# Background paper 3 A profile of working‑age housing assistance recipients

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| Key points |
| * This paper profiles working-age income support payment (ISP) recipients who either lived in public housing or received Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) in the years spanning 2003 to 2013. The profile is based on administrative data from the Department of Human Services (DHS) about income support and housing assistance payments — the ‘DHS data’. * The DHS data do not cover people who received CRA because they received Family Tax Benefit part A but not an ISP, Department of Veterans’ Affairs pensioners, Age Pension recipients, or people living in public housing who did not receive an ISP. * There were over 2.5 million ISP recipients aged between 15 and 65 in 2013 covered by the DHS data. Around 44 per cent of working-age ISP recipients and 8 per cent of the general working-age population either lived in public housing or received CRA in 2011. * The rates of receipt of housing assistance, and other characteristics, differ considerably by ISP type. Most ISP recipients who also received housing assistance received either Disability Support Pension or Newstart Allowance payments. * The number of people receiving CRA increased in recent years, while the number of public housing residents remained relatively constant. * Public housing tenants had typically received ISPs for a longer period than CRA recipients on similar payment types. * In 2013, more women received ISPs, and housing assistance, than men. Over half of all housing assistance recipients were single, with no dependent children. Compared with CRA recipients, residents of public housing tended to be older, more likely to self‑report as being Indigenous, and have a preferred language other than English. * About one in five CRA recipients and one in ten public housing residents reported earnings from work at 30 June 2013. * Job seekers in public housing are more likely to face high barriers to employment than those living in private rentals. About 75 per cent of public housing tenants who receive Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (Job Seeker) have severe or significant barriers to employment. In comparison, 45 per cent of CRA recipients have similar barriers. * Working-age ISP recipients were more likely than other Australians to live in areas of higher socioeconomic disadvantage. In 2013, lower skill employment opportunities and CRA recipients were typically concentrated in similar areas. * Housing assistance recipients are concentrated in major cities and inner regional areas, although the spatial distribution of housing assistance varies considerably across capital cities. Working-age ISP recipients in all jurisdictions — other than the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory — are far more likely to receive CRA than to reside in public housing. |
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## Introduction

This background paper presents a profile of income support and housing assistance recipients at 30 June for each of the eleven years spanning 2003–2013. The profile is based on a unique dataset built from administrative records from the Centrelink payments database managed by the Department of Human Services (DHS), and is the result of collaboration between the DHS and the Productivity Commission. The dataset is referred to throughout the paper as the ‘DHS data’.

The profile presents detailed information on working-age housing assistance recipients who receive income support payments (ISPs). This departs from existing approaches to reporting on housing assistance, which focus on either households or the income units of which individuals are a part. A focus on individual recipients allows a better understanding of the individual characteristics that are likely to affect ISP recipients’ likelihood of employment. The use of administrative records supports a detailed and comprehensive description of the working-age population of ISP recipients.

The profile provides a brief description of the DHS data, followed by a series of figures that describe broad trends in housing assistance and the diverse population of working-age people who receive both housing assistance and income support. An annex containing detailed tables drawn from the DHS data supports this profile. Background paper 1 provides detail on the operation of different types of housing assistance.

## The data used in this profile

The administrative records underlying the DHS data contain information about people’s eligibility for ISPs, the types and levels of assistance they receive and the demographic characteristics necessary to identify them and deliver payments. The records were created when ISP recipients and Centrelink customer support officers filled out relevant documentation, and when the DHS made payments. The dataset built from these records includes information for the fortnight preceding the 30th of June of each year. The data underlying the profile are de‑identified, that is, information that could be used to identify an individual, like their name and address, has been removed.

While the DHS data cover all people receiving an ISP at the end of each financial year, people who were aged less than 15, or more than 65, or who were receiving the Age Pension were excluded, to focus on working-age people.[[1]](#footnote-1) Variables were included in the database to provide information about the relationship between income support, housing assistance and employment. They include information about recipients’ ISP types, demographic characteristics, location, income and employment, and time spent on income support.

Where information about a continuous variable — such as earned income — is presented in the profile, ‘box and whisker’ plots are used to summarise the distribution of that variable over a group of people (box 1).

