

4 Income support payments

Introduction

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

Explanatory notes

Data mapped

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

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

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

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

The proportion of children aged under 16 years and living in families receiving the Family Payment (when paid at a 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 (76.2 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 excluded from this analysis, as families in receipt of such payments may also receive relatively high incomes. Details of the small number of children of DVA pensioners were not available.

Table 4.1: Income support payments mapped, 30 June 1996

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

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

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

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

⁴Details for males were excluded from the analysis

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

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

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

⁸Excludes children of DVA pensioners as details were not available

Source: Compiled from data from DFACS and DVA

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

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

cases this also will be 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 many 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

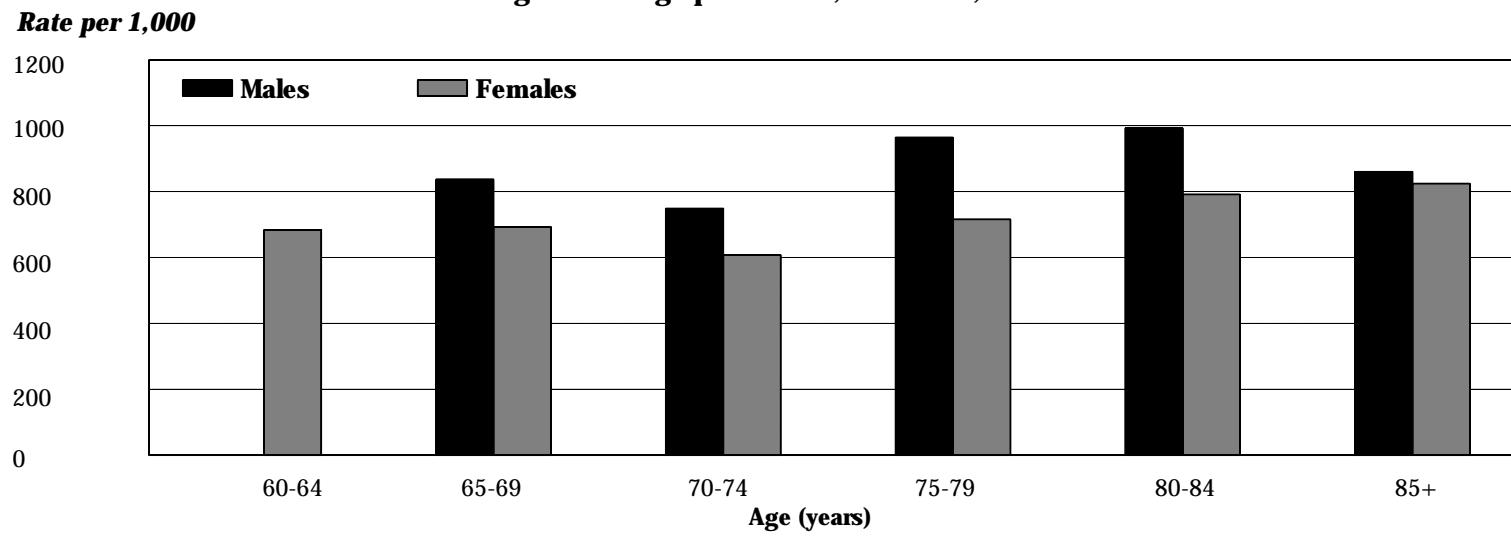
100, this would have concealed the problem and would not have represented the data for the areas as estimated. Percentages in excess of 100 per cent are noted separately in the text. Although the other pension or benefit types analysed only rarely have such high proportions, it is not possible to say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

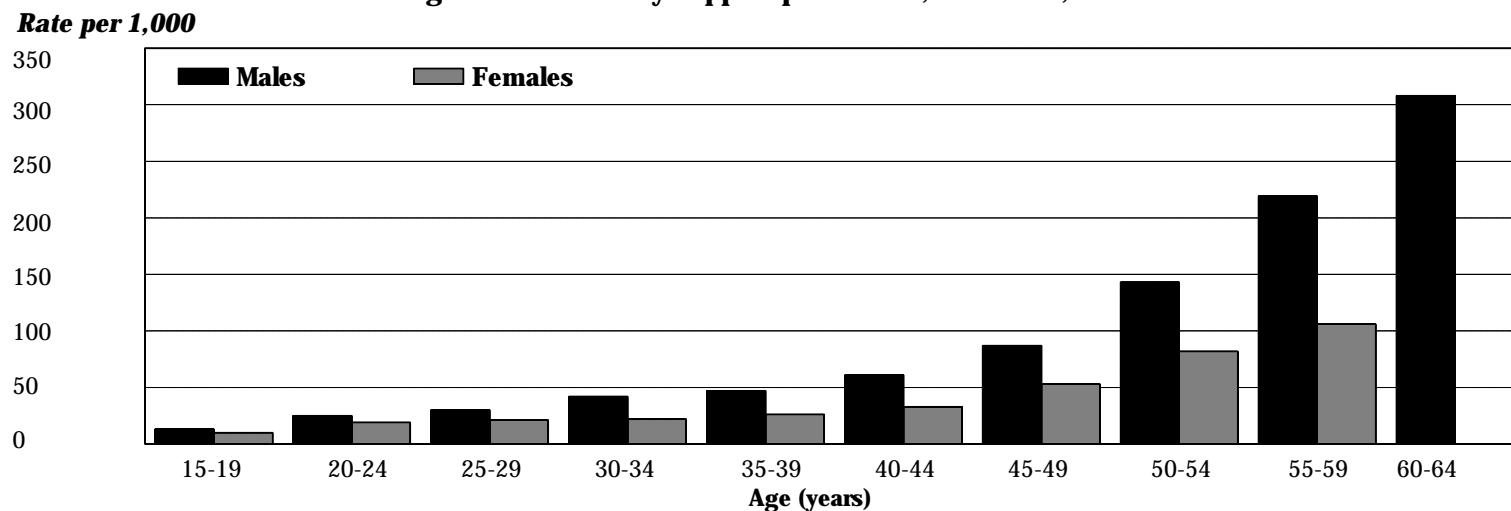


Source: Calculated on data supplied by DFACS (Age Pension) and DVA (Service Pension (Age))

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.

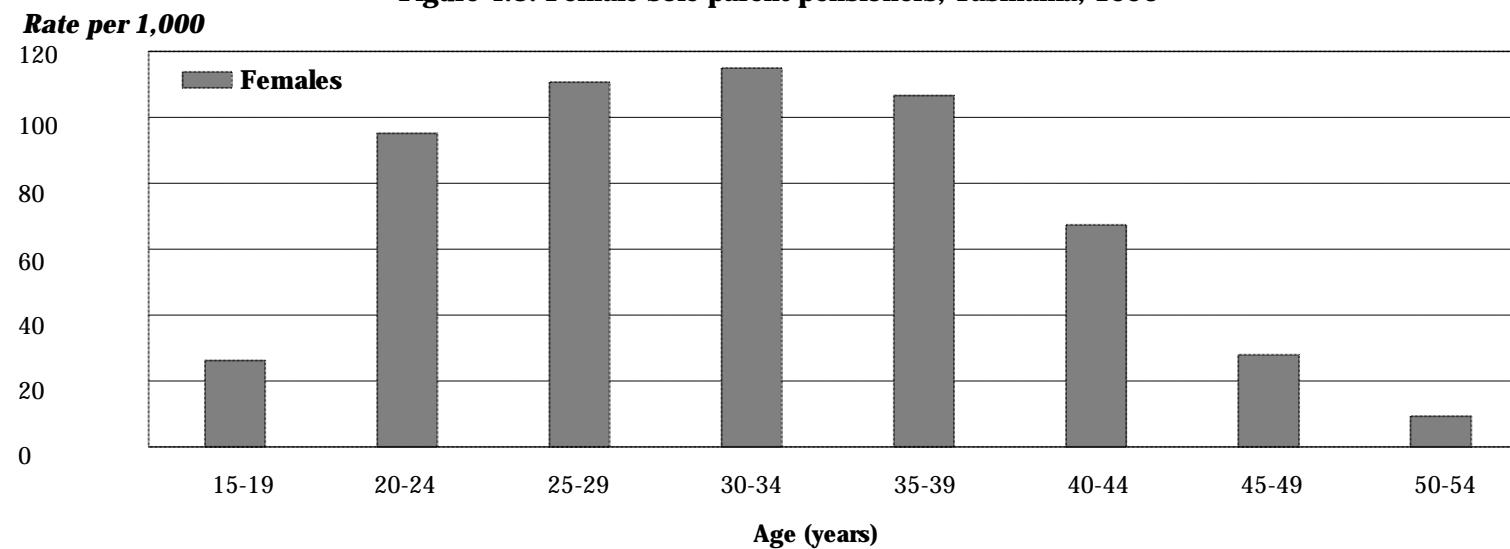
Figure 4.2: Disability support pensioners, Tasmania, 1996



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**).

