

**Disability support services
provided under the
Commonwealth/State
Disability Agreement:
national data, 1997**

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**Ken Black
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December 1998

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Canberra

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Contents

- List of tables..... vii
- List of appendix tables x
- List of figures.....xi
- List of boxesxi
- Prefacexii
- Summary and outline..... xiii
- Acknowledgements..... xiv
- Abbreviations.....xv

- 1 Overview 1**

- 2 Introduction 6**
 - 2.1 CSDA MDS collections 6
 - 2.2 How the collection was conducted..... 6
 - 2.3 Scope and limitations of the collection..... 7

- 3 Recipients of CSDA services 10**
 - 3.1 Age and sex 10
 - 3.2 Disability type..... 10
 - 3.3 Country of birth..... 19
 - 3.4 Indigenous origin 21
 - 3.5 Communication 23
 - 3.6 Frequency and area of support..... 24
 - 3.7 Income source 27
 - 3.8 Accommodation 29
 - 3.9 State distribution 33

- 4 Service data 37**
 - 4.1 State distribution 37
 - 4.2 Service income (CSDA) from governments..... 39
 - 4.3 Urban, rural and remote area distribution 41
 - 4.4 Auspice 43
 - 4.5 Operating periods 45
 - 4.6 Staff hours..... 46

5	Performance indicators	48
5.1	Background	48
5.2	'Potential population'	49
5.3	Performance indicators of effectiveness.....	51
6	Data quality and future of the collection	59
6.1	Response rates and data quality.....	59
6.2	Ongoing data development	62
6.3	Data quality and future collections.....	63
	Appendixes	64
	Appendix 1: Papers and publications using the CSDA MDS collections.....	64
	Appendix 2: Key changes and proposed changes to the CSDA MDS collections 1996–1997	65
	Appendix 3: Detailed tables.....	66
	References	76

List of tables

Table 1.1: Recipients of CSDA-funded services, service type by auspicating organisation and time period, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997	1
Table 1.2: Service funding, government expenditure data reported to the Steering Committee for the Review of Commonwealth/State Service Provision, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1996–97 (\$ million)	4
Table 3.1: Recipients of CSDA-funded services, sex and primary disability type by age group, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997	11
Table 3.2: Recipients of CSDA-funded services, service type by primary disability type, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997	13
Table 3.3: Recipients of CSDA-funded services, primary disability type and all significant disability types, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997.....	17
Table 3.4: Recipients of CSDA-funded services, primary disability type, with or without the presence of other significant disability types, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997	18
Table 3.5: Recipients of CSDA-funded services, primary disability type by country of birth, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997	20
Table 3.6: Recipients of CSDA-funded services, age group by country of birth, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997	21
Table 3.7: Recipients of CSDA-funded services, primary disability type by Indigenous origin, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997	22
Table 3.8: Percentage of service recipients of Indigenous origin, State/Territory distribution by State or Commonwealth funding of CSDA services, compared with the proportion of people of Indigenous origin in the total population, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997.....	22
Table 3.9: Recipients of CSDA-funded services, primary disability type by method of effective communication, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997	24
Table 3.10: Recipients of CSDA-funded services, primary disability type and area of support needed by frequency of support or assistance needed, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997	26
Table 3.11: Adult recipients (aged 16 years or more) of CSDA-funded services, main income source by primary disability type, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997	28

