

1 Introduction

The Supported Accommodation Assistance Program

This report provides an overview of assistance given to clients of the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP). SAAP was established in 1985 to consolidate a number of Australian Government and state and territory government programs designed to assist people who are homeless or at risk of being homeless, including women and children escaping domestic violence.

The current program (SAAP V) is governed by the *Supported Accommodation Assistance Act 1994*. This specifies that the overall aim of SAAP is to provide transitional supported accommodation and related support services to help homeless people achieve the maximum possible degree of self-reliance and independence.

In 2004–05, 1,294 non-government, community or local government agencies were funded nationally under the program (Table 2.3). Such agencies range from small stand-alone agencies with single outlets to auspices with multiple outlets. They provide accommodation and support services to a range of groups: families, single men, single women, young people, and women and children escaping domestic violence.

The SAAP National Data Collection

The main source of data on the provision of services through SAAP is the SAAP National Data Collection, which consists of a number of distinct components, each of which can be thought of as a separate collection. Currently, four components exist: the Client Collection, the Administrative Data Collection, the Demand for Accommodation Collection, and the Casual Client Collection.

This report mainly presents analysis of the Client Collection. Some analysis of funding using the Administrative Data Collection is also presented to provide context. The Client Collection consists of information about all clients receiving SAAP support lasting more than 1 hour, whereas the Administrative Data Collection consists of general information about the agencies providing the services used by these clients. Appendix 1 provides an overview of these collections.

Accurate interpretation of the analyses presented here requires an understanding of the particular concepts and terms used in the National Data Collection. A glossary of terms is therefore included at the beginning of this report. In addition, readers are encouraged to consult Appendix 1, which contains important information about estimation methods, measurement of concepts, examples for table interpretation, and counting rules used in the analyses in this report. Appendix 2 contains a copy of the client form used to collect data in 2004–05. The National Data Collection Agency (NDCA) collectors manual (AIHW 2001) also contains information that can aid in the use and interpretation of the data presented here.

Structure and content of this report

Data in this report relate to the financial year ending 30 June 2005. Although most tables provide information about both completed and ongoing support periods, analyses of the duration of support and accommodation and of data items relating to client circumstances after support are necessarily limited to completed support periods only. In addition, some

tables contain data for the 9 years the National Data Collection has been conducted, and others report for the past 5 years. Note that although most estimates are adjusted for client non-consent and/or agency non-participation (see Appendix 1), no allowance has been made for agencies that provide forms for some but not all of their support periods.

The analyses in this report are divided into eight main areas. Chapter 2 provides details of resources allocated under SAAP; Chapter 3 presents a discussion of the number of support periods and accompanying child support periods provided by SAAP agencies; Chapter 4 outlines the demographic characteristics of clients and accompanying children; Chapter 5 analyses client groups and explores why clients sought assistance; and Chapter 6 provides analyses of the length of support periods and accommodation for clients, and the type of support provided to clients and accompanying children. Chapter 7 contains analyses of the services required by clients and for accompanying children and how agencies met these needs. The circumstances of clients before and after support periods in terms of income source, accommodation, living situation and employment are examined in Chapter 8. Finally, Chapter 9 presents comparisons of data from 1996-97 to 2004-05. Detailed tables follow the discussion in each chapter.

Estimates presented in this report are subject to revision. Revised tables, along with the reports themselves, are posted on the web site of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare <www.aihw.gov.au>. Regional tables and counts for all data items collected are available in hard copy or electronic format on request from the NDCA (ndca@aihw.gov.au).

A further report, *Demand for SAAP Assistance by Homeless People 2004-05*, including coverage of the unmet needs of clients, unmet demand for accommodation and casual client information gathered in the 2004-05 reporting year, is due to be published in 2006.

2 Funding

In 2004–05 funding for the SAAP agencies operating across Australia was provided jointly by the Australian Government (through the Department of Family and Community Services) and the state and territory governments. This chapter analyses information about the resources allocated to the 1,294 SAAP agencies funded during 2004–05. Not all of these agencies were operating throughout the year: at 30 June 2005, 1,282 were operating.

Total funding

Data provided by Australian Government and state and territory government departments responsible for administering SAAP show that the total recurrent allocation for SAAP nationally was \$309.9m in 2004–05 (Table 2.1). Current funding is based on a combination of funding levels that were agreed on and implemented at SAAP's inception in 1985 and growth funds for SAAP IV which are based on state and territory populations. However, in 2004–05, four jurisdictions reported recurrent allocations in addition to the amounts determined in the agreements between those jurisdictions and the Australian Government. Table 2.1 shows that an additional \$21.9m was provided by Victoria (75%), Western Australia (5%), Tasmania (2%) and the Australian Capital Territory (18%). When this is taken into account, the total recurrent SAAP allocations nationally were \$331.8m.

Of the total recurrent allocations, \$319.8m represented recurrent allocations to SAAP agencies (Table 2.3); the remaining \$12.0m was allocated for purposes such as administration, training, data collection, research and evaluation.¹

Table 2.2 shows the distribution of all recurrent SAAP funds by state and territory, and compares this with the distribution of the Australian population and of support periods and accompanying child support periods provided by agencies. As population numbers and characteristics vary across the states and territories, population figures allow more meaningful comparisons of the level of SAAP use across Australia. Note that the number of support periods and accompanying child support periods are not indicative of the per capita size of the homeless population. They are only indicative of the number of people accessing SAAP and are used only as a broad summary measure of the amount of support provided by agencies, recognising that the level of assistance provided varies considerably with each support period.

An indication of the likely variation in assistance within support periods is illustrated by the New South Wales and Victorian data. Whereas New South Wales had 34% of the funding allocation, agencies in this state supplied 22% of the total support (client support periods plus accompanying child support periods). Conversely, agencies in Victoria provided 36% of the total support, but had 24% of the funds. These differences between the distributions of support and funding may reflect different approaches to service provision, rather than just differences in the relative amount of support provided.

The distribution of funds varied from the proportions of the population in the various states and territories, with some jurisdictions getting relatively more funding than other states

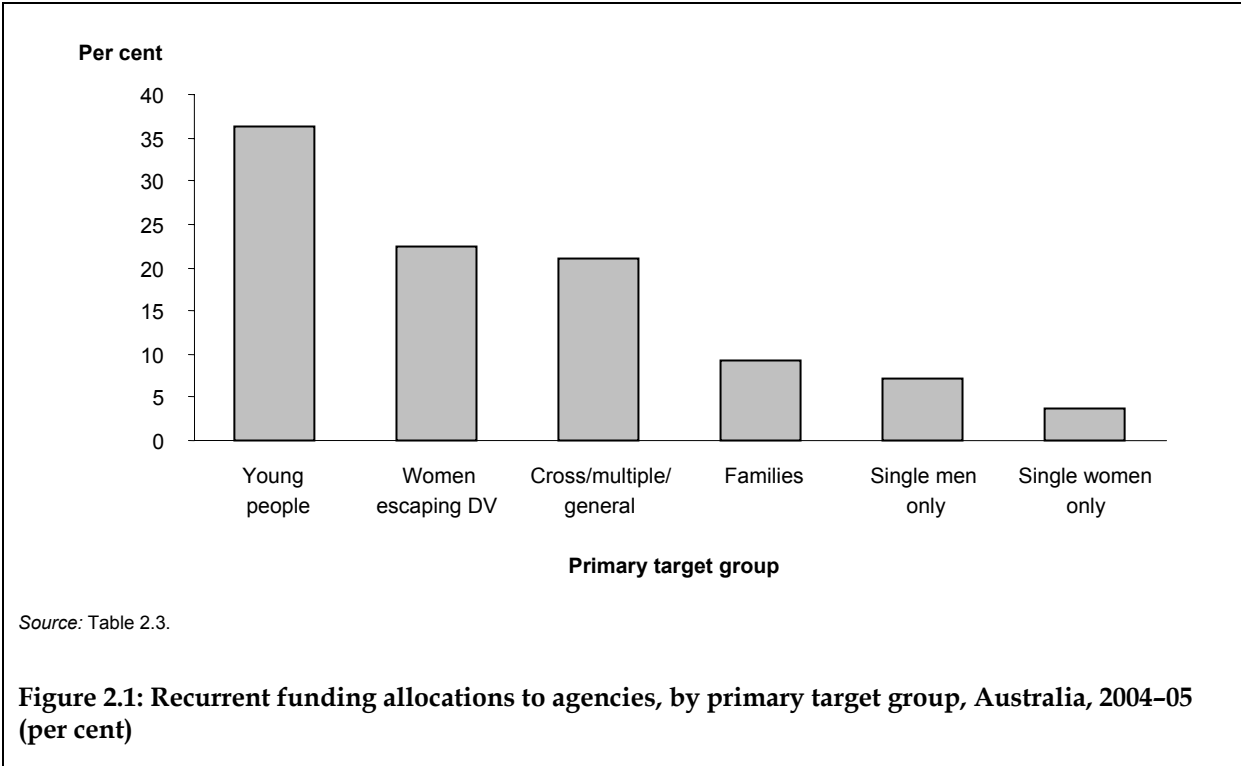
1 The amount that can be used for administrative purposes by state and territory funding departments is determined by a formula set out under their bilateral SAAP agreements with the Australian Government.

(Table 2.2). In particular, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory had 11% of the funding but only 5% of the population at 30 June 2004. On the other hand, 19% of the population lived in Queensland, but that state had only 15% of SAAP funding.

Funding to agencies

Agencies receive recurrent funds for salaries and ongoing operating costs to enable them to provide support to clients. The size of an agency and the types of services it provides affect the level of funding allocated. Caution is therefore recommended when comparing average funding per agency or using such figures to measure efficiency, since different agencies provide different services.

As noted, the total SAAP recurrent allocation across Australia in 2004–05 was \$331.8m (Table 2.1). Table 2.3 shows the recurrent allocations that went directly to SAAP agencies and mean (average) funding per agency by state and territory, region and primary target group. In general, the number of agencies funded increased with the level of funding. The average level of funding per agency was \$247,100. There was, however, a considerable range in the average funding level per agency across the states and territories. Agencies in Tasmania received the highest average funding per agency at \$355,500, whereas agencies in Victoria received the lowest at \$201,300. Average funding was between \$206,100 and \$312,300 per agency in the other states and territories.



