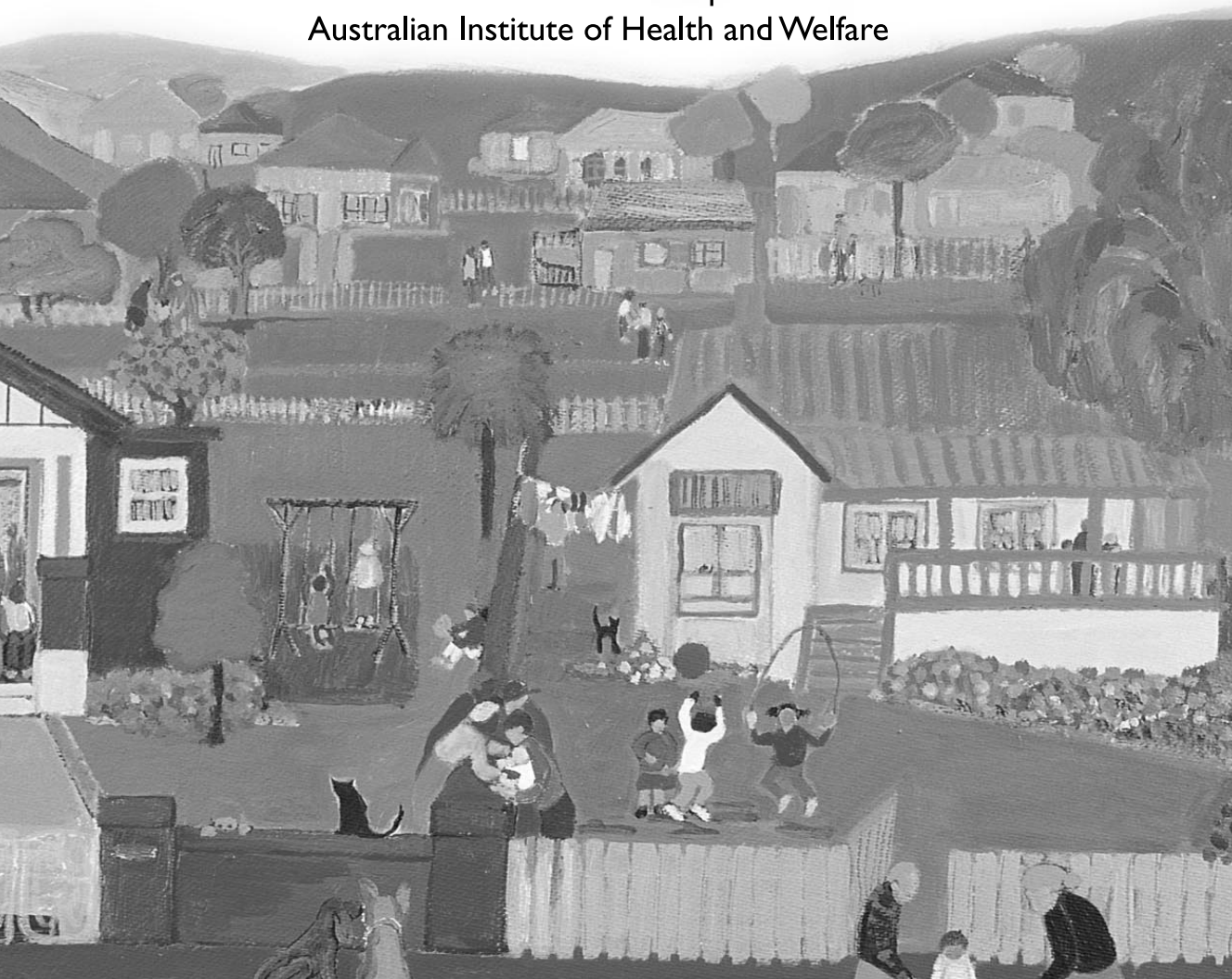


AUSTRALIA'S Welfare 2001

The fifth biennial welfare report of the
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare



**Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Canberra**

AIHW Cat No. AUS 24

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The Institute is Australia's national health and welfare statistics and information agency, and is part of the Commonwealth's Health and Aged Care portfolio. The Institute's mission is to improve the health and wellbeing of Australians by informing community discussion and decision-making through national leadership in developing and providing health and welfare statistics and information.

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Senator the Hon Kay Patterson
Minister for Health and Ageing
Parliament House
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Dear Minister

On behalf of the Board of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
I am pleased to present to you *Australia's Welfare 2001*, as required under
Subsection 31(1A) of the *Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987*.

I commend this report to you as a significant contribution to national
information on welfare services and assistance and to the development and
evaluation of welfare policies and programs in Australia.

Yours sincerely

Dr Sandra Hacker
Chairperson of the Board

23 November 2001

For health and welfare
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Preface

Australia's welfare services assist people across Australian society, but especially older people, people with disabilities, children and homeless people. The welfare services sector is significant in the nation's economy with \$13.7 billion being spent annually on paid services, and over 340,000 people employed in community services activities. A vast amount of unpaid assistance is provided by families, carers and volunteers double the value of the paid services.

Australia's Welfare 2001 provides an account of these services and assistance, focusing on the nature of services provided, the people who receive and provide them and the outcomes achieved. The report as a whole provides an overview across the welfare and housing assistance fields in Australia, as well as a wealth of reference information and statistics.

This fifth edition of our biennial welfare report contains additions and enhancements that strengthen and enrich our understanding of welfare services in Australia. The chapters relating to specific service programs now include more information on changes over time, income support programs, service delivery in the different regions of Australia, and access to services by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The chapter on welfare services resources, in addition to presenting and analysing information on welfare services expenditure, now profiles the community services workforce.

Australian policies are now increasingly framed in terms of outcomes for people and the community. The Commonwealth Government's focus on stronger families, stronger communities and economic and social participation is a prime example. Such high level goals require the integration of services, for instance housing and community services, or aged care and disability services, and the provision of flexible, people-oriented services.

The challenge for an organisation such as the AIHW is to develop and provide information across program boundaries. The two special chapters in this report are geared to more integrated analysis and development of welfare-related information. One of the chapters examines the trend away from institutional services and towards community care in a number of areas aged care, disability services, mental health, substitute care for children and acute hospitals. The second special chapter outlines suggested measurement frameworks that allow welfare service provision to be seen in the broader context of the welfare of the population.

My thanks go to the many people both within and outside the Institute who have contributed to this report, which continues to be the nation's premier source of statistical and other information on welfare services. As such, *Australia's Welfare 2001* is a valuable and reliable reference for all people interested in welfare services and assistance in Australia, including service recipients, policymakers, administrators, educators, planners, analysts and students.

Richard Madden
Director

Symbols

N	number
m	million
b	billion
\$	Australian dollars, unless another country is specified
%	per cent
nec	not elsewhere classified
000	thousands
n.p.	when used in a table, means not published by the data source
n.a.	when used in a table, means not available
nfd	not further defined
. .	when used in a table, means not applicable
	when used in a table, means nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
*	when used in front of a numerical value in a table, means the value is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes and/or the relative standard error of the value is 25% to 50%.
**	when used in front of a numerical value in a table, means the value is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes and/or the relative standard error is more than 50%