



FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS

AUSTRALIA

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- For more information about these and related statistics, contact Andrew Webster on Canberra 02 6252 7030 or refer to the back cover of this publication.

NOTES

INTRODUCTION

This publication presents results from the Family Characteristics Survey (FCS) conducted throughout Australia in April 1997. It contains information on the composition of families and households, giving particular emphasis to the characteristics of children, such as their age and family relationships. One population group of special interest in the survey was children aged 0–17 in step, blended and one-parent families who live with one of their natural parents but have another parent living elsewhere. Much of the information about these children was collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for the first time.

Two complementary sets of data on families are presented. The first part of the commentary and tables 2–18 provide data on family composition including demographic, marital status and labour force information. The second part of the commentary and tables 19–32 provide information on family structure, including child support and parental care arrangements.

In the commentary and selected tables, the 1992 Survey of Families in Australia (1992 Family Survey) is used to analyse trends over the five year period 1992–1997.



SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ARA	Any responsible adult
CSA	Child Support Agency
FCS	Family Characteristics Survey
MPS	Monthly Population Survey
n.a.	not available
n.p.	not available for publication but included in totals where applicable
RSE	Relative standard error
SE	Standard error
*	The estimate has a relative standard error greater than 25%. For further information see page 45 of the Technical Notes.
**	The estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50%. For further information see page 45 of the Technical Notes.
..	not applicable
—	nil or rounded to zero

W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

INTRODUCTION

Families are a vital part of society, forming the basic unit of home life for most Australian people. Family composition and structure is, however, in a constant state of change. The number of couples with children, while still the most prevalent family type evident in Australia, is slowly diminishing, reflecting (among other things) changes in the patterns of marriage and partnering and subsequent differences in family formation. The ageing of the population, too, has an impact on family composition. These changes in turn impact on the demand for various family and community resources, and are important considerations in policy and program development.

LIFE COURSE DEMOGRAPHICS AND TRENDS

FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS

In April 1997, Australia's population in private dwellings totalled 18.1 million people. These persons lived in 7.1 million households, an average of 2.6 persons per household. Most (86%) lived in *family* households, 5% lived with people who were not their relatives in *group* households and 10% lived in *lone person* households. A detailed breakdown of household and family composition can be found in the diagram on page 5. Since 1992 the proportion of people in family households has declined by about three percentage points.

Persons, families and households—1992 and 1997

Household type	PERSONS.....		FAMILIES.....		HOUSEHOLDS.....	
	1992	1997	1992	1997	1992	1997
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Family households						
One family	14 897.9	15 115.1	4 616.1	4 859.9	4 616.9	4 859.9
Multi-family	439.7	416.6	159.1	149.7	77.5	73.7
Total	15 337.6	15 531.7	4 775.2	5 009.6	4 694.4	4 933.7
Non-family households						
Lone persons	1 386.9	1 730.2	..	..	1 386.9	1 730.2
Group	558.9	887.5	..	..	240.6	390.5
Total	1 945.8	2 617.7	..	..	1 627.5	2 120.7
All households	17 283.3	18 149.4	4 775.1	5 009.6	6 321.9	7 054.3

Families with children

Families may contain children of any age, from young dependants to adults living with their parents (refer to glossary—Child). Half of Australia's 5 million families had dependent children present (table 5). Of these families with dependent children, 79% were couple families (compared with 82% in 1992). Between 1992 and 1997, the rise in the number of one-parent families with dependants (up 83,000) far exceeded the fall in the number of couple families with dependants (down 43,300).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Families with children *continued*

Similarly, of the 4.8 million dependent children, 82% were in couple families (table 8). Overall, the total number of dependants rose slightly between 1992 and 1997 and the pattern of change was consistent with that for families themselves.

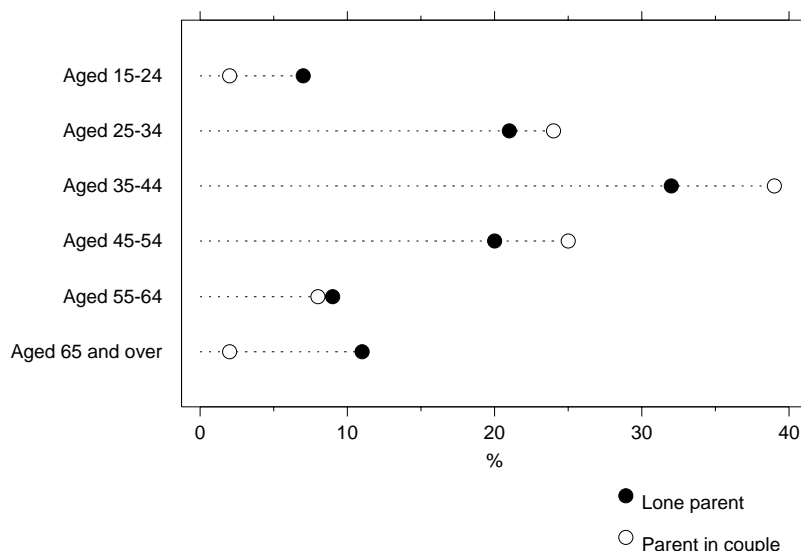
Of couple families with children, 17% consisted only of older children who had completed their education (non-dependants), and for the majority of these (63%) the youngest child was aged 15–24. In contrast, 30% of one-parent families contained only non-dependent children and for most of them (64%) the youngest child was aged 25 years and over.

Some one-parent families consisted of one or more adult children living with an elderly parent. Of all lone parents, 11% were aged 65 years and over and here, notwithstanding the statistical designation, the direction of care is likely to be from the children to the parent.

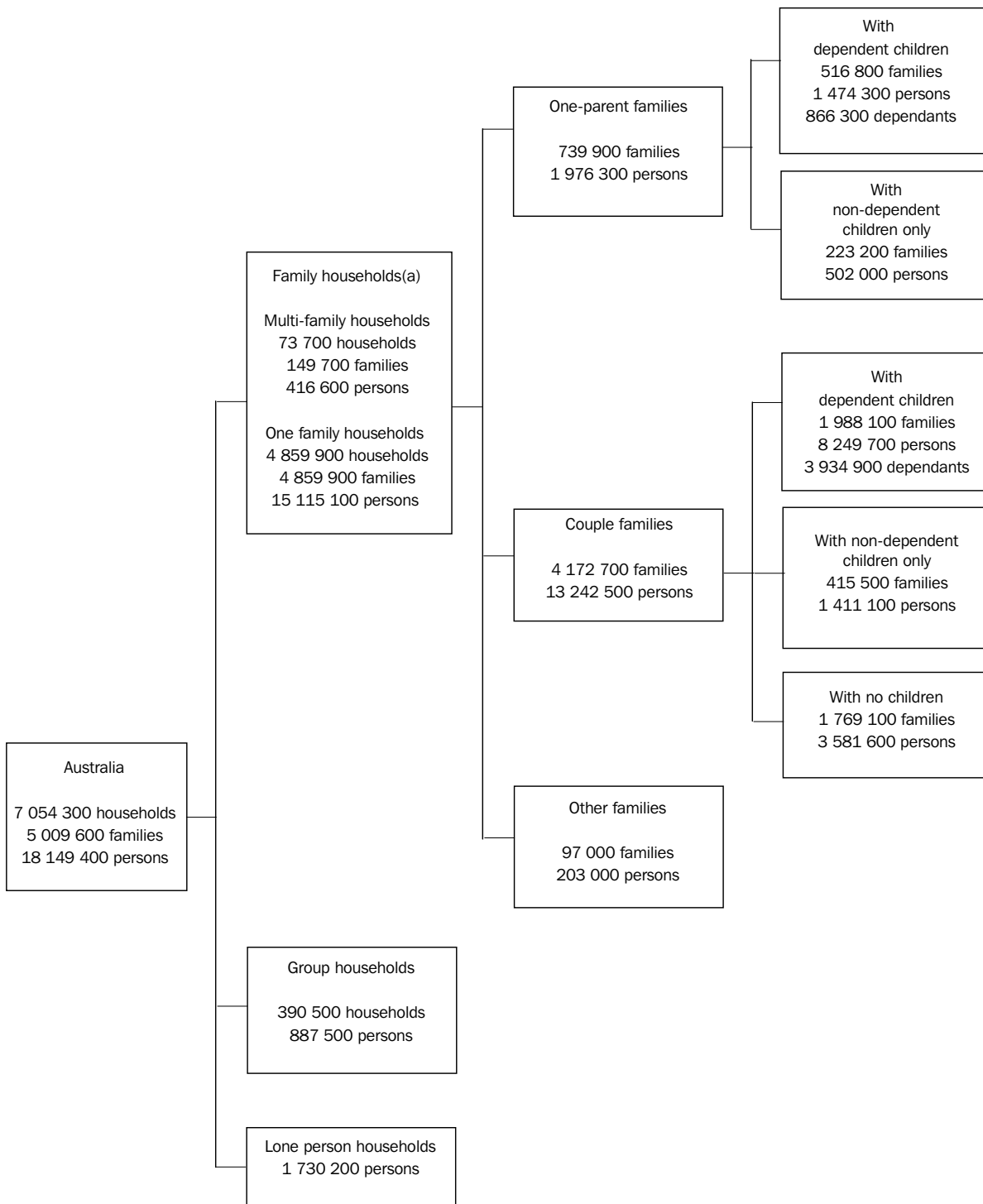
Couple families without children

Couple families without children comprised 35% of all families (table 5). These couples will be at different stages of the life-course depending on both the age of the partners and whether or not children were ever present in the family. Accordingly, these families will have different types of extended family networks as well as a variety of needs for employment, recreation and community services. In 31% of couple families without children, the female partner was aged under 45 years. (The 1992 Family Survey found that nine out of ten women in this group of families had never had children, but this information was not collected in 1997.) For the remainder of these families, where there was a much higher likelihood that children had been present in the past but had left the parental home, the female partner was aged 45–64 in 43% of families and 65 years and over in 26% of families (table 4).

Age of parents



Households, families and persons, 1997



(a) In addition to couples, parents, children and other family persons, family households may also include unrelated individuals. Therefore, the number of people in family households will not equal the number of people in families. A total of 109,900 unrelated individuals lived with families.

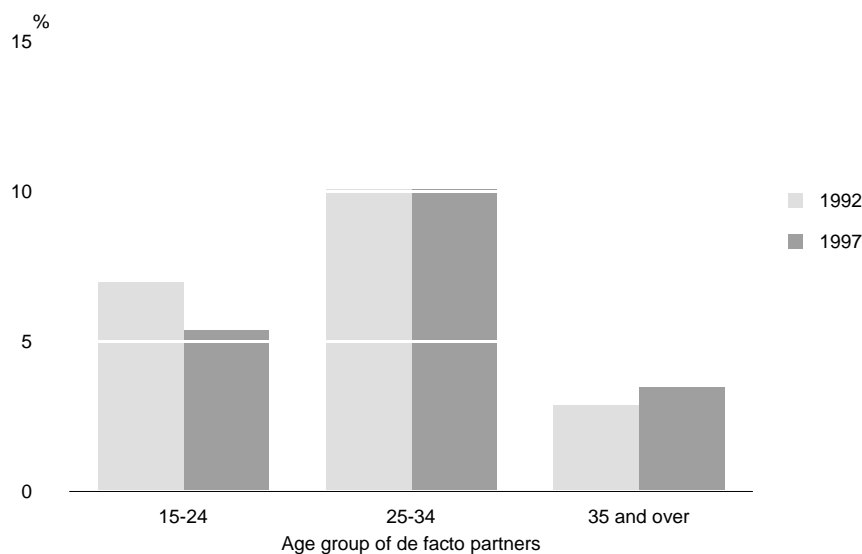
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

MARITAL STATUS

The likelihood of being married increases with age. Of people aged over 15 years, nearly 70% had been, or were, married. However, only 7% of 15–24 year olds had married, rising to 57% of 25–34 year olds and 95% of those aged 55 and over. Lower rates in the younger age group are offset to some extent by de facto partnering. In 1997, 9% of all couples were in de facto relationships (table 10). While the share of couples in de facto relationships remained relatively stable over the five years to 1997 (increasing by only one percentage point), there were shifts in the age composition of people in this group. The proportion of people aged 15–24 in de facto relationships declined, while the share of people aged 35 years and over increased.

The 299,700 people who were aged 15–24 and partnered were fairly evenly divided between those in registered marriages (53%) and those in de facto relationships. This contrasted with partners in older age groups, where the share in registered marriages was much higher, ranging from 82% of those aged 25–34 to 98% of those aged 55 and over.

Persons in de facto relationships



Overall, 31% of people in de facto relationships reported that they were previously registered married. Whereas de facto partnering offers young couples an alternative to first marriage, it also offers older couples an alternative to remarriage. Only 9% of those de facto partners aged less than 35 years were previously registered married compared with 62% of those aged 35 years and over. Of all children in couple families, 7% were living with parents who were in a de facto relationship (table 8).

Of the 516,800 lone parents with dependants, 30% reported that they were not previously registered married, 63% that they were either separated or divorced, and 7% that they were widowed (table 12). Young lone parents were far less likely to have been previously registered married than older lone parents (12% of those aged 15–24 compared with 77% of those aged 25 years and over with dependants).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AGED 0–17

FAMILY STRUCTURE

There were 2.4 million families with at least one child aged 0–17 (table 19). Of these families, the majority (72%) were *intact* couple families (refer to glossary page 49), where all children lived with both natural parents, and a further 21% were one-parent families.

Following separation, parents may choose to repartner, thus forming step-families (4% of all families). Subsequently they may have a child of their own, thereby creating a blended family (3% of all families).

Couples in step and blended families were more likely than those in intact families to live in de facto relationships. Of all couples with children aged 0–17, 44% in step-families and 26% in blended families were in de facto relationships, compared with 6% in intact families (table 23).

There were 4.6 million children aged 0–17, three-quarters of whom were in intact families. The average number of children per family and their ages varied with family structure. Reflecting their formation, blended families tended to be larger than step-families (an average of 2.9 children aged 0–17, compared with 1.6 children) and to have younger children (table 19).

CHILDREN WITH A NATURAL PARENT LIVING ELSEWHERE

Children living with only one of their natural parents may have close links with the parent who lives outside their household. The complexity of relationships is potentially increased for those also living with step-parents. There were 978,400 children with a natural parent living elsewhere. This was more likely to be their father (88%) than their mother (table 21). Of these children, 77% lived in one-parent families.

A further 102,800 children were identified as living with one natural parent only, but no other parent was reported as living elsewhere. This may be due to death of, or loss of contact with, the other parent.

PARENTAL CARE AND VISITING ARRANGEMENTS

While the vast majority of children with a natural parent living elsewhere were in the *sole* care of the parent with whom they were living, 3% had *shared* caring arrangements (i.e. each natural parent looked after the child for at least 30% of the time).

Of the children in sole care, 42% visited their other natural parent frequently (at least once per fortnight), while 36% visited their other natural parent either rarely (once per year, or less often) or never (table 29). Of those who visited their other natural parent rarely or never, 106,700 children (33% of those aged 2 years and over) had some contact by telephone or letter (table 30).

