## Data quality information — Community services sector overview F

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| Data Quality Information |
| DQI provide information against the seven Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data quality framework dimensions, for sector‑wide performance indicators in the Community services sector overview.  Technical DQI has been supplied or agreed by relevant data providers. Additional Steering Committee commentary does not necessarily reflect the views of data providers. |
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DQI are available for the following performance indicators:

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Independence of older people

Data quality information for this indicator has been drafted by the Report’s community service working groups.

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| **Indicator definition and description** | | | |
| **Element** | Sector‑wide indicator | | |
| **Indicator** | Independence of older people and their carers. | | |
| **Measure (computation)** | Definition:  Independence of older people is defined as the proportion of people living in households aged 65 years or over who participated in social or community activities away from home in the past three months.  Numerators:  The number of people living in households aged 65 years or over who participated in social or community activities away from home in the past three months.  Denominators:  The number of people aged 65 years or over living in households.  Computation:  Expressed as a percentage. Calculation is: (Numerator ÷ Denominator) x 100. | | |
| **Data source/s** | Numerator and denominator  Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2012,* cat. no. 4430.0, Canberra | | |
| **Data Quality Framework Dimensions** | | | |
| **Institutional environment** | | The Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) is collected, processed, and published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The ABS operates within the framework of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* and the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*. These ensure the independence and impartiality of the ABS, and the confidentiality of respondents. For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, which cover this collection, please see ABS Institutional Environment. | |
| **Relevance** | | Independence of older people is an indicator of governments’ objective to promote the wellbeing and independence of older people.  The SDAC collected information from three target populations:   * people with disability * older people (i.e. those aged 65 years and over) * people who care for persons with disability, long‑term health conditions or older people.   In 2012, the definition of an older person changed to 65 years and over, from 60 years and over in the 2009 survey. The increase of age for older persons was driven by social factors such as increases in life expectancy and changes to aged care policy and the retirement age.  Older people’s social and community activities participated in away from home in the past three months include:   * Visited relatives or friends * Went to restaurant or club * Church activities * Voluntary activities * Performing Arts group activity * Art or craft group activity * Other special interest group activities * Other activity not specified elsewhere. | |
| **Timeliness** | | The ABS conducts the SDAC every three years. The most recent SDAC was conducted from August 2012 to March 2013. Results from the 2012 survey were released in November 2013. | |
| **Accuracy** | | Sample and response rate: The SDAC is conducted in all states and territories, excluding very remote areas, and includes people in both private and non‑private dwellings (including cared‑accommodation establishments). Dwellings in each State and Territory were selected at random using a multi‑stage area sample. After sample loss, the 2012 SDAC sample included approximately 27 400 private dwellings, 1000 health establishments and 500 other non‑private dwellings. The 2012 SDAC response rate for private dwellings was 89.8 per cent, and for establishments was 87.5 per cent. SDAC data are weighted to account for non‑response.  Scope and coverage: Information on the scope and coverage for SDAC is available in the publication Explanatory Notes (paragraphs 7 and 8) for the Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2012. The SDAC excludes very remote areas and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities from its estimates. This exclusion has minimal impact on Australia level estimates if making inferences about the population at large. However, the NT has a significant proportion of the population in very remote areas and/or Indigenous communities. As such, it is important to interpret NT estimates in light of these areas being excluded from scope.  For the first time in 2012, SDAC has excluded a small number of private dwellings that are in Collection Districts where the population contribution of an Indigenous Community exceeds 75 per cent within the CD, but the private dwellings themselves are outside the community. This exclusion has minimal impact on Australia level estimates. However, it could have an impact on NT estimates, as around 10 per cent of NT households that were previously included are now excluded. As such, estimates in the 2012 publication are not comparable to the 2009 survey. Estimates displayed as proportions are comparable with previous surveys. The SDAC also excludes people in gaols and correctional institutions.  Reliability of Estimates: All sample surveys are subject to sampling and  non‑sampling error. For more information relating to the SDAC, refer to the publication Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2012. The Report includes information on the Relative Standard Errors (RSEs) of estimates published from the SDAC. RSEs indicate the reliability of an estimate. RSEs show the size of the error relative to the estimate. The higher the RSE, the less confidence there is that the estimate from the sample is close to the true value of the population mean. Where an estimate or proportion has a RSE between 25 per cent and 50 per cent, the estimate or proportion is annotated to indicate that it is subject to a high RSE and should be used with caution. Where an estimate or proportion has an RSE above 50 per cent, the estimate or proportion is annotated to indicate that it is not reliable for general use, and the RSE is not published. | |
| **Coherence** | | The numerator and denominator are sourced from the same collection, with the numerator being a subset of the denominator population. | |
| **Accessibility** | | A range of data drawn from the SDAC are available on the ABS. Additional data can be accessed from the ABS. Costs are associated with additional data and vary depending on the type of request.  See Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2012 for an overview of results from the SDAC. Results from the 2012 SDAC are also available in the form of:   * a sub‑set of tables in a spreadsheet format for each State and Territory (subject to standard error and confidentiality constraints and excluding time series tables) * a number of supplementary themed publications * a Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) * a TableBuilder product.   Other information from the survey is available on request – see further information in the Quality Declarations - Summary. | |
| **Interpretability** | | Confidentiality: To minimise the risk of identifying individuals in aggregate statistics, in the 2012 SDAC a technique is used to randomly adjust cell values. This technique is called perturbation. Perturbation involves small random adjustment of the statistics and is considered the most satisfactory technique for avoiding the release of identifiable statistics while maximising the range of information that can be released. These adjustments have a negligible impact on the underlying pattern of the statistics.  After perturbation, a given published cell value will be consistent across all tables. However, adding up cell values to derive a total will not necessarily give the same result as published totals. The introduction of perturbation in publications ensures that these statistics are consistent with statistics released via services such as Table Builder.  Information is available to aid interpretation of SDAC data in the publication, Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2012, on the ABS website. Detailed Explanatory Notes, a Technical note on Data Quality, and a Glossary are also included to provide information on the terminology, classifications and other technical aspects associated with these statistics.  Further technical details are available on the ABS website. | |
| **Data Gaps/Issues Analysis** | | | |
| **Key data gaps/issues** | | | The Steering Committee notes the following issues:   * data reported for this indicator are considered comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions for 2012. Note, however, that: * in the SDAC 2012, the definition of an older person changed to 65 years and over, from 60 years * social and community participation related data items were updated in SDAC 2012, although, social and community activities participated in away from home in the past three months for older people were not affected. * data reported for this indicator are complete for the current reporting period. |

