
Chapter 13: Disability services

The Australian, 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. A definition of disability is provided in box 13.1.

Box 13.1 Definition of disability

Disability is conceptualised as being a multidimensional experience for the person involved, relating to body functions and structures, activities, and the life areas in which the person participates (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 and/or communication, but uses aids or equipment
- moderate — where a person does not need assistance, but has difficulty with self-care, mobility and/or communication
- severe — where a person sometimes needs assistance with self-care, mobility and/or communication
- profound — where a person is unable to perform self-care, mobility and/or communication tasks, or always needs assistance.

Source: ABS (1999); WHO (2001); ROGS 2004, p. 13.3.

A five year agreement between the Australian, State and Territory governments provides the framework for the provision of specialist disability services to those with a disability who require ongoing or long term episodic support.

Services to people with a disability can be grouped into income support, disability support services, and relevant generic services provided to the community as a whole, including people with a disability. The Review generally does not report information on income support. Disability support services are primarily delivered under the Commonwealth

State/Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA), Commonwealth/State Disability Agreements (CSDAs), as well as through programs such as Home and Community Care (HACC) and rehabilitation. This Report does not provide performance information on rehabilitation services for people with a disability.

Some mainstream services provided to the community as a whole (including people with a disability) — for example, vocational education and training (VET), school education, public hospital care, specialised mental health services and public 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.

In recognition of the changing information needs in the disability services field, a redeveloped CSTDA National Minimum Data Set (NMDS) collection was implemented during 2002-03. Data for 2002-03 collected under the new NMDS were not available for the Report on Government Services 2004. As a result, this disability services chapter repeats 2001-02 data collected under the CSDA, with some revisions to data reported in previous years. Data collected through the new CSTDA NMDS collection in 2002-03 are expected to be reported in the Report on Government Services 2005.

This Report includes current year (2002-03) financial data that were provided directly by jurisdictions. Data on efficiency indicators (cost per place/client) for 2002-03 are not reported because place/client data from the new CSTDA NMDS collection were not available in time to be included in this Report.

Indigenous data in the disability services chapter

The disability services chapter in the *Report on Government Services 2004* contains the following data items on Indigenous people:

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

Supporting tables

Supporting tables for data within the disability services chapter of the compendium are contained in the attachment to the compendium. These tables are identified in references throughout this chapter by an 'A' suffix (for example, table 13A.3 is table 3 in the disability services attachment to the compendium). As the data are directly sourced from

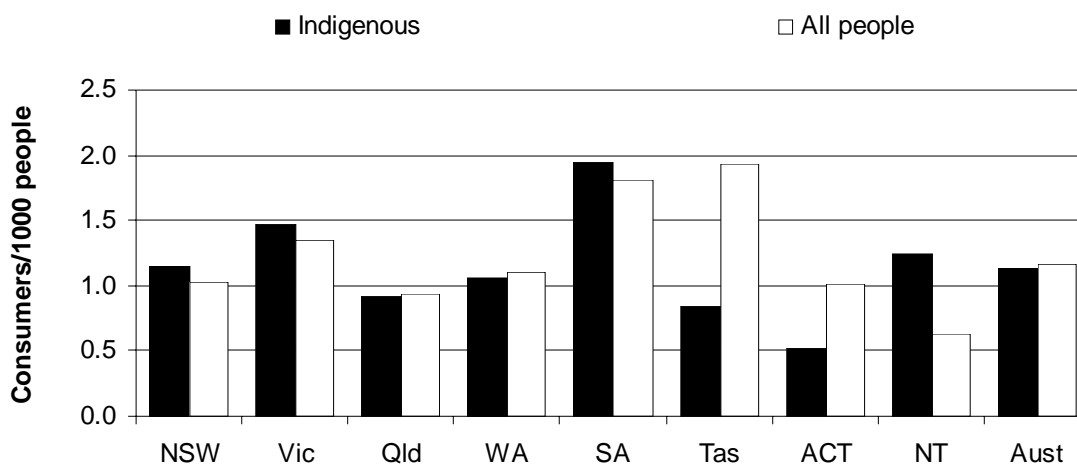
the Report on Government Services 2004, the compendium also notes where the original table, figure or text in the Report on Government Services 2004 can be found. For example, where the compendium refers to ‘ROGS 2004, p. 13.15’ this is page 15 of chapter 13 and ‘ROGS 2004, 13A.2’ is attachment table 2 of attachment 13 of the Report on Government Services 2004.

Service use of Indigenous consumers

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 special needs — for example, Indigenous people. 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.

