

Welfare expenditure Australia 2002–03

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Table of contents

List of tables	vii
List of figures	ix
Preface	xi
Abbreviations and symbols	xii
1 Background and summary	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Data sources	2
1.3 Summary of findings	2
1.4 Revisions	3
2 Total expenditure on welfare services	4
2.1 Welfare services expenditure and the general level of economic activity	4
2.2 Expenditure per person	6
3 Funding of welfare services in Australia	7
3.1 Broad sources of funds	7
3.2 Funding by governments	9
Distribution of government funding	9
Growth in funding of welfare services by category	12
3.3 Non-government sector funding	17
Non-government community service organisations	18
Households	18
4 Concessions to households	20
5 Social expenditure	22
5.1 Cash benefits and benefits-in-kind	23
Old age	23
Incapacity-related	24
Families	24
Survivors and other social policy areas	24
6 Special feature: Child care services in Australia	25
6.1 Total funding of child care services	25
6.2 Average expenditure per child on child care services	25

6.3	Employment conditions of children’s care workers	27
6.4	Hours worked.....	30
6.5	Workforce.....	31
7	Technical notes.....	33
7.1	Government Purpose Classification.....	33
	Welfare services.....	33
	Social security	35
7.2	Revisions	39
	Revisions due to changes in data sources.....	39
	Revision due to reclassification of expenditure items	44
	Appendix A: Tables – Expenditure and funding of welfare services	45
	Appendix B: Population data	48
	Appendix C: Tables – Child care services.....	49
	References.....	58

List of tables

Table 1.1:	Social expenditure, current prices, 1998–99 to 2002–03	1
Table 2.1:	Expenditure on welfare services and GDP, current prices, 1998–99 to 2002–03	4
Table 2.2:	Expenditure on welfare services and GDP, constant prices, and rates of inflation, 1998–99 to 2002–03	5
Table 2.3:	Expenditure on welfare services, by sector incurring expenditure, current prices, 1998–99 to 2002–03	6
Table 2.4:	Average per person expenditure on welfare services, current and constant prices, and growth rates, 1998–99 to 2002–03	6
Table 3.1:	Funding of welfare services, current prices, 1998–99 to 2002–03	7
Table 3.2:	Funding of welfare services, constant prices, 1998–99 to 2002–03	8
Table 3.3 :	Recurrent funding for welfare services by the Australian Government and state and territory governments, by welfare services category, current prices, 1998–99 to 2002–03	10
Table 3.4:	Recurrent funding for welfare services by the Australian Government and state and territory governments by welfare services category, constant prices, and growth rates, 1998–99 to 2002–03	13
Table 3.5:	Recurrent funding of welfare services by state and territory governments, current prices, 1998–99 to 2002–03	16
Table 3.6:	Average state and territory government funding per person for recurrent expenditure on welfare services, by state and territory, current prices, 1998–99 to 2002–03	17
Table 3.7:	Expenditure by NGCSOs and sources of funding, current prices, 1998–99 to 2002–03	18
Table 3.8:	Client fees for welfare services, current prices, 1998–99 to 2002–03	19
Table 4.1:	State and territory core concessions expenditure, by concession category, current prices, 1998–99 to 2002–03	21
Table 5.1:	Social expenditure, current prices, 1998–99 to 2002–03	23
Table 6.1:	Estimated funding for child care in Australia, by source of funds, current prices, 1998–99 to 2002–03	25
Table 6.2:	Estimated average expenditure, per child, on child care, Australian Government and state and territory governments, constant prices, 1998–99 to 2002–03	26
Table 6.3:	Average weekly ordinary time earnings for full-time non-managerial children’s care workers, pre-primary school teachers, primary school teachers and full-time adult non-managerial employees, May 1996, 1998, 2000 and 2002	28
Table 6.4:	Children’s care worker earnings as a ratio to pre-primary school teachers, primary school teachers and full-time adult non-managerial employees’ earnings, May 1996, 1998, 2000 and 2002	29

