

Sources of personal income by electorate

The findings in this Research Note are based on regional experimental estimates, at the Statistical Local Area (SLA) level, of the sources and total amount of personal income which people received in 2000–01. The estimates, published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics,¹ were compiled by bringing together aggregated individual income tax data from the Australian Taxation Office and aggregated income support customer data from the Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services.²

Estimates at the SLA level have been amalgamated into electoral divisions by the Parliamentary Library for the purpose of this Research Note.

Results

Wages and salaries account for more than 70 per cent of all income received by Australians (see Table 1). This is by far the largest single source of income, the second biggest source being government cash benefits (11 per cent of all income received), followed by investment income (8 per cent) and own unincorporated business income (7 per cent).

Of all the Australian states and territories, the Northern Territory has the highest proportion of income that

Table 1. Sources of personal income by state, 2000-01

	Wage & salary %	Own business %	Investment %	Super & annuity %	Govt cash benefit %	Other income %	Total income from all sources %	\$m
NSW	71.9	6.3	8.7	2.1	10.0	0.9	100.0	138808
VIC	71.2	6.1	9.2	2.4	10.4	0.7	100.0	97428
QLD	70.8	7.0	6.8	2.1	12.7	0.6	100.0	64765
SA	66.5	7.9	8.4	2.8	13.7	0.7	100.0	27696
WA	70.7	7.9	8.2	1.9	10.3	1.0	100.0	36324
TAS	65.9	6.9	7.0	3.2	16.4	0.6	100.0	7931
NT	80.5	4.2	2.3	1.4	11.4	0.2	100.0	3494
ACT	77.8	4.5	6.1	5.8	5.2	0.7	100.0	7854
AUST	71.1	6.6	8.3	2.3	11.0	0.8	100.0	384842

comes from wages and salaries and the lowest proportion that comes from investments. Tasmania, the least affluent state in terms of the average income of its residents, has the highest proportion of income that comes from government cash benefits. The most affluent states, Victoria and NSW, have a higher proportion of income that comes from investments than is the case in any other state. The ACT however, which is more affluent than both these states, has a relatively small proportion of income that comes from investments but a high proportion that comes from superannuation and annuities.

There is a clear difference between higher and lower income electorates in terms of where their income is sourced. This is seen in Table 2, which has been compiled by ranking all electorates according to average income³ and dividing the electorates into five groups so that each contains an equal number of electorates (called income quintiles). Electorates in the lowest quintile are therefore at the lowest end of the income spectrum. The table shows that wages and salaries are a more important source of income for higher income than for lower income electorates. On the other hand, income from own unincorporated business is more important in lower income than

higher income electorates. Investment income is a much more significant source of income for electorates in the highest quintile than it is for electorates in any of the other income quintiles. Government cash benefits decline steadily in importance as a source of income as average income levels rise.

It is important to note that the above observations do not imply causality. In other words, it should not be inferred from the Research Note that high average income (say) leads to more investment or that more investment leads to high average income.

The distribution of income by source of income in individual electorates is shown in Table 3. Not surprisingly, there are significant differences between electorates. For example, the percentage of income derived from wages and salaries ranges from 54 per cent in Richmond (NSW) to 84 per cent in Greenway (NSW). Also, the percentage of income derived from investments ranges from 1 per cent in Chifley (NSW) to 24 per cent in Wentworth (NSW), while the percentage that is derived from government cash benefits ranges from 2 per cent in Bradfield (NSW) to 26 per cent in Wide Bay (Qld).

