



Carer Payment

2022 Priority Investment Approach Factsheet

Overview

This factsheet provides insights on the 304,000 peopleⁱ receiving Carer Payment at 30 June 2022. These figures come from the 2022 Priority Investment Approach actuarial model. For more information, please refer to the [2022 Valuation Report](#).

Highlights

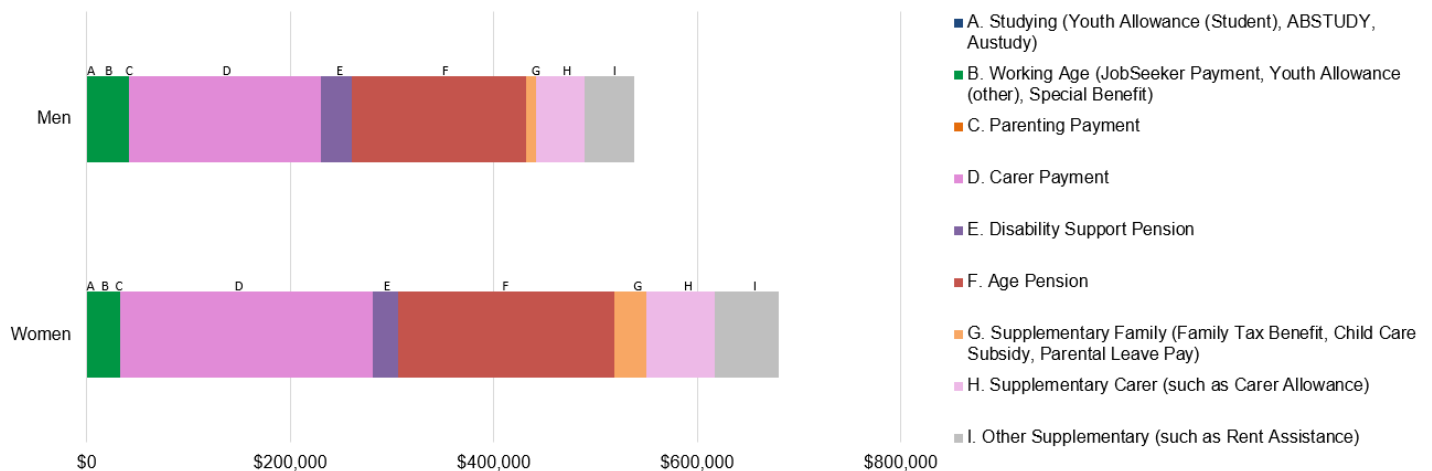
- Of those who **started** receiving Carer Payment in 2021-22 (38,500 people), 47.7% were not previously receiving any form of income support, 33.5% were receiving JobSeeker Payment and 13.7% were receiving Parenting Payment at 30 June 2021.
- Of those who **stopped** receiving Carer Payment in 2021-22 (35,700 people), 49.4% were not receiving any income support, 23.1% were receiving JobSeeker Payment and 16.7% were receiving Age Pension at 30 June 2022.
- The projected **average Lifetime Cost*** for people on Carer Payment at 30 June 2022 is \$592,000. The **total future Lifetime Cost** is \$180 billion (3.2% of the total cost for all Australians).

* **Lifetime Cost** is the net present value of all **future** in-scope social security payments.

The Carer Payment 45-54 year old cohort

The following insights focus on future **Lifetime Cost** for people on Carer Payment aged 45-54:

Figure 1: Average Lifetime Cost for people aged 45-54 receiving Carer Payment



- The average age of people receiving Carer Payment at 30 June 2022 was 52 years.

- **Lifetime Cost** varies depending on gender. For men, the projected **Lifetime Cost** is \$538,000, whereas for women the projections are 26% higher at \$680,000.
- Around one third of the projected **Lifetime Cost** is for Carer Payment and another third for Age Pension.

Table 1: Projected Lifetime Cost and percentage of time on income support before retirement for people aged 45-54 receiving Carer Payment

Outcome Drivers	Number of people as % of cohort	Average lifetime cost	Average % of time on income support before retirement
Total	100.0%	\$641,000	83.9%
Carer relationship to person receiving care			
- Child	25.1%	\$562,000	77.1%
- Other relation	9.0%	\$602,000	81.1%
- Parent	34.2%	\$726,000	86.5%
- Partner	25.9%	\$628,000	88.3%
- Unrelated	5.8%	\$598,000	83.2%
Medical condition of person receiving care			
- Acquired Brain Impairment	1.4%	\$613,000	83.9%
- Cancer / Tumour	4.0%	\$516,000	68.6%
- Congenital Anomalies / Inherited Disorders	1.9%	\$695,000	84.7%
- Intellectual Learning	9.7%	\$716,000	88.7%
- Musculoskeletal	19.1%	\$616,000	84.6%
- Nervous System	8.7%	\$591,000	80.1%
- Other	9.3%	\$611,000	82.5%
- Poorly Defined Cause	0.9%	\$634,000	87.2%
- Psychological / Psychiatric	32.8%	\$689,000	86.1%
- Respiratory System	12.3%	\$589,000	81.6%
Socio-economic area grouping			
- Lowest 20%	40.5%	\$653,000	86.6%
- 20% to 40%	24.2%	\$645,000	84.6%
- 40% to 60%	17.6%	\$635,000	82.1%
- 60% to 80%	12.1%	\$627,000	79.8%
- Highest 20%	5.6%	\$591,000	76.0%

*Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding. [Table 1 accessible version.](#)

- People aged 45-54 who are the parent of the person receiving care (\$726,000), and/or care for a person with an intellectual/learning disorder (\$716,000), have the highest projected **Lifetime Cost**.
- People aged 45-54 receiving Carer Payment and living in the lowest 20% of socio-economic areas have a projected **Lifetime Cost** 10% greater (\$62,000) than those from the highest 20% of socioeconomic areas. People living in the lowest socio-economic areas will spend a greater percentage of time on income support (86.6%) before they reach retirement compared to those from the highest socio-economic areas (76.0%).

ⁱ Note: These figures are from the Priority Investment Approach 2022 actuarial model. They will not match official or published recipient data due to different data extraction rules and timing. For official figures please refer to the [DSS Benefit and Payment Recipients Demographics reports](#) or [DSS Income Support Recipients – Monthly Time Series](#) published on [data.gov.au](#).