

Table 1: Number and percentage of Commonwealth Rent Assistance recipients¹ by payment type², gender and Indigenous status³, June 2015⁴

Payment type	Gender						Indigenous status				All	
	Single males		Single females		Couples		Indigenous		Non-indigenous			
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Disability Support Pension	121,229	30.5	101,923	16.8	44,741	13.2	14,959	23.4	252,934	19.8	267,893	19.9
Age Pension	73,011	18.4	113,980	18.8	59,017	17.4	3,293	5.2	242,715	19.0	246,008	18.3
Carer Payment	9,586	2.4	25,273	4.2	18,723	5.5	3,397	5.3	50,185	3.9	53,582	4.0
Parenting Payment Single	6,606	1.7	129,852	21.4			12,720	19.9	123,738	9.7	136,458	10.2
Newstart Allowance	129,554	32.6	125,660	20.7	46,102	13.6	18,294	28.7	283,022	22.1	301,316	22.4
Youth Allowance - Student	27,949	7.0	38,715	6.4	3,877	1.1	681	1.1	69,860	5.5	70,541	5.3
Youth Allowance - Other	8,650	2.2	8,903	1.5	2,145	0.6	2,164	3.4	17,534	1.4	19,698	1.5
Austudy	9,464	2.4	11,238	1.8	4,290	1.3	177	0.3	24,815	1.9	24,992	1.9
FTB (Only)	9,490	2.4	44,367	7.3	129,806	38.4	6,064	9.5	177,599	13.9	183,663	13.7
Parenting Payment Partnered					23,845	7.0	1,564	2.4	22,281	1.7	23,845	1.8
Other ⁵	1,866	0.5	7,719	1.3	5,850	1.7	527	0.8	14,908	1.2	15,435	1.1
All	397,405	100.0	607,630	100.0	338,396	100.0	63,840	100.0	1,279,591	100.0	1,343,431	100.0

Table 2: Number and percentage of Commonwealth Rent Assistance recipients¹ by gender and Indigenous status³, June 2015⁴

Gender/Indigenous status	Number	%
Gender		
Single males	397,405	29.6
Single females	607,630	45.2
Couples	338,396	25.2
Indigenous status		
Indigenous	63,840	4.8
Non-indigenous	1,279,591	95.2
All	1,343,431	100.0

Table 3: Number and percentage of Commonwealth Rent Assistance recipients¹ who pay enough rent to be eligible for the maximum rate of Rent Assistance by gender and Indigenous status³, June 2015⁴

Rate of Rent Assistance based on rent paid	Gender						Indigenous status				All	
	Single males		Single females		Couples		Indigenous		Non-indigenous			
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Paying enough rent to receive the maximum rate of CRA	277,687	69.9	479,291	78.9	288,727	85.3	45,548	71.3	1,000,157	78.2	1,045,705	77.8
Paying enough rent to receive the part rate of CRA	119,718	30.1	128,339	21.1	49,669	14.7	18,292	28.7	279,434	21.8	297,726	22.2
All	397,405	100.0	607,630	100.0	338,396	100.0	63,840	100.0	1,279,591	100.0	1,343,431	100.0

Table 4: Number and percentage of Commonwealth Rent Assistance recipients¹ in housing stress⁶ before and after Rent Assistance by Indigenous status³, gender and payment type², June 2015⁴