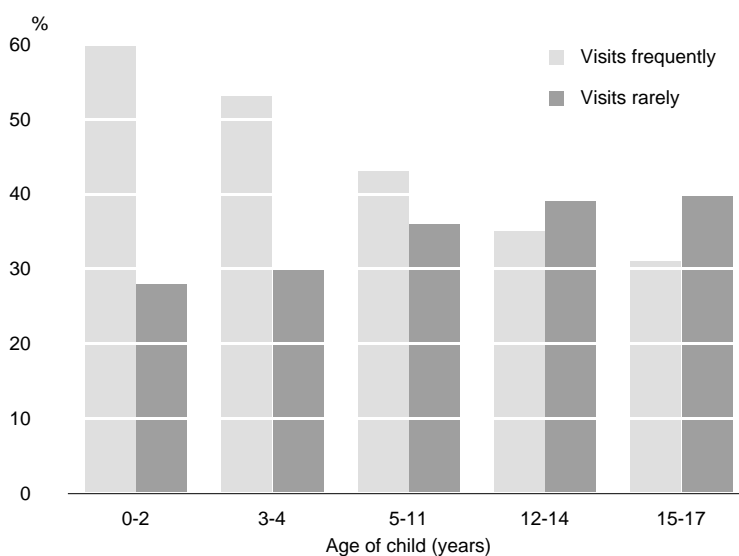
Younger children were likely to visit their other natural parent more frequently than were older children. Of children aged 0–2 in sole care, 60% visited their other natural parent frequently while 28% visited rarely or never. The corresponding figures for children aged 15–17 were 31% and 40% respectively.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

PARENTAL CARE AND VISITING ARRANGEMENTS *continued*

Although the majority of visiting arrangements were established privately between the child's parents, professional assistance was sometimes obtained. Visiting arrangements were decided by mediation, counselling, consultation with lawyers and/or court proceedings for 163,300 children in sole care (17% of children in sole care) and 10,500 children in shared care (41% of children in shared care) (table 28).

Frequency of visits with other natural parent



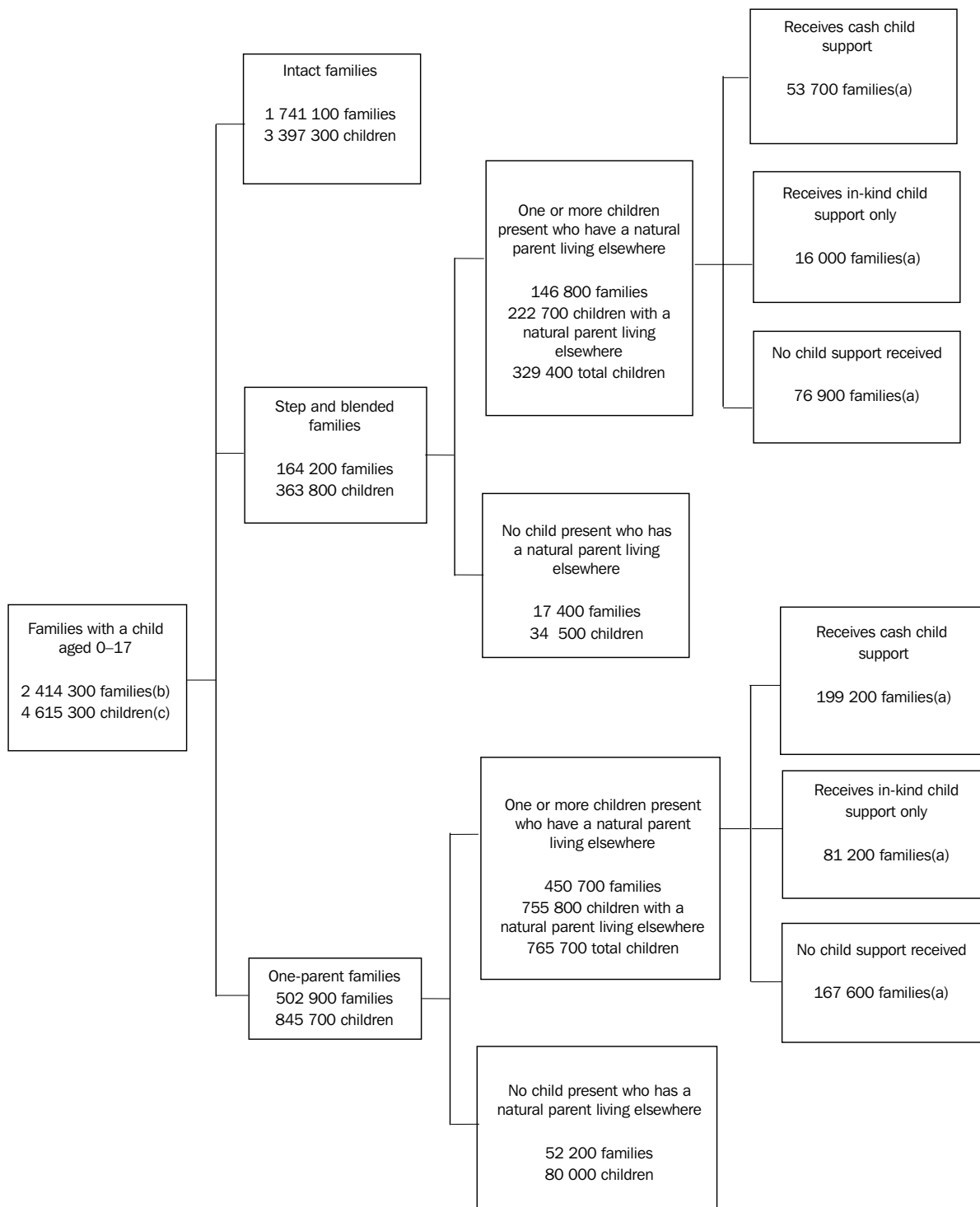
CHILD SUPPORT

Of the 597,500 families who had a child with a natural parent living elsewhere, 41% received no child support, 42% received cash child support and a further 16% received only in-kind child support, such as assistance with clothing, pocket money, school fees, health insurance or mortgage repayments (table 24).

More one-parent families (199,200) than couple families (53,700) received cash child support payments. Proportionally too, one-parent families were more likely than couple families to receive these payments. Of one-parent families who had a child with a natural parent living elsewhere, 44% received cash child support compared with 37% of the corresponding couple families.

Approximately half (51%) of all families receiving cash child support received on average \$250 or less per month (of whom around one in five received \$50 or less), while 23% of families received \$400 or more per month. When the number of children for whom child support was received was taken into account, 45% of families receiving child support received on average a maximum of \$150 per month for each child (of whom around one in three received \$50 or less) and 10% received \$400 or more per month for each child (table 27).

Families with a child aged 0–17



(a) Includes a small number of 'other' families which were not classified as intact, step, blended or one-parent families.

(b) Includes children in 'other' families.

(c) Excludes 'not stated' responses.

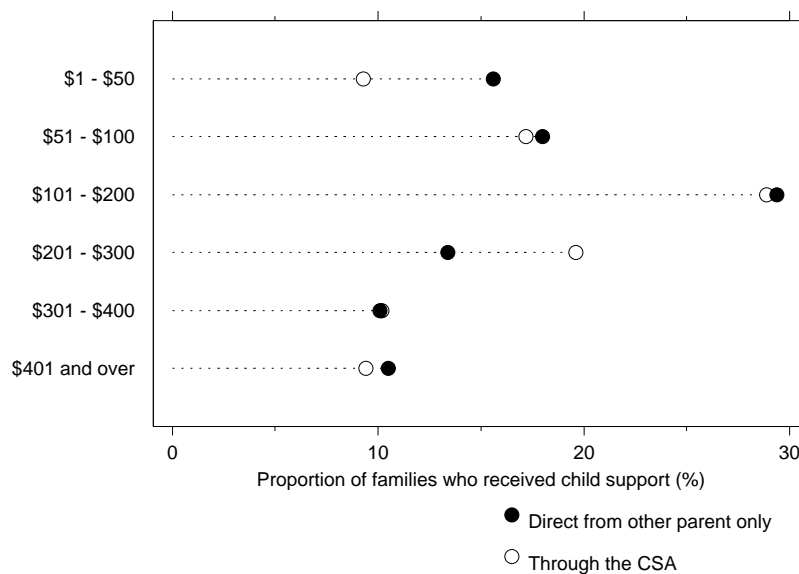
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Child Support Agency

The Child Support Agency (CSA), located within the Australian Taxation Office, is responsible for the administration of the Child Support Scheme. This scheme was introduced in 1988 to ensure that adequate support is available for children of separated parents, and that both parents share in the cost of supporting their children according to their capacity to pay. While the CSA has authority to collect child support through the taxation system, parents are encouraged to make payments directly to families in which their children live.

People may be assisted through mediation or consultation with solicitors in negotiating child support arrangements. However, of families who had a child with a natural parent living elsewhere, 489,800 (82%) reported that they had not sought professional assistance during this process (table 24). The final decision on child support payment can be determined by court order, the CSA or by private arrangement. Of the 252,900 families receiving cash child support, 12% of current arrangements had been decided by the courts, 43% by the CSA and 45% by private arrangement.

Amount of child support received per child



Of families who received cash child support, 41% received some or all payments through the CSA and 54% received all payments directly from the parent who lived elsewhere. In general, the distribution of child support was similar whether payments were received through the CSA or directly from the parent who lived elsewhere. In each case, over half of all child support payments received were, on average, in the range of \$1–\$200 per month per child.

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FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS, State Summary

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT(a)	ACT	Aust.
Selected characteristics(b)	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Persons	6 148.3	4 523.5	3 323.0	1 453.4	1 756.4	466.3	137.3	299.0	18 149.4
Aged 0–14	1 311.1	946.3	737.1	298.0	392.6	104.4	34.6	66.4	3 904.5
Aged 15 and over	4 837.3	3 577.2	2 585.9	1 155.4	1 363.8	361.9	102.7	232.6	14 244.9
Aged 15–24	862.4	647.5	491.5	197.6	258.7	64.2	20.5	50.7	2 601.5
Living with parents	586.9	431.5	264.2	124.7	146.7	37.5	10.1	32.4	1 637.3
Dependent students	305.1	252.3	147.5	67.2	76.5	20.6	5.3	20.2	896.7
Employed full time	323.9	211.5	178.9	67.2	103.3	20.0	9.7	17.0	935.7
Families	1 682.3	1 248.6	914.6	414.1	491.6	132.8	36.6	78.5	5 009.6
Step	29.5	16.8	16.9	8.0	11.3	2.8	*1.3	1.8	88.9
Blended	24.7	15.6	16.2	5.9	7.4	2.9	*1.1	*1.2	75.3
Couples	1 391.2	1 050.6	763.2	345.4	406.8	111.0	31.3	64.4	4 172.7
Registered married	1 276.7	968.7	685.0	314.2	361.0	99.2	24.7	58.4	3 794.4
De facto married	114.5	81.8	78.2	31.2	45.8	11.8	6.6	6.0	378.3
With dependent children	667.6	513.7	357.3	151.2	191.4	49.9	16.1	34.8	1 988.1
De facto married	52.0	33.5	34.6	12.2	18.3	5.7	2.5	3.1	163.6
Neither parent employed	65.2	46.0	33.9	11.7	11.5	5.4	*0.7	1.8	176.6
Both parents employed	368.3	291.2	198.8	89.8	106.4	26.3	10.6	22.3	1 117.3
Both parents employed full time	171.4	115.7	78.7	31.0	39.7	9.3	5.4	11.9	464.8
Without children	563.9	434.0	341.7	163.1	177.3	51.6	12.0	23.6	1 769.1
Female partner aged less than 45	176.5	132.0	103.0	49.0	59.2	14.1	6.5	8.6	550.0
Lone parents	265.4	170.3	130.7	59.3	74.2	20.0	4.9	13.6	739.9
With dependants	179.3	112.7	100.2	41.2	52.3	14.8	4.1	10.6	516.8
Lone mother	157.9	96.5	89.2	34.3	44.9	12.6	3.5	8.2	448.3
Lone father	21.3	16.2	11.0	6.9	7.4	2.3	*0.7	2.3	68.4
Not employed	94.8	55.4	54.3	21.2	24.9	6.8	*2.2	4.2	264.7
Employed full-time	46.7	31.0	22.6	10.4	13.2	3.1	*1.4	4.7	133.5
Households	2 359.5	1 741.9	1 296.5	599.2	694.4	188.9	48.5	114.4	7 054.3
Family	1 651.7	1 229.6	902.4	409.2	486.6	132.0	35.2	77.6	4 933.6
Lone person	578.0	415.8	309.3	166.4	173.4	49.6	9.2	27.7	1 730.2
Group	129.8	96.5	84.8	23.5	34.5	7.3	4.2	9.0	390.5
Children aged 0–17	1 553.3	1 124.7	865.9	351.7	460.4	124.3	39.6	79.6	4 615.3
Living in one-parent families	300.3	169.2	166.9	64.0	93.4	25.9	6.9	16.5	845.7
Living with both natural parents	1 162.4	902.4	648.5	266.0	338.0	88.4	29.4	58.6	3 505.4
Living in step or blended families	118.4	76.0	73.7	29.8	40.5	13.6	4.7	5.6	363.8
Children aged 0–17 with a natural parent living elsewhere	342.5	195.2	194.5	75.6	108.9	30.4	9.3	18.8	978.4
Who visit parent frequently (at least once per fortnight)	153.0	94.9	66.5	37.5	46.6	14.4	4.1	9.3	427.9
Who visit parent rarely (at most once per year), or never	120.3	58.4	82.8	22.8	37.5	11.2	3.0	5.3	342.2
Living under sole care arrangements	335.1	189.7	191.7	72.8	106.2	28.3	9.0	17.0	953.0
Families with a child aged 0–17 who has a natural parent living elsewhere	203.0	123.9	118.9	48.8	64.9	18.3	5.9	12.0	597.5
Who receive cash child support	90.1	54.2	46.9	20.5	25.8	7.6	2.5	4.5	252.9
Who receive in-kind child support only	32.7	22.1	15.5	7.1	11.1	3.7	*1.5	2.9	97.2
Who do not receive any child support	78.6	46.9	56.6	21.0	27.5	7.0	*1.9	4.6	244.6

(a) Estimates are for part of NT only, excluding remote and sparsely settled areas. As a consequence, numbers for the States and Territories do not add to the Australian total which is weighted independently to the total population including remote and sparsely settled areas. For further details see paragraphs 6–8 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Row components will not necessarily add to row totals because some components are not presented, and respondents may sometimes appear in more than one category.