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| Box 1 Interpreting ‘box and whisker’ plots | |
| ‘Box and whisker’ plots can be used to summarize the distribution of an indicator over a particular group of housing assistance recipients; such as the time they have spent receiving income support.  The line in the middle of the box to the right represents the median value of the indicator, while the diamond shows the mean value. The outer edges of the box represent the interquartile range — the gap between the 25th and 75th percentiles — so 50 per cent of observations fall within the box. The whiskers extending out from the box show values of the indicator at the 10th and 90th percentiles. | 10th percentile (p10)  25th percentile (p25)  Median (p50)  75th percentile (p75) (p75(  90th percentile (p90)  Mean |
| *Source*: Williamson et al. (1989). | |
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### Counting recipients of housing assistance

The DHS data represent a subset of all Australians who receive housing assistance (figure 1). It is not possible to report the exact number of Australians who receive housing assistance, due to differences in units of measurements (persons, income units, households) used in the reporting on different types of assistance (AIHW 2014). Information about people receiving multiple forms of assistance, such as those simultaneously receiving Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) and living in community housing, is also limited.

* Public housing is typically counted in terms of numbers of households — a household is considered to be a person living alone, or a group of people who usually live in the same dwelling.
* CRA statistics are typically presented for ‘income units’, where an income unit consists of a person, their partner (if they have one), and any dependent children for whom they (or their partner) receive Family Tax Benefit part A (FTB A) (AIHW 2014). A non‑dependent child living at home, including one who is receiving an ISP in their own right, is regarded as a separate income unit. Similarly, non‑related adults sharing accommodation are counted as separate income units.

Where an ISP recipient does not receive CRA, but is the partner of an ISP recipient who does, both are identified as recipients of CRA in the DHS data. Any children aged between 15 and 19, and who are part of an income unit that receives CRA, are identified as not paying rent (and included in an ‘other’ tenure category).[[2]](#footnote-2)

If an ISP recipient’s partner does not receive an ISP, but receives CRA by virtue of their receipt of FTB A, the ISP recipient is not recognised as receiving CRA in the DHS data.[[3]](#footnote-3) This is because the DHS data does not include the information that their partner receives FTB A, and therefore CRA. This is estimated to have affected less than 11 500 ISP recipients (around 1.2 per cent of all recipients of CRA) in 2013.

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| Figure 1 Recipients of housing assistance in Australia, 2013**a,b,c,d,e**  Analysis in this paper covers the population in the grey box |
| This figure shows the various categories of housing assistance recipients, and specifies those who are included in the analysis – public housing residents (255 667 individuals) and Commonwealth Rent Assistance recipients (942 116 individuals). |
| a Boxes with dashed edges represent knowledge gaps, where a precise number of housing assistance recipients is not known. b The total numbers of people living in households receiving housing assistance are estimates based on assumed numbers of people living in households receiving different types of assistance. c Residents of State‑owned and managed Indigenous housing are not separately identified in the DHS data. d Housing assistance measures such as one‑off bond payments are not included. e Comparisons of administrative and Census data for South Australia and Western Australia suggest that between 5 and 10 per cent of working-age public housing residents are not reported to state housing authorities. The majority of under‑reporting appear to be people who are not income support recipients. |
| *Sources*: AIHW (2014); SCRGSP (2014); ABS (*TableBuilder Pro, 2011*, Cat. no. 2073.0); DHS (unpublished). |
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### Limitations of the DHS data

The administrative records are a rich source of information about housing assistance recipients because many also receive ISPs administered by DHS. However, the DHS data have some limitations. Most importantly, because they do not include all housing assistance recipients (figure 1), inferences are limited to those in receipt of an ISP. In particular, employment rates among housing assistance recipients are likely to be underestimated because some CRA recipients and public housing residents who may be employed are not included in this data — as their earnings preclude their receipt of an ISP.

## What are the dimensions of housing assistance?

*Around 44 per cent of working-age ISP recipients received housing assistance in 2011 …*

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| Figure 2 Housing tenures among working-age people by ISP status, 2011‑12**a** | | |
| **All people** | **ISP recipients** |  |
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| a Data for ‘All people’ are from the ABS Survey of Income and Housing 2011‑12, and include people aged 15 to 64. Data for ISP recipients are from the DHS data, and include all ISP recipients aged 15–65, but exclude FTB A‑only recipients of CRA. Residents of public housing are people who rent from a State or Territory Housing Authority. People who neither rent nor own their own home are classified as ‘Other’. This includes people living rent free, some of whom are the working-age children of ISP recipients in other tenures. | | |
| *Sources*: ABS (Survey of Income and Housing, 2011‑12, Cat no. 4130.0); Department of Human Services, administrative data (unpublished). | | |
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*… although the rates of receipt of housing assistance differed considerably by ISP type.*

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| Figure 3 Housing assistance by ISP type, 2013**a**  ISP recipients within a payment type receiving housing assistance |
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| a ISP recipients aged 15–65 at 30 June 2013. This figure does not include FTB A‑only recipients of CRA, or working-age children living at home who are not specifically identified as receiving housing assistance. |
| *Source*: Department of Human Services, administrative data (unpublished). |
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*The number of working-age ISP recipients receiving CRA has increased over recent years, while the number of public housing residents has remained relatively constant.*

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| Figure 4 Number of working-age housing assistance recipients, 2003 to 2013**a** |
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| a ISP recipients aged 15–65 at 30 June of each year. This figure does not include FTB A‑only recipients of CRA. |
| *Source*: Department of Human Services, administrative data (unpublished). |
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### How has the demand for assistance changed?

