

## AUSTRALIA

### *Nomenclature*

DSS	Department of Social Services
HACC	Home and community care
TAFE	Tertiary and Further Education Institute
NDIS	National Disability Insurance Scheme

### *Monetary unit*

Social spending is expressed in millions of Australian dollars (AUD).

### *General notes*

Government expenditure on income support payments in Australia can largely be characterised as a system of targeted payments (financed largely from general tax revenue rather than dedicated levies) to those determined to be in need of income support. Access to most income security programs is restricted by income, assets and eligibility relating to personal circumstances (for example, age, unemployment, disability, sole parenthood). Payment rates of these benefits are not related to previous earnings and are typically tapered to extend support to those not eligible for the maximum rate.

In Australia there is generally a low level of recoupment of social welfare payments through the taxation system. Thus, when post-tax transfers are calculated the difference in benefit levels paid in Australia and other countries is likely to be much less than indicated when outlays on pre-tax benefits are compared.

On 20 March 2020 the Australian Government's JobSeeker Payment replaced Newstart Allowance as the main working age payment for those aged 22 years to Age Pension age who have capacity to work now or in the near future. JobSeeker Payment is available to people who are looking for work, who temporarily cannot work or study because of an injury or illness, or bereaved partners in the period immediately following the death of their partner, subject to meeting eligibility requirements.

The creation of the JobSeeker Payment is part of a reform of working age income support payments. As part of this reform, seven payments are being progressively ceased, including Newstart Allowance, Wife Pension, Bereavement Allowance, Sickness Allowance, Widow B Pension, Widow Allowance and Partner Allowance.

The Australian Government is supporting individuals and families affected by Coronavirus (COVID-19) through a range of measures, which can be found on the [department's website](#), including two Economic Support Payments of \$750 to eligible recipients.

In addition, the Australian Government introduced a new temporary Coronavirus supplement of \$550 per fortnight. The initial rate of the Coronavirus supplement was set at \$550 per fortnight from 27 April 2020 until 24 September 2020. From 25 September 2020 to 31 December 2020, the supplement will be \$250 per fortnight to reflect the gradually improving economic and labour market conditions.

Expenditure on these initiatives will be reported on in the next Social Expenditure report.

## COUNTRY NOTE

Database on Social Expenditure ([www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm](http://www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm))

OECD - Social Policy Division - Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

-----

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) provides support for Australians with permanent and significant disability, and their families and carers. The NDIS will provide these people with the reasonable and necessary supports they need to live an ordinary life. The NDIS began trials from 2013 in trial sites across Australia. Transition to full scheme began in all states and territories in July 2016 (except Western Australia, which began transition in 2017). It is estimated that at full scheme, the NDIS will provide 460,000 people with reasonable and necessary supports at an estimated cost in 2019-20 of around \$22 billion. The Commonwealth, state and territory governments are jointly funding this, predominantly using redirected funds from some existing programmes either partially or fully replaced by the NDIS, revenue from a 0.5 percentage point increase to the Medicare levy paid by taxpayers and consolidated general government revenue. Other factors to be taken into account when comparing social expenditure outlays in Australia with those observed in other countries include:

- The provision, free or at reduced prices, of a range of government housing, health and welfare services primarily targeted at disadvantaged persons and families. These include, for example, the provision of pharmaceuticals at concessional rates, exemptions from health care levies, rental concessions to low-income households in public housing, the provision of local government services at reduced rates and concessions for travel on state owned transport.
- The regulation of employment conditions designed to provide benefits which may in some other countries be provided by government. This includes the availability to most employees of a certain number of days of employer-provided sick leave and in cases of work injury employer funded insurance to compensate for costs and loss of earnings.
- The increasing receipt, among retirees, of occupational superannuation as opposed to the age pension as a major source of income. Occupational superannuation has been encouraged by government tax concessions and since 1992 by a requirement that employers make contributions on behalf of their employees to superannuation schemes.
- The high rate of home ownership among older Australians allows for lower living costs and is a potential source of wealth that can be tapped to supplement income. It should be noted that the data does not include expenditure on social protection services made by local governments, although these are relatively small in Australia compared to some other OECD countries. There are more significant gaps in expenditure related to states and territories as the required data by program is not available.
- Financial year from 1 July to 30 June.
- The figures do not include administration costs, except where noted.

The individual country notes of the OECD Benefits and Wages ([www.oecd.org/social/benefits-and-wages.htm](http://www.oecd.org/social/benefits-and-wages.htm)) provide a comprehensive description of characteristics of social programmes (e.g. conditions for receipt, calculation of payment rates, tax treatment of social support, benefit duration, etc.) for the working-age population, including: unemployment insurance and assistance, social assistance, employment-conditional benefits, housing benefits, family benefits, childcare support, and support for sole parent households.

## COUNTRY NOTE

Database on Social Expenditure ([www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm](http://www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm))  
OECD - Social Policy Division - Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

-----

### Break in series:

For information, data on employer provided sick pay are not available but accounted for about 4, 117 millions in 1997 (0.7% GDP).

Data on Accident insurance are available until 1999 only.

A break in series occurs in 2007 for early childhood education and childcare expenditure data as new time series are reported from 2007 onwards.

A break in series occurs in 2018 for early childhood education and childcare expenditure data as new time series are reported from 2018 onwards.

A break in series occurs from 2011-12 as old age benefits-in-kind data are now sourced from records of actual expenditure from Australian Government Department Annual Reports.

Data for private health insurance before 1998 refer the total health spending function (HC1-HC9, HCR1) as the split in current health spending (HC1-HC9) into the financing schemes is only from 1998 on.

### Secretariat estimates

Expenditures for “36.10.3.1.3.1 Workers compensation” are estimates from 1990 to 2017 based on spending trends in Australia.

Expenditures for, 36.10.1.2.2.2 Welfare services for older people and 36.10.3.2.3.1 Welfare services for people with disabilities are estimates based on interpolation for 2006-2009.

Expenditures for 36.10.5.2.2.13 Family and child welfare - State and Territory are estimates based on interpolation from 2006 to 2010.

Health Expenditure for 2018 (financial year 2018-19) and 2019 (financial year 2019-20) are OECD’s estimates.

### Sources

**2020 onwards** Data supplied by the Department of Social Services (DSS), the Treasury, Safe Work Australia, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, National Indigenous Australians Agency, Department of Health, Department of Education, Skills and Employment, Department of Veterans’ Affairs and Home Affairs.

**2011 onwards** Data supplied by the Departments of Social Services (DSS), Education, Employment, Health, Immigration and Border Protection, Prime Minister & Cabinet, the Treasury, and Veterans’ Affairs; as well as the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Safe Work Australia and the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority.

**1980 onwards** 4. Health: OECD Statistics ([www.oecd.org/health/healthdata](http://www.oecd.org/health/healthdata))

**1998 onwards** 5.2.1.6 & 7 Childcare (pre-primary education): Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and OECD Education database (<http://www.oecd.org/edu/database.htm>).

