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# A Descriptive statistics appendix

## A.1 Introduction

The aim of this appendix is to provide contextual information to aid the interpretation of performance indicators used in the Report. The inclusion of the appendix is partly a response to requests by Report users. A number of respondents to a 1998 survey noted that more should be said on the differences between jurisdictions and how they affect the interpretation placed on data (SCRCSSP 1998). Most of the chapters of the Report use the population data from table A1 when calculating descriptors (such as expenditure per capita) or indicators (such as participation rates for vocational education and training). Financial data, which are expressed in real dollars in the chapters, are deflated by the GDP deflator data from table A.18. The data source for most tables is the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The appendix has two parts:

- descriptions of the broad characteristics of each jurisdiction; and
- a set of source tables to assist comparison of performance across jurisdictions.

The descriptions of jurisdictions (based on data in the source tables) include the characteristics of age profile, cultural heritage (such as Indigenous status and ethnicity), population distribution, household structures and level of income support.

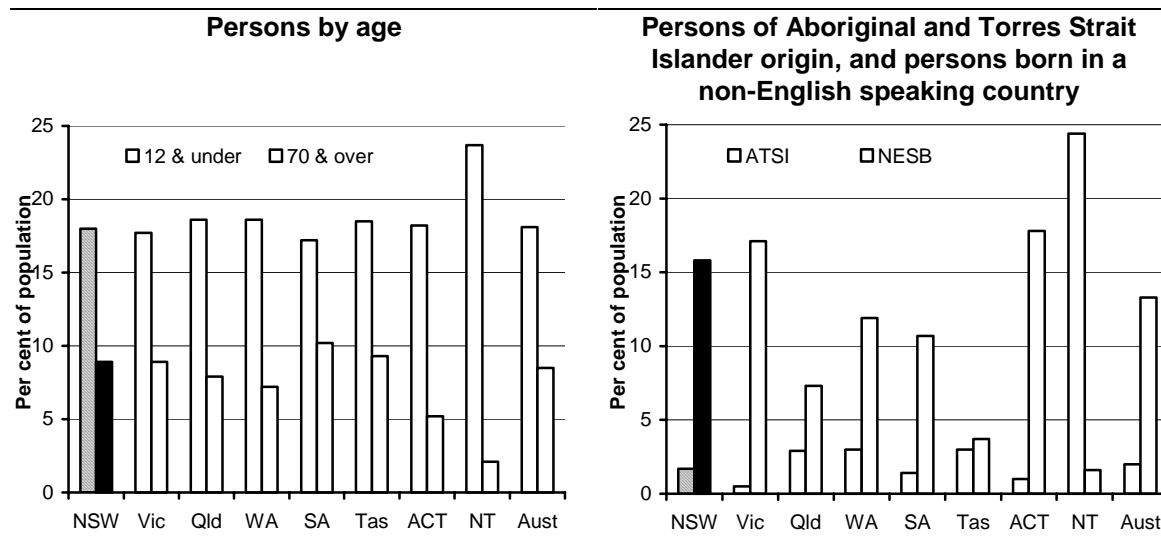
For some characteristics, the discussion is based on the same indicator across jurisdictions (for example, the proportion of persons of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin in the population). For other characteristics, the discussion draws on noteworthy differences (for example, significant differences from the national average).

## A.2 Profile of New South Wales



The proportion of the NSW population aged 70 years and over (8.9 per cent) was the equal third highest for all States and Territories, while the proportion aged under 12 years (18 per cent) was the third lowest. The average annual increase in the number of persons aged 70 years and over (3.0 per cent) in the five years to 1997–98 was the equal third lowest for all States and Territories.

The proportion of persons of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin (1.7 per cent) was slightly below the average representation in the Australian population (2.0 per cent). Australian born persons accounted for 73.3 per cent of the NSW population, which was a lower proportion than the national average. The proportion of the population born in non-English speaking countries (15.8 per cent) was the third highest across all States and Territories.

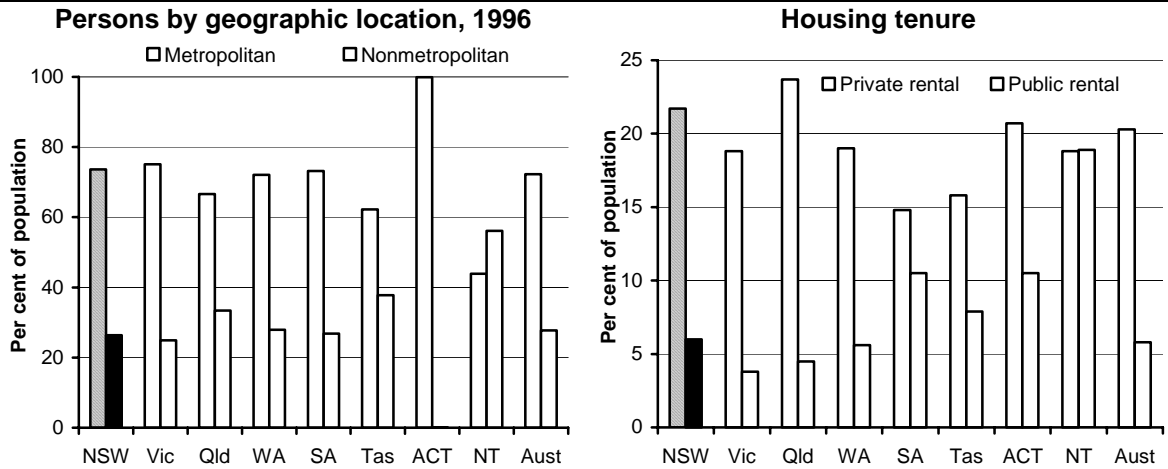


Sources: tables A.1 and A.2.

The proportion of the NSW population who lived in metropolitan areas in 1996 (73.6 per cent) was higher than the national average (72.3 per cent), while the proportion who lived in nonmetropolitan areas (26.4 per cent) was lower than the national average (27.7 per cent).

Of all couples with dependents, the proportion that were both employed (54.6 per cent) was the third lowest for all States and Territories. The proportion of

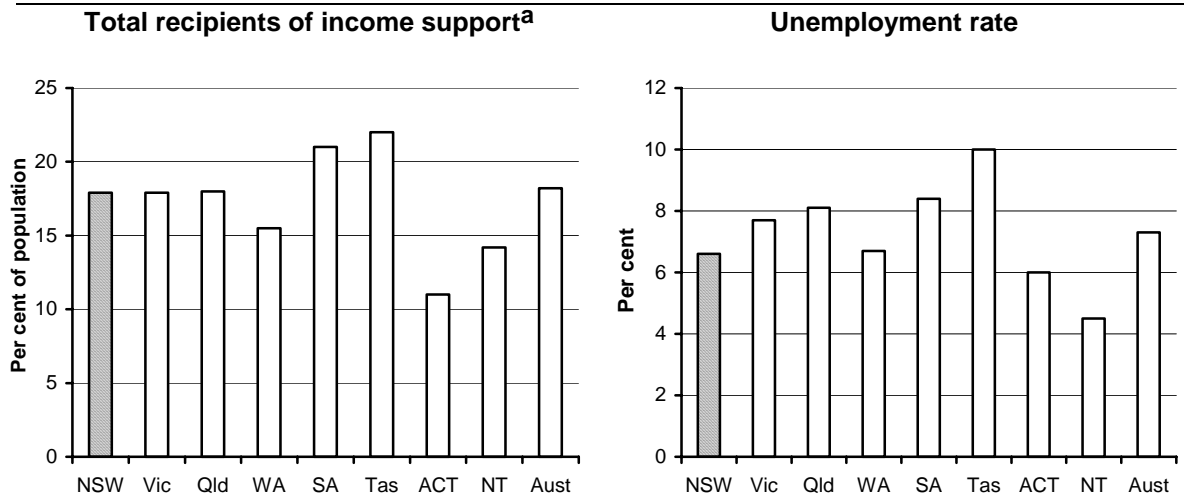
persons in NSW who owned a home (67.7 per cent) was the fourth lowest for all States and Territories.



Sources: tables A.6 and A.8.

The proportion of the population that earned \$1–119 per week was the second lowest for all States and Territories. The proportion of the population whose income derived from unemployment allowances (3.9 per cent) was lower than the national average (4.3 per cent).

The average quarterly trend rate of unemployment in NSW at June 1999 (6.6 per cent) was the third lowest for all States and Territories.



<sup>a</sup> Aged pensioners, unemployment allowees, disability support pensioners and sole parent pensioners.

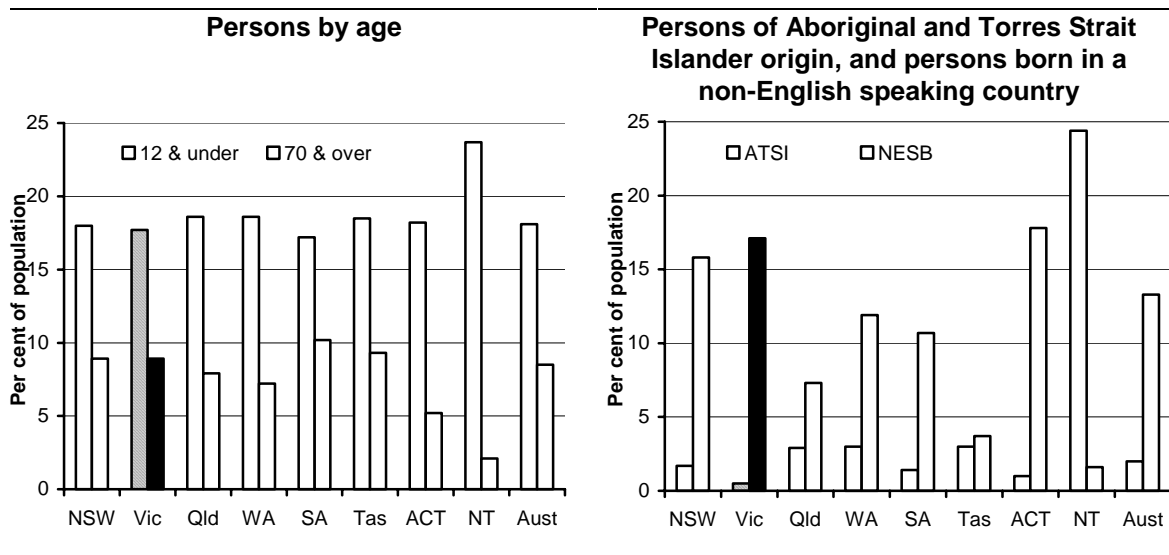
Sources: tables A.10 and A.14.

### A.3 Profile of Victoria



The proportion of the Victorian population aged 70 years and over (8.9 per cent) was equal third highest for all States and Territories, and the proportion of the population aged 12 years and under (17.7 per cent) was second lowest. The number of persons in the age category 0–4 years declined in the five years to 1997–98.

Victoria had the lowest proportion of persons of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin (0.5 per cent) for all States and Territories, the second lowest proportion of Australian born persons (72.8 per cent) and the second highest proportion of persons from non-English speaking countries (17.1 per cent).

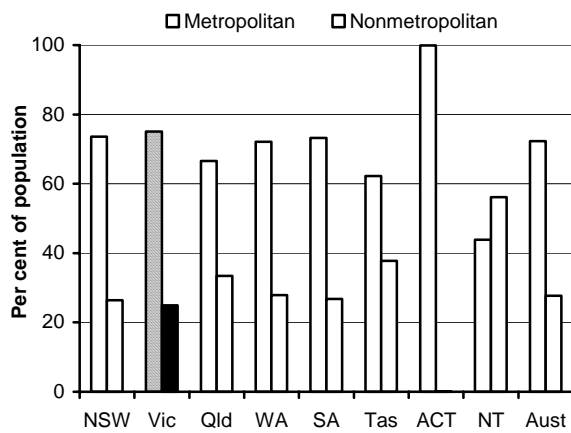


Sources: tables A.1 and A.2.

