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A PROFILE OF CARERS IN AUSTRALIA

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INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

NOTES

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

A Profile of Carers in Australia provides an overview of the characteristics and activities of people who provide informal assistance to someone with a disability or long-term health condition, or to an older person (aged 60 years and over). It was produced with funding from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA).

Concern for the wellbeing of carers, and an appreciation of the value of work they do, has made carers a key social policy concern. Carers enable older people to 'age in place' and people with a disability or long-term illness to remain in the community.

Information in this publication was drawn from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing and from three ABS surveys: the 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC); the 2006 General Social Survey (GSS) and the 2006 Time Use Survey (TUS). The data used to report on a particular topic were drawn from the most appropriate and up-to-date source.

Chapter 1 provides estimates of the number of carers, and looks at their age distribution and sex. Chapter 2 examines their geographic distribution and region of birth as well as providing carer rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The way carers use their time is described in Chapter 3; Chapter 4 discusses carers' wellbeing and participation in social and community activities; Chapter 5 focuses on employment, income and housing; and Chapter 6 describes carers' sources of support and use of respite care. Finally, Chapter 7 looks at the way caring varies over the life course by focusing on young carers, carers aged 35–54 years, and older carers. To help readers understand the differences between the data sources, the collection methodologies and outputs from the different surveys and the Census are examined in a technical Appendix.

A Profile of Carers in Australia is part of the analytical and reporting activity of the ABS, which aims to provide accessible information to a wide audience and thereby contribute to informed decision-making in government and the Australian community.



ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ABSCQ	Australian Bureau of Statistics Classification of Qualifications
ANZSCO	Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations
ASCED	Australian Standard Classification of Education
ASCL	Australian Standard Classification of Languages
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
GSS	General Social Survey
RSE	relative standard error
SDAC	Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers
SE	standard error
SEIFA	Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas
TUS	Time Use Survey

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

This report presents the latest data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics on carers: people who provide informal assistance to people with disabilities, long-term health conditions or to older people. While most data are presented at the national level, some data are also presented for states and territories and by remoteness. The Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) is the primary source of information on carers. Data from the 2006 General Social Survey (GSS), 2006 Time Use Survey (TUS) and the 2006 Census of Population and Housing provide additional information on certain aspects of the lives of carers.

DEMOGRAPHIC CONTEXT

- In 2003, there were 2.5 million carers aged 15 years and over, representing 16% of this population.
- Of the 2.5 million carers, around 475,000 (or 19% of all carers) were primary carers.
- Women were more likely to take on the caring role at an earlier age than were men.
- Carers were, on average, older than non-carers. The median age of the non-carer population aged 15 years and over was 40 years, while for carers it was 48 years.
- In 2006, reflecting the age structure of populations in different areas of Australia, the carer rate among the population aged 15 years and over was highest in Inner Regional areas (12%) and lowest in Remote areas (9%).

TIME USE

- In 2003, almost half of all primary carers (48%) had hours of caring at least equivalent to a traditional full-time paid job of 40 hours or more per week.
- In 2006, carers spent more time on domestic activities than did non-carers of the same age.
- Primary carers spent less than two-thirds the amount of time per day on employment related activities than did non-carers and also spent less time sleeping or trying to sleep.

SOCIAL PARTICIPATION AND WELLBEING

- In 2003, 26% of primary carers said that they felt satisfied as a result of their caring role while 34% said that they often felt weary or lacking in energy.
- In 2006, both carers and non-carers had similar face-to-face contact with family and friends with about 81% having had contact at least once per week.

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME AND HOUSING

- In 2003, primary carers were more likely to work part-time than full-time.
- In 2006, over one-fifth of all carers (22%) had taken dissaving actions, such as borrowing money, in the previous 12 months; 19% had experienced cash-flow problems; and 15% had difficulty paying bills.

SUPPORT AND RESPITE CARE

- In 2003, 17% of primary carers said they needed access (or further access) to respite care. The proportion wanting access or further access was higher among carers who were caring for a child.

CARING AT DIFFERENT AGES

- In 2003, of parents aged 35–54 years with young children, 22% of mothers and 15% of fathers were carers – about half were caring for a child with a disability and half were combining raising young children with care of another relative or friend.
- 83% of older primary carers who were living with the main person they assisted, were caring for their spouse. Of older female primary carers 8% were caring for an adult child and 5% for an aged parent.
- In 2006, young carers spent around 3 hours less per week on personal care, social and community interaction and recreation and leisure combined than did young non-carers.

ROUNDING

Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between the sums of the component items and totals.

NON-RESPONSE

Unless otherwise stated, where source data used included a non-response category (i.e. not stated), data in this category have been excluded prior to the calculation of percentages. Non-response is higher in the Census as it is based on a self-completion questionnaire while the surveys used trained interviewers (see the Appendix for further details).

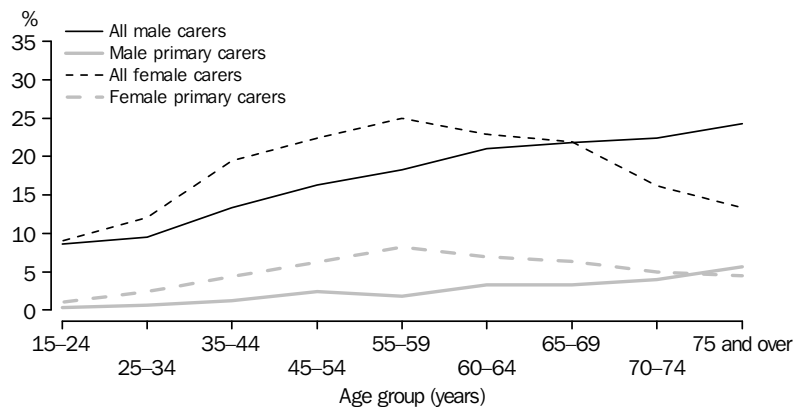
PROFILE OF CARERS

According to the 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, there were 2.5 million carers aged 15 years and over (16% of this population) who provided informal assistance to someone with a disability or someone who was aged 60 years or over. The proportion of women who were carers (17%) was higher than the proportion of men who were carers (14%).

Women were more likely to take on the caring role at an earlier age than were men. The carer rate among women aged 15 years and over peaked in the 55–59 years age group. In this age group, 25% of women were carers. The carer rate among men aged 15 years and over peaked in the 75–79 years age group, where 26% of men were carers. Over one-fifth (22%) of male carers were aged 65 years or over, compared with 16% of female carers.

At older ages most caring occurs between partners. One reason for the male carer rate being higher than the female rate in the older age groups may be that most older men are living with a spouse whereas more older women have been widowed. This is related to the lower life expectancy of men than women, combined with the fact that men are on average slightly older than their wives. It is also possible that older men are healthier than older women — the rates of profound/severe disability, for example, are higher for women than for men in each of the age groups from 65–69 years on.

CARERS, by age—2003



Source: ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

In this publication we refer to non-carers. These are people who were not identified as carers at the time of the interview, however, they may have been carers in the past and may well be carers in the future.

Carers were, on average, older than non-carers. In 2003, the median age of the non-carer population aged 15 years and over was 40 years of age while the median age of the carer population aged 15 years and over was 48 years. The median age of the primary carer population was 52 years.

PROFILE OF CARERS

continued

Over one-third (35%) of all carers reported that they themselves had a disability compared with just over one-fifth (22%) of all people aged over 15 years. Over three-fifths (61%) of older carers (aged 65 years and over) said that they had a disability compared with 51% of older people who were not carers. One-fifth of younger carers (aged 15–34 years) had a disability compared with 8% of younger people who were not carers.

While carers have a variety of different experiences and circumstances, they tend to have lower incomes, labour force participation and completion of year 12 or equivalent than non-carers. These differences may be related to the caring role as well as to the different age profile of carers compared with non-carers. These characteristics are discussed in more detail in later chapters.

PROFILE OF PRIMARY CARERS

Primary carers provide ongoing assistance for at least six months in one or more of the core activities of communication, mobility or self-care (for example, eating, being understood by family or friends, and getting into or out of bed). Of the 2.5 million carers, around 475,000 (or 19% of all carers) were primary carers and over two-thirds (71%) of primary carers were female.

In 2003, 13% of primary carers were aged 15–34 years, 63% were aged 35–64 years, and 24% were aged 65 years and over. Primary carers were often related to the person they were caring for:

- 42% were partners;
- 26% were children (caring for a parent); and
- 23% were parents (caring for a child).

The vast majority (84%) of older primary carers aged 65 years or over were caring for an older person, most often a partner. The higher carer rate among men compared with women aged 65 years and over reflects the much higher proportion of women of this age who are not living with partners (as mentioned above, most older men are living with a spouse whereas more older women have been widowed).

The most common type of disability causing problems for the person being cared for was physical disabilities.

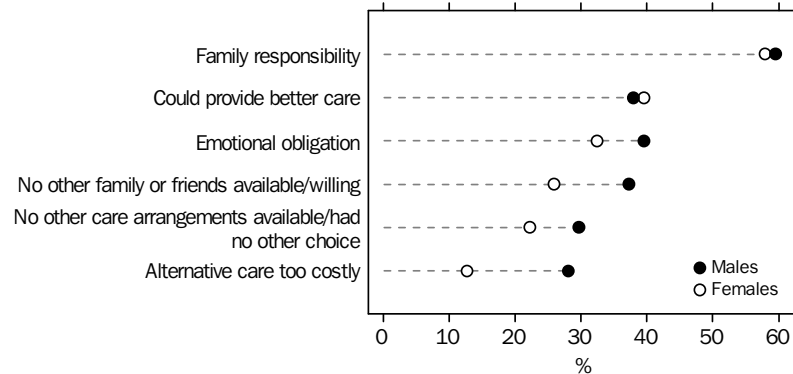
REASONS FOR TAKING ON CARE

The most common reason reported by primary carers for taking on a carer role was family responsibility (58%), followed by carers feeling that they could provide better care than others could (39%) and emotional obligation (34%).

Family responsibility was the most common reason for taking on a carer role for both male and female carers. Male primary carers were more likely to report that they had no other family or friends available or willing (37%) or that they had no other care available or had no other choice (30%) than were females (26% and 22% respectively).

REASONS FOR TAKING ON CARE *continued*

PRIMARY CARERS, reason for taking on a carer role(a)—2003



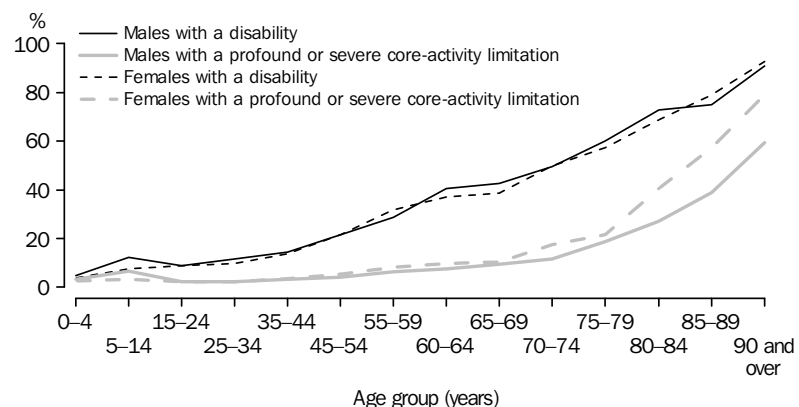
(a) People may report more than one reason so components do not add to 100%.

Source: ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

DISABILITY RATES

Some carers provide assistance to someone with a disability. One in five people in Australia (20% or 4 million people) reported a disability in the 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers. Of those who reported a disability, almost one-third (31%) had a profound or severe limitation, which meant that they were limited in one or more of the core activities of self-care, mobility, or communication.

DISABILITY RATES—2003



Source: ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

The pattern of prevalence of profound/severe limitation generally increased from 3% for the age group 0–4 years, through to 10% for 65–69 years. It then increased sharply to 74% for those aged 90 years and over. This contrasted with the overall disability rate, which increased steadily from 4% of 0–4 year olds to 41% of 65–69 year olds and 92% of those aged 90 years and over.

Rates of disability and profound/severe limitation for 5–14 year old boys were almost double those for girls in the same age group. In contrast, women aged 80 years and over had a much higher rate of profound/severe limitation than men of the same age.

1.1**CARER STATUS(a), age and sex—2003**

<i>Sex by age group (years)</i>	<i>Primary carer</i>	<i>Other carer</i>	<i>Total carers</i>	<i>Not a carer</i>	<i>Total</i>
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NUMBERS ('000)

Males

15–24	*4.5	117.8	122.3	1 307.9	1 430.2
25–34	*9.0	131.3	140.3	1 343.2	1 483.4
35–44	17.7	178.8	196.5	1 278.2	1 474.7
45–54	32.2	187.1	219.3	1 127.1	1 346.4
55–59	10.7	95.3	106.0	473.6	579.6
60–64	14.3	75.3	89.6	336.8	426.4
65–69	11.3	63.5	74.8	267.5	342.3
70–74	11.6	53.3	64.9	224.9	289.7
75–79	15.5	43.0	58.5	166.1	224.5
80–84	np	np	31.7	105.9	137.7
85 and over	np	np	14.8	55.7	70.5
Total	136.2	982.3	1 118.5	6 686.8	7 805.4

Females

15–24	14.1	109.7	123.9	1 252.5	1 376.4
25–34	35.1	141.9	177.0	1 291.4	1 468.3
35–44	65.6	222.7	288.3	1 190.2	1 478.5
45–54	83.4	218.3	301.7	1 044.3	1 346.0
55–59	45.8	94.8	140.6	421.2	561.8
60–64	28.9	67.5	96.5	324.8	421.3
65–69	22.7	54.6	77.2	275.6	352.8
70–74	16.0	36.2	52.2	269.2	321.4
75–79	17.3	28.1	45.4	233.3	278.7
80–84	np	np	27.1	164.5	191.6
85 and over	np	np	*7.1	118.9	126.0
Total	338.4	998.5	1 336.9	6 586.0	7 922.8

Persons

15–24	18.7	227.5	246.2	2 560.4	2 806.5
25–34	44.1	273.2	317.2	2 634.5	2 951.8
35–44	83.4	401.5	484.8	2 468.4	2 953.2
45–54	115.6	405.3	521.0	2 171.5	2 692.5
55–59	56.5	190.0	246.6	894.8	1 141.4
60–64	43.2	142.9	186.1	661.6	847.7
65–69	33.9	118.0	152.0	543.2	695.1
70–74	27.6	89.5	117.1	494.0	611.1
75–79	32.8	71.1	103.9	399.4	503.3
80–84	16.4	42.5	58.9	270.4	329.3
85 and over	*2.5	19.3	21.9	174.6	196.4
Total	474.6	1 980.8	2 455.4	13 272.8	15 728.2

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) People aged 15 years and over living in households. Living in households includes those living in private dwellings, and some non-private dwellings such as motels, boarding houses and self-care units in retirement villages, but excluding cared accommodation.

Source: ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

1.1**CARER STATUS(a), age and sex—2003** *continued*

<i>Sex by age group (years)</i>	<i>Primary carer</i>	<i>Other carer</i>	<i>Total carers</i>	<i>Not a carer</i>	<i>Total</i>
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RATES (%) (b)

Males

15–24	*0.3	8.2	8.6	91.4	100.0
25–34	*0.6	8.8	9.5	90.5	100.0
35–44	1.2	12.1	13.3	86.7	100.0
45–54	2.4	13.9	16.3	83.7	100.0
55–59	1.8	16.4	18.3	81.7	100.0
60–64	3.3	17.7	21.0	79.0	100.0
65–69	3.3	18.5	21.8	78.2	100.0
70–74	4.0	18.4	22.4	77.6	100.0
75–79	6.9	19.1	26.0	74.0	100.0
80–84	np	np	23.1	76.9	100.0
85 and over	np	np	21.0	79.0	100.0
Total	1.7	12.6	14.3	85.7	100.0

Females

15–24	1.0	8.0	9.0	91.0	100.0
25–34	2.4	9.7	12.1	87.9	100.0
35–44	4.4	15.1	19.5	80.5	100.0
45–54	6.2	16.2	22.4	77.6	100.0
55–59	8.2	16.9	25.0	75.0	100.0
60–64	6.9	16.0	22.9	77.1	100.0
65–69	6.4	15.5	21.9	78.1	100.0
70–74	5.0	11.3	16.2	83.8	100.0
75–79	6.2	10.1	16.3	83.7	100.0
80–84	np	np	14.2	85.8	100.0
85 and over	np	np	5.6	94.4	100.0
Total	4.3	12.6	16.9	83.1	100.0

Persons

15–24	0.7	8.1	8.8	91.2	100.0
25–34	1.5	9.3	10.7	89.3	100.0
35–44	2.8	13.6	16.4	83.6	100.0
45–54	4.3	15.1	19.3	80.7	100.0
55–59	5.0	16.7	21.6	78.4	100.0
60–64	5.1	16.9	22.0	78.0	100.0
65–69	4.9	17.0	21.9	78.1	100.0
70–74	4.5	14.6	19.2	80.8	100.0
75–79	6.5	14.1	20.6	79.4	100.0
80–84	5.0	12.9	17.9	82.1	100.0
85 and over	*1.3	9.9	11.1	88.9	100.0
Total	3.0	12.6	15.6	84.4	100.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) People aged 15 years and over living in households. Living in households includes those living in private dwellings, and some non-private dwellings such as motels, boarding houses and self-care units in retirement villages, but excluding cared accommodation.

(b) People with a carer status as a proportion of all people in the same age group and of the same sex.

Source: ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

1.2 SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS, age of carer and carer status(a)—2003

	AGE GROUP OF CARER (YEARS)			CARER STATUS				Total
	15–34	35–64	65 and over	Primary carer	Other carer	Total carers	Not a carer	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES								
Labour force status(b)								
Employed								
Full-time	143.8	374.7	np	33.8	484.6	518.4	3 981.5	4 499.9
Part-time	61.1	71.2	np	15.2	117.1	132.3	722.6	854.9
Total employed	204.9	445.9	np	49.0	601.7	650.8	4 704.1	5 354.9
Unemployed	18.5	18.0	np	**2.6	34.0	36.5	262.1	298.6
Total in the labour force	223.4	463.9	np	51.6	635.7	687.3	4 966.2	5 653.5
Not in the labour force	39.1	147.5	np	36.9	149.8	186.6	900.6	1 087.2
Total aged 15–64 years	262.6	611.4	np	88.5	785.5	873.9	5 866.8	6 740.7
Equalised gross household income quintiles(c) (d)								
Lowest quintile	36.6	99.0	91.2	43.9	183.0	226.9	884.3	1 111.2
2nd	52.5	97.8	65.4	33.4	182.3	215.7	858.2	1 073.9
3rd	52.2	100.6	20.6	16.3	157.1	173.4	1 016.2	1 189.6
4th	33.2	93.7	*10.3	9.0	128.1	137.2	1 163.5	1 300.6
Highest quintile	35.3	97.4	*1.7	11.7	122.7	134.4	1 321.8	1 456.2
Not known or not applicable(e)	52.7	122.8	55.4	21.8	209.1	230.9	1 443.0	1 673.9
Educational attainment								
Highest year of school completed								
Year 12	127.0	202.2	36.9	34.6	331.5	366.1	2 844.9	3 211.0
Year 10 or 11	108.7	254.9	65.1	49.7	379.0	428.7	2 478.3	2 907.0
Less than year 10	26.9	154.3	142.6	51.9	271.8	323.8	1 363.7	1 687.4
Highest non-school qualification								
Bachelor degree or higher	28.3	103.9	26.4	16.5	142.1	158.6	1 135.2	1 293.8
Diploma or certificate	79.3	238.5	84.3	50.5	351.6	402.1	2 350.2	2 752.3
No non-school qualifications	154.0	262.2	130.6	67.4	479.4	546.8	3 161.5	3 708.3
Carer's relationship in household								
Husband, wife, partner	84.3	489.2	216.2	102.0	687.8	789.8	3 988.5	4 778.3
Lone parent	*3.9	15.2	**1.7	*4.5	16.4	20.9	133.1	153.9
Other relative	145.5	55.8	*4.9	16.9	189.4	206.2	1 348.8	1 555.0
Group household member	*10.1	*11.2	*3.1	*3.7	20.7	24.4	291.7	316.1
Lone person	13.7	34.0	10.1	*5.4	52.4	57.8	775.1	832.8
Tenure type								
Owner without a mortgage	*15.6	192.2	172.5	51.8	328.4	380.3	1 730.2	2 110.5
Owner with a mortgage	72.9	259.8	28.7	35.7	325.7	361.4	2 479.9	2 841.3
Renter	68.4	107.3	26.2	32.1	169.8	201.9	1 457.0	1 658.9
Whether carer has a disability								
Has a reported disability	51.7	216.0	155.4	61.6	361.5	423.1	1 281.1	1 704.2
Has no reported disability	210.8	395.4	89.2	74.6	620.8	695.4	5 405.8	6 101.2
Total(f)	262.6	611.4	244.6	136.2	982.3	1 118.5	6 686.8	7 805.4

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) People aged 15 years and over living in households.

(b) Labour force status is only shown for those aged 15–64 years, since the relative standard errors for people aged 65 years and over were too high for most of the groups shown.

(c) Income quintiles are based on the total population in private dwellings.

(d) Equalising adjusts actual income to take account of different household size and composition.

(e) Includes households in private dwellings containing at least one person for whom income was not known. Household income is not applicable for non-private dwellings.

(f) Includes level of highest non-school qualification not determined, other or not applicable tenure type, unrelated individual living in a family and carer's relationship in household not applicable.

Source: ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

1.2 SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS, age of carer and carer status(a)—2003 *continued*

	AGE GROUP OF CARER (YEARS)			CARER STATUS				
	15–34	35–64	65 and over	Primary carer	Other carer	Total carers	Not a carer	Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
FEMALES								
Labour force status(b)								
Employed								
Full-time	74.2	197.6	np	46.0	225.7	271.8	1 969.8	2 241.6
Part-time	86.2	254.5	np	80.0	260.6	340.6	1 692.6	2 033.2
Total employed	160.4	452.1	np	126.0	486.4	612.4	3 662.3	4 274.7
Unemployed	27.8	14.7	np	*3.1	39.4	42.5	211.1	253.6
Total in the labour force	188.1	466.7	np	129.1	525.8	654.9	3 873.5	4 528.4
Not in the labour force	112.7	360.3	np	143.9	329.1	473.0	1 651.0	2 124.0
Total aged 15–64 years	300.8	827.1	np	273.0	854.9	1 127.9	5 524.5	6 652.3
Equivalised gross household income(c) (d)								
Lowest quintile	62.5	156.1	71.7	80.0	210.3	290.3	1 045.9	1 336.2
2nd	67.3	157.5	65.6	85.0	205.4	290.4	936.4	1 226.8
3rd	51.3	135.9	17.5	43.5	161.2	204.7	973.3	1 178.0
4th	33.5	108.3	*7.6	27.4	122.0	149.4	1 081.5	1 230.9
Highest quintile	28.9	93.2	**0.4	26.7	95.7	122.4	1 137.3	1 259.7
Not known or not applicable(e)	57.4	176.0	46.2	75.8	203.8	279.6	1 411.6	1 691.2
Educational attainment								
Highest year of school completed								
Year 12	154.5	261.3	22.8	94.1	344.5	438.6	2 860.0	3 298.6
Year 10 or 11	95.1	359.1	69.2	135.9	387.6	523.4	2 314.0	2 837.5
Less than year 10	51.3	206.6	117.0	108.4	266.4	374.9	1 411.9	1 786.8
Highest non-school qualification								
Bachelor degree or higher	45.9	139.0	10.3	52.4	142.7	195.2	1 200.6	1 395.8
Diploma or certificate	77.1	247.9	44.3	82.6	286.8	369.3	1 737.9	2 107.2
No non-school qualifications	176.8	433.6	152.1	200.1	562.4	762.5	3 611.7	4 374.2
Carer's relationship in household								
Husband, wife, partner	130.6	633.6	159.0	252.7	670.4	923.2	3 751.8	4 674.9
Lone parent	38.7	99.1	11.0	37.5	111.3	148.8	521.9	670.8
Other relative	109.4	36.3	*9.7	26.3	129.0	155.3	1 089.8	1 245.2
Group household member	11.9	*9.4	**1.8	*3.3	19.7	23.0	234.8	257.8
Lone person	9.3	43.3	18.9	13.7	57.9	71.6	863.2	934.8
Tenure type								
Owner without a mortgage	23.6	293.8	144.8	142.5	319.7	462.2	1 931.4	2 393.6
Owner with a mortgage	97.8	349.5	21.2	103.5	365.1	468.6	2 424.5	2 893.1
Renter	112.9	144.1	22.8	69.3	210.5	279.8	1 448.8	1 728.7
Whether carer has a disability								
Has a reported disability	59.9	265.5	120.1	127.3	318.1	445.4	1 311.3	1 756.8
Has no reported disability	241.0	561.6	88.9	211.1	680.3	891.5	5 274.6	6 166.1
Total(f)	300.8	827.1	209.0	338.4	998.5	1 336.9	6 586.0	7 922.8

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) People aged 15 years and over living in households.

(b) Labour force status is only shown for those aged 15–64 years, since the relative standard errors for people aged 65 years and over were too high for most of the groups shown.

(c) Income quintiles are based on the total population in private dwellings.

(d) Equivalising adjusts actual income to take account of different household size and composition.

(e) Includes households in private dwellings containing at least one person for whom income was not known. Household income is not applicable for non-private dwellings.

(f) Includes level of highest non-school qualification not determined, other or not applicable tenure type, unrelated individual living in a family and carer's relationship in household not applicable.

Source: ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

1.2 SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS, age of carer and carer status(a)—2003 *continued*

	AGE GROUP OF CARER (YEARS)			CARER STATUS				Total
	15-34	35-64	65 and over	Primary carer	Other carer	Total carers	Not a carer	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
PERSONS								
Labour force status(b)								
Employed								
Full-time	218.0	572.2	np	79.8	710.4	790.2	5 951.3	6 741.5
Part-time	147.3	325.7	np	95.2	377.7	473.0	2 415.2	2 888.1
Total employed	365.2	897.9	np	175.1	1 088.1	1 263.2	8 366.5	9 629.6
Unemployed	46.3	32.7	np	*5.7	73.4	79.0	473.2	552.2
Total in the labour force	411.6	930.6	np	180.7	1 161.5	1 342.2	8 839.7	10 181.9
Not in the labour force	151.8	507.8	np	180.8	478.9	659.6	2 551.6	3 211.2
Total aged 15-64 years	563.4	1 438.4	np	361.5	1 640.3	2 001.8	11 391.3	13 393.1
Equivalentised gross household income quintiles(c)(d)								
Lowest quintile	99.2	255.1	162.9	123.9	393.3	517.2	1 930.2	2 447.4
2nd	119.8	255.3	131.0	118.4	387.7	506.1	1 794.5	2 300.7
3rd	103.4	236.6	38.1	59.8	318.3	378.1	1 989.5	2 367.6
4th	66.7	202.0	17.9	36.4	250.2	286.6	2 245.0	2 531.6
Highest quintile	64.2	190.6	*2.0	38.5	218.4	256.8	2 459.0	2 715.9
Not known or not applicable(e)	110.1	298.9	101.6	97.6	412.9	510.6	2 854.6	3 365.1
Educational attainment								
Highest year of school completed								
Year 12	281.5	463.5	59.7	128.7	675.9	804.7	5 704.9	6 509.6
Year 10 or 11	203.8	614.0	134.3	185.5	766.6	952.1	4 792.3	5 744.5
Less than year 10	78.1	360.9	259.6	160.4	538.3	698.6	2 775.6	3 474.2
Highest non-school qualification								
Bachelor degree or higher	74.2	242.8	36.7	69.0	284.8	353.8	2 335.8	2 689.6
Diploma or certificate	156.3	486.4	128.6	133.0	638.4	771.4	4 088.2	4 859.5
No non-school qualifications	330.8	695.8	282.7	267.5	1 041.8	1 309.3	6 773.1	8 082.5
Carer's relationship in household								
Husband, wife, partner	214.9	1 122.8	375.3	354.7	1 358.2	1 712.9	7 740.3	9 453.2
Lone parent	42.6	114.3	12.7	42.0	127.7	169.7	655.0	824.7
Other relative	254.9	92.1	14.6	43.2	318.4	361.6	2 438.6	2 800.2
Group household member	22.0	20.6	*4.8	*6.9	40.5	47.4	526.5	573.8
Lone person	23.0	77.4	28.9	19.1	110.3	129.3	1 638.3	1 767.6
Tenure type								
Owner without a mortgage	39.2	486.0	317.3	194.4	648.1	842.5	3 661.6	4 504.1
Owner with a mortgage	170.7	609.3	50.0	139.2	690.7	830.0	4 904.4	5 734.3
Renter	181.4	251.4	49.0	101.4	380.3	481.7	2 905.9	3 387.6
Whether carer has a disability								
Has a reported disability	111.6	481.5	275.5	188.9	679.6	868.6	2 592.4	3 461.0
Has no reported disability	451.8	957.0	178.1	285.7	1 301.2	1 586.9	10 680.4	12 267.3
Total(f)	563.4	1 438.4	453.6	474.6	1 980.8	2 455.4	13 272.8	15 728.2

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) People aged 15 years and over living in households.

(b) Labour force status is only shown for those aged 15-64 years, since the relative standard errors for people aged 65 years and over were too high for most of the groups shown.

(c) Equivalising adjusts actual income to take account of different household size and composition.

(d) Income quintiles are based on the total population in private dwellings.

(e) Includes households in private dwellings containing at least one person for whom income was not known. Household income is not applicable for non-private dwellings.

(f) Includes level of highest non-school qualification not determined, other or not applicable tenure type, unrelated individual living in a family and carer's relationship in household not applicable.

Source: ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

1.3

PRIMARY CARERS(a), reasons for taking on caring role—2003

	SEX OF CARER		CARER'S RELATIONSHIP TO MAIN RECIPIENT OF CARE(b)					AGE GROUP OF MAIN RECIPIENT OF CARE (YEARS)				Total(c)
			Male	Female	Partner	Child	Parent	Less than		65 and over		
	15	15-44						45-64				
NUMBERS ('000)												
Could provide better care	51.7	134.0	91.8	33.4	45.5	25.6	27.3	34.7	96.4	185.7		
Family responsibility	81.1	196.1	101.4	92.1	56.5	28.9	36.6	49.7	158.1	277.2		
No other family or friends available/willing	50.8	87.7	47.8	48.1	22.8	*9.1	18.7	26.2	82.5	138.5		
Emotional obligation	53.9	109.8	64.1	57.5	28.2	12.4	20.4	34.4	93.4	163.7		
Alternative care too costly	38.3	42.9	41.0	20.6	14.8	9.8	*6.0	17.2	46.9	81.2		
No other care available/no other choice	40.5	75.3	47.5	30.3	30.7	15.8	18.7	24.4	56.3	115.8		
Other reason/not stated	20.0	49.5	31.2	*11.7	18.3	*12.0	11.3	19.7	24.5	69.5		
Total(d)	136.2	338.4	197.0	122.5	110.5	58.2	70.6	97.8	239.4	474.6		
RATES (%) (e)												
Could provide better care	38.0	39.6	46.6	27.3	41.2	44.0	38.7	35.5	40.3	39.1		
Family responsibility	59.5	57.9	51.5	75.2	51.1	49.6	51.8	50.7	66.0	58.4		
No other family or friends available/willing	37.3	25.9	24.2	39.2	20.6	*15.7	26.4	26.8	34.4	29.2		
Emotional obligation	39.6	32.4	32.6	46.9	25.5	21.2	28.9	35.2	39.0	34.5		
Alternative care too costly	28.1	12.7	20.8	16.8	13.4	16.9	*8.5	17.5	19.6	17.1		
No other care arrangements available/had no other choice	29.8	22.2	24.1	24.8	27.8	27.1	26.5	25.0	23.5	24.4		
Other reason/not stated	14.7	14.6	15.8	*9.5	16.6	*20.6	15.9	20.1	10.2	14.6		
Total(d)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) People aged 15 years and over living in households.

(b) For example, 'child' indicates the child is caring for the parent.

(c) Includes primary carers with a relationship to their main recipient other than partner, child or parent, as well as primary carers with a main recipient whose age was not stated.

(d) People may report more than one reason and so components do not add to total.

(e) People who reported a specific reason for taking on the caring role as a proportion of all people of the same sex, relationship or age group.

Source: ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

1.4 PRIMARY CARERS (a), age and type of disability of the main recipient of care—2003

	CARER'S RELATIONSHIP TO MAIN RECIPIENT OF CARE (b)			AGE GROUP OF CARER (YEARS)			Total(c)
	Partner	Child	Parent	15-34	35-64	65 and over	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Age group of main recipient of care (years)							
0-14	np	. .	57.1	np	37.0	np	58.2
15-44	21.9	**4.8	36.3	16.0	48.7	*5.8	70.6
45-64	68.9	*14.1	*4.7	17.3	68.9	*11.7	97.8
65 and over	103.4	102.3	*7.3	*7.6	136.2	95.6	239.4
Carer lives with the main recipient							
Disability type which causes most problems for main recipient							
Sensory/speech	31.2	6.7	20.3	*8.1	37.7	17.9	63.8
Intellectual	*4.4	np	33.1	*6.2	31.4	*2.1	39.7
Physical	140.6	43.7	22.0	27.0	112.0	76.3	215.3
Psychological	*11.3	*4.4	11.2	*5.3	20.4	*6.1	31.8
Total carer lives with the main recipient(d)	195.7	59.0	95.9	50.6	215.7	105.0	371.2
Carer does not live with main recipient	1.3	63.6	14.6	12.2	83.1	8.2	103.4
Total primary carers(e)	197.0	122.5	110.5	62.7	298.7	113.2	474.6

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

. . not applicable

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) People aged 15 years and over living in households.

(b) For example 'child' indicates the child is caring for the parent.