**1985 onwards** 6. ALMP: OECD Labour Market Policy database.

## COUNTRY NOTE

Database on Social Expenditure ([www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm](http://www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm))  
OECD - Social Policy Division - Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

-----

### *Background information*

#### **Australia's welfare reports**

Australia's welfare 2019 (<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/australias-welfare/australias-welfare-2019-data-insights> )

Australia's welfare 2017 (<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/australias-welfare/australias-welfare-2017> )

Australia's welfare 2015 (<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129552015> )

Australia's welfare 2013 (<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129543825> )

Australia's welfare 2011 (<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=10737420537> )

Australia's welfare 2009 (<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/aus/aw09/aw09.pdf> )

Australia's welfare 2007 (<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10527> )

Australia's welfare 2005 (<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/aus/aw05/aw05.pdf> )

#### **Services Australia, Centrelink agency (formerly the Department of Human Services)**

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/organisations/about-us/publications-and-resources/guide-australian-government-payments>

#### **Australian Government Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services (RoGS)**

Report on Government Services 2020

(<https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/report-on-government-services/2020>)

Report on Government Services 2019

(<https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/report-on-government-services/2019>)

Report on Government Services 2018

(<https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/report-on-government-services/2018>)

Report on Government Services 2017

(<https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/report-on-government-services/2017>)

Report on Government Services 2016

(<https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/report-on-government-services/2016>)

Report on Government Services 2015

(<https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/report-on-government-services/2015>)

Report on Government Services 2014

(<https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/report-on-government-services/2014>)

**COUNTRY NOTE**  
**Database on Social Expenditure ([www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm](http://www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm))**  
 OECD - Social Policy Division - Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

-----

## AUSTRALIA

Code	Title of the programme	Description of the programme and attached notes
<b>I.</b>	<b>OLD AGE</b>	
36.10.1.1.1.1	Age Pension	It is a payment for people who cannot support themselves fully in retirement. Age pension age is currently 66 for men and women and will progressively increase by 6 months every two years to reach 67 years by July 2023. Age Pension is subject to residence qualifications and an income test and an assets test.
36.10.1.1.1.2	Wife Pension (age)	It is a means tested payment for female partners of recipients of Age Pension where those partners are not eligible in their own right for the Age Pension. The payment has been phased out in recognition of women's increasing labour force participation, with no new grants since 1 July 1995. On 20 March 2020, Wife Pension ceased and all recipients living in Australia and those over Age Pension age living overseas transitioned to other payments based on their individual circumstances.
36.10.1.1.1.3	Veteran's Service Pension	Service pension paid by the Department of Veterans' Affairs is a means tested income support payment for veterans and their partners, that provides a regular income for people with limited means. Service pension is broadly equivalent to the Department of Social Services' age and disability support pensions. It is payable to veterans on the basis of reaching veteran pension age (age 60) or invalidity and to partners of veterans.
36.10.1.1.1.4	Superannuation Pension (former civil servants)	<p>Australian pension arrangements for former public sector employees generally constitute a hybrid of defined benefit and defined contribution components. The relevant pension payments are usually from defined benefit schemes, with pensions generally set as a percentage of earnings and dependent on years of contributions; as these pensions are guaranteed by government, they are classified as public spending. The lump-sum payments (36.10.1.1.1.5) which many public sector employees take on retirement are based on their contributions and rates of return. .</p> <p>Data provided is sourced from data reported to the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) by regulated superannuation entities and some exempt public sector superannuation schemes, and published in the <i>Annual Superannuation Bulletin</i>. The data supplied are for entities with more than four members and does not include information for exempt public sector schemes that do not report to APRA.</p> <p>There are a small number of funds which are classified as public sector funds and are public offer funds i.e. they may accept members from the general public. Some benefit payments reported by these public sector funds may be paid to non-ex-government employees. APRA cannot distinguish what proportion of benefit payments are paid to ex-government employees from the collected statistics.</p>
36.10.1.1.3.7	Compensation for the extension of fringe benefits to pensioners	In 1993, eligibility for the Pensioner Concession Card was extended to all part rate pensioners and certain older long term allowance recipients. In response to concerns from the state and territory governments that an increase in the number of eligible card holders would have an impact on their state concession programs, the Government agreed to contribute to the cost of core concessions—utilities, municipal and water rates, public transport and motor vehicle registration. This arrangement ceased on 1 July 2014 and funding for these concessions is entirely a matter for state and territory governments.
36.10.1.1.3.8	Reimbursement to Great Southern Rail for concession fares	Under an arrangement with the Australian Government Pension Concession Card Holders, Commonwealth Seniors Health Card Holders, State Seniors and Veterans are entitled to fare discounts when travelling on the Ghan, the Indian Pacific and the Overland train services. Funding will cease on 30 June 2016.
36.10.1.1.3.10	Seniors Supplement	The former Seniors Supplement for Commonwealth Seniors Health Card

## COUNTRY NOTE

Database on Social Expenditure ([www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm](http://www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm))  
OECD - Social Policy Division - Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

-----

	holders was introduced in 2009. It incorporated the value of the former Seniors Concession Allowance and Telephone Allowance. No further payments were made after June 2015.
36.10.1.2.1.4 Home and Community Care Program (HACC) for the Aged	The programme started in 1985-86 and provides basic maintenance and support services for the frail aged and people with disabilities to enable them to live at home. Includes: home care, paramedical services, home nursing subsidies, delivered meal subsidies.
36.10.1.2.1.7 Residential Care – Subsidies and other costs	This programme covers residential aged care expenditure by the Department of Social Services and Department of Veteran’s Affairs. Residential care aims to ensure the availability of high quality, resident-centred care, by promoting equitable access to residential aged care.
36.10.1.2.1.8 Aged Care Workforce	This programme aims to improve the quality of aged care by developing the skills of the aged care workforce.
36.10.1.2.1.9 Ageing Information and Support	This programme aims to promote healthy and active ageing, improve the way people access and interact with health and ageing information and support services to assist older people and their carers access care services appropriate to their needs.
36.10.1.2.1.13 Flexible Aged Care Subsidies	This programme aims to trial innovative approaches to the delivery of community and residential aged care services.
36.10.1.2.1.14 Community Aged Care Packages	This expenditure relates to the provision of Community Aged Care Packages. It is a part of a programme to help people remain at home as long as possible and receive quality care while living in the community.
36.10.1.2.1.15 Home Support	This programme aims to provide high quality support, at a low intensity on a short-term or on-going basis, or higher intensity services delivered on a short term episodic basis to frail older people (65 years and over or 50 years and over for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people) to maximise their independence at home and in the community for as long as they choose or are able to do so. The programme also provides support to frail older people through the delivery of planned respite activities which allow carers to take a break from their usual caring responsibilities
36.10.1.2.1.16 Home Care	This programme aims to provide coordinated packages of services tailored to meet individuals’ specific care needs including care services, support services, clinical services and other services to support older people to remain living at home
36.10.1.2.1.17 Residential and Flexible Care	This programme aims to provide a range of residential and flexible care options and accommodation for older people who are unable to continue living independently in their own homes.
36.10.1.2.1.18 Workforce and Quality	This programme aims to ensure the availability of a skilled workforce, empower consumers and ensure a high quality of care to recipients of aged care services.
36.10.1.2.1.19 Ageing and Service Improvement	This programme aims to provide support for activities that promote healthy and active ageing, to better respond to existing and emerging challenges including dementia care and to better support services targeting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and people from diverse backgrounds.
36.10.1.2.1.20 Home Support and Care	This programme aims to provide entry level, support and care services through the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) and provides coordinated Home Care Packages tailored to meet individuals’ specific care needs.
36.10.1.2.1.21 Aged Care Quality	This programme aims to promote quality care for older Australians, including providing support to people with dementia, and people from diverse communities; and including program support activities, bond guarantees and building and other improvement funding

## COUNTRY NOTE

Database on Social Expenditure ([www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm](http://www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm))  
 OECD - Social Policy Division - Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