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Table 2. Sources of personal income by income quintile, 2000-01

Income share	Wage & salary %	Own business %	Investment %	Super & annuity %	Govt cash benefit %	Other income %	Total all sources %
Lowest quintile	65.6	8.0	6.6	2.4	16.8	0.6	100.0
Second quintile	68.9	8.1	5.7	2.0	14.8	0.4	100.0
Third quintile	71.9	6.3	6.2	2.2	12.8	0.5	100.0
Fourth quintile	75.0	5.6	7.0	2.3	9.5	0.6	100.0
Highest quintile	72.3	5.7	12.9	2.6	5.3	1.3	100.0

Table 3. Sources of personal income by electorate, 2000–01

Electoral Division	Party	Own							Total Income from All Sources	
		Wage & Salary	Unincorporated Business	Investment	Superannuation & Annuity	Govt Cash Benefit	Other Income	%	\$m	
Adelaide (SA)	ALP	63.0	7.3	14.9	2.8	11.0	0.9	100.0	3124.1	
Aston (VIC)	LIB	80.5	4.5	5.3	2.0	7.2	0.5	100.0	2586.0	
Ballarat (VIC)	ALP	68.9	6.1	7.1	2.7	14.9	0.4	100.0	2158.7	
Banks (NSW)	ALP	75.4	4.9	5.5	2.0	11.9	0.4	100.0	2265.0	
Barker (SA)	LIB	61.7	15.5	7.5	1.6	13.3	0.3	100.0	2526.9	
Barton (NSW)	ALP	75.2	5.2	8.1	2.1	9.0	0.5	100.0	2791.0	
Bass (TAS)	LIB	67.4	5.7	7.1	2.6	16.7	0.5	100.0	1553.1	
Batman (VIC)	ALP	72.2	4.0	5.2	1.6	16.6	0.4	100.0	2340.9	
Bendigo (VIC)	ALP	64.4	6.8	7.5	3.7	17.3	0.3	100.0	2045.4	
Bennelong (NSW)	LIB	78.4	4.6	7.6	2.4	6.1	0.7	100.0	3079.5	
Berowra (NSW)	LIB	77.4	4.5	10.7	2.8	3.5	1.1	100.0	3457.0	
Blair (QLD)	LIB	71.0	5.9	3.4	2.1	17.3	0.3	100.0	2004.7	
Blaxland (NSW)	ALP	75.0	5.0	3.9	1.6	14.2	0.3	100.0	2366.9	
Bonner (QLD)	LIB	75.3	5.6	6.5	2.1	10.0	0.5	100.0	2427.3	
Boothby (SA)	LIB	67.1	6.3	10.7	4.6	10.4	0.8	100.0	2741.6	
Bowman (QLD)	LIB	74.2	6.5	6.1	2.2	10.1	1.0	100.0	2272.3	
Braddon (TAS)	LIB	65.2	7.8	5.5	2.2	18.8	0.5	100.0	1511.0	
Bradfield (NSW)	LIB	63.4	7.3	22.1	3.3	1.7	2.2	100.0	5442.2	
Brand (WA)	ALP	70.4	6.4	3.9	2.4	15.6	1.2	100.0	2022.1	
Brisbane (QLD)	ALP	76.3	5.9	7.5	1.9	7.6	0.7	100.0	2841.1	
