

4 Income support payments

Introduction

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

Explanatory notes

Data mapped

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

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

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

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

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

the minimum rate¹). have been mapped as a percentage of all children aged under 16 years at the 1996 Census. Two groups of families are eligible for this payment. One includes families receiving one of the following income support payments: the DFACS Age, Disability Support and Sole Parent Pensions; Youth Training Allowance or Newstart Allowance; Sickness and Special Benefits; or the CDEP. These families are 'automatic' recipients of the Family Payment and account for just under three quarters (72.4 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

¹ The 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.

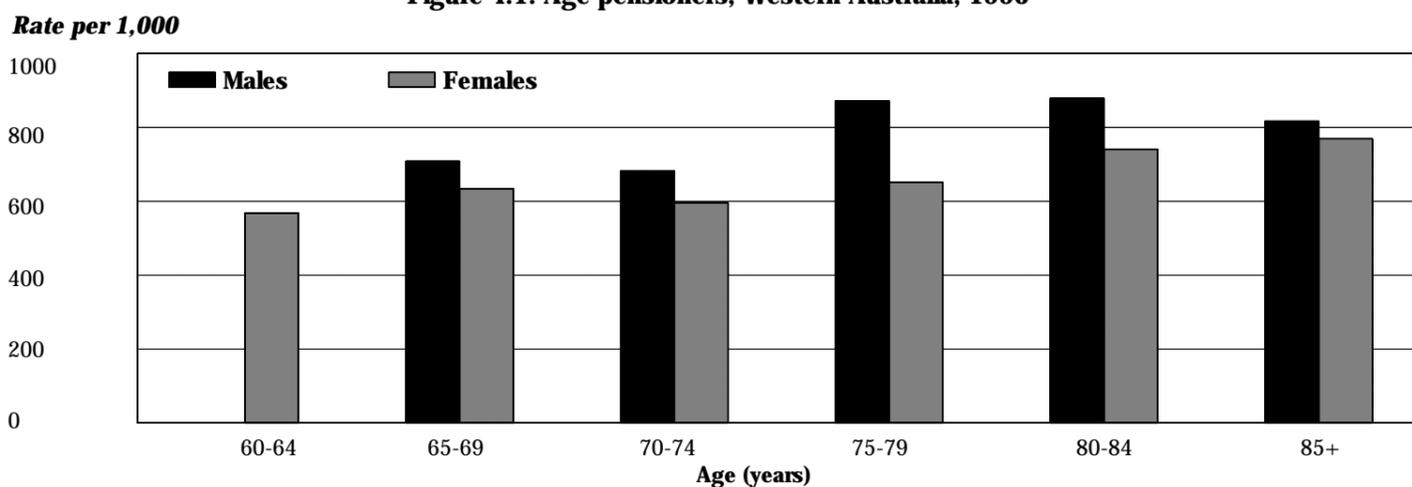
Details of age and sex of recipients

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.

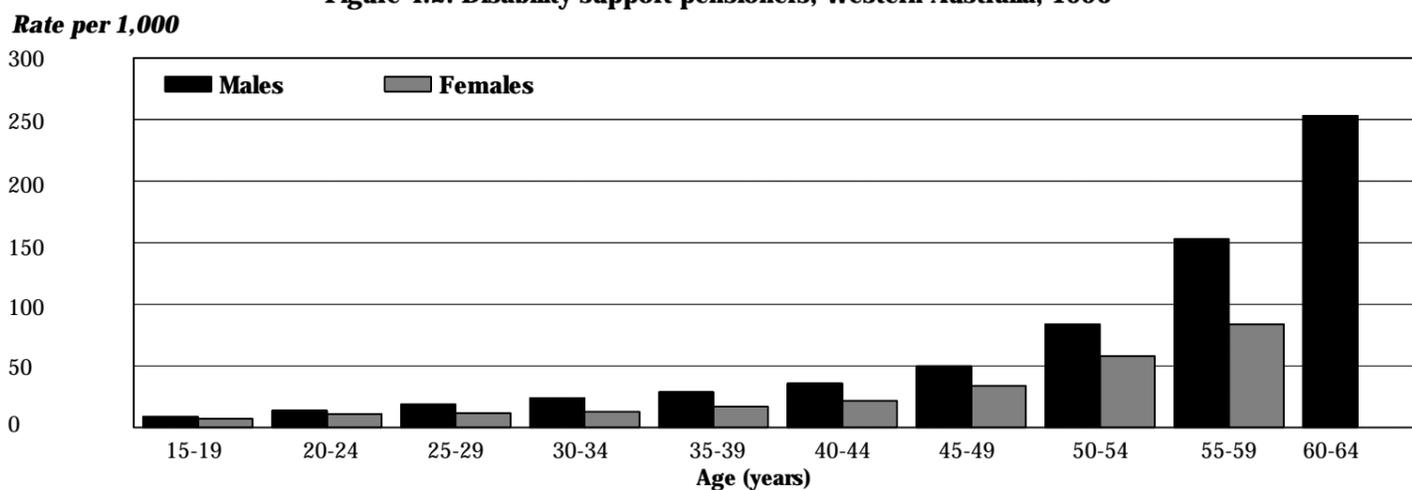
Male rates are marginally higher in each age group under 40 years for those receiving the Disability Support Pension, with substantially higher rates at older ages (**Figure 4.2**). From age 60 years, females eligible for this pension are transferred to the Age Pension. The rates for both males and females grow steadily across the ages, most markedly from around 50 years of age.

Figure 4.1: Age pensioners, Western Australia, 1996



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

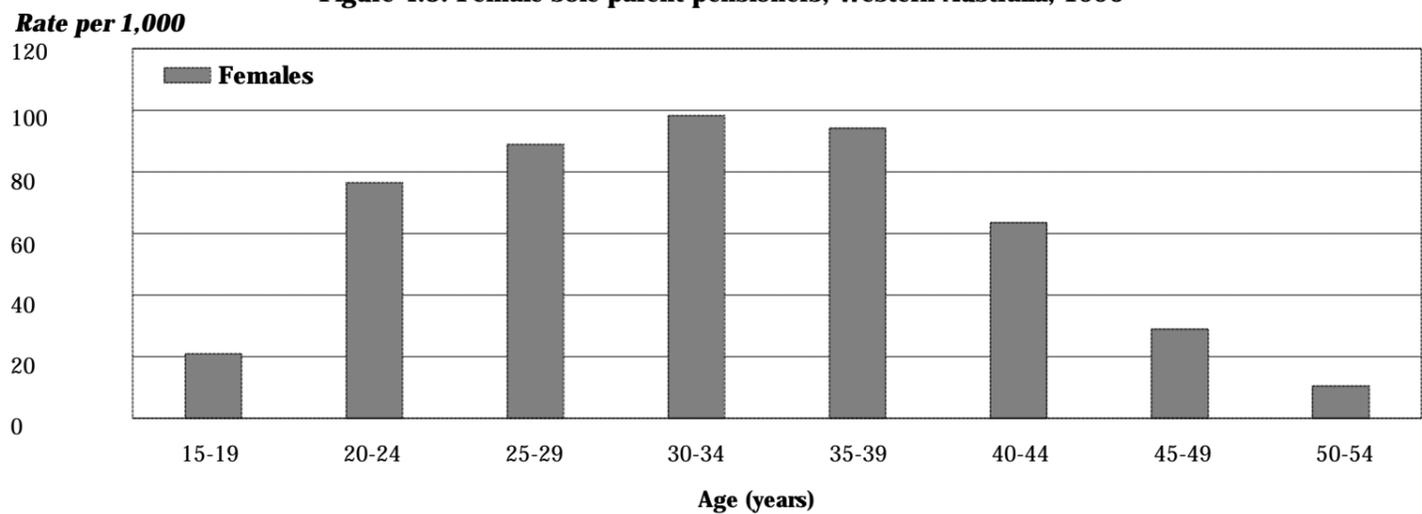
Figure 4.2: Disability support pensioners, Western Australia, 1996



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**).

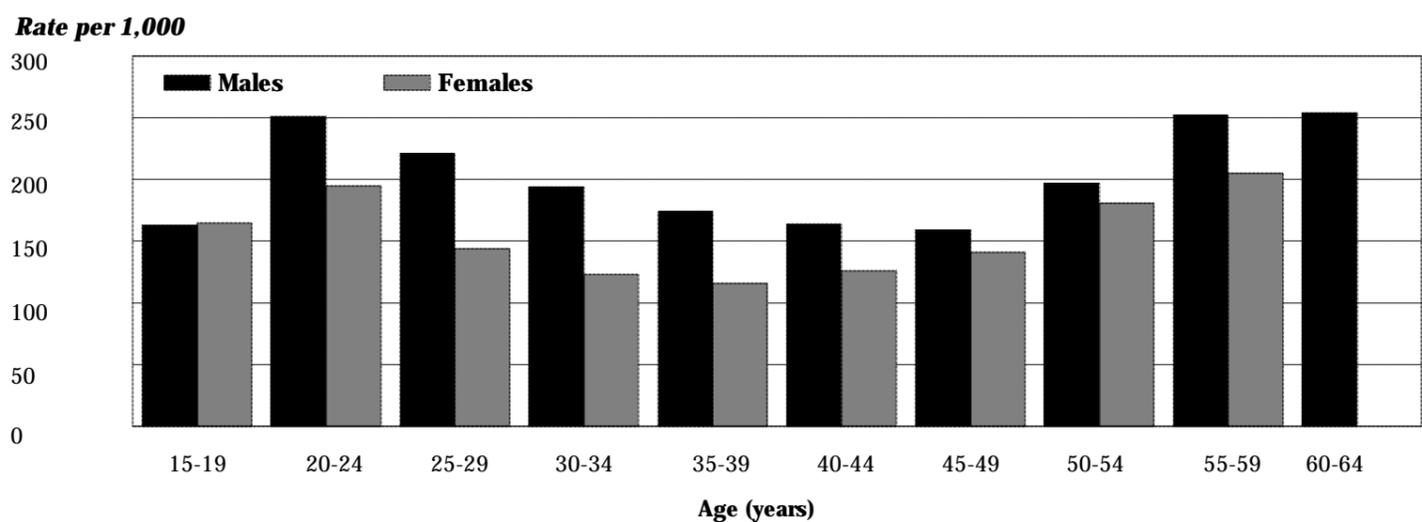
Figure 4.3: Female sole parent pensioners, Western Australia, 1996



Source: Calculated on data supplied by DFACS

Both male and female unemployment rates are highest in the 20 to 24 year age group. They then generally decline to the 45 to 49 and 50 to 54 year age groups for males, before increasing at the 50 to 54 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, Western Australia, 1996



¹Excludes people in the Community Development Employment Program

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

Age pensioners, 30 June 1996

Capital city comparison

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

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

Table 4.2: Age pensioners, capital cities
Per cent

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

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Perth

In 1989, there were 105,370 people receiving the Age Pension, 76.8 per cent of population of age-pensionable age. By 1996, the number had increased to 108,706, but the proportion had fallen to 69.9 per cent.

