

# 15 Ageing, need for assistance and providers of assistance

This chapter examines the level and profile of need for assistance and the main sources of assistance among people with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households. Comparisons are made between people ageing with an early onset disability (before 18 years) and people who acquired their disability later in life.

Section 15.1 briefly discusses the ABS disability survey data on need for assistance. Section 15.2 presents an analysis of the level and profile of need for assistance, followed by an examination of changes between 1993 and 1998 in Section 15.3. Section 15.4 focuses on need for assistance among people ageing with a disability. The final section summarises the findings of the chapter.

## 15.1 ABS survey data on need for assistance

In the 1998 ABS disability survey, people with a disability and people aged 60 years or over without a disability were asked questions about their need for assistance with various tasks associated with daily activities. The tasks were grouped into ten types of activities, listed in Table 15.1. Nine of these ten activity types were included in the two previous disability surveys (1988 and 1993), while the need for guidance was added in the 1998 survey. Need for guidance refers to need for assistance with making and maintaining relationships, coping with emotions, and making decisions or thinking through problems. Self-care, mobility and communication were designated in the survey as 'core activities'. 'Personal activities' were defined as the three core activities plus health care (ABS 1999).

Survey respondents could report the need for assistance with more than one task or type of activity. Need for assistance is defined as needing help or supervision with daily activities due to disability or old age. Where a person cannot cook meals or drive, for example, because the person has never learned these skills or has not been accustomed to performing these activities, the person is not considered as having a relevant need for assistance (ABS 1999: 70).

It should be noted that, given the survey definitions of severe and profound core activity restrictions, which are based largely on need for assistance (see Section 11.1), most people identified as having severe or profound core activity restriction reported needing help with one or more activities (see middle section of Table 15.2).

## 15.2 Need for assistance and main provider of assistance

### Activities with which assistance needed

In 1998, 958,000 people (5.1% of Australians) with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households reported need for assistance with at least one of the ten

activities described in Table 15.1 (Table 15.2). This figure included 633,400 people aged under 65 (3.9% of the population of that age) and 324,600 people aged 65 or more (14.3% of the population of that age). Overall, need for assistance was most commonly reported with mobility (3.9% of the total population), property maintenance (3.0%), health care (2.9%),

**Table 15.1: Activities and tasks of daily life addressed in the 1998 ABS disability survey**

Activities	Tasks
Self-care <sup>(a)</sup>	Showering/bathing Dressing Eating Toileting
Mobility <sup>(a)</sup>	Getting into or out of bed/chair Moving about usual place of residence Moving about a place away from usual residence Ability to use public transport Walking 200 metres Walking up and down stairs without a rail Bending to pick something up off the floor
Communication <sup>(a)</sup>	Understanding family/friends Being understood by family/friends Understanding strangers Being understood by strangers
Health care	Foot care Taking medications/administering injections Dressing wounds Using medical machinery Manipulating muscles or limbs
Housework	Household chores such as: Washing Vacuuming Dusting
Property maintenance	Changing light bulbs, tap washers, car registration stickers Making minor home repairs Mowing lawns, watering, pruning shrubs, light weeding, planting Removing rubbish
Paperwork	Reading or writing tasks such as: Checking bills or bank statements Writing letters Filling in forms
Meal preparation	Preparing ingredients Cooking food
Transport	Going to places away from the usual place of residence
Guidance	Interacting, making and maintaining relationships Coping with emotions Making decisions, thinking through problems Managing behaviour (children aged under 15 years, people in cared accommodation)

(a) Self-care, mobility and communication were defined as core activities in the survey.

Source: ABS 1999.

self-care (2.8%) and transport (2.8%) (Table 15.2). It should be noted that some people with a severe or profound core activity restriction who reported a need for help with core activity might not have reported a need for help with other activities, such as housework or paperwork, because they do not do these activities. People who reported need for help with only non-core activities were not included in this analysis, because of the focus on the needs of people with a severe or profound core activity restriction.

There were differences in the profile of need for assistance between people aged under 65 and people aged 65 or more. The middle section of Table 15.2 shows the number of people needing assistance as a percentage of people with a severe or profound core activity restriction. The proportion needing assistance with self-care was substantially higher for people aged under 65 (56.8%) than for people aged 65 or over (47.7%). The proportions needing assistance with communication and personal guidance were also substantially higher for people aged under 65. However, for all other activity types higher proportions of people aged 65 or over reported need for assistance in comparison with those aged under 65 (Table 15.2).

For people aged under 65 with a severe or profound core activity restriction, the activities with which need for assistance was most commonly reported were mobility (70.9%), self-care (56.8%) and health care (50.6%). Of children aged under 15, 71.6% needed guidance, 63.3% needed assistance with communication and 59.3% needed help with self-care (Table 15.2).

For people aged 65 or over with a severe or profound core activity restriction, the activities with which need for assistance was most commonly reported were mobility (84.0%), property maintenance (76.8%) and transport (71.3%) (Table 15.2).

The bottom section of Table 15.2 shows the number of people needing assistance as a percentage of the total population in each age group. The proportion reporting need for assistance was higher for people aged 65 or over than for people aged under 65 for all activity types, reflecting the higher prevalence of disability among people aged 65 or over.

## **Need for assistance with core activities**

In 1998, 386,700 people with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households reported need for assistance with more than one core activity. Of those, 73,000 needed assistance with all three core activities (self-care, mobility and communication) (Table 15.3).

Of people aged under 65 with a severe or profound core activity restriction, 264,300 (41.6%) reported need for assistance with more than one core activity, with 56,000 (8.8%) needing help with all three core activities. Among those aged 65 or over, 122,400 people (37.6%) reported need for assistance with more than one core activity, with 17,000 (5.2%) needing help with all three core activities. Nearly a quarter of children aged under 15 with a severe or profound core activity restriction needed assistance with all three core activities—this was a substantially higher proportion than in any other age group (Table 15.3).

For people needing assistance with only one core activity, communication was the most commonly reported activity for children aged under 15, and mobility was the most commonly reported in all other age groups. Among people needing assistance with two core activities, self-care and mobility was the most common combination, reported by 175,800 people aged under 65 and 97,100 people aged 65 or over (Table 15.3).

**Table 15.2: People with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households: activity type in which assistance needed, by age, Australia, 1998<sup>(a)(b)</sup>**

	Age group							
	0–14	15–19	20–29	30–44	45–64	Total <65	65+	All ages
	<b>Number ('000)</b>							
Self-care	85.2	9.7	22.6	82.5	161.2	361.2	155.2	516.4
Mobility	72.9	22.7	39.7	105.3	210.3	451.0	273.6	724.6
Communication	90.9	12.7	10.3	15.4	*9.0	138.3	28.6	166.9
Health care	72.7	14.0	20.6	68.8	145.8	321.9	216.4	538.3
Housework	n.a.	11.4	19.8	76.6	144.8	252.6	226.2	478.8
Property maintenance	n.a.	11.2	19.6	87.4	192.3	310.6	250.2	560.7
Paperwork	n.a.	17.7	19.4	40.6	52.3	129.9	110.3	240.3
Meal preparation	n.a.	*8.0	14.4	38.9	60.2	121.6	120.2	241.8
Transport	32.4	16.1	22.9	80.9	141.3	293.6	232.2	525.8
Guidance	102.8	21.8	28.8	59.6	87.7	300.7	69.6	370.4
<b>Total need assistance<sup>(c)</sup></b>	<b>142.4</b>	<b>30.7</b>	<b>48.8</b>	<b>135.5</b>	<b>276.0</b>	<b>633.4</b>	<b>324.6</b>	<b>958.0</b>
<b>Total severe or profound</b>	<b>143.6</b>	<b>30.7</b>	<b>49.4</b>	<b>136.2</b>	<b>276.0</b>	<b>636.0</b>	<b>325.6</b>	<b>961.6</b>
<b>Total population</b>	<b>3,905.6</b>	<b>1,316.1</b>	<b>2,827.9</b>	<b>4,292.8</b>	<b>4,048.7</b>	<b>16,391.1</b>	<b>2,268.6</b>	<b>18,659.7</b>
	<b>Per cent of people with severe or profound core activity restriction of that age</b>							
Self-care	59.3	31.6	45.7	60.6	58.4	56.8	47.7	53.7
Mobility	50.8	74.1	80.4	77.3	76.2	70.9	84.0	75.4
Communication	63.3	41.3	20.9	11.3	*3.3	21.8	8.8	17.4
Health care	50.6	45.7	41.6	50.5	52.8	50.6	66.5	56.0
Housework	n.a.	37.1	40.1	56.2	52.5	39.7	69.5	49.8
Property maintenance	n.a.	36.6	39.7	64.2	69.7	48.8	76.8	58.3
Paperwork	n.a.	57.5	39.3	29.8	19.0	20.4	33.9	25.0
Meal preparation	n.a.	26.2	29.3	28.5	21.8	19.1	36.9	25.1
Transport	22.6	52.5	46.3	59.4	51.2	46.2	71.3	54.7
Guidance	71.6	71.0	58.4	43.7	31.8	47.3	21.4	38.5
<b>Total need assistance<sup>(c)</sup></b>	<b>99.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>98.8</b>	<b>99.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>99.6</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>99.6</b>
	<b>Per cent of the Australian population of that age</b>							
Self-care	2.2	0.7	0.8	1.9	4.0	2.2	6.8	2.8
Mobility	1.9	1.7	1.4	2.5	5.2	2.8	12.1	3.9
Communication	2.3	1.0	0.4	0.4	*0.2	0.8	1.3	0.9
Health care	1.9	1.1	0.7	1.6	3.6	2.0	9.5	2.9
Housework	n.a.	0.9	0.7	1.8	3.6	1.5	10.0	2.6
Property maintenance	n.a.	0.9	0.7	2.0	4.8	1.9	11.0	3.0
Paperwork	n.a.	1.3	0.7	0.9	1.3	0.8	4.9	1.3
Meal preparation	n.a.	*0.6	0.5	0.9	1.5	0.7	5.3	1.3
Transport	0.8	1.2	0.8	1.9	3.5	1.8	10.2	2.8
Guidance	2.6	1.7	1.0	1.4	2.2	1.8	3.1	2.0
<b>Total need assistance<sup>(c)</sup></b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>5.1</b>

(a) Estimates marked with \*\* have an associated relative standard error (RSE) of 50% or more. Estimates marked with \* have an associated RSE of between 25% and 50%. These estimates should be interpreted accordingly.

(b) n.a.= not applicable.

(c) The total number of people needing assistance may be less than sum of the number of people needing assistance with each activity type, as people may need help with more than one activity.

Source: AIHW analysis of ABS 1998 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers Confidentialised Unit Record File.