(c) Includes primary carers who had a relationship to their main recipient other than partner, child or parent.

(d) Includes other disability, disability type that causes most problems for main recipient not specified, and main recipients not identified as having a disability at initial contact.

(e) Includes primary carers with a main recipient whose age was not stated.

Source: ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

1.5 DISABILITY RATES(a)(b), by severity and type of disability—2003

Age group (years)	DISABILITY GROUP(d)									Total population '000
	Profound or severe core-activity limitation(c)	Other disability	All with disability	Sensory and speech	Intellectual	Physical	Psychological	Other		
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
MALES										
0-4	3.3	*1.4	4.7	2.6	*1.2	1.6	np	np		637.6
5-14	6.5	5.9	12.4	4.7	7.2	3.4	np	np		1 363.3
15-24	2.2	6.7	8.9	1.9	4.1	3.7	1.8	2.3		1 430.6
25-34	2.3	9.4	11.7	2.5	2.4	7.3	2.1	4.3		1 485.1
35-44	3.2	11.3	14.5	3.4	1.9	9.6	2.1	6.3		1 477.0
45-54	4.2	17.4	21.6	6.4	2.1	15.5	2.6	10.4		1 349.3
55-59	6.4	22.3	28.7	8.3	2.5	22.7	4.7	15.7		581.0
60-64	7.6	33.1	40.6	13.1	2.2	32.0	3.1	23.1		428.4
65-69	9.5	33.1	42.6	20.6	2.9	28.7	3.6	20.2		345.4
70-74	11.6	37.8	49.5	25.9	3.6	36.0	4.1	24.4		295.0
75-79	18.7	41.4	60.1	33.0	5.6	41.9	4.8	29.0		232.5
80-84	27.3	45.6	72.9	46.1	7.6	54.9	*6.5	37.0		147.3
85-89	38.9	36.2	75.0	55.8	11.7	53.1	12.1	40.3		67.0
90 and over	59.4	31.5	90.9	68.3	*20.7	81.1	20.2	56.8		22.9
Total	5.5	14.4	19.8	7.4	3.4	12.9	2.5	8.9		9 862.3
0-14	5.4	4.5	9.9	4.0	5.3	2.8	1.3	2.4		2 000.9
15 and over	5.5	16.9	22.4	8.3	3.0	15.5	2.8	10.5		7 861.4
18 and over	5.6	17.5	23.1	8.6	2.8	16.3	2.9	10.9		7 429.4
65 and over	17.2	37.9	55.1	31.1	5.2	39.4	5.2	27.4		1 110.0
FEMALES										
0-4	2.5	*1.4	3.9	*2.3	*0.9	2.0	np	np		605.9
5-14	3.3	4.2	7.5	2.3	4.0	2.3	np	np		1 293.9
15-24	2.2	6.9	9.0	1.5	2.5	5.1	1.6	3.2		1 376.6
25-34	2.3	7.4	9.7	1.7	0.7	5.9	1.8	4.4		1 469.5
35-44	3.5	10.4	13.9	1.6	1.2	9.5	1.8	6.4		1 480.0
45-54	5.5	16.0	21.5	3.7	1.3	16.4	3.7	11.9		1 347.9
55-59	8.2	23.7	31.9	5.1	1.9	26.3	4.6	16.7		563.0
60-64	9.9	27.3	37.1	7.6	*1.8	32.0	4.3	20.1		423.1
65-69	10.3	28.3	38.6	10.3	2.1	30.6	*3.9	18.1		356.2
70-74	17.4	32.5	49.8	12.3	2.2	42.4	2.5	26.3		327.1
75-79	21.5	35.7	57.2	23.0	5.1	44.7	5.9	30.4		292.7
80-84	40.5	28.0	68.6	34.6	11.6	56.8	11.3	41.9		218.9
85-89	57.3	21.7	78.9	48.8	18.9	68.3	19.6	43.8		124.5
90 and over	79.0	*13.5	92.6	70.7	33.7	78.3	30.5	59.7		69.3
Total	7.1	13.0	20.1	5.6	2.6	14.9	2.9	10.0		9 948.8
0-14	3.0	3.3	6.4	2.3	3.0	2.2	0.5	1.1		1 899.8
15 and over	8.1	15.3	23.4	6.3	2.5	17.9	3.5	12.0		8 048.9
18 and over	8.4	15.7	24.1	6.5	2.4	18.6	3.5	12.5		7 641.4
65 and over	26.7	29.5	56.2	23.8	7.3	46.3	7.9	30.8		1 388.7

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) All people living in households.

(b) People with a disability as a proportion of all people of the same sex and age group.

(c) Core activities comprise communication, mobility, and self-care.

(d) People could have disabilities from more than one group. Therefore components will not add to all with disability.

Source: ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

1.5 DISABILITY RATES(a)(b), by severity and type of disability—2003 *continued*

Age group (years)	DISABILITY GROUP(d)									Total population '000
	Profound or severe core-activity limitation(c)	Other disability	All with disability	Sensory and speech	Intellectual	Physical	Psychological	Other		
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%		
PERSONS										
0–4	2.9	1.4	4.3	2.4	1.1	1.8	**0.2	0.9		1 243.5
5–14	4.9	5.1	10.0	3.5	5.6	2.8	1.3	2.2		2 657.2
15–24	2.2	6.8	9.0	1.7	3.3	4.4	1.7	2.8		2 807.2
25–34	2.3	8.4	10.7	2.1	1.6	6.6	1.9	4.3		2 954.7
35–44	3.3	10.9	14.2	2.5	1.5	9.5	2.0	6.3		2 957.0
45–54	4.9	16.7	21.6	5.0	1.7	16.0	3.1	11.2		2 697.2
55–59	7.3	23.0	30.3	6.8	2.2	24.4	4.6	16.2		1 144.1
60–64	8.7	30.2	38.9	10.4	2.0	32.0	3.7	21.6		851.5
65–69	9.9	30.6	40.6	15.3	2.5	29.7	3.7	19.2		701.6
70–74	14.6	35.0	49.6	18.8	2.9	39.4	3.3	25.4		622.0
75–79	20.3	38.2	58.5	27.5	5.4	43.5	5.4	29.8		525.2
80–84	35.2	35.1	70.3	39.2	10.0	56.0	9.4	39.9		366.3
85–89	50.8	26.7	77.6	51.3	16.4	63.0	17.0	42.6		191.5
90 and over	74.2	18.0	92.1	70.1	30.5	79.0	27.9	59.0		92.1
Total	6.3	13.7	20.0	6.5	3.0	13.9	2.7	9.4		19 811.1
0–14	4.3	3.9	8.2	3.2	4.2	2.5	0.9	1.8		3 900.7
15 and over	6.8	16.1	22.9	7.3	2.7	16.7	3.1	11.3		15 910.4
18 and over	7.0	16.6	23.6	7.6	2.6	17.5	3.2	11.7		15 070.8
65 and over	22.5	33.2	55.7	27.0	6.4	43.2	6.7	29.3		2 498.7

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) All people living in households.

(b) People with a disability as a proportion of all people of the same sex and age group.

(c) Core activities comprise communication, mobility, and self-care.

(d) People could have disabilities from more than one group. Therefore components will not add to all with disability.

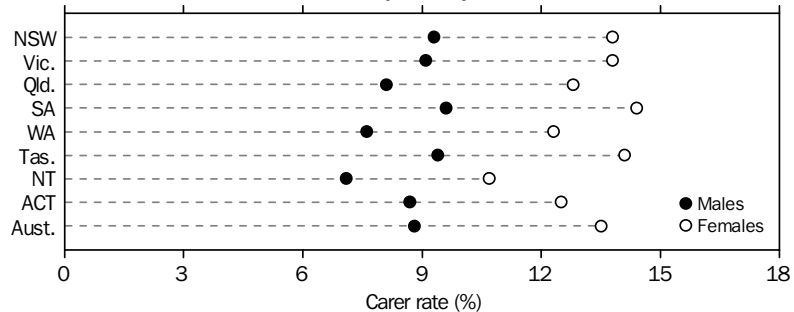
Source: ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

STATE AND TERRITORY

This chapter presents data from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing, which collected information on whether people had provided unpaid assistance in the previous two weeks. The methodology used in the Census was different to that used in the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (see the Appendix for details). While the Census data do not link people who needed assistance to a specific caregiver, it may be reasonable to assume the existence of a caring relationship in most instances where both a person needing assistance and at least one carer were living in the same household.

In 2006, 1.6 million carers aged 15 years and over were identified by the Census, the majority of whom lived in Major Cities (1.1 million people or 68%). The need for care increases with age, and the states and territories with an older age profile had a higher carer rate compared with states and territories with a younger age profile. For example, in 2006, the median age in South Australia was 39 years and 12% of the population aged 15 years and over were carers while the median age in the Northern Territory was 31 years and 9% of the population aged 15 years and over were carers.

CARERS(a), state and territory(b) by sex—2006



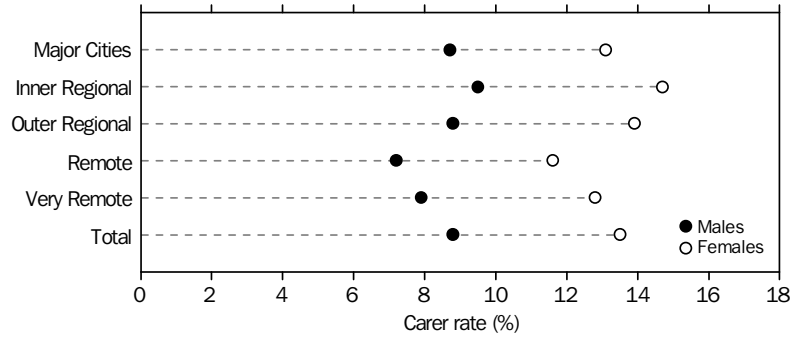
(a) Carers aged 15 years and over as a proportion of all people of that age and sex in the same state or territory.
 (b) Based on place of usual residence.

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Also reflecting the age structure of the population, the carer rate among the population aged 15 years and over was highest in Inner Regional areas for both males (10%) and females (15%) and lowest in Remote areas (7% and 12% respectively) (see Table 2.1).

STATE AND TERRITORY
continued

CARERS(a), remoteness areas(b) by sex—2006

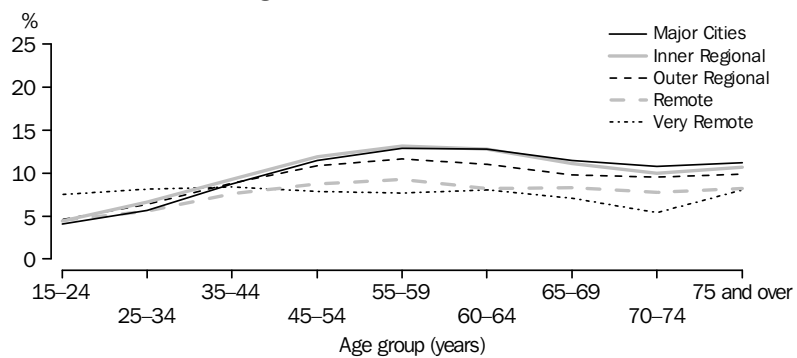


(a) Carers aged 15 years and over as a proportion of all carers of that age and sex and remoteness area.
(b) Based on place of usual residence.

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing

In Major Cities, Regional areas and Remote areas, the carer rate peaked at around 55–59 years for both men and women. In Very Remote areas, the carer rate peaked at younger ages. For women in Very Remote areas, the carer rate peaked at 45–54 years and for men there was a first peak at 35–44 years and a later peak at 75–79 years. The peak at earlier ages is related in part to the younger age profile of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians who make up nearly half of the population in Very Remote areas.

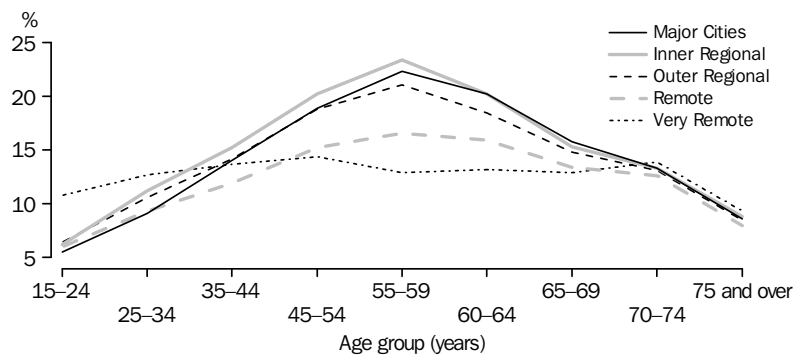
MALE CARERS(a), age and remoteness areas(b)—2006



(a) Male carers as a proportion of males of each age group and the same remoteness area.
(b) Based on place of usual residence.

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing

FEMALE CARERS(a), age and remoteness areas(b)—2006



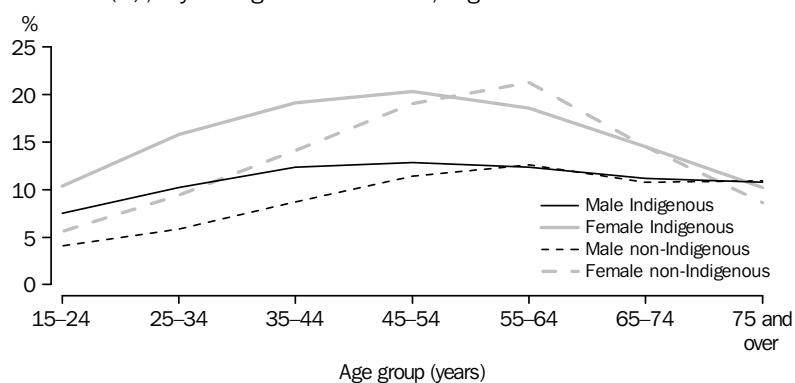
(a) Female carers as a proportion of females of each age group and the same remoteness area.
(b) Based on place of usual residence.

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing

INDIGENOUS CARERS

In 2006, around 32,600 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) carers aged 15 years and over were identified by the Census. The carer rate for Indigenous Australians was 13%. The rate for both female and male Indigenous Australians increased with age, peaking in the 45–54 years age group (20% for women and 13% for men), after which the rate declined.

CARERS (a), by Indigenous status, age and sex—2006



(a) Carers as a proportion of people of each age group and the same sex and Indigenous status.

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing

In 2006, Indigenous Australians aged 15–34 years were around 1.8 times more likely to be carers than non-Indigenous Australians in the same age group. Similarly, Indigenous Australians aged 35–44 years were 1.4 times more likely to be carers than non-Indigenous Australians in the same age group. This may be related to the earlier onset of long-term health conditions such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease in the Indigenous population compared with the non-Indigenous population. The carer rate after 65 years was similar for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

In 2006, one-third of Indigenous carers lived in Major Cities, 42% in Inner and Outer Regional areas, and 25% in Remote and Very Remote areas of Australia.

SOCIOECONOMIC
DISADVANTAGE

From the information collected in the Census of Population and Housing, the ABS has developed a number of indexes to allow ranking of regions to provide a method of determining the level of social and economic wellbeing in that region. The index refers to the region in which a person lives. It does not describe the socioeconomic situation of the particular individual. The Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage is the socioeconomic index for areas (SEIFA) used in this analysis. It enables comparisons to be made between the characteristics of people living in disadvantaged areas and those in more advantaged areas.

In 2006, the carer rate was similar in the most disadvantaged areas (those in the first SEIFA decile), to that in the least socioeconomically disadvantaged areas (those in the tenth SEIFA decile) – 12% compared with 11%.

REGION OF BIRTH

In 2006, there were over 400,000 overseas-born carers. Overseas-born people made up 26% of carers, and 26% of all people aged 15 years and over. The great majority of overseas-born carers had arrived in Australia before 1996 (84%). The carer rate was higher for people who arrived prior to 1996 than for those who arrived after that year

REGION OF BIRTH

continued

(12% compared with 7%). This was consistent with most people migrating when of working age: recently arrived immigrants have a younger age profile and a lower carer rate than those who arrived prior to 1996.

The leading birthplaces of overseas-born carers were North-West Europe (33%), Southern and Eastern Europe (21%) and South-East Asia (10%), which is consistent with the leading birthplaces of all people born overseas. The least common birthplace was Sub-Saharan Africa (13,400 people or 3% of overseas-born carers). The carer rate for males born overseas was highest for those born in Southern and Eastern Europe (11%), followed by North Africa and the Middle East (10%) and North West Europe (9%). After adjusting for age differences between the Australian-born population and the overseas-born population, the carer rate for males born overseas and those born in Australia was similar.

The carer rates for females born overseas were highest for those born in North Africa and the Middle East (16%), followed by Southern and Eastern Europe (15%). After adjusting for age differences between the Australian-born population and the overseas-born population, the carer rate for females born overseas was 12% and for those born in Australia it was 16%.

Of overseas-born carers, 277,400 spoke a language other than English at home and of these, 83% reported that they spoke English very well or well.¹

¹ All proportions were calculated after removing people from the denominator who did not supply the relevant information.

2.1

CARERS(a), state and territory by remoteness areas(b)—2006

	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote	Total(c)
NUMBERS ('000)						
Males						
New South Wales	149.2	46.0	15.3	1.0	0.1	212.1
Victoria	114.6	33.9	8.4	0.2	..	157.2
Queensland	65.5	25.8	15.7	1.9	1.1	110.4
South Australia	38.3	6.4	5.9	1.4	0.4	52.5
Western Australia	38.1	6.5	4.7	1.7	1.1	52.3
Tasmania	..	10.0	5.3	0.2	0.1	15.7
Northern Territory	..	..	2.3	0.9	1.2	4.5
Australian Capital Territory	10.3	—	..	..	..	10.3
Australia	415.9	128.6	57.8	7.3	4.0	615.0
Females						
New South Wales	234.7	73.8	23.9	1.5	0.2	334.5
Victoria	185.3	55.8	13.3	0.3	..	254.9
Queensland	109.2	43.8	25.4	2.8	1.7	183.3
South Australia	61.2	10.2	9.1	2.1	0.6	83.3
Western Australia	64.4	11.3	7.5	2.7	1.5	87.5
Tasmania	..	16.3	8.5	0.3	0.1	25.4
Northern Territory	..	..	3.3	1.3	1.9	6.6
Australian Capital Territory	15.6	—	..	..	..	15.7
Australia	670.3	211.3	91.1	11.0	5.9	991.1
Persons						
New South Wales	383.9	119.8	39.2	2.5	0.3	546.6
Victoria	299.9	89.6	21.7	0.5	..	412.1
Queensland	174.7	69.6	41.2	4.7	2.8	293.7
South Australia	99.5	16.6	15.1	3.4	1.0	135.8
Western Australia	102.4	17.9	12.3	4.4	2.5	139.8
Tasmania	..	26.4	13.8	0.6	0.2	41.1
Northern Territory	..	..	5.7	2.2	3.1	11.0
Australian Capital Territory	25.9	—	..	..	..	25.9
Australia	1 086.3	339.9	148.9	18.3	9.9	1 606.2

.. not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) People aged 15 years and over.

(b) Based on place of usual residence.

(c) Includes: Migratory areas, Other territories and No usual address.

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing

2.1**CARERS(a), state and territory by remoteness areas(b)—2006** *continued*

	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote	Total(c)
RATES (%) (d)						
Males						
New South Wales	9.1	10.0	10.2	8.8	8.5	9.3
Victoria	8.8	9.7	9.8	12.1	..	9.1
Queensland	8.0	8.9	7.8	7.0	6.8	8.1
South Australia	9.6	9.8	9.5	8.6	8.6	9.6
Western Australia	7.7	7.8	7.6	5.9	7.2	7.6
Tasmania	..	9.4	9.4	8.7	8.8	9.4
Northern Territory	..	..	6.4	6.7	9.7	7.1
Australian Capital Territory	8.7	—	..	..	..	8.7
Australia	8.7	9.5	8.8	7.2	7.9	8.8
Females						
New South Wales	13.3	15.0	15.7	14.6	14.1	13.8
Victoria	13.3	15.1	15.2	16.7	..	13.8
Queensland	12.5	14.3	12.6	11.2	11.4	12.8
South Australia	14.2	15.1	14.5	13.7	13.5	14.4
Western Australia	12.3	13.0	12.2	10.1	12.1	12.3
Tasmania	..	13.8	14.8	13.0	14.9	14.1
Northern Territory	..	..	9.7	9.9	14.6	10.7
Australian Capital Territory	12.5	—	..	..	..	12.5
Australia	13.1	14.7	13.9	11.6	12.8	13.5
Persons						
New South Wales	11.3	12.5	13.0	11.6	11.0	11.6
Victoria	11.2	12.5	12.5	14.3	..	11.5
Queensland	10.3	11.6	10.2	9.0	9.0	10.6
South Australia	12.0	12.5	12.0	11.1	10.9	12.0
Western Australia	10.1	10.4	9.9	7.9	9.4	10.0
Tasmania	..	11.7	12.1	10.8	11.6	11.8
Northern Territory	..	..	8.0	8.3	12.1	8.9
Australian Capital Territory	10.6	—	..	..	..	10.6
Australia	11.0	12.1	11.3	9.3	10.2	11.2

.. not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) People aged 15 years and over.

(b) Based on place of usual residence.

(c) Includes: Migratory areas, Other territories and No usual address.

(d) Carers as a proportion of all persons of the same sex, in the same state or territory and remoteness area.

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing

2.2**CARERS, remoteness areas(a)—2006**

<i>Sex by age group (years)</i>	<i>Major Cities</i>	<i>Inner Regional</i>	<i>Outer Regional</i>	<i>Remote</i>	<i>Very Remote</i>	<i>Total(b)</i>
NUMBERS ('000)						
Males						
15–24	35.0	9.8	4.6	0.7	0.7	51.0
25–34	50.6	12.2	6.1	1.0	0.9	71.0
35–44	79.9	22.5	10.7	1.6	0.9	115.9
45–54	95.6	30.8	14.0	1.7	0.7	143.2
55–59	47.4	16.1	7.1	0.8	0.3	71.9
60–64	35.9	12.8	5.3	0.5	0.2	54.8
65–69	23.8	8.7	3.7	0.4	0.1	36.8
70–74	17.3	5.9	2.6	0.2	0.1	26.1
75–79	14.8	4.9	2.0	0.2	0.1	21.9
80–84	10.3	3.3	1.2	0.1	—	14.9
85–89	4.3	1.3	0.5	—	—	6.1
90 and over	1.1	0.3	0.1	—	—	1.5
Total 15 and over	415.9	128.6	57.8	7.3	4.0	615.0
Total 18 and over	407.5	125.4	56.3	7.1	3.8	601.5
Total 65 and over	71.5	24.4	10.0	1.0	0.3	107.3
Females						
15–24	47.1	13.3	5.9	0.9	1.0	68.4
25–34	84.3	22.2	10.7	1.7	1.3	120.5
35–44	135.9	40.6	18.0	2.4	1.3	198.4
45–54	167.2	54.9	23.7	2.8	1.1	250.0
55–59	85.7	29.1	12.0	1.2	0.4	128.6
60–64	57.2	20.2	8.2	0.9	0.3	86.9
65–69	34.7	12.0	5.1	0.5	0.2	52.5
70–74	23.8	8.2	3.3	0.3	0.1	35.7
75–79	18.5	6.2	2.4	0.2	0.1	27.4
80–84	11.2	3.4	1.3	0.1	—	16.0
85–89	3.8	1.1	0.4	—	—	5.4
90 and over	0.9	0.3	0.1	—	—	1.4
Total 15 and over	670.3	211.3	91.1	11.0	5.9	991.1
Total 18 and over	660.6	207.8	89.5	10.7	5.7	975.8
Total 65 and over	92.9	31.2	12.5	1.2	0.4	138.3
Persons						
15–24	82.1	23.2	10.5	1.5	1.7	119.4
25–34	134.9	34.4	16.8	2.7	2.2	191.5
35–44	215.8	63.1	28.7	4.0	2.2	314.3
45–54	262.8	85.7	37.7	4.5	1.9	393.1
55–59	133.2	45.1	19.0	2.0	0.7	200.5
60–64	93.1	32.9	13.6	1.4	0.5	141.7
65–69	58.5	20.7	8.7	0.9	0.3	89.3
70–74	41.0	14.1	5.9	0.6	0.2	61.8
75–79	33.3	11.1	4.3	0.4	0.1	49.3
80–84	21.5	6.7	2.5	0.2	0.1	30.9
85–89	8.1	2.4	0.9	0.1	—	11.4
90 and over	2.0	0.6	0.3	—	—	2.9
Total 15 and over	1 086.3	339.9	148.9	18.3	9.9	1 606.2
Total 18 and over	1 068.0	333.3	145.8	17.9	9.5	1 577.3
Total 65 and over	164.4	55.5	22.6	2.2	0.7	245.6

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Based on place of usual residence.

(b) Includes: Migratory areas, Other territories and No usual address.

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing

2.2**CARERS, remoteness areas(a)—2006** *continued*

<i>Sex by age group (years)</i>	<i>Major Cities</i>	<i>Inner Regional</i>	<i>Outer Regional</i>	<i>Remote</i>	<i>Very Remote</i>	<i>Total(b)</i>
RATES (%) (c)						
Males						
15–24	4.1	4.4	4.6	4.5	7.5	4.2
25–34	5.7	6.6	6.4	5.6	8.1	5.9
35–44	8.7	9.3	8.8	7.6	8.4	8.8
45–54	11.5	11.9	10.9	8.7	7.9	11.4
55–59	12.9	13.1	11.6	9.3	7.7	12.7
60–64	12.8	12.8	11.0	8.2	8.0	12.5
65–69	11.5	11.1	9.8	8.3	7.1	11.1
70–74	10.8	10.0	9.5	7.8	5.4	10.4
75–79	11.2	10.6	10.0	8.1	7.9	10.9
80–84	12.0	11.7	10.5	8.9	—	11.7
85–89	11.1	10.4	9.4	—	—	10.7
90 and over	7.4	6.1	6.7	—	—	7.0
Total 15 and over	8.7	9.5	8.8	7.2	7.9	8.8
Total 18 and over	9.0	9.8	9.1	7.4	7.9	9.1
Total 65 and over	11.2	10.6	9.8	8.1	7.0	10.9
Females						
15–24	5.5	6.2	6.4	6.0	10.8	5.8
25–34	9.1	11.2	10.6	9.3	12.7	9.6
35–44	14.0	15.2	14.2	11.9	13.7	14.2
45–54	18.9	20.2	18.8	15.2	14.4	19.0
55–59	22.3	23.4	21.1	16.6	12.9	22.3
60–64	20.2	20.2	18.5	15.9	13.2	19.9
65–69	15.8	15.3	14.8	13.4	12.9	15.5
70–74	13.3	13.3	13.1	12.6	13.9	13.3
75–79	11.6	12.0	11.5	10.3	11.3	11.6
80–84	8.8	8.9	8.5	7.6	—	8.8
85–89	5.2	5.1	4.9	—	—	5.1
90 and over	2.2	2.2	2.4	—	—	2.2
Total 15 and over	13.1	14.7	13.9	11.6	12.8	13.5
Total 18 and over	13.5	15.2	14.3	11.9	13.0	13.9
Total 65 and over	11.6	11.8	11.5	11.0	11.8	11.6
Persons						
15–24	4.8	5.3	5.5	5.2	9.1	5.0
25–34	7.5	9.0	8.6	7.5	10.4	7.8
35–44	11.4	12.4	11.6	9.7	10.9	11.6
45–54	15.3	16.1	14.8	11.8	10.9	15.3
55–59	17.7	18.3	16.2	12.6	10.0	17.5
60–64	16.5	16.5	14.6	11.7	10.3	16.2
65–69	13.7	13.2	12.2	10.5	9.6	13.3
70–74	12.1	11.7	11.2	10.1	9.6	11.9
75–79	11.4	11.4	10.8	9.2	9.5	11.3
80–84	10.1	10.1	9.4	8.3	9.3	10.0
85–89	7.3	6.9	6.5	6.2	—	7.1
90 and over	3.5	3.3	3.6	—	—	3.5
Total 15 and over	11.0	12.1	11.3	9.3	10.2	11.2
Total 18 and over	11.3	12.6	11.7	9.6	10.4	11.6
Total 65 and over	11.4	11.2	10.7	9.5	9.3	11.3

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Based on place of usual residence.

(b) Includes: Migratory areas, Other territories and No usual address.

(c) Carers as a proportion of all people of the same age group, sex and remoteness area.

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing

2.3

CARERS, Indigenous status by age and sex(a)—2006

Age group (years)	INDIGENOUS			NON-INDIGENOUS		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
NUMBERS ('000)						
15–24	2.7	3.9	6.6	47.6	63.8	111.4
25–34	2.5	4.6	7.2	67.7	114.9	182.6
35–44	2.9	5.3	8.2	112.0	191.5	303.5
45–54	2.2	3.9	6.1	139.6	244.1	383.7
55–64	1.1	1.9	3.1	124.3	211.3	335.5
65–74	0.4	0.7	1.1	61.6	86.0	147.6
75 and over	0.2	0.2	0.4	43.3	48.5	91.9
All persons	12.0	20.6	32.6	596.2	960.1	1 556.3
RATES (%) (b)						
15–24	7.5	10.4	9.0	4.1	5.6	4.9
25–34	10.2	15.8	13.2	5.8	9.4	7.7
35–44	12.4	19.1	16.0	8.7	14.1	11.5
45–54	12.8	20.3	16.8	11.4	19.0	15.3
55–64	12.4	18.6	15.7	12.6	21.3	17.0
65–74	11.2	14.5	13.0	10.8	14.5	12.7
75 and over	10.8	10.2	10.4	10.9	8.6	9.6
All persons	10.4	15.7	13.2	8.8	13.4	11.2

(a) Excludes people who did not provide their Indigenous status.

(b) Carers as a proportion of all people with the same Indigenous status, age and sex.

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing

2.4 CARERS(a), Indigenous status by state and territory and remoteness areas(b)—2006

	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote	Total(c)
NUMBERS ('000)						
Indigenous						
New South Wales	4.7	3.5	1.9	0.4	0.1	10.6
Victoria	1.2	0.8	0.3	—	..	2.3
Queensland	2.3	1.6	2.2	0.6	1.2	7.9
South Australia	0.9	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.3	1.9
Western Australia	1.3	0.3	0.5	0.6	1.5	4.1
Tasmania	..	0.7	0.6	—	—	1.3
Northern Territory	..	..	0.6	0.8	2.7	4.1
Australian Capital Territory	0.3	—	..	..	..	0.3
Australia	10.7	7.0	6.6	2.4	5.8	32.6
Non-Indigenous						
New South Wales	375.2	115.0	36.9	2.1	0.2	530.1
Victoria	295.4	87.8	21.1	0.5	..	405.2
Queensland	170.8	67.2	38.5	4.1	1.6	282.8
South Australia	97.5	16.2	14.4	3.3	0.7	132.4
Western Australia	100.1	17.4	11.6	3.8	1.0	134.2
Tasmania	..	25.4	13.1	0.5	0.2	39.2
Northern Territory	..	..	5.0	1.3	0.4	6.8
Australian Capital Territory	25.3	—	..	..	..	25.4
Australia	1 064.3	329.0	140.6	15.6	4.1	1 556.3
Persons(d)						
New South Wales	383.9	119.8	39.2	2.5	0.3	546.6
Victoria	299.9	89.6	21.7	0.5	..	412.1
Queensland	174.7	69.6	41.2	4.7	2.8	293.7
South Australia	99.5	16.6	15.1	3.4	1.0	135.8
Western Australia	102.4	17.9	12.3	4.4	2.5	139.8
Tasmania	..	26.4	13.8	0.6	0.2	41.1
Northern Territory	..	..	5.7	2.2	3.1	11.0
Australian Capital Territory	25.8	—	..	..	..	25.9
Australia	1 086.3	339.9	148.9	18.3	9.9	1 606.2

.. not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) People aged 15 years and over.

(b) Based on place of usual residence.

(c) Includes: Migratory areas, Other territories and No usual address.

(d) Includes people who did not provide their Indigenous status.

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing

2.4CARERS(a), Indigenous status by state and territory and remoteness areas(b)—2006 *continued*

	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote	Total(c)
RATES (%) (d)						
Indigenous						
New South Wales	14.4	14.5	14.1	12.8	14.0	14.3
Victoria	13.5	14.5	14.1	—	..	13.9
Queensland	11.5	11.9	11.8	9.7	11.5	11.5
South Australia	13.6	12.9	12.7	11.9	14.1	13.3
Western Australia	11.9	12.8	11.3	11.5	16.3	13.1
Tasmania	..	13.1	14.4	—	—	13.7
Northern Territory	..	..	12.1	12.3	15.1	14.0
Australian Capital Territory	13.8	—	..	..	..	13.8
Australia	13.2	13.6	12.7	11.5	14.4	13.2
Non-Indigenous						
New South Wales	11.2	12.5	12.9	11.3	10.3	11.6
Victoria	11.1	12.5	12.5	14.3	..	11.5
Queensland	10.3	11.6	10.1	8.8	7.7	10.5
South Australia	12.0	12.4	12.0	11.1	9.8	12.0
Western Australia	10.0	10.4	9.8	7.5	5.9	9.9
Tasmania	..	11.7	12.1	10.8	11.2	11.8
Northern Territory	..	..	7.6	6.9	5.3	7.2
Australian Capital Territory	10.6	—	..	..	..	10.6
Australia	11.0	12.1	11.3	9.1	7.3	11.2
Persons(e)						
New South Wales	11.3	12.5	13.0	11.6	11.1	11.6
Victoria	11.2	12.5	12.5	14.3	..	11.5
Queensland	10.3	11.6	10.2	9.0	9.0	10.6
South Australia	12.0	12.5	12.0	11.1	10.9	12.0
Western Australia	10.1	10.4	9.9	7.9	9.4	10.0
Tasmania	..	11.7	12.1	10.8	11.6	11.8
Northern Territory	..	..	8.0	8.3	12.1	8.9
Australian Capital Territory	10.6	—	..	..	..	10.6
Australia	11.0	12.1	11.3	9.3	10.2	11.2

.. not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) People aged 15 years and over.