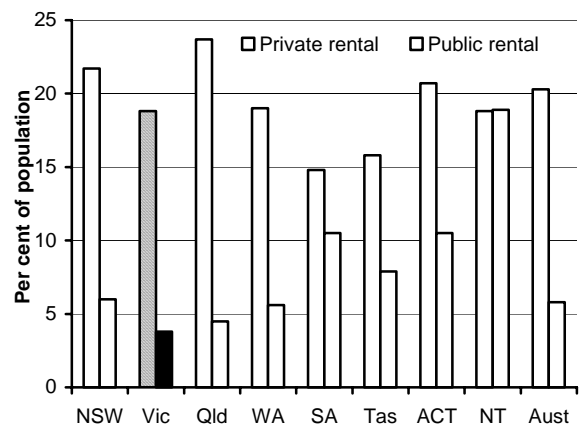
The proportion of the Victorian population who lived in metropolitan areas in 1996 (75.1 per cent) was higher than the national average (72.3 per cent), while the proportion who lived in nonmetropolitan areas (24.9 per cent) was lower than the national average (27.7 per cent).

Of all families in Victoria, the proportion of couples (both employed) with dependents (55.8 per cent) was the fourth highest for all States and Territories. The proportion of one-parent families with dependents and the parent employed (44.9 per cent) was the fourth lowest for all States and Territories. The proportion of the Victorian population who owned a home (73.6 per cent) was the highest for all States and Territories.

**Persons by geographic location, 1996**



**Housing tenure**

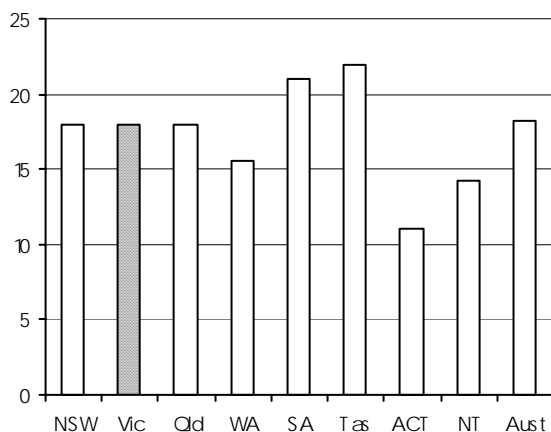


Sources: tables A.6 and A.8.

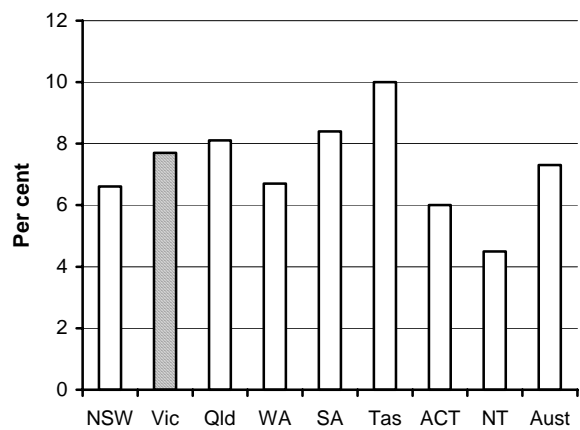
The proportion of persons who earned \$1–119 per week (9.4 per cent) was the third highest for all States and Territories, as was the proportion of the population who derived income from aged pensions (9.2 per cent). The proportion of the population who derived income from sole parent pensions (1.8 per cent) was the second lowest for all States and Territories.

The average quarterly trend rate of unemployment in Victoria at June 1999 (7.7 per cent) was the fourth highest for all States and Territories.

**Total recipients of income support <sup>a</sup>**



**Unemployment rate**



<sup>a</sup> Aged pensioners, unemployment allowees, disability support pensioners and sole parent pensioners.

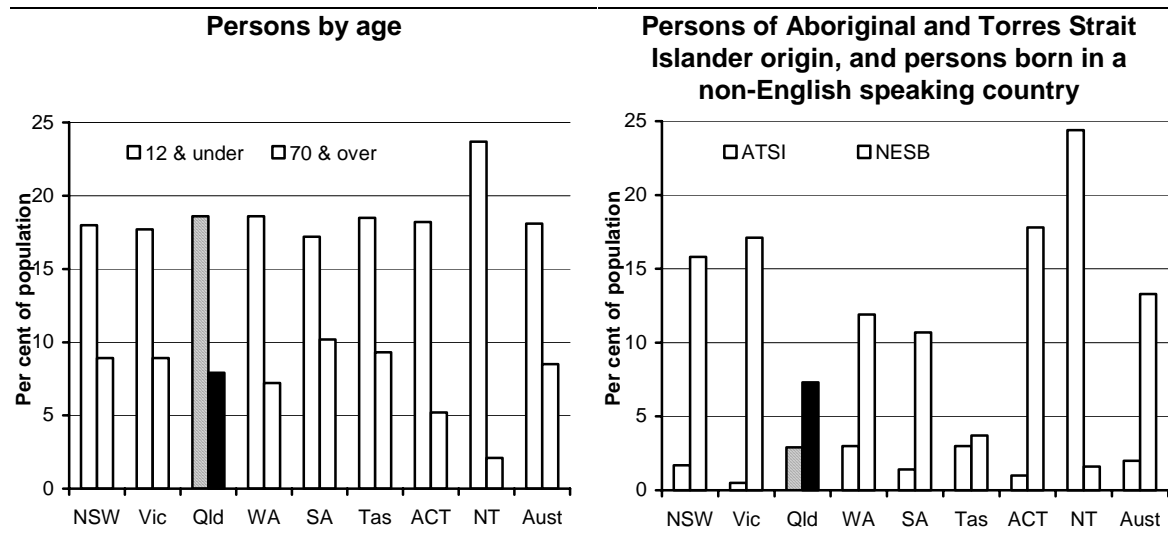
Sources: tables A.10 and A.14.

## A.4 Profile of Queensland



The population of Queensland was relatively younger than the national average. The proportion of the Queensland population aged 70 years and over (7.9 per cent) was the fourth lowest for all States and Territories. Average annual growth was positive for all age categories in the five years to 1997–98. The average annual growth rate of the 0–4 years age group (1.0 per cent) in this period was the highest for all States and Territories. The growth rate of the population aged 70 years and over (3.7 per cent) was the third highest for all States and Territories over the same period.

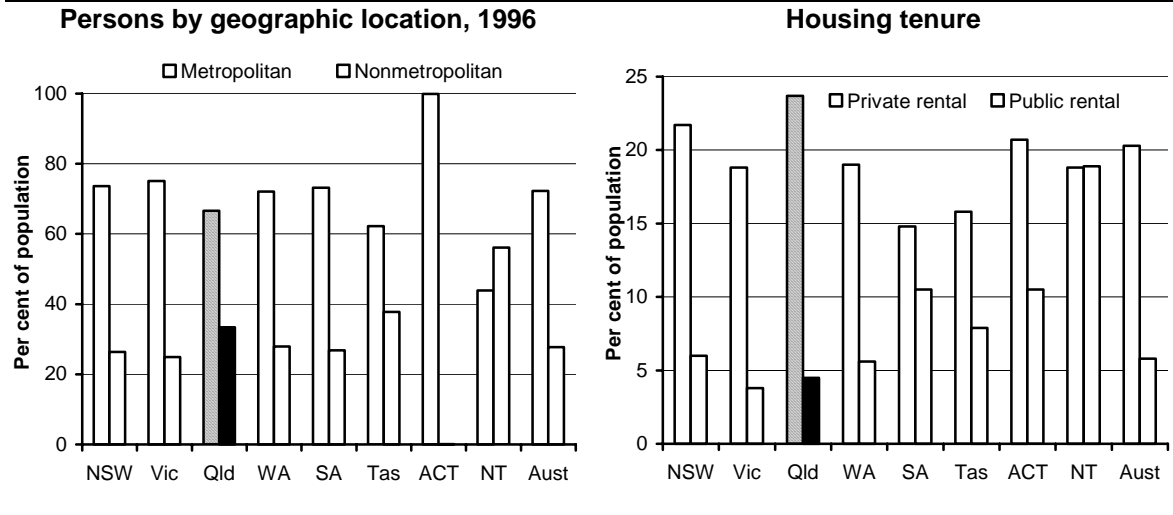
The proportion of persons of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin in the Queensland population (2.9 per cent) was the fourth highest of all States and Territories. Australian born persons represented 79.6 per cent of the Queensland population, which was the second highest proportion for all States and Territories. The proportion of persons born in non-English speaking countries (7.3 per cent) was the third lowest for all States and Territories, while the proportion from other main English speaking countries (9.5 per cent) was the fourth highest.



Sources: tables A.1 and A.2.

The proportion of the Queensland population who lived in metropolitan areas in 1996 (66.6 per cent) was lower than the national average (72.3 per cent), while the proportion who lived in nonmetropolitan areas (33.4 per cent) was higher than the national average (27.7 per cent).

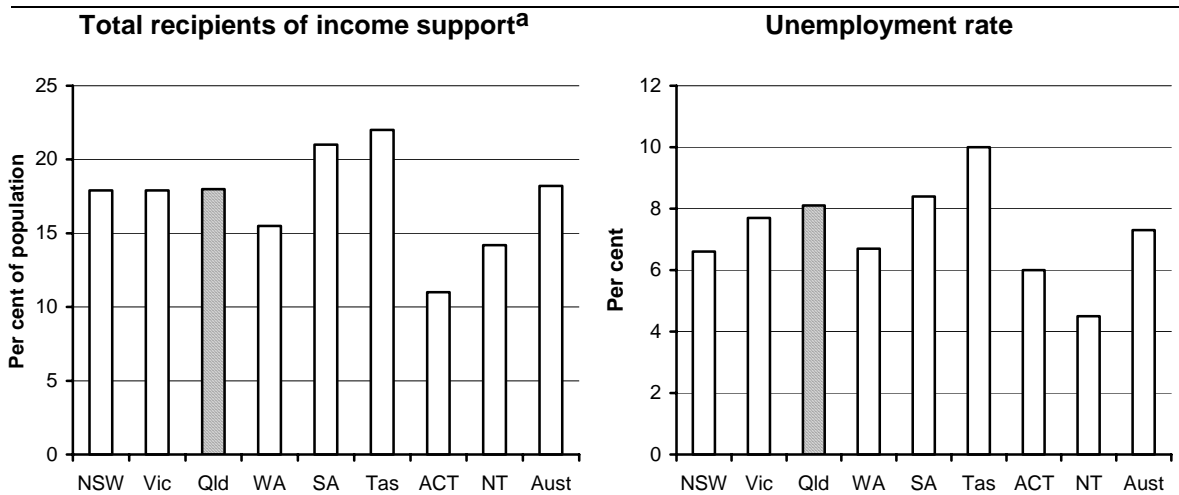
A younger population was reflected in household structure and housing stock. Of all families, the proportion of one-parent families with dependents and the parent employed (42.8 per cent) was similar to the national average (42.1 per cent). The proportion of persons who lived in private rental accommodation (23.7 per cent) was the highest for all States and Territories.



Sources: tables A.6 and A.8.

The proportion of persons who earned \$120–299 per week (33.3 per cent) was the third highest for all States and Territories. The proportion who derived income from aged pensions (8.1 per cent) was the fourth lowest.

The average quarterly trend rate of unemployment in Queensland at June 1999 (8.1 per cent) was higher than the national rate (7.3 per cent).



<sup>a</sup> Aged pensioners, unemployment allowees, disability support pensioners and sole parent pensioners.

