



Part 3 – Outcome Compendium

Incoming Government Brief July 2016

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Outcome Compendium

Outcome 1

Social Security

Programs at a Glance

Financial support for individuals and families who are unable to fully support themselves by providing a sustainable payments and concessions system.

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Program 1.1: Family Tax Benefit

Objective

To make payments to assist low and medium income families with the costs of raising dependent children and young people until they complete the final year of secondary education. This supports better family functioning by improving the financial wellbeing of low and medium income families with children and dependent young people, enabling them to exercise choices to balance labour force participation and child care responsibilities.

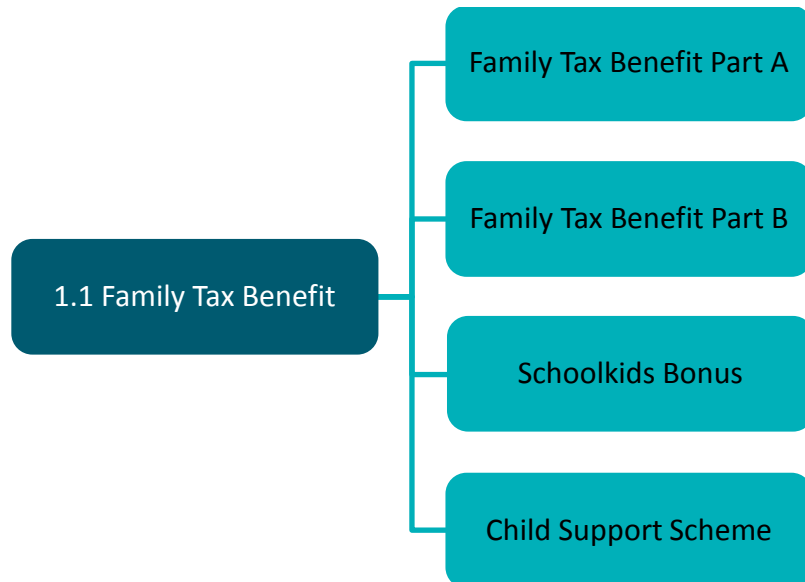
Description

Family Tax Benefit Part A is a per child payment to assist families with the direct costs of raising children and dependent young people. Family Tax Benefit Part B is a per family payment that provides additional assistance to single parent families and couple families where the second earner income is low.

The Schoolkids Bonus provides additional assistance for families and students to pay for primary and secondary education expenses.

The Child Support Scheme ensures that children from separated families continue to receive financial support from their parents. Under the Scheme, administrative assessments of child support are based on each parent's capacity to pay. Child support is collected and transferred between parents by the Department of Human Services (DHS) where the receiving parent does not choose to collect their child support payments privately.

Components



Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	20,890.607	19,335.301	18,469.546	18,449.233	18,666.948

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 32)

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

N/A

Group and Branch

Payments Policy Group

Family Payments and Child Support Policy Branch

Component: Family Tax Benefit Part A

Objective

To make payments to assist low and medium income families with the direct costs of raising dependent children and dependent young people until they complete the final year of secondary education. This supports better family functioning by improving the financial wellbeing of low and medium income families with children and dependent young people, and encourages all families to fully immunise their children.

Description

Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A is a per child payment, linked to the age of the child, which is set at a level sufficient to meet the direct costs of raising children in families wholly dependent on government assistance.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	14,338.511	15,004.916	14,504.770	14,591.513	14,775.498

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 32)

Eligibility

To meet the basic conditions of eligibility for FTB Part A, an individual must:

- have a dependent child aged under 16; or
- have a dependent child who is aged 16 to 18 (or turning 19 in the relevant calendar year), who is undertaking full-time education or training leading to a Year 12 or equivalent qualification; or
- have care for 35 per cent of the time or more; and
- have income under a certain amount (amount varies depending on the number and age of children); and
- meet Australian residency requirements for family assistance purposes.

A child or young person cannot be a dependant if they are receiving a pension or benefit (such as Youth Allowance), a labour market program payment or a prescribed education scheme payment such as ABSTUDY living allowance.

FTB can be paid either as fortnightly instalments (based on an estimate of adjusted taxable income for the current financial year), or as a lump sum after the end of the financial year (based on actual adjusted taxable income for that financial year). The amount paid as fortnightly instalments based on estimated income is reconciled after the end of the financial year when actual income becomes known, either through the lodgement of tax returns, or a recipient confirming their own or their partner's adjusted taxable income if they are not required to lodge a tax return. This may result in a top-up payment or a debt. Families who wish to avoid the risk of a debt may choose to defer some or all of their fortnightly entitlement until their actual income for the financial year becomes known.

Rates/statistics

As at March 2016, around 1.5 million families were receiving a fortnightly instalment of FTB Part A.

FTB Part A rates for 2016-17

For each child	Max rate per fortnight	Max rate per year	Base rate per fortnight	Base rate per year
Aged under 13 years	\$182.84	\$5,493.25	\$58.66	\$2,255.70
Aged 13–15 years	\$237.86	\$6,927.70	\$58.66	\$2,255.70
Aged 16–19 years, secondary student, or exempt from requirement	\$237.86	\$6,297.70	\$58.66	\$2,255.70
In an approved care organisation aged 0–19 years	\$58.66	\$1,529.35	\$58.66	\$1,529.35

Note: Payment per year figures include the FTB Part A supplement of \$726.35 per child which is not available on a fortnightly basis. Approved care organisations are not eligible for the supplement.

The FTB Part A Supplement of up to \$726.35 for each child may be paid to a recipient when their payments have been balanced after the end of the financial year. It is only available to a recipient at the end of the financial year after the recipient and/or their partner have lodged tax returns, if applicable, or after they inform Centrelink they are not required to lodge a tax return. Eligibility for the supplement is also conditional on the FTB child meeting the immunisation requirements. Since 1 January 2016, to meet immunisation requirements, the child must be up-to-date with vaccinations or have an approved immunisation exemption. For families receiving income support payments, the availability of the supplement is also conditional on satisfying a health check requirement where a child turns four years during the financial year.

In order to receive more than the base rate for an FTB child, individuals must take reasonable action to obtain maintenance for the child if they are entitled to apply for maintenance. To take reasonable action the individual must apply for an assessment under the Child Support Scheme unless circumstances exist in which an exemption may be granted (such as a fear of violence if action were taken).

Multiple Birth Allowance: \$3,985.80 per annum is paid for triplets and \$5,307.10 per annum is paid for quadruplets or more.

Energy Supplement Part A is a component of the rate of FTB Part A. The Energy Supplement assists households with their energy costs.

Energy Supplement Part A Maximum Rates

For each child	Max rate per fortnight	Max rate per year
Aged under 13 years	\$3.50	\$91.25
Aged 13-15 years	\$4.48	\$116.80
Aged 16-19 years, secondary student, or exempt from requirement	\$4.48	\$116.80
Approved Care Organisations	\$0.98	\$25.55
Base rate for each child	\$1.40	\$36.50

Newborn Supplement: A component of FTB Part A which replaced the Baby Bonus from 1 March 2014. Newborn Supplement is payable for children aged less than one who are in the care of a parent or entrusted to the care of a non-parent carer for at least 13 weeks, or children of any age who are placed for adoption. It is paid over 13 weeks at the maximum rate of \$2,127.23 for a first child or each child in a multiple birth, adoption or entrustment, and \$1,064.35 for subsequent children. The payment includes the Newborn Upfront Payment, which is an upfront amount of \$532. Parents of stillborn children are able to receive the Stillborn Baby Payment, which is paid as a lump-sum at the combined Newborn Supplement and Newborn Upfront Payment rates.

Rent Assistance is also payable to private renters receiving more than the base rate of FTB Part A. The number of children, relationship status and amount of rent paid determine the rate.

A parent with a regular care child (care between 14 per cent and less than 35 per cent of the time) will not have an entitlement to the child related components of FTB but may continue to be eligible for the Rent Assistance component of FTB Part A.

Indexation

The payment rates, thresholds, and associated limits of FTB are indexed on 1 July each year based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase for the 12 months to the previous December.

Indexation of the higher income free area for FTB Part A and the rate of FTB Part A supplement has been paused until 1 July 2017. Energy Supplement ceased to be indexed from 20 September 2014.

Portability

From 1 July 2016, FTB Part A will generally only be payable outside of Australia for up to six weeks (reduced from 56 weeks). This aligns the portability rules for FTB Part A with those of FTB Part B and most income support payments.

Due to FTB's links to other payments, the changes to portability will have flow-on effects to other payments that rely on FTB eligibility including Child Care Benefit, Child Care Rebate, Double Orphan Pension, Schoolkids Bonus and Single Income Family Supplement.

Members of the Australian Defence Force and Australian Federal Police who are deployed overseas will continue to be able to access these payments for up to three years, but must apply before they leave.

Legislation

A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999

A New Tax System (Family Assistance) (Administration) Act 1999

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

N/A

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing. Subject to the passage of legislation the Energy Supplement attached to this payment will be grandfathered for existing recipients if they remain eligible but will cease for new or returning recipients.

Branch and Section

Family Payments and Child Support Policy Branch

- Payments Policy, Legislation and Analysis Section
- Family Payment Management and Implementation Section

Component: Family Tax Benefit Part B

Objective

To make payments to assist low and medium income single parents, and to couple families where the secondary earner's income is low, to enable families to exercise choices to balance labour force participation and child care responsibilities.

Description

Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part B gives extra assistance to single parent families and to couple families where the secondary earner's income is low. FTB Part B is a per family payment taking account of the age of the youngest child.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	5,403.168	4,330.380	3,964.774	3,857.719	3,891.449

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 32)

Eligibility

To meet the basic conditions of eligibility for FTB Part B, a family must:

- have a dependent child aged under 16 years; or
- have a qualifying dependent full-time secondary student aged 16 to 17 (or turning 18 in the relevant calendar year), who does not receive Youth Allowance or a similar payment; and
- have care for 35 per cent of the time or more; and
- have income under a certain amount (separate tests for primary and secondary income earners); and
- meet Australian residency requirements for family assistance purposes.

From 1 July 2016, couple families (other than grandparents and great-grandparents) with a youngest child aged 13 to 18 years will no longer be eligible for FTB Part B.

Rates/statistics

As at March 2016, around 1.2 million families were receiving a fortnightly rate of FTB Part B.

FTB Part B rates for 2016-17

Age of youngest child	Max rate per fortnight	Max rate per year
0 to 4 years old	\$155.54	\$4,409.20
5 to 18 years old	\$108.64	\$3,186.45

Note: The annual rate includes the FTB Part B Supplement of \$354.05 per family per year, which is paid on reconciliation at the end of financial year after the FTB recipient and/or their partner has lodged tax returns, if applicable, or advised Centrelink they are not required to lodge a tax return.

Single parents automatically receive the maximum amount of FTB Part B if they have an income of \$100,000 per year or less.

For two-parent families where the higher income earner has an income of \$100,000 per year or less, it is the income of the lower income earner that affects how much FTB Part B the family will receive. The lower income earner can have income up to \$5,475 each income year and still receive the maximum rate of FTB Part B. Payments are reduced by 20 cents in each dollar of income earned over \$5,475.

Energy Supplement Part B is a component of the rate of FTB Part B. The Energy Supplement assists households with their energy costs. The rates for the 2015-16 year are:

Energy Supplement Part B Maximum Rates

Age of youngest child	Max rate per fortnight	Max rate per year
0 to 4 years old	\$2.80	\$73.00
5 to 18 years old	\$1.96	\$51.10

Indexation

The payment rates and income thresholds for FTB Part B are indexed on 1 July each year based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase for the 12 months to the previous December.

Indexation of the FTB Part B primary earner income limit (currently \$100,000 per annum) and the rate of FTB Part B supplement has been paused until 1 July 2017. Energy Supplement ceased to be indexed from 20 September 2014.

Portability

FTB Part B has limited portability whilst temporarily absent from Australia. The individual is only eligible for FTB Part B entitlements for the first six weeks of an overseas absence.

Australian Defence Force members' deployed overseas or Australian Federal Police engaged in peacekeeping or capacity building activities overseas can apply for an extension for up to three years. Families may apply for an extension in exceptional circumstances within the first six weeks of an absence.

Legislation

A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999

A New Tax System (Family Assistance) (Administration) Act 1999

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

N/A

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing. Subject to the passage of legislation the Energy Supplement attached to this payment will be grandfathered for existing recipients if they remain eligible but will cease for new or returning recipients.

Branch and Section

Family Payments and Child Support Policy Branch

- Payments Policy, Legislation and Analysis Section
- Family Payment Management and Implementation Section

Component: Schoolkids Bonus

Objective

To deliver assistance to low and medium income families for their children's education costs. The Schoolkids Bonus will cease from 31 December 2016.

Description

The Schoolkids Bonus provides additional assistance for families and students to pay for primary and secondary education expenses such as uniforms, books, school fees and sports registration fees. The Schoolkids Bonus replaced the previous Education Tax Refund. The final instalment will be paid in July 2016.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	1,148.928	0.005	0.002	0.001	0.001

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 32)

Eligibility

To meet the basic conditions of eligibility for Schoolkids Bonus, families and/or students must:

- receive Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A for a dependent child who is or will be in primary or secondary education study; or
- an individual is aged 16 to 18 (or turning 19 years of age in the relevant calendar year); and
- in full-time secondary study; and
- eligible for Youth Allowance, ABSTUDY (Living Allowance), Disability Support Pension, Carer Payment or Special Benefit; or
- receive an education allowance under the Veteran's Children Education Scheme or the Military Rehabilitation Scheme for a dependent child, or is an eligible individual, who is or will be in primary or secondary education study;
- have an annual family income of \$100,000 or less.

Families and students need to be receiving one of the eligible payments listed above and meet the education and age requirements on the Schoolkids Bonus test dates, 1 January and/or 30 June each year, to be eligible to receive the Schoolkids Bonus.

Children in preschool are not eligible for the Schoolkids Bonus.

Rates/statistics

As at March 2016, around 1 million recipients have received Schoolkids Bonus for 1.7 million students for the 2015-16 income year. The Schoolkids Bonus is a yearly payment of \$856 for each eligible child in secondary study and \$430 for each eligible child in primary study.

Payments are made in two equal instalments in January and July each year. The final payment of Schoolkids bonus will be July 2016. For each instalment, individuals will receive \$428 for each eligible child in secondary study and \$215 for each eligible child in primary study.

Families who receive FTB Part A as a lump sum will get the Schoolkids Bonus payment when their lump sum claim is assessed.

For families who share the care of the children and receive a shared or blended care percentage of FTB Part A, they will receive the same percentage of the Schoolkids Bonus.

Families and individuals are required to notify when their child commences primary study to start receiving the primary study payment rate or when their child changes from primary to secondary study to start receiving the secondary study payment rate.

Indexation

Under the *A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999*, the payment rates and income thresholds for the Schoolkids Bonus are indexed on 1 July each year based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase for the 12 months to the previous December.

Indexation of the Schoolkids Bonus payment commenced 1 July 2014.

Legislation

A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999

A New Tax System (Family Assistance) (Administration) Act 1999

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

N/A

Ongoing or terminating

Terminating – legislation has passed to repeal the Schoolkids Bonus from 31 December 2016. The final instalment will be paid in July 2016. However, Schoolkids Bonus will continue to be paid for the 2015-16 year through FTB lump sum claims until 30 June 2017.

Branch and Section

Family Payments and Child Support Policy Branch

- Payments Policy, Legislation and Analysis Section
- Family Payment Management and Implementation Section

Component: Child Support Scheme

Objective

To ensure children continue to receive financial support from their parents following separation.

Description

The child support scheme assists parents to support their children by making administrative assessments of child support based on each parent's capacity to pay and collecting and transferring child support payments between parents to ensure that periodic amounts are paid on a regular and timely basis.

Expenses

The child support scheme involves a transfer of money between parents so there is no departmental appropriation.

Eligibility

A parent can apply for an administrative assessment of child support for a child if they are not living with the other parent of the child on a genuine domestic basis.

A non-parent carer can apply for an administrative assessment for a child if they:

- are an eligible carer of the child; and
- are not living on a genuine domestic basis with either parent; and
- do not have care jointly with either parent of the child.

An eligible child must:

- be born on or after 1 October 1989; or
- have parents who lived together and who separated on or after 1 October 1989; or
- have a brother or sister who was born to the same parents on or after 1 October 1989;
- prior to 1 July 2016, not be cared for under a child welfare law of South Australia, Western Australia, Norfolk Island, Christmas Island or the Cocos (Keeling) Islands; and
- from 1 July 2016, not be cared for under a child welfare law of South Australia or Western Australia.

A person can only apply for a child support assessment for an eligible child if:

- the child is under 18 years of age; and
- the child is not a member of a couple.

Rates/statistics

As at 31 March 2016, there were:

- approximately 701,900 active child support cases (Source: DSS Child Support Extract Data)
- approximately 1.1 million children supported through the child support scheme (Source: Child Support Extract Data)
- DHS transferred \$1.5 billion in child support in 2014-15 for parents choosing to have their payments collected by DHS (Source: DHS Annual Report 2014-2015)
- 51 per cent of parents were using private collect arrangements and the annual value of their child support assessments was \$2 billion (Source: Child Support Extract Data and DHS Annual Report 2014-2015).

Legislation

Child Support (Assessment) Act 1989

Child Support (Registration and Collection) Act 1988

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

On 27 March 2014, the former Minister for Social Services, the Hon Kevin Andrews MP, asked the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs to inquire into and report on the Child Support Program. The report was tabled on 20 July 2015. The Committee focused on a number of aspects of the scheme, including methods of assessing and collecting child support; flexibility; alignment between the child support and family assistance frameworks; links with the Family Court; and how to provide better outcomes for high conflict families.

The response to the Committee's recommendations will be a matter for the incoming Government.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Family Payments and Child Support Policy Branch

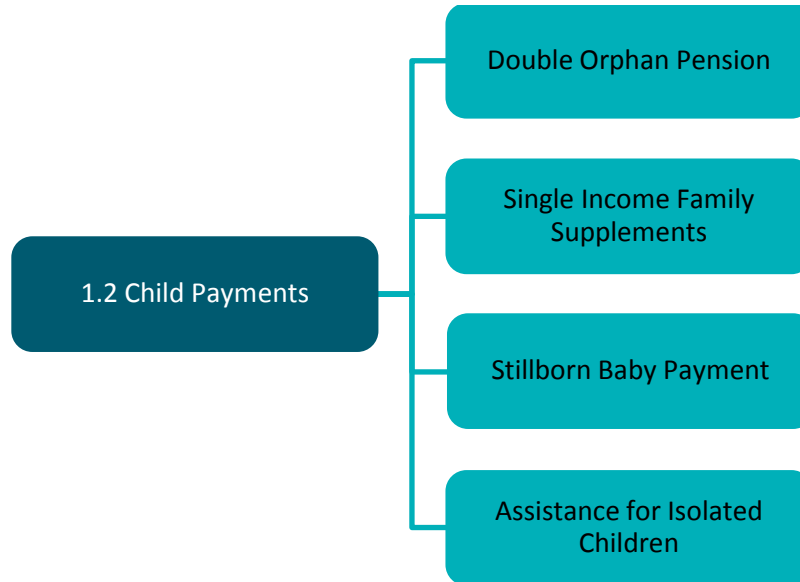
- Child Support Policy Section

Program 1.2: Child Payments

Objective

To make payments to families in certain circumstances to assist with the costs of children.

Components



Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	126.178	127.647	112.611	102.635	97.790

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 33)

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

N/A

Group and Branch

Payments Policy Group

- Family Payments and Child Support Policy Branch
- Work and Study Payments Branch

Component: Double Orphan Pension

Objective

To make non means-tested payments to guardians or approved care organisations to assist in meeting the costs of dependent children who are double orphans.

Description

Double Orphan Pension (DOP) provides assistance to guardians or approved care organisations in meeting the costs of caring for children who are double orphans.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	3.518	3.791	3.937	4.100	4.255

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 33)

Eligibility

A claimant is eligible for DOP for a child if:

- the child's parents or adoptive parents have both died; or
- one of the child's parents is dead and the other parent is in long term imprisonment or is on remand for an offence that is punishable by long term imprisonment, lives in a psychiatric institution or nursing home on a long term basis, or their whereabouts is unknown; or
- the child is a refugee and has not at any time lived in Australia with either or both parents, and whose parents are outside Australia or their whereabouts are unknown; and:
 - they have care; and
 - the child is aged under 16, or a full-time student aged 16 to 18 (or turning 19 in the relevant calendar year), and does not receive Youth Allowance or a similar payment; and
 - they are eligible for Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A for the child (or would be eligible for payment but their income is above the limit or they are receiving on behalf of the child, or the child is receiving, payments under a prescribed educational scheme); and
 - they are living in Australia (that is, Australia is their permanent home); and
 - they meet Australian residency requirements for family assistance purposes.

Rates/statistics

From 1 January 2016, the base rate of the DOP is \$62.00 per fortnight. As at March 2016, around 1,100 recipients were paid DOP.

An additional component of DOP may be payable. The additional component will be equal to the difference between the carer's entitlement to FTB for the young person and the Family Allowance/FTB received for the young person immediately before they became a double orphan. The additional component will not be payable to approved care organisations.

Indexation

Under the *Social Security Act 1991*, the payment rate for DOP is indexed on 1 January each year based on the Consumer Price Index increase for the 12 months to the previous June.

Legislation

Social Security Act 1991

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

N/A

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Family Payments and Child Support Policy Branch

- Payment Policy, Legislation and Analysis Section
- Family Payment Management and Implementation Section

Component: Single Income Family Supplement

Objective

To make payments to eligible families where the main income earner has taxable income between \$68,000 and \$150,000, and any secondary earner has taxable income below \$18,000.

Subject to legislation, from 1 July 2017, Single Income Family Supplement (SIFS) will be closed to new claimants. Grandfathering arrangements will be introduced for all families eligible for SIFS at 30 June 2017 who then remain continuously eligible for the payment.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	49.087	48.166	30.638	18.202	10.616

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 33)

Eligibility

Single Income Family Supplement can be paid to a parent or guardian. To be eligible the claimant must:

- have a qualifying child in their care (see qualifying child information below); and
- meet residential requirements (as described under Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A eligibility); and
- have income within a certain range (as described under 'Income test').

Qualifying child

A SIFS qualifying child is an FTB child (see FTB child definition under FTB Part A eligibility).

A SIFS qualifying child also includes a child who would be an FTB child except that the child (or someone on the child's behalf) is receiving an "at home" rate of one of the following payments:

- Disability Support Pension
- Youth Allowance
- Special Benefit
- ABSTUDY living allowance, or
- an education allowance under the Veterans' Children Education Scheme or the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act Education and Training Scheme.

Income Test

- The SIFS will be paid to individuals where the main income earner has a taxable income of between \$68,000 and \$150,000.
- If there is a secondary earner in the family, their income needs to be below \$18,000.
- The income test is based on a financial year income.
- Recipients who receive FTB will automatically be assessed for SIFS eligibility.

- Recipients who do not receive FTB, but who have a SIFS qualifying child in their care need to submit a claim form and lodge an income tax return within 12 months after the end of the financial year.

Rates/statistics

This payment is made to families after the end of the financial year once each partner has lodged their tax return.

Basic Rate - up to \$300 (depending on income).

Legislation

A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999

A New Tax System (Family Assistance) (Administration) Act 1999

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

N/A

Ongoing or terminating

Terminating - subject to the passage of legislation to cease this supplement to new claimants as announced in the 2016-17 Budget.

Branch and Section

Family Payments and Child Support Policy Branch

- Payments Policy, Legislation and Analysis Section
- Family Payment Management and Implementation Section

Component: Stillborn Baby Payment

Objective

To provide payments which assist with the costs associated with stillbirth.

Description

Stillborn Baby payment may be paid where an individual, or their partner, would have been the primary carer of a child who was stillborn.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	2.095	2.161	2.242	2.321	2.399

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 33)

Eligibility

Eligibility may be met if the estimated income of the individual and partner does not exceed \$60,000 for the six month period beginning on the day of the child's delivery. Alternatively, eligibility may be met if the individual or their partner is entitled to Family Tax Benefit Part A (for another child) on any day during the 52 week period beginning on the day of the stillborn child's delivery. Eligibility is precluded if the individual or partner receives Parental Leave Pay for the same stillborn child.

Rates/statistics

The amount of Stillborn Baby Payment equals the sum of the Newborn Supplement and the Newborn Upfront Payment (at 1 July 2015, this equals \$2,127.23 for a first stillborn child and \$1,064.35 for a subsequent stillborn child).

As at March 2016, around 1,900 families have received Stillborn Baby payment since 1 March 2014.

Indexation

Under the *A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999*, the payment rates for the Stillborn Baby Payment are not indexed as they are directly linked to the rate of the Newborn Supplement and Newborn Upfront Payment, which are themselves indexed on 1 July each year.

The indexation of the \$60,000 Stillborn Baby Payment income threshold will first commence on 1 July 2017 and will be based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase for the 12 months to the previous December.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

N/A

Legislation

A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999

A New Tax System (Family Assistance) (Administration) Act 1999

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Family Payments and Child Support Policy Branch

- Payments Policy, Legislation and Analysis Section
- Family Payment Management and Implementation Section

Component: Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme

Objective

To make payments to families of geographically isolated children to assist with additional educational expenses.

Description

The aim of the Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme (AIC Scheme) is to assist Australian children without reasonable daily access to an appropriate state school. Families in isolated areas incur additional costs to educate their children. The AIC Scheme provides financial assistance in the form of allowances to alleviate such costs.

There are four types of allowances paid under the AIC scheme:

- Boarding Allowance - Basic Boarding Allowance (not income tested) and Additional Boarding Allowance (subject to the family income test)
- Second Home Allowance
- Distance Education Allowance
- AIC Pensioner Education Supplement (for students aged under 21 who receive a Disability Support Pension or Parenting Payment (Single) and who are studying at primary level).

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	71.478	73.529	75.794	78.012	80.520

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 33)

Rates/statistics

Eligible families may receive up to:

- a maximum rate of \$9,548 of boarding allowance per year
- second home allowance (limited to a maximum of three students in a family) of \$232.84 per fortnight per student
- distance education allowance of \$4,007 per year.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

N/A

Legislation

Student Assistance Act 1973 – defines the AIC Scheme as a special education assistance scheme

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Work and Study Payments Branch

- Student Payments Section

Program 1.3: Income Support for Vulnerable People

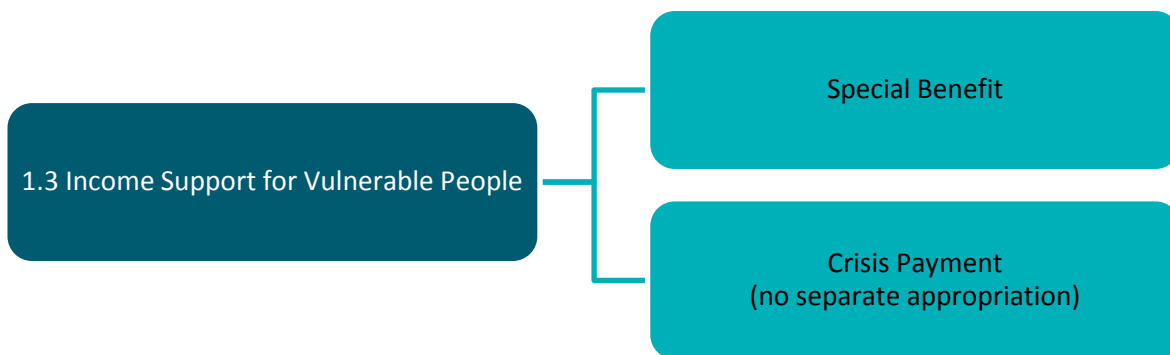
Objective

To make payments to financially assist eligible people in severe financial hardship who do not have any other means of support.

Description

Personal benefits payments under this program are delivered by the Department of Human Services (DHS). For more information refer to the DHS Budget Statements in volume 1.15B of the Social Services Portfolio's 2014-15 Portfolio Budget Statements.

Components



Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	65.838	86.455	126.914	152.663	188.040

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 34)

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Nil

Group and Branch

Policy Payments Group

- Work and Study Payments Branch

Component: Special Benefit

Objective

To make payments to assist, eligible people in severe financial hardship who do not have any other means of support.

Description

Special Benefit is an income support payment for people in severe financial need due to circumstances outside their control.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	65.838	86.455	126.914	152.663	188.040

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 34)

Eligibility

To qualify for Special Benefit people must:

- be in financial hardship
- be unable to earn a sufficient livelihood for themselves and their dependants by reason of age, physical or mental disability or domestic circumstances or for any other reason over which the person has no control
- not be receiving or entitled to a Social Security income support payment or a Service Pension
- not be able to receive any other ongoing support
- be a permanent Australian resident or the holder of an approved visa
- be residing in Australia during the period of payment except under certain circumstances.

Newly arrived residents generally have a two-year waiting period. This may be waived in certain circumstances.

Available funds/income tests:

- For long-term cases (payment beyond three months), Special Benefit is not payable where the available funds of the person are over \$5,000.
- For short-term cases (payment under three months), Special Benefit is not payable if available funds exceed two weeks' payment.
- Any income is treated as a direct deduction from the rate of Special Benefit.

Rates/statistics

The rate at which Special Benefit is paid is at the discretion of the Secretary but cannot exceed the amount of Newstart Allowance, Youth Allowance or Austudy Payment that would be payable if the person was eligible.

As at March 2016, there were 5,175 Special Benefit recipients. The following table shows a breakdown of these recipients by reason for claiming.

Claim Reason	March 2016
Not residentially qualified for a pension, benefit or allowance	4,215
Illegal maritime arrivals	439
Under 16 years	490
Other (includes victims of trafficking, principal carers and socially marginalised)	312
TOTAL	5,175

Legislation

Social Security Act 1991

Social Security Administrative Act 1999

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Nil

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Work and Study Payments Branch

- Parenting and Other Payments Section

Component: Crisis Payment

Objective

To assist people in severe financial hardship.

Description

Crisis Payment is a one-off payment designed to help people who are in severe financial hardship.

Expenses

Crisis Payment is not separately accounted for in program expenditure. Crisis Payment expenditure is included in the program expenditure figures for the pension, benefit or allowance payment that the Crisis Payment claimant receives.

Eligibility

A social security pension or benefit must be payable to the person and on the day of claim the person must be in severe financial hardship. For a single person, liquid assets must be less than the fortnightly maximum payment rate of pension or benefit and for a member of a couple, liquid assets must be less than twice the fortnightly maximum payment rate of pension or benefit.

There are four categories of Crisis Payment:

- Extreme circumstances forcing departure from home, such as domestic violence or a natural disaster.
- Remaining in the home after removal of a family member due to domestic or family violence.
- Release from prison or psychiatric confinement after having been charged with an offence and serving at least 14 days.
- Humanitarian entrants who arrive in Australia on or after 1 January 2008 on a qualifying humanitarian visa (Visa sub-classes 200-Refugee, 201-In-country special humanitarian, 202-Global humanitarian, 203-Emergency rescue and 204-Woman at risk).

A claim must be lodged within seven days of the event. A person may receive up to four Crisis Payments in a 12 month period, with the exception of newly released prisoners who can receive additional payments if eligible. Humanitarian entrants cannot be paid more than once on the same qualifying humanitarian visa.

Rates/statistics

Crisis Payment is equivalent to one week's payment of the person's pension, benefit or allowance (without add-ons).

Data for this payment is received annually at the end of the financial year. For the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, 67,536 claims for Crisis Payment were paid. The following table provides a breakdown of the number of claims paid by reason for payment.

Extreme circumstances – Other (e.g. natural disaster or house fire)	3,567
Extreme circumstances – Domestic Violence (establish new home)	13,849
Domestic Violence (remain in home)	1,341
Humanitarian Entrants	7,278
Release from Prison/Psychiatric confinement	41,501

Legislation

Social Security Act 1991

Social Security Administrative Act 1999

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Nil

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Work and Study Payments Branch

- Parenting and Other Payments Section

Program 1.4: Income Support for People in Special Circumstances

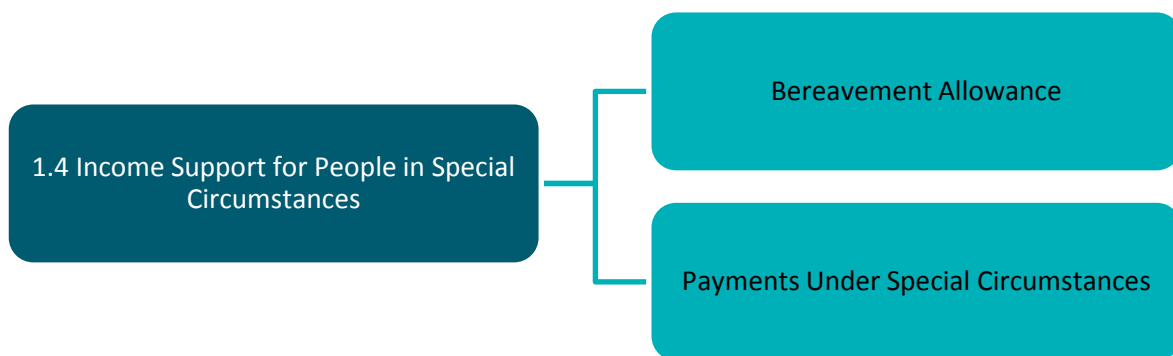
Objective

To make payments to financially assist eligible people in severe financial hardship who do not have any other means of support.

Description

To make payments to Australians in circumstances beyond their control to support them in overcoming those circumstances and maintaining their financial wellbeing.

Components



Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	6.167	6.496	7.068	7.668	8.318

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 34)

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

N/A

Group and Branch

Payments Policy Group

- Work and Study Payments Branch

Component: Bereavement Allowance

Objective

To provide income support during a period of adjustment to persons whose partner has recently died.

Description

To make payments to a person following the death of their partner for a period of up to 14 weeks to enable them to maintain an adequate standard of living during that period.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	4.798	5.130	5.702	6.306	6.949

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 34)

Eligibility

To qualify for Bereavement Allowance (BVA), a person must:

- have a partner who recently died; and
- not be a member of a couple; and
- not qualified for another pension or benefit.

BVA is a fortnightly payment paid for a maximum of 14 weeks (although this may be extended for pregnant women) from the date of death of the partner. This payment is subject to the pension income and assets test.

If the person claims BVA within four weeks of their partner's death, payment can be made from the date of death.

Rates/statistics

BVA Basic Rates - per fortnight from 20 September 2015 to 19 March 2016.

Single

Base	\$788.40
Supplement	\$64.50
Energy Supplement	\$14.10
TOTAL	\$867.00

There were 979 recipients paid BVA during the 2014-15 financial year. As at March 2016, there were 143 BVA recipients. There are significantly less recipients of BVA at any one time.

Indexation

The rate of BVA is indexed twice a year in March and September to the higher of the increase in the Consumer Price Index and the increase in the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index and then benchmarked to 41.76 per cent of Male Total Average Weekly Earnings for pensioner couples combined. The single rate of pension is two thirds of the combined couple rate.

Legislation

Social Security Act 1991

Social Security Administration Act 1999

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Work and Study Payments Branch

- Parenting and Other Payments Section

Component: Payments under Special Circumstances

Objective

To make payments to financially assist eligible people in severe financial hardship who do not have any other means of support.

To make payments to Australians in circumstances beyond their control to support them in overcoming those circumstances and maintaining their financial wellbeing.

Description

To make payments to individuals and families in special circumstances. These include:

- ex-gratia payments to victims and family members of the 2002 and 2005 Bali bombings, along with support to individuals assisted through the Reconnecting People Assistance Package; and
- discretionary (“Act of Grace”) payments to person who may have been unintentionally disadvantaged by the effects of Commonwealth Government legislation, actions and omission and who have no other viable means of redress.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	1.369	1.366	1.366	1.362	1.369

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 34)

Eligibility

Ex-gratia payments are tailored assistance measures that provide further support to individuals, family and communities affected by special circumstances including a major disaster, or other critical incident. Ex-gratia payments are provided on a case by case basis on the authority and direction of the Prime Minister and/or Cabinet.

Act of Grace payments are made at the discretion of the Minister for Finance under section 65 of the *Public Governance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act).

Rates/statistics

The rate of assistance varies depending on the nature and scope of assistance.

Indexation

Indexation arrangements are decided on a case-by-case basis.

Legislation

The legal authority for providing ex-gratia payments lies with the executive power of the Commonwealth under section 61 of the Constitution (i.e. agreement by the Prime Minister or Cabinet).

The Act of Grace power is given to the Minister for Finance under section 65 of the PGPA Act.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

N/A

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Ex gratia payments sub-component

Multicultural and Communities Branch

- Community Programs and Volunteering Section

Act of Grace payments sub-component

Work and Study Payments Branch

- Parenting and Other Payments Section

Program 1.5: Supplementary Payments and Support for Income Support Recipients

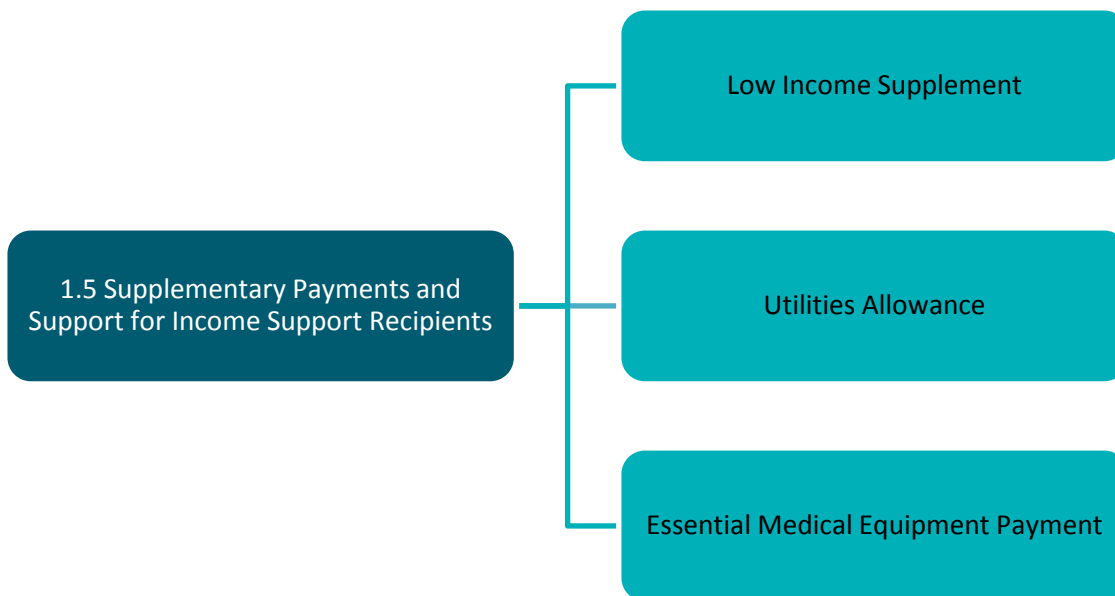
Objective

To make payments and subsidise services to certain income support recipients and low income households to assist them financially and to help them continue to participate economically and socially.

