

2 Funding

In 2005–06 funding for the SAAP agencies operating across Australia was provided jointly by the Australian Government (through the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs) and the state and territory governments. This chapter analyses information about the resources allocated to the 1,300 SAAP agencies funded during 2005–06 (Table 2.3). Not all of these agencies were operating throughout the year: at 30 June 2006, 1,296 were operating. Note that not all funded agencies are required to participate in the Collection (see Table A1.1).

Total funding

Data provided by Australian Government and state and territory government departments responsible for administering SAAP show that the agreed recurrent allocation for SAAP nationally was \$323.9m in 2005–06 (Table 2.1). On top of this, three jurisdictions reported recurrent allocations in addition to the amounts determined in the agreements between those jurisdictions and the Australian Government. An additional \$24.9m was provided by Victoria (80%), the Australian Capital Territory (16%) and Western Australia (4%). When this is taken into account, the total recurrent SAAP allocation nationally was \$348.8m. Of the total recurrent allocation, \$333.4m was allocated to SAAP agencies (Table 2.3), with the remaining \$15.4m 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. In addition, not all agencies that receive funding are required to participate in the Client Collection (see Table A1.1).

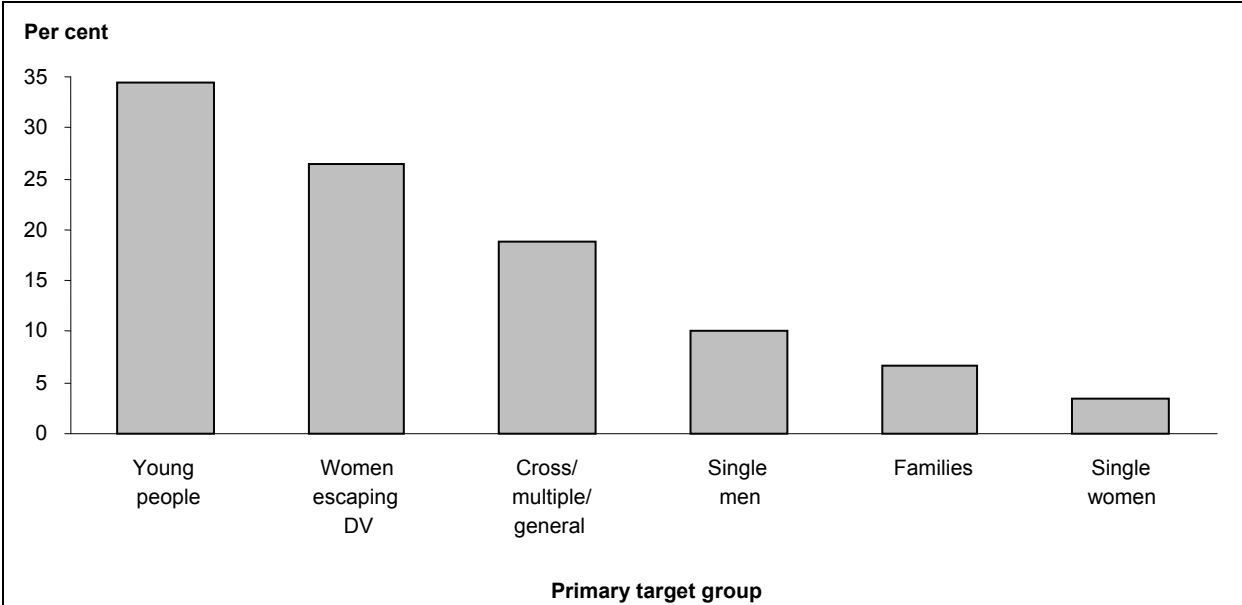
When analysing variations in the distribution of support and funding, it is important to recognise that the level of assistance provided can vary considerably with each support period. Differences between the distributions of support and funding may also reflect different approaches to service provision, rather than just differences in the relative amount of support provided. An example of the variation between support and funding is illustrated by the New South Wales and Victorian data. Whereas New South Wales had 33% of the total funding allocation, agencies in this state supplied 22% of the total support (client support periods plus accompanying child support periods). Conversely, agencies in Victoria had 24% of the total funding allocation and provided 39% of the total support.

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.

The distribution of funds varied from the proportions of the general population in the various states and territories, with some jurisdictions having relatively more funding than others (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 2005. On the other hand, 20% of the population lived in Queensland, but that state had 16% of SAAP funding. In the other states, their proportion of funding was roughly equivalent to their proportion of the population.

Funding to agencies

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. 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.



Source: Table 2.3.

Figure 2.1: Recurrent funding allocations to agencies, by primary target group, Australia, 2005-06 (per cent)

As noted, the total SAAP recurrent allocation across Australia in 2005-06 was \$348.8m, of which \$333.4m was allocated to agencies (tables 2.1 and 2.3). Agencies that primarily provide services to young people (36% of agencies) received the largest proportion of SAAP recurrent allocations, with 34% of the funds allocated to these agencies, or \$114.8m (Figure 2.1 and Table 2.3). Agencies targeting women escaping domestic violence (23% of agencies) received the next largest allocation of recurrent funds, at 27% or \$88.5m. The small number of agencies targeting single women only (4%) received the smallest overall proportion of recurrent funds, at 4% or around \$11.7m.

In 2005–06, the average level of funding per agency was \$256,500. 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 \$377,000, whereas agencies in Victoria received the lowest at \$207,100. In terms of the primary target group of the agency, agencies targeting single men had the highest average funding (\$368,900), followed by agencies for women and children escaping domestic violence (\$299,000). Agencies for single women received an average of \$249,000, agencies for young people \$245,300, and agencies with cross-target, multiple or general target groups \$225,700. Family agencies received the lowest average amount of funding per agency (\$184,400).