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FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS, State Summary *continued*

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT(a)	ACT	Aust.
<i>Selected characteristics(b)</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Persons	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Aged 0–14	21.3	20.9	22.2	20.5	22.4	22.4	25.2	22.2	21.5
Aged 15 and over	78.7	79.1	77.8	79.5	77.6	77.6	74.8	77.8	78.5
Aged 15–24	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Living with parents	68.1	66.6	53.7	63.1	56.7	58.4	49.4	63.8	62.9
Dependent students	35.4	39.0	30.0	34.0	29.6	32.1	26.1	39.8	34.5
Employed full time	37.6	32.7	36.4	34.0	39.9	31.2	47.5	33.5	36.0
Families	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Step	1.8	1.3	1.8	1.9	2.3	2.1	*3.6	2.4	1.8
Blended	1.5	1.3	1.8	1.4	1.5	2.2	*3.0	1.5	1.5
Couples	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Registered married	91.8	92.2	89.8	91.0	88.7	89.4	78.9	90.6	90.9
De facto married	8.2	7.8	10.2	9.0	11.3	10.6	21.1	9.4	9.1
With dependent children	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
De facto married	7.8	6.5	9.7	8.1	9.6	11.4	15.4	9.0	8.2
Neither parent employed	9.8	9.0	9.5	7.8	6.0	10.8	*4.4	5.1	8.9
Both parents employed	55.2	56.7	55.6	59.4	55.6	52.7	66.1	64.1	56.2
Both parents employed full time	25.7	22.5	22.0	20.5	20.8	18.6	33.8	34.2	23.4
Without children	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Female partner aged less than 45	31.3	30.4	30.2	30.0	33.4	27.3	54.2	36.5	31.1
Lone parents	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
With dependants	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Lone mother	88.1	85.6	89.0	83.2	85.8	84.8	83.6	77.9	86.8
Lone father	11.9	14.4	11.0	16.8	14.2	15.2	*16.4	22.1	13.2
Not employed	52.9	49.1	54.2	51.5	47.6	46.0	*54.0	39.5	50.9
Employed full time	26.0	27.5	22.5	25.3	25.1	21.1	*34.3	44.7	25.7
Households	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Family	70.0	70.6	69.6	68.3	70.1	69.9	72.5	67.9	69.9
Lone person	24.5	23.9	23.9	27.8	25.0	26.3	18.9	24.2	24.5
Group	5.5	5.5	6.5	3.9	5.0	3.8	8.6	7.9	5.5
Children aged 0–17	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Living in one-parent families	19.3	15.0	19.3	18.2	20.3	20.8	17.3	20.7	18.3
Living with both natural parents	74.8	80.2	74.9	75.6	73.4	71.1	74.3	73.6	76.0
Living in step or blended families	7.6	6.8	8.5	8.5	8.8	10.9	11.8	7.0	7.9
Children aged 0–17 with a natural parent living elsewhere	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Who visit parent frequently (at least once per fortnight)	44.7	48.6	34.2	49.6	42.8	47.5	44.7	49.2	43.7
Who visit parent rarely (at most once per year) or never	35.1	29.9	42.6	30.2	34.4	37.0	32.4	28.2	35.0
Living under sole care arrangements	97.8	97.2	98.6	96.4	97.6	93.1	97.3	90.0	97.4
Families with a child aged 0–17 who has a natural parent living elsewhere	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Who receive cash child support	44.4	43.8	39.4	42.1	39.7	41.4	42.8	37.3	42.3
Who receive in-kind child support only	16.1	17.9	13.0	14.7	17.0	20.3	*26.0	24.5	16.3
Who do not receive any child support	38.7	37.9	47.6	43.1	42.4	38.3	*31.2	38.2	40.9

(a) Estimates are for part of NT only, excluding remote and sparsely settled areas. As a consequence, numbers for the States and Territories do not add to the Australian total which is weighted independently to the total population including remote and sparsely settled areas. For further details see paragraphs 6–8 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Row components will not necessarily add to row totals because some components are not presented, and respondents may sometimes appear in more than one category.

2

RELATIONSHIP IN HOUSEHOLD, Persons by States and Territories

<i>Relationship in household</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT(a)</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
NUMBER OF PERSONS—1992 ('000)									
Partner in couple	2 852.6	2 141.1	1 435.7	710.6	815.7	229.3	69.0	130.6	8 384.8
Lone parent	222.6	154.5	112.0	52.5	61.0	15.7	*5.3	11.9	635.5
Child under 15	1 289.7	946.1	668.2	300.4	383.7	105.8	44.6	65.9	3 804.5
Dependent student	305.3	259.3	147.1	69.7	82.6	20.7	8.0	20.5	913.1
Non-dependent child	431.8	334.8	199.2	107.7	108.2	36.2	7.0	21.5	1 246.5
Other family member	97.8	73.3	38.5	18.3	22.3	n.p.	n.p.	4.4	263.4
Unrelated individual in family household	26.6	22.3	21.5	*4.2	9.8	n.p.	n.p.	2.6	89.3
Group household member	177.1	129.5	128.6	38.9	55.6	7.5	5.9	15.8	558.9
Person living alone	469.2	338.2	229.5	145.7	130.4	36.7	13.2	24.0	1 386.9
Total	5 873.3	4 399.2	2 980.2	1 448.1	1 669.3	458.3	157.8	297.1	17 283.3
PROPORTION OF PERSONS—1992 (%)									
Partner in couple	48.6	48.7	48.2	49.1	48.9	50.0	43.7	44.0	48.5
Lone parent	3.8	3.5	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.4	*3.4	4.0	3.7
Child under 15	22.0	21.5	22.4	20.7	23.0	23.1	28.3	22.2	22.0
Dependent student	5.2	5.9	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.5	5.1	6.9	5.3
Non-dependent child	7.4	7.6	6.7	7.4	6.5	7.9	4.5	7.2	7.2
Other family member	1.7	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.3	n.p.	n.p.	1.5	1.5
Unrelated individual in family household	0.5	0.5	0.7	*0.3	0.6	n.p.	n.p.	0.9	0.5
Group household member	3.0	2.9	4.3	2.7	3.3	1.6	3.7	5.3	3.2
Person living alone	8.0	7.7	7.7	10.1	7.8	8.0	8.4	8.1	8.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
NUMBER OF PERSONS—1997 ('000)									
Partner in couple	2 782.3	2 101.1	1 526.3	690.9	813.7	222.0	62.6	128.9	8 345.4
Lone parent	265.4	170.3	130.7	59.3	74.2	20.0	4.9	13.6	739.9
Child under 15	1 311.1	946.3	737.1	298.0	392.6	104.4	34.6	66.4	3 904.5
Dependent student	305.1	252.3	147.5	67.2	76.5	20.6	5.3	20.2	896.7
Non-dependent child	459.6	303.5	174.6	88.8	104.0	25.0	6.4	17.1	1 180.8
Other family member	115.5	96.1	69.7	26.4	34.3	6.3	*2.3	3.0	354.4
Unrelated individual in family household	35.8	24.9	25.9	6.5	10.7	2.0	*2.0	*1.7	110.0
Group household member	295.7	213.3	201.8	50.0	77.1	16.4	10.0	20.4	887.5
Person living alone	578.0	415.8	309.3	166.4	173.4	49.6	9.2	27.7	1 730.2
Total	6 148.3	4 523.5	3 323.0	1 453.4	1 756.4	466.3	137.3	299.0	18 149.4
PROPORTION OF PERSONS—1997 (%)									
Partner in couple	45.3	46.4	45.9	47.5	46.3	47.6	45.6	43.1	46.0
Lone parent	4.3	3.8	3.9	4.1	4.2	4.3	3.5	4.5	4.1
Child under 15	21.3	20.9	22.2	20.5	22.4	22.4	25.2	22.2	21.5
Dependent student	5.0	5.6	4.4	4.6	4.4	4.4	3.9	6.8	4.9
Non-dependent child	7.5	6.7	5.3	6.1	5.9	5.4	4.6	5.7	6.5
Other family member	1.9	2.1	2.1	1.8	2.0	1.4	*1.7	1.0	2.0
Unrelated individual in family household	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.4	0.6	0.4	*1.4	*0.6	0.6
Group household member	4.8	4.7	6.1	3.4	4.4	3.5	7.3	6.8	4.9
Person living alone	9.4	9.2	9.3	11.5	9.9	10.6	6.7	9.3	9.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) 1997 estimates are for part of NT only, excluding remote and sparsely settled areas. As a consequence, numbers for the States and Territories do not add to the Australian total which is weighted independently to the total population including remote and sparsely settled areas. For further details see paragraphs 6–8 of the Explanatory Notes.

3

RELATIONSHIP IN HOUSEHOLD, Persons by Age

AGE OF HOUSEHOLD MEMBER (YEARS).....

<i>Relationship in household</i>	0-14	15-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over	Total
NUMBER OF PERSONS—1992 ('000)										
Partner in couple	..	*5.3	445.8	1 979.4	2 138.4	1 610.6	1 134.1	800.9	270.2	8 384.8
Lone parent	..	n.p.	61.6	137.9	192.4	108.0	60.5	n.p.	39.8	635.5
Child under 15	3 804.5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3 804.5
Dependent student	..	617.9	295.2	..	..	..	..	..	..	913.1
Non-dependent child	..	105.5	759.5	261.3	72.1	28.1	17.1	*3.0	—	1 246.5
Other family member	..	*3.3	53.7	48.5	15.4	21.1	25.7	47.1	48.6	263.4
Unrelated individual in family household	..	n.p.	42.1	23.5	*8.8	*3.4	*3.1	n.p.	**1.4	89.3
Group household member	..	10.9	237.5	187.1	47.9	29.1	20.5	14.3	11.5	558.9
Person living alone	..	*4.0	98.6	191.7	176.0	164.3	193.3	285.3	273.7	1 386.9
Total	3 804.9	754.2	1 994.0	2 829.5	2 651.0	1 964.6	1 454.3	1 185.5	645.2	17 283.3

PROPORTION OF PERSONS—1992 (%)										
Partner in couple	..	*0.7	22.4	70.0	80.7	82.0	78.0	67.6	41.9	48.5
Lone parent	..	n.p.	3.1	4.9	7.3	5.5	4.2	n.p.	6.2	3.7
Child under 15	100.0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22.0
Dependent student	..	81.9	14.8	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.3
Non-dependent child	..	14.0	38.1	9.2	2.7	1.4	1.2	*0.3	—	7.2
Other family member	..	*0.4	2.7	1.7	0.6	1.1	1.8	4.0	7.5	1.5
Unrelated individual in family household	..	n.p.	2.1	0.8	*0.3	*0.2	*0.2	n.p.	**0.2	0.5
Group household member	..	1.4	11.9	6.6	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.8	3.2
Person living alone	..	*0.5	4.9	6.8	6.6	8.4	13.3	24.1	42.4	8.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

NUMBER OF PERSONS—1997 ('000)										
Partner in couple	..	*2.6	297.1	1 718.7	2 149.3	1 828.7	1 174.1	845.6	329.3	8 345.4
Lone parent	..	*1.5	52.3	154.5	233.1	148.2	65.6	46.0	38.8	739.9
Child under 15	3 904.5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3 904.5
Dependent student	..	611.9	284.8	..	..	..	..	..	..	896.7
Non-dependent child	..	98.9	641.7	306.4	80.7	37.9	13.5	n.p.	n.p.	1 180.8
Other family member	..	17.7	99.3	69.3	21.7	24.5	28.1	38.0	55.9	354.4
Unrelated individual in family household	..	7.0	40.7	32.0	14.2	8.8	*4.7	n.p.	n.p.	110.0
Group household member	..	14.2	342.4	326.9	90.6	52.1	31.5	18.8	10.9	887.5
Person living alone	..	*2.4	86.9	237.2	237.3	247.4	233.5	318.1	367.3	1 730.2
Total	3 904.5	756.3	1 845.2	2 845.0	2 826.9	2 347.6	1 551.0	1 269.3	803.7	18 149.4

PROPORTION OF PERSONS—1997 (%)										
Partner in couple	..	0.4	16.1	62.9	77.4	79.1	77.8	68.7	42.3	46.0
Lone parent	..	0.2	3.0	5.3	8.2	6.1	3.8	3.3	4.9	4.1
Child under 15	100.0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21.5
Dependent student	..	81.0	16.0	..	..	..	..	..	..	4.9
Non-dependent child	..	13.1	35.2	10.5	2.8	1.6	0.8	n.p.	n.p.	6.5
Other family member	..	2.3	5.4	2.3	0.7	1.0	1.7	3.0	7.2	2.0
Unrelated individual in family household	..	0.9	2.2	1.1	0.5	0.4	0.3	n.p.	n.p.	0.6
Group household member	..	1.8	17.7	10.2	2.9	2.2	1.9	1.4	1.4	4.9
Person living alone	..	0.3	4.4	7.7	7.6	9.7	13.8	23.3	44.0	9.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4

PARTNERS AND PARENTS, Persons by Age

AGE OF PARTNER OR PARENT (YEARS).....

Family type	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
1992							
Couple family without children(a)							
Wife/female partner	179.3	276.2	111.7	275.1	386.4	417.0	1 645.8
Husband/male partner	110.2	325.5	123.4	204.0	383.6	529.9	1 676.6
Total	289.6	601.7	235.1	479.2	770.0	946.9	3 322.4
Couple family with children(a)							
Wife/female partner	104.8	774.1	934.7	484.5	142.0	42.3	2 482.5
Husband/male partner	56.8	603.6	968.5	646.9	222.1	81.9	2 579.8
Total	161.5	1 377.8	1 903.3	1 131.5	364.1	124.2	5 062.3
One-parent family							
Lone mother	55.2	123.1	165.7	82.9	46.9	62.1	535.9
Lone father	*6.8	14.8	26.8	25.1	13.6	12.5	99.5
Total	62.0	137.9	192.4	108.0	60.5	74.6	635.5
Total	513.1	2 117.4	2 330.8	1 718.7	1 194.6	1 145.7	9 020.2
1997							
Couple family without children(a)							
Wife/female partner	124.3	287.8	137.9	340.7	417.0	461.5	1 769.1
Husband/male partner	59.7	298.9	147.0	270.8	394.2	598.5	1 769.1
Total	183.9	586.7	284.9	611.5	811.2	1 060.0	3 538.3
Couple family with children(a)							
Wife/female partner	75.4	650.2	952.8	545.1	140.6	39.4	2 403.6
Husband/male partner	40.4	481.7	911.5	672.0	222.3	75.6	2 403.6
Total	115.8	1 132.0	1 864.3	1 217.2	362.9	115.0	4 807.2
One-parent family							
Lone mother	53.3	142.0	193.5	114.8	49.5	69.4	622.5
Lone father	**0.4	12.5	39.6	33.4	16.0	15.4	117.4
Total	53.8	154.5	233.1	148.2	65.6	84.9	739.9
Total	353.5	1 873.2	2 382.3	1 976.9	1 239.7	1 259.9	9 085.3

(a) In 1997, but not in 1992, the method of weighting the survey responses to the population ensured that estimates of male and female partners in couple families were equal.

