1   Introduction

This report is based on data collected during the 2006–07 financial year from services funded under the third Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA) of 2002–07. Under this Agreement the Australian Government (Commonwealth) is responsible for the planning, policy setting and management of employment services[1] for people with disability, and the states and territories are responsible for all other disability support services (including accommodation support, community access, community support and respite services). Responsibility for advocacy, information and print disability services is shared between the two levels of government.

1.1   Outline of the report

Chapter 2 describes service users and the services they accessed over the 12-month period, presenting data on the majority of service user data items.

Chapter 3 deals with data relating to informal carers, and the support needs and living arrangements of service users in 2006–07.

Chapter 4 is a special focus chapter which looks at trends from 2003–04 to 2006–07. Special focus chapters in future reports will examine other themes or groups of service users.

Chapter 5 presents data on service type outlets and agencies that provided services during 2006–07.

Chapter 6 relates to service use, including an analysis of multiple service use, hours received, staff hours and service exit data.

Chapter 7 deals with data quality issues and response rates affecting the 2006–07 data.

Technical issues such as 'potential population' calculations and use of the statistical linkage key are discussed in further detail in the Appendixes.

1.2   Brief history of the CSTDA NMDS

Before 1994, no national data on disability support services were available. Two pilot tests were conducted during 1994, and in 1995 the first collection was undertaken, which was then known as the Commonwealth/State Disability Agreement Minimum Data Set (CSDA MDS). The collection was undertaken annually from 1995 to 2002 on a 'snapshot' day basis—that is, data were collected on a single day, usually in May or June.

A statistical linkage key was introduced into the national collection in 1999, following development and pilot testing during 1998. This statistical linkage key enabled the estimation of the number of service users (individuals) accessing services on the snapshot day. See Appendix 4 for more details on the statistical linkage key.

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[1]   Responsibility for open employment services rests with the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), and supported employment services (also known as 'business services') with the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA).

Between 1999 and 2002 a major redevelopment of the data collection was carried out by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) in collaboration with the National Disability Administrators—now known as the Disability Policy and Research Working Group—the Australian Government, state and territory governments and non-government organisations. The new CSTDA NMDS was implemented in 2002. The most significant change brought about by the redevelopment was that data are now collected on a full-year basis rather than on a single 'snapshot' day, meaning that complete counts of service users over a full financial year are available. A number of new data items were also introduced into the collection, including data on informal care arrangements and quantity of services provided. For more detailed information on the redevelopment of the data collection, please refer to the AIHW report describing this process (AIHW 2003).

This report is the fourth annual AIHW report on disability services based on a full 12–month collection period (in this case 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007).

1.3 Scope and definitions

Scope of the collection

The CSTDA NMDS covers disability support services that received funding under the CSTDA during 2006–07, and the users of those services. In the context of this collection, CSTDA-funded services generally consist of:

- those services for people with disability that were funded or provided by the 'disability program area' within each state and territory and by the Australian Government before the first Commonwealth/State Disability Agreement (CSDA) (signed in 1991), and which were considered to be of a type to be included in the initial 'CSDA base'

- those services for people with disability that were transferred between the Australian Government and states and territories at the start of the first CSDA in 1991

- services provided or funded under the CSDA since the signing of the first CSDA and included under the second and third Agreements, signed in 1998 and 2003, respectively.

There is some variation between jurisdictions in the services included under the CSTDA. Table 1.1 highlights the main areas where the borders between CSTDA-funded services and services funded under other programs differ across jurisdictions.

Table 1.1: Scope of services included in the CSTDA NMDS collection, by state/territory, 2006–07

State/Territory	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
Specialist psychiatric disability services	X	✓	✓	✓ [a]	X	X	X	X
Early childhood intervention	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓ [b]

(a)   Dual diagnosis services only.

(b)   Selected services only.