*The share of income units eligible for the maximum amount of CRA has been increasing …*

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| Figure 5 Income units receiving CRA who pay enough rent to be eligible for the maximum rate of CRA, 2003 to 2013**a,b,c**  Per cent |
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| a Income units are formed either by couples or singles, with or without dependent children, living within a household. Income units differ from families in that related, non‑dependent individuals form separate income units (ABS 2005). b This figure is not based on DHS data, and includes FTB A‑only recipients. c Some income units paying enough rent to be entitled to the maximum rate only receive a partial rate of assistance because of the income/asset test applying to their main benefit. |
| *Sources*: SCRGSP (2008, 2009, 2014). |
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*… because private rents have increased faster than the maximum CRA amount, which is indexed to the Consumer Price Index.*

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| Figure 6 Change in private rents and CRA, 2003 to 2013**a** |
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| a The maximum CRA amount is indexed to the Consumer Price Index. |
| *Source*: ABS (*Consumer Price Index*, Cat no. 6401.0). |
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## Who receives housing assistance?

### What ISPs do housing assistance recipients receive?

*The share of each type of income support differs between public housing residents and CRA recipients, with over 50 per cent of working‑age public housing residents receiving the Disability Support Pension.*

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| Figure 7 ISP types of housing assistance recipients, 2013**a,b** | | |
| **Commonwealth Rent Assistance** | **Public housing** | **All Income Support Payment recipients** |
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| a ISP recipients aged 15–65 at 30 June 2013. This figure does not include FTB A‑only recipients of CRA. Labels are rounded. b Other payments include a range of less common ISPs, including Bereavement Allowance, Wife’s Pension, Wife’s Disability Support Pension, Austudy, Partner Allowance, Sickness Allowance, Special Benefits, Widow Allowance and Abstudy. | | |
| *Source*: Department of Human Services, administrative data (unpublished). | | |
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### Are CRA receipt and public housing tenancy associated with different lengths of time on income support?

*Public housing tenants have typically received ISPs for a longer period of time than CRA recipients on similar payments.*

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| Figure 8 Duration of ISP receipt, by ISP and housing assistance, 2013**a**  P10, P90, interquartile range, median and mean |
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| a ISP recipients aged 15–65 at 30 June 2013. This figure does not include FTB A‑only recipients of CRA. Other payments have not been included in this figure. |
| *Source*: Department of Human Services, administrative data (unpublished). |
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### What are the demographic characteristics of housing assistance recipients?

*More women receive ISPs and housing assistance than men.*

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| Figure 9 Gender of housing assistance recipients, 2013**a** |
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| a ISP recipients aged 15–65 at 30 June 2013. This figure does not include FTB A‑only recipients of CRA. |
| *Source*: Department of Human Services, administrative data (unpublished). |
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*Residents of public housing tend to be older than recipients of CRA …*

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| Figure 10 Age profile of housing assistance recipients, 2013**a**  Per cent of housing assistance type in each age group |
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| a ISP recipients aged 15–65 at 30 June 2013. This figure does not include FTB A‑only recipients of CRA. |
| *Source*: Department of Human Services, administrative data (unpublished). |
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*… and over half of all housing assistance recipients are single, with no dependent children, regardless of the type of assistance they receive.*

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| Figure 11 Housing assistance recipients by household type, 2013**a**  Per cent of housing assistance type | | |
| **Commonwealth Rent Assistance** | **Public housing** | **All Income Support Payment recipients** |
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| a ISP recipients aged 15–65 at 30 June 2013. This figure does not include FTB A‑only recipients of CRA. | | |
| *Source*: Department of Human Services, administrative data (unpublished). | | |
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*Public housing residents are much more likely than other working-age ISP recipients to self‑report as being Indigenous Australians …*