Indigenous status/ gender/ housing stress	Disability Support Pension	Age Pension	Carer Payment	Parenting Payment (single)	Newstart Allowance	Youth Allowance (student)	Youth Allowance (other)	Austudy	FTB (only)	Parenting Payment (partnered)	Other ⁵	All ⁷
Indigenous status												
Indigenous												
Before Rent Assistance												
Number	9,908	2,024	1,529	7,922	14,421	591	1,827	147	1,175	940	377	40,861
Percentage	66.6	61.7	45.3	62.6	80.8	89.0	86.9	84.5	19.4	60.5	79.0	64.8
After Rent Assistance												
Number	3,549	727	578	3,780	8,723	462	1,342	114	563	585	246	20,669
Percentage	23.9	22.2	17.1	29.9	48.8	69.6	63.8	65.5	9.3	37.6	51.6	32.8
Total	14,877	3,279	3,377	12,661	17,858	664	2,103	174	6,060	1,554	477	63,084
Non-indigenous												
Before Rent Assistance												
Number	179,031	150,065	29,081	86,839	240,616	60,623	14,619	21,200	58,764	15,687	12,660	869,185
Percentage	71.1	62.0	58.1	70.4	87.6	88.4	86.6	86.8	33.1	70.8	87.2	68.7
After Rent Assistance												
Number	79,718	74,530	15,304	53,278	171,464	50,623	11,510	16,667	34,392	11,247	8,821	527,554
Percentage	31.6	30.8	30.6	43.2	62.4	73.8	68.2	68.2	19.4	50.7	60.8	41.7
Total	251,930	241,915	50,057	123,353	274,734	68,582	16,885	24,427	177,421	22,167	14,511	1,265,982
Gender												
Single males												
Before Rent Assistance												
Number	86,234	48,875	4,887	4,661	114,849	24,957	7,289	8,299	3,670		1,508	305,229
Percentage	71.4	67.2	51.2	70.9	91.5	90.7	87.4	88.9	38.7		94.0	78.0
After Rent Assistance												
Number	32,960	22,919	1,701	2,708	79,995	21,348	5,729	6,686	1,955		1,116	177,117
Percentage	27.3	31.5	17.8	41.2	63.7	77.6	68.7	71.6	20.6		69.6	45.3
Total	120,757	72,766	9,547	6,571	125,504	27,508	8,337	9,337	9,475		1,604	391,406
Single females												
Before Rent Assistance												
Number	77,131	76,348	15,358	90,100	104,457	33,386	7,660	9,604	18,689		7,004	439,737
Percentage	76.0	67.1	60.9	69.6	85.6	87.9	89.5	86.8	42.2		92.5	73.1
After Rent Assistance												
Number	35,917	36,456	7,792	54,350	74,847	27,544	6,160	7,563	10,734		4,746	266,109
Percentage	35.4	32.1	30.9	42.0	61.3	72.5	72.0	68.4	24.2		62.7	44.2
Total	101,515	113,705	25,207	129,443	122,025	37,996	8,561	11,059	44,318		7,575	601,404
Couples												
Before Rent Assistance												
Number	25,574	26,866	10,365		35,731	2,871	1,497	3,444	37,580	16,627	4,525	165,080
Percentage	57.4	45.8	55.5		79.3	76.7	71.6	81.9	29.0	70.1	77.9	49.1
After Rent Assistance												
Number	14,390	15,882	6,389		25,345	2,193	963	2,532	22,266	11,832	3,205	104,997
Percentage	32.3	27.0	34.2		56.2	58.6	46.1	60.2	17.2	49.9	55.2	31.2
Total	44,535	58,723	18,680		45,063	3,742	2,090	4,205	129,688	23,721	5,809	336,256
All												
Before Rent Assistance												
Number	188,939	152,089	30,610	94,761	255,037	61,214	16,446	21,347	59,939	16,627	13,037	910,046
Percentage	70.8	62.0	57.3	69.7	87.2	88.4	86.6	86.8	32.7	70.1	87.0	68.5
After Rent Assistance												
Number	83,267	75,257	15,882	57,058	180,187	51,085	12,852	16,781	34,955	11,832	9,067	548,223
Percentage	31.2	30.7	29.7	42.0	61.6	73.8	67.7	68.2	19.1	49.9	60.5	41.2
Total	266,807	245,194	53,434	136,014	292,592	69,246	18,988	24,601	183,481	23,721	14,988	1,329,066

Table 5: Number and percentage of Commonwealth Rent Assistance recipients¹ who are sharing⁷ by payment type², gender and Indigenous status³, June 2015⁴