5

FAMILY TYPE

Family type	METROPOLITAN(a)		EX-METROPOLITAN(a)		TOTAL.....	
	1992 '000	1997 '000	1992 '000	1997 '000	1992 '000	1997 '000
Couple families with children						
Children 0–14, but without dependent students(b)	873.0	863.2	543.7	538.4	1 416.7	1401.6
Children 0–14 and dependent students 15–24(b)	199.3	199.0	105.2	103.3	304.4	302.3
Dependent students 15–24, but without children 0–14(b)	222.5	206.4	87.8	77.7	310.3	284.2
<i>All couple families with dependants</i>	<i>1 294.7</i>	<i>1 268.6</i>	<i>736.6</i>	<i>719.5</i>	<i>2 031.4</i>	<i>1 988.1</i>
Non-dependent children only	261.0	286.3	151.2	129.2	412.2	415.5
<i>All couple families with children</i>	<i>1 555.7</i>	<i>1 554.9</i>	<i>887.9</i>	<i>848.7</i>	<i>2 443.6</i>	<i>2 403.6</i>
One-parent families						
Children 0–14, but without dependent students(b)	173.2	216.2	123.2	165.2	296.4	381.4
Children 0–14 and dependent students 15–24(b)	28.6	37.0	15.5	14.6	44.2	51.6
Dependent students 15–24, but without children 0–14(b)	69.6	58.9	23.6	24.9	93.2	83.8
<i>All one-parent families with dependants</i>	<i>271.4</i>	<i>312.0</i>	<i>162.3</i>	<i>204.7</i>	<i>433.7</i>	<i>516.8</i>
Non-dependent children only	124.3	154.2	61.4	68.9	185.7	223.2
<i>All one-parent families with children</i>	<i>395.7</i>	<i>466.3</i>	<i>223.7</i>	<i>273.7</i>	<i>619.4</i>	<i>739.9</i>
Total	1 951.4	2 021.2	1 111.6	1 122.3	3 063.0	3 143.5
Families without children						
Couples	995.4	1 036.3	658.8	732.9	1 654.1	1 769.1
Other	40.7	70.1	17.4	26.9	58.1	97.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>1 036.0</i>	<i>1 106.4</i>	<i>676.2</i>	<i>759.9</i>	<i>1 712.2</i>	<i>1 866.1</i>
All families	2 987.4	3 127.5	1 787.7	1 882.1	4 775.1	5 009.6

(a) For each State, metropolitan refers to the capital city statistical division and ex-metropolitan to the rest of the State. The whole of the ACT is classified as metropolitan, and the whole of NT is classified as ex-metropolitan. Refer to glossary.

(b) These family types may also include non-dependent children.

6

FAMILY LIFE STAGE

	METROPOLITAN(a)		EX-METROPOLITAN(a)		TOTAL.....	
	1992	1997	1992	1997	1992	1997
<i>Family life stage</i>	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Couple families with children						
Age of youngest child (years)						
0-2	371.4	357.9	236.8	217.9	608.2	575.8
3-4	155.7	154.4	86.8	89.6	242.5	244.1
5-11	387.6	392.1	236.9	245.1	624.4	637.2
12-14	157.6	157.7	88.4	89.1	246.0	246.8
Dependent student 15-24	222.5	206.4	87.8	77.7	310.3	284.2
Non-dependent child 15-24	170.2	171.8	98.2	88.5	268.3	260.3
25 and over	90.8	114.5	53.0	40.7	143.9	155.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>1 555.7</i>	<i>1 554.9</i>	<i>887.9</i>	<i>848.7</i>	<i>2 443.6</i>	<i>2 403.6</i>
One-parent families						
Age of youngest child (years)						
0-2	50.3	59.6	36.0	44.8	86.3	104.3
3-4	31.6	38.3	20.1	24.8	51.7	63.2
5-11	82.5	113.8	56.9	80.4	139.4	194.2
12-14	37.4	41.4	25.7	30.0	63.1	71.4
Dependent student 15-24	69.6	58.9	23.6	24.9	93.2	83.8
Non-dependent child 15-24	50.4	60.7	23.4	20.2	73.7	80.9
25 and over	73.9	93.5	38.0	48.7	112.0	142.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>395.7</i>	<i>466.3</i>	<i>223.7</i>	<i>273.7</i>	<i>619.4</i>	<i>739.9</i>
Couple families without children						
Age of female partner (years)						
24 and under	131.6	78.7	80.6	45.5	212.1	124.3
25-44	253.7	288.3	132.1	137.5	385.8	425.7
45-64	361.8	392.2	284.6	365.5	646.4	757.7
65 and over	248.3	277.1	161.5	184.4	409.8	461.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>995.4</i>	<i>1 036.3</i>	<i>658.8</i>	<i>732.9</i>	<i>1 654.1</i>	<i>1 769.1</i>
Other families	40.7	70.1	17.4	26.9	58.1	97.0
All families	2 987.4	3 127.5	1 787.7	1 882.1	4 775.1	5 009.6

(a) For each State, metropolitan refers to the capital city statistical division and ex-metropolitan to the rest of the State. The whole of the ACT is classified as metropolitan, and the whole of the NT is classified as ex-metropolitan. Refer to glossary.

7

LONE PERSON AND GROUP HOUSEHOLDS

	METROPOLITAN(a)		EX-METROPOLITAN(a)		TOTAL.....	
	1992	1997	1992	1997	1992	1997
<i>Household type</i>	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Lone female households						
Age of lone female (years)						
15-24	28.9	17.5	18.5	18.8	47.4	36.3
25-44	92.5	111.2	29.9	47.4	122.5	158.6
45-64	122.8	150.6	70.0	88.0	192.8	238.6
65 and over	251.9	296.0	155.0	188.0	407.0	484.0
<i>Total</i>	496.1	575.4	273.5	342.1	769.6	917.5
Lone male households						
Age of lone male (years)						
15-24	30.8	24.3	24.4	28.8	55.2	53.0
25-44	149.6	200.1	95.6	115.8	245.2	315.9
45-64	101.8	134.7	63.1	107.7	164.9	242.4
65 and over	87.9	109.9	64.1	91.5	152.0	201.4
<i>Total</i>	370.1	469.0	247.2	343.7	617.3	812.7
All lone person households	866.2	1 044.4	520.7	685.8	1 386.9	1 730.2
Group households(b)						
Youngest member aged 15-24 years	n.a.	118.4	n.a.	79.0	n.a.	197.4
Other	n.a.	139.8	n.a.	53.3	n.a.	193.1
<i>Total</i>	162.2	258.2	78.4	132.3	240.6	390.5
Total	1 028.4	1 302.7	599.	818.0	1 627.5	2 120.7

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(a) For each State, metropolitan refers to the capital city statistical division and ex-metropolitan to the rest of the State. The whole of the ACT is classified as metropolitan, and the whole of the NT is classified as ex-metropolitan. Refer to glossary.

(b) In the 1992 Family Survey, group households were not identified by the age of the youngest household member, therefore only 'total' figures are available.

AGE OF CHILD
(YEARS).....

Family type	AGE OF CHILD (YEARS)								All children	Dependent children in family-average(b)
	0-2	3-4	5-11	12-14	Dependent students 15-24	All dependent children	Non-dependent children 15-24	25 and over		
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	no.
METROPOLITAN(c)										
In couple families										
Registered married	356.2	243.1	843.8	370.3	508.7	2 322.2	384.8	201.0	2 907.9	2.0
De facto married	49.2	18.9	49.5	17.4	13.0	148.1	10.2	*1.6	159.8	1.7
Total	405.4	262.0	893.4	387.7	521.8	2 470.2	395.0	202.5	3 067.7	1.9
In one-parent families										
Lone mother	62.3	51.9	174.5	64.8	98.4	451.9	89.3	98.1	639.3	1.7
Lone father	*1.8	*1.3	21.1	16.5	15.5	56.1	24.1	23.5	103.7	1.5
Total	64.1	53.2	195.6	81.3	113.9	508.0	113.4	121.6	743.1	1.6
Total children	469.5	315.2	1 089.0	468.9	635.7	2 978.3	508.4	324.1	3 810.8	1.9
EX-METROPOLITAN(c)										
In couple families										
Registered married	205.0	147.8	535.8	224.7	205.7	1 318.9	185.5	56.8	1 561.2	2.0
De facto married	45.5	22.4	50.6	17.6	9.7	145.7	7.8	**0.6	154.1	1.9
Total	250.4	170.2	586.3	242.2	215.5	1 464.6	193.3	57.4	1 715.3	2.0
In one-parent families										
Lone mother	47.5	34.2	138.8	54.9	35.4	310.8	29.4	50.3	390.5	1.8
Lone father	*1.3	*3.2	19.0	13.8	10.1	47.5	9.6	8.4	65.5	1.6
Total	48.8	37.5	157.8	68.7	45.5	358.3	39.0	58.7	455.9	1.8
Total children	299.2	207.7	744.1	311.0	261.0	1 822.9	232.2	116.0	2 171.2	2.0
ALL CHILDREN										
In couple families										
Registered married	561.2	390.9	1 379.6	595.0	714.5	3 641.1	570.3	257.7	4 469.1	2.0
De facto married	94.7	41.4	100.1	34.9	22.8	293.8	18.0	*2.1	313.9	1.8
Total	655.8	432.2	1 479.7	629.9	737.2	3 934.9	588.3	259.9	4 783.0	2.0
In one-parent families										
Lone mother	109.8	86.1	313.3	119.7	133.9	762.7	118.7	148.4	1 029.8	1.7
Lone father	*3.0	*4.5	40.1	30.3	25.6	103.6	33.7	31.9	169.2	1.5
Total	112.8	90.7	353.4	150.0	159.5	866.3	152.4	180.3	1 199.0	1.7
Total children	768.7	522.9	1 833.0	779.9	896.7	4 801.2	740.6	440.2	5 982.0	1.9

(a) In its broadest sense, the ABS defines a child as a person of any age who forms a parent-child relationship with another household member. Refer to glossary.

(b) For families with dependent children only.

(c) For each State, metropolitan refers to the capital city statistical division and ex-metropolitan to the rest of the State. The whole of the ACT is classified as metropolitan, and the whole of the NT is classified as ex-metropolitan. Refer to glossary.

9

MARITAL STATUS, All Persons

AGE GROUP (YEARS).....

	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Total
Registered marital status	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Never married	2 427.7	1 234.1	423.2	174.9	74.1	105.5	4 439.3
Currently married(a)	160.7	1 417.8	1 983.0	1 743.2	1 151.0	1 185.2	7 641.0
Separated	10.1	97.0	147.1	110.7	47.7	31.9	444.5
Divorced	*2.9	92.2	251.6	268.1	167.7	91.6	874.0
Widowed	—	*3.9	22.1	50.7	110.5	658.9	846.1
Total	2 601.5	2 845.0	2 826.9	2 347.6	1 551.0	2 073.0	14 244.9

(a) Includes a number of persons who were not living with a partner but who reported themselves as 'currently married' rather than 'separated'.

10

MARITAL STATUS, Members of Couples

AGE GROUP (YEARS).....

	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over	Total
Registered marital status	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Registered married couples						
Currently married	158.7	1 411.7	1 974.4	1 734.9	2 309.1	7 588.9
De facto married couples						
Never married	139.2	267.7	93.9	21.5	*3.3	525.6
Separated	n.p.	11.7	15.6	10.1	n.p.	43.3
Divorced	n.p.	27.5	63.0	59.0	n.p.	176.2
Total(a)	141.0	307.0	174.8	93.7	40.0	756.5
Total	299.7	1 718.7	2 149.3	1 828.7	2 349.1	8 345.4

(a) Includes persons with a registered marital status of 'widowed'.

AGE GROUP (YEARS).....

	15-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Total
<i>Registered marital status</i>	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000

LONE MALES

Never married	183.7	100.0	57.0	33.1	42.6	416.5
Currently married	n.p.	n.p.	*2.7	*2.5	11.1	21.3
Separated	12.6	25.5	28.0	14.7	15.0	95.8
Divorced	7.9	32.5	44.2	41.9	25.9	152.3
Widowed	n.p.	n.p.	*4.4	13.9	106.7	126.8
Total	205.9	163.1	136.2	106.1	201.4	812.7

LONE FEMALES

Never married	112.9	46.9	29.2	11.4	38.7	239.1
Currently married	n.p.	n.p.	*2.4	*1.4	7.7	13.3
Separated	*3.7	6.8	16.3	11.3	7.2	45.5
Divorced	*2.8	19.0	53.0	48.4	36.9	160.1
Widowed	n.p.	n.p.	10.2	54.8	393.5	459.6
Total	120.6	74.2	111.2	127.4	484.0	917.5

TOTAL

Never married	296.6	146.9	86.2	44.6	81.4	655.6
Currently married	*1.8	*4.9	*5.1	*3.9	18.8	34.6
Separated	16.4	32.3	44.3	26.1	22.3	141.3
Divorced	10.7	51.5	97.1	90.3	62.8	312.4
Widowed	**1.1	*1.7	14.7	68.7	500.2	586.3
Total	326.5	237.3	247.4	233.5	685.4	1 730.2

AGE OF YOUNGEST CHILD IN FAMILY (YEARS).....

	0-2	3-4	5-11	12-14	Dependent student 15-24	All dependent children	Non-dependent child 15-24	25 and over	Total
Registered marital status	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
LONE MOTHERS									
Never married	66.8	26.6	40.9	*5.2	*4.3	143.8	*2.1	*2.9	148.8
Previously married									
Separated/Divorced	32.9	31.9	116.1	39.9	53.2	274.0	43.3	31.7	349.0
Widowed	**0.9	**0.7	8.9	9.2	9.9	29.7	11.5	81.5	122.6
Total(a)	101.3	59.1	165.9	54.3	67.7	448.3	57.4	116.8	622.5
ALL LONE PARENTS(b)									
Never married	68.1	28.4	47.9	7.1	*4.6	156.1	*2.1	*4.3	162.5
Previously married									
Separated/Divorced	34.6	34.0	133.9	53.5	67.5	323.6	62.3	41.7	427.5
Widowed	**0.9	**0.7	12.3	10.7	11.5	36.1	15.8	95.1	147.0
Total(a)	104.3	63.2	194.2	71.4	83.8	516.8	80.9	142.3	739.9

(a) Includes a small number of lone parents who reported their registered marital status as 'currently married'.

(b) Includes lone fathers.

13

LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF PARENTS, Couple Families

AGE OF YOUNGEST CHILD IN FAMILY (YEARS).....

Labour force status of parents	AGE OF YOUNGEST CHILD IN FAMILY (YEARS)											Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5-11	12-14	Dependent student 15-24	All dependent children	Non-dependent child 15-24	25 and over	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
At least one parent employed												
Both parents employed	57.8	91.2	78.4	69.2	63.9	403.1	166.4	187.3	1 117.3	147.4	46.9	1 311.7
Father employed, mother not employed(a)	127.6	87.1	64.9	43.6	42.3	164.4	54.3	50.8	635.0	60.8	28.3	724.1
Mother employed, father not employed(a)	*1.7	*5.0	*3.3	*3.5	*2.4	20.1	9.0	14.0	59.1	13.0	10.9	83.0
Total	187.1	183.3	146.7	116.3	108.6	587.6	229.7	252.1	1 811.5	221.2	86.1	2 118.8
Neither parent employed												
At least one parent unemployed	17.8	10.1	11.6	6.3	*3.6	24.6	*4.8	7.6	86.4	8.0	*2.1	96.6
Both parents not in the labour force	8.0	6.8	*4.3	5.4	*3.9	25.0	12.3	24.4	90.2	31.1	66.9	188.2
Total	25.8	16.9	15.9	11.7	7.5	49.6	17.1	32.0	176.6	39.1	69.0	284.8
All couple families with children	212.9	200.3	162.6	128.0	116.1	637.2	246.8	284.2	1 988.1	260.3	155.2	2 403.6

(a) 'Not employed' includes persons who are unemployed or not in the labour force.