The distribution across **Perth** (**Map 4.1**) was consistent with many of the variables of socioeconomic status mapped in Chapter 3. In particular, there were low proportions of age pensioners in the higher socioeconomic status coastal and river front SLAs located to the west of the city. High proportions were recorded in several long established SLAs, and relatively high proportions were found were located in the newer SLAs on the urban fringe.

The highest proportions of people receiving an Age Pension were in industrialised Kwinana (83.3 per cent), as well as in the three older residential SLAs of Bayswater (82.5 per cent), Gosnells (82.4 per cent) and Canning (80.1 per cent).

A number of more recently settled SLAs generally had levels of age pensioners ranging from 60 per cent to 79.9 per cent. Within this group, the highest levels were in Cockburn and Belmont, both with 78.0 per cent, while the lowest levels were in South Perth (61.1 per cent) and Serpentine-Jarrahdale (61.3 per cent).

The lowest proportions of the population in receipt of an Age Pension were located in a region extending on both sides of the Swan River, from the City of Perth to the coast. In this area, the lowest proportions were recorded in Nedlands (37.4 per cent), Claremont (41.4 per cent) and Cottesloe (46.8 per cent).

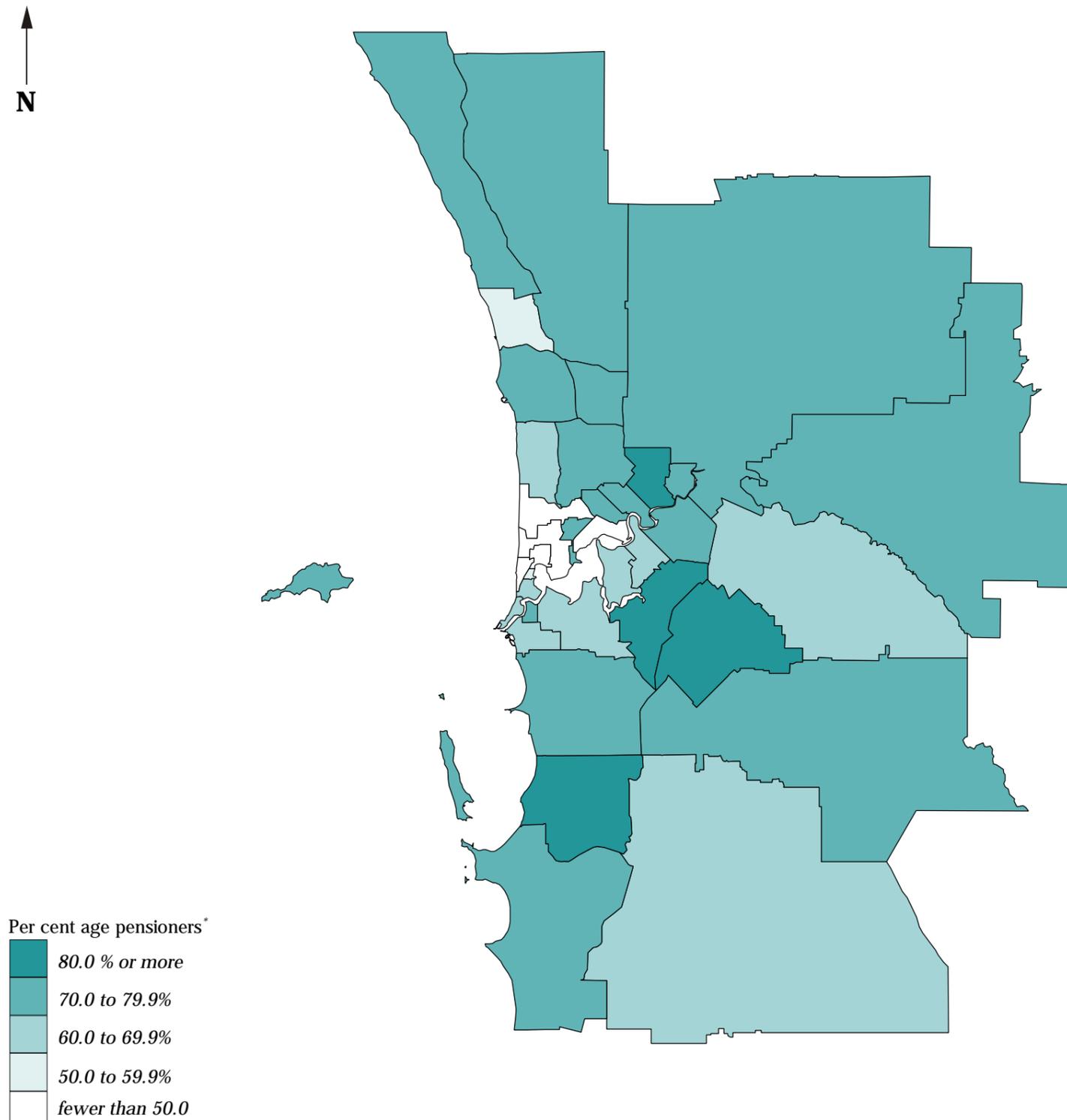
Stirling: Central had the largest number of people receiving an Age Pension (10,410 people) in **Perth** in 1996. Relatively high numbers were also recorded in Melville (8,678 people), Canning (6,043) and Wanneroo: South-West (5,958).

There were correlations of significance with most indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage, and inverse correlations with the variables of high socioeconomic status, mapped in Chapter 3. The inverse correlation of substantial significance with the IRSD (-0.80) indicates a positive association at the SLA level between high proportions of age pensioners and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Map 4.1

Age pensioners*, Perth, 1996

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



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

Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

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

Age pensioners, 30 June 1996

State/Territory comparison

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

Table 4.3: Age pensioners, State/Territory
Per cent

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

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

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

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

⁴Data unreliable: included with ACT total

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Problems with the data

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

The SLAs in this category were Narrogin Shire (84 age pensioners: 158.3 per cent of the population of pensionable age); Greenough (776; 114.8 per cent); Albany Shire (1,355; 104.3 per cent). In Sandstone, there were estimated to be three pension recipients, but no people of pensionable age.

Rest of State

In 1989, there were 33,188 people in the non-metropolitan areas of Western Australia receiving an Age Pension, 76.6 per cent of the population of pensionable age. The number was virtually the same by 1996, with 33,591 age pensioners, although they represented a lower 60.8 per cent of people of pensionable age.

The distribution of age pensioners is shown in **Map 4.2** and is highly concentrated in the State's south-west, as well as extending along the coastal strip north of **Perth** to Geraldton. Typically, the proportions in the more remote areas are fairly low. Where high percentages do occur in these areas they often reflect low numbers. For example, in Upper Gascoyne (81.3 per cent) and Murchison (76.7 per cent), there were estimated to be only 15 and seven age pensioners, respectively.

With the exception of Upper Gascoyne, SLAs where age pensioners represented between 80 and 100 per cent of the population of pensionable age were located in a region situated about 150 kilometres south of **Perth**. These areas included Murray (81.9 per cent), Harvey (85.9 per cent), Capel (86 per cent), Dardanup (88.4 per cent), Collie (89.3 per cent) and Wandering (98.4 per cent).

Among the major towns in Western Australia, the highest proportions of age pensioners were in Mandurah (77.4 per cent), Busselton (72.6 per cent), Kalgoorlie/Boulder (65.9 per cent), Albany (60.2 per cent) and Geraldton (54.8 per cent).

SLAs with low proportions of age pensioners were generally located in the remote regions of the State. The lowest proportions were in Exmouth (6.8), Menzies (10.8), Victoria Plains (14.5 per cent) and Ashburton (11.1).

