

3 Level of support

It is estimated that 1 in every 126 Australians received substantial SAAP support at some time during 2005–06.² More specifically, SAAP agencies supported an estimated 161,200 people. Of these, 106,500 were adults or unaccompanied children (clients) and 54,700 were accompanying children (tables 3.1 and 3.2).

The total number of support periods (180,000) exceeded the number of clients as each client can receive support or supported accommodation on more than one occasion. Similarly, the total number of accompanying child support periods (81,700) exceeded the number of accompanying children as individual children may accompany a parent or guardian during more than one period of support.

In 2005–06 new definitions for clients, accompanying children, support periods and accompanying child support periods as well as a new statistical linkage key were introduced. Chapter 9 includes a discussion of this and other factors and how they have resulted in changes from previous years.

Adults and unaccompanied children

Seventy-five per cent of clients had only one support period during the year (Table 3.1). The average number of support periods per client was 1.7. Agencies in Victoria reported the highest average number of support periods per client (1.9). The lowest average of 1.4 support periods per client was recorded in the Northern Territory, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania.

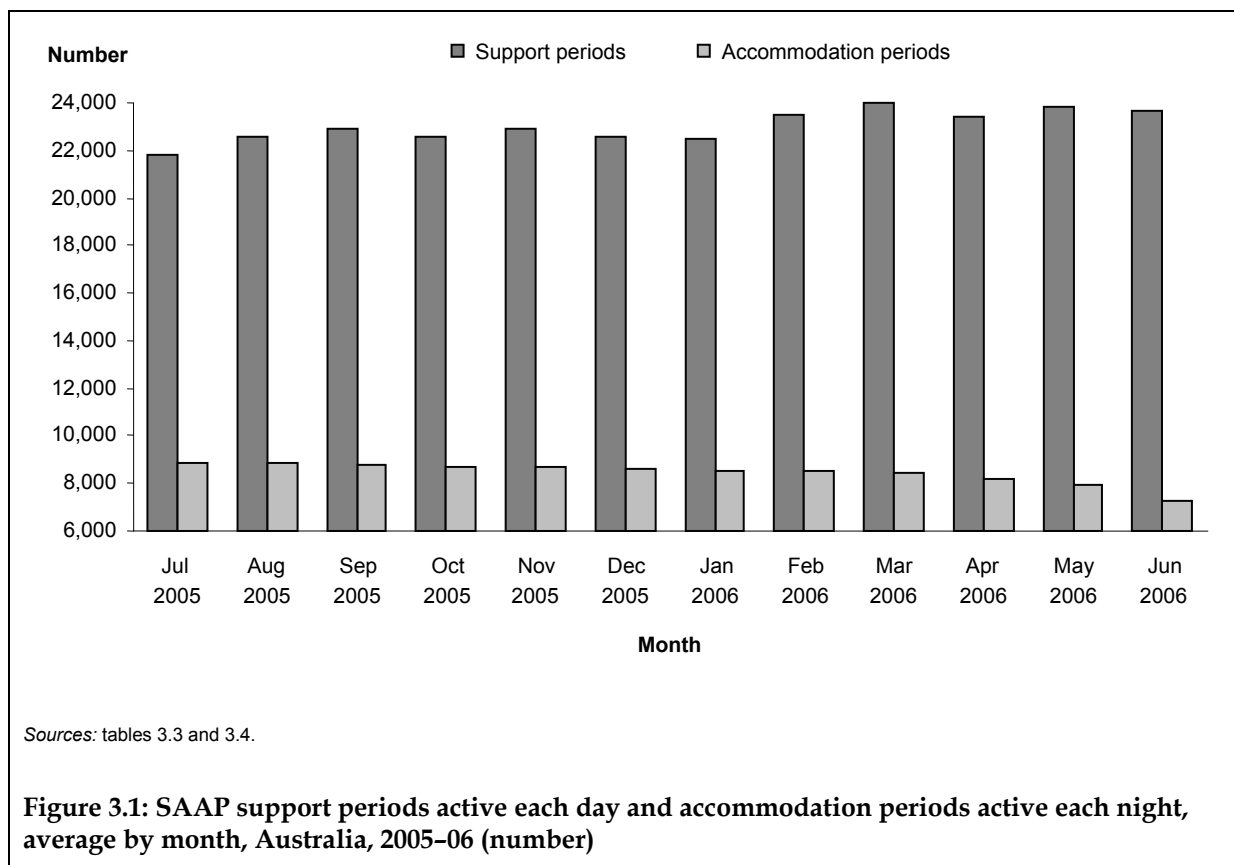
Nationally, of every 10,000 people aged 10 years and over in the general population as at 30 June 2005, 58 people became SAAP clients. The Northern Territory had the highest number of clients per 10,000 people in the general population aged over 10 years (176) and New South Wales had the lowest (43).

