

## COUNTRY NOTE

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## 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 due to the level of their income or assets. Once income or assets exceed certain limits, no income support is payable.

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 was part of a reform of working age income support payments which saw seven payments progressively replaced by a single payment, including Newstart Allowance, Wife Pension, Bereavement Allowance, Sickness Allowance, Widow B Pension, Widow Allowance and Partner Allowance.

From late March 2020, the Australian Government made a number of temporary changes to income support and other government payments to support Australians in response to COVID-19 pandemic, including:

- Expanding eligibility to provide access to sole traders and other self-employed people; permanent employees who have been stood down or who lost their job; and, people who are caring for someone affected by COVID-19.
- Waiving the assets test for JobSeeker Payment, Parenting Payment, Youth Allowance, Austudy and ABSTUDY Living Allowance.

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- Waiving the ordinary waiting period, liquid assets waiting period, newly arrived residents waiting period and the seasonal work preclusion period.
- Increasing the income free area for JobSeeker Payment and Youth Allowance (other).
- making the partner income test more generous for JobSeeker Payment by lowering the amount payment rates are reduced by as a result of partner income.

In addition, some temporary changes were made to make the claims process easier, including no longer requiring verification of certain aspects of a person's application.

From 27 April 2020, the Australian Government also provided a Coronavirus Supplement for new and existing recipients of select government payments, including JobSeeker Payment, Parenting Payment, Youth Allowance, Austudy, Widow Allowance, Partner Allowance, ABSTUDY living allowance, Farm Household Allowance and Special Benefit. This Supplement was initially paid at \$550 per fortnight, which was reduced to \$250 from 25 September 2020, and to \$150 from 1 January 2021. The Coronavirus Supplement ended on 31 March 2021.

In April 2021, the Government permanently increased the basic rates of JobSeeker Payment, Youth Allowance, Parenting Payment, Disability Support Pension for people under 21 years of age, Special Benefit, Austudy, certain ABSTUDY living allowance recipients, Partner Allowance, Widow Allowance, and the Farm Household Allowance.

In April 2023, the Government introduced new Disability Support Pension Impairment Tables, used to assess a person's functional impairment and its effect on their capacity to work, when the person applies for Disability Support Pension. The new tables included changes to ensure consistency, address advancements in medical technology and terminology and provide clearer guidance to claimants.

A number of changes to income support payments were made in September 2023. The Government :

- Increased the basic rates of Jobseeker Payment, Youth Allowance, Parenting Payment (Partnered), Disability Support Pension for people under 21 years of age, Special Benefit, Austudy and ABSTUDY living allowance. The Government also extended eligibility for the higher single Jobseeker Payment rate for recipients aged 60 years and older to recipients aged 55 or over who had been on payment for nine or more continuous months.
- Increased maximum rates of Commonwealth Rent Assistance by 15 per cent.
- Expanded eligibility of Parenting Payment (Single) to parents with a youngest child under 14 years (up from 8 years).

A number of changes to income support payment were made in September 2024. The Government:

- Increased the maximum rates of Commonwealth Rent Assistance by a further 10 per cent to help relieve rental cost pressures for recipient households.
- Extended the higher rate of JobSeeker Payment and Energy Supplement to single recipients with an assessed partial capacity to work of less than 15 hours per week.

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- Extended the two year freeze of social security deeming rates for a further 12 months to 30 June 2025.

From 20 March 2025, the Government will also change the 25 hour per week work limit to 100 hours over a 4 week settlement period and removing the restrictions on study, volunteering and travel to work for Carer Payment.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) provides support for Australian citizens and permanent residents, and some holders of special category visas, with permanent and significant disability, and their families and carers. The NDIS provides these people with funding for the reasonable and necessary supports they need to live an ordinary life. The NDIS began in 2013 as a trial program in four trial sites across Australia. Since July 2020 the NDIS has been available across all of Australia.

Access to the NDIS is not restricted by income or assets but applicants must meet specified age, residence and disability or early intervention criteria. As at 30 June 2024, the NDIS was providing more than 661,000 people with reasonable and necessary supports at an estimated cost in 2023-24 of around \$41.8 billion. State and territory governments contribute fixed amounts for the NDIS each year and the Commonwealth Government pays the balance of NDIS costs primarily from general taxation revenue. At the time of the May 2024 federal budget projected total NDIS expenditure for the 4 years 2024-25 to 2027-28 is \$211.3 billion.

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 or funded 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 compulsory 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 do 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 tax-benefit model (<https://www.oecd.org/en/blogs/2024/07/taxben-policy-descriptions.html>) provide a comprehensive

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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.

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### 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 1996 to 2008 based on spending trends in Australia.

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

Expenditure for 36.10.5.2.1.20 Early Childhood Education - 4 and 5 year olds in ISCED 1 (Primary school) are estimates for 2022 based on spending trends in Australia.

Expenditure for Health in 2022 are estimates based on OECD Health Data.

### Sources

<b>2020 onwards</b>	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.
<b>2011 onwards</b>	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.
<b>1980 onwards</b>	4. Health: OECD Health Statistics ( <a href="#">OECD Health Statistics   OECD</a> )
<b>1998 onwards</b>	5.2.1.6 & 7 Childcare (pre-primary education): Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and OECD Education database ( <a href="#">Full dataset - Indicators, source, destination and nature of expenditure on education</a> ).
<b>1985 onwards</b>	6. ALMP: OECD Labour Market Policy database.