(b) Based on place of usual residence.

(c) Includes: Migratory areas, Other territories and No usual address.

(d) Carers as a proportion of all people with the same Indigenous status, state or territory and remoteness area.

(e) Includes people who did not provide their Indigenous status.

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing

2.5 CARER STATUS(a), by decile of Index of Relative Disadvantage—SEIFA(b)—2006

Decile	CARER			NOT A CARER	
	Capital City	Balance of State	Total	Total	Total
RATES (%) (c)					
1st (most disadvantaged)	12.0	12.7	12.3	87.7	100.0
2nd	11.5	12.3	11.9	88.1	100.0
3rd	11.1	11.9	11.5	88.5	100.0
4th	10.8	11.8	11.3	88.7	100.0
5th	10.8	11.6	11.1	88.9	100.0
6th	10.7	11.5	11.0	89.0	100.0
7th	10.8	11.4	11.0	89.0	100.0
8th	10.8	11.0	10.8	89.2	100.0
9th	10.8	10.7	10.8	89.2	100.0
10th (least disadvantaged)	11.0	10.9	11.0	89.0	100.0
Total	11.0	11.7	11.2	88.8	100.0

(a) People aged 15 years and over.

(b) Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas.

(c) Carers as a proportion of all people of the same section of state and decile.

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing

2.6 CARERS(a), birthplace, language spoken at home and year of arrival—2006

World region of birth and spoken English proficiency	SEX OF CARER		AGE GROUP OF CARER (YEARS)			YEAR OF ARRIVAL IN AUSTRALIA		Total carers(b)
	Male	Female	15-34	35-64	65 and over	Arrived before 1996	Arrived 1996-2006	
NUMBERS ('000)								
Australia (includes External Territories)	435.3	717.0	245.7	749.8	156.7	. .	. .	1 152.2
Overseas born								
Oceania and Antarctica	15.6	25.1	9.9	27.3	3.5	28.1	10.5	40.7
North-West Europe	55.4	78.4	6.7	94.7	32.4	122.4	6.7	133.8
Southern and Eastern Europe	35.1	50.6	5.2	51.7	28.8	77.2	5.5	85.7
North Africa and the Middle East	11.2	16.4	6.4	18.3	2.9	19.6	7.0	27.6
South-East Asia	14.3	28.5	10.4	29.1	3.4	33.0	8.2	42.9
North-East Asia	11.3	17.8	8.1	17.7	3.3	16.4	11.5	29.0
Southern and Central Asia	10.1	12.7	7.0	13.4	2.4	12.8	9.3	22.8
Americas	5.4	8.6	2.6	9.9	1.5	11.3	2.3	14.0
Sub-Saharan Africa	5.2	8.2	2.8	9.3	1.3	9.0	4.0	13.4
Main English speaking country(c)	59.6	87.2	14.8	102.7	29.2	124.8	16.0	146.8
Other country	104.0	159.1	44.3	168.5	50.2	204.9	48.9	263.0
Total overseas born	163.6	246.3	59.1	271.3	79.5	329.8	64.9	409.8
Spoke only English at home	503.1	817.3	241.1	879.4	199.9	177.1	18.4	1 320.4
Spoke a non-English language at home								
Spoke English very well	63.3	94.4	48.4	96.9	12.3	75.9	18.4	157.7
Spoke English well	28.9	42.5	13.7	42.6	15.1	46.7	15.6	71.4
Did not speak English well	13.7	26.0	4.7	22.2	12.7	25.7	9.7	39.6
Did not speak English at all	1.9	4.4	0.6	2.8	2.9	3.1	2.4	6.3
Total who spoke a non-English language at home(d)	108.6	168.8	68.1	165.9	43.3	152.4	46.5	277.4
All persons(e)	615.0	991.1	310.9	1 049.7	245.6	330.7	65.2	1 606.2

. . not applicable

(a) People aged 15 years and over.

(b) Includes year of arrival in Australia not stated.

(c) Countries which are the leading birthplaces of English speaking immigrants in Australia: United Kingdom, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada, United States of America.

(d) Includes spoken English proficiency not stated and language spoken at home not stated.

(e) Includes country of birth not stated, born at sea and birthplace inadequately described.

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing

2.6 CARERS(a), birthplace, language spoken at home and year of arrival—2006

continued

World region of birth and spoken English proficiency	SEX OF CARER		AGE GROUP OF CARER (YEARS)			YEAR OF ARRIVAL IN AUSTRALIA		Total carers(b)
	Male	Female	15-34	35-64	65 and over	Arrived before 1996	Arrived 1996-2006	
RATES (%) (c)								
Australia (includes External Territories)	8.9	13.9	6.5	15.3	11.5	..	..	11.5
Overseas born								
Oceania and Antarctica	7.5	11.7	7.0	10.9	11.1	10.5	7.8	9.6
North-West Europe	8.9	12.8	4.4	12.4	10.2	11.9	4.2	10.9
Southern and Eastern Europe	10.7	15.3	8.1	14.9	11.7	13.5	9.5	13.0
North Africa and the Middle East	10.0	16.2	10.1	14.8	10.9	13.6	11.5	12.9
South-East Asia	6.8	10.1	5.5	10.7	10.2	9.8	5.9	8.7
North-East Asia	7.3	9.1	5.2	10.8	10.4	9.9	6.8	8.3
Southern and Central Asia	7.9	12.1	7.0	12.1	11.4	11.8	8.0	9.8
Americas	7.1	10.5	5.2	10.7	10.2	10.3	5.3	8.9
Sub-Saharan Africa	6.6	10.1	5.1	10.1	9.9	10.8	5.6	8.3
Main English speaking country(d)	8.0	11.7	5.1	11.2	10.1	11.1	5.2	9.8
Other country	8.9	12.6	6.5	13.0	11.2	12.1	7.6	10.8
Total overseas born	8.5	12.3	6.1	12.2	10.8	11.7	6.8	10.5
Spoke only English at home	8.8	13.6	6.1	14.5	11.3	11.3	5.2	11.2
Spoke a non-English language at home								
Spoke English very well	9.5	14.0	7.9	15.4	13.1	12.9	6.9	11.8
Spoke English well	8.5	12.2	6.7	12.0	11.8	11.8	7.3	10.4
Did not speak English well	9.3	12.8	8.6	12.2	11.2	11.7	10.8	11.3
Did not speak English at all	9.0	10.1	10.0	12.0	8.2	8.9	11.7	9.7
Total who spoke a non-English language at home(e)	9.2	13.1	7.6	13.8	11.6	12.2	7.8	11.2
All persons(f)	8.8	13.5	6.4	14.4	11.3	11.7	6.8	11.2

.. not applicable

(a) People aged 15 years and over.

(b) Includes year of arrival in Australia not stated.

(c) Carers as a proportion of all people of the same birthplace, spoken English proficiency, sex, age group, or year of arrival in Australia grouping.

(d) Countries which are the leading birthplaces of English speaking immigrants in Australia: United Kingdom, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada, United States of America.

(e) Includes spoken English proficiency not stated and language spoken at home not stated.

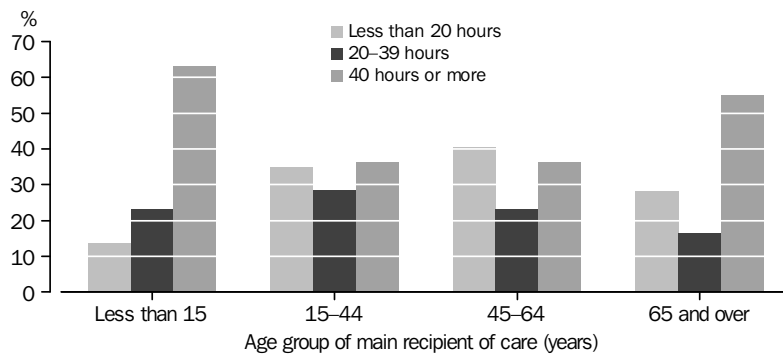
(f) Includes country of birth not stated, born at sea and birthplace inadequately described.

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing

AMOUNT OF TIME SPENT CARING

In the 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers around 370,000 primary carers were living with the main person they were caring for. Of those carers who reported their hours spent caring, almost half (48%) had hours of caring at least equivalent to a traditional full-time paid job of 40 hours or more per week. A further 21% spent from 20 hours to less than 40 hours per week caring; and 30% spent less than 20 hours per week caring. The amount of time spent caring varied with the sex of the carer, and with the age or disability of the main person being cared for.

PRIMARY CARERS (a), average time spent caring per week by age of main recipient of care—2003



(a) People aged 15 years and over who lived in the same household as their main recipient of care.

Source: ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

Sex of carer

On average, female primary carers spent more time caring per week than did male primary carers, with just over half (52%) providing 40 or more hours of care per week compared with around 39% of male primary carers.

Age of main recipient of care

Of primary carers who were mainly caring for a child under 15 years of age, 63% were caring for 40 hours or more per week. Similarly, over half of all primary carers who were caring for an older person aged 65 years or over (55%) spent 40 hours or more per week providing care. On average, 36% of primary carers caring for someone aged 15-64 years spent 40 hours or more caring.

Disability type

Primary carers who cared for someone whose main disability was psychological tended to provide more hours of care per week, with two-thirds (66%) providing 40 hours or more compared with just under half (48%) of primary carers assisting people with other types of disability.

DATA FROM THE 2006 TIME USE SURVEY

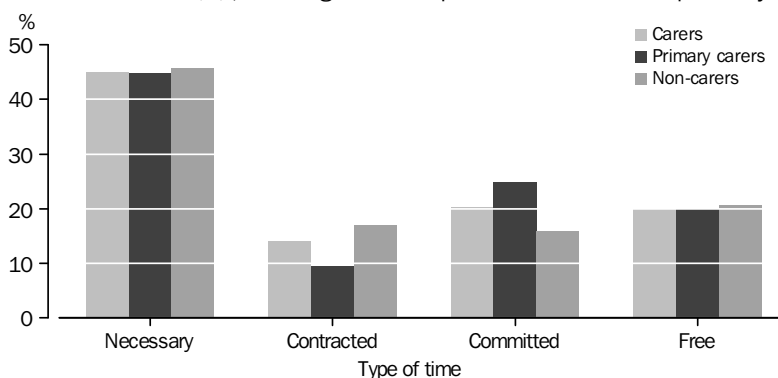
The 2006 Time Use Survey collected information on carers from a set of structured questions, which was similar to the set used in the 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, but considerably shorter (see Appendix for details).

TIME SPENT ON ACTIVITIES

The activities on which people spend their time can be divided into four main categories or types of time use. 'Necessary time' describes activities which are performed for personal survival, such as sleeping, eating and personal hygiene. 'Contracted time' describes activities such as paid work and regular education where there are explicit contracts which control the periods of time in which the activities are performed. 'Committed time' describes the unpaid work to which a person has committed him/herself and includes, for example, domestic activities, child care, and providing help to others. 'Free time' is the amount of time left when the previous three types of time have been taken out of a person's day. The amount of time people spend on different activities varies depending upon their age, living arrangements and labour force status. The 2006 Time Use Survey provides insight into the patterns of time use for carers compared with non-carers.

When time spent in activities is averaged across all people (not just those who participated in each activity) carers spent an extra hour a day on Committed time compared with non-carers. As a result, carers spent an hour less per day than non-carers on Contracted, Necessary and Free time combined. Most of this difference was in Contracted time, which includes activities such as employment and education.

CARER STATUS (a), average time spent on activities per day—2006



(a) People aged 15 years and over.
Source: ABS 2006 Time Use Survey

Primary carers, who provide a greater intensity of care, overall spent over one and a half times the amount of time per day on Committed time activities than did non-carers. In particular, primary carers aged 15–34 years spent more than double the amount of time on Committed time activities than did non-carers of the same age (371 minutes per day compared with 181 minutes). Older primary carers (aged 65 years and over) spent around 1.2 times the amount of time on Committed time activities than did non-carers of the same age (322 minutes per day compared with 278 minutes).

Carers aged 15–34 years

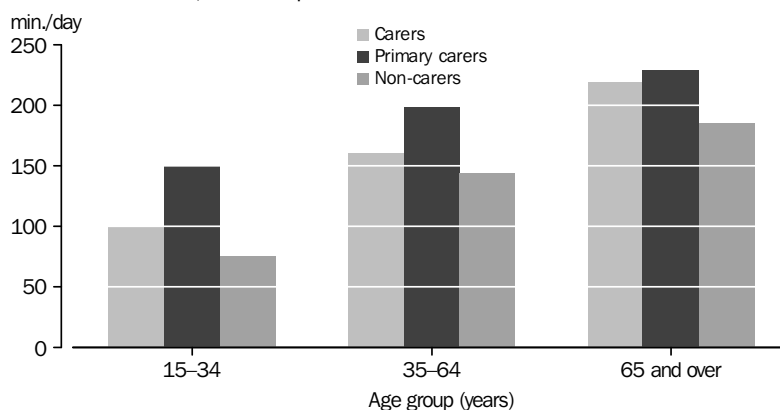
On average, carers aged 15–34 years spent 1.3 times the amount of time on domestic activities as did non-carers of the same age group (100 minutes per day compared with 76 minutes). Carers of this age spent less than two-thirds the amount of time on education activities as did non-carers of the same age group (50 minutes per day compared with 82 minutes). These carers also spent less time on recreation and leisure activities (219 minutes compared with 239 minutes) and on sleeping or trying to sleep (514 minutes compared with 531 minutes).

Carers aged 35–64 years On average, carers aged 35–64 years spent more time on domestic activities than did non-carers of the same age (161 minutes per day compared with 144 minutes), and more than double the amount of time on voluntary work and care (48 minutes compared with 21 minutes). These carers spent less time on employment related activities than did non-carers of the same age (224 minutes per day compared with 255 minutes).

Carers aged 65 years and over Older carers spent more time on domestic activities than non-carers of the same age group (219 minutes per day compared with 185 minutes). These carers also spent more time on voluntary work and care activities (45 minutes compared with 31 minutes) and on social and community interaction (54 minutes compared with 43 minutes).

Primary carers Primary carers spent 1.6 times the amount of time on domestic activities than did non-carers (199 minutes per day compared with 124 minutes) and almost three times the amount of time on voluntary work and care activities (58 minutes compared with 20 minutes). Primary carers spent less than two-thirds the amount of time per day on employment related activities than did non-carers (132 minutes compared with 211 minutes) and also spent less time sleeping or trying to sleep (495 minutes compared with 516 minutes).

CARER STATUS, time spent on domestic activities—2006



Source: ABS 2006 Time Use Survey

3.1 PRIMARY CARERS(a), time spent caring—2003

	AVERAGE CURRENT WEEKLY HOURS			
	Less than 20 hours	20–39 hours	40 hours or more	Total(b)
	'000	'000	'000	'000
Sex of carer				
Male	41.2	20.2	39.7	112.9
Female	62.2	52.6	125.5	258.3
Persons	103.4	72.8	165.2	371.2
Age group of main recipient of care (years)				
0–14	*7.2	12.3	33.7	57.8
15–44	18.9	15.4	19.6	57.8
45–64	31.5	18.0	28.3	88.5
65 and over	42.6	25.0	82.5	158.5
Total(c)	103.4	72.8	165.2	371.2
Disability type that causes most problems for main recipient of care				
Sensory and speech	21.3	9.8	28.0	63.8
Intellectual	*7.1	10.9	18.3	39.7
Physical	62.5	42.9	95.7	215.3
Psychological	*5.2	*4.7	19.0	31.8
Total(d)	103.4	72.8	165.2	371.2

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) People aged 15 years and over who lived in the same household as their main recipient of care.

(b) Includes primary carers whose average current weekly hours were not stated.

(c) Includes primary carers with a main recipient whose age was not stated.

(d) Includes other disability type, disability type not stated, and main recipients who were not identified as having a disability at initial contact.

Source: ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

3.2 CARER STATUS(a), average time spent per day on main activities(b)—2006

	SEX OF CARER		AGE GROUP OF CARER (YEARS)			CARER STATUS				
	Male	Female	15–34	35–64	65 and over	Primary carer	Other carer	Total carers	Not a carer	Total
<i>Main activities</i>	min.	min.	min.	min.	min.	min.	min.	min.	min.	min.
Personal care										
Sleeping/sleeplessness	500	499	514	494	502	495	501	499	516	512
Other personal care	145	156	132	147	188	151	151	151	143	145
Total personal care	645	655	646	641	689	646	652	650	659	657
Employment-related	256	136	239	224	*18	132	212	191	211	207
Education	*13	14	50	*4	**2	*6	16	13	34	30
Domestic activities										
Housework										
Food and drink preparation/clean up	32	73	36	56	73	71	49	55	45	47
Laundry and clothes care	6	33	10	23	23	29	17	21	16	17
Other housework	13	39	19	28	34	37	24	27	20	21
Total housework	52	145	65	107	130	137	90	103	81	86
Other household work										
Grounds/animal care	30	25	11	26	49	30	26	27	20	21
Home maintenance	18	4	*9	8	20	10	11	10	8	9
Household management	10	10	*7	11	12	12	10	10	9	9
Total other household work	58	39	28	45	81	53	46	48	36	39
Associated travel	5	4	4	5	2	5	4	4	3	4
Other	6	2	3	4	6	*4	4	4	3	3
Total domestic work	120	190	100	161	219	199	144	158	124	131
Child care	23	52	64	40	*6	51	35	39	40	40
Purchasing goods and services	44	57	45	52	55	51	51	51	46	47
Voluntary work and care										
Caring for adults										
Physical care	*3	7	—	7	*6	14	*2	5	—	1
Emotional support	*2	*5	**3	*5	2	*5	*3	4	1	1
Total caring for adults	*8	17	**5	16	11	28	7	13	2	4
Unpaid voluntary work	11	10	**5	12	14	*7	12	11	6	7
Other helping activities	9	17	11	14	13	15	12	13	10	11
Travel associated with voluntary work and care activities	4	7	*3	6	5	7	5	5	2	3
Total voluntary work and care	32	51	24	48	45	58	37	42	20	25
Social/community interactions	38	49	43	41	54	45	43	44	43	43
Recreation and leisure	261	229	219	223	344	243	244	244	255	253
Undescribed	8	6	*10	6	*8	10	6	7	8	7
Total minutes	1 440	1 440	1 440	1 440	1 440	1 440	1 440	1 440	1 440	1 440

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) People aged 15 years and over.

(b) Time spent is averaged over all people, including those who did not participate in particular activities.

Source: ABS 2006 Time Use Survey

INTRODUCTION

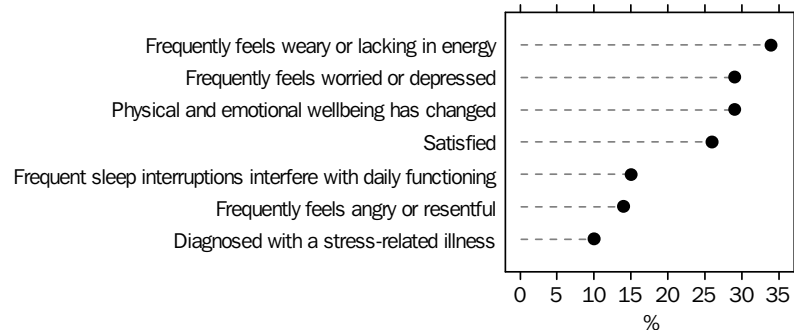
One concern regarding the welfare of carers is whether they are able to 'have a life outside caring'. While caring may be emotionally satisfying, carers can experience social exclusion and isolation.² Participation in paid work is an important aspect of social participation and is discussed in chapter 5. Carers' emotional wellbeing, relationships with others, and ability to participate in community life, are also of interest.

PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING OF PRIMARY CARERS

As part of the 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, primary carers were asked to complete a questionnaire on the effects of caring on their wellbeing. Due to the sensitive nature of the questions, filling in the questionnaire was not compulsory.

Caring may have beneficial as well as negative effects. In 2003, about one-quarter of primary carers (26%) felt satisfied as a result of the caring role (see Table 4.1). The proportion of primary carers who experienced specific negative effects due to caring ranged from just over one-third who frequently felt weary or lacking in energy (34%) to 10% who had been diagnosed with a stress-related illness.

PRIMARY CARERS (a), self-reported effects of caring(b)—2003



(a) Aged 15 years and over.
 (b) People may report more than one effect.

Source: 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

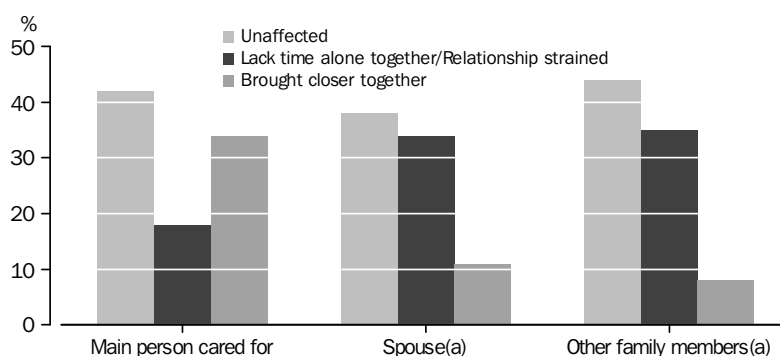
A change to overall physical and emotional wellbeing due to caring was reported by 29% of primary carers, leaving close to two-thirds (64%) who reported that their wellbeing had not changed (the remaining 7% did not respond). However, about half of those who reported that their wellbeing had not changed had nevertheless experienced at least one specific negative effect, such as frequently feeling worried or depressed. This left 35% of primary carers who had experienced neither a change to their physical and emotional wellbeing nor one of the specific negative effects.

² Carers Australia (2008) Submission to the House of Representatives Inquiry into Better Support of Carers, p1.

Social relationships

Caring has the potential to affect a person's relationships with their friends and family. More than half (55%) of primary carers had experienced no change in their circle of friends due to their caring role, but 35% had lost touch with or changed their circle of friends. Most commonly, carers' relationships with family members were unaffected by caring. This was the most common response for relationships with their spouse or partner (38%), with children or other family members (44%) and also for the relationship with the main person cared for (42%), who was most often a family member. However, around 34% of primary carers who had spouses or other family members reported that these relationships were strained or that they lacked time alone together, and 18% of primary carers reported that their relationship with the person cared for was strained. Finally, around one in ten primary carers who had spouses, or other family members, had been brought closer to them. It was more common for carers to be brought closer to the person they cared for (34%) than to other family members.

EFFECT OF THE CARING ROLE ON PRIMARY CARERS' RELATIONSHIPS



(a) As a proportion of carers who had a spouse or other family members, who were not the person cared for.

Source: ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers.

Differences by characteristics of carer and recipient

Female primary carers were less likely than male primary carers to feel satisfied due to the caring role (23% compared with 33%) and conversely, were more likely than male primary carers to have experienced a change in wellbeing due to the caring role (33% compared with 20%). They were also more likely than male primary carers to have experienced some specific negative effects, notably feeling weary or lacking in energy (37% compared with 25%) and frequently feeling angry or resentful (16% compared with 9%). Likewise, a higher proportion of women than men reported that caring had negative effects on their relationships with their spouse (37% compared with 24%) or with other family members (37% compared with 27%).

However, similar proportions of male and female primary carers frequently felt worried or depressed (30% of women and 27% of men), often had sleep interruptions that interfered with daily functioning (15% of women and 14% of men) and had lost or were losing touch with friends or had changed their circle of friends (36% of women and 33% of men).

The caring role affected the wellbeing of primary carers, regardless of whether they lived with the person cared for or lived elsewhere. For example, 28% of primary carers who lived with the person cared for, and 31% of those who did not, had experienced an overall change in wellbeing due to the caring role. Differences in the proportions experiencing effects were mostly not statistically significant. The exceptions were

Differences by characteristics of carer and recipient continued

frequently experiencing sleep interruptions that affected daily functioning, which was more common among those who lived with the person cared for (17% compared with 10%); and frequently feeling angry and resentful, which, in contrast, was more common among those who lived elsewhere (18% compared with 13%). Primary carers who lived elsewhere were also more likely than co-resident primary carers to report that they had been brought closer to the person cared for (45% compared with 31% of co-resident carers).

Effects due to the caring role were reported by primary carers assisting people of various ages, from children to older people (see Table 4.1). Many of the differences in the proportions reporting these effects among those looking after people of different ages were not statistically significant.

Primary carers with a disability

Carers often have disabilities themselves. Close to 40% of primary carers reported that they had some kind of disability, compared with 21% of people aged 15 years and over who were not primary carers. The higher rate of disability among primary carers partly reflected their older age profile. In contrast to those they cared for, only 9% of all primary carers had a disability with a profound or severe core activity limitation. Consistent with this, 8% of primary carers were themselves receiving help with core activities.

SOCIAL CONTACT AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES: INFORMATION FROM THE 2006 GSS

The 2006 General Social Survey collected information on social support, social networks and related topics. The 3.1 million carers identified in this survey were about equally as likely as non-carers to have sources of support outside the household, have regular contact with family and friends, and take part in informal activities (see Table 4.2). However, a greater proportion of carers than non-carers were involved in community activities such as volunteering (see Table 4.3). Both these patterns were observed across age groups (see Tables 4.2 and 4.3).

In the General Social Survey, carers were people who had spent time on unpaid assistance to an older person, or a person with disabilities, in the previous four weeks. Carers in the General Social Survey had different characteristics from the 474,600 primary carers whose emotional wellbeing and social relationships were discussed above, both because of the different methodologies used in the two surveys (see Appendix), and because primary carers were themselves a subset of all carers in the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers.

Social contact and support

There was little difference between carers and other people in the frequency of face to face contact with family and friends living outside the household (see Table 4.2). Of both carers and non carers, about 22% had contact everyday, and a further 59% had contact at least once a week. Around 15% had contact at least once a month while 170,000 carers had face to face contact with family and friends living outside the household less than once a month (6%).

About 95% of both carers and non-carers had either friends, or family members outside the household, that they could confide in. This left 146,000 carers who had neither family living outside the household, nor friends, that they could confide in.

Social contact and support continued

The great majority of both carers and non-carers were able to ask small favours from people living outside the household and had sources of support outside the household in times of crisis (94% of carers and 93% of non-carers in each case). There was little difference in the proportion of carers and non-carers whose sources of support outside the household included family (82% compared with 79%) or friends (68% compared with 67%). However, carers were more likely than non-carers to name a community, charity or religious organisation (19% compared with 11%), or a health/legal/financial professional (13% compared with 8%) as sources of support in times of crisis.

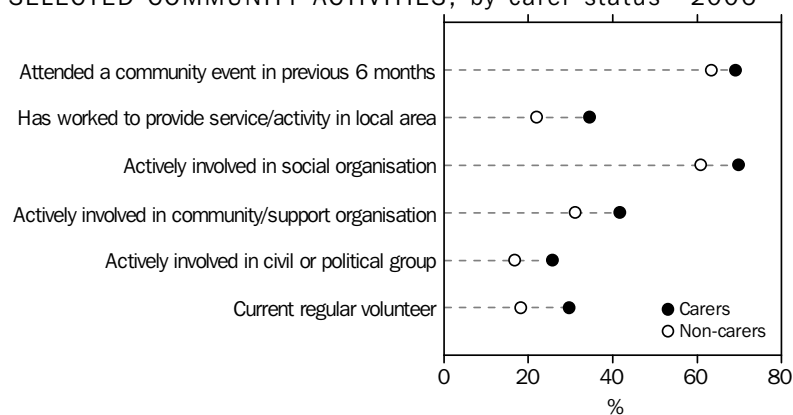
Carers and non-carers had similar rates of participation in informal social activities, in sport or physical activity, and in attending sports events (see Table 4.2). About 90% of carers and 88% of non-carers had been to at least one type of culture or leisure venue in the last 12 months, such as cinemas, libraries, theatres, music concerts, museums and parks and botanic gardens. However, carers had higher rates of visiting each type of venue, suggesting that overall they visited culture and leisure venues more frequently.

Community activities

Carers were more likely than non-carers to have been active in each of three major types of community groups in the previous 12 months: social (70% of carers and 61% of non-carers); community support (42% of carers and 31% of non-carers) and civic, which includes advocacy groups (26% of carers and 17% of non-carers). The leading types of group, for carers and non-carers alike, were sporting or physical recreation groups; religious or spiritual groups; and social clubs providing restaurants and bars. The greatest differences between carers and non-carers were in the proportion actively involved in welfare groups (12% and 5% respectively) and health promotion and support groups (11% and 6%).

Carers were more likely than non-carers to have ever lobbied to establish or retain a local service (35% compared with 22%), to have undertaken voluntary work for an organisation or group in the last 12 months for reasons other than work or study (45% compared with 31%) and to have participated in a community event in the last 6 months (69% compared with 63%).

SELECTED COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, by carer status—2006



Source: 2006 General Social Survey

*Community activities
continued*

Carers were also more likely to have networks that might help them obtain assistance or hear about new opportunities. For example, higher proportions of carers than non-carers reported knowing someone in the health and legal professions, members of state and federal governments, and staff of government departments (see Table 4.3).

4.1 PRIMARY CARERS(a), self-reported effects of the caring role—2003

Effects of the caring role	SEX OF CARER		CO-RESIDENCE STATUS		AGE GROUP OF MAIN RECIPIENT OF CARE (YEARS)				Total(b)
	Male	Female	Lives with main recipient of care	Does not live with main recipient of care	Less than			65 and over	
					15	15-44	45-64	65 and over	
NUMBERS ('000)									
Physical and emotional effects of caring role(c)									
Wellbeing has changed	26.9	110.4	104.3	33.0	21.0	22.1	23.6	68.6	137.3
Feels satisfied	44.3	77.5	92.7	29.1	8.2	*14.4	20.3	78.9	121.8
Feels weary or lacking in energy	34.1	125.9	123.4	36.6	26.1	26.5	26.8	77.3	160.0
Frequently feels worried or depressed	36.3	102.1	101.8	36.6	18.3	27.6	23.3	65.4	138.4
Frequently feels angry or resentful	12.8	55.1	48.8	19.1	9.7	*10.8	13.5	33.4	67.9
Has been diagnosed with a stress related disorder due to caring role	*10.1	38.6	38.7	10.0	*8.7	*8.5	10.3	19.9	48.7
Often has sleep interruptions that affect daily functioning	19.7	52.0	61.4	10.2	14.0	12.1	13.3	30.4	71.6
Lost or losing touch with or changed circle of friends since taking on the caring role	44.8	122.4	135.4	31.8	24.1	25.7	29.2	86.5	167.2
Relationship with person cared for									
Strained/lacked time together	21.7	61.9	66.2	17.4	*6.5	16.1	20.1	40.3	83.6
Unaffected	63.2	134.3	162.6	34.8	25.4	26.5	35.2	107.1	197.5
Brought closer together	41.5	120.5	115.2	46.8	21.9	24.1	32.9	79.7	162.0
All primary carers(d)	136.2	338.4	371.2	103.4	58.2	70.6	97.8	239.4	474.6
Relationship with spouse or partner(e)									
Strained/lacked time together	10.4	61.5	47.4	24.5	17.1	14.5	*6.8	31.7	71.8
Unaffected	18.9	61.3	39.5	40.7	15.3	13.8	*5.6	43.4	80.2
Brought closer together	*2.5	20.7	*14.9	*8.2	*9.0	*2.7	*2.4	*8.5	23.2
All primary carers with spouse or partner(d)	42.5	166.7	130.2	79.1	46.7	36.3	24.2	96.2	209.2
Relationship with other co-resident family members									
Strained/lacked time together	20.1	85.2	78.6	26.6	28.3	22.0	12.1	40.2	105.2
Unaffected	32.9	98.9	94.0	37.9	16.8	19.1	24.7	68.4	131.8
Brought closer together	*7.5	17.3	21.7	*3.1	*3.3	*5.8	*5.5	*9.3	24.8
All primary carers with other co-resident family members(d)	73.2	228.5	227.8	73.9	54.3	52.3	52.3	134.1	301.6

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) People aged 15 years and over living in households.

(b) Includes primary carers with a main recipient whose age was not stated.

(c) People may report more than one effect.

(d) As questions on the effects of caring were not compulsory, people who did not respond were included in the total.

(e) Excluded people whose main recipient of care was their partner.

Source: ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

4.1 PRIMARY CARERS(a), self-reported effects of the caring role—2003 *continued* . . .

Effects of the caring role	SEX OF CARER		CO-RESIDENCE STATUS		AGE GROUP OF MAIN RECIPIENT OF CARE (YEARS)				Total(b)
	Male	Female	Lives with main recipient of care	Does not live with main recipient of care	Less than 15	15–44	45–64	65 and over	
PROPORTION (%) (c)									
Physical and emotional effects of caring role(d)									
Wellbeing has changed	19.7	32.6	28.1	31.9	36.1	31.3	24.2	28.7	28.9
Feels satisfied	32.5	22.9	25.0	28.1	14.1	20.4	20.8	32.9	25.7
Feels weary or lacking in energy	25.0	37.2	33.2	35.4	44.8	37.5	27.4	32.3	33.7
Frequently feels worried or depressed	26.7	30.2	27.4	35.4	31.5	39.0	23.8	27.3	29.2
Frequently feels angry or resentful	9.4	16.3	13.2	18.4	16.7	15.2	13.8	13.9	14.3
Has been diagnosed with a stress related disorder due to caring role	*7.4	11.4	10.4	9.7	*15.0	*12.0	10.5	8.3	10.3
Often has sleep interruptions that affect daily functioning	14.5	15.4	16.5	9.9	24.0	17.2	13.6	12.7	15.1
Lost or losing touch with or changed circle of friends since taking on the caring role	32.9	36.2	36.5	30.7	41.4	36.4	29.8	36.1	35.2
Relationship with person cared for									
Strained/lacked time together	15.9	18.3	17.8	16.9	*11.1	22.8	20.5	16.8	17.6
Unaffected	46.4	39.7	43.8	33.7	43.7	37.6	36.0	44.7	41.6
Brought closer together	30.4	35.6	31.0	45.2	37.7	34.1	33.6	33.3	34.1
All primary carers	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Relationship with spouse or partner(e)(f)									
Strained/lacked time together	24.4	36.9	36.4	30.9	36.7	39.8	*28.2	32.9	34.3
Unaffected	44.6	36.7	30.4	51.4	32.8	38.1	*23.1	45.1	38.3
Brought closer together	*5.9	12.4	*11.5	*10.4	*19.2	*7.4	*9.9	*8.8	11.1
All primary carers with spouse or partner	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Relationship with other co-resident family members(f)									
Strained/lacked time together	27.4	37.3	34.5	36.0	52.1	42.0	23.1	29.9	34.9
Unaffected	45.0	43.3	41.3	51.2	30.9	36.4	47.2	51.0	43.7
Brought closer together	*10.3	7.6	9.5	*4.2	**6.0	*11.0	*10.4	*7.0	8.2
All primary carers with other co-resident family members	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) People aged 15 years and over living in households.