Description

Low Income Supplement provides eligible low income households with a payment to assist with household expenses, including energy costs. Utilities Allowance assists certain income support recipients with utilities bills. The Essential Medical Equipment Payment is made to eligible people who use additional energy in their home because they have certain medical conditions.

Components



Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	45.558	33.186	29.550	28.634	28.347

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 35)

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

N/A

Group and Branch

Payments Policy Group

- Age, Disability and Carer Payments Policy Branch
- Work and Study Payments Branch

Component: Low Income Supplement

Objective

To provide low-income households with a payment to assist with household expenses, including energy costs.

Description

To provide low income households who may not have received enough assistance through tax cuts or the Energy Supplement with a payment to assist with household expenses, including energy costs. Claims opened on 1 July 2012.

From 1 January 2013, eligibility for the Low Income Supplement was extended to certain low income families in receipt of Family Tax Benefit (FTB) to assist with household expenses, including energy costs.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	2.500	2.500	-	-	-

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 35)

Eligibility

An individual may be eligible for the Low Income Supplement if, in the 2014-15 financial year:

- their adjusted taxable income was below:
 - \$30,000 for singles without a dependent child
 - \$45,000 combined for couples without a dependent child
 - \$60,000 combined for singles or couples with a dependent child
- they did not receive FTB for 39 weeks or more
- they did not receive an income support payment from the Australian Government for more than 39 weeks; and
- they meet residency and tax requirements.

Rates/statistics

\$300 claimable annual payment

Indexation

The Low Income Supplement is not indexed.

Legislation

Social Security Act 1991

Social Security Administration Act 1999

Ongoing or terminating

Terminating on 30 June 2017

Branch and Section

Age Disability and Carer Payments Policy Branch

- Age Pension and Concessions Policy Section

Component: Utilities Allowance

Objective

To make payments to eligible income support recipients to assist with household expenses.

Description

Utilities Allowance is intended to assist certain income support recipients with utilities bills such as gas and electricity.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	27.450	23.914	22.569	21.442	20.938

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 35)

Note: The appropriation for Utilities Allowance under program 1.5 (previously Disability Support Pension aged under 21 years without children) now includes Utilities Allowance (Working Age Payments) which was previously appropriated under program 1.10.

Eligibility

Utilities Allowance is paid to Widow Allowance and Partner Allowance recipients under Age Pension age and recipients of Disability Support Pension who are aged under 21 years without children.

Rates/statistics

Recipients receive Utilities Allowance with their regular payment on, or in the fortnight after 20 March, 20 June, 20 September and 20 December each year.

From 20 March 2016, the rate of Utilities Allowance is \$608 a year paid at the rate of \$152 per quarter for singles and \$304 paid at the rate of \$76 per quarter for each eligible member of a couple.

As at March 2016, there were 52,131 recipients of Utilities Allowance paid to date in 2015-16.

Indexation

Utilities Allowance is indexed to CPI twice yearly, in March and September.

Legislation

Social Security Act 1991

Social Security Administration Act 1999

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Work and Study Payments Branch

- Parenting and Other Payments Section

Component: Essential Medical Equipment Payment

Objective

To make payments to eligible Australians who experience additional increases in home energy costs as a result of the need to operate essential medical equipment in their home, or additional heating or cooling, to manage their disability or medical condition.

Description

The Essential Medical Equipment Payment is for people who use additional energy in their home because they have certain medical conditions.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	6.611	6.772	6.981	7.192	7.409

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 35)

Eligibility

The Essential Medical Equipment Payment is available to people or their carers who:

- are covered by an Australian Government concession card, or a Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold or White Card; and
- use certain essential medical equipment, or have certain medical conditions that require the use of additional heating and/or cooling in their home; and
- are responsible, either wholly or partly, for meeting the energy costs in the home.

Rates/statistics

A person may receive a payment of \$149 per year for medically required heating or cooling and/or for each piece of equipment they use.

As at March 2016, there were 32,227 payments made.

Indexation

The rate of Essential Medical Equipment Payment is indexed annually on 1 July in line with the Consumer Price Index.

Legislation

Social Security Act 1991

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Nil

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Age, Disability and Carer Payments Policy Branch

- Age Pension and Concessions Policy Section

Program 1.6: Income Support for Seniors

Objective

To make payments to senior Australians to assist them financially in a manner that encourages them to productively manage resources and life transitions.

Description

Age Pension

To make payments to senior Australians to assist them financially in a manner that encourages them to productively manage resources and life transitions.

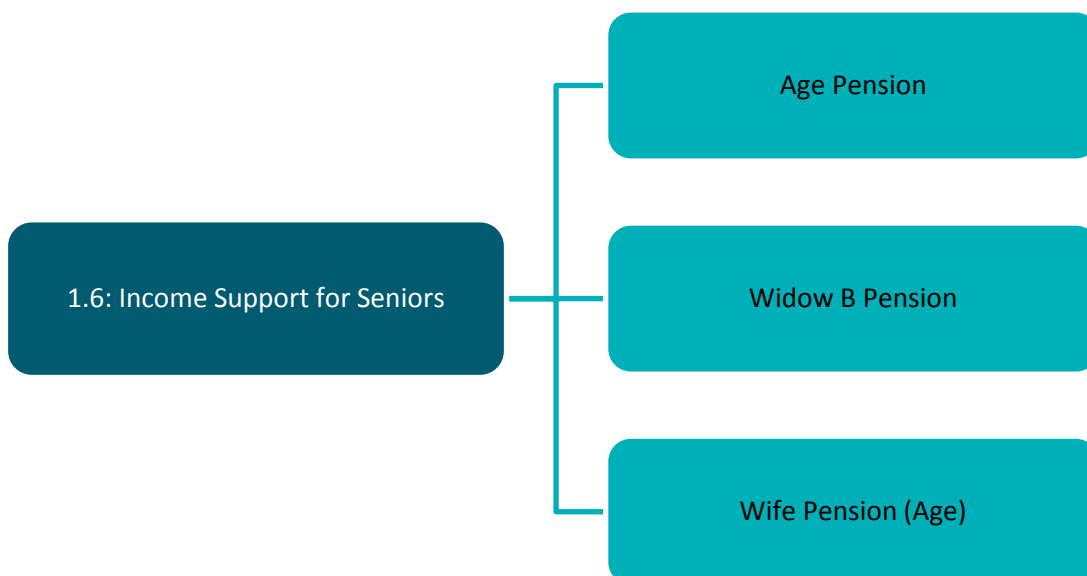
Widow B Pension

To make payments to widowed, divorced and separated women to assist them financially (this payment was closed to new entrants from 20 March 1997).

Wife Pension (Age)

To make payments to female partners of Age Pension recipients, where those partners are not eligible in their own right for Age Pension, to assist them financially (this payment was closed to new entrants from 1 July 1995).

Components



Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	43,243.256	45,408.252	46,875.674	49,554.399	51,864.898

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 36)

Group and Branch

Payments Policy Group

- Age, Disability and Carer Payments Policy Branch

Component: Age Pension

Objective

To make payments to senior Australians to financially assist them to encourage them to manage resources and life transitions productively.

Description

The Age Pension is a non-contributory payment for people meeting certain age, residence and means test qualifications. It is designed to ensure that senior Australians have a basic level of income support.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	43,135.488	45,304.311	46,777.052	49,460.946	51,776.227

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 36)

Eligibility

To qualify for the Age Pension a claimant must be of pension age and meet certain residence requirements. The Age Pension is subject to an income test and an assets test.

For age pensioners who are permanently blind, there is no income or assets test on the basic pension rate.

Before 1 July 2013, the Age Pension qualifying age was 65 years for men and women qualified at different ages to men, depending on their date of birth. From 1 July 1995, the minimum age for women to qualify for the Age Pension began to increase from 60 years to 65 years, by six months every two years.

From 1 July 2013 until 30 June 2017, the qualifying age for both men and women is 65 years.

From 1 July 2017, the minimum age for both men and women to qualify for the Age Pension will begin to further increase. For men and women born on or after 1 July 1952, the pension age will progressively increase by six months every two years until it reaches 67 on 1 July 2023. The table below shows pension age by date of birth and the effective date of the change.

Period within which a person was born	Pension age	Date pension age changes
From 1 July 1952 to 31 December 1953	65 years and 6 months	1 July 2017
From 1 January 1954 to 30 June 1955	66 years	1 July 2019
From 1 July 1955 to 31 December 1956	66 years and 6 months	1 July 2021
From 1 January 1957 onwards	67 years	1 July 2023

To qualify for the Age Pension a claimant must be:

- an Australian resident (that is, living in Australia on a permanent basis) and be in Australia on the day the claim is lodged; and
- an Australian resident for a total of at least 10 years, with at least five of these years in one period.

There are some special residency rules for refugees, certain widows and people receiving Widow B Pension, Widow Allowance or Partner Allowance.

Special rules also apply to residence in countries with which Australia has an International Social Security Agreement. Residence in these countries may count towards the minimum 10-year residence requirement.

Rates/statistics

Adult pension rates – per fortnight (pf) from 20 March 2016 to 30 June 2016:

Single

Base	\$794.80
Supplement	\$65.00
Energy Supplement	\$14.10
TOTAL	\$873.90

Partnered (each)

Base	\$599.10
Supplement	\$49.00
Energy Supplement	\$10.60
TOTAL	\$658.70

As at March 2016, there were around 2.5 million age pensioners.

Indexation

Pension rates are indexed twice a year, in March and September to the higher of the increase in the Consumer Price Index and the increase in the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index and then benchmarked to 41.76 per cent of Male Total Average Weekly Earnings for pensioner couples combined. The single rate of pension is two thirds of the combined couple rate.

Legislation

Social Security Act 1991

Social Security Administration Act 1999

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Age, Disability and Carer Payments Policy Branch

- Age Pension and Concessions Policy Section

Component: Widow B Pension

Objective

To make payments to widowed, divorced and separated women to assist them financially. This payment was closed to new entrants from 20 March 1997.

Description

Widow B Pension is for certain older women who have lost the financial support of a male partner, through death, separation or divorce (who do not qualify for Parenting Payment). In recognition of women's increased labour force participation, no new Widow B Pensions have been granted since 20 March 1997.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	6.547	6.369	6.188	6.028	5.892

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 36)

Eligibility

Widow B Pension is closed to new entrants. Only women already receiving Widow B Pension on 20 March 1997 may continue to be paid.

Widow B Pension is subject to an income test and an assets test.

Rates/statistics

Widow B Pension is paid at the single rate of the Age Pension.

As at March 2016, there were around 400 Widow B Pension recipients.

Indexation

Pension rates are indexed twice a year, in March and September to the higher of the increase in the Consumer Price Index and the increase in the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index, and then benchmarked to 41.76 per cent of Male Total Average Weekly Earnings for pensioner couples combined. The single rate of pension is two thirds of the combined couple rate.

Legislation

Social Security Act 1991

Social Security Administration Act 1999

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Age, Disability and Carer Payments Policy Branch

- Age Pension and Concessions Policy Section

Component: Wife Pension (Age)

Objective

To make payment to the female partners of Age Pension recipients, where they are not eligible in their own right for the Age Pension, to assist them financially. This payment was closed to new entrants from 1 July 1995.

Description

Wife Pension (Age) is for the female partners of age pensioners who do not qualify for the Age Pension in their own right. Since 1 July 1995, there have been no new grants of Wife Pension (Age) – this is in recognition of women’s increased labour force participation.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	101.221	97.572	92.434	87.425	82.779

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 36)

Eligibility

Wife Pension (Age) is closed to new entrants. Only women already receiving Wife Pension on 1 July 1995 may continue to be paid. Women who are the partners of Disability Support Pension recipients who are receiving Wife Pension (DSP) may transfer to Wife Pension (Age) when their partner starts receiving the Age Pension.

Wife Pension (Age) is subject to an income test and an assets test.

Rates/statistics

Wife Pension (Age) is paid at the partnered rate of the Age Pension.

As at March 2016, there were around 6,036 Wife Pension (Age) recipients.

Indexation

Pension rates are indexed twice a year, in March and September to the higher of the increase in the Consumer Price Index and the increase in the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index, and then benchmarked to 41.76 per cent of Male Total Average Weekly Earnings for pensioner couples combined. The single rate of pension is two thirds of the combined couple rate.

Legislation

Social Security Act 1991

Social Security Administration Act 1999

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Age, Disability and Carer Payments Policy Branch

- Age Pension and Concessions Policy Section

Program 1.7: Allowances, Concessions and Services for Seniors

Objective

To make payments and provide services to senior Australians to assist with household expenses, enabling them to maintain their standard of living.

Description

Energy Supplement for holders of the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card

To make payments to senior Australians to assist with household and other living expenses.

In the past, Seniors Supplement was made to eligible people who held a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC) to assist with household and other living expenses. The Seniors Supplement was ceased from June 2015 as part of the 2014-15 Budget. After payment of the June 2015 quarterly instalment, holders of the CSHC now receive the Energy Supplement only.

Components



Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	94.426	104.828	100.489	87.587	74.450

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 37)

From 2015-16, the estimated figures above are the appropriation for the Energy Supplement for CSHC holders only.

Group and Branch

Payments Policy Group

- Age, Disability and Carer Payments Policy Branch

Component: Energy Supplement for Holders of the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card

Objective

To make payments to senior Australians to assist with household and other living expenses.

Description

The Energy Supplement is a tax-exempt payment to assist with household expenses including energy costs. The Energy Supplement is available to all eligible Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC) holders.

The Energy Supplement component continues to be paid to CSHC holders as a result of ceasing of the Seniors Supplement. As part of the 2014-15 Budget, the Government announced that the Seniors Supplement would cease. The final payment of Seniors Supplement was paid for the June 2015 quarter.

In the past, Seniors Supplement, including Energy Supplement, was made to eligible people who held a CSHC to assist with household and other living expenses.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	94.426	104.828	100.489	87.587	74.450

Source: DSS PBS 2016-7 (page 37)

From 2015-16, the estimated figures above are the appropriation for the Energy Supplement for CSHC holders only.

Eligibility

All holders of a CSHC are eligible for the Energy Supplement.

Rates/statistics

The Energy Supplement is \$366.60 a year for singles and \$275.60 a year for each member of a couple.

Eligible CSHC holders receive the Energy Supplement quarterly in arrears.

291,071 CSHC holders received the Energy Supplement in the financial year to March 2016.

Indexation

The Energy Supplement is not indexed.

Legislation

Social Security Act 1991

Social Security Administration Act 1999

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

N/A

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing. Subject to the passage of legislation, the Energy Supplement attached to this payment will be grandfathered for existing recipients if they remain eligible but will cease for new or returning recipients.

Branch and Section

Age, Disability and Carer Payments Policy Branch

- Age Pension and Concessions Policy Section

Program 1.8: Income support for People with Disability

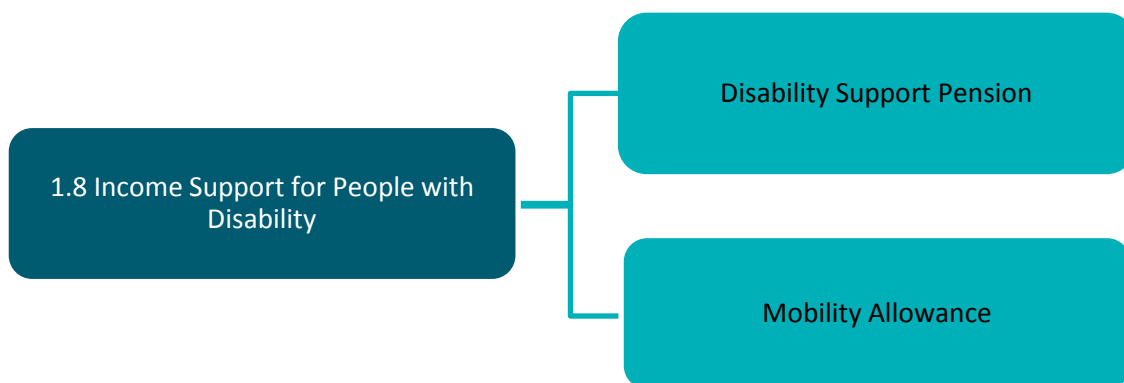
Objective

To make payments to eligible people with disability who are unable to support themselves to achieve financial independence.

Description

Program 1.8 has two separate program components. The components each have a separate description.

Components



Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	16,606.273	17,080.828	17,522.315	17,994.350	18,639.383

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 37)

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

An evaluation of the revised assessment process for Disability Support Pension (DSP) which was introduced from 1 January 2015 will be undertaken in 2015-16. An internal review of the revised impairment tables that were introduced on 1 January 2012 will be undertaken in 2015-16.

Group and Branch

Payments Policy Group

- Age, Disability and Carer Payments Policy Branch
- Work and Study Payments Branch

Component: Disability Support Pension

Objective

To make payments to eligible people with disability who are unable to support themselves to achieve financial independence.

Description

The Disability Support Pension (DSP) assists people who are unable to fully support themselves through paid work due to a permanent physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairment.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	16,448.165	16,931.579	17,398.985	17,916.360	18,593.976

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 37)

Eligibility

A person may be eligible for DSP if he or she:

- has been an Australian resident for a total of at least 10 years, or acquired their impairment while an Australian resident; and
- is aged 16 years or over, and under Age Pension age at the date of claim; and
- has a permanent physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairment assessed at 20 points or more under the impairment tables; and
- has a continuing inability to work. This means the person is unable to work 15 or more hours per week, or be retrained for such work within the next two years as a result of their impairment; or
- is permanently blind; or
- is participating in the Supported Wage Scheme.

Note:

- Residence requirements may vary if an international social security agreement is in effect.
- If the person does not have at least 20 points under a single impairment table, they must have also actively participated in a program of support.
- While a DSP claimant must be under Age Pension age at date of claim, once in receipt of DSP, a person can continue to receive this payment beyond Age Pension age.

Population

The number of people in receipt of DSP as at March 2016 was 788,099.

Successive reforms since July 2010 have improved the quality of assessments for DSP, and supported people with disability who have some work capacity into employment. In combination, these measures have been effective in constraining the growth in the DSP population. The DSP grant rate has dropped from an average of 63.9 per cent in 2009-10 to an average of 36.9 per cent in 2014-15 – a drop of 27 percentage points in that period.

Payments and Rates

Adult pension rates – per fortnight (pf) from 20 March 2016 to 30 June 2016:

	Single (per fortnight)	Partnered (each) (per fortnight)
Maximum basic rate of pension	\$794.80	\$599.10
Pension Supplement	\$65.00	\$49.00
Energy Supplement	\$14.10	\$10.60
TOTAL	\$873.90	\$658.70

Adult pensioners also receive a Pensioner Concession Card, and may receive Rent Assistance and Mobility Allowance if eligible.

DSP recipients aged under 21 without dependent children (Youth DSPs) are paid at youth rates, and receive a base rate of pension plus Youth Disability Supplement and Energy Supplement. From 1 January 2015 fortnightly payment rates, including the Youth Disability Supplement and Energy Supplement are as follows:

Category	Status	Payment Rate
Single, aged under 18	dependent	\$360.60
	independent	\$556.70
Single, aged 18-20	dependent	\$408.70
	independent	\$556.70
Member of a couple (each)	-	\$556.70

Youth DSPs also receive a Pensioner Concession Card, Pharmaceutical Allowance*, and Utilities Allowance*. Depending on their circumstances, they may also receive Rent Assistance, Telephone Allowance* and Mobility Allowance.

*The values of these allowances have been incorporated into the Pension Supplement for adult DSP recipients.

Indexation

Adult DSP, like other pensions, is indexed twice a year (20 March and 20 September) to the higher of the increase in the Consumer Price Index and the increase in the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index and then benchmarked to 41.76 per cent of Male Total Average Weekly Earnings for pensioner couples combined. The single rate of pension is two thirds of the combined couple rate.

Youth DSP is indexed to CPI once a year, in January.

Recent Policy Initiatives

1 July 2014:

- Targeted review of DSP recipients aged under 35 who originally accessed the payment under less rigorous assessment rules between 2008 and 2011; and
- Compulsory work-focussed activities for certain DSP recipients aged under 35.

1 January 2015:

- Portability was reduced from six weeks to four weeks in a 52 week period.
- The DSP assessment process was revised to introduce a Disability Medical Assessment by Government Contracted Doctors for new DSP claims, commencing with a transition cohort of people aged under 35 living in capital cities. The requirement for applicants to submit a Treating Doctor's Report was also removed, instead applicants are required to submit medical records.

1 July 2015

- The Government Contracted Doctors measure was fully implemented, with all new claims subject to the revised assessment process.

Legislation

Social Security Act 1991

Social Security (Administration) Act 1999

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Impairment Tables - Revised DSP Impairment Tables were introduced on 1 January 2012 and are used when assessing qualification for DSP. The new Tables reflect current medical and rehabilitation practice, and focus on a person's abilities, rather than what they cannot do. An internal review of the revised Impairment Tables will be undertaken in 2014-15.

The revised assessment process for DSP was introduced on 1 January 2015. An evaluation is being undertaken in 2015-16 to obtain an understanding of how effectively the revised assessment process is achieving the policy objectives of the measure. The Review is nearing completion.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Age, Disability and Carer Payments Policy Branch

- Disability Support Pension Section

Component: Mobility Allowance

Objective

The objective of Mobility Allowance is to assist people with a disability, illness or injury who cannot use public transport without substantial assistance, so they can undertake approved study or training, work (including voluntary work) or look for work.

Description

Mobility Allowance is a non-means tested payment which assists people who are unable to use public transport without substantial assistance. There are two rates of Mobility Allowance (\$93.20 and \$130.30 in 2016): the basic rate is paid to people undertaking approved job search, or any combination of paid or voluntary work or vocational training for at least 32 hours every four weeks; the higher rate is paid to recipients of Disability Support Pension, Parenting Payment, Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance, participating in job search or paid work (including under the supported wages program) for 15 hours or more per week.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	158.108	149.249	123.330	77.990	45.407

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 37)

Eligibility

A person may receive Mobility Allowance if they are:

- 16 years of age or over at the time of claiming and are under age pension age, and
- an Australian resident and in Australia when they claim, and
- assessed as being unable to use public transport without substantial assistance due to disability or illness, and
- required to travel to and from their home to undertake work, including volunteer work, training or job seeking for at least 32 hours every four weeks (basic rate), or
- in receipt of Disability Support Pension, Parenting Payment, Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance and required to travel to and from their home to undertake paid work or job search for 15 hours per week (higher rate), and
- not in receipt of a funded package under the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Rates/statistics

Statistics as at March 2016:

- Recipient numbers: 59,162
- Basic rate: 53,209 (89.9 per cent) / Higher rate: 5,953 (10.1 per cent)
- Male recipients: 32,085 (54.2 per cent) / Female recipients: 27,077 (45.8 per cent)
- Indigenous recipients: 1,361 (2.3 per cent)

Rates (fortnightly 2016 rates):

- Basic rate: \$93.20
- Higher rate: \$130.30

Indexation

Mobility Allowance is indexed once each year, on 1 January, in line with increases in the Consumer Price Index.

Legislation

Social Security Act 1991

Social Security Administrative Act 1991

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Nil

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Work and Study Payments Branch

- Parenting and Other Payments Section

Program 1.9: Income Support for Carers

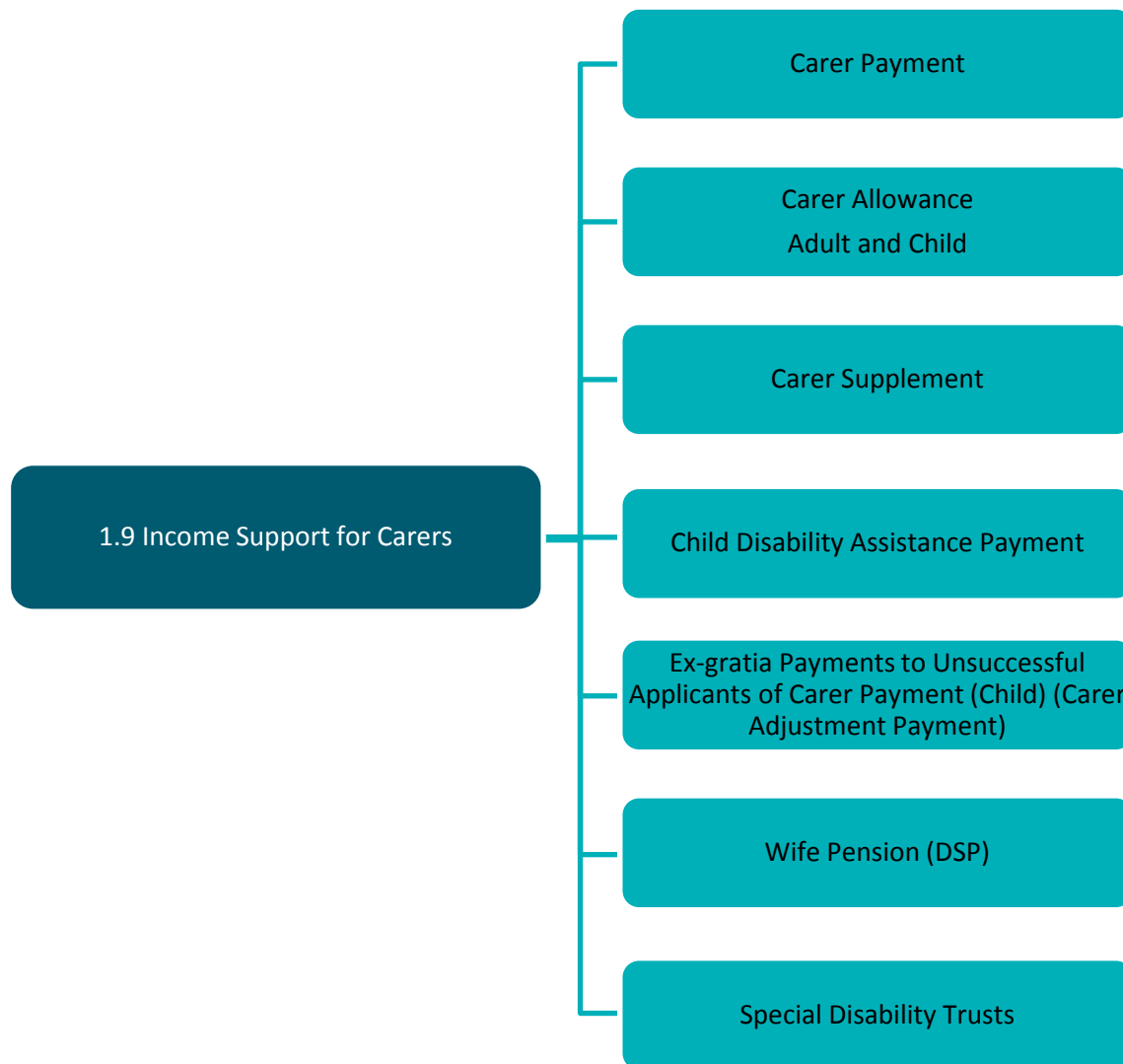
Objective

To make payments and allowances to financially assist eligible carers of people with disability, or a severe medical condition or who are frail aged.

Description

Program 1.9 has a number of program components. The components each have a separate description.

Components



Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	7,842.184	8,396.611	9,003.951	9,539.877	10,288.088

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 39)

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Since July 2015 a project has been underway to improve the assessment process for Carer Payment and Carer Allowance. The new assessment process will be implemented by January 2018.

Group and Branch

Payments Policy Group

- Age, Disability and Carer Payments Policy Branch

Component: Carer Payment

Objective

To make payments to assist eligible carers of people with disability, a severe medical condition or who are frail aged.

Description

Carer Payment is an income support payment for people who, because of the demands of their caring role, are unable to support themselves through substantial paid employment. Carer Payment is income and assets tested and paid at the same rate as other social security pensions.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	4,851.045	5,287.364	5,761.652	6,198.371	6,796.423

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 38)

Eligibility

Both the carer and care receiver must meet residence requirements. The carer must provide constant care in the home of the care receiver and meet an income and assets test.

There is an adult stream and a child stream of Carer Payment. The assessment of the care receiver varies for each stream.

Eligibility for the adult stream is based on the personal care needs of the care receiver.

The assessment process for the child stream considers the level of care required and the care provided by the carer. For both streams care must be required on a daily basis.

The care is required permanently or for a minimum period of six months, unless the care receiver's condition is terminal (excluding short-term or episodic care for children).

Carer Payment (adult) eligibility

To be eligible for Carer Payment (adult) a person must be providing constant care to a care receiver aged over 16 years who has been assessed using the Adult Disability Assessment Tool (ADAT). The ADAT consists of two components, a questionnaire for the carer and a questionnaire for a treating health professional to complete, each resulting in a score. A minimum score is required on the health professional component as well as a minimum combined score.

The ADAT measures the level of care needed by an adult because of his or her disability, and is designed to provide access to Carer Payment for carers of people with similar levels of disability, even where the cause and type of disability differ. The ADAT considers the amount of help required to undertake activities of daily living - such as mobility, communication, hygiene and eating - and a range of cognitive and behavioural activities. This may include supervising and prompting the care receiver to undertake these daily activities.

Carer Payment (child) eligibility

Carer Payment (child) is available to carers of children under 16 years of age who have a severe disability or severe medical condition. The payment is also available to carers of two or more children who, together, require a level of care that is at least equivalent to the level of care required by a child with a severe disability.

The Disability Care Load Assessment (DCLA) tool is used to determine qualification for Carer Payment (child). This assessment considers the level of care required by the child or children with disability or medical condition, and the level of care provided by their carer. The DCLA uses specific questions to identify a broad spectrum of care needs to determine eligibility.

The qualification criteria include:

- one child with severe disability or severe medical condition;
- two or more children with disability or medical condition;
- a disabled adult and one or more children with disability or medical condition;
- access to Carer Payment for short term or episodic care for periods of at least three months but less than six months;
- arrangements for carers of children who have been diagnosed with a terminal condition;
- arrangements for carers of children in hospital; and
- provision for a range of treating health professionals to complete medical forms.

Note: Carers of children under 16 who qualified under the previous profoundly disabled child criteria (prior to 1 July 2009), do not need to requalify under the current provisions while they remain on payment.

Rates/statistics

As at March 2016, there were 258,704 Carer Payment recipients of whom 87 per cent were receiving Carer Payment (adult) and 13 per cent Carer Payment (child).

The current maximum fortnightly rate of Carer Payment (from 20 March 2016 to 30 June 2016):

- Single - \$873.90 (includes maximum Pension Supplement and Energy Supplement)
- Partnered - \$658.70 each (includes maximum Pension Supplement and Energy Supplement)

Other relevant information

- Carer Payment recipients also receive a Pensioner Concession Card (excluding carers who receive Carer Payment due to either episodic or short term care of a child) which entitles them to concessions on Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme prescription medicines, and certain Medicare services, as well as a range of state and local government services such as transport and utilities.
- Carer Payment continues to be payable for 14 weeks following the death of the care receiver. The carer may also be entitled to a lump sum bereavement payment.
- Carer Payment provisions allow a carer to cease caring for up to 25 hours a week to participate in paid or voluntary work or study without affecting their eligibility for Carer Payment.
- Carers who qualify for and receive Carer Payment in respect of a child aged under 16 years may automatically qualify for Carer Allowance.
- A person receiving Carer Payment on 1 July each year will automatically receive a \$600 Carer Supplement payment.
- Carers can continue to receive Carer Payment for up to three months after their child turns 16, to allow time for assessment under the Adult Disability Assessment Tool.

Indexation

The rate of Carer Payment is indexed on 20 March and 20 September each year. The rate is indexed using the higher of the movement in the Consumer Price Index or the Pensioner Beneficiary Living Costs Index, and the indexed rate is then benchmarked to 41.76 per cent of Male Total Average Weekly Earnings for pensioner couples combined. The single rate of pension is two thirds of the combined couple rate.

Legislation

Social Security Act 1991

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Since July 2015, a project has been underway to improve the assessment process for Carer Payment and Carer Allowance. The new assessment process will be implemented by January 2018.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Age, Disability and Carer Payments Policy Branch

- Carer Payments Policy Section

Component: Carer Allowance (Adult and Child)

Objective

To make payments to financially assist carers who provide daily care and attention in a private home to a person with disability or a severe medical condition.

Description

Carer Allowance is an income supplement available to people who provide daily care and attention in a private home to a person who has disability or severe medical condition.

Carer Allowance is not taxable or income and assets tested and it can be paid in addition to a social security income support payment.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Adult \$m	1,581.245	1,671.863	1,778.195	1,856.042	1,972.237
Child \$m	570.951	582.742	596.525	608.238	626.134

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 38)

Eligibility

Both the care provider and care receiver must be Australian residents.

There is an adult stream and a child stream of Carer Allowance. The assessment of the care receiver varies for each stream.

Eligibility for the adult stream is based on the personal care needs of the care receiver.

The assessment process for the child stream considers the level of care required and the care provided by the carer. For both streams care must be required on a daily basis.

The care is required permanently or for a minimum period of 12 months, unless the care receiver's condition is terminal.

A carer may receive Carer Allowance for any number of child care receivers, and up to two adult care receivers.

Carer Allowance (Adult)

Eligibility is based on the care receiver being aged 16 years or over and an assessment of their needs using the Adult Disability Assessment Tool (ADAT). The ADAT is comprised of a carer questionnaire and a treating health professional assessment. A minimum qualifying score must be achieved on the health professional component as well as a minimum combined total ADAT score. The carer must either live with the care receiver in the same house or provide daily personal care for at least 20 hours a week.

Carer Allowance (Child)

The care receiver must be under 16 years of age and a dependent child of the carer.

There are two stages in assessing Carer Allowance (child) eligibility:

- Firstly, the child is assessed against the List of Recognised Disabilities (the List). The List identifies certain disabilities and medical conditions that are consistently severe enough to qualify the parent or carer for the allowance automatically.
- Where a child's medical condition or disability is not on the List, they will be assessed using the Disability Care Load Assessment (DCLA). This tool recognises and assesses the actual care provided by the carer and required by the child. The assessment process requires the completion of two questionnaires: one by the carer and one by a treating health professional.

A parent or carer of two children, whose level of care does not individually qualify the carer for Carer Allowance (child) but whose combined assessment under the DCLA meets a minimum qualifying score, may receive a single rate of the allowance.

Other information

- A carer who qualifies for Carer Payment (child) may receive Carer Allowance automatically.
- A person receiving Carer Allowance on 1 July each year automatically receives a \$600 Carer Supplement payment for each person for whom they receive Carer Allowance.
- A person receiving Carer Allowance (child) on 1 July each year automatically receives a \$1,000 Child Disability Assistance payment for each child who attracts a payment of Carer Allowance.
- Carer Allowance (child) continues to be payable to a carer who qualified for Carer Allowance before the child turns 16, for a period of up to three months after the child turns 16, to allow them time to test their eligibility for Carer Allowance (adult).

Health Care Card (HCC) Only

- If the carer of a child is ineligible for payment of Carer Allowance, he or she may still be entitled to a HCC for the child if the child needs substantially more care and attention, usually taken to be 14 hours or more per week, compared to a child of the same age without a disability or severe medical condition.
- An ex-Carer Allowance (child) HCC can be claimed by 16-25 year old full-time students whose carer was receiving Carer Allowance HCC on the day before their 16th birthday. The ex-Carer Allowance (child) HCC is issued in the name of the student and is not means tested.

Rates/statistics

The current rate of Carer Allowance is \$123.50 a fortnight (this rate applies throughout the 2016 calendar year).

As at March 2016, there were 601,375 Carer Allowance recipients (Carer Allowance HCC only 19,345 – not included in total).

Indexation

Carer Allowance is indexed on 1 January each year in line with the Consumer Price Index.

Legislation

Social Security Act 1991

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Since July 2015, a project has been underway to improve the assessment process for Carer Payment and Carer Allowance. The new assessment process will be implemented by January 2018.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Age, Disability and Carer Payments Policy Branch

- Carer Payments Policy Section

Component: Carer Supplement

Objective

To make payments annually to eligible carers to provide additional financial security and alleviate financial pressures.

Description

The Carer Supplement is a \$600 annual payment to assist carers with the costs of caring for a person with a disability or medical condition. Carer Supplement is paid to carers who receive an instalment of a qualifying payment for a period including 1 July each year. It is paid in addition to the eligible primary income support.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	568.328	591.118	613.378	632.864	655.174

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 38)

Eligibility

The Carer Supplement is paid to recipients of Carer Allowance for each person being cared for and an additional \$600 is paid to recipients of Carer Payment, Department of Veterans' Affairs Carer Service Pension and those recipients of Wife Pension or the Department of Veterans' Affairs Partner Service Pension, who also receive Carer Allowance.

Rates/statistics

The rate of Carer Supplement is \$600 per annum. This amount is paid in respect of each qualifying payment received.

As at March 2016, 628,921 carers had received the Carer Supplement for the 2015-16 financial year.

Other relevant information

Carer Supplement is paid in addition to a person's fortnightly Carer Allowance entitlement, and in addition to their fortnightly income support payment.

For Carer Allowance recipients where more than one carer is sharing the care of one person, the Carer Supplement is also shared and paid in the same ratio as Carer Allowance.

Indexation

Carer Supplement is not indexed.

Legislation

Social Security Act 1991

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Nil

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Age, Disability and Carer Payments Policy Branch

- Carer Payments Policy Section

Component: Child Disability Assistance Payment

Objective

Child Disability Assistance Payment (CDAP) is an annual payment to assist carers with the costs of caring for a child with disability or medical condition. The payment is to assist Carer Allowance (child) recipients purchase appropriate assistance for their family.

Description

The Child Disability Assistance Payment is a \$1,000 annual payment made for a child with disability aged under 16 years who attracts a payment of Carer Allowance for their carer.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	175.907	179.434	180.815	179.320	180.434

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 39)

Eligibility

A carer is qualified for a Child Disability Assistance Payment if they receive an instalment of Carer Allowance for their child/children in respect of a period that included 1 July.

Rates/statistics

The rate of Child Disability Assistance Payment is \$1,000 per annum. This amount is paid in respect of each qualifying child.

As at March 2016, 154,434 carers had received the Child Disability Assistance Payment for the 2015-16 financial year.