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LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF PARENTS, One-parent Families

AGE OF YOUNGEST CHILD IN FAMILY (YEARS).....

Labour force status of parent	AGE OF YOUNGEST CHILD IN FAMILY (YEARS)							Total
	0-4	5-11	12-14	Dependent student 15-24	All dependent children	Non-dependent child 15-24	25 and over	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Lone mother								
Employed	44.6	81.9	30.8	46.7	204.0	36.5	17.9	258.4
Not employed(a)	115.8	84.0	23.5	21.0	244.3	20.9	98.9	364.1
Total	160.4	165.9	54.3	67.7	448.3	57.4	116.8	622.5
Lone father								
Employed	*2.3	21.2	10.8	13.8	48.0	16.5	8.2	72.7
Not employed(a)	*4.8	7.1	6.2	*2.3	20.4	7.0	17.3	44.7
Total	7.1	28.2	17.1	16.1	68.4	23.5	25.5	117.4
All one-parent families	167.5	194.2	71.4	83.8	516.8	80.9	142.3	739.9

(a) Includes persons who are unemployed or not in the labour force.

AGE OF CHILD (YEARS).....

Labour force status of parent(s)	AGE OF CHILD (YEARS)								Total
	0-2	3-4	5-11	12-14	Dependent student 15-24	All dependent children	Non- dependent child 15-24	25 and over	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
In couple families									
At least one parent employed									
Both parents employed	246.5	198.2	818.1	391.3	489.5	2 143.6	353.2	86.6	2 583.4
Father employed, mother not employed(a)	328.1	188.9	490.4	168.4	152.0	1 327.8	137.0	55.5	1520.2
Mother employed, father not employed(a)	11.3	9.1	41.7	21.8	27.1	111.0	22.3	16.4	149.7
<i>Total</i>	586.0	396.1	1 350.2	581.5	668.5	3 582.3	512.5	158.5	4 253.4
Neither parent employed									
At least one parent unemployed	47.6	20.6	71.7	19.6	18.9	178.4	20.5	5.9	204.8
Both parents not in the labour force	22.2	15.5	57.7	28.9	49.8	174.2	55.2	95.4	324.9
<i>Total</i>	69.9	36.1	129.5	48.4	68.7	352.5	75.7	101.4	529.6
<i>Total</i>	655.8	432.2	1 479.7	629.9	737.2	3 934.9	588.3	259.9	4 783.0
In one-parent families									
Lone mother									
Employed	22.9	27.5	130.6	55.3	85.9	322.2	75.1	29.4	426.7
Not employed(a)	86.9	58.6	182.6	64.3	48.0	440.5	43.6	119.0	603.1
<i>Total</i>	109.8	86.1	313.3	119.7	133.9	762.7	118.7	148.4	1 029.8
Lone father									
Employed	*1.2	**1.1	28.9	20.2	21.0	72.4	22.6	10.1	105.2
Not employed(a)	*1.8	*3.4	11.2	10.1	*4.6	31.2	11.0	21.8	64.0
<i>Total</i>	*3.0	*4.5	40.1	30.3	25.6	103.6	33.7	31.9	169.2
<i>Total</i>	112.8	90.7	353.4	150.0	159.5	866.3	152.4	180.3	1 199.0
All children	768.6	522.9	1 833.0	779.9	896.7	4 801.2	740.7	440.2	5 982.0

(a) 'Not employed' includes persons who are unemployed or not in the labour force.

TOTAL PARENTAL HOURS WORKED(a).....

Age group (years)	0(b)	1-19	20-39	40-59	60-79	80 hours and over	Total	Average parental hours worked(c)
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	no.
COUPLE FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN								
Age of youngest child in family								
0-2	32.2	26.7	124.2	185.7	95.2	53.1	517.1	50.7
3-4	11.4	9.5	45.0	73.0	49.4	36.5	224.9	55.3
5-11	31.1	30.4	101.8	170.8	148.2	105.2	587.6	57.2
12-14	14.5	5.9	41.8	59.7	55.6	52.2	229.7	61.8
Dependent student 15-24	11.9	12.5	30.0	67.7	68.3	61.8	252.1	63.4
<i>All families with dependent children(d)</i>	<i>101.2</i>	<i>84.9</i>	<i>342.8</i>	<i>556.9</i>	<i>416.8</i>	<i>308.8</i>	<i>1 811.5</i>	<i>56.6</i>
Non-dependent child 15-24	12.8	9.4	43.3	54.5	55.1	46.1	221.2	59.2
25 and over	6.1	6.7	20.0	21.7	17.0	14.5	86.1	53.1
All couple families with children(d)	120.1	101.1	406.2	633.1	488.9	369.4	2 118.8	56.7
CHILDREN IN COUPLE FAMILIES								
Age of child								
0-2	37.0	32.9	141.9	209.1	106.7	58.3	586.0	50.3
3-4	22.9	18.6	86.1	140.4	77.0	51.2	396.1	52.7
5-11	81.0	69.1	259.1	431.5	304.4	205.2	1 350.2	54.9
12-14	33.2	27.3	106.4	166.6	133.2	114.8	581.5	58.6
Dependent student 15-24	31.4	25.1	102.8	183.8	171.9	153.5	668.5	61.8
<i>All dependent children(d)</i>	<i>205.5</i>	<i>173.0</i>	<i>696.3</i>	<i>1 131.4</i>	<i>793.2</i>	<i>583.0</i>	<i>3 582.3</i>	<i>55.8</i>
Non-dependent child 15-24	26.1	20.8	96.2	136.9	127.6	105.0	512.5	59.3
25 and over	10.8	11.4	34.3	38.8	37.1	26.2	158.5	54.6
All children in couple families(d)	242.3	205.3	826.8	1 307.1	957.9	714.1	4 253.4	56.2

(a) Refer to glossary—Hours worked.

(b) Comprises those persons who were employed, but did not work during the reference period.
Some States held school holidays during the reference period which may have contributed to a higher than usual number of persons working '0' hours.

(c) Excludes persons who worked '0' hours.

(d) Where one or both parents were employed.

TOTAL PARENTAL HOURS WORKED.....

Age group (years)	0(a)	1-14	15-34	35-39	40 hours and over	Total	Average parental hours worked(b)
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	no.
LONE MOTHER FAMILIES							
Age of youngest child in family							
0-2	*1.4	6.7	10.0	*1.9	*2.0	22.0	21.2
3-4	*1.7	6.8	11.1	*1.9	**1.1	22.6	21.8
5-11	8.1	23.1	29.9	9.8	11.0	81.9	24.2
12-14	*4.4	5.4	11.4	*4.0	5.7	30.8	28.3
Dependent student 15-24	*3.5	*3.8	19.9	7.7	11.7	46.7	31.4
<i>All lone mother families with dependent children(c)</i>	19.1	45.9	82.2	25.4	31.4	204.0	25.8
Non-dependent child 15-24 25 and over	*3.0	*2.8	12.5	7.7	10.5	36.5	34.9
	*2.4	*2.2	6.0	*2.3	*5.0	17.9	32.2
All lone mother families(c)	24.6	50.8	100.8	35.4	46.9	258.4	27.6
ALL ONE-PARENT FAMILIES(d)							
Age of youngest child in family							
0-2	*1.4	7.6	10.4	*1.9	*2.0	23.3	20.7
3-4	*1.7	6.8	11.2	*2.1	*1.9	23.6	23.0
5-11	9.5	26.8	35.8	11.4	19.6	103.1	26.8
12-14	5.6	6.0	15.2	5.6	9.2	41.6	31.6
Dependent student 15-24	*5.0	*5.0	23.5	10.3	16.6	60.4	32.5
<i>All one-parent families with dependent children(c)</i>	23.1	52.3	96.0	31.4	49.2	252.0	27.9
Non-dependent child 15-24 25 and over	*4.6	*3.0	17.2	8.5	19.7	53.0	37.1
	*3.4	*2.8	7.0	*3.5	9.4	26.1	34.8
All one-parent families(c)	31.1	58.0	120.2	43.5	78.4	331.1	30.0
CHILDREN IN ONE-PARENT FAMILIES							
Age of child							
0-2	*1.6	8.0	10.6	*1.9	*2.0	24.1	20.4
3-4	*1.7	9.6	12.7	*2.3	*2.3	28.6	22.3
5-11	15.5	48.3	53.5	15.9	26.4	159.5	24.9
12-14	9.2	13.9	27.1	10.2	15.1	75.5	29.8
Dependent student 15-24	11.0	14.0	40.1	14.9	26.9	106.9	30.7
<i>All dependent children(c)</i>	38.9	93.7	144.1	45.2	72.6	394.6	26.9
Non-dependent child 15-24 25 and over	7.1	10.5	34.0	15.1	31.0	97.7	34.3
	*3.9	*4.8	12.4	5.5	13.0	39.6	34.4
All children(c)	49.9	109.1	190.5	65.8	116.6	531.9	28.9

(a) Comprises those persons who were employed, but did not work during the reference period.
Some States held school holidays during the reference period which may have contributed to a higher than usual number of persons working '0' hours.

(b) Excludes persons who worked '0' hours.

(c) Where lone parent was employed.

(d) Includes lone father families.

HOURS WORKED BY MOTHER

Age of youngest child (years)	0(a)	1-14	15-29	30-34	35 and over	Total	Mother unemployed	Mother not in the labour force	Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
HUSBAND EMPLOYED: 35 HOURS AND OVER									
0-2	12.8	46.5	54.2	14.0	34.5	162.0	5.5	171.6	339.1
3-4	5.7	26.5	26.9	12.8	25.6	97.4	*3.1	48.6	149.1
5-11	21.0	53.0	88.5	39.1	82.3	283.9	19.5	84.8	388.2
12-14	12.3	14.3	32.1	10.6	49.0	118.3	*4.2	30.6	153.1
Dependent student 15-24	9.1	14.6	33.6	15.2	58.8	131.4	*4.0	30.3	165.7
<i>All mothers with dependent children</i>	60.9	154.9	235.3	91.8	250.2	793.1	36.3	365.9	1 195.3
Non-dependent child 15-24	6.0	16.4	24.6	12.4	41.4	100.6	*1.7	36.5	138.8
25 and over	*2.4	7.0	7.7	*4.2	10.5	31.7	*1.5	14.4	47.6
Total	69.3	178.2	267.6	108.3	302.0	925.4	39.5	416.8	1 381.8
HUSBAND EMPLOYED: TOTAL									
0-2	24.9	62.3	73.9	24.1	42.2	227.5	11.5	268.1	507.1
3-4	11.1	33.4	37.9	19.0	31.6	133.0	6.1	79.8	219.0
5-11	46.2	78.1	123.2	56.7	98.9	403.1	29.8	134.6	567.5
12-14	23.2	22.1	45.2	21.4	54.6	166.4	8.4	45.8	220.7
Dependent student 15-24	18.1	19.7	54.9	26.5	68.2	187.3	5.7	45.1	238.1
<i>All mothers with dependent children</i>	123.5	215.6	335.1	147.7	295.5	1 117.3	61.5	573.5	1 752.4
Non-dependent child 15-24	15.0	24.7	34.7	20.2	52.8	147.4	*3.8	56.9	208.2
25 and over	*4.8	9.4	10.6	7.9	14.2	46.9	*1.5	26.8	75.2
Total	143.4	249.7	380.4	175.7	362.5	1 311.7	66.8	657.3	2 035.8
HUSBAND IN THE LABOUR FORCE									
0-2	24.9	63.4	75.1	24.3	43.0	230.7	16.6	301.4	548.7
3-4	11.4	33.9	38.4	19.2	32.2	135.1	8.5	86.6	230.2
5-11	46.6	79.4	125.7	57.8	99.7	409.2	35.1	151.7	595.9
12-14	23.2	22.3	46.5	22.0	55.0	168.9	9.5	49.3	227.7
Dependent student 15-24	18.6	19.9	55.7	26.6	70.0	190.8	8.0	50.1	248.9
<i>All mothers with dependent children</i>	124.8	218.8	341.4	149.9	299.8	1 134.7	77.7	639.1	1 851.5
Non-dependent child 15-24	15.0	25.4	36.0	20.4	54.4	151.2	5.3	63.0	219.5
25 and over	*5.0	9.6	10.6	7.9	15.0	48.0	*2.4	27.9	78.2
Total	144.8	253.8	388.0	178.2	369.1	1 333.8	85.4	730.0	2 149.2
ALL MOTHERS IN COUPLE FAMILIES									
0-2	26.0	64.5	76.7	24.9	45.4	237.5	17.7	320.6	575.8
3-4	11.7	34.4	39.5	19.3	34.1	139.0	9.1	95.9	244.1
5-11	49.2	82.9	130.0	59.3	101.9	423.2	37.4	176.7	637.2
12-14	23.6	24.0	47.1	23.2	57.5	175.4	9.8	61.6	246.8
Dependent student 15-24	19.6	21.2	60.1	28.8	71.7	201.4	8.3	74.5	284.2
<i>All mothers with dependent children</i>	130.1	226.9	353.4	155.4	310.7	1 176.5	82.4	729.3	1 988.1
Non-dependent child 15-24	16.5	26.8	37.3	22.0	57.8	160.4	5.8	94.1	260.3
25 and over	7.2	11.2	13.9	8.4	17.2	57.8	*2.6	94.8	155.2
Total	153.8	264.9	404.6	185.9	385.6	1 394.7	90.7	918.2	2 403.6

(a) Comprises those persons who were employed, but did not work during the reference period. Some States held school holidays during the reference period which may have contributed to a higher than usual number of persons working '0' hours.