**Table 15.3: People with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households: core activities in which assistance needed, by age, Australia, 1998<sup>(a)</sup>**

	Age group						65+	All ages
	0–14	15–19	20–29	30–44	45–64	Total <65		
	Number ('000)							
Self-care only	17.5	**1.8	*6.5	24.9	61.0	111.8	39.5	151.3
Mobility only	14.7	12.2	20.8	47.1	109.5	204.3	152.7	357.0
Communication only	37.1	*5.3	**1.4	*3.2	*2.9	49.9	*3.2	53.1
Self-care and mobility	18.5	*4.0	10.4	47.6	95.3	175.8	97.1	272.9
Self-care and communication	14.2	**0.9	**0.4	**1.6	**0.6	17.6	**1.5	19.2
Mobility and communication	*4.7	*3.5	*3.3	**2.2	*1.2	14.9	*6.8	21.7
All three activities	35.0	*3.0	*5.3	*8.4	*4.3	56.0	17.0	73.0
<i>Total with two or more activities</i>	<i>72.3</i>	<i>11.4</i>	<i>19.4</i>	<i>59.8</i>	<i>101.4</i>	<i>264.3</i>	<i>122.4</i>	<i>386.7</i>
<b>Total population</b>	<b>3,905.6</b>	<b>1,316.1</b>	<b>2,827.9</b>	<b>4,292.8</b>	<b>4,048.7</b>	<b>16,391.1</b>	<b>2,268.6</b>	<b>18,659.7</b>
	Per cent of people with a severe or profound core activity restriction of that age							
Self-care only	12.2	**5.9	*13.2	18.3	22.1	17.6	12.1	15.7
Mobility only	10.3	39.7	42.1	34.6	39.7	32.1	46.9	37.1
Communication only	25.8	*17.2	**2.8	*2.3	*1.1	7.8	*1.0	5.5
Self-care and mobility	12.9	*13.1	21.1	34.9	34.5	27.6	29.8	28.4
Self-care and communication	9.9	**2.9	**0.8	**1.2	**0.2	2.8	**0.5	2.0
Mobility and communication	*3.2	*11.5	*6.6	**1.6	**0.4	2.3	*2.1	2.3
All three activities	24.4	*9.7	*10.7	*6.2	*1.6	8.8	5.2	7.6
<i>Total with two or more activities</i>	<i>50.4</i>	<i>37.2</i>	<i>39.2</i>	<i>43.9</i>	<i>36.7</i>	<i>41.6</i>	<i>37.6</i>	<i>40.2</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>98.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>97.2</b>	<b>99.1</b>	<b>99.6</b>	<b>99.1</b>	<b>97.6</b>	<b>98.6</b>

(a) Estimates marked with \*\* have an associated relative standard error (RSE) of 50% or more. Estimates marked with \* have an associated RSE of between 25% and 50%. These estimates should be interpreted accordingly.

Source: AIHW analysis of ABS 1998 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers Confidentialised Unit Record File.

## Main condition and need for assistance

Tables 15.4 and A15.1 present data on need for assistance by main condition group, for people with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households. For people aged under 65, the two largest main condition groups were physical/other (453,500 people or 71.3%) and intellectual (102,400 people or 16.1%). People aged under 65:

- with an intellectual main condition most commonly needed assistance in the areas of guidance (85.9%), communication (71.6%), mobility (59.7%), self-care (57.2%) and health care (57.2%).
- with a psychiatric main condition most commonly needed assistance with guidance (85.7%), mobility (83.6%) and transport (57.5%).
- with a vision-related main condition most commonly needed assistance with mobility (89.6%) and transport (82.8%).
- with a hearing-related main condition most commonly needed assistance with communication (63.2%) and guidance (53.7%). In the other activity areas, the proportions of people reporting need for assistance were relatively low.
- in the acquired brain injury main condition group most commonly needed assistance with mobility (92.7%), transport (82.4%), health care (71.5%) and paperwork (71.0%).

- in the physical/other main condition group people most commonly reported need for assistance with mobility (72.7%), self-care (61.5%) and property maintenance (58.8%).

In all main condition groups except hearing, a high proportion of people reported needing help with mobility. The number of activities in which a high proportion of people needed assistance was greater in the intellectual and acquired brain injury main condition groups than in other groups.

Among people with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households, few people with an intellectual main condition were aged 65 or more, as over 90% of people in that age group with an intellectual main condition were living in cared accommodation (see Table 15.13). The number of people aged 65 or over with an acquired brain injury was also too small to be used for valid comparisons. Of all people aged 65 or over with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households, the two largest main condition groups were physical/other (268,900 people or 82.6%) and vision (28,900 people or 8.9%).

People aged 65 or over with psychiatric and vision-related main conditions most commonly reported need for assistance with mobility and transport. People with a hearing-related main condition most commonly reported need for assistance with mobility. For people with a 'physical or other' main condition, need for assistance with mobility and health care was reported by a higher proportion of those aged 65 or over, while need for assistance with self-care and guidance was reported by a higher proportion of those aged under 65. In comparison with those aged under 65, a higher proportion of people aged 65 or over with a physical/other main condition tended to report need for assistance with non-personal activities (e.g. housework and transport) (Tables 15.4 and A15.1).

Tables 15.5 and A15.2 present data on need for assistance with core activities. It is important to note that small sample sizes and high relative standard errors make it difficult to draw meaningful comparisons between some main condition groups. Among people aged under 65, nearly 60% of those with an intellectual main condition needed assistance with more than one core activity, including 30% who needed help with all three core activities. In contrast, about 40% of those with a physical/other main condition needed assistance with more than one core activity, including only 4.6% who needed help with all three core activities.

Among people aged 65 or over with a severe or profound core activity restriction, physical/other and vision were the two largest main condition groups, and in each group 37% of people reported needing help with more than one core activity. Nearly 5% of people with a physical/other main condition needed help with all three core activities, while nobody with a vision-related main condition needed help with all three core activities (Table 15.5).

**Table 15.4: People with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households: main condition by activity type in which help needed, by age, as a percentage of people with a severe or profound core activity restriction of that age in each condition group, Australia, 1998<sup>(a)</sup>**

	Main condition						All conditions
	Intellectual <sup>(c)</sup>	Psychiatric	Vision	Hearing	ABI <sup>(c)</sup>	Physical/other	
<b>Age 0–64</b>							
Self-care	57.2	33.5	**27.6	**12.7	*40.1	61.5	56.8
Mobility	59.7	83.6	89.6	*35.0	92.7	72.7	70.9
Communication	71.6	*10.2	—	63.2	*26.9	10.4	21.8
Health care	57.2	42.0	*34.4	*14.7	71.5	51.1	50.6
Housework	15.3	33.0	**22.5	**3.4	*42.0	47.5	39.7
Property maintenance	16.5	37.5	*42.5	*14.8	*40.8	58.8	48.8
Paperwork	30.6	40.4	*37.1	**9.2	71.0	15.1	20.4
Meal preparation	14.1	22.7	**7.8	0.0	*45.6	20.2	19.1
Transport	36.2	57.5	82.8	*21.3	82.4	46.8	46.2
Guidance	85.9	85.7	**22.8	53.7	53.4	34.5	47.3
<b>Total need assistance<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>92.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>99.6</b>
<b>Total number ('000)</b>	<b>102.4</b>	<b>47.0</b>	<b>*6.4</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>453.5</b>	<b>636.0</b>
<b>Age 65 or over</b>							
Self-care	—	42.9	39.1	*26.6	—	49.8	47.7
Mobility	—	89.3	95.5	74.3	—	82.9	84.0
Communication	—	44.9	**2.7	**16.0	—	7.0	8.8
Health care	—	57.1	70.0	*45.5	—	67.2	66.5
Housework	—	70.5	54.8	*33.2	—	72.5	69.5
Property maintenance	—	76.6	72.1	63.1	—	77.7	76.8
Paperwork	—	55.9	79.2	**17.8	—	28.3	33.9
Meal preparation	—	55.4	44.9	*26.4	—	35.4	36.9
Transport	—	80.0	84.2	53.1	—	70.3	71.3
Guidance	—	57.9	*14.7	*33.5	—	19.4	21.4
<b>Total need assistance<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>—</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>94.5</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>99.8</b>	<b>99.7</b>
<b>Total number ('000)</b>	<b>**0.4</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>**1.8</b>	<b>268.9</b>	<b>325.6</b>

(a) Estimates marked with \*\* have an associated relative standard error (RSE) of 50% or more. Estimates marked with \* have an associated RSE of between 25% and 50%. These estimates should be interpreted accordingly.

(b) The total number of people needing assistance may be less than sum of the number of people needing assistance with each activity type, as people may need help with more than one activity.

(c) Numbers of people with an intellectual or acquired brain injury main condition aged 65 or over and living in households were too small to allow meaningful analysis of activities in which assistance was needed.

— Nil or rounded to zero.

Source: Table A15.1; AIHW analysis of ABS 1998 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers Confidentialised Unit Record File.

**Table 15.5: People with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households: main condition, by core activities in which help needed, by age, as a percentage of all people with a severe or profound core activity restriction of that age in each main condition group, Australia, 1998<sup>(a)</sup>**

	Main condition						Total
	Intellectual <sup>(b)</sup>	Psychiatric	Vision	Hearing	ABI <sup>(b)</sup>	Physical/other	
<b>Age 0–64</b>							
Self-care only	*6.9	*12.2	**10.4	**2.0	—	21.6	17.6
Mobility only	13.8	55.9	72.4	*18.3	*52.6	33.3	32.1
Communication only	21.2	**1.7	—	49.0	**7.3	4.1	7.8
Self-care and mobility	*7.7	19.1	**17.3	**4.0	**20.5	34.2	27.6
Self-care and communication	12.2	0.0	—	**1.6	—	*1.1	2.8
Mobility and communication	*7.9	*6.4	—	**7.5	—	**0.6	2.3
All three activities	30.3	**2.2	—	**5.1	**19.6	4.6	8.8
Total	100.0	97.5	100.0	87.5	100.0	99.5	99.1
<i>Two or more</i>	<i>58.2</i>	<i>27.7</i>	<i>**17.3</i>	<i>*18.3</i>	<i>*40.1</i>	<i>40.5</i>	<i>41.6</i>
<b>Total number ('000)</b>	<b>102.4</b>	<b>47.0</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>453.5</b>	<b>636.0</b>
<b>Age 65 or over</b>							
Self-care only	—	**5.1	**4.5	**3.3	—	13.7	12.1
Mobility only	—	*38.6	58.3	*45.7	—	46.2	46.9
Communication only	—	**5.6	—	**6.6	—	**0.6	*1.0
Self-care and mobility	—	**11.4	34.6	**19.2	—	30.8	29.8
Self-care and communication	—	—	—	—	—	**0.6	**0.5
Mobility and communication	—	**12.9	**2.7	**5.3	—	*1.1	*2.1
All three activities	—	*26.4	—	**4.0	—	4.7	5.2
Total	—	100.0	100.0	84.2	—	97.7	97.6
<i>Two or more</i>	—	<i>50.7</i>	<i>37.3</i>	<i>*28.6</i>	—	<i>37.2</i>	<i>37.6</i>
<b>Total number ('000)</b>	<b>**0.4</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>**1.8</b>	<b>268.9</b>	<b>325.6</b>

(a) Estimates marked with \*\* have an associated relative standard error (RSE) of 50% or more. Estimates marked with \* have an associated RSE of between 25% and 50%. These estimates should be interpreted accordingly.

