
Chapter 13: Disability services (DS)

The disability services chapter

Commonwealth, State and Territory governments aim to maximise opportunities for people with a disability to participate actively in the community, by providing services and supports for people with a disability and their carers. The Commonwealth–State Disability Agreement (CSDA) provides a framework for the provision of specialist disability services to those with a disability who require ongoing or long term episodic support.

This chapter focuses on the performance of the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments in providing services and supports for people with a severe or profound disability aged less than 65 years under the CSDA. Services to people with severe psychiatric conditions are excluded from State government data. A definition of disability is provided in Box DS.1.

Box DS.1 Definition of disability

Disability is conceptualised as being a multidimensional experience for the person involved, relating to body functions and structures, the activities people do, and the life areas in which they participate (World Health Organisation [WHO 2001]). The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health also recognises the role of physical and social environmental factors in affecting disability.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers was conducted in 1981, 1988, 1993 and 1998, and was based on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health and its predecessor. The 1998 survey defined disability as any person with a limitation, restriction or impairment that has lasted, or is likely to last, for at least six months and restricts everyday activities.

Self care, mobility and communication are defined as core activities. The ABS defines levels of core activity restriction as follows:

- *mild* — where a person has no difficulty with self care, mobility or communication, but uses aids or equipment;
- *moderate* — where a person does not need assistance, but has difficulty with self care, mobility or communication;
- *severe* — where a person sometimes needs assistance with self care, mobility or communication; and
- *profound* — where a person is unable to perform self care, mobility and/or communication tasks, or always needs assistance.

Source: ABS (1999); World Health Organisation (2001); ROGS 2003, p. 13.2.

Some mainstream services provided to the community as a whole as well as to people with a disability (for example, vocational education and training, school education, public hospital care, mental health services and housing) are covered elsewhere in this Report. Other mainstream services provided to people with a disability — such as transport and utility services at concessional rates — are outside the scope of this Report.

Indigenous data in the disability services chapter

The disability services chapter in the *Report on Government Services 2003* (ROGS) contains the following data items on Indigenous people:

- Indigenous representation per 1000 people in both accommodation support and day activity services, snapshot day 2002; and
- Indigenous representation per 1000 people in employment support services, snapshot day 2001.

Updated data are available on the Review web page and these data are included in tables DS.A1, DS.A2 and DS.A3. These data include figures for employment support services, snapshot day 2002 and revised figures for both accommodation and day activity services, snapshot day 2002 as a result of applying a statistical linkage key to the national data set after including the 2002 employment services data.

Supporting tables

Supporting tables for data within the disability services chapter of the compendium are contained in the attachment to the compendium. Supporting tables are identified in references throughout this chapter by the abbreviated chapter name (for example, DS.A5 is table 5 in the disability services attachment to the compendium).

As the data are directly sourced from the *Report on Government Services 2003*, the compendium also notes where the original table, figure or text in the Report can be found. For example, where the compendium refers to 'ROGS 2003, p. 6.15' this is page 15 of chapter 6 of the Report and 'ROGS 2003, 6A.2' is attachment table 2 of attachment 6 of the Report.

Performance data within the disability services chapter

The main sources of performance data for 2002 indicators were the CSDA Minimum Data Set (MDS) snapshot day collection and the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments. The performance indicator results reported in this chapter relate to CSDA services only. The CSDA MDS collection commenced in 1995 and has been conducted each year until 2002. Data for 2002 have been collected using the 2002 CSDA MDS revised service type definitions, which are a refinement on the 2001 CSDA MDS items, in preparation for the CSTDA National Minimum Data Set (NMDS).

These changes mean that data for previous years collected under the CSDA MDS are not fully comparable to the 2002 data collected under the CSDA MDS. Further, refinements to the agreed definitions for the chapter for this year have an impact on data comparability over time. National data were collected on all services received by CSDA consumers on a snapshot day, which was in May/June in 2002. A single consumer may receive more than one service on the snapshot day, so the number of consumers on the snapshot day is less than the number of services received on the day.

