

1 Overview

Service recipient data

Data on the characteristics of Commonwealth/State Disability Agreement (CSDA) service recipients were collated from 64,432 Consumer Forms returned by 5,759 CSDA-funded services on a 'snapshot day' in late 1997.

Two other separate counts of service recipients were collected from CSDA services who returned Service Forms: the estimated number of service recipients on a typical 1996–97 operating day and the estimated number over the 1996–97 financial year. Service providers made the estimates.

For each major service type category, the number of service recipients on the selected 'snapshot' day is broadly similar to that reported as receiving services on a typical operating day (see Table 1.1). Community support, community access and respite services show a greater level of variation from the typical day than do the other service types. They also have a larger number of recipients over the year than on any single day, indicating a less fixed consumer base. For all service type groupings, the number of recipients over the year is greater in the non-government sector than in the directly provided government sector.

Community support was the category with the greatest difference in reported recipient numbers between a typical operating day and estimated annual numbers. The services contained within this category generally had a high level of consumer turnover.

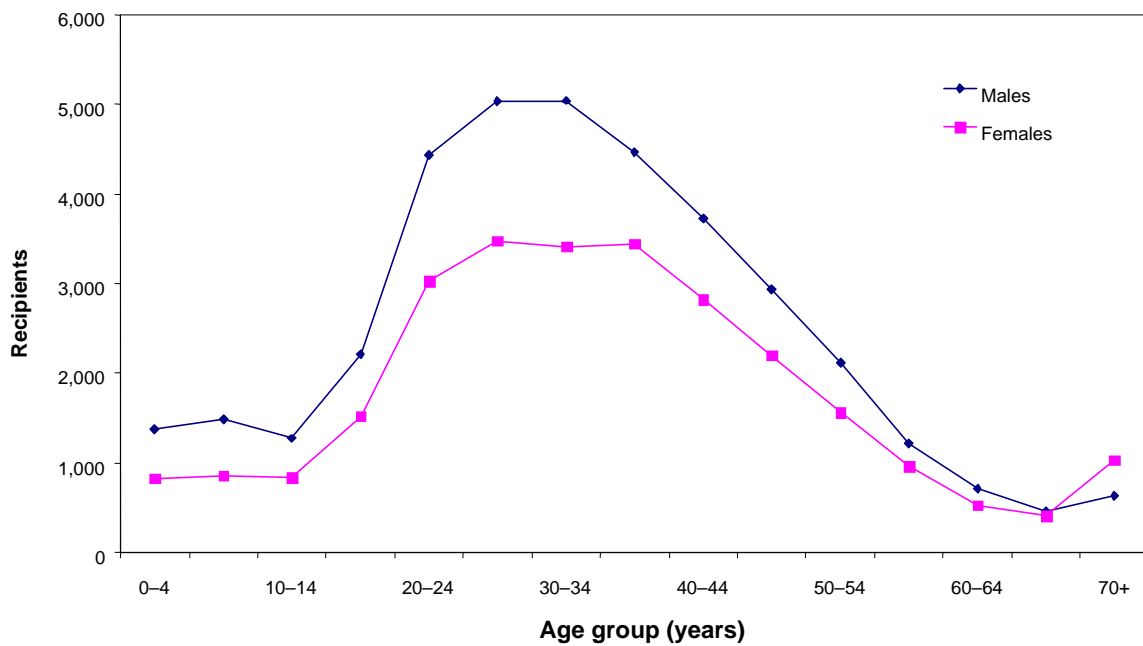
Table 1.1: Recipients of CSDA-funded services, service type by auspicing organisation and time period, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997

Service type	Government provided			Non-government provided		
	Snapshot day	Estimate for a typical day	Estimate for 1996–97	Snapshot day	Estimate for a typical day	Estimate for 1996–97
Accommodation support	8,639	8,737	11,557	10,916	11,563	20,505
Community support	5,390	6,019	57,586	5,934	8,538	109,391
Community access	1,659	2,550	6,277	10,647	11,799	71,780
Respite	497	653	5,975	1,316	1,929	14,203
Employment	380	410	1,078	17,460	19,339	40,694

Notes

1. An individual may be counted more than once if more than one service type was accessed on the 'snapshot' day.
2. Data for recipients of CSDA-funded services with service types: Advocacy; Information/referral; Combined advocacy/information; Print disability/alt. formats of communication; Service evaluation/training; Peak bodies; Research/development; and Other were not collected.