(b) Numbers of people with intellectual disability and acquired brain injury aged 65 or over and living in households were too small to allow meaningful analysis of activities in which assistance was needed.

— Nil or rounded to zero.

Source: Table A15.2; AIHW analysis of ABS 1998 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers Confidentialised Unit Record File.

## Main provider of assistance

Tables 15.6 and A15.3 present information on whether assistance was received, and the main provider of assistance, for activities with which assistance was needed. Relatively large numbers of people with a severe or profound core activity restriction reported no provider of assistance with mobility (46,700, or 6.4% of people who needed assistance with mobility), self-care (40,700, or 7.9%), property maintenance (31,000, or 5.5%), health care (28,400, or 5.3%) and transport (22,200, or 4.2%).

For all activities, most people said that their main source of assistance was a carer living in the same household. Over 80% of people who needed assistance with self-care, mobility and communication were assisted by informal carers.

**Table 15.6: People with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households: main source of assistance by activity type, by age, as a percentage of all people needing assistance with a particular activity, Australia, 1998**

	Type of provider				Total %	Total number ('000)
	No provider	Informal co-resident	Informal non-co-resident	Formal provider		
<b>Age 0–64</b>						
Self-care	7.4	84.6	4.0	4.0	100.0	361.2
Mobility	6.8	76.2	10.6	6.3	100.0	451.0
Communication	*4.3	82.1	**0.6	13.0	100.0	138.3
Health care	5.2	74.8	4.5	15.5	100.0	321.9
Housework	*3.4	82.2	7.1	7.4	100.0	252.6
Property maintenance	6.8	67.7	12.6	12.9	100.0	309.9
Paperwork	*6.7	75.4	10.9	7.0	100.0	129.9
Meal preparation	*5.0	86.2	*3.9	*4.9	100.0	121.6
Transport	*3.0	76.4	14.1	6.4	100.0	293.6
<b>Age 65 or over</b>						
Self-care	9.0	73.1	6.4	11.5	100.0	155.2
Mobility	5.9	54.1	31.9	8.1	100.0	273.6
Communication	*10.8	88.5	**0.7	—	100.0	28.6
Health care	5.4	42.9	7.6	44.1	100.0	216.4
Housework	*2.7	57.3	13.5	26.5	100.0	226.2
Property maintenance	4.0	45.3	20.7	30.0	100.0	249.5
Paperwork	*3.0	63.4	28.9	*4.6	100.0	110.3
Meal preparation	**1.6	71.8	*6.9	19.7	100.0	120.2
Transport	5.7	46.7	37.7	9.8	100.0	232.2
<b>All ages</b>						
Self-care	7.9	81.1	4.7	6.3	100.0	516.4
Mobility	6.4	67.9	18.7	7.0	100.0	724.6
Communication	*5.4	83.2	**0.6	10.8	100.0	166.9
Health care	5.3	62.0	5.8	27.0	100.0	538.3
Housework	3.1	70.4	10.1	16.4	100.0	478.8
Property maintenance	5.5	57.7	16.2	20.5	100.0	559.4
Paperwork	5.0	69.9	19.2	5.9	100.0	240.3
Meal preparation	*3.3	79.0	5.4	12.3	100.0	241.8
Transport	4.2	63.3	24.5	7.9	100.0	525.8

(a) Estimates marked with \*\* have an associated relative standard error (RSE) of 50% or more. Estimates marked with \* have an associated RSE of between 25% and 50%. These estimates should be interpreted accordingly.  
— Nil or rounded to zero.

Source: Table A15.3; AIHW analysis of ABS 1998 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers Confidentialised Unit Record File.

The activities for which the highest proportion of people reported a formal provider as their main source of assistance were health care (27.0%), property maintenance (20.5%) and housework (16.4%).

In comparison with people aged 65 or over, those aged under 65 were more likely to rely on an informal co-resident as their main source of assistance with all activities except communication. However, people aged 65 or over were more likely to rely on an informal non-co-resident as their main source of assistance with mobility, housework, property maintenance, paperwork and transport.

People aged 65 or over were more likely to receive assistance from a formal provider than were those aged under 65 in the activities of self-care (11.5% versus 4.0%), health care (44.1% versus 15.5%), housework (26.5% versus 7.4%), property maintenance (30.0% versus 12.9%) and meal preparation (19.7% versus 4.9%). Some 13% of people aged under 65 used a formal provider as their main source of assistance with communication while no people aged 65 or more did so (Tables 15.6 and A15.3).

Government organisations played a greater role than private sector organisations as the main formal service providers for the core activities of mobility and communication. Private organisations, in particular private profit-making organisations, were more likely to be the main provider of formal services with health care and property maintenance (Table 15.7).

**Table 15.7: People with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households: main formal source of assistance by activity type, Australia, 1998<sup>(a)</sup>**

	Per cent				Number ('000)			
	Government	Private non-profit	Private profit	Total	Government	Private non-profit	Private profit	Total
Self-care	56.3	*18.3	25.4	100.0	18.2	*5.9	*8.2	32.3
Mobility	69.5	18.1	*12.5	100.0	35.3	*9.2	*6.3	50.8
Communication	77.1	**3.8	*19.1	100.0	13.9	**0.7	*3.4	18.0
Health care	37.1	*5.6	57.3	100.0	53.8	*8.2	83.2	145.2
Housework	57.7	*10.1	32.3	100.0	45.3	*7.9	25.4	78.6
Property maintenance	13.9	*4.0	82.1	100.0	16.0	*4.6	94.3	114.9
Paperwork	52.2	**13.5	*34.3	100.0	*7.4	**1.9	*4.9	14.2
Meal preparation	54.2	32.7	*13.2	100.0	16.1	9.7	*3.9	29.7
Transport	56.1	23.3	20.6	100.0	23.4	9.7	*8.6	41.7

(a) Estimates marked with \*\* have an associated relative standard error (RSE) of 50% or more. Estimates marked with \* have an associated RSE of between 25% and 50%. These estimates should be interpreted accordingly.

Source: AIHW analysis of ABS 1998 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers Confidentialised Unit Record File.

## 15.3 Changes in need for assistance and main provider of assistance between 1993 and 1998

This section examines the changes in the level and profile of need for assistance and main provider of assistance with daily activities between 1993 and 1998. In order to make the comparisons, the 1998 ABS disability survey data were re-derived using the operational definition of disability used in the 1993 survey. However, there remain some differences between the two surveys in terms of the questions on need for assistance that were asked. In

the 1998 survey some activities are more precisely defined than in 1993, and some have been expanded:

- Need for assistance with transport in the 1998 survey refers specifically to the need to be driven in order to go somewhere.
- In the 1998 survey 'paperwork' activities replaced 'personal affairs' activities (managing money, such as checking bank statements, paying bills), with an increased focus on reading and writing skills required for daily living, such as writing letters and filling in forms.
- Assistance with health care activities has been extended from help with medication, dressing wounds and foot care, to include assistance with medical equipment and with manipulating or exercising muscles and limbs (ABS 1999: 56).

## **Changes in need for assistance**

Table 15.8 shows that, between 1993 and 1998, the number of people reporting need for assistance increased substantially for all activities, with the largest increases in the areas of mobility (192,500), health care (184,800), self-care (154,100) and property maintenance (149,200). For all activities, percentage increases in the number of people needing assistance were markedly higher for people aged under 65 than for people aged 65 or over, although the growth rate of the population aged 65 or over (10.2%) was nearly twice as high as that for the population aged under 65 (5.8%).

Percentage increases in the number of people needing assistance were particularly high in the age group 45–64. This reflects the impact of the baby-boom generation entering the older working age groups. Between 1993 and 1998 the growth rate of the population aged 45–64 (15.4%) was higher than that of the population aged 65 or over (10.2%), and much higher than that of the population in younger age groups (Table 15.8).

For people aged under 65, in particular those aged 45–64, increases in the number of people needing assistance were particularly notable in the activities of self-care, mobility, health care, transport and property maintenance. There was a large increase in need for assistance with communication among people aged 5–14 years (Table 15.8).

Overall, in both 1993 and 1998, the three activities in which need for assistance was most commonly reported were mobility, property maintenance and transport (Table 15.8). In both years, the three activities in which need for assistance was most commonly reported for people aged under 65 were mobility, self-care and property maintenance; for people aged 65 or over, the three most commonly reported activities were mobility, property maintenance and transport.

## **Changes in main provider of assistance**

### **All people aged 5 years and over**

Tables 15.9 and 15.10 illustrate changes between 1993 and 1998 in the main providers of assistance reported by people aged 5 and over with a severe or profound core activity restriction.

The number of people who said that their main source of assistance was an informal co-resident carer increased markedly for all types of activity, with increases of 100,000 or more in the activities of mobility, self-care, health care and transport. There was also an increase in

**Table 15.8: People aged 5 years and over with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households: activity type in which assistance needed, by age ('000), Australia, 1993–1998<sup>(a)</sup>**