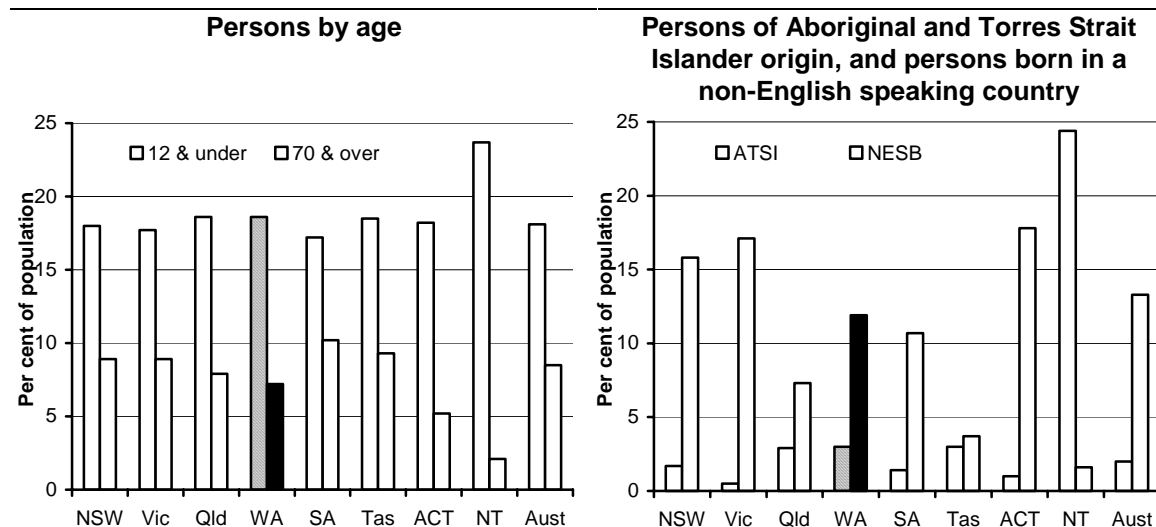
Sources: tables A.10 and A.14.

## A.5 Profile of Western Australia



The WA population was relatively younger than the national average. The proportion aged 12 years and under (18.6 per cent) was above the national average (18.1 per cent), whereas the proportion aged 70 years and over (7.2 per cent) was the third lowest for all States and Territories.

The proportion of persons of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin in the population (3.0 per cent) was the equal second highest for all States and Territories. The proportion of Australian born persons (68.8 per cent) was the lowest for all States and Territories, but the proportion born in other main English speaking countries (15.9 per cent) was the highest. The proportion born in non-English speaking countries was in the middle range.

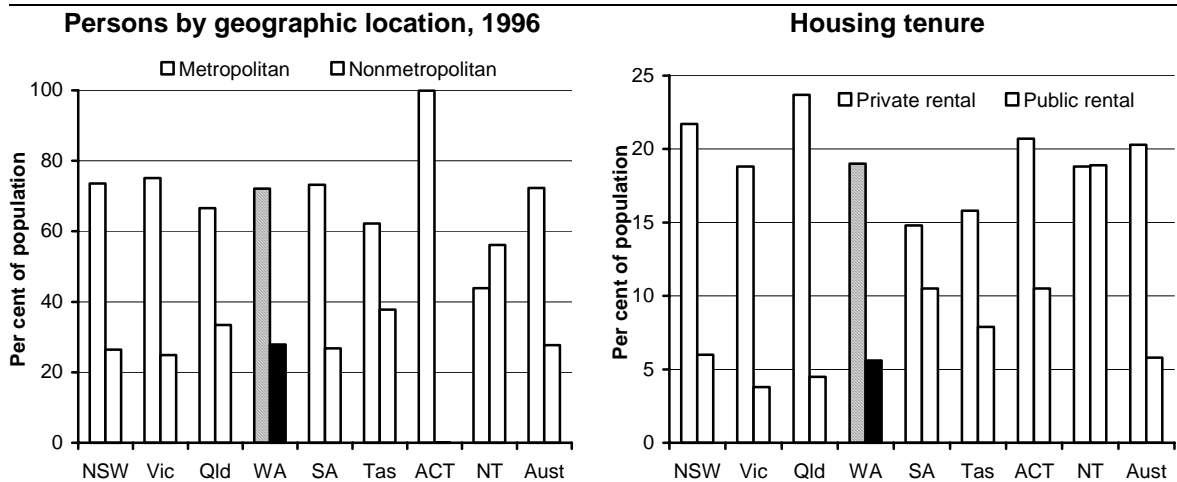


Sources: tables A.1 and A.2.

The proportion of the WA population who lived in metropolitan areas in 1996 (72.1 per cent) was around the same as national average (72.3 per cent), as was the proportion who lived in nonmetropolitan areas (27.9 per cent).

The relatively younger population was reflected in household structure and housing stock. Of all couples with dependents, the proportion who were both employed (55.5 per cent) was the fourth lowest for all States and Territories. The proportion of the population who owned a home (69.3 per cent) was the fourth highest for all States and Territories.

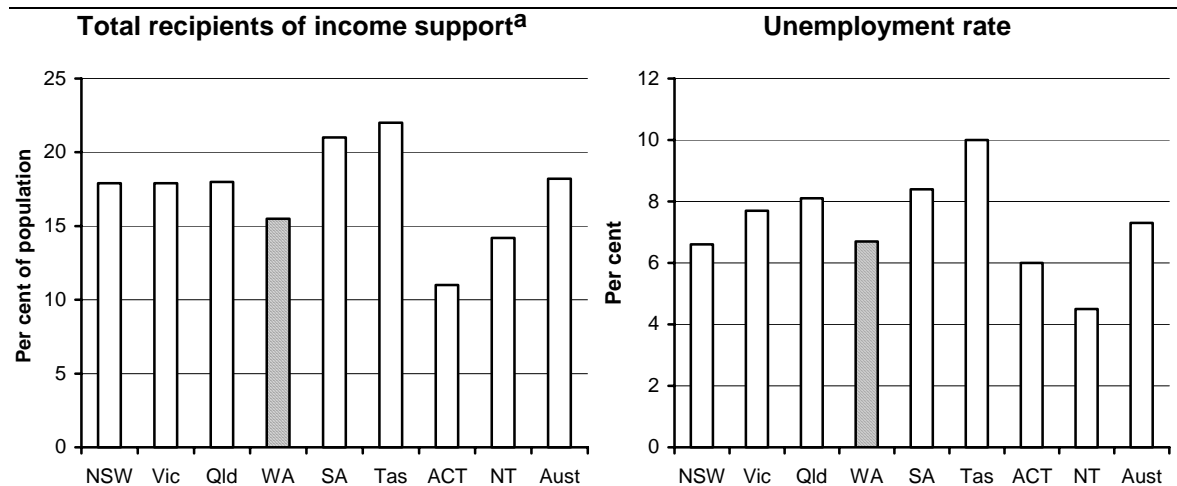




Sources: tables A.6 and A.8.

The proportion of persons who earned \$120–299 per week (30.2 per cent) was the third lowest for all States and Territories. The proportion of the population who derived income from aged pensions (7.5 per cent) was also the third lowest, while the proportion who derived income from unemployment allowances (3.5 per cent) was the second lowest.

The average quarterly trend rate of unemployment in WA at June 1999 (6.7 per cent) was the fourth lowest for all States and Territories.



<sup>a</sup> Aged pensioners, unemployment allowees, disability support pensioners and sole parent pensioners.

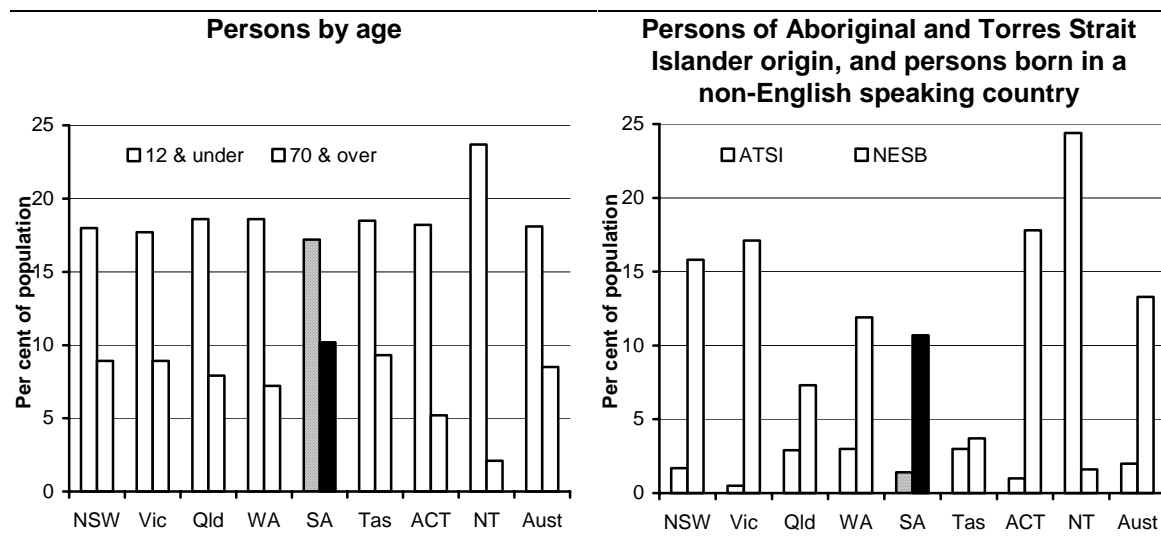
Sources: tables A.10 and A.14.

## A.6 Profile of South Australia



The SA population was older than the national average. The share of the population aged 0–12 years in SA (17.2 per cent) was the lowest for all States and Territories, whereas the proportion aged 70 years and over (10.2 per cent) exceeded that of all other States and Territories. The average annual growth rate of the SA population (0.4 per cent) was the second lowest for all States and Territories in the five years to 1997–98.

The proportion of persons of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin in the SA population (1.4 per cent) was below the national average (2.0 per cent). Australian born persons accounted for 75.7 per cent of the population of SA, which was a higher proportion than the national share of 74.5 per cent. However, the proportion of the population born in a non-English speaking country (10.7 per cent) was below the national proportion for this category (13.3 per cent).

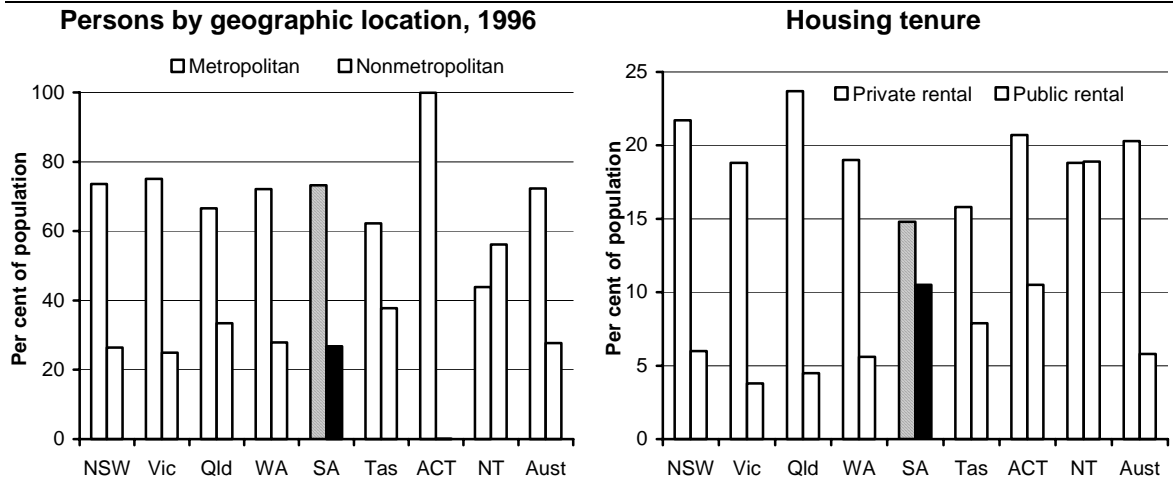


Sources: tables A.1 and A.2.