-----

36.10.1.2.1.22	Aged Care Services	This program grouping encompasses a range of aged care services provided to older Australians, Data include expenditure by the Department of Health and the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Aged care programs that are included range from basic support at home, including the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP), coordinated and consumer-directed Home Care Packages, residential aged care for people who are unable to continue living independently in their own homes, and flexible, restorative and short term care options.
36.10.1.2.2.1	Aged Care Assessment	This programme aims to provide equitable and timely access for frail older people to assessments that determine their eligibility for Australian Government subsidised aged care.
36.10.1.2.2.3	Access and Information	This programme aims to provide equitable and timely access to aged care assessments and make it easier to find services through the My Aged Care website. This also includes advocacy services and the Community Visitors Scheme.
36.20.1.1.1.0	Pensions to private sector workers: Superannuation pension , and, Superannuation lump sum	Since 1992 Australia has had a mandatory defined contribution scheme for the vast majority of employees; this sets a minimum standard of contributions by employers (in most cases employer contributions for workers in the public sector are higher than this minimum standard of 9.5%). It is not possible from available statistics to separate out the components of payouts that derive from mandatory requirements compared to those that derive from previous voluntary arrangements or those made under collective agreements. However, the system is maturing and by now is likely that the preponderance of current payouts accrue from mandatory contributions in the past. Hence, this is currently classified as mandatory private.
<b>2. SURVIVORS</b>		
36.10.2.1.1.3	Widow B Pension	A means tested payment to widowed, divorced or separated women aged 50 years or over as at 1 July 1987, and women aged 45 or over at 1 July 1987, who received Sole Parent Pension (or one of its forerunners) on or after that date. The payment is being phased out in recognition of women's increasing labour force participation, with no new grants since 20 March 1997. This payment ceased on 20 March 2020, with all remaining recipients transitioned to the Age Pension.
36.10.2.1.1.5	Widow Allowance	A means tested income support payment for older working age women who no longer have a partner and have no recent workforce experience. This allowance is being phased out and eligibility is limited to women born on or before 1 July 1955. This payment closed to new recipients on 1 July 2018 and will cease completely on 1 January 2022. All recipients receiving Widow Allowance on 1 January 2022 will be automatically transitioned to the Age Pension. Since 1 July 2018, people who would previously have been eligible for Widow Allowance are able to claim support through alternative payments such as JobSeeker Payment (prior to 20 March 2020 Newstart Allowance), based on their individual circumstances.
36.10.2.1.1.6	Double Orphan Pension	It is payable free of means test to guardians of, or institutions caring for, children aged under 16, or dependent full-time students aged 16-19 whose parents are both dead or one is dead and the other is missing, imprisoned for at least 10 years, or in an institution indefinitely.
36.10.2.1.1.7	DVA Orphan Pension	DVA Orphans Pension is to compensate the eligible dependent children of a deceased veteran, or member of the Forces whose death is due to service, or a service related condition or was receiving a DVA disability pension at above general rate or was a prisoner of war.
	DVA War Widows Pension	DVA War widow's/widower's pension is compensation for the widow or widower (including a partner) of an Australian veteran (this includes an Australian mariner), a member of the Forces, or a member of a Peacekeeping Force, whose eligible service has caused or contributed to their death. An Income Support Supplement (ISS) may be payable to war widows/widowers who satisfy the income and assets tests and residency requirements.

## COUNTRY NOTE

Database on Social Expenditure ([www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm](http://www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm))  
OECD - Social Policy Division - Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

-----

36.10.2.1.2.1	Bereavement Allowance	A means tested income support payment paid for up to 14 weeks to recently widowed people following the death of their partner to enable them to maintain an adequate standard of living during that time. This payment was closed to new recipients on 20 March 2020, and will cease once all remaining recipients have finished their bereavement period. From 20 March 2020, all new recipients who previously would have been eligible for Bereavement Allowance are able to claim bereavement support through the new JobSeeker Payment or Youth Allowance based on their individual circumstances.
<b>3. INCAPACITY-RELATED BENEFITS (Disability, Occupational injury and disease, Sickness)</b>		
36.10.3.1.1.2	Disability Support Pension	A means tested income support payment for people who are unable to support themselves adequately through paid work due to a permanent physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairment.
?	Mobility Allowance	Mobility Allowance is a non-means tested payment which assists people who are unable to use public transport without substantial assistance.
36.10.3.1.1.3	Wife Pension (disability support pension)	A means tested income support payment for female partners of people receiving the Disability Support Pension. This payment was closed to new entrants from July 1995. Female partners of Disability Support Pension recipients requiring income support must now test their eligibility for an alternative income support payment. On 20 March 2020, Wife Pension ceased and all recipients living in Australia and those over Age Pension age living overseas transitioned to other payments based on their individual circumstances.
36.10.3.1.1.5	Carer Payment	An income support payment for people who, because of the demands of their caring role, are unable to support themselves through substantial paid employment. The payment is means tested, indexed twice yearly, and paid at the same rate as other social security pensions.
36.10.3.1.1.8	Carer Allowance	An income supplement for people who provide daily care and attention in a private home to a person with disability or a severe medical condition. Carer Allowance is not taxable and it can be paid in addition to a social security income support payment (such as Carer Payment or Age Pension). It has a family income limit of \$250,000 per annum but has no asset test.
36.10.3.1.1.9	Veteran's Disability Pension	A DVA disability pension is paid to compensate a veteran, member of the Forces, member of a Peacekeeping Force or Australian mariner for injuries or diseases caused or aggravated by war service or certain defence service on behalf of Australia.
	Veteran Payment	This payment provides interim financial support to veterans who lodge a claim for mental health condition, and are incapable of working for more than 8 hours per week. The payment is subject to an income and assets test. The recipient must be under Age Pension Age when they make a claim, as well as meeting Australian residency requirements.
36.10.3.1.1.10	Child Disability Assistance Payment	An annual payment for carers made in respect of a child with disability aged less than 16 years who attracts a payment of Carer Allowance for their carer for a period including 1 July each year.
36.10.3.1.1.11	Carer Supplement	An annual payment for 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 payment. Qualifying payments include Carer Allowance, Carer Payment, Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Partner Service Pension.
36.10.3.1.1.12	Carer Adjustment Payment	The Carer Adjustment Payment is intended to assist families to adjust following a catastrophic event where a child is diagnosed with a severe disability or severe medical condition. It is an ex gratia, payment providing a one off payment of up to \$10,000 to families in exceptional circumstance who do not qualify for any Government income support payments. The child must require full-time care for at least two months and the child's carer would be receiving Carer Allowance for that child.



## COUNTRY NOTE

Database on Social Expenditure ([www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm](http://www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm))  
OECD - Social Policy Division - Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