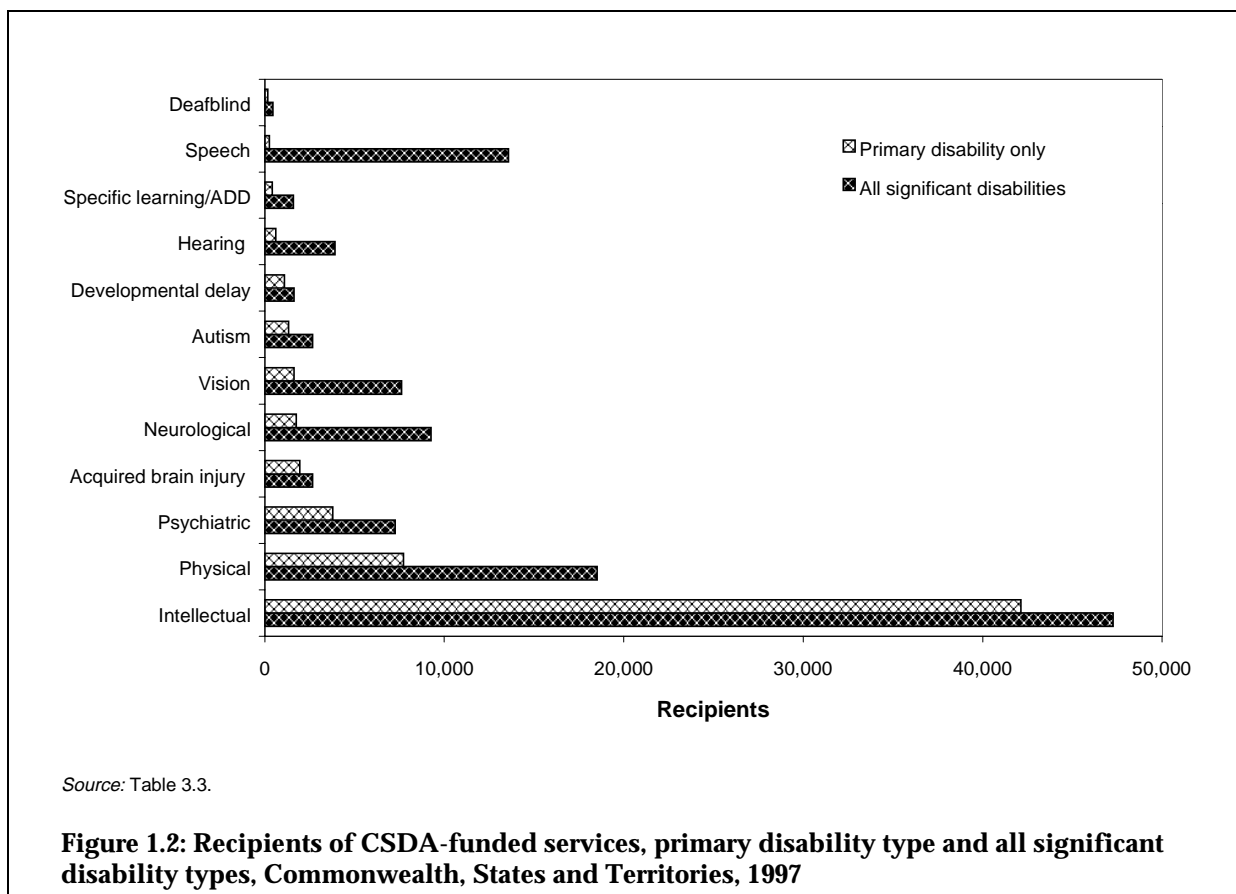
The sex and age groups of service recipients are represented in Figure 1.1. Most service recipients were male in 1997 (37,275 or 58%). Overall there was little difference in age group distribution between the sexes (see Section 3.1).