As expected from their large number, and as Figure 2.1 illustrates, agencies targeting young people (36% of agencies) received the largest proportion of SAAP recurrent allocations, with 35% of the funds allocated to agencies, or \$111.4m (Table 2.3). Agencies targeting women escaping domestic violence (23% of agencies) received the next largest allocation of recurrent

funds, at 27% or \$85.4m. The small number of agencies targeting single women only (4%, or 49) received the smallest overall proportion of recurrent funds, at 4% or around \$11.1m. In terms of funding per agency, agencies targeting single men had the highest average allocation (\$360,200), followed by agencies for women and children escaping domestic violence (\$293,600). Family agencies and agencies with cross-target, multiple or general target groups were allocated the lowest average amounts per agency (\$184,100 and \$208,100 respectively). Agencies for young people and single women were allocated an average of \$237,000 and \$227,500 respectively.

Over half (55%) of all agencies were located in capital cities and 22% were located in other rural areas. This compares with 6% in other metropolitan centres, 9% in large rural centres and 7% in remote areas. In capital city areas, agencies were funded at an average cost of \$283,200, and agencies in other metropolitan areas received average funding of \$244,000. Agencies in large rural centres were allocated, on average, \$244,900. The allocation of funds to agencies in other rural areas and remote areas was lower per agency than for other regions, with average allocations of \$180,400 and \$182,300 respectively.

2.1 Tables

Table 2.1: SAAP funding: total recurrent allocations, by state and territory, Australia, 2004–05

State/ territory	Australian–state government agreement recurrent allocations		State-only recurrent allocations		Total recurrent allocations	
	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%
NSW	113,090,000	36.5	n.a.	—	113,090,000	34.1
Vic	61,998,000	20.0	16,476,000	75.3	78,474,000	23.7
Qld	48,015,000	15.5	n.a.	—	48,015,000	14.5
WA	28,979,000	9.4	1,016,000	4.6	29,995,000	9.0
SA	26,637,000	8.6	n.a.	—	26,637,000	8.0
Tas	12,437,000	4.0	500,000	2.3	12,937,000	3.9
ACT	10,674,000	3.4	3,887,000	17.8	14,561,000	4.4
NT	8,094,000	2.6	n.a.	—	8,094,000	2.4
Total	309,924,000	100.0	21,878,000	100.0	331,802,000	100.0

Notes

1. 'Total recurrent allocations' include funds not allocated to agencies, e.g. funds allocated for administration, training, research and evaluation.
2. 'State-only recurrent allocations' as shown in the table are in addition to the SAAP funding agreement between that state and the Australian Government.

Sources: SAAP Client Collection; FaCS unpublished data.

Table 2.2: SAAP funding: support periods, accompanying child support periods, Australian population and total recurrent allocations, by state and territory, Australia, 2004–05

State/ territory	Total Australian population		Total recurrent allocations		Support periods		Accompanying child support periods		Total support	
	Number	%	\$	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
NSW	6,720,800	33.5	113,090,000	34.1	41,300	23.9	13,500	17.2	54,800	21.8
Vic	4,963,000	24.7	78,474,000	23.7	62,000	35.8	29,700	37.8	91,700	36.4
Qld	3,888,100	19.4	48,015,000	14.5	26,300	15.2	10,700	13.6	36,900	14.7
WA	1,978,100	9.8	29,995,000	9.0	14,500	8.4	8,600	11.0	23,200	9.2
SA	1,532,700	7.6	26,637,000	8.0	15,600	9.0	9,300	11.9	25,000	9.9
Tas	482,200	2.4	12,937,000	3.9	6,400	3.7	3,200	4.1	9,600	3.8
ACT	324,100	1.6	14,561,000	4.4	2,300	1.3	900	1.2	3,300	1.3
NT	199,800	1.0	8,094,000	2.4	4,600	2.6	2,600	3.3	7,100	2.8
Total	20,091,500	100.0	331,802,000	100.0	173,100	100.0	78,500	100.0	251,600	100.0

Notes

1. 'Total Australian population' refers to the estimated resident population at 30 June 2004 (preliminary estimates). Residents of external territories are included in the total.
2. 'Total recurrent allocations' include funds not allocated to agencies, e.g. funds allocated for administration, training, research and evaluation; and funds in addition to the SAAP funding agreement between some jurisdictions and the Australian Government (see Table 2.1).
3. Support period and accompanying child support period figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation.

Sources: SAAP Client Collection; FaCS unpublished data; ABS 2005a.

Table 2.3: SAAP agencies: recurrent allocations to agencies and mean funding per agency, by state and territory, region and primary target group, Australia, 2004–05

	Agencies (number)	Agencies (%)	Recurrent allocation (\$)	Recurrent allocation (%)	Mean funding per agency (\$)
State/territory					
NSW	386	29.8	107,308,000	33.6	278,000
Vic	375	29.0	75,484,000	23.6	201,300
Qld	201	15.5	47,640,000	14.9	237,000
WA	129	10.0	29,004,000	9.1	224,800
SA	83	6.4	25,924,000	8.1	312,300
Tas	35	2.7	12,442,000	3.9	355,500
ACT	48	3.7	14,349,000	4.5	298,900
NT	37	2.9	7,627,000	2.4	206,100
Total	1,294	100.0	319,778,000	100.0	247,100
Region					
Capital city	715	55.3	202,462,000	63.3	283,200
Other metropolitan centre	83	6.4	20,248,000	6.3	244,000
Large rural centre	115	8.9	28,161,000	8.8	244,900
Other rural area	285	22.0	51,408,000	16.1	180,400
Remote area	96	7.4	17,500,000	5.5	182,300
Total	1,294	100.0	319,778,000	100.0	247,100
Primary target group					
Young people	470	36.3	111,371,000	34.8	237,000
Single men only	92	7.1	33,135,000	10.4	360,200
Single women only	49	3.8	11,149,000	3.5	227,500
Families	120	9.3	22,093,000	6.9	184,100
Women escaping domestic violence	291	22.5	85,431,000	26.7	293,600
Cross-target/multiple/general	272	21.0	56,598,000	17.7	208,100
Total	1,294	100.0	319,778,000	100.0	247,100

Note: 'Recurrent allocation' excludes funds not allocated to agencies, e.g. funds allocated for administration, training, research and evaluation. These amounts are included in the total recurrent allocations shown in Tables 2.1 and 2.2.

Source: SAAP Administrative Data Collection.

3 Level of support

It is estimated that 1 in every 128 Australians received substantial SAAP support at some time during 2004–05.² More specifically, SAAP agencies supported an estimated 157,200 people during 2004–05. Of these, 100,400 were adults or unaccompanied children (clients) and 56,800 were accompanying children (Tables 3.1 and 3.2).

The total number of support periods (173,100) exceeded the number of clients as each client can receive support or supported accommodation on more than one occasion. Similarly, the total number of accompanying child support periods (78,500) exceeded the number of accompanying children as individual children may accompany a parent or guardian during more than one period of support.

There have been changes in the distribution and numbers of support periods and clients overall from 2003–04 to 2004–05 and specifically in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory (see Chapter 9). With the exception of the Australian Capital Territory, this was due mostly to a refinement in the definition of an ongoing support relationship in 2004–05 in preparation for the introduction of the SAAP NDC core data set in July 2005. The biggest effect of this change was to agencies with a high daily volume of clients. In the Australian Capital Territory, the change was caused mainly by an increase in the participation rate in that territory.

The number of accompanying child support periods has also increased. The change is mostly the result of the move of all agencies to the general client collection form. Before 2004–05, agencies with a high turnover of clients completed a form which contained a subset of the information contained on the general client form. Also, the methods of delivering services differ between jurisdictions, and this accounts for some of the variations reported between the states and territories.

Adults and unaccompanied children

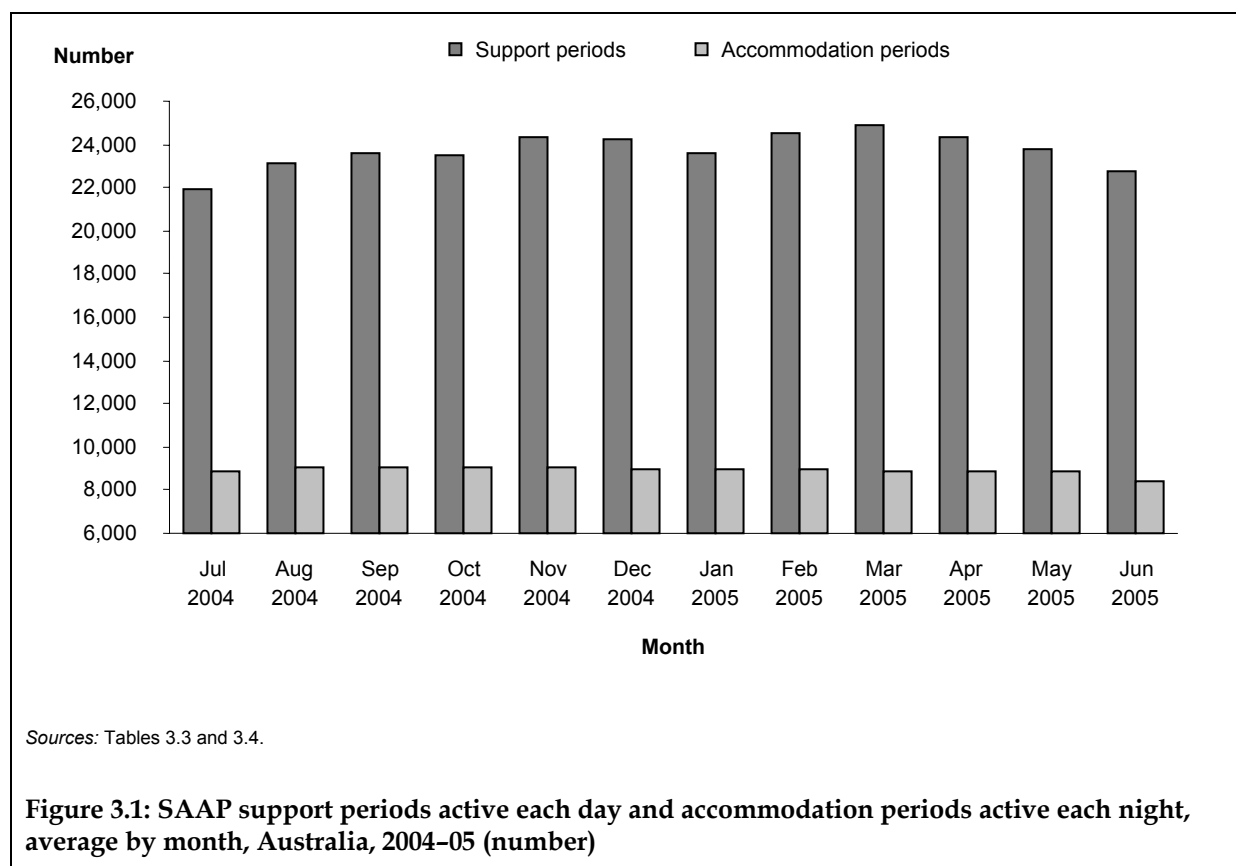
Seventy-two per cent of clients had only one support period during the year (Table 3.1). The average number of support periods per client was 1.7. Agencies in Victoria and New South Wales reported the highest average number of support periods, at 1.7 per client in each state. The lowest average of 1.4 support periods per client was recorded in Tasmania. Nationally, of every 10,000 people aged 10 years and over in the general population, 57 people became SAAP clients. The Northern Territory had the highest number of clients per 10,000 people in the general population aged over 10 years (183) and New South Wales had the lowest (41).