Table 3.12: Child recipients of CSDA-funded services, income to parents from the Child Disability Allowance by primary disability type, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997	29
Table 3.13: Recipients of CSDA-funded services, primary disability type by 'living arrangement/accommodation type', Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997	30
Table 3.14: Recipients of CSDA-funded services, frequency of support or assistance needed in activities of daily living and home living by 'living arrangement/accommodation type', Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997	32
Table 3.15: Recipients of CSDA-funded services, service type by State and Territory, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997	34
Table 3.16: Recipients of CSDA-funded employment support services, auspicing organisation by State and Territory, Commonwealth, 1997	35
Table 3.17: Recipients of CSDA-funded services, excluding specific psychiatric services, auspicing organisation and State and Territory by service type, States and Territories, 1997	36
Table 4.1: State- and Territory-funded CSDA services, service type by State and Territory, 1997	38
Table 4.2: Commonwealth-funded CSDA services, service type by State and Territory, 1997	39
Table 4.3: CSDA funding of services, service type by State and Territory, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1996-97 (\$ million)	40
Table 4.4: Service funding, comparison of CSDA MDS data and government expenditure data reported to the Steering Committee for the Review of Commonwealth/State Service Provision, States and Territories, 1996-97 (\$ million)	41
Table 4.5: CSDA-funded services, service type by auspicing organisation, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997	44
Table 4.6: CSDA-funded services, days of operation per week by hours of operation per day, States and Territories, 1997	45
Table 4.7: CSDA-funded services, service type by weeks of operation per year, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997	46
Table 4.8: Hours worked by staff for CSDA-funded services, service type by staff type and auspicing organisation, States and Territories, 1997	47
Table 5.1: People aged less than 65 years with severe or profound handicap by State and Territory, 1993 and 1997	50

Table 5.2: People aged less than 65 years, Indigenous factor by State and Territory, 1997	50
Table 5.3: Recipients of CSDA-funded accommodation support services relative to the 'potential population' by State and Territory, 1997.....	51
Table 5.4: Recipients of CSDA-funded employment services relative to the 'potential population' by State and Territory, 1997	52
Table 5.5: Recipients of CSDA-funded accommodation support services, 'severity' of handicap by State and Territory, 1997.....	53
Table 5.6: Recipients of CSDA-funded employment services, 'severity' of handicap by State and Territory, 1997.....	53
Table 5.7: Recipients of CSDA-funded accommodation support services, Indigenous origin by State and Territory, 1997	54
Table 5.8: Recipients of CSDA-funded employment services, Indigenous origin by State and Territory, 1997	55
Table 5.9: Recipients of CSDA-funded accommodation support services, non-English-speaking origin by State and Territory, 1997	56
Table 5.10: Recipients of CSDA-funded employment services, non-English-speaking origin by State and Territory, 1997	57
Table 5.11: Recipients of CSDA-funded community-based or 'in-home' accommodation support services, service type by State and Territory, 1997	58
Table 6.1: Response rates for Service Forms, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1995-97	59
Table 6.2: 'Not stated' response rates for Service and Consumer Form data items, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997	61
Table 6.3: 'Not known' response rates for Consumer Form data items, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997	62

List of appendix tables

Table A.1: Recipients of CSDA-funded services, data item response categories, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997 66

Table A.2: Recipients of CSDA-funded services, age group by sex, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997 70

Table A.3: Recipients of CSDA-funded services, service type by primary disability type, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997 (percentage of total for service type) 71

Table A.4: Recipients of CSDA-funded services, number of disability types reported by relative frequency of support required in activities of daily living, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997 73

Table A.5: Recipients of CSDA-funded services, primary disability type by Indigenous origin, Northern Territory, 1997 73

Table A.6: Recipients of CSDA-funded services, frequency of support or assistance needed in the area of self-care by method of effective communication, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997 74

Table A.7: Recipients of CSDA-funded services, location of service outlet by State/Territory and Commonwealth funding source, State and Territory, 1997 74

Table A.8: CSDA-funded services, service type by days of operation per week, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997 75

Table A.9: People aged less than 65 years, severity of handicap and disability status by State and Territory, Australia, 1993 75

List of figures

- Figure 1.1: Recipients of CSDA-funded services, age group by sex, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997 2
- Figure 1.2: Recipients of CSDA-funded services, primary disability type and all significant disability types, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997 3
- Figure 1.3: CSDA-funded services, auspicing organisation by service type, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997..... 4
- Figure 3.1: Recipients of CSDA-funded services, number of disability types (primary plus other) reported by relative frequency of support required in activities of daily living, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997 19
- Figure 3.2: Recipients of CSDA-funded services, Indigenous origin by primary disability type, Northern Territory, 1997 23
- Figure 3.3: Recipients of CSDA-funded services, frequency of support or assistance needed in the area of self-care by method of effective communication, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997..... 27
- Figure 4.1: Recipients of CSDA-funded services, location of service outlet for State- and Territory-funded services received, 1997 42
- Figure 4.2: Recipients of CSDA-funded services, location of service outlet for Commonwealth-funded services received by State and Territory, 1997 42
- Figure 4.3: CSDA-funded services, service type by days of operation per week, States and Territories, 1997 45

