

## 2 Funding

In 2001–02 funding for the SAAP agencies operating across Australia was provided jointly by the Commonwealth (through the Department of Family and Community Services) and the State and Territory governments. This chapter analyses information about the resources allocated to the 1,286 SAAP agencies funded during 2001–02. Not all of these agencies were operating throughout the year: at 30 June 2002, 1,276 were operating.

### Total funding

Data provided by the Commonwealth and State and Territory government departments show that the total recurrent allocation under the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program in Australia was \$285m in 2001–02 (Table 2.1). Of this amount, \$269m represented recurrent allocations to SAAP agencies (Table 2.2); the remaining \$16m was allocated for purposes such as administration, training, data collection, research and evaluation.<sup>1</sup>

Table 2.1 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 provided by agencies. These last two items are used here to indicate the level of need for SAAP services and the amount of support provided by agencies. As population numbers and characteristics vary across the States and Territories, per 10,000 population figures allow more meaningful comparisons of the level of SAAP use across Australia. It should be noted that per 10,000 population figures used here are not indicative of the per capita size of the homeless population. They are only indicative of the number of people accessing SAAP. The number of support periods is 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.

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. Consequently, in 2001–02 the distribution of funds varied from the proportions of the population in the various States and Territories, with the four smallest jurisdictions getting relatively more funding than the larger States (Table 2.1). In particular, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory had 10% of the funding but only 5% of the population aged 10 years and over at 30 June 2001. On the other hand, 19% of the population aged 10 years and over lived in Queensland, while that State had 16% of SAAP funding.

Levels of funding are reflected to a large extent in the amount of support provided, as measured by the number of support periods. There was, however, some divergence. In particular, while Queensland had 16% of the funding allocation, Queensland agencies supplied 24% of support periods. Conversely, agencies in the four smallest States and Territories provided 16% of support periods but had 19% of the funds. These differences between the distributions of support periods and funding may reflect different approaches to service provision, rather than differences in the relative amount of support provided.

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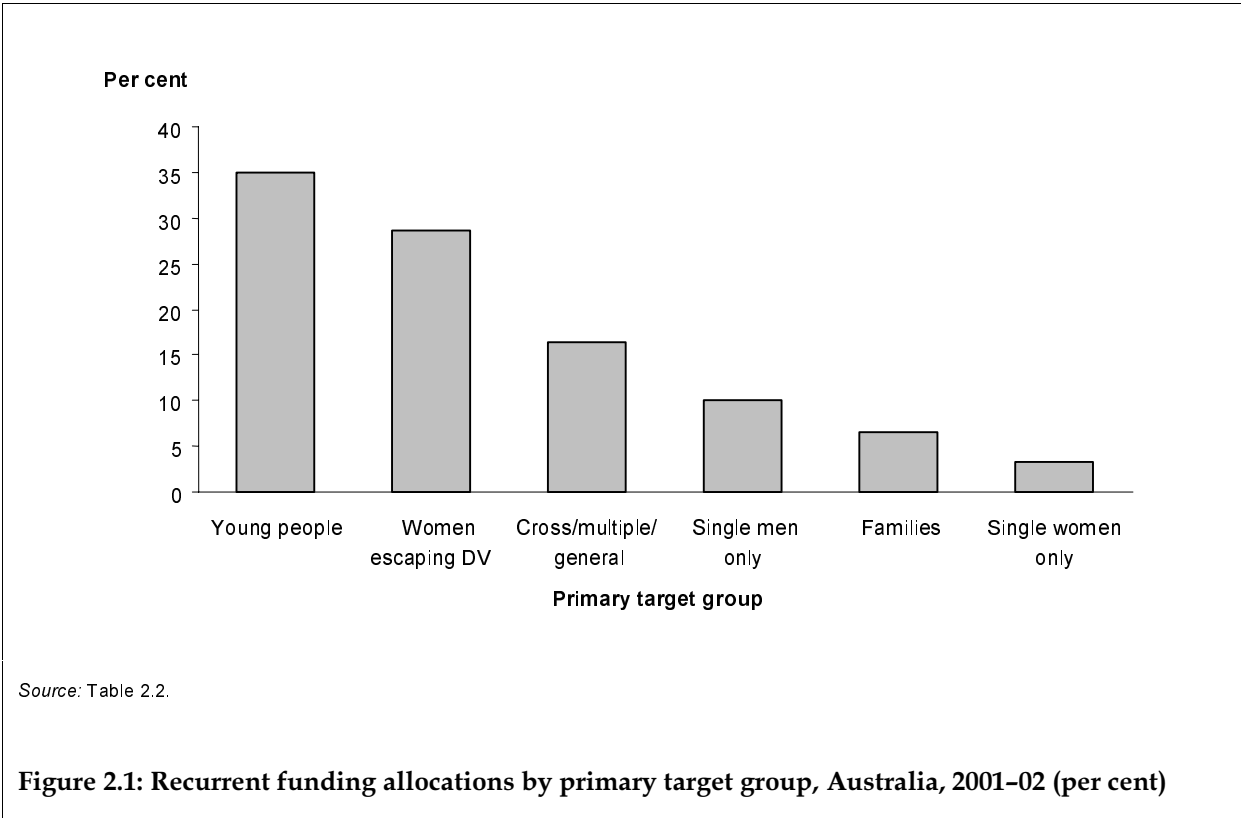
<sup>1</sup> The amount that can be used for administrative purposes by State and Territory funding departments is determined by a formula set out under their bilateral SAAP agreements with the Commonwealth Government.