People with psychiatric disability (that is, generally people who experience ongoing limitations in the activities they undertake because of a mental illness or mental health problem) access a range of CSTDA-funded service types. In Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia, specialist psychiatric disability services are also funded specifically to provide such support. However, most specific mental health services are funded and provided under health, rather than

disability, portfolios. There appears to be no sharp distinction between what is classified as a 'psychiatric disability service' and a 'mental health service', with some mental health services providing support to people with psychiatric disability.

Similarly, most jurisdictions fund early childhood intervention services under the CSTDA to help children with a developmental delay to integrate with peers in preschools and the community more broadly. However, similar services are also funded under health and education portfolios.

The Australian Government also funded 51 respite outlets during 2006–07. These services were funded outside the standard CSTDA funding arrangement and are therefore excluded from analyses in this report.

Definitions and counts

The main counts of the NMDS collection are service type outlets and service users (see Box 1.1). A service type outlet is a unit of a funded agency (see below) that provides a particular CSTDA service type at a discrete location. Separate data are completed, usually by funded agencies, for each service type outlet.

A funded agency is an organisation that delivers one or more CSTDA-funded service types to service users. Each funded agency has an administrative base from which services of one or more service types are delivered to service users, or from which a team operates when it delivers services to service users at other locations.

A person may receive more than one service over any time period. For each service type (and therefore for each service type outlet), service user data are completed for every service user receiving a service of that type over the collection period (see Box 1.1). Box 1.2 provides definitions of each of the service groups (categories of service type) in the CSTDA NMDS collection, and Appendix 5 provides detailed definitions of each specific service type category.

The statistical linkage key enables the number of service users to be estimated from the data collected at service type outlet or agency level. Service users may have received services from more than one service type outlet or agency, in which case they may have had their personal characteristics recorded on two or more service user forms. Service user counts for these characteristics can be estimated by using the statistical linkage key, and the focus of this report is on these counts. See Appendix 4 for more information on the statistical linkage key.

Service providers collate data in relation to each of their CSTDA-funded service type outlets, as well as all service users who access each of these outlets. Service user data were collected for each person receiving that service type at the outlet over the 2006–07 collection period, and may have been reported by the service user, their carer, an advocate, or their service provider. Each year the AIHW develops, in cooperation with all jurisdictions, standard versions of service type outlet and service user forms (which are used by agencies collecting data manually—see Appendix 3 for the 2006–07 versions). Paper forms are only one way data may be collected —many agencies use software as an alternative means of collating data. The AIHW annually updates a national data guide (see AIHW 2006a), which provides guidance relating to all data items in the collection.

The data items collected on the 2006–07 service type outlet form included information about the service type provided, agency sector of the outlet (government or non-government), location of the service type outlet, hours worked by staff (both paid and unpaid), times of operation (days per week, hours per day and weeks per year) and number of service users.

The data items collected on the 2006–07 service user form included demographic information, items for the statistical linkage key (including selected letters of names, sex and date of birth), Indigenous status, communication method, primary and other significant disabilities, support needs and living arrangements. Selected service types also collected information regarding service dates (including start date, exit date, and date of last service receipt). The quantity of service (in terms of hours of services received) was also collected for particular service types.

Upon completion, data are sent in hard copy or electronic format to the government funding organisation in each jurisdiction. Data are then edited and a final data file is compiled.[2] This file is used for analysis by each jurisdiction, and a copy containing the nationally agreed CSTDA NMDS data items is sent to the AIHW for further checking, editing and national collation.

As noted above, some service types are not required to collect all service user data items—see Appendix 6 for details.

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[2]   Some jurisdictions add data items of particular interest to them, sometimes for a single year.