List of boxes

- Box 3.1: Service types for which a CSDA service was most frequently received by primary disability type on a 1997 ‘snapshot’ day 15
- Box 3.2: Most frequently reported primary disability types of recipients of CSDA services by service type on a 1997 ‘snapshot’ day 16

Preface

The Commonwealth/State Disability Agreement (CSDA) National Minimum Data Set (NMDS) was developed in 1993 and 1994 jointly by all States and Territories, the Commonwealth and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. The first data collection was undertaken in 1995, and data from the 1996 collection have been widely used by government departments and the community.

There have been some important improvements to the collection between 1995 and 1997, however it continues to suffer from some gaps and problems. The collection needs redevelopment, particularly in light of the continuing changes in the method of service delivery, for example the growing use of case funding and brokerage models. Redevelopment will begin during 1999 (in partnership with the Disability Services Subcommittee).

The information being released now will inform Australians about services provided under the CSDA for people with disabilities in Australia.

All States and Territories and the Commonwealth have provided data, and their cooperation is gratefully acknowledged.

This report has been completed far more quickly than previous reports. I pay tribute to the data providers and Institute staff who have worked hard and cooperatively to produce a quality report in a much shorter time period.

Richard Madden
Director

Summary and outline

This report presents data about services directly provided or funded by government, under the Commonwealth/State Disability Agreement (CSDA). These data come from the CSDA Minimum Data Set collection conducted in the second half of 1997, and cover State, Territory and Commonwealth CSDA services. This is the third annual data collection, the first having been undertaken in 1995. Data for 1995 and 1996 have been published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

Section 1 provides an overview of the service recipient and service data.

Section 2 describes the data collection, how it was conducted and indicates some of the limitations important for purposes of interpretation.

Sections 3 and 4 give a detailed description of the results of the 1997 data collection, concentrating mainly on national patterns. Data are reported on both the recipients of the services and on the services themselves.

Section 3 covers data collected from 64,432 Consumer Forms, representing people receiving services on the 'snapshot' day. Many service recipients have multiple disabilities, and a consumer can receive more than one service on the 'snapshot' day and therefore fill in more than one Consumer Form. Of service recipients in 1997, 58% were male. Over 67% were reported to have intellectual disability as the primary disability type. Nearly 83% of recipients needed support in activities of daily living. Higher proportions needed support in social and emotional areas. Data on other disabilities, country of birth, Indigenous origin, language, method of communication, living arrangements, income source and State distribution are detailed.

Section 4 covers services provided. A total of 5,759 CSDA services responded to the 1997 CSDA Minimum Data Set collection—a response rate of 97%. Of these services:

- 3,970 (69%) were provided under a non-government auspice, and 1,788 (31%) under a government auspice;
- 2,538 of all services were accommodation services, 1,138 were community support services, 900 were employment services, 699 were community access services, and 411 were respite services.

Section 5 presents many of the recently developed performance indicators for disability services, for 1997.

Section 6 contains a discussion of the data quality of the 1997 collection and outlines possible changes to future collections. There are a range of policy and administrative issues likely to affect future collections and the uses to which the data are put.

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- to the staff in the disability services funding departments who conducted the mail-out, help-lines, collection, compilation and editing of questionnaires and data at the Commonwealth, State and Territory level.

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Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ADD	Attention Deficit Disorder
AIHW/Institute	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
CSDA	Commonwealth/State Disability Agreement of 1991
CSDA-funded services	Service providers receiving funding from State and/or Commonwealth Governments for a service or services covered by the CSDA
DSSC	Disability Services Subcommittee (comprising the heads of government disability services throughout Australia)
ICIDH	International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps
MDS	Minimum Data Set
(CSDA) MDS Network	Formerly known as Management, Implementation and Development Committee (comprises a representative from AIHW and all jurisdictions involved with CSDA MDS collections)
n.a.	Not available—in relation to data from cells in some tables
NCSDDD	National Community Services Data Dictionary
NIMS	National Information Management System (for Commonwealth-funded CSDA open employment services)
PT OT ST	Physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy. These are included within the 'therapy services' service type.