Table 6.5:	Average weekly ordinary hours paid for full-time non-managerial children's care worker, pre-primary school teacher, primary school teacher and full-time adult non-managerial employees, May 1996, 1998, 2000 and 2002.....	30
Table 6.6:	Number of paid and unpaid child care workers, by jurisdiction, 1997, 1999 and 2002.....	32
Table 6.7:	Number of paid and unpaid child care workers as a proportion of the total, by jurisdiction, 1997, 1999 and 2002.....	32
Table 7.1:	Key data sources for state and territory government expenditure and funding...	43
Table 7.2:	Aggregate revisions to the 1998-99, 1999-00 and 2000-01 estimates.....	44
Table A1:	Funding of recurrent and capital expenditure on welfare services by the Australian Government and state and territory governments and local governments, current prices, 1998-99 to 2002-03	45
Table A2:	Recurrent funding of welfare services by state and territory governments, current prices, 1998-99 to 2002-03.....	46
Table A3:	Recurrent funding of welfare services by state and territory governments, constant prices, 1998-99 to 2002-03.....	47
Table B1:	Mean resident population, 1998-99 to 2002-03	48
Table C2:	Number of child care staff in New South Wales, by service type, 1997, 1999 and 2002.....	49
Table C3:	Number of child care staff in Victoria, by service type, 1997, 1999 and 2002.....	50
Table C4:	Number of child care staff in Queensland, by service type, 1997, 1999 and 2002	51
Table C5:	Number of child care staff in Western Australia, by service type, 1997, 1999 and 2002.....	52
Table C6:	Number of child care staff in South Australia, by service type, 1997, 1999 and 2002.....	53
Table C7:	Number of child care staff in Tasmania, by service type, 1997, 1999 and 2002	54
Table C8:	Number of child care staff in the Australian Capital Territory, by service type, 1997, 1999 and 2002.....	55
Table C9:	Number of child care staff in the Northern Territory, by service type, 1997, 1999 and 2002.....	56
Table C10:	Number of child care staff in Australia, by service type, 1997, 1999 and 2002	57

List of figures

Figure 3.1: Total welfare services expenditure by funding source, 2002-038

Figure 3.2: State and territory own funding for welfare services and population,
jurisdictional distribution as a proportion of national aggregates, 2002-0314

Figure 3.3: State and territory governments' recurrent funding of welfare services,
average of 1998-99 to 2002-0316

Preface

Compilation and reporting of estimates of social expenditure is an important task, but a daunting one, largely because of the lack of a clearly defined and comprehensive framework within which to develop estimates.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare began compiling and analysing government welfare services expenditure in 1995. The first published estimates were based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics' government finance statistics; and the classification system used was the welfare services sub-group of the Bureau's government purpose classifications (GPCs). The expenditure reported included direct expenditure incurred by governments, plus that part of non-government expenditure funded by governments.

Since that first publication, the Institute has expanded its reporting to include estimates of expenditures incurred by non-government service providers and other non-cash expenditures by governments – essentially, concessions and tax expenditures.

In 2003, the Institute proposed that it further expand its expenditure estimates by including social security payments by the Australian Government. *Welfare Expenditure Australia 2000–2001* contained a table showing the types of payments that would potentially be included in future welfare expenditure reports.

Welfare Expenditure Australia 2002–03 brings together the cash and non-cash benefits flowing to people in need in a chapter on social expenditure. That analysis uses the relevant parts of the OECD's Social Expenditure (SOCX) classification to provide a framework within which to estimate total expenditure flowing to people in need of assistance.

An added feature of this publication is an analysis of some aspects of the children's services industry.

Changes in systems and data sources render comparisons over time difficult. Even since the previous estimates were compiled there have been substantial changes to the data sources available for compiling the estimates. This has led to revisions of the estimates for the years 1998–99 to 2000–01.

Richard Madden
Director
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Abbreviations and symbols

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
AWOTE	Average Weekly Ordinary Time Earnings
CGC	Commonwealth Grants Commission
DoHA	Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
DVA	Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs
FaCS	Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFCE	Government Final Consumption Expenditure
GFS	ABS Government Finance Statistics
GPC	ABS Government Purpose Classification
HACC	Home and Community Care Program
NGCSO	Non-government community service organisation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PCC	Pensioner concession card
RoGS	Report on Government Services by Productivity Commission
SAAP	Supported Accommodation Assistance Program
SOCX	OECD Social Expenditure Database
SPP	Specific Purpose Payment (under Section 96 of the Australian Constitution)
–	nil or rounded down to zero
..	not applicable
n.a.	not available
n.p.	not published due to data quality issues