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### *Background information*

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

Australia's welfare 2021 (<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports-data/australias-welfare>)

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>)  
<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129552015> )

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 2009 (<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/aus/aw09/aw09.pdf> )  
<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129543825><http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=10737420537><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>)Australia's welfare 2011 (<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=10737420537> )

#### **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><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 2022

(<https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/report-on-government-services/2022>)

Report on Government Services 2021

(<https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/report-on-government-services/20201>)

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>)

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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>

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Code	Title of the programme	Description of the programme and attached notes
<b>1.</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 67 years for men and women. Age Pension age progressively increased from 65 to 67 years between 2017 and 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 Income Support Pensions	<p>This program aims to provide a regular income for Veterans and their partners/widow(er)s with limited means.</p> <p>The main payment under this program is the Service Pension which is a means tested pension paid by the Department of Veterans' Affairs to eligible veterans and their partners or widow(er)s. Service Pension is broadly equivalent to the Department of Social Services' age and disability support pensions. To be eligible, veterans must first meet the qualifying service and residency criteria. This pension may then be payable on the basis of reaching veteran pension age (age 60) or invalidity.</p> <p>Some other payments in this programme include the Veteran Payment and Income Support Supplement. The Veteran Payment provides interim financial support to veterans who lodge a claim for a 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 pension age when they make a claim, as well as meeting Australian residency requirements.</p> <p>Income Support Supplement is another means tested income support payment which provides a regular income in addition to the DVA War widow(er)'s pension for Australian war widow(er)'s with limited means.</p>



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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>Quarterly Superannuation Statistics</i> media release. 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>Further data is sourced from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) from annual returns lodged by Self-Managed Super Funds (SMSFs). This data is published on data.gov.au in the <i>SMSF statistical overviews</i>. Older data is provided from the ATO but is not available online.</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	Certain Concessions for Pensioners and Seniors Card Holders	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 were entitled to fare discounts when travelling on the Ghan, the Indian Pacific and the Overland train services. Funding ceased on 30 June 2016.
36.10.1.1.3.10	Seniors Supplement	The former Seniors Supplement for Commonwealth Seniors Health Card 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 Veterans' 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.

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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. Starting from 2016, this program was counted in a new category (36.10.1.2.1.20).
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. Starting from 2016, this program was counted in a new category (36.10.1.2.1.20).
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. Starting in 2018, these programs were combined with other aged care programs into a new category (36.10.1.2.1.22)
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. Starting from 2016, this program was counted in a new category (36.10.1.2.1.20).
36.10.1.2.1.21 Aged Care Quality	This programme aims to promote quality care for older people in Australia, 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
36.10.1.2.1.22 Aged Care Services	<p>This program grouping encompasses a range of aged care services provided to older Australians. Data include expenditure by the Department of Health and Aged Care 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.</p> <p>Note that information concerning the disaggregation of this program grouping are published by the Australian Department of Health on GEN – the one stop shop for aged care data in Australia available here: <a href="https://www.gen-agedcaredata.gov.au/https://www.gen-agedcaredata.gov.au/">https://www.gen-agedcaredata.gov.au/https://www.gen-agedcaredata.gov.au/</a>.</p> <p>For data and description of all programs covered in these expenditure data, refer to the <i>Report on the Operation of the Aged Care Act 1997</i> available here: <a href="https://www.gen-agedcaredata.gov.au/resources/publications/2005/november/report-on-the-operation-of-the-aged-care-act">https://www.gen-agedcaredata.gov.au/resources/publications/2005/november/report-on-the-operation-of-the-aged-care-act</a></p>

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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 program grouping includes aged care programs that aim 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 the National Aged Care Advocacy Program, the Community Visitors Scheme, and other support for older people in Australia.
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 the minimum standard). 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. Data provided is sourced from data reported to both the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) by self-managed superannuation funds and to the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) by regulated superannuation entities and some exempt public sector superannuation schemes. The data is published in the APRA Quarterly Superannuation Statistics and on the ATO website respectively.
<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. Eligibility for this payment was limited to women born on or before 1 July 1955. This payment closed to new recipients on 1 July 2018 and ceased completely on 1 January 2022, on this date all remaining Widow Allowance recipients were transferred to 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	Double Orphan Pension 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. Double Orphan Pension is payable to guardians of, or institutions caring for, children who have been granted refugee status and have not lived in Australia with either or both parents, and whose parents are outside of Australia or their whereabouts are unknown. An additional component of Double Orphan Pension may also be payable based on the difference between the guardian's rate of Family Tax Benefit Part A for the child and the Family Tax Benefit Part A received for the child immediately before they became a double orphan.
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

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		Income Support Supplement (ISS) may be payable to war widows/widowers who satisfy the income and assets tests and residency requirements.
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 ceased on 20 September 2020 once all remaining recipients had 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.
36.10.2.2.1.2	Veteran Funeral Benefit	<p>One off payments made by Department of Veterans' Affairs to assist in the payment of Veterans' funeral expenses. The value and eligibility requirements differ depending on the legislation that applies to the Veterans' service.</p> <p>Under the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 (VEA) a one-off payment, up to a maximum of \$2,000 to assist with the funeral costs of an eligible Veteran or dependant and may also assist with the costs of transporting the Veteran's body from the place of death to the normal place of residence.</p> <p>Under the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988 (DRCA). A one off payment up to a maximum of \$12,603.88 to assist with the funeral costs of an eligible person where death is due to service or to a service-related medical condition.</p> <p>Under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA) - A one off payment up to a maximum of \$12,603.88 to assist with the funeral costs of an eligible person where death is due to service or to a service-related medical condition. This not payable in cases where Defence has paid for the funeral of a member who died in service.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<b>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 physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairment.
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.
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

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	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.
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. 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. This payment ceased on 20 September 2020 after any remaining recipient had either transferred to JobSeeker Payment or no longer required income support.
36.10.3.1.5.3 Mobility Allowance	Mobility Allowance is a payment to income support recipients which assists people who are unable to use public transport without substantial assistance.
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 individualised components of the Helping Children with Autism (HCWA) and Better Start for Children with Disability (Better Start) programs ceased 31 March 2021 and all funding for these components has transitioned to the NDIS. A number of DSS block-funded services under HCWA and Better Start programs to support children with disability and their parents and carers were extended until 31 December 2022. This extension ensured children and families continue to receive early supports before the new National Early Childhood Program commences in late 2022. After an extended transition period, DSS funding for individual early intervention supports at the Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centres (ASELCCs) ceased on 31 March 2021. Individual early intervention supports for children provided by ASELCCs can be funded through a child's individualised NDIS Plan or directly by a family.
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 has transitioned to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and the programs ceased 31 March 2021.
National Disability Insurance Scheme	The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a national insurance scheme that provides support for Australians citizens and permanent residents with permanent and significant disability, and their families and carers. The NDIS provides these people with funds for the reasonable and necessary supports they need to live an ordinary life. The NDIS has partially or fully replaced some state and Commonwealth disability programs. It is not means-tested.
Carer Gateway	Carer Gateway is a 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