	Age group							All ages
	5–14	15–19	20–29	30–44	45–64	Total <65	65+	
	<b>1993</b>							
Self-care	47.7	9.5	18.2	52.3	78.6	206.3	124.8	331.2
Mobility	43.1	14.2	36.8	72.5	113.6	280.2	214.1	494.3
Communication	26.4	*6.7	10.6	8.1	*7.1	59.0	25.9	84.9
Health care	—	*7.5	18.9	29.2	51.5	107.1	161.9	269.0
Housework	—	*7.1	17.5	45.7	78.9	149.2	188.4	337.6
Property maintenance	—	8.6	22.7	49.1	98.0	178.5	219.7	398.2
Paperwork	—	9.8	21.3	25.1	27.6	83.9	85.4	169.3
Meal preparation	—	*5.1	13.9	20.9	18.5	58.4	82.3	140.7
Transport	24.3	12.0	24.4	35.3	67.1	163.2	209.3	372.5
<b>Total population</b>	<b>2,535.7</b>	<b>1,303.9</b>	<b>2,811.6</b>	<b>4,114.1</b>	<b>3,496.4</b>	<b>14,261.7</b>	<b>1,907.9</b>	<b>16,169.6</b>
	<b>1998<sup>(b)</sup></b>							
Self-care	70.1	9.7	21.6	74.9	154.2	330.4	154.9	485.3
Mobility	61.4	22.3	38.7	99.4	197.0	418.8	268.1	686.9
Communication	69.9	12.7	10.3	15.4	9.0	117.3	28.6	145.8
Health care <sup>(c)</sup>	—	14.0	19.3	65.7	140.9	240.0	213.8	453.8
Housework	—	11.4	19.0	74.1	141.1	245.6	222.8	468.4
Property maintenance	—	11.2	18.8	83.5	185.1	298.6	248.7	547.4
Paperwork	—	17.7	19.4	40.6	51.7	129.3	110.2	239.5
Meal preparation	—	8.0	14.1	38.4	59.7	120.1	120.2	240.4
Transport	32.3	16.1	22.5	77.1	137.1	285.1	229.6	514.7
<b>Total population</b>	<b>2,625.5</b>	<b>1,315.1</b>	<b>2,825.5</b>	<b>4,286.5</b>	<b>4,036.2</b>	<b>15,088.9</b>	<b>2,101.8</b>	<b>17,190.7</b>
	<b>Changes in number between 1993 and 1998<sup>(b)</sup></b>							
Self-care	22.3	**0.2	*3.4	22.6	75.6	124.1	30.1	154.1
Mobility	18.3	8.1	**1.9	26.8	83.4	138.6	54.0	192.5
Communication	43.4	*6.0	**−0.3	*7.3	**1.9	58.3	2.6	60.9
Health care <sup>(c)</sup>	—	*6.6	**0.4	36.5	89.4	132.9	51.9	184.8
Housework	—	*4.3	**1.5	28.4	62.2	96.5	34.3	130.8
Property maintenance	—	*2.6	−3.9	34.4	87.1	120.2	29.0	149.2
Paperwork	—	*7.8	*−1.9	15.4	24.1	45.5	24.8	70.2
Meal preparation	—	*3.0	**0.2	17.5	41.2	61.8	37.9	99.7
Transport	*7.9	*4.1	**−2.0	41.8	70.0	121.9	20.3	142.2
<b>Total population</b>	<b>89.7</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>172.5</b>	<b>539.8</b>	<b>827.2</b>	<b>193.9</b>	<b>1,021.1</b>

(continued)

**Table 15.8 (continued): People aged 5 years and over with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households: activity type in which assistance needed, by age ('000), Australia, 1993–1998<sup>(a)</sup>**

	Age group							All ages
	5–14	15–19	20–29	30–44	45–64	Total <65	65+	
	<b>% changes in the number of people needing assistance between 1993 and 1998<sup>(b)</sup></b>							
Self-care	46.8	1.7	18.7	43.2	96.2	60.1	24.1	46.5
Mobility	42.4	57.0	5.2	37.0	73.4	49.4	25.2	38.9
Communication	164.3	88.9	–2.9	90.9	26.5	98.9	10.2	71.8
Health care <sup>(c)</sup>	—	88.3	2.2	125.3	173.6	124.2	32.0	68.7
Housework	—	61.4	8.4	62.1	78.9	64.7	18.2	38.7
Property maintenance	—	29.9	–17.3	70.1	88.8	67.3	13.2	37.5
Paperwork	—	79.4	–8.8	61.4	87.1	54.2	29.0	41.5
Meal preparation	—	58.0	1.1	83.5	223.0	105.8	46.1	70.8
Transport	32.6	33.9	–8.0	118.6	104.3	74.7	9.7	38.2
<b>Total population</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>6.3</b>

(a) Estimates marked with \*\* have an associated relative standard error (RSE) of 50% or more. Estimates marked with \* have an associated RSE of between 25% and 50%. These estimates should be interpreted accordingly.

(b) For comparative purposes, 1998 data were re-derived using the 1993 operational definition of disability.

(c) 71,100 people aged 5–14 years who needed assistance with health care in 1998 were excluded to allow comparisons between 1993 and 1998 data, as data on this age group were not collected in the 1993 survey.

— Nil or rounded to zero.

Source: AIHW analysis of ABS 1998 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers Confidentialised Unit Record File and 1993 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers data.

the number of people who said that an informal non-co-resident carer was their main source of assistance, particularly with mobility, transport and housework.

Increases in the number of people who reported that their main source of assistance was a formal service provider were greatest for the activities of health care (57,000), property maintenance (35,100) and mobility (26,000). Percentage increases were greatest for the activities of meal preparation (147.9%), communication (119.6%) and mobility (106.2%) (Table 15.9).

There were substantial increases in the number of people without a main provider of assistance with self-care (19,100), health care (15,100) and property maintenance (18,100) (Table 15.9). The data suggest declines in the number of people without a main provider of assistance with mobility and housework, but because of the small sample sizes and high relative standard errors it is difficult to draw firm conclusions about these trends. For activities of communication, meal preparation and transport, there was relatively little change in the number of people who did not have a main provider of assistance, despite substantial increases in need for assistance with between 1993 and 1998 (Table 15.9). This is probably due to the large increase in the number of providers of assistance, particularly informal co-resident carers.

Table 15.10 shows that, in general, there have not been dramatic changes between 1993 and 1998 in the proportions of people reporting informal co-resident, informal non-co-resident and formal providers as their main source of assistance. This suggests there has been little change in the balance between formal and informal sources of assistance. Between 1993 and 1998 there was an apparent decrease in the proportion of people reporting no main provider of assistance with communication, largely due to an increase in the proportion reporting an informal carer and formal provider as their main source of assistance with communication (Table 15.10).

**Table 15.9: People aged 5 years and over with a severe or profound core activity restriction who needed help and were living in households: activity type in which help needed by type of main provider ('000), Australia, 1993–1998<sup>(a)</sup>**

	Type of main provider				Total
	No provider	Informal co-resident	Informal non-co-resident	Formal provider	
<b>1993</b>					
Self-care	19.2	267.6	14.8	29.5	331.2
Mobility	48.1	330.6	91.2	24.5	494.4
Communication	12.0	64.2	*1.9	*6.7	84.9
Health care	10.7	157.4	18.5	82.4	269.0
Housework	22.1	232.4	23.6	59.6	337.6
Property maintenance	12.1	234.5	71.9	79.0	397.5
Paperwork	*3.8	127.3	29.9	8.4	169.4
Meal preparation	10.9	111.8	*4.3	12.0	138.9
Transport	23.8	220.6	92.2	35.9	372.5
<b>1998<sup>(b)</sup></b>					
Self-care	38.3	390.6	24.5	32.0	485.3
Mobility	41.8	461.0	133.6	50.4	686.9
Communication	*8.5	121.7	**1.0	14.6	145.8
Health care <sup>(c)</sup>	25.8	258.2	30.3	139.4	453.8
Housework	13.9	328.7	48.0	77.9	468.4
Property maintenance	30.2	312.4	90.0	114.1	546.7
Paperwork	12.0	168.0	46.0	13.6	239.5
Meal preparation	*7.9	189.7	13.1	29.7	240.4
Transport	22.2	323.8	127.0	41.7	514.7
<b>Changes in number between 1993 and 1998<sup>(b)</sup></b>					
Self-care	19.1	123.0	9.6	**2.5	154.1
Mobility	*-6.3	130.4	42.4	26.0	192.5
Communication	*-3.5	57.4	**-0.9	*8.0	60.9
Health care <sup>(c)</sup>	15.1	100.8	11.9	57.0	184.8
Housework	*-8.2	96.3	24.4	18.3	130.8
Property maintenance	18.1	77.8	18.1	35.1	149.3
Paperwork	*8.2	40.7	16.1	*5.2	70.2
Meal preparation	-3.0	77.9	*8.8	17.7	101.4
Transport	-1.6	103.1	34.8	*5.9	142.2

*(continued)*

**Table 15.9 (continued): People aged 5 years and over with a severe or profound core activity restriction who needed help and were living in households: activity type in which help needed by type of main provider ('000), Australia, 1993–1998<sup>(a)</sup>**

	Type of main provider				Total
	No provider	Informal co-resident	Informal non co-resident	Formal provider	
	<b>% changes between 1993 and 1998<sup>(b)</sup></b>				
Self-care	99.5	45.9	64.8	8.4	46.5
Mobility	-13.1	39.5	46.5	106.2	38.9
Communication	-29.3	89.4	-48.0	119.6	71.8
Health care <sup>(c)</sup>	140.7	64.1	64.4	69.1	68.7
Housework	-37.2	41.5	103.3	30.7	38.7
Property maintenance	150.3	33.2	25.2	44.5	37.6
Paperwork	217.3	32.0	53.6	61.4	41.4
Meal preparation	-27.2	69.7	205.2	147.9	73.0
Transport	-6.9	46.7	37.8	16.4	38.2

(a) Estimates marked with \*\* have an associated relative standard error (RSE) of 50% or more. Estimates marked with \* have an associated RSE of between 25% and 50%. These estimates should be interpreted accordingly.

(b) For comparative purposes, 1998 data were re-derived using the 1993 operational definition of disability.

(c) 71,100 people aged 5–14 years who needed assistance with health care in 1998 were excluded to allow comparisons between 1993 and 1998 data, as data on this age group were not collected in the 1993 survey.

Source: AIHW analysis of ABS 1998 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers Confidentialised Unit Record File and 1993 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers data.

## People aged 5–64 versus 65 or over

Between 1993 and 1998, the increase in the number of people reporting an informal co-resident as their main source of assistance was much greater for people aged 5–64 than for people aged 65 or more. This was partly associated with the greater increase in the number of people needing assistance among those aged 5–64, resulting from the larger increase in the number of people with a severe or profound core activity restriction in this age group (Tables 15.11 and 15.12).

For people aged 5–64, the largest increases in the number reporting an informal co-resident carer as the main provider of assistance were in the activities of self-care (108,300), mobility (101,900) and transport (106,100). In contrast, among people aged 65 or over, the greatest increases were in the areas of mobility (28,600), meal preparation (20,400) and health care (15,600) (Tables 15.11 and 15.12).

Increases in the number of people relying on formal services as their main source of assistance were mainly in the areas of health care (26,400), mobility (16,500) and property maintenance (14,400) for people aged 5–64, and in the areas of health care (30,600) property maintenance (20,800) and meal preparation (16,200) for people aged 65 or over (Tables 15.11 and 15.12).

**Table 15.10: People aged 5 years and over with a severe or profound core activity restriction who needed help and were living in households: activity type in which help needed by type of main provider (per cent), Australia, 1993–1998<sup>(a)</sup>**

	Type of main provider				Total
	No provider	Informal co-resident	Informal non-co-resident	Formal provider	
<b>1993</b>					
Self-care	5.8	80.8	4.5	8.9	100.0
Mobility	9.7	66.9	18.5	4.9	100.0
Communication	14.2	75.7	*2.3	*7.8	100.0
Health care	4.0	58.5	6.9	30.6	100.0
Housework	6.5	68.8	7.0	17.6	100.0
Property maintenance	3.0	59.0	18.1	19.9	100.0
Paperwork	2.2	75.1	17.7	5.0	100.0
Meal preparation	7.8	80.5	*3.1	8.6	100.0
Transport	6.4	59.2	24.7	9.6	100.0
<b>1998<sup>(b)</sup></b>					
Self-care	7.9	80.5	5.0	6.6	100.0
Mobility	6.1	67.1	19.5	7.3	100.0
Communication	*5.8	83.4	**0.7	10.0	100.0
Health care <sup>(c)</sup>	5.7	56.9	6.7	30.7	100.0
Housework	3.0	70.2	10.2	16.6	100.0
Property maintenance	5.5	57.1	16.5	20.9	100.0
Paperwork	5.0	70.1	19.2	5.7	100.0
Meal preparation	*3.3	78.9	5.4	12.3	100.0
Transport	4.3	62.9	24.7	8.1	100.0

(a) Estimates marked with \*\* have an associated relative standard error (RSE) of 50% or more. Estimates marked with \* have an associated RSE of between 25% and 50%. These estimates should be interpreted accordingly.

