



Australian Government

**Department of Employment and
Workplace Relations**

Characteristics of Mobility Allowance Recipients

June 2005

MOBILITY ALLOWANCE – OVERVIEW

Who is this Payment for?

Centrelink Mobility Allowance may be paid to people aged 16 and over who are permanently, or for an extended period, unable to use public transport without substantial assistance. The applicant must be undertaking an approved activity and be required to travel to and from their home for the purpose of undertaking that activity.

A recipient is considered to be undertaking an approved activity if they are:

- Engaged in paid or voluntary work or vocational training or any combination of these activities for at least 8 hours per week or 32 hours every four weeks; or
- Undertaking job search activities under an agreement between Centrelink and a service provider funded by either the Department of Family and Community Services or the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations; or
- Receiving Newstart Allowance, Youth Allowance or Austudy and meet the activity or study tests for these payments.

Subject to the passage of legislation a higher rate of Mobility Allowance may be payable to some recipients from July 2006.

At June 2005

- 49,215 people received Mobility Allowance;
- the majority of recipients were also in receipt of the Disability Support Pension (87%);
- males represented 55% of all recipients;
- the 40-49 year old age group made up 22% of all recipients;
- the average age was 38.6 years (males) and 39.1 years (females);
- intellectual/learning disorder was the largest medical condition group representing 34% of the total population.

Trends

- Between June 2000 and June 2005 the number of Mobility Allowance recipients increased by 14,061, an average of 2,812 per year. By age, those aged 50-59 represented 25% of the increase.
- The largest percentage increase occurred in the period June 2001 to June 2002, up 10% (this corresponds with the large increase in Disability Support Pension recipients for the same period);
- South Australia recorded the largest percentage increase over the period June 2000 to June 2005 (up 72%);
- The proportion of recipients in Victoria dropped each year between June 2000 and June 2005, down from 30% in 2000 to 27% in 2005.

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Source of Data

Centrelink Superstar Populations databases for June 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004.
Centrelink Superstar Pension databases for June 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004.
Ad hoc reports prepared by Centrelink.

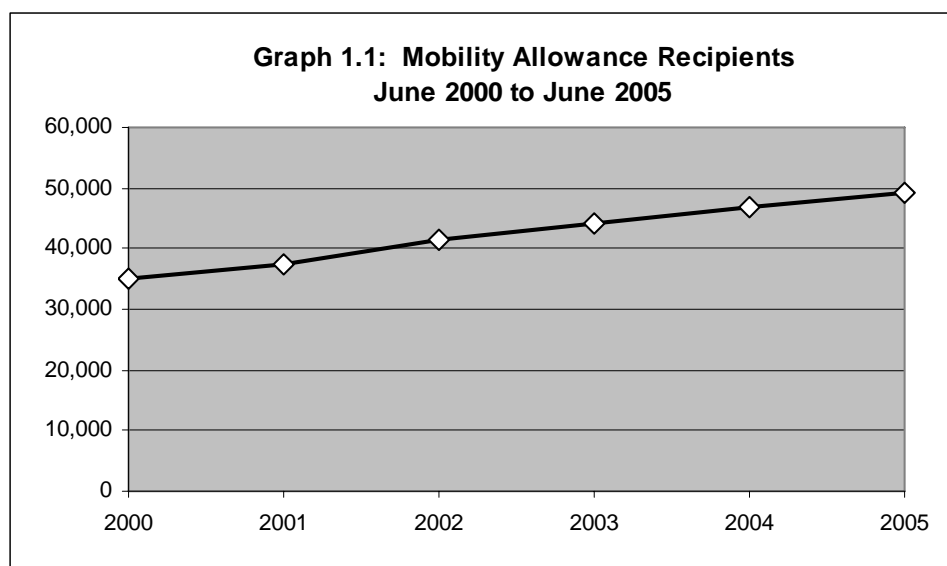
Note

Two different totals appear due to different data sources used to produce this report.

1 MOBILITY ALLOWANCE POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Recipients: June 2000 to June 2005

At June 2005 there were 49,215 Mobility Allowance recipients, an increase of 14,061 (40.0%) on the 35,154 recipients at June 2000. Between June 2000 and June 2005 the number of people receiving Mobility Allowance increased at an average of 2,812 recipients or 7.0% each year.