Daily support

The daily level of support provided by SAAP agencies can be examined by looking at the average number of support periods active each day and the average number of accommodation periods active each night. Note that accommodation periods occur during support periods and are therefore not in addition to the number of support periods. Figure

² From tables 2.2, 3.1 and 3.2 we calculate: total Australian population 20,091,500 ÷ (100,400 clients + 56,800 accompanying children) = 127.8.

3.1 shows the average number of support periods that were active each day during each month of 2004–05 and the number of accommodation periods that were active each night.



Support periods

SAAP agencies across Australia provided a fairly constant level of service throughout 2004–05, with the average daily number of support periods ranging from 21,900 to 24,900. A total of 8,650,700 days of support were provided (Table 3.3).

Overall, agencies in Victoria provided the most support periods on a daily basis (between 7,600 and 8,700 a day). This state also reported the most days of support (3,041,300) and the highest number of support periods overall (62,000) (Tables 3.3 and 3.1). On the other hand, agencies in the Northern Territory provided the lowest average daily number of support periods, averaging between 300 and 400 support periods each day, and the Australian Capital Territory reported the second lowest daily average number of support periods (500 support periods each day) (Table 3.3). However, the Northern Territory reported more support periods in 2004–05 than the Australian Capital Territory (4,600 compared with 2,300) (Table 3.1). An explanation for the higher average daily number of support periods in the Australian Capital Territory is the higher median length of support in this jurisdiction (22 days) compared with the Northern Territory (7 days) (Table 6.1). The longer length of support in the Australian Capital Territory also explains why the Australian Capital Territory provided more total days of support than the Northern Territory (173,600 compared with 148,500) (Table 3.3).

Accommodation periods

A total of 3,158,700 nights of accommodation were provided by SAAP agencies in Australia during 2004–05 (Table 3.4). The average nightly number of accommodation periods ranged from 8,400 to 9,100.

Victoria reported the highest average daily number of support periods and total days of support (Table 3.3), but New South Wales provided the most nights of accommodation during 2004–05 (954,800) and reported the highest average nightly figures for accommodation (ranging from 2,600 to 2,800) (Table 3.4). An explanation for this can be found in Table 6.2 in the state and territory supplements associated with this publication. Although this table shows only closed support periods with accommodation, it still gives an indication of the number of support periods with accommodation. For example, New South Wales provided 19,000 closed support periods with accommodation lasting at least 1 day. Victoria, on the other hand, reported 10,800 closed support periods with accommodation that lasted at least 1 day. Another explanation for the lower number of accommodation nights in Victoria is that many SAAP clients in Victoria are accommodated in both crisis and medium-term accommodation by the Transitional Housing Management (THM) program. Some of the accommodation periods provided to clients at THM properties are reported to the NDCA, but an indeterminate number are not.

The Northern Territory reported the lowest number of nights of accommodation (69,100) and had the lowest average nightly number of accommodation periods, along with Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory, of 200 accommodation periods each night.

Accompanying children

This section focuses on children who accompanied their parent(s) or guardian(s) to SAAP agencies, or who required or received assistance from a SAAP agency as a result of their parent or guardian being a client of the same agency. The estimates presented here relate to accompanying children and accompanying child support periods (see Glossary).

During 2004–05, there were 78,500 accompanying child support periods (Table 3.2). There was significant variation in the number of accompanying child support periods across the states and territories, ranging from 900 in the Australian Capital Territory to 29,700 in Victoria. Differences in agency profiles and the level of commitment to completing child data may explain why several jurisdictions reported higher numbers of accompanying child support periods than larger states or territories.

Eighty-one per cent of accompanying children had only one support period during the year (Table 3.2). The average number of accompanying child support periods per accompanying child was 1.4. Agencies in Victoria reported the highest average number of accompanying child support periods, at 1.5 per accompanying child. The lowest average of 1.2 accompanying child support periods per accompanying child was recorded in the Australian Capital Territory, Queensland and Tasmania.

Nationally, 118 children for every 10,000 children in the general population aged under 18 years accompanied their parent or guardian to a SAAP agency. Across the states and territories, the Northern Territory reported significantly higher numbers of accompanying children per 10,000 population aged under 18 years (342), followed by Tasmania (224) and South Australia (204). New South Wales reported the lowest number of accompanying children compared with the general population aged under 18 years (68).

Support and accommodation dates for accompanying children are not collected in the Client Collection and it should be noted that an accompanying child may or may not be present for the entire duration of the parent's or guardian's support period. However, if it is assumed that accompanying children had the same periods of support and accommodation as their parent(s) or guardian(s), there was an average daily number of 13,900 accompanying child support periods and an average nightly number of 5,700 periods of accommodation (Table 9.3).

3.1 Tables

Table 3.1: SAAP support periods and clients, by state and territory, Australia, 2004–05

State/ territory	Support periods (number)	Clients					
		Clients (number)	Clients with only one support period (%)	Mean no. of support periods per client (number)	Per 10,000 population aged 10+		
					Actual	Age- standardised	
NSW	41,300	24,100	75.1	1.71	41	41	
Vic	62,000	36,100	72.0	1.72	83	82	
Qld	26,300	17,500	77.9	1.50	52	51	
WA	14,500	8,900	73.5	1.65	51	50	
SA	15,600	9,600	70.6	1.62	71	74	
Tas	6,400	4,600	77.5	1.41	108	115	
ACT	2,300	1,600	78.3	1.47	55	51	
NT	4,600	3,100	75.4	1.51	183	162	
Australia	173,100	100,400	71.9	1.72	57	57	

Notes

1. Number excluded due to errors and omissions (weighted): 0.
2. The number of clients within a state or territory relates to clients who ever received assistance from a SAAP agency in that state or territory. Since a client may have support periods in more than one state or territory, state and territory figures do not sum to the national figure.
3. 'Per 10,000 population aged 10+' shows how many people out of every 10,000 aged 10 years and over in the general population became SAAP clients. The rate is estimated by comparing the number of SAAP clients aged 10 years and over with the estimated resident population aged 10 years and over at 30 June 2004 (preliminary estimates). Age-standardised estimates have been derived to allow for different age distributions in the various jurisdictions.
4. Support period figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation.
5. Client figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent.

Sources: SAAP Client Collection; ABS 2005a.

Table 3.2: SAAP accompanying child support periods and accompanying children, by state and territory, Australia, 2004–05

State/ territory	Accompanying child support periods (number)	Accompanying children			Per 10,000 population aged 0–17 years
		Accompanying children (number)	Accompanying children with only one accompanying child support period (%)	Mean no. of accompanying child support periods per accompanying child (number)	
NSW	13,500	10,800	89.7	1.26	68
Vic	29,700	20,400	80.1	1.45	177
Qld	10,700	8,600	84.6	1.20	89
WA	8,600	6,100	80.1	1.43	126
SA	9,300	7,100	80.2	1.31	204
Tas	3,200	2,600	82.7	1.21	224
ACT	900	800	91.7	1.16	103
NT	2,600	2,000	85.8	1.27	342
Australia	78,500	56,800	81.1	1.38	118

Notes

1. Number excluded due to errors and omissions (weighted): 0.
2. The number of accompanying children within a state or territory relates to children who *ever* accompanied a client to a SAAP agency in that state or territory. Since a client with accompanying children may have support periods in more than one state or territory, state and territory figures do not sum to the national figure.
3. 'Per 10,000 population aged 0–17' shows how many children out of every 10,000 aged 17 years and under in the general population accompany SAAP clients. The rate is estimated by comparing the number of accompanying children aged 17 years and under with the estimated resident population aged 17 years and under at 30 June 2004 (preliminary estimates).
4. Accompanying child support period figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation.
5. Accompanying children figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent.

Sources: SAAP Client Collection; ABS 2005a.

Table 3.3: SAAP support periods: number of support periods active each day, average by month and state and territory, Australia, 2004–05

Date	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
July 2004	5,500	7,800	2,900	1,500	2,200	1,100	500	300	21,900
August 2004	5,800	8,300	3,100	1,600	2,300	1,100	500	400	23,100
September 2004	5,800	8,600	3,200	1,700	2,400	1,100	500	400	23,600
October 2004	5,900	8,500	3,300	1,500	2,400	1,100	500	400	23,500
November 2004	6,000	8,700	3,400	1,600	2,500	1,100	500	400	24,300
December 2004	6,100	8,700	3,300	1,700	2,500	1,100	500	400	24,200
January 2005	6,100	8,400	3,200	1,500	2,500	1,100	500	400	23,600
February 2005	6,500	8,500	3,200	1,700	2,500	1,200	500	400	24,500
March 2005	6,700	8,500	3,300	1,800	2,500	1,200	500	400	24,900
April 2005	6,700	8,300	3,300	1,500	2,400	1,200	500	400	24,300
May 2005	6,300	8,200	3,200	1,600	2,500	1,200	500	400	23,800
June 2005	6,200	7,600	3,100	1,500	2,400	1,100	500	400	22,800
Support periods: total number of days	2,233,500	3,041,300	1,172,700	583,500	885,200	412,300	173,600	148,500	8,650,700

Notes

1. Number excluded due to errors and omissions (weighted): 1.
2. Figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation.
3. Please refer to the counting rules (Appendix 1, Section A1.4) for the method used to calculate the monthly average.

Source: SAAP Client Collection.