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	community. Carers have the ability to access services through face to face options and digitally through the telephone or the Carer Gateway website.
Information, Linkages and Capacity Building Program	The Information, Linkages and Capacity Building Program provides grants to eligible organisations to deliver projects in the community that benefit all Australians with disability, their carers and families. These projects build the knowledge, skills and confidence of people with disability, and improve their access to community and mainstream services.
<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	<p>Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A helps families with the cost of raising dependent children and is means tested on a family's combined adjusted taxable income (ATI). It is paid per child to families (or certain institutions at a flat rate per child) caring 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 separate ATIs of the primary and secondary earner in a family. It is paid to families for children under 13 years of age, or a single parent, grandparent or great-grandparent for children aged 13 to 15 year of age, or for children aged 16-18 years of age who are in full-time secondary study.</p>
36.10.5.1.1.10	<p>Parenting payment (Single and Partnered)</p> <p>A means tested income support payment for the principal carer of a child aged under six years if the carer is partnered or under 14 years if the carer is single.</p>
36.10.5.1.1.14	<p>Single Income Family Supplement</p> <p>The Single Income Family Supplement provides assistance of up to \$300 a 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 continuous entitlement from 1 July 2017.</p>
36.10.5.1.1.15	<p>Schoolkids Bonus</p> <p>The Schoolkids Bonus provided additional assistance for families and students to pay for education expenses such as uniforms, books, school fees, and sports registration fees. The Schoolkids Bonus was abolished with the final instalment paid in respect of 30 June 2016</p>
36.10.5.1.2.2	<p>No Jab No Pay (Maternity Immunisation Allowance)</p> <p>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 refuse to vaccinate their children are no longer eligible to receive the CCS, and the full rate of Family Tax Benefit Part A. Prior to 1 January 2016, parents could conscientiously object to child vaccination without sanction. This built on previous 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 FTB 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) have a reduction applied to their fortnightly FTB Part A child rate for each child who does not meet the immunisation requirements.</p>



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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-born or adopted child. Newborn Supplement is paid for up to 13 weeks, and Newborn Upfront Payment paid as a lump-sum at the start of the Newborn Supplement period.
36.10.5.1.2.4 Parental Leave Pay	<p>A government funded payment, at the rate of the national minimum wage, provided to eligible working parents of children born or adopted from 1 January 2011. The government funded payment is an important safety net to ensure working parents can take time off to care for their baby, but employers also play a key role in offering a separate parental leave as a workplace entitlement.</p> <p>From 1 July 2020, the entitlement (up to 18 weeks) was broken into two components: a 12 week period to be taken in the first 12 months from birth followed by 30 flexible Paid Parental Leave days which could be taken until the child's second birthday. Parental Leave Pay is available to eligible parents where a child is stillborn.</p> <p>From 1 July 2023, Parental Leave Pay was combined with Dad and Partner Pay to create a single, fully flexible payment of up to 20 weeks, with 2 weeks reserved for each parent. In certain circumstances, parents can be exempted from reserved weeks, allowing one parent to access the full entitlement. For example, where the other parent is incapable of caring for the child, or where the child needs to stay in hospital for a long period.</p> <p>Single parents are entitled to the full 20 weeks. Up to 2 weeks (10 days) of the entitlement can be taken by parents at the same time. In certain circumstances parents can take the entire entitlement together. For example, in cases of caesarean delivery, postpartum depression or multiple births.</p> <p>Parents can have periods of work in between Paid Parental Leave days to assist with gradual returns to work and balancing caring with work.</p> <p>Subject to the passage of legislation, the scheme will be progressively extended by two weeks a year from 1 July 2024, until it reaches 26 weeks from 1 July 2026. The reserved weeks will increase to four weeks from 1 July 2026 and the number of weeks parents can take at the same time will increase to 4 from 1 July 2025.</p>
36.10.5.1.2.5 Dad and Partner Pay	<p>Provides two weeks' pay at the rate of the national minimum wage to eligible working fathers or partners who care for a child born or adopted from 1 January 2013.</p> <p>From 1 July 2023, Dad and Partner Pay was combined with Parental Leave Pay to create a single, fully flexible payment of up to 20 weeks, with two weeks reserved for each parent to encourage both parents to take time off work after a birth or adoption.</p>
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 and ceased on 1 January 2022 when all remaining recipients reached Age Pension age and were automatically transferred to the Age Pension.

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36.10.5.1.3.5	Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme	<p>The Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Scheme helps the families of primary, secondary, and certain tertiary students who cannot attend an appropriate state school on a daily basis because of geographical isolation, or because the student has a disability or other health-related condition or a special education need that requires a special school program, facilities or environment.</p> <p>The AIC allowances include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic Boarding Allowance Intended to contribute towards the costs incurred by families in boarding a student away from home to have daily access to appropriate schooling and who meets an isolation condition or special need.</li> <li>• Additional Boarding Allowance A means-tested supplementary payment to provide additional support for lower-income families whose isolated student boards away from their principal family home.</li> <li>• Second Home Allowance Contributes towards the costs incurred by isolated families in maintaining a second family home for a student to have daily access to appropriate schooling.</li> <li>• Distance Education Allowance Contributes towards incidental costs incurred by isolated families whose student children are undertaking their education by distance education methods. This payment is not intended to meet the ongoing cost of provision of education (e.g. costs associated with teaching, tuition and supervision).</li> </ul>
36.10.5.2.1.9	Support for the Child Care System - Child Care Services Support	The main sub-elements of this administered item include: Community support, Child care quality support, Inclusion support, and Program support:
36.10.5.2.1.10	Support for the Child Care System - Jobs, Education and Training Child Care Fee Assistance (JETCCFA)	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.
36.10.5.2.1.11	Child Care Fee Assistance - Child Care Benefit (CCB)	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.
36.10.5.2.1.12	Child Care Fee Assistance - Child Care Rebate (CCR)	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.
36.10.5.2.1.13	Child Care Fee Assistance – Child Care Subsidy (CCS)	The Child Care Subsidy (CCS) 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 age and number of children in the family, the hours of care, the type of care used and the fee charged for the care. In 2023-24, the standard subsidy rate for families earning \$80,000 or less is 90 per cent of the actual fee charged, or of the relevant hourly rate cap (whichever is lower). For every \$5,000 a family's income increases, the subsidy rate decreases by one per cent, reaching zero per cent at \$530,000. Families with a combined income at or above \$530,000 receive no CCS. Families with multiple children aged five or under are eligible to receive a higher rate of subsidy for their second and subsequent children, up to a maximum of 95 per cent. From December 2021 the annual limit of CCS per child was removed. Please note these figures are indexed annually.