(b) Includes primary carers with a main recipient whose age was not stated.

(c) As questions on the effects of caring were not compulsory, people who did not respond were included in the denominator. The proportion of carers who did not respond ranged from about 7% for questions on physical and emotional effects, effects on circle of friends, and effects on person cared for, to 11% for the question on effects on relationship with other co-resident family members and 16% for the question on effects on relationship with spouse or partner.

(d) People may report more than one effect.

(e) Excluded people whose main recipient of care was their partner.

(f) As a proportion of primary carers who had these relationships.

Source: ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

4.2 CARER STATUS(a), social contact and support and participation in sporting and cultural activities—2006

	CARER						NOT A CARER				
	Males	Females	18–34 years	35–64 years	65 years and over	Total	18–34 years	35–64 years	65 years and over	Total	
Frequency of contact with non-resident family and friends											
Every day	%	20.6	22.5	27.6	20.4	20.9	21.7	24.1	16.6	18.5	19.5
At least once a week	%	56.8	60.3	54.3	60.0	58.5	58.8	58.4	60.0	60.3	59.5
At least once a month	%	17.0	11.9	13.2	13.9	15.2	14.0	12.5	16.5	14.8	14.8
At least once in three months	%	5.4	5.1	*4.9	5.3	*5.3	5.2	4.3	5.5	4.2	4.8
Less frequent/no family or friends	%	**0.3	**0.3	np	*0.4	np	*0.3	*0.8	1.5	2.1	1.3
Has non-resident family members can confide in											
None	%	12.6	9.8	10.1	12.0	7.6	10.9	11.5	13.5	9.1	12.1
One or two	%	35.3	34.8	35.7	35.0	34.6	35.1	35.9	36.9	39.0	36.9
Three or more	%	52.1	55.4	54.1	53.0	57.8	54.0	52.6	49.6	51.9	51.0
Has non-resident friends can confide in											
None	%	15.4	11.3	8.9	12.7	18.3	13.0	8.4	13.6	23.1	13.3
One or two	%	33.3	34.7	33.3	34.9	31.8	34.1	30.6	35.6	36.6	34.0
Three or more	%	51.3	54.0	57.8	52.4	49.9	52.9	61.0	50.8	40.3	52.6
Has no non-resident family or friends can confide in											
	%	5.5	4.2	*3.8	5.1	*4.4	4.8	2.9	5.5	4.4	4.4
Able to ask small favours from people outside the household											
	%	93.5	94.5	94.8	93.8	94.5	94.1	94.2	91.9	91.1	92.6
Able to get support in crisis from outside the household											
	%	93.6	94.6	97.6	93.6	93.0	94.1	95.4	92.5	90.3	93.1
Sources of support outside the household in crisis											
Friend	%	67.2	68.1	75.1	70.0	51.8	67.7	77.2	67.0	42.6	66.6
Neighbour	%	37.2	40.4	28.3	40.8	42.5	39.1	22.0	35.3	38.7	31.3
Family member	%	79.2	83.8	85.4	81.2	81.1	81.9	83.3	76.6	78.1	79.1
Work colleague	%	21.6	21.6	30.8	24.4	*2.2	21.6	29.7	23.0	2.0	21.9
Community, charity or religious organisation	%	15.5	21.3	14.9	19.5	20.3	18.9	10.1	11.2	11.5	10.9
Local council or other government services	%	7.3	6.8	*3.6	7.2	9.7	7.0	4.1	5.2	4.4	4.7
Health, legal or financial professional	%	12.2	13.7	8.5	15.0	10.2	13.1	7.7	9.2	5.8	8.1
Other sources	%	**0.6	*0.6	**2.0	*0.2	np	*0.6	0.9	1.1	**0.2	0.9

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) People aged 18 years and over living in occupied private dwellings.
Source: ABS 2006 General Social Survey

4.2 CARER STATUS(a), social contact and support and participation in sporting and cultural activities—2006 *continued*

		CARER						NOT A CARER			
		Males	Females	18-34 years	35-64 years	65 years and over	Total	18-34 years	35-64 years	65 years and over	Total
Types of social activity in the last three months											
Visited/was visited by friends	%	91.1	94.5	96.3	93.5	88.0	93.1	95.0	92.5	86.3	92.3
Went out with/met group of friends - outdoor activities	%	77.2	79.4	83.7	80.0	67.5	78.5	86.0	76.2	55.4	76.2
Went out with/met group of friends - indoor activities	%	72.4	78.1	85.5	75.5	67.4	75.7	81.3	71.0	59.0	72.6
Spent time in Internet social activity	%	20.0	19.7	33.0	18.9	10.8	19.8	31.9	17.0	5.6	20.3
Other informal social activities	%	43.2	45.6	48.0	46.7	33.1	44.6	46.5	42.1	26.5	41.1
No informal social activities	%	4.2	3.0	1.0	3.4	6.3	3.5	2.4	4.0	7.6	4.0
Has participated in sport or recreational physical activity in last 12 months	%	66.9	66.2	66.2	69.0	57.0	66.5	69.5	61.2	43.1	61.1
Has attended a sporting event in last 12 months	%	57.4	45.9	68.5	52.7	26.1	50.7	65.4	52.8	23.9	52.5
Has attended at least one cultural and leisure venue or event in last 12 months	%	88.8	90.7	96.8	91.4	77.6	89.9	95.5	88.8	71.4	88.3
Total	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total ('000)	'000	1 297.8	1 807.5	505.7	2 065.4	534.2	3 105.2	4 243.7	5 962.4	1 995.7	12 201.8

(a) People aged 18 years and over living in occupied private dwellings.

Source: ABS 2006 General Social Survey

4.3 CARER STATUS(a), by community activities and voluntary work—2006

Community activities and voluntary work		CARER					Total
		Males	Females	18–34 years	35–64 years	65 years and over	
Attended community event in past six months	%	64.1	72.5	71.1	71.1	58.9	69.0
Actively involved in at least one organisation or group of this type in the previous 12 months							
Social							
Sport or physical recreation group	%	37.5	31.5	39.0	35.3	24.6	34.0
Arts or heritage group	%	9.4	16.5	10.2	14.2	14.0	13.5
Religious or spiritual group or organisation	%	22.2	31.0	20.6	27.5	32.8	27.3
Craft or practical hobby group	%	7.4	17.8	6.9	14.6	15.5	13.5
Adult education, other recreation or special interest group	%	15.3	20.4	13.5	19.5	17.9	18.3
Ethnic/multicultural club	%	4.6	4.9	*4.3	5.4	*2.7	4.8
Social clubs providing restaurants or bars	%	23.4	23.7	26.5	23.5	21.1	23.6
All persons who actively participated in at least one social organisation in previous 12 months	%	67.5	71.4	65.1	71.0	69.6	69.8
No active involvement in social organisation in previous 12 months	%	32.5	28.6	34.9	29.0	30.4	30.2
Community support							
Service clubs	%	9.0	8.9	*5.5	9.3	10.9	9.0
Welfare organisations	%	9.3	13.4	*11.1	11.2	14.2	11.7
Education and training	%	10.1	20.1	15.5	19.2	*3.6	15.9
Parenting/children/youth	%	7.1	10.9	13.2	9.1	*6.3	9.3
Health promotion and support	%	9.0	12.4	10.7	11.8	*8.1	11.0
Emergency services	%	6.9	2.7	*5.3	4.7	*2.6	4.5
International aid and development	%	5.5	6.6	*4.5	7.3	*3.2	6.1
All persons who actively participated in at least one community support group in previous 12 months	%	36.3	45.5	38.2	44.1	35.3	41.6
No active involvement in community support groups in previous 12 months	%	63.7	54.5	61.8	55.9	64.7	58.4
Civic							
Trade union/professional/technical association	%	12.4	6.9	*7.6	11.5	*1.8	9.2
Political party	%	*1.5	1.6	*0.6	1.5	*2.9	1.6
Civic group or organisation	%	6.0	6.4	*5.3	6.6	5.7	6.3
Environmental or animal welfare group	%	6.0	8.3	9.0	7.9	*3.4	7.3
Human and civil rights group	%	3.1	4.6	*5.8	3.6	*3.4	4.0
Body corporate or tenants' association	%	5.7	6.0	*3.3	6.3	*7.0	5.9
Consumer organisation	%	1.3	*1.6	**0.5	1.8	*0.9	1.5
All persons who actively participated in at least one civil or political group in previous 12 months	%	26.3	25.2	24.5	27.8	18.5	25.7
No active involvement in civil or political groups in previous 12 months	%	73.7	74.8	75.5	72.2	81.5	74.3
Has worked to provide a service or activity in local area	%	36.3	33.2	24.4	37.0	34.3	34.5
Personally knows someone in organisations:							
Member of government (local, state, federal)	%	26.5	22.8	13.1	25.2	31.7	24.4
Member of a government department (state or federal)	%	20.9	18.8	15.9	21.1	17.7	19.6
Person in health care system	%	34.8	39.9	24.5	39.6	43.5	37.8
Person in legal system	%	27.5	24.7	16.7	28.6	24.3	25.9
Member of a religious or spiritual group	%	29.5	34.2	22.6	32.8	39.3	32.2

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) People aged 18 years and over living in occupied private dwellings.

Source: ABS 2006 General Social Survey

4.3 CARER STATUS(a), by community activities and voluntary work—2006 *continued* . .

		CARER					
<i>Community activities and voluntary work</i>		Males	Females	18–34 years	35–64 years	65 years and over	Total
Type of activity participated in, in the last 12 months							
Community consultation/public meeting	%	13.0	12.0	7.3	14.4	9.6	12.4
Contacted local councillor/territory government member	%	22.5	19.9	11.3	24.2	17.9	21.0
Contacted member of parliament	%	9.2	8.3	6.2	9.4	8.5	8.7
Signed petition	%	25.7	31.8	26.9	31.5	22.8	29.3
Attended protest march/meeting/rally	%	6.9	7.2	*9.4	7.4	*3.6	7.0
Wrote letter to the editor of a newspaper	%	5.7	4.3	*3.2	5.5	*4.0	4.9
Participated in a political campaign	%	2.2	3.5	*2.7	3.5	*1.0	2.9
Boycotted or deliberately bought products for political, ethical or environmental reasons	%	32.3	36.1	32.6	37.7	24.1	34.5
None of these	%	45.3	41.0	53.3	37.3	54.1	42.8
Undertook voluntary work in the previous 12 months for reasons other than work or study							
Currently undertaking voluntary work at least once a fortnight	%	27.1	31.6	26.3	30.7	28.9	29.7
First undertook voluntary work more than ten years ago	%	30.6	30.9	17.3	33.5	33.2	30.8
Total undertook voluntary work in the previous 12 months for reasons other than work or study	%	41.6	47.5	38.7	48.2	39.0	45.0
Participated in voluntary work as a child or youth	%	38.0	36.8	41.7	38.2	29.5	37.3
Had donated money in the previous 12 months	%	80.2	86.4	80.4	84.9	82.7	83.8
Total	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total ('000)	'000	1 297.8	1 807.5	505.7	2 065.4	534.2	3 105.2

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) People aged 18 years and over living in occupied private dwellings.

Source: ABS 2006 General Social Survey

4.3 CARER STATUS(a), by community activities and voluntary work—2006 *continued* . .

		NOT A CARER					
<i>Community activities and voluntary work</i>		Males	Females	18–34 years	35–64 years	65 years and over	Total
Attended community event in past six months	%	61.1	65.6	67.7	65.3	47.7	63.3
Actively involved in at least one organisation or group of this type in the previous 12 months							
Social							
Sport or physical recreation group	%	38.9	29.3	40.5	34.7	19.6	34.2
Arts or heritage group	%	6.7	9.0	6.8	8.9	6.9	7.8
Religious or spiritual group or organisation	%	14.9	20.9	15.1	18.3	22.0	17.8
Craft or practical hobby group	%	4.0	10.7	5.0	8.2	9.3	7.3
Adult education, other recreation or special interest group	%	9.1	14.1	9.2	13.4	10.9	11.5
Ethnic/multicultural club	%	3.9	3.8	3.1	3.9	5.1	3.8
Social clubs providing restaurants or bars	%	20.7	17.4	18.9	19.2	19.3	19.1
All persons who actively participated in at least one social organisation in previous 12 months	%	61.0	60.9	61.5	61.5	58.1	60.9
No active involvement in social organisation in previous 12 months	%	39.0	39.1	38.5	38.5	41.9	39.1
Community support							
Service clubs	%	4.9	5.2	3.3	5.0	9.0	5.1
Welfare organisations	%	3.9	6.8	4.8	5.0	7.4	5.3
Education and training	%	9.1	16.4	12.7	15.9	2.8	12.6
Parenting/children/youth	%	5.6	12.1	11.4	9.4	*1.4	8.8
Health promotion and support	%	3.8	7.3	5.4	6.0	4.1	5.5
Emergency services	%	4.1	1.7	3.1	3.3	*1.4	2.9
International aid and development	%	3.2	4.1	4.1	3.9	1.9	3.6
All persons who actively participated in at least one community support group in previous 12 months	%	25.4	37.2	32.4	33.1	22.7	31.1
No active involvement in community support groups in previous 12 months	%	74.6	62.8	67.6	66.9	77.3	68.9
Civic							
Trade union/professional/technical association	%	9.4	4.2	6.2	9.1	*1.5	6.8
Political party	%	1.5	1.1	*0.9	1.4	*1.8	1.3
Civic group or organisation	%	2.6	2.2	1.5	2.9	2.7	2.4
Environmental or animal welfare group	%	4.2	4.6	5.0	4.8	1.9	4.4
Human and civil rights group	%	1.6	2.0	1.7	2.0	1.6	1.8
Body corporate or tenants' association	%	4.7	3.3	2.7	4.8	4.7	4.0
Consumer organisation	%	1.1	0.6	*0.8	0.8	*0.9	0.8
All persons who actively participated in at least one civil or political group in previous 12 months	%	19.2	14.2	15.3	19.5	11.9	16.8
No active involvement in civil or political groups in previous 12 months	%	80.8	85.8	84.7	80.5	88.1	83.2
Has worked to provide a service or activity in local area	%	24.1	19.6	17.3	24.9	22.9	21.9
Personally knows someone in organisations:							
Member of government (local, state, federal)	%	17.8	14.5	9.9	18.1	23.9	16.2
Member of a government department (state or federal)	%	15.3	12.1	10.4	16.1	14.0	13.8
Person in health care system	%	23.1	31.7	22.8	29.2	31.0	27.3
Person in legal system	%	20.5	15.7	14.2	20.9	18.3	18.2
Member of a religious or spiritual group	%	17.0	23.3	16.2	21.2	24.8	20.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) People aged 18 years and over living in occupied private dwellings.

Source: ABS 2006 General Social Survey

4.3 CARER STATUS(a), by community activities and voluntary work—2006 *continued* . .

		NOT A CARER					
<i>Community activities and voluntary work</i>		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>18–34 years</i>	<i>35–64 years</i>	<i>65 years and over</i>	<i>Total</i>
Type of activity participated in, in the last 12 months							
Community consultation/public meeting	%	6.7	6.5	4.8	7.8	7.0	6.6
Contacted local councillor/territory government member	%	11.2	12.7	8.0	15.1	11.1	11.9
Contacted member of parliament	%	5.3	4.9	3.1	6.3	5.7	5.1
Signed petition	%	18.4	23.3	20.5	23.4	13.5	20.8
Attended protest march/meeting/rally	%	5.1	4.2	4.6	5.7	1.7	4.7
Wrote letter to the editor of a newspaper	%	3.2	3.0	2.6	3.8	2.1	3.1
Participated in a political campaign	%	1.8	1.8	1.3	2.5	*0.8	1.8
Boycotted or deliberately bought products for political, ethical or environmental reasons	%	19.8	24.4	21.2	24.6	16.1	22.0
None of these	%	60.8	55.9	60.7	54.0	67.0	58.4
Undertook voluntary work in the previous 12 months for reasons other than work or study							
Currently undertaking voluntary work at least once a fortnight	%	16.9	19.5	16.0	21.1	14.0	18.2
First undertook voluntary work more than ten years ago	%	15.8	16.9	9.3	20.5	18.7	16.3
Total undertook voluntary work in the previous 12 months for reasons other than work or study	%	29.8	33.0	29.2	35.4	24.2	31.4
Participated in voluntary work as a child or youth	%	30.3	30.1	37.8	28.3	19.7	30.2
Had donated money in the previous 12 months	%	71.2	79.2	68.7	79.2	76.4	75.1
Total	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total ('000)	'000	6 255.5	5 946.3	4 243.7	5 962.4	1 995.7	12 201.8

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) People aged 18 years and over living in occupied private dwellings.

Source: ABS 2006 General Social Survey

EMPLOYMENT

Employment can provide benefits in terms of financial security, self-esteem and social engagement. In the 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, almost two-thirds of all carers aged 15–64 years were employed (63% or 1.3 million people) compared with 73% of non-carers. Of these employed carers, around 790,000 were employed full-time and a further 473,000 part-time. Around 48% of primary carers of this age were employed and these carers were more likely to work part-time than full-time. This is consistent with the intensity of care provided by primary carers, who may find it more difficult to combine their caring role with paid employment. Of carers aged 15–64 years, around 79,000 were unemployed, and a further 660,000 were not in the labour force (see Table 5.1).

EFFECTS OF CARING ROLE ON EMPLOYMENT OF PRIMARY CARERS

While most of the 180,000 employed primary carers in the 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers had not changed their weekly working hours since taking on the caring role (72%), almost one-third reported that they needed time off work (32%)(see Table 5.2).

Of the 295,000 primary carers who were not employed, almost one-third had left work just prior to taking on the caring role (31%). Just over half of primary carers in this situation had left work specifically to start or increase care (51%), while the remaining 49% left work for other reasons such as because they had retired or became eligible for a pension.

Of all primary carers who had left work to start or increase care, 38% had done so because alternative care was not available or too expensive, or because they were unable to change their working arrangements. However, the remainder had done so due to other reasons such as emotional obligations or because they preferred to care full-time (62%). Around 57% of male primary carers who had left work to take on the caring role had done so because alternative care was not available or too expensive, or because they were unable to change their working arrangements.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

The economic wellbeing of people is largely determined by their access to economic resources. For most households, these economic resources are primarily derived from income received by household members (for example, in the form of wages and salaries, investment income or income support from government). Household wealth is also important as households with a relatively high level of wealth may be better able to maintain satisfactory living standards during periods of reduced income (for example, if unemployed). For most households, relative wealth and income levels tend to be closely associated with their life course stage. For example, many younger households have relatively low wealth and relatively high income, while older households may be relatively wealthy but have low income. The life course stage of a carer may therefore influence their ability to draw on economic resources. The ability of carers to earn

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

continued

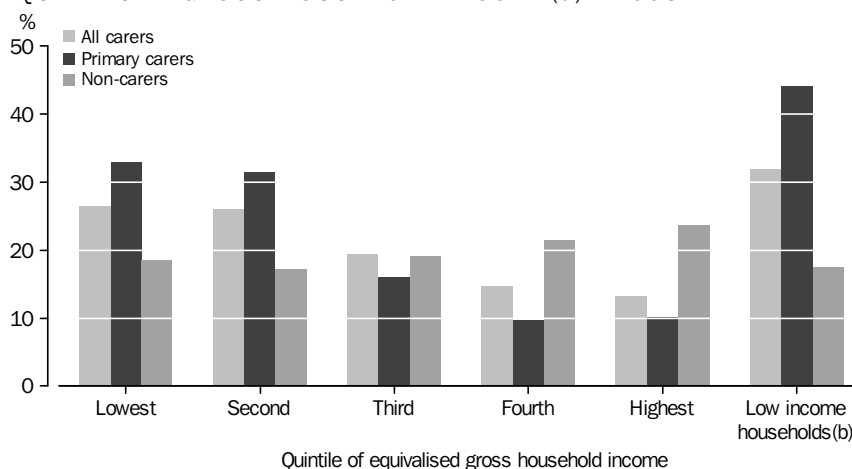
income and accumulate wealth is also affected by the intensity of care they provide as well as the duration of care.

Larger households need greater income for the same standard of living as smaller households, but larger households have economies arising through the sharing of benefits between household members, such as accommodation, heating and other utilities. To make meaningful comparisons of living conditions, measures of household income have been adjusted or equivalised in the following discussion to take account of differing household size and composition.

One commonly used measure of the distribution of income is the proportion of different population groups in each quintile. A quintile is derived by ranking people by their household income from lowest to highest income, and then dividing this group into five equal groups (or quintiles). The lowest quintile is made up of the 20% of people with the lowest household income. If there was no income inequality between carers and non-carers, then each quintile would contain equal proportions of each group. This is not the case.

In 2003, over one-quarter (27%) of all carers aged 15 years and over, and one-third (33%) of primary carers in the same age group were in the lowest quintile of equivalised gross household income compared with 19% of non-carers. Only 13% of all carers were in the highest quintile (see Table 5.1).

EQUIVALISED GROSS HOUSEHOLD INCOME (a)—2003



(a) People aged 15 years and over.

(b) People in households in the second and third deciles of equivalised household income.

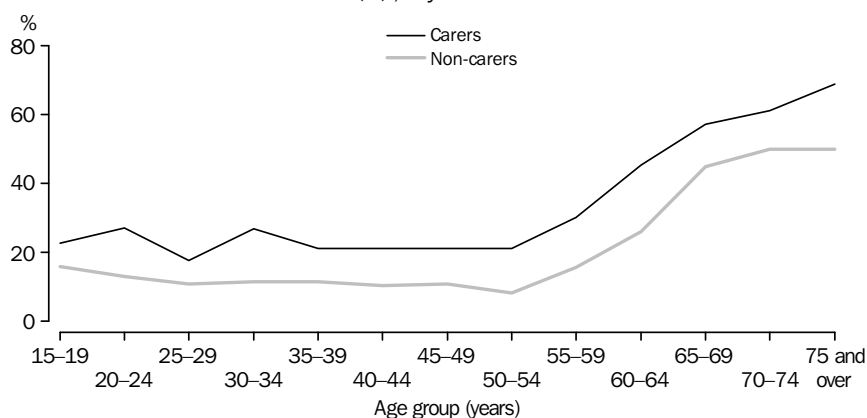
Source: ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

Not all households in the bottom decile of equivalised gross household income are likely to be suffering low levels of economic wellbeing. Households in this circumstance often have expenditure levels comparable to those of households with higher income levels, indicating that these households have access to other economic resources, such as wealth. For this reason, low income households are considered to be those in the second and third deciles of equivalised gross household income. In 2003, around one-third of all carers in Australia (32%) and 44% of primary carers were living in low income households compared with 17% of non-carers. The proportion of all carers living in low income households was higher than for non-carers across all age groups. Since

people in older households are often retired and therefore have lower income (but may have relatively high wealth), a greater proportion of both older carers and older non-carers lived in low income households.

LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS (a), by carer status—2003



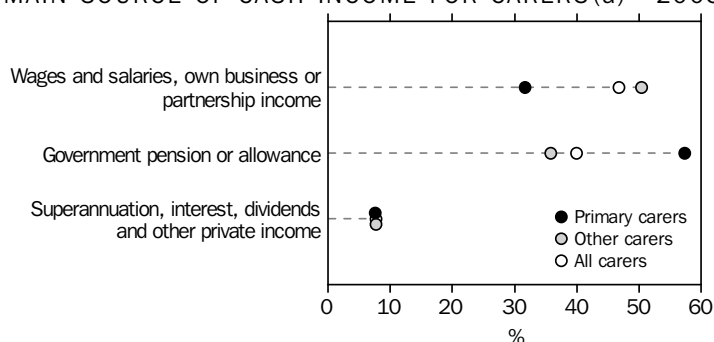
(a) Households in the second and third deciles of equivalised household income.

Source: ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

SOURCE OF INCOME

While the most common main source of personal cash income for all carers was wages and salaries, own business or partnership income (47% of all carers), partly reflecting their older age profile, carers were much more likely than non-carers to have a government pension or allowance as main source of income (40% compared with 24%). Around 57% of primary carers reported a government pension or allowance as their main source of income (see Table 5.1).

MAIN SOURCE OF CASH INCOME FOR CARERS (a)—2003



(a) People aged 15 years and over.

Source: ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

HOUSEHOLD TENURE

The tenure of a household is strongly related to life-course changes, with home ownership (as opposed to rental arrangements) most likely in older age. The older median age of carers (48 years, for those aged 15 years and over) compared with non-carers (40 years, for those aged 15 years and over), is reflected in an overall slightly higher rate of home ownership among carers compared with non-carers (69% and 65% respectively). There is little difference between the rates of carers and non-carers aged 35 years and over who were home owners (with or without a mortgage). Younger carers aged 15–34 years were less likely to own their own home (37%) than were younger non-carers (44%) (see Table 5.1).

DATA FROM THE 2006
GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY

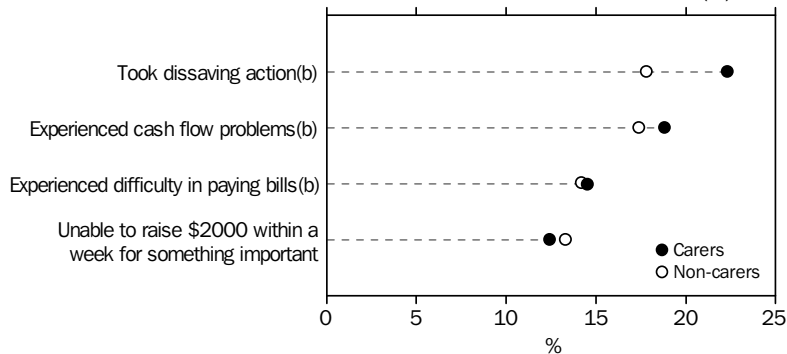
The following discussion uses data collected from the 2006 General Social Survey which had a different methodology to the 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (see Appendix for details).

FINANCIAL STRESS

To meet financial commitments or to maintain other expenditure, households may go without key goods and services, or rely on actions such as drawing on savings. The extent to which this occurs can provide an indication of the overall financial stress experienced by households. The reporting of financial stress does not necessarily imply that a household has low income. Some people in high income households reported financial stressors. Nevertheless, information on the income characteristics of those experiencing financial stress from the 2006 General Social Survey shows that those in the lowest income quintile (the bottom 20% of people ranked by equivalised household income) were less likely than other people to be able to raise money quickly for something important, more likely to have experienced cash flow problems in the last 12 months, and more likely than people in the top income quintile to have taken a dissaving action in the past 12 months, such as borrowing money or drawing on accumulated savings or term deposits.

Approximately 22% of all carers had taken dissaving actions in the 12 months prior to the survey; 19% experienced cash flow problems; and 15% had difficulty paying bills. Around 12% of carers said that they were unable to raise \$2,000 within a week for something important (see Table 5.3).

INDICATORS OF FINANCIAL STRESS BY CARER STATUS (a)—2006



(a) People aged 18 years and over.
(b) In the 12 months prior to the survey.
Source: ABS 2006 General Social Survey

FINANCIAL STRESS

continued

For each of these indicators of financial stress, the rates tended to be higher for carers aged 18–34 years compared with those carers in the older age groups. The rates were similar for non-carers, aside from the rate of dissaving actions taken, which was higher for carers than non-carers (22% compared with 18%). The differences in the financial stress experienced by carers and non-carers were greatest for those aged 18–34 years, with the rate of dissaving action for carers of this age (30%) significantly higher than for non-carers (22%).

5.1 CARER STATUS(a), selected household and personal characteristics—2003

	SEX OF CARER		AGE GROUP OF CARER (YEARS)			CARER STATUS				
	Male	Female	15–34	35–64	65 and over	Primary carer	Other carer	Total carers	Not a carer	Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
.....										
Equivalentised gross household income quintiles(b)(c)										
Lowest quintile	226.9	290.3	99.2	255.1	162.9	123.9	393.3	517.2	1 930.2	2 447.4
Second	215.7	290.4	119.8	255.3	131.0	118.4	387.7	506.1	1 794.5	2 300.7
Third	173.4	204.7	103.4	236.6	38.1	59.8	318.3	378.1	1 989.5	2 367.6
Fourth	137.2	149.4	66.7	202.0	17.9	36.4	250.2	286.6	2 245.0	2 531.6
Highest quintile	134.4	122.4	64.2	190.6	*2.0	38.5	218.4	256.8	2 459.0	2 715.9
Not known or not applicable	230.9	279.6	110.1	298.9	101.6	97.6	412.9	510.6	2 854.6	3 365.1
Low income household(d)	276.4	344.9	107.3	293.0	221.1	166.2	455.1	621.3	1 822.8	2 444.1
Main source of personal cash income										
Zero or negative income	47.1	84.1	54.8	70.8	*5.6	15.6	115.5	131.1	1 104.5	1 235.7
Wages and salaries, own business or partnership income	594.4	526.6	315.2	790.4	15.5	145.1	976.0	1 121.1	7 797.5	8 918.5
Government pension or allowance	357.1	599.6	173.2	442.7	340.8	262.5	694.2	956.7	3 170.3	4 127.0
Superannuation, interest, dividends and other private income	93.9	93.2	*9.1	107.0	71.0	35.0	152.1	187.1	915.5	1 102.6
Not known	26.0	33.4	11.1	27.6	20.7	16.4	43.0	59.4	285.0	344.4
Tenure type of households										
Owner(e)	741.7	930.8	209.9	1 095.3	367.2	333.6	1 338.9	1 672.5	8 565.9	10 238.4
Renter(f)	201.9	279.8	181.4	251.4	49.0	101.4	380.3	481.7	2 905.9	3 387.6
Other(g)	162.2	112.6	169.9	84.8	20.1	31.8	243.0	274.8	1 616.1	1 890.9
Not applicable	*12.8	*13.7	**2.2	*7.0	**17.3	*7.8	*18.6	*26.5	*184.9	*211.4
Labour force status(h)										
Employed										
Full-time	518.4	271.8	218.0	572.2	np	79.8	710.4	790.2	5 951.3	6 741.5
Part-time	132.3	340.6	147.3	325.7	np	95.2	377.7	473.0	2 415.2	2 888.1
Total employed	650.8	612.4	365.2	897.9	np	175.1	1 088.1	1 263.2	8 366.5	9 629.6
Unemployed	36.5	42.5	46.3	32.7	np	*5.7	73.4	79.0	473.2	552.2
Total in the labour force	687.3	654.9	411.6	930.6	np	180.7	1 161.5	1 342.2	8 839.7	10 181.9
Not in the labour force	186.6	473.0	151.8	507.8	np	180.8	478.9	659.6	2 551.6	3 211.2
Total 15–64 years	873.9	1 127.9	563.4	1 438.4	np	361.5	1 640.3	2 001.8	11 391.3	13 393.1
Total(i)	1 118.5	1 336.9	563.4	1 438.4	453.6	474.6	1 980.8	2 455.4	13 272.8	15 728.2

- * estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution
- ** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use
- np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated
- (a) People aged 15 years and over living in households.
- (b) Equivalentising adjusts actual income to take account of different household size and composition.
- (c) Income quintiles are based on the total population in private dwellings.

- (d) Low income households are those in the second and third deciles of equivalentised gross household income.
- (e) Owner with or without a mortgage.
- (f) Public or private renter.
- (g) Includes: Life tenure scheme, participant of rent/buy (or shared equity) scheme, renter/boarder or living rent free.
- (h) Labour force status is only shown for those aged 15–64 years, since the relative standard errors for people aged 65 years and over were too high for most of the groups shown.
- (i) Total includes main source of cash income not known.

Source: ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

5.2 PRIMARY CARERS(a), effects of caring on paid work and on finances—2003

	SEX OF CARER		AGE GROUP OF MAIN RECIPIENT OF CARE (YEARS)				Total
	Male	Female	Less than			65 and over	
			15	15–44	45–64		
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Employed primary carers							
Needs time off work	18.7	38.1	9.7	13.7	*8.7	22.2	56.8
Does not need time off work	32.1	90.6	*11.7	26.5	26.7	54.2	122.7
Weekly hours worked are unchanged	38.7	89.7	9.5	29.3	27.8	59.5	128.4
Weekly hours worked are reduced	*10.9	30.1	10.7	*7.2	*6.9	15.3	41.0
Total employed primary carers (b)	50.8	128.6	21.4	40.1	35.4	76.4	179.5
Primary carers who were not employed							
Worked just before taking on the caring role(c)	30.1	60.4	10.1	10.5	25.5	43.7	90.5
Did not work just before taking on the caring role	48.1	141.6	26.6	18.5	30.9	111.8	189.7
Total primary carers who were not employed(d)	85.4	209.8	36.8	30.5	62.5	163.0	295.2
Reason primary carers had left work just before taking on caring role(e)							
To commence or increase care	14.5	34.2	*6.9	*6.9	14.2	20.6	48.7
Retired/became eligible for pension/benefit/other	18.4	28.2	*3.2	*4.2	13.6	24.9	46.6
Total primary carers who had left work just before taking on the caring role	32.9	62.3	10.1	11.1	27.8	45.6	95.3
Reasons primary carers had left work to commence or increase care							
Alternative care not available/too expensive/unable to change working arrangements	8.3	10.3	**1.6	*3.8	*4.2	*8.9	18.6
Emotional obligations/preferred to care full-time/other	*6.2	23.9	*5.3	*3.1	10.0	11.7	30.1
Total primary carers not employed who had left work to commence or increase care	14.5	34.2	*6.9	*6.9	14.2	20.6	48.7
Selected effects on income and expenses							
Role has decreased income or caused extra expenses	58.0	147.6	34.2	36.8	49.9	78.7	205.6
Has difficulty meeting everyday living costs	40.0	90.0	22.4	24.2	34.8	44.0	129.9
Total primary carers	136.2	338.4	58.2	70.6	97.8	239.4	474.6

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) People aged 15 years and over living in households.