Table 3.4: SAAP support periods with accommodation: number of accommodation periods active each night, average by month and state and territory, Australia, 2004–05

Date	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
July 2004	2,700	2,600	1,600	700	800	200	200	200	8,900
August 2004	2,700	2,600	1,700	700	800	200	200	200	9,100
September 2004	2,700	2,600	1,800	700	800	200	200	200	9,100
October 2004	2,700	2,600	1,800	700	800	200	200	200	9,100
November 2004	2,700	2,500	1,800	700	800	200	200	200	9,100
December 2004	2,600	2,500	1,800	700	800	200	200	200	9,000
January 2005	2,700	2,400	1,800	700	800	200	200	200	9,000
February 2005	2,800	2,500	1,600	700	800	200	200	200	9,000
March 2005	2,700	2,500	1,600	700	800	200	200	200	8,900
April 2005	2,800	2,500	1,600	600	800	200	200	200	8,900
May 2005	2,800	2,500	1,600	600	800	200	200	200	8,900
June 2005	2,600	2,300	1,500	600	700	200	200	200	8,400
Accommodation periods: total number of nights	954,800	885,500	597,100	236,000	277,100	69,700	69,200	69,100	3,158,700

Notes

1. Number excluded due to errors and omissions (weighted): 2,689.
2. Figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation.
3. Please refer to the counting rules (Appendix 1, Section A1.4) for the method used to calculate the monthly average.

Source: SAAP Client Collection.

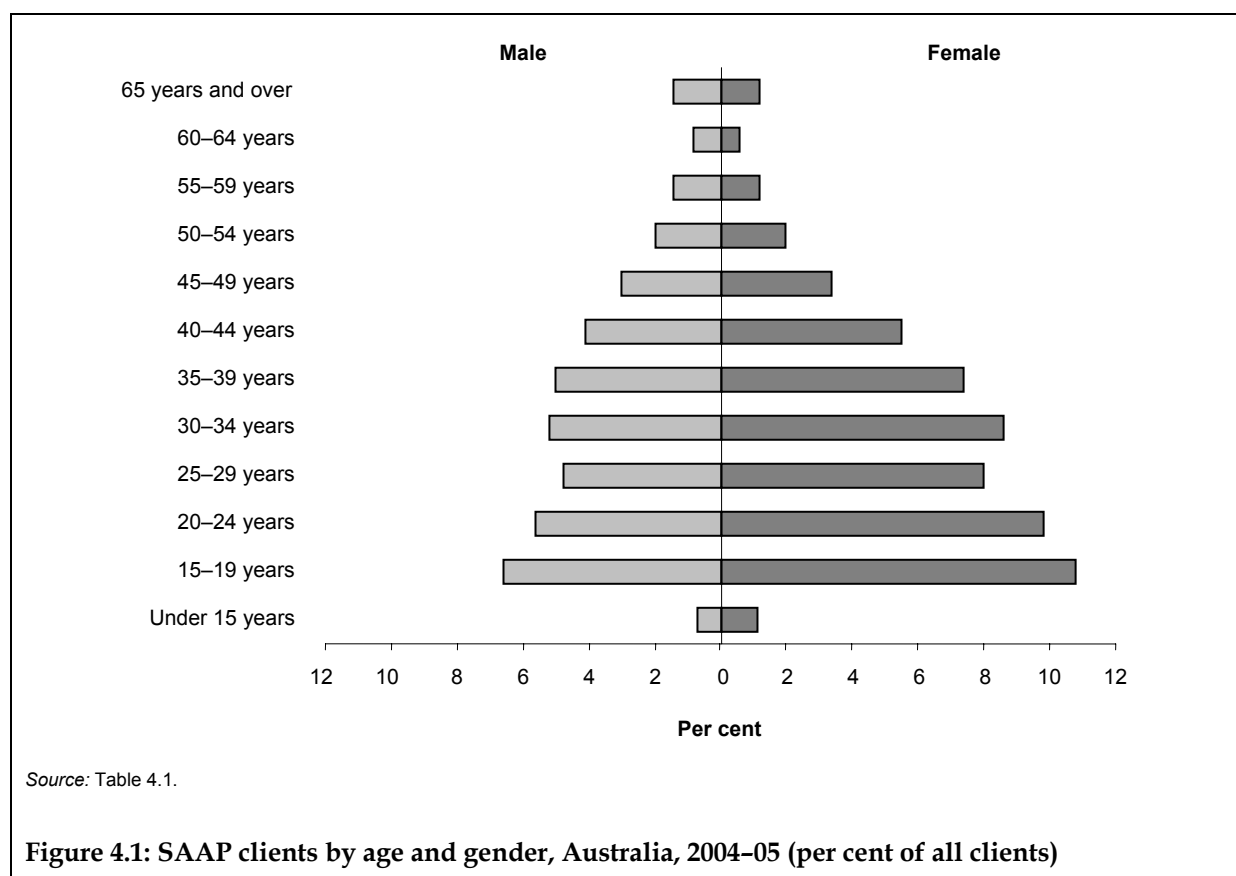
4 Age, gender, and cultural and linguistic diversity

This chapter discusses the demographic characteristics of SAAP clients (adults and unaccompanied children) and accompanying children. In addition, patterns of service use are examined according to age, gender, and cultural and linguistic diversity.

Characteristics of SAAP clients

Age and gender

Figure 4.1 shows the age and gender distribution of SAAP clients in Australia during 2004–05. In all age groups of clients under 50 years there were more female than male clients. As a consequence, more females (59,400) than males (40,400) received services (Table 4.1). From the age of 50 years onwards, there were slightly more male than female clients. When the 15–17 and 18–19 year age groups reported in Table 4.1 are aggregated, the largest group of clients was aged 15–19 years, with 17% of all clients being in this age group (derived from Table 4.1). The next largest 5-year age group was 20–24 years (15%) (Table 4.1). The smallest proportion of clients were aged 60–64 years (1%).



Country of birth

Eighty-six per cent of SAAP clients were born in Australia (Table 4.5). The next most common places of birth were Oceania and 'other Europe and the former Soviet Union' (just under 3% each), and South-East Asia (just over 2%). Less than 1% of SAAP clients were born in the Americas.

People born in Australia were more likely to become SAAP clients than those born elsewhere: 74% of the Australian population aged 10 years and over were Australian-born, but, as previously mentioned, this group made up 86% of SAAP clients. On the other hand, people born in the United Kingdom and Ireland, 'other Europe and the former Soviet Union', North America and various parts of Asia were underrepresented among SAAP clients.

The distributions of male and female clients by country of birth were generally similar. However, the percentages of female clients from South-East Asia, North-East Asia and 'South and Central America and Caribbean' were at least double those for males.

Cultural and linguistic diversity

There was some variation between male and female clients in terms of cultural and linguistic diversity. Although a slightly higher proportion of male clients (5%) than female clients (4%) were born overseas in English proficiency group 1 countries (see section A1.4 in Appendix 1), of clients born overseas in predominately non-English-speaking countries (English proficiency groups 2-4) more were female than male – 12% of female clients were born in these countries, compared with 8% of male clients (Table 4.7).

Victoria had the highest proportion of clients born overseas in countries in English proficiency groups 2-4 (14% compared with 10% nationally) (Table 4.8). The percentage of male clients who were born in these countries was smaller than the corresponding percentage of female clients in all jurisdictions with the exception of the Northern Territory.

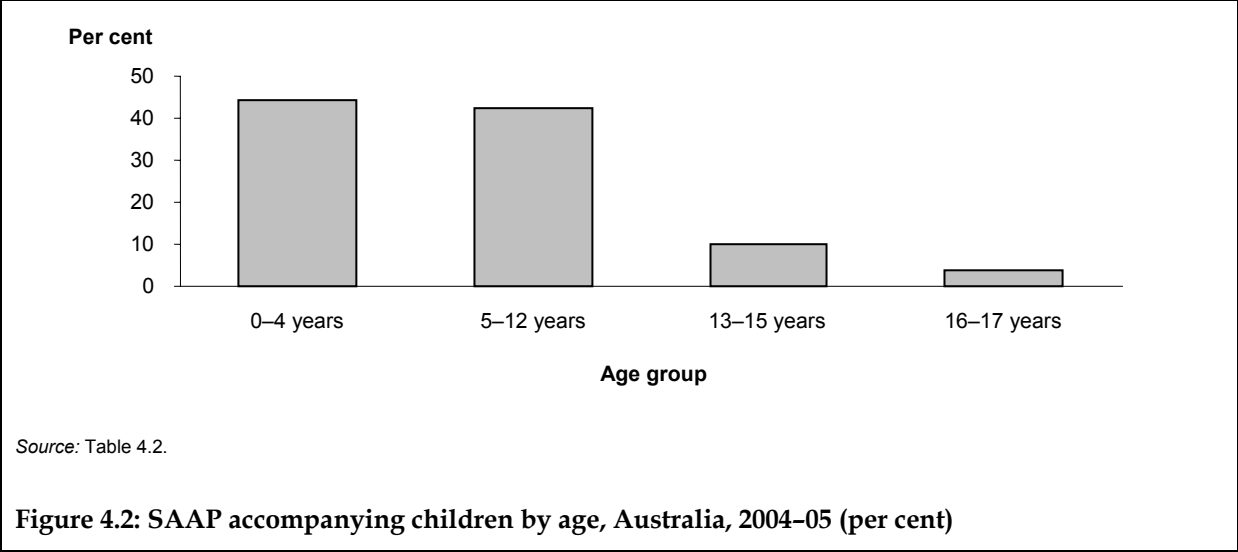
A higher proportion of female clients than male clients were Indigenous Australians (20% of female clients compared with 11% of male clients) (Table 4.7). Overall, Indigenous Australians were overrepresented as SAAP clients relative to their population size: 2% of Australians aged 10 years and over were estimated to be Indigenous Australians in June 2003, but this group made up around 16% of SAAP clients in 2004-05. The overrepresentation of Indigenous Australians influences the relative proportions of other cultural and linguistic groups in SAAP, in particular the large proportion of Australian-born people as shown in Table 4.5.

Reflecting the large proportion of Indigenous people in the general population, the Northern Territory had the largest proportion of Indigenous clients, 59% (Table 4.8). This overrepresentation was even more pronounced among female clients: 71% of female clients in the Northern Territory were Indigenous Australians, whereas the national proportion was 20%. The lowest percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients was recorded in Victoria (5%).

Characteristics of accompanying children

Eighty-seven per cent of accompanying children were 12 years of age and under, with children aged 4 years and under accounting for slightly more accompanying children than 5-12-year-olds (44% compared with 42%) (Figure 4.2). Ten per cent of accompanying children were aged 13-15 years and slightly less than 4% of children were aged 16-17 years.

There was little difference reported in the gender of accompanying children, with the proportions divided evenly between girls and boys (Table 4.2).



Ninety-five per cent of accompanying children were born in Australia (Table 4.6). All other birthplaces accounted for the remaining 5% of accompanying children.