Other relevant information

The payment is made by Centrelink to the carer for each child with disability for whom they are receiving payment of Carer Allowance (child). The payment is made annually in July. The Child Disability Assistance Payment is not subject to income tax, and does not count as income for social security or family assistance purposes.

Where a carer receives a portion of Carer Allowance for their child/children, in respect of a period that included 1 July, due to shared care arrangements, they will receive a portion of Child Disability Assistance Payment that reflects these arrangements. Carer Allowance recipients who receive a Health Care Card only for their child/ren are not entitled to Child Disability Assistance Payment.

Indexation

Child Disability Assistance Payment is not indexed.

Legislation

Social Security Act 1991

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Nil

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Age, Disability and Carer Payments Policy Branch

- Carer Payments Policy Section

Component: Ex Gratia Payment to Unsuccessful Applications of Carer Payment (child)

Objective

To make a one off non-taxable ex-gratia payment to families not eligible for income support where, following a catastrophic event involving a child aged under seven years, the family is going through a period of significant adjustment as a result of the care needs of the child.

Description

The one-off ex-gratia Carer Adjustment Payment (CAP) of up to \$10,000 is intended to assist families to adjust following a catastrophic event where a child under seven is diagnosed with a severe disability or a severe medical condition. It must have caused an adjustment in the care arrangements that cause financial hardship for the family. The carer and/or their partner must not be eligible for Carer Payment (child) or any other income support payment during the adjustment period.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	2.800	2.800	2.800	2.800	2.800

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 38)

Eligibility

Families may qualify for assistance for the CAP where, following a catastrophic event:

- the child, aged under seven years, is diagnosed with a severe disability or severe medical condition; and
- the child has significant care requirements – i.e. requires full-time care from the carer for a minimum of two months following the catastrophic event; and
- the child's carer is eligible for and receiving Carer Allowance in respect of the child; and
- the carer is not eligible for Carer Payment; and
- the carer and/or their partner are not qualified for an income support payment; and
- the carer is able to demonstrate a very strong need for financial support during the adjustment period after the catastrophic event; and
- the claim is lodged within two years from the date of diagnosis of a severe disability or severe medical condition following the catastrophic event.

All applications are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Rates/statistics

The amount available to any family is up to \$10,000 and is based on the family's individual circumstances. The payment is not taxable.

Indexation

The payment is not subject to indexation.

Legislation

The Carer Adjustment Payment is an ex-gratia payment made in reliance on the executive power of the Commonwealth under section 61 of the Constitution.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Nil

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Age, Disability and Carer Payments Policy Branch

- Coordination, Carer Adjustment Payment and Guides Section

Component: Wife Pension (DSP)

Objective

To provide an adequate level of income for female partners of Disability Support Pension (DSP) recipients, who are not receiving any other income support payment in their own right.

Wife Pension (DSP) was closed to new entrants from 1 July 1995. Women receiving the payment at that date continue to receive this payment provided they continue to meet the qualification and payability provisions, and their partner is receiving DSP, or until they transfer to another payment such as Age Pension.

Description

Wife Pension (DSP) provides financial support to female partners of DSP recipients.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	91.908	81.290	70.586	62.242	54.886

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 39)

Eligibility

A woman is qualified for a Wife Pension (DSP) if she:

- was receiving the payment on 1 July 1995; and
- is a member of a couple; and
- has a partner who:
 - is receiving a Disability Support Pension; or
 - is receiving a rehabilitation allowance and was, immediately before he became qualified for that allowance, receiving an invalid pension.

Rates/statistics

Recipient numbers have continued to reduce over recent years. As at March 2016, there were 5,905 Wife Pension (DSP) recipients.

Wife Pension (DSP) is paid at common pension rates – currently (from 20 September 2015 to 19 March 2016) up to \$653.50 a fortnight (including maximum Pension Supplement and Energy Supplement) for each eligible member of a couple.

Wife Pension is subject to the pension income and assets tests.

Indexation

The rate of Wife Pension (DSP) is indexed, in line with other adult pensions, twice a year (20 March and 20 September).

Legislation

Social Security Act 1991

Social Security Administration Act 1999

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Nil

Ongoing or terminating

Wife Pension (DSP) is gradually being phased out. There have been no new grants of Wife Pension since 1 July 1995.

Branch and Section

Age, Disability and Carer Payments Policy Branch

- Disability Support Pension Section

Component: Special Disability Trusts

Objective

The purpose of Special Disability Trusts is to assist family members who have the financial means to do so, to make private financial provision for the current and future care and accommodation needs of a family member with severe disability.

Description

The concessional assets value limit for a Special Disability Trust is \$636,750 (indexed annually and current as at 1 July 2015). Income from the trust can be used for the care and accommodation of the beneficiary of the trust (that is, the person with disability for whom the trust is established) without these funds impacting on the person's Disability Support Pension.

The concessions associated with a Special Disability Trust allow the beneficiary's immediate family members who are of Age Pension age to gift up to \$500,000 into the trust without having the social security gifting rules apply. The gifting limit applies per Special Disability Trust.

Expenses

There is no appropriation for Special Disability Trusts.

Eligibility

A principal beneficiary of a Special Disability Trust must meet the following definition of severe disability:

- a person who has reached 16 years of age:
 - whose level of impairment would qualify the person for Disability Support Pension or who is already receiving a Department of Veterans' Affairs Invalidity Service Pension or Department of Veterans' Affairs Invalidity Income Support Supplement; and
 - who has a disability that would if the person had a sole carer qualify the carer for Carer Payment or Carer Allowance, or the person is living in an institution, hostel or group home in which care is provided for people with disability, and for which funding is provided (wholly or partly) under an agreement between the Commonwealth and state/territory governments; and
 - who has a disability as a result of which he or she has no likelihood of working for more than seven (7) hours a week for a wage that is at or above the relevant minimum wage; or
- a person under 16 years of age, who is a profoundly disabled child as defined in Section 197(1) of the *Social Security Act 1991* immediately before 1 July 2009; or
- a person under 16 years of age:
 - who is a person with severe disability or a severe medical condition; and
 - whose carer has been given a qualifying rating of intense under the Disability Care Load Assessment (Child) Determination for caring for the child; and
 - for whom a treating health professional has certified in writing that, because of that disability or condition: personal care will be needed for six months or more, and the personal care is required to be provided by a specified number of persons.

Further information on Special Disability Trusts

The following characteristics apply to Special Disability Trusts:

- have only one beneficiary (for whom the trust is established);
- the beneficiary must meet all the eligibility criteria;
- the primary purpose must be to provide only for the accommodation and care needs of the beneficiary;
- have a trust deed that contains the clauses set out in the Model Trust Deed (for trusts established before 20 September 2006, the trustee can be issued with a waiver notice for certain requirements);
- have an independent trustee, or alternatively have more than one trustee;
- comply with the investment restrictions;
- provide annual financial statements; and
- conduct independent audits when required.

A Special Disability Trust may spend up to \$11,250 (indexed annually) in the 2015-16 financial year on discretionary items not related to the care and accommodation needs of the beneficiary of the Trust.

Rates/statistics

As at March 2016, there were 523 Special Disability Trusts in operation.

Indexation

The assets limit and the discretionary spending limit for Special Disability Trusts are indexed to CPI on 1 July each year.

Legislation

Social Security Act 1991

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

A small-scale review of Special Disability Trusts has been undertaken.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Age, Disability and Carer Payments Policy Branch

- Carer Payments Policy Section

Program 1.10: Working Age Payments

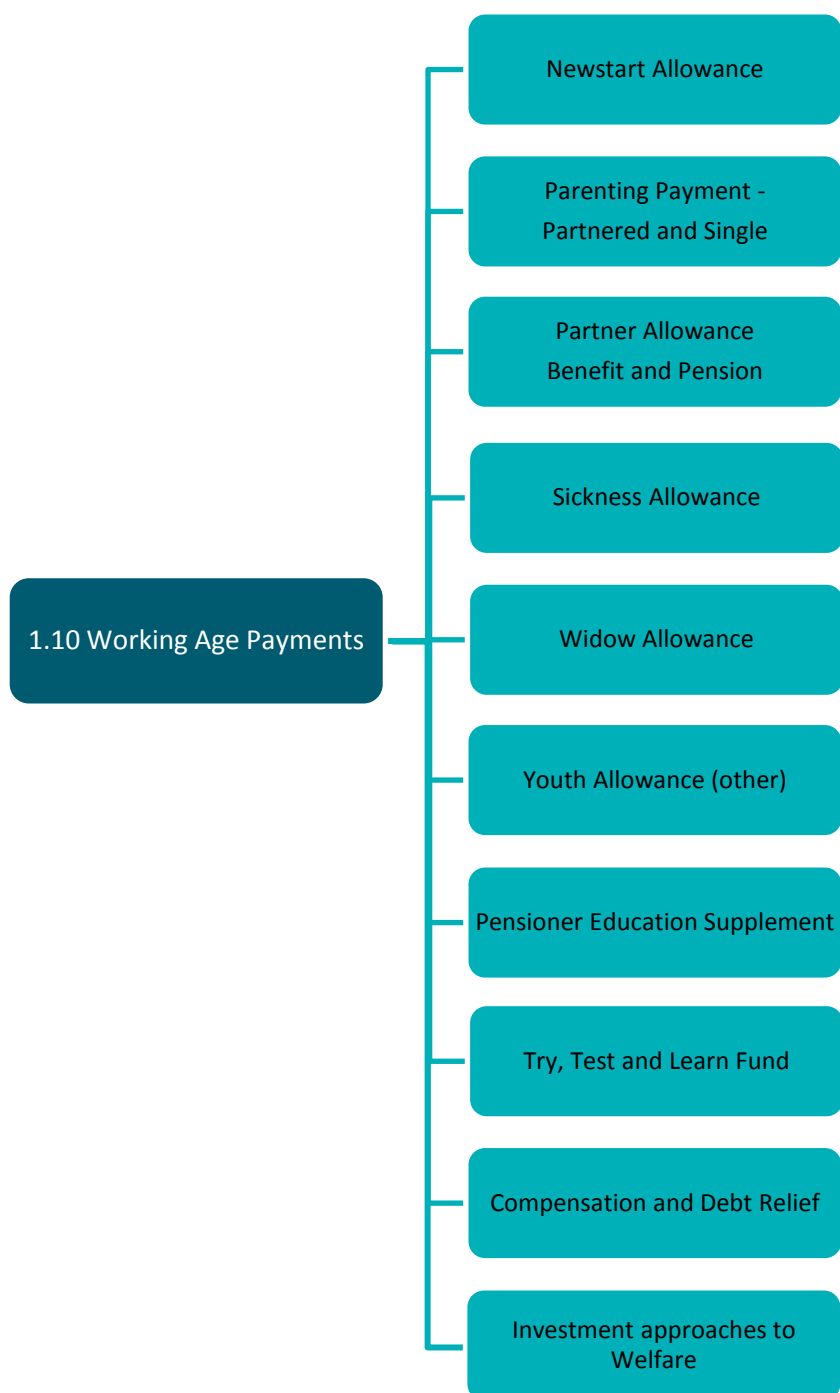
Objective

Working age payments assist people who are temporarily unable to support themselves through work or have a limited capacity to work due to disability or caring responsibilities for young children. These payments provide income assistance which is generally contingent upon the recipient actively looking for paid work and improving their employability through training or work experience where required. Eligibility for payments is highly targeted, with income tests and supplementary payments ensuring that assistance is directed to those with the greatest need.

Description

Program 1.10 has a number of program components. The components each have a separate description.

Components



Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	17,030,746	16,501,064	16,281,030	17,459,390	18,057,632

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 40 and 41)

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Working age payments were considered as part of the Review into Australia's Welfare System led by Patrick McClure AO. The final report of the McClure Review – A New System for Better Employment and Social Outcomes – was released on 25 February 2015.

Group and Branch

Payments Policy Group and Policy Office

- Work and Study Payments Branch
- Investment Approach Taskforce

Component: Newstart Allowance

Description

Newstart Allowance is the main income support payment for unemployed people of working age while they look for work. Recipients must satisfy an activity test by seeking work or participating in an activity designed to improve their employment prospects. The payment is means tested based on the recipient's (and their partner's if applicable) income and assets. A recipient can earn up to \$102.00 per fortnight, without affecting their payment.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	9,863.419	9,056.843	8,801.692	9,447.299	9,804.880

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 40)

Eligibility

To qualify for Newstart Allowance, a person must:

- be unemployed (or treated as unemployed); and
- be 22 years or over (25 or over, subject to passage of legislation) and under Age Pension age; and
- meet residence requirements; and
- meet means testing requirements; and
- satisfy the activity test by:
 - being available for, and actively seeking, work; or
 - undertaking approved activities, such as a training course or voluntary work, that will increase their chances of finding employment; or
 - satisfying the terms of an Employment Pathway Plan or Job Plan that he or she has entered into.

Rates/statistics

Statistics as at March 2016:

- Recipient numbers: 768,375
- Male recipients: 405,545 (52.8 per cent)
- Female recipients: 362,830 (47.2 per cent)
- Indigenous recipients: 74,004 (9.6 per cent)

Basic rates from 20 March 2016 to 30 June 2016:

Single, no children	\$527.60 per fortnight
Single, with dependent children	\$570.80 per fortnight
Single, aged 60 or over, after nine months	\$570.80 per fortnight
Partnered (each)	\$476.40 per fortnight
Single principal carer (granted an exemption for foster caring/relative (non-parent) caring/home schooling/distance education/large family)	\$737.10 per fortnight

Indexation

Newstart Allowance is indexed twice a year, in March and September, in line with increases in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) – with the exception of Single principal carer of a dependent child, which is indexed to CPI and benchmarked to 25 per cent of the Male Total Average Weekly Earnings in March and September.

Legislation

Social Security Act 1991

Social Security (Administration) Act 1999

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Nil

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Work and Study Payments Branch

- Unemployment Payments Section

Component: Parenting Payment (Single)

Description

Parenting Payment (single) provides income support for single parents of children under eight years old. The basic rate of payment is \$725.40 per fortnight and means tested based on the recipient's income and assets. A recipient can earn up to \$186.60 per fortnight, plus \$24.60 for each additional child without affecting their payment.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	4,636.897	4,544.699	4,590.976	4,796.467	5,026.508

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 40)

Eligibility

To be eligible for Parenting Payment (single) the claimant must:

- be the principal carer of a qualifying child under eight years old; and
- meet means testing requirements; and
- not be a member of a couple; and
- meet residence requirements; and
- satisfy part-time mutual obligation requirements of 30 hours per fortnight once their youngest child turns six (unless exempt).

Rates/statistics

Statistics as at March 2016:

- Recipient numbers: 260,289
- Male recipients: 13,864 (5.3 per cent)
- Female recipients: 246,425 (94.7 per cent)
- Indigenous recipients: 35,166 (13.5 per cent)

Basic Rate at March 2016:

- \$737.10 per fortnight, this amount includes a pension supplement component.

Indexation

Parenting Payment (single) is indexed twice a year, in March and September, in line with increases in the Consumer Price Index and benchmarked to 25 per cent of the Male Total Average Weekly Earnings.

Legislation

Social Security Act 1991

Social Security (Administration) Act 1999

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Nil

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Work and Study Payments Branch

- Parenting and Other Payments Section

Component: Parenting Payment (Partnered)

Description

Parenting Payment (partnered) provides income support for partnered parents of children under six years old. The maximum basic rate of payment is up to \$476.40 per fortnight and means tested based on the recipient's and their partner's income and assets. A recipient can earn up to \$102.00 per fortnight, without affecting their payment.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	1,006.107	972.663	945.701	1,008.528	1,061.835

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 40)

Eligibility

To be eligible for Parenting Payment (partnered) the claimant must:

- be the principal carer of a qualifying child under six years old; and
- be a member of a couple; and
- meet means testing requirements; and
- meet residence requirements.

Rates/statistics

Statistics as at March 2016:

- Recipient numbers: 101,280
- Male recipients: 9,881 (9.8 per cent)
- Female recipients: 91,399 (90.2 per cent)
- Indigenous recipients: 9,028 (8.9 per cent)

Basic Rate at March 2016:

- \$476.40 per fortnight
- \$570.80 per fortnight if separated by illness or respite care couple, or partner in prison

Indexation

Parenting Payment (partnered) is indexed twice a year, in March and September, in line with increases in the Consumer Price Index.

Legislation

Social Security Act 1991

Social Security (Administration) Act 1999

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Nil

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Work and Study Payments Branch

- Parenting and Other Payments Section

Component: Partner Allowance (Benefit and Pension)

Description

Partner Allowance provides income support for older partners of income support recipients who face barriers to finding employment because of their previous limited participation in the workforce. The payment is means tested based on the recipient's and their partner's income and assets. A recipient can earn up to \$102.00 per fortnight, without affecting their payment. Partner Allowance has been closed to new entrants since 20 September 2003.

Expenses

Note: the Partner Allowance appropriations are separated into Partner Allowance (pension) and Partner Allowance (benefit) – the distinction reflects recipients partnered to either a pension recipient or a benefit/allowance recipient. The below figures are the combined appropriations.

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	63.413	44.124	35.951	24.266	16.463

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 41)

Eligibility

To be eligible for Partner Allowance, a person must:

- be born on or before 1 July 1955; and
- be a member of a couple and whose partner was on a qualifying pension or allowance at the time of claim; and
- have no recent workforce experience (work of at least 20 hours a week for a total of 13 weeks or more at any time in the previous 12 months); and
- have no dependent children; and
- meet means testing requirements; and
- meet residence requirements.

Rates/statistics

Statistics as at March 2016:

- Recipient numbers: 4,279
- Male recipients: 222 (5.2 per cent)
- Female recipients: 4,057 (94.8 per cent)
- Indigenous recipients: 37 (<1 per cent)

Basic rates from 20 March 2016 to 30 June 2016:

Partnered (each)	\$476.40 per fortnight
Partnered, separated by illness or respite care couple, or partner in prison	\$570.80 per fortnight

Indexation

Partner Allowance is indexed twice a year, in March and September, in line with increases in the Consumer Price Index.

Legislation

Social Security Act 1991

Social Security (Administration) Act 1999

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

N/A

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing, but closed to new claimants

Branch and Section

Work and Study Payments Branch

- Parenting and Other Payments Section

Component: Sickness Allowance

Description

An income support payment for people aged 22 years and over but under Age Pension age who are temporarily incapacitated for work or study as a result of illness or injury, are unable to work or study and have a job or course of study to return to. The payment is means tested based on the recipient's (and their partner's if applicable) income and assets. A recipient can earn up to \$102.00 per fortnight, without affecting their payment.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	108.973	87.873	89.496	116.060	115.444

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 41)

Eligibility

To be eligible for Sickness Allowance the claimant must:

- be aged 22 or over (25 or over, subject to passage of legislation) but under Age Pension age; and
- be temporarily incapacitated for work (or full-time study and on Austudy payment or ABSTUDY payment); and
- have a job to which they can return; and
- meet residence requirements; and
- meet means testing requirements.

A medical certificate from a qualified medical practitioner must be supplied.

Not payable to Youth Allowance (student) recipients who become incapacitated for study.

Rates/statistics

Statistics as at March 2016:

- Recipient numbers: 7,712
- Male recipients: 4,178 (54.2 per cent)
- Female recipients: 3,534 (45.8 per cent)
- Indigenous recipients: 321 (4.2 per cent)

Basic rates from 20 March 2016 to 19 September 2016:

Single, no children	\$527.60 per fortnight
Single, with dependent children	\$570.80 per fortnight
Single, aged 60 or over, after nine months	\$570.80 per fortnight
Partnered (each)	\$476.40 per fortnight

Indexation

Sickness Allowance is indexed twice a year, in March and September, in line with increases in the Consumer Price Index.

Legislation

Social Security Act 1991

Social Security (Administration) Act 1999

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Nil

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Work and Study Payments Branch

- Parenting and Other Payments Section

Component: Widow Allowance

Description

Widow Allowance provides income support for older working age women who lose the support of a partner and face barriers to finding employment because of limited participation. The payment is means tested based on the recipient's income and assets. A recipient can earn up to \$102.00 per fortnight without affecting their payment. This allowance is being phased out and eligibility is limited to women born on or before 1 July 1955.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	306.952	258.572	207.108	170.591	124.717

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 41)

Eligibility

To be eligible for Widow Allowance, a person must:

- be a woman born on or before 1 July 1955; and
- not be a member of a couple and became widowed, divorced or separated since turning 40 years of age; and
- have no recent workforce experience (work of at least 20 hours a week for a total of 13 weeks or more at any time in the previous 12 months); and
- meet means testing requirements; and
- meet residence requirements.

Rates/statistics

Statistics as at March 2016:

- Recipient numbers: 19,143
- Male recipients: 0
- Female recipients: 19,143
- Indigenous recipients: 347 (1.8 per cent)

Basic rates from 20 March 2016 to 30 June 2016:

Single, no children	\$527.60 per fortnight
Single, with dependent children	\$570.80 per fortnight

Indexation

Widow Allowance is indexed twice a year, in March and September, in line with increases in the Consumer Price Index.

Legislation

Social Security Act 1991

Social Security (Administration) Act 1999

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Nil

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Work and Study Payments Branch

- Parenting and Other Payments Section

Component: Youth Allowance (Other)

Description

Youth Allowance (other) is the primary income support payment for young people aged 16 to 21 years who are seeking or preparing for paid employment. Certain 15 year olds, including those who are homeless, may also receive assistance. Subject to the passage of legislation, from 1 July 2016, the maximum age for Youth Allowance (other) will increase from 21 to 24 years.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	974.995	1,489.147	1,582.351	1,874.586	1,903.026

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 41)

Eligibility

To qualify for Youth Allowance (other) a person must:

- be aged under 22 (under 25, subject to passage of legislation);
- meet residence requirements;
- meet means testing requirements (including parental means testing if applicable); and
- be looking for work, or combining part-time study with job search, or undertaking any other approved activity, or temporarily incapacitated for work or study.

Youth Allowance (other) recipients under 22 years of age without year 12 or equivalent will usually need to:

- participate in education and training full-time; or
- participate full-time (i.e. for at least 25 hours per week) in part-time study or training, in combination with other approved activities, until they attain year 12 or an equivalent qualification (Certificate Level III).

Rates/statistics

Statistics as at March 2016:

- Recipient numbers: 105,630
- Male recipients: 56,475 (53.5 per cent)
- Female recipients: 49,155 (46.5 per cent)
- Indigenous recipients: 18,288 (17.3 per cent)

Basic rates from 20 March 2016 to 30 June 2016:

Single, no children:	
- aged under 18, at home	\$237.10 per fortnight
- aged under 18, away from home	\$433.20 per fortnight
- aged 18 and over, at home	\$285.20 per fortnight
- aged 18 and over, away from home	\$433.20 per fortnight
Single, with children	\$567.60 per fortnight
Partnered, no children	\$433.20 per fortnight
Partnered, with children	\$475.70 per fortnight
Single principal carer (granted an exemption for foster caring/relative (non-parent) caring /home schooling/distance education/large family)	\$737.10 per fortnight

Indexation

Youth Allowance (other) is indexed annually, on 1 January each year in line with increases in the CPI – with the exception of Single principal carer of a dependent child, which is indexed to CPI and benchmarked to 25 per cent of the Male Total Average Weekly Earnings in March and September.

Legislation

Social Security Act 1991

Social Security (Administration) Act 1999

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Nil

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Work and Study Payments Branch

- Unemployment Payments Section

Component: Pensioner Education Supplement

Description

Pensioner Education Supplement helps recipients of certain income support payments with the costs of study in a secondary or tertiary institution. In the 2014-15 Budget, the Government announced that subject to legislative change this payment would cease on 1 January 2015, however, legislation failed to pass the Senate in time for implementation. On 4 June 2015, the measure was reintroduced in the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Fair and Sustainable Pensions) Bill 2015, with a revised start date of 1 January 2016.

The schedule containing the abolition of Pensioner Education Supplement was subsequently removed. The measure was reintroduced on 2 December 2015 in the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Budget Repair) Bill 2015. This Bill was referred to the Senate Community Affairs Committee who recommended that the Bill be amended to include transitional arrangements for Pensioner Education Supplement recipients, and that the Bill be passed. However, as a result of the prorogation of the Parliament, the Bill lapsed on 17 April 2016. The timing of the introduction of the measure is a matter for Government.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	69.592	20.032	-	-	-

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 41)

Eligibility

To be eligible for Pensioner Education Supplement, a person must be:

- in receipt of one of the following:
 - Disability Support Pension, Parenting Payment (single), Carer Payment, Widow Allowance, Widow B pensioner or Wife Pension if partnered to a Disability Support Pensioner; or
 - Newstart Allowance as a single principal carer; or
 - Special Benefit as a sole parent; or
 - Youth Allowance or Parenting Payment (Partnered) in certain circumstances; or
 - a qualifying payment under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*; or
 - a qualifying payment under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* and have a dependent child; and
- studying an approved course at an approved educational institution; and
- at least 16 years of age or the minimum school leaving age and independent.

Rates/statistics

Statistics as at March 2016:

- Recipient numbers: 33,680
- Male recipients: 6,617 (19.6 per cent)
- Female recipients: 27,063 (80.4 per cent)
- Indigenous recipients: 2,609 (7.7 per cent)

Full Rate

- \$62.40 per fortnight for students with at least a 50 per cent study load, or with a study load of at least 25 per cent and who are receiving Disability Support Pension or a qualifying Department of Veterans' Affairs payment.

Part Rate

- \$31.20 per fortnight for students with a study load of at least 25 per cent and less than 50 per cent.

Indexation

Pensioner Education Supplement is not indexed

Legislation

Social Security Act 1991

Social Security (Administration) Act 1999

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

N/A

Ongoing or terminating

Terminating subject to legislative change

Branch and Section

Work and Study Payments Branch

- Student Payments Section

Component: Investment Approaches to Welfare

Objective

The Australian Government is currently implementing a Priority Investment Approach to Australia's social security and income support systems. The Australian Priority Investment Approach to Welfare aims to:

1. Increase the capacity of people to live independently of welfare;
2. Decrease the Commonwealth's long-term social security costs;
3. Address the risk of intergenerational welfare receipt.

Description

The 2015-16 Investment Approaches to Welfare Budget measure was funded to apply annual actuarial analysis to current and historical social security and income support data. This analysis estimates the future lifetime social security cost of the Australian population, and of various groups within the population. The Government can use this data to identify and design policy interventions for groups with a high risk of long-term welfare dependency, particularly groups most likely to benefit from obtaining stable, sustainable employment.

The 2016-17 Try, Test and Learn Fund Budget measure will finance some experimental policy interventions addressing long-term welfare dependency and unemployment in response to the analysis. Information on the outcomes of particular policy interventions financed by the Fund will be evaluated and their effectiveness assessed through the Priority Investment Approach's future analyses. Contingent on this analysis, successful policy interventions may be continued, expanded or incorporated into new measures, while those that have been less successful may be tailored, or have their funding redirected to support the more successful approaches.

These new policy interventions will be developed with the Social Services, Employment, Education and Training, and Health portfolios, and with experts from outside government including the non-government and not-for-profit sector. Funding will be deployed for experimental and innovative measures designed to decrease welfare dependency, including, where appropriate, possible social impact bonds.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Try, Test and Learn Fund \$m	-	26.713	27.357	21.195	4.361
Investment Approach to Welfare - Evaluation \$m	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	-

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 40)

Eligibility

N/A

Rates/statistics

N/A

Indexation

N/A

Legislation

N/A

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

PricewaterhouseCoopers is contracted from September 2015 to December 2018 to conduct an initial baseline valuation of Commonwealth social security liabilities, three subsequent annual re-valuations and associated analysis. These valuations will be used to identify the effectiveness of policy interventions created through the Try, Test and Learn Fund.

Ongoing or terminating

Terminating

Branch and Section

Investment Approach Taskforce

- Policy Design Section

Component: Compensation and Debt Relief

Description

Compensation and debt relief provides access for eligible recipients to discretionary payments in special circumstances or financial relief from amounts owing by a working age payment recipient to the Commonwealth. This recognises that in a small number of cases the criteria applied to recipients of income support payments do not create an appropriate result for the individual or their circumstances.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	0.198	0.198	0.198	0.198	0.198

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 40)

Eligibility

All recipients must be approved Act of Grace recipients.

Rates/statistics

N/A

Indexation

N/A

Legislation

Public Governance and Accountability Act 2013

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

N/A

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Work and Study Payments Branch

- Parents and Other Payments Section

Program 1.11: Student Payments

Objective

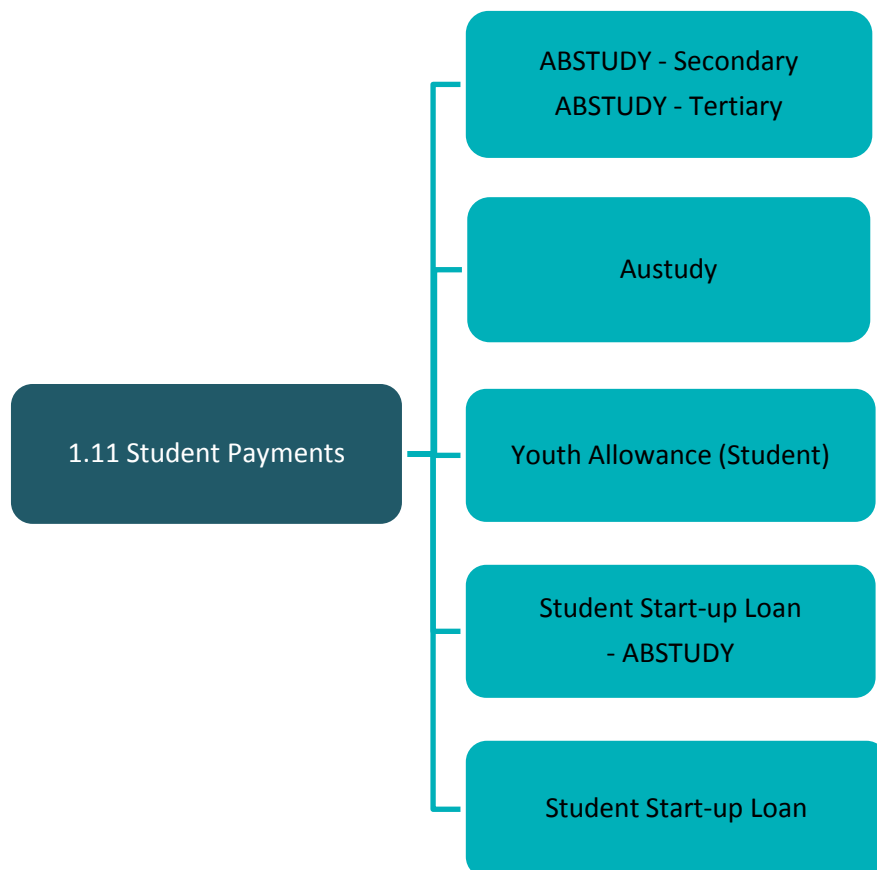
To achieve growth in skills, qualifications and productivity through providing income support and other financial assistance to students to assist them to undertake further education and training.

To increase access and participation by Indigenous Australian students in secondary school, vocational education and training, and higher education, and accelerate their educational outcomes.

Description

Provide income support and assistance with study related costs to students through Youth Allowance (student), ABSTUDY and Austudy to assist them to undertake education and training.

Components



Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	3,405.456	3,213.985	3,169.908	3,483.664	3,615.093

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 42)

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

2008 - Review of Australian Higher Education

2011 - Review of Student Income Support Reforms

Group and Branch

Payments Policy Group

- Work and Study Payments Branch

Component: ABSTUDY – Secondary and ABSTUDY – Tertiary

Objective

To provide a means-tested living allowance and a range of supplementary benefits to address the particular educational disadvantages faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Description

Provide support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and apprentices to access and participate in secondary and tertiary education.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
ABSTUDY Secondary \$m	144.204	145.651	149.926	155.113	159.438
ABSTUDY Tertiary \$m	112.178	116.995	117.418	125.336	132.499

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 42)

Eligibility

A student or Australian Apprentice must meet the general eligibility criteria for ABSTUDY.

The student or Australian Apprentice must be:

- of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent according to the ABSTUDY definition of Aboriginality; and
- studying an approved course at an approved education institution; or
- undertaking a full-time Australian Apprenticeship; and
- not receiving other government assistance for study.

Additional eligibility criteria apply relevant to the specific support being claimed and/or the level of study or training being undertaken.

Rates/statistics

The numbers for student payments are subject to significant seasonal variation throughout the year. Point in time data may not be reflective of the number of recipients throughout the year. In 2014-15, an average of 19,063 secondary and 9,692 tertiary and vocational education and training students received ABSTUDY.

ABSTUDY Living Allowance rates as at March 2016:*Dependent*

Under 16, in tertiary study	\$32.70 per fortnight
Under 18, at home	\$237.10 per fortnight (aligned with Youth Allowance)
18-21, at home	\$285.20 per fortnight (aligned with Youth Allowance)
16-21, away from home	\$433.20 per fortnight (aligned with Youth Allowance)

Independent

Under 22, partnered, no children	\$433.20 per fortnight (aligned with Youth Allowance)
Under 22, partnered, with children	\$475.70 per fortnight (aligned with Youth Allowance)
22 and over, single, no children	\$527.60 per fortnight (aligned with Newstart Allowance)
22 and over, single, with children	\$570.80 per fortnight (aligned with Newstart Allowance)
22 and over, partnered	\$476.40 per fortnight (aligned with Newstart Allowance)
60 and over	\$570.80 per fortnight
Masters / Doctorate students	\$1,005.60 per fortnight (aligned with Australia Postgraduate Award)

ABSTUDY supplementary assistance rates as at March 2016:

Remote Area Allowance	\$18.20 per fortnight (aligned with Social Security RAA)
Pharmaceutical Allowance	\$6.20 per fortnight (aligned with Social Security PhA)
Pension Supplement	\$65.00 per fortnight (aligned with Social Security Pension Supplement)
School Term Allowance	\$540.80 per annum
<i>School Fees Allowance (at home):</i>	
- Turning 16 before 1 July	\$78.00 per annum
- Under 16 years at 30 June	\$156.00 per annum
<i>School Fees Allowance (boarding):</i>	
- Max. rate (subject to income test)	\$9,548.00 per annum
- Income test-free	\$8,015.00 per annum
Incidentals Allowance:	
- Less than 12 week course	\$83.80 per annum
- 12 to 16 week course	\$146.80 per annum
- 17 to 23 week course	\$292.00 per annum

- 24 week to one year course	\$593.40 per annum
Additional Incidentals Allowance (maximum in a year: \$2,080.00 per annum)	
<i>Essential course costs in excess of:</i>	
- less than 12 week course	\$144.20 per annum
- 12 to 16 week course	\$285.50 per annum
- 17 to 23 week course	\$570.80 per annum
- 24 week to one year course	\$1,143.40 per annum
<i>ABSTUDY Pensioner Education Supplement:</i>	
- Full rate	\$62.40 per fortnight (aligned with Social Security PES)
- Part rate	\$31.20 per fortnight (aligned with Social Security PES)

Relocation Scholarship	(all rates aligned with YA Relocation Scholarship)
1st year	\$4,333 per annum
2nd and subsequent years for student from major cities	\$1,083
2nd and 3rd year for student from regional areas	\$2,167
4th and subsequent year for student from regional areas	\$1,083

Lawful Custody Allowance	essential course costs
Under 16 Boarding Supplement	\$2,563.30 per semester (paid to boarding school or hostel)
Residential Costs Option	\$41.60 per fortnight plus actual costs (actual costs paid to provider)
Fares Allowance	actual costs
Away from base assistance	actual costs
Additional Assistance	discretionary (only paid to recipients of Living Allowance in exceptional circumstances)

Supplementary Masters and Doctorate allowances as at March 2016:

Relocation Allowance	\$1,520.00 maximum (\$530.00 adult; \$260.00 child)
<i>Thesis Allowance - one off payment:</i>	
- Masters	actual cost (maximum payment \$420.00)
- Doctorate	actual cost (maximum payment \$840.00)
- Compulsory course fees or Student Contribution (previously known as HECS)	actual costs

Indexation

Living Allowance for under 22 year olds is indexed in line with Consumer Price Index on 1 January each year (aligned with Youth Allowance).

Living Allowance for recipients 22 year olds and over and 60 years and over is indexed in line with CPI on 20 March and 20 September each year (aligned with Newstart Allowance).

Legislation

ABSTUDY is an executive scheme created by a Cabinet decision and regulated through the ABSTUDY Policy Manual.

Student Assistance Act 1973 (for appropriations and debt recovery provisions)

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

2013 – *Department of Social Services internal review of ABSTUDY Secondary policy*

2016 – *PM&C Study Away from Home Review (Indigenous secondary students)*

2016 – *ANAO ABSTUDY Performance Audit*

2016-17 – *Department of Social Services Evaluation- Impact and outcome of ABSTUDY payment*

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Work and Study Payments Branch

- Student Payments Section

Component: Austudy

Objective

To provide a means-tested payment which provides support for full-time students and Australian Apprentices who begin study or training when aged 25 years and over and who are in need of financial assistance to undertake education or training.

Description

Provide support to students and Australian Apprentices to access and participate in education or training.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	638.615	578.505	564.249	623.009	654.313

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 42)

Eligibility

A person must be:

- 25 years of age or older; and
- undertaking qualifying study or a full-time Australian Apprenticeship; and
- an Australian resident; and
- able to satisfy the Austudy personal and partner income and assets tests.

Rates/statistics

The numbers for student payments are subject to significant seasonal variation throughout the year. Point in time data may not be reflective of the number of recipients throughout the year. In 2014-15, an average of 45,693 students received Austudy.

As at 1 January 2016:

Single	\$433.20 per fortnight
Single with children	\$567.60 per fortnight
Partnered with no children	\$433.20 per fortnight
Partnered with children:	\$475.70 per fortnight
<i>Special rate for long-term income recipients who are 22 years of age or over commencing full time study or an Australian Apprenticeship or are a migrant studying English:</i>	
- Single	\$526.30 per fortnight
- Partnered with no children	\$475.70 per fortnight

Indexation

Austudy rates are indexed to CPI on 1 January.

Legislation

Social Security Act 1991

Social Security (Administration) Act 1999

Student Assistance Act 1973

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

2008 - Review of Australian Higher Education

2011 - Review of Student Income Support Reforms

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Work and Study Payments Branch

- Student Payments Section

Component: Youth Allowance (Student)

Objective

To provide a means-tested payment which provides support for full-time students and Australian Apprentices aged 16–24 years who are in need of financial assistance to undertake education or training.