Family structure	Families.....		Persons.....		Children(b).....		Children aged 0-17 per family-average
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	no.
METROPOLITAN(c)							
Couple families							
Intact	1 096.6	73.7	4 554.3	78.5	2 110.9	75.6	1.9
Step	50.6	3.4	190.6	3.3	76.6	2.7	1.5
Blended	41.6	2.8	205.2	3.5	118.4	4.2	2.8
Total(d)	1 191.7	80.1	4 960.5	85.5	2 309.1	82.8	1.9
One-parent families							
Lone mother	260.9	17.5	749.9	12.9	429.4	15.4	1.6
Lone father	34.5	2.3	91.8	1.6	51.9	1.9	1.5
Total	295.4	19.9	841.7	14.5	481.3	17.2	1.6
Total(d)	1 487.1	100.0	5 802.2	100.0	2 790.4	100.0	1.9
EX-METROPOLITAN(c)							
Couple families							
Intact	644.5	69.5	2 672.9	74.2	1 286.4	70.5	2.0
Step	38.3	4.1	148.0	4.1	68.6	3.8	1.8
Blended	33.7	3.6	170.2	4.7	100.2	5.5	3.0
Total(d)	719.6	77.6	3 003.8	83.4	1 460.5	80.0	2.0
One-parent families							
Lone mother	176.8	19.1	513.0	14.2	315.9	17.3	1.8
Lone father	30.7	3.3	83.8	2.3	48.5	2.7	1.6
Total	207.5	22.4	596.8	16.5	364.4	20.0	1.8
Total(d)	927.1	100.0	3 600.6	100.0	1 824.9	100.0	2.0
TOTAL							
Couple families							
Intact	1 741.1	72.1	7 227.2	76.9	3 397.3	73.6	2.0
Step	88.9	3.7	338.6	3.6	145.2	3.1	1.6
Blended	75.3	3.1	375.4	4.0	218.6	4.7	2.9
Total(d)	1 911.3	79.2	7 964.3	84.7	3 769.6	81.7	2.0
One-parent families							
Lone mother	437.7	18.1	1 262.9	13.4	745.3	16.1	1.7
Lone father	65.2	2.7	175.6	1.9	100.4	2.2	1.5
Total	502.9	20.8	1 438.5	15.3	845.7	18.3	1.7
Total(d)	2 414.3	100.0	9 402.9	100.0	4 615.3	100.0	1.9

(a) Family structure was only collected for families with at least one child aged 0-17.

(b) Comprises children aged 0-17 only.

(c) For each State, metropolitan refers to the capital city statistical division and ex-metropolitan to the rest of the State. The whole of the ACT is classified as metropolitan, and the whole of NT is classified as ex-metropolitan. Refer to glossary.

(d) Includes a small number of 'other' families.

Family structure and parent type	AGE OF CHILD (YEARS).....					Total
	0-2	3-4	5-11	12-14	15-17	
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)						
Family structure						
Intact families	603.4	395.5	1 340.1	552.7	505.6	3 397.3
Step-families	*5.2	9.1	52.8	40.3	37.9	145.2
Blended families	46.8	26.3	83.1	33.8	28.5	218.6
One-parent families						
Lone mother	109.8	86.1	313.3	119.7	116.5	745.3
Lone father	*3.0	*4.5	40.1	30.3	22.4	100.4
Total(b)	768.7	522.9	1 833.0	779.9	710.8	4 615.3
Parent type						
Couple families						
Both natural parents	647.7	418.8	1 378.5	554.9	505.6	3 505.4
Natural mother, stepfather	5.9	10.5	86.0	57.1	53.2	212.7
Natural father, stepmother	n.p.	**1.1	9.4	12.0	n.p.	35.6
Other	n.p.	*1.8	5.9	5.9	n.p.	15.9
Total	655.8	432.2	1 479.7	629.9	572.0	3 769.6
One-parent families						
Natural mother	108.5	85.8	309.6	116.4	115.9	736.3
Natural father	*3.0	*4.5	40.1	29.2	21.4	98.3
Total(c)	112.8	90.7	353.4	150.0	138.9	845.7
Total(b)	768.7	522.9	1 833.0	779.9	710.8	4 615.3
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)						
Family type						
Intact families	78.5	75.6	73.1	70.9	71.1	73.6
Step-families	*0.7	1.7	2.9	5.2	5.3	3.1
Blended families	6.1	5.0	4.5	4.3	4.0	4.7
One-parent families						
Lone mother	14.3	16.5	17.1	15.3	16.4	16.1
Lone father	*0.4	*0.9	2.2	3.9	3.2	2.2
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Parent type						
Couple families						
Both natural parents	84.3	80.1	75.2	71.1	71.1	76.0
Natural mother, stepfather	0.8	2.0	4.7	7.3	7.5	4.6
Natural father, stepmother	n.p.	**0.2	0.5	1.5	n.p.	0.8
Other	n.p.	*0.3	0.3	0.8	n.p.	0.3
Total	85.3	82.7	80.7	80.8	80.5	81.7
One-parent families						
Natural mother	14.1	16.4	16.9	14.9	16.3	16.0
Natural father	*0.4	*0.9	2.2	3.7	3.0	2.1
Total(c)	14.7	17.3	19.3	19.2	19.5	18.3
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Family structure was only collected for children aged 0-17.

(b) Includes a small number of 'other' families.

(c) Includes a small number of children living with a lone parent who is not one of their natural parents.

NATURAL PARENT LIVING
ELSEWHERE.....

Age group (years)	Father	Mother	Total	Children living with both natural parents(b)	Other children(c)	Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES						
0-2	56.1	*1.5	57.6	332.9	*4.1	394.6
3-4	46.8	*2.3	49.0	214.2	*5.0	268.3
5-11	194.5	23.9	218.4	700.6	20.4	939.3
12-14	75.4	21.6	97.0	286.1	15.6	398.8
15-17	69.6	16.8	86.4	260.7	20.2	367.3
Total	442.3	66.1	508.4	1 794.5	65.4	2 368.3
FEMALES						
0-2	52.4	*1.7	54.1	314.8	*5.2	374.0
3-4	44.1	*3.1	47.2	204.6	*2.8	254.6
5-11	171.1	20.2	191.4	677.9	24.4	893.7
12-14	77.8	15.1	92.9	268.7	19.5	381.1
15-17	72.3	12.2	84.5	244.9	14.2	343.5
Total	417.6	52.4	470.0	1 710.9	66.1	2 247.0
ALL CHILDREN AGED 0-17						
0-2	108.5	*3.2	111.7	647.7	9.3	768.7
3-4	90.8	5.4	96.2	418.8	7.9	522.9
5-11	365.6	44.1	409.8	1 378.5	44.8	1 833.0
12-14	153.1	36.7	189.9	554.9	35.1	779.9
15-17	141.8	29.0	170.9	505.6	34.4	710.8
Total	859.9	118.5	978.4	3 505.4	131.5	4 615.3

(a) Comprises all children aged 0-17.

(b) Includes children in couple families where one or both parents are adoptive.

(c) Comprises children who live with one natural parent but do not have another parent living elsewhere, together with a small number of children who do not live with either natural parent, for example, those living with grandparents or foster parents.

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FAMILY STRUCTURE(a), Family Life Stage

Family life stage	COUPLE FAMILIES.....				ONE-PARENT FAMILIES.....			ALL FAMILIES.....	
	<i>Intact</i>	<i>Step</i>	<i>Blended</i>	<i>Total(b)</i>	<i>Lone mother</i>	<i>Lone father</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total.....</i>	<i>%</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%
Age of youngest child (years)									
0-2	529.8	*4.8	40.8	575.8	101.3	*3.0	104.3	680.1	28.2
3-4	222.4	7.9	12.7	244.1	59.1	*4.0	63.2	307.2	12.7
5-11	581.2	34.4	19.0	637.2	165.9	28.2	194.2	831.4	34.4
12-14	218.6	23.4	*2.7	246.8	54.3	17.1	71.4	318.2	13.2
15-17	189.0	18.4	—	207.4	57.0	12.9	69.9	277.3	11.5
Total	1 741.1	88.9	75.3	1 911.3	437.7	65.2	502.9	2 414.3	100.0

(a) Family structure was only collected for families with at least one child aged 0-17.

(b) Includes a small number of 'other' families.

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FAMILY STRUCTURE, Marital Status of Parents(a)

Couple status and registered marital status	FAMILY STRUCTURE.....				
	<i>Intact families</i>	<i>Step-families</i>	<i>Blended families</i>	<i>Total.....</i>	<i>%</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	%
Registered married couples	1 636.0	50.2	55.6	1 747.1	91.4
De facto married couples					
Both partners never married	79.4	9.0	10.6	99.5	5.2
One partner never married, one partner separated/divorced	17.6	10.5	6.1	34.2	1.8
Both partners separated/divorced	7.4	18.0	*2.8	28.3	1.5
<i>Total(b)</i>	105.1	38.7	19.7	164.2	8.6
Total	1 741.1	88.9	75.3	1 911.3	100.0

(a) Comprises families with at least one child aged 0-17.

(b) Includes couples where one or both partners are widowed.

HOW CHILD SUPPORT
ARRANGEMENT DECIDED.....

Selected characteristics	Court '000	CSA '000	Private	All families(c)..... '000	%
			arrangement(b) '000		
Steps taken in reaching child support arrangement					
Mediation/counselling only	*1.9	9.8	7.5	19.1	3.2
Solicitors only	31.0	17.2	21.2	69.4	11.6
Both mediation and solicitors	6.4	*5.1	*4.3	15.8	2.6
Neither mediation nor solicitors	7.8	123.6	358.5	489.8	82.0
Total(c)	47.1	156.0	391.5	597.5	100.0
Type of child support received					
Cash only	21.6	78.5	53.9	154.2	25.8
In-kind payments only	*1.9	10.2	85.2	97.2	16.3
Both cash and in-kind payments	9.3	29.0	60.4	98.7	16.5
No child support received	14.3	38.3	191.7	244.6	40.9
Total(c)	47.1	156.0	391.5	597.5	100.0
Method of cash child support payment					
Direct from other parent only	13.0	35.9	88.7	137.6	23.0
CSA only	15.0	65.6	16.6	97.2	16.3
Both CSA and direct from other parent	**0.5	*4.7	*1.9	7.1	1.2
Other method(d)	*2.4	*1.3	7.1	10.7	1.8
No cash child support received	16.2	48.5	277.1	342.0	57.2
Total(c)	47.1	156.0	391.5	597.5	100.0

(a) For families with at least one child aged 0–17 who has a natural parent living elsewhere.

(b) Comprises all arrangements that did not involve either the court or the CSA.

(c) Includes a small number of 'not stated' responses.

(d) Comprises all methods other than the CSA or direct from other parent.

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CHILD SUPPORT(a), Amount Received and How Arrangement Decided

How child support arrangement decided	FAMILY RECEIVES CASH CHILD SUPPORT.....			FAMILY DOES NOT RECEIVE CASH CHILD SUPPORT.....		TOTAL(b).....	
	'000	Median monthly cash child support \$	Median annual parental income \$	'000	Median annual parental income \$	'000	Median annual parental income \$
Couple families							
Court	13.0	208	44 044	6.6	40 300	19.6	43 992
CSA	17.4	277	44 252	8.0	31 200	25.5	38 532
Private arrangement(c)	23.0	220	50 180	78.1	37 700	101.1	40 300
Total(b)	53.7	240	45 136	93.0	37 440	146.8	40 300
One-parent families							
Court	17.8	240	18 720	9.6	20 020	27.5	19 708
CSA	90.0	300	18 824	40.4	16 328	130.5	18 200
Private arrangement(c)	91.4	200	18 200	199.0	16 900	290.4	17 056
Total(b)	199.2	249	18 200	249.1	16 900	450.7	17 680
Total families(b)	252.9	240	20 800	342.0	20 280	597.5	20 592

(a) For families with at least one child aged 0–17 who has a natural parent living elsewhere.

(b) Includes 'not stated' responses.

(c) Comprises all arrangements that did not involve either the court or the CSA.

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CHILD SUPPORT(a), In-kind Payments

MONTHLY CASH CHILD SUPPORT RECEIVED BY RESIDENT PARENT.....

Monthly in-kind child support received	'000	Nil	\$1–\$199	\$200–\$399	\$400 and over	Total families(b)
		'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
No in-kind child support received	244.6	50.7	52.5	42.8	398.6	
School fees, health insurance and/or mortgage repayments(c)	31.6	15.5	10.6	18.0	77.4	
Clothing, pocket money and/or other expenses only	65.6	27.1	15.3	10.0	118.5	
Total families(b)	342.0	93.3	78.3	70.9	597.5	

(a) For families with at least one child aged 0–17 who has a natural parent living elsewhere.

(b) Totals include a small number of 'not stated' responses.

(c) These families may also receive in-kind child support in the form of assistance with clothing, pocket money, and/or other expenses.

METHOD OF PAYMENT.....

Frequency and amount of child support received	Direct from other parent only	Through the CSA(b)	Total(c).....	
	'000	'000	'000	%

FAMILY TYPE

Couple	28.8	22.1	53.7	21.2
One-parent	108.8	82.2	199.2	78.8
Total	137.6	104.4	252.9	100.0

CASH CHILD SUPPORT RECEIVED BY FAMILY

Frequency of child support				
Once a month	121.4	79.5	207.4	82.0
2-3 monthly	*2.8	6.7	9.7	3.8
Less than 3 monthly	13.4	18.2	35.6	14.1
Total(d)	137.6	104.4	252.9	100.0

MONTHLY CASH CHILD SUPPORT RECEIVED BY FAMILY

\$1-\$50	14.8	6.5	23.6	9.3
\$51-\$100	19.4	13.6	34.3	13.6
\$101-\$150	13.2	8.7	23.1	9.1
\$151-\$200	19.4	10.6	32.2	12.7
\$201-\$250	7.5	7.6	16.6	6.6
\$251-\$300	8.5	12.4	21.6	8.5
\$301-\$350	5.8	6.7	12.4	4.9
\$351-\$400	11.6	8.8	20.9	8.3
\$401-\$600	18.0	14.1	32.5	12.9
\$601 and over	15.4	9.7	25.1	9.9
Total(d)	137.6	104.4	252.9	100.0

AVERAGE MONTHLY CASH CHILD SUPPORT RECEIVED PER CHILD(e)

\$1-\$50	21.4	9.7	33.7	13.3
\$51-\$100	24.7	18.0	44.7	17.7
\$101-\$150	18.4	16.0	36.0	14.2
\$151-\$200	22.0	14.2	38.4	15.2
\$201-\$250	8.4	8.0	17.5	6.9
\$251-\$300	10.0	12.1	22.3	8.8
\$301-\$350	6.2	5.8	12.1	4.8
\$351-\$400	7.7	4.8	12.8	5.1
\$401-\$600	9.5	7.7	17.2	6.8
\$601 and over	5.0	*2.1	7.2	2.8
Total(d)	137.6	104.4	252.9	100.0

NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN FAMILY FOR WHOM CASH CHILD SUPPORT IS RECEIVED

1 child	73.2	58.2	139.1	55.0
2 children	48.5	33.0	83.6	33.1
3 or more children	15.9	13.1	30.2	11.9
Total(d)	137.6	104.4	252.9	100.0

(a) For families with at least one child aged 0-17 who has a natural parent living elsewhere, and who receive cash child support. May include child support received for children aged 18 and over.

(b) Includes arrangements involving the CSA in combination with other arrangements.

(c) Total includes arrangements which did not involve either the CSA or direct from other parent, and a small number of 'not stated' responses.

(d) Includes a small number of 'not stated' responses.

(e) Excludes families who do not receive child support.