SAAP use by clients

As mentioned in Chapter 3, 72% of all clients had just one support period during 2004-05, clients averaged 1.7 support periods each, and 57 people per 10,000 people in the general population aged 10 years and over accessed SAAP services (Table 3.1).

Age and gender

The pattern of repeat use varied according to age and gender (Table 4.3). Overall, 73% of female clients had one support period and the corresponding figure for male clients was 70%. Males averaged slightly more support periods, at 1.8 each, with females averaging around 1.7 support periods each.

Clients aged 25-44 years made up nearly 49% of all SAAP clients. They also returned to SAAP agencies more often than other clients (averaging 1.8 support periods each). This was due to the relatively high average number of support periods per client for males in this age category (1.9). In comparison, females aged 25-44 years averaged 1.7 support periods each. In contrast, clients under 15 years of age made up less than 2% of all clients. They returned less often than others to SAAP services, averaging around 1.4 support periods each; 80% of this client group had only one support period.

The proportion of people accessing support varied considerably by age. People aged from 15 to 24 years were more likely to go to SAAP agencies than people in other age groups (Table 4.3). The highest rate of use was by 18-19-year-olds, with 142 clients for every 10,000 people in this age bracket. The next highest usage rates were by 15-17-year-olds and 20-24-year-olds, among whom there were 117 and 110 clients, respectively, for every 10,000

people. Only 10 people per 10,000 aged 65 years and over and 11 people per 10,000 aged under 15 years³ became SAAP clients.

The proportion of people accessing SAAP services also varied by gender. Females were more likely to use SAAP services than males: there were 67 female clients for every 10,000 females aged 10 years and over in the general population and 47 male clients per 10,000 males aged 10 years and over. The highest rate of use was by 18–19-year-old females among whom there were 179 clients per 10,000 females in this age bracket, compared with 106 male clients.

Cultural and linguistic diversity

The average number of support periods per client varied slightly according to cultural and linguistic diversity. Other Australian-born clients had the highest number of support periods each, averaging 1.8 (Table 4.7). In comparison, clients from countries in English proficiency groups 2–4 had fewer support periods per client, averaging 1.5. Indigenous Australian clients averaged 1.7 support periods each as did clients from predominately English-speaking countries (English proficiency group 1 countries).

State and territory

There was a large variation across the states and territories in terms of SAAP use. The number of SAAP clients per 10,000 people aged 10 years and over ranged from 41 in New South Wales to 183 in the Northern Territory, and females were more likely to use SAAP services in all states and territories, except the Australian Capital Territory (Table 4.8). These differences largely reflect the varying usage of SAAP services by clients of different cultural backgrounds and the different population profiles in the states and territories. It may also reflect the availability of SAAP services across the states and territories.

SAAP use by accompanying children

As mentioned in Chapter 3, 81% of all accompanying children had just one accompanying child support period during 2004–05, and accompanying children averaged 1.4 accompanying child support periods each (Table 3.2). However, the pattern of repeat use for children accompanying a parent(s) or guardian(s) to a SAAP agency varied with age. On average, accompanying children aged 0–4 years and 5–12 years generally had more occasions where their parent(s) or guardian(s) were supported than accompanying children in other age groups, averaging 1.4 accompanying child support periods each (Table 4.4). Accompanying children aged 16–17 years had the lowest average number of accompanying child support periods (1.2), with 88% having only 1 accompanying child support period during the year.

In Australia during 2004–05, for every 10,000 people aged 0–17 years in the general population, 118 children accompanied a parent(s) or guardian(s) who used SAAP services (Table 4.4). The highest rate of use was for 0–4-year-olds, with 198 children for every 10,000 children in this age bracket accompanying a SAAP client. The next highest usage rate was for 5–12-year-olds, for whom there were 111 accompanying children for every 10,000 children. There were 66 children per 10,000 children aged 13–15 years and 37 children per 10,000 children aged 16–17 years that accompanied a client to a SAAP agency.

³ The rate for people under 15 years refers to clients only and does not include accompanying children.

There was a large variation across the states and territories. The number of accompanying children per 10,000 children aged 0–17 years ranged from 68 in New South Wales to 342 in the Northern Territory (Table 3.2). This is a result of the varying usage by and availability of SAAP services to the parent(s) and guardian(s) of these children.

4.1 Tables

Table 4.1: SAAP clients by age and gender, Australia, 2004–05

Age	Percentage of all clients		Percentage of gender group		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	%	Number
	%	%	%	%	%	
Under 15 years	0.7	1.1	1.7	1.8	1.7	1,700
15–17 years	3.6	6.0	8.8	10.0	9.5	9,500
18–19 years	3.0	4.8	7.4	8.1	7.9	7,800
20–24 years	5.6	9.8	13.9	16.4	15.4	15,400
25–29 years	4.8	8.0	11.8	13.5	12.8	12,800
30–34 years	5.2	8.6	12.9	14.4	13.8	13,800
35–39 years	5.0	7.4	12.2	12.5	12.4	12,400
40–44 years	4.1	5.5	10.1	9.2	9.6	9,600
45–49 years	3.0	3.4	7.4	5.6	6.3	6,300
50–54 years	2.0	2.0	5.0	3.3	4.0	4,000
55–59 years	1.4	1.2	3.4	2.0	2.6	2,600
60–64 years	0.8	0.6	2.0	1.0	1.4	1,400
65 years and over	1.4	1.2	3.4	2.0	2.6	2,600
<i>Total</i>	<i>40.5</i>	<i>59.5</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>..</i>
Total (number)	40,400	59,400	40,400	59,400	..	99,800
Mean age (years)	..	..	33.9	31.4	..	32.4
Median age (years)	..	..	32	30	..	30

Notes

1. Number excluded due to errors and omissions (weighted): 550.
2. Figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent.

Source: SAAP Client Collection.

Table 4.2: SAAP accompanying children by age and gender of child, Australia, 2004–05

Accompanying children		
Age	%	Number
0–4 years	44.3	25,000
5–12 years	42.4	23,900
13–15 years	9.8	5,500
16–17 years	3.6	2,000
Total	100.0	56,500
Gender		
Male	49.9	28,300
Female	50.1	28,400
Total	100.0	56,700

Notes

1. Number excluded due to errors and omissions in age (weighted): 336.
2. Number excluded due to errors and omissions in gender (weighted): 76.
3. Accompanying children figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent.

Source: SAAP Client Collection.

Table 4.3: SAAP clients: number of support periods per client, by age and gender of client, Australia, 2004–05 (per cent)

Number of support periods	Under 15 years	15–17 years	18–19 years	20–24 years	25–44 years	45–64 years	65+ years	Total	
								%	Number
Male clients									
1	80.8	70.2	72.3	72.0	67.5	70.4	76.3	69.8	28,200
2	12.3	15.1	15.8	15.0	16.9	15.5	15.0	16.0	6,500
3	3.6	7.1	5.5	5.7	6.2	5.6	4.0	5.9	2,400
4	0.8	2.9	2.4	3.0	3.5	2.7	1.3	3.0	1,200
5	0.8	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.9	1.8	1.2	1.7	700
6+	1.7	3.6	2.7	2.8	4.0	3.9	2.2	3.6	1,400
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>..</i>
Total (%)	1.7	8.8	7.4	13.9	47.1	17.7	3.4	100.0	..
Total (number)	700	3,600	3,000	5,600	19,000	7,200	1,400	..	40,400
Mean number of support periods	1.45	1.80	1.70	1.70	1.90	1.92	1.67	..	1.84
Per 10,000 population	8	85	106	79	65	29	12	..	47
Female clients									
1	79.9	70.6	72.0	71.8	72.5	79.3	77.4	73.2	43,500
2	13.6	15.6	16.2	16.0	15.5	13.1	19.0	15.4	9,200
3	3.0	6.7	6.2	6.1	5.4	3.8	1.9	5.4	3,200
4	1.6	2.7	2.4	2.6	2.7	1.5	0.9	2.5	1,500
5	1.1	1.7	1.3	1.4	1.5	0.9	0.4	1.4	800
6+	0.8	2.7	1.9	2.1	2.3	1.5	0.4	2.1	1,300
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>..</i>
Total (%)	1.8	10.0	8.1	16.4	49.6	12.0	2.0	100.0	..
Total (number)	1,100	6,000	4,800	9,800	29,500	7,100	1,200	..	59,400
Mean number of support periods	1.44	1.73	1.64	1.66	1.69	1.51	1.42	..	1.65
Per 10,000 population	13	150	179	144	100	29	8	..	67
All clients									
1	80.2	70.5	72.1	71.9	70.5	74.9	76.8	71.8	71,700
2	13.1	15.4	16.1	15.6	16.0	14.3	16.9	15.6	15,600
3	3.3	6.8	5.9	5.9	5.7	4.7	3.0	5.6	5,600
4	1.3	2.7	2.4	2.8	3.0	2.1	1.1	2.7	2,700
5	1.0	1.5	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.4	0.8	1.5	1,500
6+	1.1	3.0	2.2	2.3	3.0	2.7	1.4	2.7	2,700
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>..</i>
Total (%)	1.7	9.5	7.9	15.4	48.6	14.3	2.6	100.0	..
Total (number)	1,700	9,500	7,800	15,400	48,500	14,300	2,600	..	99,800
Mean number of support periods	1.44	1.75	1.66	1.68	1.77	1.71	1.55	..	1.73
Per 10,000 population	11	117	142	110	82	29	10	..	57

Notes

1. Number excluded due to errors and omissions (weighted): 550.
2. 'Per 10,000 population' shows how many people out of every 10,000 in the population of that gender and age group became SAAP clients. The rate is estimated by comparing the number of SAAP clients with the estimated resident population in the designated gender and age group as at 30 June 2004 (preliminary estimates). For the age group under 15 years, only those aged 10–14 are included in the calculations.
3. Figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent.

Sources: SAAP Client Collection; ABS 2005a.

Table 4.4: SAAP accompanying children: number of accompanying child support periods per accompanying child, by age of child, Australia, 2004–05 (per cent)

Number of accompanying child support periods	0–4 years	5–12 years	13–15 years	16–17 years	Total	
					%	Number
1	79.9	81.0	84.0	88.4	81.0	45,800
2	13.6	13.1	11.9	8.9	13.1	7,400
3	3.7	3.2	2.3	1.6	3.3	1,800
4	1.5	1.4	1.0	0.6	1.4	800
5	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.6	300
6+	0.7	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.7	400
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>..</i>
Total (%)	44.3	42.4	9.8	3.6	100.0	..
Total (number)	25,000	23,900	5,500	2,000	..	56,500
Mean number of accompanying child support periods	1.38	1.39	1.31	1.23	..	1.38
Per 10,000 population of applicable age group	198	111	66	37	..	118

Notes

1. Number excluded due to errors and omissions (weighted): 336.
2. 'Per 10,000 population of applicable age group' shows how many children out of every 10,000 children in the relevant age group in the general population accompanied SAAP clients. The rate is estimated by comparing the number of SAAP accompanying children with the estimated resident population in the designated age group as at 30 June 2004 (preliminary estimates).
3. Figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent.