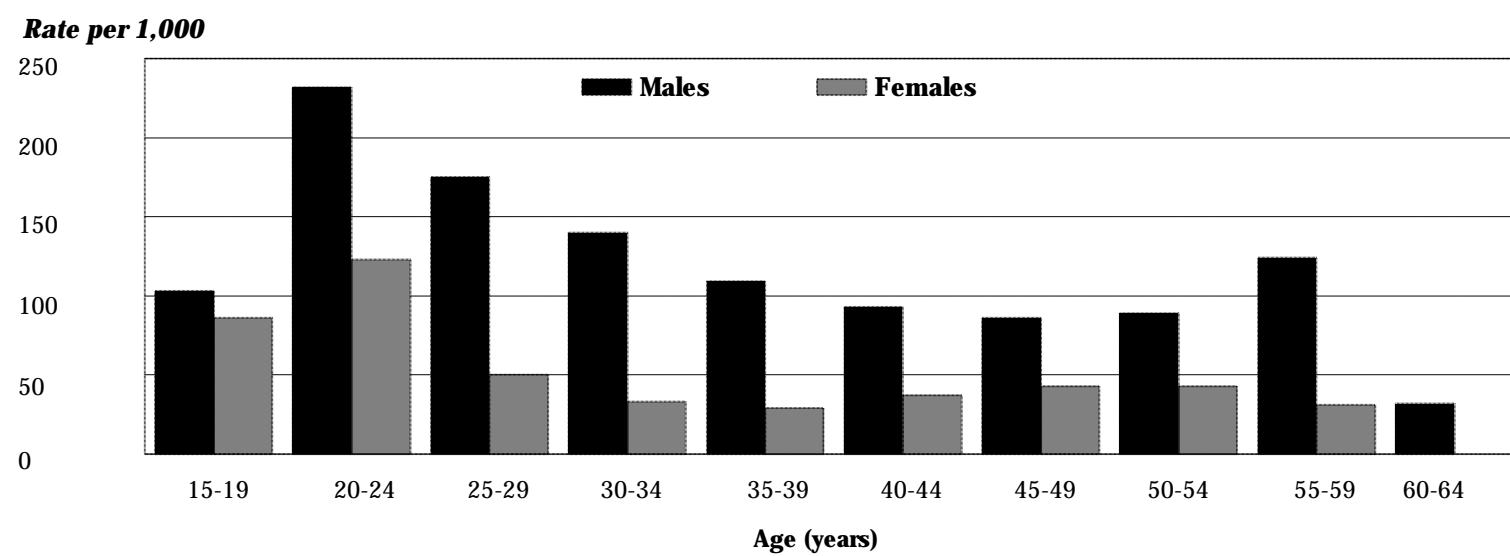
Figure 4.3: Female sole parent pensioners, Tasmania, 1996



Source: Calculated on data supplied by DFACS

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

Figure 4.4: Unemployment beneficiaries, Tasmania, 1996



¹ Excludes people in the Community Development Employment Program

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

Age pensioners, 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: Calculated on data supplied by Centrelink and the Department of Veterans' Affairs

Hobart

In 1989, there were 20,929 people receiving the Age Pension in **Hobart**, representing 81.7 per cent of population of age-pensionable age. By 1996, the number had decreased to 19,732 and the proportion had fallen to 72.3 per cent. Despite this decline, **Hobart** maintained its status as having the second highest proportion of eligible people receiving an Age Pension of all capital cities.

The highest proportion of people receiving an Age Pension, 89.9 per cent, was in Brighton, although this represented the lowest number of 651 pensioners. Brighton has consistently had the highest rates for most indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage, including low income families, early school leavers, unskilled and semi-skilled workers, as well as having the lowest IRSD score in **Hobart**.

There were no SLAs with values in the second range mapped. Sorell [Part A] (79.9 per cent), Glenorchy (78.9 per cent) and Clarence (74.3 per cent) all had higher proportions than the average for **Hobart**.

Below average proportions of age pensioners were recorded in Kingborough [Part A] (70.9 per cent), Derwent Valley [Part A] (68.8 per cent) and Hobart (62.0 per cent). As well as having the lowest proportion of age pensioners, Hobart was also the most socioeconomically advantaged SLA, recording the highest proportions for high socioeconomic status indicators such as high income families and managers and professionals, and administrators.

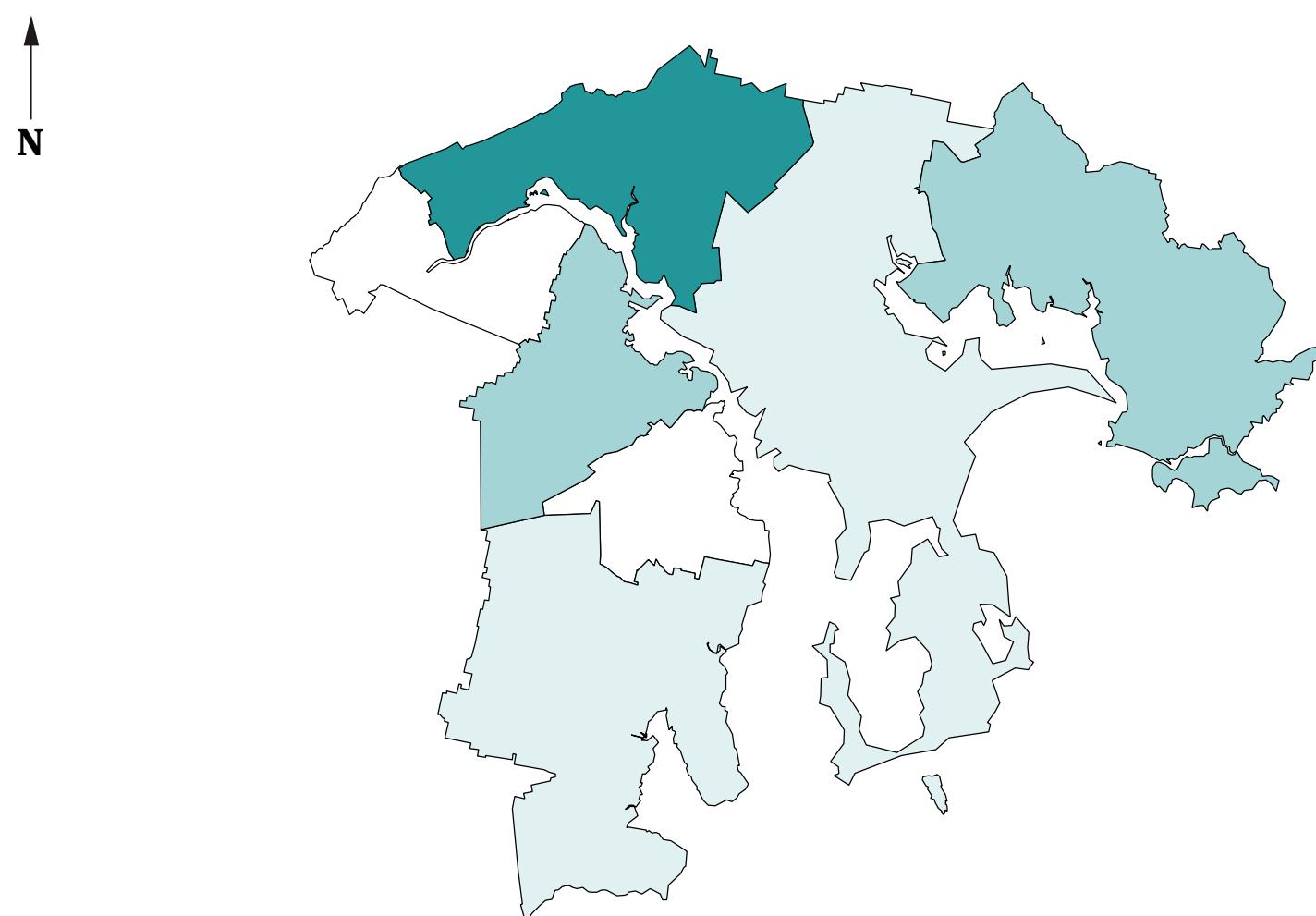
The largest numbers of people receiving an Age Pension were in Glenorchy (5,822 people), Clarence (5,137 people) and Hobart (4,562 people).

The correlation analysis showed there to be a positive association with most indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage including the variables for the Indigenous population (0.87), unemployed people (0.80), early school leavers (0.80), low income families (0.75) and public rental housing (0.71). There were similarly strong inverse correlations with the variables for high income families (-0.80), female labour force participation (-0.79) and managers and administrators, and professionals (-0.76). These results, together with the inverse correlation of substantial significance with the IRSD (-0.80), indicate the existence of an association at the SLA level between high proportions of age pensioners and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Map 4.1

Age pensioners*, Hobart, 1996

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



Per cent age pensioners*

85.0% or more
80.0 to 84.9%
75.0 to 79.9%
70.0 to 74.9%
fewer than 70.0%

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

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Age pensioners, 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

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

The areas in this category were Waratah/Wynyard [Part B] (273 age pensioners: 145.4 per cent of the population of pensionable age); Meander Valley [Part A] (133.1 per cent); Central Coast [Part B] (132.3 per cent), Derwent Valley [Part B] (130.3 per cent), West Tamar [Part B] (117.3 per cent) and Latrobe [Part B] (110.9 per cent).

Rest of State

In 1996, there were 29,681 people in non-metropolitan Tasmania receiving an Age Pension, representing 77.6 per cent of the population of pensionable age. This represents a decrease from the 1989 figures of 31,556 age pensioners (85.6 per cent).

Although the proportions of people receiving an Age Pension in non-metropolitan Tasmania were distributed over a wide range, the majority of SLAs recorded ratios of between 70 and 85 per cent. The highest proportions of age pensioners were in the SLAs of Flinders (100.0 per cent) and Burnie [Part B] (99.9 per cent). These high proportions represented relatively low numbers, of 113 and 162 people respectively.

SLAs mapped in the second highest range were Sorrel [Part B] (84.1 per cent) in the south and West Tamar [Part A] (82.6 per cent), Burnie [Part A] (80.4 per cent) and George Town [Part A] (80.0 per cent) along the north coast.

Nine SLAs had ratios in the middle range mapped (between 75 and 80 per cent), including Devonport (79.6 per cent) and Latrobe [Part A] (78.6 per cent) on the north coast, Break O'Day (79.3 per cent), Northern Midlands [Part B] (76.3 per cent) and Launceston [Part C] (75.0 per cent) in the north east of Tasmania and West Coast (77.9 per cent).

The eight SLAs with proportions in the range between 70 and 75 per cent included Dorset (74.3 per cent), Northern Midlands (73.4 per cent), Waratah/Wynyard [Part A] (72.9 per cent) and Launceston (72.3 per cent).

With the exception of King Island (62.1 per cent), all SLAs with proportions of age pensioners in the lowest range were located in the south-east of the State. Kingborough [Part B] had the lowest proportion (44.6 per cent). Other SLAs in this range were Southern Midlands (67.0 per cent), Tasman (67.4 per cent) and Glamorgan/Spring Bay (69.9 per cent).