Participation of people with disability and their primary carers in the community

Data quality information for this indicator has been drafted by the Report’s community service working groups.

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| **Indicator definition and description** | | |
| **Element** | Sector‑wide indicator | |
| **Indicator** | Participation of people with disability and their primary carers in the community. | |
| **Measures (computation)** | Definition:  Participation of people with disability and their primary carers in the community is defined by two measures:  1. The proportion of people with disability and their carers who participated in social or community activities (away from home or at home) in the past 3 months  2. The proportion of primary carers who participated in social or community activities (away from home or at home) without the recipient of care in the past three months.  Numerators:  1. The number of people with disability and their carers who participated in social or community activities (away from home or at home) in the past three months  2. The number of primary carers who participated in social or community activities (away from home or at home) without the recipient of care in the past three months.  Denominators:  1. Total number of people with disability who participated in the survey  2. Total number of primary carers who participated in the survey  Computation:  Expressed as a percentage. Calculation is: (Numerator ÷ Denominator) x 100. | |
| **Data source/s** | Data are not available for reporting against the first measure.  Numerator and Denominator  Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2012,* cat. no. 4430.0, Canberra | |
| **Data Quality Framework Dimensions** | | |
| **Institutional environment** | | The SDAC is collected, processed, and published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The ABS operates within the framework of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* and the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*. These ensure the independence and impartiality of the ABS, and the confidentiality of respondents. For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, which cover this collection, please see ABS Institutional Environment. |
| **Relevance** | | Participation of people with disability and their primary carers in the community is an indicator of governments’ objective for people with disability and their carers to participate as valued members of the community and have an enhanced quality of life.  The SDAC contains the most comprehensive and accurate measure of disability produced by the ABS, using 125 questions to collect information on any conditions people may have, whether these conditions cause restrictions, and the nature and severity of any restrictions.  A range of social and community participation data are collected in the SDAC from persons aged 5 years and over with disability. Persons who reported one or more instances of social or community participation in the specified timeframes are included in this indicator.  Social and community activities participated in at home in the past three months include:   * Visits from family or friends * Telephone calls with family or friends * Art or craftwork (for or with other people) * Church or special community activities * Voluntary work (including advocacy).   Social and community activities participated in away from home in the past three months include:   * Visited relatives or friends * Went to restaurant or club * Church activities * Voluntary activities * Performing Arts group activity * Art or craft group activity * Other special interest group activities * Other activity not specified elsewhere.   The SDAC collects information about primary carers and non‑primary carers of people with disabilities. A primary carer is a person who provides the most informal assistance, in terms of help or supervision, to a person with one or more of the core activities of mobility, self‑care or communication. The assistance has to be ongoing, or likely to be ongoing, for at least six months. In this survey, primary carers only include persons aged 15 years and over. Persons aged 15 to 17 years were only interviewed personally if parental permission was granted.  Social and community activities participated in, without the recipient of care, away from home in the past three months include:   * Visited relatives or friends * Went to restaurant or club * Church activities * Voluntary activities * Performing Arts group activity * Art or craft group activity * Other special interest group activities * Other activity not specified elsewhere * Participated in one or more of these activities. |
| **Timeliness** | | The ABS conducts the SDAC every three years. The most recent SDAC was conducted from August 2012 to March 2013. Results from the 2012 survey were released in November 2013. |
