

**MANAGING CARE AND WORK**

**NEW  
SOUTH  
WALES**

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) WED 5 APR 2006

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

## INTRODUCTION

This publication summarises results from the Managing Care and Work survey, conducted during October 2005 throughout New South Wales (NSW). It presents information on the relationship between people's unpaid caring responsibilities and their work situation during the six months prior to the survey. Topics covered include:

- frequency of care and selected characteristics of the care recipient;
- sector of employment;
- type of work arrangements used to care for someone;
- type of work arrangements wanted to use to care for someone;
- reasons could not use desired work arrangements;
- changes made to work arrangements in order to care for someone;
- whether main reason for self employment was due to caring; and
- main source of income if not looking for paid work due to caring responsibilities.

Unless otherwise specified, differences between data items noted in the Summary of Findings are statistically significant. See paragraph 13 of the Technical Note for further details.

## ABOUT THE SURVEY

The survey was conducted as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Monthly Population Survey (MPS). Please refer to the Explanatory Notes at the back of this publication for further details about this survey.

## ROUNDING

Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between totals and the sums of the component items. Published percentages are calculated prior to rounding, and therefore some discrepancy may occur between these percentages and those that may be calculated from the rounded figures.



## ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
MPS	Monthly Population Survey
NSW	New South Wales
RSE	relative standard error
SDAC	Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers
SE	standard error

John Struik  
Regional Director, New South Wales

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### CARERS

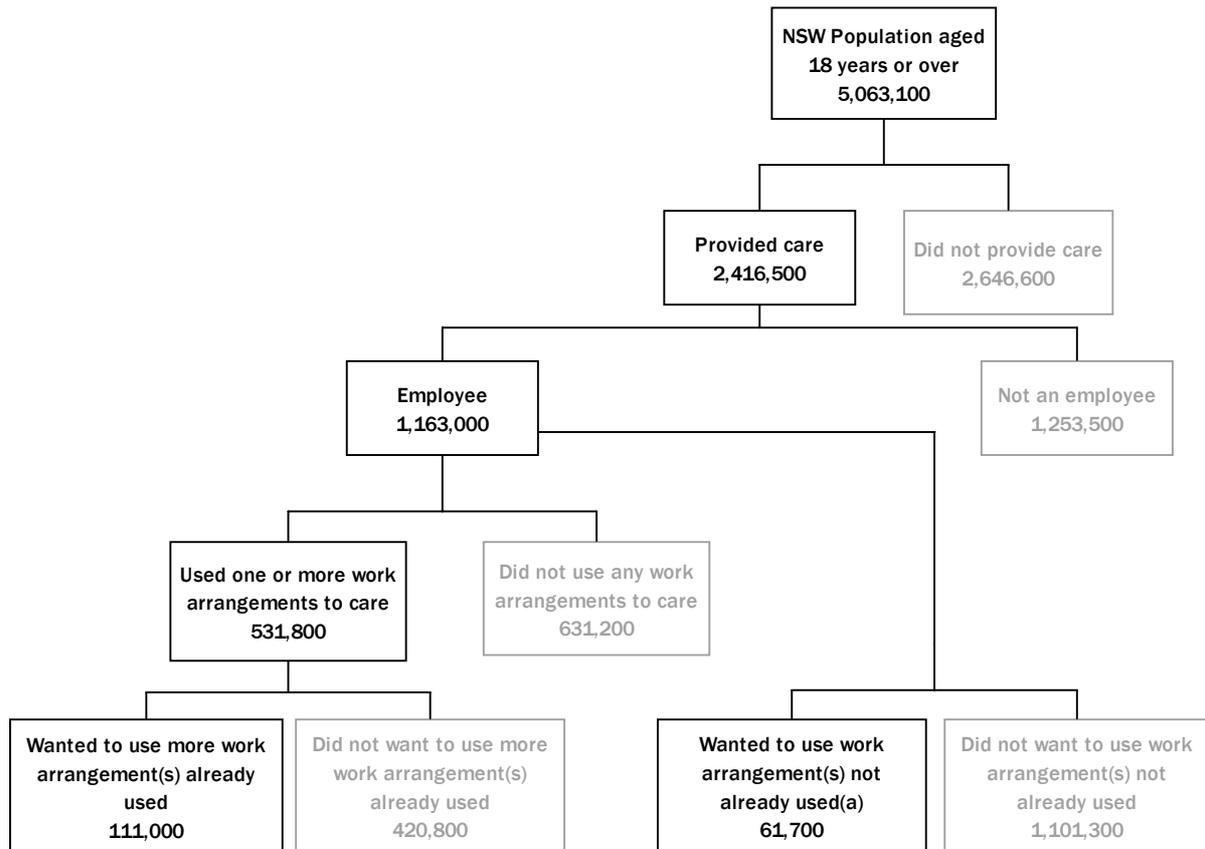
In the six months to October 2005 an estimated 2,416,500 or 48% of persons aged 18 years or over in New South Wales (NSW) provided care for another adult or child, compared to 42% in October 2000. A higher proportion of females provided care (53%) than males (42%). Of those who provided care, 1,909,500 persons (79%) provided care on an ongoing or continual basis.