The proportion of the SA population who lived in metropolitan areas in 1996 (73.2 per cent) was slightly higher than the national average (72.3 per cent), while the proportion who lived in nonmetropolitan areas (26.8 per cent) was marginally lower than the national average (27.7 per cent).

The effect of an older population was reflected in household structure and housing stock. Of all families, the proportion of couples with no dependents (54.4 per cent) was the highest for all States and Territories. Couples with dependents accounted

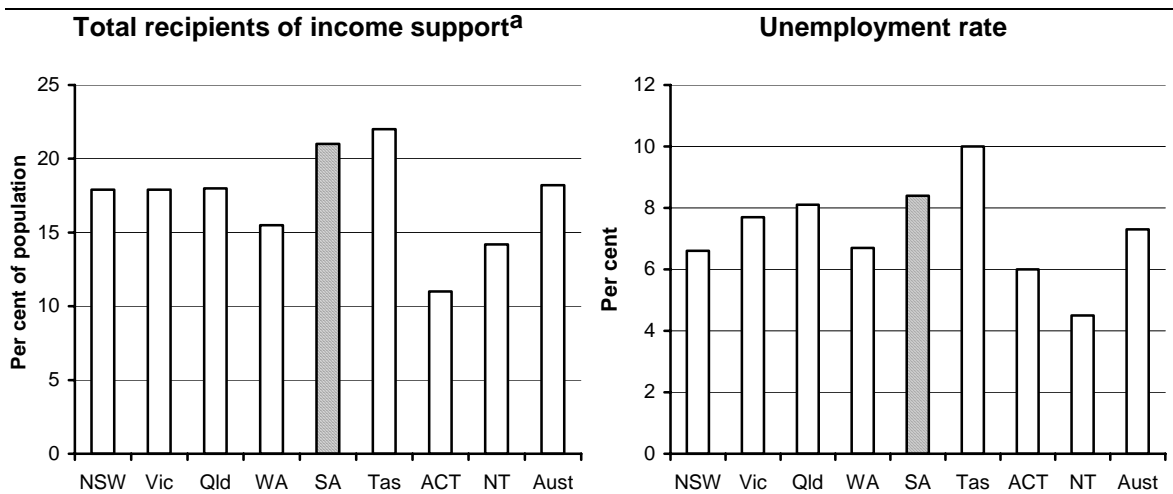
for 53.6 per cent of all SA families, which was the second lowest representation of this category across all States and Territories. The proportion of persons who owned a home (69.9 per cent) was the third highest of all States and Territories, as was the proportion of persons who lived in public rental accommodation (10.5 per cent).



Sources: tables A.6 and A.8.

The proportion of persons who earned \$120–299 per week (36.7 per cent) was the second highest for all States and Territories. The proportion who derived income from aged pensions (10.8 per cent) was the highest for all States and Territories and the proportion who derived income from disability pensions (3.5 per cent) was the second highest.

The average quarterly trend rate of unemployment in SA at June 1999 (8.4 per cent) was the second highest for all States and Territories.



<sup>a</sup> Aged pensioners, unemployment allowees, disability support pensioners and sole parent pensioners.

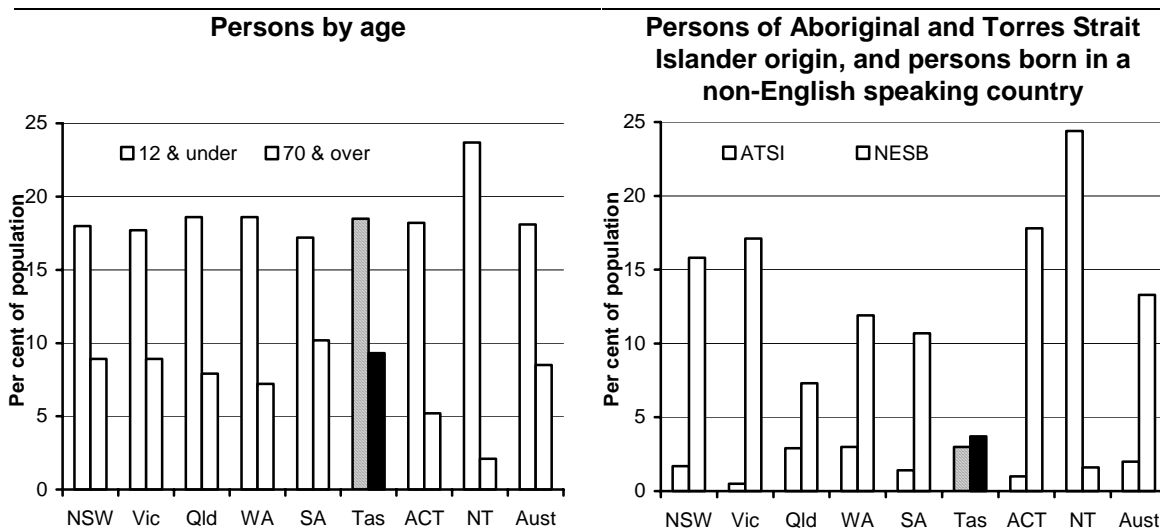
Sources: tables A.10 and A.14.

## A.7 Profile of Tasmania



The proportion of the Tasmanian population aged 70 years and over (9.3 per cent) was the second highest for all States and Territories. The rate of decline in the Tasmanian population aged 0–4 years (–1.7 per cent) was the largest for all States and Territories in the five years to 1997–98. The average annual growth rate of the Tasmanian population (0.0 per cent) was the lowest for all States and Territories in that period.

The proportion of persons of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin in the Tasmanian population (3.0 per cent) was the second highest for all States and Territories. Australian born persons in Tasmania represented 86.3 per cent of the population, which was the highest proportion of all States and Territories, while the proportion born in non-English speaking countries (3.7 per cent) was the second lowest.

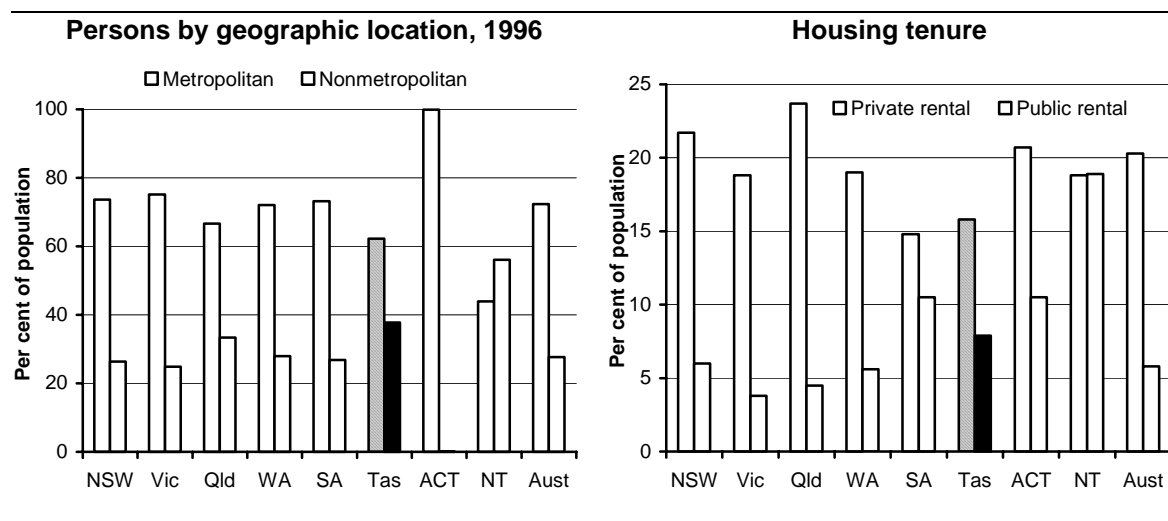


Sources: tables A.1 and A.2.

The proportion of the Tasmanian population who lived in metropolitan areas in 1996 (62.2 per cent) was the second lowest for all States and Territories, with the national average at 72.3 per cent. The proportion living in nonmetropolitan areas of Tasmania was 37.8 per cent compared with the national average of 27.7 per cent.

The effect of an ageing population was reflected in household structure and housing stock. Of all families, the proportion of couples with no dependents (54.3 per cent) was the second highest for all States and Territories. The proportion of persons who

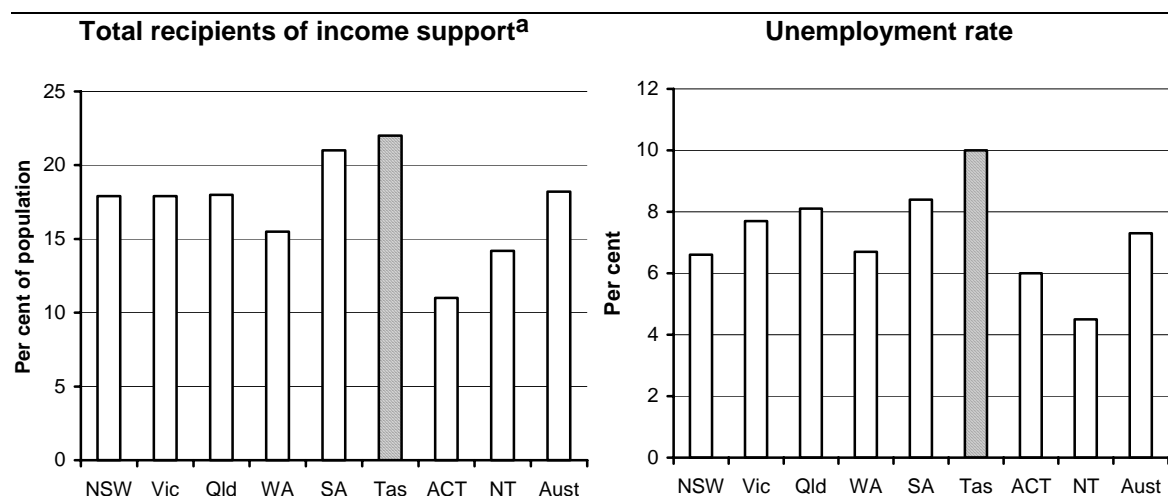
owned a home (71.8 per cent) was also the second highest for all States and Territories.



Sources: tables A.6 and A.8.

The proportion of persons in Tasmania who earned \$120–299 per week (37.4 per cent) was the highest for all States and Territories. The proportion who derived income from aged pensions (9.5 per cent) was the second highest for all States and Territories, as were the proportion who derived income from unemployment allowances (5.9 per cent) and the proportion who derived income from sole parent pensions (2.3 per cent). The proportion of the population who derived income from disability pensions (4.2 per cent) was the highest for all States and Territories.

The average quarterly trend rate of unemployment in Tasmania at June 1999 (10.0 per cent) was the highest for all States and Territories.



<sup>a</sup> Aged pensioners, unemployment allowees, disability support pensioners and sole parent pensioners.