Family type and visiting arrangements	PARENTAL CARE ARRANGEMENT.....		
	Sole	Shared	Total
NUMBER OF CHILDREN AGED 0–17 ('000)			
Family type			
Couple family	219.3	*3.4	222.7
One-parent family			
Lone mother	653.4	13.7	667.1
Lone father	80.4	8.3	88.7
Total	733.8	22.0	755.8
Total	953.0	25.4	978.4
How visiting arrangement decided			
Private arrangement	496.3	14.9	511.1
Other arrangement(b)	163.3	10.5	173.8
Not asked/not stated(c)	293.5	—	293.5
Total	953.0	25.4	978.4
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN AGED 0–17 (%)			
Family type			
Couple family	23.0	*13.4	22.8
One-parent family			
Lone mother	68.6	54.1	68.2
Lone father	8.4	32.5	9.1
Total	77.0	86.6	77.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
How visiting arrangement decided			
Private arrangement	52.1	58.6	52.2
Other arrangement(b)	17.1	41.4	17.8
Not asked/not stated(c)	30.8	—	30.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) For children aged 0–17 who have a natural parent living elsewhere.

(b) Comprises arrangements which involved mediation, counselling, consultation with lawyers and/or court proceedings.

(c) This question was not asked if the visiting arrangement was less frequent than once per year.

	AGE OF CHILD (YEARS).....					Total
	0-2	3-4	5-11	12-14	15-17	
<i>Parental care arrangement and frequency of visits</i>	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)						
Sole care						
Daily	9.3	5.6	17.8	*4.2	5.4	42.3
Once a week	40.7	24.5	84.8	33.0	29.0	212.0
Once a fortnight	15.3	18.7	68.7	27.7	18.2	148.6
Once a month	7.1	*4.1	26.0	17.3	18.0	72.6
Once every 3 months	*5.0	9.4	32.9	19.2	16.1	82.6
Once every 6 months	*1.3	*3.0	21.3	11.2	13.6	50.4
Once a year	**1.1	2.7	20.9	15.5	10.9	51.2
Less than once a year/never	29.1	24.7	124.0	57.5	55.8	291.1
<i>Total children in sole care arrangements(b)</i>	109.4	92.8	397.5	186.2	167.2	953.0
Shared care	*2.3	*3.4	12.3	*3.7	*3.7	25.4
Total(b)	111.7	96.2	409.8	189.9	170.9	978.4
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)						
Sole care						
Daily	8.3	5.8	4.3	*2.2	3.2	4.3
Once a week	36.4	25.5	20.7	17.4	17.0	21.7
Once a fortnight	13.7	19.4	16.8	14.6	10.7	15.2
Once a month	6.4	*4.3	6.3	9.1	10.5	7.4
Once every 3 months	*4.5	9.8	8.0	10.1	9.4	8.4
Once every 6 months	*1.2	*3.1	5.2	5.9	8.0	5.2
Once a year	**0.9	2.8	5.1	8.0	6.4	5.2
Less than once a year/never	26.1	25.7	30.3	30.3	32.7	29.8
<i>Total children in sole care arrangements(b)</i>	97.9	96.5	97.0	98.1	97.8	97.4
Shared care	2.1	*3.5	3.0	*1.9	*2.2	2.6
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) For children aged 0-17 who have a natural parent living elsewhere.

(b) Includes a small number of 'not stated' responses.

<i>Frequency of visits</i>	WHETHER CHILD HAS CONTACT BY PHONE OR LETTER.....		
	Yes	No	<i>Total(b)</i>
	'000	'000	'000
Daily	31.9	7.5	39.4
Once a week	173.8	25.5	199.9
Once a fortnight	121.2	23.3	144.5
Once a month	56.4	10.0	66.9
Once every 3 months	70.3	9.7	80.0
Once every 6 months	43.4	6.7	50.1
Once a year	43.2	7.0	50.2
Less than once a year/never	63.5	208.4	272.2
Total children(b)	603.5	298.2	905.2

(a) Phone and/or letter contact was reported for children aged 2 years and over only.

(b) Includes a small number of 'not stated' responses.

31

INCOME, Couple Families with Children Aged 0–17(a)

WEEKLY FAMILY INCOME.....

	Less than \$400	\$400– \$499	\$500– \$599	\$600– \$799	\$800– \$999	\$1 000– \$1 499	\$1 500 and over	Total(b)	Median
Family life stage and family structure	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	\$
Age of youngest child (years)									
0–2	56.6	44.1	62.5	113.9	81.6	98.8	50.4	575.8	750
3–4	19.1	14.7	20.7	40.3	33.0	57.3	25.4	244.1	859
5–11	47.4	39.1	40.5	90.0	79.7	154.2	77.3	637.2	923
12–14	17.6	13.0	16.5	28.1	32.5	55.0	35.6	246.8	954
15–17	24.2	9.2	12.8	24.3	27.2	39.7	26.2	207.4	885
Total	164.9	120.0	153.0	296.7	254.0	404.9	214.9	1 911.3	850
Family structure(a)									
Intact	149.8	104.3	138.6	270.6	232.3	372.9	199.0	1 741.1	857
Step	8.6	7.2	*5.0	14.5	9.8	19.5	9.8	88.9	813
Blended	6.5	7.9	9.4	11.6	11.8	12.6	5.9	75.3	745
Total	164.9	120.0	153.0	296.7	254.0	404.9	214.9	1 911.3	850

(a) Both income and family blending were only collected for families with at least one child aged 0–17.

(b) Includes families for whom income was unknown, not stated or not applicable.

32

INCOME, One-parent Families with Children Aged 0–17(a)

WEEKLY FAMILY INCOME.....

	Less than \$200	\$200– \$399	\$400– \$499	\$500– \$599	\$600– \$799	\$800 and over	Total(b)	Median
Age of youngest child (years)	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	\$
One-parent families								
0–2	10.2	66.4	9.0	*4.7	*2.9	*1.8	104.3	300
3–4	*5.0	36.6	10.2	*3.0	*3.3	*1.7	63.2	325
5–11	9.3	95.5	22.2	14.9	15.8	17.6	194.2	350
12–14	*4.5	28.1	7.9	8.3	6.1	6.9	71.4	367
15–17	12.4	17.9	9.0	8.8	8.1	6.9	69.9	400
Total	41.4	244.5	58.3	39.8	36.2	34.8	502.9	335
Lone mother families								
Lone father families	36.7	225.5	49.8	32.9	30.5	21.1	437.7	325
Total	41.4	244.5	58.3	39.8	36.2	34.8	502.9	335

(a) Income was only collected for families with at least one child aged 0–17.

(b) Includes families for whom income was unknown, not stated or not applicable.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication contains results from the Family Characteristics Survey (FCS) conducted throughout Australia in April 1997.

2 The aim of the FCS was to collect information about care and support exchanges that take place between children aged 0–17 and parents who live apart, most often as a consequence of marriage breakdown. The survey also aimed to provide more detailed information on the living arrangements and marital status of people than that which is regularly available through the Labour Force Survey output program.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

3 The FCS was conducted as a supplement to the Monthly Population Survey (MPS) which is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (currently about 30,000 houses, flats, etc.) and a list-sample of non-private dwellings (hospitals, hotels, etc.). The MPS is described more fully in *Labour Force, Australia* (Cat. no. 6203.0).

4 Information was collected from usual residents in private dwellings, except:

- members of the permanent defence forces;
- certain non-Australian diplomatic personnel;
- overseas residents in Australia; and
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

5 Usual residents were residents who regarded the dwelling as their own or main home. Other people present were considered to be visitors and these, except for visitors aged 0–17 years who were living in shared care arrangements, were excluded from the survey.

6 Also excluded were some 175,000 persons living in remote and sparsely settled parts of Australia. The exclusion of these persons will have only a minor impact on any aggregate estimates that are produced for individual States and Territories, with the exception of the Northern Territory where such persons account for over 20% of the population.

7 While households containing members of the permanent Australian defence forces and those in remote and sparsely settled areas were excluded from the sample, the survey responses were weighted to the population of all households. As a result, the national estimates shown in all tables represent the population of all households in Australia.

8 Where tables show information below the national level for 1997, these estimates also represent the population of all households in the States and Territories except for the Northern Territory. Estimates for the Northern Territory represent only those areas included in the survey sample. Reliable estimates for remote and sparsely settled areas of the Northern Territory cannot be derived from these tables.

SURVEY METHOD

9 Information was collected by specially trained interviewers. The interviews for this survey were conducted over a two-week period between 7–19 April 1997.

10 Information was obtained from any responsible adult (ARA) member of each family within the household, who then answered questions on behalf of all household members. Where the ARA did not know the answer to a particular question, the information was obtained from another adult member of the household.

DATA INTERPRETATION

Non-resident parents

11 The survey collected detailed information for up to three children aged 0–17 in a family. In families with four or more children aged 0–17, only limited information (age, sex and country of birth) was collected about the fourth and subsequent children. Other information for these children was imputed from information already collected for the first three children.

Child support

12 The FCS does not estimate the number and characteristics of non-resident parents. Rather, information collected in the survey has been used to estimate the number of parent-child relationships beyond the home (usual residence of the child) from the child's perspective. The survey collected information from parents about each of their resident children aged 0–17 who were living apart from their other natural parent. Parents were not interviewed about non-resident children living apart from them.

13 The FCS collected information on the total amount of child support received by the family, together with the total number of children for whom the payments were received. The survey did not distinguish the way in which payments were distributed in respect of each child. Nor did it identify whether or not child support was received from only one non-resident parent. In addition, in a small number of cases child support may be received for children aged 18 years and above. These children were not separately identified or removed from estimates of the number of children receiving child support or the average payment received per child. (See paragraph 26 for discussion on data quality.)

OTHER SURVEYS

Family surveys

14 Family surveys were also conducted in 1982 and 1992. These surveys differed in important respects from the FCS. Nevertheless, these differences do not preclude useful comparisons among them. Estimates from the 1992 Family Survey are used in the commentary and selected tables to show trends over the five-year period 1992–1997. For more detail on the 1992 Family Survey see *Australia's Families—Selected Findings from the 1992 Survey of Families in Australia* (Cat. no. 4418.0).

15 In contrast to the previous family surveys the FCS:

- was conducted as a short supplementary topic to the MPS rather than as an in-depth survey in its own right; and
- used ARA in place of personal interviewing.

Labour force survey

16 Some differences are evident between estimates from the FCS and output from regular family coding of the Labour Force Survey as published in *Labour Force, Australia* (Cat. no. 6203.0) and *Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, Australia* (Cat. no. 6224.0). These are relatively small in magnitude. They arose as a result of differences in the population benchmarks to which the respective surveys were weighted, the weighting methodology itself, timing of the surveys and fine tuning of family coding in the FCS based on the detailed information collected.

FAMILY CLASSIFICATIONS

17 Changes in ABS definitions and classifications between 1992 and 1997 may affect trends in the data. The major change in family coding concerns the development of a fine level classification of dependants which separates children aged under 15 from dependent students aged 15–24. This classification was used in the FCS but not in previous family surveys. For more detail on ABS definitions see *Standards for Statistics on the Family* (Cat. no. 1286.0).

18 Application of the new classification results in a slightly narrower definition of dependency. Contrary to previous practice, no assumption is made about the dependency of full-time students aged 15–24 on other members of the household in cases where the students' parents are not reported as living with them. As a result, estimates of dependants aged 15–24 are likely to decrease while estimates of otherwise related persons living in family households are likely to increase.

ESTIMATION METHOD

19 Estimates of numbers of persons, families and households with particular characteristics are derived from the survey by a complex estimation procedure. This procedure ensures that the survey estimates conform to person benchmarks by State, part-of-State, age and sex, and to household benchmarks by State, part-of-State and household composition (number of adults and children usually resident in the household). Benchmarks are produced from estimates of the resident population derived independently of the survey for March quarter 1997. They are adjusted to include persons and households in private dwellings only and therefore do not, and are not intended to, match estimates of the Australian resident population published in other ABS publications.

20 The sample on which estimates are based, the final sample, is composed of all persons and families within complete households, that is, households for which all necessary information was available. The estimation procedure uses information from incomplete households to counter known biases in target variables resulting from partial response.

21 Expansion factors, or weights, are values by which information is multiplied to produce estimates for the whole population. For this survey, the weights are calculated so that each person within a family or household has the same weight and that weight is also used for the family and household.

DATA QUALITY

22 The estimates provided in this publication are subject to two types of error, sampling and non-sampling error.

Sampling error

23 The estimates are based on a sample of possible observations. Hence, they are subject to sampling variability and estimates may differ from the figures that would have been produced if information had been collected for all households. A measure of the sampling error for a given estimate is provided by the standard error expressed as a percentage of the estimate (relative standard error). Further information on sampling error is given in the Technical Notes.

Non-sampling error

24 Non-sampling error can occur whether the estimates are derived from a sample or from a complete collection. Three major sources of non-sampling error are:

- inability to obtain data from all households included in the sample. Although adjustments are made for non-response bias, some bias may remain. These errors arise because of differences which exist between the characteristics of respondents and non-respondents;
- errors in reporting on the part of both respondents and interviewers. These reporting errors may arise through inappropriate wording of questions, misunderstanding of what data are required, inability or unwillingness to provide accurate information and mistakes in answers to questions; and
- errors arising during processing of the survey data. These processing errors may arise through mistakes in coding and data recording.

25 Non-sampling errors are difficult to measure in any collection. However, every effort is made to minimise these errors. In particular, the effect of the reporting and processing errors described above is minimised by careful questionnaire design, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, asking respondents to refer to records wherever possible and by extensive editing and quality control checking at all stages of data processing.

26 The error due to incomplete response is minimised by:

- call-backs to all initially non-responding households in order to explain the importance of their cooperation to the project; and
- adjustment of the weights allocated to the respondent households in order to allow for households with similar characteristics from which comprehensive data are not obtained.

27 There are differences between results in the FCS and the administrative records of child support payments maintained by the CSA. In particular the survey results show lower numbers of people receiving child support through the CSA. These discrepancies may have arisen because of differences in the way families in receipt of child support were identified and classified in the survey and the way payees who receive child support are defined by the CSA. Differences may also have resulted due to a failure of respondents to understand the questionnaire or their unwillingness to report details of child support payments.

28 In addition, the FCS collected data on actual payments of child support received but not on the amount of child support due. For example, for those who did not receive any cash child support, no distinction was made between nil liability and defaulting on the part of non-resident parents.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

29 Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

Australian Social Trends (Cat. no. 4102.0)

Australia's Families—Selected Findings from the Survey of Families in Australia, March to May 1992 (Cat. no. 4418.0)

Child Care, Australia, March 1996 (Cat. no. 4402.0)

Focus on Families: Demographics and Family Formation (Cat. no. 4420.0)

Focus on Families: Work and Family Responsibilities (Cat. no. 4422.0)

How Australians Use Their Time (Cat. no. 4153.0)

Income Distribution, Australia (Cat. no. 6523.0)

Labour Force, Australia (Cat. no. 6203.0)

Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, Australia (Cat. no. 6224.0)

Marriages and Divorces, Australia (Cat. no. 3310.0)

Social Indicators No.5 1992 (Cat. no. 4101.0)

Working Arrangements, Australia (Cat. no. 6342.0)

30 Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products*, (Cat. no. 1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (Cat. no. 1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

TECHNICAL NOTES

ESTIMATION PROCEDURES

Estimates of numbers of persons, families and households with particular characteristics are derived from the survey by a complex estimation procedure. This procedure ensures that the survey estimates conform to person benchmarks by State, part-of-State, age and sex, and to household benchmarks by State, part-of-State and household composition (number of adults and children usually resident in the household). These benchmarks are produced from estimates of the resident population derived independently of the survey.