-----

36.10.3.1.3.1	Workers Compensation (total and ordinary annual services)	Workers compensation is administered by state, territory and Commonwealth legislation. There are 11 main workers' compensation systems in Australia. Each of the eight Australian states and territories have their own scheme and there are three Commonwealth schemes; one for the Australian Government employees, Australian Defence Force personnel, and a scheme for certain seafarers. Each jurisdiction allows employers to self-insure for workers' compensation. These schemes provide a statutory, no-fault system of compensation for work-related injuries. In Australia it is compulsory for employers to take out workers' compensation insurance to cover employees.
36.10.3.1.5.2	Sickness Allowance	A means-tested income support payment for people who are temporarily incapacitated for work or study due to illness and have a job or course of study to return to. On 20 March 2020 this payment closed to new recipients, and those who previously would have been eligible for Sickness Allowance can seek support through the new JobSeeker Payment based on their individual circumstances.
36.10.3.2.3.2	Early Intervention Services for Children with Disability	These programs provide access to early intervention services and support for eligible children with disability, their parents, carers and families to help children achieve their potential. The Programs' funding is transitioning to the NDIS.
36.10.3.2.3.1	Welfare Services for People with Disabilities	Grants are made to eligible organisations for the provision of support services for people with a disability in the program target group (working age). The funding for a number of the disability services is transitioning to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).
	National Disability Insurance Scheme	The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a new national scheme that provides support for Australians with permanent and significant disability, and their families and carers. The NDIS will provide these people with the reasonable and necessary supports they need to live an ordinary life. The NDIS will over time, partially or fully replace some state and Commonwealth disability programs. It is not means-tested.
	Carer Gateway	Carer Gateway is the new national program supporting unpaid carers of people with disability, long-term health conditions, mental illness or those who are frail or aged. Carer Gateway services focus on providing carers with access to early-intervention, preventative and skill building supports, to help sustain them in their caring role, improve their health and wellbeing and ability to stay in touch with work, complete their education and participate in the community. Carers have the ability to access services through face to face options and digitally through the telephone or the Carer Gateway website.
<b>4. HEALTH</b>		
36.10.4.2.0.0	See <i>OECD Health Statistics</i> .	
<b>5. FAMILY</b>		
36.10.5.1.1.8	Family Tax Benefit (Part A and B)	<p>Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A helps families with the cost of raising dependent children and is means tested on a family's adjusted taxable income (ATI). It is paid per child to families for children up to 15 years of age and for young people aged 16-19 who are in full-time secondary study.</p> <p>FTB Part B provides extra assistance to single parent families, non-parent carers and some couple families with one main income earner. FTB Part B is income tested on the adjusted taxable income (ATI) of the primary and secondary earner in a family. It is paid to families for children under 13 years, or a single parent, grandparent or great-grandparent for children aged 13 to 15 or for children aged 16-18- who are in full-time secondary study.</p>
36.10.5.1.1.10	Parenting Payment Single and Parenting Payment Partnered	A means tested income support payment for the principal carer of a child aged under six years if the carer is partnered or under eight years if the carer is single.
36.10.5.1.1.14	Single Income Family Supplement	The Single Income Family Supplement provides assistance of up to \$300 a

## COUNTRY NOTE

Database on Social Expenditure ([www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm](http://www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm))  
OECD - Social Policy Division - Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

-----

		year for families with a main income earner who earns between \$68,000 and \$150,000 a year. This supplement recognises that, unlike dual income families at similar household income levels, single income families would receive little or no assistance through tax changes. The Single Income Family Supplement is closed to new recipients with payment retained for families who maintain entitlement from 1 July 2017.
36.10.5.1.1.15	Schoolkids Bonus	The Schoolkids Bonus provides additional assistance for families and students to pay for education expenses such as uniforms, books, school fees, and sports registration fees. The Schoolkids Bonus has been abolished with the final instalment paid in respect of 30 June 2016
36.10.5.1.2.2	No Jab No Pay (Maternity Immunisation Allowance)	Early childhood immunisation requirements apply to children of all ages to be paid Child Care Subsidy (CCS) and the full rate of Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A. From 1 January 2016 eligible children under 20 years of age for FTB Part A and children under 20 years of age for child care subsidies, must be immunised in accordance with the National Immunisation Program childhood vaccination Schedule, on an approved catch-up schedule or have an approved exemption to meet the immunisation requirements in order to receive the affected payments. Parents who object to vaccinating their children are no longer eligible to receive the CCS and the full rate of Family Tax Benefit Part A. This built on immunisation incentives that required parents to have their children immunised during the financial year that each child turns one, two and five years to receive the end of year Family Tax Benefit Part A supplement for that child. From 1 January 2016 to 30 June 2018, FTB Part A Supplement eligibility was dependent on meeting the immunisation requirements. From 1 July 2018, families with children who are not immunised according to the childhood vaccination Schedule appropriate for the child's age (and do not have an approved exemption) will have a reduction applied to their fortnightly FTB Part A child rate for each child who does not meet the immunisation requirements.
36.10.5.1.2.3	Newborn Supplement and Newborn Upfront Payment (previously Baby Bonus)	From 1 March 2014, families eligible for Family Tax Benefit Part A (who are not accessing the Paid Parental Leave scheme) may receive the Newborn Upfront Payment and Newborn Supplement to help with costs involved with a new baby.
36.10.5.1.2.4	Parental Leave Pay	An entitlement for working parents of children born or adopted from 1 January 2011. Parental Leave Pay is available to working parents who meet the eligibility criteria. Eligible working parents can get 18 weeks of government funded Parental Leave Pay at the rate of the national minimum wage. From 1 July 2020, the 18 weeks can be broken into two periods. A 12 week period to be taken in the first 12 months from birth. Followed by up to 30 days of flexible days which can be take until the child's second birthday with periods of work in-between flexible days to assist with gradual returns to work and balancing caring with work.
36.10.5.1.2.5	Dad and Partner Pay	Provides two weeks' pay at the rate on the national minimum wage to eligible working fathers or partners who care for a child born or adopted from 1 January 2013.
36.10.5.1.3.3	Partner Allowance (pension)	A means tested income support payment for mature-age people who are partners of income support recipients and face obstacles to employment due to a lack of recent workforce experience. This payment closed to new claimants on 20 September 2003. This payment will cease on 1 January 2022 once all recipients have reached Age Pension age and been automatically transferred to the Age Pension.

## COUNTRY NOTE

Database on Social Expenditure ([www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm](http://www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm))  
OECD - Social Policy Division - Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

-----

36.10.5.2.1.9	Support for the Child Care System - Child Care Services Support	<p>The main sub-elements of this administered item include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community support: Delivers improved access to child care through support for establishment of new services and maintenance of services, especially for services in or supporting vulnerable or disadvantaged children and communities in areas where the market would otherwise fail to provide child care services.</li> <li>• Child care quality support: Aims to ensure that children in care have stimulating, positive experiences and interactions that will foster all aspects of their development and promote quality care for all children in approved Australian child care services. Approved services are required to base their educational programs on an approved learning framework, taking into account the interests and differences of each child.</li> <li>• Inclusion support: Supports eligible mainstream Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) services to improve their capacity and capability to provide quality inclusive practices for all children, to address access and participation barriers and to support the inclusion of children with additional needs, particularly those with disability, alongside their typically developing peers and provides parents or carers of children with additional needs with access to appropriate and inclusive ECEC services that assist those parents or carers increase their activity including work, study and training.</li> <li>• Program support: Supports the development, maintenance and dissemination of information to assist families to make informed decisions about child care and the related support programs and services provided or funded by the Government. A range of products and services are funded to assist parents and service providers, including the Australian Early Development Index and the Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters.</li> </ul>
36.10.5.2.1.10	Support for the Child Care System - Jobs, Education and Training Child Care Fee Assistance (JETCCFA)	<p>Provided eligible parents with extra financial assistance to help with the cost of approved child care while undertaking activities such as job search, work, study and training to help them to enter the workforce. JETCCFA was replaced by the Additional Child Care Subsidy (transition to work) from 2 July 2018.</p>
36.10.5.2.1.11	Child Care Fee Assistance - Child Care Benefit (CCB)	<p>Assisted parents with the cost of approved and registered child care. The payment of CCB varied depending on family income, the number of children in care, the hours of care, and the type of child care used. Low income families received the highest rate of CCB. CCB was replaced by the Child Care Subsidy from 2 July 2018.</p>
36.10.5.2.1.12	Child Care Fee Assistance - Child Care Rebate (CCR)	<p>Covered families for 50 per cent of their out-of-pocket approved child care expenses after CCB has been received, up to an annual limit. For the 3 financial years commencing 2014-15 the annual limit was \$7 500 per child per year. In 2017-18 the annual limit is \$7 613 per child per year. This assistance was designed to help eligible working parents with the cost of child care, if they were using approved child care for work-related reasons. CCR was replaced by the Child Care Subsidy from 2 July 2018.</p>
	Child Care Fee Assistance – Child Care Subsidy (CCS)	<p>Assists parents with the cost of approved child care from 2 July 2018. The payment of CCS varies depending on family income, the hours of recognised activity undertaken by parents, the hours of care, the type of care used and the fee charged for the care. In 2020-21, the annual limit of \$10,560 per child applies for families earning more than \$189,390 per year. Families earning more than \$353,680 per year receive no subsidy. Please note these figures are indexed annually.</p>
	Additional Child Care Subsidy	<p>The Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS) provides targeted additional fee assistance to families and children facing barriers in accessing affordable child care, including children at risk of abuse or neglect, grandparent primary carers, those facing temporary financial hardship and parents transitioning to work from income support.</p>
36.10.5.2.1.13	National Partnerships on Early Childhood Education and Care -	<p>The National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Early Childhood Development was signed in 2009. Through the agreement, state and</p>