Payment type	Gender				Indigenous status				All	
	Single males		Single females		Indigenous		Non-indigenous			
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Age Pension	11,281	12.2	17,842	22.4	315	6.3	28,808	17.2	29,123	16.9
Newstart Allowance	51,847	55.9	24,269	30.4	3,372	67.5	72,744	43.5	76,116	44.1
Youth Allowance (student)	17,723	19.1	24,754	31.0	295	5.9	42,182	25.2	42,477	24.6
Youth Allowance (other)	5,221	5.6	5,509	6.9	930	18.6	9,800	5.9	10,730	6.2
Austudy	5,890	6.4	5,713	7.2	37	0.7	11,566	6.9	11,603	6.7
Other ⁵	716	0.8	1,642	2.1	49	1.0	2,309	1.4	2,358	1.4
All	92,678	100.0	79,729	100.0	4,998	100.0	167,409	100.0	172,407	100.0

Table 6: Number and percentage of Commonwealth Rent Assistance recipients¹ paying more than 50 per cent of income in rent before and after Rent Assistance by Indigenous status³, gender and payment type², June 2015⁴

Indigenous status/ gender/ paying more than 50 per cent of income in rent	Disability Support Pension	Age Pension	Carer Payment	Parenting Payment (single)	Newstart Allowance	Youth Allowance (student)	Youth Allowance (other)	Austudy	FTB (only)	Parenting Payment (partnered)	Other ⁵	All ⁷
Indigenous status												
Indigenous												
Before Rent Assistance												
Number	2,041	436	246	1,688	7,537	367	964	90	171	389	201	14,130
Percentage	13.7	13.3	7.3	13.3	42.2	55.3	45.8	51.7	2.8	25.0	42.1	22.4
After Rent Assistance												
Number	645	156	83	502	3,294	185	419	43	92	227	90	5,736
Percentage	4.3	4.8	2.5	4.0	18.4	27.9	19.9	24.7	1.5	14.6	18.9	9.1
Total	14,877	3,279	3,377	12,661	17,858	664	2,103	174	6,060	1,554	477	63,084
Non-indigenous												
Before Rent Assistance												
Number	48,159	43,389	7,211	24,405	143,875	43,253	8,818	13,501	11,787	7,631	7,390	359,419
Percentage	19.1	17.9	14.4	19.8	52.4	63.1	52.2	55.3	6.6	34.4	50.9	28.4
After Rent Assistance												
Number	16,979	18,417	3,102	8,910	73,566	25,818	3,747	7,701	6,880	4,863	4,102	174,085
Percentage	6.7	7.6	6.2	7.2	26.8	37.6	22.2	31.5	3.9	21.9	28.3	13.8
Total	251,930	241,915	50,057	123,353	274,734	68,582	16,885	24,427	177,421	22,167	14,511	1,265,982
Gender												
Single males												
Before Rent Assistance												
Number	21,179	14,514	1,026	1,630	75,105	18,578	4,391	5,794	833		1,039	144,089
Percentage	17.5	19.9	10.7	24.8	59.8	67.5	52.7	62.1	8.8		64.8	36.8
After Rent Assistance												
Number	6,409	5,832	374	633	35,026	10,877	1,628	3,024	449		587	64,839
Percentage	5.3	8.0	3.9	9.6	27.9	39.5	19.5	32.4	4.7		36.6	16.6
Total	120,757	72,766	9,547	6,571	125,504	27,508	8,337	9,337	9,475		1,604	391,406
Single females												
Before Rent Assistance												
Number	23,305	22,637	3,685	24,463	60,222	23,530	4,811	6,171	3,672		4,443	176,939
Percentage	23.0	19.9	14.6	18.9	49.4	61.9	56.2	55.8	8.3		58.7	29.4
After Rent Assistance												
Number	8,286	9,213	1,452	8,779	32,191	14,132	2,185	3,644	2,196		2,352	84,430
Percentage	8.2	8.1	5.8	6.8	26.4	37.2	25.5	33.0	5.0		31.0	14.0
Total	101,515	113,705	25,207	129,443	122,025	37,996	8,561	11,059	44,318		7,575	601,404
Couples												
Before Rent Assistance												
Number	5,716	6,674	2,746		16,085	1,512	580	1,626	7,453	8,020	2,109	52,521
Percentage	12.8	11.4	14.7		35.7	40.4	27.8	38.7	5.7	33.8	36.3	15.6
After Rent Assistance												
Number	2,929	3,528	1,359		9,643	994	353	1,076	4,327	5,090	1,253	30,552
Percentage	6.6	6.0	7.3		21.4	26.6	16.9	25.6	3.3	21.5	21.6	9.1
Total	44,535	58,723	18,680		45,063	3,742	2,090	4,205	129,688	23,721	5,809	336,256
All												
Before Rent Assistance												
Number	50,200	43,825	7,457	26,093	151,412	43,620	9,782	13,591	11,958	8,020	7,591	373,549
Percentage	18.8	17.9	14.0	19.2	51.7	63.0	51.5	55.2	6.5	33.8	50.6	28.1
After Rent Assistance												
Number	17,624	18,573	3,185	9,412	76,860	26,003	4,166	7,744	6,972	5,090	4,192	179,821
Percentage	6.6	7.6	6.0	6.9	26.3	37.6	21.9	31.5	3.8	21.5	28.0	13.5
Total	266,807	245,194	53,434	136,014	292,592	69,246	18,988	24,601	183,481	23,721	14,988	1,329,066