(b) For comparative purposes, 1998 data were re-derived using the 1993 operational definition of disability.

(c) 71,100 people aged 5–14 years who needed assistance with health care in 1998 were excluded to allow comparisons between 1993 and 1998 data, as data on this age group were not collected in the 1993 survey.

Source: Table 15.9: AIHW analysis of ABS 1998 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers Confidentialised Unit Record File and 1993 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers data.

## 15.4 Need for assistance and main source of assistance for people ageing with a disability

The analyses presented in this section focus on people aged between 45 and 64 years with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households. Comparisons are made between people aged 45–64 and those aged 65 or over.

Among people aged 45–64, comparisons are made, where possible, between people with a disability acquired before age 18, between the ages 18 and 45, and between the ages 45 and 64. However, due to the high relative standard errors associated with small estimates, it is not always possible to determine whether there are differences between people with early onset disability and people who acquired a disability later in life. It is also important to note that the survey did not collect information on age at onset of disability among people living in institutions.

**Table 15.11: People aged 5–64 years with a severe or profound core activity restriction who needed help and were living in households: activity type in which help needed by type of main provider, Australia, 1993–1998<sup>(a)</sup>**

	Type of main provider				Total
	No provider	Informal co-resident	Informal non-co-resident	Formal provider	
<b>Changes in number between 1993 and 1998 ('000)<sup>(b)</sup></b>					
Self-care	10.1	108.3	*5.3	**0.4	124.1
Mobility	**2.4	101.9	17.7	16.5	138.6
Communication	**−1.5	52.1	**−0.3	*8.0	58.3
Health care <sup>(c)</sup>	12.0	85.2	9.3	26.4	132.9
Housework	*−8.9	88.4	11.0	*5.9	96.5
Property maintenance	12.0	75.1	19.4	14.4	120.9
Paperwork	*6.3	31.5	*6.7	**0.9	45.4
Meal	**−0.8	57.4	*4.2	**1.5	62.3
Transport	*−6.2	106.1	20.3	**1.7	121.9
<b>% changes between 1993 and 1998<sup>(b)</sup></b>					
Self-care	70.5	64.0	57.7	2.8	60.1
Mobility	10.0	47.4	60.9	141.3	49.4
Communication	−21.3	117.6	−27.2	119.6	98.9
Health care <sup>(c)</sup>	393.6	105.0	197.6	145.5	124.2
Housework	−50.9	78.3	172.5	47.5	64.7
Property maintenance	147.8	59.7	102.7	57.6	68.0
Paperwork	264.2	47.5	88.5	11.7	54.1
Meal preparation	−12.0	125.0	684.3	34.5	107.7
Transport	−41.2	95.0	105.9	9.8	74.7

(a) Estimates marked with \*\* have an associated relative standard error (RSE) of 50% or more. Estimates marked with \* have an associated RSE of between 25% and 50%. These estimates should be interpreted accordingly.

(b) For comparative purposes, 1998 data were re-derived using the 1993 operational definition of disability.

(c) 71,100 people aged 5–14 years who needed assistance with health care in 1998 were excluded to allow comparisons between 1993 and 1998 data, as data on this age group were not collected in the 1993 survey.

Source: Table A15.4; AIHW analysis of ABS 1998 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers Confidentialised Unit Record File and 1993 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers data.

## Proportion living in residential care

Figure 15.1 and Table 15.13 show that people with an intellectual main condition were much more likely to live in residential care at younger ages than were people with other main conditions. In the age group 45–64, almost 40% of people with an intellectual main condition were living in cared accommodation. This was in striking contrast to other main condition groups, in which much smaller proportions of people aged 45–64 were living in cared accommodation. Among people aged 65 or more, over 90% of those with an intellectual main condition were living in cared accommodation, in comparison with 12.3% for vision, 22.7% for hearing and 24.6% for physical/other. Nearly 80% of people aged 65 or over with a psychiatric main condition were in residential care, a large proportion of whom may have had dementia-related conditions.

**Table 15.12: People aged 65 years and over with a profound or severe core activity restriction who needed help and were living in households: activity type in which help needed by type of main provider ('000), Australia, 1993–1998<sup>(a)</sup>**

	Type of main provider				Total
	No provider	Informal co-resident	Informal non-co-resident	Formal provider	
<b>Changes between 1993 and 1998<sup>(b)</sup></b>					
Self-care	9.0	14.7	*4.3	**2.1	30.1
Mobility	*-8.7	28.6	24.7	9.4	54.0
Communication	** -2.1	*5.3	** -0.6	0.0	*2.6
Health care <sup>(c)</sup>	*3.1	15.6	*2.6	30.6	51.9
Housework	**0.7	*8.0	13.4	12.4	34.3
Property maintenance	*6.1	*2.8	** -1.3	20.8	28.4
Paperwork	**1.9	9.2	9.4	*4.3	24.8
Meal preparation	** -2.1	20.4	*4.6	16.2	39.1
Transport	*4.6	** -3.0	14.5	*4.2	20.3
<b>% changes between 1993 and 1998<sup>(b)</sup></b>					
Self-care	184.7	14.9	76.4	13.3	24.1
Mobility	-36.6	24.7	39.7	74.0	25.2
Communication	-40.0	26.7	-76.2	0.0	10.2
Health care <sup>(c)</sup>	39.9	20.5	19.0	47.6	32.0
Housework	14.5	6.7	77.6	26.2	18.2
Property maintenance	155.5	2.6	-2.5	38.5	12.9
Paperwork	137.1	15.1	41.9	500.2	29.0
Meal preparation	-53.0	31.0	126.1	215.1	48.2
Transport	52.1	-2.7	19.9	22.6	9.7

(a) Estimates marked with \*\* have an associated relative standard error (RSE) of 50% or more. Estimates marked with \* have an associated RSE of between 25% and 50%. These estimates should be interpreted accordingly.

(b) For comparative purposes, 1998 data were re-derived using the 1993 operational definition of disability.

(c) 71,100 people aged 5–14 years who needed assistance with health care in 1998 were excluded to allow comparisons between 1993 and 1998 data, as data on this age group were not collected in the 1993 survey.

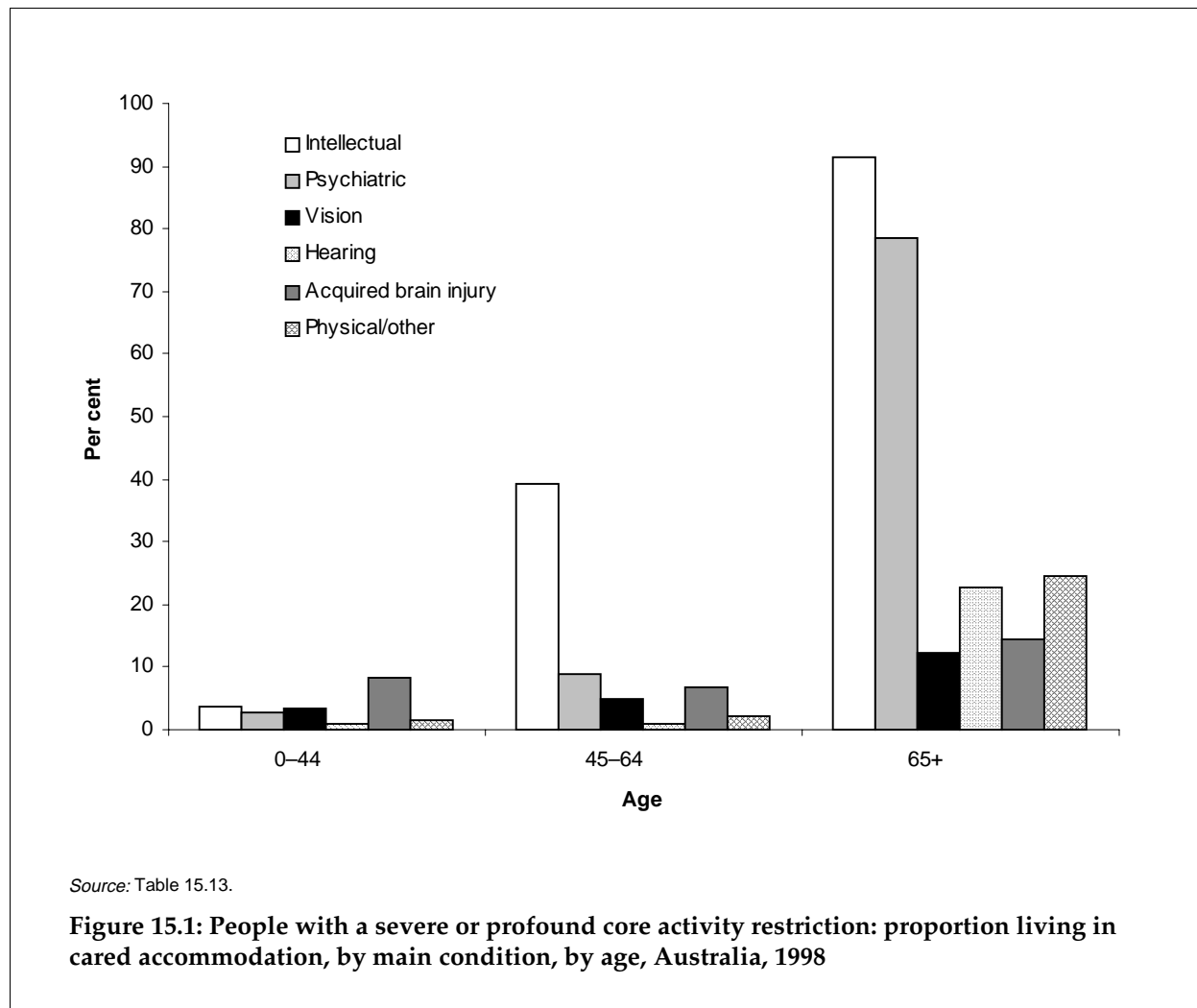
Source: Table A15.5; AIHW analysis of ABS 1998 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers Confidentialised Unit Record File and 1993 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers data.

## Activities with which assistance needed

Table 15.14 shows the numbers and proportions of people needing help with various activities, by age at onset of disability. The proportions were calculated using the number of people in each 'age at onset' group as denominators.