## COUNTRY NOTE

**Database on Social Expenditure ([www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm](http://www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm))**  
 OECD - Social Policy Division - Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

-----

<p>Indigenous Early Childhood Development and Family Centres</p>	<p>territory governments received Commonwealth funding of \$292.62 million to establish 38 Children and Family Centres. These delivered integrated services that offered early learning, child care and family support programs. Children and Family Centres were targeted at addressing the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and their young children and also provided services to all families in the community. The National Partnership expired on 30 June 2014 as per the terms of the agreement.</p>
<p>36.10.5.2.1.15 National Quality Framework (NQF) for Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC)</p>	<p>The NQF was established in 2012 as a result of an agreement between all Australian Governments to improve the quality of education and care across long day care, family day care, preschool and outside hours care services. The National Quality Framework is the national approach to the regulation and quality assessment for approved early childhood education and care services.</p>
<p>36.10.5.2.1.17 National Partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education</p>	<p>The first National Partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education was signed by the Council of Australian Governments in 2008, with all governments committing to work together to ensure all children have access to a quality early childhood education program, delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher for 15 hours per week in the year before full-time school. This National Partnership has been extended several times since it was first agreed, with the Australian Government recently committing to extend the agreement for the 2021 calendar year. It brings the total Commonwealth investment in preschool to over \$3.2 billion since 2014.</p>
<p>36.10.5.2.2.6 Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations</p>	<p>Funding covered early intervention and prevention services including MensLine Australia, men and family relationship services, pre-marriage and family relationships education, family relationship counselling and skills services, and enhanced family violence responses. The Family Relationships Services Program was replaced with the Family and Relationship Services under the Family and Children Activity from 1 July 2014.</p>

## COUNTRY NOTE

Database on Social Expenditure ([www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm](http://www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm))  
 OECD - Social Policy Division - Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

-----

Families and Children Activity	<p>The Families and Children Activity 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.</p> <p>Many programs and services funded under the Families and Children Activity are targeted to families experiencing multiple and complex vulnerabilities.</p> <p>A range of services for families and children are delivered under the following Sub-Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family and Relationship Services (including Family and Relationship Services and the Intercountry Adoption Family Support Service)</li> <li>• Family and Relationship Services – Specialised Family Violence Services</li> <li>• Communities for Children Facilitating Partners</li> <li>• Children and Parenting (including Intensive Family Support Services, Children and Parenting Support and the Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters)</li> <li>• Budget Based Funded Services</li> <li>• Family Mental Health Support Services (also known as Community Mental Health, Early Intervention for Children, Young people and their Families)</li> <li>• Youth Homelessness</li> <li>• Adult Specialist Support (including:                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Forced Adoption Support Services - organisations provide coordinated specialist support services across Australia for people affected by past forced adoption policies and practices.</li> <li>◦ Find and Connect - services help Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants uncover their history, trace and reclaim their identities, build relationships with their families and access trauma-informed counselling.)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Stronger Places, Stronger People	<p>Stronger Places, Stronger People is a place based initiative being implemented by the Australian Government in partnership with state and territory governments and 10 communities across Australia, it seeks to demonstrate that place-based collective impact practice can create better outcomes for children and their families and can disrupt disadvantage in participating communities over time.</p> <p>Support for seven Stronger Places, Stronger People communities have been announced. These are Logan, Rockhampton and Gladstone in Queensland, Bourke in New South Wales, Burnie in Tasmania, the Far West Region (including Ceduna) in South Australia and the Barkly Region (including Tennant Creek) in the Northern Territory.</p>
Stillborn Baby Payment	<p>From 1 March 2014, families who earn below the Stillborn Baby Payment income limit or who would have been eligible for Family Tax Benefit Part A had the child been born alive may receive the Stillborn Baby Payment where an individual, or their partner, would have been the primary carer of a stillborn child. An individual is not eligible for Stillborn Baby Payment where they or their partner is receiving Parental Leave Pay for the stillborn child</p>
Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA)	<p>The TILA is a nationally available one-off payment of \$1,500 to assist young people leaving formal out-of-home care, transition to independence. Eligible young people, aged 15-25 years can use TILA to pay for a range of goods and services related to their formal Independence Plan.</p>

## COUNTRY NOTE

Database on Social Expenditure ([www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm](http://www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm))  
OECD - Social Policy Division - Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

-----

6. ACTIVE LABOUR MARKET POLICIES SERVICES		
See OECD Labour Market Policy database.		
36.10.6.0.1.7	Contracting / Harvest Labour Services	This service helps to match an itinerant pool of workers with variable seasonal work. The former Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations contracted MADEC Australia to establish a National Harvest Labour Information Service to coordinate and distribute information on harvest labour in Australia. The service commenced on 1 July 2003. Eligibility for Harvest Labour Services is an Australian Tax File Number, or a current working visa.
36.1.6.0.1.17	Australian Apprenticeships Access Programme	Provides nationally recognised pre-vocational training, support and assistance to vulnerable job seekers who experience barriers to entering skilled employment in an Australian Apprenticeship. This programme is now closed.
36.10.6.0.1.20	Stream services A-C	jobactive providers work with clients to create an Employment Plan tailored to individual needs. jobactive replaced Job Services Australia on 1 July 2015.
36.10.6.0.1.21	Innovation Fund	The Innovation Fund is a component of the Australian Government's national employment services, Job Services Australia. It is designed to address the needs of the most disadvantaged job seekers through funding projects that will foster innovative solutions to overcome barriers to employment which they may face. This programme ceased on 30 June 2012.
36.10.6.0.1.22	Employer Brokers	Employer Brokers is a competitive grants program, whose role is to engage with employers in a skill or labour shortage industry to broker solutions that meet employers' needs and co-ordinate and target the efforts of employment service providers to matching the needs of job seekers with the labour requirements of employers. This programme ceased on 30 June 2012.
36.10.6.0.2.1	Skills for Education and Employment Program (formerly Language, Literacy and Numeracy Program)	To improve eligible job seekers' language, literacy and numeracy skills through the provision of up to 650 hours English language, literacy and numeracy training with the expectation that such improvements will enable them to participate more effectively in training and employment.
36.10.6.0.2.4	Productivity Places Program (Job Seekers Element)	The Productivity Places Program is designed to provide targeted training to support the development of skills in Australia to meet existing and future industry demands. The programme is now closed
36.10.6.0.2.5	Workplace English Language and Literacy	Assists organisations to train workers in English language, literacy and numeracy (LLN) skills. Funding is available on a competitive grants basis to organisations for LLN training linked to job-related workplace training and is designed to help workers meet their current and future employment and training needs. This programme is now closed.
36.10.6.0.4.2	Cyclone Yasi Wage Assistance	A payment available to businesses in selected areas of Queensland, Australia affected by Cyclone Yasi to help them maintain their workforce and viability of businesses and the local community.
	Time to Work	The Time to Work Employment Service, that commenced in the 2017-18 FY, is a national voluntary in-prison employment service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The service aims to assist adult, sentenced Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners to help them prepare for employment on their release, improve the likelihood of participants connecting with post-release employment services and support post-release providers to place ex-offenders in jobs. The service is delivered in 65 non-remote prisons and eight remote prisons across Australia.
	Skills and Training Incentive	From 1 January 2019, the Skills and Training Incentive provides up to \$2200 (GST inclusive) to jointly fund training to assist mature aged Australians (45 – 70 years) to build skills and remain in the workforce longer. Either the participant or their employer must match the incentive to ensure joint investment in skills development. Up to 3,600 Incentives are available each year. The Skills and Training Incentive is directly linked to the Skills Checkpoint Program.
	Launch into Work	Launch into Work pilot program is a new program that started 2017-2018 FY. It delivers pre-employment projects that provide training, work