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| Figure 12 Housing assistance recipients who self‑report as Indigenous Australians, 2013**a,b**  Per cent of housing assistance type |
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| a The dotted line represents the proportion of the total population aged 15–65 that identified as being Indigenous at the 2011 Census. b ISP recipients aged 15–65 at 30 June 2013. This figure does not include FTB A‑only recipients of CRA. |
| *Sources*: ABS (*TableBuilder Pro, 2011*, Cat. no. 2073.0); Department of Human Services, administrative data (unpublished). |
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*… and a higher proportion of public housing residents than CRA recipients have a preferred language other than English.*

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| Figure 13 Housing assistance recipients with a preferred language other than English, 2013**a,b**  Per cent of housing assistance type |
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| a ISP recipients aged 15–65 at 30 June 2013. This figure does not include FTB A‑only recipients of CRA. b The dotted line represents the proportion of the total population aged 15–65 that did not speak English either very well or well, and also did not speak only English at home, at the time of the 2011 Census. People who did not state either their language spoken at home or did not state their English proficiency are treated as not speaking English well. |
| *Sources*: ABS (*TableBuilder Pro, 2011*, Cat. no. 2073.0); Department of Human Services, administrative data (unpublished). |
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### Are housing assistance recipients’ labour market activities different?

*Although their employment rates decreased from 2008, reflecting general trends in employment, about one in five CRA recipients and one in ten public housing residents reported earnings from work at 30 June 2013.*

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| Figure 14 Employment of housing assistance recipients, 2003 to 2013**a**  Per cent reporting earned income |
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| a ISP recipients aged 15–65 at 30 June of each year. This figure does not include FTB A‑only recipients of CRA. |
| *Source*: Department of Human Services, administrative data (unpublished). |
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*The difference in employment rates between housing assistance types was evident for all ISP types, although the gap differs in size with recipients of Youth Allowance and Parenting Payment (Single) having the greatest gap.*

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| Figure 15 Employment of housing assistance recipients by ISP type, 2013**a,b**  Per cent reporting earned income |
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| a ISP recipients aged 15–65 at 30 June 2013. This figure does not include FTB A‑only recipients of CRA. b Other payments include a range of less common ISPs, including Bereavement Allowance, Wife’s Pension, Wife’s Disability Support Pension, Austudy, Partner Allowance, Sickness Allowance, Special Benefits, Widow Allowance and Abstudy. |
| *Source*: Department of Human Services, administrative data (unpublished). |
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*There was little difference in the average earnings reported by CRA recipients and public housing residents who were employed. Median earnings for single ISP recipients increased between 2003 and 2007, but have declined by about 1.8 per cent since.*

*The decline in median earnings for ISP recipients with partners is not as apparent, but is evident at the 75th and 90th percentiles.*

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| Figure 16 Real earned income, by housing assistance status, 2013**a,b**  P10, P90, interquartile range, median and mean (2013 dollars) |
| **Single ISP recipients** |
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| **ISP recipients with partners** |
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| a ISP recipients aged 15–65 reporting earned income at 30 June 2013. b Earnings values have been inflated to 2013 values using the Wage Price Index (ABS Cat. no. 6345.0). |
| *Source*: Department of Human Services, administrative data (unpublished). |
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*Nearly three out of every four Newstart and Youth Allowance (Job seeker) recipients living in public housing have been assessed as having severe or significant barriers to employment. About two of every five CRA recipients receiving either Newstart or Youth Allowance (Job seeker) payments were considered to face similar barriers.*

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| Figure 17 Assessment of employment barriers by housing assistance type, 2013**a,b**  Per cent, Newstart and Youth Allowance (Job seeker) recipients only |
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| a ISP recipients aged 15–65 at 30 June 2013. This figure does not include FTB A‑only recipients of CRA. b Barriers to employment are only assessed for those ISP recipients required to undertake an activity test, such as those receiving Newstart or Youth Allowance (Job Seeker). Barriers to employment may include problems such as: mental illness; family and domestic violence; family and relationship issues; financial management difficulties; social isolation; language and communication difficulties; drug, alcohol and gambling addictions; and homelessness or unstable accommodation. People with severe barriers to employment are the most disadvantaged job seekers and require integrated, intensive assistance to overcome multiple vocational and non‑vocational barriers to employment (JSA 2013). |
| *Source*: Department of Human Services, administrative data (unpublished). |
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### What does the work capacity of public housing tenants look like?

One individual characteristic that is highly relevant to employment outcomes is a person’s capacity to work. The administrative data do not provide this information. The calculations in this section are based on a variety of sources and assumptions to estimate the potential pool of public housing tenants who might have the capacity to work, given the right support. Given the uncertainties about the data and assumptions made, the calculations in this section are presented in the form of ranges.