Bruce (VIC)	ALP	73.2	4.0	7.9	2.8	11.6	0.5	100.0	2616.2	
Calare (NSW)	IND	70.9	7.7	5.9	1.8	13.3	0.4	100.0	2262.8	
Calwell (VIC)	ALP	78.1	3.6	3.7	1.2	13.1	0.3	100.0	2276.2	
Canberra (ACT)	ALP	78.0	4.7	6.1	5.8	4.7	0.7	100.0	3862.9	
Canning (WA)	LIB	70.5	7.7	5.2	1.9	13.7	1.0	100.0	2041.0	
Capricornia (QLD)	ALP	72.6	10.0	3.9	1.1	12.0	0.3	100.0	2537.3	
Casey (VIC)	LIB	76.4	5.8	6.8	2.2	8.1	0.7	100.0	2504.1	
Charlton (NSW)	ALP	70.9	4.7	6.0	2.9	15.1	0.4	100.0	2163.4	
Chifley (NSW)	ALP	80.2	3.7	1.0	0.7	14.2	0.2	100.0	2490.5	
Chisholm (VIC)	ALP	72.8	4.2	10.2	4.0	8.2	0.6	100.0	2743.2	
Cook (NSW)	LIB	75.4	5.3	10.5	3.0	5.2	0.6	100.0	3013.5	
Corangamite (VIC)	LIB	66.6	7.7	9.9	3.6	11.7	0.5	100.0	2200.1	
Corio (VIC)	ALP	70.7	4.4	6.8	2.2	15.6	0.4	100.0	2255.0	
Cowan (WA)	ALP	74.0	7.7	5.5	1.5	10.4	0.9	100.0	2257.1	
Cowper (NSW)	NP	56.2	7.9	7.0	3.8	24.5	0.6	100.0	1687.4	
Cunningham (NSW)	ALP	75.0	4.1	5.2	1.9	13.5	0.4	100.0	2304.2	
Curtin (WA)	LIB	61.3	8.1	20.9	2.9	5.3	1.6	100.0	3570.6	
Dawson (QLD)	NP	72.4	6.3	6.6	1.3	12.9	0.3	100.0	2355.5	
Deakin (VIC)	LIB	75.1	4.2	7.8	3.7	8.4	0.7	100.0	2678.2	
Denison (TAS)	ALP	65.6	6.3	9.5	4.1	13.9	0.6	100.0	1784.4	
Dickson (QLD)	LIB	79.1	5.5	5.6	1.9	7.4	0.5	100.0	2262.1	
Dobell (NSW)	LIB	68.0	6.5	5.7	2.9	16.4	0.5	100.0	2119.9	
Dunkley (VIC)	LIB	71.6	5.1	8.2	3.3	11.2	0.7	100.0	2502.7	
Eden-Monaro (NSW)	LIB	63.9	8.8	8.2	4.6	13.8	0.8	100.0	2262.5	
Fadden (QLD)	LIB	64.9	7.3	9.6	2.6	14.5	1.0	100.0	1993.3	
Fairfax (QLD)	LIB	59.3	8.1	8.9	3.7	18.8	1.3	100.0	1796.4	
Farrer (NSW)	LIB	62.9	13.2	8.5	2.0	13.1	0.3	100.0	2252.3	
Fisher (QLD)	LIB	59.2	8.0	10.3	4.4	16.9	1.2	100.0	1889.9	
Flinders (VIC)	LIB	62.6	7.3	11.2	4.2	14.0	0.7	100.0	2212.5	
Forde (QLD)	LIB	70.6	7.9	4.4	1.4	15.1	0.6	100.0	1990.5	
Forrest (WA)	LIB	68.3	9.8	7.5	1.9	11.8	0.7	100.0	2155.8	
Fowler (NSW)	ALP	75.0	5.4	2.5	0.6	16.3	0.3	100.0	2241.2	