#### *Recipient of care and Relationship to carer*

The main recipients of care were a carer's own children aged 14 years or under living in the household (58%), other children aged 14 years or under (43%), and persons aged 65 years or over (17%). An estimated 650,000 or 62% of male carers cared for their own child living in the household, compared to an estimated 741,200 or 55% of female carers. The proportion of female carers looking after other children was greater than the proportion of male carers (51% compared to 34%). Similarly a greater proportion of female carers looked after someone aged 65 years or over (19% compared to 13% of male carers). The most common relationship to carer was son or daughter (63%) followed by grandchild (17%).

### EMPLOYEES AND CARING

One of the purposes of the Managing Care and Work survey was to investigate the labour force experience of carers in terms of leave opportunities and flexible work practices. The following diagram highlights areas that were important contributors to this purpose.



(a) Includes employees who did not use work arrangements to care in the six months to October 2005, but would have liked to use them; and employees who did use work arrangements to care, but would have liked to use another work arrangement not already used.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

*Whether work arrangements used to care*

Of all the carers in NSW, 1,163,000 were employees in paid employment. Of these, 531,800 (46%) had used some form of work arrangement in the last six months to help care for another person.

The number of carers using work arrangements to care varied by sector of employment and sex. Overall 56% of carers working in the government or public service sector (excluding government corporations) used work arrangements to care, compared to 42% of carers in the private sector. A similar proportion of males and females in the government or public service sector used work arrangements to care (56%). Of the female carers working in the private sector, 48% used work arrangements to care, compared to 37% of male carers working in the private sector.

*Type of work arrangements used to care*

The most common work arrangements used to care for another person were paid leave (52%) and flexible working hours (36%), although the type of work arrangement used varied depending on sex. Males were more likely than females to use paid leave (58% compared to 48%) or a rostered day off (19% compared to 13%). Females were more likely to use part-time work (17%), casual work (13% compared to 4% for males) and unpaid leave (17% compared to 11%).

*Whether wanted to make use of work arrangements to care*

Of the 531,800 carers who were employees and used work arrangements to care, an estimated 111,000 (21%) wanted to use more of the work arrangement that they already used to help care for someone. An estimated 25% of males in the private sector wanted to use more of a work arrangement to care for someone, compared to an estimated 19% of females. In the government or public service sector 23% of females wanted to increase their use of work arrangements to care, compared to 16% of males.

For carers who were employees, 61,700 (5%) wanted to use a work arrangement they had not already used in order to care for someone.

*Work arrangements wanted*

Paid leave and flexible working hours were two common arrangements people wanted to use more of to help care for another person. For those already using these arrangements, 43% wanted to use more paid leave and 30% wanted to use more flexible working hours. For those not already using these arrangements, 35% wanted to use paid leave and 25% wanted to use flexible working hours.

Some of the main reasons carers could not use, or make more use of arrangements were work commitments, the nature of work made using flexible arrangements difficult, or they did not have adequate work arrangements.

*Changes made to work patterns in order to care*

Of the carers who were employees, 4% had permanently changed their usual start or finish times to look after someone, and 4% had permanently reduced the total number of hours usually worked. However, most had not made any changes (91%) to their work pattern in the last 6 months to care for someone.

### SELF EMPLOYED CARERS

An estimated 378,700 of all carers were self employed, of which 10% had become self employed to make it easier for them to care for another person. Females were more likely than males to become self employed to make caring easier (18% compared to 6%).

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

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### CARERS NOT LOOKING FOR PAID WORK

Approximately 527,000 of all carers were not looking for paid work in October 2005. Of these 221,300 (42%) were not looking for paid work primarily because of their caring responsibilities. The proportion of females not looking for paid work due to caring responsibilities (46%) was more than males (24%). The main sources of income for carers not looking for paid work were their spouse or partner's income (53%) followed by Centrelink payments (44%).

### DEFINITION OF CARER

Estimates from this survey are not comparable with estimates from the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC), due to differences in the carer and recipient of care definitions. For a detailed description of these differences refer to Explanatory Notes, paragraph 14.