Description

Provide support to students and Australian Apprentices to access and participate in education or training.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	2,487.519	2,263.398	2,180.904	2,414.630	2,497.704

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 42)

Eligibility

A person must be:

- 16-24 years of age; and
- undertaking full-time study or an Australian Apprenticeship; and
- meets residence requirements; and
- able to satisfy the means-testing arrangements:
 - students applying for dependent Youth Allowance are subject to parental means-testing arrangements.
 - students applying for independent Youth Allowance are subject to personal income and assets tests. These students are not subject to the parental means-testing arrangements.
 - Students can qualify for independent Youth Allowance if they:
 - are 22 years of age; or
 - have demonstrated that they are financially self-supporting; or
 - have been married or in a long-term de facto relationship (12 months or more), if they have had a dependent child of their own, or if they have no access to parental support.
- secondary school students may be eligible to receive Youth Allowance where they are independent or are required to live away from home to study.
- Since 1 January 2015, a person receiving a student payment, such as Youth Allowance, Austudy or ABSTUDY is only able to travel overseas while receiving payment if it is for the purposes of study towards their Australian based course or undertaking Reserve Service. Recipients are also eligible to remain on payment overseas for up to six weeks to undergo eligible medical treatment or to attend an acute family crisis.

Rates/statistics

The numbers for student payments are subject to significant seasonal variation throughout the year. Point in time data may not be reflective of the number of recipients throughout the year. In 2014-15, an average of 221,551 students received Youth Allowance (student).

As at March 2016:

Single:	
- Under 18 and living at home	\$237.10 per fortnight
- Under 18 and living away from home	\$433.20 per fortnight
- 18 and over and living away from home	\$433.20 per fortnight
- Aged 18 and over and living at home	\$285.20 per fortnight
Single with children	\$567.60 per fortnight
Partnered with no children	\$433.20 per fortnight
Partnered with children	\$475.70 per fortnight
Single principal carer of a dependent child (granted an exemption for foster caring/home schooling/distance education/large family)	\$737.10 per fortnight
Special rate for long-term income recipients who are 22 years of age or over commencing full-time study or an Australian Apprenticeship or are a migrant studying English:	
- Single and living at home	\$350.00 per fortnight
- Single and living away from home	\$526.30 per fortnight
- Partnered with no children	\$475.70 per fortnight

Dependent higher education students who need to live away from home to study and some independent higher education students with no access to parental support are eligible for the Relocation Scholarship to assist with the costs of establishing and maintaining accommodation.

- Students from regional areas (inner regional, outer regional, remote or very remote areas) are eligible for:
 - \$4,333 in the first year they live away from home; and
 - \$2,167 in the second and third years of their studies; and
 - \$1,083 a year thereafter.
- Students from metropolitan areas are eligible for:
 - \$4,333 in the first year they live away from home; and
 - \$1,083 a year thereafter.

Note: Since 1 January 2015, students from metropolitan areas relocating to another metropolitan area no longer qualify for Relocation Scholarship.

Indexation

Youth Allowance is indexed to CPI on 1 January - with the exception of Single principal carer of a dependent child, which is indexed to CPI and benchmarked to 25 per cent of the Male Total Average Weekly Earnings in March and September.

Legislation

Social Security Act 1991

Social Security (Administration) Act 1999

Student Assistance Act 1973

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

2008 - Review of Australian Higher Education

2011 - Review of Student Income Support Reforms

2016 - ANAO Youth Allowance Performance Audit

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Work and Study Payments Branch

- Student Payments Section

Component: Student Start-up Loan-ABSTUDY

Objective

The Student Start-up Loan-ABSTUDY aims to increase participation in higher education by assisting students with the costs of commencing study, including the purchase of text books, computers and internet access.

Description

The Student Start-up Loan is a voluntary income contingent loan paid in two half-yearly instalments of \$1,025 (a total of \$2,050 in 2016). The Student Start-up Loan is repayable under the same arrangements as Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) debts. Students will only be required to begin repaying their loan once their earnings are above the repayment threshold (which is consistent with the current HELP repayment thresholds) and after their HELP debt has been fully repaid.

The Student Start-up Loan commenced on 1 January 2016, replacing the Student Start-up Scholarship. Students who received a student start-up scholarship prior to 1 January 2016 and remained continuously in receipt of ABSTUDY Living Allowance will continue to receive the Student Start-up Scholarship as a grant until coming off student payments.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	0.615	2.365	3.333	3.516	3.731

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 42)

Eligibility

New ABSTUDY recipients undertaking a higher education or preparatory course at a higher education institution will be eligible to receive the Student Start-up Loan.

Rates/statistics

No data is available due to the Student Start-Up Loan – ABSTUDY commencing on 1 January 2016.

Indexation

Student Start-up Loan is indexed to CPI on 1 January.

Legislation

Student Assistance Act 1973

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Nil

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Work and Study Payments Branch | Student Payments Section

Component: Student Start-up Loan

Objective

The Student Start-up Loan aims to increase participation in higher education by assisting students with the costs of commencing study, including the purchase of text books, computers and internet access.

Description

The Student Start-up Loan is a voluntary income contingent loan paid in two half-yearly instalments of \$1,025 (a total of \$2,050 in 2016). The Student Start-up Loan is repayable under the same arrangements as Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) debts. Students will only be required to begin repaying their loan once their earnings are above the repayment threshold (which is consistent with the current HELP repayment thresholds) and after their HELP debt has been fully repaid.

The Student Start-up Loan commenced on 1 January 2016, replacing the Student Start-up Scholarship. Students who received a student start-up scholarship prior to 1 January 2016 and remained continuously in receipt of Youth Allowance (student) or Austudy will continue to receive the Student Start-up Scholarship as a grant until coming off student payments.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	22.325	107.071	154.078	162.060	167.408

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 42)

Eligibility

New Youth Allowance (student) or Austudy recipients undertaking a higher education or preparatory course at a higher education institution will be eligible to receive the Student Start-up Loan.

Rates/statistics

No data is available due to the Student Start-Up Loan commencing on 1 January 2016.

Indexation

Student Start-up Loan is indexed to CPI on 1 January.

Legislation

Social Security Act 1991

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Nil

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Work and Study Payments Branch | Student Payments Section

July 2016

Cross Program: Commonwealth Rent Assistance

Objective

To assist eligible individuals and families with the cost of renting in the private rental market. Rent Assistance is also paid to eligible people in community housing.

Description

Rent Assistance is a non-taxable income supplement paid as part of Australian Government social security payments and Family Tax Benefit Part A. Rent Assistance is also paid by the Department of Veterans' Affairs with a service pension under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*.

Expenses

As a supplement, Rent Assistance is not appropriated separately. Rent Assistance expenditure was around \$4.4 billion in 2015-16, and is estimated to increase to approximately \$4.5 billion in 2016-17.

Eligibility

In order to receive Rent Assistance, a person or family must qualify for a social security payment or Family Tax Benefit Part A, and pay a minimum amount of rent, called the rent threshold.

Rent Assistance is then calculated at 75 cents for each dollar above the rent threshold up to a maximum rate. Minimum rent thresholds and maximum rates payable vary according to family type (single, couple, number of children). The amount of Rent Assistance received may be affected by the income and asset tests applying to the primary payment.

Rates/statistics

As at March 2016, Rent Assistance was paid to over 1.3 million individuals and families, and the average fortnightly payment was \$114 against average fortnightly rent of \$481.

Around 61 per cent of income units¹ receive Disability Support Pension, Age Pension or Newstart Allowance, and 53 per cent are single people without children (including sharers).

Rent Assistance significantly reduces the proportion of income units in rental stress (over 30 per cent of their income in rent), from around 68 per cent (without Rent Assistance) to around 41 per cent (after Rent Assistance).

The proportion of income units paying enough rent to receive maximum assistance has increased from 57 per cent in 2002 to around 79 per cent in March 2016, with recipients bearing the full cost of any additional rent paid once the maximum is reached.

Indexation

Minimum thresholds and maximum amounts are indexed in line with the Consumer Price Index in March and September each year.

Legislation

A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999

Social Security Act 1991

Student Assistance Act 1973

¹ An income unit for Rent Assistance comprises a single person (with or without dependent children) or a couple (with or without dependent children). Single social security recipients living together in the same household are regarded as separate income units.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Commonwealth Rent Assistance was or is likely to be considered as part of the following reviews:

- Welfare System ('McClure') Review
- National Commission of Audit
- Senate Inquiry into Affordable Housing
- Reform of Federation

Ongoing or terminating

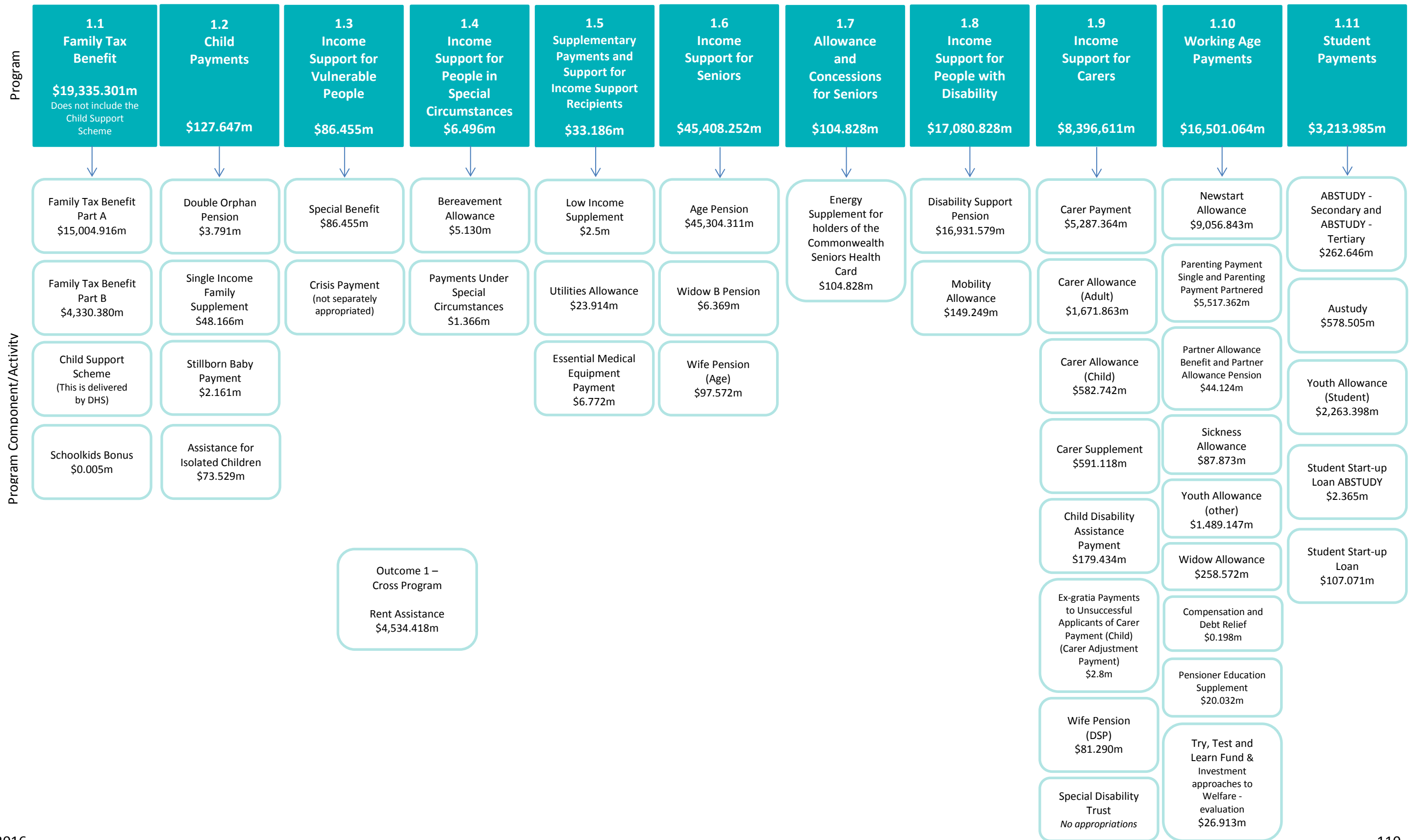
Ongoing

Branch and Section

Housing Policy Branch

- Housing Payments Section

Outcome 1 – Social Security Departmental Outcome Structure 2016-17



Outcome Compendium

Outcome 2

Families and Communities

Programs at a Glance

Stronger families and more resilient communities by developing civil society and by providing family and community services

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Program 2.1: Families and Communities

Objective

The Program aims to strengthen relationships, support families, improve children's wellbeing and increase participation in community life to strengthen family and community functioning, and reduce the costs of family breakdown. The Program will provide a range of services, focused on strengthening relationships, and building parenting and financial management skills, providing support for better community connections, as well as services to help newly arrived migrants in their transition to life in Australia.

These services will be provided to families, children, young people, volunteers, multicultural communities, humanitarian entrants, migrants and other individuals with special circumstances.

Components

Families and Children

To support families, strengthen relationships, improve the wellbeing of children and young people and increase participation of people in community life to enhance family and community functioning.

Transition to Independent Living Allowance

To support young people transitioning from out-of-home care to independence by providing a contribution of up to \$1,500 towards the costs involved in transitioning to independent living.

Settlement Services

To deliver core settlement support for humanitarian entrants and other eligible migrants in their first five years of life in Australia. They aim to assist eligible clients to become self-reliant and participate equitably in Australian society, while maximising Australia's productive diversity and the economic and social wellbeing of clients by enabling them to become fully-functioning members of society as soon as possible. These services also assist to minimise longer-term reliance on social services.

Financial Wellbeing and Capability

To provide support to vulnerable individuals and families to navigate financial crises and build financial wellbeing, capability and resilience.

Civil Society

To support charities and not-for-profit organisations to continue to focus on their work to strengthen communities by fostering a culture of philanthropic giving, volunteering and investment.

Families and Communities Service Improvement

To build capacity within the families and community sector by funding peak bodies, conferences, research, pilots, policy advice, advocacy, evaluations and other overarching service initiatives.

Strengthening Communities

To strengthen communities and promote inclusion and participation in community life. The activity provides funding to organisations to develop solutions and deliver responsive and integrated services that meet local community needs.

National Initiatives

The National Initiatives aim to achieve positive outcomes for families, women and their children by working across sectors to improve the safety and wellbeing of children, advance gender equality and reduce violence against women and their children.

Group and Branch

Families Group

- Financial and Specialist Support Branch
- Children's Policy Branch
- Family Policy and Programs Branch
- Family Safety Branch
- NRAS and Gambling Branch
- Housing Programs and Homelessness Branch

Multicultural, Settlement Services and Communities Group

- Multicultural and Communities Branch
- Settlement Policy Branch
- Settlement Support Branch

Program Office

- Program Strategy Branch

Component: Families and Children

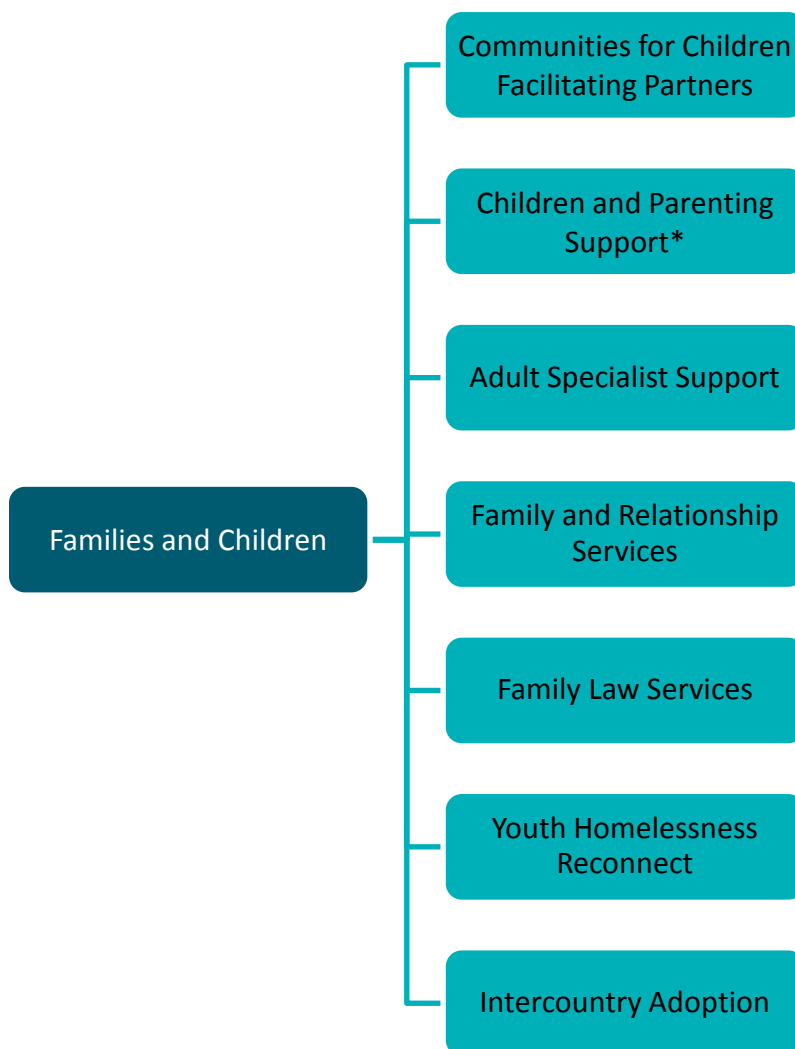
Objective

The Families and Children Activity provides integrated services for families to achieve improved child, youth, adult and family wellbeing, increased economic engagement and more cohesive communities. To achieve this objective, services must work collaboratively to provide an integrated suite of local services.

Description

The Families and Children Activity is delivered under the Families and Communities Program and provides support to families to improve the wellbeing of children and young people to enhance family and community functioning, as well as increasing the participation of vulnerable people in community life.

Services funded from this program component



Families and Children Activity includes some Early Intervention and Post Separation Family Counselling Services jointly funded by the Department of Social Services and the Attorney-General's Department.

*The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY) and Intensive Family Support Service (IFSS) sit under this Sub-Activity along with Children and Parenting Support Services.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	255.021	255.499	249.423	240.783	244.688

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 64)

Description of organisations funded

Civil society organisations provide early intervention and prevention activities to improve the wellbeing of families and children, including after separation, enhance family functioning and economic engagement and strengthen communities.

Number of organisations funded as at 1 July 2015

220 organisations are funded by the Families and Children Activity.

Note: Some organisations may provide services under several sub-activities of Families and Children and as such there could be duplication.

Anticipated funding rounds

The next anticipated funding round for an activity under the Families and Children Activity is in 2019. Information on all departmental funding rounds is available on the Department's website.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

See Sub-Activity sections below.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch

Family Policy and Programs Branch

Financial and Specialist Support Branch

Sub-Activity: Communities for Children Facilitating Partners

Objective

Communities for Children Facilitating Partners (CfC FPs) aim to deliver positive and sustainable outcomes for children and families in 52 disadvantaged communities across Australia.

Description

CfC FPs are place-based and develop and facilitate a whole of community approach to support and enhance early childhood development and wellbeing for children from birth to 12 years, but may include children up to age 18 years. CfC FPs build on local strengths to meet local community needs and create capability within local service systems, using strong evidence of what works in early intervention and prevention. They collaborate with other organisations to provide a holistic service system for children and families. CfC FPs fund other organisations (known as Community Partners) to provide services including parenting support, group peer support, case management, home visiting services and other supports to promote child wellbeing.

Description of organisations funded

CfC FPs have strong governance arrangements in place. CfC FPs establish and maintain CfC Committees which assist the facilitating partners to plan, guide and support the activity. Committees are representative of their local communities and include clients, parents and local businesses, as well as local service providers. Community partners should also inform the identification of community needs and the planning of services.

CfC FPs play a facilitating role in the local area and contract all service delivery to Community Partners. In exceptional circumstances, the CfC FP may directly deliver services if suitable Community Partners are not available. If a CfC FP has to deliver services they should seek to mentor organisations in the community to build their capacity.

The CfC FPs use fair and transparent subcontracting arrangements, including the use of efficient and risk-based processes and funding terms that enable Community Partners to engage in longer-term planning for staffing and capacity building where possible.

Number of organisations funded as at 1 May 2016

32 Facilitating Partner organisations in 52 locations across Australia.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Evaluation for Phase One was published in 2009 and Phase Two in 2014.

A process evaluation was also conducted and published in 2009.

A post implementation review is being undertaken 2016-2017. Findings from the review will inform the design of an impact evaluation expected to commence in 2017.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch

Family Policy and Programs Branch

Sub-Activity: Children and Parenting

Objective

The Children and Parenting sub-activity aims to improve children's development and wellbeing and build the capacity of those in a parenting role.

Description

The Children and Parenting sub-activity funds early intervention and prevention services and resources that are outcome focused and committed to the use of evidence-based practice and programs.

Services use research and evaluation to continuously improve service quality. They are committed to initial and ongoing training, supervision and support for their staff to ensure the delivery of high quality services.

Services delivered under Children and Parenting focus on children aged 0-12 years, and their parents and carers, but may include children up to age 18 years (note: target group for Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters is different in that HIPPY is provided to families of 4-5 year olds in areas of high social and economic disadvantage).

Description of organisations funded

The Children and Parenting sub-activity has a number of components, including:

Children and Parenting Support (CaPS)

CaPS services build the capacity of parents, carers and children through activities such as community playgroups, supported playgroups, parenting courses, home visiting, peer support groups, school readiness programs and web-based services or resources. This component also funds organisations to provide information and resources about children's development and parenting skills.

Services actively seek to identify issues that are or could impact on child or family outcomes and provide interventions or appropriate referrals before these issues escalate.

In the CaPs funding round, approximately 50 per cent of funding was allocated to 139 priority service areas. Priority Service Areas were chosen based on a combination of factors, including population of children, Socio Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) score, high proportions of children who are developmentally vulnerable (as identified through the Australian Early Development Census) and known service gaps as informed by the Department's state and territory network offices. The remaining funding has been allocated to children and parenting services with a national footprint (such as community playgroups or websites) or targeted to a specific need (such as domestic violence) or located in regions outside of the priority locations.

Intensive Family Support Service (IFSS)

IFSS is an intensive home and community based family support service offered to highly vulnerable families living in selected communities in the Northern Territory and the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands of South Australia. It focuses on providing practical parenting education and support to parents and caregivers in their communities and homes for up to 12 months, to help them improve the health, safety, education and wellbeing of their children.

IFSS aims to increase the capacity of families, particularly those on Child Protection Income Management (CPIM) to support their children to be safe, nurtured and thriving.

IFSS also funds an implementation capacity support service to support the effective and robust delivery of an evidence-informed and outcomes-focused service.

Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY)

HIPPY is a two year, home-based parenting and early childhood learning program that empowers parents and carers of children aged four and five years to be their child's first teacher.

The program builds the confidence and skills of parents and carers to create a positive learning environment to prepare their child for school and fosters local community leadership. It is an early intervention and prevention approach to help families transition their child into school.

The program also offers some parents and carers a supported pathway to employment via the paid tutor roles.

The HIPPY model is an internationally recognised early childhood education program and has strong support in Israel, the USA, Canada and New Zealand. The Brotherhood of St Laurence is funded to administer HIPPY nationally and holds the exclusive license to deliver HIPPY in Australia. The Brotherhood of St Laurence sub-contracts providers to deliver the program in each location.

As at April 2016, HIPPY is operating in 100 communities (including 50 Indigenous-focused communities) of high disadvantage, targeting around 4,000 children each year.

Number of organisations funded as at 1 May 2016

CaPS – 138 organisations

IFSS – Eight organisations, plus one provider of Implementation Capacity Support Services

HIPPY – One national provider that sub-contracts to local providers

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

CaPS - There is no plan for an evaluation of CaPS.

IFSS - The last evaluations of the IFSS in 2014, included:

- Colmar Brunton Process Evaluation;
- Parenting Research Centre outcomes evaluation;
- Central Australian Aboriginal Congress Aboriginal Corporation; and
- Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council Aboriginal Corporation's outcome evaluation.

These evaluations were not made public. An independent evaluation is planned to take place once new IFSS providers are established and have been delivering the service for a number of years.

HIPPY - A national rollout evaluation was conducted by the Brotherhood of St Laurence (HIPPY Australia) and Monash University in 2011. The evaluation found strong evidence about the distinctive place that HIPPY fills within the landscape of early childhood development programs in Australia, as well as scientific evidence of HIPPY's effectiveness and cost-effectiveness when compared with other programs in Australia and overseas.

In 2013, an independent review of each of the first 50 HIPPY communities was undertaken by Urbis Pty Ltd in the form of a Location Sustainability Assessment (LSA). This research aimed to evaluate the appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency of HIPPY and whether the program was governed effectively with good practice. The LSA found that overall the program had been implemented well in all sites and that HIPPY was well targeted with regard to locations.

Planning is underway for an independent evaluation of HIPPY in 2017.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch

Family Policy and Programs Branch

Sub-Activity: Adult Specialist Support

Objective

The Adult Specialist Support sub-activity provides specialist services and support to improve outcomes and enhance wellbeing for people adversely affected by past institutional and child-welfare practices and policies.

Description

Services funded under the Adult Specialist Support sub-activity are underpinned by evidence-based practice, design and delivery principles that ensure:

- a tailored, flexible and holistic approach to support each client's needs;
- the importance of validating and respecting the different histories of people affected by former policies and practices;
- the client is central to all service design and delivery;
- people are empowered to make their own informed choices about their healing;
- service delivery staff have appropriate specialist skills / training and understand the unique and varied impacts of past institutional practices;
- people affected by past practices and policies are included in planning; and
- where service delivery organisations have existing links to institutions involved with past child welfare practices and policies which may have adversely affected individuals, services will be transparent and, where necessary, publically acknowledge their involvement in past practices, confirm their commitment to deliver high-quality and independent services, and outline their policies for handling real and perceived conflicts of interest.

These services provide referrals, face to face support, information, advocacy and in some cases, records tracing and access, finding and reconnecting family, counselling and case management based on individual's needs.

Description of organisations funded by this service

The Adult Specialist Support sub-activity has a number of components including:

Find and Connect Support Services

Find and Connect provides services for Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants.

An estimated 500,000 children, who may identify as Forgotten Australians were placed into institutional or other forms of out-of-home care (homes and orphanages) last century.

An estimated 7,000 children known as Former Child Migrants who arrived in Australia through historical child migration schemes until 1970 were also placed in similar institutions. Children were placed in care for a myriad of reasons including being orphaned; being born to a single mother; family dislocation from domestic violence, divorce or separation; and family poverty and parents inability to cope with their children often as a result of some form of crisis or hardship.

The Find and Connect component includes a support service in each state and territory and a national Former Child Migrant specific service, a national web resource to assist with records tracing and access, and representative organisations that are funded to support stakeholders and present consolidated views and directions to Government and the sector. The Find and Connect Support Services provide specialist trauma informed counselling, referral services, peer, education and social support programs and assistance to locate and access records and reconnect with family members (where possible) for Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants.

Forced Adoption Support Services

Following the National Apology to people affected by forced adoption practices on 21 March 2013, the Australian Government announced its response to the Senate Inquiry into former forced adoption policies and practices. Funding of \$5 million was allocated to improve access to specialist support services, professional counselling and records tracing for those affected by forced adoptions. This included \$3.9 million over three years to 2016-17 to fund the Forced Adoption Support Services (FASS).

These specialist support services complement and enhance existing services funded by the state and territory governments and are provided through a national helpline answered locally to the client available weekdays. Services provide referrals and information based on individual needs and where possible face to face support, records tracing and family reconnection. Referrals by support services include improving access to peer support, professional counselling and records and family tracing. Five to ten percent of some FASS funding will be used for small grants to organisations like peer support groups, for activities such as local events and training, group therapy and retreats.

Royal Commission Community-Based Support Services

This component includes a range of community-based support services to provide support to people affected by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (the Royal Commission). These services provide a broad range of assistance including counselling, information and referral and case management to ensure victims and survivors of child sexual abuse, and their families, are able to access support and participate in the Royal Commission.

Number of organisations funded as at 1 July 2015

Find and Connect Support Services - 11 organisations

Royal Commission Community-based Support Services - 37 organisations

Forced Adoption Services - 7 organisations

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Australian Healthcare Associates undertook an evaluation of the Find and Connect services to determine their effectiveness in improving outcomes for Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants.

The final report was published in December 2015.

Anticipated funding rounds

The next funding round for this activity will be in 2019. Information on all departmental funding rounds is available on the Department's website.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing (Find and Connect)

Terminating on 30 June 2017 (Forced Adoption)

Terminating on 30 June 2018 (Royal Commission)

Branch and Section

Financial and Specialist Support Branch

- Adult Specialist Support Services

Sub-Activity: Family and Relationship Services

Objective

Family and Relationship Services (FaRS) is a sub-activity under the Families and Children activity.

The service aims to strengthen family relationships, prevent breakdown and ensure the wellbeing and safety of children through the provision of broad-based counselling and education to families of different forms and sizes.

Description

FARS provide primarily early intervention and prevention and are targeted to critical family transition points including formation, extension, and separation.

In 2016-17, there are four additional components of the FaRS sub-activity:

- Specialised Family Violence Services
- Intercountry Adoption Family Support
- FaRS Norfolk Island
- MensLine Australia

Specialised Family Violence Services

Specialised Family Violence Services work with families who have complex needs (such as mental health, drug and alcohol issues, and family violence) and require access to more intensive support.

Intercountry Adoption Family Support

Intercountry Adoption Family Support provides support for individuals, couples and families who are formally engaged in the intercountry adoption process. This may include those who are in the process of adoption, or who have completed the process of adopting a child from overseas as well as past adult adoptees.

FaRS Norfolk Island

As of 1 July 2016, FaRS have been extended to residents of Norfolk Island to provide services aimed at strengthening family relationships and ensure the wellbeing of family and children through the provision of broad based counselling and education to families.

MensLine Australia

MensLine Australia expanded its services to better target and engage with men who perpetrate domestic or family violence, or who are at risk of using violence. The aim of these services is to protect women and children by improving the attitudes and behaviours of abusive or violent men. These additional services are funded as part of the Women's Safety Package announced in September 2015.

Description of organisations funded

Family and Relationships Services (FaRS) providers are not-for-profit organisations with demonstrated experience in providing relationship or parenting education and counselling support.

Number of organisations funded as at 1 May 2016

There are 83 FaRS organisations delivering services through 432 outlets.

Anticipated funding rounds

The next anticipated funding round for the FaRS activity will be in 2019. Information on all departmental funding rounds is available on the Department's website.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

N/A

Ongoing or terminating

FaRS is an ongoing measure.

Branch and Section

Family Policy and Programs Branch

- Family Relationships Section

Sub-Activity: Family Law Services

Objective

Family Law Services aim to provide alternatives to formal legal processes for families who are separated, separating or in dispute to improve their relationships and make arrangements in the best interests of their children. Family Law Services have a particular role to help families with complex needs, including those with family violence issues.

Description

Family Law Services Sub-Activity is funded by and under the policy responsibility of the Attorney-General's Department. The Family Law Services are an important component of the family law system, which also includes legal assistance services, family law courts and the Department of Human Services - Child Support.

Family Relationship Centres

Family Relationship Centres are a highly visible entry point or gateway to the whole family support service system and play an important role in improving family relationships. Centres provide information, support and referral services to all families and provide family dispute resolution and access to some legal assistance for separating or separated families. Family Relationship Centres assist separating parents to focus on their children's needs and reach agreement on safe workable parenting arrangements, in the best interests of their children, outside of the court system.

Parenting Orders Program – Post Separation Cooperative Parenting

The Parenting Orders Program – Post Separation Cooperative Parenting services help separated or divorced families who are in high conflict to work out parenting arrangements in a manner which encourages consideration of what is in a child's best interests in establishing or maintaining relationships, while at the same time ensuring the safety of all parties. It helps parents manage their conflict, understand the effect their conflict is having on their children and to develop strategies to deal more constructively with each other and develop and manage parenting arrangements. Parenting Orders Program – Post Separation Cooperative Parenting services use a variety of child-focused and child inclusive interventions and work where possible with all members of the family. Family members, including children, can receive a range of services such as counselling, multi-session or one-off group work education or family dispute resolution.

Supporting Children after Separation Program

The Supporting Children after Separation Program aims to support the wellbeing of children under the age of 18 from separated or separating families who are experiencing issues with difficult family relationships. The services help children and young people deal with issues arising from the breakdown of their parents' relationship and the circumstances in which they find themselves and provide opportunities for them to participate in decisions that impact on them. Supporting Children after Separation Program services provide a range of age appropriate interventions including individual counselling or group work for children. Services can also facilitate access to child inclusive practice as a component of family dispute resolution where assessed as appropriate.

Children's Contact Services

Children's Contact Services enable children of separated parents to have safe contact with the parent who they do not live with in circumstances where parents are unable to manage their own contact arrangements. Children's Contact Services provide a safe, neutral venue for the transfer of children between separated parents. Where there is a perceived or actual risk to the child, they provide supervised contact between a child and their parent or other family member. Parents may be ordered by a court to attend Children's Contact Services to facilitate changeover or have supervised visits with their children.

Family Dispute Resolution and Regional Family Dispute Resolution

Family Dispute Resolution services assist families to reach agreement and to resolve their disputes related to family law issues about child and property related matters, outside of the court system. Clients may include grandparents and other extended family members affected by family separation. Regional Family Dispute Resolution services may also include the provision of counselling and group work as part of meeting the needs of separated families in their community.

The objectives of Family Dispute Resolution and Regional Family Dispute Resolution activities are:

- to assist separating families resolve disputes relating to separation and divorce and improve their post-separation relationships; and
- to improve people's management of issues relating to separation and divorce.

Family Law Counselling (delivered under the Family and Relationship Services sub-activity)

Family Law Counselling services help people with relationship difficulties better manage their personal or interpersonal issues to do with children and family during marriage, separation and divorce.

Clients of Family Law Counselling services include family members with intact relationships, separated families, extended family members, individuals, children and young people, couples and significant others such as grandparents and kinship carers who have caring or other relationship responsibilities.

Family Relationship Advice Line

The Family Relationship Advice Line (the Advice Line) is a national non face-to-face service comprising the following components:

- anonymity and confidentiality;
- telephone information and advice;
- telephone and online dispute resolution service; and
- telephone legal advice service.

The Advice Line provides:

- information about services to help maintain healthy relationships;
- advice on family separation issues;
- guidance on developing workable parenting arrangements after family separation;
- advice about the impact of conflict on children;
- telephone and online family dispute resolution for people who need assistance;
- information about the family law system;
- simple legal advice and information for separating families with children; and
- referral to a range of other services to help with family relationship and separation issues.

The Advice Line is available from 8am–8pm (local time) Monday to Friday and 10am–4pm (local time) on Saturdays. The Advice Line does not operate on national public holidays.

Anyone affected by family relationship or separation issues and difficulties, including parents, grandparents, carers, children, young people, step-parents or friends can call the Advice Line.

Description of organisations funded by this service

Family Law Services have an emphasis on family and the best interests of children. They are child-focused and work as part of a collaborative service delivery system with links across Family Law Services and the broader sector. Family Law Services ensure:

- all families are provided with the information they need about service options available, including from other sectors and jurisdictions;
- vulnerable families are actively connected to services and supports; and
- children and families at risk of harm receive a timely and well-coordinated response from those who can keep them safe.

Family Law Services also have an early intervention and prevention focus to work with families early in the life of presenting issues.

Number of organisations funded as at 1 May 2016

There are 66 organisations funded to deliver Family Law Services.

Note: Some organisations funded to deliver Family and Relationship Services also receive funding to deliver Family Law Services.

Anticipated funding rounds

The next funding round for this activity will be in 2019. Information on all departmental funding rounds is available on the Department's website.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Family Policy and Programs Branch

- Family Relationships Section

Sub-Activity: Youth Homelessness Reconnect

Objective

To support innovative prevention and early intervention initiatives to reduce homelessness and its impact, particularly on young people and their families.

Description

Reconnect is a community-based early intervention and prevention program for young people 12 to 18 years (12-21 years for newly arrived youth specialists), who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and their families. This includes a number of specialist Reconnect services including Indigenous, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD), Mental Health, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex (LGBTI) and Newly Arrived Youth Specialist (NAYS) clients.

Reconnect uses family-focused early intervention strategies to help the young person stabilise their living situation, achieve family reconciliation, and improve their level of engagement with work, education, training and the community. Reconnect services provide counselling, group work, mediation and practical support to the whole family to help break the cycle of homelessness, which can begin at an early age. Service providers also 'buy in' other services (such as specialised mental health services) to meet the individual needs of clients.

Description of organisations funded by this service

Not-for-profit non-government organisations and local government organisations.

Number of organisations funded as at 1 May 2016

74

Anticipated funding rounds

It is anticipated an announcement on service arrangements beyond June 2017 will be made later in 2016-17.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

A departmental review of the Reconnect program was undertaken in 2012 and publically released in February 2013. The review assessed the performance of all service providers and considered wider strategic impacts to inform the future direction of the program. The review found that the majority of Reconnect service providers were achieving positive results for clients as well as meeting or exceeding key performance requirements. These key findings supported the extension of funding for current service providers until June 2016. Funding for current service providers will now be extended through to June 2017, to align with the timeframe for the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Housing Programs and Homelessness Branch

- Housing Programs and Homelessness Section

Sub-Activity: Intercountry Adoption

Objective

The Intercountry Adoption Australia service aims to guide people through the intercountry adoption process and connect them to a range of resources and services.

Description

Intercountry Adoption Australia was established within the Department on 17 May 2015.

Intercountry Adoption Australia consists of:

- a national website, which provides an overview of the intercountry adoption process, partner countries, things to consider when adopting, access to state or territory government information and links to support services; and
- a national information line operated by qualified social workers, available from 9am to 5pm AEST, Monday to Friday (9am to 5pm AEDT during Australian Eastern Daylight-saving Time) across Australia, who can help guide parents wanting to adopt a child from overseas with the ability to make referrals to Commonwealth and state and territory government agencies as well as a range of support services.

Additional funding has also been provided for family support services to better support families involved in intercountry adoption or who have gone through an intercountry adoption, including relationship counselling, family therapy and parenting support services by trained professionals.

The Department will also commission a number of research projects to build the evidence base and inform intercountry adoption policy development and reform initiatives.

The Department also works closely with the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department in its role as the Australian Central Authority in managing existing country programs and pursuing new country programs.

Intercountry Adoption Family Support

In addition to Intercountry Adoption Australia, Intercountry Adoption Family Support provides support for individuals, couples and families who are formally engaged in the intercountry adoption process. This may include those who are in the process of adoption, or who have completed the process of adopting a child from overseas as well as past adult adoptees.