Data sourced from the CSDA MDS on the number of consumers or places provided in each jurisdiction may differ from information reported elsewhere (such as in

departmental annual reports) because the CSDA MDS collection for 2002 relates to services delivered on a single snapshot day. Expenditure data sourced from jurisdictions' collections may also differ from information reported elsewhere because, for example, expenditure on psychiatric services is excluded here. The number of consumers receiving accommodation services on the snapshot day for 1999–2002 has been estimated from the number of occasions on which a service was received, using a statistical linkage key to remove double counting. This is possible because the statistical linkage key enables, with a small degree of error, the identification of multiple data records belonging to the same individual, but without identifying the individual.

The number of consumers on the snapshot day will be less than the number for the whole year because some consumers will not receive services on that day. The difference between the two will be greater for employment services and community access services than for accommodation services, given differences in the nature of these services.

Service use by special needs groups

An important indicator of access is the comparison between the representation of all people with a disability who access services and the representation of people with a disability from rural and remote locations, Indigenous or non-English speaking origin who access services. This information is provided for accommodation support, employment and community access services.

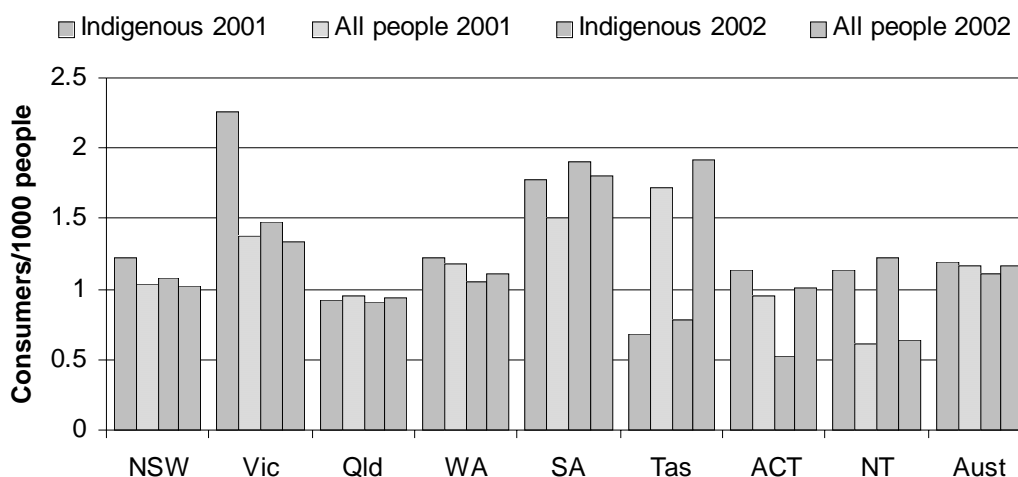
Data are presented by disability service type, as the representation of each special needs group in the total population of people with special needs, per 1000 people; compared to the representation of all disability services consumers in the total Australian population, per 1000 people.

Indigenous representation per 1000 people

Nationally, the representation of Indigenous consumers in accommodation support services was similar to the community representation of all consumers in accommodation support services (1.10 Indigenous consumers per 1000 people and 1.17 consumers per 1000 people, respectively) on the snapshot day in 2002. Notwithstanding this national result, a higher representation of the Indigenous population than of the total population used accommodation support services in NSW, Victoria, SA and the NT. A lower representation of the Indigenous population than of the total population used accommodation support services in all other jurisdictions. The highest representation of Indigenous consumers accessing accommodation support services was in SA (1.91 Indigenous consumers

per 1000 people) and the lowest was in the ACT (0.52 Indigenous consumers per 1000 people) (figure DS.1).

Figure DS.1 Consumers of accommodation support services per 1000 people, by Indigenous status^{a, b, c, d, e}



^a Consumer data are estimates after use of a statistical linkage key to account for individuals who received more than one service on the snapshot day. Where Indigenous status was inconsistently recorded for the same consumer, the consumer was counted as an Indigenous Australian. Totals may not be the sum of the components because individuals may access services from more than one jurisdiction on the snapshot day.