PERSONS(a), Whether provided care, by sex(b)

Whether provided care	2000		2005	
	'000	%	'000	%
MALES				
Provided care	878.1	37.3	1 056.0	42.4
Did not provide care(c)	1 473.3	62.7	1 434.5	57.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 351.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2 490.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>
FEMALES				
Provided care	1 116.4	46.1	1 360.5	52.9
Did not provide care(c)	1 303.7	53.9	1 212.2	47.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 420.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2 572.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>
PERSONS				
Provided care	1 994.4	41.8	2 416.5	47.7
Did not provide care(c)	2 777.0	58.2	2 646.6	52.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 771.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5 063.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>

- (a) Aged 18 years or over.
- (b) For differences in the definition of carer between 2000 and 2005, refer to paragraph 13 of the Explanatory Notes.
- (c) For 2005 this includes Don't know. This information was not collected in 2000.

## CARERS, Selected characteristics, by sex

Selected characteristics	Males		Females		Persons	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Frequency of care						
Once only	32.0	3.0	49.4	3.6	81.4	3.4
Occasionally	163.8	15.5	261.8	19.2	425.6	17.6
Ongoing/continuous(a)	860.2	81.5	1 049.3	77.1	1 909.5	79.0
Recipient of care(b)						
Own child living in household(c)	650.0	61.6	741.2	54.5	1 391.2	57.6
Other child(c)	355.8	33.7	688.6	50.6	1 044.4	43.2
Person with a long-term health condition or disability(d)	84.0	8.0	105.2	7.7	189.2	7.8
Person with a short-term sickness or injury(d)	49.6	4.7	67.9	5.0	117.5	4.9
Person aged 65 years or over	141.0	13.4	257.1	18.9	398.1	16.5
Relationship to carer(b)						
Son/Daughter	719.7	68.2	802.1	59.0	1 521.8	63.0
Grandchild	136.3	12.9	280.8	20.6	417.0	17.3
Parent	107.5	10.2	168.8	12.4	276.3	11.4
Nephew/Niece	70.3	6.7	172.0	12.6	242.3	10.0
Spouse/Partner	87.4	8.3	113.8	8.4	201.2	8.3
Brother/Sister	20.0	1.9	33.3	2.4	53.3	2.2
Grandparent	*7.6	*0.7	21.2	1.6	28.8	1.2
Uncle/Aunt	*4.1	*0.4	*7.3	*0.5	11.4	0.5
Other relative	8.8	0.8	24.2	1.8	33.1	1.4
Not related	103.9	9.8	245.1	18.0	349.0	14.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 056.0</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>1 360.5</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>2 416.5</b>	<b>..</b>

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

.. not applicable

(a) Includes persons who care for their own children aged 14 years or under living in the household.

(b) Figures do not sum to total as a person could care for more than one recipient.

(c) Aged 14 years or under.

(d) Aged 15 to 64 years.

### CARERS WHO ARE EMPLOYEES, Whether work arrangements were used to care

Sector of employment	Arrangements used		Arrangements not used(a)		Total	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<b>MALES</b>						
Government or public service	61.0	56.0	48.0	44.0	109.0	100.0
Private company or business	159.6	36.9	272.7	63.1	432.2	100.0
Other(b)	10.2	50.8	9.9	49.2	20.1	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>230.8</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>330.6</b>	<b>58.9</b>	<b>561.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>FEMALES</b>						
Government or public service	93.1	56.3	72.2	43.7	165.3	100.0
Private company or business	189.1	47.6	208.4	52.4	397.5	100.0
Other(b)	18.8	48.4	20.0	51.6	38.8	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>301.0</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>300.7</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>601.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>PERSONS</b>						
Government or public service	154.1	56.2	120.2	43.8	274.3	100.0
Private company or business	348.6	42.0	481.1	58.0	829.7	100.0
Other(b)	29.0	49.2	29.9	50.8	58.9	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>531.8</b>	<b>45.7</b>	<b>631.2</b>	<b>54.3</b>	<b>1 163.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Includes Don't know.

(b) Includes government corporations (government owned or controlled enterprises that recover most or all of their production costs from consumers, rather than being financed from the general taxation revenue of government); community based (non-profit) organisations; and Don't know.