The Intercountry Adoption Family Support Service aims to provide counselling, case management, relationship education and support that will assist with family functioning, relationship strengthening, attachment support, parenting skills, individual and child wellbeing.

Funding for the Intercountry Adoption Family Support Service has been provided within a Commonwealth Department of Social Services Family and Relationship Services framework that aims to strengthen family relationships, prevent breakdown and ensure the wellbeing and safety of children through the provision of broad-based counselling and education to families of different forms and sizes.

Description of organisations funded by this service

Not-for-profit non-government organisation.

Number of organisations funded as at 1 July 2015

1

Anticipated funding rounds

N/A

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

An evaluation of Intercountry Adoption Australia will be finalised in 2016-17.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Children's Policy Branch

- Intercountry Adoption Implementation
- Intercountry Adoption Policy and Liaison

Component: Transition to Independent Living Allowance

Objective

To support young people transitioning from out-of-home care to independence by providing a contribution of up to \$1,500 towards the costs involved in transitioning to independent living.

Description

The Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA) provides eligible young people leaving formal care, who have a transition to independence plan (through their caseworker), a payment of up to \$1,500 to assist them with the costs involved in transitioning into independent living arrangements.

TILA aims to give young people leaving formal care assistance to purchase goods/services they require to achieve independence and stability, ensuring that they are well placed to participate in employment, education, training and community life. In turn, TILA can help reduce reliance upon crisis intervention and other community services.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	2.812	3.512	3.512	3.512	3.512

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 65)

Description of organisations funded by this service

The TILA payment is administered by the Department of Human Services to registered state and territory service providers to make purchases on the young person's behalf.

Number of organisations funded as at 1 July 2015

N/A

Anticipated funding rounds

N/A

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

A review of new administrative arrangements introduced in 2014 for TILA was finalised in February 2016 and reforms were implemented in response to the review's findings.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Children's Policy Branch

- TILA Policy Section

Component: Settlement Services

Objective

Settlement Services aims to deliver services which assist eligible clients to become self-reliant and participate equitably in Australian society, with a focus on fostering social participation, economic wellbeing, independence, personal wellbeing and community connectedness.

Description

Settlement Services deliver core settlement support for humanitarian entrants and other eligible migrants in their first five years of life in Australia. They aim to assist eligible clients to become self-reliant and participate equitably in Australian society, while maximising Australia's productive diversity and the economic and social wellbeing of clients by enabling them to become fully-functioning members of society as soon as possible. These services also assist to minimise longer-term reliance on social services.

Australian Cultural Orientation (AUSCO) Program is provided to refugee and humanitarian entrants over the age of five years prior to departure for Australia. AUSCO gives practical advice about the journey to Australia, including Australia's legal framework, quarantine laws and information about what to expect post-arrival. Courses are delivered over a period of up to five days. AUSCO is delivered in four major international regions, including Asia, South East Asia, Africa and the Middle East. AUSCO links closely with the onshore orientation element of the Humanitarian Settlement Services program. Together these programs provide a continuum for humanitarian entrants to facilitate the best possible start to their settlement journey.

Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS) is provided to eligible humanitarian entrants through a coordinated case management approach. Services are delivered based on client needs and may include:

- on arrival reception, property induction and food provision
- assistance with finding suitable accommodation
- information and referral to mainstream services and to other settlement and community programs
- onshore orientation, including Australian laws and social norms
- referral to employment, education and English language services.

Services under the program are generally provided for the first 6-12 months after a client's arrival.

Complex Case Support (CCS) Program delivers specialised and intensive case management services to humanitarian entrants with exceptional needs. CCS intervention is for a short period of time, usually no longer than six months.

CCS provides case management support where the needs of clients extend beyond the scope of other settlement services such as the HSS and the Settlement Grants programs. CCS is designed to work in partnership with settlement and mainstream services to address the barriers CCS clients face in settling in Australia.

Settlement Services Grants build on the foundation of HSS by delivering support to humanitarian entrants and eligible migrants in their first five years in Australia. Grants fund:

- casework and coordination services which provide settlement related information, advice, advocacy and referrals to assist in the successful settlement of eligible clients;
- community coordination and development services to help new arrivals that require assistance to make social connections;
- targeted services to eligible young migrants (aged 15-24) to help with barriers to settlement; and
- organisations supporting the development of new and emerging communities.

Settlement peak bodies are also funded through Settlement Services grants. Peak bodies and advocacy groups play an important role in representing the settlement and community sectors to government and ongoing dialogue with peak bodies helps the Australian Government better structure and target its settlement policies and programs. Typical peak body services include, but are not limited to, providing advice on policy and program development, advocacy, sharing information and best practice across the sector and promoting issues on behalf of members.

The Youth Transition Support pilot program, announced in the 2015-16 Federal Budget provides additional targeted support to assist young humanitarian entrants and eligible migrants to participate in education and make successful transitions into employment.

Free Interpreting Services are provided to assist non-English speaking Australian citizens and permanent residents communicate with approved community organisations and individual service providers. The Free Interpreting Service Policy is designed to provide equitable access to key services (that are not government funded). In addition to Australian citizens and permanent residents, private medical practitioners and pharmacies can use the Free Interpreting Service to communicate with Temporary Humanitarian Stay (subclass 449); Temporary Humanitarian Concern (subclass 786); Temporary Protection (subclass 785); and Safe Haven Enterprise (subclass 790) visa holders. The Free Translating Service enables permanent residents, and returning Australian citizens to have personal documents translated into English within the first two years of their eligible visa grant date or arrival in Australia (whichever is later).

The following temporary residents can also access this service:

- Partner (Provisional) visa (subclass 309);
- Partner (Temporary) visa (subclass 820);
- Dependent Child visa (subclass 445);
- Temporary Humanitarian Stay visa (subclass 449)
- Temporary Humanitarian Concern visa (subclass 786);
- Temporary Protection visa (subclass 785); and
- Safe Haven Enterprise visa (subclass 790).

Additionally, funding is also provided to the **National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI)**. NAATI sets and maintains national standards in translating and interpreting, and supports the ongoing development of credentialed translators and interpreters. Funding is provided in recognition of NAATI's community service function in supporting Australian residents not fluent in English to access mainstream services (this special purpose funding is not subject to selection processes).

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	141.870	264.065	177.139	198.520	170.501

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 64)

Description of organisations funded by this service

Most organisations funded under Settlement Services are not-for-profit community-based organisations incorporated under the relevant State/Territory Incorporation of Associations Act, and function through an elected Management Committee (or equivalent). They are generally located in areas where clients are settling, which have strong links with the target group and/or focus on working with migrant and humanitarian entrants and their communities.

Number of organisations funded as at 31 December 2015

Australian Cultural Orientation (AUSCO) – contract arrangement with the International Organisation for Migration until 31 August 2017.

Humanitarian Settlement Services - 16 service providers across 23 contract regions are engaged under a contract arrangement until 3 April 2017. These contracts have a one-year extension option.

Complex Case Support – CCS is delivered nationally through the Humanitarian Services Panel made up of 33 service providers. Contract arrangements are until 15 January 2017.

Settlement Grants - 97 organisations are funded to deliver 115 settlement grants activities until 30 June 2018. Six organisations are funded to deliver services under the Youth Transition Support pilot until 30 June 2017.

Free Translating and Interpreting Services – contract arrangements with the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) until 30 June 2016 (expected to be extended until 30 June 2017) and Victorian Interpreting and Translating Service (VITS) until 30 June 2017.

Anticipated funding rounds

NAATI will be funded until 30 June 2018. This is special purpose funding and is not subject to open selection processes.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

During September 2014 to May 2015, the Department commissioned an independent evaluation of the Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS) and Complex Case Support (CCS) programs. The evaluation focused on the appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency of the programs. The process involved a range of consultation activities with stakeholders including service providers, peak bodies, community organisations, government representatives and clients. The evaluation was finalised in June 2015 and has been provided to Government for consideration. The evaluation found that both programs are generally working well, and made a small number of recommendations to further improve their effectiveness and efficiency.

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection and Department of Social Services conducted a joint review of the TIS National in 2015. The review considered efficiency, cost and cost effectiveness and provided independent advice on future government investment in the translating and interpreting industry. The findings of the review are currently being considered by the departments.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Settlement Policy Branch

- Settlement Strategy and Planning Section
- Stakeholder Engagement and Coordination Section
- Settlement Reform and Syrian Response Section
- Language Policy Section
- Settlement Systems Section

Settlement Support Branch

- Humanitarian Settlement Policy Section
- Humanitarian Settlement Referrals Section
- Humanitarian Settlement Analysis Section
- Settlement Grants Policy Section

Component: Financial Wellbeing and Capability

Objective

To support vulnerable individuals, families and communities to navigate financial crisis and build financial capability and resilience.

Description

Financial Crisis and Material Aid, and Financial Counselling, Capability and Resilience

The Financial Wellbeing and Capability Component aims to assist people to avoid or overcome financial stress through promoting the development of financial knowledge, skills and capabilities.

It does this by funding a range of not-for-profit organisations that provide services to:

- help people address immediate needs in times of financial crisis;
- assist individuals and families to resolve personal financial difficulties, increase their capability to make informed decisions, access other sources of support and improve their ability to manage their financial affairs in the future;
- help people on a low-income to build longer-term capability to budget, manage their money better and make informed choices; and
- improve financial resilience and pathways to mainstream financial services by providing access to savings and credit vehicles.

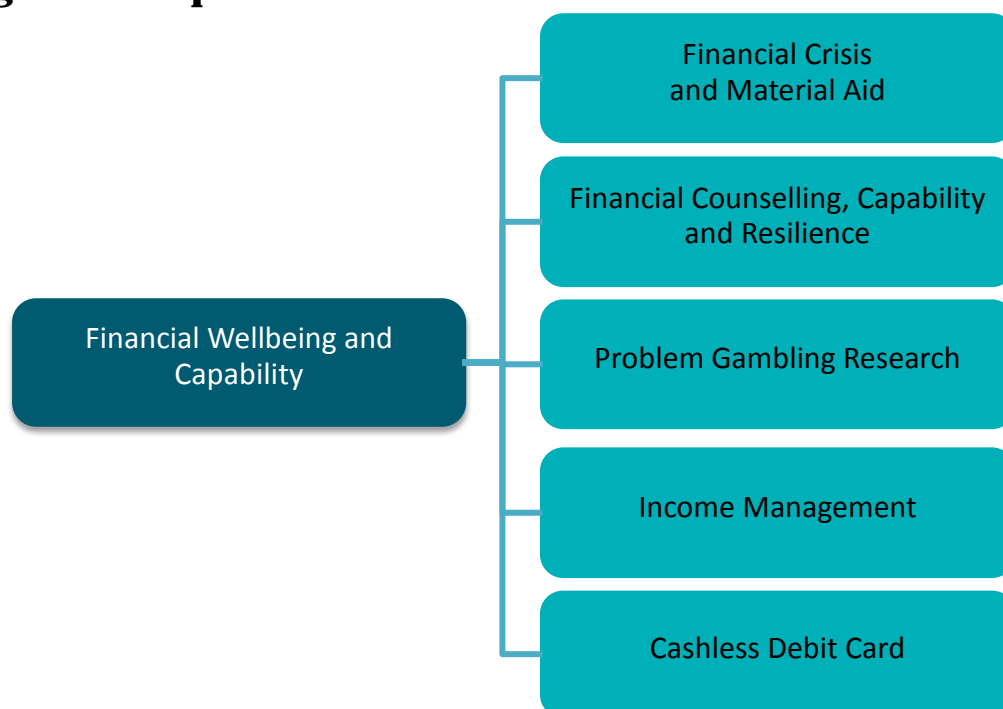
Income Management

Income management assists people on income support to stabilise their circumstances and helps ensure income support payments are spent in the best interests of families and children.

A proportion of a person's income support and family assistance payments are allocated for priority goods (such as food, clothing and housing) for them and their dependants.

Income-managed funds cannot be spent on alcohol, tobacco, pornography or gambling.

Program Components



Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	107.653	110.579	99.039	99.676	101.901

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 64)

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

None

Branch and Section

Financial and Specialist Support Branch

- Financial Wellbeing and Capability

NRAS and Gambling Branch

- Illegal Offshore Wagering Taskforce Policy
- Illegal Offshore Wagering Taskforce Stakeholder

Sub-Activity: Financial Crisis and Material Aid

Objective

The objective of Financial Crisis and Material Aid is to provide immediate financial and/or material support to people in financial crisis. Financial Crisis and Material Aid encompasses the provision of Emergency Relief and Food Relief.

Description

Emergency Relief

Emergency Relief services are delivered by community organisations and help people address immediate basic needs in times of crisis. Access to Emergency Relief is considered universal and is a safety net for people experiencing financial distress or hardship and who have limited means or resources to help them alleviate their financial crisis.

Accessing Emergency Relief can be an entry point into the continuum of financial services delivered under the Activity or to other appropriate services. Generally, Emergency Relief is provided in the form of material and financial aid. This may constitute food parcels or items, clothes, bedding, household items, vouchers (for example, supermarket, utilities, petrol) and, in some circumstances, cash.

Provision of Emergency Relief may also entail a worker assessing the needs of the consumer, referring them to other appropriate services (for example, mental health, crisis housing, drug and alcohol, and financial counselling), and providing basic budgeting assistance. Some consumers with complex needs may require more intensive support.

Food Relief

Food Relief provides food items to emergency relief organisations to provide to people in need. This element aims to increase Emergency Relief organisations' access to a cost-effective supply of food items.

This approach aims to ensure food items are available for individuals and families in need across Australia by:

- receiving donated foods from farmers/manufacturers/retailers/other food redistribution services, and redistributing these foods to community organisations or other distribution centres where the food is needed;
- sourcing and transporting essential foods on a basis where food donations are insufficient; and
- leading the development of local partnerships amongst food redistribution suppliers to improve access and distribution, especially in rural and remote communities.

Number of organisations funded by this service 2015-16

This is an ongoing program that funds community-based and charitable organisations. There are 303 organisations funded for Financial Crisis and Material Aid as at 29 February 2016.

Branch and Section

Financial and Specialist Support Branch | Financial Wellbeing and Capability

NRAS and Gambling Branch | Illegal Offshore Wagering Taskforce Policy & Illegal Offshore Wagering Taskforce Stakeholder

Sub-Activity: Financial Counselling, Capability and Resilience

Objective

The Financial Counselling, Capability and Resilience sub-activity encompasses the provision of financial counselling, financial literacy education, and access to financial services including financial and microfinance products. There are 110 organisations funded as at 22 January 2016.

Description

Commonwealth Financial Counselling (CFC)

CFC provides direct case work or one-on-one intensive support for a person, including the provision of information, advocacy and/or negotiation; referrals to other services; community education; and networking with relevant service providers. Organisations delivering CFC, including their Financial Counsellors, must meet relevant legal and regulatory requirements. These organisations are also expected to provide priority access to consumers participating in income management.

CFC aims to:

- assist consumers to resolve personal financial difficulties (in part or in full) and access other sources of support and assistance;
- work with consumers to increase their capability to make informed decisions on the best course of action for resolving personal financial difficulties;
- help consumers improve their ability to manage their financial affairs in the future; and
- increase consumers economic and social participation in their communities.

Commonwealth Financial Counselling supporting people affected by problem gambling

Targeted assistance is provided to 50 service coverage areas for the delivery of Financial Counselling to support people affected by problem gambling. In addition to the one-on-one Financial Counselling provided, this assistance aims to provide community outreach and education, and work collaboratively with gaming venues and state and territory funded problem gambling services. Financial Counsellors providing support to people affected by problem gambling must meet relevant legal and regulatory requirements including completing specific accredited training.

Financial Capability

Financial Capability services help people to build the longer-term ability to budget and manage their money better, and make informed choices. Financial Capability workers deliver financial literacy education, information and coaching and maintain a strong focus on supporting consumers to change their behaviour and 'learn by doing'. Workers are required to be appropriately qualified, undertake relevant training or be planning to undertake relevant training.

In delivering these services, organisations will:

- provide priority access to consumers participating in income management;
- ensure consumers have access to basic financial literacy, education and support;

- deliver:
 - one-on-one budgeting support to individuals; and/or
 - non-accredited financial literacy community education workshops to individuals and local groups.
- help individuals/families to build skills to avoid or resolve financial difficulties and strengthen their capacity to manage their money; and
- assist families at risk of homelessness to manage their finances and household expenses in order to prevent future accommodation crises.

Financial Counselling, Capability and Resilience Hubs

The Financial Counselling, Capability and Resilience Hubs were created in income management trial site locations as part of the 2015-16 Budget. The Aim of the Hubs is to achieve closer integration of Financial Capability services (which is an early intervention model) and CFC services, and provide a holistic service that addresses people's immediate financial crises and builds their financial management and literacy skills.

The Hubs offer the integrated FWC service through a "hub and spoke" model of service delivery to provide services to more remote communities. For example, a service could provide Financial Counselling from a central hub and Financial Capability, budgeting and financial services via an outreach model. In this example, Financial Capability workers would highlight key debt "hotspots" to Financial Counsellors who then travel to the community to help manage the issues identified. In urban and inner regional areas, outreach is not required.

Hub Plus

This early intervention model will deliver Financial Counselling, Financial Capability and microfinance services alongside other key support services. The aim is to engage at points in which clients are most likely to change their long term financial behaviour and increase or improve their financial wellbeing, capability and resilience. For example, a person seeing legal aid assistance with a family breakdown will often benefit from Financial Counselling or Financial Capability services to assist with the financial impacts of relationship failure. In another example, women escaping domestic violence are frequently in need of Financial Counselling particularly where there has been financial abuse resulting in the woman carrying a lot of debt so providers would be expected to engage with domestic violence services for referrals. The providers of the Hub will be expected to put in place processes to capture these clients at these key life points to point them towards Financial Counselling or Financial Capability services, preferably with warm referrals.

Financial Resilience

Financial Resilience offers a variety of financial services and products targeted at financially vulnerable people that help to build self-reliance and provide access to financial products.

Financial Resilience provides financially vulnerable people with access to safe and affordable financial products including no interest loans, low interest loans, microenterprise development loans or other appropriate loans, and matched savings that are not available through mainstream providers of financial services. These products are offered as an alternative to other high risk, high interest products such as payday loans.

The products are provided in conjunction with financial literacy education to improve financial capacity and lead to greater self-reliance, assisting people to build assets, develop savings and commence on the pathway to financial inclusion.

- No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS): the NILS scheme provides no interest loans for individuals and families on a low income, giving them access to safe, fair and affordable credit to purchase essential goods or services. NILS loans are typically up to \$1,200 and are usually repaid within 12 to 18 months.
- StepUP: low interest loans for individuals or families on a low income to purchase essential goods or services. StepUP offers loans between \$800 and \$3,000 repayable over a three year period.
- Saver Plus: a financial education and matched saving initiative (capped at \$500) for educational expenses of the participant or their child.
- Community Development Financial Institutions – Microenterprise Development (CDFI): CDFIs support low income earners to:
 - increase their business-planning and workforce skills;
 - develop sustainable microenterprises (where appropriate); and
 - create opportunities for employment, including self-employment.
- Financial Inclusion Action Plan (FIAP): the FIAP initiative (to 2017) aims to improve financial inclusion in Australia by getting organisations to develop plans and commit to actions to improve financial inclusion of their customers and employees.

Branch and Section

Financial and Specialist Support Branch

- Financial Wellbeing and Capability

NRAS and Gambling Branch

- Illegal Offshore Wagering Taskforce Policy
- Illegal Offshore Wagering Taskforce Stakeholder

Sub-Activity: Problem Gambling Research

Objective

The national research on gambling sub activity aims to help prevent problem gambling through a national research program about the impact of problem gambling, the associated risk and how they can be addressed.

Description

This measure will address and prevent problem gambling by:

- providing better consumer information about the risks associated with gambling and information about support services; and
- meeting a number of gaps in the research base on problem gambling, and coordinating existing research, through a Commonwealth contribution to a national research body.

The Department also commissions research and evaluation to meet gaps, and enhance the evidence base, around problem gambling. In 2016-17, this will include research to support the implementation of recommendations from the Review of Illegal Offshore Wagering (2015). For example, to support specific recommendations around further research, involvement in a joint Commonwealth/state and territory government research arrangement, and research to support the implementation of consumer protection measures.

The Department continues to work with state and territory governments on the joint partnerships for the Gambling Help Online website and Gambling Research Australia. The Australian Gambling Research Centre (AGRC) was established on 1 July 2013 to improve research at a national level to inform gambling related harm and policy development and operates under the *Gambling Measures Act 2012*.

Description of organisations funded by this service

A range of organisations are funded under this appropriation to inform the evidence base.

Note: The AGRC is directly funded by a Budget appropriation to the Australian Institute of Family Studies. This funding is not included in the above figures.

Number of organisations funded by this service

Yet to be finalised.

Anticipated funding rounds

N/A

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

The Review of Illegal Offshore Wagering was undertaken during 2015.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

NRAS and Gambling Branch

- Illegal Offshore Wagering Taskforce Policy | Illegal Offshore Wagering Taskforce Stakeholder

Sub-Activity: Income Management

Service Objective

Income management assists people on income support to stabilise their circumstances and helps ensure income support payments are spent in the best interests of families and children. A proportion of a person's income support and family assistance payments is allocated for priority goods (such as food, clothing and housing) for them and their dependants. Income-managed funds cannot be spent on alcohol, tobacco, pornography or gambling.

Service Description

If a person is on income management, a proportion of their income support and family assistance payments (50 per cent for most measures, 70 per cent for the child protection and Supporting People at Risk measures, and up to 90 per cent for the Cape York measure) are allocated towards basic necessities.

People on income management are assisted to meet priority needs through recurring payment arrangements to housing, utility and other service providers and through allocations to the BasicsCard, which can be used to purchase priority goods at participating merchants. Income management has been progressively introduced to locations across Australia.

The program is currently operating in metropolitan Perth, Peel, parts of the Kimberley region, the Ngaanyatjarra Lands, Laverton and Kiwirrkurra community in Western Australia; across all of the Northern Territory; four communities (Aurukun, Hope Vale, Mossman Gorge and Coen) participating in Cape York Welfare Reform, Rockhampton, Doomadgee and Logan in Queensland; the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands and Playford in South Australia; Bankstown in New South Wales; and Greater Shepparton in Victoria.

Following the coronial inquest into the death of Chloe Valentine, based on the recommendations of the coroner, the Commonwealth and South Australian Governments implemented the child protection and voluntary measures of income management into Greater Adelaide region from 1 October 2015. This will provide South Australian child protection workers with an additional tool to support vulnerable families.

Recent developments

From 11 April 2016, income management commenced in Doomadgee, Queensland to give the Family Responsibilities Commission extra powers to help increase school attendance in the region.

Following the commencement of the Cashless Debit Card trial in the Ceduna region in South Australia, and Kununurra and Wyndham in Western Australia, income management has ceased in these locations until outcomes of the trial have been evaluated and considered by Government.

Anticipated funding rounds

N/A

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

ORIMA Research published an evaluation report of child protection and voluntary income management in Western Australia in September 2010. The Review of Child Protection Income Management in Western Australia, which built on the ORIMA study, was published in February 2014.

The Evaluating New Income Management in the Northern Territory: First Evaluation Report was published in November 2012.

An evaluation of voluntary income management in the APY Lands was conducted by the Social Policy Research Centre at UNSW and Colmar Brunton, and was published in October 2014.

The Final New Income Management Evaluation Report was published on 18 December 2014.

The Deloitte Access Economics Final (of four) Evaluation of Place-Based Income Management was published on 24 November 2015. This evaluation assessed the impact of income management and the effectiveness of implementation in the five place-based sites.

Ongoing or terminating

Terminating 30 June 2017.

Branch and Section

Financial and Specialist Support Branch

- Income Management and Trial Support Section

Policy Systems Branch

- Policy Evaluation Unit

Sub-Activity: Cashless Debit Card Trial

Objective

The Cashless Debit Card trial aims to support people, families and communities where high levels of welfare dependence co-exist with high levels of community harm due to alcohol and drug misuse, and problem gambling.

Service Description

Under the trial 80 per cent of a participant's welfare payment will be issued to their cashless debit card account. People will be able to spend the restricted payment on anything they choose, except for on alcohol, drugs and gambling. The remaining 20 per cent of their payment will be sent to their regular account which can be withdrawn as cash. The card will look and operate like a normal bank card, and can be used at any merchant that accepts Electronic Funds Transfer (Credit, Debit and Eftpos Cards), except those that sell alcohol and gambling products.

Recipients of working age income support payments who live in a trial location will receive a cashless debit card. That is, people who receive payments from Centrelink such as, but not limited to, Newstart Allowance, Youth Allowance, Disability Support Pension, Parenting Payment and Carers Payment. People on the Age Pension, a veteran's payment or who earn a wage can also volunteer to take part.

The trial will run for 12 months and will operate in two or three communities across Australia. Trial locations were considered based on a range of factors, including indicators of disadvantage, community interest and support for the proposal. The trial is currently underway in Ceduna, South Australia and Kununurra and Wyndham, Western Australia. As part of the 2016-17 Budget, the Government announced that the cashless debit card would be expanded to a third trial site. To date, no decision has been made about the location of the third trial site.

Trial communities have the option to establish a local leadership panel which will have the ability to increase the percentage of welfare paid as cash to people who are not contributing to the harm that is causing problems.

To complement the rollout of the trial, the Australian Government has committed funding for support services in both Ceduna and Kununurra / Wyndham. The support packages were designed in partnership with community leaders to complement and enhance existing services and provide a comprehensive response to address addiction, help people reduce their dependence on alcohol and drugs, and promote improved financial management practices.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

An evaluation of the trial will be undertaken by an independent organisation and will involve a mixed methods approach, in that qualitative and quantitative data will be collected, to develop an understanding of the social impact and the effectiveness of the trial. The independent evaluator will interview participants, service providers and individuals in the community who are impacted by the trial to assess the trial's impact on people's behaviour and the behaviour of their families. Ongoing monitoring of data collected by Commonwealth and state governments, as well as local providers, will allow for the quantifiable impact of the trial to be measured.

The Department is working in close partnership with state governments and local providers to collect administrative social harm data that will inform the evaluation by aiming to measure the quantifiable impact of the trial.

This data, combined with findings from other similar programs, such as income management, will enable the Government and the communities involved to determine whether limiting the proportion of welfare payments that can be spent on harmful goods is reducing social harm at a community level.

Ongoing or terminating

Terminating 30 June 2017

Branch and Section

Financial and Specialist Support Branch

- Income Management and Trial Support Section
- Project Management and Community Engagement Section
- Trial Logistics Section

Component: Civil Society

Program component objective

To support charities and not-for-profit organisations to continue to focus on their work to strengthen communities by fostering a culture of philanthropic giving, volunteering and investment.

Description

The aims of Civil Society encompass developing new ways to grow community business collaboration, philanthropy, volunteering and corporate social responsibility. The Prime Minister's Community Business Partnership brings together leaders from the business and community sectors to advise Government about practical strategies to foster a culture of philanthropic giving and volunteering in Australia. The Partnership is chaired by the Prime Minister, with the Minister for Social Services as Deputy Chair. The Community and Philanthropy Partnerships Week is an initiative of the Partnership to celebrate successful partnerships that contribute to stronger communities. The Partnership also commissions research on trends in giving and volunteering to build on the evidence base to inform policy and identify best practice.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	1.419	1.485	1.510	1.536	1.566

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 64)

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Multicultural and Communities Branch

- Giving, Volunteering and Partnerships Section

Component: Families and Communities Service Improvement

Objective

To build capacity within the families and community sector by funding peak bodies, conferences, research, pilots, policy advice, evaluations and other overarching service support initiatives.

Description

The Families and Communities Service Improvement (FCSI) Activity aims to support and encourage the continuous improvement of departmental funded services through:

- support to peak community organisations;
- sponsorship activities;
- informed research and innovation;
- policy development;
- information sharing;
- new service model pilots/trials; and
- evaluations.

The FCSI activity may fund special projects at any time to deliver any of the following:

- research and innovation in areas where additional information is required;
- development of data and information sharing to support and contribute to the evidence base about families and communities;
- education and professional training;
- facilitation of stakeholder and community consultations;
- delivering and facilitating events, conferences, education workshops and community capacity building activities;
- improving engagement between non-government organisations, local governments, local business and Indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities; or
- engagement with the business community at the national level, including developing links with peak businesses and industry bodies.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	2.657	2.674	2.692	2.709	2.755

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 64)

Description of organisations funded

The target group is peak organisations that represent individuals and service providers relevant to areas of the Department's policy development and service delivery responsibilities. These organisations must:

- be national in scope and community based organisations;
- be concerned with issues of relevance to the needs of the Australian community with respect to family, housing and/or community services;
- have a broad membership base and processes in place to effectively represent their members' views, reflected in their reporting and communication channels, financial resources, external credibility, and internal accountability requirements;
- act as a conduit for information flow between the Government and their memberships, drawing together views on issues of relevance to their memberships and providing a consultative mechanism for the Department;
- work to enhance the effectiveness of service delivery through sector development activities;
- have a primary focus on policy development and advice; and
- not duplicate the representational work on behalf of its constituency compared with other peaks funded by the Department.

Where the funding is to be used for Sponsorship Activities, the target group are individuals and the broader community working with or affected by the issues relating to the specific sponsorship activity.

Number of organisations funded from 1 July 2014

Five organisations are funded:

- Australian Council of Social Services
- Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth
- Families Australia
- Family and Relationship Services Australia
- Volunteering Australia

Anticipated funding rounds

A direct funding round for FCSI funding was undertaken, and applications closed 24 July 2014. All five organisations that applied for funding were successful in their applications and have received funding to 30 June 2017.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

None

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Family Policy and Programs Branch

- Family Programs Policy Section

Program Office

- Program Office Executive

Multicultural and Communities Branch

- Volunteering Australia Section

Component: Strengthening Communities

Objective

To strengthen communities and promote inclusion and participation in community life. The component provides funding to organisations to develop solutions and deliver responsive and integrated services that meet local community needs.

Description

Community Development and Participation

Community Development and Participation grants are to support the delivery of services or one-off projects, activities or events that respond to local community needs and make a positive contribution to community life.

The purpose of these grants is to:

- increase community participation in community activities;
- increase the participation of vulnerable people in community life;
- improve the responsiveness and integration of local community services;
- facilitate access to services and service networks to improve capacity and sustainability;
- increase the participation of people who are disadvantaged or marginalised in community life, including approaches to improve engagement with disadvantaged people;
- build skills and opportunities to make communities more self-reliant and sustainable, including the development of partnerships with the corporate/business sector or the development of social enterprises;
- support local service networks to improve capacity and sustainability;
- carry out community advocacy for service system improvements (systemic);
- use place-based approaches to service integration;
- use early intervention or prevention approaches to servicing;
- increase the capacity and ability of senior Australians to connect with their families, friends and communities by participating online; and
- support the effective operation of organisations which provide training to seniors in using digital technology.

Volunteering

Volunteering grants are to support the ongoing delivery of services or one-off projects and activities to encourage, support and increase participation in volunteering.

The purpose of the grants is to:

- provide support and recognition for volunteers;
- maximise and promote volunteering participation, including opportunities to increase the diversity of volunteers and the ways in which people volunteer;
- maximise opportunities for volunteering to provide pathways to other forms of social and economic participation;

- support the development of a volunteering sector that is responsive to emerging trends and issues;
- encourage/maximise leadership, mentoring and volunteering activity;
- provide on-the-ground support and information for volunteers and volunteer-using organisations in locations where there is identified need;
- provide access to the resources and support volunteers and volunteer using organisations need to operate effectively and efficiently; and
- build effective volunteering practices and opportunities within organisations and communities.

Multicultural Affairs

Diversity and Social Cohesion grants aim to build cohesive Australian communities. They do so by supporting projects that build the long-term capacities of higher need and at-risk communities, particularly through the promotion of stronger community relations and the development of sustainable community partnerships.

Higher need communities include communities with high levels of cultural diversity and low levels of social cohesion. At-risk communities include communities at risk of negative outcomes, such as those experiencing high levels of unemployment, low education outcomes and low English language proficiency. Consideration is also given to factors such as age, gender, ethnicity, disability and inter-cultural relations when identifying at-risk communities, in line with broader departmental and Australian Government social policy objectives.

Multicultural Arts and Festivals grants primarily focus on promoting inter-community harmony and understanding.

The grants provide community organisations with assistance to host multicultural arts and festivals projects, providing opportunities for Australians of all backgrounds to come together and experience different cultural traditions.

Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) receives special purpose funding to develop and maintain collaborative and effective links with governments and other key organisations. They advocate, lobby and promote issues to government, business and the broader community on behalf of Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, to ensure their needs and aspirations are given proper recognition in public policy. (This special purpose funding is not subject to open selection processes)

Note: Specific issues that impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians are funded through other agencies, including the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. However, Multicultural Affairs grants will consider applications responding to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities that address inter-community issues with other CALD communities.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	40.450	32.026	29.161	29.317	28.433

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 65)

Description of organisations funded

- Community Development and Participation grants mainly fund community organisations;
- Volunteering grants mainly fund community organisations;
- Diversity and Social Cohesion grants mainly fund community organisations; and
- Multicultural Arts and Festivals grants mainly fund smaller community organisations.

Organisations receiving grants under the Strengthening Communities Activity deliver free, independent, non-judgemental services to support the development and cohesiveness of communities, as well as to assist disadvantaged and vulnerable individuals and families.

Priority groups include:

- individuals/communities who are vulnerable or at risk of social exclusion or who have more complex needs and experience greater barriers to social and economic participation in their communities. Priority groups include Indigenous Australians, people from CALD backgrounds, senior Australians and people with disability or who have mental health issues;
- seniors aged 50 years and over with limited knowledge and or experience, or who lack confidence, in using digital technology;
- volunteers, volunteer-involving organisations and individuals and organisations interested in participating in volunteering activities and that need support in these activities;
- high need and at-risk CALD communities and community leaders where community relations issues are prevalent; and
- new and emerging CALD communities and community leaders.

In specific circumstances, funding may also be provided to organisations for the specific purpose of providing advice to Government, such as for research, project development or evaluations.

Number of organisations funded as at 30 June 2015

In 2014-15, there were:

- Community Development and Participation sub-activity - 118 projects were funded under the Community Capacity Building component, and under Broadband for Seniors, one organisation was funded to provide service delivery support to around 1,500 Broadband for Seniors kiosks.
- Volunteering sub-activity - 57 organisations were funded under the Volunteer Management component to provide 72 volunteer support services as well as 10 innovation and collaboration projects.
- Multicultural Affairs - 23 projects were funded under Diversity and Social Cohesion, and 30 organisations were funded under Multicultural Arts and Festivals Grants. For the 2015-16 Multicultural Arts and Festivals process, 32 organisations were funded.

Anticipated funding rounds

- New funding rounds for Diversity and Social Cohesion, Volunteer Management and Community Development and Participation are to be determined following a departmental review of the activities.
- A new funding round for Volunteer Grants for 2015-16 closed on 9 December 2015, with outcomes expected by May 2016.
- The 2015-16 funding round for Multicultural Arts and Festivals Grants funded 32 organisations. A new funding round will be undertaken in 2016 for 2016-17.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

The Department is collaborating with the Australian National University on a research project, titled Building Successful Diverse Communities: What Works and Why? The project is focusing on how to build successful diverse communities through grants funded under Diversity and Social Cohesion. It is anticipated this research project will provide a larger evidence base to inform policy and programs on social harmony in Australia.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Multicultural and Communities Branch

- Community Programs and Volunteering Section
- Multicultural Access and Equity Section
- Giving, Volunteering and Partnerships Section
- Community Relations Section
- Multicultural Community Engagement Section
- Multicultural Policy Section

Component: National Initiatives

Objective

The National Initiatives activity aims to achieve positive outcomes for families, women and their children by working across sectors to improve the safety and wellbeing of children, advancing gender equality and reducing violence against women and their children. The National Initiatives activity includes three sub-activities:

- the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020;
- the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children 2010-2022; and
- Support for Trafficked People Program.

Description

The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020

The National Framework is a long-term partnership between the Commonwealth Government, state and territory governments and civil society to deliver a substantial and sustained reduction in child abuse and neglect over time.

Projects funded aim to drive change via a national approach in order to gain greater national consistency or improve outcomes for children and may include, but are not limited to:

- research and innovation in areas where additional information is needed to guide intervention and prevention practice and promote child safety and wellbeing;
- development of data and information sharing to support and contribute to the evidence base about families and children at risk;
- education and professional training on the impacts of child abuse and neglect on child development;
- development of resources for professionals and support workers that supports capacity for early identification of, and appropriate response to, children at risk of abuse and neglect;
- support for organisations to build and promote the evidence base about the intersections between children and young people at risk of abuse and neglect;
- exploration and sharing of best practice that promotes a better understanding of the relationship between risk factors for child abuse and neglect;
- exploration of collaborative approaches to child safety and wellbeing;
- facilitation of stakeholder and community consultations;
- delivering and facilitating events, conferences, education workshops and community capacity building activities that support child safety and wellbeing;
- improving engagement between non-government organisations, local governments, local business and Indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities; and
- engagement with the business community at the national level, including developing links with peak businesses and industry bodies.

National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children

The National Plan is a long-term partnership between the Commonwealth Government, state and territory governments and civil society to deliver a significant and sustained reduction in violence against women and their children in Australia. Components funded under the National Plan contribute to filling the gaps in service provision for victims of domestic and family violence and sexual assault and build the evidence-base in reducing violence against women.

Projects funded may include, but are not limited to:

- 1800 RESPECT – The National Sexual Assault, Family and Domestic Violence Counselling Service is a confidential telephone and online counselling service staff by professional counsellors to assist people who have experienced, or are at risk of experiencing, domestic and family violence and/or sexual assault. The service is also for their family and friends and for frontline workers who have encountered victims of domestic and family violence and/or sexual assault in the line of their work.
- DV-alert – A nationally accredited program that offers free training to community frontline workers (such as health and allied health workers) with a focus on equipping participants with the skills to recognise, respond and refer people experiencing domestic or family violence to relevant support services. Safe Technology for women – The Women’s Services Network (WESNET) provides training to frontline workers to distribute 20,000 smartphones donated by Telstra, and to recognise and respond to abuse perpetrated through technology.
- Technology Trials – The Commonwealth is providing grant funding to the states and territories who have committed to matched funding to conduct trials into how technology can be used to facilitate better outcomes and improve safety for women and children experiencing violence, for example to access courts.
- Local Support Coordinators – A frontline position in each jurisdiction to coordinate support and services for women affected by family violence so that their safety, housing, budgeting and other needs are addressed in an integrated way.
- Keeping women safer in their homes – Expansion of ‘Safe at Home’ type programs which give women and children the choice to stay at home or a home of their choice, where it is safe to do so. Risk assessment, safety planning and security upgrades are conducted within an integrated case management framework.
- Personal Safety Survey – A survey managed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics conducted on four yearly cycles across Australia that collects information about the nature and extent of violence experienced by men and women since the age of 15. The survey also collects detailed information about men's and women's experiences of current and previous partner violence, their lifetime experience of stalking, physical and sexual abuse before the age of 15 and general feelings of safety.
- National Community Attitudes Survey – A survey conducted on four yearly cycles across Australia with a focus on collecting information about community attitudes to violence in order to inform policy and improve public health and safety.
- National Data Collection and Reporting Framework – Aims to develop a nationally consistent approach to collecting data about family and domestic violence and sexual assault.

- Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety (ANROWS) – Aims to build a strong and lasting evidence base to drive policy and practice improvements that reduce violence against women and their children. ANROWS provides a research hub for policy makers, practitioners and researchers to link up evidence based responses, as well as funding and managing strategic research initiatives in partnership with a wide range of organisations, academics and key government and non-government stakeholders.
- Our Watch has been established to drive nation-wide change in the culture, behaviours and attitudes that underpin and create violence against women and their children.
- The Line – A youth social marketing campaign delivered by Our Watch aimed at changing the attitudes and behaviours that contribute to violence.
- White Ribbon Australia’s Diversity Project – aimed at increasing the engagement of Indigenous and CALD communities in the White Ribbon Australia.

Support for Trafficked People Program

The Support for Trafficked People Program provides support to victims of human trafficking, slavery and slavery-like practices, including forced marriage and force labour, who meet the eligibility criteria. The Support Program provides individualised case management and access to a tailored range of support services that aim to assist clients in meeting their basic needs and to develop options for life after they leave the Support Program. The Support Program is demand driven and delivered nationally by one organisation.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	36.335	86.079	86.442	66.523	31.326

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 64)

Description of organisations funded

The *National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children 2009-2020* (the National Framework) aims to drive change for families and children so that Australia’s children grow up safe and well. The target group for the National Framework projects are those organisations that are committed to working together to improve safety and wellbeing of Australia’s children through research, policy development and evaluation, good practice, training and resources, capacity building and enabling and strengthening the focus of other national reform agendas.

The *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022* funds a range of long-term national infrastructure initiatives to create cultural and attitudinal change, as well as established national services to support victims of violence. Funding may be provided to researchers, not-for-profit organisations, independent companies, civil society, philanthropic organisations and government entities.

The Support for Trafficked People Program has one service provider, the Australian Red Cross, who provides tailored case-management support to clients on the Support Program.

Number of organisations funded as at 30 June 2016

National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020	6
National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children	36
Support for Trafficked People Program	1

Anticipated funding rounds

National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020: Nil

National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children: Funding decisions for the National Plan have not been finalised but some competitive grant rounds may be held in 2016-17

Support for Trafficked People: Nil

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

The baseline evaluation report of the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020 was completed in June 2015.

National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children: an evaluation plan was released mid-2014 which sets out framework for future evaluations over the life of the National Plan, including streamlined annual progress reporting.

The evaluation of the Second Action Plan was completed in mid-2016.

Support for Trafficked People Program: Nil, the *National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery 2015-19* sets out the mechanisms for evaluating progress of Australia's strategy to combat human trafficking, including the Support Program. These measures include annual reporting to Parliament and an annual National Roundtable on Human Trafficking and Slavery.

Ongoing or terminating

National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020: Ongoing

National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children: Ongoing

Support for Trafficked People Program: Ongoing

Branch and Section

Children's Policy Branch

- National Framework Policy and Coordination Section

Family Safety Branch

Program 2.2: Paid Parental Leave

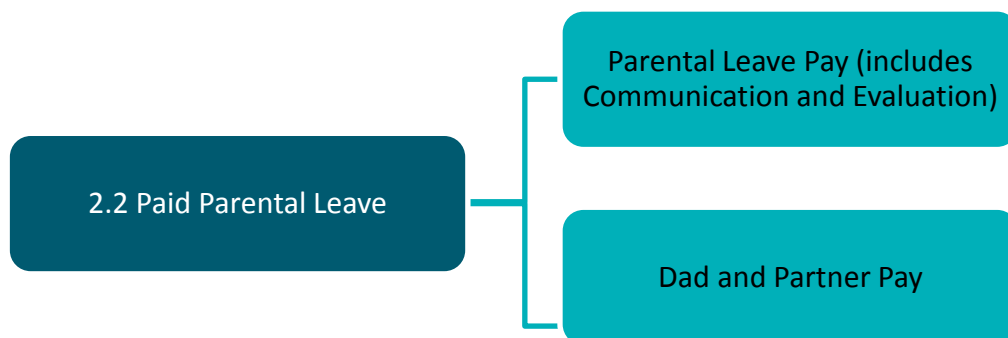
Objective

To provide financial support to parents to help them take time off work following the birth or adoption of a child.

Description

The Paid Parental Leave (PPL) program comprises the program components listed below and explained on the following pages.

Components



Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	2,043.299	1,750.735	1,640.502	1,731.395	1,785.292

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 61)

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

A legislated review of PPL commenced in January 2013. The review report was provided to the Minister and tabled in Parliament on 16 June 2014.

The PPL evaluation was conducted by the Institute for Social Science Research at the University of Queensland. The evaluation commenced in July 2010 and the Phase 3 (Impact) and Phase 4 (Final) reports were released on 8 March 2015. The evaluation analyses the implementation of the scheme and the extent to which it is meeting its intended outcomes. Findings from the evaluation informed the review.

A further evaluation is planned to start in the second half of 2016-17 spanning into the 2017-18 year. The evaluation will look at the scheme based on the implementation of revised arrangements for Parental Leave Pay announced in the 2015-16 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal outlook (subject to the passage of enabling legislation).

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Children's Policy Branch

- Paid Parental Leave Section

Component: Parental Leave Pay

Objective

Australia's first national Paid Parental Leave (PPL) scheme was introduced on 1 January 2011. The scheme provides eligible working parents with government-funded pay to help enable them to take time off from work to care for a newborn or recently adopted child. The PPL scheme signals that taking time away from work to care for a new child is part of the usual course of work and life for both parents, promotes equality between men and women and helps families balance between work and family life.

Parental Leave Pay is one of two ongoing payments under the PPL scheme. It provides up to 18 weeks' pay at the rate of the national minimum wage to eligible primary carers (usually birth mothers).

A key objective of Parental Leave Pay is to provide financial support to help working parents (mainly birth mothers) spend more time at home with a new baby to enhance the health and development of mothers and their children. It also aims to encourage women's workforce participation and help employers retain skilled staff.

Description

Parental Leave Pay is paid at the rate of the national minimum wage (currently \$672.60 per week before tax) for a maximum period of 18 weeks. Families who receive Parental Leave Pay are not eligible for Family Tax Benefit Part A Newborn Upfront Payment and Newborn Supplement or Stillborn Baby Payment for the same child. In the case of multiple births (for example twins or triplets), families can receive Parental Leave Pay for one child and Family Tax Benefit Part A Newborn Upfront Payment and Newborn Supplement for the other children, subject to eligibility. Families are not eligible to receive Family Tax Benefit Part B during their PPL period.

Eligible parents who have worked for their employer for 12 months or more and will be receiving more than eight weeks of Parental Leave Pay are paid by their employer in the same way that they would receive their normal pay. Employers who are not required to provide Parental Leave Pay may still choose to provide it to an eligible employee. If the parent does not receive Parental Leave Pay from their employer, they receive it from the Department of Human Services.

Subject to passage of legislation, the requirement for employers to provide PPL to eligible employees will be removed, unless an employer chooses to manage the payment to an employee and the employee agrees for the employer to pay them.

As announced in the 2015-16 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook for births and adoptions, mothers will no longer be able to receive both their employer-provided paid maternity leave payments and the full 18 weeks of the Government-funded PPL scheme (subject to the passage of legislation). Employees who receive less than 18 weeks of PPL from their employer schemes will receive a partial payment of PPL so that the total number of weeks of employer-provided paid parental leave and PPL is 18 weeks. The changes were due to take effect from 1 July, however, due to a delay in the passage of enabling legislation, this change will not come into effect until later in the 2016-17 year. The expenses estimate in the 2016-17 Budget take account of a delayed implementation date.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Parental Leave Pay \$m	1,942.494	1,645.210	1,530.725	1,617.888	1,667.936
Parental Leave Pay – communication and evaluation	-	0.249	0.254	-	-

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 66)

Eligibility

To be eligible for Parental Leave Pay, a person must:

- be the primary carer of a newborn or recently adopted child;
- meet the residence requirements (which are the same as for family assistance payments);
- have met the PPL work test:
 - worked for at least 10 of the 13 months prior to the birth or adoption of their child; and
 - worked for at least 330 hours in that 10 month period (just over one day a week), with no more than an eight week gap between two consecutive working days.
- have an individual adjusted taxable income of \$150,000 or less in the financial year prior to the date of their claim or the date of the birth or adoption, whichever is earlier; and
- be on leave or not working from the time they become the child’s primary carer until the end of their PPL period.

Parental Leave Pay may be transferred to an eligible person’s partner, provided the partner is also eligible. This may occur if, for example, a mother returns to work before the end of her PPL period and the father takes time off work to care for the child.

Full-time, part-time, casual, seasonal, contract and self-employed workers may be eligible for Parental Leave Pay. A period of PPL or Dad and Partner Pay that occurs within the 13 month work test period counts as ‘work’ towards a subsequent claim.

Rates/statistics

Parental Leave Pay is paid at the rate of \$672.60 per week (before tax) for a maximum period of 18 weeks.

For the 2015-16 financial year (data to 31 March 2016), around 129,000 parents started receiving Parental Leave Pay.

Indexation

Parental Leave Pay is paid at the rate of the national minimum wage, which is set by the Minimum Wage Panel of Fair Work Australia and reviewed annually.

The indexation of the individual income limit for Parental Leave Pay is paused at \$150,000 until 30 June 2017.

Legislation

Paid Parental Leave Act 2010

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

The Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR) at the University of Queensland headed a team of leading academics in undertaking a comprehensive evaluation of the PPL scheme.

The evaluation examined the impacts of the scheme and the extent to which the scheme is likely to achieve its intended outcomes. The evaluation was conducted over four phases:

- Phase 1, baseline data was collected in 2010, prior to the commencement of the scheme.
- Phase 2, conducted in 2011, after the scheme started, focused on how parents and employers experience the scheme.
- Phase 3, carried out in 2012 and 2013, focused on the intermediate outcomes of the scheme.
- Phase 4 was completed in 2014 and looked at the ultimate outcomes of the scheme.

The evaluation data was obtained through surveys and in-depth interviews of both employers and parents.

In 2012, the PPL evaluation was extended to include an evaluation of Dad and Partner Pay. The Phase 4 (Final) report was released on 8 March 2015.

A legislated review of PPL commenced in January 2013. The review took into account the matters set out in legislation and drew on submissions, consultations, administrative data and the emerging findings of the independent PPL evaluation. The review report was provided to the Minister and tabled in Parliament on 16 June 2014.

A further evaluation is planned to start in the second half of 2016-17 spanning into the 2017-18 year. The evaluation will look at the scheme based on the implementation of the revised arrangements for Parental Leave Pay announced in the 2015-16 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (subject to the passage of enabling legislation).

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Children's Policy Branch

- Paid Parental Leave Section

Component: Dad and Partner Pay

Objective

In January 2013, the Paid Parental Leave (PPL) scheme was extended to include Dad and Partner Pay (DAPP), which provides up to two weeks' pay at the rate of the national minimum wage to eligible dads or partners caring for a child born or adopted from 1 January 2013.

The objective of DAPP is to provide financial support to fathers and partners to increase the time they take off work around the time of the birth or adoption, to create further opportunities to bond with their child, and to allow fathers and partners to take a greater share of caring responsibilities and support their partners from the beginning.

Description

DAPP is paid at the rate of the national minimum wage (currently \$672.60 per week before tax) for a maximum period of two weeks.

DAPP is provided to eligible working fathers or partners by the Department of Human Services.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	100.805	105.276	109.523	113.507	117.356

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 66)

Eligibility

To be eligible for DAPP, a person must:

- be the father of the child or the partner of the birth mother;
- provide care for a child born or adopted from 1 January 2013;
- meet the residence requirements (which are the same as for family assistance payments);
- have met the PPL work test:
 - worked for at least 10 of the 13 months prior to the birth or adoption of their child; and
 - worked for at least 330 hours in that 10 month period (just over one day a week), with no more than an eight week gap between two consecutive working days.
- have an individual adjusted taxable income of \$150,000 or less in the financial year prior to the date of their claim or the date of the birth or adoption, whichever is earlier; and
- be on unpaid leave from their employer or not working (for example, for self-employed workers) during their DAPP period.

Full-time, part-time, casual, seasonal, contract and self-employed workers may be eligible for DAPP.

Parents can count a period of PPL or DAPP that occurs within the 13 month work test period as 'work' towards a subsequent claim.

Rates/statistics

DAPP is paid at the rate of \$672.60 per week (before tax) for a maximum period of two weeks.

For the 2015-16 financial year (data to 31 March 2016), around 59,000 parents received DAPP.

Indexation

DAPP is paid at the rate of the national minimum wage, which is set by the Minimum Wage Panel of Fair Work Australia and reviewed annually.

The indexation of the individual income limit for DAPP is paused at \$150,000 until 30 June 2017.

Legislation

Paid Parental Leave Act 2010

Legislation for the DAPP component of the PPL scheme was enacted on 22 July 2012.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

In 2012, the PPL evaluation was extended to include an evaluation of DAPP. The findings of the DAPP evaluation are included in the final PPL Evaluation Report, which was released on 8 March 2015.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Children's Policy Branch

- Paid Parental Leave Section

Program 2.3: Social and Community Services

Objective

To set aside funding for the implementation period of Fair Work Australia's Equal Remuneration Order. These funds will be used by the Australian Government to meet its share of the pay increases provided by the pay equity orders, including those funded through the states and territories.

Description

Provides supplementation funding to service providers delivering in-scope programs affected by Fair Work Australia's decision to increase the wages of Social and Community Services (SACS) workers employed under the SACS Modern Award (Schedules B and C).

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	261.563	319.929	381.773	447.217	509.921

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 61)

Description of organisations funded

SACS supplementation is provided to service providers receiving funding to deliver in-scope programs.

Anticipated Funding Rounds

N/A

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

N/A

Ongoing or Terminating

Ongoing

Group and Branch

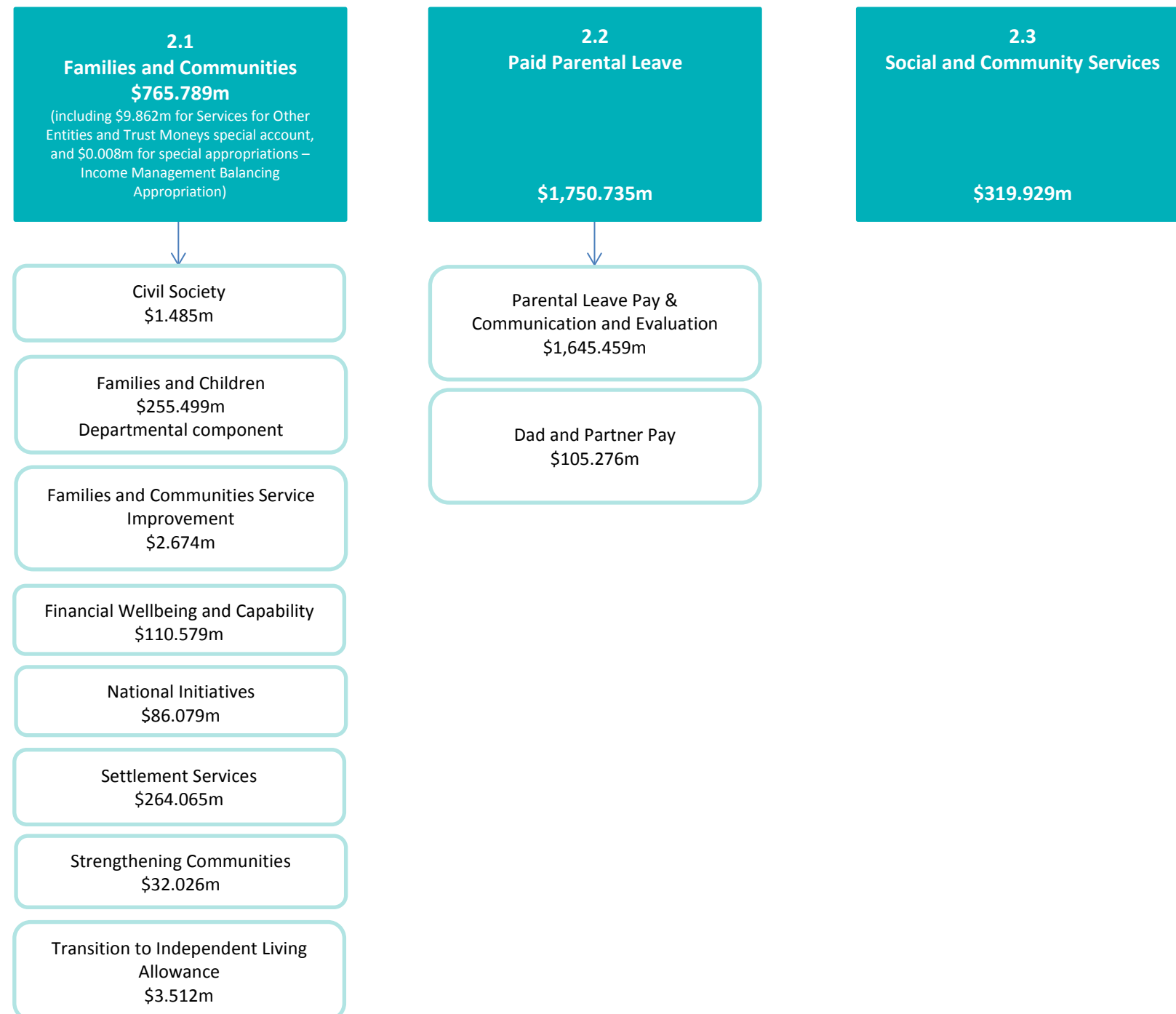
Program Strategy Branch

- Grants Operational Policy Section

Outcome 2 – Families and Communities Departmental Outcome Structure 2016-17

Program

Program Component/Activity



Outcome Compendium

Outcome 3

Disability and Carers

Programs at a Glance

Improved independence of, and participation by, people with disability, including improved support for carers, by providing targeted support and services.

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Program 3.1: Disability, Mental Health and Carers

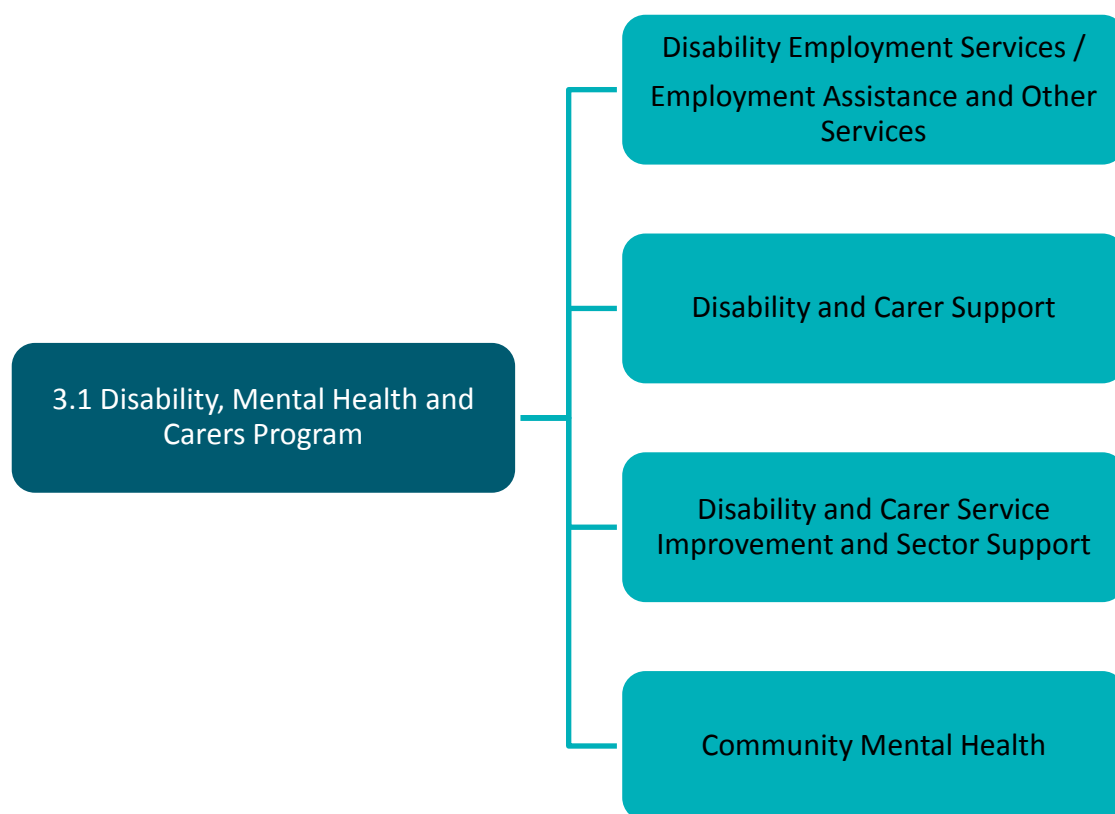
Objective

To provide support and community-based initiatives for people with disability, mental illness and carers, so they can develop their capabilities and actively participate in community and economic life.

Description

The program aims to provide a foundation for integrated, community - led program delivery that understands and meets local needs and promotes innovation and collaboration. This will include establishing a platform for continued improvement in the way the Department does its business, clarifying and strengthening Commonwealth and state and territory government responsibilities, and fostering stronger relationships with civil society and partnering with service providers.

Components



Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	1,001.621	1,074.426	1,118.587	1,091.408	1,045.709

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 81)

Group and Branch

Disability, Employment and Carers Group

- Disability and Carer Policy Branch
- Disability Employment Services (DES) Branch
- Supported Employment Policy, Access and Engagement Branch
- DES Quality and Assurance Branch

Component: Disability Employment Services/Employment Assistance and Other Services

Objective

Disability Employment Services (DES) helps individuals with injury, disability or a health condition to secure and maintain sustainable open employment.

Description

DES offers two demand-driven programs:

- Disability Management Service (DMS) – provides services to eligible job seekers with temporary or permanent disability, injuries or a health condition who require the assistance of a disability employment service, but who are not expected to need regular, long-term support in the workplace.
- Employment Support Service (ESS) – is available to eligible job seekers with permanent disability who are assessed as needing regular long-term ongoing support in the workplace.

DES providers work with participants to develop an individually tailored pathway to employment, integrating education, training, non-vocational assistance, rehabilitation services, work experience, job search, Job Placement assistance and other assistance. DES providers support and manage the impact of a participant's condition in the workplace, providing ongoing support in the workplace if required. This may include providing assistance such as information, training and support for employers, staff and the job seeker.

DES is uncapped, meaning every eligible job seeker can have immediate access to services to help them get and maintain a job.

Employment Assistance and Other Services (EAOS) are targeted to support employers to employ people with disability and are comprised of the:

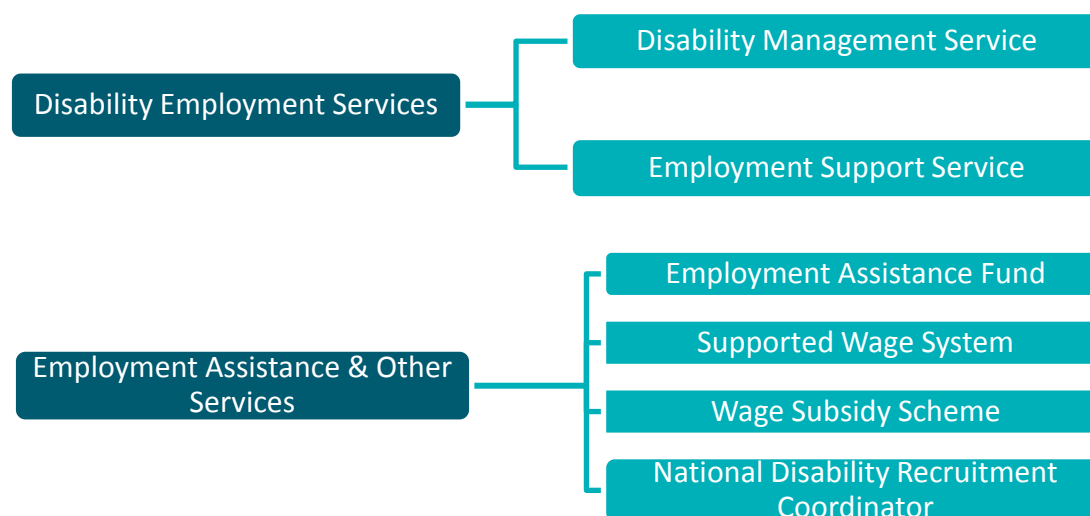
- Employment Assistance Fund (EAF) - helps people with disability and their employers by providing financial assistance for work-related equipment, modifications and services. EAF is a pool of funds available to pay for the cost of special workplace equipment, services and modifications that are needed to accommodate an employee with disability, including mental illness.
- Supported Wage System - enables employers to pay a productivity - based wage to people whose work productivity is reduced as a result of disability.
- Wage Subsidy Scheme - provides a financial incentive to employers to employ participants with disability in the open employment market at award wages.
- National Disability Recruitment Coordinator - works with large employers (those who employ more than 100 people) to develop a memorandum of understanding, committing the employer to increase their recruitment of people with disability.

Expenses

	2015-16 \$m	2016-17 \$m	2017-18 \$m	2018-19 \$m	2019-20 \$m
DES	776.468	796.712	810.152	783.111	765.421
EAOS	36.776	36.056	35.883	36.092	36.231
Total Disability Employment*	813.244	832.768	846.035	819.203	801.652

*Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 80)

Services funded from this program component



Description of organisations funded

Profit and not for profit organisations

Number of organisations funded by program

133 as at end April 2016

Recent funding rounds

Disability Employment Services (DES) providers are contracted under the DES Deed (the Deed) until 4 March 2018. In accordance with the terms of the Deed, the Australian Government will be undertaking business reallocation for both DES – Disability Management Service (DES-DMS) and DES – Employment Support Service (DES-ESS) in September 2016. The aim of this process is to help maintain a higher quality of service for participants for the remaining 15 months of the DES Deed. DES providers who achieve at least average or better employment outcomes for participants based on the June 2016 Star Ratings will not lose business through the reallocation.

The business of DES providers with a 1 or 2-Star Rating, or with insufficient data for a Star Rating at the Employment Service Area (ESA) level at the end of June 2016, will be in scope for business reallocation and subject to the business assessment process.

The purpose of business reallocation is to support high performance in the DES program and to ensure the best possible chance of an employment outcome for DES participants.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

The former Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations undertook an evaluation of DES, covering the period from the start of the program in 2010 to June 2013.

This report presenting the findings, including the quality of services, employment outcomes and the effectiveness of DES compared to the previous model can be found on the Department's website.

DES is currently achieving moderate results with 30 per cent of participants in employment three months after a period of assistance. This has been declining from a high of 38 per cent in 2013. By comparison, the mainstream employment services – jobactive is achieving around a 40 per cent employment rate.

The decline in performance cannot be attributed to a single cause and likely a result of several factors, including a softer labour market and more difficult job seekers entering DES with the broadening of participation requirements for income support recipients.

The Department is currently developing proposed adjustments to the program, for consideration by Government, with a view to improving performance. The proposed changes would be developed in consultation with the disability employment sector, and introduced following the completion of the existing DES Deed in 2018.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Disability Employment Services Branch

- Performance, Modelling and Evaluation Section

Sub-Activity: Employment Assistance Fund

Objective

The Employment Assistance Fund (EAF) helps people with disability and mental health conditions by providing financial assistance to purchase a range of work related modifications and services. Assistance is available for people who are about to start a job or who are currently working, as well as those who require assistance to find and prepare for work.

Description

The EAF may reimburse the cost of work - related modifications and services including, but not limited to, the cost of modifications to the physical work environment, modifications to work vehicles, adaptive equipment for the workplace, information and communication devices, Auslan interpreting, specialist services for employees with specific learning disorders and mental health conditions, disability awareness training, deafness awareness training, and mental health awareness training.

EAF is delivered through the Australian Governments JobAccess provider. All EAF applications are made online through the JobAccess website.

Expenses

2016-17: \$12.635 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

Non-government organisation

Number of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

WorkFocus Australia

Anticipated funding rounds

The Department released a Request for Tender (RFT) on 16 December 2015 for the provision of JobAccess Gateway services from 1 July 2016 that includes EAF administration. Tender responses closed on 4 February 2016. The successful tenderer, WorkFocus Australia, will provide JobAccess services from 1 July 2016.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

An internal review of EAF was undertaken in September 2015.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Disability Employment Services Branch

- Support Services and Employer Engagement Section

Sub-Activity: Supported Wage System

Objective

The Supported Wage System (SWS) provides both long - term and stable employment for many people with disability, and opportunities for people with disability to improve continuously their work productivity and be employed at full award wages.

Description

SWS is a process that allows employers to pay a productivity - based wage which matches a person's assessed productivity rate. The SWS enables eligible people with disability to access a reliable process of productivity based wage assessment to determine fair pay for fair work.

Workplace assessments for eligible participants are assessed by National Panel of Assessor (NPA) accredited assessors, who determine the productivity of the participants. The assessments are funded under this program.

SWS Assessors are paid \$600 per assessment with an additional \$420 payable per assessment if conducted in an identified Remote Jobs and Community Program (RJCP) region.

Expenses

2015-16: \$2.711 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

Non-government organisations

Number of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

60

Anticipated funding rounds

The current NPA is funded through a Deed of Standing Offer following a purchasing process conducted in March 2010 until 30 June 2017.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

An internal review of SWS was undertaken in September 2015.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Disability Employment Services Branch

- Support Services and Employer Engagement Section

Sub-Activity: Wage Subsidy Scheme

Objective

Wage subsidies encourage employers to employ people with disability by subsidising the cost to the employer, for an initial adjustment period, to offset costs of wages and training.

Description

The Wage Subsidy Scheme provides up to \$1,500 for DES participants who are placed into jobs of eight hours or more per week for 13 weeks. The Wage Subsidy Scheme is demand driven and places are not capped.

The Wage Subsidy Scheme is paid in arrears by DES providers to employers who provide the employee the minimum agreed employment conditions. The wage subsidy is then reimbursed by the Department.

Expenses

2016-17: \$18.955 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

Non-government organisations

Number of organisations funded by this service for the period between 1 July 2015 and 30 April 2016

130

Anticipated funding rounds

The Wage Subsidy Scheme is demand - driven and funded through the Employment Assistance and Other Services budget allocation (within DES).

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Nil

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Disability Employment Services Branch

- Support Services and Employer Engagement Section

Sub-Activity: National Disability Recruitment Coordinator

Objective

The National Disability Recruitment Coordinator (NDRC) is a single national service providing support to large employers (with more than 100 staff) targeting employment of people with disability, particularly those assisted by Disability Employment Services (DES).

Description

WorkFocus Australia is contracted by the Department to deliver NDRC services until 30 June 2018, working to Key Performance Indicators:

- engagement with 35 larger employers each financial year through Memorandum of Understandings;
- creation of 300 disability vacancies per year with larger employers and communication with DES providers on the created vacancies; and
- deliver at least three annual employer seminars to representatives from at least 240 Employer Organisations each financial year.

Expenses

2016-17: \$1.755 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

Non-government organisation

Number of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

WorkFocus Australia

Anticipated funding rounds

The Department released a Request for Tender (RFT) on 16 December 2015 for the provision of JobAccess Gateway services from 1 July 2016 that includes the NDRC. Tender responses closed on 4 February 2016. The successful tenderer, WorkFocus Australia, will provide JobAccess services from 1 July 2016.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

An internal review of NDRC was undertaken in March 2016.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Disability Employment Services Branch

- Support Services and Employer Engagement Section

Component: Disability and Carer Support

Objective

To provide assistance, support and services for people with disability and carers.

Description

To improve access, support and services for people with disability and carers, including providing appropriate means of self-reliance, communication, training and education services and advocacy.

Since 1 July 2015, the Disability, Mental Health and Carers Program includes the Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centres, National Carer Counselling Program, Carer Information and Support Service, and Consumer Directed Respite Care from the National Respite for Carers Program, Counselling Support, Information and Advocacy – carer support, Dementia Education and Training for Carers and Dementia and Aged Care Services Fund (former Aged Care Services Improvement and Healthy Ageing Grants Fund), which were formerly part of the Ageing and Aged Care stream that is now part of the Department of Health.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	119.227	141.210*	151.024	161.842	162.004

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 80)

*Sub-activity Expenses 2016-17 amounts may not add up to the Component Total due to unallocated funds.

Description of organisations funded

Non-government organisations

Anticipated funding rounds

TBC

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing unless otherwise specified

Branch and Section

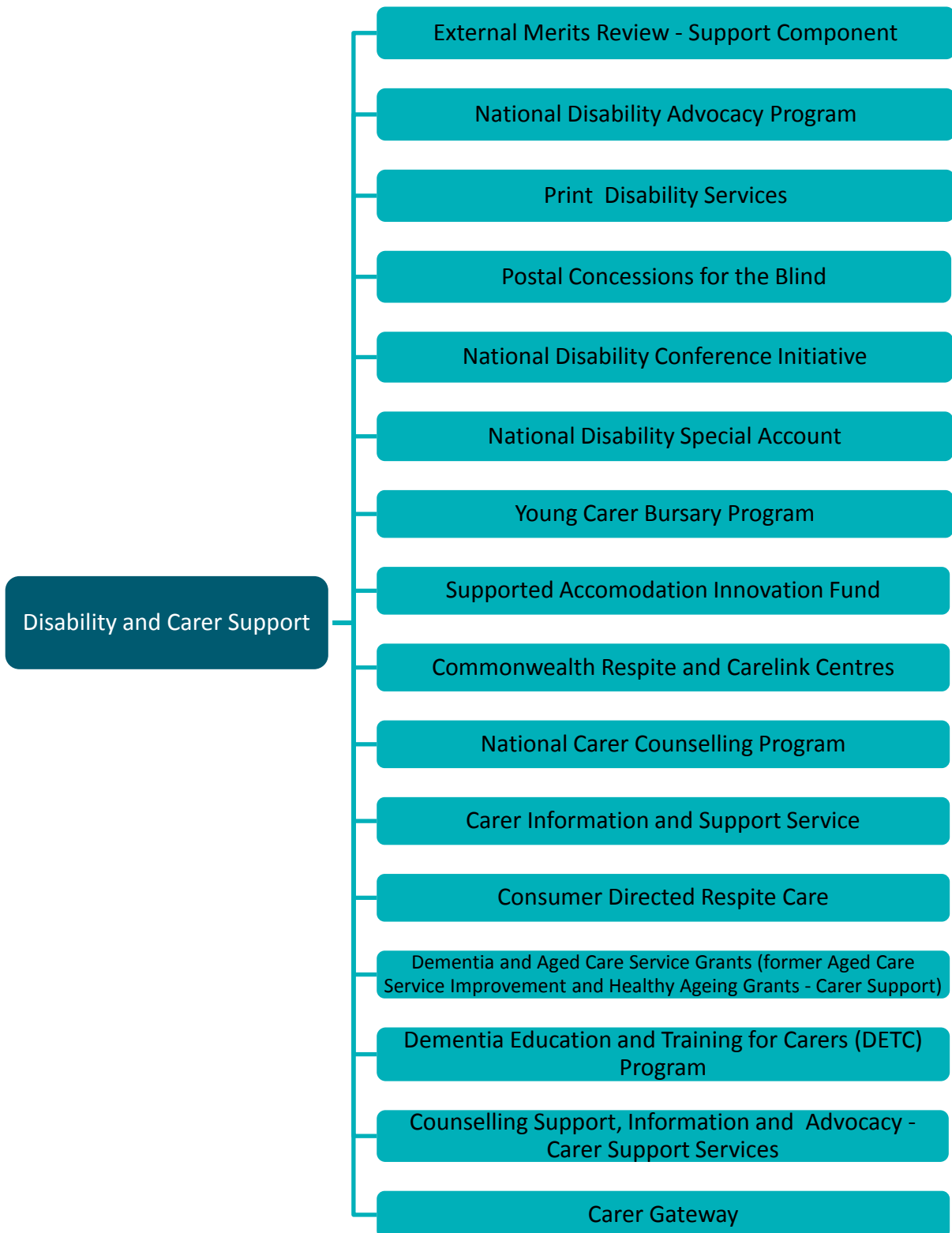
Supported Employment Policy, Access and Engagement Branch

- BSWAT Response Section
- Payment Scheme and Supported Employment Policy Section
- Advocacy and Access Section

Disability and Carer Policy Branch

- National Disability Policy Section
- Carer Policy Section
- Carer Gateway Program Management Office

Services funded from this Components



Sub-Activity: External Merits Review – Support Component

Objective

The aim of External Merits Review – Support Component (EMR-SC) is to ensure National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) decisions are fair and robust, and that all people with disability have access to support when they are seeking review of NDIA decisions in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT). The EMR–SC will seek to ensure that the external merits review process is accessible and as non-adversarial as possible by providing:

- access to a support person; and
- access to legal services in limited circumstances – where a case raises complex or novel legal issues.

Description

The AAT is the external merits review body for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The EMR – SC includes funding to selected National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP) agencies in the NDIS sites for an EMR-SC support person. These support persons assist applicants navigate the processes of the AAT, and foster self-advocacy to the extent possible. It also includes funding to the Legal Aid Commissions in each site, for cases deemed to raise complex or novel legal issues.

Expenses

2016-17: \$8.390 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

One high-performing NDAP advocacy agency is funded to provide support persons, and capped funding is provided to Legal Aid Commissions for cases raising complex or novel legal issues, in each NDIS site.

Number of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

Support Persons - seven

For 2016-17, these are:

- Brain Injury SA (South Australia)
- Rights Information and Advocacy Centre Inc. (Victoria)
- Disability Advocacy NSW (New South Wales)
- Advocacy Tasmania Inc (Tasmania)
- ACT Disability, Aged and Carer Advocacy Services (Australian Capital Territory)
- Brain Injury SA (Northern Territory)
- Midland Information Debt & Legal Advocacy Service (Western Australia)
- Independent Advocacy in the Tropics (Queensland)

Additional providers of EMR-SC support persons will be engaged as further NDIS sites are rolled out.