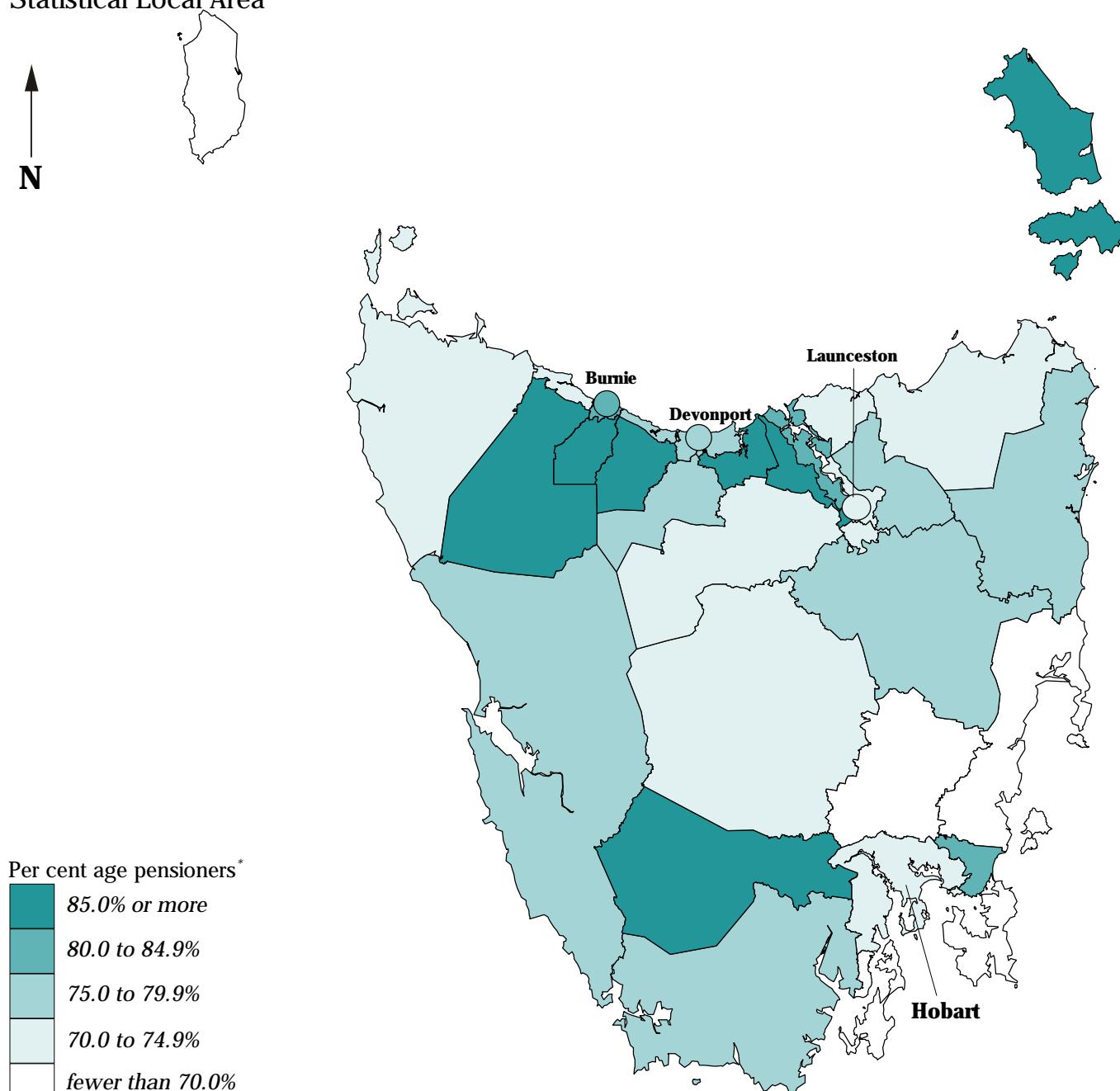
The largest numbers of people in the non-metropolitan areas of Tasmania who received an Age Pension were in Launceston (6,969 people), Devonport (2,960 people), Central Coast (2,206 people) and West Tamar [Part A] (2,010 people).

The results of the correlation analysis indicate a weak positive association with high socioeconomic status. There were inverse correlations with the variables for people aged 65 years and over (-0.61), low income families (-0.42) and private dwellings without a motor vehicle (-0.39) and a weak positive correlation with the variable for high income families (0.35). The weak positive association with the IRS (0.37) also indicates an association between high proportions of people receiving an Age Pension and high socioeconomic status. This is in contrast to the situation in Hobart and generally unlike the pattern in rural areas of other States.

Map 4.2

Age pensioners*, Tasmania, 1996

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

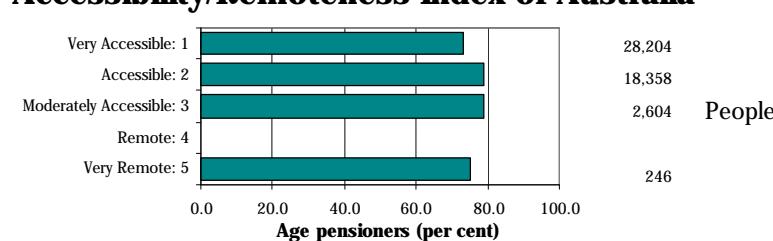


*Includes the Age Pension paid by the Department of Family and Community Services and the Service Pension (Age) paid by the Department of Veterans' Affairs

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



The proportion of the population of pensionable age in receipt of the Age Pension is similar across the ARIA categories, ranging from a low of 73.3 per cent in the Very Accessible areas, to highs of 79.0 per cent and 78.8 per cent in the Moderately Accessible and Accessible areas, respectively. The Very Remote areas had a middle level proportion of 75.2 per cent.

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

Disability support pensioners, 30 June 1996

Capital city comparison

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

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

**Table 4.4: Disability support pensioners, capital cities
Per cent**

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

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Hobart

The number of people in **Hobart** receiving the Disability Support Pension increased from 4,132 people in 1989 to 6,702 people in 1996 (while the proportion increased from 3.6 per cent to 5.6 per cent). As a result, **Hobart** has maintained its status among Australia's capital cities of having the highest proportion of the population of females aged from 15 to 59 years and males aged from 15 to 64 years in receipt of a Disability Support Pension.

Derwent Valley [Part A] had the highest proportion of disability support pensioners (9.2 per cent), although this represented the second smallest number of these pensioners (373) of all **Hobart** SLAs. The next highest proportions were recorded in the SLAs adjacent to Derwent Valley [Part A], in Glenorchy (7.6 per cent) and Brighton (7.1 per cent). These three SLAs generally have the highest proportions for indicators of low socioeconomic status including low income families and unskilled and semi-skilled workers.

On the eastern side of the Derwent River, Sorell [Part A] and Clarence recorded ratios of 6.3 and 5.3 per cent, respectively.

The lowest proportions of people in receipt of a Disability Support Pension were located on the western side of the Derwent River in the SLAs of Kingborough [Part A] (3.7 per cent) and Hobart (4.0 per cent). These areas had the highest IRSID scores, as well as high proportions for individual indicators of socioeconomic advantage such as high income families and people employed as managers and professionals, and administrators.

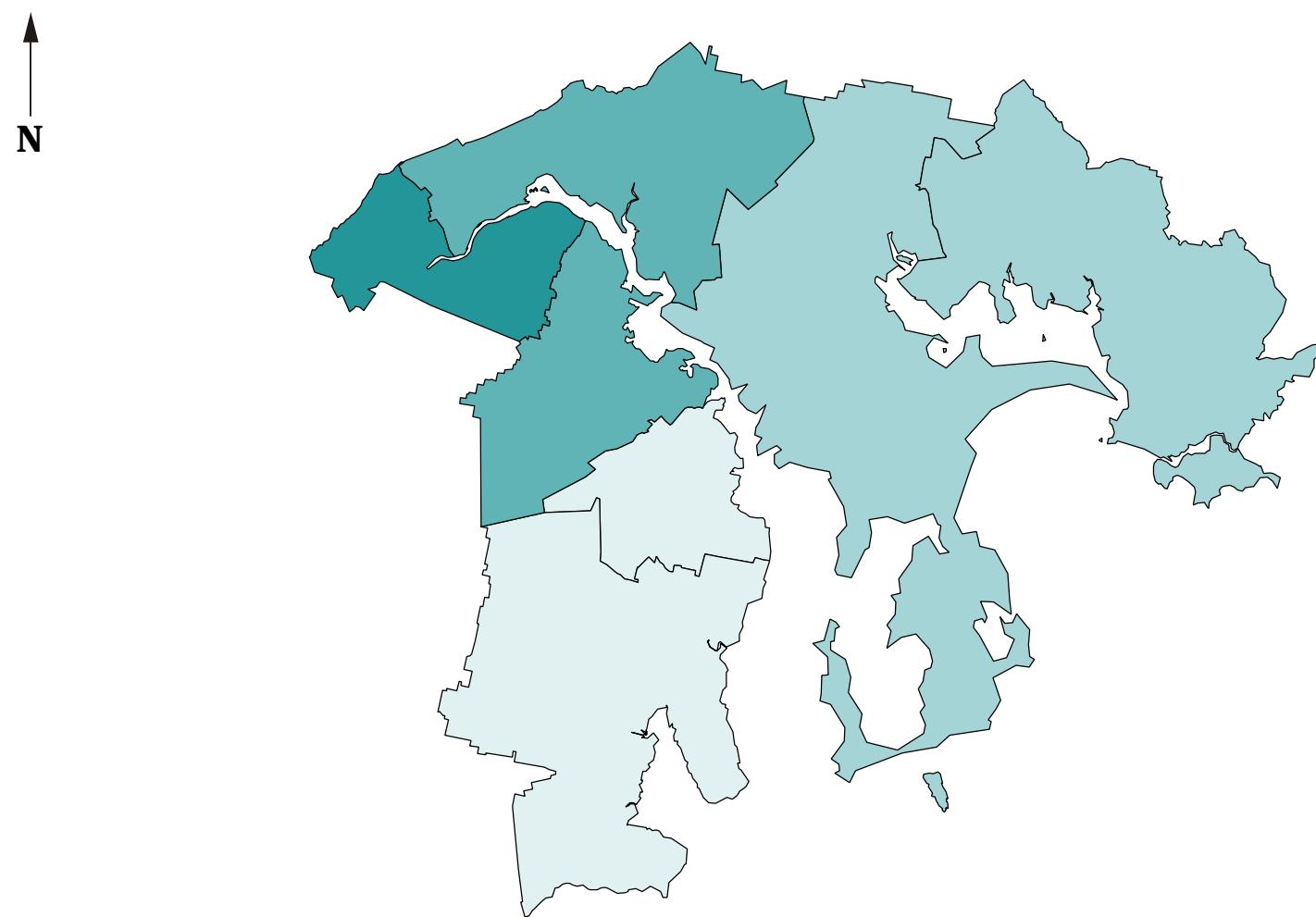
The largest numbers of disability support pensioners in 1996 were recorded in Glenorchy (2,017 people), Clarence (1,582 people) and Hobart (1,262 people).

