

6 Data quality and development of the collection

The CSDA MDS collections provide national data on services provided and funded under the CSDA, and are a useful, sometimes primary, source of data in individual jurisdictions. The data are also recognised as a useful source of information by service providers and others interested in national data.

The CSDA MDS collections have benefited greatly from development and testing in successive years. The ability to continue to improve will be enhanced by ongoing input from the disability field.

6.1 Response rates and data quality

The national rate for returning of Service Forms in 1999 was 97% and, although quite good, was a little lower than the rate for 1998 (Table 6.1).

National analysis of trends over time is possible from 1997 onwards for most data items in the collections. Data from one or more jurisdictions were absent in the 1995 and 1996 collections.

Table 6.1: Response rates for Service Forms, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1995–99

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Cwith	Total
	Percentage									
1995	94	80	96	n.a.	94	88	99	67	99	93
1996	97	95	97	99	94	88	n.a.	94	94	96
1997	97	96	100	100	99	90	90	90	100	97
1998	95	97	98	100	100	89	97	93	99	98
1999	94	99	100	100	100	82	100	91	98	97

Notes

1. Figures are the percentage of services surveyed by each data source.
2. The response rate for Victoria in 1995 is an estimate only, due to incomplete regional records.
3. Data for CSDA services funded by Western Australia were not supplied in 1995.
4. Data for CSDA services funded by the Australian Capital Territory were not collected in 1996.
5. Data for CSDA services funded by the Commonwealth were not collected in 1996, except for those in the National Information Management System collection which relate to open employment services.
6. Data from 949 of the expected 966 Commonwealth-funded CSDA services participating in the Commonwealth Disability Services Census of 26 May 1999 were available to the Institute as at 3 September 1999. The Census identified 17,858 employment service recipients at this time. Data integrity and quality checking by the Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) was incomplete, hence data published in the forthcoming FaCS Disability Services Census 1999 report will cover 100% of Commonwealth-funded services.

‘Not stated’ (missing data) and ‘not known’ (‘not known’ as a valid response option to some data items) responses are described in Tables 6.2 and 6.3, as a proportion of total responses for each data item. Data for items from the Service Form are included only for items supplied by service providers, not those supplied by funding organisations. The proportion of these responses was quite low for most Consumer Form data items and some of the Service Form data items across most jurisdictions.

Table 6.2: 'Not stated' response rates for Service and Consumer Form data items, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1999

Data item	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Cwlth	Total
Service items										
Staff hours										
Paid staff: direct support	0.9	3.3	11.9	18.6	9.8	12.1	8.6	7.1	0.3	5.1
Paid staff: indirect support	0.9	3.3	11.9	18.6	9.8	12.1	8.6	7.1	0.3	5.1
Contract staff: direct support	0.9	3.3	11.9	18.6	9.8	12.1	8.6	7.1	0.3	5.1
Contract staff: indirect support	0.9	3.3	11.9	18.6	9.8	12.1	8.6	7.1	0.3	5.1
Unpaid staff: direct support	0.9	3.3	11.9	18.6	9.8	12.1	8.6	7.1	0.3	5.1
Unpaid staff: indirect support	0.9	3.3	11.9	18.6	9.8	12.1	8.6	7.1	0.3	5.1
Full 1998–99 financial year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Operating hours per day	0.1	1.4	0.2	0.4	6.0	—	—	—	0.2	0.8
Operating days per week	0.3	1.3	0.2	0.4	6.0	—	—	—	—	0.8
Operating weeks per year	0.3	1.4	0.2	—	6.5	—	—	—	0.3	0.8
Consumer numbers										
Snapshot day	0.2	3.2	0.8	4.6	7.1	5.3	—	2.4	0.1	2.0
Typical 1998–99 day	0.6	3.6	5.5	16.6	8.7	5.3	1.4	4.8	0.2	3.9
Total week ending on snapshot day	0.7	4.2	10.0	27.7	8.7	5.3	2.9	7.1	0.3	5.7
Total 1998–99 financial year	0.6	3.4	0.8	11.7	6.5	5.3	5.7	2.4	0.5	2.8
Consumer items										
Age	1.0	0.4	0.6	7.9	1.5	1.7	3.2	1.2	0.4	1.5
Sex	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.1	—	—	—	—	0.2
Country of birth	0.3	—	0.1	3.2	0.1	—	0.5	—	—	0.4
Indigenous status	0.6	—	0.2	<0.05	0.1	—	3.0	—	—	0.1
Method of communication	1.2	—	0.3	6.6	<0.05	—	0.3	—	—	1.0
Main language spoken at home	0.3	—	<0.05	3.0	0.2	—	1.4	1.6	—	0.4
Primary disability group	0.4	0.1	—	3.8	0.4	—	1.0	—	0.4	0.7
Other significant disability groups	1.8	—	—	45.6	—	—	0.5	—	—	5.5
Frequency of support or assistance needed:										
Self-care	0.4	—	0.1	7.6	0.2	—	0.7	1.2	—	1.0
Mobility	0.4	—	0.2	3.9	0.2	—	0.3	0.8	—	0.5
Communication	0.3	—	0.1	6.7	0.3	—	0.2	0.4	—	0.8
Home living	0.3	—	—	7.6	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.8	—	0.9
Social skills	0.4	—	<0.05	7.6	0.2	—	0.2	0.4	—	0.9
Self-direction	0.3	—	0.1	7.6	0.2	—	—	0.4	—	0.9
Managing emotions	0.4	—	0.1	—	0.2	—	—	0.4	—	0.1
Learning	0.3	—	0.1	7.6	0.2	—	0.3	0.4	—	0.9
Working	0.5	—	0.1	7.6	0.4	—	0.3	1.2	—	1.0
Other day activity	0.4	—	0.1	7.6	0.4	0.8	0.2	0.8	—	1.0
Main income source	0.7	—	0.2	3.7	0.2	—	4.4	—	—	0.6
Living arrangement/accommodation type	0.8	—	0.3	—	0.1	—	1.7	—	<0.05	0.2