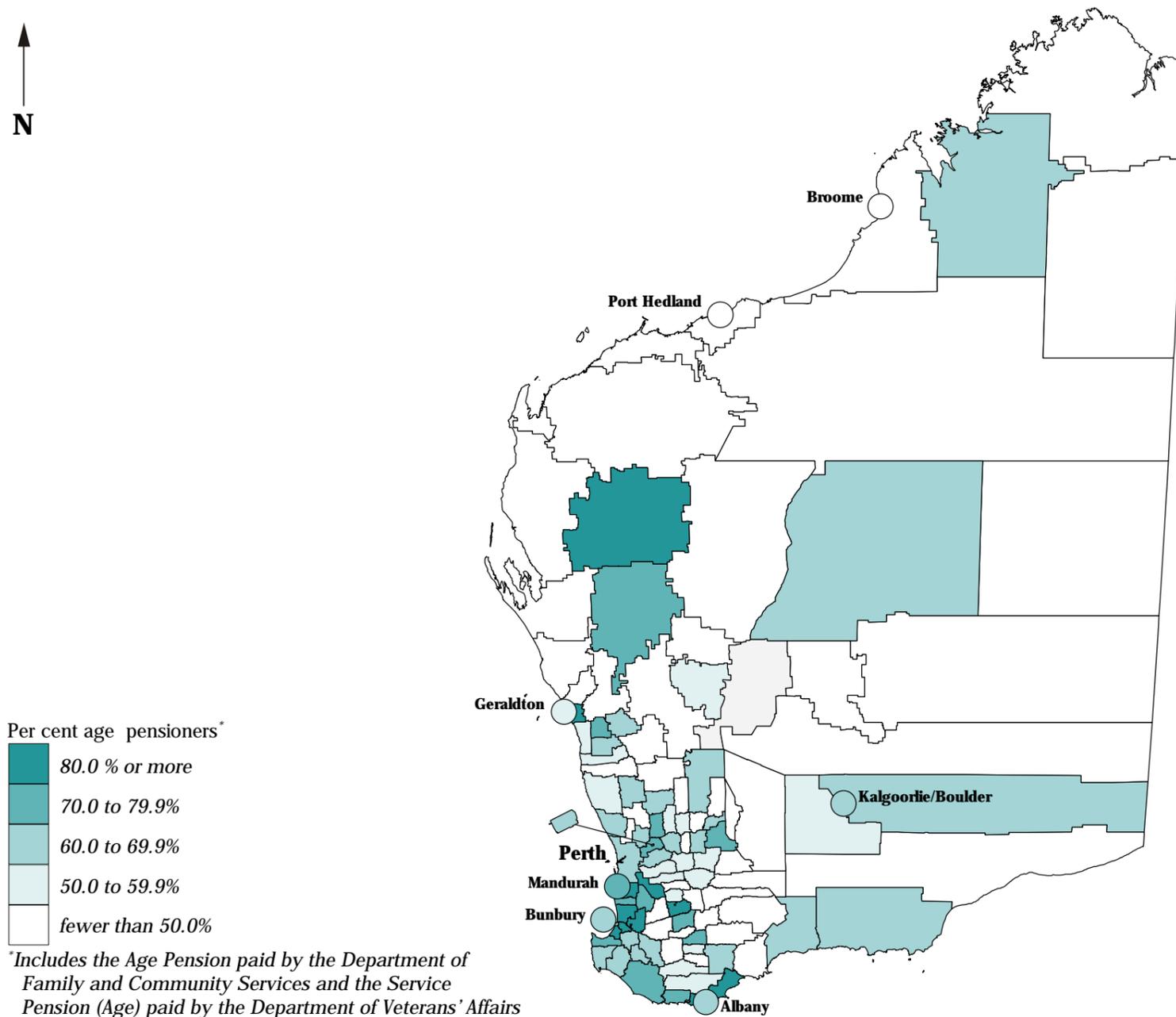
Mandurah had the largest number of age pensioners (5,405 people), and more than twice the number in next ranked Bunbury (2,466). There were 2,126 age pensioners resident in Busselton, 1,673 in the town of Albany, 1,486 in Geraldton and 1,355 in Albany Shire.

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*, Western Australia, 1996

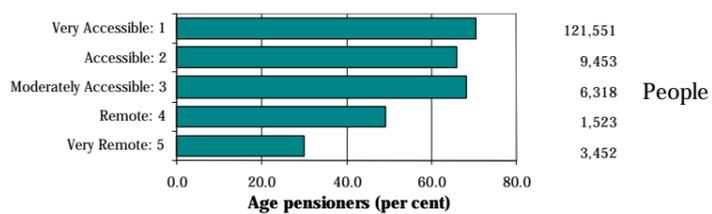
as a percentage of males aged 65 years and over and females aged 60 years and over in each Statistical Local Area



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 is similar across the first three ARIA categories, with similar proportions in the Very Accessible (70.5 per cent), Moderately Accessible (68.1 per cent) and Accessible (66.1 per cent) categories. The proportions then drop off to 49.4 per cent in the Remote areas, and to a much lower 30.1 per cent in the Very Remote areas (the lowest of the State or the Northern Territory rates).

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	Canberra¹	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

Perth

In 1989, there were 23,054 people receiving a Disability Support Pension, 3.0 per cent of the eligible population. By 1996, the number had increased by 36.8 per cent, to 31,548 pensioners, and the proportion had increased to 3.9 per cent of the eligible population.

The highest proportions of disability support pensioners were almost exclusively in the newer SLAs on the fringe of **Perth**, and those older SLAs to the east of the city (**Map 4.3**). Lower proportions were recorded in coastal areas and adjacent to the Swan River, east of the city.

The highest proportions of disability support pensioners were in industrialised Kwinana (7.6 per cent), as well as in Bassendean (8.2 per cent), Fremantle (6.7 per cent), Belmont (6.0 per cent), Mosman Park, Stirling: Central and Stirling: South-Eastern (each with 5.8 per cent), Wanneroo: South-East (5.5 per cent), Perth and Victoria Park (both 5.4 per cent).

The lowest proportions were found in the high socioeconomic status SLAs of Cottesloe (1.4 per cent), Peppermint Grove (1.6 per cent) and Nedlands (1.8 per cent). Low proportions were also recorded in the north coast SLAs of Wanneroo: Central Coastal (1.5 per cent) and Wanneroo: South-West (1.9 per cent).

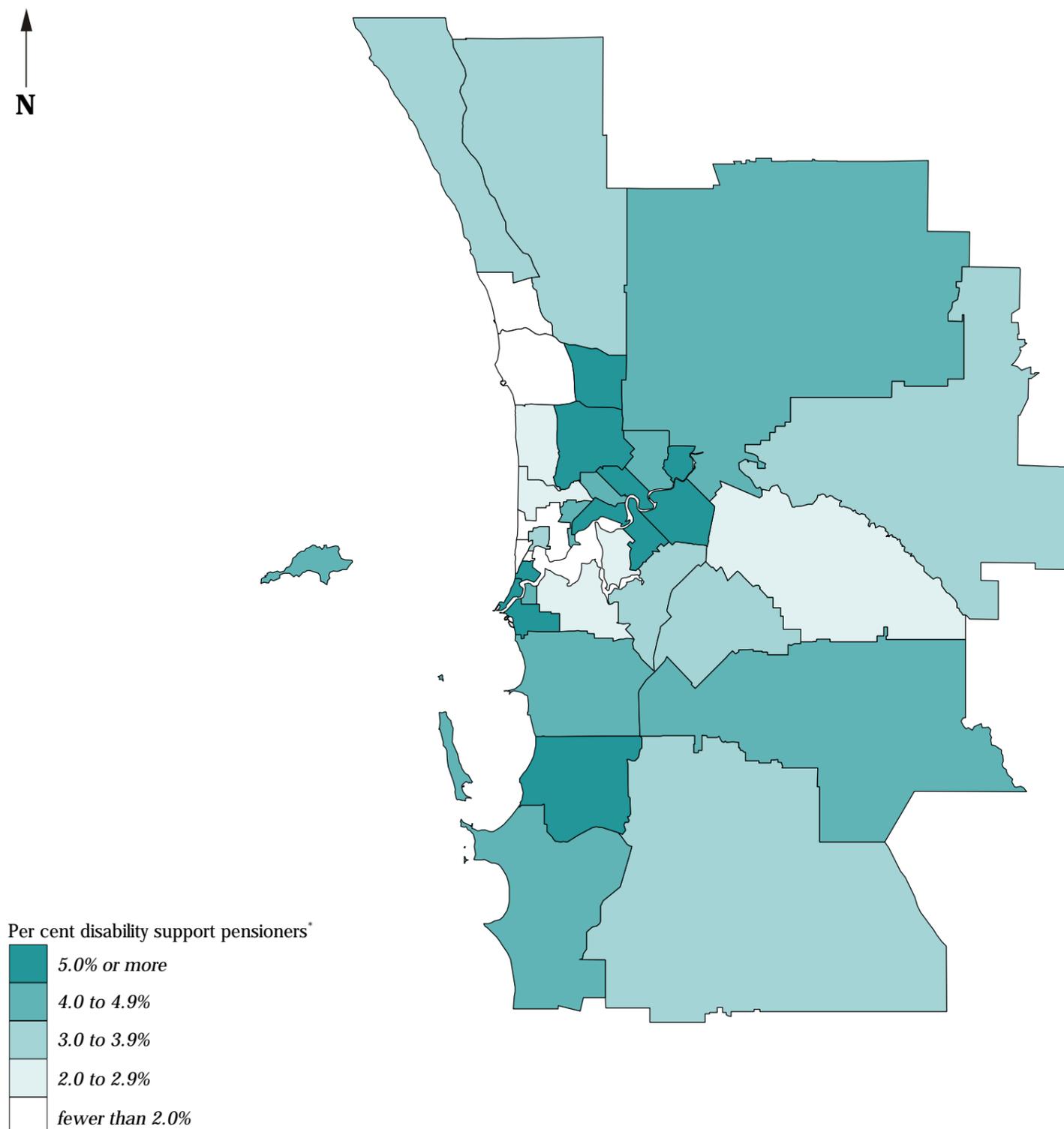
Stirling: Central had the largest number of people receiving a Disability Support Pension (3,553 people) in **Perth** in 1996. Relatively high numbers were also recorded in Swan (1,911 people), Gosnells (1,823) and Rockingham (1,708).