The correlation analysis showed there to be a positive association at the SLA level with indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage. The strongest of these were with the variables for semi-skilled and unskilled workers (0.90), low income families (0.85) and early school leavers (0.84). There were inverse correlations of substantial significance with the variables for managers and administrators, and professionals (-0.87) and high income families (-0.81). These results, together with the inverse correlation of substantial significance with the IRSID (-0.78), indicate an association at the SLA level between high proportions of disability support pensioners and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Map 4.3

Disability support pensioners*, Hobart, 1996

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



Per cent disability support pensioners*

9.0% or more
7.0 to 8.9%
5.0 to 6.9%
3.0 to 4.9%
fewer than 3.0%

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

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Disability support pensioners, 30 June 1996

State/Territory comparison

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

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

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

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

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

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

⁴Data unreliable: included with ACT total

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Rest of State

In 1989, 6,230 people in the non-metropolitan areas of Tasmania were receiving a Disability Support Pension (3.7 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 increased substantially to 10,506 and the proportion increased to 6.2 per cent, giving the non-metropolitan areas of Tasmania the highest *Rest of State/Territory* proportion in Australia.

Five SLAs in non-metropolitan Tasmania had more than eight per cent of the eligible population in receipt of a Disability Support Pension. Along the eastern coast, Tasman (9.8 per cent) and Break O'Day (8.7 per cent) had the highest proportions. Further inland, high proportions were recorded in Derwent Valley [Part B] (8.7 per cent), Central Highlands (8.6 per cent) and Southern Midlands (8.4 per cent).

A total of seven SLAs were mapped in the second highest range with values ranging from 7.1 per cent in Glamorgan/Spring Bay to 7.7 per cent in Waratah/Wynyard [Part A]. Along the north coast, values in this range were recorded in Burnie [Part A] (7.6 per cent), Devonport (7.5 per cent) and George Town [Part A] (7.2 per cent). On the eastern coast, Sorell [Part B] also had a proportion of 7.5 per cent.

With the exception of West Coast, SLAs mapped in the range from six to seven per cent were all in the northern part of Tasmania. Central Coast [Part A] had the highest value in this range (6.8 per cent) and Latrobe [Part B] had the lowest value (6.1 per cent).

All SLAs mapped in the range from five to six per cent were also located in the north of Tasmania. Meander Valley [Part B] had 5.9 per cent of the eligible population in receipt of a Disability Support Pension and Dorest had 5.7 per cent. The lowest proportion in this group was recorded in West Tamar [Part A] (5.1 per cent).

The town of Launceston had 5.3 per cent of its eligible population receiving a Disability Support Pension in 1996.

The lowest proportions were located in the SLAs of King Island (2.7 per cent), West Tamar [Part B] (3.7 per cent) and Kingborough [Part B] (4.3 per cent).

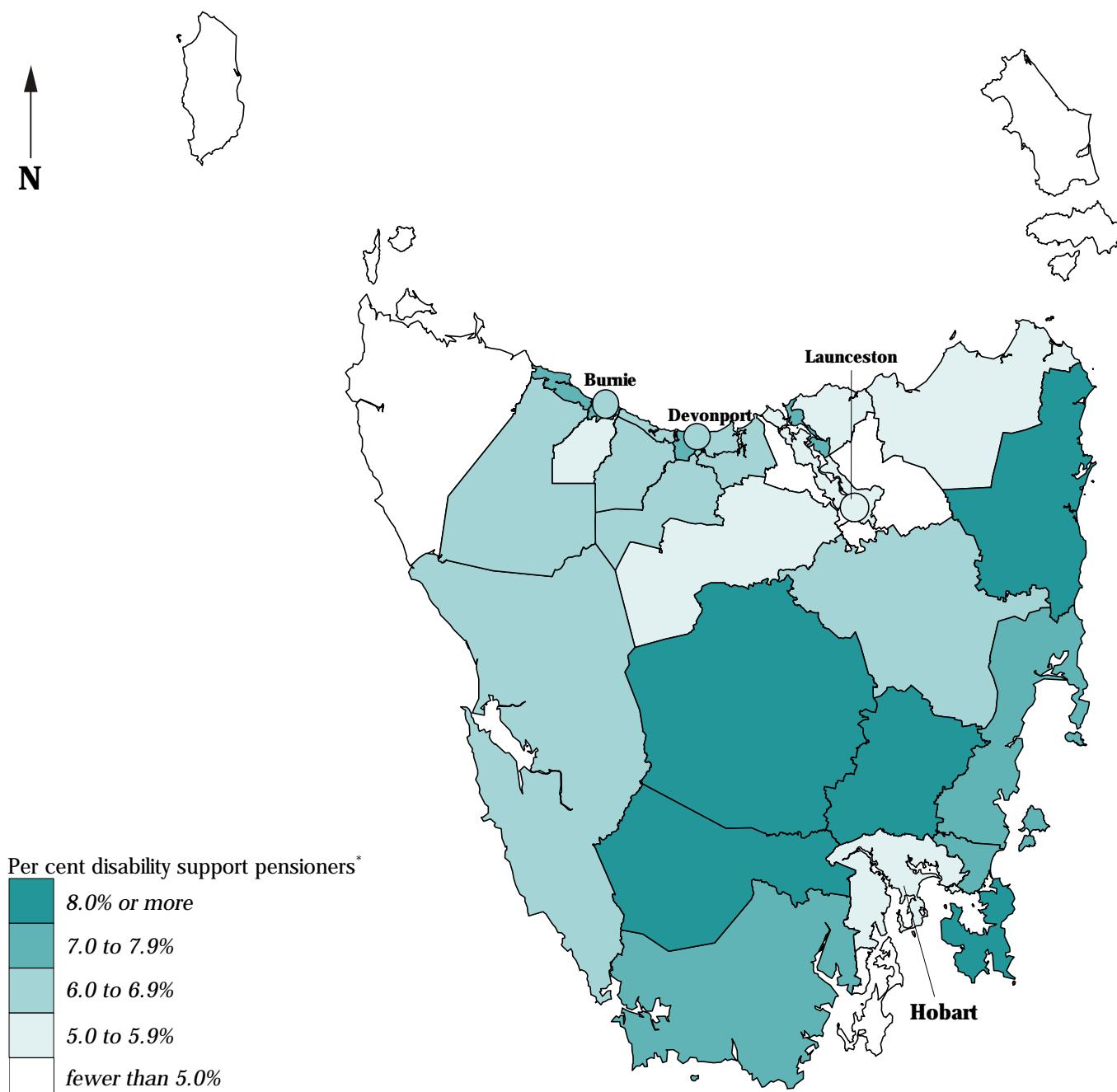
The town of Launceston had the largest number of people receiving a Disability Support Pension in 1996, a total of 2,005 people. The next highest numbers were recorded in Devonport (1,101 people), Burnie [Part A] (813 people) and Central Coast [Part A] (706 people).

There were correlations of meaningful significance with the variables for low income families and unemployed people (both 0.65), and an inverse correlation with the variable for female labour force participation (-0.53). These results, together with the inverse correlation of meaningful significance with the IRSID (-0.68), indicate 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*, Tasmania, 1996

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

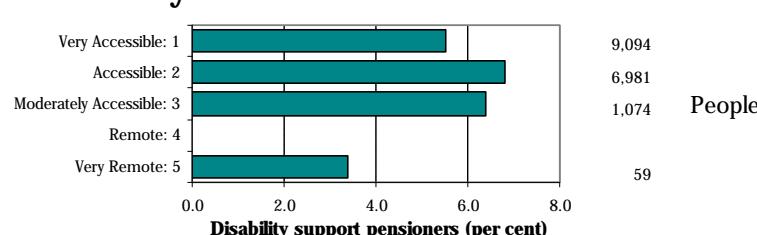


*Includes the Disability Support Pension paid by the Department of Family and Community Services and the Service Pension (Permanently Incapacitated) paid by the Department of Veterans' Affairs

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



The proportion of the eligible population receiving a Disability Support Pension is highest in the Accessible (6.8 per cent) and Moderately Accessible (6.4 per cent) ARIA categories. The Very Accessible areas had a middle level proportion of 5.5 per cent, with the lowest proportion in the Very Remote areas (3.4 per cent), where there were only 59 people receiving this pension.

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

Hobart

In 1989, there were 3,180 females in receipt of the Sole Parent Pension in **Hobart**, 6.2 per cent of the female population aged from 15 and 54 years. By 1996, the number had increased (by 25 per cent) to 3,975 and the proportion had increased to 7.2 per cent.

Map 4.5 shows that four SLAs in **Hobart** had more than 8.0 per cent of females aged from 15 to 54 years received a Sole Parent Pension. The highest proportion, 11.3 per cent, was recorded in Brighton, an SLA which also had the highest proportions for most of the low socioeconomic status indicators including low income families, unemployed people and public rental housing. Glenorchy (9.2 per cent), Sorell [Part A] (9.1 per cent) and Derwent Valley [Part A] (8.2 per cent) also had high proportions.

Clarence (7.6 per cent), on the eastern side of the Derwent River, also recorded a proportion above the average for **Hobart**.

The lowest proportions of females in receipt of the Sole Parent Pension were in the western SLAs of Hobart (4.4 per cent) and Kingborough [Part A] (5.6 per cent). Both these SLAs generally had the lowest proportions of indicators of low socioeconomic status and the highest proportions of indicators of high socioeconomic status such as high income families and managers and professionals, and administrators.