Notes

1. Figures are the percentage of total data item responses for each data source.
2. Data on managing emotions for recipients of CSDA services funded by Western Australia were not collected.
3. Data for CSDA services funded by the Commonwealth are preliminary and cover 98% of Commonwealth-funded services.
4. Data for CSDA service outlets, when responding to the consumer numbers questions, were 'excluded' when their service type was Advocacy, Information/referral, Combined advocacy/information, Print disability/alt. formats of communication, Service evaluation/training, Peak bodies, Research/development and Other. These were the service types for which full Consumer Form data were not collected. For these consumer numbers response rates, a response of '0' was considered as a 'not stated' response.

Key areas of concern with these 'not stated' and 'not known' response rates (when combined) for the 1999 data collections were as follows:

- Data from Western Australia for almost all the Consumer Form data items produced a high level of these responses, compared both to other jurisdictions, and compared to Western Australian data for 1998 (AIHW 1999b: Tables 6.2 and 6.3). Notably, this occurred for age (7.9% 'not stated') and other significant disability groups (45.6% 'not stated, and 7.4% 'not known'). This resulted in a high national rate for other significant disability groups of 8.8% when combined.
- Frequency of support or assistance needed for some support areas produced a high national level of 'not stated' and 'not known' responses (when combined).
 - The Commonwealth and Western Australian data contributed to high national levels of these responses (when combined) for both the 'other day activity' and 'home living' support areas.
 - The South Australian and Western Australian data contributed to high national levels of these responses (when combined) for the 'working' support area.
 - For the 'managing emotions' support area, there is a high national rate, largely resulting from the absence of data for Western Australia.
- Indigenous status data had a national combined 'not known' and 'not stated' response rate of 8.6% in the 1999 collection. This level is higher than occurred in the 1998 collection. Queensland, Western Australian and Tasmania had the highest jurisdiction-specific rates, although there has been an improvement in jurisdiction-specific rates since 1998 for the last two States.
- Country of birth data had a high combined 'not known' and 'not stated' response rate for Queensland of 11.1%.
- 'Snapshot day' recipient data from the Service Form had high 'not stated' response rates for South Australia of 7.1%. The estimates of recipients over other time periods had high 'not stated' response rates for many jurisdictions.
- Staff hours data from the Service Form had high 'not stated' response rates for most jurisdictions.

Table 6.3: 'Not known' response rates for Service and Consumer Form data items, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1999