There were correlations of significance with most indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage; the strongest of these were with the variables for low income families (0.87) and unemployed people (0.86). There were inverse correlations with the variables of advantage, mapped in Chapter 3. The inverse correlation of substantial significance with the IRSD (-0.77), indicates a positive association at the SLA level between high proportions of disability support pensioners and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Map 4.3

Disability support pensioners*, Perth, 1996

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



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

Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

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

Disability support pensioners, 30 June 1996

State/Territory comparison

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

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

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

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

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

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

⁴Data unreliable: included with ACT total

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Rest of State

In 1989, there were 8,620 people in the non-metropolitan areas of Western Australia receiving a Disability Support Pension, 3.1 per cent of the eligible population. By 1996, the number had increased by 30.5 per cent to 11,249 disability support pensioners, 3.7 per cent of the eligible population.

The distribution of disability support pensioners is highly concentrated in the State's south-west, as well as in SLAs extending along the coastal strip north of **Perth** to Shark Bay (**Map 4.4**). Although the proportions in the more remote areas were generally fairly low, there were some SLAs with higher proportions in the far north of the State.

In Mandurah, seven per cent of the eligible population received a Disability Support Pension. The next highest proportions were recorded in Murray and Kellerberrin (both 6.9 per cent), Carnarvon (6.2 per cent), Beverley and Denmark (both 6.0 per cent), Gingin and Wyalkatchem (both 5.8 per cent), Albany (5.6 per cent), Cuballing and Koorda (both 5.5 per cent).

Of the major towns in Western Australia, the highest proportions of disability support pensioners were in Mandurah (as noted, at 7.0 per cent), Albany (5.6 per cent), Busselton and Geraldton (both 3.9 per cent), Broome (3.8 per cent) and Bunbury (3.6 per cent).

SLAs with low proportions of disability support pensioners were generally those located in the remote regions of the State. Excluding SLAs with 20 or fewer recipients, the lowest proportions were in Ashburton (0.6 per cent), Coolgardie and Leonora (both with 1.0 per cent) and Wiluna (1.2 per cent).

Mandurah also had the largest number of disability support pensioners, with 1,509, more than twice the number in next ranked Bunbury (609). There were 494 disability support

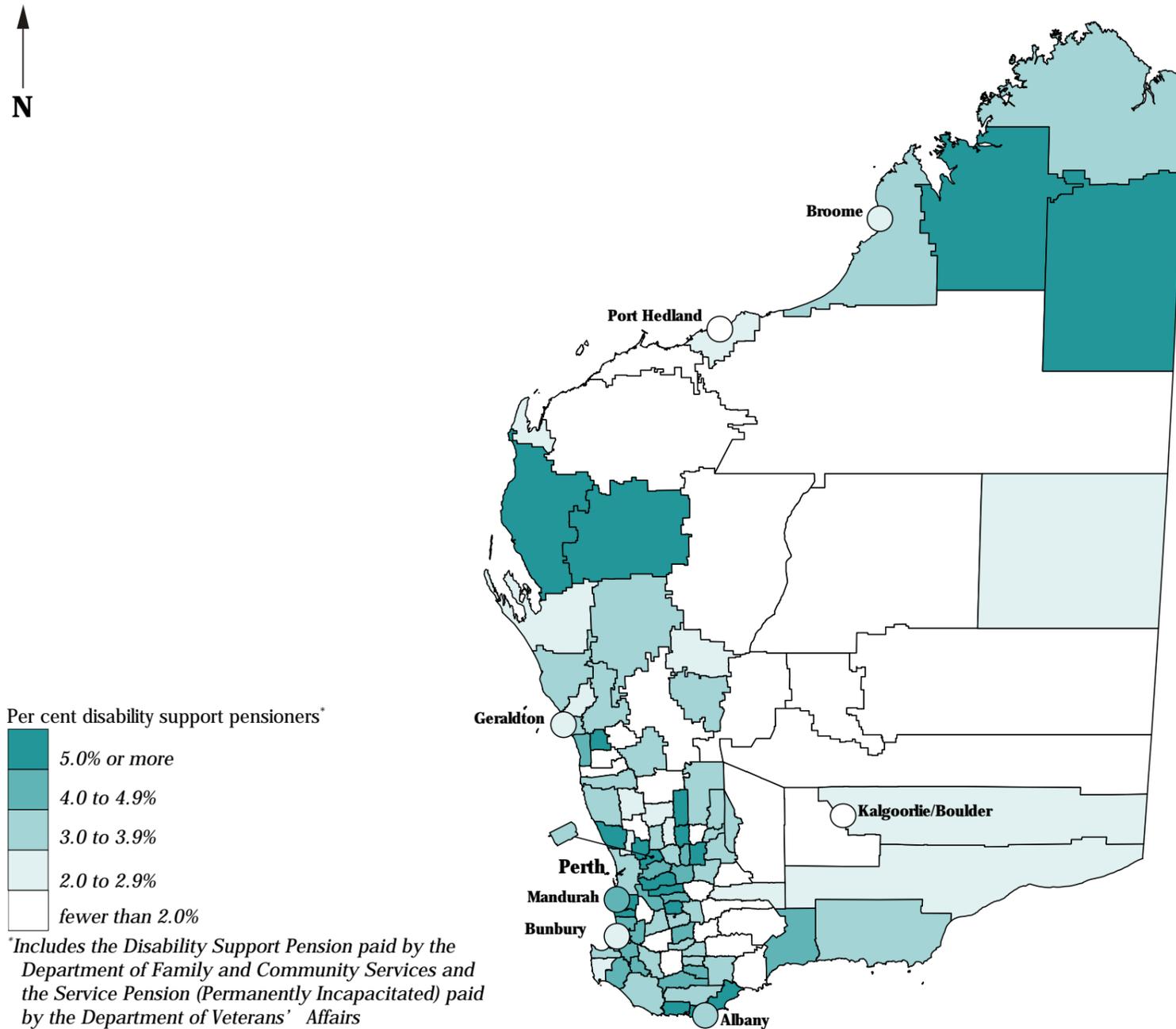
pensioners resident in Kalgoorlie/Boulder, 482 in Geraldton and 477 in the town of Albany.

The correlation analysis revealed an association at the SLA level with the indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage, the strongest being correlations of meaningful significance with the variables for low income families (0.52) and unemployment (0.51). These results, and the weak inverse correlation with the IRSD (-0.28), indicate an association at the SLA level between high proportions of disability support pensioners and socioeconomic disadvantage

Map 4.4

Disability support pensioners*, Western Australia, 1996

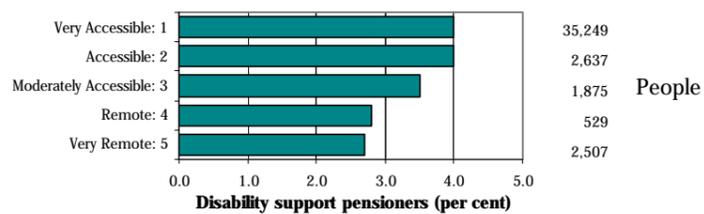
as a percentage of males aged 15 to 64 years and females aged 15 to 59 years in each Statistical Local Area



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 is highest in the Very Accessible (4.0 per cent), Accessible (4.0 per cent) and Moderately Accessible (3.5 per cent) categories. The Very Remote (2.7 per cent) and Remote (2.8 per cent) categories have the lowest proportions.

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

Perth

In 1989, there were 15,859 female sole parent pensioners in **Perth**, 4.6 per cent of the population of females aged from 15 to 54 years. By 1996, the number had increased by almost half (41.3 per cent) to 22,437, and the proportion to 6.0 per cent.

Female sole parent pensioners were generally located in SLAs on the urban fringe, areas characterised by relatively cheap housing and State housing authority rental accommodation (**Map 4.5**).

In Kwinana, 12.1 per cent of females aged from 15 to 54 years were female sole parent pensioners. Other SLAs with high proportions were Belmont and Wanneroo: South-East (both with 9.9 per cent), Bassendean (9.7 per cent), Armadale (8.7 per cent), Rockingham (8.6 per cent) and Wanneroo: North-West (8.5 per cent). In each of Gosnells (7.7 per cent), Stirling: Central (7.4 per cent), Swan (7.3 per cent) and Fremantle (7.2 per cent) more than 7.0 per cent of all the eligible population were female sole parent pensions.

Proportions of less than two per cent were recorded in the older, more affluent SLAs of Cottesloe, Nedlands, Peppermint Grove and Subiaco (each with 1.8 per cent) and Perth (1.9 per cent).

There were 2,089 female sole parent pensioners living in Stirling: Central, 1,723 in Gosnells, 1,516 in Swan and 1,432 in Wanneroo: South-West. More than 1,000 female sole parent pensioners were also recorded in Rockingham (1,395 females), Armadale (1,288), Cockburn (1,191), Canning (1,172) and Melville (1,084).