(b) Includes primary carers whose weekly hours increased since taking on the caring role.

(c) Excludes around five thousand carers aged under 65 years who were permanently unable to work.

(d) Includes primary carers who were permanently unable to work.

(e) Includes around five thousand carers aged under 65 years who were permanently unable to work.

Source: ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

5.3 CARER STATUS(a), indicators of financial stress(b)—2006

	CARER						NOT A CARER			
	Males	Females	18-34 years	35-64 years	65 years and over	Total	18-34 years	35-64 years	65 years and over	Total
Unable to raise \$2,000 within a week for something important	10.6	13.7	17.0	12.7	6.9	12.4	15.9	12.5	10.2	13.3
Able to raise \$2,000 within a week for something important	88.1	84.6	81.8	85.8	91.3	86.1	82.0	85.8	87.8	84.8
Experienced cash flow problems in the past 12 months										
One or two	11.1	12.9	22.7	11.9	*3.1	12.1	17.4	10.8	3.7	11.9
Three or more	6.1	7.2	10.5	7.0	**1.9	6.7	9.5	4.2	**0.6	5.5
Total	17.2	20.1	33.1	18.9	*5.0	18.8	26.9	15.0	4.3	17.4
No cash flow problems experienced in the previous 12 months	82.6	79.4	66.9	80.5	94.9	80.7	72.4	84.5	95.3	82.1
Experienced difficulty in paying bills in the past 12 months										
Once or twice	*3.9	4.4	7.8	3.8	**2.4	4.2	7.4	4.4	1.4	5.0
Three or more times	10.4	10.3	17.0	11.2	**0.7	10.3	14.8	7.6	*1.7	9.2
Total	14.2	14.7	24.8	15.0	*3.1	14.5	22.3	12.1	3.1	14.2
Did not experience difficulty paying bills in the previous 12 months	85.5	84.4	74.2	84.4	96.9	84.9	77.0	87.4	96.7	85.3
Took dissaving action in the last 12 months										
One or two types	18.1	20.6	25.7	20.4	10.3	19.6	19.5	16.5	6.6	15.9
Three or more types	3.2	2.4	*4.4	3.1	—	2.8	2.3	2.1	**0.3	1.9
Total	21.3	23.0	30.1	23.5	10.3	22.3	21.8	18.6	6.9	17.8
Did not take dissaving action in previous 12 months	78.6	76.2	69.7	75.9	89.4	77.2	77.7	80.8	92.2	81.6
Type of dissaving action(s) taken in the previous 12 months										
Drew on accumulated savings/term deposits	9.1	10.2	*10.0	10.5	6.7	9.7	7.3	7.9	4.1	7.1
Borrowed(c)	12.1	12.7	19.8	13.4	*2.0	12.5	13.9	10.8	2.5	10.6
Other(d)	8.7	7.6	10.2	8.8	**3.1	8.0	7.1	6.3	*1.6	5.8
All persons	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All persons	'000 1 297.8	1 807.5	505.7	2 065.4	534.2	3 105.2	4 243.7	5 962.4	1 995.7	12 201.8

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) People aged 18 years and over living in occupied private dwellings.

(b) Not stated responses have been left in the denominator when calculating rates for this table.

(c) Includes: Increased the balance owing on credit cards by \$1000 or more/took out a personal loan/entered into a loan agreement with family or friends.

(d) Includes: Reduced home loan repayments, sold household goods or jewellery, sold shares, stocks or bonds, sold other assets, and other dissaving actions.

Source: ABS 2006 General Social Survey

SOURCES OF SUPPORT AND USE OF RESPITE CARE

ASSISTANCE FOR PRIMARY CARERS

In the 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, about half of all primary carers (253,000 people or 53%) said they had no major source of assistance. However, a substantial minority within this group (44%) did not need assistance (see Table 6.1). Among primary carers who did receive assistance, relatives (other than their spouse), friends or neighbours were the most common source of assistance (40%), followed by spouses or partners (32%), and formal providers (28%). The source of assistance differed depending upon the age of the person being cared for. For carers looking after a child, the spouse or partner of the carer was most likely to be the carer's main source of assistance, whereas relatives, friends and neighbours were more likely to be the main source of assistance for carers caring for someone aged 45 years and over.

PRIMARY CARERS, main source of assistance to carer—2003



Source: ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

Fall-back carers

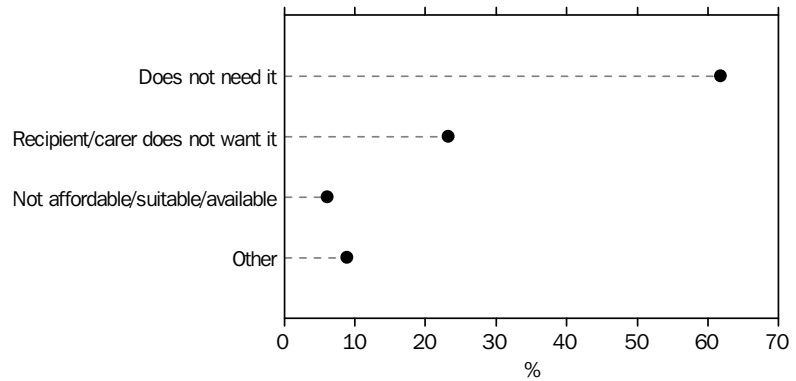
Having someone who can fill in for them can be of great help to primary carers. Over half of all primary carers (55% or 261,000 people) had an informal carer who could take their place at times. Just over a third of these fall-back carers lived with the person cared for.

Respite care

Formal respite care allows carers time for other activities. These may include tasks related to caring, such as household shopping, as well as activities related to their own needs. However, not all carers may need or want respite care. In 2003, 87% of primary carers had never used respite care for the person for whom they were caring. Among people who said they had never used respite care, 62% said they did not need it. Other reasons for never having used respite care included that the person cared for, or the carer did not want it (23%), while 6% cited reasons related to respite care not being available, suitable or affordable.

Respite care continued

PRIMARY CARERS (a), Main reasons for never using respite care—2003



(a) People aged 15 years and over living in households.

Source: ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

In total, 17% of primary carers said they needed access (or further access) to respite care. The proportion of carers wanting access or further access to respite care was higher among carers who were caring for a child (41%) than among those caring for an older person aged 65 years or more (18%), or for those caring for someone aged 15–64 years (9%) (see Table 6.2).

6.1 PRIMARY CARERS(a), need for assistance and main sources of assistance—2003

	SEX OF CARER		CO-RESIDENCE STATUS		AGE GROUP OF MAIN RECIPIENT OF CARE (YEARS)				Total(b)
	Male	Female	Lives with main recipient of care	Does not live with main recipient of care	Less than 15	15-44	45-64	65 and over	
NUMBERS ('000)									
Whether receives and need for assistance									
Receives assistance and does not need further assistance	36.2	114.4	112.4	38.1	26.7	27.4	25.4	66.7	150.5
Receives assistance and needs further assistance	16.1	55.5	47.0	24.5	12.8	11.8	*7.2	38.3	71.5
Does not receive assistance and needs assistance	13.1	30.7	31.1	*12.6	*6.7	*4.6	*7.1	24.8	43.7
Does not receive assistance and does not need assistance	70.9	137.9	180.7	28.2	12.0	26.9	58.2	109.7	208.9
Main source of assistance									
Spouse or partner	*12.7	59.1	57.3	14.6	22.4	15.8	*5.2	24.0	71.8
Other relative/friend or neighbour	25.9	62.5	64.8	23.5	*8.4	*12.4	21.4	45.4	88.4
Formal provider	13.6	48.2	37.3	24.5	8.7	10.9	*6.1	35.5	61.9
Has no main source of assistance	84.0	168.6	211.8	40.8	18.7	31.5	65.2	134.4	252.6
Whether main source of assistance is a co-resident of the person cared for									
Co-resident	19.3	84.2	85.8	17.7	27.6	24.3	14.1	32.5	103.5
Not a co-resident	33.0	85.6	73.6	44.9	11.9	14.8	18.5	72.5	118.5
Has no main source of assistance	84.0	168.6	211.8	40.8	18.7	31.5	65.2	134.4	252.6
Whether main recipient has a fall-back informal carer									
Has a fall-back informal carer	70.4	190.8	201.6	59.6	45.1	43.5	51.4	115.8	261.2
Does not have a fall-back informal carer	54.4	112.5	131.7	35.2	*10.8	23.4	34.7	96.0	166.9
Does not know	11.3	35.2	37.9	*8.6	**2.4	*3.7	11.7	27.6	46.5
Whether fall-back informal carer lives with main recipient of care									
Fall-back informal carer lives with main recipient	12.8	75.3	86.5	**1.6	32.1	24.2	14.0	12.8	88.1
Fall-back informal carer does not live with main recipient	57.6	115.5	115.2	58.0	12.9	19.4	37.4	103.0	173.1
Does not have a fall-back informal carer/does not know if has a fall-back informal carer	65.8	147.6	169.6	43.9	*13.1	27.1	46.4	123.6	213.4
Total	136.2	338.4	371.2	103.4	58.2	70.6	97.8	239.4	474.6

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) People aged 15 years and over living in households.

(b) Includes primary carers with a main recipient whose age was not stated.

Source: ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

6.2 PRIMARY CARERS(a), use of and need for respite care—2003

	<i>Ever used respite care</i>	<i>Never used respite care</i>	<i>Wants access/more access to respite care</i>	<i>Does not want access/more access to respite care</i>	<i>Total(b)</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
.....					
Primary carer's characteristics					
Males	11.4	124.8	13.8	122.4	136.2
Females	50.7	287.7	66.9	271.5	338.4
Aged less than 35 years	*5.6	57.2	11.1	51.7	62.7
Aged 35–64 years	44.7	254.1	59.3	239.4	298.7
Aged 65 years and over	11.9	101.3	*10.4	102.8	113.2
Main recipient of care's characteristics					
Aged less than 15 years	16.9	41.2	23.6	34.6	58.2
Aged 15–64 years	17.8	150.6	15.3	153.2	168.5
Aged 65 years and over	26.3	213.1	41.9	197.5	239.4
All primary carers (b)	62.1	412.5	80.8	393.8	474.6

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) People aged 15 years and over living in households.

(b) Includes primary carers whose main recipient of care's age was not stated.

Source: ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

INTRODUCTION

This chapter draws on data from a number of ABS collections to provide a picture of three groups of carers defined by their age: young carers aged 15–24 years, carers aged 35–54 years, and older carers (aged 65 years and over).

YOUNG CARERS

While young carers may develop skills and capabilities from their caring role, there are also potential negative effects on their education, employment and social participation.

In the 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, 246,000 young carers (aged 15–24 years) provided informal assistance to someone with a disability, or to someone who was aged 60 years or over. This count of carers is likely to be an undercount as people aged 15–17 years were only interviewed with a parent’s permission. The proportion of young males and females who were carers was similar (around 9% for both sexes). There were around 19,000 primary carers aged 15–24 years and most of these young primary carers were providing care to a person living with them (85%).

EDUCATION

In the 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, the proportion of young carers aged 15–18 years who were attending school (67%) was similar to non-carers in the same age group (69%). Young carers aged 19–24 years were less likely to have completed year 12 or equivalent (66%) compared with non-carers of the same age group (73%). It is not possible to infer causality from this survey data; it may be that one of the opportunity costs of the caring role for young people is education, or conversely that the caring role is more likely to be taken up by young people who have not completed their secondary education.

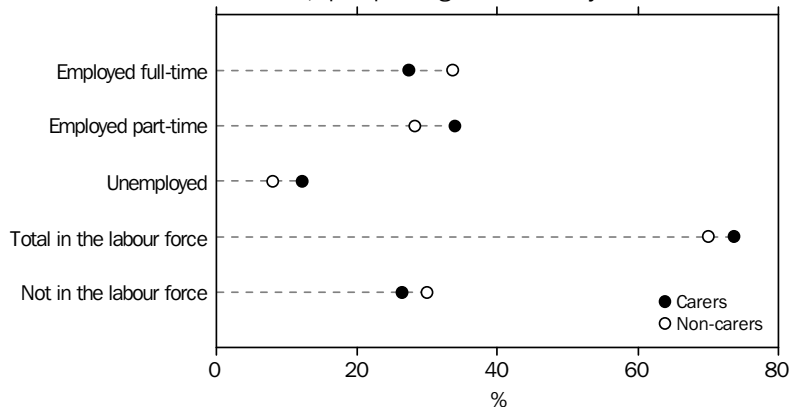
EMPLOYMENT

In 2003, just over one-quarter of young carers aged 15–24 years were working full-time (27%), around one-third part-time (34%) and a further 12% were unemployed. While the labour force participation of young carers was similar to that of other young people, they had slightly higher rates of part-time work and lower rates of full-time work.

YOUNG CARERS
continued

EMPLOYMENT *continued*

LABOUR FORCE STATUS, people aged 15–24 years—2003



Source: ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

USE OF TIME

In the 2006 Time Use Survey, young carers aged 15–24 years had a different pattern of activities from non-carers of the same age. On average, young carers spent around 3 hours less per week on personal care, social and community interaction and recreation and leisure combined than did non-carers of the same age. Young carers spent on average around 2.5 hours per week more on domestic activities than did young non-carers.

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The 2006 General Social Survey collected information from people aged 18 years and over on social support and participation. In 2006, over three-quarters of young carers aged 18–24 years (79%) had face-to-face contact with family and friends living outside the household at least once per week. The great majority of both young carers and non-carers said they had sources of support outside the household in times of crisis (over 95% of each group).

In 2006, young carers were active in each of the three major types of community groups in the previous 12 months: social (72%); community support (41%) and civic (20%).

CARERS AGED 35–54
YEARS

With the increase in women’s participation in the labour force, a growing proportion of Australian families face the challenge of combining family and paid work responsibilities. This is particularly true for people aged 35–54 years who often concentrate their resources on raising children and paying off a mortgage. Further demands can arise if people are caring for someone due to disability or old age.

RATES OF CARING

In 2003, according to the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers there were 5.6 million Australians aged 35–54 years living in households, of whom 1.0 million (18%) were carers. Among people aged 35–54 years, 586,000 women and 415,000 men were carers. Women had higher carer rates overall than did men (21% compared with 15%) and higher rates of primary caring (5% compared with 2%).

CARERS AGED 35–54
YEARS *continued*

RATES OF CARING *continued*

While the majority of carers were caring for one person in their own household, some were caring for people outside the household and a small number were caring for a combination of people both in the household and elsewhere. In 2003, among people aged 35–54 years, 12% were caring for someone (or more than one person) in the same household only, 1% were caring for at least one person in the household and one elsewhere and 5% were caring for people outside the household only.

Looking at caring within the same household, among all people aged 35–54 years, 4% were caring for a young child aged under 15 years with a disability, 2% for an older child (aged 15 years and over) with a disability, 5% for a spouse or partner, 2% for a parent and 1% for someone else, that is another relative or friend.

MULTIPLE CARING RESPONSIBILITIES

Some carers care for more than one person. This may arise because of a wide range of circumstances. A parent may have two or more children with a disability or a person may care for someone with a disability within the household and for another person who lives elsewhere. Among people aged 35–54 years in 2003, 14% were caring for one person and 4% were caring for two or more people.

Raising young children is a caring role in itself, so that parents who have a child with a disability are engaged in a heightened caring role and those who are caring for an adult with a need for assistance due to disability or ageing have multiple caring responsibilities. This has been recognised for people, especially women, popularly known as the ‘sandwich generation’ who have caring responsibilities one generation down (for children) and one generation up (for parents). Multiple caring roles may result in reduced opportunities for participation in the labour force with families in this situation at risk of economic disadvantage.

PEOPLE WITH CHILDREN AGED UNDER 15 YEARS

Of people aged 35–54 years in 2003, 2.7 million or about half (48%) were parents with young children (aged less than 15 years). Among these parents, 22% of mothers (about 290,000) and 15% of fathers (almost 200,000) were carers of someone due to a disability or old age. Of all carers with young children, almost half (47%) were caring for a child (of any age) with a disability, including 7% who were caring both for a child and someone else. The remainder were combining raising young children with care of another relative or friend.

WHO ARE PARENTS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN PROVIDING CARE TO?

Looking again at all parents aged 35–54 years with young children, 9% of mothers were caring for a young child aged under 15 years with a disability and 2% for an older child with a disability. By comparison, among fathers with young children, 6% were caring for a young child with a disability and 1% for an older child. The higher rates of care for children with a disability by mothers than fathers was due in large part to the 2% who were lone mothers caring for a child with a disability. There were few lone fathers in this situation. A small proportion of parents with young children were caring for two or more children with a disability (1% each of mothers and fathers).

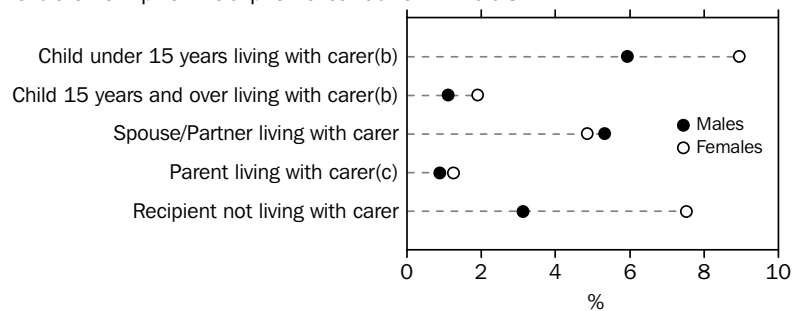
CARERS AGED 35–54
YEARS *continued*

WHO ARE PARENTS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN PROVIDING CARE TO?
continued

Parents with young children were just as likely as people aged 35–54 years overall to be caring for a spouse with a disability and about half as likely to be caring for a parent. For both mothers and fathers, 5% were caring for a partner and 1% for a parent in the household.

Among parents, a higher proportion of mothers (8%) than fathers (3%) were caring for someone outside the household. When someone was caring for a person outside the household, information on their relationship to each other is only available for primary carers from the 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers. Over two-thirds of primary carer parents aged 35–54 years who were caring for a person outside the household were caring for a parent. Therefore, the rate of caring for a parent within the household (1%) by all mothers and fathers with young children is likely to be substantially boosted, especially for women, by care of parents outside the household.

PARENTS AGED 35–54 YEARS WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN (a), relationship of recipient to carer—2003



- (a) Parents with children aged under 15 years.
- (b) Parents caring for at least one child due to disability.
- (c) Includes parents-in-law.

Source: 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

Generally, people aged 35–54 years are economically active with high levels of employment and relatively high income. Women with young children aged under 15 years are less likely to be employed (in particular full-time) than are women with older children or no children. Caring for someone due to disability or old age may further reduce the ability of women aged 35–54 years to participate in the labour force. In 2003, over one-third (37%) of all women of this age were in full-time employment. The proportion of women in full-time employment was considerably lower for mothers with young children (26%) and women who were carers (29%). For mothers with both young children and caring responsibilities, the proportion in full-time employment was 24%, and lower again (17%) for mothers within this group who cared for a young child with a disability.

Women with young children were more likely to be employed part-time (41%) than were women aged 35–54 years overall (34%), offsetting to some extent lower rates of full-time employment. For women who were carers, however, the proportion in part-time employment (34%) was the same as for all women in this age group.

CARERS AGED 35–54
YEARS *continued*

EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME *continued*

For men aged 35–54 years, the proportion in full-time employment was higher among fathers with young children (84%) than for all men of this age (80%). For men who were carers, the proportion in full-time employment was lower, both for all carers (71%) and for carers who had young children (75%). One exception to the pattern of lower rates of full-time employment among carers was for men who had young children and cared for someone outside the household (86% of whom were employed full-time). The proportion of men in part-time work was relatively stable at around 7–10% for men whether or not they had young children and whether or not they were carers.

LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

In 2003, 14% of women and 11% of men aged 35–54 years were in low income households (households in the second and third deciles of gross equivalised household income). Partly reflecting lower rates of employment, people who were carers were over one and a half times more likely than people of this age overall to be living in low income households (23% of female carers and 19% of male carers). Parents were more likely to be in low income households if they were caring for someone in the same household than if they were caring for someone elsewhere.

Among people aged 35–54 years, a high proportion (43%) of parents caring for two or more children with a disability were in low income households. Other groups with relatively high proportions in low income households included people caring for a parent (34% in low income households), women caring for a partner (30%) and parents with young children caring for a child (of any age) with a disability (28%).

GOVERNMENT BENEFITS

Consistent with the pattern of employment and income, carers were more likely than others to receive government benefits as their main source of income. Of carers aged 35–54 years in 2003, 33% of women (192,000) and 17% of men (72,000) received a government benefit as their main source of income compared with 21% of all women and 10% of all men of this age. Female carers were more likely than male carers to receive Parenting Payment (36% compared with about 9%), and males were more likely than females to receive a Disability Support Pension (43% compared with 11%).

OLDER CARERS

The need for assistance is highest at older ages, and much of the informal assistance provided to older people living at home is provided by husbands and wives, usually older themselves, and often with their own disabilities. Other older people care for adult children, and a small number care for their own aged parents.

In 2003, older people (aged 65 years and over) accounted for 18% of all carers aged 15 years and over and 24% of primary carers. Of people caring for someone in the same household, older carers accounted for 56% of those caring for other older people, 9% of carers of people aged 45–64 years and 2% of carers of people aged under 45 years.

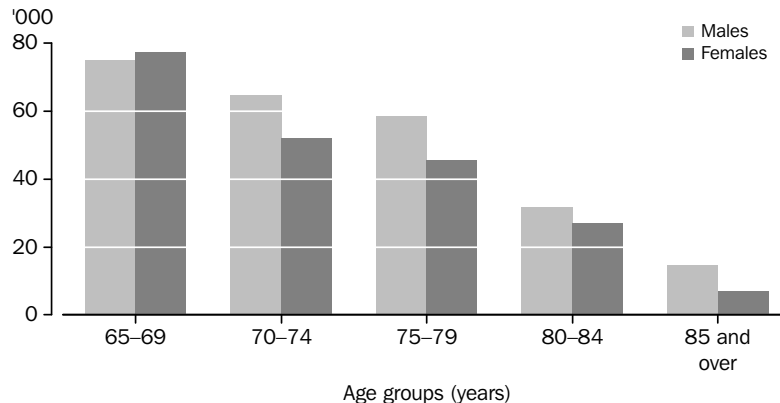
NUMBERS AND RATES

In 2003, there were 454,000 carers aged 65 years and over (245,000 men and 209,000 women). There were more carers in the younger end of the age range than the older, largely reflecting the distribution of the total population.

OLDER CARERS
continued

NUMBERS AND RATES *continued*

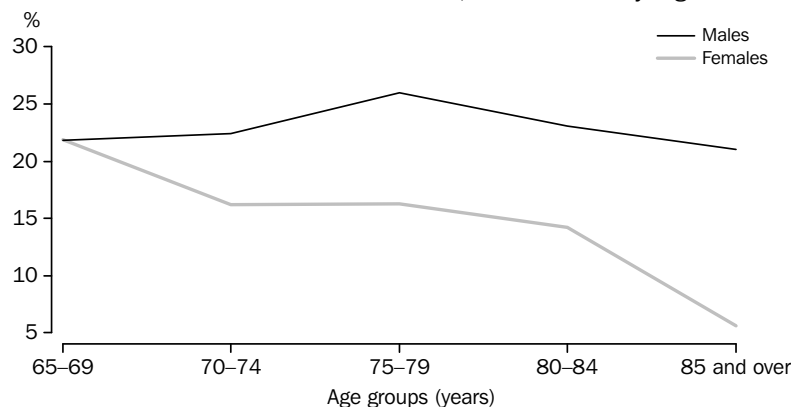
OLDER CARERS—2003



Source: 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

Almost one in five older people were carers (19%). Of older men, 23% were carers, compared with 16% of women. The male and female carer rates were the same in the 65–69 years age group, after which the female rate decreased.

PEOPLE AGED 65 YEARS AND OVER, Carer rate by age and sex—2003



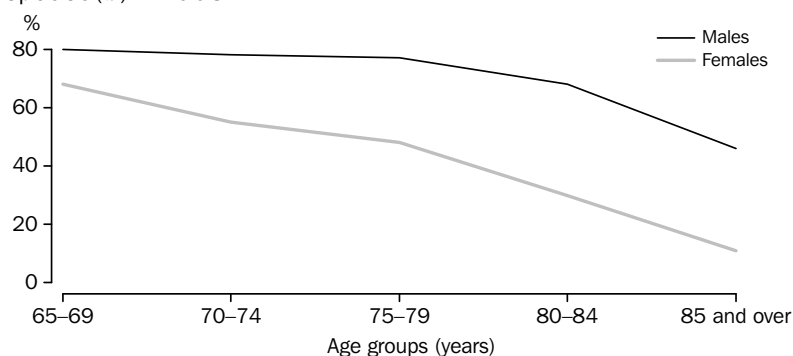
Source: 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

The higher male rate may be influenced by the lower life expectancy for men than women, combined with the fact that men are on average slightly older than their wives. Older men are therefore likely to be living with a spouse, and have an opportunity to assist them, whereas many older women have outlived their spouse and live alone. In 2003, the carer rate was very similar for older men and women who lived with a spouse or partner (28% and 27% respectively) and for older men and women who lived alone (5% and 4%). However, a considerably higher proportion of older men than older women lived with a spouse or partner (75% compared with 49%) and proportionally fewer lived alone (20% compared with 35%). It is also possible that, partly because male death rates are higher, surviving older men are a healthier group than older women. For example, the rate of profound/severe disability was higher for women than men in each of the age groups from 65–69 years to 85 years and over (see Table 1.5).

OLDER CARERS
continued

NUMBERS AND RATES *continued*

PEOPLE AGED 65 YEARS AND OVER(a), proportion living with spouse(b)—2003



(a) Living in private dwellings.

(b) People whose relationship is husband, wife or partner.

Source: 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

In the residual group — older people living in private dwellings neither with a spouse nor alone — 18% of men and 12% of women were carers. Just 5% of older men but 15% of older women were in these households in 2003. Older people living with their child or children were the largest single component of this group of carers. The carer rate for these older lone parents was 13%. The 2006 Census shows that there are some older people in less common living situations who have a very high rate of caring. In the Census, about two-thirds of older people living with an aged parent or parents were carers. Also, the very small number of older people living with an aunt or uncle were more than twice as likely as older people in general to be carers.

CARERS WITH A DISABILITY

Older carers are quite likely to have a disability themselves. In 2003, 53% of older people living in households had a disability. Carers were more likely than people who were not carers to have a disability (61% compared with 51%) but less likely to have more severe disability (13% compared with 18%)³. Older carers could have more than one type of disability and most often identified a physical disability (64%) or a sensory/speech disability (27%), for example, partial or complete deafness, as the one causing most problems for them.

RECIPIENTS OF CARE: SEVERITY OF DISABILITY AND AGE

Of the 454,000 older carers, 63,000 were caring only for people living outside their own household. For the remaining 391,000 carers, information is available about the characteristics of the people they assisted within their household. Of these carers, 48% were caring for someone with a profound or severe limitation in core activities, 36% were assisting someone with a moderate or mild limitation in core activities and 8% were assisting someone who had a long-term health condition without disability. They were most often caring for someone for whom the disability causing most problems was

³ See ABS 2005 *Caring in the community* Tables 2 and 3 (cat. no. 4430.0.55.003) for more information about disability of older carers.

OLDER CARERS

*continued*RECIPIENTS OF CARE: SEVERITY OF DISABILITY AND AGE *continued*

physical (68%) or a sensory or speech disability (13%). Most carers assisting someone in the same household were caring for someone aged 65 years or over (81%), while 16% were caring for someone aged 45–64 years and 5% for someone aged less than 45 years. Most were assisting a spouse or partner (85%), and the disability characteristics of recipients discussed above mainly reflect the characteristics of these spouses. The next largest group (7%) was those assisting an adult child (28,000 older carers).

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS AND TENURE

In 2003, 74% of older carers in private dwellings lived with their spouse or partner only and a further 12% lived with a spouse or partner together with a child or other household members. A further 3% of older carers lived with their child or children only, while 3% lived with parents and 7% lived alone.

Most older carers in private dwellings were owners without a mortgage (73%), while some had mortgages (11%), or were renting either from State or Territory Housing Authorities (4%) or privately (7%). (A small proportion had other less common tenures.) This was similar to the distribution for all older people.

In 2003, about 5% of older carers were living in an aged accommodation setting, but were in a self-cared part of it. This included older people in private dwellings, for example, someone living in a retirement village where the majority of dwellings were occupied by older people who were living independently. It also included people who were in a self-cared unit within an aged accommodation complex where the majority of residents were receiving care.

Of older carers living in private dwellings, 23% of primary carers and 13% of other carers had had to move house as a result of the age or condition of someone in the family (or someone had joined the family for these reasons). This compared with 6% of people who were not carers.

INCOME

Of older carers whose household income could be determined, 63% fell in the second or third income deciles of equivalised gross household income of the total population (i.e. low income households). This is the range that includes most people whose main source of household income is Australian Government pensions or payments. Just under half of older people who were not carers (and whose household income could be determined) were in this range (48%). (About one in five older carers could not be classified to a household income range due to incomplete information, and a further 5% lived in settings such as a non-private dwelling where household income was not a relevant concept.)

Consistent with the results for household income, the main source of personal income of most older carers in 2003 was a government pension or allowance (75%).

Superannuation, annuities, dividends, interest or other private income was the main source of personal income for 16% of older carers. For 3%, wages and salaries were the main source of personal income. Although the great majority of older carers were not in the labour force, 10% of men and around 5% of women were employed, mostly part-time.

OLDER CARERS*continued***EDUCATION**

As well as life experience and personal attributes, a person's level of formal education may be relevant to their ability to understand health information, do paperwork, or do other tasks associated with caring. In 2003, around 57% of older carers, both men and women, had less than a Year 10 education (school leaving ages were lower in the past). Close to half (46%) of older male carers had a non-school qualification such as a certificate or diploma (35%) or less commonly a bachelor degree or higher qualification (11%). Older female carers were less likely than men to have a non-school qualification: 21% had a certificate or diploma and 5% had a bachelor degree or higher qualification.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

According to the 2006 Census, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people made up 2.4% of the Australian population but 0.6% of the population aged 65 years and over and similarly, 0.6% of older carers. Of older Indigenous carers, 32% lived in Major Cities, 20% in Inner Regional areas, 20% in Outer Regional areas, 8% in Remote areas and 18% in Very Remote areas. Some older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers spoke an Australian Indigenous language at home (18%).

Just over one-third of older carers were born overseas (34%), according to the 2006 Census, similar to the proportion of all older people born overseas (35%). People born in North-West Europe accounted for 14% of all older carers and people born in Southern and Eastern Europe for 12%, similar to their representation in the older population. Of older carers, 18% spoke a language other than English at home including 6% of older carers who did not speak English well or did not speak it at all.

OLDER PRIMARY CARERS

Older carers included 113,200 people — 5% of the older population — who were primary carers. There was no statistical difference between the proportion of older men and older women who were primary carers (4.5% compared with 5.1%). The number of older women who were primary carers was greater than the number of older men who were primary carers (65,400 compared with 47,700), since there are more women than men aged 65 years and over.

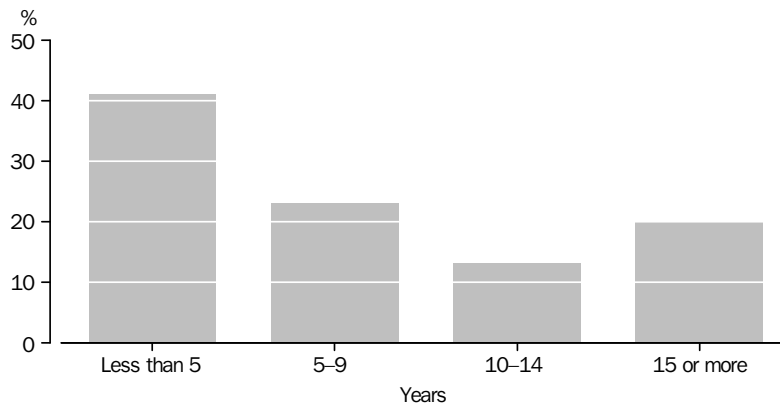
The vast majority of older primary carers (93%) lived with the main person they assisted, who was most often a husband, wife or partner (83%) and were most often themselves aged 65 years or over (85%). There was some difference between men and women: 76% of older female primary carers were caring for a spouse or partner, compared with 92% of men. Of women, 8% were caring for their adult child and 5% were caring for their parent. The two most common reasons for caring were that it was a family responsibility (52%) or that they could give better care (50%).

Half of older primary carers reported spending 40 hours or more actively caring or supervising. Women were more likely than men to report this many hours of caring (58% compared with 41%). Of older primary carers, 41% had cared for less than 5 years, 23% for 5–9 years, 13% for 10–14 years and 20% had been caring for 15 years or more. One-third of older primary carers felt satisfied as a result of the caring role. Older primary carers also reported negative effects such as frequently feeling weary or lacking in energy (30%).