Sources: SAAP Client Collection; ABS 2005a.

Table 4.5: SAAP clients: birthplace by gender, Australia, 2004–05

Birthplace	Male	Female	Total	Australian population 10+		
	%	%	%	Number	%	Number
Australia	86.9	84.5	85.5	84,200	73.6	12,719,100
Oceania (excluding Australia)	2.8	2.8	2.8	2,800	3.0	519,600
UK, Ireland and associated islands	2.2	1.4	1.7	1,700	6.8	1,168,100
Other Europe and the former Soviet Union	2.6	2.7	2.6	2,600	6.6	1,138,700
Middle East and North Africa	1.5	2.0	1.8	1,800	1.5	250,900
South-East Asia	1.2	2.9	2.2	2,200	3.3	566,900
North-East Asia	0.3	0.9	0.7	700	2.0	344,000
Southern Asia	0.5	0.8	0.7	700	1.3	217,800
North America	0.3	0.2	0.2	200	0.5	88,300
South and Central America and Caribbean	0.3	0.6	0.5	500	0.5	87,000
Africa (excluding North Africa)	1.3	1.3	1.3	1,300	1.0	170,100
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>..</i>
Total (%)	40.4	59.6	100.0	..	..	..
Total (number)	39,800	58,700	..	98,500	..	17,270,600

Notes

1. Number excluded due to errors and omissions (weighted): 1,910.
2. 'Australian population 10+' refers to the estimated resident population aged 10 years and over at 30 June 2003 and includes people resident in the external territories.
3. Figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent.

Sources: SAAP Client Collection; ABS 2004b.

Table 4.6: SAAP accompanying children: birthplace of child, Australia, 2004–05

Birthplace	Accompanying children		Australian population 0–17	
	%	Number	%	Number
Australia	94.9	52,100	93.5	4,483,400
Oceania (excluding Australia)	1.4	700	1.4	65,800
Europe and the former Soviet Union	0.5	300	1.5	73,900
South-East, North-East and Southern Asia	0.9	500	2.2	104,500
Other (including the Middle East, Africa, the Americas and Caribbean)	2.4	1,300	1.4	67,600
Total	100.0	54,900	100.0	4,795,200

Notes

1. Number excluded due to errors and omissions in birthplace (weighted): 1,894.
2. 'Australian population 0–17' refers to the estimated resident population aged 17 years and under at 30 June 2003 and includes people resident in the external territories.
3. Figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent.

Sources: SAAP Client Collection; ABS 2004b.

Table 4.7: SAAP clients and support periods per client, by cultural and linguistic diversity and gender of client, Australia, 2004–05

Cultural and linguistic diversity	Male	Female	Total	Australian population 10+		
Clients	%	%	%	Number	%	Number
Indigenous Australians	11.2	19.9	16.4	15,900	2.0	353,900
Other Australian-born people	75.9	64.7	69.2	67,200	71.6	12,365,200
People born overseas, English proficiency group 1	4.7	3.6	4.0	3,900	10.2	1,758,300
People born overseas, English proficiency groups 2–4	8.3	11.8	10.4	10,100	16.2	2,793,100
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>..</i>
Total (%)	40.3	59.7	100.0	..	..	..
Total (number)	39,200	57,900	..	97,100	..	17,270,600
Support periods	Mean number per client			Total number		
Indigenous Australians	1.73	1.75	1.74	27,600	..	..
Other Australian-born people	1.89	1.65	1.76	117,900	..	..
People born overseas, English proficiency group 1	1.84	1.57	1.70	6,700	..	..
People born overseas, English proficiency groups 2–4	1.53	1.52	1.53	15,300	..	..
<i>Total</i>	<i>1.84</i>	<i>1.65</i>	<i>1.73</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>
Total support periods (%)	42.9	57.1	100.0	..	..	..
Total support periods (number)	71,800	95,600	..	167,500	..	..

Notes

1. Number excluded due to errors and omissions (weighted): 3,326 clients; 5,629 support periods.
2. For derivation of cultural and linguistic diversity, see the counting rules (Appendix 1, Section A1.4). English proficiency groups are based on country of birth—see Glossary.
3. 'Australian population 10+' refers to the estimated resident population aged 10 years and over at 30 June 2003. The figures for Indigenous Australians are from experimental estimates based on the 2001 Census produced by the ABS. The number of 'Other Australian-born people' is derived from the Australian-born population minus the number of Indigenous Australians.
4. Figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent.

Sources: SAAP Client Collection; ABS 2004a; ABS 2004b.

Table 4.8: SAAP clients: cultural and linguistic diversity and gender of clients, by state and territory, Australia, 2004–05 (per cent)

Cultural and linguistic diversity	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total	
									%	Number
Male clients										
Indigenous Australians	12.7	4.0	16.4	16.5	11.9	8.7	11.1	32.3	11.2	4,400
Other Australian-born people	72.9	83.2	73.4	63.6	76.7	84.5	73.7	56.6	75.9	29,700
People born overseas, English proficiency group 1	5.7	2.9	5.5	9.9	4.8	3.4	4.4	5.0	4.7	1,800
People born overseas, English proficiency groups 2–4	8.7	9.9	4.6	10.0	6.6	3.4	10.8	6.0	8.3	3,200
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>..</i>
Total (%)	26.4	35.0	19.6	7.1	9.1	4.8	2.0	2.4	..	..
Total (number)	10,300	13,700	7,700	2,800	3,600	1,900	800	1,000	..	39,200
Per 10,000 population	37	66	47	33	54	96	58	109	..	47
Female clients										
Indigenous Australians	20.8	5.0	26.2	49.3	20.8	10.2	14.2	71.3	19.9	11,500
Other Australian-born people	63.0	75.9	62.2	35.4	68.4	83.0	70.3	23.7	64.7	37,500
People born overseas, English proficiency group 1	3.6	3.0	4.7	4.9	3.2	2.8	3.2	2.0	3.6	2,100
People born overseas, English proficiency groups 2–4	12.5	16.0	6.9	10.4	7.7	4.0	12.3	3.0	11.8	6,900
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>..</i>
Total (%)	22.1	36.9	15.9	10.0	10.0	4.2	1.3	3.6	..	..
Total (number)	12,800	21,400	9,200	5,800	5,800	2,500	700	2,100	..	57,900
Per 10,000 population	44	99	56	69	87	119	52	266	..	67
All clients										
Indigenous Australians	17.2	4.6	21.8	38.6	17.4	9.6	12.6	59.0	16.4	15,900
Other Australian-born people	67.5	78.8	67.3	44.6	71.5	83.7	72.1	34.1	69.2	67,200
People born overseas, English proficiency group 1	4.5	3.0	5.1	6.5	3.8	3.0	3.8	2.9	4.0	3,900
People born overseas, English proficiency groups 2–4	10.8	13.6	5.8	10.2	7.2	3.7	11.5	4.0	10.4	10,100
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>..</i>
Total (%)	23.8	36.1	17.4	8.8	9.6	4.5	1.6	3.1	..	..
Total (number)	23,100	35,100	16,900	8,600	9,400	4,400	1,500	3,000	..	97,100
Per 10,000 population	41	83	52	51	71	108	55	183	..	57

Notes

1. Number excluded due to errors and omissions (weighted): 3,326.
2. Number of clients in a state or territory relates to clients who ever received assistance from a SAAP agency in that state or territory. Since a client may have support periods in more than one state or territory, state and territory figures do not sum to the national figure.
3. 'Per 10,000 population' refers to the estimated resident population aged 10 years and over at 30 June 2004 (preliminary estimates).
4. For derivation of cultural and linguistic diversity see the counting rules (Appendix 1, Section A1.4).
5. Figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent.

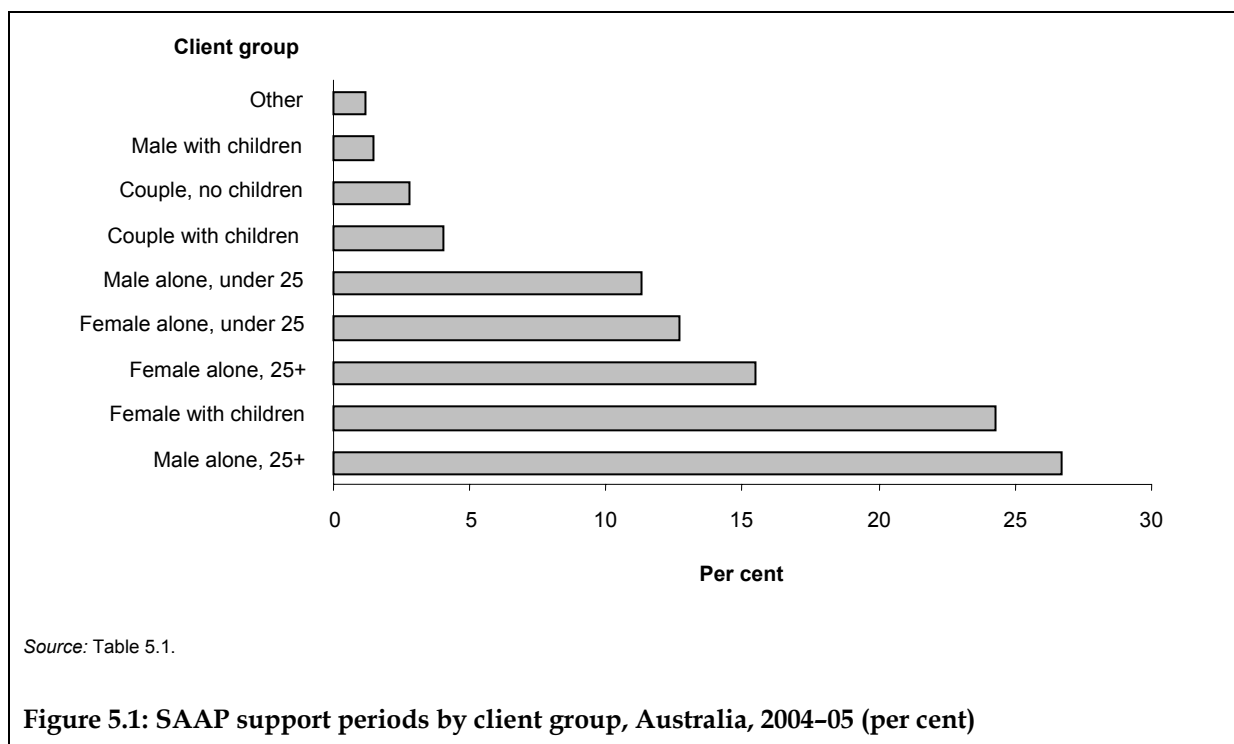
Sources: SAAP Client Collection; ABS 2005a.