Nationally, the representation of Indigenous consumers in accommodation support services was lower than that of all consumers in accommodation support services on the snapshot day in 2002 (1.13 Indigenous consumers per 1000 people in the Indigenous population compared to 1.17 total consumers per 1000 people in the total population). A lower proportion of the Indigenous population than of the total population used accommodation support services in Queensland, WA, Tasmania and the ACT. Across jurisdictions, the proportion of Indigenous consumers accessing accommodation support services ranged from 1.95 consumers per 1000 people in SA to 0.52 consumers per 1000 people in the ACT (figure 13.1).

Figure 13.1 Consumers of accommodation support services per 1000 people, by Indigenous status, 2002^{a, b, c, d, e, f}

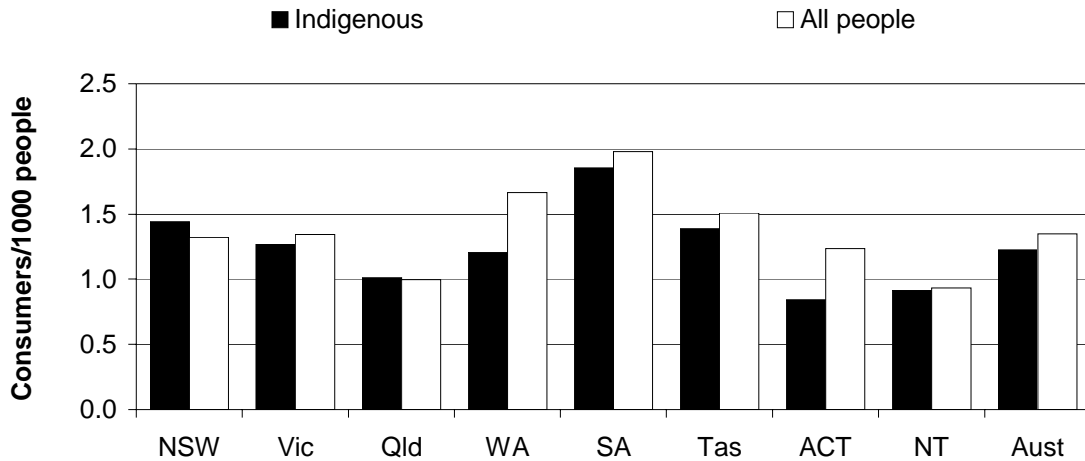


^a Consumer data are estimates after use of a statistical linkage key to account for individuals who received more than one service on the snapshot day. Where Indigenous status is inconsistently recorded for the same consumer, the consumer is counted as an Indigenous Australian. Totals may not be the sum of the components because individuals might have accessed services from more than one jurisdiction on the snapshot day. ^b Data for Indigenous consumers per 1000 people are derived from the Indigenous consumer data divided by the Indigenous Australians data, multiplied by 1000. ^c Data for all consumers in 2002 exclude 943 consumers whose Indigenous origin was 'not known' or 'not stated', so may differ from totals of other tables. ^d ABS population projections are used for 2002 population data. Indigenous population data in each State or Territory for 2002 is obtained by multiplying the percentage of Indigenous people to the ABS 2001 Census data on the projected population for 2002. The percentage of Indigenous people in each State or Territory is based on ABS Estimated Resident Population data for June 2002. ^e Data for consumers of CSDA accommodation support services exclude psychiatric services specifically identified by the jurisdiction. ^f Data are revised, so differ from those in previous reports.

Source: AIHW (2001, 2002); ROGS 2004, p. 13.25; Table 13A.13.

Nationally, the representation of Indigenous consumers in employment support services was lower than that of the community representation of all consumers in employment support services on the snapshot day in 2002 (1.22 Indigenous consumers per 1000 Indigenous people compared to 1.35 total consumers per 1000 people in the total population). In general, a lower proportion of the Indigenous population than of the total population used employment support services except in NSW and Queensland. Across jurisdictions, the proportion of Indigenous consumers accessing employment support services ranged from 1.85 consumers per 1000 people in SA to 0.84 consumers per 1000 people in the ACT (figure 13.2).