In 1998, there were 276,000 people aged 45–64 years with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households.<sup>10</sup> For all people aged 45–64 years, assistance was most often needed with activities of mobility (76.2%), self-care (58.1%) and property maintenance (69.5%). The proportions needing assistance with self-care and personal guidance were substantially higher for people aged 45–64 than for people aged 65 or over. However, for all

<sup>10</sup> Of these, 2,000 reported that they did not know their age at onset of their main condition. These people were excluded from the analyses in this section.



other types of activity higher proportions of people aged 65 or over reported need for help in comparison with those aged 45-64 (Table 15.14).

People aged 45-64 with an early onset disability (before 18 years) were significantly more likely to report need for assistance with paperwork than were people who acquired a disability later in life. The data also suggest that, in comparison with people who acquired a disability later in life, people with an early onset disability were more likely to need help with mobility, communication, meal preparation and guidance, and were less likely to need help with housework and property maintenance. However, because of high relative standard errors it is not possible to conclusively determine whether people with early onset disability had different levels of need for assistance with these activities, in comparison with people who acquired a disability later in life.

**Table 15.13: People with a severe or profound core activity restriction: main condition, by age, by accommodation type, Australia, 1998<sup>(a)</sup>**

	Main condition						Total
	Intellectual	Psychiatric	Vision	Hearing	ABI	Physical/other	
<b>Number ('000)</b>							
<b>Household</b>							
0–44	97.3	27.0	*3.9	11.6	*5.7	214.4	359.9
45–64	*5.1	20.0	**2.5	*5.1	*4.3	239.1	276.0
65+	**0.4	15.0	28.9	10.6	**1.8	268.9	325.6
Total	102.8	62.0	35.3	27.4	11.8	722.4	961.6
<b>Cared accommodation</b>							
0–44	*3.8	**0.7	**0.1	**0.1	**0.5	*3.6	*8.9
45–64	*3.3	**2.0	**0.1	–	**0.3	*5.5	11.2
65+	*4.4	55.2	*4.0	*3.1	**0.3	87.7	154.8
Total	11.5	57.9	*4.3	*3.3	**1.1	96.8	174.9
<b>All</b>							
0–44	101.1	27.8	*4.0	11.7	*6.2	218.0	368.9
45–64	*8.3	21.9	**2.6	*5.2	*4.6	244.6	287.2
65+	*4.8	70.2	32.9	13.7	**2.1	356.6	480.4
Total	114.3	119.9	39.6	30.6	12.9	819.2	1136.5
<b>Percentage distribution</b>							
<b>Household</b>							
0–44	94.7	43.6	*11.1	42.4	*48.5	29.7	37.4
45–64	*4.9	32.2	**7.0	*18.7	*36.1	33.1	28.7
65+	**0.4	24.2	82.0	38.8	**15.4	37.2	33.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Cared accommodation</b>							
0–44	*33.4	**1.3	**3.3	**2.9	**45.0	*3.7	*5.1
45–64	*28.5	**3.4	**2.9	**1.5	**27.8	*5.6	6.4
65+	*38.1	95.4	*93.8	95.6	**27.1	90.6	88.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>All</b>							
0–44	88.5	23.2	*10.2	38.2	48.2	26.6	32.5
45–64	*7.3	18.3	**6.5	*16.9	*35.4	29.9	25.3
65+	*4.2	58.5	83.2	44.9	**16.4	43.5	42.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Per cent living in cared accommodation</b>							
0–44	*3.8	**2.6	**3.5	**0.8	**8.2	*1.7	*2.4
45–64	*39.2	**8.9	**4.8	**0.9	**6.9	*2.2	3.9
65+	91.5	78.6	*12.3	*22.7	**14.4	24.6	32.2
Total	10.1	48.3	*10.9	*10.7	**8.7	11.8	15.4

(a) Estimates marked with \*\* have an associated relative standard error (RSE) of 50% or more. Estimates marked with \* have an associated RSE of between 25% and 50%. These estimates should be interpreted accordingly.

Source: AIHW analysis of ABS 1998 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers Confidentialised Unit Record File.

**Table 15.14: People aged 45 years and over with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households: need for assistance by activity type, by age at onset of main condition, Australia, 1998<sup>(a)</sup>**

	Current age 45–64				Current age 65 or over				
	Age at onset of main condition				Age at onset of main condition				
	0–17	18–44	45–64	Total	0–17	18–44	45–64	65+	Total
<b>Self-care</b>									
Need ('000)	16.0	80.6	62.6	159.2	*3.7	21.1	51.8	75.7	152.4
Do not need ('000)	14.1	52.6	48.1	114.8	9.3	27.8	41.6	88.6	167.3
% needing help	53.2	60.5	56.5	58.1	*28.6	43.2	55.5	46.1	47.7
<b>Mobility</b>									
Need ('000)	24.5	98.5	85.7	208.7	12.3	43.7	72.8	140.2	269.0
Do not need ('000)	*5.7	34.7	25.0	65.3	**0.7	*5.3	20.6	23.8	50.3
% needing help	81.2	74.0	77.4	76.2	94.6	89.2	78.0	85.5	84.2
<b>Communication</b>									
Need ('000)	*3.4	*3.4	**2.2	*9.0	**0.6	*2.7	*6.2	18.5	28.0
Do not need ('000)	26.8	129.7	108.5	265.1	12.4	46.3	87.1	145.5	291.4
% needing help	*11.2	*2.6	**2.0	*3.3	**4.4	*5.5	*6.7	11.3	8.8
<b>Health care</b>									
Need ('000)	16.9	67.4	59.9	144.2	10.1	32.9	61.0	107.7	211.8
Do not need ('000)	13.3	65.8	50.8	129.8	*2.9	16.0	32.3	56.3	107.5
% needing help	56.0	50.6	54.1	52.6	77.5	67.2	65.4	65.7	66.3
<b>Housework</b>									
Need ('000)	13.4	67.4	62.4	143.2	9.6	30.3	66.5	116.1	222.5
Do not need ('000)	16.8	65.7	48.4	130.9	*3.4	18.7	26.9	47.9	96.8
% needing help	44.4	50.7	56.3	52.2	73.8	61.9	71.2	70.8	69.7
<b>Property maintenance</b>									
Need ('000)	18.7	93.4	78.3	190.4	11.3	36.1	70.7	126.8	244.9
Do not need ('000)	11.5	39.8	32.4	83.7	**1.6	12.9	22.6	37.3	74.4
% needing help	61.9	70.1	70.7	69.5	87.4	73.7	75.8	77.3	76.7
<b>Paperwork</b>									
Need ('000)	11.0	20.7	20.1	51.8	*4.5	9.8	26.7	67.4	108.4
Do not need ('000)	19.2	112.5	90.6	222.3	*8.5	39.1	66.6	96.6	210.9
% needing help	36.5	15.5	18.2	18.9	*34.4	20.1	28.6	41.1	34.0

(continued)

**Table 15.14 (continued): People aged 45 years and over with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households: need for assistance by activity type, by age at onset of main condition, Australia, 1998<sup>(a)</sup>**

	Current age 45–64				Current age 65 or over				
	Age at onset of main condition				Age at onset of main condition				
	0–17	18–44	45–64	Total	0–17	18–44	45–64	65+	Total
<b>Meal preparation</b>									
Need ('000)	*8.9	24.9	26.5	60.2	*3.8	11.5	30.5	71.0	116.7
Do not need ('000)	21.3	108.3	84.2	213.8	9.2	37.5	62.9	93.1	202.6
% needing help	29.4	18.7	23.9	22.0	*29.4	23.4	32.7	43.3	36.6
<b>Transport</b>									
Not applicable ('000)	—	**2.3	**1.9	*4.1	—	**1.3	*2.7	*8.0	12.0
Need ('000)	17.1	61.7	60.5	139.3	9.9	31.5	61.9	123.9	227.2
Do not need ('000)	13.1	69.2	48.4	130.7	*3.1	16.2	28.8	32.1	80.2
% needing help	56.7	46.3	54.6	50.8	76.2	64.3	66.3	75.5	71.1
<b>Guidance</b>									
Need ('000)	11.7	40.5	35.1	87.2	*2.7	*7.8	21.1	36.8	68.5
Do not need ('000)	18.5	92.7	75.7	186.9	10.3	41.1	72.2	127.2	250.9
% needing help	38.7	30.4	31.7	31.8	*21.0	*15.9	22.6	22.4	21.4

(a) Estimates marked with \*\* have an associated relative standard error (RSE) of 50% or more. Estimates marked with \* have an associated RSE of between 25% and 50%. These estimates should be interpreted accordingly.  
— Nil or rounded to zero.

Source: AIHW analysis of ABS 1998 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers Confidentialised Unit Record File.

## Core activities and personal activities

Table 15.15 shows the number of core activities with which assistance was needed by people aged 45 or over with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households. In 1998, 99,800 people aged 45–64 and 120,200 people aged 65 or over reported need for assistance with at least two core activities.

The proportion needing assistance with only self-care was substantially higher for people aged 45–64 than for people aged 65 or over, while the proportion needing help with only mobility was higher for people aged 65 or over than for people aged 45–64.

Focusing on personal activities, Table 15.16 provides data on the number of tasks with which assistance was needed (see Table 15.1 for a list of tasks for each activity). In comparison with people aged 65 and over, a greater proportion of people aged 45–64 reported needing help with self-care and guidance; a greater proportion of people aged 65 or more needed help with mobility and health care.

In comparison with those aged 65 and over, the proportion of people aged 45–64 needing help with two or more tasks was lower for health care (18.9% versus 27.9%) and higher for guidance (18.7% versus 8.0%).

**Table 15.15: People aged 45 years and over with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households: type of core activities in which assistance needed by current age, Australia, 1998<sup>(a)</sup>**

	Current age 45–64		Current age 65 or over	
	Number ('000)	Per cent	Number ('000)	Per cent
Self-care only	60.7	22.2	38.4	12.3
Mobility only	109.5	40.1	150.3	48.2
Communication only	*2.9	*1.1	*3.2	*1.0
Total with two or more activities	99.8	36.6	120.2	38.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>272.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>312.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Estimates marked with \*\* have an associated relative standard error (RSE) of 50% or more. Estimates marked with \* have an associated RSE of between 25% and 50%. These estimates should be interpreted accordingly.

Source: AIHW analysis of ABS 1998 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers Confidentialised Unit Record File.

## Frequency of need for assistance

Table 15.17 presents data on frequency of need for assistance with different activities reported by people aged 45 or over with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households. Housework, self-care, mobility and health care were the activities for which assistance was most frequently needed.

Of those aged 45–64, 78,200 people (28.5%) needed assistance at least once a day with housework, 57,600 (21%) with self-care, 52,700 (19.2%) with mobility and 39,300 (14.3%) with health care (Table 15.17).

Among those aged 65 or over, 102,400 people (32.1%) needed assistance at least once a day with housework, 93,200 (29.2%) with self-care, 73,300 (23.0%) with meal preparation, 64,000 (20.0%) with mobility and 53,800 (16.9%) with health care. The proportions needing daily assistance with meal preparation and self-care were higher for people aged 65 or over than for those aged 45–64 (Table 15.17).