### EMPLOYEES WHO USED WORK ARRANGEMENTS TO CARE, Work arrangements used

Work arrangement(s) used	Males		Females		Persons	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Paid leave	133.5	57.8	143.1	47.5	276.6	52.0
Flexible working hours	80.4	34.8	113.2	37.6	193.7	36.4
Rostered day off	44.1	19.1	40.3	13.4	84.5	15.9
Unpaid leave	25.0	10.8	51.1	17.0	76.0	14.3
Informal arrangement with employer	26.4	11.4	40.6	13.5	67.1	12.6
Part time work	*3.6	*1.6	51.4	17.1	55.0	10.3
Working from home	25.0	10.8	23.4	7.8	48.4	9.1
Casual work	9.4	4.1	37.7	12.5	47.1	8.9
Shift work	19.1	8.3	16.1	5.4	35.3	6.6
<b>Total(a)</b>	<b>230.8</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>301.0</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>531.8</b>	<b>..</b>

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

.. not applicable

(a) Figures do not sum to total as a person could use more than one type of work arrangement.

# 5

## EMPLOYEES WHO USED WORK ARRANGEMENTS TO CARE, Access to work arrangements already used

Sector of employment	Wanted to use more(a).....		Did not want to use more(b).....		Total.....	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
MALES						
Government or public service	10.0	16.4	51.0	83.6	61.0	100.0
Private company or business	39.9	25.0	119.7	75.0	159.6	100.0
FEMALES						
Government or public service	21.2	22.7	72.0	77.3	93.1	100.0
Private company or business	35.9	19.0	153.2	81.0	189.1	100.0
PERSONS						
Government or public service	31.2	20.2	122.9	79.8	154.1	100.0
Private company or business	75.8	21.7	272.9	78.3	348.6	100.0
Other(c)	*4.0	*13.9	25.0	86.1	29.0	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>111.0</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>420.8</b>	<b>79.1</b>	<b>531.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

(a) Employees who already used work arrangements to care in the six months to October 2005, but would like to have used the work arrangements more.

(b) Includes Don't know.

(c) Includes government corporations (government owned or controlled enterprises that recover most or all of their production costs from consumers, rather than being financed from the general taxation revenue of government); community based (non-profit) organisations; and Don't know.

Sector of employment	Wanted to use(a)		Did not want to use(b)		Total	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
MALES						
Government or public service	*4.1	*3.7	104.9	96.3	109.0	100.0
Private company or business	20.9	4.8	411.3	95.2	432.2	100.0
FEMALES						
Government or public service	12.1	7.3	153.2	92.7	165.3	100.0
Private company or business	23.3	5.9	374.2	94.1	397.5	100.0
PERSONS						
Government or public service	16.2	5.9	258.1	94.1	274.3	100.0
Private company or business	44.2	5.3	785.5	94.7	829.7	100.0
Other(c)	**1.3	**2.3	57.6	97.7	58.9	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>61.7</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>1 101.3</b>	<b>94.7</b>	<b>1 163.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* 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) Includes employees who did not use work arrangements to care in the six months to October 2005, but would have liked to use them; and employees who did use work arrangements to care, but would have liked to use another work arrangement not already used.

(b) Includes Don't know.

(c) Includes government corporations (government owned or controlled enterprises that recover most or all of their production costs from consumers, rather than being financed from the general taxation revenue of government); community based (non-profit) organisations; and Don't know.

# 7

## EMPLOYEES WHO WANTED TO USE MORE WORK ARRANGEMENTS TO CARE(a), by Selected characteristics

Selected characteristics	Number	Proportion
	'000	%
<b>Work arrangement(s) wanted(b)</b>		
Paid leave	47.7	43.0
Flexible working hours	32.8	29.6
Unpaid leave	10.0	9.0
Working from home	*7.3	*6.6
Rostered day off	*6.3	*5.7
Informal arrangement with employer	*6.2	*5.6
Shift work	*3.8	*3.5
Part time work	*3.2	*2.9
Casual work	*2.7	*2.4
Other	**1.4	**1.3
<b>Reason unable to use more work arrangement(s)(c)</b>		
Work commitments	27.1	24.4
Nature of work makes using flexible working arrangements difficult	26.9	24.3
Did not have adequate working arrangements	26.8	24.2
Did not apply as thought would be refused	15.9	14.4
Not paid for time off	13.3	12.0
Subtle or other pressure from bosses or other workers	9.6	8.6
Applied or asked but was refused	*4.9	*4.4
Other reasons	*7.2	*6.5
Don't know	*6.7	*6.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>111.0</b>	<b>. .</b>

\* 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

(a) Employees who already used work arrangements in the six months to October 2005 but would like to have used them more.

(b) Figures do not sum to total as a person could have wanted to use more than one type of work arrangement.

(c) Figures do not sum to total as a person could have had more than one reason.