Nationally, the majority (56%) of support periods did not include a period of accommodation (derived from Table 3.1). This was also the case in Victoria (80%), South Australia (60%) and Tasmania (55%). In contrast, in New South Wales (60%), Queensland (64%), Western Australia (72%), the Australian Capital Territory (61%) and the Northern Territory (72%), the majority of support periods did involve a period of accommodation.

Daily support

The daily level of support provided by SAAP agencies can be examined by looking at the average number of support periods active each day and the average number of accommodation periods active each night. Note that accommodation periods occur during support periods and are therefore not in addition to the number of support periods. Figure 3.1 shows the average number of support periods that were active each day during each month of 2005–06 and the number of accommodation periods that were active each night.

² From tables 2.2, 3.1 and 3.2 we calculate: total Australian population 20,328,600 ÷ (106,500 clients + 54,700 accompanying children) = 126.1.



Support periods

In 2005-06, a total of 8,405,300 days of support were provided (Table 3.3). SAAP agencies across Australia provided a fairly constant level of service throughout the year, with the average daily number of active support periods ranging from 21,800 (in July 2005) to 24,000 (in March 2006) (Figure 3.1).

Agencies in Victoria provided the most days of support in 2005-06 (2,789,300) and also reported the most support periods overall (71,800) (tables 3.3 and 3.1). In contrast, agencies in the Northern Territory reported the fewest days of support (140,300). Interestingly, the Northern Territory reported more support periods than the Australian Capital Territory (4,300 compared with 2,800), despite agencies in the Australian Capital Territory providing more days of support overall (204,600). This is because clients in the Northern Territory generally have much shorter periods of support than those in the Australian Capital Territory. The median length of support in the Northern Territory was 6 days, while in the Australian Capital Territory it was 22 days (Table 6.1).

Accommodation periods

A total of 2,984,100 nights of accommodation were provided by SAAP agencies in Australia during 2005-06 (Table 3.4). The average nightly number of accommodation periods ranged from 7,300 (in June 2006) to 8,900 (in July and August 2005).

Victoria reported the most days of support (Table 3.3), but New South Wales provided the most nights of accommodation during 2005-06 (959,600). Agencies in Victoria reported 811,100 nights of accommodation for the same period (Table 3.4). An explanation for the lower number of accommodated nights in Victoria is that many SAAP clients in Victoria are accommodated in both crisis and medium-term accommodation by the Transitional Housing

Management (THM) program. Some of the accommodation periods provided to clients at THM properties are reported to the NDCA, but an indeterminate number are not.

Agencies in South Australia reported more nights of accommodation (271,400) than did agencies in Western Australia (229,800). The Northern Territory reported the lowest number of nights of accommodation (62,800) in 2005–06.

Accompanying children

This section focuses on children who accompanied their parent(s) or guardian(s) to SAAP agencies, and/or who required or received assistance from a SAAP agency as a result of their parent or guardian being a client of the same agency. The estimates presented here relate to accompanying children and accompanying child support periods (see Glossary).

In 2005–06, 54,700 children accompanied clients of SAAP agencies (accompanying children). These children had 81,700 periods of support (accompanying child support periods) (Table 3.2). Victoria recorded the highest number of both accompanying children and accompanying child support periods (18,500 accompanying children and 29,400 accompanying child support periods) followed by New South Wales (11,400 accompanying children and 15,900 accompanying child support periods). The Australian Capital Territory had the smallest number (1,000 accompanying children and 1,600 accompanying child support periods).