Source: Table A.2.

Figure 1.1: Recipients of CSDA-funded services, age group by sex, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997

Many service recipients have multiple disabilities. The Consumer Form requested that all significant disability types affecting the lives of service recipients be reported. The disability type most affecting the everyday life of the recipient was counted as the primary disability type. Figure 1.2 compares the numbers of service recipients reporting each disability type. Those with intellectual disability comprise the greatest number of CSDA service recipients, both when reporting all significant disability types they experience and their primary disability type (over 43,000 as the primary disability). Those with physical disability were the next most numerous, but were substantially fewer (about 7,700). The third most numerous, as a primary disability type, were those with psychiatric disability (about 3,800). However, the order is different when all significant disability types (including that given as primary) are considered. The number of recipients with a psychiatric disability (about 7,300) is eclipsed by the numbers with speech (about 13,600), neurological (about 9,300) and vision (about 7,600) disability types. The smallest number of recipients reported for one of the disability types collected was for those who are deafblind (less than 500).



Information was collected on the frequency of support or assistance needed by each recipient—not only as provided by the service to each recipient—for each of 10 areas of support. Over 83% of recipients needed support in ‘activities of daily living’ (that is, self-care, mobility and communication). Higher proportions needed support in ‘social’ and ‘emotional’ areas. Between 20% and 35% of recipients reported a need for continual support in almost every area of support need. A lower percentage of need for continual support was reported for the area of ‘mobility’ and a higher percentage for ‘working’.

The Disability Support Pension was the main income source for most service recipients aged 16 years or more (86%).

Most service recipients lived with family members and/or their spouse (40%).

Service data

There were 5,759 CSDA-funded services that responded to the 1997 collection. About two-thirds of services were non-government provided (69%, Figure 1.3). Accommodation support services numbered 2,538 (44% of all services), with a greater number provided by non-government organisations (1,452) than by government (1,086). However, the proportion of government auspiced services—services provided directly by governments—that were accommodation support services was greater than for non-government auspiced services (61% compared with 37%). Employment support and community access services were greater in number for non-government auspiced services than for government auspiced services (875 compared with 159, and 610 compared with 89 respectively, Figure 1.3).