OLDER CARERS
continued

OLDER PRIMARY CARERS *continued*

PRIMARY CARERS AGED 65 YEARS AND OVER, duration of care—2003



Source: 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

About 36% of older carers had a fall-back informal carer. The great majority of fall-back carers for older carers lived in a different household from the person cared for (88%). Older carers also had people who assisted them in the caring role. Only 3% of older carers were receiving assistance from a spouse, because older carers were most often looking after their spouse. Other relatives or a friend were the main source of assistance for 18% of older carers, while for 10%, formal providers (such as health workers) were the main source of assistance. More than two-thirds reported that they had no main source of assistance (69%). Just 10% of older carers had used respite care, and about 9% of older carers wanted access or more access to respite care (see Table 6.2).

INTRODUCTION

- 1** The role of people who provide informal care has become more visible as a result of concern about the welfare of people with a disability and older people. Informal carers improve the quality of life of people with a disability of all ages, and are important in helping older people who need assistance with everyday activities to live at home rather than in an institution.
- 2** In ABS statistics informal care refers to help or supervision provided by family, friends or neighbours to a person with a disability or to someone who needs assistance due to older age. In contrast, formal care comprises help or supervision (whether paid or not) provided through an organisation (including government and non-government, profit and not for profit) or other paid help not provided through an organisation and not provided by family, friends or neighbours.
- 3** Disability and caring is a difficult area in which to collect information. The Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) is an ABS sample survey which collects information about people with a disability, people aged 60 years and over, and people who provide care for these groups. As a sample survey dedicated to these subjects SDAC is able to take a detailed and structured approach to identifying carers. It is the primary ABS source of information on these topics.
- 4** An important feature of the survey is that it does not rely solely on self-reporting to identify carers. That is, it doesn't rely solely on simply asking people if they provide care. Instead, after establishing whether someone in a household has a disability through a series of detailed and structured questions about the person's ability to do everyday activities and to undertake work and study, further information is sought on whether anyone provides help with these activities. From this series of questions it is established who provides formal and informal care. (The assistance must be provided because of the person's disability, not for some other reason.) In addition, all people aged 60 years and older are asked if they receive any assistance with a set of everyday activities, and who provides it, also contributing to the pool of people identified as informal carers. People who provide informal care to someone in another household are identified through self-reporting only.
- 5** A further feature of the survey is that it distinguishes a group of carers of particular concern to policy makers: those providing a high level of care to people with more severe disability. In SDAC, a *primary carer* is the main carer (or sole carer) of someone who is limited in one or more of the core activity areas of mobility, self care and communication. The survey also collects information about other (non-primary) carers. Other (non-primary) carers include people who care for someone with more severe disability but who are not the main source of informal care. They also include people who care for someone who does not have a core activity limitation.
- 6** The most recent SDAC was conducted in 2003. The next will be conducted in 2009 and the results will be available in the second half of 2010.
- 7** SDAC has evolved from a sample survey run in 1981, when the ABS was first required to respond to the need for information about disability. The questionnaires used in subsequent surveys, in 1988, 1993, 1998 and 2003, were successively modified in line with the changing information needs of survey users and to improve the identification of

INTRODUCTION *continued*

people with disability and their carers. Between 1981 and 1998 the estimates of the number of people with a disability increased from survey to survey faster than might be expected to result from changes such as the ageing of the population and population growth. This was most likely due both to enhancements to the survey methodology to better identify people with a disability and their carers and, especially earlier in the period, to an increased willingness of people to identify as having a disability, and to report this in surveys.

8 The 2003 survey largely repeated the questionnaire and methodology used in 1998 and between these two surveys the increase in the estimated number of people with a disability, and of carers, was consistent with what might result from population ageing over a five-year period.

9 In 1998, the estimated number of carers aged 15 years and over was 2.2 million, or 15.3% of the population of that age. In 2003, the estimated number of carers aged 15 years and over was 2.5 million, or 15.6% of the population of that age.

10 For more information on the methodology used in SDAC see *Disability, Ageing and Carers: User Guide, Australia, 2003* (cat. no. 4431.0) and *Disability, Ageing and Carers: Summary of Findings, 2003* (cat. no. 4430.0). For more information on carers and their role from the 2003 SDAC see *Disability, Ageing and Carers: Caring in the Community Tables 1–16, June to November 2003* (cat. no. 4430.0.55.003) and *Disability, Ageing and Carers: Caring in the Community Tables 17–24, June to November 2003* (cat. no. 4430.0.55.004).

11 There is sustained interest in information on caring. Consequently, question modules on caring have been added to other surveys that serve a more general purpose including the General Social Survey (GSS) and the Time Use Survey (TUS). A question on caring was also added to the 2006 Census of Population and Housing.

12 These three additional sources have more general purposes than SDAC and use shorter and less structured question modules to identify carers. In these surveys, whether people are carers or not is one characteristic that can be examined together with a broad range of other information, if desired. Estimates of the numbers of carers from the three data sources differ substantially from those produced from SDAC. They should not be used as a source of estimates of the numbers of carers for years which fall between SDAC surveys.

13 The number of carers estimated by SDAC was 2.5 million people aged 15 years and over or 15.6% of the population of that age. The two sample surveys conducted in 2006 produced higher estimates of carers than SDAC. The GSS estimated that there were more than 3.1 million carers aged 18 years and over, 20.3% of the population of that age; and TUS produced a similar estimate, of 3.3 million carers, 20.6% of people aged 15 years and over. In contrast, the number of people who reported providing care in the 2006 Census was 1.6 million, 11.2% of the population aged 15 years and over, lower than the SDAC estimate.

INTRODUCTION *continued*

A1.1 CARERS, number and rate(a)—from four ABS data sources

	2003 SURVEY OF DISABILITY, AGEING AND CARERS (b)			2006 GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY (c)	2006 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING (b)	2006 TIME USE SURVEY (b)
	<i>Primary carers</i>	<i>Other carers</i>	<i>Total carers</i>	<i>Carers</i>	<i>Carers</i>	<i>Carers</i>
Number '000	474.6	1 980.8	2 455.4	3 105.2	1 606.2	3 318.1
Rate(a) %	3.0	12.6	15.6	20.3	11.2	20.6

(a) Carers as a proportion of the population and age.

(b) Carers aged 15 years and over.

(c) Carers aged 18 years and over.

Differences in scope

14 There are differences in scope between these collections, in terms of age and type of dwelling. It appears that these differences in scope are not a major reason for differences in the estimated number of carers among the four data sources. However, these need to be understood when comparing data from the different collections.

AGE

15 Information on carers from SDAC is restricted to people aged 15 years and over for many purposes including most tables in this publication, although the survey methodology meant that children under 15 years were in scope and a small number were identified as carers. In TUS and the Census, only people aged 15 years and over were in scope for questions about caring. Only people aged 18 years and over were in scope for GSS.

DWELLING TYPE

16 People in Australia live in: private dwellings; non-private dwellings such as staff quarters, hotels/motels, boarding houses or hostels; and in establishments (institutions) such as aged care homes, boarding schools or prisons. SDAC collected information on caring by people who were usual residents of both occupied private dwellings and of some non-private dwellings. While SDAC also collected information from people in some establishments such as residential aged care homes, people living in these establishments were out of scope for questions about whether they provided informal care. Also, people who informally care for people living in such establishments (for example, by taking washing home, bringing personal items in, or liaising with medical staff) are out of scope of the carer definition used in SDAC. Like the majority of other household surveys, only usual residents of occupied private dwellings were in scope for GSS and TUS. The Census has a wider scope than sample surveys and collects information from people in private dwellings, non-private dwellings and establishments, including both usual residents and visitors.

17 There are other minor exclusions, for example, people who are overseas visitors are not asked the full set of Census questions and are excluded from Census data in this publication. The three sample surveys also exclude people whose usual place of residence was outside Australia, members of non-Australian defence forces stationed in Australia and diplomatic personnel of overseas governments.

18 However, these differences in scope do not explain much of the difference in estimates of numbers of carers among the collections. When data from the other collections were restricted to match the GSS scope of people aged 18 years and over who were usual residents of occupied private dwellings, most of the difference among the estimates remained. The carer rates from TUS, SDAC and Census were all higher when restricted to match the GSS scope, because people aged under 18 years and who

Differences in scope continued

are not usual residents of private dwellings have lower carer rates than people aged 18 years and over and people who are usual residents of private dwellings. The TUS rate on this adjusted basis was 21.2%, the SDAC was 16.1% and the Census rate was 11.8%.

A1.2 CARERS AGED 18 YEARS AND OVER WHO WERE USUAL RESIDENTS OF PRIVATE DWELLINGS

	2003 SURVEY OF DISABILITY, AGEING AND CARERS			2006 GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY	2006 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING	2006 TIME USE SURVEY
	Primary carers	Other carers	Total carers	Carers	Carers	Carers
Numbers ('000)	463.9	1 896.8	2 360.6	3 105.2	1 499.7	3 243.5
Rates(a) (%)	3.2	12.9	16.1	20.3	11.8	21.2

(a) Carers as a proportion of the population of that age.

Non-response in Census data

19 Non-response is a factor that needs to be taken into account when comparing Census data with survey data. Non-response is high in the Census because it is based on a self-completion questionnaire while surveys use trained interviewers. In the 2006 Census, 10% of people were classified as 'not stated' (non-response) to the question on unpaid care. As was the case for other Census questions, the non-response rate was higher among older people, reaching 25% of those aged 85 years and over. See the Census Data Quality Statement on Unpaid Care at www.abs.gov.au for details.

20 Non-response contributes to the lower numbers of carers from the Census, especially older carers, compared with estimates from sample surveys. However, carer rates based on Census data shown in this publication are calculated after excluding not stated from the denominator. This means that in effect the people who did not respond to the relevant question are treated as if they were distributed in the same proportions into carers and non-carers as those people for whom carer status was supplied.

Question modules

21 A likely cause of the different estimates of the number of carers is the different question modules used. Question modules operationalise definitions of caring and can affect who is and is not identified as a carer. Three key differences between the modules are: use of self-reporting to identify carers; reference period; and a difference in whether or not the care must be perceived as *due* to the person's disability or age related frailty.

SELF-REPORTING VS STRUCTURED QUESTIONS

22 As discussed above, SDAC used detailed and structured questions to identify people with a disability or who needed assistance due to age, and their carers. After people with a disability or age-related frailty were identified, further questions were asked about the person or people who provided care. Some of the follow up questions were designed to filter people out of the carer population, if they did not meet the definition of carer used in SDAC. For example, sometimes household members were said to provide care with core activities by the person with a disability, but did not confirm this when interviewed. Self-reporting was also used in SDAC, to identify people caring for people in another household. TUS used a similar, but considerably shorter, set of structured questions, while GSS and the Census each used a single-sentence question which relied solely on self-reporting of caring activities.

Question modules continued

REFERENCE PERIOD

23 In SDAC and TUS, questions related to care that was current and 'ongoing', that is care that had lasted or was likely to last 6 months or more. In GSS, people were asked whether they had provided care in the previous four weeks, and in the Census whether they had provided care in the previous two weeks. It could be expected that people who provide constant or frequent care are likely to be picked up in surveys irrespective of the reference period; whereas the wider the time period, the more chance that people who provide once-off, or less frequent care, will be identified. As the reference period used in the GSS was twice as long as the reference period as the Census, it might be expected to pick up greater numbers of these less frequent carers.

WHETHER CARE IS RELATED TO THE DISABILITY/OLDER AGE OF THE PERSON ASSISTED

24 The GSS carer question asked if people had provided care 'to' a person with a disability or who was elderly; whereas the Census question asked about care provided 'because of' a person's disability or problems due to age. Someone might regard helping relatives, friends or neighbours with everyday activities as a duty; a favour; a way of demonstrating concern or maintaining connections; a normal part of family life or of friendship; and so on. They may not specifically see it as due to the person's disability. In such a case, a person might answer 'yes' to the GSS question but 'no' to the Census question.

Key characteristics and caring

RATES OF CARING IN THE POPULATION

25 There are two ways to look at differences among the four collections. The first is to assess the different rates of caring in the population and resulting estimates that are produced. This is an assessment of the consistency and variation with which carers are identified in the collections. Census produced a lower rate of caring overall than SDAC, while GSS and TUS produce higher rates.

CHARACTERISTICS OF CARERS

26 A second way to compare the collections is to examine the characteristics of carers from each collection. The profile of carers from different collections may be similar despite differences in the overall rate of identification. For example, the rates of caring in the population by age generally follow the overall pattern, with the lowest rates in Census followed by SDAC and higher rates again in GSS and TUS, and the age profile of carers identified in the four collections is very similar.

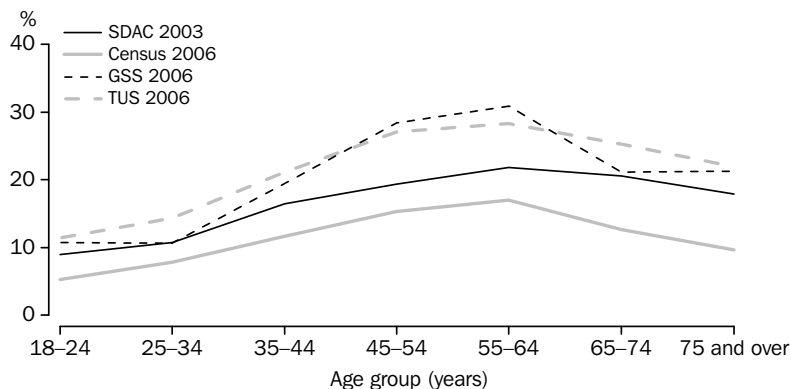
27 Both population rates and carer characteristics are examined in the following discussion of age, sex, labour force status and relationship in household.

AGE AND SEX

28 All four data sources show a broadly similar age pattern of caring (see Table A1.3). The proportion of the population who were carers increases with age to peak in the age group 55–64 years and then declines slowly over old age.

Key characteristics and caring
continued

CARER RATE (a), BY AGE—COMPARISON OF FOUR DATA SOURCES



(a) Carers as a proportion of the population of each age group.

Source: 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers; 2006 General Social Survey; 2006 Time Use Survey; 2006 Census of Population and Housing.

29 Across all age groups, the Census carer rate was lower than the SDAC carer rate. The difference between the rates from these two sources was greatest in the age groups 65–74 years and 75 years and over. Experience from SDAC suggests that older couples tend to regard mutual assistance as a normal way to cope with ageing and not to label it as 'care', perhaps seeing it more as a natural part of marriage. Structured question modules, such as those used in SDAC, focusing on who helps with what, are therefore more likely to lead to older people being identified as carers. Self-completion questionnaires using a single question module appear to be the least likely to result in older carers being identified.

30 GSS and TUS carer rates were similar for each age group. Both GSS and TUS carer rates were higher than the SDAC carer rates, for most age groups. Compared with SDAC, the GSS and TUS show a sharper rate of increase in the carer rate between age groups 35–44 years and 45–54 years. The carer rates from GSS and TUS are most different from the carer rate from SDAC in the age groups 45–54 and 55–64 years.

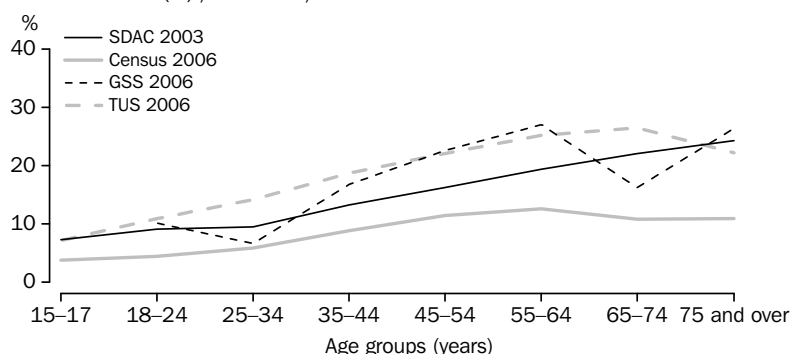
31 The two small downward movements in the GSS carer rate, in age groups 25–34 years and 65–74 years, reflect a pattern present only in the male carer rate and may be due to survey methods. The differences between GSS carer rates for these two age groups and the equivalent SDAC rates were not statistically significant. Also, the carer rates for people aged 18–24 years were not statistically different between the three surveys, and for people aged 75 years and over the TUS carer rate was not statistically different from the SDAC carer rate.

32 Because age-specific rates were, broadly, either consistently lower than SDAC (Census) or consistently higher (GSS and TUS), the age profile of carers identified in the four collections was similar. In the four collections, people aged 35–64 years accounted for from around 60% (SDAC and TUS) to 66% (GSS and Census) of carers. Older people made up 15% of Census carers compared with 17% to 18% of carers from the other collections.

33 All four data sources found that the total carer rate was higher for females than males. In SDAC, the male rate was higher than the female rate in age groups 65–74 years and 75 years and over. In GSS and Census, the male rate was higher than the female only in the 75 years and over group.

Key characteristics and caring
continued

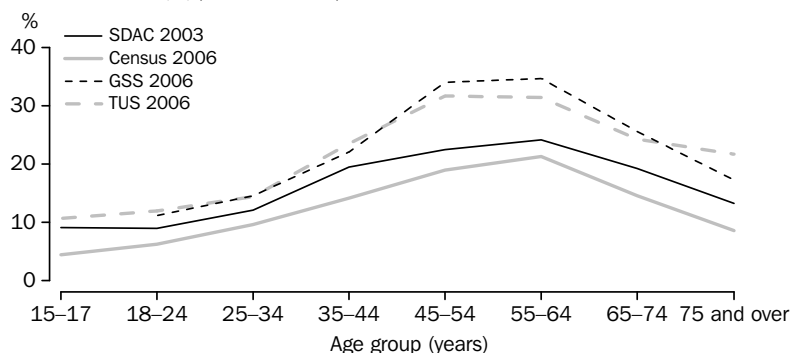
CARER RATE (a), MALES, BY AGE—FOUR DATA SOURCES



(a) Carers as a proportion of the population of each age group.

Source: 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers; 2006 Census of Population and Housing; 2006 General Social Survey; 2006 Time Use Survey.

CARER RATE (a), FEMALES, BY AGE—FOUR DATA SOURCES



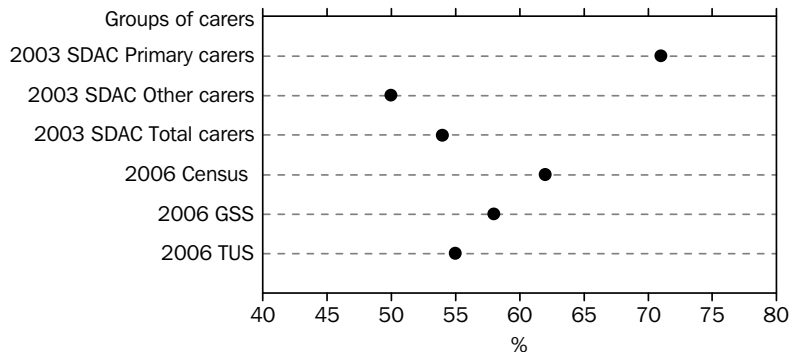
(a) Carers as a proportion of the population of each age group.

Source: 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers; 2006 Census of Population and Housing; 2006 General Social Survey; 2006 Time Use Survey.

34 One reason for the SDAC male rate being higher than the SDAC female rate in the older age groups may be that at older ages most caring occurs between husbands and wives and most older men are living with a spouse whereas most older women are living alone. Also, at older ages, the rate of more severe disability is higher among women than older men.

35 The degree of difference between the total male and female carer rate varied between the collections (see Table A1.3). Consequently, females accounted for 62% of Census carers, 58% of GSS carers, 55% of TUS carers and 54% of SDAC carers.

FEMALES AS A PROPORTION OF CARERS (a), COMPARISON OF FOUR DATA SOURCES



(a) Aged 18 years and over.

Source: 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Caring; 2006 Census of Population and Housing; 2006 General Social Survey; 2006 Time Use Survey.

*Key characteristics and caring**continued*

RELATIONSHIP IN HOUSEHOLD

36 In SDAC, the carer rate was highest among lone parents (21%) and husbands, wives or partners (18%). People with a relationship of child had a carer rate in the middle range (13%) while the rate for people who lived alone was comparatively low (7%) (see Table A1.4). These rates are influenced by the greater likelihood for people to have particular living arrangements at different ages. The carer rate was higher for wives than for husbands (20% compared with 17%) and for female lone parents than male lone parents (22% compared with 14%). For other relationships, the male and female carer rates were similar.

37 Rates were generally higher across the board of relationship categories for GSS and TUS compared with SDAC, and lower for Census compared to SDAC. However, in contrast to SDAC, in GSS and TUS the carer rate for people living alone was among the highest. Further, in Census, although the carer rate for people living alone was one of the lower rates, the degree of difference between this rate and the rates for husbands, wives or partners or lone parents was less than in SDAC. People living alone therefore comprised proportionally more of the GSS carer population (13%) than they did of the TUS or Census carer populations (9%) and they comprised only 5% of the SDAC carer population.

LABOUR FORCE STATUS

38 As discussed above, about one in five carers in all four collections were aged 65 years and over. Older people made up 18% of SDAC carers, 17% of GSS carers, 18% of TUS carers and 15% of Census carers. The vast majority of older carers were not in the labour force (about nine in ten in each survey). It is useful, therefore, to restrict the comparison of labour force characteristics among the collections to people aged 18–64 years. This enables a focus on labour force differences rather than differences in age profile.

39 To some extent, differences in the labour force characteristics of carers in the four collections may reflect changes in the labour market over time (between 2003 and 2006). Nevertheless, analysis of differences in rates of caring by labour force status provides insight into differences in the carer populations identified by the different collections. In all four collections, the carer rate among people aged 18–64 years was highest for people not in the labour force, and higher for people working part-time than people working full-time (see Table A1.6). However, there were some differences.

People aged 18–64 years: Census compared with SDAC

40 Census carer rates were lower than SDAC carer rates for all labour force categories (see Table A1.6). The degree of difference was similar in each category. For example, the Census carer rate for people who were employed (10%) was 0.76 of the equivalent SDAC rate (13%) and the Census carer rate for people who were not in the labour force (17%) was 0.74 of the equivalent SDAC rate (23%)

41 Consequently, carers aged 18–64 years identified in the Census had a very similar distribution by labour force status to SDAC carers of that age (see Table A1.6). For both data sources, 64% of carers were employed, about 4% were unemployed and just under one-third were not in the labour force (32% of SDAC carers and 31% of Census carers).

42 The proportions of carers working full and part-time are not directly comparable between Census and SDAC (or between Census and the other surveys). In SDAC employed people were classified as full or part-time based on their 'usual' hours worked in their main job. Of SDAC carers aged 18–64 years, 41% were employed full-time and 24% part-time. In the Census, people were classified as employed either full-time or part-time based on hours worked in the previous week, and if a person was not at work in the previous week, they were classified to a third category as 'employed, not at work'.

*Key characteristics and caring
continued*

Of Census carers, 37% were classified as full-time, 23% part-time and 4% were employed but not at work in the previous week.

43 If those 4% of Census carers who were not at work are distributed to either full-time or part-time status based on the breakdown of those who *were* at work, then about 40% of carers in both SDAC and Census were employed full-time and about 24% were employed part-time.

People aged 18–64 years: GSS and TUS compared with SDAC

44 Among people aged 18–64 years the carer rates from GSS and TUS were higher than the carer rates from SDAC for employed people, with the greater degree of difference for full-time employed people (see Table A1.6). The GSS and TUS carer rates for full-time employed people (about 18%) were 1.5 times the SDAC carer rate for this group (12%). The GSS and TUS carer rates for part-time employed people were 22% or about 1.3 times the SDAC rate for this group (17%).

45 For people not in the labour force, the GSS and TUS rates (both 26%) were closer to the SDAC rate (23%). The difference between the SDAC and the GSS carer rates for people not in the labour force was statistically significant, but the difference between the SDAC and TUS carer rates for this group was not. The differences between carer rates for unemployed people from TUS and GSS compared with SDAC were not statistically different.

46 It appears that, despite differences in questionnaires, a consistently-sized group of people not in the labour force identify themselves as carers. In contrast, people who are employed appear to be more sensitive to differences in questionnaire design. Arguably, paid employment is less compatible with intensive or on-going caring, but compatible with ad-hoc or less intensive caring. It may be that GSS and TUS have tapped into networks of care that are less demanding, or not ongoing, or which assist people who might not fit the SDAC definition of having a disability or needing assistance due to age.

47 Consequently, carers aged 18–64 years identified in GSS and TUS had a somewhat different distribution by labour force status to that of SDAC, with proportionally more people who were employed full-time (48% and 45% compared with 41%), a similar proportion employed part-time (23% to 24%) and fewer people who were not in the labour force (25% and 28% compared with 32%).

Primary carers

48 Two of the collections included modules designed to distinguish primary carers from other carers. In 2003, SDAC identified 474,600 primary carers and in 2006, TUS identified a much higher number (888,100) (see Table A1.3). The different estimates could be affected by different methods of establishing whether a carer is a primary carer, as well as by more general differences that may have influenced the total count of carers. In TUS, 27% of all carers were identified as primary carers, compared with 19% in SDAC.

49 The surveys used different methods to establish who was a primary carer. Both these surveys collected information through interviews with a household member about disability and care within the household and also between people in the household and people living elsewhere. In TUS, primary carers were identified in this way. In SDAC, this step was followed by interviews with those people in the household who were identified as having a disability or providing care. Thus in SDAC, in order to be identified as a primary carer a person had to first be named by the household member interviewed as a carer, and subsequently for this to be confirmed through further interviews. Before being identified as a primary carer, a person had to confirm that they assisted with at least one core activity (mobility, communication, self care) and that they were the carer who provided the overall greatest amount of care. At one point in the series of questions asked in SDAC, people with a disability were asked who their primary carer was, and from this 730,200 potential primary carers were listed, a number similar to the number of

Primary carers continued

primary carers identified in TUS (655,700). However, unless these people had also been identified as a carer in the initial interview with a household member, they were not interviewed and could not confirm that they were a primary carer and be included in the final count.

PRIMARY CARING RATES

50 Among people aged 18 years and over, the primary carer rate in SDAC was 3.2% while the rate in TUS was 5.8%, or 1.8 times higher in TUS than in SDAC. The difference was considerably more marked for men, 1.8% in SDAC and 4.5% in TUS (2.5 times higher), than for women, 4.5% and 7.1% (1.6 times higher). TUS recorded higher rates of primary caring than SDAC at all ages for both sexes (see Table A 1.3).

51 Among men, the greatest differences between the primary carer rates from TUS and SDAC were recorded for husbands in households with dependent children (3.9 times the SDAC rate), husbands in households with non-dependent children only (3.1 times the SDAC rate), lone persons (3.0 times the SDAC rate) and children (1.8 times the SDAC rate). Among women, the greatest differences were recorded for wives in households with dependent children (1.8 times the SDAC rate), lone mothers with dependent children (1.7 times the SDAC rate) and wives in a couple-only household (1.7 times the SDAC rate).

52 Among people aged 18–64 years, TUS showed higher rates of primary caring than SDAC for people in all labour force categories (see Table A1.6). The smallest degree of difference was for people not in the labour force (where TUS rates were 1.6 times higher) and people who were employed part-time (where TUS rates were 1.7 times higher). Rates of primary caring among people employed full-time were considerably higher in TUS than in SDAC, particularly for men (3.4 times higher) but also for women (1.9 times higher).

BROAD DIFFERENCES IN CHARACTERISTICS

53 Consistent with these differences in rates of caring, there were some differences in the characteristics of carers between the collections. While 62% of TUS primary carers aged 18 years and over were women, this compared with 71% of SDAC primary carers of that age. Among men, compared with SDAC primary carers, a higher proportion of TUS primary carers were husbands or partners living with children (32% in TUS and 21% in SDAC) and more were employed full-time (49% and 38% of primary carers aged 18–64 years). For both men and women, a lower proportion of TUS than SDAC primary carers were in low income households — overall, 33% of TUS primary carers were in low income households compared with 44% in SDAC (see Table 1.8).

A1.3 CARER STATUS (a), by age and sex

Sex by age group (years)	2003 SURVEY OF DISABILITY, AGEING AND CARERS					2006 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING		
	Primary carer	Other carer	Total carers	Not a carer	Total	Carer	Not a carer	Total(b)
NUMBERS ('000)								
Males								
15-17	np	np	31.4	400.6	432.0	13.5	338.5	425.4
18-24	np	np	90.9	907.3	998.2	37.5	812.6	952.1
25-34	*9.0	131.3	140.3	1 343.2	1 483.4	71.0	1 122.3	1 321.1
35-44	17.7	178.8	196.5	1 278.2	1 474.7	115.9	1 199.3	1 437.2
45-54	32.2	187.1	219.3	1 127.1	1 346.4	143.2	1 108.8	1 360.1
55-64	25.0	170.6	195.6	810.4	1 006.0	126.7	877.7	1 096.1
65-74	22.9	116.7	139.6	492.4	632.0	62.9	518.8	668.5
75 and over	24.9	80.1	105.0	327.6	432.6	44.4	361.1	517.5
Total 18 and over	134.8	952.3	1 087.1	6 286.2	7 373.4	601.5	6 000.6	7 352.5
Total 15 and over	136.2	982.3	1 118.5	6 686.8	7 805.4	615.0	6 339.1	7 777.9
Total 15-24	*4.5	117.8	122.3	1 307.9	1 430.2	51.0	1 151.1	1 377.5
Total 65 and over	47.7	196.9	244.6	820.0	1 064.6	107.3	879.9	1 186.0
Females								
15-17	np	np	37.0	370.6	407.5	15.4	326.5	403.0
18-24	np	np	86.9	881.9	968.8	53.0	794.0	923.8
25-34	35.1	141.9	177.0	1 291.4	1 468.3	120.5	1 134.6	1 355.3
35-44	65.6	222.7	288.3	1 190.2	1 478.5	198.4	1 200.0	1 500.6
45-54	83.4	218.3	301.7	1 044.3	1 346.0	250.0	1 063.0	1 402.4
55-64	74.8	162.3	237.0	746.0	983.1	215.5	797.2	1 096.6
65-74	38.6	90.8	129.4	544.8	674.2	88.2	518.8	705.0
75 and over	26.8	52.8	79.6	516.7	596.3	50.1	532.1	753.4
Total 18 and over	336.9	963.0	1 299.9	6 215.4	7 515.3	975.8	6 039.6	7 737.2
Total 15 and over	338.4	998.5	1 336.9	6 586.0	7 922.8	991.1	6 366.2	8 140.2
Total 15-24	14.1	109.7	123.9	1 252.5	1 376.4	68.4	1 120.5	1 326.8
Total 65 and over	65.4	143.6	209.0	1 061.5	1 270.5	138.3	1 050.9	1 458.4
Persons								
15-17	*2.9	65.4	68.4	771.2	839.6	28.9	665.0	828.4
18-24	15.8	162.0	177.8	1 789.2	1 967.0	90.6	1 606.6	1 875.9
25-34	44.1	273.2	317.2	2 634.5	2 951.8	191.5	2 256.8	2 676.4
35-44	83.4	401.5	484.8	2 468.4	2 953.2	314.3	2 399.3	2 937.8
45-54	115.6	405.3	521.0	2 171.5	2 692.5	393.2	2 171.7	2 762.5
55-64	99.7	332.9	432.7	1 556.5	1 989.1	342.2	1 675.0	2 192.7
65-74	61.5	207.5	269.0	1 037.2	1 306.2	151.1	1 037.6	1 373.4
75 and over	51.6	132.9	184.6	844.4	1 028.9	94.5	893.2	1 270.9
Total 18 and over	471.7	1 915.4	2 387.1	12 501.6	14 888.7	1 577.3	12 040.2	15 089.7
Total 15 and over	474.6	1 980.8	2 455.4	13 272.8	15 728.2	1 606.2	12 705.2	15 918.1
Total 15-24	18.7	227.5	246.2	2 560.4	2 806.5	119.4	2 271.6	2 704.3
Total 65 and over	113.2	340.5	453.6	1 881.5	2 335.2	245.6	1 930.9	2 644.4

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) People aged 18 years and over for the General Social Survey and people aged 15 years and over for each of the other sources.

(b) Includes people who did not state their carer status.