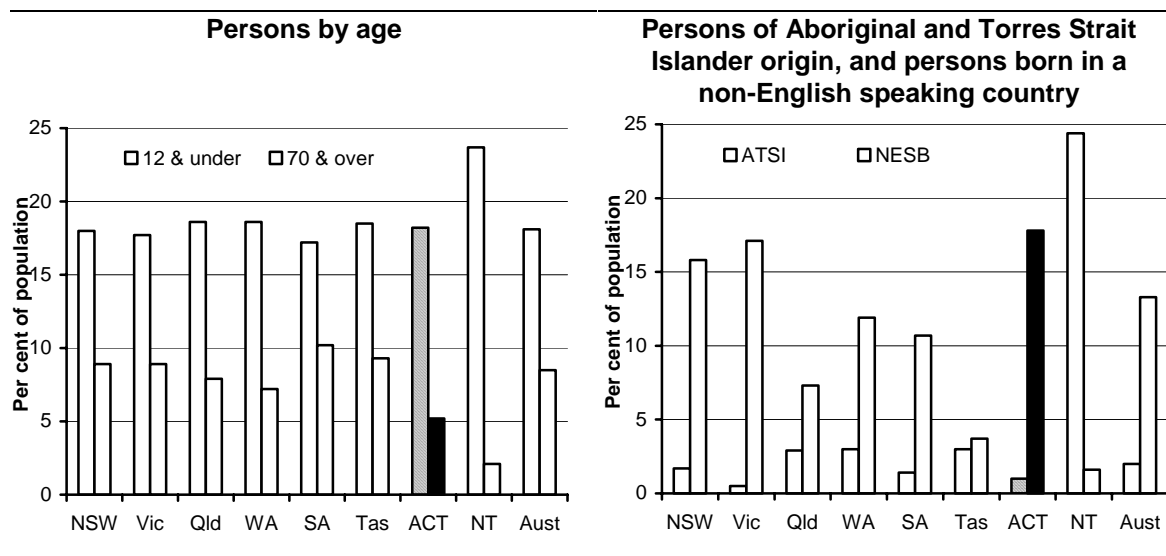
Sources: tables A.10 and A.14.

## A.8 Profile of the Australian Capital Territory



The proportion of the ACT population aged 70 years and over (5.2 per cent) was the second lowest for all States and Territories. The average annual increase in this age group (5.4 per cent) was the second highest for all States and Territories in the five years to 1997–98, while the rate of decline in the population aged 0–4 years (–1.4 per cent) was the second largest.

The proportion of persons of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin (1.0 per cent) in the ACT was the second lowest for all States and Territories, while the proportion born in non-English speaking countries (17.8 per cent) was the highest.

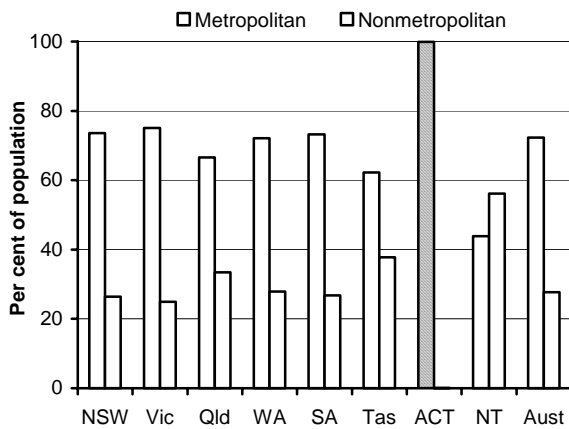


Sources: tables A.1 and A.2.

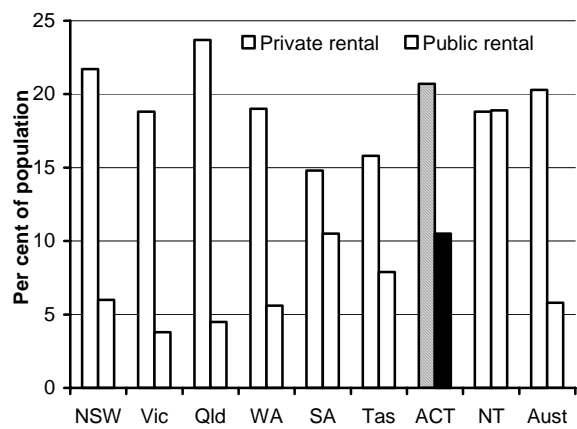
Nearly all of the ACT population lived in metropolitan areas in 1996 (99.9 per cent), compared with 72.3 per cent of the national population.

Of all families in the ACT, the proportion who are couples (both employed) with dependents (71.3 per cent) was the highest for all States and Territories. Of all one-parent families with dependents, the proportion with the parent employed, (63.8 per cent) was the highest for all States and Territories. The proportion of households who owned a home (65.7 per cent) was the second lowest for all States and Territories, while the proportion who lived in private rental accommodation (20.7 per cent) was the third highest.

**Persons by geographic location, 1996**



**Housing tenure**

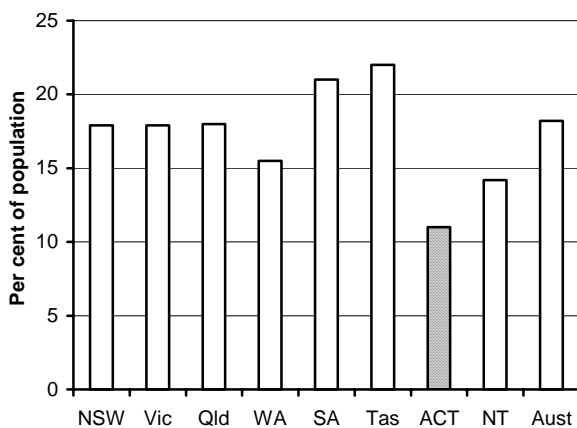


Sources: tables A.6 and A.8.

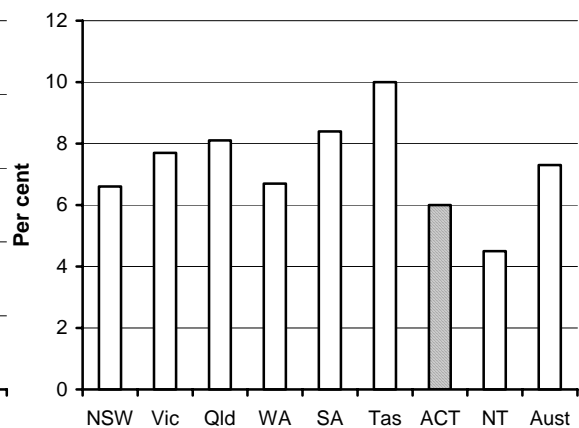
The proportion of persons in the ACT population who earned \$120–299 per week (21.7 per cent) was the lowest for all States and Territories. The proportion who derived income from aged pensions (4.5 per cent) was the second lowest for all States and Territories, and the proportions who derived income from unemployment allowances (3.2 per cent), disability pensions (1.6 per cent) and sole parent pensions (1.6 per cent) were the lowest.

The average quarterly trend rate of unemployment in the ACT at June 1999 (6.0 per cent) was the second lowest for all States and Territories.

**Total recipients of income support<sup>a</sup>**



**Unemployment rate**



<sup>a</sup> Aged pensioners, unemployment allowees, disability support pensioners and sole parent pensioners.

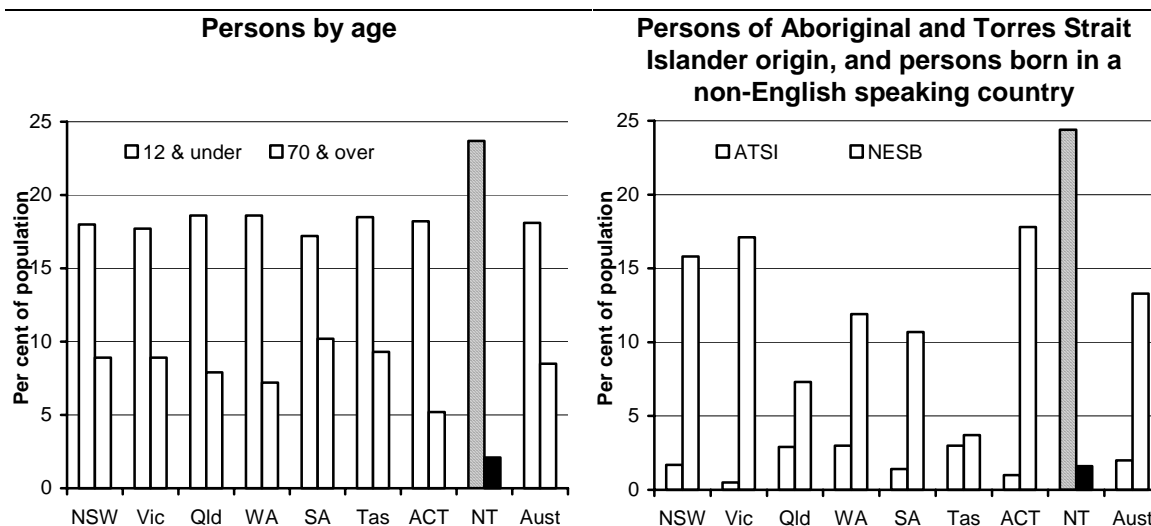
Sources: tables A.10 and A.14.

## A.9 Profile of the Northern Territory



All categories of the NT population increased during the period 1992-93 to 1997-98. The proportion of the NT population aged 0–17 years (31.0 per cent) was the highest for all States and Territories, while the proportion aged 70 years and over (2.1 per cent) was the lowest. Nationally, this later group averaged 8.5 per cent of the population. Average annual growth in the numbers of persons aged 65–69 years (3.8 per cent) across the five years to 1997–98 was higher for the NT than for any other State and Territory. This was also the case for the growth in the group aged 70 years and over (6.6 per cent) and the group aged 80 years and over (9.4 per cent). In the same period, the NT average annual growth rate in persons aged 0–4 years (0.7 per cent) was the second highest for all States and Territories.

The proportion of persons of Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander origin in the population (24.4 per cent) was the highest for all States and Territories, and higher than the national average (2.0 per cent). The proportion of persons from other main English speaking countries (13.6 per cent) was the second highest of all States and Territories, while the proportion of the population from non-English speaking countries (1.6 per cent) was the lowest.

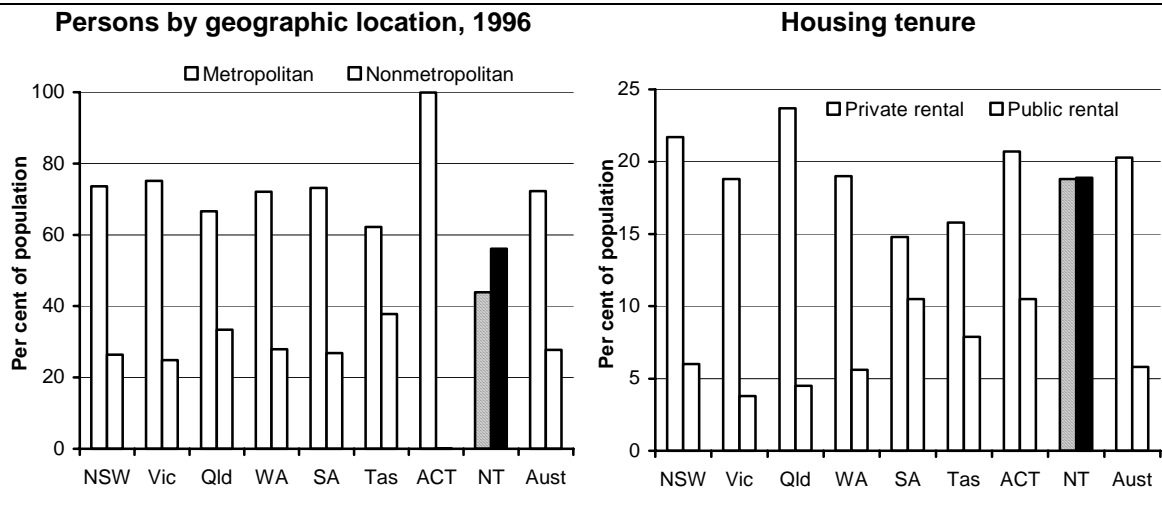


Sources: tables A.1 and A.2.