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	Child Care Fee Assistance - Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS)	From 2 July 2018, the Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS) has provided 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.
36.10.5.2.1.14	National Partnerships on Early Childhood Education and Care - Indigenous Early Childhood Development and Family Centres	The National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Early Childhood Development was signed in 2009. Through the agreement, state and 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.
36.10.5.2.1.15	National Quality Framework (NQF) for Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC)	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.
36.10.5.2.1.18	National Partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education	Under the National Partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education (2018-2021), the Australian Government provided a contribution to states and territories to ensure all children in year before full time school have access to at least 15 hours of preschool each week (600 hours per year). The National Partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education ceased in December 2021 and final payments were made before 30 June 2022. The Agreement was replaced by the Preschool Reform Agreement, which commenced on 1 January 2022.
36.10.5.2.1.19	Preschool Reform Agreement	The Australian Government has committed to ongoing funding for preschool, with the first four years to be delivered through the Preschool Reform Agreement (2022-2025). The Preschool Reform Agreement provides funding to states and territories to maintain universal access to at least 15 hours of quality preschool each week (600 hours per year) in the year before full time school. It also supports an important, collaborative reform agenda to improve preschool attendance and outcomes for children.
36.10.5.2.3.6	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Organisations 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 Families and Children Activity from 1 July 2014.
36.10.5.2.3.9	Families and Children Activity	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. This is a grant program (i.e. non-government organisations are funded to deliver services) it is not payment for individuals. Many programs and services funded under the Families and Children Activity are targeted to families experiencing multiple and complex vulnerabilities.
36.10.5.2.3.10	Stronger Places, Stronger People	<i>Stronger Places, Stronger People</i> is a community-led place-based initiative being implemented by the Australian Government in partnership with state and territory governments and 10 communities across Australia. The initiative seeks to demonstrate that community-led collective impact practice can create better outcomes for children and their families and can disrupt disadvantage in participating communities over time.
	Stillborn Baby Payment	From 1 March 2014, families who earn below the 6-month Stillborn Baby Payment income limit or who are eligible for Family Tax Benefit Part A for another child within 12 months of the stillbirth may receive a Stillborn Baby

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	Payment . An individual is not eligible for Stillborn Baby Payment where they or their partner is receiving Parental Leave Pay for the stillborn child
Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA)	The TILA is a nationally available one-off payment of up to \$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 Transition to Independence Plan.

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6.	ACTIVE LABOUR MARKET POLICIES SERVICES	
	See OECD Labour Market Policy database.	
36.10.6.0.1.7	Harvest Trail Services, Harvest Trail Information Service	Harvest Trail Services (HTS) deliver job placement services and connect workers with horticultural employers in 16 Harvest Areas across Australia. All Australians and temporary visa holders with general working rights in Australia are eligible for HTS and can be assisted by a provider to find harvest work. HTS is supported by the national Harvest Trail Information Service (HTIS) that provides comprehensive, up-to-date information about harvest work opportunities, working conditions, transport and accommodation around Australia. A Harvest Trail website is also used to provide information.
36.10.6.0.1.9	Community Support Program (CSP)	<p>The CSP is designed to provide a sustainable model for private sponsorship of refugees that complements, rather than competes with, the existing Refugee and SHP categories. It enables communities and businesses, as well as families and individuals, to propose humanitarian visa applicants with employment prospects and to support new humanitarian arrivals. It was designed to harness community support for refugees and increase the chances of strong integration and settlement outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Priority is given to refugees with good settlement prospects who are between 18 and 50 years of age and have adequate English, who have an offer of employment (or a pathway that leads to employment), and/or personal attributes that would enable them to become financially self-sufficient within 12 months of arrival.</li><li>• A network of Approved Proposing Organisations (APOs) across Australia are responsible for screening potential applicants for eligibility, linking applicants with employment and community support, managing the visa application lodgement process and ensuring the provision and management of settlement services to entrants in Australia. Each visa application also requires Australian supporters to fund and assist CSP entrants during their first year of settlement in Australia.</li></ul>
	Community Refugee Integration and Settlement Pilot (CRISP)	<p>The Australian Government is trialling an alternative approach to the settlement of refugees, by providing a formal opportunity for community members to welcome unlinked refugees into Australia and directly support their settlement journey and integration into communities. Under the CRISP, refugees receive settlement support from trained community groups for 12 months from the date of their arrival</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The first refugees to be supported through the CRISP model arrived in Australia in August 2022. The pilot aims to settle up to 1,500 refugees before it concludes on 30 June 2025.</li><li>• The Department has contracted the University of Queensland to evaluate the effectiveness of CRISP in achieving strong settlement outcomes for participants. Initial findings are largely positive for both refugees and volunteers.</li></ul>
36.10.6.0.1.14	Stream services A-C/Workforce Australia	<p>Workforce Australia began 4 July 2022, replacing jobactive.</p> <p>Workforce Australia is an employment service that helps Australian to find and keep a job, change jobs or create their own job. See <a href="http://www.workforceaustralia.gov.au/">www.workforceaustralia.gov.au/</a></p> <p>Workforce Australia includes a digital employment service and platform, Workforce Australia Online, and a network of providers delivering personalised and tailored support, Workforce Australia Services.</p> <p>Workforce Australia Online provides an open access service for all Australians to look and apply for jobs and access online employment support, regardless of their employment circumstances and income support received.</p>