Table 3. Sources of personal income by electorate, 2000–01 (continued)

Electoral Division	Party	Own			Superannuation & Annuity	Govt Cash Benefit	Other Income	Total Income from All Sources	
		Wage & Salary	Unincorporated Business	Investment				%	\$m
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	\$m
Franklin (TAS)	ALP	67.4	6.9	6.3	4.2	14.4	0.7	100.0	1664.9
Fraser (ACT)	ALP	77.6	4.3	6.1	5.7	5.7	0.6	100.0	3963.0
Fremantle (WA)	ALP	71.7	7.5	7.7	1.8	10.3	1.0	100.0	2410.5
Gellibrand (VIC)	ALP	76.0	3.4	4.2	1.7	14.4	0.4	100.0	2577.3
Gilmore (NSW)	LIB	61.3	7.6	9.1	4.5	16.6	0.8	100.0	2021.8
Gippsland (VIC)	NP	66.5	7.6	6.4	3.0	16.2	0.4	100.0	2173.1
Goldstein (VIC)	LIB	66.7	5.4	18.1	3.3	5.0	1.6	100.0	4025.5
Gorton (VIC)	ALP	77.6	3.8	3.6	0.9	13.9	0.2	100.0	2255.5
Grayndler (NSW)	ALP	80.0	4.9	4.6	1.0	8.9	0.6	100.0	3278.2
Greenway (NSW)	LIB	83.8	4.4	2.4	0.8	8.2	0.3	100.0	3123.2
Grey (SA)	LIB	60.1	12.7	6.2	2.1	18.5	0.4	100.0	2268.5
Griffith (QLD)	ALP	74.1	5.8	8.3	1.8	9.4	0.6	100.0	2863.3
Groom (QLD)	LIB	70.8	6.4	6.9	2.2	13.3	0.5	100.0	2150.4
Gwydir (NSW)	NP	60.7	11.6	8.3	1.2	16.7	1.5	100.0	2091.0
Hasluck (WA)	LIB	74.4	6.7	5.7	1.7	10.5	1.1	100.0	2225.7
Herbert (QLD)	LIB	77.1	5.9	4.2	1.9	10.6	0.3	100.0	2491.3
Higgins (VIC)	LIB	62.4	6.4	22.9	2.4	3.7	2.2	100.0	4876.4
Hindmarsh (SA)	ALP	65.9	5.0	10.4	4.0	13.8	0.9	100.0	2645.1
Hinkler (QLD)	NP	68.4	6.6	4.7	1.7	18.2	0.4	100.0	2072.4
Holt (VIC)	ALP	80.1	4.9	3.9	0.9	9.8	0.3	100.0	2384.5
Hotham (VIC)	ALP	74.2	4.3	7.7	2.5	10.8	0.5	100.0	2516.2
Hughes (NSW)	LIB	83.3	4.6	4.4	1.7	5.7	0.4	100.0	2909.7
Hume (NSW)	LIB	68.4	9.0	8.8	2.6	10.7	0.6	100.0	2368.6
Hunter (NSW)	ALP	75.7	3.7	4.4	1.7	14.1	0.3	100.0	2280.6