^b Data for Indigenous consumers (per 1000) are per 1000 Indigenous people. That is, the Indigenous consumer data are divided by the Indigenous Australians data, multiplied by 1000. ^c Data for all consumers exclude 626 consumers in 2001 and 943 consumers in 2002 whose Indigenous origin was 'not known' or 'not stated'; therefore, totals may differ from other tables. ^d ABS Indigenous population projections were used for 2001. Indigenous population projections for 2002 were obtained by multiplying percentages of Indigenous people in each State or Territory based on the most recently available 2001 ABS Census data on the Indigenous population, and applying these percentages to June 2002 ABS projected population data. ^e Data for consumers of CSDA accommodation support services exclude psychiatric services specifically identified by the jurisdiction.

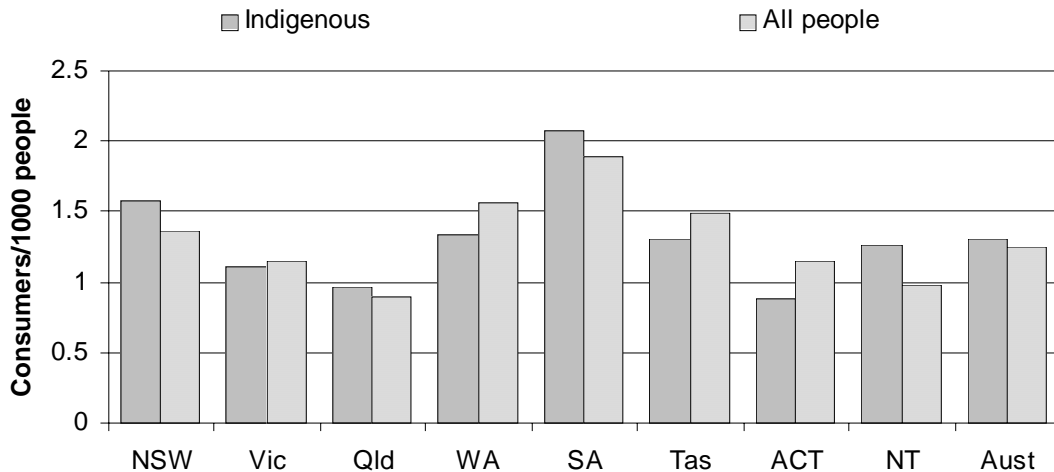
Source: AIHW (2001b, 2002c); ROGS 2003, p. 13.31; table DS.A4.

Information on the use of employment services by consumers by Indigenous status for 2002 were not available in time for publication. This information can be found on the Review web page.

Nationally, the representation of Indigenous consumers in employment support services was similar to the community representation of all consumers in employment support services (1.31 Indigenous consumers per 1000 people and 1.25 consumers per 1000 people, respectively) on the snapshot day in 2001. A higher representation of the Indigenous population than of the total population used employment support services in NSW, Queensland, SA and the NT. A lower representation of the Indigenous population than of the total population used employment support services in all other jurisdictions. The highest representation of Indigenous consumers accessing employment support services was in SA

(2.08 Indigenous consumers per 1000 people) and the lowest was in the ACT (0.88 Indigenous consumers per 1000 people) (figure DS.2).