## Provider of assistance

In comparison with people aged 65 or over, those aged 45–64 were more likely to rely on an informal co-resident as their main source of assistance with self-care, mobility, health care and property maintenance. However, people aged 65 or over were more likely to rely on an informal co-resident as their main provider of assistance with meal preparation and paperwork than were those aged 45–64 (Table 15.18).

People aged 65 or over were more likely to rely on formal services as their main provider of assistance than were those aged 45–64 with activities of health care (29.2% versus 9.7%), housework (18.6% versus 4.0%) and property maintenance (23.0% versus 8.8%) (Table 15.18).

Table 15.19 present data on the total use of formal and informal sources of assistance. People aged 65 or over were more likely than those aged 45–64 to receive assistance from one or more formal service providers with self-care (10.8% versus 6.1%), mobility (15.3% versus 6.5%), health care (40.0% versus 20.2%), housework (28.6% versus 8.1%), property maintenance (31.3% versus 14.8%), meal preparation (9.1% versus 1.7%) and transport (12.6% versus 4.7%).

The proportions of people receiving informal assistance from one or more sources were higher for people aged 45–64 than for those aged 65 or over in the areas of self-care and

health care; proportions were higher for people aged 65 or over in the areas of mobility, communication, paperwork, meal preparation and transport (Table 15.19).

## Marital status and housing tenure type

In 1998, 76.9% of people aged 45–64 with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households were married or in a de facto relationship, compared with 48.7% of those aged 65 or over (Tables 15.20 and A15.6). The 1998 disability survey data also indicate that, of all those aged 45–64, the proportion of people who had ever married were substantially lower among those with an early onset disability than that of people with a disability acquired later in life (82% versus 95%) (Table 15.20 and A15.6).

People aged 45–64 with a severe or profound core activity restriction were less likely to own a house outright than were those aged 65 or over (46.0% versus 60.2%). The data also show that 35.6% of people aged 45–64 with an early onset disability owned a house outright, while 38.5% were renting, boarding or living rent-free. Among people aged 45–64 with a disability acquired between ages 18 and 64, over 45% owned a house and only about 23% were renting, boarding or living rent-free (Table 15.20 and Table A15.6).

**Table 15.16: People aged 45 years and over with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households: number of tasks with which assistance needed, Australia, 1998<sup>(a)</sup>**

Number of tasks	Current age 45–64		Current age 65 or over	
	Number ('000)	Per cent	Number ('000)	Per cent
<b>Self-care</b>				
One	89.3	32.6	72.8	22.8
Two or more	69.9	25.5	80.4	25.2
Total need assistance	159.2	58.1	153.2	48.0
<b>Mobility</b>				
One	128.6	46.9	191.7	60.0
Two or more	80.2	29.3	77.3	24.2
Total need assistance	208.7	76.2	269.0	84.2
<b>Communication</b>				
One	**2.4	**0.9	10.4	3.3
Two or more	*5.7	*2.1	14.7	4.6
Total need assistance	*8.0	*2.9	16.8	5.3
<b>Health care</b>				
One	92.3	33.7	122.7	38.4
Two	51.9	18.9	89.0	27.9
Total need assistance	144.2	52.6	211.8	66.3
<b>Guidance</b>				
One	36.1	13.2	42.8	13.4
Two or more	51.1	18.7	25.6	8.0
Total need assistance	87.2	31.8	68.4	21.4
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>274.1</b>		<b>319.3</b>	

(a) Estimates marked with \*\* have an associated relative standard error (RSE) of 50% or more. Estimates marked with \* have an associated RSE of between 25% and 50%. These estimates should be interpreted accordingly.

Source: AIHW analysis of ABS 1998 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers Confidentialised Unit Record File.

**Table 15.17: People aged 45 years or over with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households: frequency of need for assistance by activity type in which help needed, Australia, 1998<sup>(a)</sup>**

Frequency	Current age 45–64		Current age 65 or over	
	Number ('000)	Per cent	Number ('000)	Per cent
<b>Self-care</b>				
Less than once/week	56.5	20.6	24.3	7.6
1–6 times/week	45.1	16.5	34.8	10.9
At least once/day	57.6	21.0	93.2	29.2
<b>Mobility</b>				
Less than once/week	92.5	33.8	85.1	26.6
1–6 times/week	63.5	23.2	119.9	37.6
At least once/day	52.7	19.2	64.0	20.0
<b>Communication</b>				
Less than once/week	**1.4	**0.5	*6.6	*2.1
At least once/week	*3.9	*1.4	*8.5	*2.7
At least once/day	*3.7	*1.4	12.8	4.0
<b>Health care</b>				
Less than once/week	70.7	25.8	133.5	41.8
1–6 times/week	34.2	12.5	24.4	7.6
At least once/day	39.3	14.3	53.8	16.9
<b>Housework</b>				
Less than once/week	17.7	6.5	44.4	13.9
1–6 times/week	47.3	17.3	75.6	23.7
At least once/day	78.2	28.5	102.4	32.1
<b>Property maintenance</b>				
Less than once/week	95.5	34.8	135.5	42.4
1–6 times/week	75.5	27.6	85.3	26.7
At least once/day	19.4	7.1	24.1	7.5
<b>Paperwork</b>				
Less than once/week	19.4	7.1	31.8	10.0
1–6 times/week	16.9	6.2	52.8	16.5
At least once/day	15.5	5.7	23.8	7.5
<b>Meal preparation</b>				
Less than once/week	14.1	5.2	12.5	3.9
1–6 times/week	13.4	4.9	30.9	9.7
Once/day	32.7	11.9	73.3	23.0
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>274.1</b>		<b>319.3</b>	

(continued)

**Table 15.17 (continued): People aged 45 years or over with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households: frequency of need for assistance by activity type in which help needed, Australia, 1998<sup>(a)</sup>**

Frequency	Current age 45–64		Current age 65 or over	
	Number ('000)	Per cent	Number ('000)	Per cent
<b>Transport</b>				
Less than once/week	50.0	18.2	72.3	22.7
1–6 times/week	67.1	24.5	136.2	42.6
At least once/day	22.1	8.1	18.7	5.8
<b>Guidance</b>				
Less than once/week	34.3	12.5	22.4	7.0
1–6 times/week	27.5	10.0	20.5	6.4
At least once/day	25.4	9.3	25.6	8.0
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>274.1</b>		<b>319.3</b>	<b>319.3</b>

(a) Estimates marked with \*\* have an associated relative standard error (RSE) of 50% or more. Estimates marked with \* have an associated RSE of between 25% and 50%. These estimates should be interpreted accordingly.

Source: AIHW analysis of ABS 1998 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers Confidentialised Unit Record File.

**Table 15.18: People aged 45 years or over with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households: main source of assistance, by activity type in which help needed, Australia, 1998<sup>(a)</sup>**

Frequency	Current age 45–64		Current age 65 or over	
	Number ('000)	Per cent	Number ('000)	Per cent
<b>Self-care</b>				
No provider	15.2	5.5	13.4	4.2
Informal co-resident	129.6	47.3	112.9	35.4
Informal non-co-resident	*7.3	*2.7	*8.9	*2.8
Formal provider	*7.2	*2.6	17.2	5.4
<b>Mobility</b>				
No provider	18.8	6.9	16.1	5.0
Informal co-resident	158.9	58.0	146.3	45.8
Informal non-co-resident	23.6	8.6	85.0	26.6
Formal provider	*7.5	*2.7	21.7	6.8
<b>Communication</b>				
No provider	**1.3	**0.5	*3.1	*1.0
Informal co-resident	*7.7	*2.8	24.7	7.7
Informal non-co-resident	—	—	**0.2	**0.1
<b>Health care</b>				
No provider	9.8	3.6	11.8	3.7
Informal co-resident	99.4	36.3	90.9	28.5
Informal non-co-resident	*8.4	*3.1	15.9	5.0
Formal provider	26.6	9.7	93.3	29.2
<b>Housework</b>				
No provider	*3.8	*1.4	*6.1	*1.9
Informal co-resident	117.6	42.9	127.6	40.0
Informal non-co-resident	10.9	4.0	29.3	9.2
Formal provider	10.8	4.0	59.5	18.6
<b>Property maintenance</b>				
No provider	13.2	4.8	9.4	2.9
Informal co-resident	124.7	45.5	111.0	34.8
Informal non-co-resident	27.7	10.1	50.4	15.8
Formal provider	24.1	8.8	73.5	23.0
<b>Paperwork</b>				
No provider	*3.7	*1.4	*2.7	*0.8
Informal co-resident	37.4	13.6	69.2	21.7
Informal non-co-resident	*8.0	*2.9	31.4	9.8
Formal provider	**2.6	**1.0	*5.1	*1.6
<b>Total persons ('000)</b>	<b>274.1</b>		<b>319.3</b>	

(continued)

**Table 15.18 (continued): People aged 45 years or over with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households: main source of assistance, by activity type in which help needed, Australia, 1998<sup>(a)</sup>**

Frequency	Current age 45–64		Current age 65 or over	
	Number ('000)	Per cent	Number ('000)	Per cent
<b>Meal preparation</b>				
No provider	*3.2	*1.1	**1.9	**0.6
Informal co-resident	51.1	18.6	83.9	26.3
Informal non-co-resident	*2.7	*1.0	*7.3	*2.3
Formal provider	*3.3	*1.2	23.7	7.4
<b>Transport</b>				
<b>No provider</b>	*5.1	*1.8	12.7	4.0
Informal co-resident	107.9	39.4	106.9	33.5
Informal non-co-resident	19.5	7.1	85.8	26.9
Formal provider	*6.8	*2.5	21.8	6.8
<b>Total persons ('000)</b>	<b>274.1</b>		<b>319.3</b>	

(a) Estimates marked with \*\* have an associated relative standard error (RSE) of 50% or more. Estimates marked with \* have an associated RSE of between 25% and 50%. These estimates should be interpreted accordingly.  
 — Nil or rounded to zero.

Source: AIHW analysis of ABS 1998 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers Confidentialised Unit Record File.