Table 7: Number and percentage of Commonwealth Rent Assistance recipients¹ paying more than 50 per cent of income in rent before and after Rent Assistance by Indigenous status³, gender and State and Territory, June 2015⁴

Indigenous status/ gender/paying more than 50 per cent of income in rent	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUS ^{7,9}
Indigenous status									
Indigenous									
Before Rent Assistance									
Number	5,122	1,142	4,822	742	1,388	389	434	88	14,130
Percentage	20.3	20.8	23.6	23.2	31.2	15.5	29.1	26.6	22.4
After Rent Assistance									
Number	2,030	457	1,933	250	697	142	188	38	5,736
Percentage	8.1	8.3	9.5	7.8	15.6	5.7	12.6	11.5	9.1
Total	25,193	5,487	20,421	3,196	4,455	2,507	1,491	331	63,084
Non-indigenous									
Before Rent Assistance									
Number	122,425	81,274	88,476	23,506	31,357	6,386	1,676	4,300	359,419
Percentage	30.0	27.3	28.0	24.6	31.7	19.1	33.6	37.8	28.4
After Rent Assistance									
Number	64,059	37,923	40,553	9,454	16,460	2,131	913	2,585	174,085
Percentage	15.7	12.7	12.8	9.9	16.6	6.4	18.3	22.7	13.8
Total	408,475	297,633	315,608	95,553	98,874	33,428	4,985	11,384	1,265,982
Gender									
Single males									
Before Rent Assistance									
Number	45,374	33,035	36,447	10,787	12,585	3,028	996	1,823	144,089
Percentage	36.5	35.9	37.5	34.9	41.7	28.3	43.0	47.5	36.8
After Rent Assistance									
Number	21,792	14,521	15,684	4,191	6,160	975	473	1,037	64,839
Percentage	17.5	15.8	16.1	13.6	20.4	9.1	20.4	27.0	16.6
Total	124,423	91,899	97,127	30,866	30,194	10,716	2,315	3,841	391,406
Single females									
Before Rent Assistance									
Number	59,200	39,601	44,964	11,232	15,859	3,222	863	1,991	176,939
Percentage	30.3	28.6	29.7	24.8	33.7	18.9	34.3	40.6	29.4
After Rent Assistance									
Number	30,368	18,382	20,167	4,357	8,421	1,046	474	1,213	84,430
Percentage	15.6	13.3	13.3	9.6	17.9	6.1	18.9	24.8	14.0
Total	195,175	138,267	151,153	45,273	47,046	17,064	2,513	4,899	601,404
Couples									
Before Rent Assistance									
Number	22,973	9,780	11,887	2,229	4,301	525	251	574	52,521
Percentage	20.1	13.4	13.5	9.9	16.5	6.4	15.2	19.3	15.6
After Rent Assistance									
Number	13,929	5,477	6,635	1,156	2,576	252	154	373	30,552
Percentage	12.2	7.5	7.6	5.1	9.9	3.1	9.3	12.5	9.1
Total	114,070	72,954	87,749	22,610	26,089	8,155	1,648	2,975	336,256
All									
Before Rent Assistance									
Number	127,547	82,416	93,298	24,248	32,745	6,775	2,110	4,388	373,549
Percentage	29.4	27.2	27.8	24.6	31.7	18.9	32.6	37.5	28.1
After Rent Assistance									
Number	66,089	38,380	42,486	9,704	17,157	2,273	1,101	2,623	179,821
Percentage	15.2	12.7	12.6	9.8	16.6	6.3	17.0	22.4	13.5
Total	433,668	303,120	336,029	98,749	103,329	35,935	6,476	11,715	1,329,066