Indi (VIC)	LIB	66.5	8.4	7.7	3.2	13.6	0.6	100.0	2077.5
Isaacs (VIC)	ALP	75.4	4.3	5.6	2.1	12.1	0.4	100.0	2462.3
Jagajaga (VIC)	ALP	75.5	4.4	9.2	3.1	7.3	0.6	100.0	2985.2
Kalgoorlie (WA)	LIB	79.8	7.4	3.4	0.3	8.9	0.2	100.0	2844.5
Kennedy (QLD)	IND	70.0	9.5	4.4	1.2	14.4	0.4	100.0	2419.0
Kingsford Smith (NSW)	ALP	76.3	5.7	8.8	1.6	7.0	0.6	100.0	3470.6
Kingston (SA)	LIB	73.0	6.1	3.7	2.1	14.4	0.7	100.0	2281.8
Kooyong (VIC)	LIB	64.2	7.0	20.3	3.2	3.7	1.6	100.0	4207.9
La Trobe (VIC)	LIB	78.3	5.6	6.3	1.7	7.5	0.5	100.0	2383.6
Lalor (VIC)	ALP	81.8	3.8	3.1	1.3	9.7	0.3	100.0	2381.4
Leichhardt (QLD)	LIB	73.4	7.3	5.2	1.1	12.5	0.5	100.0	2513.3
Lilley (QLD)	ALP	72.0	5.7	9.6	2.4	9.7	0.6	100.0	2856.1
Lindsay (NSW)	LIB	81.8	5.1	2.5	1.2	9.1	0.3	100.0	2455.4
Lingiari (NT)	ALP	77.7	3.6	2.0	1.0	15.5	0.2	100.0	1534.7
Longman (QLD)	LIB	67.2	6.8	3.9	2.8	18.7	0.6	100.0	1813.5
Lowe (NSW)	ALP	74.4	6.3	10.1	1.8	6.7	0.8	100.0	3306.8
Lyne (NSW)	NP	55.9	8.1	8.3	4.2	22.8	0.6	100.0	1837.1
Lyons (TAS)	ALP	63.8	8.1	5.6	2.4	19.5	0.5	100.0	1379.3
Macarthur (NSW)	LIB	82.5	4.5	2.5	1.0	9.3	0.3	100.0	2559.2
Mackellar (NSW)	LIB	71.5	5.6	14.5	3.0	3.7	1.7	100.0	3674.0
Macquarie (NSW)	LIB	76.6	6.5	5.4	2.6	8.4	0.5	100.0	2622.8
Makin (SA)	LIB	76.8	5.4	3.6	2.2	11.4	0.7	100.0	2433.3
Mallee (VIC)	NP	54.7	20.1	8.6	2.0	14.4	0.2	100.0	2216.3
Maranoa (QLD)	NP	65.8	14.8	6.2	0.8	12.0	0.3	100.0	2214.1
Maribyrnong (VIC)	ALP	75.6	4.1	5.9	1.9	12.2	0.4	100.0	2581.0
Mayo (SA)	LIB	66.5	9.4	9.4	3.2	10.7	0.8	100.0	2281.7
McEwen (VIC)	LIB	75.3	5.2	7.6	2.3	8.9	0.5	100.0	2488.0
McMillan (VIC)	LIB	63.6	12.0	7.3	2.5	14.3	0.4	100.0	1881.7
McPherson (QLD)	LIB	64.7	8.0	8.3	3.0	15.0	1.0	100.0	2095.5