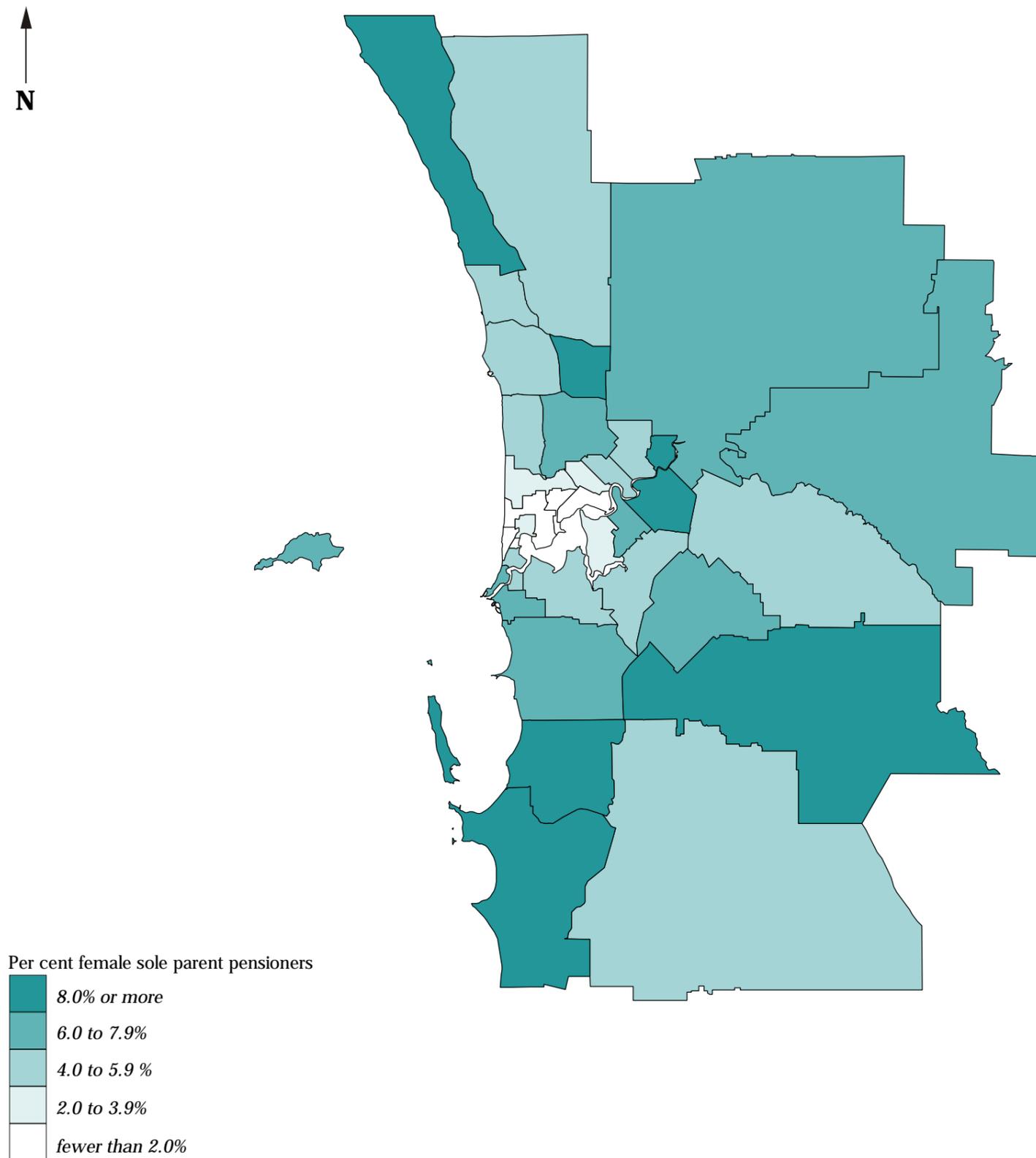
There were correlations of substantial significance with most (and of meaningful significance with the remainder) of the measures of low socioeconomic status mapped in Chapter 3, as well as inverse correlations of substantial significance with the measures of socioeconomic advantage. The inverse correlation of substantial significance with the IRSD (-0.92) indicates a positive association at the SLA level between the distribution of female sole parent pensioners and socioeconomic disadvantage.

The other association of note was the correlation with the Total Fertility Rate (0.72), indicating a positive association at the SLA level between the distribution of female sole parent pensioners and high Total Fertility Rates (described in Chapter 5).

Map 4.5

Female sole parent pensioners, Perth, 1996

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



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

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

Female sole parent pensioners, 30 June 1996

State/Territory comparison

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

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

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

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

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

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

⁴Data unreliable: included with ACT total

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Rest of State

There were 5,918 female sole parent pensioners living in the non-metropolitan areas of Western Australia in 1989, five per cent of females aged from 15 to 54 years. By 1996, the number had increased just over half (52.2 per cent) to 9,009, and the proportion had increased to 7.1 per cent.

The highest proportions of female sole parent pensioners were in Halls Creek and Derby–West Kimberley, where they comprised 12.1 per cent and 11.0 per cent of the eligible population, respectively (**Map 4.6**). Proportions of greater than ten per cent were also recorded in Denmark (10.8 per cent), Wyndham-East Kimberley (10.4 per cent) and Mandurah (10.2 per cent), while relatively high proportions were recorded in Mullewa (9.4 per cent) and Geraldton and Katanning (both 9.3 per cent). An additional 12 SLAs had proportions above 8.0 per cent.

Excluding SLAs with fewer than ten recipients, the lowest proportions of female sole parent pensioners were in Yilgarn (2.8 per cent), Cunderdin (3.0 per cent), and Coorow and Chittering (both 3.3 per cent).

There were more than 400 female sole parent pensioners in each of Mandurah (988 people), Bunbury (565), Geraldton (507) and Kalgoorlie/Boulder (492). On the other hand, almost one third (31.9 per cent) of SLAs had fewer than ten female sole parent pensioners.

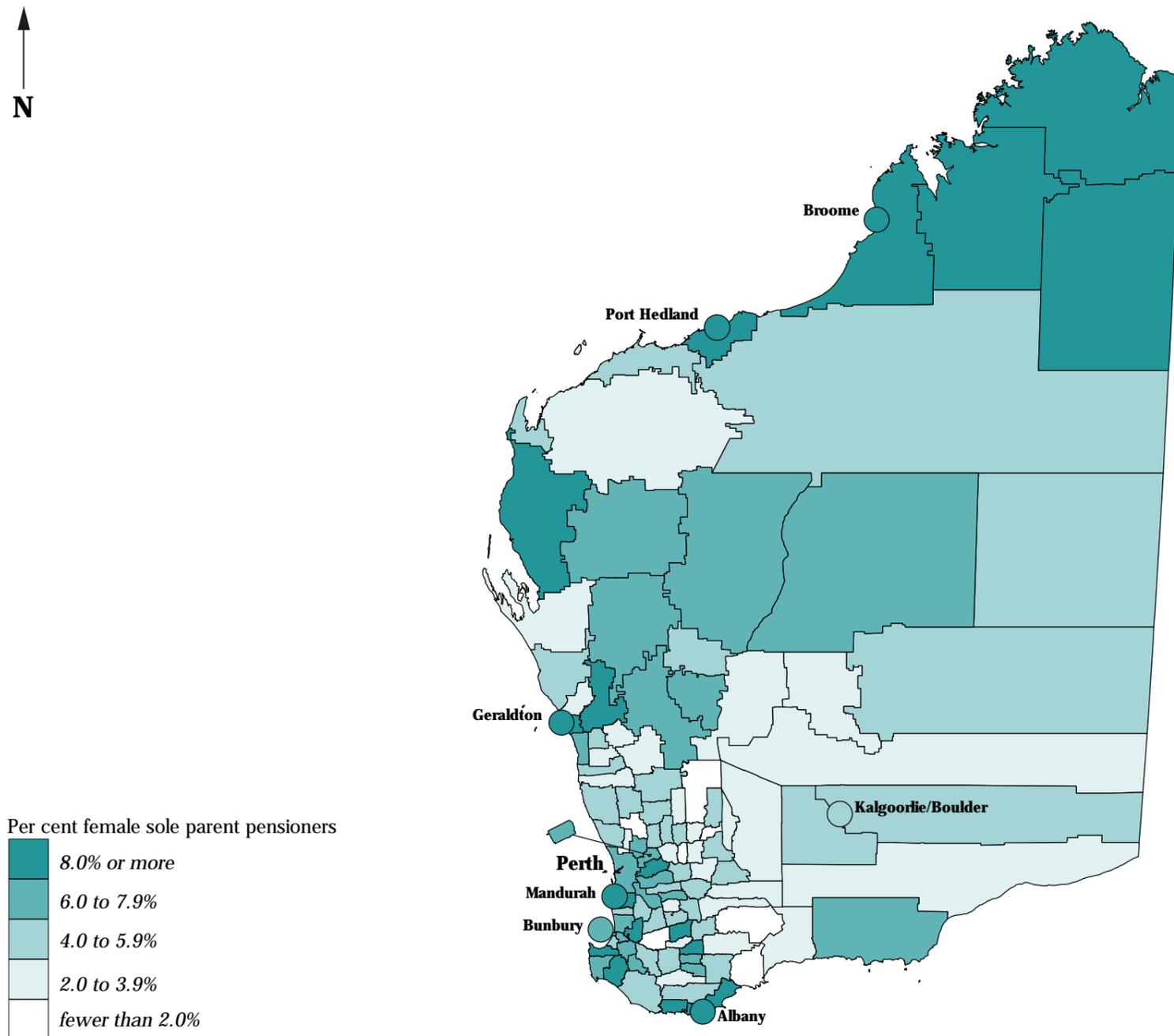
In the non-metropolitan areas of Western Australia, the only correlations of meaningful significance at the SLA level were with the variables for single parent families (0.66) and with the distribution of housing authority rented dwellings (0.55). A weaker correlation was recorded with the variable for unemployed people (0.45). There was an inverse correlation with the variable for managers and administrators, and professionals (-0.49).