Box 1.1: Definitions and major counts of the CSTDA NMDS collection

Service user	*A service user is a person with disability who receives a CSTDA-funded service. A service user may receive more than one service over a period of time or on a single day. Service users were previously referred to as 'consumers' in CSDA MDS snapshot collections.*
Service	*A service is a support activity delivered to a service user, in accordance with the CSTDA. Services within the scope of the collection are those for which funding has been provided, during the specified period, by a government organisation operating under the CSTDA.*
Service type and service group	*Service type is the support activity that the service type outlet has been funded to provide under the CSTDA.*
	The NMDS classifies services according to 'service type'. This classification arranges services into seven distinct categories known as 'service groups': accommodation support; employment support; community access; community support; respite; advocacy, information and print disability; and other support (see Box 1.2 for definitions). Within each of these service groups there are various service types (see Appendix 5 for a full list of service type codes and definitions).
Service type outlet	*A service type outlet is the unit of the funded agency that delivers a particular CSTDA service type at, or from, a discrete location.*
	If a funded agency provides, for example, both accommodation support and respite services, it is counted as two service type outlets. Similarly, if an agency is funded to provide more than one accommodation support service type (for example, group homes and attendant care) then it is providing (and is usually separately funded for) two different service types; that is, there are two service type outlets for the funded agency.
Funded agency	*A funded agency is an organisation that delivers one or more CSTDA-funded service types (service type outlets). Funded agencies are usually legal entities. They are generally responsible for providing CSTDA NMDS data to jurisdictions. Where a funded agency operates only one service type outlet, the service type outlet and the funded agency are one and the same entity.*
Scope of the CSTDA NMDS collection	*Services within the scope of the collection are those for which funding has been provided, during the specified period, by a government organisation operating under the CSTDA. A funded agency may receive funding from multiple sources. Where a funded agency is unable to differentiate service users and/or staff according to funding source (that is, CSTDA or other), it is asked to provide details of all service users and staff (for each service type).*

Box 1.2: Definitions of service groups covered by the Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement[3]

Accommodation support	*These are services that provide accommodation to people with disability and services that provide the support needed to enable a person with disability to remain in his or her existing accommodation or move to a more suitable or appropriate accommodation.*
Community support	*These services provide the support needed for a person with disability to live in a non-institutional setting (not including support with the basic needs of living, such as meal preparation and dressing, included under accommodation support).*
Community access	*These are services designed to provide opportunities for people with disability to gain and use their abilities to enjoy their full potential for social independence. People who do not attend school or who are not employed full time mainly use these services.*
Respite	*Respite services provide a short-term and time-limited break for families and other voluntary caregivers of people with disability, to assist in supporting and maintaining the primary caregiving relationship while providing a positive experience for the person with disability. Although there are therefore two 'clients' — the carer and the person with disability — in the CSTDA NMDS collection, the person with disability is regarded as the client. Statistical tables in this report reflect this perspective.*
Employment	*There are three types of employment services which provide employment assistance to people with disability. The first type, open employment, provides assistance in obtaining and/or retaining paid employment in the open labour market. The second type, supported employment, provides employment opportunities and assistance to people with disability to work in specialised and supported work environments. The third type, targeted support[4], provides people with a disability structured training and support to work towards social and community participation or opportunities to develop skills, or retrain, for paid employment.*
Advocacy, information and print disability	*Advocacy services are designed to help people with disability increase the control they have over their lives by representing their interests and views in the community. Information services provide accessible information to people with disability, their carers, families and related professionals. This service group also includes mutual support/self-help groups — special interest groups which promote self-advocacy — and print disability, which includes alternative formats of communication for people who by reason of their disabilities are unable to access information provided in a print medium.*
Other	*Includes research and evaluation, training and development, peak bodies, and any other support services completely outside any of the defined service types above.*

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3   See Appendix 5 for full lists and definitions of specific service types.

4   Targeted support services were introduced for the first time in 2006–07, one year earlier than initially expected and were not included in the 2006–07 collection materials (see Appendix 5).

1.4 Government expenditure

Government expenditure on CSTDA-funded services during 2006–07 totalled $4.42 billion, or $3.99 billion if identified administration expenditure is excluded (Table 1.2). Amounts paid to state/territory governments by the Australian Government are included in state/territory totals in Table 1.2.