## COUNTRY NOTE

Database on Social Expenditure ([www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm](http://www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm))  
OECD - Social Policy Division - Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

-----

	experience and mentoring to support job seekers to increase their skills, experience and confidence. Projects are intended to train job seekers for specific roles within the organisation, and may be conducted in a variety of industries. It is primarily focused on creating long-term employment pathways for women. However men may also be able to participate in the program, in particular for projects targeting non-traditional roles
36.10.6.0.5.5	Disability Employment Services (DES) DES assists people with disability, injury or health condition to secure and maintain sustainable employment. DES includes two demand driven programs, Disability Management Service (DMS) and Employment Support Service (ESS). DMS is for job seekers with disability, injury or health condition who need assistance to find a job and occasional support to keep a job. ESS provides assistance to people with permanent disability and who need regular, ongoing support to keep a job.
36.10.6.0.6.2	Measures for Indigenous Australians (CDEP) The Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme was established primarily as an income support and community development program for remote Aboriginal communities. The Remote Jobs and Communities Program (RJCP) replaced the CDEP on 1 July 2013. The RJCP intended to provide a streamlined and flexible approach to employment, participation and community-development services in 60 remote regions across Australia to help more people get into jobs and participate in their communities. The Community Development Programme (CDP) replaced the RJCP on 1 July 2015. The CDP is the Australian Government's remote employment and community development service. The CDP supports job seekers in remote Australia to build skills, address barriers and contribute to their communities through a range of flexible activities. It is designed around the unique social and labour market conditions found in remote Australia.
36.10.6.0.6.6	National Green Jobs Corps The National Green Jobs Corps provides young Australians with skills tailored towards emerging green skills and climate-change related industries to ensure they were ready for employment in those areas. The program closed to new participants on 31 December 2011.
36.10.6.0.6.7	Jobs Fund The temporary Jobs Fund initiative was established to support families and communities most affected by the GFC. It was implemented to support and create jobs and skills development through projects that would build community and social infrastructure.
36.10.6.0.7.2	Measures for Indigenous Australians (BDP) The Indigenous Business Development Program (IBDP) is a \$600K per annum grant funding program to assist Indigenous people to start businesses or expand existing businesses.
	Industry Skills Fund Support Australian businesses to identify and access the skills training they need to become more productive, competitive and sustainable in domestic and global markets, and to support the skills development of Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The Fund is targeted at SMEs, including micro businesses, however, it does not exclude large businesses from access, and has been designed to make delivery and access simpler and more streamlined for business, reducing red tape and improving value for taxpayers' money. Youth Stream: Training for Employment Scholarships Pilot will assist businesses in regional areas access job specific training for their new starters. Youth Employment Pathways Pilot will assist disengaged youth get back to school, move to vocational training or work. The programme is now closed.
	National Workforce Development Fund (includes Critical Skills Investment Fund) Assist businesses to identify and address their current and future workforce development needs. Businesses are able to apply for Government funding to support the training of their workers in areas of identified need. The Programme aims to help businesses lift their workforce capacity, provide Australian workers with the opportunity to increase their skills through formal training and assist areas of the economy where skilled workers are needed the most. This programme is now closed.
	Accelerated Australian Apprenticeships (formerly Support for Competency Based Progression) Provides funding to industry-led partnerships to develop and implement innovative models that further the reach of competency-based progression in Australian Apprenticeships in their sector. This programme is now

## COUNTRY NOTE

Database on Social Expenditure ([www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm](http://www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm))  
OECD - Social Policy Division - Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

-----

	closed.
Apprentice to Business Owner - Business Skills and Mentoring Programme	Provide mentoring support and a qualification in small business management for eligible tradespeople, so that they can successfully establish a new business or operate as subcontractors. It is delivered nationwide across both metropolitan and regional areas by AtoB Programme Brokers. This programme is now closed.
Australian Apprenticeship Support Network (formerly Australian Apprenticeships Centres)	Provides support services to Australian Apprentices and their employers, and administer the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Programme.
Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Programme (AAIP)	Develop a highly skilled and relevant Australian workforce that supports economic sustainability and competitiveness by providing genuine opportunities for skills-based training and development of employees through the provision of incentives to employers who employ eligible Australian Apprentices and by encouraging people to enter into skills-based training through an Australian Apprenticeship by providing personal benefits.
Australian Apprenticeships Mentoring Programme (formerly Trade Apprentice Mentoring Initiative)	Increase the retention rates of Australian Apprentices, particularly in the first year of training, in order to improve completion rates and support the supply of skilled workers in sectors and occupations where there is a current or emerging skills need. Supporting targeted mentoring to help Australian Apprentices successfully progress through their Apprenticeships. Mentoring may also involve support to their employers or supervisors to encourage a positive employment relationship and better support for Australian Apprentices. The Mentoring Programme is targeted to Australian Apprentices who may face barriers to participation. This programme is now closed.
Job Ready Programme - Trades Recognition Australia	To assess the job readiness of international student graduates from Australian trade training Programmes seeking permanent migration to Australia. This is a cost recovery Programme.
Adult Migrant English Program(AMEP)	Supports the government's social inclusion agenda through the provision of free and voluntary English courses for eligible migrants and humanitarian entrants, to support their settlement in Australia. It is underpinned by the Immigration (Education) Act 1971 and the Immigration (Education) Regulations 2018.
National Foundation Skills Strategy - Structural Training System Initiatives	Improve core employability skills, particularly language, literacy and numeracy skills among working age Australians through raised awareness, a practitioner scholarship Programme giving greater prominence to foundation skills in Industry Skills Councils Training Packages and building the capacity of the VET sector. This package supports Australian Government structural training activities that contribute to the National Foundation Skills Strategy for Adults, a collaborative effort between all Australian Governments to lift the foundation skills levels of working age Australians. There are a number of components under this initiative: - Building capacity of the trainer workforce through the Language Literacy and Numeracy Practitioners Scholarships Programme. (this programme is now closed) - Professional development workshops to support the Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF) - - Mapping of training packages to the Australian Core Skills Framework
Productive Ageing through Community Education (PATCE)	Support adult education providers and community organisations to expand the delivery of educational and training courses tailored to the needs of senior Australians (aged 60 and above). This programme is now closed.
Trade Support Loans	The Program aims to increase completion rates for Australian Apprentices in priority areas by providing concessional income contingent loans to Australian Apprentices capped at \$20,420.per apprentice. 20% Discount upon successful completion of Apprenticeship. Funds listed here are the cost to Government of the 20% discount on completion of apprenticeship, doubtful debts and difference between indexation on loans and market interest rate.
Empowering YOUth Initiatives	Provides grant funding to eligible not-for-profit, non-government