Since 2006, applicants for the Disability Support Pension (DSP) who are not profoundly disabled or terminally ill have had to undertake job capacity assessments (box 2). The work capacity of Newstart and Youth Allowance (job seeker) applicants is also assessed, with applicants classified into one of four streams depending on the degree of support that they need to find work. This information, plus assumptions about the work capacity of other ISP recipients, was used to estimate work capacity among all working-age public housing tenants.

On these estimates, the majority of working-age public housing tenants has some work capacity (table 1). In fact, the number who might be thought to have higher work capacity (about 70 000) is larger than the number in employment on 30 June 2013 (about 40 000).[[4]](#footnote-4)

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| Box 2 Work capacity assessments for DSP recipients |
| Prior to the Welfare to Work reforms (which commenced on 1 July 2006), people with disability who applied for income support were eligible for DSP if they were assessed as having a work capacity of less than 30 hours a week (for at least the following two years). From 1 July 2006, the threshold was reduced to 15 hours, and people with disability who have a work capacity of more than 15 hours a week have been assessed for alternative payments — usually Newstart or Youth Allowance. People on DSP at May 2005 were grandfathered, and a mix of the pre‑ and post‑Welfare to Work arrangements applied to people assessed between May 2005 and July 2006. People who are clearly eligible because of terminal illness or profound disability receive DSP without a job capacity assessment (JCA). Initially, employment service providers undertook JCAs. From July 2011, they have been undertaken by Centrelink or CRS Australia (formerly the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service).  People who are assessed as eligible for DSP are classified as capable of either 0–7 or 8–14 hours of work a week. (People assessed between May 2005 and July 2006 can have a work capability of 15 or more hours).  A larger share of public housing tenants than CRA recipients on DSP are on grandfathered arrangements (47 versus 37 per cent). This suggests that work capacity might be higher among public housing tenants (because a larger share would have a work capability of more than 15 hours). On the other hand, among ISP recipients assessed for DSP since July 2006, 62 per cent of public housing tenants are in the lower hours (0–7) category, in comparison with 57 per cent of CRA recipients. |
| *Sources*: DEEWR (2008); Welfare Rights Centre (2011); Author estimates from the Research and Evaluation Database (unpublished). |
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| Table 1 Estimates of the work capacity of public housing tenants | | | | | | |
|  |  |  |  | Work capacity of those not working | | |
| Income support payment type | Estimated populationa | Employed | Not working | Higher | Lower | None |
| Disability support pensionb | 149 500 | 9 000 | 140 500 | 52 000 | 83 900 |  |
| (Grandfathered recipients) | 69 700 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Profoundly disabled | 4 600 |  |  |  |  | 4 600 |
| Work capacity bandwidth | |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0–7 | 85 300 | 1 400 | 83 900 |  | 83 900 |  |
| 8–14 | 43 400 | 3 100 | 40 300 | 40 300 |  |  |
| 15–29 | 16 200 | 4 500 | 11 700 | 11 700 |  |  |
| Newstart allowancec | 62 900 | 13 300 | 49 600 | 8 700 | 40 900 |  |
| Jobseeker classification | |  |  |  |  |  |
| Stream 1 & 2 | 18 700 | 10 000 | 8 700 | 8 700 |  |  |
| Stream 3 | 22 500 | 2 000 | 20 500 |  | 20 500 |  |
| Stream 4 | 21 700 | 1 300 | 20 400 |  | 20 400 |  |
| Parenting payment (Single)d | 33 800 | 5 200 | 28 600 | 5 300 | 11 650 | 11 650 |
| Parenting payment (Partnered)d | 7 400 | 700 | 6 700 | 200 | 3 250 | 3 250 |
| Youth allowance (Student)e | 10 900 | 3 600 | 7 300 |  |  | 7 300 |
| Youth allowance (Job seeker) | 10 900 | 3 200 | 7 700 | 3 000 | 4 700 |  |
| Jobseeker classificationf | |  |  |  |  |  |
| Stream 1 & 2 | 5 400 | 2 400 | 3 000 | 3 000 |  |  |
| Stream 3 | 2 800 | 500 | 2 300 |  | 2 300 |  |
| Stream 4 | 2 700 | 300 | 2 400 |  | 2 400 |  |
| Carer paymentg | 28 500 | 2 300 | 26 200 | 1 500 | 6 175 | 18 525 |
| Otherg | 8 800 | 1 100 | 7 700 | 700 | 1 750 | 5 250 |
| **Total** | **312 700** | **38 400** | **274 300** | **71 400** | **152 325** | **50 575** |

