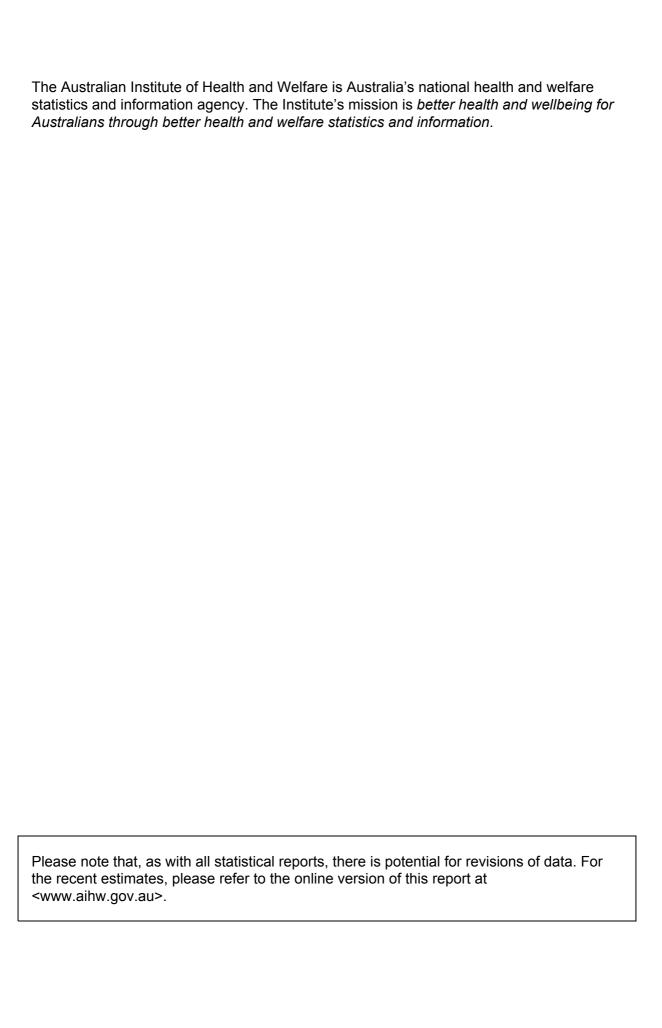
# Welfare expenditure Australia 2002–03



## HEALTH AND WELFARE EXPENDITURE SERIES Number 24

# Welfare expenditure Australia 2002–03

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Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Canberra

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#### **Preface**

Compilation and reporting of estimates of social expenditure is an important task, but a daunting one, largely because of the lack of a clearly defined and comprehensive framework within which to develop estimates.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare began compiling and analysing government welfare services expenditure in 1995. The first published estimates were based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics' government finance statistics; and the classification system used was the welfare services sub-group of the Bureau's government purpose classifications (GPCs). The expenditure reported included direct expenditure incurred by governments, plus that part of non-government expenditure funded by governments.

Since that first publication, the Institute has expanded its reporting to include estimates of expenditures incurred by non-government service providers and other non-cash expenditures by governments—essentially, concessions and tax expenditures.

In 2003, the Institute proposed that it further expand its expenditure estimates by including social security payments by the Australian Government. *Welfare Expenditure Australia* 2000–2001 contained a table showing the types of payments that would potentially be included in future welfare expenditure reports.

Welfare Expenditure Australia 2002–03 brings together the cash and non-cash benefits flowing to people in need in a chapter on social expenditure. That analysis uses the relevant parts of the OECD's Social Expenditure (SOCX) classification to provide a framework within which to estimate total expenditure flowing to people in need of assistance.

An added feature of this publication is an analysis of some aspects of the children's services industry.

Changes in systems and data sources render comparisons over time difficult. Even since the previous estimates were compiled there have been substantial changes to the data sources available for compiling the estimates. This has led to revisions of the estimates for the years 1998–99 to 2000–01.

Richard Madden Director Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

#### **Abbreviations and symbols**

ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics

AIHW Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
AWOTE Average Weekly Ordinary Time Earnings

CGC Commonwealth Grants Commission

DoHA Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
DVA Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs

FaCS Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services

GDP Gross Domestic Product

GFCE Government Final Consumption Expenditure

GFS ABS Government Finance Statistics

GPC ABS Government Purpose Classification
HACC Home and Community Care Program

NGCSO Non-government community service organisation

OECD Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

PCC Pensioner concession card

RoGS Report on Government Services by Productivity Commission

SAAP Supported Accommodation Assistance Program

SOCX OECD Social Expenditure Database

SPP Specific Purpose Payment (under Section 96 of the Australian Constitution)

nil or rounded down to zero

not applicablen.a. not available

n.p. not published due to data quality issues