Data item	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Cwllth	Total
Service items										
Full 1998–99 financial year	0.9	1.5	—	0.2	6.5	—	1.4	—	0.3	1.0
Consumer items										
Country of birth	1.9	2.6	11.0	8.9	2.7	1.1	5.2	0.8	4.9	4.5
Indigenous status	2.5	3.2	32.3	11.6	5.0	10.8	4.7	—	9.5	8.5
Method of communication	1.5	0.8	0.8	8.8	1.1	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.2	1.7
Main language spoken at home	1.2	1.5	0.3	10.6	1.5	—	1.2	—	0.8	2.2
Other significant disability groups	2.5	3.0	2.3	7.4	5.6	2.9	6.3	1.6	2.1	3.3
Frequency of support or assistance needed:										
Self-care	0.6	2.0	0.8	7.5	2.1	0.3	0.2	—	5.1	3.0
Mobility	0.2	1.6	0.7	9.1	1.3	0.3	—	—	1.6	2.1
Communication	0.3	1.5	0.7	7.1	1.3	0.3	0.2	—	1.3	1.8
Home living	1.0	2.5	0.8	10.3	3.4	0.3	1.7	—	12.7	5.4
Social skills	0.8	2.3	1.4	8.7	3.1	0.3	1.0	0.8	3.0	2.8
Self-direction	0.9	2.1	1.4	8.4	3.4	0.3	0.5	0.4	3.0	2.7
Managing emotions	0.9	2.4	2.0	100.0	4.7	0.3	1.0	1.2	3.5	13.4
Learning	1.0	2.3	1.9	9.8	3.4	0.3	0.2	0.4	2.8	3.0
Working	3.5	4.1	4.2	12.5	8.5	0.3	2.9	2.4	1.6	4.5
Other day activity	1.2	3.0	1.6	14.1	4.9	0.3	—	0.4	15.4	6.8
CDA income source: child under 16 yrs	4.4	2.2	2.1	11.9	3.3	1.0	4.4	0.4	—	3.2
Main income source: person 16 yrs or more	1.5	3.1	7.8	10.9	4.2	1.3	1.7	5.5	2.8	4.1
Living arrangement/accommodation type	0.1	1.5	0.3	12.8	1.2	0.6	0.3	0.4	1.3	2.3

Notes

1. Figures are the percentage of total data item responses for each data source.
2. Data on managing emotions for recipients of CSDA services funded by Western Australia were not collected.
3. Data for CSDA services funded by the Commonwealth are preliminary and cover 98% of Commonwealth-funded services.

6.2 Service income (CSDA) from governments

As in previous years, data available from the CSDA MDS collections on income to services from governments are incomplete, but are provided for consistency for those jurisdictions providing data each year, in Tables 6.4 and A3.28. Table 6.4 compares the data available from two sources of information. For some jurisdictions the data are similar; for others, the data are either not available from both sources or markedly different. For those that are markedly different, there was a large number of services for which the CSDA funding information was 'not stated' by the jurisdiction, for example for NSW (see Table A3.28).

The CSDA MDS collections have attempted to collect data to enable more direct cross-reference to be made between data on funding specific service types and data on the people receiving those service types. This has been recognised as important data to collect by jurisdictions, yet remains incomplete primarily due to difficulties in supplying accurate funding data uniformly at the service outlet level for all jurisdictions. (Financial data for Victoria, on the basis of service activity, and financial data for services directly provided by Disability Services Queensland are available separately in different formats, in addition to data as supplied to the SCRCSSP. Table 1.2 shows SCRCSSP data at CSDA MDS service type category level for all jurisdictions and complete, except as noted.) Recently

jurisdictions have been discussing the redevelopment of the CSDA MDS collections, including collecting this type of funding data in a different manner.

Table 6.4: CSDA expenditure on services by Australian governments (excluding administration expenditure), by service type, comparison of SCRCSSP data source and CSDA MDS data source, 1998–99 (\$ million)

Service type	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia		Total— components
									Cwlth	published	
SCRCSSP data	516.1	505.4	188.9	164.1	141.0	55.3	1.8	11.5	255.2	324.7	1,839.4
MDS data	173.7	n.a.	123.5	n.a.	140.4	51.4	24.1	8.8	209.2	Not applic.	n.a.

Notes

1. SCRCSSP expenditure data have been adjusted for differences in payroll tax liabilities (see Table 1.2 for more detail). This data does not include some specific psychiatric services (see Appendix 5).
2. SCRCSSP expenditure data for the ACT are only for respite services.
3. The Australia—published total as in the SCRCSSP source table is not the sum of the components published in the source table. The shaded cell is the sum of the published components.
4. CSDA MDS data for States and Territories differ from those given in Table A3.30 since data for Commonwealth-funded services are given separately.
5. CSDA MDS data are aggregated from data supplied for service outlets. It is incomplete for some jurisdictions and not available for others (Table A3.28). Additional data are available separately for Victoria using a different level of aggregation. Data indicating an expenditure of \$85.7 million are available separately for services provided by the Queensland Government.

Source: SCRCSSP 2000: Table 12A.8.

6.3 New features of the 1999 collection

The collection in 1999 was very similar to that for 1998, though the snapshot day was moved forward to May and the linkage key trial was extended for national application. Other changes were minimal, largely due to the shortened annual collection cycle resulting from bringing the collection into line with the financial year (see Appendix 2).

6.4 Future collections

Since the original design of the CSDA MDS, much has changed in the disability services field. These changes have made it necessary to review and develop the MDS so that the data remain relevant to policy debates and program administration. A process of redevelopment of the CSDA MDS collection is currently in train, involving the National Disability Administrators and the AIHW in partnership.