A1.3 CARER STATUS(a), by age and sex *continued*

Sex by age group (years)	2003 SURVEY OF DISABILITY, AGEING AND CARERS				Total	2006 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING		
	Primary carer	Other carer	Total carers	Not a carer		Carer	Not a carer	Total(b)
RATES (%) (c)								
Males								
15-17	np	np	7.3	92.7	100.0	3.8	96.2	100.0
18-24	np	np	9.1	90.9	100.0	4.4	95.6	100.0
25-34	*0.6	8.8	9.5	90.5	100.0	5.9	94.1	100.0
35-44	1.2	12.1	13.3	86.7	100.0	8.8	91.2	100.0
45-54	2.4	13.9	16.3	83.7	100.0	11.4	88.6	100.0
55-64	2.5	17.0	19.4	80.6	100.0	12.6	87.4	100.0
65-74	3.6	18.5	22.1	77.9	100.0	10.8	89.2	100.0
75 and over	5.7	18.5	24.3	75.7	100.0	10.9	89.1	100.0
Total 18 and over	1.8	12.9	14.7	85.3	100.0	9.1	90.9	100.0
Total 15 and over	1.7	12.6	14.3	85.7	100.0	8.8	91.2	100.0
Total 15-24	*0.3	8.2	8.6	91.4	100.0	4.2	95.8	100.0
Total 65 and over	4.5	18.5	23.0	77.0	100.0	10.9	89.1	100.0
Females								
15-17	np	np	9.1	90.9	100.0	4.5	95.5	100.0
18-24	np	np	9.0	91.0	100.0	6.3	93.7	100.0
25-34	2.4	9.7	12.1	87.9	100.0	9.6	90.4	100.0
35-44	4.4	15.1	19.5	80.5	100.0	14.2	85.8	100.0
45-54	6.2	16.2	22.4	77.6	100.0	19.0	81.0	100.0
55-64	7.6	16.5	24.1	75.9	100.0	21.3	78.7	100.0
65-74	5.7	13.5	19.2	80.8	100.0	14.5	85.5	100.0
75 and over	4.5	8.9	13.3	86.7	100.0	8.6	91.4	100.0
Total 18 and over	4.5	12.8	17.3	82.7	100.0	13.9	86.1	100.0
Total 15 and over	4.3	12.6	16.9	83.1	100.0	13.5	86.5	100.0
Total 15-24	1.0	8.0	9.0	91.0	100.0	5.8	94.2	100.0
Total 65 and over	5.1	11.3	16.4	83.6	100.0	11.6	88.4	100.0
Persons								
15-17	*0.3	7.8	8.1	91.9	100.0	4.2	95.8	100.0
18-24	0.8	8.2	9.0	91.0	100.0	5.3	94.7	100.0
25-34	1.5	9.3	10.7	89.3	100.0	7.8	92.2	100.0
35-44	2.8	13.6	16.4	83.6	100.0	11.6	88.4	100.0
45-54	4.3	15.1	19.3	80.7	100.0	15.3	84.7	100.0
55-64	5.0	16.7	21.8	78.2	100.0	17.0	83.0	100.0
65-74	4.7	15.9	20.6	79.4	100.0	12.7	87.3	100.0
75 and over	5.0	12.9	17.9	82.1	100.0	9.6	90.4	100.0
Total 18 and over	3.2	12.9	16.0	84.0	100.0	11.6	88.4	100.0
Total 15 and over	3.0	12.6	15.6	84.4	100.0	11.2	88.8	100.0
Total 15-24	0.7	8.1	8.8	91.2	100.0	5.0	95.0	100.0
Total 65 and over	4.8	14.6	19.4	80.6	100.0	11.3	88.7	100.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) People aged 18 years and over for the General Social Survey and people aged 15 years and over for each of the other sources.

(b) Includes people who did not state their carer status.

(c) People who did not state their carer status in the 2006 Census of Population and Housing were removed from the denominator prior to calculating rates.

A1.3 CARER STATUS(a), by age and sex *continued*

Sex by age group (years)	2006 GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY			2006 TIME USE SURVEY				
	Carer	Not a carer	Total	Primary carer	Other carer	Total carers	Not a carer	Total
NUMBERS ('000)								
Males								
15-17	na	na	na	np	np	*31.0	401.6	432.5
18-24	101.5	889.4	990.9	np	np	106.6	872.6	979.2
25-34	92.7	1 312.4	1 405.1	*30.3	169.8	200.1	1 206.8	1 406.9
35-44	248.5	1 233.4	1 481.8	58.9	218.4	277.2	1 204.4	1 481.6
45-54	313.4	1 073.1	1 386.5	53.3	253.8	307.1	1 079.5	1 386.6
55-64	301.9	817.5	1 119.5	82.7	198.9	281.6	837.4	1 119.0
65-74	111.3	569.7	681.1	65.2	115.3	180.5	501.1	681.6
75 and over	128.5	360.0	488.4	*40.1	68.2	108.4	379.8	488.1
Total 18 and over	1 297.8	6 255.5	7 553.3	339.3	1 122.2	1 461.5	6 081.7	7 543.2
Total 15 and over	na	na	na	339.3	1 153.2	1 492.5	6 483.3	7 975.7
Total 15-24	na	na	na	**8.9	128.7	137.5	1 274.2	1 411.8
Total 65 and over	239.8	929.7	1 169.5	105.3	183.6	288.9	880.9	1 169.8
Females								
15-17	na	na	na	np	np	43.7	364.6	408.3
18-24	106.6	842.7	949.3	np	np	112.4	830.9	943.2
25-34	204.9	1 199.2	1 404.1	50.5	152.5	203.0	1 202.7	1 405.7
35-44	332.6	1 173.9	1 506.4	121.5	232.7	354.2	1 152.2	1 506.4
45-54	480.9	932.8	1 413.7	152.8	295.2	447.9	965.9	1 413.9
55-64	388.1	731.7	1 119.8	112.8	238.3	351.2	768.3	1 119.4
65-74	182.7	531.1	713.8	64.7	108.7	173.4	541.0	714.4
75 and over	111.7	534.9	646.6	*31.6	108.4	140.0	506.1	646.0
Total 18 and over	1 807.5	5 946.3	7 753.8	547.3	1 234.7	1 782.0	5 967.1	7 749.1
Total 15 and over	na	na	na	548.8	1 276.9	1 825.7	6 331.8	8 157.4
Total 15-24	na	na	na	*15.0	141.0	156.0	1 195.5	1 351.5
Total 65 and over	294.4	1 066.0	1 360.4	96.3	217.1	313.4	1 047.1	1 360.5
Persons								
15-17	na	na	na	np	np	74.7	766.2	840.9
18-24	208.1	1 732.1	1 940.1	np	np	218.9	1 703.5	1 922.4
25-34	297.6	2 511.7	2 809.2	80.8	322.4	403.2	2 409.5	2 812.6
35-44	581.0	2 407.3	2 988.3	180.4	451.1	631.4	2 356.6	2 988.1
45-54	794.3	2 005.9	2 800.2	206.0	549.0	755.0	2 045.5	2 800.5
55-64	690.0	1 549.3	2 239.3	195.5	437.2	632.7	1 605.7	2 238.4
65-74	294.0	1 100.8	1 394.8	129.9	224.1	353.9	1 042.2	1 396.1
75 and over	240.1	894.9	1 135.1	71.7	176.6	248.3	885.8	1 134.2
Total 18 and over	3 105.2	12 201.8	15 307.1	886.6	2 356.9	3 243.5	12 048.8	15 292.3
Total 15 and over	na	na	na	888.1	2 430.0	3 318.1	12 815.0	16 133.2
Total 15-24	na	na	na	*23.9	269.7	293.6	2 469.7	2 763.3
Total 65 and over	534.2	1 995.7	2 529.9	201.6	400.7	602.2	1 928.0	2 530.2

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

na not available

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) People aged 18 years and over for the General Social Survey and people aged 15 years and over for each of the other sources.

A1.3 CARER STATUS(a), by age and sex *continued*

Sex by age group (years)	2006 GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY			2006 TIME USE SURVEY				
	Carer	Not a carer	Total	Primary carer	Other carer	Total carers	Not a carer	Total
RATES (%) (b)								
Males								
15-17	na	na	na	np	np	*7.2	92.8	100.0
18-24	10.2	89.8	100.0	np	np	10.9	89.1	100.0
25-34	6.6	93.4	100.0	*2.2	12.1	14.2	85.8	100.0
35-44	16.8	83.2	100.0	4.0	14.7	18.7	81.3	100.0
45-54	22.6	77.4	100.0	3.8	18.3	22.1	77.9	100.0
55-64	27.0	73.0	100.0	7.4	17.8	25.2	74.8	100.0
65-74	16.3	83.7	100.0	9.6	16.9	26.5	73.5	100.0
75 and over	26.3	73.7	100.0	*8.2	14.0	22.2	77.8	100.0
Total 18 and over	17.2	82.8	100.0	4.5	14.9	19.4	80.6	100.0
Total 15 and over	na	na	na	4.3	14.5	18.7	81.3	100.0
Total 15-24	na	na	na	**0.6	9.1	9.7	90.3	100.0
Total 65 and over	20.5	79.5	100.0	9.0	15.7	24.7	75.3	100.0
Females								
15-17	na	na	na	np	np	10.7	89.3	100.0
18-24	11.2	88.8	100.0	np	np	11.9	88.1	100.0
25-34	14.6	85.4	100.0	3.6	10.9	14.4	85.6	100.0
35-44	22.1	77.9	100.0	8.1	15.4	23.5	76.5	100.0
45-54	34.0	66.0	100.0	10.8	20.9	31.7	68.3	100.0
55-64	34.7	65.3	100.0	10.1	21.3	31.4	68.6	100.0
65-74	25.6	74.4	100.0	9.1	15.2	24.3	75.7	100.0
75 and over	17.3	82.7	100.0	*4.9	16.8	21.7	78.3	100.0
Total 18 and over	23.3	76.7	100.0	7.1	15.9	23.0	77.0	100.0
Total 15 and over	na	na	na	6.7	15.7	22.4	77.6	100.0
Total 15-24	na	na	na	*1.1	10.4	11.5	88.5	100.0
Total 65 and over	21.6	78.4	100.0	7.1	16.0	23.0	77.0	100.0
Persons								
15-17	na	na	na	np	np	8.9	91.1	100.0
18-24	10.7	89.3	100.0	np	np	11.4	88.6	100.0
25-34	10.6	89.4	100.0	2.9	11.5	14.3	85.7	100.0
35-44	19.4	80.6	100.0	6.0	15.1	21.1	78.9	100.0
45-54	28.4	71.6	100.0	7.4	19.6	27.0	73.0	100.0
55-64	30.8	69.2	100.0	8.7	19.5	28.3	71.7	100.0
65-74	21.1	78.9	100.0	9.3	16.0	25.3	74.7	100.0
75 and over	21.2	78.8	100.0	6.3	15.6	21.9	78.1	100.0
Total 18 and over	20.3	79.7	100.0	5.8	15.4	21.2	78.8	100.0
Total 15 and over	na	na	na	5.5	15.1	20.6	79.4	100.0
Total 15-24	na	na	na	*0.9	9.8	10.6	89.4	100.0
Total 65 and over	21.1	78.9	100.0	8.0	15.8	23.8	76.2	100.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

na not available

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) People aged 18 years and over for the General Social Survey and people aged 15 years and over for each of the other sources.

(b) People who did not state their carer status in the 2006 Census of Population and Housing were removed from the denominator prior to calculating rates.

A1.4 CARERS(a), relationship in household

	2003 SURVEY OF DISABILITY, AGEING AND CARERS			2006 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING	2006 GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY	2006 TIME USE SURVEY
	Primary carer	Other carer	Total carers	Carer	Carer	Carer
NUMBERS ('000)						
Males						
Husband, wife or partner						
with dependent children	20.4	285.6	306.0	176.0	366.5	460.2
with non-dependents only	*7.5	65.2	72.7	50.5	89.6	111.3
without children	74.1	337.0	411.1	184.1	462.1	565.0
Total husband, wife or partner	102.0	687.8	789.8	410.6	918.2	1 136.5
Lone parent						
with dependent children	np	np	12.9	10.2	15.1	np
with non-dependents only	np	np	*8.0	5.5	*28.2	np
Total lone parent	*4.5	16.4	20.9	15.7	43.3	**16.0
Child(b)	14.0	173.9	187.9	67.9	117.2	184.9
Other relative	*2.9	15.5	*18.3	11.3	*18.6	*15.8
Lone person	*5.4	52.4	57.8	53.8	170.6	97.7
Other(c)	*4.5	26.6	31.1	21.3	*29.9	*41.6
Total(d)	136.2	982.3	1 118.5	615.0	1 297.8	1 492.5
Females						
Husband, wife or partner						
with dependent children	97.8	304.6	402.4	278.6	470.0	543.2
with non-dependents only	34.8	52.7	87.5	85.0	118.6	132.5
without children	120.1	313.1	433.2	279.8	648.8	582.7
Total husband, wife or partner	252.7	670.4	923.2	643.4	1 237.4	1 258.3
Lone parent						
with dependent children	np	np	113.9	81.8	117.3	np
with non-dependents only	np	np	34.9	30.5	53.9	np
Total lone parent	37.5	111.3	148.8	112.3	171.2	154.0
Child(b)	20.9	111.4	132.4	65.0	114.2	144.5
Other relative	*5.4	17.6	23.0	18.3	*29.0	*26.6
Lone person	13.7	57.9	71.6	84.4	223.4	216.1
Other(c)	*3.3	21.0	24.3	22.6	*32.3	*26.2
Total(d)	338.4	998.5	1 336.9	991.1	1 807.5	1 825.7

- * estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution
- ** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use
- np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated
- (a) People aged 18 years and over for the 2006 General Social Survey and people aged 15 years and over for each of the other sources.
- (b) Comprises persons who live with their natural, adopted, step or foster parents.
- (c) Comprises unrelated persons living in family households and people in group households.
- (d) Totals for the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers and for the Census include persons living in non-private dwellings whose relationship in household is not applicable. Total for the Census also includes visitors from within Australia.

A1.4 CARERS(a), relationship in household *continued*

	2003 SURVEY OF DISABILITY, AGEING AND CARERS			2006 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING	2006 GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY	2006 TIME USE SURVEY
	Primary carer	Other carer	Total carers	Carer	Carer	Carer
NUMBERS ('000) <i>cont.</i>						
Persons						
Husband, wife or partner						
with dependent children	118.2	590.2	708.4	454.6	836.5	1 003.4
with non-dependents only	42.4	117.8	160.2	135.6	208.2	243.8
without children	194.2	650.2	844.3	463.9	1 111.0	1 147.6
Total husband, wife or partner	354.7	1 358.2	1 712.9	1 054.0	2 155.6	2 394.9
Lone parent						
with dependent children	31.9	94.9	126.8	92.0	132.4	128.4
with non-dependents only	10.1	32.8	42.9	36.0	82.1	41.5
Total lone parent	42.0	127.7	169.7	128.0	214.4	169.9
Child(b)	34.9	285.3	320.3	132.9	231.4	329.3
Other relative	*8.3	33.0	41.3	29.7	47.6	*42.3
Lone person	19.1	110.3	129.3	138.2	394.0	313.8
Other(c)	*7.8	47.6	55.4	43.8	62.2	67.9
Total(d)	474.6	1 980.8	2 455.4	1 606.2	3 105.2	3 318.1

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) People aged 18 years and over for the 2006 General Social Survey and people aged 15 years and over for each of the other sources.

(b) Comprises persons who live with their natural, adopted, step or foster parents.

(c) Comprises unrelated persons living in family households and people in group households.

(d) Totals for the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers and for the Census include persons living in non-private dwellings whose relationship in household is not applicable. Total for the Census also includes visitors from within Australia.

A1.4 CARERS(a), relationship in household *continued*

	2003 SURVEY OF DISABILITY, AGEING AND CARERS			2006 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING	2006 GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY	2006 TIME USE SURVEY
	Primary carer	Other carer	Total carers	Carer	Carer	Carer
RATES (%)						
Males						
Husband, wife or partner						
with dependent children	0.9	13.0	13.9	9.8	16.5	19.3
with non-dependents only	*2.0	17.2	19.2	12.6	23.0	27.4
without children	3.4	15.4	18.7	10.3	19.7	23.7
Total husband, wife or partner	2.1	14.4	16.5	10.3	18.5	21.9
Lone parent						
with dependent children	np	np	13.2	13.5	19.3	np
with non-dependents only	np	np	*14.1	10.0	*40.0	np
Total lone parent	*2.9	10.6	13.6	12.1	29.1	**12.2
Child(b)	1.0	12.7	13.7	6.4	12.8	14.0
Other relative	*1.6	8.5	*10.1	6.9	*10.5	*8.7
Lone person	*0.6	6.3	6.9	7.2	18.6	11.7
Other(c)	*1.2	7.0	8.2	5.5	*6.8	*12.7
Total(d)	1.7	12.6	14.3	8.8	17.2	18.7
Females						
Husband, wife or partner						
with dependent children	4.6	14.2	18.8	15.0	22.0	23.2
with non-dependents only	9.3	14.1	23.5	20.9	27.7	33.3
without children	5.6	14.5	20.0	15.5	28.0	25.8
Total husband, wife or partner	5.4	14.3	19.7	15.8	25.3	25.2
Lone parent						
with dependent children	np	np	23.4	17.9	21.7	np
with non-dependents only	np	np	18.9	16.1	26.2	np
Total lone parent	5.6	16.6	22.2	17.3	22.9	23.4
Child(b)	2.1	10.9	13.0	7.8	17.5	13.8
Other relative	*2.4	7.8	10.2	9.4	*17.1	*14.5
Lone person	1.5	6.2	7.7	9.9	21.7	21.4
Other(c)	*1.1	7.3	8.4	7.4	*11.6	*10.1
Total(d)	4.3	12.6	16.9	13.5	23.3	22.4

- * estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution
- ** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use
- np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated
- (a) People aged 18 years and over for the 2006 General Social Survey and people aged 15 years and over for each of the other sources.
- (b) Comprises persons who live with their natural, adopted, step or foster parents.
- (c) Comprises unrelated persons living in family households and people in group households.
- (d) Totals for the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers and for the Census include persons living in non-private dwellings whose relationship in household is not applicable. Total for the Census also includes visitors from within Australia.

A1.4 CARERS(a), relationship in household *continued*

	2003 SURVEY OF DISABILITY, AGEING AND CARERS			2006 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING	2006 GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY	2006 TIME USE SURVEY
	Primary carer	Other carer	Total carers	Carer	Carer	Carer
RATES (%) <i>cont.</i>						
Persons						
Husband, wife or partner						
with dependent children	2.7	13.6	16.3	12.4	19.2	21.2
with non-dependents only	5.6	15.7	21.3	16.8	25.5	30.3
without children	4.5	14.9	19.4	12.9	23.8	24.7
Total husband, wife or partner	3.8	14.4	18.1	13.1	21.9	23.5
Lone parent						
with dependent children	5.5	16.3	21.7	17.2	21.4	22.1
with non-dependents only	4.2	13.6	17.8	14.7	29.7	19.9
Total lone parent	5.1	15.5	20.6	16.5	24.0	21.5
Child(b)	1.5	11.9	13.4	7.0	14.8	13.9
Other relative	*2.0	8.1	10.2	8.3	13.7	*11.6
Lone person	1.1	6.2	7.3	8.6	20.3	17.0
Other(c)	*1.2	7.1	8.3	6.3	8.7	11.6
Total(d)	3.0	12.6	15.6	11.2	20.3	20.6

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) People aged 18 years and over for the 2006 General Social Survey and people aged 15 years and over for each of the other sources.

(b) Comprises persons who live with their natural, adopted, step or foster parents.

(c) Comprises unrelated persons living in family households and people in group households.

(d) Totals for the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers and for the Census include persons living in non-private dwellings whose relationship in household is not applicable. Total for the Census also includes visitors from within Australia.

A1.5 CARERS AGED 18 YEARS AND OVER, educational attainment

	2003 SURVEY OF DISABILITY, AGEING AND CARERS			2006 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING	2006 GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY	2006 TIME USE SURVEY		
	Primary carer	Other carer	Total carers	Carer	Carer	Primary carer	Other carer	Total Carers
NUMBERS ('000)								
MALES								
Highest year of school completed								
Year 12	34.6	331.5	366.1	269.2	569.0	112.2	477.4	589.5
Year 10 or 11	48.9	356.5	405.3	212.6	484.9	110.3	439.2	549.5
Less than year 10	51.3	264.4	315.7	99.3	243.9	116.8	205.6	322.5
Total(a)	134.8	952.3	1 087.1	601.5	1 297.8	339.3	1 122.2	1 461.5
Highest non-school qualification								
Bachelor degree or higher	16.5	142.1	158.6	108.3	276.6	48.2	204.0	252.2
Diploma or certificate	50.5	351.4	401.9	215.2	541.5	125.6	494.3	619.8
No non-school qualifications	66.0	449.6	515.6	237.7	460.2	165.6	421.1	586.7
Total(a)	134.8	952.3	1 087.1	601.5	1 297.8	339.3	1 122.2	1 461.5
FEMALES								
Highest year of school completed								
Year 12	94.1	343.5	437.7	419.9	737.1	202.5	551.9	754.4
Year 10 or 11	135.3	371.1	506.4	372.4	729.2	212.1	495.6	707.8
Less than year 10	107.5	248.4	355.8	153.0	341.1	132.7	187.2	319.8
Total(a)	336.9	963.0	1 299.9	975.8	1 807.5	547.3	1 234.7	1 782.0
Highest non-school qualification								
Bachelor degree or higher	52.4	142.1	194.5	179.8	385.1	112.0	224.8	336.8
Diploma or certificate	82.6	286.1	368.7	225.1	551.3	181.0	441.6	622.6
No non-school qualifications	198.6	528.3	726.9	488.7	862.2	252.9	555.1	808.0
Total(a)	336.9	963.0	1 299.9	975.8	1 807.5	547.3	1 234.7	1 782.0
PERSONS								
Highest year of school completed								
Year 12	128.7	675.0	803.7	689.0	1 306.2	314.6	1 029.3	1 343.9
Year 10 or 11	184.2	727.6	911.8	585.0	1 214.1	322.4	934.8	1 257.2
Less than year 10	158.8	512.8	671.6	252.3	585.0	249.5	392.8	642.3
Total(a)	471.7	1 915.4	2 387.1	1 577.3	3 105.2	886.6	2 356.9	3 243.5
Highest non-school qualification								
Bachelor Degree or higher	69.0	284.1	353.1	288.1	661.8	160.2	428.9	589.1
Diploma or certificate	133.0	637.5	770.6	440.3	1 092.8	306.5	935.9	1 242.4
No non-school qualifications	264.6	977.9	1 242.5	726.5	1 322.3	418.4	976.2	1 394.7
Total(a)	471.7	1 915.4	2 387.1	1 577.3	3 105.2	886.6	2 356.9	3 243.5

(a) Totals for the Census include level of education inadequately described and not stated. All survey totals include level of education not determined.

A1.5 CARERS AGED 18 YEARS AND OVER, educational attainment *continued*

	2003 SURVEY OF DISABILITY, AGEING AND CARERS			2006 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING	2006 GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY	2006 TIME USE SURVEY		
	Primary carer	Other carer	Total carers	Carer	Carer	Primary carer	Other carer	Total Carers
RATES (%)								
MALES								
Highest year of school completed								
Year 12	1.1	10.4	11.4	8.6	16.1	3.2	13.5	16.7
Year 10 or 11	1.8	13.4	15.2	9.3	17.8	4.1	16.3	20.5
Less than year 10	3.4	17.6	21.0	10.1	18.8	8.8	15.5	24.4
Total(a)	1.8	12.9	14.7	9.1	17.2	4.5	14.9	19.4
Highest non-school qualification								
Bachelor degree or higher	1.3	11.0	12.3	9.6	17.7	3.3	13.9	17.2
Diploma or certificate	1.8	12.8	14.6	9.8	19.7	4.2	16.4	20.5
No non-school qualifications	2.0	13.7	15.7	8.2	14.6	5.5	14.0	19.5
Total(a)	1.8	12.9	14.7	9.1	17.2	4.5	14.9	19.4
FEMALES								
Highest year of school completed								
Year 12	2.9	10.5	13.3	12.5	20.3	5.3	14.5	19.8
Year 10 or 11	5.2	14.2	19.4	15.9	27.2	8.1	19.0	27.2
Less than year 10	6.6	15.3	21.9	14.4	23.7	10.0	14.1	24.1
Total(a)	4.5	12.8	17.3	13.9	23.3	7.1	15.9	23.0
Highest non-school qualification								
Bachelor degree or higher	3.8	10.2	13.9	13.7	24.4	6.8	13.7	20.6
Diploma or certificate	4.0	13.7	17.6	15.3	25.0	8.0	19.6	27.7
No non-school qualifications	5.0	13.3	18.2	13.2	22.1	6.6	14.5	21.1
Total(a)	4.5	12.8	17.3	13.9	23.3	7.1	15.9	23.0
PERSONS								
Highest year of school completed								
Year 12	2.0	10.4	12.4	10.6	18.2	4.3	14.0	18.3
Year 10 or 11	3.5	13.8	17.3	12.7	22.5	6.1	17.7	23.8
Less than year 10	5.1	16.4	21.5	12.3	21.4	9.4	14.8	24.2
Total(a)	3.2	12.9	16.0	11.6	20.3	5.8	15.4	21.2
Highest non-school qualification								
Bachelor degree or higher	2.6	10.6	13.1	11.8	21.0	5.2	13.8	19.0
Diploma or certificate	2.8	13.2	15.9	12.0	22.0	5.8	17.8	23.6
No non-school qualifications	3.6	13.5	17.1	11.0	18.7	6.1	14.3	20.4
Total(a)	3.2	12.9	16.0	11.6	20.3	5.8	15.4	21.2

(a) Totals for the Census include level of education inadequately described and not stated. All survey totals include level of education not determined.

A1.6 CARERS AGED 18–64 YEARS, labour force status

	2003 SURVEY OF DISABILITY, AGEING AND CARERS			2006 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING	2006 GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY	2006 TIME USE SURVEY		
	Primary carer	Other carer	Total carers	Carer	Carer	Primary carer	Other carer	Total carers
NUMBERS ('000)								
Males								
Employed full-time	33.2	481.8	515.1	276.9	738.7	115.6	653.8	769.4
Employed part-time	14.4	108.2	122.6	64.4	115.3	np	np	150.0
Total employed	47.6	590.0	637.6	363.4	854.0	np	np	919.4
Unemployed	*2.6	31.6	34.1	25.8	27.6	np	np	*30.5
Total in labour force	50.2	621.6	671.8	389.2	881.6	152.4	797.5	949.9
Not in the labour force	36.9	133.9	170.8	102.7	176.4	81.6	141.2	222.8
Total	87.1	755.5	842.5	494.2	1 058.0	234.0	938.6	1 172.6
Females								
Employed full-time	46.0	224.4	270.4	215.1	503.2	81.8	338.5	420.3
Employed part-time	79.8	252.6	332.4	242.4	485.2	np	np	487.6
Total employed	125.8	477.0	602.8	489.9	988.4	np	np	907.9
Unemployed	*2.7	32.8	35.6	30.7	46.8	np	np	*47.9
Total in labour force	128.6	509.8	638.4	520.6	1 035.2	239.7	716.1	955.8
Not in the labour force	142.9	309.6	452.6	312.3	477.9	211.3	301.5	512.8
Total	271.5	819.4	1 090.9	837.5	1 513.1	451.0	1 017.6	1 468.6
Persons								
Employed full-time	79.2	706.2	785.5	492.0	1 241.8	197.4	992.3	1 189.7
Employed part-time	94.2	360.7	454.9	306.8	600.5	176.3	461.3	637.6
Total employed	173.4	1 067.0	1 240.4	853.3	1 842.4	373.6	1 453.6	1 827.3
Unemployed	*5.3	64.4	69.7	56.5	74.4	**18.5	60.0	78.4
Total in labour force	178.8	1 131.4	1 310.1	909.8	1 916.8	392.1	1 513.6	1 905.7
Not in the labour force	179.8	443.5	623.3	414.9	654.3	292.9	442.7	735.6
Total	358.6	1 574.9	1 933.5	1 331.7	2 571.1	685.0	1 956.2	2 641.3

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

A1.6 CARERS AGED 18–64 YEARS, labour force status *continued*

	2003 SURVEY OF DISABILITY, AGEING AND CARERS			2006 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING	2006 GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY	2006 TIME USE SURVEY		
	Primary carer	Other carer	Total carers	Carer	Carer	Primary carer	Other carer	Total carers
RATES (%) (a)								
Males								
Employed full-time	0.7	10.8	11.5	7.7	15.8	2.6	14.5	17.1
Employed part-time	1.9	14.6	16.6	9.4	16.7	np	np	20.2
Total employed	0.9	11.3	12.3	8.0	15.9	np	np	17.5
Unemployed	*1.0	12.0	12.9	10.8	11.2	np	np	*14.0
Total in labour force	0.9	11.4	12.3	8.1	15.7	2.8	14.6	17.4
Not in the labour force	4.4	15.9	20.3	12.6	23.1	9.0	15.6	24.7
Total	1.4	12.0	13.4	8.8	16.6	3.7	14.7	18.4
Females								
Employed full-time	2.1	10.1	12.2	10.7	21.1	3.8	15.9	19.7
Employed part-time	4.2	13.3	17.5	14.5	24.1	np	np	22.7
Total employed	3.1	11.6	14.6	12.5	22.5	np	np	21.2
Unemployed	*1.3	15.7	17.0	14.8	20.9	np	np	*24.0
Total in labour force	3.0	11.8	14.7	12.6	22.4	5.3	16.0	21.3
Not in the labour force	7.5	16.2	23.7	18.6	27.0	11.1	15.8	26.9
Total	4.3	13.1	17.5	14.4	23.7	7.1	15.9	23.0
Persons								
Employed full-time	1.2	10.6	11.7	8.8	17.6	3.0	14.9	17.9
Employed part-time	3.6	13.7	17.2	13.1	22.2	6.1	16.0	22.0
Total employed	1.9	11.4	13.3	10.1	18.9	3.9	15.2	19.2
Unemployed	*1.1	13.6	14.7	12.7	15.8	*4.4	14.4	18.8
Total in labour force	1.8	11.5	13.4	10.2	18.7	3.9	15.2	19.1
Not in the labour force	6.5	16.1	22.6	16.7	25.8	10.4	15.8	26.2
Total	2.9	12.5	15.4	11.6	20.1	5.4	15.3	20.7

SELECTED LABOUR FORCE RATES OF CARERS (%)

Males								
Unemployment rate(b)	**5.2	5.1	5.1	6.6	3.1	np	np	*3.2
Labour force participation rate(c)	57.7	82.3	79.7	79.1	83.3	65.1	85.0	81.0
Employment to population ratio(d)	54.7	78.1	75.7	73.9	80.7	63.7	82.1	78.4
Females								
Unemployment rate(b)	*2.1	6.4	5.6	5.9	4.5	np	np	*5.0
Labour force participation rate(c)	47.4	62.2	58.5	62.5	68.4	53.1	70.4	65.1
Employment to population ratio(d)	46.3	58.2	55.3	58.8	65.3	49.8	67.2	61.8
Persons								
Unemployment rate(b)	*3.0	5.7	5.3	6.2	3.9	*4.7	4.0	4.1
Labour force participation rate(c)	49.9	71.8	67.8	68.7	74.6	57.2	77.4	72.2
Employment to population ratio(d)	48.4	67.7	64.2	64.4	71.7	54.5	74.3	69.2

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Carers as a proportion of all people with the same sex and labour force status.

(b) Unemployed people as a proportion of the labour force (i.e. as a proportion of all people who are employed or unemployed).

(c) Unemployed and employed people as a proportion of the total population.

(d) Employed people as a proportion of the total population.

A1.7 CARER STATUS(a), by equivalised gross household income(b)

<i>Income quintile by sex</i>	<i>2003 SURVEY OF DISABILITY, AGEING AND CARERS</i>					<i>2006 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING</i>		
	<i>Primary carer</i>	<i>Other carer</i>	<i>Total carers</i>	<i>Not a carer</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Carer</i>	<i>Not a carer</i>	<i>Total</i>
NUMBERS ('000)								
Males								
Lowest quintile	43.9	183.0	226.9	884.3	1 111.2	115.7	913.7	1 119.8
Second	33.4	182.3	215.7	858.2	1 073.9	114.9	964.8	1 135.0
Third	16.3	157.1	173.4	1 016.2	1 189.6	103.8	1 081.6	1 226.0
Fourth	9.0	128.1	137.2	1 163.5	1 300.6	97.4	1 178.1	1 302.1
Highest quintile	11.7	122.7	134.4	1 321.8	1 456.2	104.2	1 325.9	1 450.7
Low income(c)	58.3	218.1	276.4	832.5	1 109.0	132.7	972.5	1 187.8
Income defined	114.4	773.3	887.6	5 243.9	6 131.5	536.0	5 464.2	6 233.6
Not known	18.9	199.2	218.2	1 352.3	1 570.4	58.4	571.7	791.9
Total(d)	136.2	982.3	1 118.5	6 686.8	7 805.4	615.0	6 339.1	7 777.9
Females								
Lowest quintile	80.0	210.3	290.3	1 045.9	1 336.2	203.8	1 152.5	1 482.3
Second	85.0	205.4	290.4	936.4	1 226.8	188.7	995.9	1 245.3
Third	43.5	161.2	204.7	973.3	1 178.0	165.5	1 038.8	1 244.2
Fourth	27.4	122.0	149.4	1 081.5	1 230.9	149.1	1 093.9	1 268.5
Highest quintile	26.7	95.7	122.4	1 137.3	1 259.7	154.9	1 189.8	1 364.8
Low income(c)	107.9	237.0	344.9	990.3	1 335.2	220.6	1 118.5	1 442.7
Income defined	262.7	794.6	1 057.3	5 174.4	6 231.6	862.0	5 470.9	6 605.1
Not known	70.9	195.1	265.9	1 317.4	1 583.3	105.7	618.4	885.7
Total(d)	338.4	998.5	1 336.9	6 586.0	7 922.8	991.1	6 366.2	8 140.2
Persons								
Lowest quintile	123.9	393.3	517.2	1 930.2	2 447.4	319.5	2 066.3	2 602.0
Second	118.4	387.7	506.1	1 794.5	2 300.7	303.6	1 960.7	2 380.3
Third	59.8	318.3	378.1	1 989.5	2 367.6	269.3	2 120.5	2 470.3
Fourth	36.4	250.2	286.6	2 245.0	2 531.6	246.6	2 271.9	2 570.6
Highest quintile	38.5	218.4	256.8	2 459.0	2 715.9	259.1	2 515.7	2 815.5
Low income(c)	166.2	455.1	621.3	1 822.8	2 444.1	353.3	2 091.0	2 630.5
Income defined	377.0	1 567.9	1 944.9	10 418.2	12 363.1	1 398.0	10 935.0	12 838.7
Not known	89.8	394.3	484.1	2 669.6	3 153.7	164.1	1 190.1	1 677.6
Total(d)	474.6	1 980.8	2 455.4	13 272.8	15 728.2	1 606.2	12 705.2	15 918.1

- (a) People aged 18 years and over for the 2006 General Social Survey and people aged 15 years and over for each of the other sources.
- (b) Equivalising adjusts actual income to take account of different household size and composition.
- (c) Low income households are those in the second and third deciles of equivalised gross household income.
- (d) Totals for the 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers and the 2006 Census of Population and Housing include people in non-private dwellings for whom household income is not applicable.