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

Two types of error are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey: sampling error and non-sampling error. The sampling error is a measure of the variability that occurs by chance because a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed. Since estimates from the FCS are based on information obtained from a sample of persons, they are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the estimates that would have been produced if all in-scope persons had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE). There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the estimate that would have been obtained if all persons had been included, and about 19 chances in 20 that the difference will be less than two SEs. Another measure of sampling variability is the relative standard error (RSE) which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate to which it refers. The RSE is a useful measure in that it provides an immediate indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred due to sampling, and thus avoids the need to refer also to the size of the estimate.

The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the SE, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents, errors made in collection such as in recording and coding data, and errors made in processing the data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as the non-sampling error and they may occur in any enumerations, whether it be a full count or a sample. It is not possible to quantify non-sampling error, but every effort is made to reduce it to a minimum. For the examples on the next page of this note, the non-sampling error is assumed to be zero but, in practice, non-sampling error will increase the overall uncertainty of the estimates.

SEs for tables in this publication and for other weighted estimates can be calculated using the table below. The size of the SE increases with the level of the estimate, so that the larger the estimate the larger is the SE. However, it should be noted that the larger the sample estimate the smaller will be the SE in percentage terms (that is, the RSE). Thus, larger estimates will be relatively more reliable than smaller estimates. In the tables in this publication, only estimates with RSEs of 25% or less, and percentages based on such estimates, are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. However, estimates and percentages with RSEs between 25% and 50% have been included and are preceded by an asterisk (e.g. *3.4) to indicate that they are subject to high standard errors and should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs greater than 50% are also included and are preceded by a double asterisk (e.g. **0.1). Such estimates are considered too unreliable for general use.

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES *continued*

An example of the calculation and use of SEs is given below. Table 12 shows that the estimated number of one-parent families with a female parent in April 1997 is 622,500. The SE for this size of estimate is calculated as follows:

- the estimate lies between 500,000 and 1,000,000. The corresponding SE for these two numbers in the table below are 10,300 and 13,400.
- the SE for 622,500 is calculated by interpolation using the following formula:

$$SE = \text{lower SE} + (((\text{size of estimate} - \text{lower size}) / (\text{upper size} - \text{lower size})) \times (\text{upper SE} - \text{lower SE}))$$

$$SE = 10,300 + (((622,500 - 500,000) / (1,000,000 - 500,000)) \times (13,400 - 10,300))$$

$$SE = 11,060, \text{ or approximately } 11,100$$

Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the actual number of one-parent families with a female parent was within the range 611,400 to 633,600 and about 19 chances in 20 that it was within the range 600,300 to 644,700.

PERCENTAGES AND DIFFERENCES

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 RSE of a proportion or percentage is given below.

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

The SE of an estimated percentage or rate computed by using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends on both the size of the numerator and the size of the denominator. However, the RSE of the estimated percentage or rate will generally be lower than the RSE of the estimate of the numerator.

Approximate SEs of the rates or percentages may be derived by first obtaining the number of persons corresponding to the numerator of the rate or percentage and then applying this figure to the estimated rate or percentage.

The difference between two survey estimates is itself an estimate and is therefore subject to sampling variability. The SE of the difference between two survey estimates depends on the SEs of the original estimates and on the relationship (correlation) between the two original estimates. An approximate SE of the difference between two estimates (x-y) may be calculated using the following formula:

$$SE(x - y) = \sqrt{[SE(x)]^2 + [SE(y)]^2}$$

While this formula will only be exact for differences between separate and uncorrelated (unrelated) characteristics or sub-populations, it is expected to provide a good enough approximation for all of the differences likely to be of interest.

TECHNICAL NOTES *continued*

Standard errors for estimates

Size of estimate	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.....	RSE (%)
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	
100	. .	180	140	130	140	110	100	100	140	139.3
200	260	260	220	190	200	150	150	140	210	106.4
300	330	320	280	240	250	180	200	170	270	90.3
500	440	420	370	310	320	220	260	210	370	73.0
700	530	500	440	370	380	260	320	250	440	63.3
1 000	640	600	540	440	460	310	380	290	540	54.1
1 500	790	740	660	540	560	370	470	350	680	45.1
2 000	910	850	770	620	640	420	550	400	790	39.6
2 500	1 000	950	850	700	700	450	600	450	900	35.7
3 000	1 100	1 050	950	750	800	500	650	500	1 000	32.8
3 500	1 200	1 100	1 000	800	850	550	700	500	1 050	30.5
4 000	1 300	1 200	1 100	850	900	550	750	550	1 150	28.6
5 000	1 450	1 300	1 200	950	1 000	600	850	600	1 300	25.7
7 000	1 700	1 550	1 400	1 100	1 150	700	1 000	700	1 500	21.8
10 000	2 000	1 800	1 650	1 300	1 350	850	1 150	800	1 800	18.2
15 000	2 400	2 200	2 000	1 500	1 600	1 000	1 350	1 000	2 200	14.8
20 000	2 700	2 500	2 250	1 700	1 800	1 100	1 500	1 100	2 550	12.8
30 000	3 250	2 950	2 700	2 000	2 150	1 300	1 750	1 300	3 100	10.3
40 000	3 650	3 350	3 000	2 250	2 400	1 450	1 950	1 500	3 550	8.8
50 000	4 000	3 700	3 300	2 450	2 650	1 600	2 100	1 600	3 900	7.8
100 000	5 350	4 900	4 350	3 150	3 450	2 100	2 650	2 150	5 300	5.3
150 000	6 250	5 800	5 000	3 650	4 000	2 450	2 950	2 550	6 300	4.2
200 000	7 000	6 500	5 550	4 000	4 400	2 750	3 400	2 850	7 100	3.6
300 000	8 150	7 600	6 400	4 600	5 100	3 200	..	3 300	8 400	2.8
500 000	9 800	9 200	7 550	5 400	6 050	3 850	..	..	10 300	2.1
1 000 000	12 450	11 850	9 400	6 650	7 550	..	..	..	13 400	1.3
2 000 000	15 600	15 050	11 450	8 200	9 400	..	..	..	17 200	0.9
5 000 000	20 600	20 400	15 300	..	..	..	..	..	23 450	0.5
10 000 000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29 200	0.3

GLOSSARY

Adopted child	See <i>natural child</i> .
Blended family	A couple family containing two or more children, of whom at least one is the natural child of both members of the couple, and at least one is the stepchild of either member of the couple. Blended families were only identified if they contained at least one stepchild aged 0–17 years.
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. Only children aged 0–17 were identified in tables showing family structure, child support and visiting arrangements.
Child support	Cash or in-kind payments towards the financial well-being of children. These payments are made by the non-resident parent to the parent who has care of the children.
Couple family	A family based on two persons who are in a registered or de facto marriage and who are usually resident in the same household. A couple family without children may have other relatives, such as ancestors, present. A couple family with children may have adult children and/or other relatives present.
De facto marriage	The relationship between a male and female partner who live together in a consensual union and who are not registered as married to each other.
Dependent children	All family members under 15 years of age; family members aged 15–19 years attending school or aged 15–24 years attending a tertiary educational institution full-time (except those classified as husbands, wives or lone parents).
Dependent students	In couple or one-parent families, sons or daughters aged 15–19 years attending school or aged 15–24 years attending a tertiary educational institution full-time (except those classified as husbands, wives or lone parents).
Employed	Persons aged 15 years and over who worked during the reference week for pay, profit, commission, payment in-kind or without pay in a family business, or who had a job but were not at work.
Family	Two or more persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering, and who are usually resident in the same household. The basis of a family is formed by identifying the presence of a couple relationship, lone parent-child relationship or other blood relationship. Some households will, therefore, contain more than one family.
Family type	The differentiation of families based on the presence or absence of couple relationships, parent-child relationships, child dependency relationships or other blood relationships, in that order of preference.
Foster child	A child who lives with a person or persons who are not his or her natural or step-parent(s). If the foster child is no longer dependent, but still regards his or her relationship with appropriate members of the household as a parent-child relationship, then he or she remains a foster child.



Hours worked	Hours worked was only calculated for people who were <i>employed</i> during the reference period. It refers to the number of hours actually worked during the reference period and may not necessarily reflect usual hours worked. Total parental hours worked are the sum of the hours worked by each parent in a couple family or by the lone parent in a one-parent family.
Household	A group of two or more related or unrelated people who usually reside in the same dwelling and who make common provision for food or 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ one person; ▪ one family; ▪ one family and unrelated individual(s); ▪ related families with or without unrelated individual(s); ▪ unrelated families with or without unrelated individual(s); ▪ unrelated individuals.
Intact family	A couple family containing at least one child who is the natural or foster child of both members of the couple, and no child who is the stepchild of either member of the couple. Intact families were only identified if they contained at least one child aged 0–17 years.
Labour force status	A classification of the civilian population aged 15 and over into employed, unemployed or not in the labour force.
Lone parent	A person who has no spouse or partner present in the household but who forms a parent-child relationship with at least one child usually resident in the household.
Lone person	A person who makes provision for his or her food and other essentials for living, without combining with any other person to form part of a multi-person household. He or she may live in a dwelling on their own or share a dwelling with another individual or family.
Marital status	A person's social marital status refers to their current living arrangements, that is whether or not they are living with another person in a couple relationship. A person's registered marital status refers to their status in relation to a legally registered marriage as either never married, currently married, separated, divorced or widowed. Some persons who are not living with their partner may still be currently registered married rather than separated.
Metropolitan	For each State, metropolitan refers to the capital city statistical division only. All other regions within each state are classified as ex-metropolitan. The entire population of the ACT is classified as metropolitan, whilst the entire population of the Northern Territory is classified as ex-metropolitan.
Natural child	Children who are related to their parents by either birth or adoption.
Natural parent	Parents who are related to their children by either birth or adoption.
Natural parent living elsewhere	One of a child's natural parents who is not usually resident in the same household.

Never married	A person who has never been a partner in a registered marriage
Non-dependent child	In couple or one-parent families, a son or daughter who is aged over 15 years and who is not a full-time student aged 15–24 years (except those classified as husbands, wives or lone parents).
Not in the labour force	Persons who, during the survey reference week, were neither employed nor looking for work. They include persons who were keeping house (unpaid), retired, voluntarily inactive, permanently unable to work, persons in institutions, trainee teachers, members of contemplative religious orders, and persons whose only activity during the reference week was jury service or unpaid voluntary work for a charitable organisation.
One-parent family	A family consisting of a lone parent with at least one dependent or non-dependent child (regardless of age) who is also usually resident in the household. The family may also include any number of other dependent children, non-dependent children and other related individuals. One-parent families may be further classified as either lone mother families or lone father families.
Other family	A family of related individuals residing in the same household. These individuals do not form a couple or parent-child relationship with any other person in the household and are not attached to a couple or one-parent family in the household. For example, a household consisting of a brother and sister only.
Other related individual	An individual who is related to, but does not form a couple or parent-child relationship with, other members of the household.
Parental care arrangement	The formal or informal arrangements for the care of a child who does not live with both natural parents. Such children may be either in the <i>sole</i> care of the parent with whom they live (the resident parent cares for the child for more than 70% of the time), or in <i>shared</i> care (the resident and non-resident parents each care for the child for at least 30% of the time).
Registered marriage	A marriage where the two people involved hold a marriage certificate.
Spouse	A marital or de facto partner.
Stepchild	In a couple family, a child who is the natural child of one partner but not of the other. As a consequence of relationship breakdown, some one-parent families may also have stepchildren present.
Step-family	A couple family containing one or more children, at least one of whom is the stepchild of either member of the couple and none of whom is the natural or foster child of both members of the couple. Step-families were only identified if they contained at least one stepchild aged 0–17 years.
Unemployed	Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, but who had actively looked for work and were available to start work.

GLOSSARY *continued*

- Usual resident** A person who usually has lived or intends to live with the household for a total of six months or more and regards it as his or her own, or main, household; or a person who has no usual place of residence and is staying with the household during the reference period of the collection.
- Visiting arrangement** An arrangement concerning the frequency and duration of a child's contact with a natural parent who is not usually resident in the same household. Children were classified as visiting frequently if they saw this parent at least once per fortnight and rarely if they saw this parent at most once per year. While most visiting arrangements are reached through private negotiation between the child's parents, they may also be determined following intervention from the court, lawyers or other professionals.

DO YOU NEED ADDITIONAL DATA?

In addition to the statistics provided in this publication, the ABS has produced a set of selected State-level tables which are available for purchase from any ABS office (Cat. no. 4442.0.40.001). Furthermore, the ABS can produce upon request customised tables presenting any of the following information included in the survey. Inquiries should be made to the contact person shown on the front cover of this publication. Information collected in the survey included:

DEMOGRAPHIC ITEMS

- Age of child
- Sex of child
- Relationship in household
- Whether child has a natural parent living elsewhere
- Sex of natural parent living elsewhere
- Family type
- Family life stage type
- Family structure
- Age of youngest child in family
- Age of eldest child in family
- Household type
- Household life stage type
- Area of usual residence

MARITAL STATUS

- Registered marital status
- Social marital status

VISITING ARRANGEMENTS

- Usual frequency of visits with natural parent living elsewhere
- Frequency of overnight stays with natural parent living elsewhere
- Procedures involved when deciding visiting arrangements
- Whether have contact with natural parent living elsewhere by telephone/letters

CHILD SUPPORT

- Frequency of child support payments received
- Method of receipt of child support payments
- Amount of child support received per month
- Type of child support received (including in-kind support)
- Steps taken in reaching child support arrangement

EDUCATION

- School attendance
- Type of educational institution attending and type of attendance
- Educational attainment

DO YOU NEED ADDITIONAL DATA? *continued*

LABOUR FORCE STATUS

- Employment status
- Labour force status of couple/lone parent
- Hours worked last week
- Occupation
- Industry

INCOME

- Sources of income
- Gross weekly income
- Income quintile

ETHNICITY

- Country of birth
- Year of arrival

SELF-HELP ACCESS TO STATISTICS

PHONE Call 1900 986 400 for the latest statistics on CPI, Labour Force, Earnings, National Accounts, Balance of Payments and other topics. (Call cost is 75c per minute)

INTERNET <http://www.abs.gov.au>

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<i>INQUIRIES</i>	<i>By phone</i>	<i>By fax</i>
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Sydney	02 9268 4611	02 9268 4668
Melbourne	03 9615 7755	03 9615 7798
Brisbane	07 3222 6351	07 3222 8283
Perth	08 9360 5140	08 9360 5955
Adelaide	08 8237 7400	08 8237 7566
Hobart	03 6222 5800	03 6222 5995
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