These results, together with the inverse correlation with the IRSD (-0.45), indicate the existence of an association at the SLA level between the distribution of female sole parent pensioners and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Map 4.6

Female sole parent pensioners, Western Australia, 1996

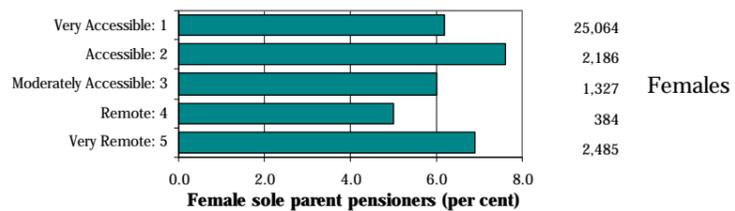
as a percentage of all females aged 15 to 54 years in each Statistical Local Area



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 in the Accessible (7.6 per cent) and Very Remote (6.9 per cent) ARIA categories; with middle level proportions in the Very Accessible (6.2 per cent) and Moderately Accessible (6.0 per cent) categories; and the lowest proportion in the Remote areas (5.0 per cent).

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

People receiving an unemployment benefit, 30 June 1996

Capital city comparison

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

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

Perth

There were 20,881 unemployment benefit recipients resident in **Perth** in 1989, 2.7 per cent of the eligible population. By 1996, the number had more than doubled (an increase of 140.2 per cent) to 50,162, and the proportion to 6.2 per cent. These figures include 177 people in the CDEP program in **Perth**, all of whom were in Kwinana.

Unemployment beneficiaries were located principally in four discrete areas of **Perth**: in the newer suburbs on the south and south-east periphery, in the Fremantle area, in the middle suburbs to the north and east of the city centre, and in the outlying north-western suburbs (see **Map 4.7**).

The highest proportions in **Perth** were in Fremantle (with 10.9 per cent of the eligible population in receipt of unemployment benefits), Kwinana (10.4 per cent) and Vincent and Stirling: South-Eastern (both with 10.1 per cent). East Fremantle and the City of Perth (both with 8.8 per cent), Victoria Park (8.6 per cent), Stirling: Central (8.5 per cent), Wanneroo: South-East (8.4 per cent) and Belmont (8.2 per cent) all had more than 8.0 per cent of the eligible population receiving unemployment benefits.

The lowest proportions were recorded for people living in Nedlands (3.0 per cent), Claremont (3.1 per cent), Wanneroo: Central Coastal (4.0 per cent) and Kalamunda, Serpentine-Jarrahdale and Wanneroo: South-West (all with 4.1 per cent of their population in receipt of unemployment benefits).

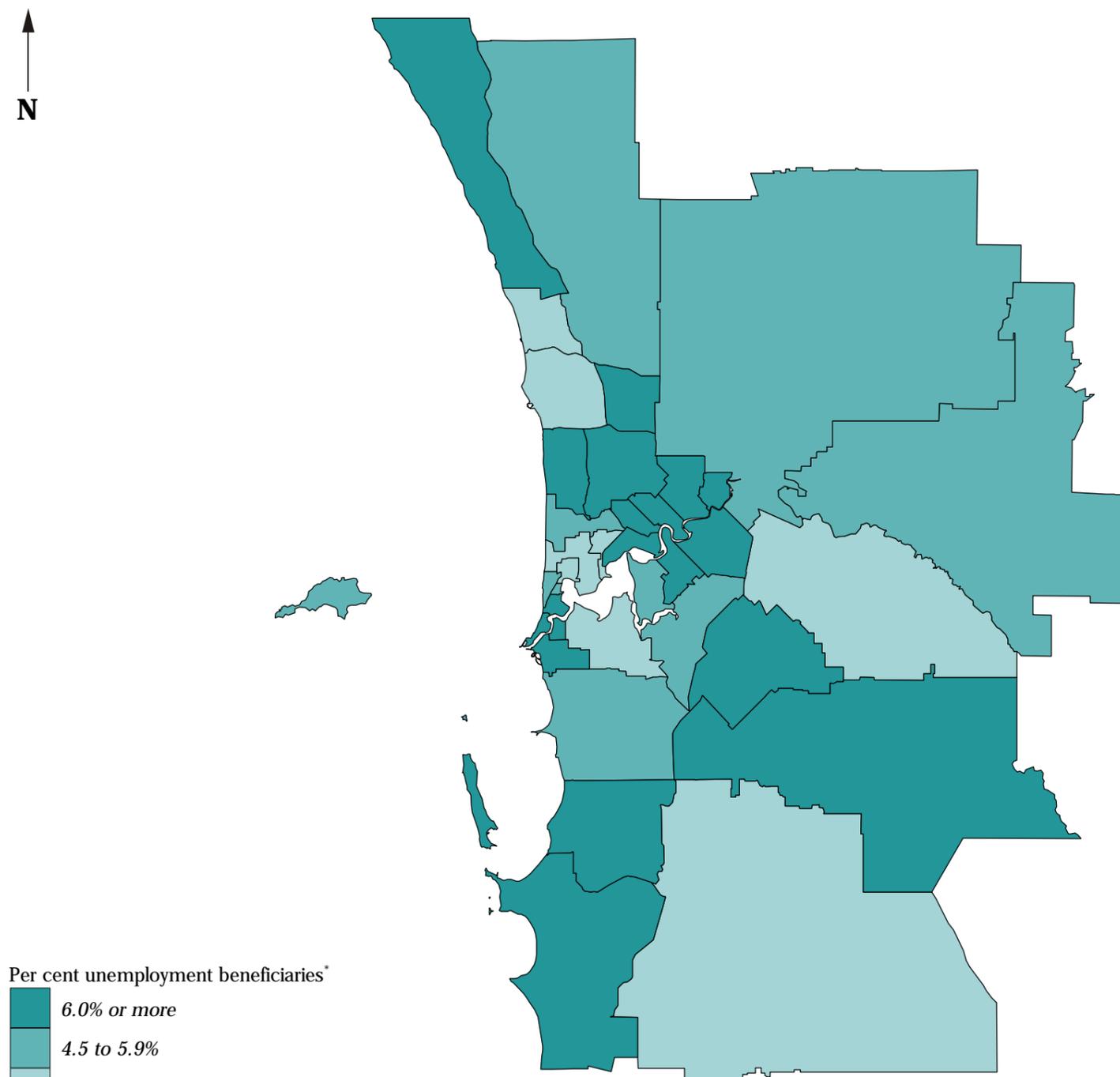
There were 5,248 people receiving unemployment benefits in Stirling: Central, 3,005 in Gosnells, 2,831 in Wanneroo: South-West and 2,533 in Swan. More than 2,000 unemployment benefit recipients were also recorded in the SLAs of Melville (2,421 people), Canning (2,359), Stirling: Coastal (2,347), Rockingham (2,336), Cockburn (2,210) and Armadale (2,091).

There were correlations of substantial significance at the SLA level with the variables for unemployed people (0.89) and low income families (0.77), and correlations of meaningful significance with dwellings rented from the State housing authority (0.66), single parent families (0.61), dwellings without a motor vehicle (0.60) and poor proficiency in English (0.52). These results, together with the inverse correlation of meaningful significance with the IRSD (-0.62), also indicate a positive association at the SLA level between high proportions of the population in receipt of an unemployment benefit and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Map 4.7

Unemployment beneficiaries*, Perth, 1996

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



Per cent unemployment beneficiaries*



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

Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

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

People receiving an unemployment benefit, 30 June 1996

State/Territory comparison

In 1996, the proportions of people in receipt of an unemployment benefit (see previous text page for details of programs included) in the *Rest of State/Territory* areas were higher than those recorded in the capital cities. The difference was most notable in the Northern Territory, where the proportion recorded in **Darwin** (7.5 per cent) was considerably lower than that recorded in the non-metropolitan area (17.2 per cent). Excluding the Northern Territory, the non-metropolitan proportions varied little from the *Whole of State/Territory* total, ranging from 7.8 per cent in Victoria to 9.2 per cent in Tasmania. The 24,316 residents of the non-metropolitan areas of Australia in Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) schemes in 1998 (see page 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 1989, there were 10,059 recipients of unemployment benefits resident in the non-metropolitan areas of Western Australia, 3.6 per cent of the population. By 1996, the number had more than doubled to 23,983 people (an increase of 138.4 per cent), and the proportion had increased to 7.9 per cent.

The highest proportions of unemployment beneficiaries were in SLAs north of a line between Murchison in the west and Laverton to the east. To the south of this line, there were pockets with high proportions of unemployment benefits recipients interspersed with areas with proportions in each of the lower ranges mapped (**Map 4.8**).

More than a quarter of the eligible population in Halls Creek (40.6 per cent), Derby-West Kimberley (34.1 per cent) and Ngaanyatjarraku (26.2 per cent) received unemployment benefits. In Laverton and Broome, the proportions were 22.1 and 21.5 per cent respectively, while slightly lower proportions were recorded in Wyndham-East Kimberley (17.0 per cent), Meekatharra (12.1 per cent), Denmark (10.7 per cent) and Carnarvon (10.3 per cent).

Excluding SLAs with fewer than ten recipients, the lowest proportions of unemployment benefit recipients were in Yilgarn (1.1 per cent), Kondinin (1.3 per cent) and Quairading (1.4 per cent).

There were more than 1,000 recipients of unemployment benefits in each of Mandurah (2,087 people), Broome (1,872), Kalgoorlie/Boulder (1,568), Derby-West Kimberley (1,560), and Geraldton (1,096), with more than 900 recipients in both Wyndham-East Kimberley (976 people) and Bunbury (945).