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	<p>It also supports people on income support with mutual obligation requirements, who are job-ready to self-manage, with additional assistance available from the Digital Services Contact Centre.</p> <p>For people who need, or would like, personalised case management support, Workforce Australia Services will connect them with a provider to become job-ready and connected with suitable employment. In certain locations specialist providers deliver personalised services to specific cohorts, including culturally and linguistically diverse, Indigenous Australians, ex-offenders, and refugees.</p> <p>Jobactive providers work with clients to create an Employment Plan tailored to individual needs. Jobactive replaced Job Services Australia on 1 July 2015.</p>
Pathway to Work	The Pathway to Work Program trialled activities aimed at stimulating demand for mature age workers by leveraging existing funding and programs. The small-scale initiative commenced on 1 July 2018 and ran across three years, concluding on 30 June 2021. Pathway to Work was funded primarily by jobactive providers through the Employment Fund, with some employers or organisations contributing to the projects they were participating in, including providing in-kind supports.
36.10.6.0.1.15 Local Jobs Program	The Local Jobs Program brings together expertise, resources, and access to funding at the local level to focus on reskilling, upskilling and employment pathways to support Australians into work. It currently operates in 51 employment regions. Ongoing procurement activity is continuing and will result in further commitments for activities coming on board.
36.10.6.0.1.18 ParentsNext	ParentsNext is a pre-employment program that aims to help parents to plan and prepare for employment by the time their youngest child reaches school age. Parents receive personalised assistance from ParentsNext providers to help them identify their education and employment goals, improve their work readiness and link them to activities and services in the local community. The program was first delivered as a trial in 10 locations from 1 July 2015 before being rolled out nationally on 1 July 2018. ParentsNext will cease on 31 October 2024. A new voluntary pre-employment service called Parent Pathways will start from 1 November 2024.
36.10.6.0.1.19 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.
36.10.6.0.1.20 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.
36.1.6.0.1.21 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.
36.10.6.0.1.24 Youth Advisory Sessions	Youth Advisory Sessions are an initiative that offers young people aged 15-24 who are participating in Workforce Australia Online Services access to up to three one-on-one coaching sessions with a Transition to Work provider. Sessions are tailored to meet the needs of the young person and may include topics such as interview preparation assistance; career advice; help to connect with education, training, or other Government assistance; support to maintain resilience while looking for work; and more.
36.10.6.0.1.25 Time to Work	The Time to Work Employment Service commenced in the 2017-18 FY and was a national voluntary in-prison pre-employment service. It assisted sentenced Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults in custody prepare for employment on their release, improve the likelihood of connecting with post-release employment services and support post-release employment services

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		<p>providers place them in jobs. The service was delivered in 63 non-remote prisons before ending on 30 June 2024..</p> <p>In remote areas, the Time to Work Employment Service was extended in eight locations to 30 June 2025, in line with arrangements for the Community Development program.</p> <p>In the 2024–25 Budget, the Australian Government announced an investment of \$76.2 million over five years for a new First Nations prison to employment program. The new program will commence on 1 July 2025 in remote and non-remote locations to support First Nations people from six months pre-release to 12 months post-release transition out of the justice system and into the community by providing personalised, holistic support and mentoring. This support aims to help people re-establish themselves in the community through connections to language, Country and kin, and reconnect them with health, housing and other social services to improve their employment opportunities.</p> <p>The new program will leverage lessons learned from the Time to Work Employment Service as well as expanding eligibility to include those on remand and young people from 15 years of age in juvenile justice facilities</p>
36.10.6.0.1.28	Indigenous Employment Programs (IEP) under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) (from 2014-15 onwards)	The Indigenous Employment Programs (IEP) comprised of the Vocational Training and Employment Centres (VTEC), Employment Parity Initiative (EPI) and Tailored Assistance Employment Grants (TAEG). The IEPs provided complementary Indigenous specific employment programs funded through the Indigenous Advancement Strategy from 2014-2015. The EPIs ceased on 30 June 2022 and the EPI ceased on 30 June 2022.
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 and digital skills through the provision of training with the expectation that such improvements will enable them to participate more effectively in further training or employment.
36.10.6.0.2.9	Skills and Training Incentive	From 1 January 2019, the Skills and Training Incentive provided up to 75 per cent of the course cost, up to \$2200 (GST inclusive) towards training costs related to an occupation in national shortage or with a future recruitment demand rating at or above the economy average, as identified on the Jobs and Skills Australia's Skills Priority List, to assist mature aged Australians (aged 40 years and older) to build skills and remain in the workforce longer. Either the Participant or their employer were required to fund the balance of the training costs to ensure joint investment in skills development. Up to 7,500 Incentives were available each year. The Skills and Training Incentive was directly linked to the Skills Checkpoint for Older Workers Program. Both the Skills and Training Incentive and the Skills Checkpoint for Older Workers Program ended on 30 June 2024.
36.10.6.0.2.2	Career Transition Assistance	Supports people 45 years and over to build confidence and skills to become more competitive in their local labour market. The program is voluntary and focusses on identifying existing and transferable skills, building functional digital literacy, tailoring resumes and practicing job application and interview techniques to assist people to re-enter the workforce or change career.
36.10.6.0.2.4	Employability Skills Training	A pre-employment program that helps people develop the skills that employers want, build job search and workplace skills, and explore career options. Training can also include industry-specific skills, helping people to become more competitive in their local labour market.
36.10.6.0.2.5	JobTrainer/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.
36.10.6.0.2.8	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

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36.10.6.0.2.10 Youth Jobs PaTH (Employability Skills Training)	Employability Skills Training enhances the work readiness of individuals, including young people, by providing intensive pre-employment training. Employability Skills Training equips individuals to understand and meet the expectations of employers during the recruitment process and in the workplace. It helps individuals gain advanced job search skills and pursue employment opportunities in their local labour market. Employability Skills Training emphasises industry focused training to help individuals learn about local industries, the skills they need, and how to get a job in an industry that interests them. Youth Jobs PaTH (EST) ceased on 30 June 2022.
36.10.6.0.2.11 Youth Jobs PaTH (Internships)	The Youth Jobs PaTH Internships program provides eligible young people with the opportunity to undertake a voluntary structured work trial placement. It is an opportunity for participants to demonstrate their skills to the host business, while gaining vocational skills and improving their employment prospects. Youth Jobs PaTH (Internships) ceased on 30 June 2022.
36.10.6.0.2.13 Transition to Work (TtW) service	The Transition to Work (TtW) service provides intensive, pre-employment and employment support to disadvantaged young people aged 15-24 years who are at risk of not making a successful transition from school to work. Participants receive intensive support to finish their education, connect with further education or training, connect with community organisations and other government agencies to access support, improve their work readiness and to help them into work (including Apprenticeships or Traineeships). 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 skills development that is directly relevant to needs of local employers and local labour market conditions.
36.10.6.0.2.14 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 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
36.10.6.0.2.18 Career Revive	The Career Revive initiative provided support to medium and large businesses to better attract and retain women returning to the workforce after a career break. Career Revive has supported 58 businesses over four intakes from July 2019 to 30 June 2023. This includes 32 regional businesses, 17 regional & metro businesses and 9 metro businesses.
36.10.6.0.4.1 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.
36.10.6.0.4.8 Youth Bonus Wage Subsidy	The demand driven Youth Bonus wage subsidy of \$10,000 is available to support disadvantaged participants aged 15-24 who are serviced by a provider in Workforce Australia Services or ParentsNext, and Participants aged 15-26 with Mutual Obligation Requirements in Transition to Work.
36.10.6.0.5.4 Disability Employment Services (DES) – Employment Services Support (ESS)	DES assists people with disability, injury or health condition to secure and maintain sustainable employment. DES-ESS provides assistance to people with permanent disability and who need regular, ongoing support to keep a job.
36.10.6.0.5.5 Employment Assistance and Other Services (EAOS)	EAOS supports employers to employ people with disabilities. This includes JobAccess, Australia's national hub for workplace and employment information for people with disability, employers and service providers, as well as funding to directly support people with disability to retain and maintain employment.