The proportion of the NT population who lived in metropolitan areas (44.1 per cent) was the lowest for all States and Territories, while the proportion of the population who lived in nonmetropolitan areas (55.9 per cent) was the highest. The national averages were 72.3 per cent and 27.7 per cent respectively.



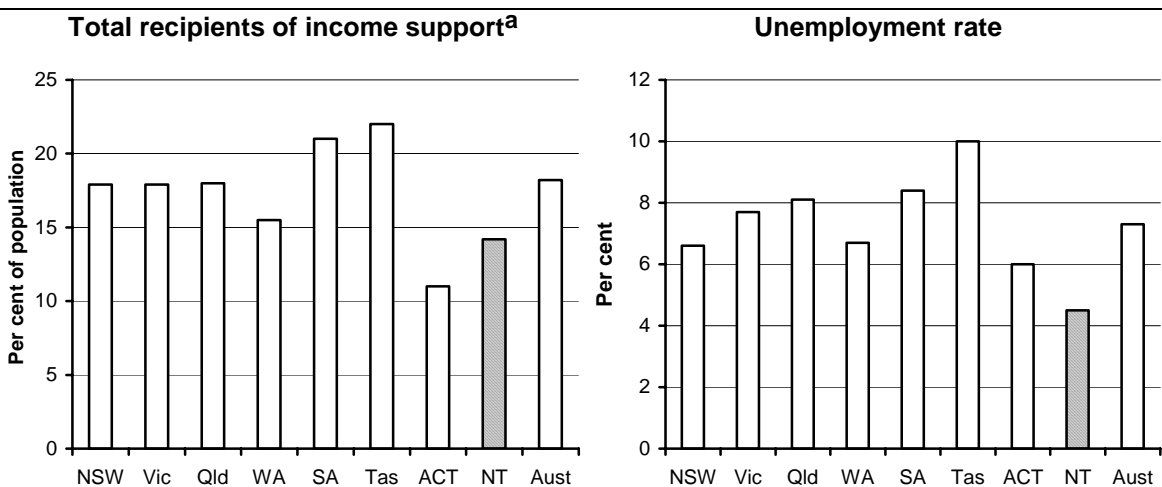
The proportion of parents employed in one-parent families with dependents (46.0 per cent) was the third highest for all States and Territories. The proportion of the NT population who owned a home (45.1 per cent) was the lowest for all States and Territories.



Sources: tables A.6 and A.8.

The proportion of the NT population who earned \$120–299 per week (27.2 per cent) was the second lowest for all States and Territories. The proportion who derived income from unemployment allowances (6.8 per cent) was the highest for all States and Territories, as was the proportion of sole parent pensioners (2.6 per cent) (table A.10).

The average quarterly trend rate of unemployment in the NT at June 1999 (4.5 per cent) was the lowest for all States and Territories.



<sup>a</sup> Aged pensioners, unemployment allowees, disability support pensioners and sole parent pensioners.

Sources: tables A.10 and A.14.

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## A.10 List of tables

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## A.11 Tables

Table A.1 Persons, by age, 1997-98<sup>a</sup>

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust <sup>b</sup>
<i>Persons ('000)</i>									
0-4	435	312	243	127	95	32	21	18	1 284
5-12	706	511	400	215	160	55	35	27	2 110
0-16	1 492	1 077	849	451	336	116	75	56	4 453
0-17	1 580	1 141	899	477	356	123	80	59	4 716
15-64	4 217	3 123	2 321	1 243	979	308	219	133	12 545
65-69	240	175	118	60	60	18	8	3	682
70 and over	567	413	273	132	152	44	16	4	1 602
80 and over	182	134	88	43	50	14	5	1	518
<b>Total<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>6 342</b>	<b>4 661</b>	<b>3 456</b>	<b>1 831</b>	<b>1 487</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>18 751</b>
<i>Share of jurisdiction population (per cent)</i>									
0-4	6.9	6.7	7.0	6.9	6.4	6.8	6.8	9.5	6.8
5-12	11.1	11.0	11.6	11.7	10.8	11.7	11.4	14.2	11.3
0-16	23.6	23.1	24.6	24.6	22.6	24.6	24.4	29.5	23.8
0-17	25.0	24.4	26.0	26.0	24.0	26.0	26.0	31.0	25.2
15-64	66.5	67.0	67.2	67.9	65.9	65.3	71.1	70.0	67.0
65-69	3.8	3.8	3.4	3.3	4.0	3.8	2.6	1.6	3.6
70 and over	8.9	8.9	7.9	7.2	10.2	9.3	5.2	2.1	8.5
80 and over	2.9	2.9	2.5	2.3	3.4	3.0	1.6	0.5	2.8
<b>Total<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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Table A.1 (Continued)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust <sup>b</sup>
<i>Average annual growth rate 1992-93 to 1997-98 (per cent)</i>									
0-4	-0.2	-0.6	1.0	0.1	-0.9	-1.7	-1.4	0.7	-0.1
5-12	0.6	0.4	1.4	0.8	-0.3	-1.0	-0.6	1.5	0.6
0-16	0.5	0.1	1.5	0.8	-0.2	-0.8	-0.8	1.4	0.5
0-17	0.5	0.1	1.4	0.8	-0.2	-0.8	-0.7	1.3	0.5
15-64	1.2	0.9	2.3	2.0	0.3	0.1	0.7	2.3	1.3
65-69	-0.4	-0.3	0.8	1.1	-1.3	-0.4	0.8	3.8	-0.1
70 and over	3.0	3.0	3.7	3.4	2.9	2.4	5.4	6.6	3.2
80 and over	4.2	3.5	4.9	3.7	4.1	4.1	6.8	9.4	4.1
<b>Total<sup>c</sup></b>	1.1	0.8	2.1	1.8	0.4	0.0	0.6	2.2	1.2

<sup>a</sup> Totals may not add as a result of rounding. <sup>b</sup> Includes other Territories. <sup>c</sup> The population totals for States and Territories and Australia (which are based on ABS estimates for June 1998) differ from the respective totals in tables A.2, A.3 and A.4 (which are based on August 1996 Census data). The estimated data were adjusted for inter-State visitors on Census night. The descriptors and indicators in the chapters of the Report use population data from this table.

Source: ABS (*Estimated Residential Population, by Age, 1992-93 to 1997-98*, cat. no. 3201.0).

Table A.2 Persons, by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, August 1996<sup>a, b</sup>

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust <sup>c</sup>
<i>Persons ('000)</i>									
Non-Indigenous	5 717	4 203	3 119	1 615	1 366	430	288	133	16 874
Total Indigenous	101	21	96	51	20	14	3	46	353
Aboriginal	94	18	74	49	19	12	3	44	314
Torres Strait Islander	5	3	16	1	1	1	0	1	29
Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	2	1	5	1	0	0	0	1	10
Not stated	177	129	104	47	36	15	6	10	525
<b>Total<sup>d</sup></b>	<b>5 996</b>	<b>4 354</b>	<b>3 319</b>	<b>1 713</b>	<b>1 423</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>17 753</b>
<i>Share of jurisdiction population (per cent)</i>									
Non-Indigenous	95.4	96.5	94.0	94.3	96.0	93.7	96.9	70.5	95.1
Total Indigenous	1.7	0.5	2.9	3.0	1.4	3.0	1.0	24.4	2.0
Aboriginal	1.6	0.4	2.2	2.9	1.3	2.6	0.9	23.5	1.8
Torres Strait Islander	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.2
Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.6	0.1
Not stated	3.0	3.0	3.1	2.8	2.5	3.3	2.1	5.1	3.0
<b>Total<sup>d</sup></b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>a</sup> Totals may not add as a result of rounding. <sup>b</sup> Excludes overseas visitors. <sup>c</sup> Includes other Territories. <sup>d</sup> The population totals for States and Territories (which are based on August 1996 Census data) differ from the respective totals in table A1 (which are based on ABS estimates for June 1997). These estimates were adjusted to account for inter-State visitors on Census night.

Source: ABS (Census of Population and Housing: Community Profiles, Australia, cat. no. 2020.0).

Table A.3 Projections of the Indigenous population ('000)<sup>a, b, c</sup>

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust <sup>d</sup>
1997									
Males	55	11	53	28	11	8	2	26	195
Females	57	12	55	29	11	8	2	26	200
<b>Persons</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>394</b>
1998									
Males	56	12	54	29	11	8	2	27	199
Females	58	12	56	29	12	8	2	27	204
<b>Persons</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>402</b>
1999									
Males	57	12	56	29	11	8	2	27	203
Females	59	12	58	30	12	8	2	27	208
<b>Persons</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>411</b>

<sup>a</sup> At June 30 <sup>b</sup> Total persons may not add as a result of rounding. <sup>c</sup> Based on low series figures. <sup>d</sup> Includes Jervis Bay Territory.

Source: ABS (*Experimental Projections of the Indigenous Population, Australia*, cat. no. 3231.0).

Table A.4 Persons, by country of birth, August 1996a, b

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust <sup>c</sup>
<i>Persons ('000)</i>									
Australian born	4 394	3 169	2 641	1 178	1 078	396	222	149	13 228
Born in other main English speaking country <sup>d</sup>	440	296	314	272	151	29	14	26	1 542
Born in non-English speaking country	950	745	242	204	152	17	53	3	2 366
Not stated	212	146	122	58	42	17	8	11	617
<b>Totale</b>	<b>5 996</b>	<b>4 355</b>	<b>3 319</b>	<b>1 713</b>	<b>1 423</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>17 753</b>
<i>Share of jurisdiction population (per cent)</i>									
Australian born	73.3	72.8	79.6	68.8	75.7	86.3	74.7	78.8	74.5
Born in other main English speaking country <sup>d</sup>	7.3	6.8	9.5	15.9	10.6	6.2	4.7	13.6	8.7
Born in non-English speaking country	15.8	17.1	7.3	11.9	10.7	3.7	17.8	1.6	13.3
Not stated	3.5	3.4	3.7	3.4	3.0	3.7	2.7	5.8	3.5
<b>Totale</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>a</sup> Totals may not add as a result of rounding. <sup>b</sup> Excludes overseas visitors. <sup>c</sup> Includes other Territories. <sup>d</sup> Other main English speaking countries include the United Kingdom, Ireland, New Zealand, Canada, United States and South Africa. <sup>e</sup> The population totals for States and Territories (which are based on August 1996 Census data) differ from the respective totals in table A1 (which are based on ABS estimates for June 1997). These estimates were adjusted to account for inter-State visitors on Census night.

Source: ABS (Census of Population and Housing: Community Profiles, Australia, cat. no. 2020.0).

Table A.5 Persons, by geographic location, August 1991<sup>a, b, c, d</sup>

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
<i>Persons ('000)</i>									
Metropolitan areas									
Capital city	3 456	2 997	1 307	1 131	1 018	183	275	70	10 437
Other metropolitan	716	146	346	0	0	0	0	0	1 208
Nonmetropolitan areas									
Rural	1 370	1 060	989	256	346	270	1	10	4 302
Remote	56	13	192	165	28	3	0	73	531
Off-shore and not identified	117	72	53	24	17	0	5	6	294
<b>Total<sup>d</sup></b>	<b>5 715</b>	<b>4 288</b>	<b>2 888</b>	<b>1 576</b>	<b>1 409</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>16 772</b>
<i>Share of jurisdiction population (per cent)</i>									
Metropolitan areas									
Capital city	60.5	69.9	45.2	71.7	72.3	40.1	98.0	44.1	62.2
Other metropolitan	12.5	3.4	12.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.2
Nonmetropolitan areas									
Rural	24.0	24.7	34.3	16.3	24.6	59.1	0.4	6.2	25.7
Remote	1.0	0.3	6.7	10.5	2.0	0.7	0.0	45.9	3.2
Off-shore and not identified	2.0	1.7	1.8	1.5	1.2	0.1	1.6	3.8	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>a</sup> Excludes overseas visitors. <sup>b</sup> Includes other Territories. <sup>c</sup> Capital city areas were defined by DPIE and DSH (1994) as State and Territory capital city statistical divisions. Other metropolitan areas were defined as other statistical subdivisions which included urban centres of population of 100 000 or more. Remote areas were defined in terms of low population density and long distances to associated large population centres. Rural areas included the remainder of nonmetropolitan statistical local areas. <sup>d</sup> Totals may not add as a result of rounding.