### 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 recurrent allocation for all SAAP agencies across Australia in 2001–02 was \$269m. Table 2.2 shows recurrent allocations 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 increases with the level of funding. Overall, the average level of funding per agency was \$209,100 (Table 2.2). There was, however, a considerable range in the average funding level per agency across the States and Territories. Agencies in South Australia received the highest average funding per agency at \$274,600, while agencies in Victoria received the lowest at \$167,100. Average funding was between \$184,300 and \$271,700 per agency in the other States and Territories.

Over half (55%) of all agencies were located in capital cities; 22% were located in ‘other rural areas’. This compares with 7% 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 \$237,900, while agencies in other metropolitan areas received average funding of \$198,000. Agencies in large rural centres were allocated, on average, \$202,500. 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 \$155,200 and \$169,600 respectively.



As expected from their large number, and as Figure 2.1 illustrates, agencies targeting young people (37% of agencies) received the largest proportion of SAAP recurrent allocations, with 35% of the total funds, or \$94m (Table 2.2). Agencies targeting women escaping domestic violence (23% of agencies) received the next largest allocation of recurrent funds, at 29% or \$76.9m. The small number of agencies targeting single women only (4%, or 46) received the smallest overall proportion of recurrent funds, at 3% or around \$8.9m. In terms of funding per agency, agencies targeting single men had the highest average allocation (\$278,500). Agencies for women escaping domestic violence also tended to have relatively large allocations, averaging \$266,200, while family agencies and agencies with cross-target, multiple or general target groups were allocated the lowest average amounts per agency (\$147,100 and \$172,400 respectively). Agencies for single women and young people were allocated an average of \$193,000 and \$197,600 respectively.

## 2.1 Tables

**Table 2.1: SAAP funding: total recurrent allocations, Australian population and support periods, by State and Territory, Australia, 2001–02**

State/Territory	Australian population 10+		Total recurrent allocation		Support periods	
	Number	%	\$'000	%	Number	%
NSW	5,712,500	33.9	94,517	33.2	47,900	27.1
Vic	4,184,600	24.9	65,435	23.0	45,200	25.6
Qld	3,122,200	18.5	44,587	15.6	41,400	23.4
WA	1,643,200	9.8	26,908	9.4	14,700	8.3
SA	1,322,800	7.9	24,743	8.7	14,400	8.2
Tas	408,000	2.4	11,554	4.1	5,800	3.3
ACT	278,400	1.7	9,916	3.5	2,700	1.5
NT	164,900	1.0	7,379	2.6	4,800	2.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,836,800</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>285,039</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>177,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### Notes

1. 'Australian population 10+' refers to the estimated resident population aged 10 years and over at 30 June 2001 (preliminary estimates). Residents of external territories have been excluded from the total.
2. 'Total recurrent allocation' includes funds not allocated to agencies, for example, funds allocated for administration, training, research and evaluation.
3. 'Total recurrent allocation' for 2001–02 includes \$1,692,000 provided through the Partnerships Against Domestic Violence Program.
4. 'Total recurrent allocation' for Victoria includes \$7,842,000 provided by the Victorian funding department which was in addition to the SAAP funding agreement between that State and the Commonwealth. The States and Territories generally provide additional funds for supporting SAAP activities which are not part of the SAAP agreement. Additional funds provided by other States and Territories were not reported and are not shown here.
5. Support period figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation.

Source: SAAP Client Collection; FaCS unpublished data; ABS 2001a.

**Table 2.2: SAAP agencies: recurrent allocations and mean funding per agency, by State and Territory, region and primary target group, Australia, 2001–02**

	Agencies (number)	Agencies (%)	Recurrent allocation (\$)	Recurrent allocation (%)	Mean funding per agency (\$)
<b>State/ Territory</b>					
NSW	394	30.6	88,184,000	33.0	223,800
Vic	376	29.2	62,843,000	22.9	167,100
Qld	195	15.2	42,972,000	16.1	220,400
WA	124	9.6	25,997,000	9.7	209,700
SA	84	6.5	23,063,000	8.6	274,600
Tas	41	3.2	11,139,000	4.2	271,700
ACT	35	2.7	7,942,000	3.0	226,900
NT	37	2.9	6,820,000	2.6	184,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,286</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>268,960,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>209,100</b>
<b>Region</b>					
Capital city	709	55.1	168,699,000	62.7	237,900
Other metropolitan centre	90	7.0	17,819,000	6.6	198,000
Large rural centre	118	9.2	23,892,000	8.9	202,500
Other rural area	280	21.8	43,457,000	16.2	155,200
Remote area	89	6.9	15,093,000	5.6	169,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,286</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>268,960,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>209,100</b>
<b>Primary target group</b>					
Young people	476	37.0	94,041,000	35.0	197,600
Single men only	97	7.5	27,011,000	10.1	278,500
Single women only	46	3.6	8,878,000	3.3	193,000
Families	121	9.4	17,805,000	6.6	147,100
Women escaping domestic violence	289	22.5	76,928,000	28.6	266,200
Cross-target/multiple/general	257	20.0	44,297,000	16.4	172,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,286</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>268,960,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>209,100</b>

*Notes*

1. 'Recurrent allocation' excludes funds not allocated to agencies, for example, funds allocated for administration, training, research and evaluation.
2. Recurrent allocations to agencies for 2001–02 include \$1,557,000 provided through the Partnerships Against Domestic Violence Program.
3. 'Recurrent allocation' for Victoria includes \$7,842,000 provided by the Victorian funding department which was in addition to the SAAP funding agreement between that State and the Commonwealth. The States and Territories generally provide additional funds for supporting SAAP activities which are not part of the SAAP agreement. Additional funds provided by other States and Territories were not reported and are not shown here.

Source: SAAP Administrative Data Collection.