Nationally, the majority of accompanying child support periods (54%) did not involve a period of accommodation (derived from Table 3.2).³ This was also the case in Victoria (70%), South Australia (74%) and Tasmania (53%). In contrast, in New South Wales (53%), Queensland (64%), Western Australia (77%) and the Northern Territory (70%), the majority of support periods did involve a period of accommodation. The Australian Capital Territory had 50% of accompanying child support periods with accommodation and 50% without.

Overall, 84% of accompanying children had only one period of support during the year (Table 3.2). Queensland had the highest proportion who had only one period of support (90%) and South Australia the lowest (79%). This is generally reflected in the average number of accompanying child support periods (1.4 nationally). The average number of accompanying child support periods per accompanying child did not vary significantly between the states and territories (ranging from 1.3 to 1.5 accompanying child support periods per accompanying child).

Australia-wide, 114 children for every 10,000 children in the general population aged under 18 years accompanied their parent or guardian to a SAAP agency. The Northern Territory reported significantly higher numbers of accompanying children per 10,000 population aged under 18 years (286), followed by South Australia (204). New South Wales reported the lowest number of accompanying children compared with the general population aged under 18 years (72).

³ Accommodation periods within accompanying child support periods are calculated based on the period(s) of accommodation indicated for the child's parent or guardian.

3.1 Tables

Table 3.1: SAAP support periods and clients, by state and territory, Australia, 2005–06

State/ territory	Support periods			Clients				
	Support periods (number)	With accomm- odation (number)	Without accomm- odation (number)	Clients (number)	Clients with only one support period (%)	Mean no. of support periods per client (number)	Per 10,000 population aged 10+ ^(a)	
							Actual	Age- standardised
NSW	40,900	24,500	16,400	26,000	79.5	1.58	43	43
Vic	71,800	14,400	57,400	37,700	71.2	1.90	83	83
Qld	25,400	16,300	9,100	17,400	79.6	1.46	49	49
WA	12,700	9,200	3,600	8,300	75.9	1.54	46	45
SA	15,900	6,200	9,600	10,400	74.9	1.52	73	77
Tas	6,200	2,800	3,400	4,400	76.4	1.41	103	110
ACT	2,800	1,700	1,100	2,000	78.7	1.40	67	62
NT	4,300	3,100	1,200	3,100	79.1	1.38	176	156
Australia	180,000	78,200	101,800	106,500	74.9	1.69	58	58

(a) 'Per 10,000 population aged 10+' shows how many people out of every 10,000 aged 10 years and over in the general population became SAAP clients. The rate is estimated by comparing the number of SAAP clients aged 10 years and over with the estimated resident population aged 10 years and over at 30 June 2005 (preliminary estimates). Age-standardised estimates have been derived to allow for different age distributions in the various jurisdictions.

Notes

1. Number excluded due to errors and omissions (weighted): 0.
2. The number of clients within a state or territory relates to clients who ever received assistance from a SAAP agency in that state or territory. Since a client may have support periods in more than one state or territory, state and territory figures do not sum to the national figure.
3. Support period figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation.
4. Client figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent.

Sources: SAAP Client Collection; ABS 2006a.

Table 3.2: SAAP accompanying child support periods and accompanying children, by state and territory, Australia, 2005–06

State/ territory	Accompanying child support periods			Accompanying children			
	Accompanying child support periods (number)	With accommodation ^(a) (number)	Without accommodation ^(a) (number)	Accompanying children (number)	Accompanying children with only one accompanying child support period (%)	Mean no. of accompanying child support periods per accompanying child (number)	Per 10,000 population aged 0–17 years ^(b)
NSW	15,900	8,400	7,500	11,400	88.6	1.34	72
Vic	29,400	9,000	20,500	18,500	83.7	1.46	160
Qld	10,900	7,000	4,000	8,100	90.3	1.26	83
WA	8,300	6,400	1,900	5,400	79.8	1.45	111
SA	10,300	2,800	7,600	7,000	79.2	1.43	204
Tas	3,000	1,300	1,600	2,100	83.0	1.31	183
ACT	1,600	800	800	1,000	85.5	1.34	135
NT	2,300	1,600	700	1,700	88.3	1.29	286
Australia	81,700	37,200	44,500	54,700	84.2	1.40	114

(a) Dates of support and accommodation are not collected for accompanying children. For the purposes of calculating the number of accompanying child support periods with and without a period of accommodation, accompanying children are assumed to have the same periods of support and accommodation as their parent(s) or guardian(s).