<i>Selected characteristics</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Proportion</i>
	'000	%
<b>Work arrangement(s) wanted(b)</b>		
Paid leave	21.5	34.7
Flexible working hours	15.2	24.6
Working from home	9.9	16.1
Unpaid leave	*5.9	*9.5
Part time work	*4.8	*7.7
Rostered day off	*4.0	*6.5
Informal arrangement with employer	*3.2	*5.3
Casual work	*1.8	*3.0
Shift work	**1.3	**2.0
Other	*6.7	*10.9
<b>Reason unable to use work arrangement(s)(c)</b>		
Did not have adequate working arrangements	20.4	33.0
Nature of work makes using flexible working arrangements difficult	12.8	20.7
Work commitments	9.0	14.5
Applied or asked but was refused	*7.6	*12.3
Not paid for time off	*6.7	*10.9
Did not apply as thought would be refused	*5.9	*9.5
Subtle or other pressure from bosses or other workers	*5.4	*8.7
Other(d)	*5.9	*9.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>61.7</b>	<b>. .</b>

\* 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

(a) Employees who did not use these work arrangements in the six months to October 2005, but would have liked to use them.

(b) Figures do not sum to total as a person could have wanted to use more than one type of work arrangement.

(c) Figures do not sum to total as a person could have had more than one reason.

(d) Includes Don't know.

# 9

## CARERS WHO ARE EMPLOYEES, Changes made in the last six months to care

	Number	Proportion
	'000	%
.....		
Changes made		
Permanently changed usual start or finish work times	47.7	4.1
Permanently reduced the total number of hours usually worked	46.1	4.0
Changed jobs	17.0	1.5
Resigned from a job	*5.8	*0.5
Other	11.2	1.0
No changes made	1 053.3	90.6
Don't know	*2.3	*0.2
<b>Total(a)</b>	<b>1 163.0</b>	. .

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

. . not applicable

(a) Figures do not sum to total as a person could have made more than one change.

# 10

## SELF EMPLOYED CARERS, Whether became self employed to make caring easier(a)

Sex	<i>Caring a reason</i> .....		<i>Caring not a reason(b)</i> .....		<i>Total</i> .....	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
.....						
Male	14.9	6.1	229.2	93.9	244.1	100.0
Female	24.4	18.1	110.1	81.9	134.5	100.0
<b>Persons</b>	<b>39.3</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>339.4</b>	<b>89.6</b>	<b>378.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Reference period was not defined as information on when the carer became self employed was not collected.

(b) Includes Don't know.

# 11

## CARERS NOT LOOKING FOR PAID WORK(a), Whether caring was the main reason

Sex	Caring was the main reason.....		Caring was not the main reason(b).....		Total.....	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Male	23.1	23.8	74.1	76.2	97.2	100.0
Female	198.2	46.1	231.6	53.9	429.8	100.0
<b>Persons</b>	<b>221.3</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>305.7</b>	<b>58.0</b>	<b>527.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) In the week prior to the interview.

(b) Includes Don't know.

# 12

## CARERS NOT LOOKING FOR PAID WORK BECAUSE OF CARING RESPONSIBILITIES(a), Main source of income

Main source of income	Number	Proportion
	'000	%
Spouse or partner's income	117.9	53.3
Centrelink payments	96.3	43.5
Other(b)	*7.0	*3.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>221.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

(a) In the week prior to the interview.

(b) Includes Don't know.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### INTRODUCTION

**1** This publication summarises results from the 2005 New South Wales (NSW) State Supplementary Survey, Managing Care and Work.

**2** The survey was conducted throughout NSW during the two weeks commencing Monday 10 October 2005. The survey was a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Monthly Population Survey (MPS). The MPS is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (houses, flats, etc.) and a list sample of non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.). Information was obtained from the occupants of the selected dwellings by specially trained interviewers.

**3** For details of the design, scope and coverage of the MPS, readers should refer to *Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Sample Design, 2002* (cat. no. 6269.0), and any recent edition of the ABS publication, *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0).

### SCOPE

**4** Information was collected by either a face-to-face or telephone interview from one responsible adult per household. Respondents answered questions on behalf of all household members aged 18 years or over. The survey was conducted using seven-eighths of the full sample of private dwellings in NSW that were included in the MPS and excluded:

- members of the permanent defence forces;
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from censuses and surveys;
- overseas residents in Australia;
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependents) stationed in Australia;
- private dwellings containing visitors only;
- visitors to the household;
- residents of non-private dwellings such as hospitals, motels and prisons.

**5** The survey was conducted in both urban and rural areas throughout NSW, but excluded persons living in very remote parts of NSW who would have otherwise been within the scope of the survey. The exclusion of these persons had only a minor impact on any aggregate estimates.