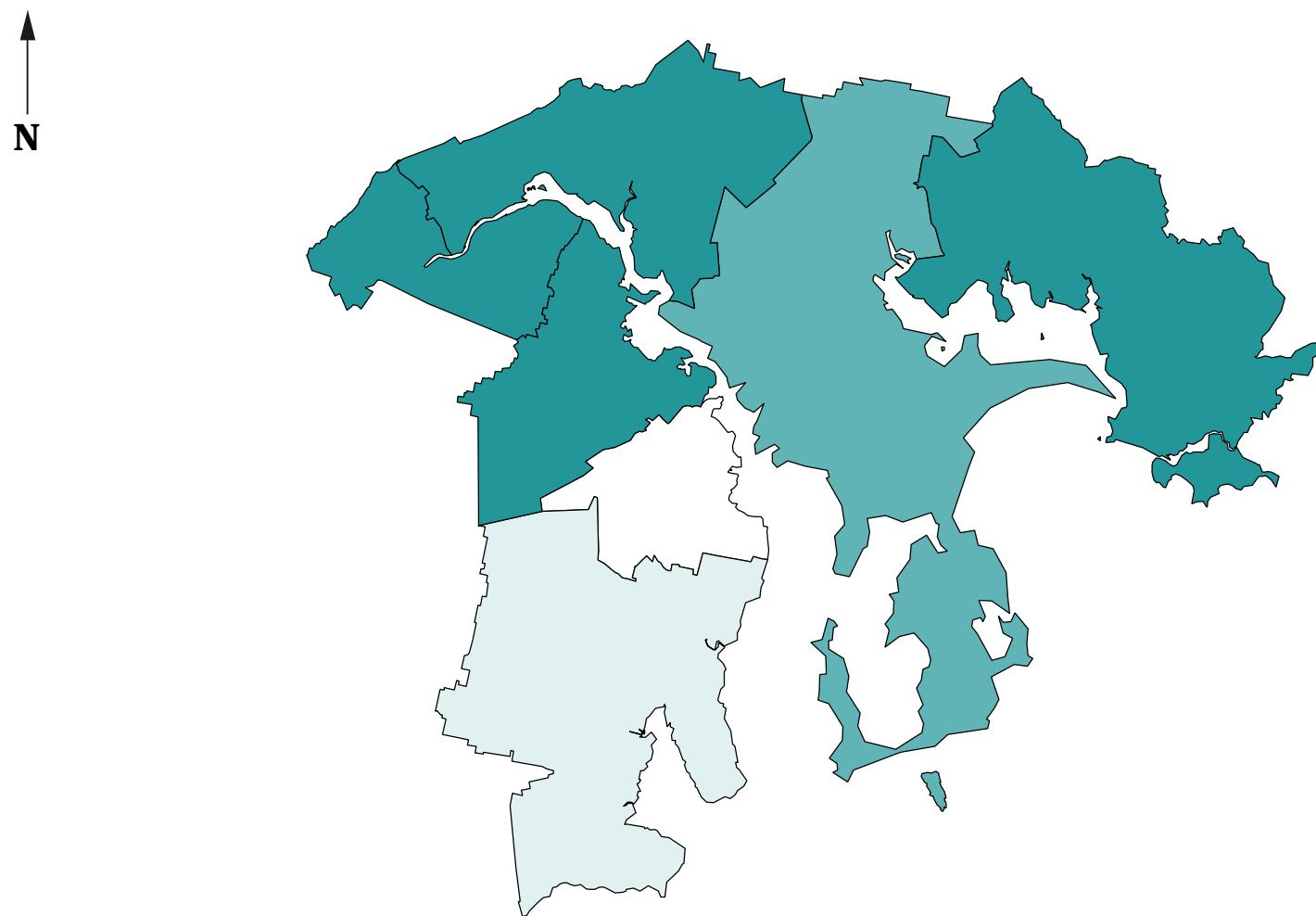
The largest numbers of 15 to 54 year old females in receipt of a Sole Parent Pension were in Glenorchy (1,116 females), Clarence (1,026 females) and Hobart (625 females).

There were correlations of substantial significance with the indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage, including the variables for early school leavers (0.96), low income families (0.93), children aged from 0 to 4 years (0.82), unemployed people (0.84) and the Indigenous population (0.83). Inverse correlations of substantial significance were recorded with the variables for managers and administrators, and professionals (-0.94), high income families (-0.95) and female labour force participation (-0.90). These results, together with the inverse correlation with the IRS (0.94), indicate an association at the SLA level between high proportions of female sole parent pensioners and socioeconomic disadvantage.

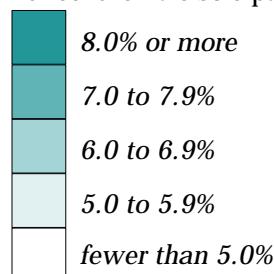
Map 4.5

Female sole parent pensioners, Hobart, 1996

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



Per cent female sole parent pensioners



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

In 1989, there were 4,211 females aged between 15 and 54 years in receipt of a Sole Parent Pension in the non-metropolitan areas of Tasmania, 5.6 per cent of all females in this age group. By 1996, both the number and proportion had increased, to 5,418 and 7.2 per cent, respectively.

The highest proportions of female sole parent pensioners were in the SLAs of Central Highlands (11.2 per cent) and Southern Midlands (10.0 per cent) in the central region of Tasmania. The northern coastal towns of George Town [Part A] (9.3 per cent), Burnie [Part A] (8.9 per cent) and Devonport (8.7 per cent) also had proportions in the highest range mapped as did Huon Valley (8.0 per cent) in the south.

Break O'Day and Launceston (both with 7.8 per cent), Derwent Valley [Part B] (7.7 per cent), Central Coast [Part B] (7.4 per cent) and Central Coast [Part A] (7.2 per cent) all had between seven and eight per cent for this variable.

The middle range mapped comprised the largest number of SLAs (10) for this variable. A contiguous band of SLAs stretched from Glamorgan/Spring Bay (6.9 per cent) on the east coast, through Northern Midlands [Part B] (6.0 per cent) and Meander Valley [Part B] (6.8 per cent) to West Coast (6.5 per cent). Immediately west of the River Tamar, Meander Valley [Part A] and West Tamar [Part A] recorded 6.6 and 6.2 per cent respectively.

On the north-west coast, Waratah/Wynyard [Part A] and Latrobe [Part A] had percentages of 6.2 and 6.5 per cent respectively.

With the exception of Kingborough [Part B] (4.7 per cent) and Sorell [Part B] (with the lowest proportion of 3.3 per cent, representing just 8 females), all SLAs with values in the lowest two ranges (less than 6.0 per cent) were located in northern Tasmania. These were King Island (3.9 per cent) and West Tamar [Part B], Launceston [Part C] and George Town [Part B] (all 4.1 per cent). Along with low proportions, SLAs in this group had low numbers of female sole parent pensioners. Circular Head (4.8 per cent) and Northern Midlands [Part A] (5.8 per cent) were the only SLAs in this group with more than 100 females in receipt of the Sole Parent Pension, both with 108 females.

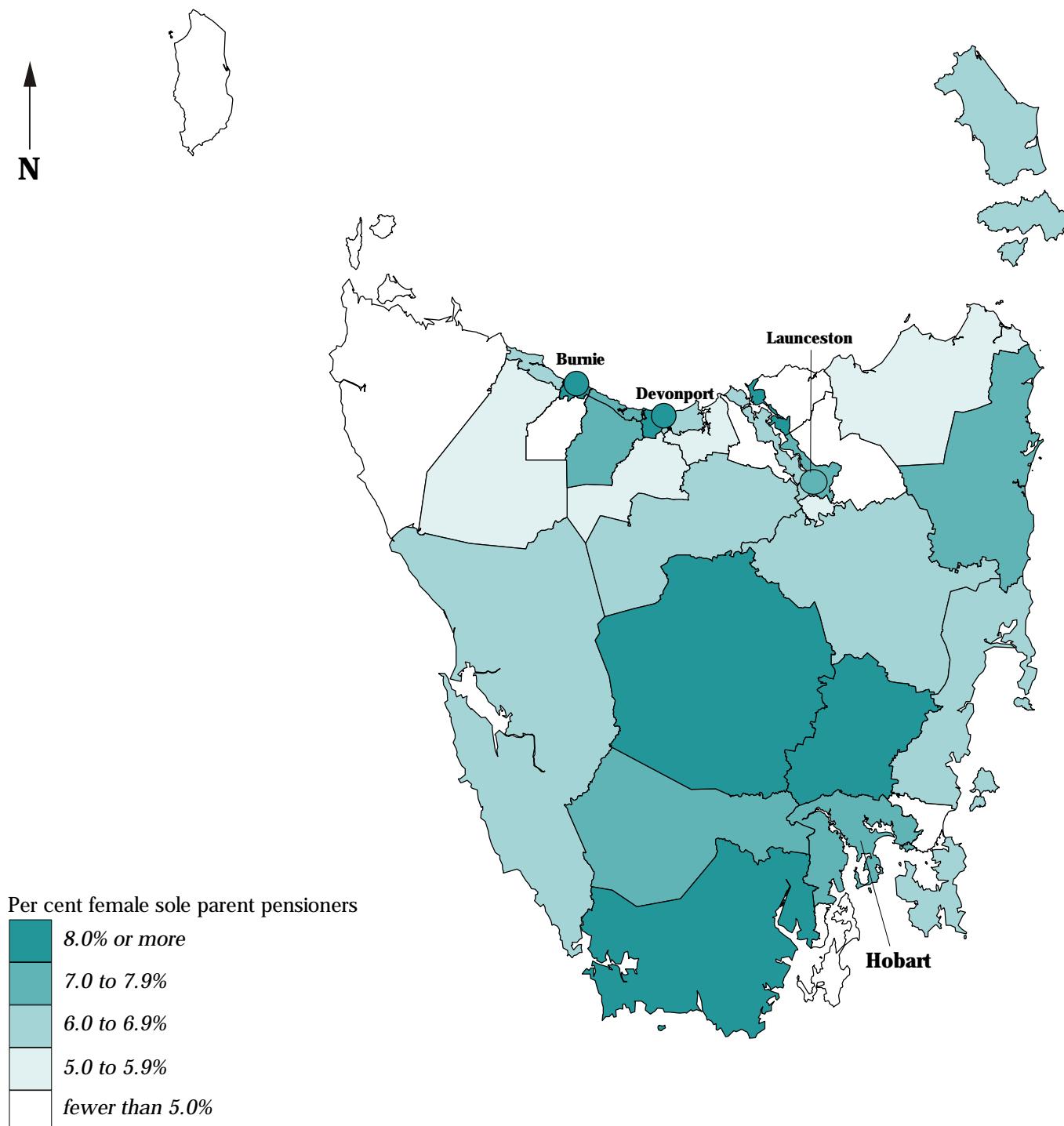
The largest numbers of female sole parent pensioners were in Launceston (1,364 females), Devonport (582 females), Burnie [Part A] (434 females) and Central Coast [Part A] (343 females).