Figure 13.2 **Consumers of employment support services per 1000 people, by Indigenous status, 2002^{a, b, c, d, e, f}**

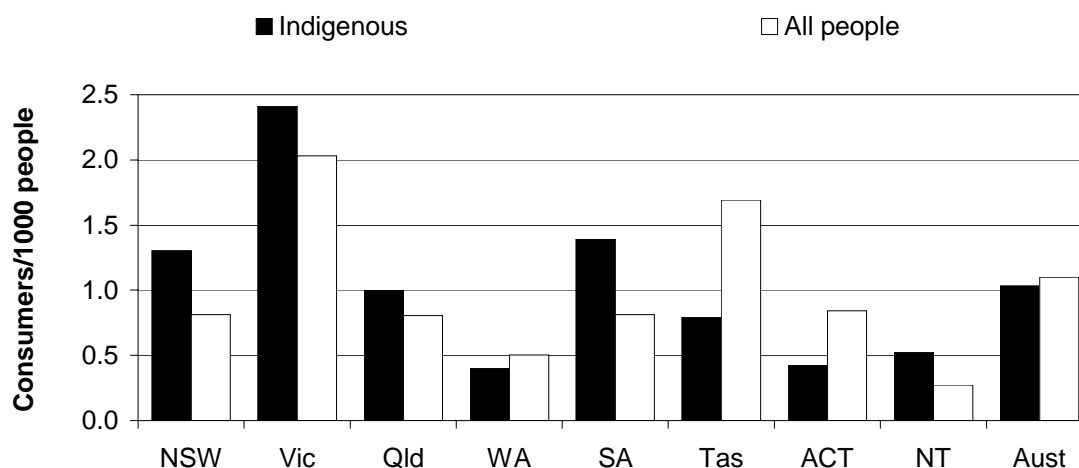


^a Consumer data are estimates after use of a statistical linkage key to account for individuals who received more than one service on the snapshot day. ^b Where Indigenous status is inconsistently recorded for the same consumer, the consumer is counted as an Indigenous Australian. ^c Data for Indigenous consumers per 1000 people are derived from the Indigenous consumer data divided by the Indigenous Australians data, multiplied by 1000. ^d ABS population projections are used for 2002 population data. Indigenous population data in each State or Territory for 2002 is obtained by multiplying the percentage of Indigenous people to the ABS 2001 Census data on the projected population for 2002. The percentage of Indigenous people in each State or Territory is based on ABS Estimated Resident Population data for June 2002. ^e Data for all consumers in 2002 exclude 395 consumers of employment services whose Indigenous origin was 'not known' or 'not stated', so may differ from totals of other tables. ^f Data are revised, so differ from those in previous reports.

Source: AIHW (2001, 2002); ROGS 2004, p. 13.26; Table 13A.2.

Nationally, the representation of Indigenous consumers in day activity services was lower than that of all consumers in day activity services on the snapshot day in 2002 (1.03 Indigenous consumers per 1000 Indigenous people and 1.10 total consumers per 1000 people in the total population). A lower proportion of the Indigenous population than of the total population used day activity services in WA, Tasmania and the ACT. Across jurisdictions, the proportion of Indigenous consumers accessing day activity services ranged from 2.41 consumers per 1000 people in Victoria to 0.40 consumers per 1000 people in WA (figure 13.3).

Figure 13.3 Consumers of day activity services per 1000 people, by Indigenous status, 2002^{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 is inconsistently recorded for the same consumer, the consumer is counted as an Indigenous Australian. Totals may not be the sum of the components because individuals might have accessed services from more than one jurisdiction on the snapshot day. ^b Data for Indigenous consumers per 1000 people are derived from the Indigenous consumer data divided by the Indigenous Australians data, multiplied by 1000. ^c ABS population projections are used for 2002 population data. Indigenous population data in each State or Territory for 2002 is obtained by multiplying the percentage of Indigenous people to the ABS 2001 Census data on the projected population for 2002. The percentage of Indigenous people in each State or Territory is based on ABS Estimated Resident Population data for June 2002. ^d Day activity services in 2002 include consumers using the following community access service types: learning and life skills development; and other community access (but not recreation/holiday program). ^e Data for all consumers in 2002 exclude 737 consumers whose Indigenous origin was 'not known' or 'not stated', so may differ from total of 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), so are not strictly comparable across jurisdictions.

Source: AIHW (2001, 2002); ROGS 2004, p. 13.27; Table 13A.3.

References

- ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 1999, *Disability, Ageing and Carers Australia: Summary of Findings 1998*, Cat. no. 4430.0, Canberra.
- 2001, *First National Results on Services Provided under the Commonwealth–State Disability Agreement: National Data*, Cat. no. DIS 24, Canberra.
- 2002, *First National Results on Services Provided under the Commonwealth–State Disability Agreement: National Data*, Cat. no. DIS 27, Canberra.
- WHO (World Health Organisation) 2001, *ICIDH-2: International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health*, Final draft, Full version, Geneva.