**6** Information was sought from approximately 12,500 persons, of whom about 11,300 (90%) responded.

### REFERENCE PERIOD

**7** For tables 1 to 9 the reference period was the six months to October 2005.

**8** For table 10 the reference period was not defined as information on when the carer became self employed was not collected.

**9** For tables 11 and 12 the reference period was the week prior to the interview.

### COVERAGE

**10** Coverage rules were applied to ensure that each person was associated with only one dwelling, and hence had only one chance of selection in the survey.

### EFFECTS OF ROUNDING

**11** Estimates have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

### DATA INTERPRETATION

**12** Each category making up the variable 'relationship to carer' includes associated step and in-law relationships. For example, the category 'brother/sister' includes step-brother, step-sister, brother-in-law and sister-in-law.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

CAUTION REGARDING  
COMPARABILITY WITH  
MANAGING CARE AND WORK  
RESPONSIBILITIES AND PAID  
EMPLOYMENT, NSW, OCT  
2000 (cat. no. 4903.1)

**13** The 2005 survey used some new and reworded questions and a different definition of 'carer' compared to *Managing Caring Responsibilities and Paid Employment, NSW, October 2000* (cat. no. 4903.1). The main differences in the definitions are:

- The 2005 survey defined elderly persons to be those aged 65 years or over, whereas the 2000 survey only referred to 'an elderly person' with no further age clarification.
- Neither the 2000 nor 2005 surveys measured care that was provided as part of paid work. However, the 2005 survey also excluded care that was provided as part of volunteer work or a study program.

CAUTION REGARDING  
COMPARABILITY WITH  
SURVEY OF DISABILITY,  
AGEING AND CARERS (SDAC)

**14** Estimates from this survey are not comparable with estimates from the SDAC, due to differences in the definition of 'carer'. Differences in the carer and recipient of care populations for each of the two surveys are set out in the table below:

	<b>SDAC</b>	<b>Managing Care and Work Survey</b>
<b>Carer</b>	Carer may be of any age, however, a primary carer must be aged 15 years or over.	Carer must be aged 18 years or over.
<b>Length of care</b>	Care must be ongoing, or likely to be ongoing for at least six months.	There is no limit to the length of care. Care may be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● a one off event such as minding a child;</li> <li>● short term, such as taking care of a person with a short term sickness or injury; or</li> <li>● ongoing, such as taking care of someone with a long term health condition or disability.</li> </ul>
<b>Recipient of care</b>	Recipient of care can be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● anyone with a disability</li> <li>● anyone with a long-term health condition; or</li> <li>● anyone aged 60 years or over.</li> </ul>	Recipient of care can be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● a child aged 14 years or under(a);</li> <li>● anyone aged 15 to 64 years with a short term sickness or injury;</li> <li>● anyone aged 15 to 64 years with a long term health condition or disability; or</li> <li>● anyone aged 65 years or over(a).</li> </ul>

(a) With or without a short or long term health condition or disability

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

**15** ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated. Without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### RELATED PUBLICATIONS

**16** The ABS produces a wide range of publications containing social and demographic statistics. Other ABS publications which relate to this survey topic include:

*Balancing Work and Caring Responsibilities, Tasmania, October 1999*

(cat. no. 4903.6)

*Career Experience, Australia, November 2002* (cat. no. 6254.0)

*Child Care, Australia, June 2002* (cat. no. 4402.0)

*Disability, New South Wales, 2001* (cat. no. 4443.1)

*Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2003*

(cat. no. 4430.0)

*Informal child care provided by grandparents* [Chapter], in *Australian Social Trends, 2005* (cat. no. 4102.0)

*Managing Caring Responsibilities and Paid Employment, New South Wales,*

*October 2000* (cat. no. 4903.1)

*Managing Paid Employment and Unpaid Caring Responsibilities, Queensland,*

*October 2002* (cat. no. 4903.3)

*Working Arrangements, Australia, November 2003* (cat. no. 6342.0)

## APPENDIX ADDITIONAL DATA AVAILABLE

### ADDITIONAL DATA AVAILABLE

In addition to the statistics provided in this publication, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) can produce customised tables to meet special data requirements. These tables are subject to confidentiality and data quality restrictions. Inquiries should be made to the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070. Information collected in the survey included:

#### *Demographic*

- Age
- Sex
- Sydney/balance of state
- Household/family composition
- Number of dependent children

#### *Recipient of care*

- Own children aged 14 years or under
  - Whether had a long term health condition or disability
  - Whether used formal/informal child care
- Other children aged 14 years or under
  - Whether had a long term health condition or disability
- Persons aged 15 to 64 years with a long-term health condition or disability
- Persons aged 15 to 64 years with a short-term sickness or injury
- Persons aged 65 years or over