| **Accuracy** | | Sample and Response Rate: The SDAC is conducted in all states and territories, excluding very remote areas, and includes people in both private and non‑private dwellings (including cared‑accommodation establishments). Dwellings in each State and Territory were selected at random using a multi‑stage area sample. After sample loss, the 2012 SDAC sample included approximately 27 400 private dwellings, 1000 health establishments and 500 other non‑private dwellings. The 2012 SDAC response rate for private dwellings was 89.8 per cent, and for establishments was 87.5 per cent. SDAC data are weighted to account for non‑response.  Scope and coverage: Information on the scope and coverage for SDAC is available in the publication Explanatory Notes (paragraphs 7 and 8) for the Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2012. The SDAC excludes very remote areas and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities from its estimates. This exclusion has minimal impact on Australia level estimates if making inferences about the population at large. However, the NT has a significant proportion of the population in very remote areas and/or Indigenous Communities. As such it is important to interpret NT estimates in light of these areas being excluded from scope.  For the first time in 2012, SDAC has excluded a small number of private dwellings that are in Collection Districts where the population contribution of an Indigenous Community exceeds 75 per cent within the CD, but the private dwellings themselves are outside the community. This exclusion has minimal impact on Australia level estimates. However, it could have an impact on NT estimates, as around 10 per cent of NT households that were previously included are now excluded. Estimates displayed as proportions are comparable with previous surveys. The SDAC also excludes people in gaols and correctional institutions.  Reliability of Estimates: All sample surveys are subject to sampling and non‑sampling error. For more information relating to the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, please refer to the publication Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2012. The Report includes information on the Relative Standard Errors (RSEs) of estimates published from the SDAC. RSEs indicate the reliability of an estimate. RSEs show the size of the error relative to the estimate. The higher the RSE, the less confidence there is that the estimate from the sample is close to the true value of the population mean. Where an estimate or proportion has a RSE between 25 per cent and 50 per cent, the estimate or proportion is annotated to indicate that it is subject to a high RSE and should be used with caution. Where an estimate or proportion has an RSE above 50 per cent, the estimate or proportion is annotated to indicate that it is not reliable for general use, and the RSE is not published. |
| **Coherence** | | The numerator and denominator are sourced from the same collection, with the numerator being a subset of the denominator population. |
| **Accessibility** | | A range of data drawn from the SDAC are available on the ABS. Additional data can be accessed from the ABS. Costs are associated with additional data and vary depending on the type of request.  See Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2012 for an overview of results from the SDAC. Results from the 2012 SDAC are also available in the form of:   * a sub‑set of tables in a spreadsheet format for each State and Territory (subject to standard error and confidentiality constraints and excluding time series tables) * a number of supplementary themed publications * a Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) * a TableBuilder product.   Other information from the survey is available on request – see further information in the Quality Declarations - Summary. |
| **Interpretability** | | Confidentiality: To minimise the risk of identifying individuals in aggregate statistics, in the 2012 SDAC a technique is used to randomly adjust cell values. This technique is called perturbation. Perturbation involves small random adjustment of the statistics and is considered the most satisfactory technique for avoiding the release of identifiable statistics while maximising the range of information that can be released. These adjustments have a negligible impact on the underlying pattern of the statistics.  After perturbation, a given published cell value will be consistent across all tables. However, adding up cell values to derive a total will not necessarily give the same result as published totals. The introduction of perturbation in publications ensures that these statistics are consistent with statistics released via services such as Table Builder.  Information is available to aid interpretation of SDAC data in the publication,  Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2012, on the ABS website. Detailed Explanatory Notes, a Technical note on Data Quality, and a Glossary are also included to provide information on the terminology, classifications and other technical aspects associated with these statistics.  Further technical details are available on the ABS website. |
| **Data Gaps/Issues Analysis** | | |
| **Key data gaps/issues** | The Steering Committee notes the following issues:   * data reported for this indicator are considered comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions for 2012. Note, however, that: * in 2012, the identification process for possible primary carers changed to only require a carer to provide the most informal assistance for core activities overall, regardless of whether they were the secondary provider of this assistance. This change was found to increase the number of possible primary carers identified, although the overall number of primary carers identified was not affected * in 2009, primary carers who were not aged and did not have a disability (i.e., those aged between 15 and 59 years of age, without disability) were not asked about their social and community participation without the person they cared for. The 2012 survey was developed to collect this information, allowing for a comparison of participation, without the recipient of care, across the whole primary carer population. * data reported for this indicator are complete for the current reporting period. | |