## COUNTRY NOTE

Database on Social Expenditure ([www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm](http://www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm))  
OECD - Social Policy Division - Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

-----

	organisations to trial innovative approaches to support young people. 39 initiatives have been funded to help vulnerable young people 15–24 years of age and at high risk of welfare dependency, to find jobs. The program has now ended as at 30 June 2019.
Transition to Work (TtW) service	The Transition to Work (TtW) service provides intensive, pre-employment support to young people aged 15-21 years to improve their work readiness and to help them into work (including Apprenticeships or Traineeships) or education. The TtW service has a strong focus on helping young people to understand what is expected in the workplace and to develop the skills, attitudes and behaviours expected by employers. Participants receive pre-employment skills development that is directly relevant to needs of local employers and local labour market conditions.
<b>7. UNEMPLOYMENT</b>	
See OECD Labour Market Policy database.	
36.10.7.1.1.2 Newstart Allowance	A means tested income support payment for eligible job seekers aged 22 to under Age Pension age. Recipients must satisfy mutual obligation activities by seeking and accepting suitable work and participating in activities designed to improve their employment prospects. This payment ceased on 20 March 2020, with all recipients transitioned to a new JobSeeker Payment, paid at the same rate as Newstart Allowance.
JobSeeker Payment	A means tested income support payment for eligible job seekers aged 22 to under Age Pension age. Recipients must satisfy mutual obligation activities by seeking and accepting suitable work and participating in activities designed to improve their employment prospects. This payment replaced Newstart Allowance on 20 March 2020.
36.10.7.1.1.7 Youth Allowance (other)	A means tested income support payment for eligible job seekers aged 15-22 who may be required to seek or prepare for paid employment, or until they attain a Year 12 or an equivalent qualification, undertake study or training in combination with other approved activities.
36.10.6.1.1.9 Partner Allowance (benefit)	A means tested income support payment for mature-age people who are partners of income support recipients and face obstacles to employment due to a lack of recent workforce experience. This payment closed to new claimants on 20 September 2003. This payment will cease on 1 January 2022 once all recipients have reached Age Pension age and been automatically transferred to the Age Pension.
36.10.7.1.1.11 EESS / GEERS / SEESA/ FEG	<p>The Fair Entitlements Guarantee (FEG) is a legislative scheme to protect certain unpaid employment entitlements for employees who lose their job as a result of the liquidation or bankruptcy of their employer.</p> <p>FEG covers five employee entitlements: wages (up to 13 weeks), annual leave, long service leave, payment in lieu of notice (up to 5 weeks), redundancy pay (up to 4 weeks per year of service). All entitlements are capped at the maximum weekly wage rate (currently \$2451.00).</p> <p>FEG was preceded by the administrative schemes EESS, SEESA, and GEERS.</p>
36.10.7.1.1.13 Pensioner Education Supplement	Pensioner Education Supplement (PES) helps recipients of certain income support payments with the costs of study in a secondary or tertiary institution.
<b>8. HOUSING</b>	
36.10.8.2.1.1 Commonwealth Rent Assistance	Rent Assistance is a non-taxable indexed income supplement payable with Commonwealth income support payments, Family Tax Benefit Part A, and service pensions to eligible Australian individuals and families liable to pay private rent for their principal home. Private rent can include community housing rent, site fees, mooring fees, board and lodgings, some retirement village fees, and fees paid to occupy non-Commonwealth funded places in aged care facilities such as nursing homes.

## COUNTRY NOTE

Database on Social Expenditure ([www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm](http://www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm))  
OECD - Social Policy Division - Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

-----

36.10.8.2.1.5	Household Organisational Management Expenses advice Program (HOME)	The HOME Advice Program builds on the Family Homelessness Prevention Pilot and continues services to support families. The HOME Advice Program is an early intervention program for families at risk of becoming homeless. Community agencies are funded to help families stabilise their housing and financial circumstances, and assist them with access to community services, labour market programs and employment. These community agencies work closely with Centrelink social workers to ensure seamless service delivery for families. This program is now incorporated into the Commonwealth Financial Well Being and Capability program
36.10.8.2.1.7	Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure	This focuses on making housing in remote communities more sustainable through improved property and tenancy management, better employment outcomes and continued work to remove barriers to home ownership
36.10.8.2.1.12	National Housing and Homelessness Agreement	This agreement will contribute to improving access to affordable, safe and sustainable housing across the housing spectrum, including to prevent and address homelessness, and to support social and economic participation. The National Housing and Homelessness Agreement commenced on 1 July 2018 and provides around \$1.6 billion per year to state and territory governments. From 1 July 2018, the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement replaced and combined the National Affordable Housing Agreement, and the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness for which funding is now ongoing and indexed. States and territories are required to match homelessness funding under this agreement. DSS – updated to reflect the new national partnership agreement (NHHA).
36.10.8.2.1.11	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; reduce rental costs for low- and moderate-income housing; and encourage large-scale investment and innovative affordable housing. The scheme commenced on 1 July 2008 and incentives will be provided each year for ten years to approve participants.
36.10.8.2.1.15	Reconnect	Reconnect is a community based early intervention program for young people aged 12 to 18 years (young people aged 12 to 21 for Reconnect-Newly Arrived Youth Specialist services), who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and their families. Reconnect services provide counselling, group work, mediation and practical support to the whole family, to help break the cycle of homelessness. Service providers also ‘buy in’ other services to meet the individual needs of clients. The Reconnect program assists around 7,900 young people and their families a year; in 2018-19, 81 per cent of participants reported improved housing and/or family circumstances after being supported by Reconnect.
36.10.8.2.1.16	National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPARIH)	This focusses on making housing in remote communities more sustainable through new and refurbished houses, improved property and tenancy management, better employment outcomes and continued work to remove barriers to home ownership. In 2016, NPARIH became the National Partnership on Remote Housing
<b>9 OTHER SOCIAL POLICY AREAS</b>		
36.10.9.1.1.1	Special Benefit	A means tested income support payment for people in severe financial need and for whom no other pension, allowance or other support is available.
	Utilities Allowance	A supplementary payment to assist with household bills for recipients of Widow Allowance and Partner Allowance who are under Age Pension age, and Disability Support Pensioners who are aged under 21 and who have no dependent children.
36.10.9.1.1.2	Emergency Relief	Provides grants to community and charitable organisations to provide immediate financial and/or material support to people in financial crisis. The type of assistance offered by organisations varies and may include:

## COUNTRY NOTE

Database on Social Expenditure ([www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm](http://www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm))  
OECD - Social Policy Division - Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