The increase in Mobility Allowance recipients over the period June 2000 to June 2005 may be related to the increase in the Disability Support Pension population over the same period of time and Centrelink encouraging take up.

At June 2005 around 87% of Mobility Allowance recipients were also in receipt of the Disability Support Pension (6.1% of DSP recipients were also in receipt of Mobility Allowance).

Table 1.1: Mobility Allowance Recipients and Percentage Change over Previous Year, June 2000 to June 2005

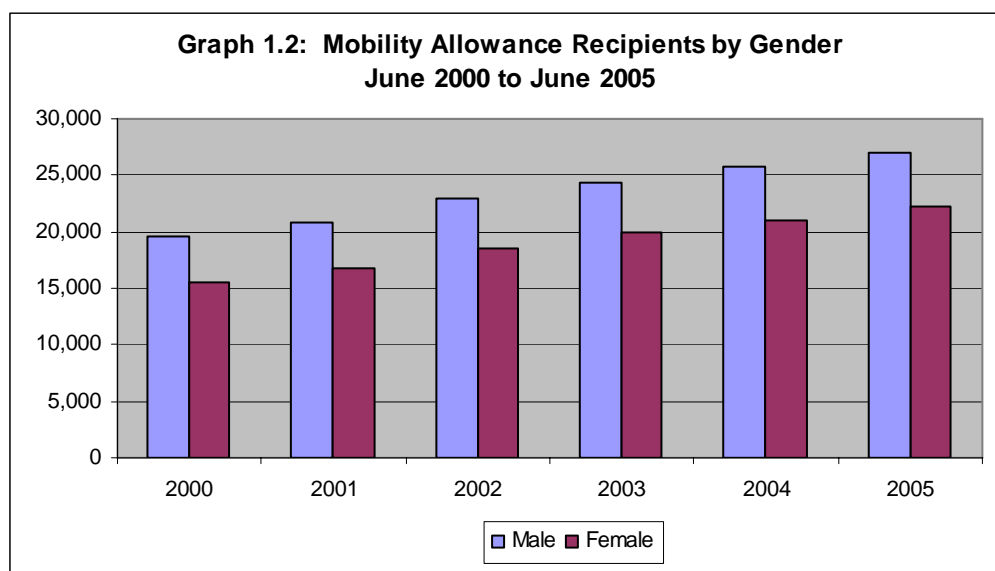
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Change 2000 to 2005
Total Recipients	35,154	37,574	41,456	44,239	46,847	49,215	14,061
Percent Change over Previous Year		6.9%	10.3%	6.7%	5.9%	5.1%	40.0%

Table 1.1.1: Disability Support Pension Recipients and Percentage Change over Previous Year, June 2000 to June 2005

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Change 2000 to 2005
Total Recipients	602,280	623,926	658,915	673,334	696,742	706,782	104,502
Percent Change over Previous Year		3.6%	5.6%	2.2%	3.5%	1.4%	17.4%

1.2 Recipients by Gender, June 2000 to June 2005

Females represented 44.0% of the Mobility Allowance population at June 2000 compared to 36.5% of the DSP population. By June 2005 this had increased to 45.3% of the Mobility Allowance population and 40.6% of the DSP population. The 4.1 percentage point increase in the female DSP population is largely due to the changing Age Pension qualifying age for women which increases by 6 months every 2 years (62½ at June 2005).



The largest growth for both males and females occurred in 2001/02 where males increased by 9.5% and females by 11.4% (over the 2000/01 figures). This corresponds with the higher growth in Disability Support Pension recipients over the same period of time (up 5.6%).

Table 1.2: Mobility Allowance Recipients by Gender, June 2000 to June 2005

At June each year	Males				Females				Total Persons	
	Number	Change over Previous Year	% of Total	Number	Change over Previous Year	% of Total	Number	Change over Previous Year		
2000	19,673		56.0%	15,481		44.0%	35,154			
2001	20,887	1,214	6.2%	16,687	1,206	7.8%	37,574	2,420	6.9%	
2002	22,863	1,976	9.5%	18,593	1,906	11.4%	41,456	3,882	10.3%	
2003	24,370	1,507	6.6%	19,869	1,276	6.9%	44,239	2,783	6.7%	
2004	25,763	1,393	5.7%	21,084	1,215	6.1%	46,847	2,608	5.9%	
2005	26,940	1,177	4.6%	22,275	1,191	5.6%	49,215	2,368	5.1%	

