

**Disability support services
provided under the
Commonwealth/State
Disability Agreement:
available data, 1996**

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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 1995 collection have been widely used by government departments and the community.

There have been some important improvements to the collection between 1995 and 1996, particularly in describing the type and frequency of support needed by people receiving CSDA services.

The collection continues to suffer from some gaps and problems, notably 1996 Australian Capital Territory data on State-level services, Commonwealth services other than from the NIMS database, and Western Australian data on a 'snapshot' day basis. However, the Institute is pleased with the cooperation being offered by people assisting with the collection processes. I am confident that, with the current level of commitment from all jurisdictions, the quality of future collections will improve.

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

Richard Madden
Director

Summary

This report presents data about services directly provided or funded by government, under the umbrella of the Commonwealth/State Disability Agreement (CSDA). These data come from the CSDA Minimum Data Set collection conducted in the second half of 1996. It covered almost all State, Territory and Commonwealth CSDA services.

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 1996 data collection, concentrating mainly on the national perspective. Data are supplied on both the recipients of the services from a 'snapshot day' perspective and on the services themselves. Neither service nor service recipient data were collected this year by the Australian Capital Territory Government. The Commonwealth Government did not collect service recipient data this year from all its services, except its open labour market employment services.

Section 3 covers data collected from 68,488 Consumer Forms, representing people receiving services on the 'snapshot' day; 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 1996, 58% were male and 58% were reported to have intellectual disability as the primary disability type. Many service recipients have multiple disabilities. Over 86% of recipients needed support in activities of daily living. Almost as many needed social and emotional support. Data on other disabilities, country of birth, Indigenous origin, language, method of communication, living arrangements, income source and State distribution are detailed.

Section 4 provides some detail about services. A total of 5,160 CSDA services responded to the 1996 CSDA Minimum Data Set collection— a response rate of 95%. Of these services:

- 3,462 (67%) were provided under a non-government auspice, and 1,698 (33%) under a government auspice;
- 2,336 of all services were accommodation services, 1,020 were community support services, 782 were employment services, 586 were community access services, and 395 were respite services.

Total reported CSDA funding of services was \$1,263.67 million in 1995–96.

Section 5 contains many of the recently developed performance indicators for disability services, updated using this 1996 collection.

Section 6 contains a discussion of the data quality of the 1996 collection and outlines possible changes to future collections. There are a range of policy and administrative issues likely to affect on future collections, and the uses to which the data are put.

Frequency counts for Consumer Form data items are included at Table A.1.

Acknowledgements

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- the service providers who completed questionnaires and provided comments;
- all departments, organisations, peak bodies and individuals who provided suggestions or comments; and
- 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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Health Commission (SA)	Chris Ellershaw and Tania Siviour
Department of Community and Health Services (Tasmania)	Colleen Allwright
Department of Health and Community Services (NT)	Karen Dempsey
Department of Health and Family Services (Commonwealth)	Carolyn Brown and Kathryn Vanzetti

Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIHW/Institute	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
CETP	Competitive Employment Training and Placement (an employment service type)
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
ISJ	Individual Supported Job (an employment service type)
MDS	Minimum Data Set
MID	MDS 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
NIMS	National Information Management System (for Commonwealth funded CSDA employment services)
PDD	Pervasive Developmental Delay
PT OT ST	Physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy. (These are included within the ‘therapy services’ service type.)