Table 3. Sources of personal income by electorate, 2000–01 (continued)

Electoral Division	Party	Own							Total Income from All Sources	
		Wage & Salary	Unincorporated Business	Investment	Superannuation & Annuity	Govt Cash Benefit	Other Income	%	\$m	
Melbourne (VIC)	ALP	74.4	5.3	9.4	1.6	8.5	0.9	100.0	3703.1	
Melbourne Ports (VIC)	ALP	73.3	5.1	12.3	1.7	6.7	0.9	100.0	3796.1	
Menzies (VIC)	LIB	72.0	4.8	13.1	3.1	6.0	1.0	100.0	2985.3	
Mitchell (NSW)	LIB	78.5	4.7	10.1	2.1	3.7	0.8	100.0	3156.5	
Moncrieff (QLD)	LIB	63.1	7.5	12.9	2.6	12.6	1.4	100.0	2482.0	
Moore (WA)	LIB	77.9	7.2	5.8	1.7	6.1	1.2	100.0	2369.9	
Moreton (QLD)	LIB	75.0	5.6	8.2	2.0	8.6	0.5	100.0	2483.0	
Murray (VIC)	LIB	62.1	13.4	7.7	2.2	14.4	0.3	100.0	2151.7	
New England (NSW)	IND	62.2	11.0	8.0	2.1	16.2	0.5	100.0	2059.7	
Newcastle (NSW)	ALP	70.5	4.6	6.7	2.5	15.5	0.3	100.0	2436.1	
North Sydney (NSW)	LIB	71.0	5.9	16.5	2.1	2.0	2.5	100.0	5709.9	
O'Connor (WA)	LIB	56.3	17.2	12.1	1.4	12.5	0.5	100.0	2077.2	
Oxley (QLD)	ALP	74.7	4.7	2.9	1.6	15.7	0.4	100.0	2254.3	
Page (NSW)	NP	60.1	7.6	6.6	3.1	22.2	0.4	100.0	1762.0	
Parkes (NSW)	NP	62.0	14.6	6.6	1.3	15.4	0.2	100.0	2121.7	
Parramatta (NSW)	ALP	78.5	4.4	4.9	1.7	10.0	0.4	100.0	2820.1	
Paterson (NSW)	LIB	62.9	6.5	8.6	4.1	17.3	0.6	100.0	1952.1	
Pearce (WA)	LIB	70.0	9.2	6.2	1.8	11.8	0.9	100.0	2099.1	
Perth (WA)	ALP	71.6	6.8	7.1	1.8	12.0	0.8	100.0	2337.4	
Petrie (QLD)	LIB	70.9	5.2	6.5	2.8	14.1	0.5	100.0	2204.1	
Port Adelaide (SA)	ALP	68.3	4.7	3.9	1.9	20.7	0.4	100.0	2277.5	
Prospect (NSW)	ALP	76.0	5.2	2.5	0.8	15.2	0.3	100.0	2342.6	
Rankin (QLD)	ALP	75.4	6.2	2.9	0.9	14.3	0.4	100.0	2418.3	
Reid (NSW)	ALP	76.4	4.6	3.1	1.3	14.3	0.3	100.0	2287.0	
Richmond (NSW)	ALP	54.1	8.6	9.4	4.1	23.1	0.8	100.0	1798.0	
Riverina (NSW)	NP	64.5	14.0	7.7	1.7	11.9	0.2	100.0	2374.9	
Robertson (NSW)	LIB	70.2	6.4	7.6	3.3	11.9	0.7	100.0	2398.0	
Ryan (QLD)	LIB	72.8	6.4	12.6	2.8	4.2	1.2	100.0	3222.6	
Scullin (VIC)	ALP	78.6	3.8	4.0	1.2	12.0	0.3	100.0	2202.1	
Shortland (NSW)	ALP	69.5	5.4	5.5	2.9	16.3	0.4	100.0	2101.5	
Solomon (NT)	CLP	82.6	4.4	2.5	1.7	8.6	0.3	100.0	1833.0	
Stirling (WA)	LIB	69.8	6.5	7.8	2.7	12.4	0.8	100.0	2447.2	
Sturt (SA)	LIB	64.1	7.0	13.6	3.8	10.6	1.0	100.0	2943.4	
Swan (WA)	ALP	72.8	5.6	7.2	2.2	11.2	1.0	100.0	2422.8	
Sydney (NSW)	ALP	78.4	5.5	8.0	0.9	5.8	1.3	100.0	4955.0	
Tangney (WA)	LIB	71.8	6.1	9.8	2.8	8.2	1.3	100.0	2560.3	
Throsby (NSW)	ALP	76.1	3.8	4.1	1.6	14.0	0.3	100.0	2298.7	
Wakefield (SA)	LIB	66.2	8.0	3.7	2.1	19.3	0.6	100.0	2101.8	
Wannon (VIC)	LIB	57.2	17.6	8.9	2.3	13.7	0.3	100.0	2158.6	
Warringah (NSW)	LIB	69.5	6.4	16.3	2.6	2.6	2.6	100.0	4941.8	
Watson (NSW)	ALP	74.3	5.2	5.4	1.7	13.1	0.4	100.0	2432.0	
Wentworth (NSW)	LIB	61.8	7.3	24.1	1.7	2.8	2.3	100.0	5731.3	
Werriwa (NSW)	ALP	80.5	4.5	2.0	0.8	11.9	0.2	100.0	2518.8	
Wide Bay (QLD)	NP	58.2	7.6	5.3	2.7	25.6	0.6	100.0	1656.2	
Wills (VIC)	ALP	72.6	3.8	5.0	2.1	15.9	0.5	100.0	2561.5	

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Experimental Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, Taxation and Income Support Data* (Cat. No. 6524.0.55.001), Canberra, 2005.

2. Some government cash benefits have been excluded from the estimates of income which people received in 2000–01. Excluded are pensions and allowances paid by the Department of Veterans' Affairs and Community Development Employment Projects administered by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

3. The average income of each electorate was obtained by dividing the total income from all sources by the population of persons aged 15 years and over.