The correlation analysis showed there to be a weak association at the SLA level with indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage. The strongest of these was a correlation with the variable for public rental housing (0.46) and dwellings without a motor vehicle (0.45). The inverse correlation with the IRSD (-0.48) also indicates a positive association at the SLA level between high proportions of female sole parent pensioners and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Map 4.6

Female sole parent pensioners, Tasmania, 1996

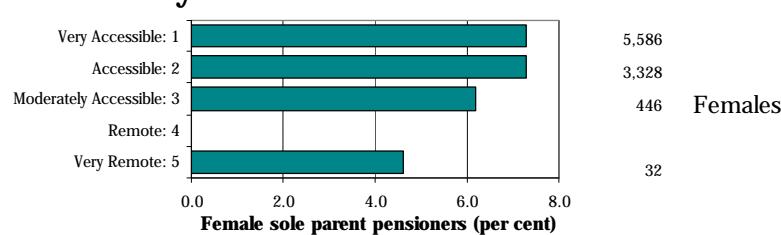
as a percentage of all females aged 15 to 54 years in each Statistical Local Area



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 Very Accessible and Accessible areas (both 7.3 per cent), with a middle level proportion in the Moderately Accessible areas (6.2 per cent) and the lowest proportion in the Very Remote areas (4.6 per cent). Over half (59.5 per cent) of this pensioner group live in the Very Accessible areas and over one third (35.4 per cent) live in the Accessible areas.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC

National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

People receiving an unemployment benefit, 30 June 1996

Capital city comparison

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

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

Hobart

In 1989, there were 6,127 people in **Hobart** receiving an unemployment benefit, 5.3 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 increased (by 61.1 per cent) to 9,871 people and the proportion to 8.2 per cent, the highest of all Australian capital cities. There were no people taking part in CDEP schemes in **Hobart** in 1998.

While rates for the various indicators of socioeconomic status in most SLAs in **Hobart** may have varied, Brighton, in the north of the city, has consistently recorded the highest proportions for indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage. This variable conforms to that pattern, with Brighton having 12.5 per cent of its eligible population receiving an unemployment benefit.

The second highest proportion, 10.0 per cent, was recorded in Derwent Valley [Part A], an SLA with high proportions of low income families, semi-skilled and unskilled workers and early school leavers.

Three SLAs were mapped in the middle range. Glenorchy and Hobart, on the western side of the Derwent River, recorded 9.4 and 8.4 per cent respectively and Sorell [Part A], on the eastern side, recorded 8.3 per cent.

The lowest proportion, 5.4 per cent, was recorded in Kingborough [Part A], which had high rates for the indicators of high socioeconomic status such as high income families and the IRSD. Clarence, along the eastern side of the Derwent River, also recorded a proportion (7.0 per cent) below the average for Hobart.

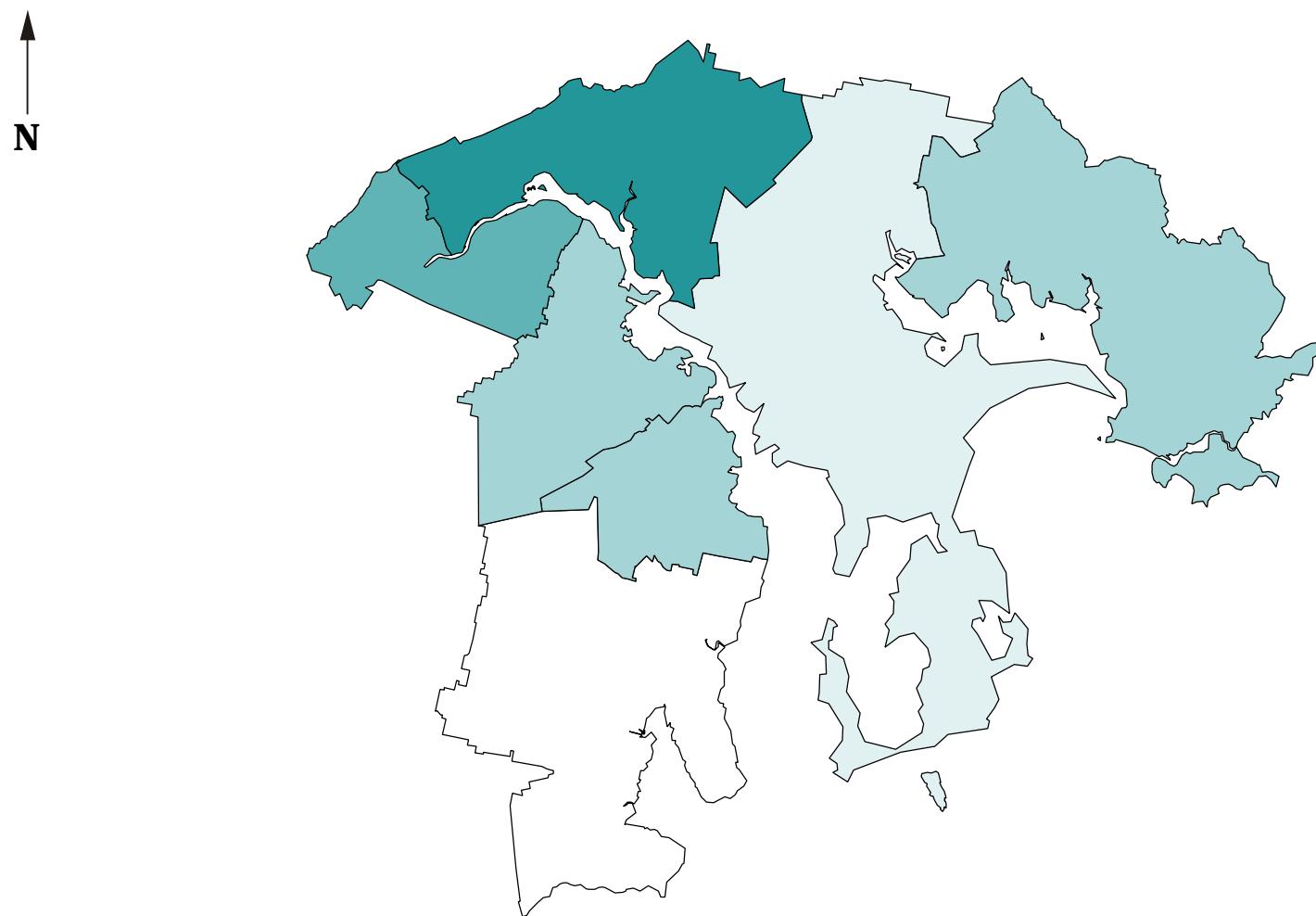
The largest numbers of people receiving an unemployment benefit were recorded in Hobart (2,631 people), Glenorchy (2,500 people) and Clarence (2,077 people) and, together, these SLAs comprised almost three quarters of all people in this category in **Hobart**. Smaller numbers were recorded in Brighton (966 people), Kingborough [Part A] (819 people), Sorell [Part A] (472 people) and Derwent Valley [Part A] (406 people).

There were correlations of substantial significance with indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage including the variables for unemployed people (0.92), low income families (0.88), single parent families (0.87), public rental housing (0.81) and the Indigenous population (0.73). There were inverse correlations with the variables for female labour force participation (-0.86), managers and administrators, and professionals (-0.65) and high income families (-0.66). These results, together with the inverse correlation with the IRSD (-0.89), indicate an association at the SLA level between high proportions of female sole parent pensioners and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Map 4.7

Unemployment beneficiaries*, Hobart, 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*

12.0% or more
10.0 to 11.9%
8.0 to 9.9%
6.0 to 7.9%
fewer than 6.0%

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

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

People receiving an unemployment benefit, 30 June 1996

State/Territory comparison

In 1996, the proportions of people in receipt of an unemployment benefit (see previous text page for details of programs included) in the *Rest of State/Territory* areas were higher than those recorded in the capital cities. The difference was most notable in the Northern Territory, where the proportion recorded in **Darwin** (7.5 per cent) was considerably lower than that recorded in the non-metropolitan area (17.2 per cent). Excluding the Northern Territory, the non-metropolitan proportions varied little from the *Whole of State/Territory* total, ranging from 7.8 per cent in Victoria to 9.2 per cent in Tasmania. The 24,316 residents of the non-metropolitan areas of Australia in Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) schemes in 1998 (see page 79 for details of the CDEP) have also been included.

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

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

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

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

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

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

⁴Data unreliable: included with ACT total

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Rest of State

In 1989, 9,265 people in non-metropolitan Tasmania were receiving an unemployment benefit, 5.5 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 increased (by 67.1 per cent) to 15,483 people and the proportion had increased to 9.2 per cent, the second highest *Rest of State/Territory* proportion in Australia. There were no residents of the non-metropolitan areas of Tasmania recorded as taking part in CDEP schemes in 1998.

Of the three SLAs where more than 12.0 per cent of the population of the relevant age was in receipt of an unemployment benefit, Break O'Day, along the north-eastern coast, recorded the highest proportion (14.8 per cent). The other two SLAs were George Town [Part A], in the north (12.8 per cent) and Southern Midlands (12.7 per cent).

Proportions of between 10 and 12 per cent were recorded in Devonport (11.3 per cent), Kentish (10.4 per cent), Burnie [Part A] (10.2 per cent) and Latrobe [Part A] (10.1 per cent) in the north of Tasmania. Other SLAs mapped in this range were Central Highlands and Tasman (both 11.0 per cent), Huon Valley (10.9 per cent) and Glamorgan/Spring Bay (10.2 per cent).