Jobless families

Data quality information for this indicator has been drafted by the Report’s community service working groups.

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| **Indicator definition and description** | |
| **Element** | Sector‑wide indicator | |
| **Indicator** | Jobless families with children as a proportion of all families | |
| **Measure (computation)** | Definition:  Jobless families is defined as the number of families without jobs as a proportion of all families. The jobless rate is reported for three measures:  1. jobless families, as a proportion of all families  2. jobless families with dependants (including children aged under 15 years), as a proportion of all families with dependants (including children aged under 15 years)  3. jobless families with children aged under 15 years, as a proportion of all families with children aged under 15 years.  A jobless family is a family where no persons in the family aged 15 years or over are employed. This includes dependants. In a jobless family, all of the family members are either unemployed and/or not in the labour force. Families that have no employed members but do have members that are classified as undetermined in the scope of the labour force survey, such as members of the permanent Australian defence force, are not included in the number of jobless families.  Numerators:  1. Number of jobless families  2. Number of jobless families with dependants (including children aged under 15 years)  3. Number of jobless families with children aged under 15 years.  Denominators:  1. Total number of families  2. Total number of families with dependants (including children aged under 15 years)  3. Total number of families with children aged under 15 years.  Computation:  Expressed as a percentage. Calculation is: (Numerator ÷ Denominator) x 100. | |
| **Data source/s** | Numerator and denominator  Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Labour Force, Australia: Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families*, various years, cat. no. 6224.0.55.001. | |
| **Data Quality Framework Dimensions** | | |
| **Institutional environment** | Data are sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, which cover this collection, please see ABS Institutional Environment. | |
| **Relevance** | Jobless families with children as a proportion of all families is an indicator of governments’ objective to ensure positive family environments for Australia’s children and young people.  Family is defined as two or more people, 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. | |
| **Timeliness** | The *Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families* is produced annually, based on *Labour Force, Australia* data. | |
| **Accuracy** | *Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families*, is produced from data collected in the June 2012 Labour Force Survey. It includes detailed family data not featured in the monthly *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) or *Labour Force Australia, Detailed — Electronic Delivery* publications.  As these products are all based on data collected in the Labour Force Survey, the Explanatory Notes of publication *Labour Force, Australia* are relevant to all three publications. Additional information is provided in *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods*.  The Labour Force Survey in 2012 was based on a sample of private dwellings (approximately 29 000 houses, flats etc) and non‑private dwellings, such as hotels and motels. The sample covers about 0.33 per cent of the Australian civilian population aged 15 years or over. The Labour Force Survey is designed primarily to provide estimates of key labour force statistics for the whole of Australia and, secondarily, for each State and Territory.  The Labour Force Survey is a sample survey. All sample surveys are subject to sampling and non‑sampling error. The Report includes information on Relative Standard Errors (RSEs) of estimates. RSEs indicate the reliability of an estimate. RSEs show the size of the error relative to the estimate. The higher the RSE, the less confidence there is that the estimate from the sample is close to the true value of the population mean. Where an estimate or proportion has a RSE between 25 per cent and 50 per cent, the estimate or proportion is annotated to indicate that it is subject to a high RSE and should be used with caution. Where an estimate or proportion has an RSE above 50 per cent, the estimate or proportion is annotated to indicate that it is not reliable for general use, and the RSE is not published. | |
| **Coherence** | The ABS has been conducting the Labour Force Survey each month since February 1978. While seeking to provide a high degree of consistency and comparability over time by minimising changes to the survey, sound survey practice requires careful and continuing maintenance and development to maintain the integrity of the data and the efficiency of the collection.  The changes which have been made to the Labour Force Survey have included changes in sampling methods, estimation methods, concepts, data item definitions, classifications, and time series analysis techniques. In introducing these changes the ABS has generally revised previous estimates to ensure consistency and coherence with current estimates. For a full list of changes made to the Labour Force Survey see chapter 20 in *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).  *Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families* data are based on data collected via the Labour Force Survey and population data collected as part of Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0). Since the most recently released ERP estimates lag the current time period for labour force survey estimates by nine months, the population benchmarks for the Labour Force Survey are created by projecting forward three quarters past the most recently released quarterly ERP estimates.  Every five years, the ERP series are revised to incorporate additional information available from the latest Census. Labour Force Survey population benchmarks, and the estimates, are revised following this five‑yearly revision in the ERP. The process of incorporating the revised population benchmarks is referred to as ‘rebasing’. From the January 2014, labour force estimates have been compiled using population benchmarks based on the results of the 2011 Census. Revisions were made to historical Labour Force estimates from June 1991 to December 2013. However the estimates in this indicator have not been rebased and therefore do not reflect the latest revisions to labour force released in February 2014. | |
| **Accessibility** | A range of data drawn from the Labour Force Survey are available on the ABS website. Additional data can be accessed from the ABS. Costs are associated with additional data and vary depending on the type of request. | |
| **Interpretability** | Further technical details are available on the ABS website. | |
| **Data Gaps/Issues Analysis** | | |
| **Key data gaps/issues** | The Steering Committee notes the following issues:   * data are comparable (subject to caveats) for 2012 * 2013 data were not available for reporting this year. * disaggregation of this indicator by State and Territory is a priority. | |