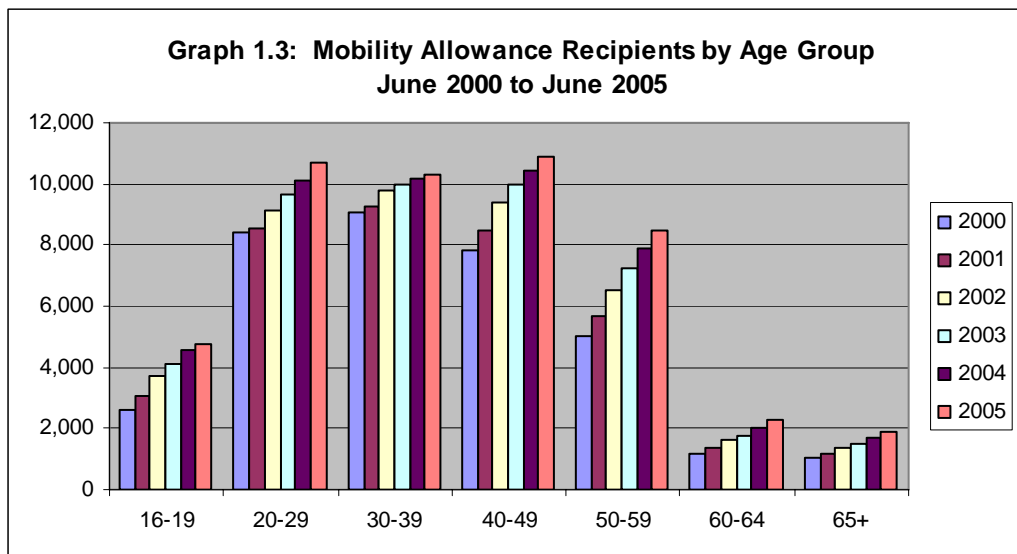
1.3 Recipients by Age, June 2000 to June 2005

The two largest age groups at June 2000 were the 20-29 year olds and the 30-39 year olds (23.9% and 25.7% respectively). By June 2005 the 40-49 year olds became the largest age group with the 20-29 year olds the second largest (22.1% and 21.7% respectively).

Of the 14,061 increase in recipient numbers over the period June 2000 to June 2005, 21.5% were in the 40-49 age group and 24.7% were in the 50-59 year age group. This is consistent with the increase in DSP recipient numbers over the same period of time (24.0% and 27.6% respectively).

Table 1.3: Mobility Allowance Recipients by Age, June 2000 to June 2005

	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005	
16-19	2,587	7.4%	3,065	8.2%	3,705	8.9%	4,140	9.4%	4,557	9.7%	4,736	9.6%
20-29	8,400	23.9%	8,512	22.7%	9,126	22.0%	9,638	21.8%	10,089	21.5%	10,679	21.7%
30-39	9,037	25.7%	9,279	24.7%	9,773	23.6%	9,993	22.6%	10,169	21.7%	10,296	20.9%
40-49	7,854	22.3%	8,502	22.6%	9,361	22.6%	9,952	22.5%	10,445	22.3%	10,882	22.1%
50-59	5,006	14.2%	5,651	15.0%	6,522	15.7%	7,242	16.4%	7,916	16.9%	8,478	17.2%
60-64	1,200	3.4%	1,365	3.6%	1,603	3.9%	1,777	4.0%	2,003	4.3%	2,267	4.6%
65+	1,070	3.0%	1,200	3.2%	1,366	3.3%	1,497	3.4%	1,668	3.6%	1,877	3.8%
TOTAL	35,154	100%	37,574	100%	41,456	100%	44,239	100%	46,847	100%	49,215	100.0%



The table below shows that the majority of Mobility Allowance recipients are aged less than 40 while the majority of DSP recipients are aged 50 and over.

Table 1.3.1: Mobility Allowance and Disability Support Pension Recipients by Age Group as a Proportion of the Total Populations, June 2005

	Mobility Allowance	Disability Support Pension
16-39	52.2%	23.8%
40-49	22.1%	21.4%
50+	25.6%	54.7%

There was a small increase in the average age of Mobility Allowance recipients over the period 2000 to 2005, up 8 months from 37.9 years of age to 38.8 years of age (there was a 7 month increase for males and a 9 month increase for females).