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36.10.6.0.6.1	Work for the Dole	Work for the Dole (WfD) activities help people gain the skills, experience and confidence needed to move to secure and sustainable employment by providing work-like experiences that benefit or contribute to the community. WfD activities are hosted by not-for-profit organisations/charities, local, state, territory or Australian Government organisations or agencies, or a not-for-profit arm of for-profit organisations.
36.10.6.0.6.2	Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)/ Measures for Indigenous Australians (BDP)	The Community Development Program (CDP) is a remote employment program administered by the Australian Government. The CDP aims to support job seekers in remote Australia to build skills, address barriers and contribute to their communities through work-like activities.
36.10.6.0.1.22	Community Development Program	The Australian Government has committed to replacing the CDP with a new program developed in partnership with First Nations people. The new program will give communities more control to determine local projects and increase economic opportunities and jobs in remote areas. The CDP replaced the Remote Jobs and Communities Program (RJCP) on 1 July 2015. The RJCP replaced the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) on 1 July 2013. CDEP was established primarily as an income support and community development program for remote Aboriginal communities.
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.
36.10.6.0.7.1	New Business Assistance with NEIS/ Self-Employment Assistance	New Business Assistance with NEIS (formerly New Enterprise Incentive Scheme) helps people to start and develop their small business by providing accredited small business training and personalised mentoring from a NEIS provider. Participants may receive NEIS Allowance for up to 39 weeks and NEIS Rental Assistance for up to 26 weeks (if eligible). From 1 July 2022, the Self-Employment Assistance program replaced the New Business Assistance with NEIS program.
	Exploring Being My Own Boss Workshops	Exploring Being My Own Boss (EBMOB) Workshops gave people interested in starting their own business a taste of self-employment. Workshops were delivered nationally by NEIS providers and cover 10 topics delivered over two weeks (full-time) or four weeks (part-time). From 1 July 2022, EBMOB Workshops were incorporated into the Self-Employment Assistance program.
	Entrepreneurship Facilitators	Entrepreneurship Facilitators provided practical assistance to support and encourage people to start a business as a way to create their own job. Entrepreneurship Facilitators delivered services across 23 locations in Australia. The Entrepreneurship Facilitator program ceased on 1 July 2023.
	Self-Employment Assistance	The Self-Employment Assistance program provides a range of services for current and aspiring business owners, ranging from flexible individual Business Advice Sessions to a structured 12-month package of Small Business Coaching. As part of Small Business Coaching, participants can access up to \$300 to cover eligible business costs. Eligible Small Business Coaching Participants can access the Self-Employment allowance. The Self-Employment Assistance program replaces the New Business Assistance with NEIS. Additionally, the Exploring Being My Own Boss (EMOB) were also incorporated into the Self-Employment Assistance program from 1 July 2022.
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

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	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 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:



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Building capacity of the trainer workforce through the Language Literacy and Numeracy Practitioners Scholarships Programme. (this programme is now closed)</li> <li>- Professional development workshops to support the Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF)</li> <li>-</li> <li>- Mapping of training packages to the Australian Core Skills Framework</li> </ul>
	Productive Ageing through Community Education (PAACE)	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 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.
<b>7.</b>	<b>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 and ceased on 1 January 2022 when all remaining recipients reached Age Pension age and were automatically transferred to the Age Pension.
36.10.7.1.1.11	FEG/ EESS / GEERS / SEESA	<p>The Fair Entitlements Guarantee (FEG) is a legislative scheme of last resort 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 (\$2,673 from 1 July 2023).</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.

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8. HOUSING		
36.10.8.2.1.1	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.
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. This program ceased in 2012.
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 per allocation to approved participants, ahead of the scheme closing in June 2026.
36.10.8.2.1.12	National Housing and Homelessness Agreement	The National Housing and Homelessness Agreement commenced on 1 July 2018 and current funding arrangements expire in 2023. This agreement contributes 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 provides around \$1.6 billion per year to state and territory governments. 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 indexed. States and territories are required to match homelessness funding under this agreement.
36.10.8.2.1.16	Reconnect	Reconnect is a community based early intervention and prevention program for young people aged 12 to 18 years (or 12 to 21 years in the case of newly arrived youth), who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and their families. Reconnect aims to prevent youth homelessness by stabilising and improving a young person's housing situation and their engagement with family, education, training, employment and local community. Reconnect is delivered by 70 organisations under 101 activities nationally, and helps around 7,000 young people each year. In 2022-23, 80 per cent of participants reported improved circumstances after being supported by Reconnect.
36.10.8.2.1.17	Safe Places Emergency Accommodation Program	The Safe Places Emergency Accommodation Program (Safe Places) provides capital works grants to support the renovation, building or purchase of new crisis or emergency accommodation places for women and children experiencing family and domestic violence. Safe Places funding is being provided across all states and territories to create safe emergency accommodation, in remote, regional and metropolitan areas of high unmet

