

Appendix 5: User Guide to Interactive Disability Data

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has recently launched an interactive disability data site, containing subsets of information on CSDA-funded services, from the snapshot collections in 1999 and 2000.

Found at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/disability/cognos/index.html>, this site allows anyone who has access to the Internet to view CSDA snapshot data via the web interface and gives the user the ability to look up figures and present them in a way meaningful to his or her needs.

Due to the multi-dimensional nature of the disability data cubes, extra steps have been taken to ensure the confidentiality of consumer data. This means that only a selection of variables have been included within the cube and data are not available by State. In cases where numbers are small and potentially identifiable, categories have been grouped together.

Following are some handy hints that you can use to access the data cube and obtain data as required:

Selecting and changing variables: The data cube is initially populated with the first two variables listed on the dimension toolbar found above the data cube. To change these variables, click on the down arrow situated next to the variable name on either the last coloured column or row of the cube and scroll down to select the variable you would like presented.

Definition function: By clicking on the word 'definitions' located at the top of the screen, a pop-up window is opened providing definitions for variables and categories. The source of these definitions is the *CSDA MDS Data Guide: Data Items and Definitions*.

Presenting data values as percentages: The data cube can be customised to display the data values as a percentage of the row or column subtotals or of the table total. Examining a variable as a percentage can provide new insight into the data. To display the data as a percentage, click on the down arrow next to the 'as values' window found in the first cell of the table and select the percentage display that interests you.

Graphically presenting the data: To view the data presented in the table in a graphical representation, select one of the five graph symbols located on the bottom toolbar of the cube. Once selected, the variables of the graph may be changed by using the drop down menus which appear next to the graph.

Saving and exporting the data: Once the data cube has been customised to your needs, there are various avenues for saving the data. These including printing the table, exporting the data as comma-separated value (.csv) tables which can be opened in other applications such as Microsoft Excel, and bookmarking the table so it can be opened at a future time.

Comments and feedback relating to the use of the interactive disability data cubes can be made by email to disability@aihw.gov.au.