Twelve SLAs had proportions in the middle range mapped with Meander Valley [Part B] (9.7 per cent), Central Coast [Part A] (9.6 per cent), Burnie [Part B] (9.5 per cent) and Central Coast [Part B] (9.3 per cent) recording proportions above the Tasmanian *Rest of State* average of 9.2 per cent.

Proportions between 6.0 and less than 8.0 per cent were recorded in nine SLAs including Meander Valley [Part A] (7.7 per cent) and Launceston [Part C] (7.3 per cent) in the north, Sorell [Part B] (7.5 per cent) and Kingborough [Part B] (6.4 per cent) in the south east and West Coast (6.8 per cent) and Circular Head (6.5 per cent) in the west of Tasmania.

King Island, off the north-west coast of Tasmania, had the lowest proportion of people receiving an unemployment benefit, with 3.1 per cent (but representing just 35 people). Dorset, in the north-east, the only other SLA with a value in the lowest range mapped, had 5.9 per cent.

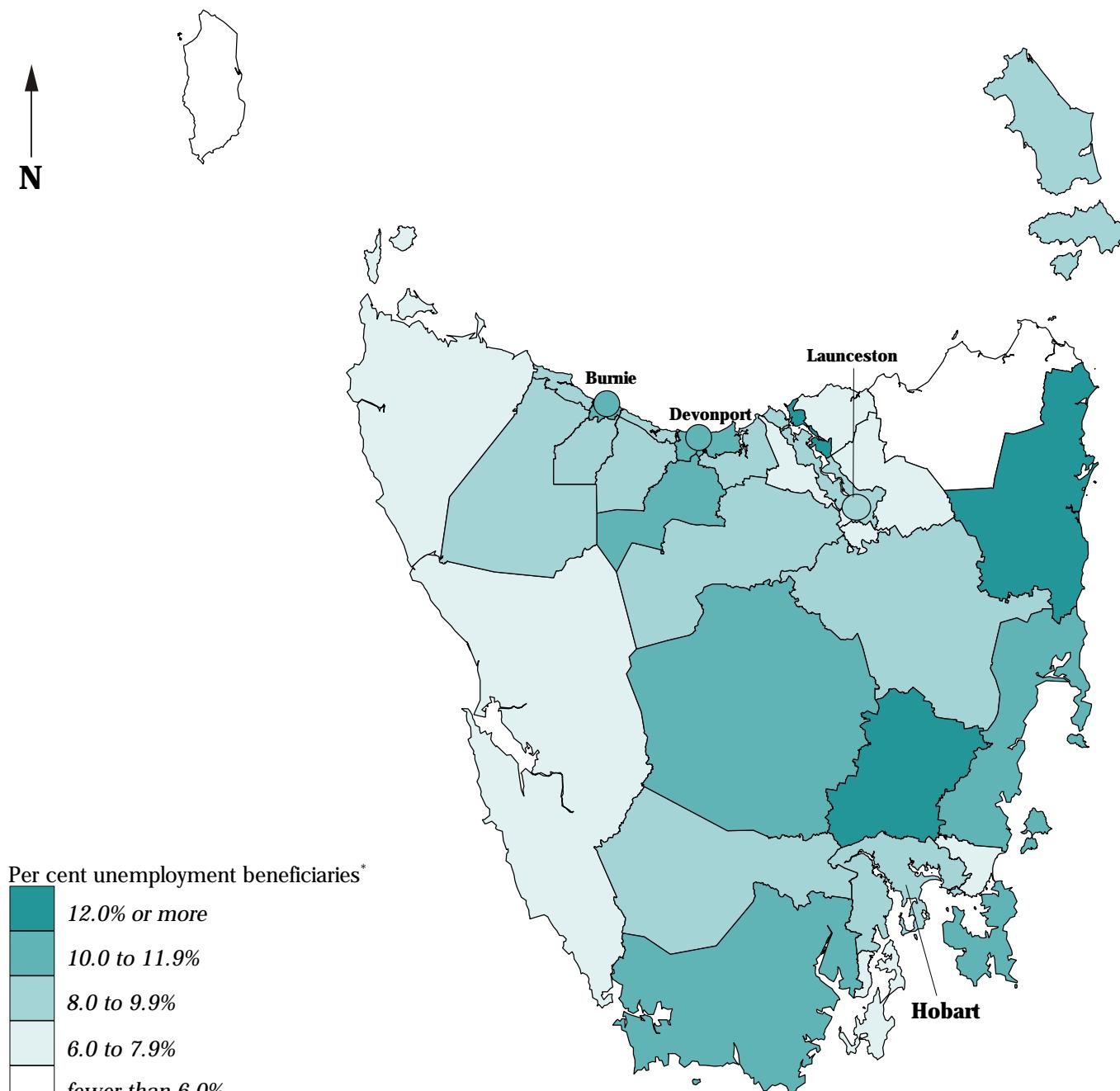
Launceston had the largest number of people in receipt of an unemployment benefit in the SLAs outside of **Hobart**, 3,153 people. Devonport (1,666 people), Burnie [Part A] (1,100 people) and Central Coast [Part A] (1,001 people) were the only other SLAs to record more than 1,000 people in receipt of unemployment benefits.

The correlation analysis showed there to be a weak association at the SLA level with indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage. The strongest of these was with the variable for unemployed people (0.67). The inverse correlation with the IRS (−0.56) also indicates a positive association with socioeconomic disadvantage.

Map 4.8

Unemployment beneficiaries*, Tasmania, 1996

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

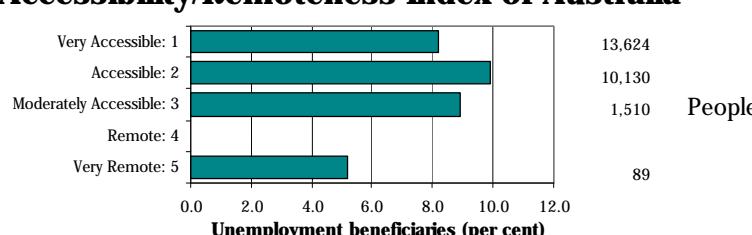


*Includes people in receipt of Newstart Allowance, the Youth Training Allowance and those covered by the Community Development Employment Program

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



The graph of unemployment beneficiaries by ARIA categories shows the highest rate of unemployment beneficiaries to be in the Accessible areas (9.9 per cent), with lower rates of 8.9 per cent and 8.2 per cent in the Moderately Accessible and Very Accessible areas, respectively. The lowest proportion is in the Very Remote areas (5.2 per cent). 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

Hobart

Between 1989 and 1996, the proportion of children aged from 0 to 15 years and living in families receiving an income support payment in **Hobart** increased from 34.7 per cent to 45.5 per cent. Correspondingly, the numbers of children increased from 14,132 to 20,336 children.

Brighton had the highest proportion, 60.2 per cent, of children for this variable. This reflected Brighton's position as the most socioeconomically disadvantaged of **Hobart's** SLAs. As noted above, Brighton had the highest proportions of most indicators of low socioeconomic status including public rental housing, low income families and early school leavers, as well as having the largest proportions of females receiving a sole parent pension and people receiving an unemployment benefit.

Derwent Valley [Part A] (57.4 per cent), Glenorchy (55.5 per cent) and Sorell [Part A] (55.0 per cent) had proportions in the second highest range mapped. These SLAs also tended to record higher values for indicators of low socioeconomic status.

The remaining three SLAs had proportions in the lowest range mapped. Clarence, on the eastern side of the Derwent River, had 44.5 per cent of children aged under 16 years living in families that received income support payments. On the western side of the Derwent River, Kingborough [Part A] (36.2 per cent) and Hobart (with 30.2 per cent, almost half of the percentage in Brighton) had the next lowest rates. Hobart and Kingborough recorded the highest IRS scores, as well the highest proportions of high income families and people in high status professions.

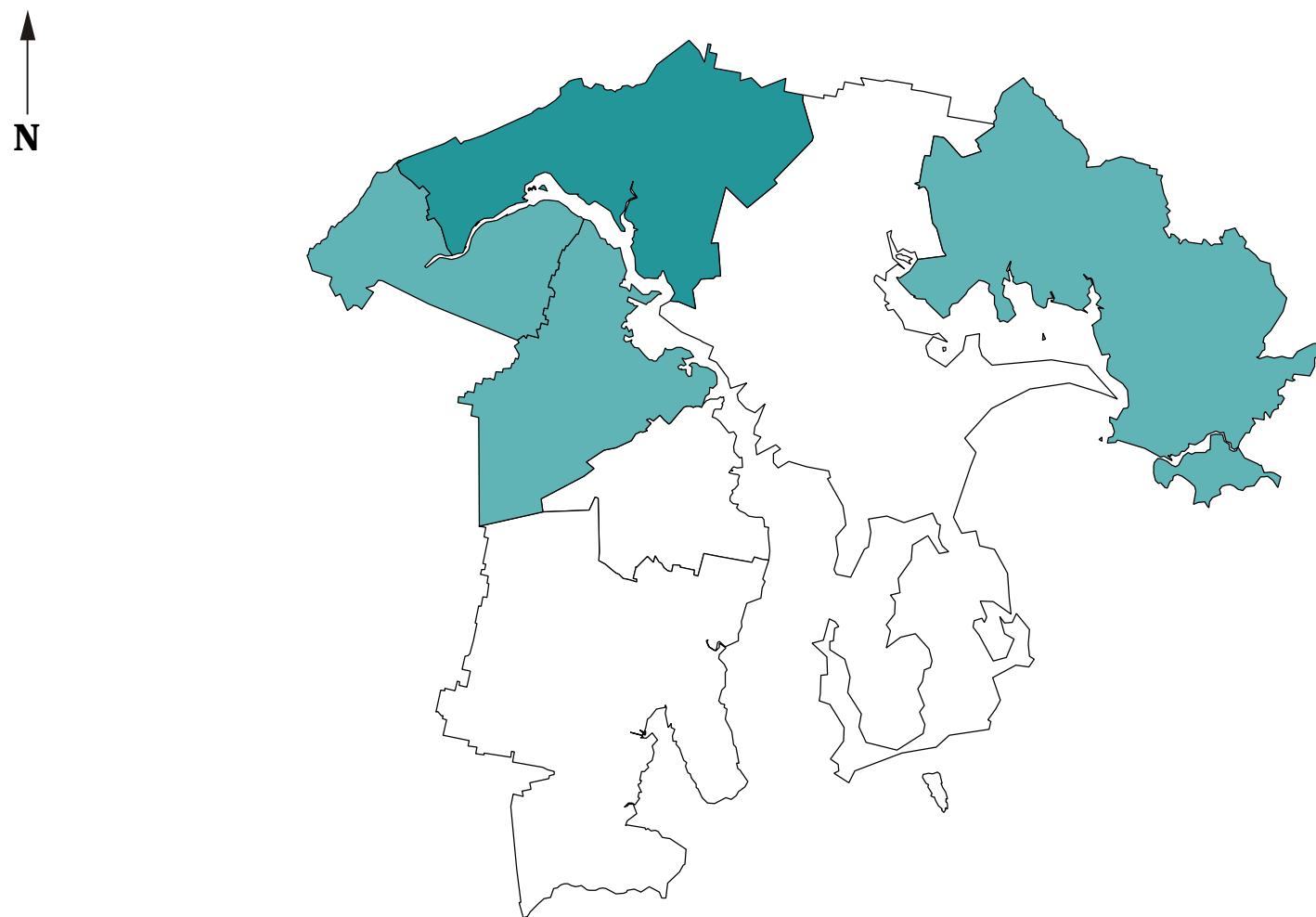
The largest numbers of dependent children were in Glenorchy (5,373 children), Clarence (5,109 children) and Brighton (2,543 children). The smallest number was in Derwent Valley [Part A] (935 children).