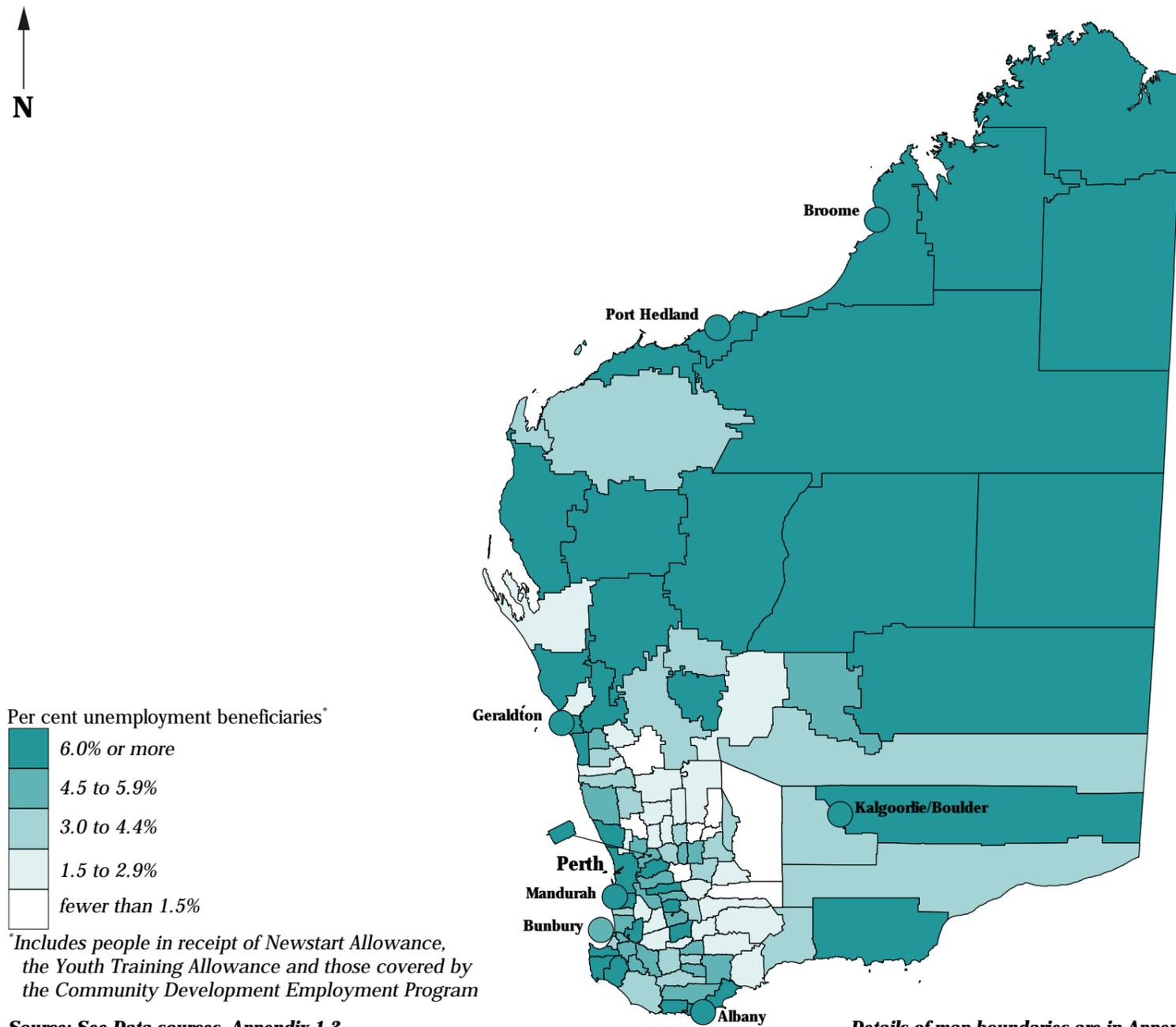
These figures included 6,539 people the non-metropolitan areas of Western Australia involved in CDEP schemes. The highest proportions were in Halls Creek (38.9 per cent of males aged from 14 to 64 years and females aged from 15 to 59 years), Derby-West Kimberley (29.4 per cent) and Ngaanyatjarraku (19.5 per cent). In each of these cases, the proportions in CDEP schemes were almost the same as the proportion in receipt of unemployment benefits; that is, the majority of unemployed people in these areas were involved in a CDEP scheme. The largest numbers involved in a CDEP scheme were in Derby-West Kimberley (1,346 Indigenous people), Broome (1,094), Halls Creek (789), Wyndham-East Kimberley (652), and Kalgoorlie/Boulder (587 people).

There were correlations of substantial significance at the SLA level with the variables for the Indigenous population (0.74), dwellings without a motor vehicle (0.73) and single parent families (0.73). These results, together with the inverse correlation with the IRSD (-0.67), indicate an association at the SLA level between the distribution of unemployment beneficiaries and socioeconomic disadvantage.

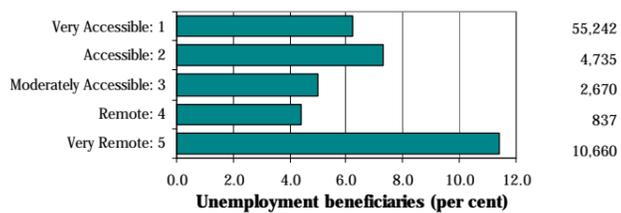
Map 4.8

Unemployment beneficiaries*, Western Australia, 1996

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



Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



The graph of unemployment beneficiaries by ARIA categories shows a generally declining rate with increasing remoteness, apart from in the Very Remote category, with by far the highest rate of unemployment beneficiaries (11.4 per cent). The other rates drop from 7.3 per cent in the Accessible and 6.2 per cent in the Very Accessible areas, to 4.4 per cent in the Remote areas. The distribution of the Indigenous population is likely to have influenced the high proportion in the Very Remote areas. These figures include participants in CDEP schemes.

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

Dependent children of selected pensioners and beneficiaries, 30 June 1996

Capital city comparison

Dependent children aged under 16 years and living in families receiving an income support payment or the family payment (at above the minimum rate) from the Department of Family and Community Services (DFACS) have been mapped as a percentage of all children aged under 16 years. Families included are those receiving the DFACS age, Disability Support and Sole Parent Pensions; Youth Training or Newstart Allowances; sickness and special benefits; and the family allowance payment (the explanatory notes on page 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

Perth

In 1989, there were 68,116 dependent children resident in **Perth** living in families receiving an income support payment, 26.4 per cent of all children aged under 16 years. By 1996, their number had increased substantially to 112,576 (an increase of 65.3 per cent) and the proportion had increased to 39.4 per cent.

As **Map 4.9** shows, the distribution of these children was most highly concentrated in outer SLAs, with low proportions living in higher status SLAs to the east of the city and along the coast between Fremantle and Wanneroo: North-West.

The highest proportion of dependent children living in families receiving an income support payment was in Wanneroo: South-East, where they represented 61.2 per cent of the population aged less than 16 years. Other SLAs with high proportions were Belmont (59.0 per cent), Kwinana (58.9 per cent), Bassendean (58.7 per cent) and Stirling: Central (58.5 per cent). Victoria Park (53.1 per cent), Wanneroo: North-West (52.3 per cent) and the City of Perth (51.4 per cent) all had proportions of more than 50 per cent.

The lowest proportions of dependent children in families receiving income support were in Peppermint Grove (6.8), Nedlands (10.6), Cottesloe (10.8), Claremont (13.9), Cambridge (15.4) and Subiaco (17.4 per cent).

The largest numbers of dependent children living in families receiving an income support payment were in Stirling: Central (10,116 children), Gosnells (9,410), Swan (8,687), Wanneroo: South-West (8,006), Armadale (6,858), Rockingham (6,625) and Canning (6,033).