Legal Services – eight

For 2016-17, these are:

- Legal Services Commission of South Australia
- Victoria Legal Aid
- Legal Aid New South Wales
- Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania
- Legal Aid Western Australia
- Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission
- Legal Aid Australian Capital Territory
- Legal Aid Queensland

Anticipated funding rounds

Any future funding rounds will be a decision for Government.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

The EMR–SC was evaluated in 2015 and is being included in the review of National Disability Advocacy Program

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Supported Employment Policy, Access and Engagement Branch

- Advocacy and Access Section

Sub-Activity: National Disability Advocacy Program

Objective

That people with disability have access to effective disability advocacy that promotes, protects and ensures their full and equal enjoyment of all human rights, enabling full community participation.

Description

The National Disability Advocacy Program provides appropriate and timely advocacy to people with disability that addresses instances of abuse, discrimination and neglect. It provides information to people with disability about their rights and responsibilities, and supports them where possible in making informed decisions about issues that impact on their lives. It also contributes to government policy, service and program development, and raises community awareness of disability issues.

Expenses

2016-17: \$16.708 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

Non-government organisations

Number of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

There are 58 funded organisations.

Anticipated funding rounds

A selection process will take place prior to financial year 2017-18.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

A review of NDAP is being conducted in 2016-17, as part of an ongoing process of continuous improvement, taking into account changes related to the establishment of the NDIS.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Supported Employment Policy, Access and Engagement Branch

- Advocacy and Access Section

Sub-Activity: Print Disability Services Program

Objective

To ensure the provision of print material in alternative communication formats for people who, by reason of their disability, are unable to access information provided in a standard print medium.

Description

Print Disability Services Program (PDSP) provides funding for print disability organisations to produce digital masters that can be used to create alternative formats for people with print disability. People with print disability are those who are unable to read standard print with ease due to vision impairment, a physical disability or a learning disability.

Expenses

2016-17: \$1.401 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

Not-for-profit non-government organisations

Number of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

4

Anticipated funding rounds

Current grant agreements have been extended until 30 June 2017.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

A review of the program was conducted in 2009 which resulted in a renewed focus to ensure it delivered clear benefits for the print disabled community through the use of technology by providing greater access to material and increased choice of format and delivery method. The acceleration of that technology since 2009, and changes associated with the NDIS, has prompted another review that will occur in late 2016 to ensure the program is appropriately targeted.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Supported Employment Policy, Access and Engagement Branch

- Advocacy and Access Section

Sub-Activity: Postal Concessions for the Blind

Objective

To enable people who are blind or vision impaired (and those organisations which are recognised as supporting people who are blind or vision impaired) to access concessional rates of postage for certain postal articles.

Description

Under the Postal Concessions for the Blind (PCB), the Department reimburses Australia Post for the postal charges associated with posting Braille documents, audio recordings and other material (defined as 'eligible items') for people who are blind.

Under the PCB, Australia Post provides a 'free of charge' (for domestic mail) service for the posting of 'eligible items' for people who are blind or vision impaired and recognised organisations posting 'eligible items' to people who are blind.

Expenses

2016-17: \$2.167 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

The Department reimburses Australia Post for the postal charges associated with posting 'eligible items' under the Postal Concessions for the Blind Program.

Number of organisations funded as at 30 June 2016

1

Anticipated funding rounds

Nil

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

A review will be conducted in 2016-17 to review effectiveness and identify alternatives.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Supported Employment Policy, Access and Engagement Branch

- Advocacy and Access Section

Sub-Activity: National Disability Conference Initiative

Objective

The National Disability Conference Initiative supports people with disability to attend nationally-focussed disability conferences held in Australia.

Description

One-off grants are provided to eligible organisations to assist people with disability to attend and access disability conferences with a national focus held in Australia.

Expenses

2016-17: \$0.315 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

Non-government, not for profit organisations.

Number of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

33

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Nil

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Disability and Carer Policy Branch

- National Disability Policy Section

Sub-Activity: National Disability Special Account

Objective

The purpose of the National Disability Special Account (NDSA) is to conduct projects for research into disability issues of national significance, including data improvement, as part of the National Disability Agreement between Commonwealth, state and territory governments.

Description

The NDSA was established in 2009 to fund disability research and data activities under the National Disability Agreement (NDA). The Determination for the NDSA is the *Financial Management and Accountability Determination 2006/30 – National Disability Special Account Establishment 2006*.

In March 2009, Disability Ministers agreed to contribute a total of \$10 million to the NDSA over the first five years of the NDA to support disability research and development activities as well as data development. The NDSA is jointly funded by the Commonwealth (\$5 million) and state/territory governments (\$5 million). Contributions from all jurisdictions have been finalised.

All funding for research and data projects from the NDSA must be approved by Commonwealth, state and territory officials through the Research and Data Working Group and under the Disability Policy Group. The Department represents the Commonwealth on both the Research and Data Working Group and the Disability Policy Group and manages the NDSA on behalf of all jurisdictions.

Expenses

2016-17: \$2.643 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare is funded to collect data for the Disability Services National Minimum Data Set (DS NMDS).

Nine research organisations have been funded to undertake research in priority areas identified by the Research and Data Working Group. In addition, two organisations have been funded to undertake research capacity building projects.

Number of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

12

Anticipated funding rounds

Nil

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Nil

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing until 2020 or the date when funds are expended.

Branch and Section

Disability and Carer Policy Branch | National Disability Policy Section

Sub-Activity: Young Carer Bursary Program

Objective

The Young Carer Bursary Program assists young carers aged 25 years and under to continue to study and to relieve the financial pressure for them to undertake part-time work in addition to their educational and caring responsibilities.

Description

The Young Carer Bursary Program provides 333 annual bursaries valued at \$3,000 each to young carers in greatest need.

Expenses

2016-17: \$1.235 million

Number of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

1 – Carers Australia

Anticipated funding rounds

Nil

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

A program evaluation is scheduled to commence in 2016.

Ongoing or terminating

Program will terminate on 31 December 2017.

Branch and Section

Disability and Carer Policy Branch

- Carer Policy Section

Sub-Activity: Supported Accommodation Innovation Fund

Objective

The \$60 million Supported Accommodation Innovation Fund (SAIF) aimed to promote innovation in design and delivery of supported accommodation services for people with disability

Description

The SAIF program, aimed to provide up to 150 new, community-based supported accommodation places, for adults with severe or profound disability in need of supported accommodation or respite.

At December 2015, 132 places were completed. A further 14 places are expected to be completed by September 2016, with the remaining places due for completion in 2017.

Expenses

Nil. All funds for SAIF have been expended.

Description of organisations funded by this service

21 community organisations

Anticipated funding rounds

Nil

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

There have been evaluations of the program in 2013 and 2015.

Ongoing or terminating

Terminating. Funding was terminated in June 2014. The building work continues.

Branch and Section

Program Transition Branch

- Disability Programs Section

Sub-Activity: Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centres

Objective

Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centres (CRCCs) aim to contribute to the support and maintenance of caring relationships by facilitating access to information, respite care and other support appropriate to carers' needs and circumstances, and the needs of the people they care for.

Description

The national network of 54 CRCCs provides a link to carer support services and assists carers with options to take a break through short-term and emergency respite. Where appropriate, a CRCC can help with putting in place regular respite for a carer to reduce the need for unplanned and emergency respite. CRCCs also provide information about carer support services in their local area. CRCCs primarily use brokerage funds to purchase appropriate respite care for carers in emergency or short term situations, however, CRCCs can also use these funds to assist carers to attend training or courses that will equip them with the skills and confidence to continue in their caring role.

Expenses

2016-17: \$61.324 million

Description of organisations funded

There are both non-government and government entities funded under the National Respite for Carers Program (NRCP) to deliver the CRCCs services nationally.

Number of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

In 2016-17, there are 39 auspice organisations funded to deliver the 54 CRCCs nationally.

Anticipated funding rounds

Nil

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Ongoing program design will be reviewed in the context of the development of the Integrated Plan for Carer Support Services.

Ongoing or terminating

CRCCs activities are funded until 30 June 2017.

Branch and Section

Disability and Carer Policy Branch

- Carer Policy Section

Sub-Activity: National Carer Counselling Program

Objective

The National Carer Counselling Program (NCCP) aims to reduce carer stress, improve carer coping skills and facilitate, whenever appropriate, continuation of the caring role.

Description

The NCCP offers short-term professional and qualified counselling, and emotional and psychological support services for carers delivered either face to face (individual and/or group), online or via telephone. The NCCP also assists carers to access long term therapy where required.

Expenses

2016-17: \$4.969 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

Carers Australia, a non-government entity, receives funding under the National Respite for Carers Program (NRCP) to subcontract the network of Carer Associations in each state and territory to deliver the NCCP.

Number of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

In 2016-17, one organisation (Carers Australia) is funded to deliver the NCCP.

Anticipated funding rounds

Nil

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Ongoing program design will be reviewed in the context of the development of the Integrated Plan for Carer Support Services.

Ongoing or terminating

The NCCP activities are funded until 30 June 2017.

Branch and Section

Disability and Carer Policy Branch

- Carer Policy Section

Sub-Activity: Carer Information and Support Service

Objective

The Carer Information and Support Service (CISS) aims to assist carers in their caring role through the provision of specialist information and advice, emotional support and help with planning.

Description

CISS provides a coordination pathway for carers to access services and other forms of support that are most appropriate to their individual needs and circumstances. These services include access to counselling, carer support groups, carer education and training, advocacy, respite services and guided referral where appropriate.

Expenses

2016-17: \$4.026 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

Carers Australia, a non-government entity, receives funding under the National Respite for Carers Program (NRCP) to subcontract the network of Carer Associations in each state and territory to deliver the CISS.

Number of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

In 2016-17, one organisation (Carers Australia) is funded to deliver the CISS.

Anticipated funding rounds

Nil

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Ongoing program design will be reviewed in the context of the development of the Integrated Plan for Carer Support Services.

Ongoing or terminating

CISS activities are funded until 30 June 2017.

Branch and Section

Disability and Carer Policy Branch

- Carer Policy Section

Sub-Activity: Consumer Directed Respite Care

Objective

The objective of Consumer Directed Respite Care (CDRC) is to deliver a consumer directed approach to respite care; and explore more effective ways of empowering carers by allowing them, to the extent they are capable and wish to do so, to actively choose the respite services they receive, including who delivers the respite care and when.

Description

Consumer (or self) directed respite care allows carers to take a break from their caring role and gives carers a greater say and more control over the design and delivery of respite services provided to them and the person/s they care for. This allows carers to make choices about the types of respite services they access and the delivery of those services, including who will deliver the services and when.

Under the CDRC model, participating Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centres remain the holder of CDRC funds, but expend each carer's budget as agreed in a CDRC Respite Care Plan and, from this, as directed by the carer.

Expenses

2016-17: \$2.597 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

CDRC is delivered through 36 of the 54 Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centres.

Number of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

There are 28 organisations funded to provide CDRC.

Anticipated funding rounds

Nil

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Ongoing program design will be reviewed in the context of the development of the Integrated Plan for Carer Support Services.

Ongoing or terminating

CDRC activities are funded until 30 June 2017.

Branch and Section

Disability and Carer Policy Branch

- Carer Policy Section

Sub-Activity: Dementia and Aged Care Service Grants – Carer Support

Objective

To strengthen the capacity of the health and aged care sectors to deliver quality care and to promote healthy ageing.

Description

Dementia and Aged Care Service Grants (DACs) formerly Aged Care Service Improvement and Healthy Ageing Grants (ACSIHAG) – carer support activities are funded projects designed to better support and strengthen the capacity of carers. Carers are provided with timely and appropriate information resources which meet their information needs and skills training to assist, where appropriate, continuation of their caring role.

Expenses

2016-17: \$0.561 million

Services funded from this activity

The DACs is intended to be flexible enough to support a wide range of support for activities that provide information and support to assist carers maintain their caring role.

The target groups for DACs correspond to the Fund's priority areas for action, and include but are not limited to:

- older Australians, to support healthy and active ageing
- families and carers of older people and those with early onset dementia
- older people with diverse needs, and their families and carers.

Description of organisations funded

Non-government, private providers (including religious and benevolent), local, and state and territory governments

Number of organisations funded by program as at 30 June 2016

8

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Reviews or evaluations may be conducted as part of contractual arrangements.

Ongoing or terminating

Various end dates up to 30 June 2017.

Branch and Section

Disability and Carer Policy Branch

- Carer Policy Section

Sub-Activity: Dementia Education and Training for Carers Program

Objective

The Dementia Education and Training for Carers (DETC) program aims to improve the quality of life of people living with dementia by increasing the competence and confidence of carers, by providing courses that aim to enhance their skills, and better connecting carers to information.

Description

DETC provides responsive dementia education and training for carers and families of people with dementia, demonstrating an understanding of, and commitment to, responding to target group needs, equity for consumers and service gaps.

Expenses

2016-17: \$1.07 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

Government and non-government organisations funded to provide Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centres.

Number of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

34

Anticipated funding rounds

Nil

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Ongoing program design will be reviewed in the context of the development of the Integrated Plan for Carer Support Services.

Ongoing or terminating

DETC activities are funded until 30 June 2017.

Branch and Section

Disability and Carer Policy Branch

- Carer Policy Section

Sub-Activity: Counselling Support, Information and Advocacy – Carer Support Services

Objective

The objective of Counselling, Support, Information and Advocacy (CSIA) - carer support services is to equip carers, through a preventative and early intervention approach, with the skills to continue their caring role, where appropriate.

Description

CSIA – carer support services grants provide specific information, education and training to assist carers to understand and manage situations, behaviours and relationships associated with the care needs of the person they care for.

Expenses

2016-17: \$10.323 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

Government and non-government organisations

Number of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

53

Anticipated funding rounds

Nil

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Ongoing program design will be reviewed in the context of the development of the Integrated Plan for Carer Support Services.

Ongoing or terminating

CSIA - carer support services activities are funded until 30 June 2017.

Branch and Section

Disability and Carer Policy Branch

- Carer Policy Section

Sub-Activity: Carer Gateway

Objective

To provide a central point where carers can go for information, support and linking to existing services.

Description

Carer Gateway is a national website and phone service that provides information about services and support available for people who care for someone with a disability, chronic illness, dementia, mental illness or frailty due to age.

Expenses

2016-17: \$5.560 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

Healthdirect Australia is funded to deliver Carer Gateway services.

Number of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

1

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Ongoing consumer satisfaction surveys

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Disability and Carer Policy Branch

- Carer Gateway Program Management Section

Sub-Activity: Australian Disability Enterprise - Sector Intervention Support Strategy

Objective

To support Australian Disability Enterprises (ADEs) to actively reflect on, document and plan for the threats and opportunities faced by their enterprises when transitioning to the NDIS; securing high quality employment outcomes for people with disability.

Description

The grant will allow ADEs to access funding from the 2016 -17 financial year to enhance their transition and business planning by accessing independent advice from suitably qualified consultants.

Expenses

2016-17: \$6 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

Australian Disability Enterprises.

Number of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

There are 184 ADE organisations eligible to apply for the grant as at 30 June 2016. Final numbers are subject to a selection process to be conducted in late 2016.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Nil

Ongoing or terminating

Terminating

Branch and Section

Program Transition Branch

- Australian Disability Enterprise Section

Sub-Activity: Disability Information Services

Objective

To improve access, support and services for people with disability and carers.

Description

The Australian Federation of Disability Organisations will work with specialist organisations to improve access, support and services for people with disability and carers.

Expenses

2016-17: \$0.400 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

Australian Federation of Disability Organisations.

Number of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

1

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

At the end of the funding Agreement, a report identifying the number of services provided over the funding period will be provided

Ongoing or terminating

Terminating 30 June 2017.

Branch and Section

Supported Employment Policy, Access and Engagement Branch

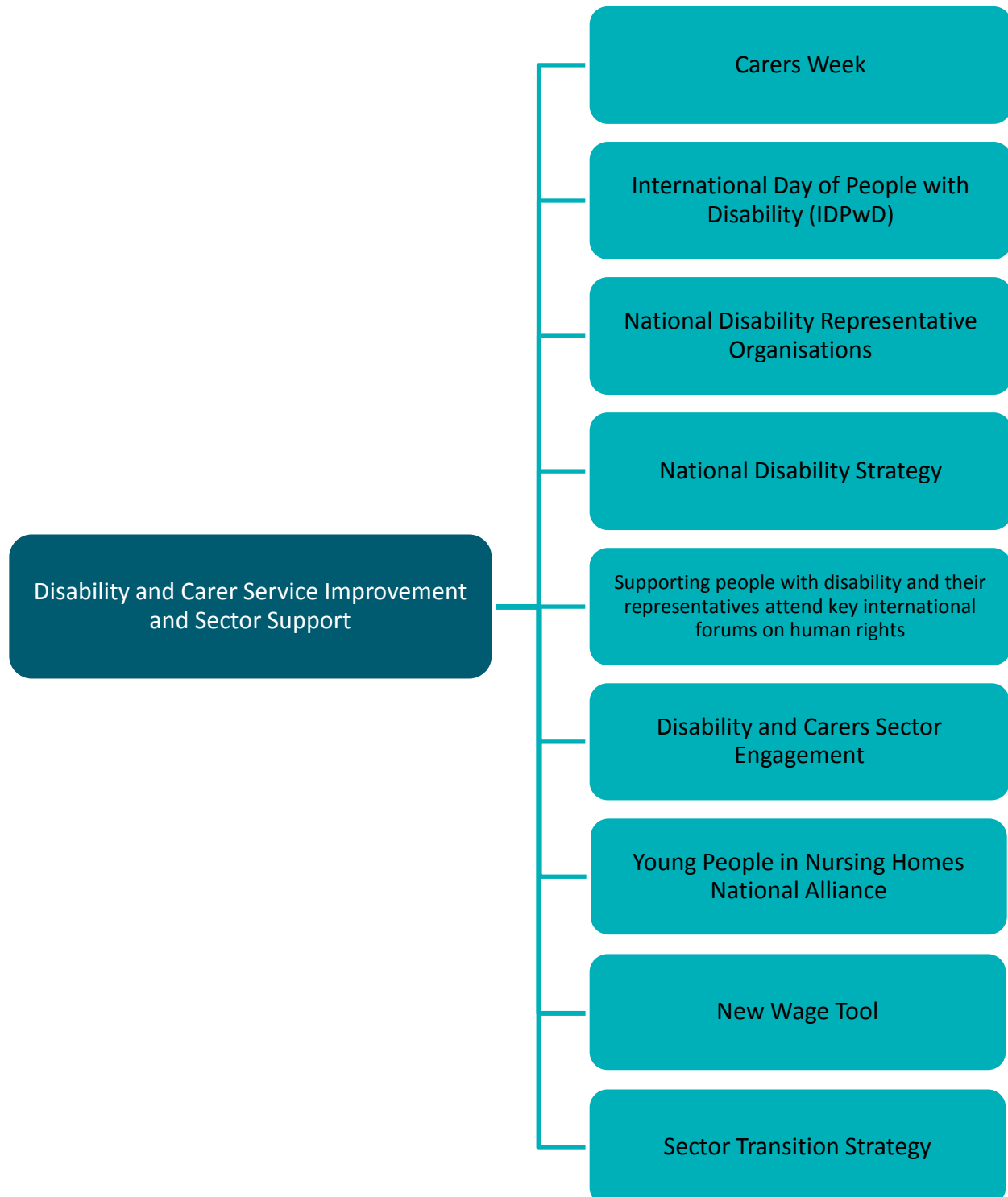
- Community and Sector Engagement Section

Component: Disability and Carer Service Improvement and Sector Support

Objective

To provide opportunities for people with disability, carers, policy-makers, researchers, national organisations, and service providers, business and community organisations to undertake work to improve the lives of people with disability and carers.

Services funded from this component



Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	10.909	40.484*	67.804	57.321	28.487

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 80)

*Sub-activity Expense 2016-17 amounts may not add up to the Component Total due to unallocated funds.

Anticipated funding rounds

TBC

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing unless otherwise specified.

Description of organisations funded

Non-government organisations.

Note: In partial response to the decision in *Nojin and Prior v. the C'th* (2012), the Government announced, on 21 August 2014, funding of \$173 million for a package of measures to assist in delivering new wage arrangements for supported employment.

Branch and Section

Disability and Carer Policy Branch

- National Disability Policy Section
- International, Equity and Evidence Section

Supported Employment Policy, Access and Engagement Branch

- BSWAT Response Section
- Community and Sector Engagement Section

Sub-Activity: Carers Week

Objective

Carers Week aims to raise awareness among carers and the general community.

Description

Carers Week is held in October each year.

Expenses

2016-17: \$0.208 million

Number of organisations funded by program as at 30 June 2016

1 funded organisation – Carers Australia.

Anticipated funding rounds

Nil

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Evaluation is undertaken annually following Carers Week.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Disability and Carer Policy Branch

- Carer Policy Section

Sub-Activity: International Day of People with Disability

Objective

The Disability and Carer Service Improvement and Sector Support Activity includes a number of objectives, including the Stakeholder Engagement objective through which the Australian Government provides funding to promote and raise awareness of International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD).

Description

IDPwD was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1992 to promote awareness of disability and the abilities of people with disability, and is celebrated worldwide on 3 December. The Australian Government has been supporting IDPwD since 1996 and the National Disability Awards since 2007.

The celebration of IDPwD on 3 December each year and the National Disability Awards are part of the Government's commitment to the implementation of the National Disability Strategy that aims to change attitudes and focus efforts towards more innovative and fairer policies, programs and services that are inclusive of people with disability.

The Awards are a key part of the Government's IDPwD celebrations and aim to recognise outstanding achievements and to highlight and model best practice in improving the participation of people with disability that could then be replicated nationally.

Expenses

2016-17: \$0.594 million

Description of organisations funded by this service for the 2016 events

A number of providers (including non-government organisations, Australian Disability Enterprises and media specialists) may be contracted to deliver a range of services for IDPwD 2016.

Anticipated funding rounds for 2016-17

Nil

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Evaluations are undertaken at the end of each calendar year by the providers and the Department.

Branch and Section

Supported Employment Policy, Access and Engagement Branch

- Community and Sector Engagement Section

Sub-Activity: National Disability Representative Organisations

Objective

To fund community-based organisations to undertake sector development and representation to contribute to Government policy on issues that impact people with disability and carers, and to communicate Government information to their memberships and the sectors they represent.

Description

Funding is currently provided to six organisations to 30 June 2017 to represent people with disability and to organisations to represent service providers that support people with disability on a national basis. As well as providing advice to the Government on key reforms such as the National Disability Strategy, and the National Disability Insurance Scheme, the national disability organisations provide advice about the issues affecting a broad range of people with disability.

Expenses

2016-17: \$1.848 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

The Australian Cross Disability Alliance has been established as the new model for peak funding to effectively and collegiately represent the interests and views of all people with disability regardless of their disability, gender, cultural background or age, or membership. The new Alliance is made up of the following Disabled People's Organisation members:

- People with Disability Australia;
- First Peoples Disability Network;
- National Ethnic Disability Alliance; and
- Women with Disabilities Australia.

Children and Young People with Disability Australia, is being funded separately to represent children with disability, their carers and families, and will work with the Alliance on areas of shared interest and opportunities to advance the rights of people with disability.

In addition, National Disability Services is funded to represent service providers to enable the Australian Government to continue to receive advice from the services that support people with disability so their service needs can be met.

Number of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

Six national disability peak organisations are funded under this program. Another eight organisations previously funded ceased receiving funding on 30 June 2015.

An additional \$600,000 was provided for a one-off project in 2015-16 to 30 June 2016, to the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations, to work with previously funded and unfunded diagnostic organisations, to look at practical and sustainable solutions on capturing specialised diagnostic advice and expertise to support disability reforms, such as the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Anticipated funding rounds in 2016-17

Nil

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Within first 12-24 months of the new peak funding model being operational.

Ongoing or terminating

Currently funded to 30 June 2017.

Branch and Section

Supported Employment Policy, Access and Engagement Branch

- Community and Sector Engagement Section

Sub-Activity: National Disability Strategy

Objective

The National Disability Strategy 2010-2020, endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments in February 2011, provides a 10-year national policy framework for all levels of government to improve the lives of people with disability.

Description

The National Disability Strategy seeks to drive a more inclusive approach to the design of policies, programs and infrastructure so that people with disability can participate in all areas of Australian life. Improving access to buildings, transport, social events, education, health care services and employment will contribute to ensuring that people with disability have the opportunity to fulfil their potential as equal citizens.

Action taken under the Strategy to drive improved performance of mainstream services for people with disability will complement specialist disability services and programs currently provided by Commonwealth, state and territory governments, including those provided through the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

The Strategy is aligned with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and is an important mechanism for ensuring that the principles underpinning the Convention are incorporated into policies and programs affecting people with disability, their families and carers.

An important feature of the Strategy's policy reform is that it commits all governments to consider the needs of people with disability as part of their day-to-day business. This means all areas of government policy and administration, not only those with a specific focus and responsibility for people with disability, should be actively considering the needs of people with disability and how to ensure that their policy and program design is inclusive of people with disability. A monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework will ensure that improvements are ongoing and governments remain focused.

Expenses

2016-17: \$0.156 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

Nil

Number of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

1

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

First biennial progress report to COAG on NDS in December 2015.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing to 2020

Branch and Section

Disability and Carer Policy Branch | National Disability Policy Section

Sub-Activity: Supporting people with disability and their representatives attend key international forums on human rights

Objective

Supporting participation by people with disability and their representative organisations in key international forums on human rights will help Australia comply with Article 32 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Description

The program aims to support participation by representatives from Disability Peak Organisations and Disability Advocacy Organisations through their attendance at key international forums on human rights.

The Program has been extended for three years to June 2018 with funding up to the amount of \$300,000 (GST exclusive) available under the Disability, Mental Health and Carers Program – Disability Service Improvement and Sector Support Activity.

Expenses

2016-17: \$0.100 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

The program supports a number of individual advocates at international forums, who are sponsored by Disability Peak Organisations and Disability Advocacy Organisations.

Number of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

1

Anticipated funding rounds in 2016-17

Direct selection of disability representatives.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

An internal review of the progress and benefits of this initiative was undertaken in 2014 and concluded that, over the review period, the program had been successful in achieving its intended outcomes and had met all milestones.

Ongoing or terminating

The funding agreement is for 2015-18.

Branch and Section

Disability and Carer Policy Branch

- International, Equity and Evidence Section

Sub-Activity: Disability and Carers Sector Engagement

Objective

The Disability and Carer Service Improvement and Sector Support Activity includes a stakeholder engagement sub-activity, providing funding support for advisory mechanisms to help ensure people with disability and carers have a voice to Government on issues, policies, programs and legislation that impacts them.

Description

The sector is broad in nature, with many layers, providing the Minister with numerous sources of advice on disability and carer issues.

Disability and carer stakeholders consider it important for the Government to be able to access expert, as well as grass roots advice, on disability and carer policy and legislation.

The National Disability Representative Organisations described above provide grass-roots advice to the Department and the Government.

The Department was also working with the Government to consider establishing an expert industry advisory council for the disability and carer sectors to advise on policy, programs and legislation impacting these sectors.

Expenses

2016-17: \$0.193 million

Number of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

Nil

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

The National People with Disabilities and Carer Council was abolished in 2013.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Supported Employment Policy, Access and Engagement Branch

- Community and Sector Engagement Section

Sub-Activity: Young People in Nursing Homes National Alliance

Objective

The Young People in Nursing Homes National Alliance (the Alliance) is funded to undertake projects and research and provide advice to Government in relation to younger people with disability in, or at risk of entering residential aged care.

Description

The Alliance works with young people living in aged care facilities, their families, friends and other stakeholders to develop the support services and accommodation of young people with high or complex support needs required to pursue their lives in the community.

Expenses

2016-17: \$0.200 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

Young People in Nursing Homes National Alliance

Number of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

1

Anticipated funding rounds for 2016-17

Nil

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

At the end of the Funding Agreement, a report identifying the projects that have been undertaken will be provided.

Ongoing or terminating

The funding agreement is for 2015-17.

Branch and Section

Disability and Carer Policy Branch

- International, Equity and Evidence Section

Sub-Activity: New Wage Tool

Objective

The development of a new productivity-based wage assessment tool for people with disability in supported employment.

Description

To identify, develop and implement a new wage assessment tool for use in the supported employment environment, through negotiations with stakeholders on the design of the new tool through the Fair Work Commission. To support this work, the Department will progress a trial of a modified Supported Wage System (SWS) in a small number of Australian Disability Enterprises (ADEs) and explore alternative wage models brought forward by stakeholders in the Fair Work Commission.

Expenses

2016-17: \$11.758 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

Not-for-profit organisations

Number of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

Twenty Australian Disability Enterprises have received a \$5,000 one-off grant to offset costs incurred in relation to their participation in a trial of a modified Supported Wage System in April – May 2016.

A small number of consultancies were funded in 2015-16 to support the policy work for the development of the new wage tool.

Anticipated funding rounds for 2016-17

Nil

A small number of consultancies may be funded in 2016-17 to support the policy work for the development of the new wage tool.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

A consultancy has been engaged to evaluate the modified SWS Trial in 20 ADEs in 2016.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Supported Employment Policy , Access and Engagement Branch

- Supported Employment Policy and Payment Scheme

Sub-Activity: Sector Transition Strategy

Objective

Assist the supported employment sector to transition to a new productivity-based wage assessment tool and to build the businesses of Australian Disability Enterprises (ADEs) to enable them to meet increased wage costs, or to exit the market, and to assist their supported workers to find suitable alternatives if necessary.

Description

To provide tapering supplementation of wage outcomes for people with disability in supported employment to supplement workers' wages working at ADEs who have transitioned to the Supported Wage System (SWS) or a new productivity-based tool when developed.

Undertake a series of strategies or combination of strategies to build stronger, viable ADEs including business mentoring from business experts, support to transition to alternative business models and case management of unproductive workers to other alternative services.

Expenses

2016-17: \$20.1 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

Not-for-profit organisations

Number of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

There are 15 organisations funded as at 20 May 2016. Final numbers are subject to a selection process currently underway.

Anticipated funding rounds for 2016-17

Direct selection process for ADEs who have transitioned to SWS to apply for Wage Supplementation grants.

Direct selection process for ADEs to apply for funded consultations, targeting viability and transition risks.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Nil

Ongoing or terminating

Measure expires on 31 December 2020.

Branch and Section

Program Transition Branch

- Australian Disability Enterprises Section

Component: Community Mental Health

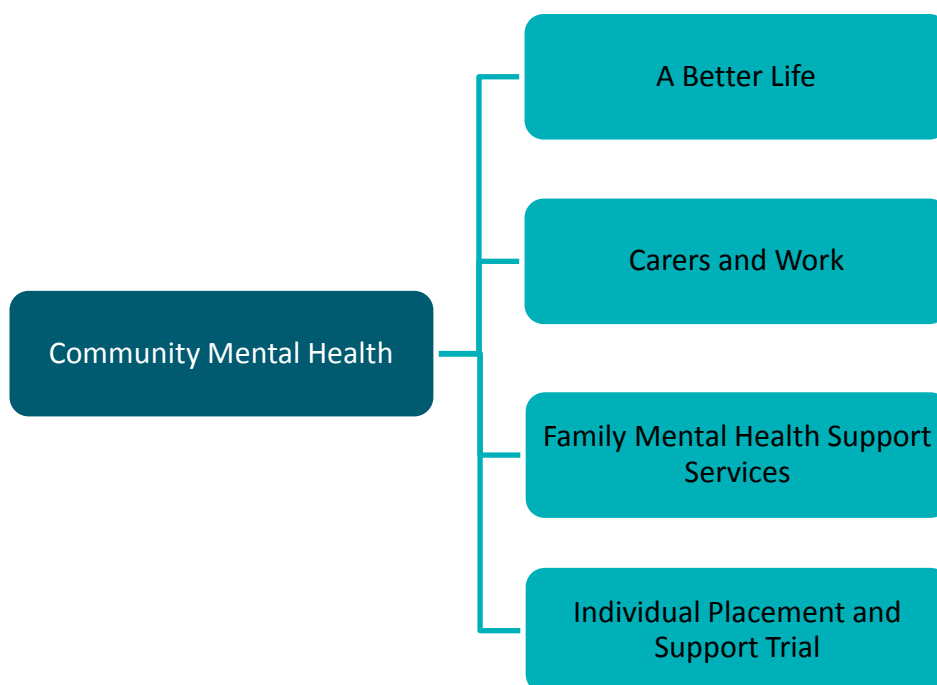
Objective

The objective of the Community Mental Health Component is to provide early intervention and other support through community-based initiatives to assist people with mental illness and their families and carers to develop their capabilities, increase their wellbeing and actively participate in community and economic life.

Description

The activity provides accessible, responsive, high-quality and integrated community mental health services that improve the lives of people with severe mental illness, provide support for families and carers of people with a mental illness, and intervene early to assist families with children and young people affected by, or at risk of, mental illness.

Services funded under this component



Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	56.426	57.321	51.929	52.722	53.566

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 80)

Description of organisations funded

Primarily non-government organisations and small number of local government entities.

Number of organisations funded by program as at 30 June 2016

Refer to individual sub-activities

Anticipated funding rounds

Refer to individual sub-activities

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Refer to individual sub-activities

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Disability and Carer Policy Branch

- Mental Health Programs Section

Sub-Activity: A Better Life

Objective

A Better Life (ABLE) trial aims to improve the independence, participation and lifetime wellbeing of people affected by mental illness that includes drug and alcohol misuse and/or gambling disorders, who are in a cashless debit trail site. This includes building personal resilience and supporting program participants to sustainably manage the impacts of their mental illness.

Description

The Government is introducing a trial of a commercially-delivered, cashless debit card for welfare payments in a small number of locations. The trial is testing a way to support people, families and communities where high levels of welfare dependence co-exist with high levels of community harm due to alcohol and drug misuse and problem gambling.

To support the cashless debit card trial, ABLe will support people with mental illness including drug and alcohol misuse disorders and/or addictive gambling disorders. Support workers will provide practical assistance to help program participants access and engage with relevant services, develop better relationships with family and friends, and manage their everyday tasks.

Expenses

2016-17: \$0.700 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

Non-government organisations Indigenous-controlled

Number of organisations funded as at 30 June 2016

Three organisations (delivering in two sites)

Anticipated funding rounds

1

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

It is anticipated that ABLe services will be considered in an overall evaluation of the Cashless Debit Card trial.

Ongoing or terminating

Terminating 2017

Branch and Section

Disability and Carer Policy Branch

- Mental Health Programs Section

Sub-Activity: Carers and Work

Objective

To assist carers of people with mental illness to maintain, or transition from, their caring roles, while addressing barriers to achieving workforce and education participation outcomes.

Description

This Sub-Activity provides increased social and economic participation opportunities for carers of people with a mental illness, by helping them to overcome barriers to employment, education and training. Funded services provide one-to-one personal support aligned to carer plans that are tailored to meet the individual needs of carers, and focus on the participation outcomes carers are looking to achieve.

Expenses

2016-17: \$1.494 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

Non-government organisations

Number of organisations funded as at 30 June 2016

4 organisations (delivering in 4 sites)

Anticipated funding rounds

Nil

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Review currently underway

Ongoing or terminating

Terminating 30 June 2017

Branch and Section

Disability and Carer Policy Branch

- Mental Health Programs Section

Sub-Activity: Family Mental Health Support Services (FMHSS)

Objective

To provide intensive, long-term, early intervention support, based on a Family Action Plan, specifically for children and young people up to the age of 18, and their families; short-term information, referral and assistance for families; and community outreach and group work.

Description

This Sub-Activity supports children and young people up to the age of 18 who are showing early signs of, or are at risk of developing, mental illness, and their families. The service approach is child-centred and family-focused.

Expenses

2016-17: \$50.657 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

Primarily non-government organisations and a small number of local government entities.

Number of organisations funded as at 30 June 2016

52 organisations (delivering in 100 sites)

Anticipated funding rounds

Nil

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

A review of the FMHSS model is planned for 2016.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Disability and Carer Policy Branch

- Mental Health Programs Section

Sub-Activity: Individual Placement and Support Trial

Objective

To undertake a national trial of the Individual Placement and Support (IPS) model of vocational assistance for young people up to the age of 25 with mental illness, who are at risk of disengaging from education or employment and are at risk of long-term welfare dependency. Announced as part of the 2015-16 Budget, the trial is one element of the Youth Employment Strategy — Intensive Support for Vulnerable Job Seekers Budget Measure, which sits under the Australian Government's \$5.8 billion Growing Jobs and Small Business Package.

Description

The IPS model integrates employment and vocational support with clinical mental health and non-vocational support, and focuses on individual needs of people with mental illness who are seeking to remain in education and/or employment.

Under this trial, professional employment specialists will be fully integrated into up to 15 clinically-focused youth mental health services throughout Australia. Career development advice and vocational assistance will be provided in tandem with clinical support and non-vocational assistance, to young people with mental illness who are seeking to remain in education or transition to employment.

For up to four years, this trial will target vulnerable young people up to the age of 25 with mental illness, who are at risk of disengaging from education and are at risk of long-term welfare dependency. Once fully implemented, this trial will be able to support more than 2,000 young people a year, to address their educational or vocational goals. The IPS trial is due to commence in July/August 2016.

Expenses

2016-17: \$4.470 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

TBC

Number of organisations funded by this service

TBC

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

A concurrent evaluation will be undertaken throughout the trial.

Ongoing or terminating

Terminating 30 June 2019

Branch and Section

Disability and Carer Policy Branch

- Mental Health Programs Section

Program 3.2: National Disability Insurance Scheme

Objective

To improve the wellbeing and social and economic participation of people with disability, and their families and carers, by building a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) that delivers individualised support through an insurance approach.

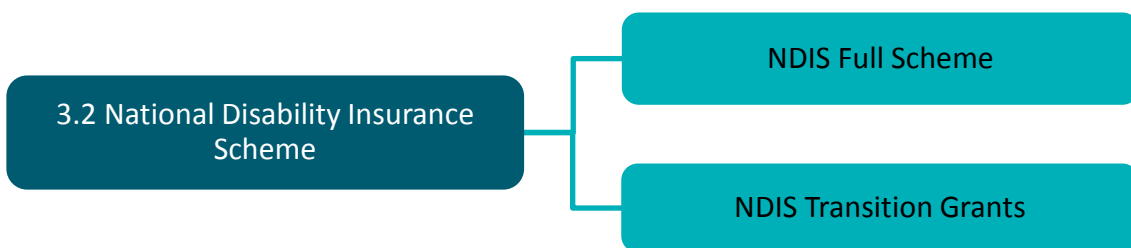
Description

The NDIS is an insurance scheme that assists people with disability access mainstream and community supports, helps support informal care and funds reasonable and necessary supports, including early intervention supports, for its participants. Participants in the scheme will be people with permanent disability, or likely to be, which has a substantial impact on their daily life. This will include people with mental health conditions.