Over half (57%) of all agencies were located in major cities and 23% were located in inner regional areas. This compares with 13% in outer regional areas, 4% in remote areas and 3% in very remote areas. Agencies in major cities received the highest average funding per agency (\$290,600), followed by agencies in inner regional areas (\$214,800), agencies in outer regional areas (\$212,100), and agencies in remote areas (\$210,000). Agencies in very remote areas had the lowest average funding per agency (\$176,900).

2.1 Tables

Table 2.1: SAAP funding: total recurrent allocations, by state and territory, Australia, 2005–06

State/ territory	Australian–state government agreement recurrent allocations		State-only recurrent allocations ^(a)		Total recurrent allocations ^(b)	
	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%
NSW	115,578,000	35.7	n.a	n.a	115,578,000	33.1
Vic	63,362,000	19.6	19,962,000	80.2	83,324,000	23.9
Qld	54,874,000	16.9	n.a	n.a	54,874,000	15.7
WA	29,616,000	9.1	920,000	3.7	30,536,000	8.8
SA	27,222,000	8.4	n.a	n.a	27,222,000	7.8
Tas	13,802,000	4.3	n.a	n.a	13,802,000	4.0
ACT	10,923,000	3.4	4,005,000	16.1	14,928,000	4.3
NT	8,572,000	2.6	n.a	n.a	8,572,000	2.5
Total	323,949,000	100.0	24,887,000	100.0	348,836,000	100.0

(a) 'State-only recurrent allocations' as shown in the table are in addition to the SAAP funding agreement between that state and the Australian Government.

(b) 'Total recurrent allocations' include funds not allocated to agencies, e.g. funds allocated for administration, training, research and evaluation.

Sources: SAAP Administrative Data Collection; FaCSIA unpublished data.

Table 2.2: Australian population, total SAAP recurrent allocations, SAAP support periods, SAAP accompanying child support periods and total SAAP support, by state and territory, Australia, 2005–06

State/ territory	Total Australian population ^(a)		Total recurrent allocations ^(b)		Support periods		Accompanying child support periods		Total support	
	Number	%	\$	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
NSW	6,774,200	33.3	115,578,000	33.1	40,900	22.7	15,900	19.5	56,800	21.7
Vic	5,022,300	24.7	83,324,000	23.9	71,800	39.9	29,400	36.0	101,200	38.7
Qld	3,964,000	19.5	54,874,000	15.7	25,400	14.1	10,900	13.4	36,300	13.9
WA	2,010,100	9.9	30,536,000	8.8	12,700	7.1	8,300	10.2	21,000	8.0
SA	1,542,000	7.6	27,222,000	7.8	15,900	8.8	10,300	12.7	26,200	10.0
Tas	485,300	2.4	13,802,000	4.0	6,200	3.5	3,000	3.6	9,200	3.5
ACT	325,200	1.6	14,928,000	4.3	2,800	1.6	1,600	1.9	4,400	1.7
NT	202,800	1.0	8,572,000	2.5	4,300	2.4	2,300	2.8	6,600	2.5
Total	20,328,600	100.0	348,836,000	100.0	180,000	100.0	81,700	100.0	261,700	100.0

(a) 'Total Australian population' refers to the estimated resident population at 30 June 2005 (preliminary estimates). Residents of external territories are included in the total.

(b) '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).

Notes

1. Not all funded agencies are required to participate in the Client Collection (see Table A1.1).
2. Support period and accompanying child support period figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation.

Sources: SAAP Administrative Data and Client Collections; FaCSIA unpublished data; ABS 2006a.

Table 2.3: SAAP agencies: recurrent allocations to agencies and mean funding per agency, by state and territory, region and primary target group, Australia, 2005–06

	Agencies (number)	Agencies (%)	Recurrent allocation (\$) ^(a)	Recurrent allocation (%) ^(a)	Mean funding per agency (\$)
State/territory					
NSW	387	29.8	110,462,000	33.1	285,400
Vic	381	29.3	78,887,000	23.7	207,100
Qld	203	15.6	52,713,000	15.8	259,700
WA	127	9.8	29,403,000	8.8	231,500
SA	81	6.2	26,408,000	7.9	326,000
Tas	35	2.7	13,194,000	4.0	377,000
ACT	49	3.8	14,556,000	4.4	297,100
NT	37	2.8	7,810,000	2.3	211,100
Total	1,300	100.0	333,432,000	100.0	256,500
Region ^(b)					
Major city	745	57.3	216,479,000	64.9	290,600
Inner regional	299	23.0	64,319,000	19.3	214,800
Outer regional	163	12.5	34,576,000	10.4	212,100
Remote	51	3.9	10,669,000	3.2	210,000
Very remote	42	3.2	7,390,000	2.2	176,900
Total	1,300	100.0	333,432,000	100.0	256,500
Primary target group					
Young people	468	36.0	114,783,000	34.4	245,300
Single men only	91	7.0	33,567,000	10.1	368,900
Single women only	47	3.6	11,701,000	3.5	249,000
Families	120	9.2	22,133,000	6.6	184,400
Women escaping domestic violence	296	22.8	88,512,000	26.5	299,000
Cross-target/multiple/general	278	21.4	62,735,000	18.8	225,700
Total	1,300	100.0	333,432,000	100.0	256,500

(a) '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.

(b) For the definition of region, refer to the Appendix 1, Section A1.4.

Note: At 30 June 2006, 1,296 agencies were operating.

Source: SAAP Administrative Data Collection.