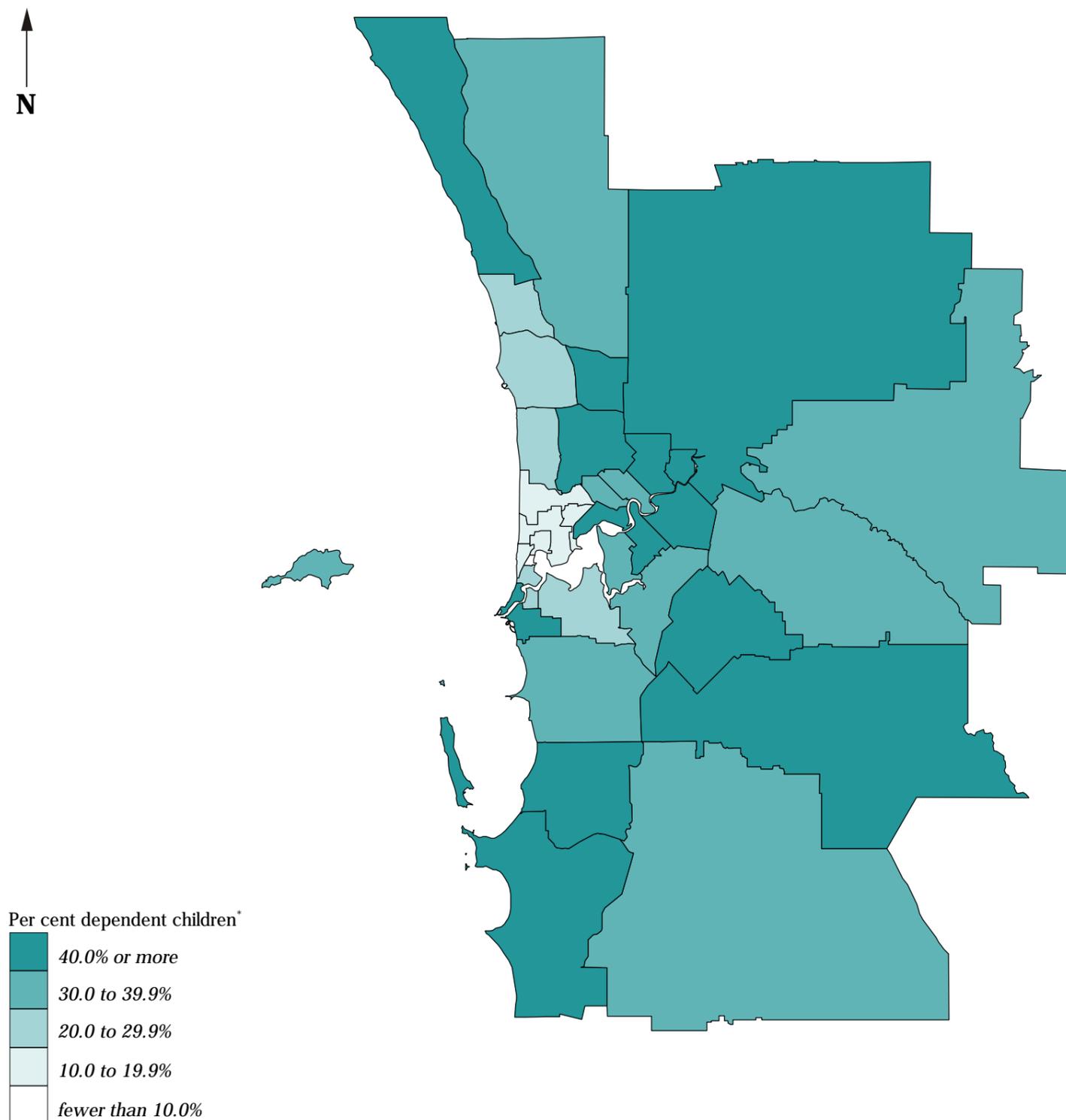
There were correlations of substantial significance with the variables for low income families (0.88), early school leavers (0.86), unskilled and semi-skilled workers (0.87), the Indigenous population (0.80), unemployment (0.73) and the distribution of age pensioners (0.77). In addition, there were inverse correlations of substantial significance with the variables for the high income families (-0.95) and managers and administrators, and professionals (0.89). These results, together with the inverse correlation with the IRSD (-0.95), indicate an association at the SLA level between the distribution of dependent children in families receiving an income support and socioeconomic disadvantage.

The other association of note was the correlation with the Total Fertility Rate (0.62), indicating a positive association at the SLA level between the distribution of dependent children living in families receiving an income support payment and high Total Fertility Rates (described in Chapter 5).

Map 4.9

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

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



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

Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

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

Dependent children of selected pensioners and beneficiaries, 30 June 1996

State/Territory comparison

In 1996, 51.4 per cent of the population aged under 16 years and living outside of the major urban centres were living in families in receipt of an income support payment from the Department of Family and Community Services (see page 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 data shows Yalgoo Shire to have 122.3 per cent of its population of children aged under 16 years of age living in families receiving an income support payment (76 dependent children in this category). This is clearly not accurate; the notes on page 80 include some possible reasons for this result.

Rest of State

In 1989, there were 35,292 dependent children living in families receiving an income support payment and resident outside of **Perth**. These children represented 31.9 per cent of all children aged from 0 to 15 years. By 1996, their number had increased substantially (by 54.3 per cent) to 54,444, and the proportion had increased to 43.7 per cent of all children aged from 0 to 15 years.

Map 4.10 shows the distribution of these dependent children in the non-metropolitan areas of Western Australia and the high concentrations in the State's Kimberley region, the Central region centred on Murchison SLA and the Great Southern region, as well as to the south-east of **Perth**.

The twelve SLAs with the highest proportions of dependent children living in families receiving an income support payment were scattered throughout the State. They were Yalgoo (see box, above) and adjacent Cue (95.4 per cent); Derby-West Kimberley (77.7 per cent), Wiluna (76.5 per cent), Halls Creek (74.9 per cent), Brookton (74.1 per cent), Denmark (73.8 per cent), the town of Albany (63.8 per cent), Wyndham-East Kimberley (63.7 per cent), Nannup (62.8 per cent), York (60.9 per cent) and Carnarvon (60.7).

Fewer than 20 per cent of children under 16 years of age in Ashburton (11.3 per cent), Yilgarn (11.9 per cent), Victoria Plains (14.7 per cent), Coolgardie (17.1 per cent) and Westonia (17.4 per cent) were living in families receiving an income support payment.

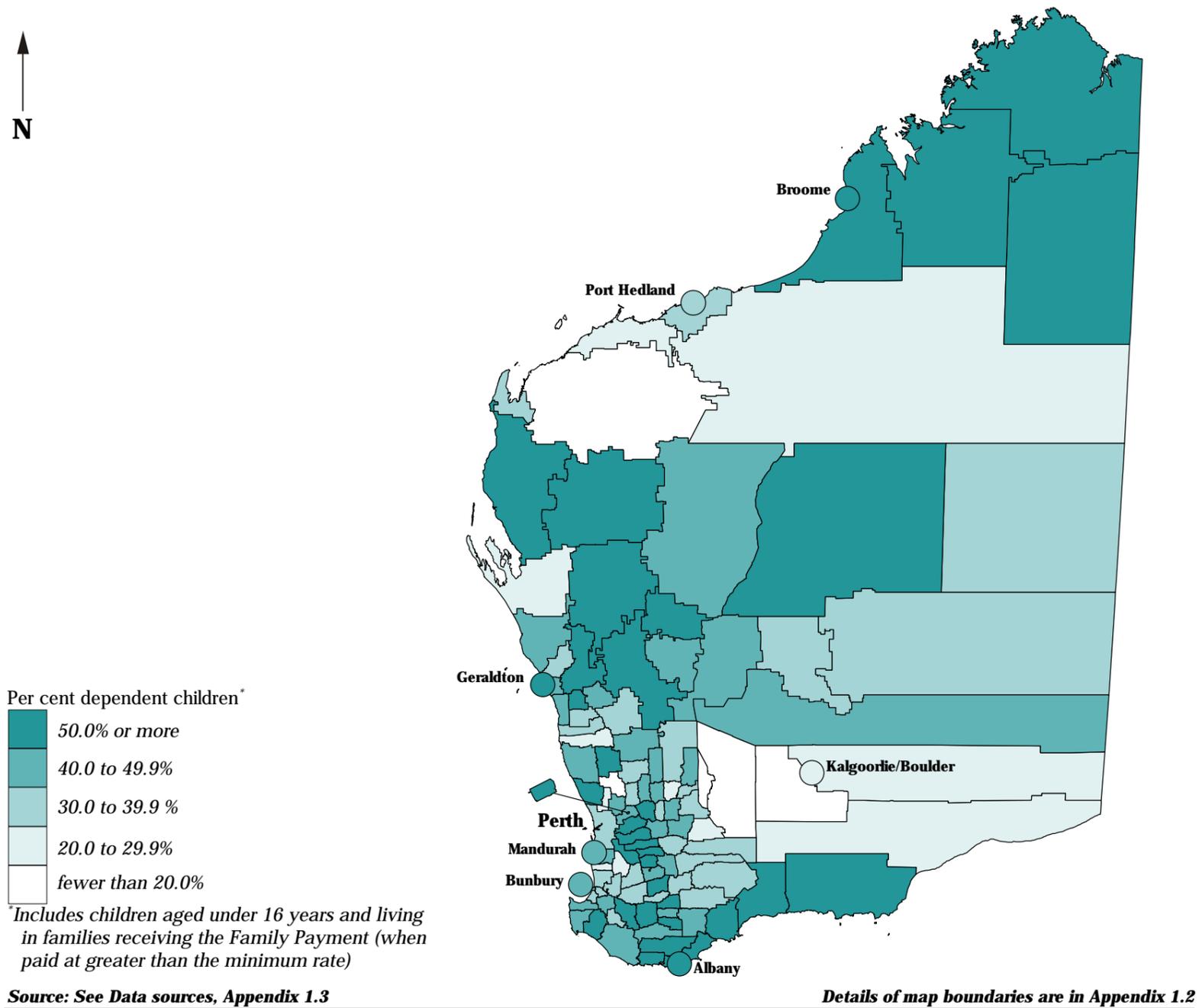
There were 4,758 dependent children living in families receiving an income support payment living in Mandurah, 2,715 in Geraldton, 2,679 in Bunbury, 2,214 in the town of Albany and 2,180 in Busselton.

There were weak associations evident in the correlation analysis with the variables for low income families (0.41) and the Indigenous population (0.32), and a weak inverse correlation with the variable for high income families (-0.46). These results, together with the weak inverse correlation with the IRSD (-0.34), support the existence of an association at the SLA level between the distribution of these dependent children and socioeconomic disadvantage.

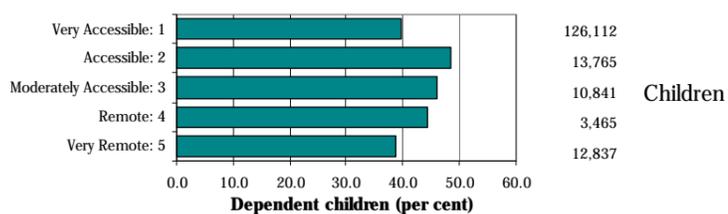
Map 4.10

Dependent children of selected pensioners and beneficiaries*, Western Australia, 1996

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



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 48.4 per cent in the Accessible category down to 38.8 per cent in the Very Remote category: there is a similar proportion (39.7 per cent) in the Very Accessible areas. There are similar numbers of children in the Accessible, Moderately Accessible and Very Remote categories.

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

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