Almost half (47.3%) of all CSTDA expenditure in 2006–07 was on accommodation support services ($2,089 million). Community support services accounted for around $522 million (11.8%) of government expenditure, community access services for $532 million (12.1%), employment for $432 million (9.8%) and respite $262 million (5.9%). 'Other' support services expended a total of $93 million (2.1%) and advocacy, information and print disability services $56 million (1.3%). A further $431 million (9.8%) went towards administration.

Table 1.2: Expenditure on disability support services by Australian, state and territory governments, by service group and administration expenditure, 2006–07

Service group	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus Gov	Australia	
					$ million						%
Accommodation support	712.4	612.8	304.0	191.3	154.2	66.1	31.4	17.3	—	2,089.4	47.3
Community support	130.9	190.7	79.0	55.2	35.8	9.8	11.4	9.0	—	521.9	11.8
Community access	159.4	191.5	99.6	27.1	22.8	17.2	5.0	2.9	6.8[(a)]	532.4	12.1
Respite	89.7	62.3	61.3	21.8	9.5	6.0	4.7	2.0	4.6[(a)]	261.9	5.9
Employment	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	431.6	431.6	9.8
Advocacy, information and print disability	8.5	10.9	13.5	3.1	2.8	2.1	1.1	0.2	14.1	56.4	1.3
Other support	5.5	32.3	6.8	13.6	26.1	1.5	2.2	0.1	4.8	92.8	2.1
Subtotal	*1,106.4*	*1,100.6*	*564.2*	*312.1*	*251.1*	*102.8*	*55.8*	*31.5*	*462.0*	*3,986.4*	*90.2*
Administration	197.0[(b)]	89.9	57.9	19.9	18.3	8.2	5.2	1.8	32.6	430.8	9.8
Total	**1,303.4**	**1,190.4**	**622.2**	**332.0**	**269.4**	**111.0**	**61.0**	**33.3**	**494.6**	**4,417.2**	**100.0**

(a) Some Australian Government-funded community access and respite services are funded under the CSTDA from the Employment Assistance and Other Services appropriation.

(b) NSW administrative expenditure includes $55 million of capital grants.

Note: Figures may vary from those published in the *Report on government services 2008* (SCRGSP 2008) owing to the use of different counting rules in particular jurisdictions (for example, some jurisdictions may include funding for psychiatric-specific services in Table 1.2 but not in SCRGSP 2008).

Sources: SCRGSP 2008; unpublished data provided to AIHW by each jurisdiction.

1.5 Outputs from the CSTDA NMDS collection

In addition to their use in service planning and monitoring in individual jurisdictions, CSTDA NMDS data are used for developing national performance indicators. Performance indicators form part of the accountability measures that jurisdictions are required to report under Schedule 3 of the 2002–07 agreement, which is published annually as part of the *Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement annual public report* (see DPRWG forthcoming). The AIHW also releases a supporting web publication, which includes these indicator tables in more detail

(see AIHW forthcoming). A set of performance indicators relating to disability is also published annually in the *Report on government services* (see SCRGSP 2008).

The AIHW has an interactive disability data site containing subsets of national information from the 2006–07 data collection, as well as previous data collections from 1999 onwards. This is available at <www.aihw.gov.au/disability/datacubes/index.html>, and allows anyone who has access to the Internet to view data via the web interface. People accessing this site can construct their own data tables and present them in a way meaningful to their needs (see AIHW 2006b: Box 2.5 for more information).

1.6 Data quality

Data quality should be taken into account when interpreting data in this report. Service type outlet response rates, service user response rates, the accuracy of the statistical linkage key, and 'not stated'/'not known' rates for individual data items all affect the accuracy and reliability of data. In particular, data quality should be considered when making comparisons between jurisdictions and between collection periods, and when analysing data items with particularly high 'not stated' rates.

See Chapter 7 for a detailed discussion of these issues.