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| a Estimates are based on a combination of data from the DHS (for 2013) and the ABS Survey of Income and Housing (SIH) 2011‑12. SIH was used for estimates of working-age people living with parents or guardians (WPLPs) in public housing because these ISP recipients are not identified as public housing residents in the DHS data. All figures have been rounded. The total is higher than the 300 000 income support recipients figure in the text above because visitors can not be identified (and, therefore, excluded) in the SIH data for WPLPs. b Work capacity data for DSP recipients assessed from May 2005 onwards are from the Research and Evaluation Database (RED). In estimating the potential work capacity of people on grandfathered arrangements, it was assumed (on an ad hoc basis) that 20 per cent would be assessed as being able to work 15 or more hours. Information from RED on the work capacities of DSP recipients assessed from May 2005 was used to pro rate other people on grandfathered arrangements across the other work capacity categories. c The DHS data include jobseeker classifications for ISP recipients by tenure type, but excluding WPLPs. For WPLPs living in public housing, it was assumed that the distribution of classifications within the total ISP recipient population applies. That distribution includes a higher proportion of stream 1 and 2 Newstart allowees (NAs) than does the distribution for public housing tenants — and it was assumed that WPLPs living in public housing are more likely than their parents/guardians to be in these higher level streams. The DHS data do not separately identify jobseeker classifications for people in employment. It was assumed (on an ad hoc basis) that 75 per cent of employed NAs are streams 1 and 2, 15 per cent are stream 3 and 10 per cent are stream 4. For simplicity, the WPLPs’ employment rate was assumed to be the same as their parents’/guardians’. Intuitively, it is likely to be higher but, given the small numbers of WPLPs on Newstart, this assumption has little effect on the overall estimates for NAs. d The estimate of the number of Parenting Payment (PP) recipients with higher work capacity was generated by assuming that public housing tenants on this payment could relatively easily achieve the same employment rate as PP recipients overall. If that were the case, for example, an additional 6800 single parents in public housing would be working. The estimate for PP recipients with lower work capacity was generated by assuming that they represent half of the group that is not working less those assumed to have higher work capacity — an ad hoc decision. e Detail on whether Youth Allowance (YA) recipients are students or jobseekers is not available in the SIH. It was assumed that YA recipients who are studying full time are receiving the student payment. And it was assumed that none of this group currently has work capacity (although some are likely to be working, at least part time). f Most YA jobseekers are WPLPs. As for NA WPLPs, it was assumed that YA jobseekers are distributed across streams in the same proportions as all ISP recipients. g Estimates of the numbers of Carer Payment and Other payment recipients with higher work capacity were generated using the same approach as was used for PP recipients. Estimates of lower work capacity were also derived using a similar approach to that used for PP, except that the percentage of the ‘remainder’ assumed to have work capacity was set at 25 rather than 50. |
| *Sources*: Author estimates based on: Department of Human Services, administrative data (unpublished); Research and Evaluation Database (unpublished); ABS (Microdata: Income and Housing, Australia, 2011‑12). |
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### Where do housing assistance recipients live?

*The majority of housing assistance recipients lives in either New South Wales or Victoria.*

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| Figure 18 Housing assistance recipients by state or territory, 2013**a**  Per cent in each state or territory | | | |
| **Commonwealth Rent Assistance** | **Public housing** | **All Income Support Payment recipients** |
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| a ISP recipients aged 15–65 at 30 June 2013. This figure does not include FTB A‑only recipients of CRA. | | | |
| *Source*: Department of Human Services, administrative data (unpublished). | | | |
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*The mix of housing assistance differs between states and territories, with working-age ISP recipients in all jurisdictions — other than the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory — more likely to receive CRA than to reside in public housing.*

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| Figure 19 ISP recipients receiving housing assistance, by state or territory, 2013**a** |
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| a ISP recipients aged 15–65 at 30 June 2013. This figure does not include FTB A‑only recipients of CRA. |
| *Source*: Department of Human Services, administrative data (unpublished). |
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*Housing assistance recipients are concentrated in major cities and inner regional areas …*

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| Figure 20 Income support payment recipients by region and tenure type, 2013**a,b** |
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| a ISP recipients aged 15–65 at 30 June 2013. This figure does not include FTB A‑only recipients of CRA. b Figures for the general population are from the 2011 Census. |
| *Sources*: Department of Human Services, administrative data (unpublished); 2011 Census of Population and Housing. |
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*… and in areas of higher socioeconomic disadvantage.*