**Table 15.19: People aged 45 years or over with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households: total use of formal and informal sources of assistance, by activity type in which help needed, Australia, 1998<sup>(a)</sup>**

	Current age 45–64		Current age 65 or over	
	Number ('000)	Per cent	Number ('000)	Per cent
<b>Self-care</b>				
Formal	16.7	6.1	34.5	10.8
Informal	138.0	50.4	126.3	39.6
<b>Mobility</b>				
Formal	17.9	6.5	48.8	15.3
Informal	185.7	67.7	240.6	75.3
<b>Communication</b>				
Formal	—	—	**1.0	**0.3
Informal	*7.7	*2.8	24.9	7.8
<b>Health care</b>				
Formal	55.4	20.2	127.8	40.0
Informal	114.7	41.8	117.3	36.7
<b>Housework</b>				
Formal	22.2	8.1	91.2	28.6
Informal	132.8	48.5	173.2	54.3
<b>Property maintenance</b>				
Formal	40.6	14.8	99.9	31.3
Informal	160.0	58.4	187.5	58.7
<b>Paperwork</b>				
Formal	*5.2	*1.9	*8.3	*2.6
Informal	45.9	16.8	101.9	31.9
<b>Meal preparation</b>				
Formal	*4.7	*1.7	29.0	9.1
Informal	56.1	20.5	98.5	30.8
<b>Transport</b>				
Formal	12.8	4.7	40.1	12.6
Informal	129.6	47.3	200.7	62.9
<b>Total persons ('000)</b>	<b>274.1</b>		<b>319.3</b>	

(a) Estimates marked with \*\* have an associated relative standard error (RSE) of 50% or more. Estimates marked with \* have an associated RSE of between 25% and 50%. These estimates should be interpreted accordingly.  
 — Nil or rounded to zero.

Source: AIHW analysis of ABS 1998 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers Confidentialised Unit Record File.

**Table 15.20: People aged 45 years and over with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households: marital status and housing tenure type, by age at onset of main condition (per cent), Australia, 1998<sup>(a)</sup>**

	Current age 45–64 years				Current age 65 or over		
	Age at onset of main condition				Age at onset of main condition		
	0–17	18–44	45–64	Total	0–64	65+	Total
<b>Marital status</b>							
Married or de facto	69.3	78.4	77.2	76.9	53.3	44.4	48.7
Separated or divorced	*11.2	14.5	11.0	12.7	*5.4	*2.9	4.1
Widowed	**1.9	**1.8	*7.0	3.9	37.7	49.2	43.6
<i>Total ever married</i>	<i>82.3</i>	<i>94.7</i>	<i>95.2</i>	<i>93.5</i>	<i>96.4</i>	<i>96.6</i>	<i>96.5</i>
Never married	*17.7	*5.3	*4.8	6.5	*3.6	*3.4	3.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Housing tenure type</b>							
Owner without mortgage	35.6	44.0	51.4	46.0	65.5	55.1	60.2
Owner with mortgage	25.9	34.5	21.2	28.2	8.8	9.1	8.9
Renter	*25.0	17.8	18.7	19.0	13.2	11.9	12.5
Boarder	**4.9	*2.1	*2.4	*2.5	*4.9	7.4	6.2
Living rent-free	*8.6	**1.2	*3.9	*3.1	*4.4	9.8	7.2
Other	—	—	—	—	**0.7	*3.0	*1.9
Not applicable	—	**0.5	*2.4	*1.2	*2.5	*3.7	3.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Total persons ('000)</b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>133.1</b>	<b>110.7</b>	<b>274.1</b>	<b>155.3</b>	<b>164.0</b>	<b>319.3</b>

(a) Estimates marked with \*\* have an associated relative standard error (RSE) of 50% or more. Estimates marked with \* have an associated RSE of between 25% and 50%. These estimates should be interpreted accordingly.  
— Nil or rounded to zero.

Source: Table A15.6; AIHW analysis of ABS 1998 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers Confidentialised Unit Record File.

## 15.5 Summary of findings

This chapter examines the level and profile of need for services and assistance, main sources of assistance, and changes between 1993 and 1998, focusing on people with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households. The main statistical findings are summarised in this section.

### Level and profile of need for assistance

In 1998 there were 961,600 people with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households, most of whom needed assistance with at least one of ten daily activities. There were 386,700 people who needed help with more than one core activity, including 73,000 needing assistance with all three core activities (self-care, mobility and communication).

### Age differentials in need for assistance

There were differences in the levels and profiles of need for assistance between people aged under 65 and those aged 65 or more:

- Of the 636,000 people aged under 65 with a severe or profound core activity restriction, 264,300 (41.6%) needed assistance with more than one core activity, including 56,000 (8.8%) who needed help with all three core activities.
- Of the 325,600 people aged 65 or over with a severe or profound core activity restriction, 122,400 (37.6%) needed help with more than one core activity, including 17,000 (5.2%) who needed help with all three core activities.
- The proportions needing assistance with self-care, communication and personal guidance were substantially higher for people aged under 65 than for people aged 65 or over. For all other activity types higher proportions of people aged 65 or over reported need for assistance.

### **Differences in need for assistance by main condition**

Some of the variation in level and profile of need for assistance was associated with differences in main condition. For people aged under 65 with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households, the two largest main condition groups were physical/other (453,500 people or 71.3%) and intellectual (102,400 people or 16.1%).

People aged under 65 with an intellectual main condition most commonly needed assistance with guidance (85.9%), communication (71.6%), mobility (59.7%), self-care (57.2%) and health care (57.2%). Nearly 60% of people in this group needed assistance with more than one core activity, including 30% who needed help with all three core activities.

People aged under 65 with a physical/other main condition most commonly reported need for assistance with mobility (72.7%), self-care (61.5%) and property maintenance (58.8%). About 40% of people in this group needed assistance with more than one core activity, including 4.6% needing help with all three core activities.

Among those aged under 65, the number of areas in which a high proportion of people needed assistance was greater in the intellectual and acquired brain injury main condition groups than in other groups. A high proportion of people reported needing help with mobility in all main condition groups except hearing.

For people aged 65 or over with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households, the two largest main condition groups were physical/other (268,900 people or 82.6%) and vision (28,900 people or 8.9%). In each group about 37% of people reported needing assistance with more than one core activity. Nearly 5% of people with a physical/other main condition needed help with all three core activities.

Of all people with a 'physical or other' main condition, a higher proportion of those aged 65 or over than those aged under 65 reported need for assistance with personal activities of mobility and health care, and with non-personal activities (e.g. housework and transport). In contrast, a higher proportion of people aged under 65 reported need for assistance with self-care and guidance.

Over 90% of those aged 65 or over with an intellectual main condition were living in cared accommodation. Nearly 80% of people aged 65 or over with a psychiatric main condition were living in cared accommodation, a large proportion of whom may have had dementia-related conditions.

### **Main provider of assistance**

- Informal carers were the main source of assistance with self-care, mobility and communication for more than 80% of people with a severe or profound core activity restriction.

- Health care, property maintenance and housework were the activities with which people were most likely to rely on formal services as their main source of assistance.
- Government organisations played a greater role than private sector organisations as the main formal service providers for the core activities of mobility and communication. Private organisations, in particular private profit-making organisations, were more likely to be the main provider of formal services with health care and property maintenance.
- Substantial numbers of people reported no main provider of assistance with mobility (46,700), self-care (40,700), property maintenance (31,000), health care (28,400) and transport (22,200).
- People aged under 65 were more likely than those aged 65 or over to rely on an informal co-resident as their main source of assistance with all activities except communication, while people aged 65 or over were more likely to rely on an informal non-co-resident to assist with mobility, housework, property maintenance, paperwork and transport.
- People aged 65 or over were more likely to receive assistance from a formal provider than were those aged under 65 in the activities of self-care, health care, housework, property maintenance and meal preparation.

## **Changes between 1993 and 1998**

Comparative analyses of need for assistance and main provider of assistance between the 1993 and 1998 surveys indicate that:

- Overall, the number of people reporting need for assistance increased substantially for all activities, with the largest increases in the areas of mobility (192,500), health care (184,800) and self-care (154,100).
- For all activities, percentage increases in the number of people needing assistance were markedly higher for people aged under 65 than for those aged 65 or over. The percentage increases were particularly high in the age group 45–64, reflecting the impact of the baby-boom generation entering the older working-age groups.
- There was a large increase in need for assistance with communication among people aged 5–14 years.
- The number of people who reported that their main source of assistance was an informal co-resident increased markedly for all types of activity. There were also increases in the number of people relying on an informal non-co-resident or a formal provider as their main source of assistance.
- There were no substantial changes in the proportions of people reporting informal co-resident, informal non-co-resident and formal providers as their main source of assistance. This suggests there has been little change in the balance between formal and informal sources of assistance.
- The increase in the number of people reporting an informal co-resident as their main source of assistance was much greater for people aged under 65 than for people aged 65 or more. This was partly because of the larger increase in the number of people with a severe or profound core activity restriction among people aged under 65.

However, there were some differences between the two surveys in terms of the questions on need for assistance that were asked, and there may have been a greater ‘capture’ of people with a disability in the 1998 survey than in the 1993 survey (see Section 18.2).

## **Need for assistance and main source of assistance for people ageing with a disability**

### **All people aged 45–64**

In 1998, there were 276,000 people aged 45–64 years with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households, of whom 99,800 needed assistance with at least two core activities. Some 78,200 people (28.5%) needed daily assistance with housework, 57,600 (21%) with self-care, 52,700 (19.2%) with mobility and 39,300 (14.3%) with health care.

The proportions needing help with self-care and personal guidance were substantially higher for people aged 45–64 than for people aged 65 or over. However, for all other types of activity higher proportions of people aged 65 and over reported need for assistance in comparison with those aged 45–64.

In comparison with people aged 65 or over, people aged 45–64 were more likely to rely on an informal co-resident as their main source of assistance with self-care, mobility, health care and property maintenance, and less likely to receive formal assistance for most activities.

In 1998, 76.9% of people aged 45–64 with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households were married or in a de facto relationship, compared with 48.7% of those aged 65 or over. People aged 45–64 with a severe or profound core activity restriction living in households were less likely to own a house outright than were those aged 65 or over.

### **People ageing with an early onset disability**

Some of the comparative analyses of need for assistance between people aged 45–64 with an early onset disability (acquired before 18 years) and those with a disability acquired later in life suggest that people with early onset disability have higher levels of need. However, because of the limitations of the survey data, in particular high relative standard errors associated with small estimates, it is not possible to reach firm conclusions.

Although data on age at onset were not collected for people living in cared accommodation, there are suggestions that people with an early onset disability are more likely to be living in institutions, probably due to higher levels of need for additional support at an earlier age.

Intellectual disability can be used as an indicator of early onset, as the majority of people with an intellectual disability have had their disability since childhood (see Table 14.5). In the age group 45–64 almost 40% of people with a severe or profound core activity restriction and an intellectual main condition were living in cared accommodation—a much higher proportion than for other main condition groups such as psychiatric (8.9%) and physical/other (2.2%). Among those aged 65 or more with a severe or profound core activity restriction, over 90% of those with an intellectual main condition were living in cared accommodation. People who have spent a large part of their life in cared accommodation are likely to face different issues and have different needs from those who have spent most of their life living in the community.

For people aged 45–64, the proportion who had ever married was substantially lower among those with an early onset disability than among those with a disability acquired later in life (82% versus 95%). The data also show that 35.6% of those with an early onset disability owned a house outright, while 38.5% were renting, boarding or living rent-free. In contrast, for those with a disability acquired later in life, over 45% owned a house and only about 23% were renting, boarding or living rent-free.