There were correlations of substantial significance with indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage, including the variables for early school leavers (0.99), low income families (0.95), semi-skilled and unskilled workers (0.95) and unemployed people (0.73). There were inverse correlations of substantial significance with the variables for managers and administrators, and professionals (-0.99), high income families (-0.98) and female labour force participation (-0.85). These results, together with the inverse correlation of substantial significance with the IRS (-0.91), indicate the existence of an association at the SLA level between high proportions of dependent children living in families receiving an income support payment and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Map 4.9

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

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



Per cent dependent children*

60.0% or more
55.0 to 59.9%
50.0 to 54.9%
45.0 to 49.9%
fewer than 45.0%

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

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Dependent children of selected pensioners and beneficiaries, 30 June 1996

State/Territory comparison

In 1996, 51.4 per cent of the population aged under 16 years and living outside of the major urban centres were living in families in receipt of an income support payment from the Department of Family and Community Services (see page 79 for further details). Proportions varied little across the non-metropolitan areas, with the highest recorded in New South Wales (54.1 per cent) and Tasmania (53.2 per cent) and the lowest in Western Australia (43.7 per cent) and Victoria (49.1 per cent).

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

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

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

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

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

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

⁴Data unreliable: included with ACT total

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Rest of State

In 1989, there were 24,505 children in families receiving an income support payment in non-metropolitan Tasmania, 38.3 per cent of all children aged from 0 to 15 years. By 1996, the number had increased (by 45.0 per cent) to 35,532, and the proportion had increased to 53.2 per cent.

Map 4.10 shows that most SLAs with values in the highest range formed a large cluster in the mid to eastern region of Tasmania. Southern Midlands (82.0 per cent) and Central Highlands (71.3 per cent) recorded the highest proportions. Also in the group were Break O'Day (64.4 per cent), Meander Valley [Part B] (64.2 per cent), Northern Midlands [Part B] (62.7 per cent) and Glamorgan/Spring Bay (60.1 per cent). The islands of Flinders off the north coast (67.7 per cent) and Huon Valley in the south of Tasmania (65.4 per cent) also had values in the highest range.

The three SLAs with proportions in the second highest range mapped, Kentish (57.5 per cent), Devonport (56.4 per cent) and Burnie [Part A] (55.4 per cent), were all located in the northern coastal region.

The northern part of Tasmania was also the location for all but one SLA with proportions in the middle range, including Circular Head (50.8 per cent) and Waratah Wynyard [Part A] (50.5 per cent) in the west; Dorset (53.1 per cent) in the east; and Launceston (52.1 per cent). In the south, Tasman had 51.7 per cent of children under 16 years of age living in families in receipt of an income support payment.

SLAs mapped in the lowest range, below 45.0 per cent, were scattered across Tasmania. The lowest percentages of dependent children were in West Coast (33.5 per cent), George Town [Part B] (34.6 per cent), Kingborough [Part B] (36.5 per cent) and King Island (40.9 per cent).

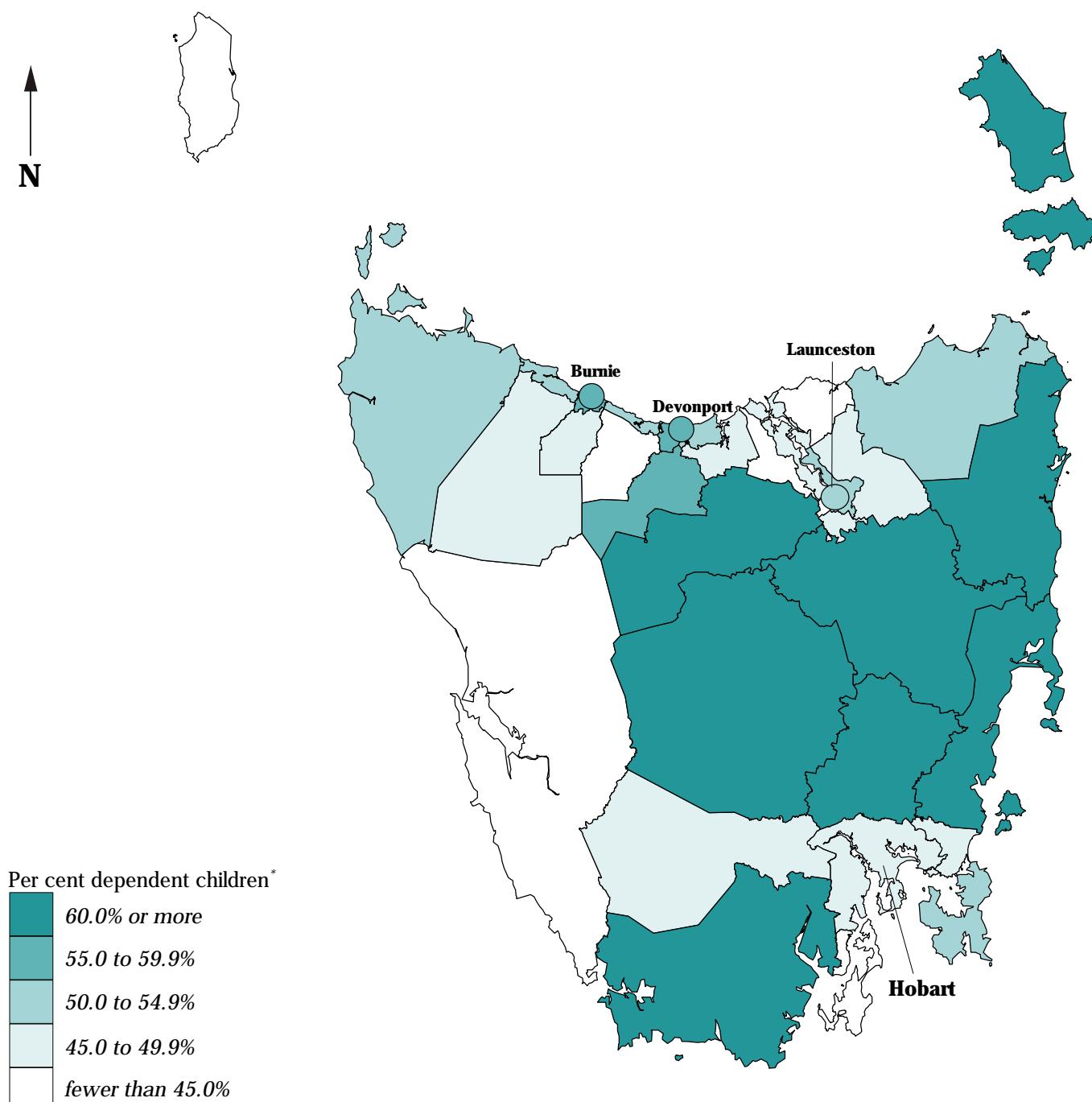
Launceston had the largest number of children living in families receiving an income support payment (6,686 children). More than 2,000 children in this category were living in Devonport (3,225 children), Burnie [Part A] (2,376 children), Huon Valley (2,344 children), Central Coast [Part A] (2,222 children) and West Tamar [Part A] (2,062 children).

Overall, correlations were weak for this variable at the SLA level. The strongest correlation was with the variable for high income families (an inverse correlation of -0.54). The weak inverse correlation with the IRS (−0.39) suggests the existence of an association at the SLA level between high proportions of children under 16 years of age living in families in receipt of an income support payment and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Map 4.10

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

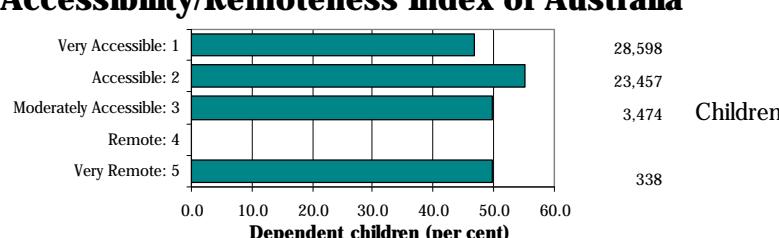
as a percentage of all children aged from 0 to 15 years in each Statistical Local Area



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 55.0 per cent in the Accessible category to 46.8 per cent in the Very Accessible category. Areas in the Moderately Accessible and Very Remote categories had similar proportions of 49.7 per cent and 49.6 per cent, respectively.

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

This page intentionally left blank