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		need. It will support the delivery of around 1,500 safe places for women and children experiencing family and domestic violence when completed.
36.10.8.2.1.18	Housing Australia Future Fund	The Government's \$10 billion Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF) will create a secure, ongoing funding pipeline for social and affordable rental housing. Returns from the HAFF will help deliver 30,000 new social and affordable rental homes in the fund's first five years. This includes 4,000 homes for women and children impacted by family and domestic violence (FDV) or older women at risk of homelessness. In addition, HAFF returns over the first five years will help address acute housing needs, including: \$200 million for the repair, maintenance and improvement of housing in remote Indigenous communities; \$100 million for crisis and transitional housing for women and children impacted by FDV and older women at risk of homelessness; and \$30 million to build housing for veterans who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.
36.10.8.2.1.19	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. This program ceased in 2018.
36.10.8.2.1.20	National Partnership for Remote Housing Northern Territory	This focuses on addressing overcrowding, improving health and the quality of housing, in 73 remote Northern Territory communities and the Alice Springs Town Camps. The agreement is a partnership between the Northern Territory state government and the Australian government, with Indigenous Land Councils and Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory as part of a Joint Steering Committee to achieve a genuine and mutually respectful partnership. This program ceased in 2024.
36.10.8.2.1.21	Northern Territory Remote Housing Federal Funding Agreement	The Agreement supports the delivery of remote housing in the Northern Territory, improving the condition of housing and reducing overcrowding in communities with significant levels of need. The agreement is a partnership between the Northern Territory state government and the Australian government, with Indigenous Land Councils and Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory part of a Joint Steering Committee to achieve a genuine and mutually respectful partnership.
<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.
	Crisis Payment	A one-off payment to income support recipients who have experienced an extreme circumstance and are in severe financial hardship.
36.10.9.1.1.2	Emergency Relief	<p>Emergency Relief (ER) providers offer financial and/or material aid to people in immediate financial crisis. Assistance offered by ER providers varies, and may include: food, clothing, vouchers (e.g. for fuel or medicine), part-payment of utility bills, budgeting assistance, and referral to other services. Access to ER is free, and there are no citizenship or residency requirements to access ER.</p> <p>Under the Financial Wellbeing and Capability (FWC) Activity, the Australian Government is providing approximately \$51 million a year in base funding for ER nationally.</p> <p>From 2019-20 to 2023-24, the Government also provided the following additional ER funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$26 million for Commonwealth-funded ER providers in response to floods and cost of living pressures;</li> <li>• \$10 million for Commonwealth-funded ER providers located in flood-affected regions in response to the February - March 2022 NSW and SE QLD Floods;</li> <li>• \$500,000 for the Australian Red Cross (ARC) to deliver ER and counselling support to eligible temporary migrants affected by the floods;</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$97 million, under additional targeted funding to respond to the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic shared among 196 Commonwealth-funded ER providers;</li> <li>• \$24.3 million for ARC, under additional targeted funding to respond to the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, to deliver ER and counselling support to temporary migrant; and</li> <li>• \$35 million in 2019-20, shared among 68 Commonwealth-funded ER providers, to increase services in bushfire-affected areas.</li> </ul>
Food Relief	<p>The Food Relief (FR) program increases Commonwealth-funded ER providers' access to a cost-effective supply of food items. The three Commonwealth-funded FR providers, Foodbank Australia, SecondBite and OzHarvest, use a range of methods to achieve this, for example by rescuing surplus food from corporate donors and redistributing it to ER providers throughout Australia.</p> <p>Under the FWC Activity, the Government is providing approximately \$8.8 million for FR nationally, from 1 January 2019 to 30 June 2025. From 2019-20 to 2021-22, the Government also provided the following additional FR funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$5.5 million for the 3 FR providers to support Commonwealth funded ER providers in response to cost of living pressures;</li> <li>• \$4 million for the 3 FR providers to support Commonwealth funded ER providers in flood-affected areas through increased food supplies;</li> <li>• \$27 million, under additional targeted funding to respond to the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic so the FR providers could increase their workforce, food supplies and transport options nationally; and</li> <li>• \$5 million to increase FR to bushfire-affected areas.</li> </ul>
Commonwealth Financial Counselling	<p>Commonwealth Financial Counselling (CFC) services are delivered by community and local government organisations to help people in personal financial difficulty address their financial problems, manage debt and make informed choices about their money. Services are voluntary, free and confidential.</p> <p>The type of assistance offered by CFC includes: the National Debt Helpline, Problem Gambling Financial Counselling, Money Support Hubs and capability building projects to support the financial counselling sector.</p> <p>Under the Financial Wellbeing and Capability (FWC) Activity, the Australian Government is providing more than \$45 million a year in base funding for Commonwealth Financial Counselling services. From 2019-20 to 2021-22, the Government also provided the following additional financial counselling funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$5.2 million to boost Financial Counselling services across flood affected areas;</li> <li>• \$20 million was provided to increase the capacity of financial counselling providers, including the National Debt Helpline, and more readily build the capability of the sector, under additional targeted funding to respond to the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic; and</li> <li>• \$10 million has been allocated for Financial Counselling in response to the Black Summer bushfires.</li> </ul>
FWC Microfinance – No Interest Loans Scheme (NILS)	<p>The No Interest Loans Scheme (NILS) provides access to fair and safe loans for eligible people, with no interest, fees or charges. The loans are a safe alternative to high interest products such as payday loans. The repayments are arranged with clients so that they are affordable. The NILS provides support for a range of loan purposes including furniture, whitegoods, car repairs, education and relocation/travel in circumstances of family domestic violence.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under the Financial Wellbeing and Capability (FWC) Activity, the Australian Government is providing more than \$80 million for the delivery of NILS over 1 January 2019 to 30 June 2025.</li> </ul>
36.10.9.1.1.5 Austudy	Austudy is a means tested income support payment providing financial help for those aged 25 years or more and studying or undertaking an Australian Apprenticeship full-time.
36.10.9.1.1.6 ABSTUDY – Indigenous Students	The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Study Assistance Scheme, ABSTUDY provides a range assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to stay at school or go on to further studies or training. ABSTUDY Living Allowance is means tested income support payment to help eligible students and apprentices with living costs while studying or training. A number of supplementary payments are available under the scheme, to assist with additional costs.
36.10.9.1.1.7 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.
36.10.9.1.1.8 Utilities Allowance	A supplementary payment to assist with household bills for recipients of Disability Support Pensioners who are aged under 21 and who have no dependent children.
36.10.9.1.1.10 Essential Medical Equipment Payment	An annual lump sum supplementary payment to assist people who have additional home energy costs due to their disability or medical condition.
36.10.9.2.2.6 Social And Community Services (SACS) Equal Remuneration Order (ERO) funding	<p>The Australian Government provides social and community sector (SACS) supplementation payments to support frontline service workers in the housing and homelessness sectors to meet their ERO wage responsibilities under the 2012 Fair Work Australia decision.</p> <p>The SACS Pay Equity Special Account ceased on 30 June 2021 as per the Social and Community Services Pay Equity Special Account Act 2012 (Cth).</p> <p>The Australian Government has committed an additional \$124.7 million from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2023 under the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement.</p>
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	<p>The Department of Home Affairs also administers the Free Interpreting Service (FIS) and the Free Translating Service (FTS)</p> <p>The FIS is delivered by TIS National on behalf of the Australian Government, providing eligible groups with access to interpreters to communicate with their clients who have limited or no English language proficiency. Access to the FIS is not time-limited and is available on an ongoing basis to anyone in Australia who holds a Medicare card.</p> <p>The FTS allows people settling permanently in Australia to have up to ten documents translated within the first two years of their eligible visa grant date, at no cost. Eligible documents include those that will assist their participation in community engagement, employment and education and community engagement.</p>