The largest increase for male recipients occurred in Queensland where the average age increased from 37.1 years to 38.3 years. The largest average age increase for females occurred in South Australia where the average age increased from 38.9 years to 42.2 years. South Australia and Tasmania recorded the highest average age for both males and females. These two States also recorded the highest median age in the Australian Bureau of Statistics report on the Australian Resident Population (June 2004).

Table 1.3.2: Average Age of Male Mobility Allowance Recipients by State/Territory, June 2000 and June 2005

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	Total
2000	38.3	37.6	37.1	39.9	37.4	39.3	37.5	37.3	38.0
2005	38.6	37.7	38.3	41.0	38.4	40.4	37.1	37.6	38.6

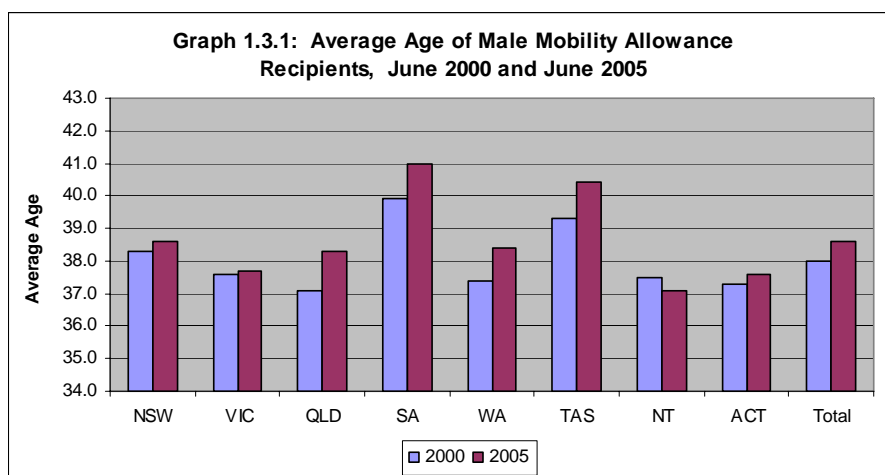
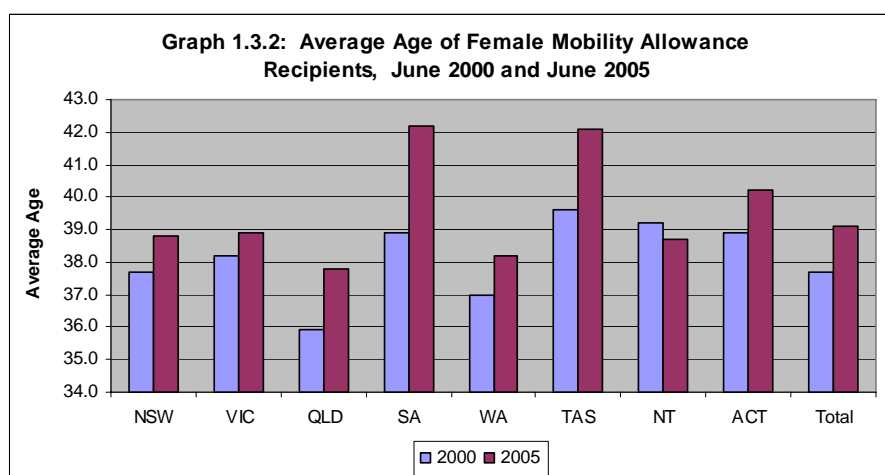


Table 1.3.3: Average Age of Female Mobility Allowance Recipients by State/Territory, June 2000 and June 2005