5 Client groups and reasons for seeking assistance

This chapter contains information about the number of support periods for 9 main client groups. For client groups presenting at SAAP agencies with accompanying children, the number of accompanying child support periods associated with each client group is also reported. Data about the main reason for seeking assistance reported in each support period for the different client groups is also included in this chapter.

Client groups supported by SAAP

Figure 5.1 gives a breakdown of the number of support periods provided to the main client groups. Nationally, over one-quarter (27%) of support periods were provided to males aged 25 years and over presenting alone at SAAP agencies and 24% were provided to female clients with children. Unaccompanied females aged 25 years and over accounted for 16%, and unaccompanied females under 25 years accounted for around 13% of support periods. This was followed by unaccompanied males aged under 25 years (11% of support periods), couples with children (4%) and couples without children (3%). Males with children accounted for 2% of all support periods.



State and territory

Client group profiles varied between states and territories. For example, agencies in New South Wales more commonly supported unaccompanied males compared with other states and territories, with half (50%) of their support periods being for this client group (Table 5.1). Agencies in the Northern Territory provided the lowest percentage of support periods to

unaccompanied males (26%), however, this was likely partially due to the reduced participation of a previously high-volume agency that primarily supported single men. The Northern Territory provided the highest proportion of support periods to unaccompanied females (37%). Support periods provided to females with children ranged from 15% in the Australian Capital Territory to 33% in Western Australia. Agencies in the Australian Capital Territory provided a higher proportion of support periods to couples with children (8%) than the other states or territory, while agencies in Victoria reported a higher proportion of support periods to couples without children (5%).

The client profile within agencies of various target groups is shown in Table 5.2. As might be expected, agencies with specific target groups tended to provide services predominantly to that client group. Consequently, 79% of support periods at agencies targeting young people were for people under 25 presenting on their own, and agencies targeting single men were overwhelmingly used by unaccompanied males aged 25 or over (87% of their support periods). Similarly, agencies that targeted women escaping domestic violence were mainly used by females with children (accounting for 58% of support periods in these agencies) and unaccompanied females (40%). Thirty-eight per cent of the support periods provided by cross-target group agencies were to unaccompanied males aged 25 years and over.

Support periods for clients with accompanying children

There were at least 38,300 support periods where SAAP clients presented with accompanying children in 2004–05 (Table 5.3). There were 77,600 accompanying child support periods associated with these support periods, giving an average of 2 accompanying child support periods per SAAP client support period.

Couples with children had the highest average number of accompanying child support periods per client support period (2.2), followed by females with children (2.0), males with children (1.8) and 'other' groups with children (1.8).

State and territory

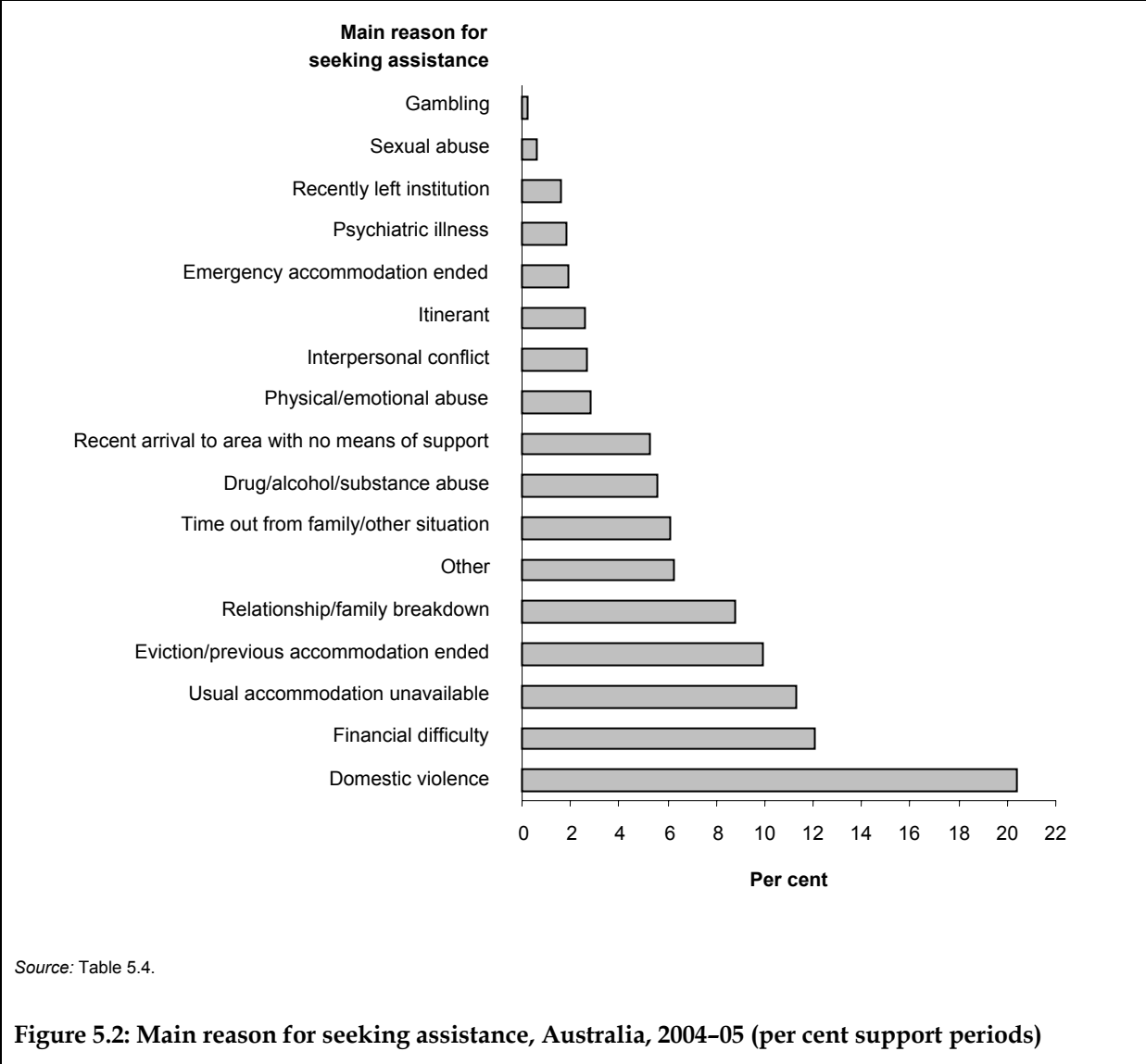
There were some significant variations in the number of support periods reported for client groups with accompanying children and the associated accompanying child support periods according to state and territory. For example, the Australian Capital Territory had higher proportions of support periods for couples with children (25%) and males with children (16%) than the national averages of 9% and 4%, respectively. Correspondingly, the proportion of accompanying child support periods reported for these client groups was also highest in the Australian Capital Territory (23% for couples with children and 17% for males with children) compared with the national averages (10% for couples with children and 4% for males with children).

The highest proportions of support periods with accompanying children for females with children were reported in New South Wales (91%) compared with 59% of support periods for this client group in the Australian Capital Territory. The proportions of accompanying child support periods for this client group in these jurisdictions followed the same pattern. The highest average number of accompanying child support periods per client support period was recorded in Queensland and Western Australia (2.1 each).

Main reason for seeking SAAP assistance

In addition to recording client characteristics, the SAAP Client Collection collects information on the main reasons clients seek assistance from SAAP agencies. Overall, the most common main reasons that clients gave for seeking assistance in 2004–05 were domestic

violence (in around 20% of support periods), financial difficulty (12%), and usual accommodation unavailable (11%) (Figure 5.2).



Drug, alcohol or substance abuse was cited as the main reason for seeking assistance in 6% of support periods (Table 5.4). Note that 2004-05 is the first year that data on reasons for seeking assistance were collected from agencies that were previously using the high-volume form, which commonly support single men (see Table 5.5 for reasons given by unaccompanied males). This has increased the proportion reported compared with 2003-04.

State and territory

Whilst in general there were only small variations across the states and territories in the proportions for most of the main reasons for seeking assistance, there were a few exceptions. Most notably, domestic violence ranged from 10% of cases in the Australian Capital Territory to 36% in the Northern Territory (Table 5.4). There was also substantial variation in the proportions of support periods for which financial difficulty was cited as the main reason for seeking assistance, ranging from 5% in South Australia to 18% in Victoria. Eviction or the

ending of previous accommodation was given as the main reason in 4% of support periods in the Northern Territory and in 16% in the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania. Drug, alcohol or substance abuse ranged from 2% of support periods in the Northern Territory and Tasmania to 14% in New South Wales.

Other main reasons for seeking assistance that varied across the states and territories included relationship and family breakdown, from 5% in the Northern Territory to 13% in the Australian Capital Territory; time out from their family or another situation, from 4% in South Australia and New South Wales to 9% in Queensland; and sexual abuse, 1% or less in all states and territories except Tasmania where it was cited in 4% of support periods.

Client group

The main reason given for seeking support varied considerably according to the client group. In 49% of support periods for females with children and 40% for unaccompanied females aged 25 years and over, assistance was sought mainly because of domestic violence (Table 5.5). Unaccompanied females aged under 25 years most often reported relationship or family breakdown as their main reason for seeking assistance (in 20% of their support periods).

Unaccompanied males aged under 25 years most often reported that the main reason they sought assistance was because their usual accommodation was unavailable (19%), followed by relationship or family breakdown and eviction or ending of previous accommodation (both 15%). For unaccompanied male clients aged 25 years and over, the most common main reason for seeking assistance was financial difficulty (17%). Drug, alcohol or substance abuse was reported in far higher proportions for males alone aged 25 years and over than for the other client groups, and was their second most common main reason for seeking assistance (14% compared with between 1% and 5% for the other client groups).