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36,19.9.2.2.24	Humanitarian Settlement Program (HSP)	<p>The Humanitarian Settlement Program (HSP) supports humanitarian entrants and other eligible visa holders during their initial settlement in Australia. It helps new arrivals to integrate into Australian life by building the skills and knowledge they need to become self-reliant and active members of the community.</p> <p>The HSP is delivered on behalf of the Australian Government by contracted service providers located in each state and territory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clients receive support tailored to their individual needs, strengths and goals. Support generally includes meeting clients when they arrive in Australia, help to find accommodation, a package of basic household goods, assistance to access mainstream and specialist support services, and connecting with the local community.</li> </ul>
36.10.9.2.26	Grants for Community Settlement	<p>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.</p>
	Community Connectedness	<p>The Strong and Resilient Communities Activity (SARC) aims to build strong, resilient, cohesive and harmonious communities to ensure that individuals, families and communities have the opportunity to thrive. Currently, grants rounds are focussed on funding activities that improve the social and economic participation of vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals.</p> <p>The SARC – Inclusive Communities (SARC – IC) grants aim to support vulnerable and disadvantaged people on pathways to self-reliance and empowerment through local, community-driven solutions that support them to participate socially and economically by providing grant funding for one-off, time limited projects of up to 2 years that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ support young people 12 to 18 years who are disengaged, or at risk of disengaging, from education to reconnect with their community, school, training and/or employment</li> <li>○ support people with disability to participate in the community, and work towards becoming or remaining independent and engaged in the economy and/or society</li> <li>○ support women who experience, or are at risk of experiencing isolation or discrimination to participate in the community and/or economy and increase their self-agency</li> <li>○ support people who are unemployed to increase participation in their community and/or increase their capacity to engage in employment, training, or existing employment services.</li> </ul> <p>SARC – IC is not designed to support ongoing service delivery.</p> <p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australian Longitudinal Studies</li> </ul>
36.10.9.2.2.36	Payments under Special Circumstances	<p>Payments under special circumstances include Act of Grace payments and ex-gratia payments to individuals and families affected by disasters and other crises.</p>
	Financial Wellbeing and Capability Program	<p>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.</p>
36.10.9.2.2.37	Breaking the cycle of drug and alcohol abuse in Indigenous communities	<p>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</p>



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	community, and provide prevention programmes to tackle youth substance abuse. This programme ended in June 2014.
36.10.9.2.2.38 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation (The Healing Foundation)	The Healing Foundation targets the need for healing in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, focusing on the needs of the Stolen Generations. The Healing 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. <i>Expenditure for this item is included under 36.10.9.2.2.41 Indigenous Advancement Strategy</i>
36.10.9.2.2.39 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.
National Partnership on Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment	The National Partnership Agreement that was established in 2015, and has been extended to 2024. The Agreement provides supplementary Funding to the Northern Territory Government to fund activities and services to improve outcomes in schooling, community safety, health, housing and provide access to interpreter services and job opportunities for adults.
36.10.9.2.2.40 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 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. 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.
36.10.9.2.2.41 Indigenous Advancement Strategy	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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Jobs, Land and the Economy – The objectives of this program are to enhance Indigenous Australians economic rights, improve employment and pathways to jobs, foster Indigenous business and assist Indigenous people to generate economic and social benefits from effective use of their land and waters, particularly in remote areas.</li> <li>2) Children and Schooling – The objectives of this program are to support early childhood development and wellbeing, school attendance, attainment and improved post school pathways, particularly in remote Indigenous communities. This program includes measures to improve access to further education.</li> <li>3) Safety and Wellbeing – The objectives of this program are to improve mental health and wellbeing outcomes and ensure Indigenous people, including young Indigenous Australians, enjoy similar levels of physical, emotional and social wellbeing enjoyed by other Australians, and are safe in their homes, families and communities</li> </ol>

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	<p>4) Culture and Capability – The objectives of this program are to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to maintain their culture, participate equally in the economic and social life of the nation and ensuring that Indigenous organisations are capable of delivering quality services to their clients, particularly in remote areas</p> <p>5) Remote Australia Strategies – The objectives of this program are to deliver flexible, tailored local solutions and discrete infrastructure projects in remote Australia. This aims to address the disadvantage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in remote communities by supporting IAS priority areas of schooling, employment and community safety.</p> <p>6) Evaluation and Research: The objective of program 1.6 is to use evaluation and research to support the self-determination and aspirations of Indigenous Australians and build the evidence base to support impactful policies and programs funded through the Indigenous Advancement Strategy.</p>
36.10.9.2.2.47 Remote Indigenous Internet Training Activity (RIITA)	The Remote Indigenous Internet Training Activity- supports internet access, training and essential internet infrastructure in remote Indigenous communities until the activity ceased on 30 June 2018. Services provided under RIITA in some remote communities continue to be supported through the Remote Indigenous Communities Telecommunications (RICT) activity, which provides voice and internet services in up to 450 remote Indigenous communities.
National Partnership on Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment	The National Partnership Agreement that was established in 2015, and has been extended to 2024. The Agreement provides supplementary Funding to the Northern Territory Government to fund activities and services to improve outcomes in schooling, community safety, health, housing and provide access to interpreter services and job opportunities for adults.