The scheme will enable NDIS participants to exercise choice and control in the pursuit of their goals and the planning and delivery of their supports. The scheme will help participants to increase their independence and social and economic participation.

The NDIS is also reassurance for the broader Australian community that there is a support system in place for people who acquire a permanent disability.

Components



Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	591.185	567.859	516.087	404.798	315.445

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 81)

Note: this is funding provided to DSS for Commonwealth programmes where funding is transitioning to the NDIS, the Sector Development Fund and the evaluation of the NDIS. Funding for costs of the NDIS for the NDIA and for packages of support and Information, Linkages and Capacity Building is reported separately in the PBS for the NDIA (from page 143).

Relationships with Service Providers

Rather than receiving direct funding from the NDIS, organisations or individuals must apply to be a registered provider with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA). The introduction of person-centred disability support and individual funding arrangements allows NDIS participants to choose their own providers, creating a market-based system for allocating funds within the scheme.

The number of organisations currently registered to provide support within the scheme is 2,080 as of September 2015. This number is growing as the scheme rolls out and more organisations register with the NDIA.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

- The intergovernmental agreements regarding NDIS trial sites and transition to full scheme provide for reviews of the NDIS, including an evaluation of the NDIS trial and a review by the Productivity Commission.
- The evaluation of the NDIS over the trial period will take into account the experience of participants, their families and carers and providers in these sites and continue to inform governments about full scheme design.
- An independent comparative evaluation of the services and outcomes in the Western Australia (WA) comparative trial is also being undertaken.
- The review by the the Productivity Commission in 2017 will examine sustainability of scheme costs, jurisdictional capacity, cost pressures (including wage pressures), changes in the agreed escalation parameters, if efficiencies have been achieved in the scheme and whether there has been any impact on mainstream services. It will also examine the most appropriate levers to manage potential cost overruns.
- See the Intergovernmental Agreement for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Launch and its schedules; Bilateral Agreements for the transition to the NDIS in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, Queensland and the Northern Territory; and the Heads of Agreements between the Commonwealth and the states and territories (except WA) on the NDIS. Also see the intergovernmental and National Partnership agreements to govern the extension and expansion of the Western Australian trial sites.

Groups and Branches

NDIS Transition Oversight Group

- Transition Oversight and Governance Branch
- NDIS Financial Policy and Performance Branch

NDIS Market Reform Group

- Market Regulation (Quality and Safeguards) Branch
- Market Oversight Branch
- Program Transition Branch

Disability, Employment and Carers Group

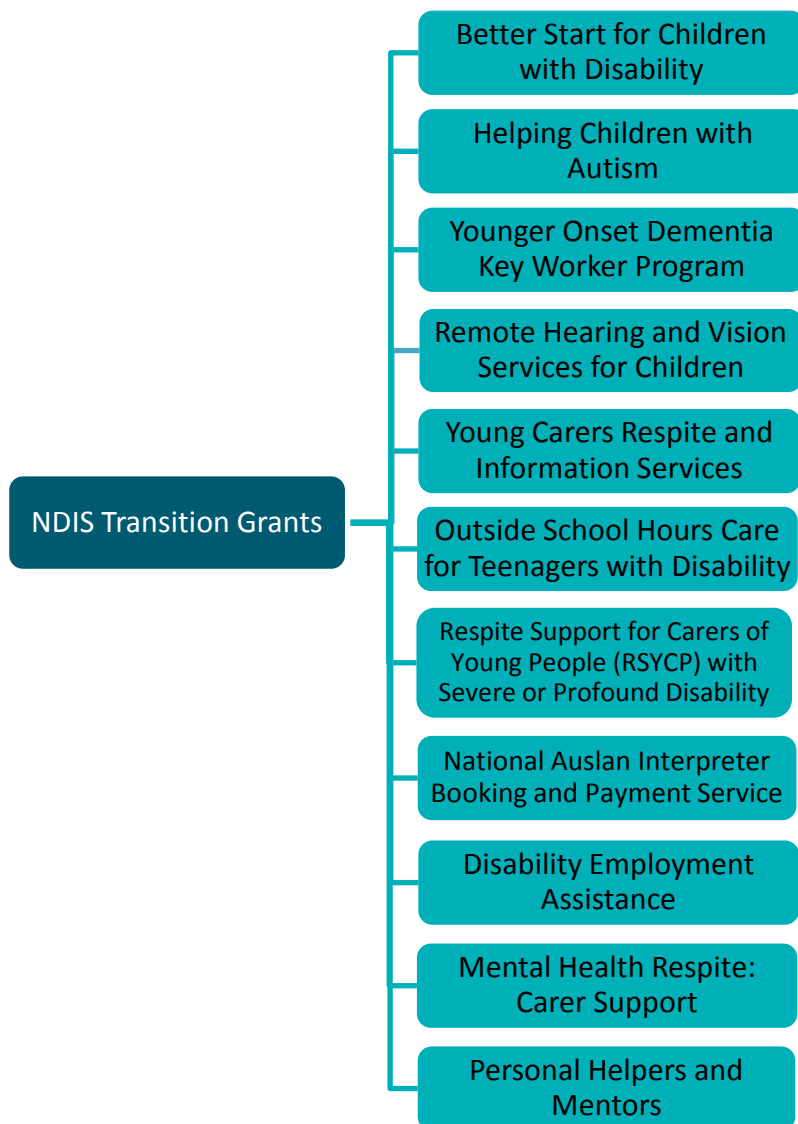
- Supported Employment Policy, Access and Engagement Branch
- Disability and Carer Policy Branch

Component: National Disability Insurance Scheme Transition Grants

Objective

The National Disability Insurance Scheme Transition Grants are a range of existing programs that are transitioning in to the Scheme in a phased approach. The NDIS is the new way of providing individualised support for eligible people with permanent and significant disability, their families and carers. The changes that are required to existing disability support systems are significant. Arrangements are being made to ensure the NDIS can be introduced gradually, ensuring a smooth transition for people with disability and support providers. From 1 July 2013, the NDIS trial commenced in South Australia, Tasmania, the Barwon area of Victoria and the Hunter area in New South Wales. In 2014, the ACT and the Barkly area of the Northern Territory joined the trial and a comparative trial contrasting two approaches to the delivery of disability services commenced in Western Australia.

Components



Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	560.500	520.825*	478.625	404.798	315.445

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 81)

*Sub-activity Expense 2016-17 amounts may not add up to the Component Total due to unallocated funds.

Sub-Activity: Better Start for Children with Disability Initiative

Objective

To improve access to early intervention services for eligible children with disabilities that affect their development, to assist them to achieve their potential.

To provide information and support to parents, carers and families to help them facilitate eligible children with disability to achieve their potential.

Description

Children under six years who have been diagnosed with a moderate or greater hearing or vision impairment, including deafblindness, cerebral palsy, Down, Fragile X, Prader Willi, Williams, Angelman, Kabuki, Smith-Magenis, CHARGE, Cornelia de Lange and Cri du Chat syndromes, Microcephaly and Rett's Disorder may be eligible to access up to \$12,000 in early intervention funding (up to \$6,000 can be accessed in any one financial year).

The funding can be used to pay for early intervention services provided by members of the Better Start Early Intervention Service Provider Panel. Up to 35 per cent of this funding, or \$4,200 (up to \$2,100 in any one financial year) can be used to purchase resources.

Families with a child who is eligible for the Better Start early intervention funding and who live in outer-regional or remote areas may also qualify for a one-off payment of \$2,000 to off-set the additional costs of accessing services.

In addition to this funding, eligible families are able to access a range of other supports including Early Intervention Indigenous Liaison Officers, Early Days Workshops, Playgroup Community Events and disability specific online content on the Raising Children Network website.

Children with the listed disabilities (including those who are over the age of six) may also be eligible for Medicare rebates for the development of a treatment and management plan, up to four diagnostic/assessment services, and up to 20 treatment services. The Medicare component of the Better Start initiative is administered by the Department of Health.

Expenses

2016-17: \$13.433 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

Better Start funds:

- Non-government organisations and private providers, including multi-disciplinary early intervention providers, through a fee-for-service panel arrangement;
- Carers Australia to deliver the Registration and Information Service (RIS) and Early Days Workshops;
- First Step Alliance to deliver Better Start Early Days Workshops;
- Playgroup Australia to deliver Better Start Playgroup Community Events;
- Raising Children Network to develop disability specific online content; and
- Research and evaluation projects (details provided below).

Anticipated number of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

- Early Intervention Service Providers – 1,158 agreements in place which includes 2,680 providers delivering early intervention services in 2,523 locations.
- Carers Australia - to deliver RIS services in each state and territory (except South Australia and the ACT), as well as Early Days Workshops.
- First Step Alliance – to deliver Better Start Early Days Workshops.
- Playgroup Australia – to deliver Better Start Playgroup Community Events.
- Raising Children Network – to develop disability specific online content.

Anticipated funding rounds

The application process for eligible service providers to join the Better Start Early Intervention Service Provider Panel is ongoing.

All Better Start Provider Panel funding agreements have been renewed to 30 June 2020.

All block-funded agreements will be extended for a further 12 months to 30 June 2017.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

An Evaluation of Better Start commenced in May 2012 and a final report from the project, including 22 recommendations, was presented to the Department in March 2014. The executive summary, departmental responses to the recommendations and publication options are currently being considered by the Department.

A survey of client outcomes commenced in April 2013 to measure the developmental progress of children who have received funding through both HCWA and Better Start. The final report was received in June 2014 and the Department is considering the findings of the report, appropriate policy changes and publication options.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing until full Scheme

Group

NDIS Market Reform Group

Branch and Section

Program Transition Branch

- Early Intervention Programs Section

Sub-Activity: Helping Children with Autism Package

Objective

Early intervention services – to provide access to early intervention services for eligible children to assist them to achieve their potential.

Education and support for parents carers and families - to provide information and support to parents, carers and families to help them facilitate eligible children with disability to achieve their potential.

Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centres – to provide early learning programs and specific support to children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in a long day care setting.

Description

The Helping Children with Autism (HCWA) package aims to increase access to early intervention services for children with ASD. Children under six years who have been diagnosed with Autism, ASD, Autistic Disorder, Asperger's Disorder/Syndrome, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder or Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS) may be eligible to access up to \$12,000 in early intervention funding (up to \$6,000 can be accessed in any one financial year).

The funding can be used to pay for early intervention services provided by members of the HCWA Early Intervention Service Provider Panel. Up to 35 per cent of this funding, or \$4,200 (up to \$2,100 in any one financial year) can be used to purchase resources. Families with a child who is eligible for the HCWA early intervention funding and who live in outer-regional or remote areas may also qualify for a one-off payment of \$2,000 to off-set the additional costs of accessing services.

In addition to this funding, eligible families are able to access a range of other supports including Early Days Workshops, Playconnect Playgroups and ASD specific online content on the Raising Children Network website and Early Intervention Indigenous Liaison Officers. HCWA also provides funding for six Autism Specific Learning and Care Centres.

Children with the listed disabilities (including those who are over the age of six) may also be eligible for Medicare rebates for the development of a treatment and management plan, up to four diagnostic/assessment services, and up to twenty treatment services. The Medicare component of the HCWA package is administered by the Department of Health.

Under this package the Department of Education is delivering the Positive Partnerships initiative, which aims to build partnerships between schools and families to improve the educational outcomes of students with autism spectrum disorder.

Expenses

2016-17: \$74.548 million (combined total for Early Intervention and Education and Support)

Description of organisations funded by this service

HCWA funds:

- Non-government organisations and private providers, including multi-disciplinary early intervention providers, through a fee-for-service panel arrangement;
- Six Autism Associations to deliver the Autism Advisor Service and Early Days Workshops. Autism Queensland is also funded to coordinate the Early Intervention Indigenous Liaison Officer project;

- Playgroup Australia to deliver Playconnect Playgroups;
- Six Autism Specific Learning and Care Centres (ASELCCs);
- Raising Children Network to develop ASD specific online content; and
- Research and evaluation projects (details provided below).

The six Autism Associations funded under HCWA are:

- Amaze (Autism Victoria)
- Autism Association of South Australia Inc (for the Northern Territory only)
- Autism Spectrum Australia (ASPECT)
- Autism Queensland Inc
- Autism Association of Western Australia
- Autism Tasmania

The six ASELCCs funded under HCWA are:

- Melbourne - The La Trobe University Margot Prior Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centre
- Adelaide - The Daphne Street Child Care and Specialist Early Learning Centre
- South Western Sydney - The KU Marcia Burgess Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centre
- Brisbane - The Queensland Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centre – AEIOU Foundation for children with autism
- Perth - The Autism Association (WA) Mercy Care Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centre
- Tasmania - The Alexander Beetle House Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centre

Number of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

- Early Intervention Service Providers – 1,096 agreements in place which includes 2,925 panel providers delivering early intervention services in 2,768 locations.
- Autism Associations – six Autism Associations funded nationally to deliver the Autism Advisor Service and Early Days Workshops. Autism Queensland is also funded to coordinate the ALO project.
- ASELCCs – six organisations as above.
- Playgroup Australia - funded to implement 150 PlayConnect Playgroups.
- Raising Children Network - to develop ASD specific online content.

Anticipated funding rounds

The application process for eligible service providers to join the HCWA Early Intervention Service Provider Panel is ongoing. All HCWA Early Intervention Service Provider Panel funding agreements have been renewed to 30 June 2020.

All block-funded agreements will be extended for a further 12 months to 30 June 2017. The ASELCCs have received new three year agreements which run from 1 January 2016 – 31 December 2018.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

A review of the research to identify the most effective models of practice in early intervention of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders was conducted in 2011 by M. Prior, J.M.A. Roberts, S. Rodger, K. Williams and Sutherland. This review updated the Guidelines for Best Practice published by Prior and Roberts in 2006.

An evaluation of HCWA was completed in three phases (initial, mid-term and final evaluation) over two-and-a-half years (July 2009–December 2011). The main purpose of the final evaluation was to assess HCWA's impact on access to services and to inform decisions about future directions. The evaluation found it has had a positive impact on children with autism and their families by increasing access to early intervention services, and supporting families to better understand autism and the services available to them. The evaluation also recommended changes to improve outcomes for children with autism and their families.

A survey of client outcomes commenced in April 2013 to measure the developmental progress of children who have received funding through both HCWA and Better Start. The final report was received in June 2014 and the Department is considering the findings of the report, appropriate policy changes and publication options.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing until full Scheme.

Branch and Section

Program Transition Branch

- Early Intervention Programs Section

Sub-Activity: Younger Onset Dementia Key Worker Program

Objective

The Younger Onset Dementia Key Worker Program (YODKWP) provides individualised information and support to improve the quality of life for people with younger onset dementia.

Description

Key workers act as a primary point of contact for people with younger onset dementia, their families and carers. The key worker provides information, support, counselling, advice and helps consumers effectively engage with services appropriate to their individual needs.

Expenses

2016-17: \$4.054 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

Alzheimer's Australia is the national provider of YODKWP. Alzheimer's Australia is an organisation that advocates for the needs of people living with all types of dementia, and for their families and carers, and provide support services, education and information.

Number of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

Alzheimer's Australia is the sole provider of YODKWP nationally.

Anticipated funding rounds

The current funding agreement with Alzheimer's Australia expires on 30 June 2016. Funding for the next two years has not been finalised.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Nil

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Program Transition Branch

- Early Intervention Programs Section

Sub-Activity: Remote Hearing and Vision Services for Children

Objective

The Remote Hearing and Vision Services for Children initiative provides access to qualified allied health and education services for children, up to the age of 18, with hearing and/or vision impairment in remote and regional locations across Australia (including Indigenous communities) via remote service delivery methods.

Description

The Remote Hearing and Vision Services for Children initiative provides children with hearing and/or vision impairment, and their families, with access to information, guidance, support and skills development from qualified allied health and education services where such expertise may otherwise be scarce.

The initiative enables live, high-quality internet based video-conferencing and use of interactive education materials between service providers and the children at home. Allied health and educational professionals will be able to see children clearly and offer real-time advice as they undertake exercises and everyday activities.

Expenses

2016-17: \$0.572 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

Remote Hearing and Vision Services for Children initiative is delivered by the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children (RIDBC).

Number of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

1

Anticipated funding rounds

Current funding agreements expire on 30 June 2016. Under new agreements, funding will continue from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2019, but will progressively reduce in line with the roll out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in each jurisdiction.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

An evaluation of the program was conducted in 2013-14.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing until full scheme.

Branch and Section

Program Transition Branch

- Disability Programs Section

Sub-Activity: Young Carers Respite and Information Service

Objective

To provide respite, support, information, referral and advice for young carers at risk of not completing secondary education.

Description

The program supports young carers who are at risk of not completing secondary education or vocational equivalent due to the demands of their caring role.

The program has two components:

- Respite services – respite and other services to enable school-aged young carers up to and including 18 years of age to complete their education.
- Information services – the program also provides a range of information, advice and referral services, including referral to counselling, to support young carers up to and including 25 years of age in managing the challenges they face as part of their caring role.

Expenses

2016-17: \$8.163 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

- Respite services are delivered through the national network of Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centres.
- Information services are delivered by Carers Australia.

Number of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

41 organisations are funded by this service:

- 40 organisations which manage the 54 Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centres to deliver the respite component; and
- 1 organisation (Carers Australia) to deliver the information component.

Anticipated funding rounds

Current funding agreements expire on 30 June 2016. Funding will continue from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2019, but will progressively reduce in-line with the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in each jurisdiction.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Nil

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Program Transition Branch | Disability Programs Section

Sub-Activity: Outside School Hours Care for Teenagers with Disability

Objective

The activity increases outside school hours care for teenagers with disability, with a focus on providing social, recreational and life skills developmental activities that are stimulating and age appropriate.

Description

Outside School Hours Care for Teenagers with Disability is an Australian Government initiative targeting students with permanent and significant disability, aged 12 to 18 years with quality outside school hours care. Outside school hours care includes before school, after school and holiday care.

The activity provides:

- quality outside school hours care for students with disability; and
- parents and carers with time to work or participate in the community.

Expenses

2016-17: \$6.916 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

The service funds a variety of special schools, child care and disability service organisations.

Number of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

39

Anticipated funding rounds

Current funding agreements expire on 30 June 2016. Funding will continue from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2019, but will progressively reduce in-line with the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in each jurisdiction.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

A review of the program occurred in 2010-11.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing until full scheme

Branch and Section

Program Transition Branch

- Disability Programs Section

Sub-Activity: Respite Support for Carers of Young People with Severe or Profound Disability

Objective

To provide immediate and short-term respite for carers of young people with severe or profound disability, whose needs are not being met through existing Australian, state and territory government programs.

Description

The program assists carers of young people with severe or profound disability under 30 years of age. It also supports those who experience significant stress in caring for a person with disability where the care recipient is under 65 years of age.

The program provides immediate and short-term respite to carers, facilitating access to information, respite care and other support or assistance appropriate to the individual needs and circumstances of both carers and care recipients. The program focuses on the needs of carers by providing increased opportunities for carers to exercise choice and control over their respite care arrangements.

Expenses

2016-17: \$7.566 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

The Respite Support for Carers of Young People with Severe or Profound Disability Program is delivered through the national network of 54 Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centres.

Number of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

40 organisations that manage the 54 Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centres.

Anticipated funding rounds

Current funding agreements expire on 30 June 2016. Funding will continue from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2019, but will progressively reduce in-line with the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in each jurisdiction.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

An evaluation of the program was finalised in December 2011. The evaluation found that the program is reaching its target group, reaching into rural and regional Australia, meeting the needs of carers which are not being met through other respite programs, and having positive outcomes for carers and their families.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing until full scheme

Branch and Section

Program Transition Branch

- Disability Programs Section

Sub-Activity: National Auslan Interpreter Booking and Payment Service

Objective

To facilitate communication between people who are deaf or hearing impaired and private medical practitioners by providing Auslan interpreters for private medical appointments that attract a Medicare rebate.

Description

The National Auslan Interpreter Booking and Payment Service (NABS) provides National Accreditation Authority Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) Auslan interpreters on a fee-free basis to Deaf Auslan users attending private medical consultations, including general practitioners, specialists and a range of other private health care providers that attract a Medicare health rebate. NABS provides interpreting services for both deaf adults and children.

The service will also accommodate situations where there is a deaf adult and hearing child, or hearing parent and deaf child attending a private medical consultation. Consultations that occur in private or public hospitals are not covered by the NABS service.

Expenses

2016-17: \$5.506 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

Wesley Mission Brisbane is currently contracted to provide NABS services on behalf of the Commonwealth.

Number of organisations funded as at 30 June 2016

1

Anticipated funding rounds

Current funding agreements expire on 30 June 2016. Funding will continue from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2019, but will progressively reduce in-line with the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in each jurisdiction.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Nil

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing

Branch and Section

Program Transition Branch

- Disability Programs Section

Sub-Activity: Disability Employment Assistance

Objective

To provide supported employment for people with disability so they can develop their capabilities and actively participate in community and economic life.

Description

Disability Employment Assistance is utilised to fund Australian Disability Enterprises, which are not-for-profit organisations that run commercial businesses, to provide supported employment for people with a disability. Australian Disability Enterprises have a dual focus of providing employment for people with a disability and operating a commercial business.

Australian Disability Enterprises are funded by the Department to deliver a number of supports that enable a worker with a disability to fully participate in employment. As at 30 April 2016, there were 184 organisations with 285 Australian Disability Enterprise outlets across Australia, funded by the Department to provide supported employment assistance to approximately 18,500 people with moderate to severe disability who need substantial ongoing support to maintain their employment. Australian Disability Enterprises in National Disability Insurance Scheme sites also support people with disability who are funded under the National Disability Insurance Scheme. At 30 April 2016, 1035 people had transitioned from this sub-activity to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Employment Assistance is defined as meeting the support needs of people with disability in a supported employment service by providing practical supports in a suitable work environment. Australian Disability Enterprises may purchase services to meet the individual support needs for workers, such as training specialists, counsellors and health professionals.

Expenses

2016-17: \$231.235 million

Description of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

Not-for-profit organisations

Number of organisations funded by this service as at 30 June 2016

183 organisations funded.

Anticipated funding rounds

Nil

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Nil

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing unless otherwise specified (until full Scheme)

Branch and Section

Program Transition Branch | Australian Disability Enterprise Section

Sub-Activity: Mental Health Respite: Carer Support

Objective

Mental Health Respite: Carer Support (MHR:CS) provides relief from the caring role, through in-home or out-of home respite or social and recreational activities; carer support, including counselling, practical assistance, social inclusion activities, case management; and education, information and access, including community mental health promotion.

Description

MHR:CS supports carers of people with mental illness, whose health and wellbeing, or other impediments, are negatively impacting their ability to provide care. Support will assist carers and their families to continue in their caring roles, improve their health and wellbeing and increase their participation socially and economically in the community.

Expenses

2016-17: \$64.333 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

Primarily non-government organisations and small number of local government entities.

Number of sites as at 30 June 2016

221 - funding for these services will gradually transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Anticipated funding rounds

A direct selection process to extend funding for up to three years until rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Nil. This sub-activity is to roll into the NDIS.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing until NDIS Full Scheme.

Branch and Section

Program Transition Branch

- Mental Health Programs Section

Sub-Activity: Personal Helpers and Mentors

Objective

Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMs) aims to provide assistance to people severely impacted by mental illness, aged 16 years and over, through increasing personal capacity, confidence and self-reliance; increasing ability to manage daily activities; and increasing community participation both social and economic.

Description

PHaMs provides practical one-to-one assistance to people severely impacted by mental illness, aged 16 years and over, to help them achieve their personal goals, develop better relationships with family and friends, and manage their everyday tasks.

PHaMs one-to-one support ensures the individual needs of program participants can be addressed. Participants are assisted to access services and participate economically and socially in the community, increasing their opportunities for recovery.

Services with an employment focus are required to target people with severe mental illness who have employment as a primary goal.

Expenses

2016-17: \$104.610 million

Description of organisations funded by this service

Primarily non-government organisations and small number of local government entities.

Number of sites funded as at 30 June 2016

220 - funding for these services will gradually transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Anticipated funding rounds

A direct selection process to extend funding for up to three years until rollout of the NDIS.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Nil. This Sub-Activity is to roll into the NDIS.

Ongoing or terminating

Ongoing until full Scheme.

Branch and Section

Program Transition Branch

- Mental Health Programs Section

Working with the States and Territories

Description

National Agreements and National Partnerships are negotiated and agreed upon by the Commonwealth and state and territory governments. National Agreements are ongoing, rather than for fixed periods, and may be amended by COAG when necessary. They are not funding Agreements but set out the agreed objectives, outcomes, outputs, roles and responsibilities of the parties. They may have associated National Specific Purpose Payments. These transfer payments to the state and territories are managed by the Treasury, in accordance with the Federal Financial Relations Framework.

National Disability Agreement

The National Disability Agreement (NDA) was developed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) under the Inter-governmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations. The NDA came into effect on 1 January 2009. In July and December 2012, revisions to the NDA were endorsed by COAG. These revisions take account of key policy initiatives since 2009 (the National Disability Strategy, the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the National Health Reform Agreement) and address the need for improved performance indicators and benchmarks.

The National Disability Agreement commits the Commonwealth and states to strive, through the provision of disability support services, to help people with disabilities and their carers achieve an enhanced quality of life and participate as valued members of the community. The NDA includes a commitment from all governments to work in partnership and with stakeholders, including people with disability, their families and carers, to improve outcomes for people with disability.

The key policy reform priorities are:

- build the evidence base for disability policies and strategies
- enhancing Family and Carer Capacity
- strategies for increased choice, control and self-directed decision-making
- maintain innovative and flexible support models for people with high and complex needs, and
- develop employment opportunities for people with disability.

National Disability Services Specific Purpose Payment (associated with the National Disability Agreement)

Each National Specific Purpose Payment is associated with a National Agreement.

Through the National Disability Services Specific Purpose Payment the Commonwealth will provide funding to the state and territory governments for increased and improved specialist disability services.

The Intergovernmental Agreement defines the growth factor for the National Disability Specific Purpose Payment as the rolling five-year average of year-on-year growth in nominal gross domestic product. The Treasury is responsible for making these payments.

National Disability Services Specific Purpose Payment estimate

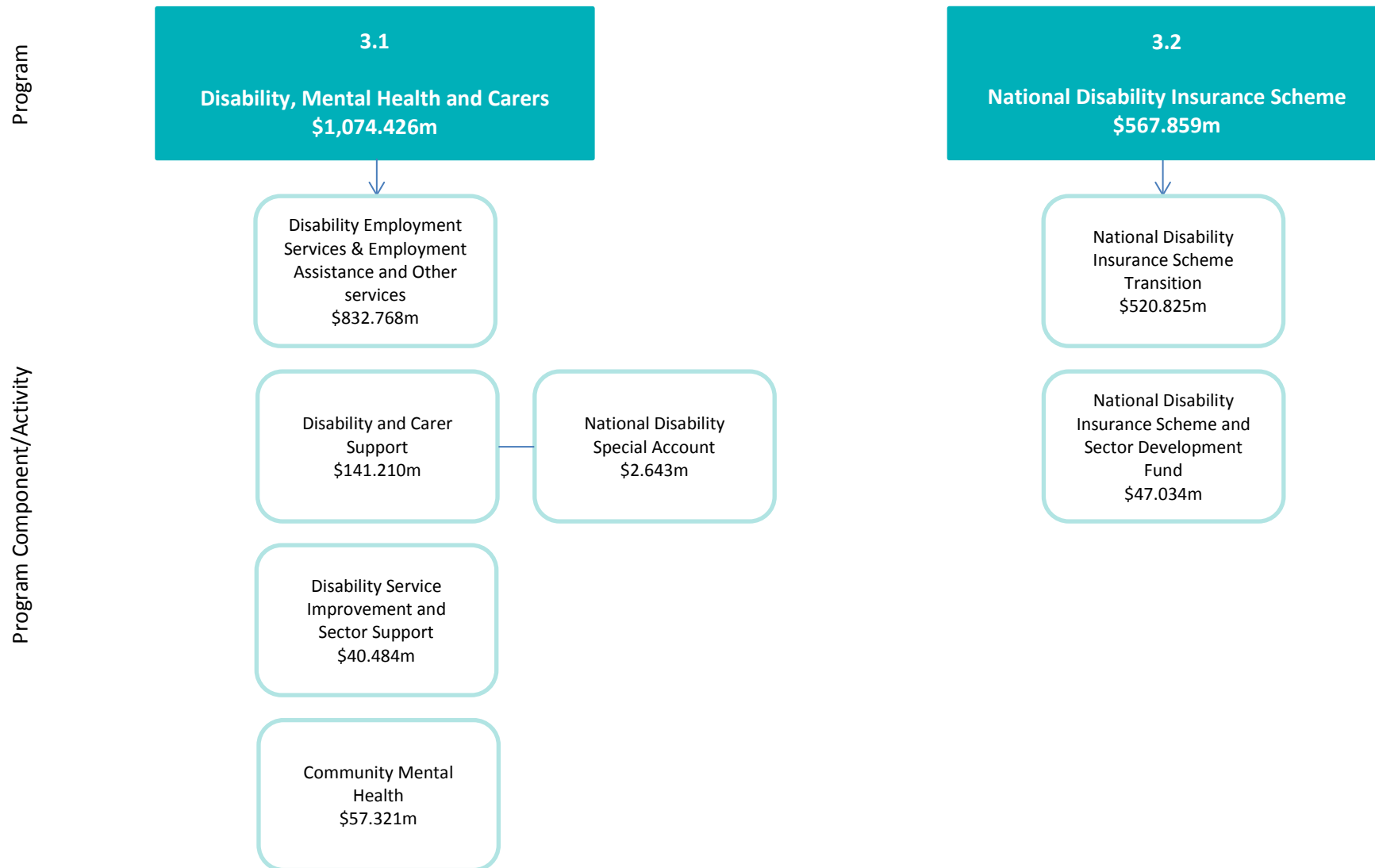
2016-17: \$1,487.000 million

Branch and Section

Disability and Carer Policy Branch

- National Disability Policy Section

Outcome 3 – Disability and Carers Departmental Outcome Structure 2016-17



Outcome Compendium

Outcome 4

Housing

Programs at a Glance

Increased housing supply, improved community housing and assisting individuals experiencing homelessness through targeted support and services.

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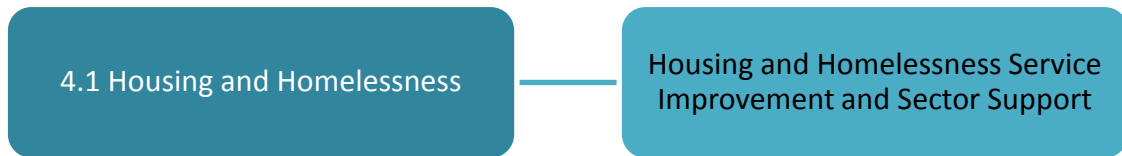
Program 4.1: Housing and Homelessness

Objective

Housing and Homelessness Service Improvement and Sector Support

The Housing and Homelessness Service Improvement and Sector Support Activity aims to build the research evidence base for effective policy that addresses homelessness and housing affordability over the long term.

Components



Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	1.339	1.358	-	-	-

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 91)

Description of organisations funded as at 1 July 2015

Organisation	Activity Funded	Contract Expiry
Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI)	Build the research evidence base for effective policy that addresses homelessness and housing affordability over the long term.	30 June 2017

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

Nil

Branch and Section

Housing and Homelessness Branch

- Housing Policy Section

Program 4.2: Affordable Housing

Objective

To improve the supply of affordable rental housing to low and moderate income households.

Description

National Rental Affordability Scheme

The National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) offers financial incentives to the business sector and community organisations to build and rent dwellings to low and moderate income households, at a rate that is at least 20 per cent below market rates.

The scheme aims to:

- increase the supply of new affordable rental housing, and
- reduce rental costs for low and moderate income housing.

Components



Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$m	71.965	85.065	87.335	88.905	86.456

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 91)

Branch and Section

NRAS and Gambling Branch

- NRAS Policy and Stakeholder Management Section

Component: National Rental Affordability Scheme

Objective

The National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) aims to increase the supply of affordable rental dwellings and encourage institutional investment in affordable and innovative housing.

The Scheme provides an annual, retrospective financial incentive each year for up to 10 years for participants who rent dwellings to eligible tenants at a rate at least 20 per cent below market rent. The incentive is indexed in line with the rents component of the CPI, and in 2016-17 is \$11,048.04.

The Commonwealth component (cash or Refundable Tax Offset) is \$8,286.03 (75 per cent). The state/territory component (cash or in-kind) is \$2,762.01 (25 per cent).

Description

The Scheme was announced in a COAG Communiqué on 20 December 2007. It formally commenced in 2008 under the National Rental Affordability Act 2008. It is delivered in partnership with states and territories who provide 25 per cent of the incentive value. As part of the Federal Budget 2014, the decision was taken not to offer any incentives under Round 5. The total number of incentives available will be capped at up to 38,000.

Services funded

NRAS does not fund service providers. NRAS incentives are provided to approved participants who rent dwellings to eligible tenants at no more than 80 per cent of market rent.

Expenses

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-2020
\$m	71.965	85.065	87.335	88.905	86.456

Source: DSS PBS 2016-17 (page 91)

Description of organisations funded

Approximately 59 per cent of reserved and allocated incentives are held by endorsed charities.

Number of organisations funded as at June 2016

The Commonwealth provides incentives to 140 approved participants who deliver dwellings into the scheme.

Anticipated funding rounds

There have been five completed funding rounds (NRAS Rounds 1-4 and the 'Shovel Ready' Round).

Applications for Round 5 were sought, but no incentives were offered. Applicants were notified in June 2014.

There are no future rounds for NRAS planned.

Reviews/evaluations undertaken or planned

An internal NRAS systems compliance review was undertaken by the Department in November 2014.

ANAO is currently undertaking a performance audit on the Department's administration of NRAS (commenced February 2015). The Phase 1 report was released in November 2015. Phase 2 commenced in February 2016.

An internal health check review was undertaken for NRAS (June 2015).

Ongoing or terminating

Following NRAS regulation amendment, all NRAS dwellings are scheduled to be delivered prior to 30 June 2016 and upon meeting annual compliance requirements will be able to receive the NRAS incentive.

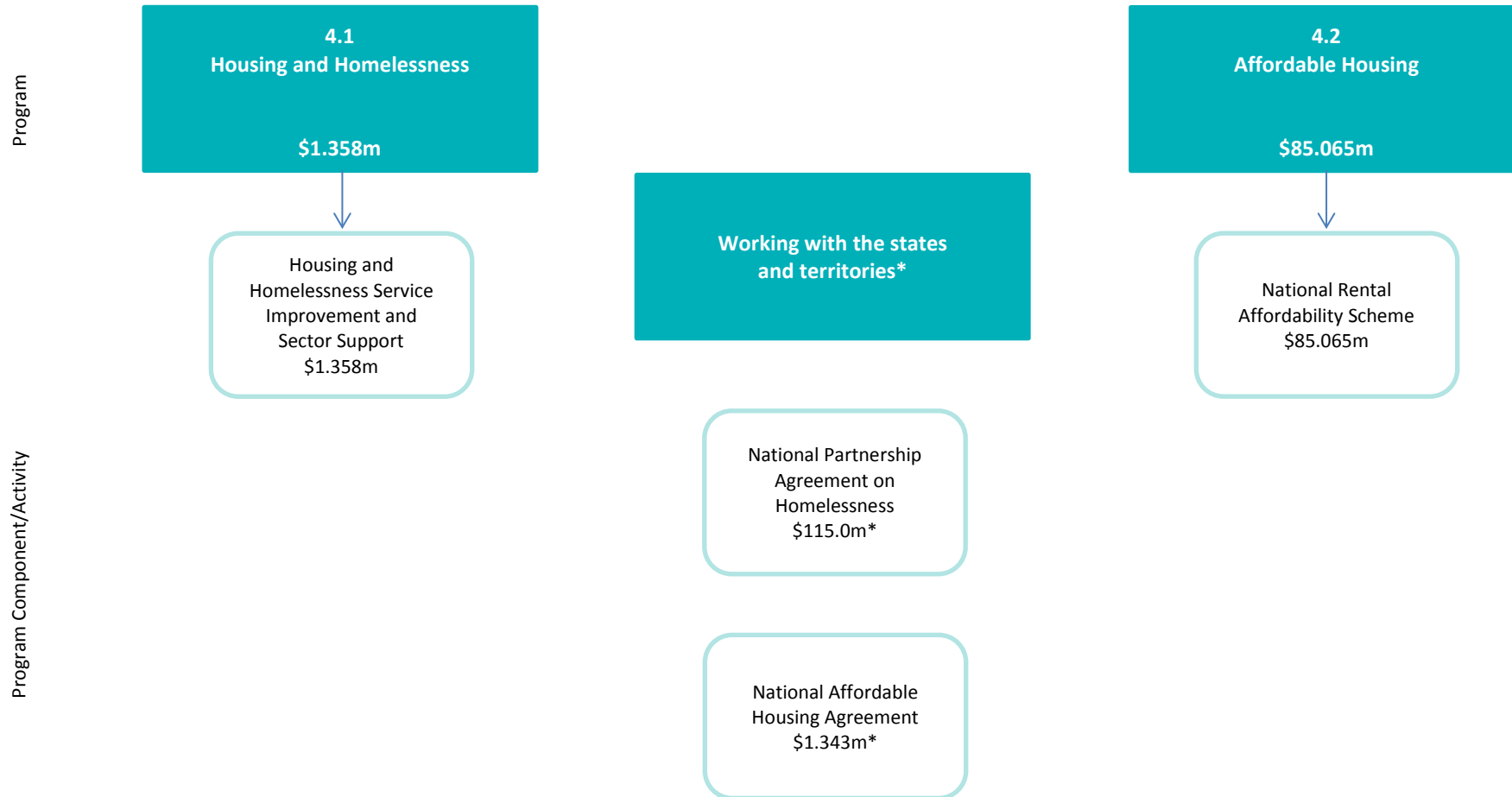
Those dwellings not completed by 30 June 2016 will be provisionally allocated (with the 10 year incentive period commencing). Entitlement to the NRAS incentive will not commence until the dwellings are first available for rent and allocated into the Scheme.

Branch and Section

NRAS and Gambling Branch

- NRAS Policy and Stakeholder Management Section

Outcome 4 – Housing Departmental Outcome Structure 2016-17



*Payments made directly to the states and territories