Among couples with children, eviction or the ending of previous accommodation was the most common main reason for seeking assistance (24%), followed by financial difficulty (20%). Couples without children most commonly reported that the main reason they sought assistance was due to financial difficulty (25%), followed by eviction or the ending of previous accommodation (19%).

5.1 Tables

Table 5.1: SAAP support periods: client group by state and territory, Australia, 2004–05 (per cent)

Client group	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total	
									%	Number
Male alone, under 25	12.8	8.9	14.2	10.4	12.1	12.8	17.0	7.4	11.3	19,100
Male alone, 25+	37.2	23.0	30.1	16.9	20.6	26.4	26.5	18.1	26.7	45,500
Female alone, under 25	13.5	10.7	14.7	11.3	14.3	13.4	20.0	15.0	12.7	21,600
Female alone, 25+	13.4	17.0	13.6	20.4	14.6	11.1	6.1	21.8	15.5	26,300
Couple, no children	1.6	4.5	1.7	2.1	1.8	3.6	2.3	1.9	2.8	4,800
Couple with children	1.5	5.1	3.7	4.2	4.8	5.2	8.4	3.9	4.0	6,700
Male with children	0.6	2.5	1.1	0.6	1.3	2.2	4.2	1.1	1.5	2,600
Female with children	18.5	26.8	20.0	32.7	29.5	23.9	14.5	29.2	24.3	41,400
Other	0.9	1.6	0.8	1.3	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.7	1.2	2,100
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>..</i>
Total (%)	23.8	35.9	15.1	8.5	9.0	3.7	1.3	2.7	100.0	..
Total (number)	40,600	61,200	25,700	14,400	15,200	6,300	2,300	4,600	..	170,200

Notes

1. Number excluded due to errors and omissions (weighted): 2,953.
2. Figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent.

Source: SAAP Client Collection.

Table 5.2: SAAP support periods: client group by primary target group of agency, Australia, 2004–05 (per cent)

Client group	Young people	Single men only	Single women only	Families	Women escaping DV	Cross-target/multiple/general	Total	
							%	Number
Male alone, under 25	36.7	10.3	0.3	1.7	0.3	6.9	11.3	19,100
Male alone, 25+	2.0	86.5	0.9	5.4	0.6	37.5	26.7	45,500
Female alone, under 25	42.7	0.2	15.4	2.4	7.1	6.2	12.7	21,600
Female alone, 25+	1.1	1.2	55.5	4.7	32.4	16.9	15.5	26,300
Couple, no children	3.2	0.6	0.6	3.8	0.4	5.2	2.8	4,800
Couple with children	2.2	0.2	0.4	23.7	0.7	5.9	4.0	6,700
Male with children	0.5	0.2	0.2	7.0	0.1	2.9	1.5	2,600
Female with children	9.6	0.5	26.2	48.5	57.5	17.4	24.3	41,400
Other	2.0	0.4	0.6	2.7	1.0	1.1	1.2	2,100
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>..</i>
Total (%)	19.6	15.3	3.3	5.6	22.6	33.6	100.0	..
Total (number)	33,300	26,100	5,600	9,600	38,400	57,200	..	170,200

Notes

1. Number excluded due to errors and omissions (weighted): 2,953.
2. Figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent.

Sources: SAAP Client and Administrative Data Collections.

Table 5.3: SAAP support periods for clients with accompanying children and associated accompanying child support periods, client group by state and territory, Australia, 2004–05 (per cent)

Client group	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total	
									%	Number
Support periods (%)										
Couple with children	5.2	11.0	10.7	6.5	9.1	12.7	24.7	7.7	9.4	3,600
Male with children	2.0	5.9	4.2	1.0	3.6	6.7	15.6	2.9	4.2	1,600
Female with children	91.9	82.7	84.3	91.9	86.9	80.1	58.6	88.6	85.8	32,800
Other with children	0.8	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.6	1.1	0.8	0.6	200
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>..</i>
Total (%)	17.7	37.8	12.9	10.9	11.9	4.2	1.3	3.4	100.0	..
Total (number)	6,800	14,500	4,900	4,200	4,500	1,600	500	1,300	..	38,300
Accompanying child support periods (%)										
Couple with children	5.0	11.6	12.3	7.4	10.1	12.5	23.1	9.1	10.0	7,800
Male with children	1.7	5.5	3.3	1.0	2.8	5.5	16.8	2.4	3.8	2,900
Female with children	92.5	82.5	83.7	91.1	86.8	81.6	58.9	87.7	85.7	66,500
Other with children	0.8	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.4	1.2	0.7	0.5	400
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>..</i>
Total (%)	17.1	37.9	13.6	11.1	11.8	4.1	1.2	3.3	100.0	..
Total (number)	13,300	29,400	10,500	8,600	9,200	3,200	900	2,500	..	77,600
Mean number of accompanying child support periods per support period (number)										
Couple with children	1.9	2.2	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.0	1.8	2.3	..	2.2
Male with children	1.7	1.9	1.7	2.0	1.6	1.6	2.0	1.6	..	1.8
Female with children	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9	..	2.0
Other with children	2.0	1.6	1.9	1.8	1.4	1.6	2.0	1.9	..	1.8
Total	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.0	..	2.0

Notes

1. Number excluded due to errors and omissions (weighted): 498 support periods.
2. Number excluded due to errors and omissions (weighted): 965 accompanying child support periods.
3. Although each member of a couple has an individual support period, in this table a couple presenting with children contributes only 1 support period. The table is therefore not directly comparable with other tables showing the number of support periods by client group.
4. Figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation.

Source: SAAP Client Collection.

Table 5.4: SAAP support periods: main reason for seeking assistance by state and territory, Australia, 2004–05 (per cent)

Main reason for seeking assistance	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total	
									%	Number
Usual accommodation unavailable	11.3	8.4	16.2	14.9	11.2	14.1	7.9	10.2	11.3	18,400
Time out from family/other situation	4.2	6.2	9.1	8.0	3.9	4.6	5.9	7.2	6.1	9,800
Relationship/family breakdown	8.8	8.9	8.2	8.0	9.7	12.4	12.6	4.9	8.8	14,400
Interpersonal conflict	2.4	2.2	3.1	3.6	3.1	3.9	4.2	2.9	2.7	4,400
Physical/emotional abuse	1.7	2.5	2.4	6.1	3.7	2.8	2.6	3.0	2.8	4,500
Domestic violence	17.5	20.4	17.2	26.5	28.4	11.1	9.6	35.6	20.4	33,200
Sexual abuse	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.4	1.0	3.8	0.6	0.5	0.6	1,000
Financial difficulty	8.8	17.9	11.4	7.2	4.8	12.7	9.8	9.4	12.1	19,600
Gambling	0.4	0.1	0.5	—	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	400
Eviction/previous accommodation ended	7.9	11.6	8.8	6.6	11.6	16.0	16.2	4.3	9.9	16,100
Drug/alcohol/substance abuse	13.9	2.7	4.2	3.2	2.6	2.4	4.8	2.3	5.6	9,200
Emergency accommodation ended	1.1	3.3	1.1	0.7	1.1	1.3	2.1	0.8	1.9	3,000
Recently left institution	1.7	1.3	1.4	1.2	2.3	1.7	3.2	1.8	1.6	2,500
Psychiatric illness	2.6	1.6	1.8	1.2	1.2	1.5	2.5	0.5	1.8	2,900
Recent arrival to area with no means of support	4.4	4.1	7.6	5.7	7.5	5.3	6.6	7.3	5.3	8,600
Itinerant	2.2	2.3	2.9	2.8	4.6	2.1	3.4	2.7	2.6	4,300
Other	10.3	6.1	3.9	4.1	2.9	4.1	7.8	6.7	6.3	10,200
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>..</i>
Total (%)	24.1	35.2	14.8	8.4	9.4	3.8	1.4	2.8	100.0	..
Total (number)	39,200	57,300	24,100	13,700	15,300	6,200	2,200	4,500	..	162,500

Notes

1. Number excluded due to errors and omissions (weighted): 10,641.
2. Figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent.

Source: SAAP Client Collection.

Table 5.5: SAAP support periods: main reason for seeking assistance by client group, Australia, 2004–05 (per cent)

Main reason for seeking assistance	Male alone under 25	Male alone 25+	Female alone under 25	Female alone 25+	Couple no children	Couple with children	Male with children	Female with children	Other	Total
Usual accommodation unavailable	18.5	14.3	13.1	7.5	13.1	12.7	12.1	5.8	9.8	11.3
Time out from family/other situation	8.4	6.4	10.1	5.1	4.3	4.7	4.0	3.6	6.1	6.0
Relationship/family breakdown	14.9	5.1	19.7	4.5	7.0	5.4	15.1	6.9	14.8	8.8
Interpersonal conflict	4.6	2.0	5.0	2.0	2.4	2.3	2.0	1.8	3.3	2.7
Physical/emotional abuse	1.4	0.6	3.6	4.4	1.0	1.3	1.2	4.7	3.1	2.8
Domestic violence	1.0	0.8	12.1	39.7	2.8	4.1	3.5	48.7	12.5	20.5
Sexual abuse	0.3	0.1	1.6	1.1	0.3	0.6	0.1	0.6	1.1	0.6
Financial difficulty	9.5	16.5	6.9	10.8	24.6	19.5	22.8	9.1	11.9	12.1
Gambling	0.1	0.7	—	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	—	0.1	0.2
Eviction/previous accommodation ended	14.8	7.9	11.7	5.5	18.9	24.2	16.8	7.7	12.5	9.9
Drug/alcohol/substance abuse	4.7	14.4	2.0	4.4	2.4	0.9	1.5	1.1	1.9	5.6
Emergency accommodation ended	2.9	1.9	2.2	1.4	2.4	2.6	2.8	1.2	2.8	1.9
Recently left institution	3.0	2.9	0.9	1.1	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.3	0.5	1.5
Psychiatric illness	1.4	3.8	1.0	2.2	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.3	1.6	1.8
Recent arrival to area with no means of support	5.7	9.3	2.9	3.3	7.6	10.2	5.1	2.3	7.8	5.3
Itinerant	3.5	4.0	2.6	1.8	4.8	2.6	2.7	1.1	1.9	2.6
Other	5.1	9.2	4.8	5.0	6.8	7.8	8.8	4.8	8.5	6.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Total (%)	11.4	26.1	13.0	15.4	2.8	3.9	1.5	24.7	1.2	100.0
Total (number)	18,300	41,700	20,800	24,700	4,500	6,300	2,400	39,500	1,900	160,200

Notes

1. Number excluded due to errors and omissions (weighted): 12,915.
2. Figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent.

Source: SAAP Client Collection.