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| Figure 21 Housing assistance recipients living in areas of high disadvantage, 2011**a**  Per cent in bottom quintile (dark shading) and second quintile (light shading) of the Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage |
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| a ISP recipients aged 15–65 at 30 June 2011. This figure does not include FTB A‑only recipients of CRA. |
| *Sources*: ABS (Census of Population and Housing: Socio‑Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), 2011, Cat no. 2033.0.55.001); Department of Human Services, administrative data (unpublished). |
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*CRA recipients are spread in a broad range of locations across all capital cities and are often found in areas that provide opportunities for employment. In contrast, public housing residents are often located in areas with fewer low skilled jobs.*

*In Sydney, public housing tenants and CRA recipients tend to live in different areas, and in comparison to other major cities, public housing tenants and CRA recipients are located in areas with fewer low skill jobs.*

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| Figure 22 Housing assistance and lower skill jobs around Sydney**a,b,c**  Per cent located in each SA2 area, 2011 |
| **CRA recipients**  **A summary of this figure can be found within the text immediately before this figure.** |
| **Please refer to the description of figure 22 found in the first panel.**  **Public housing residents** |
| **Lower skilled employment**  **Please refer to the description of figure 22 found in the first panel.** |
| a ISP recipients aged 15–65 at 30 June 2011. CRA recipients do not include FTB A‑only recipients of CRA. b Lower skilled employment refers to people in jobs classified as ANZSCO skill level 4 or 5. c SA2s are an ABS‑defined medium‑sized geographic unit that includes an average of around 10 000 people. |
| *Sources*: ABS (*TableBuilder Pro, 2011*, Cat. no. 2073.0); Department of Employment, Research and Evaluation Database. |
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*Public housing tenants in Melbourne are centrally located. CRA recipients in Melbourne are distributed more widely and are more likely than public housing tenants to live in areas with low skilled jobs.*

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| Figure 23 Housing assistance and lower skill jobs around Melbourne**a,b,c**  Per cent located in each SA2 area, 2011 |
| **CRA recipients**  **A summary of this figure can be found within the text immediately before this figure.** |
| **Please refer to the description of figure 23 found in the first panel.**  **Public housing residents** |
| **Lower skilled employment**  **Please refer to the description of figure 23 found in the first panel.** |
| a ISP recipients aged 15–65 at 30 June 2011. CRA recipients do not include FTB A‑only recipients of CRA. b Lower skilled employment refers to people in jobs classified as ANZSCO skill level 4 or 5. c SA2s are an ABS‑defined medium‑sized geographic unit that includes an average of around 10 000 people. |
| *Sources*: ABS (*TableBuilder Pro, 2011*, Cat. no. 2073.0); Department of Employment, Research and Evaluation Database. |
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*In Brisbane CRA recipients and public housing tenants live in similar areas and so have a similar exposure to low skilled jobs.*

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| Figure 24 Housing assistance and lower skill jobs around Brisbane**a,b,c**  Per cent located in each SA2 area, 2011 |
| **CRA recipients**  **A summary of this figure can be found within the text immediately before this figure.** |
| **Please refer to the description of figure 24 found in the first panel.**  **Public housing residents** |
| **Please refer to the description of figure 24 found in the first panel.**  **Lower skilled employment** |
| a ISP recipients aged 15–65 at 30 June 2011. CRA recipients do not include FTB A‑only recipients of CRA. b Lower skilled employment refers to people in jobs classified as ANZSCO skill level 4 or 5. c SA2s are an ABS‑defined medium‑sized geographic unit that includes an average of around 10 000 people. |
| *Sources*: ABS (*TableBuilder Pro, 2011*, Cat. no. 2073.0); Department of Employment, Research and Evaluation Database. |
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*As with Brisbane, in Adelaide public housing tenants and CRA recipients live in similar areas and have similar access to low skilled jobs.*

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| Figure 25 Housing assistance and lower skill jobs around Adelaide**a,b,c**  Per cent located in each SA2 area, 2011 |
| **CRA recipients**  **A summary of this figure can be found within the text immediately before this figure.** |
| **Please refer to the description of figure 25 found in the first panel.**  **Public housing residents** |
| **Lower skilled employment**  **Please refer to the description of figure 25 found in the first panel.** |
| a ISP recipients aged 15–65 at 30 June 2011. CRA recipients do not include FTB A‑only recipients of CRA. b Lower skilled employment refers to people in jobs classified as ANZSCO skill level 4 or 5. c SA2s are an ABS‑defined medium‑sized geographic unit that includes an average of around 10 000 people. |
| *Sources*: ABS (*TableBuilder Pro, 2011*, Cat. no. 2073.0); Department of Employment, Research and Evaluation Database. |
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*Public housing tenants in Perth are more likely to reside on the urban fringe. This is also where CRA recipients tend to live, and where low skill jobs are found.*