Table 8: Commonwealth Rent Assistance recipients¹ by age², June 2015¹²

Age group	Number
0 to 15	192
16 to 20	48,254
21 to 24	106,320
25 to 34	290,300
35 to 44	288,279
45 to 54	200,849
55 to 64	117,646
65 years and over	291,591
Total	1,343,431

Table 9: Number of Commonwealth Rent Assistance recipients affected by the Sharer's rules⁸ by State and Territory, June 2015⁴

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUS ⁹
Number of Sharers	50,643	45,620	43,783	12,380	13,365	3,499	802	2,310	172,407

Table 10: Proportion of Commonwealth Rent Assistance recipients¹ paying more than 30 per cent of their income in rent⁷ - by State/Territory capital city and rest of State/Territory, June 2015⁴

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUS ⁹
Capital City	50.4	43.5	42.7	39.6	48.3	35.5	50.3	50.3	45.5
Rest of State/Territory	34.7	29.1	41.1	23.4	35.8	25.0	35.2	..	35.1
Total	43.1	39.1	41.8	36.0	45.6	29.5	46.2	50.3	41.2

Table 11: Commonwealth Rent Assistance expenditure¹⁰ by State and Territory for 2014-15¹¹

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUS ⁹
Expenditure (\$million)	1,385.8	944.4	1,063.1	306.3	315.3	113.2	19.4	34.6	4,182.1

Table 12: Commonwealth Rent Assistance recipients¹ receiving Newstart Allowance as a primary payment² by rental stress¹², at reference fortnight in June 2001 to 2015¹³

As at fortnight ending June	Number of income units	Rental stress		Severe rental stress	
		With CRA	Without CRA	With CRA	Without CRA
2001	218,551	47.5	84.3	14.9	43.2
2002	197,432	47.0	85.6	15.5	44.3
2003	185,713	49.8	86.3	15.7	45.4
2004	176,386	50.0	85.6	16.9	47.0
2005	165,129	52.7	86.2	18.1	48.3
2006	156,394	53.6	86.0	18.4	46.1
2007	150,552	53.4	84.5	18.5	45.1
2008	139,567	54.0	85.6	20.9	48.7
2009	191,387	59.1	87.3	24.3	52.8
2010	208,500	61.9	88.7	26.4	55.0
2011	197,065	61.9	88.3	26.8	54.5
2012	206,211	62.4	88.7	26.2	54.0
2013	258,034	60.2	86.3	24.7	49.8
2014	274,613	59.4	86.1	24.8	49.6
2015	292,592	61.6	87.2	26.3	51.7

Table 13: Commonwealth Rent Assistance recipients¹ receiving Age Pension as a primary payment² by rental stress¹², at reference fortnight in June 2001 to 2015¹³