#### *Caring*

- Whether provided care
- Type of care
- Relationship of care recipient
- Frequency of care

#### *Work arrangements*

- Labour force status
- Sector of employment of main job
- Whether employee carer receives leave entitlements
- Whether employer provides paid sick leave/ holiday leave
- Work arrangements used to care for someone
- Type of paid leave used to care for someone
- Whether wanted to make more use of work arrangements already used to care
- Whether wanted to use work arrangements not already used to care
- Reasons could not make more use of work arrangements already used to care
- Reasons could not make use of work arrangements not already used to care
- Changes made to job in order to care for someone
- Job changes wanted but couldn't because of caring responsibilities
- Whether main reason not looking for paid work is because of caring responsibilities
- Whether became self-employed to make it easier to care for someone
- Main source of income for carers who are not looking for paid work

## TECHNICAL NOTE SAMPLING VARIABILITY

### ESTIMATION PROCEDURE

**1** Estimates derived from this survey were obtained using a post-stratification procedure. Post-stratification is a method of stratifying or dividing a sample into groups after the responses have been received. It is used to improve the quality of results through stratifying by variables that were not used at the time of sample design. In this survey the procedure ensured that the survey estimates for persons conformed to independent estimates of the population by age, sex and part of state, rather than the distribution among respondents.

### RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

#### *Non-Sampling errors*

**2** Estimates in this publication are subject to non-sampling and sampling errors.

**3** Non-sampling errors may arise as a result of errors in the reporting, recording or processing of the data and can occur even if there is a complete enumeration of the population. Non-sampling errors can be introduced through inadequacies in the questionnaire, non-response, inaccurate reporting by respondents, errors in the application of survey procedures, incorrect recording of answers and errors in data entry and processing.

**4** It is difficult to measure the size of the non-sampling errors. The extent of these errors could vary considerably from survey to survey and from question to question. Every effort is made to minimise these errors by the careful design of questionnaires, training and supervision of staff and development of efficient data processing procedures.

#### *Sampling errors*

**5** Sampling errors are the errors which occur by chance because the data were obtained from a sample, rather than the entire population.

### ESTIMATES OF SAMPLING ERROR

**6** One measure of the variability of estimates which occurs as a result of surveying only a sample of the population is the standard error (see table on page 20).

**7** There are about 2 chances in 3 (67%) that a survey estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the number that would have been obtained if all persons had been included in the survey. There are about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the estimate will be less than two standard errors.

**8** Linear interpolation is used to calculate the standard error of estimates falling between the sizes of estimates listed in the table.

**9** The standard error (SE) can also be expressed as a percentage of the estimate. This is known as the relative standard error (RSE). The RSE is determined by dividing the standard error of an estimate  $SE(x)$  by the estimate  $x$  and expressing it as a percentage. That is—(where  $x$  is the estimate)

$$RSE(x) = \frac{100SE(x)}{x}$$

**10** An example of the calculation and use of standard errors for estimates of persons follows. Table 1 shows that the estimated number of persons aged 18 years or over in NSW who had provided care in the six months to October 2005 was 2,416,500. Since the estimate is between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 the standard error (as shown in the table on page 20) will be between 27,316 and 32,464 and can be approximated as 29,460 using linear interpolation. Therefore, there are 2 chances in 3 that the value that would have been obtained, had all persons been included in the survey, lies between 2,387,040 and 2,445,960. Similarly, there are about 19 chances in 20 that the value lies between 2,357,580 and 2,475,420.

**11** Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling error. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. The formula for the relative standard error (RSE) of a proportion or percentage is—

$$RSE\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = \sqrt{[RSE(x)]^2 + [RSE(y)]^2}$$

## TECHNICAL NOTE SAMPLING VARIABILITY *continued*

### ESTIMATES OF SAMPLING ERROR *continued*

**12** Only estimates with relative standard errors of 25% or less, and percentages based on such estimates, are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. However, estimates and percentages with a larger RSE have been included, preceded by \* (RSE between 25% and 50%) or \*\* (RSE greater than 50%) to indicate that they are subject to high standard errors and should be used with caution.

### STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES OF NSW PERSONS—October 2005

<i>Size of estimate</i>	<i>Standard error</i>	<i>Relative standard error</i>
(persons)	no.	%
1 000	635	63.5
1 500	796	53.1
2 000	933	46.6
2 500	1 054	42.1
3 000	1 163	38.8
3 500	1 264	36.1
4 000	1 358	34.0
5 000	1 531	30.6
8 000	1 962	24.5
10 000	2 205	22.0
20 000	3 150	15.8
30 000	3 866	12.9
50 000	4 985	10.0
100 000	6 986	7.0
200 000	9 710	4.9
300 000	11 727	3.9
500 000	14 816	3.0
1 000 000	20 201	2.0
2 000 000	27 316	1.4
3 000 000	32 464	1.1
4 000 000	36 632	0.9

**13** Where differences between data items have been noted in the Summary of Findings, they are statistically significant unless otherwise specified. In this publication a statistically significant difference is one where there are 19 chances in 20 that the difference noted reflects a true difference between population groups of interest rather than being the result of sampling variability.