Improving child development

Data quality information for this indicator has been drafted by the Report’s community service working groups.

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| **Indicator definition and description** | |
| **Element** | Sector‑wide indicator | |
| **Indicator** | Improving child development | |
| **Measure (computation)** | Definition:  Improving child development is defined as the proportion of children who are developmentally vulnerable on one or more Australian Early Development Census (AEDC).  Numerators:  The number of children who are developmentally vulnerable on one or more AEDC domains.  Denominators:  Total number of children who participated in the AEDC.  Computation:  Expressed as a percentage. Calculation is: (Numerator ÷ Denominator) x 100. | |
| **Data source/s** | Department of Education, *Australian Early Development Index*. | |
| **Data Quality Framework Dimensions** | | |
| **Institutional environment** | AEDC data are reported by teachers in the first year of full time school. It is a national collection of all children in the first year of primary school. | |
| **Relevance** | Improving child development is an indicator of governments’ objective to ensure that Australia’s children and young people are safe and well. Data are available on the basis of specific AEDC local communities, as well as state level.  The AEDC is a population measure of young children’s development as they enter school. A population measure places the focus on all children in the community and therefore the AEDC reports on early childhood development across the whole community. Every three years, teachers complete a checklist for children in their first year of full‑time school. The checklist measures five key areas, or domains, of early childhood development. | |
| **Timeliness** | Data are collected every three years. The most recent data were collected between May and July 2012. | |
| **Accuracy** | Teachers completed a checklist for each child in the first year of school. This was a census, which assessed almost 290 000 children.  Some AEDC items, particularly items requiring teachers to know about a child’s experiences outside school (such as a child’s fluency in his or her second language and a child’s early childcare and education experiences) recorded high ‘don’t know’ rates among teachers. | |
| **Coherence** | The numerator and denominator are from the same collection. | |
| **Accessibility** | Summary data are available on the AEDC website.  Additional, unpublished data can be requested from the AEDC Data Manager, as long as requests meet the requirements of the AEDC data protocol. This is on a fee for service basis. The AEDC data protocol details the requirements for public release of data. | |
| **Interpretability** | User guides and explanatory material are available on the AEDC website. | |
| **Data Gaps/Issues Analysis** | | |
| **Key data gaps/issues** | The Steering Committee notes the following issues:   * the five AEDC domains include: language and cognitive skills; physical health and wellbeing; social competence; emotional maturity and communication skills and general knowledge. These domains are all interrelated aspects of child development * data reported for this indicator are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time * data reported for this indicator are complete for the current reporting period. | |