(b) 'Per 10,000 population aged 0–17' shows how many children out of every 10,000 aged 17 years and under in the general population accompanied SAAP clients. The rate is estimated by comparing the number of accompanying children aged 17 years and under with the estimated resident population aged 17 years and under at 30 June 2005 (preliminary estimates).

Notes

1. Number excluded due to errors and omissions (weighted): 0.
2. The number of accompanying children within a state or territory relates to children who *ever* accompanied a client to a SAAP agency in that state or territory. Since a client with accompanying children may have support periods in more than one state or territory, state and territory figures do not sum to the national figure.
3. Accompanying child support period figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation.
4. Accompanying children figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent.

Sources: SAAP Client Collection; ABS 2006a.

Table 3.3: SAAP support periods: number of support periods active each day, average by month and state and territory, Australia, 2005–06

Date	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
July 2005	6,100	7,300	2,700	1,300	2,500	900	600	400	21,800
August 2005	6,300	7,600	2,800	1,400	2,600	1,000	600	400	22,600
September 2005	6,300	7,600	2,900	1,500	2,600	1,000	600	400	22,900
October 2005	6,300	7,500	2,900	1,400	2,600	1,000	600	400	22,600
November 2005	6,500	7,500	2,800	1,500	2,600	1,000	500	400	22,900
December 2005	6,500	7,400	2,800	1,400	2,500	1,000	500	400	22,600
January 2006	6,300	7,500	2,900	1,400	2,400	1,000	600	400	22,500
February 2006	6,600	7,800	3,100	1,400	2,600	1,000	600	400	23,500
March 2006	6,800	8,000	3,200	1,400	2,600	1,000	600	400	24,000
April 2006	6,700	7,800	3,100	1,400	2,500	1,000	600	300	23,400
May 2006	6,800	7,900	3,300	1,300	2,500	1,000	600	300	23,800
June 2006	6,900	7,700	3,400	1,300	2,500	1,000	500	300	23,700
Support periods: total number of days	2,375,700	2,789,300	1,090,900	508,300	930,800	365,300	204,600	140,300	8,405,300

Notes

1. Number excluded due to errors and omissions (weighted): 0.
2. Figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation.
3. Please refer to the counting rules (Appendix 1, Section A1.4) for the method used to calculate the monthly average.

Source: SAAP Client Collection.

Table 3.4: SAAP support periods with accommodation: number of accommodation periods active each night, average by month and state and territory, Australia, 2005-06

Date	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
July 2005	2,800	2,500	1,500	600	800	300	200	200	8,900
August 2005	2,800	2,500	1,500	700	800	300	200	200	8,900
September 2005	2,800	2,400	1,500	700	800	300	200	200	8,800
October 2005	2,800	2,400	1,500	700	800	200	200	200	8,700
November 2005	2,800	2,400	1,400	700	800	200	200	200	8,700
December 2005	2,800	2,300	1,400	600	800	200	200	200	8,600
January 2006	2,700	2,300	1,500	700	800	200	200	200	8,500
February 2006	2,800	2,300	1,400	700	800	200	200	200	8,500
March 2006	2,800	2,200	1,400	700	800	200	200	200	8,400
April 2006	2,700	2,200	1,300	600	700	200	200	100	8,200
May 2006	2,600	2,100	1,300	600	700	200	200	200	7,900
June 2006	2,400	2,000	1,100	600	700	200	200	100	7,300
Accommodation periods: total number of nights	959,600	811,100	492,700	229,800	271,400	82,900	73,800	62,800	2,984,100

Notes

1. Number excluded due to errors and omissions (weighted): 2,885.
2. Figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation.
3. Please refer to the counting rules (Appendix 1, Section A1.4) for the method used to calculate the monthly average.

Source: SAAP Client Collection.