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| Figure 26 Housing assistance and lower skill jobs around Perth**a,b,c**  Per cent located in each SA2 area, 2011 |
| **A summary of this figure can be found within the text immediately before this figure.**  **CRA recipients** |
| **Please refer to the description of figure 26 found in the first panel.**  **Public housing residents** |
| **Please refer to the description of figure 26 found in the first panel.**  **Lower skilled employment** |
| a ISP recipients aged 15–65 at 30 June 2011. CRA recipients do not include FTB A‑only recipients of CRA. b Lower skilled employment refers to people in jobs classified as ANZSCO skill level 4 or 5. c SA2s are an ABS‑defined medium‑sized geographic unit that includes an average of around 10 000 people. |
| *Sources*: ABS (*TableBuilder Pro, 2011*, Cat. no. 2073.0); Department of Employment, Research and Evaluation Database. |
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*In Hobart, CRA recipients and public housing tenants live in similar areas, which are also where many low skill jobs are found.*

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| Figure 27 Housing assistance and lower skill jobs around Hobart**a,b,c**  Per cent located in each SA2 area, 2011 |
| **CRA recipients**  **A summary of this figure can be found within the text immediately before this figure.** |
| **Please refer to the description of figure 27 found in the first panel.**  **Public housing residents** |
| **Lower skilled employment**  **Please refer to the description of figure 27 found in the first panel.** |
| a ISP recipients aged 15–65 at 30 June 2011. CRA recipients do not include FTB A‑only recipients of CRA. b Lower skilled employment refers to people in jobs classified as ANZSCO skill level 4 or 5. c SA2s are an ABS‑defined medium‑sized geographic unit that includes an average of around 10 000 people. |
| *Sources*: ABS (*TableBuilder Pro, 2011*, Cat. no. 2073.0); Department of Employment, Research and Evaluation Database. |
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*CRA recipients in Darwin are spread in a range of locations. In contrast with public housing tenants, the areas that CRA recipients live in are likely to be areas with low skilled jobs.*

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| Figure 28 Housing assistance and lower skill jobs around Darwin**a,b,c**  Per cent located in each SA2 area, 2011 |
| **CRA recipients**  **A summary of this figure can be found within the text immediately before this figure.** |
| **Please refer to the description of figure 28 found in the first panel.**  **Public housing residents** |
| **Lower skilled employment**  **Please refer to the description of figure 28 found in the first panel.** |
| a ISP recipients aged 15–65 at 30 June 2011. CRA recipients do not include FTB A‑only recipients of CRA. b Lower skilled employment refers to people in jobs classified as ANZSCO skill level 4 or 5. c SA2s are an ABS‑defined medium‑sized geographic unit that includes an average of around 10 000 people. |
| *Sources*: ABS (*TableBuilder Pro, 2011*, Cat. no. 2073.0); Department of Employment, Research and Evaluation Database. |
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*Public housing tenants in the Australian Capital Territory live in similar areas to CRA recipients. In contrast to other major cities, both public housing tenants and CRA recipients live in areas where there are relatively few low skilled jobs.*

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| Figure 29 Housing assistance and lower skill jobs around the Australian Capital Territory**a,b,c**  Per cent located in each SA2 area, 2011 |
| **CRA recipients**  **A summary of this figure can be found within the text immediately before this figure.** |
| **Please refer to the description of figure 28 found in the first panel.**  **Public housing residents** |
| **Lower skilled employment**  **Please refer to the description of figure 29 found in the first panel.** |
| a ISP recipients aged 15–65 at 30 June 2011. CRA recipients do not include FTB A‑only recipients of CRA. b Lower skilled employment refers to people in jobs classified as ANZSCO skill level 4 or 5. c SA2s are an ABS‑defined medium‑sized geographic unit that includes an average of around 10 000 people. |
| *Sources*: ABS (*TableBuilder Pro, 2011*, Cat. no. 2073.0); Department of Employment, Research and Evaluation Database. |
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1. The data cover all ISPs administered by the DHS. Recipients of payments made by the Department of Veterans’ Affairs are not included in the data. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This approach reflects an assumption that a person’s employment decisions will be influenced by both their own and their partners’ unearned income, but that this income typically does not affect a child’s employment decisions. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The DHS data arise from the administration of the Social Security Act. People who receive an ISP and CRA are paid CRA under the Social Security Act. People who receive FTB (A) and CRA, but do not receive an ISP, are paid under the Family Assistance Act. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The number of tenants who had employment at some point over the past six months would be larger. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)