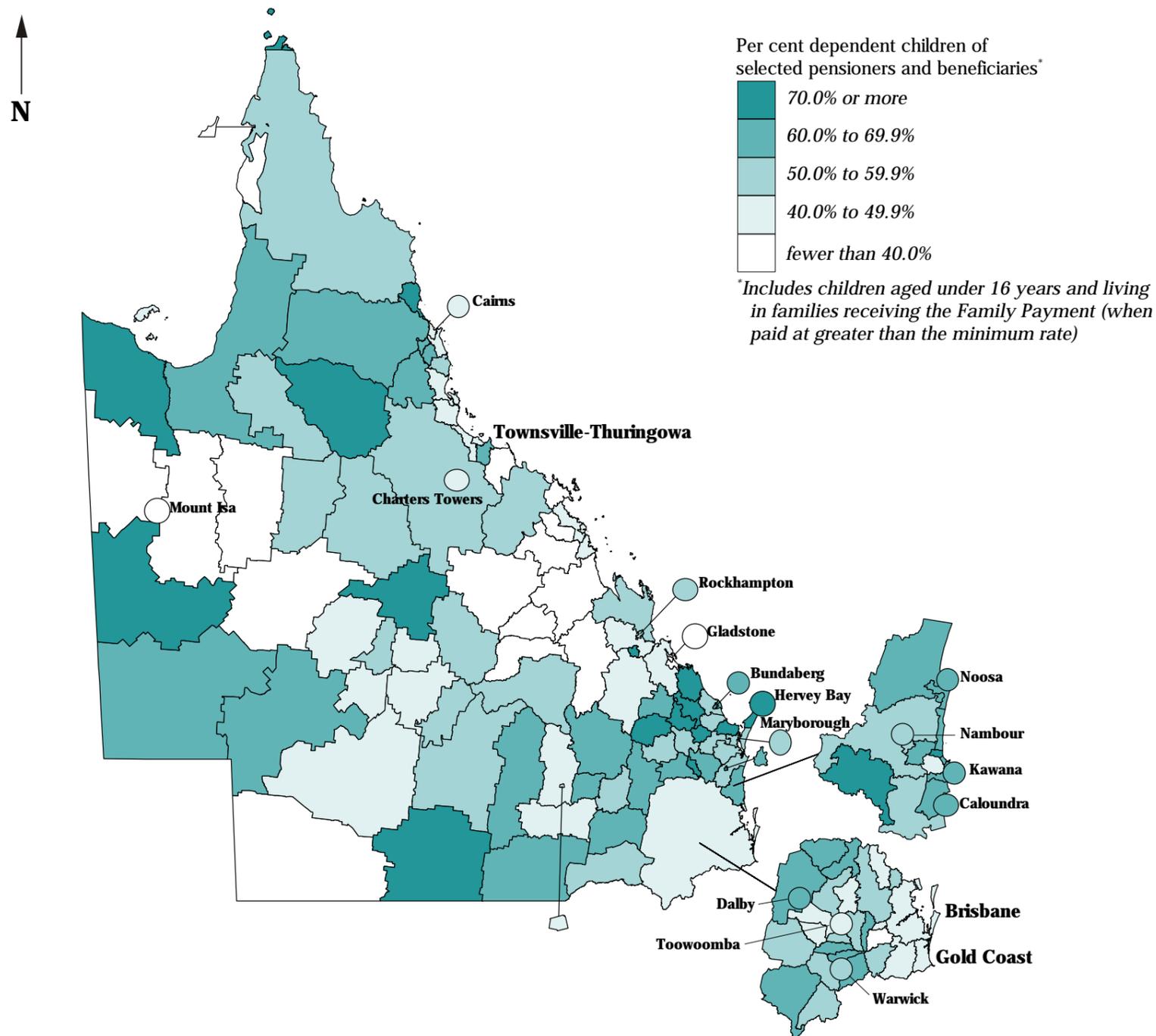
The northern areas included Mirani (8.1 per cent), Broadsound (11.1 per cent), Nebo (15.0 per cent), Belyando (18.7 per cent), Peak Downs (22.5 per cent), Duaringa (22.6 per cent), Emerald (30.7 per cent), Fitzroy [Part A] (35.0 per cent), Calliope [Part A] (36.2 per cent), Burdekin (37.3 per cent), Gladstone (37.8 per cent) and Whitsunday (39.8 per cent). Those in the west were McKinlay (34.9 per cent), Mount Isa (37.6 per cent), Winton (39.2 per cent) and Cloncurry (39.6 per cent).

Cairns had the largest number of dependent children in families receiving an income support payment (11,355 children), followed by the towns of Toowoomba (9,480 children), Rockhampton (7,241), Bundaberg (6,554), Hervey Bay (6,364), Caloundra (3,509), Maryborough (3,359) and Noosa (3,344).

There was a correlation of meaningful significance at the SLA level with the variable for low income families (0.60) and an inverse correlation with high income families (-0.67). There were also correlations of lesser significance with the other indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage. These results, together with the weak inverse correlation with the IRSD (-0.37), suggest an association at the SLA level between high proportions of dependent children in families receiving an income support payment and socioeconomic disadvantage.

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

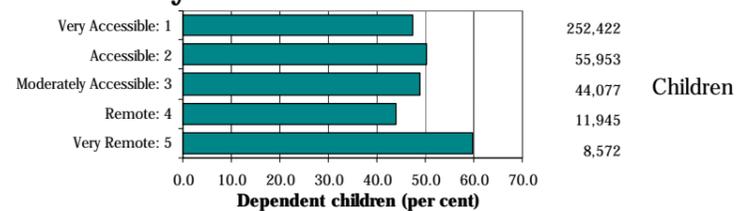
as a percentage of all children aged from 0 to 15 years in each Statistical Local Area



Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



The proportion of the population aged under 16 years living in families receiving an income support payment is high in all of the ARIA categories, ranging from 43.9 per cent in the Remote areas to 50.4 per cent in the Accessible areas, before increasing to a high of 59.7 per cent in the Very Remote areas. The numbers of children are relatively high even in the remote categories.

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

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