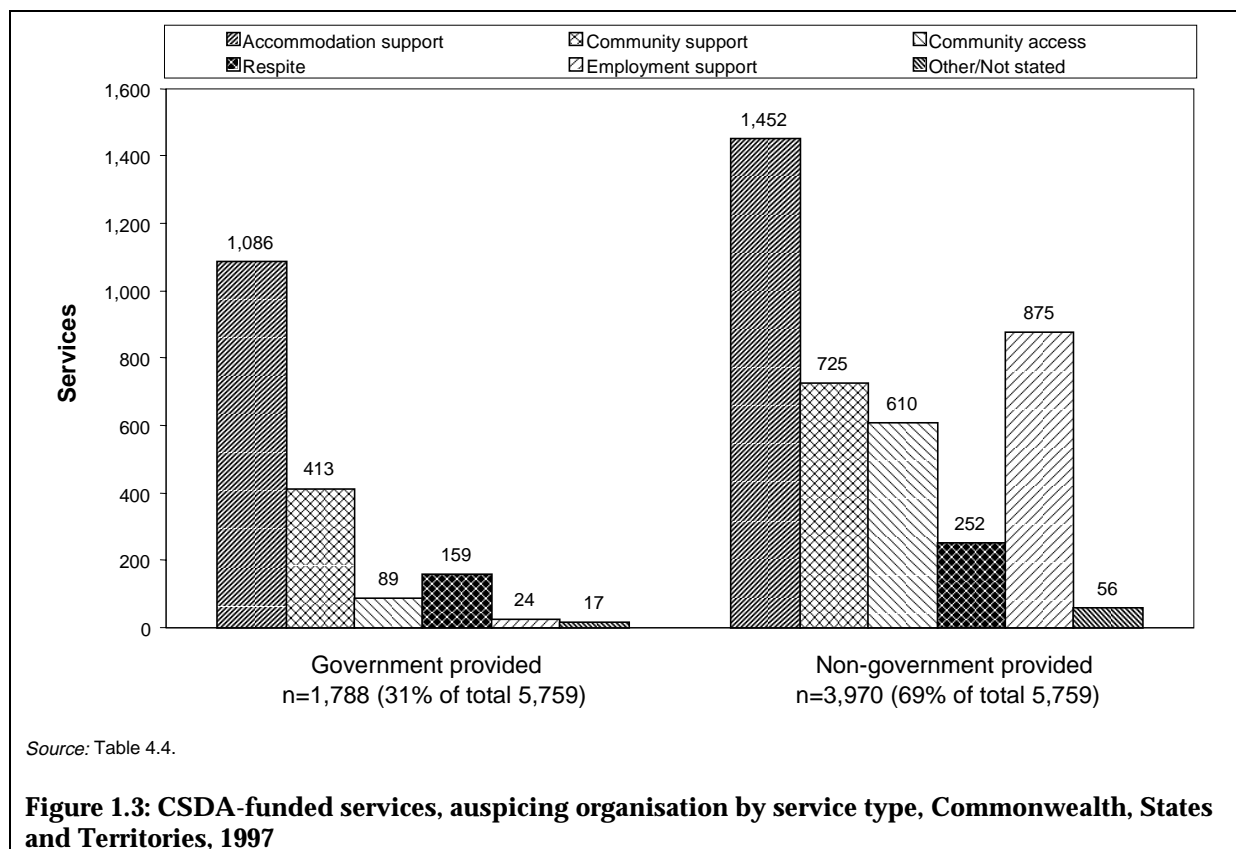


Figure 1.3: CSDA-funded services, auspicing organisation by service type, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1997

State- or Territory-funded CSDA services numbered 4,768 and Commonwealth-funded services numbered 991 (Tables 4.1 and 4.2).

Total reported government expenditure (less identified administration expenditure) on CSDA services was \$1,558.2 million in 1996–97 (Table 1.2). About 58% of these funds were provided to accommodation support services (\$903 million).

Table 1.2: Service funding, government expenditure data reported to the Steering Committee for the Review of Commonwealth/State Service Provision, Commonwealth, States and Territories, 1996–97 (\$ million)

Service type	NSW	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	ACT	NT	Cwlth	Total
Accommodation	303.4	264.3	97.6	93.6	87.4	35.2	16.0	5.9	0	903.4
Community support	54.4	51.3	23.2	3.6	20.3	4.5	1.8	1.7	11.6	172.3
Community access	45.5	65.9	13.7	10.7	5.8	6.0	0.9	1.5	0.4	150.3
Respite	21.6	19.1	14.2	14.0	4.6	3.2	1.8	0.9	0	79.3
Employment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	191.1	191.1
All other	17.3	20.8	1.5	17.4	6.9	0.6	<0.1	<0.1	10.7	75.2
Total (less separately identified administration costs)	427.5	421.5	150.1	139.2	128.0	49.3	18.8	10.1	213.7	1,558.2
Administration costs	28.9	45.3	27.0	10.8	3.6	9.3	1.4	0.6	18.1	231.8
Total	456.4	466.7	177.1	150.0	131.6	58.6	20.2	10.6	213.7	1,703.0

Note: Data are those supplied to the Steering Committee for the Review of Commonwealth/State Service Provision, published in the Report on Government Services 1998.

Ninety-two per cent of accommodation support services operated for the full 52 weeks of the year, as did 73% of respite services, 56% of employment services, 54% of community support services, and 24% of community access services.

Accommodation support services were received by 48.5 recipients under the CSDA for every 1,000 people in the 'potential population'—an adjusted estimate of the number of people with severe or profound handicap (see Section 5.2). For employment support services the equivalent ratio was 86.2.

Recipients with a profound handicap comprised 46% of recipients of accommodation support services and 15% of recipients of employment services.