## GLOSSARY

<b>Carer</b>	<p>For the purposes of this survey a carer was any person in NSW aged 18 years or over who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ was a parent (or partner of a parent) with a child aged 14 years or under living in the household;</li></ul> <p>or, who, in the last 6 months looked after someone including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ any child aged 14 years or under (excluding own or partner's children living in the household);</li><li>■ anyone aged 15 to 64 years with a long term health condition or disability which limited their everyday activities;</li><li>■ anyone aged 15 to 64 years with a short term sickness or injury;</li><li>■ anyone aged 65 years or over.</li></ul> <p>The survey did not include care that was done as part of paid work, volunteer work, or a study program.</p> <p>It was possible for a carer to provide care to more than one person.</p>
<b>Casual work</b>	<p>A work arrangement where an employee is not entitled to paid sick or holiday leave.</p>
<b>Employees</b>	<p>A person who works for a public or private employer and receives remuneration in wages, salary, a retainer fee from their employer while working on commission basis, tips, piece-rates, or payment in kind; or a person who operates his or her own incorporated enterprise with or without hiring employees.</p>
<b>Flexible working hours</b>	<p>An arrangement whereby employees can alter their start or finish times, but still work the required number of hours. Includes time off in lieu.</p>
<b>Labour Force reference week</b>	<p>The week before the interview for this survey. An interview could have been completed anytime in the two weeks starting 10 October 2005.</p>
<b>Long term health condition or disability</b>	<p>An impairment, limitation or restriction which limits certain everyday activities. It includes restrictions due to diseases, disorders, or damage from injuries or accidents.</p>
<b>Other child</b>	<p>A child aged 14 years or under who does not live in the same household as the carer. This includes children who are cared for by a parent living in a different household.</p>
<b>Own child</b>	<p>A child of either the carer or the carer's partner, aged 14 years or under, living in the same household.</p>
<b>Paid leave</b>	<p>Time off work that does not incur any loss of income. Examples of paid leave included in this survey are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ carer's leave;</li><li>■ parental leave;</li><li>■ flex leave;</li><li>■ annual leave;</li><li>■ long service leave; and</li><li>■ sick leave.</li></ul>
<b>Part-time worker</b>	<p>Employed persons who usually worked less than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the Labour Force Survey reference week, or were not at work in the reference week.</p>
<b>Provided care</b>	<p>For the purposes of this survey, providing care involved helping, assisting or supervising a child or adult with everyday activities that they were not capable of doing themselves because of age, disability or other health conditions. Care could be provided continuously, occasionally or once only, and for one or more persons.</p> <p>Not included in this survey was care that was done for payment, through a voluntary organisation, or as part of a study program. Also excluded was support that was only financial, such as paying for someone else to care for a person.</p>

## GLOSSARY *continued*

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<b>Relationship to carer</b>	The relationship of the recipient of care to their carer. Each category making up the variable 'relationship to carer' includes associated step and in-law relationships. For example, the category 'brother/sister' includes step-brother, step-sister, brother-in-law and sister-in-law.
<b>Rostered day off</b>	A regular day off work arranged to limit total time worked to standard hours.
<b>Self employed</b>	The groups who make up the self employed are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ employer – a person who operates his or her own unincorporated economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade, and hires one or more employees;</li><li>■ own account worker – a person who operates his or her own unincorporated economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade, and hires no employees; and</li><li>■ contributing family worker – a person who works without pay in an economic enterprise operated by a relative.</li></ul>
<b>Shift work</b>	A system of work whereby the hours of operation at the place of employment are split into at least two set work periods (shifts), for different groups of workers. For example a work place may have three shifts: 6am to 2pm; 2pm to 10pm; and 10pm to 6am.
<b>Short term sickness or injury</b>	Includes any illness or injury such that a person requires care. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ looking after someone who has the flu;</li><li>■ picking up a child from school who has broken their arm; or</li><li>■ taking someone to an emergency dental appointment.</li></ul> <p>Excludes long term health conditions or disabilities.</p>
<b>Working from home</b>	A work arrangement whereby an employee can perform some or all of their work duties at home, instead of working at the physical work environment.



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