Source: DPIE and DSH (1994).



Table A.6 Persons, by geographic location, August 1996<sup>a, b, c, d</sup>

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust <sup>e</sup>
<i>Persons ('000)</i>									
Metropolitan areas	4 444	3 284	2 243	1 244	1 046	286	299	86	12 932
Nonmetropolitan areas	1 594	1 089	1 126	482	382	174	0 <sup>f</sup>	109	4 961
<b>Total<sup>e</sup></b>	<b>6 038</b>	<b>4 373</b>	<b>3 369</b>	<b>1 726</b>	<b>1 428</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>17 892</b>
<i>Share of jurisdiction population (per cent)</i>									
Metropolitan areas	73.6	75.1	66.6	72.1	73.2	62.2	99.9	44.1	72.3
Nonmetropolitan areas	26.4	24.9	33.4	27.9	26.8	37.8	0.1	55.9	27.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

<sup>a</sup> Excludes overseas visitors. <sup>b</sup> Includes other Territories. <sup>c</sup> Metropolitan areas were defined as statistical subdivisions which included urban centres of population of 100 000 or more. Nonmetropolitan areas were defined in terms of low population density and long distances to associated large population centres. <sup>d</sup> Totals may not add as a result of rounding. <sup>e</sup> Includes offshore and not identified. <sup>f</sup> There were 392 persons living in rural and remote areas in the ACT.

Sources: DPIE and DSH (1994); ABS (*Unpublished, 1999 and Statistical Geography, 1996*, cat. no. 1216.0).

Table A.7 Household structure, August 1998

	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	N7 <sup>a</sup> , <sup>b</sup>	Aust
Total families ('000)	'000	1 720	1 249	928	411	481	131	33	75	5 027
Couple families	'000	1 409	1 040	764	401	342	110	62	28	4 158
Average family size (persons)	no.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.1
Persons aged 15–64 who live alone (of all persons aged 15–65)	%	7.0	7.8	8.6	8.7	10.6	8.9	9.6	8.7 <sup>b</sup>	8.1
Persons aged 65 and over who live alone (of all persons aged 65 and over)	%	28.2	28.3	29.1	29.2	31.7	33.7	33.5	14.1 <sup>b</sup>	29.0
Lone-father families with children under 15 (of all families with children under 15)	%	1.7	2.4	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.4	3.5	na <sup>c</sup>	2.0
Lone-mother families with children under 15 (of all families with children under 15)	%	20.3	18.2	20.0	18.5	21.4	20.6	15.6	15.2	19.5
Couple-only families (of all couple families)	%	52.3	50.7	51.9	51.7	54.4	54.3	47.0	42.9	51.8
Couple families with children under 15, both parents employed (of all couple families with children under 15)	%	54.6	55.8	57.0	55.5	53.6	51.9	71.3	67.0	55.6
One-parent families with children under 15, parent employed (of all one-parent families with children under 15)	%	39.2	44.9	42.8	45.7	35.5	48.5	63.8	46.0	42.1

<sup>a</sup> All estimates refer to mainly urban areas only. <sup>b</sup> Subject the high sampling variability <sup>c</sup> Data suppressed as a result of unacceptably high sampling variability. <sup>na</sup> Not available.

Source: ABS (Australian Social Trends, 1999, cat. no. 4102.0).

**Table A.8 Housing type, August 1996**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
<i>Share of households (per cent)</i>									
Home owners	67.7	73.6	65.9	69.3	69.9	71.8	65.7	45.1	69.0
Private rental	21.7	18.8	23.7	19.0	14.8	15.8	20.7	18.8	20.3
Public rental									
State Housing Authority	5.6	3.4	3.9	5.1	9.8	7.3	10.3	14.3	5.3
Community housing	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.2	4.6	0.5

Source: DSS (1997).

**Table A.9 Persons aged 15 years and over, by weekly individual income, August 1996 (per cent)<sup>a</sup>**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Nil income	7.0	6.8	6.4	6.7	5.6	5.7	6.6	5.7	6.6
\$1–119	8.3	9.4	8.8	9.3	9.2	9.6	9.5	7.0	8.9
\$120–199	20.7	20.6	21.1	19.1	24.3	24.4	13.0	18.9	20.8
\$200–299	11.0	10.9	12.2	11.1	12.4	13.0	8.7	8.3	11.3
\$300–399	9.2	9.5	10.1	9.3	9.7	9.7	7.7	8.2	9.5
\$400–499	9.1	9.4	9.8	9.2	9.8	9.3	8.1	8.9	9.3
\$500–599	7.7	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.7	7.3	8.6	8.8	7.8
\$600–699	5.4	5.3	5.1	5.5	4.9	4.5	7.3	6.4	5.3
\$699–999	9.2	8.7	8.0	9.7	7.8	7.7	14.8	11.5	8.9
\$1000 and over	6.0	5.1	4.4	6.3	3.7	3.2	11.4	6.4	5.4
Not stated	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.0	5.0	5.6	4.2	9.9	6.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Gini coefficient <sup>b</sup>	0.46	0.42	0.44	0.45	0.44	0.41	0.41	na	0.44

<sup>a</sup> Totals may not add as a result of rounding. <sup>b</sup> Index for measuring equality of income distribution, based on 1995–96 data. The index, always between 0 and 1, is low for populations with relatively equal income distributions and high for populations with relatively unequal income distributions. **na** Not available.

Sources: ABS (*Census of Population and Housing: Community Profiles, Australia*, cat. no. 2020.0; *Australian Social Trends, 1998*, cat. no. 4102.0).

Table A.10 Income support, June 1998<sup>a</sup>

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Aged on aged pension (per cent) <sup>b</sup>	62.9	65	63.3	62.7	68.1	64.6	49.6	66.2	65.4
Persons ('000)									
Age pensioners <sup>c</sup>	572	431	279	137	161	45	14	5	1 683
Unemployment allowees	250	191	166	64	69	28	10	13	810
Disability support pensioners	188	129	100	46	52	20	5	4	553
Sole parent pensioners	124	82	77	37	31	11	5	5	372
<b>Total recipients</b>	<b>1 134</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>3 418</b>
Total population	6 342	4 661	3 456	1 831	1 487	472	308	190	18 751
Share of jurisdiction population (per cent)									
Age pensioners <sup>c</sup>	9.0	9.2	8.1	7.5	10.8	9.5	4.5	2.6	9.0
Unemployment allowees	3.9	4.1	4.8	3.5	4.6	5.9	3.2	6.8	4.3
Disability support pensioners	3.0	2.8	2.9	2.5	3.5	4.2	1.6	2.1	2.9
Sole parent pensioners	2.0	1.8	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.3	1.6	2.6	2.0
<b>Total recipients</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>18.2</b>

<sup>a</sup> Totals may not add as a result of rounding. <sup>b</sup> Aged pensioners are defined as people receiving full or partial age pension, excluding associated wife's or carer's pension. <sup>c</sup> Components do not add to total because data for Australia include pensions paid to people living overseas.

Source: ABS (Australian Social Trends, 1999, cat. no. 4102.0).

**Table A.11 Persons with a disability, 1998 (per cent)<sup>a</sup>**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
<i>Proportion of the total population aged 5–64 years, by disability status</i>									
Profound/severe core activity restriction <sup>b</sup>	3.9	3.8	4.9	3.9	4.4	5.4	4.1	na	4.1
Moderate core activity restriction	2.7	2.4	3.0	3.4	3.4	3.1	2.1	na	2.8
Mild core activity restriction	4.5	4.1	3.6	4.2	5.1	4.2	3.2	6.9 <sup>c</sup>	4.2
Schooling or employment restriction <sup>d</sup>	10.5	9.6	12.2	11.3	13.7	13.1	9.7	7.2	11.0
<i>Proportion of persons younger than 5 years, by disability status</i>									
All core activity restrictions	2.6	1.8	1.6	3.3	4.1	5.0	na	na	2.5

<sup>a</sup> Estimates for jurisdictions with smaller populations should be interpreted with caution because sample sizes were small. Caution should be used where there are small differences in the results, which are affected by sample and estimate size. <sup>b</sup> The sample size for the ABS survey does not permit separate reporting of profound and severe core activity restriction estimates. <sup>c</sup> Data for the NT are not disaggregated because sample numbers were small. Data are for profound/severe core activity restriction, moderate core activity restriction and mild core activity restriction. <sup>d</sup> Some people with this restriction do not have a core activity restriction. na Not available for publication but included in totals where applicable.

Sources: ABS (*Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia*, cat. no. 4430.0; *Estimated Residential Population, by Age*, cat. no. 3201.0).

Table A.12 Persons, by age of leaving school, August 1996<sup>a</sup>

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
<i>Persons ('000)</i>									
15 years and under	1 802	1 185	1 145	578	456	151	59	51	5 427
16–17 years	1 695	1 291	1 016	543	491	145	95	57	5 334
18 years and over	886	705	258	125	114	35	65	19	2 209
Not stated	326	247	173	82	67	24	11	14	945
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 710</b>	<b>3 429</b>	<b>2 592</b>	<b>1 328</b>	<b>1 128</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>13 915</b>
<i>Share of jurisdiction population (per cent)</i>									
15 years and under	38.3	34.6	44.2	43.5	40.4	42.6	25.6	36.1	39.0
16–17 years	36.0	37.6	39.2	40.9	43.5	40.8	41.5	40.1	38.3
18 years and over	18.8	20.6	10.0	9.4	10.1	9.8	28.1	13.8	15.9
Not stated	6.9	7.2	6.7	6.2	6.0	6.8	4.7	9.9	6.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>a</sup> Totals may not add as a result of rounding.

Source: ABS (Census of Population and Housing: Community Profiles, Australia, cat. no. 2020.0).

Table A.13 Persons aged 15 years and over, by highest level of post-school educational qualification, August 1996<sup>a</sup>

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
<i>Persons ('000)</i>									
Higher degree or postgraduate diploma	136	105	85	74	24	63	69	61	250
Bachelor degree	377	289	171	101	73	21	36	10	1 077
Undergraduate diploma or associate diploma	308	210	140	82	63	19	17	8	847
Skilled vocational qualification or basic vocational qualification	664	426	354	194	155	45	25	19	1 882
Level of attainment inadequately described or not stated <sup>b</sup>	603	400	297	151	119	41	24	20	1 656
Not applicable	2 622	2 000	1 578	769	694	222	112	81	8 080
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 710</b>	<b>3 429</b>	<b>2 592</b>	<b>1 328</b>	<b>1 129</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>13 915</b>
<i>Share of jurisdiction population (per cent)</i>									
Higher degree or postgraduate diploma	2.9	3.0	2.0	2.3	2.1	2.0	7.0	2.6	2.7
Bachelor degree	8.0	8.4	6.6	7.6	6.5	5.9	15.5	7.1	7.7
Undergraduate diploma or associate diploma	6.5	6.1	5.4	6.2	5.6	5.2	7.2	5.6	6.1
Skilled vocational qualification or basic vocational qualification	14.1	12.4	13.6	14.6	13.7	12.6	10.7	13.6	13.5
Level of attainment inadequately described or not stated <sup>b</sup>	12.8	11.7	11.5	11.4	10.5	11.6	10.6	13.8	11.9
Not applicable	55.7	58.3	60.9	57.9	61.5	62.6	49.0	57.3	58.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>a</sup> Totals may not add as a result of rounding. <sup>b</sup> No post-school qualifications in the scope of the Australian Bureau of Statistics Classification of Qualifications. Source: ABS (Census of Population and Housing: Community Profiles, Australia, cat. no. 2020.0).