As at fortnight ending June	Income unit type	Number of income units	Rental stress		Severe rental stress	
			With CRA	Without CRA	With CRA	Without CRA
2001	Single	119,440	28.8	70.6	6.9	26.2
	Couple ¹⁴	30,737	21.0	50.7	3.6	9.1
2002	Single	115,315	32.9	74.2	7.6	29.4
	Couple ¹⁴	32,009	22.1	51.8	3.7	9.4
2003	Single	118,334	33.5	73.8	7.7	29.2
	Couple ¹⁴	34,434	20.3	50.4	3.5	8.7
2004	Single	121,751	31.7	71.5	6.7	27.3
	Couple ¹⁴	36,791	19.0	47.0	3.0	7.8
2005	Single	126,160	32.2	73.6	6.7	27.0
	Couple ¹⁴	38,819	19.7	47.4	3.4	7.6
2006	Single	128,610	32.1	72.9	6.7	26.4
	Couple ¹⁴	40,394	19.7	46.0	3.2	7.5
2007	Single	132,139	32.4	72.6	6.7	26.0
	Couple ¹⁴	41,872	19.7	45.3	3.2	7.6
2008	Single	134,949	34.1	73.0	7.9	27.3
	Couple ¹⁴	43,542	22.0	45.9	3.8	8.7
2009	Single	139,998	36.7	77.1	9.5	30.5
	Couple ¹⁴	44,768	25.5	49.2	5.1	11.2
2010	Single	144,193	33.2	73.6	9.1	24.3
	Couple ¹⁴	46,202	28.2	51.3	6.0	12.9
2011	Single	152,529	30.0	67.1	7.1	19.7
	Couple ¹⁴	47,819	25.2	45.5	4.9	10.4
2012	Single	158,392	29.9	67.5	7.7	19.8
	Couple ¹⁴	49,258	25.9	45.5	5.2	10.6
2013	Single	167,874	29.5	65.1	7.1	17.7
	Couple ¹⁴	51,760	25.5	44.1	5.2	10.2
2014	Single	174,722	30.3	65.2	7.4	18.2
	Couple ¹⁴	53,669	26.2	44.6	5.5	10.6
2015	Single	186,471	31.8	67.2	8.1	19.9
	Couple ¹⁴	56,643	27.4	46.4	6.1	11.5

Footnotes

1. Recipients refer to income units receiving a Rent Assistance payment for the fortnight ending 26 June 2015. An income unit comprises a single person (with or without dependent children) or a couple (with or without dependent children). Single social security recipients living together in the same household are regarded as separate income units.
2. One member of a couple is treated as the reference person for the income unit, based on the type of payment they receive. The general order of priority of payment type is Pensions, Allowances, Family Tax Benefit (FTB). An income unit will be reported as receiving Parenting Payment (partnered) if their partner is not receiving another social security payment. They will only be reported as receiving FTB Part A if neither receives a social security payment.
3. An income unit is classified as Indigenous if at least one partner in the unit has indicated to Centrelink that he/she identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Where information about Indigenous recipients is provided, the following advice applies: It is optional for individuals to identify as Indigenous. These data may therefore represent an undercount.
4. As at fortnight ending 26 June 2015.
5. Other includes payments such as Bereavement Allowance, Sickness Allowance, Special Benefit, Widow Allowance, Emergency Circumstance Payment, etc and individuals with regular care children between 14 per cent and 35 per cent eligible for Rent Assistance.
6. A recipient is in housing stress if their rent is more than 30 per cent of their income. A small number of income units where affordability was not able to be calculated are excluded from housing stress calculations so totals in this table may be lower than those in other tables.
7. A small number of income units where affordability was not able to be calculated are excluded from housing stress calculations so totals in this table may be lower than those in other tables.
8. Income support recipients exempt from sharer's rules include income units with dependent children, partnered and those receiving Disability Support Pension and Carer Payment.
9. Australian total includes income units in other territories and unknown addresses.
10. Estimated expenditure on Rent Assistance is reported at a national level. The expenditure is apportioned to states and territories based on the amount of fortnightly Rent Assistance payments paid to recipients in each state and territory over the financial year.
11. Source: DSS unpublished data and DSS Annual Report 2014-15.
12. A recipient is in housing stress if their rent is more than 30 per cent of their income. A recipient is in severe housing stress if their rent is more than 50 per cent of their income. A small number of income units where affordability was not able to be calculated are excluded from rental stress and severe rental stress calculations, so totals in this table may be lower than those in other tables.
13. Data prior to 2001 is not consistent with the DSS Housing Data Set.
14. Couples who are illness or temporarily separated are not included.
15. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

n.a. = not available.

Source: Department of Social Security Housing Data Set, June 2001 to 2015.