A1.7 CARER STATUS(a), by equivalised gross household income(b) *continued*

Income quintile by sex	2003 SURVEY OF DISABILITY, AGEING AND CARERS					2006 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING		
	Primary carer	Other carer	Total carers	Not a carer	Total	Carer	Not a carer	Total
RATES (%)								
Males								
Lowest quintile	4.0	16.5	20.4	79.6	100.0	11.2	88.8	100.0
Second	3.1	17.0	20.1	79.9	100.0	10.6	89.4	100.0
Third	1.4	13.2	14.6	85.4	100.0	8.8	91.2	100.0
Fourth	0.7	9.9	10.5	89.5	100.0	7.6	92.4	100.0
Highest quintile	0.8	8.4	9.2	90.8	100.0	7.3	92.7	100.0
Low income(c)	5.3	19.7	24.9	75.1	100.0	12.0	88.0	100.0
Income defined	1.9	12.6	14.5	85.5	100.0	8.9	91.1	100.0
Not known	1.2	12.7	13.9	86.1	100.0	9.3	90.7	100.0
Total(d)	1.7	12.6	14.3	85.7	100.0	8.8	91.2	100.0
Females								
Lowest quintile	6.0	15.7	21.7	78.3	100.0	15.0	85.0	100.0
Second	6.9	16.7	23.7	76.3	100.0	15.9	84.1	100.0
Third	3.7	13.7	17.4	82.6	100.0	13.7	86.3	100.0
Fourth	2.2	9.9	12.1	87.9	100.0	12.0	88.0	100.0
Highest quintile	2.1	7.6	9.7	90.3	100.0	11.5	88.5	100.0
Low income(c)	8.1	17.7	25.8	74.2	100.0	16.5	83.5	100.0
Income defined	4.2	12.8	17.0	83.0	100.0	13.6	86.4	100.0
Not known	4.5	12.3	16.8	83.2	100.0	14.6	85.4	100.0
Total(d)	4.3	12.6	16.9	83.1	100.0	13.5	86.5	100.0
Persons								
Lowest quintile	5.1	16.1	21.1	78.9	100.0	13.4	86.6	100.0
Second	5.1	16.9	22.0	78.0	100.0	13.4	86.6	100.0
Third	2.5	13.4	16.0	84.0	100.0	11.3	88.7	100.0
Fourth	1.4	9.9	11.3	88.7	100.0	9.8	90.2	100.0
Highest quintile	1.4	8.0	9.5	90.5	100.0	9.3	90.7	100.0
Low income(c)	6.8	18.6	25.4	74.6	100.0	14.5	85.5	100.0
Income defined	3.0	12.7	15.7	84.3	100.0	11.3	88.7	100.0
Not known	2.8	12.5	15.3	84.7	100.0	12.1	87.9	100.0
Total(d)	3.0	12.6	15.6	84.4	100.0	11.2	88.8	100.0

- (a) People aged 18 years and over for the 2006 General Social Survey and people aged 15 years and over for each of the other sources.
- (b) Equivalising adjusts actual income to take account of different household size and composition.
- (c) Low income households are those in the second and third deciles of equivalised gross household income.
- (d) Totals for the 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers and the 2006 Census of Population and Housing include people in non-private dwellings for whom household income is not applicable.

A1.7 CARER STATUS(a), by equivalised gross household income(b) *continued*

Income quintile by sex	2006 GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY			2006 TIME USE SURVEY				
	Carer	Not a carer	Total	Primary carer	Other carer	Total carers	Not a carer	Total
NUMBERS ('000)								
Males								
Lowest quintile	238.1	848.2	1 086.4	88.4	169.4	257.8	990.5	1 248.4
Second	170.6	935.2	1 105.8	88.9	216.6	305.5	951.0	1 256.5
Third	214.5	1 120.2	1 334.7	*47.8	216.4	264.1	1 180.7	1 444.8
Fourth	226.2	1 150.9	1 377.1	*30.7	222.6	253.3	1 317.0	1 570.3
Highest quintile	274.7	1 349.1	1 623.8	*47.3	213.7	261.0	1 447.9	1 708.9
Low income(c)	231.0	853.7	1 084.8	127.2	215.8	342.9	916.0	1 258.9
Income defined	1 124.0	5 403.7	6 527.7	303.1	1 038.7	1 341.8	5 887.1	7 228.9
Not known	173.7	851.9	1 025.6	*36.2	114.4	150.6	596.2	746.8
Total(d)	1 297.8	6 255.5	7 553.3	339.3	1 153.2	1 492.5	6 483.3	7 975.7
Females								
Lowest quintile	328.6	1 125.3	1 453.8	109.1	205.7	314.8	1 243.5	1 558.4
Second	313.5	972.1	1 285.6	153.3	279.8	433.1	1 078.4	1 511.5
Third	263.5	891.4	1 154.9	89.8	206.3	296.2	1 054.0	1 350.1
Fourth	274.2	1 030.3	1 304.5	76.3	245.3	321.7	1 140.2	1 461.8
Highest quintile	290.9	956.7	1 247.6	89.7	206.0	295.7	1 246.4	1 542.1
Low income(c)	376.2	1 066.2	1 442.4	141.8	280.8	422.6	1 176.0	1 598.5
Income defined	1 470.7	4 975.7	6 446.4	518.3	1 143.2	1 661.5	5 762.5	7 424.0
Not known	336.7	970.6	1 307.3	*30.5	133.7	164.2	569.3	733.5
Total(d)	1 807.5	5 946.3	7 753.8	548.8	1 276.9	1 825.7	6 331.8	8 157.4
Persons								
Lowest quintile	566.7	1 973.5	2 540.2	197.5	375.2	572.7	2 234.1	2 806.7
Second	484.1	1 907.3	2 391.4	242.2	496.4	738.6	2 029.5	2 768.0
Third	478.0	2 011.6	2 489.6	137.6	422.7	560.3	2 234.7	2 795.0
Fourth	500.4	2 181.2	2 681.6	107.0	467.9	575.0	2 457.1	3 032.1
Highest quintile	565.6	2 305.8	2 871.4	137.0	419.7	556.8	2 694.3	3 251.0
Low income(c)	607.3	1 919.9	2 527.2	268.9	496.5	765.5	2 091.9	2 857.4
Income defined	2 594.8	10 379.3	12 974.1	821.4	2 181.9	3 003.3	11 649.6	14 652.9
Not known	510.4	1 822.5	2 332.9	*66.7	248.1	314.9	1 165.4	1 480.3
Total(d)	3 105.2	12 201.8	15 307.1	888.1	2 430.0	3 318.1	12 815.0	16 133.2

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

- (a) People aged 18 years and over for the 2006 General Social Survey and people aged 15 years and over for each of the other sources.
- (b) Equivalising adjusts actual income to take account of different household size and composition.
- (c) Low income households are those in the second and third deciles of equivalised gross household income.
- (d) Totals for the 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers and the 2006 Census of Population and Housing include people in non-private dwellings for whom household income is not applicable.

A1.7 CARER STATUS(a), by equivalised gross household income(b) *continued*

Income quintile by sex	2006 GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY			2006 TIME USE SURVEY				
	Carer	Not a carer	Total	Primary carer	Other carer	Total carers	Not a carer	Total
RATES (%)								
Males								
Lowest quintile	21.9	78.1	100.0	7.1	13.6	20.7	79.3	100.0
Second	15.4	84.6	100.0	7.1	17.2	24.3	75.7	100.0
Third	16.1	83.9	100.0	*3.3	15.0	18.3	81.7	100.0
Fourth	16.4	83.6	100.0	*2.0	14.2	16.1	83.9	100.0
Highest quintile	16.9	83.1	100.0	*2.8	12.5	15.3	84.7	100.0
Low income(c)	21.3	78.7	100.0	10.1	17.1	27.2	72.8	100.0
Income defined	17.2	82.8	100.0	4.2	14.4	18.6	81.4	100.0
Not known	16.9	83.1	100.0	*4.8	15.3	20.2	79.8	100.0
Total(d)	17.2	82.8	100.0	4.3	14.5	18.7	81.3	100.0
Females								
Lowest quintile	22.6	77.4	100.0	7.0	13.2	20.2	79.8	100.0
Second	24.4	75.6	100.0	10.1	18.5	28.7	71.3	100.0
Third	22.8	77.2	100.0	6.7	15.3	21.9	78.1	100.0
Fourth	21.0	79.0	100.0	5.2	16.8	22.0	78.0	100.0
Highest quintile	23.3	76.7	100.0	5.8	13.4	19.2	80.8	100.0
Low income(c)	26.1	73.9	100.0	8.9	17.6	26.4	73.6	100.0
Income defined	22.8	77.2	100.0	7.0	15.4	22.4	77.6	100.0
Not known	25.8	74.2	100.0	*4.2	18.2	22.4	77.6	100.0
Total(d)	23.3	76.7	100.0	6.7	15.7	22.4	77.6	100.0
Persons								
Lowest quintile	22.3	77.7	100.0	7.0	13.4	20.4	79.6	100.0
Second	20.2	79.8	100.0	8.8	17.9	26.7	73.3	100.0
Third	19.2	80.8	100.0	4.9	15.1	20.0	80.0	100.0
Fourth	18.7	81.3	100.0	3.5	15.4	19.0	81.0	100.0
Highest quintile	19.7	80.3	100.0	4.2	12.9	17.1	82.9	100.0
Low income(c)	24.0	76.0	100.0	9.4	17.4	26.8	73.2	100.0
Income defined	20.0	80.0	100.0	5.6	14.9	20.5	79.5	100.0
Not known	21.9	78.1	100.0	*4.5	16.8	21.3	78.7	100.0
Total(d)	20.3	79.7	100.0	5.5	15.1	20.6	79.4	100.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

- (a) People aged 18 years and over for the 2006 General Social Survey and people aged 15 years and over for each of the other sources.
- (b) Equivalising adjusts actual income to take account of different household size and composition.
- (c) Low income households are those in the second and third deciles of equivalised gross household income.
- (d) Totals for the 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers and the 2006 Census of Population and Housing include people in non-private dwellings for whom household income is not applicable.

A1.8 CARERS AGED 18 YEARS AND OVER, selected characteristics(a)

	2003 SURVEY OF DISABILITY, AGEING AND CARERS			2006 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING	2006 GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY	2006 TIME USE SURVEY		
	Primary carers	Other carers	Total carers	Carers	Carers	Primary carers	Other carers	Total carers
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
MALES								
Age group of carer (years)								
18-34	*9.0	23.0	21.3	18.0	15.0	*11.6	23.8	21.0
35-64	55.6	56.3	56.2	64.1	66.6	57.4	59.8	59.2
65 and over	35.4	20.7	22.5	17.8	18.5	31.0	16.4	19.8
Living arrangements								
Husband, wife or partner with children	21.2	37.2	35.2	39.9	35.1	31.9	41.3	39.1
Husband, wife or partner without children	56.2	35.8	38.3	32.4	35.6	54.0	34.0	38.7
Lone parent	*3.4	1.7	1.9	2.8	3.3	np	np	**1.1
Child(b)	9.5	15.6	14.9	9.9	9.0	np	np	10.7
Lone person	*4.1	5.6	5.4	9.5	13.1	*4.5	7.4	6.7
Education								
Year 12 or equivalent	25.7	34.8	33.7	46.3	43.8	33.1	42.5	40.3
Has non-school qualification	51.1	52.8	52.6	57.6	64.5	51.2	62.4	59.8
Labour force status - persons aged 18-64 years								
Employed working full-time	38.2	63.8	61.1	56.3	69.8	49.4	69.7	65.6
Employed working part-time	16.5	14.3	14.5	13.1	10.9	14.3	12.4	12.8
Total employed(c)	54.7	78.1	75.7	73.9	80.7	np	np	78.4
Unemployed	**3.0	4.2	4.1	5.2	2.6	np	np	*2.6
Not in the labour force	42.3	17.7	20.3	20.9	16.7	34.9	15.0	19.0
Income(d)								
Lowest quintile	38.0	23.5	25.4	21.4	21.2	29.2	16.5	19.4
Second	29.4	23.8	24.6	21.3	15.2	29.3	20.3	22.4
Third	14.3	20.4	19.6	19.4	19.1	15.8	20.9	19.7
Fourth	7.9	16.4	15.3	18.2	20.1	*10.1	21.8	19.1
Highest quintile	10.3	15.9	15.2	19.7	24.4	*15.6	20.5	19.4
Low income(e)	50.6	28.5	31.4	24.7	20.6	41.9	20.1	25.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Proportions based on applicable population in each category for whom responses were stated.

(b) Comprises natural, adopted, step and foster children aged 18 years and over.

(c) Includes people away from work at the time of the Census.

(d) Equivalised gross household income.

(e) Low income households are those in the second and third deciles of equivalised gross household income.

A1.8 CARERS AGED 18 YEARS AND OVER, selected characteristics(a) *continued*

	2003 SURVEY OF DISABILITY, AGEING AND CARERS			2006 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING	2006 GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY	2006 TIME USE SURVEY		
	Primary carers	Other carers	Total carers	Carers	Carers	Primary carers	Other carers	Total carers
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
FEMALES								
Age group of carer (years)								
18-34	14.1	22.4	20.3	17.8	17.2	11.7	20.4	17.7
35-64	66.4	62.6	63.6	68.0	66.5	70.7	62.1	64.7
65 and over	19.4	14.9	16.1	14.2	16.3	17.6	17.6	17.6
Living arrangements								
Husband, wife or partner with children	40.0	37.4	38.1	39.0	32.6	42.4	35.8	37.8
Husband, wife or partner without children	36.0	32.8	33.6	30.0	35.9	39.8	29.6	32.7
Lone parent	11.3	11.7	11.6	12.0	9.5	np	np	8.6
Child(b)	6.1	8.1	7.6	5.6	6.3	np	np	5.9
Lone person	4.1	6.1	5.6	9.1	12.4	*2.7	16.3	12.1
Education								
Year 12 or equivalent	27.9	35.7	33.7	44.4	40.8	37.0	44.7	42.3
Has non-school qualification	41.1	45.1	44.1	45.3	52.3	53.7	54.6	54.3
Labour force status - persons aged 18-64 years								
Employed working full-time	17.0	27.4	24.8	25.8	33.3	18.1	33.3	28.6
Employed working part-time	29.4	30.8	30.5	29.1	32.1	31.6	33.9	33.2
Total employed(c)	46.3	58.2	55.3	58.8	65.3	np	np	61.8
Unemployed	*1.0	4.0	3.3	3.7	3.1	np	np	*3.3
Not in the labour force	52.6	37.8	41.5	37.5	31.6	46.9	29.6	34.9
Income(d)								
Lowest quintile	30.3	26.5	27.4	23.5	22.3	21.1	18.3	19.2
Second	32.5	25.5	27.3	21.8	21.3	29.7	24.3	26.0
Third	16.6	20.1	19.3	19.2	17.9	17.4	17.9	17.8
Fourth	10.5	15.7	14.4	17.4	18.6	14.8	21.3	19.2
Highest quintile	10.2	12.2	11.7	18.1	19.8	17.1	18.1	17.8
Low income(e)	41.1	30.1	32.8	25.6	25.6	27.4	25.1	25.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Proportions based on applicable population in each category for whom responses were stated.

(b) Comprises natural, adopted, step and foster children aged 18 years and over.

(c) Includes people away from work at the time of the Census.

(d) Equivalised gross household income.

(e) Low income households are those in the second and third deciles of equivalised gross household income.

A1.8 CARERS AGED 18 YEARS AND OVER, selected characteristics(a) *continued*

	2003 SURVEY OF DISABILITY, AGEING AND CARERS			2006 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING	2006 GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY	2006 TIME USE SURVEY		
	<i>Primary carers</i>	<i>Other carers</i>	<i>Total carers</i>	<i>Carers</i>	<i>Carers</i>	<i>Primary carers</i>	<i>Other carers</i>	<i>Total carers</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
PERSONS								
Age group of carer (years)								
18–34	12.7	22.7	20.7	17.9	16.3	11.6	22.0	19.2
35–64	63.3	59.5	60.3	66.5	66.5	65.6	61.0	62.3
65 and over	24.0	17.8	19.0	15.6	17.2	22.7	17.0	18.6
Living arrangements								
Husband, wife or partner with children	34.6	37.3	36.8	39.3	33.6	38.4	38.4	38.4
Husband, wife or partner without children	41.7	34.3	35.7	30.9	35.8	45.2	31.7	35.4
Lone parent	9.1	6.7	7.2	8.5	6.9	7.1	4.5	5.2
Child(b)	7.1	11.8	10.9	7.2	7.5	*4.8	9.3	8.1
Lone person	4.1	5.8	5.5	9.2	12.7	*3.4	12.0	9.7
Education								
Year 12 or equivalent	27.3	35.2	33.7	45.1	42.1	35.5	43.7	41.4
Has non-school qualification	43.9	48.9	47.9	50.1	57.4	52.7	58.3	56.8
Labour force status - persons aged 18–64 years								
Employed working full-time	22.1	44.8	40.6	37.1	48.3	28.8	50.7	45.0
Employed working part-time	26.3	22.9	23.5	23.2	23.4	25.7	23.6	24.1
Total employed(c)	48.4	67.7	64.2	64.4	71.7	54.5	74.3	69.2
Unemployed	*1.5	4.1	3.6	4.3	2.9	**2.7	3.1	3.0
Not in the labour force	50.1	28.2	32.2	31.3	25.4	42.8	22.6	27.8
Income(d)								
Lowest quintile	32.6	25.0	26.5	22.7	21.8	24.1	17.4	19.3
Second	31.5	24.7	26.0	21.6	18.7	29.5	22.4	24.4
Third	15.9	20.3	19.4	19.2	18.4	16.8	19.4	18.6
Fourth	9.7	16.0	14.8	17.7	19.3	13.1	21.5	19.2
Highest quintile	10.2	14.0	13.3	18.7	21.8	16.5	19.3	18.5
Low income(e)	44.0	29.3	32.2	25.3	23.4	32.8	22.7	25.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Proportions based on applicable population in each category for whom responses were stated.

(b) Comprises natural, adopted, step and foster children aged 18 years and over.

(c) Includes people away from work at the time of the Census.

(d) Equivalised gross household income.

(e) Low income households are those in the second and third deciles of equivalised gross household income.

GLOSSARY

- Ability to raise \$2,000 within a week for something important** A person's perception of whether they or other members of the household could obtain \$2,000 for something important within a week.
- Carer – ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers** A person of any age who provides any informal assistance, in terms of help or supervision, to people with disabilities or long-term conditions, or older people (i.e. aged 60 years and over). This assistance has to be ongoing, or likely to be ongoing, for at least six months. Assistance to a person in a different household relates to 'everyday types of activities', without specific information on the activities. Where the care recipient lives in the same household, the assistance is for one or more of the following activities:
- cognition or emotion
 - communication
 - health care
 - housework
 - meal preparation
 - mobility
 - paperwork
 - property maintenance
 - self-care
 - transport.
- For further detail, see *Disability, Ageing and Carers: Summary of Findings, Australia, 2003* (ABS cat. no. 4430.0).
- Carer – ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing** A person who, in the two weeks prior to Census Night, provided unpaid care, help or assistance to family members or others because of a disability, a long-term illness or problems related to old age. This includes people who were in receipt of a Carer Allowance or Carer Payment. It does not include work done through a voluntary organisation or group.
- For further detail, see *Census Dictionary, 2006* (ABS cat. no. 2901.0).
- Carer – ABS 2006 General Social Survey** A person who, in the four weeks prior to the General Social Survey, provided unpaid care, help or assistance to someone with a disability, long-term illness or problem related to old age.
- Carer – ABS 2006 Time Use Survey** A person in the household specified as the provider of assistance to a person with a disability; or a person who identifies him/herself as the provider of assistance to a person with a long-term illness or disability living in another household.
- For further detail, see *How Australians Use Their Time, 2006* (ABS cat. no. 4153.0).
- Child** A person of any age who is a natural, step or foster son or daughter of a couple or lone parent, usually resident in the same household, and who does not have a child or partner of their own usually resident in the household.
- Committed time – ABS 2006 Time Use Survey** Describes activities to which a person has committed him/herself because of previous acts or behaviours or community participation such as having children, setting up a household or doing voluntary work. The consequent housework, care of children, shopping or provision of help to others are committed activities. In most cases, services could be bought to provide the same activity (i.e. an exchange could be made of time for money). The activity classifications of domestic work, child care, purchasing goods and services, and voluntary work and care are all included in this time category.

Communication	<p>This activity comprises the following tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ understanding family or friends ■ being understood by family or friends ■ understanding strangers ■ being understood by strangers.
Contracted time – ABS Time Use Survey	<p>Includes paid work and regular education. Activities within this category have explicit contracts which control the periods of time in which they are performed. These activities, therefore, constrain the distribution of other activities over the rest of the day. Employment related activities and education activities are included in this time category.</p>
Core activities	<p>Core activities are communication, mobility and self-care.</p>
Core-activity limitation	<p>Four levels of core-activity limitation are determined based on whether a person needs help, has difficulty, or uses aids or equipment with any of the core activities (communication, mobility or self-care). A person's overall level of core-activity limitation is determined by their highest level of limitation in these activities.</p> <p>The four levels of limitation are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ profound: the person is unable to do, or always needs help with, a core-activity task ■ severe: the person <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ sometimes needs help with a core-activity task ■ has difficulty understanding or being understood by family or friends ■ can communicate more easily using sign language or other non-spoken forms of communication. ■ moderate: the person needs no help but has difficulty with a core-activity task ■ mild: the person needs no help and has no difficulty with any of the core-activity tasks, but <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ uses aids and equipment ■ cannot easily walk 200 metres ■ cannot walk up and down stairs without a handrail ■ cannot easily bend to pick up an object from the floor ■ cannot use public transport ■ can use public transport but needs help or supervision ■ needs no help or supervision but has difficulty using public transport.
Core activity need for assistance – ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing	<p>People with a profound or severe disability are defined as those people needing help or assistance in one or more of the three core activity areas of self-care, mobility and communication, because of a disability, long term health condition (lasting six months or more) or old age.</p>
Decile	<p>When people (or any other units) are ranked from the lowest to the highest on the basis of some characteristic such as their household income, they can then be divided into equal sized groups. When the population is divided into ten equally sized groups, the groups are called deciles.</p>
Disability – ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers	<p>In the context of health experience, the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) defines disability as an umbrella term for impairments, activity limitations and participation restrictions. It denotes the negative aspects of the interaction between an individual (with a health condition) and that individual's contextual factors (environment and personal factors).</p> <p>In this survey a person has a disability if they report that they have a limitation, restriction or impairment, which has lasted, or is likely to last, for at least six months and restricts everyday activities. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ loss of sight (not corrected by glasses or contact lenses) ■ loss of hearing where communication is restricted, or an aid to assist with, or substitute for, hearing is used ■ speech difficulties ■ shortness of breath or breathing difficulties causing restriction

Disability – ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers
continued

- chronic or recurrent pain or discomfort causing restriction
- blackouts, fits, or loss of consciousness
- difficulty learning or understanding
- incomplete use of arms or fingers
- difficulty gripping or holding things
- incomplete use of feet or legs
- nervous or emotional condition causing restriction
- restriction in physical activities or in doing physical work
- disfigurement or deformity
- mental illness or condition requiring help or supervision
- long-term effects of head injury, stroke or other brain damage causing restriction
- receiving treatment or medication for any other long-term conditions or ailments and still restricted
- any other long-term conditions resulting in a restriction.

For further detail, see *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2003* (ABS cat. no. 4430.0).

Disability – ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing

See 'core activity need for assistance'.

Disability – ABS 2006 General Social Survey and ABS 2006 Time Use Survey

A disability or long-term health condition exists if a limitation, restriction, impairment, disease or disorder, has lasted, or is likely to last for at least six months, and restricts everyday activities.

It is classified by whether or not a person has a specific limitation or restriction. Specific limitation or restriction is further classified by whether the limitation or restriction is a limitation in core activities or a schooling/employment restriction only.

There are four levels of core activity limitation (profound, severe, moderate, and mild) which are based on whether a person needs help, has difficulty, or uses aids or equipment with any of the core activities (self care, mobility or communication). A person's overall level of core activity limitation is determined by their highest level of limitation in these activities.

The four levels are:

- profound - always needs help/supervision with core activities
- severe - does not always need help with core activities
- moderate - has difficulty with core activities
- mild - uses aids to assist with core activities.

People are classified as having only a schooling/employment restriction if they have no core activity limitation and are aged 15 to 20 years and have difficulty with education, or are less than 65 years and have difficulty with employment.

For further detail, see *General Social Survey: Summary of Results, Australia, 2006* (ABS cat. no. 4159.0) or *How Australians Use Their Time, 2006* (ABS cat. no. 4153.0).

Disability rate

The proportion of people with a reported disability, in any given population or sub-population (e.g. age group).

Disability status

Whether has a disability, the level of core-activity limitation, and whether has a schooling or employment restriction.

Employed – ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

People who reported that they had worked in a job, business or farm during the reference week (the full week prior to the date of interview); or that they had a job in the reference week but were not at work.

Employed full-time

Employed people who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and those who, although usually working less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week. In the 2006 Census, people were classified as full-time according to their hours in the previous week.

Employed part-time	Employed people who usually worked less than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work in the reference week. In the 2006 Census, people were classified as part-time according to their hours in the previous week.
Employed full-time or part-time – ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers	Full-time work is defined as working 35 hours or more per week in all jobs. For employed people, full-time or part-time status is determined by the actual and/or usual number of hours worked in all jobs during the reference period.
Equivalised gross household income per week	Gross household income adjusted using an equivalence scale. For a lone person household it is equal to gross household income. For a household comprising more than one person, it is an indicator of the gross household income that would need to be received by a lone person household to enjoy the same level of economic wellbeing as the household in question. The scale allocates 1.0 point for the first adult (aged 15 years and over) in a household; 0.5 for each additional adult; and 0.3 for each child (aged less than 15 years). Equivalised household income is calculated by dividing total household income by the sum of the equivalence points allocated to household members.
Equivalised gross household income quintiles	These are groupings of 20% of the total population of Australia when ranked in ascending order according to equivalised gross household income. The population used for this purpose includes all people in on scope and coverage for this survey living in private dwellings, including children under the age of 15 years.
Free time	The amount of time left when committed, contracted and necessary time have been taken out of a person's day. Social and community interaction and recreation and leisure activities are included in this time category.
Gross household income per week	The sum of the gross current personal incomes of each household resident aged 15 years and over. Households where income for at least one person is not known are excluded.
Household	<p>A group of two or more related or unrelated people who usually reside in the same dwelling and who make common provision for food and other essentials for living; or a person living in a dwelling who makes provision for his or her own food and other essentials for living without combining with any other person. Thus a household may consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ one person ■ one family ■ one family and related individual(s) ■ related families with or without unrelated individual(s) ■ unrelated families with or without unrelated individual(s) ■ unrelated individuals.
Housing tenure	<p>Housing tenure is the nature of the legal right of a person to occupy a dwelling. Housing tenure categories in this publication may not be comparable with other ABS output using these category names. The categories used in this publication are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ owner (with or without a mortgage) ■ renter (state or territory housing authority renter, other renter).
Index of relative socio-economic disadvantage	<p>One of four of the Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFAs) compiled by the ABS following each population census. Each of the indexes summarise different aspects of the socio-economic status of the people living in those areas; the index of relative socio-economic disadvantage includes attributes such as low income, low educational attainment, unemployment and dwellings without motor vehicles. The index refers to population of the area in which a person lives, not to the socio-economic situation of the particular individual. The index used in this publication was compiled following the 2006 Census.</p> <p>For further information see <i>Information Paper: An Introduction to Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) 2006</i>, Australia (ABS cat. no. 2039.0).</p>

Informal assistance – ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers	Informal assistance is unpaid help or supervision that is provided to people with one or more disabilities or people aged 60 years and over living in households. It includes only assistance that is provided for one or more of the specified tasks comprising an activity because of a person's disability or age. Informal assistance may be provided by family, friends or neighbours. In the 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, any assistance received from family or friends living in the same household was considered to be informal assistance regardless of whether or not the provider was paid.
Labour force participation rate	The labour force participation rate for any group is the number of people in the labour force (i.e. employed people plus unemployed people) expressed as a percentage of the total population of that group.
Level of highest non-school qualification	Non-school qualifications are awarded for educational attainments other than those of pre-primary, primary or secondary education. In this publication, the categories used are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bachelor degree or higher ■ Diploma or certificate. Responses have been coded according to the <i>ABS Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001</i> (ABS cat. no. 1272.0).
Limitation	A person has a limitation if they have difficulty doing a particular activity, need assistance from another person or use an aid.
Living in households	In the 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, living in households includes those living in private dwellings, and some non-private dwellings such as motels, boarding houses and self-care units in retirement villages, but excluding cared accommodation.
Long-term health condition	A disease or disorder which has lasted or is likely to last for at least six months; or a disease, disorder or event (e.g. stroke, poisoning, accident etc.) which produces an impairment or restriction which has lasted or is likely to last for at least six months. Long-term health conditions have been coded to a classification based on the World Health Organisation's International Classification of Diseases, version 10 (ICD-10).
Main recipient of care – ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers	Where a primary carer is caring for more than one person, the main recipient of care is the one receiving the most help or supervision. A sole recipient is also classed as a main recipient. The assistance has to be ongoing, or likely to be ongoing, for at least six months and be provided for one or more of the core activities of communication, mobility and self care.
Median	The median value is that value which divides the population into two equal parts, one half having values lower than the median, and one half having values higher than it.
Mobility	Mobility comprises the following tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ getting into or out of a bed or chair ■ moving about the usual place of residence ■ going to or getting around a place away from the usual residence ■ walking 200 metres ■ walking up and down stairs without a handrail ■ bending and picking up an object from the floor ■ using public transport. The first three tasks contribute to the definitions of profound and severe core-activity limitation.
Necessary time – ABS 2006 Time Use Survey	Includes activities which serve basic physiological needs such as sleeping, eating, personal care, health and hygiene. These activities are identified in the activity classification as personal care activities.
Need for assistance – ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers	A person with one or more disabilities, or aged 60 years and over, is identified as having a need for assistance with an activity if, because of their disability or age, they report that they need help or supervision with at least one of the specified tasks constituting that activity. Need is not identified if the help or supervision is required because the person

Need for assistance – ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers <i>continued</i>	<p>has not learned, or has not been accustomed to performing that activity. The person is considered to need assistance whether or not assistance is actually received.</p> <p>For further detail, see <i>Disability, Ageing and Carers: Summary of Findings, Australia, 2003</i> (ABS cat. no. 4430.0).</p>
Occupied private dwellings – ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing	<p>An occupied private dwelling is a private dwelling occupied by one or more people. A private dwelling is normally a house, flat, or even a room. It can also be a caravan, houseboat, tent, or a house attached to an office, or rooms above a shop. Occupied dwellings in caravan/residential parks are treated as occupied private dwellings.</p>
Partner	<p>A registered married or de facto partner.</p>
Primary carer	<p>A primary carer is a person who provides the most informal assistance, in terms of help or supervision, to a person with one or more disabilities. The assistance has to be ongoing, or likely to be ongoing, for at least six months and be provided for one or more of the core activities (communication, mobility and self care). In this survey, primary carers only include people aged 15 years and over for whom a personal interview was conducted. People aged 15 to 17 years were only interviewed personally if parental permission was granted.</p>
Private dwellings	<p>Houses, flats, home units, garages, tents and other structures used as private places of residence at the time of the survey.</p>
Proficiency in spoken English	<p>A self-assessment by people who speak a language other than English at home, of whether they speak English very well, well, not well, or not at all.</p>
Profound or severe core activity limitation	<p>See 'Core activity limitation'.</p>
Quintile	<p>When people (or any other units) are ranked from the lowest to the highest on the basis of some characteristic such as their household income, they can then be divided into equal sized groups. When the population is divided into five equally sized groups, the groups are called quintiles.</p>
Remoteness	<p>The ABS has defined Remoteness within the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC). The ASGC Remoteness Structure is defined only in census years, commencing with the census year 2001, and includes all Collection Districts (CDs) across Australia. The purpose of the Remoteness Structure is to classify CDs which share common characteristics of remoteness into broad geographical regions called Remoteness Areas (RAs). The structure defines five RAs: Major Cities of Australia; Inner Regional Australia; Outer Regional Australia; Remote Australia and Very Remote Australia. The criteria for defining RA boundaries are based on the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA), which measures the remoteness of a point based on the physical road distance to the nearest Urban Centre (ASGC 1996) in each of five size classes. The ASGC 2001 CDs were used. The RAs were derived by calculating the average ARIA index value for each CD and applying the ASGC 2001 RA criteria.</p> <p>For further information about RAs see Chapter 8 of <i>Australian Standard Geographical Classification, July 2007</i> (ABS cat. no. 1216.0).</p>
Self-care	<p>This activity comprises the following tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ showering or bathing ■ dressing ■ eating ■ toileting ■ bladder or bowel control.
Unemployed – ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers	<p>Unemployed people are those aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and

<p>Unemployed – ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers <i>continued</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ were available for work in the reference week.
<p>Unemployed – ABS 2006 Time Use Survey</p>	<p>People aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the week before the interview and had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks before the interview and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ were available for work in the week before the interview, or ■ were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the interview and would have started in the week before the interview if the job had been available then.
<p>Unemployed – ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing</p>	<p>People aged 15 years and over who did not have a job but were actively looking for work and were available to start work.</p>
<p>Unemployment rate</p>	<p>The unemployment rate for any group is the number of unemployed people in that group expressed as a percentage of the labour force (i.e. employed people plus unemployed people) in the same group.</p>
<p>Usual residence</p>	<p>In the Census of Population and Housing, this refers to the place where a person usually lives. It may or may not be the place where the person was counted on Census Night.</p>

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