**Table A.14 Unemployment rate (per cent)<sup>a</sup>**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
June 1992	10.1	11.8	10.4	10.9	11.9	11.6	7.9	7.1	10.8
June 1993	10.8	12.1	10.4	9.4	10.9	12.5	7.2	8.3	10.9
June 1994	9.9	11.1	9.5	8.5	10.7	11.2	6.9	7.2	10.0
June 1995	7.8	8.8	8.9	7.3	9.9	10.0	7.2	7.2	8.4
June 1996	8.0	8.7	9.3	7.7	9.4	10.5	8.4	6.7	8.5
June 1997	8.1	9.2	9.5	7.3	9.7	10.9	7.3	5.9	8.7
June 1998	7.5	8.4	8.6	7.1	10.0	10.6	6.9	5.2	8.1
June 1999	6.6	7.7	8.1	6.7	8.4	10.0	6.0	4.5	7.3

<sup>a</sup> Average quarterly trend.

Source: ABS (Labour Force, Australia, cat. no. 6202.0).

**Table A.15 Employed persons, 1991-92 and 1998-99**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Persons ('000)									
1991-92	31	23	16	9	8	2	2	1	92
1998-99	35	26	19	11	8	2	2	1	104
Growth, 1991-92 to 1996-97 (per cent)	19	13	15.8	22.2	0	0	0	0	13

Source: ABS (Labour Force, Australia, cat. no. 6202.0).



Table A.16 Workforce participation rate (per cent)<sup>a</sup>

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
<i>Males</i>									
June 1992	73.6	74.4	74.7	76.5	73.2	71.9	79.7	80.8	74.4
June 1993	72.0	73.8	75.1	76.7	72.6	71.3	79.9	75.3	73.6
June 1994	72.4	74.0	74.6	76.8	71.5	71.2	72.7	72.7	73.6
June 1995	72.8	73.9	75.2	77.3	71.7	71.0	80.3	78.3	74.0
June 1996	72.6	73.8	75.1	76.4	71.2	72.1	80.1	75.9	73.7
June 1997	72.1	73.4	73.8	76.2	71.4	69.3	78.9	76.1	73.1
June 1998	71.6	73.6	74.0	76.1	69.9	69.8	78.6	78.6	72.9
June 1999	71.6	73.1	74.0	74.9	69.6	68.8	77.5	76.0	72.6
<i>Females</i>									
June 1992	51.2	52.0	52.6	53.5	50.6	48.1	62.7	65.5	52.0
June 1993	50.0	51.4	52.1	53.5	49.2	49.2	65.6	63.0	51.4
June 1994	51.5	52.2	53.0	54.5	51.5	49.1	64.9	58.8	52.4
June 1995	51.9	53.5	55.7	56.9	52.5	50.4	65.6	64.2	53.8
June 1996	52.4	53.4	54.3	55.9	52.9	50.4	66.2	64.8	53.6
June 1997	52.1	53.9	55.1	55.2	52.8	48.4	66.7	64.1	53.7
June 1998	52.1	54.2	55.9	56.8	50.2	50.0	66.1	62.5	53.9
June 1999	52.1	53.1	56.2	56.8	51.1	49.0	65.3	64.2	53.7

(Continued on next page)

Table A.16 (Continued)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust <sup>a</sup>
<i>Persons</i>									
June 1992	62.2	63.0	63.5	64.9	61.7	59.8	70.9	73.5	63.0
June 1993	60.8	62.4	63.4	65.0	61.5	60.1	72.6	69.3	62.3
June 1994	61.8	62.8	63.7	65.6	61.3	60.0	72.4	65.9	62.8
June 1995	62.2	63.5	65.3	67.1	62.0	60.5	72.8	72.8	63.7
June 1996	62.3	63.4	64.6	66.1	61.9	61.1	73.0	70.4	63.5
June 1997	61.9	63.5	64.3	65.7	62.0	58.7	72.7	70.2	63.2
June 1998	61.7	63.7	64.9	66.4	59.9	59.7	72.3	69.7	63.3
June 1999	61.7	62.9	65.0	65.9	60.2	58.6	72.2	70.4	63.0

<sup>a</sup> Average quarterly trend. The participation rate for any group is the labour force expressed as a percentage of the civilian population in the same group.

Source: ABS (*Civilian Labour Force Trend*, cat. no. 6202.0).

**Table A.17 Real gross state product**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
<i>Level (\$m)<sup>a</sup></i>									
1992-93	164 804	118 390	72 972	47 031	33 399	9 993	9 709	4 854	457 735
1993-94	171 364	123 261	76 052	49 854	34 429	10 050	10 065	4 922	476 556
1994-95	178 148	127 703	80 361	53 406	34 641	10 321	10 467	5 288	498 113
1995-96	185 717	132 104	83 568	56 310	36 606	10 613	10 754	5 612	520 669
1996-97	192 875	136 231	88 330	58 112	37 264	10 739	10 874	5 758	540 379
1997-98	201 660	142 422	91 910	61 917	39 652	10 792	11 527	6 002	565 881
<i>Growth on previous year (per cent)<sup>a</sup></i>									
1993-94	4.0	4.1	4.2	6.0	3.1	0.6	3.7	1.4	4.1
1994-95	4.0	3.6	5.7	7.1	0.6	2.7	4.0	7.4	4.5
1995-96	4.2	3.4	4.0	5.4	5.7	2.8	2.7	6.1	4.5
1996-97	3.9	3.1	5.7	3.2	1.8	1.2	1.1	2.6	3.8
1997-98	4.6	4.5	4.1	6.5	6.4	0.5	6.0	4.2	4.7
<i>Gross state product per person (\$m)<sup>a</sup></i>									
1992-93	27 445	26 471	23 465	28 034	22 865	21 187	32 439	28 430	25 909
1993-94	28 277	27 467	23 862	29 274	23 483	21 250	33 385	28 389	26 691
1994-95	29 076	28 269	24 612	30 803	23 574	21 789	34 340	29 783	27 563
1995-96	29 932	28 969	25 030	31 899	24 830	22 369	34 887	30 862	28 435
1996-97	30 748	29 582	26 002	32 323	25 184	22 681	35 304	30 807	29 172
1997-98	31 800	30 557	26 592	33 809	26 660	22 870	37 375	31 591	30 179

<sup>a</sup> In 1997-98 dollars.

Source: ABS (Gross State Product, cat. no. 5220.1).

**Table A.18 Gross domestic product deflators<sup>a</sup>**

	<i>GDP deflator</i>
1984-85	61.5
1985-86	65.6
1986-87	70.0
1987-88	75.8
1988-89	82.2
1989-90	86.9
1990-91	89.8
1991-92	91.8
1992-93	93.1
1993-94	94.1
1994-95	94.9
1995-96	97.2
1996-97	98.4
1997-98	99.6
1998-99	100

<sup>a</sup> 1998-99 = 100.

Source: ABS (National Accounts: National Income Expenditure and Productivity, cat. no. 5206.0).

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## A.12 Reliability of estimates

Outcome and quality indicators are reported from client and community perception surveys for a number of services covered in this Report. Police services use the Population Survey Monitor, for example, to obtain an indication of the level of satisfaction within the community for the services police agencies provide.

The presence of sampling error, the error that occurs by chance because the data were only obtained from a sample and not the entire population, implies that the reported responses may not be indicative of the true responses. This section describes in detail some of the issues for drawing inferences from survey data, and follows that of ABS (1999).

### Standard error

One measure of the variability, which occurs as a result of surveying a sample of the population, is the standard error (SE).

There are two chances in three (67 per cent) that a survey estimate is within one SE of the figure that would have been obtained if the population had been included, and about nineteen chances in twenty (95 per cent) that it is within approximately two SEs. That is, the true value of  $x$  lies within:

$$x - 1.96 SE(x) \quad \text{and} \quad x + 1.96 SE(x)$$

where  $x$  is the estimate (for example, the number of persons responding either 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied'). The SE of an estimate can be obtained from either the tables reporting the estimates and relative standard errors, or the relative standard error tables produced at the end of each of the relevant attachments. Linear interpolation should be used to calculate the SE of estimates falling between the sizes of estimates listed in these tables.

### Relative standard error

The SE can be expressed as a proportion of the estimate, and this is known as the relatively standard error (RSE). The RSE is determined by dividing the SE of the estimate  $SE(x)$  by the estimate  $x$  and expressing it as a percentage. That is:

$$RSE(x) = \frac{SE(x)}{x}$$

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If 4.3 million persons in NSW were estimated to be satisfied with a service, and the SE is approximately  $\pm 34,100$  persons, for example, then the  $RSE(x)$  would be equal to 0.0078, or 0.78 per cent. The RSE is a useful measure in that it provides an immediate indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred as a result of sampling.

Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling error, for example, as when estimating the proportion of a population that is 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with a service. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator (the estimated number of persons responding 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied') and denominator (the estimated size of the population). The formula of a proportion is:

$$RSE\left(\frac{x_1}{X}\right) = \sqrt{[RSE(x_1)]^2 - [RSE(X)]^2}$$

where  $x_1$  is estimated as the number of persons from jurisdiction  $x$  responding 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' and  $X$  is estimated population of jurisdiction  $x$ .

## Testing for statistical differences

The chance that an estimate falls within a certain range of the true value is known as the *confidence* of the estimate. For any particular survey, there is a tradeoff between the confidence of the estimate and the range of error (in terms of standard errors) attached to the estimate. The appropriate level of reliability chosen depends on the purpose of obtaining the estimate. The lower the level of confidence required, the more precise the estimate will be.

Confidence intervals – that is, the range of values that an estimate is likely to fall within – can be used to test whether the reported proportions between two jurisdictions are different. When comparing proportions, if the confidence intervals for the jurisdictions overlap, then there can be little confidence that the estimated proportions differ from each other.

Imagine, for example, 60 per cent of NSW clients respond that they were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with a service they were receiving, and 58 per cent of Queensland clients report that they were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied'. The 95 per cent confidence range for NSW is estimated to be  $\pm 3.2$  per cent, and that for Queensland is estimated to be  $\pm 1.5$  per cent. This implies a 56.8 to 62.3 per cent confidence range for NSW clients and a 56.5 to 59.5 per cent confidence range for Queensland clients. The two ranges overlap, so there is little confidence at the 95 per cent level that there is a difference between them.

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Mathematically, the estimated response will lie within the 95 per cent confidence interval:

$$\left(\frac{x_1}{X} - \frac{y_1}{Y}\right) - 1.96\sqrt{RSE(x_1/X)\frac{x_1}{X} + RSE(y_1/Y)\frac{y_1}{Y}} \quad \text{and}$$

$$\left(\frac{x_1}{X} - \frac{y_1}{Y}\right) + 1.96\sqrt{RSE(x_1/X)\frac{x_1}{X} + RSE(y_1/Y)\frac{y_1}{Y}}$$

where  $x_1$ ,  $X$ ,  $y_1$  and  $Y$  represent the estimated number of respondents and estimated populations of jurisdictions  $x$  and  $y$  respectively. If none of the values in this interval are a zero, then it is possible to conclude that the difference between jurisdiction  $x$ 's response and jurisdiction  $y$ 's response is statistically significant.