Figure DS.2 Consumers of employment support services per 1000 people, by Indigenous status, 2001^{a, b, c, d}

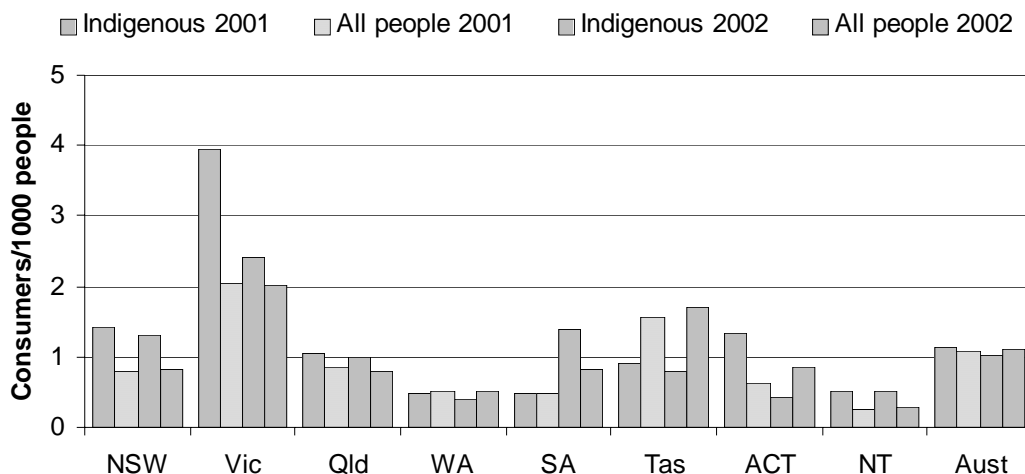


^a Consumer data are estimates after use of a statistical linkage key to account for individuals who received more than one service on the snapshot day. ^b Where Indigenous status was inconsistently recorded for the same consumer, the consumer was counted as an Indigenous Australian. ^c Data for Indigenous consumers (per 1000) are per 1000 Indigenous people. That is, the Indigenous consumer data divided by the Indigenous Australians data, multiplied by 1000. ^d Data exclude 973 consumers in 2001 of employment services whose Indigenous origin was 'not known' or 'not stated'.

Source: AIHW (2002c); ROGS 2003, p. 13.32; table DS.A5.

Nationally, the representation of Indigenous consumers in day activity services was similar to the community representation of all consumers in day activity services (1.03 Indigenous consumers per 1000 people and 1.10 consumers per 1000 people, respectively) on the snapshot day in 2002. Across jurisdictions, a higher representation of the Indigenous population than of the total population used day activity services in all jurisdictions except WA, Tasmania and the ACT. The highest representation of Indigenous consumers accessing day activity services was in Victoria (2.41 Indigenous consumers per 1000 people) and the lowest was in WA (0.40 Indigenous consumers per 1000 people) (figure DS.3).

Figure DS.3 Consumers of day activity services per 1000 people, by Indigenous status^{a, b, c, d, e, f, g}



^a Consumer data are estimates after use of a statistical linkage key to account for individuals who received more than one service on the snapshot day. Where Indigenous status was inconsistently recorded for the same consumer, the consumer was counted as an Indigenous Australian. Totals may not be the sum of the components because individuals may access services from more than one jurisdiction on the snapshot day.

^b Data for Indigenous consumers (per 1000) are per 1000 Indigenous people. That is, the Indigenous consumer data divided by the Indigenous Australians data multiplied by 1000. ^c Indigenous population projections were obtained by multiplying percentages of Indigenous people in each State or Territory based on the most recently available 2001 ABS Census data on the Indigenous population, and applying these percentages to June 2002 ABS projected population data. ^d Day activity services in 2001 include consumers using the community access service types 'continuing education/independent living training/adult training centre', 'post-school options/social and community support/community access' and 'other community access and day programs'. Day activity services in 2002 include consumers using the community access service types 'learning and life skills development' and 'other community access', but not 'recreation/holiday programs'. ^e Data for all consumers exclude 372 consumers in 2001 and 737 consumers in 2002 whose Indigenous origin was 'not known' or 'not stated'; therefore, totals may differ from other tables. ^f Data for consumers of CSDA community access services exclude psychiatric services specifically identified by the jurisdiction. ^g Data may have different inclusions for different jurisdictions, which may explain variability across jurisdictions. Data are therefore not strictly comparable.

Source: AIHW (2001b, 2002c); ROGS 2003, p. 13.33; table DS.A6.