-----

	food, clothing, household items, vouchers (for example supermarket/utilities), budgeting assistance; and/or referrals to other services that help to address underlying causes of financial crisis.
36.10.9.1.1.3 Austudy	Austudy provides financial help for those aged 25 years or more and studying or undertaking an Australian Apprenticeship full-time.
36.10.9.1.1.4 ABSTUDY – Indigenous Students	The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Study Assistance Scheme, ABSTUDY is paid to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to stay at school or go on to further studies or training.
36.10.9.1.1.5 Youth Allowance (students)	Financial help for young Australians aged 16 to 24 years who are in full-time education, training or a full-time Australian Apprenticeship. Eligibility is based on age, dependent or independent living, income and assets.
30.10.9.2.2.16 Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors	<p>The UHM Programme is a targeted social service for unaccompanied humanitarian minors (UHMs) to ensure their welfare and fulfil the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs' guardianship responsibilities under the <i>Immigration (Guardianship of Children Act) 1946</i>. In certain circumstances, the Programme also assists minors who do not fall under the IGOC Act.</p> <p>Service delivery to minors in the UHM Programme is provided either: in partnership with state/territory government child welfare authorities (SCWAs), generally for minors with a relative or community link as their carer or custodian; or through contracted service provider arrangements, generally for minors without a relative or community link.</p>
36.10.9.2.2.22 Translating and Interpreting Services	The Free Interpreting Service (FIS) aims to provide equitable access to key services for people with limited or no English language proficiency. The following groups can access FIS: Medical practitioners, Pharmacies, Non-government organisations, Real estate agencies, Local government authorities, Trade unions: and Parliamentarians. Through the Free Translating Service (FTS), permanent residents, select temporary residents and returning Australian citizens can have up to 10 personal documents translated into English, free of charge, within the first two years of arriving to settle permanently in Australia.
36,19.9.2.2.24 Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS)	<p>The Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS) programme provides early practical support to humanitarian entrants on arrival, and throughout their initial settlement period, generally for the first six to 12 months. Service providers deliver the HSS programme on behalf of the Australian Government. HSS case managers help humanitarian entrants to access other services or programmes if needed. Participation in the HSS programme is voluntary and support is provided on a needs basis, which means that not all humanitarian entrants will require all available services. The objectives of the HSS programme are to provide humanitarian entrants with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tailored support to begin a new life in Australia</li> <li>• strengthen ability to fully participate in the economic and social life of Australia</li> <li>• skills and knowledge to independently access services beyond the HSS programme</li> </ul>
36.10.9.2.26 Grants for Community Settlement	This is a discretionary grants program which aims to improve the social and economic participation, and community connectedness, of humanitarian entrants and other eligible migrants and their communities. Service providers provide a broad range of settlement related information and referral services.
Strong and Resilient Communities	<p>The Strong and Resilient Communities Activity contains the following sub-programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong and Resilient Communities Grants Activity which comprises</li> </ul>

## COUNTRY NOTE

Database on Social Expenditure ([www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm](http://www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm))  
OECD - Social Policy Division - Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

-----

	<p>three grant streams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○Community Resilience grants</li> <li>○Inclusive Communities grants</li> <li>○National Research grants</li> </ul> <p>The Strong and Resilient Communities grants support activities that aim to build strong, resilient, cohesive and harmonious communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be Connected (Digital Literacy for Older Australians) The Be Connected program aims to increase the confidence, skills and online safety of older Australians using digital technology.</li> <li>• Seniors Connected Seniors Connected supports community organisations to deliver activities to address loneliness and social isolation issues amongst older Australians. The initiative will help senior Australians lead meaningful and independent lives across two separate components:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A national after-hours phone support service for members of the general public who require assistance to alleviate loneliness.</li> <li>2. Village hub services which offer activities to alleviate loneliness and isolation amongst older Australians living independently in their communities.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Australian Longitudinal Studies</li> </ul>
Payments under Special Circumstances	Payments under special circumstances include Act of Grace payments and ex-gratia payments to individuals and families affected by disasters and other crises.
36.10.9.2.2.34 Financial Wellbeing and Capability Program	Provides support to vulnerable individuals and families experiencing financial crises. Assists people to acquire budgeting and financial literacy skills to help navigate through debt and learn strategies to better manage their money and become financially independent. The program builds financial resilience and wellbeing for vulnerable people and those most at risk of financial and social exclusion and disadvantage.
36.10.9.2.2.35 Breaking the cycle of drug and alcohol abuse in Indigenous communities	Assists Indigenous communities to work with government and non-government organisations to develop and implement Alcohol and Substance Abuse Management Plans (AMP's). It supports community groups and not-for-profit organisations work at a local level to drive the AMP, support the community, and provide prevention programmes to tackle youth substance abuse. This programme ended in June 2014.
36.10.9.2.2.36 Indigenous Healing Foundation	The Indigenous Healing Foundation targets the need for healing in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, focusing on the needs of the Stolen Generations. The Foundation provides grants for healing programs; builds the evidence base through research and evaluation; treatment and aftercare initiatives; and provides education and the promotion of healing practices with communities and service providers.
36.10.9.2.2.37 Northern Territory Emergency Response	A set of measures initiated in July 2007 designed to protect children and make communities safe for people living in Indigenous communities and town camps in the Northern Territory. The measures focus on the wellbeing of children and young people; law and order; supporting families; welfare reform and jobs; improving child and family health; enhancing education; and housing and land reform. In 2012, the <i>Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Act 2012</i> and the <i>Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Act 2012</i> (Stronger Futures Acts) repealed the <i>Northern Territory National Emergency Response Act 2007</i> (NTNER) and established new measures to improve outcomes for Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory.
36.10.9.2.2.38 Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory	A set of measures introduced in July 2012 to address the high level of disadvantage and need experienced by Aboriginal people in the remote and

## COUNTRY NOTE

Database on Social Expenditure ([www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm](http://www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm))  
 OECD - Social Policy Division - Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

-----

	<p>very remote Northern Territory, and to promote equal enjoyment of human rights. Stronger Futures is a 10 year long commitment to improve outcomes in Indigenous health, education, child and family wellbeing, community safety, employment and housing.</p> <p>In the 2015-16 Budget, the Australian Government announced that the National Partnership Agreement on Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory would be replaced with a new National Partnership Agreement on Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment. The new Agreement retains the overarching direction of the outcomes of the Stronger Futures National Partnership Agreement and will continue to be supported by the existing Stronger Futures legislation.</p>
<p>Indigenous Advancement Strategy</p>	<p>In 2014-15 the Australian Government changed the way it managed Indigenous programmes. On 1 July 2014 it consolidated 150 programmes into five elements (with a sixth added in 2017) under the new Indigenous Advancement Strategy that seeks to improve results for Indigenous Australians including in relation to school attendance, employment and community safety, through delivering services and programmes, and through measures that recognise the special place that Indigenous peoples hold in Australia. The Indigenous Advancement Strategy has six streamlined administered programmes which reflect the priorities of the Government:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Jobs, Land and Economy – getting adults into work, fostering Indigenous business and assisting Indigenous people to generate economic and social benefits from effective use of their land, particularly in remote areas.</li> <li>2) Children and Schooling – getting children to school, particularly in remote Indigenous communities, improving education outcomes and supporting families to give children a good start in life. This programme includes measures to improve access to further education.</li> <li>3) Safety and Wellbeing – ensuring the ordinary law of the land applies in Indigenous communities, particularly remote Indigenous communities, and that Indigenous people enjoy similar levels of physical, emotional and social wellbeing enjoyed by other Australians.</li> <li>4) Culture and Capability – supporting Indigenous Australians to maintain their cultures, participate equally in the economic and social life of the nation and that Indigenous organisations are capable of delivering quality services to their clients, particularly in remote areas.</li> <li>5) Remote Australia Strategies – strategic investments in local, flexible solutions based on community and Government priorities. Support for remote housing strategies focusses on achieving results in Government priority areas.</li> <li>6) Evaluation and Research: the objective of this program is to improve the lives of Indigenous Australians by increasing evaluation and research into policies and programs impacting on Indigenous Peoples.</li> </ol>
<p>36.10.9.2.2.47 Remote Indigenous Internet Training Activity (RIITA)</p>	<p>The Remote Indigenous Internet Training Activity- supports internet access, training and essential internet infrastructure in remote Indigenous communities.</p>