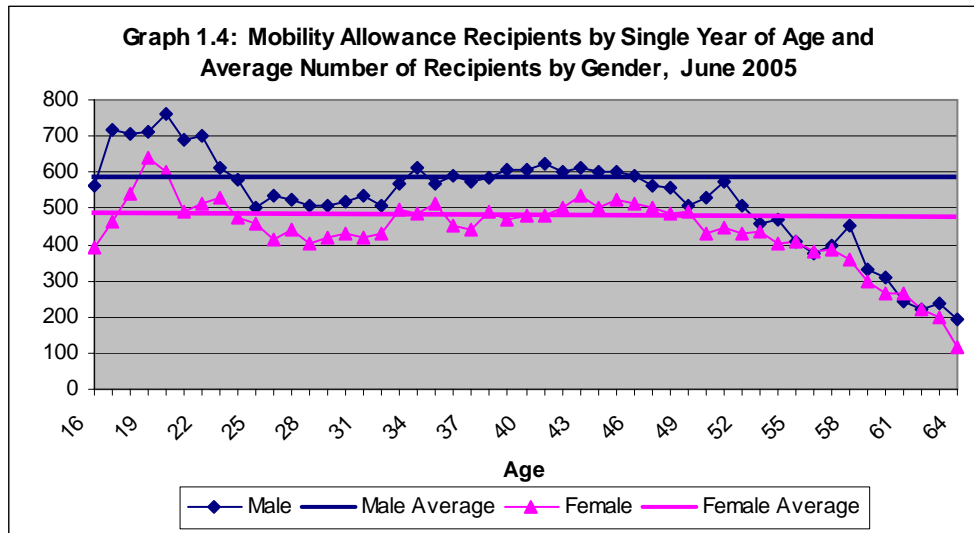
	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	Total
2000	37.7	38.2	35.9	38.9	37.0	39.6	39.2	38.9	37.7
2005	38.8	38.9	37.8	42.2	38.2	42.1	38.7	40.2	39.1



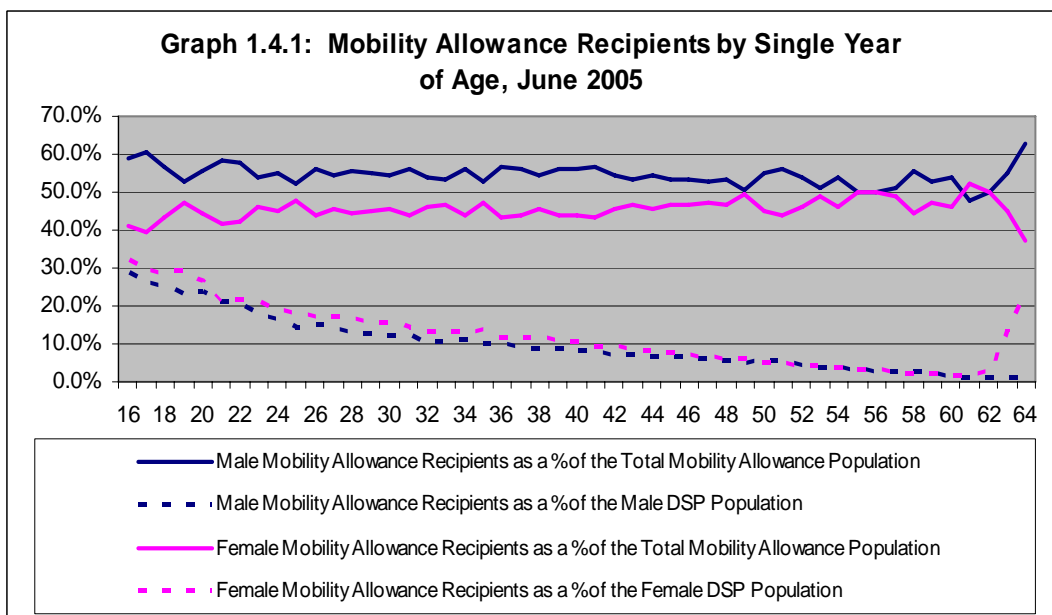
1.4 Recipients by Gender, Age, State and Primary Payment Type, June 2005

For Mobility Allowance recipients by gender and single year of age:

- males represented more than 50% of all single ages from 16 to 60
- males represented 60.7% of those aged 17
- the largest single age for males was 20 while for females it was 19
- the average number of recipients for each year of age in the age group 16-60 was 555 for males and 459 for females.



While a higher proportion of Mobility Allowance recipients across the majority of single years of age are male, female Mobility Allowance recipients represent a higher proportion of the female DSP population than male Mobility Allowance recipients do of the male DSP population (up to 50 years of age).



Note: At June 2005 the female Age Pension qualifying age was 62½. Mobility Allowance is payable beyond the Age Pension qualifying age.

By State/Territory, the proportion of Mobility Allowance recipients that received DSP ranged from 89.0% in Tasmania to 76.7% in the ACT. The lower percentage shown in the ACT can be attributed to the nature of work (higher proportion of sedentary/clerical/light-skilled work than other areas) that is more likely to be compatible with mobility-related disabilities.

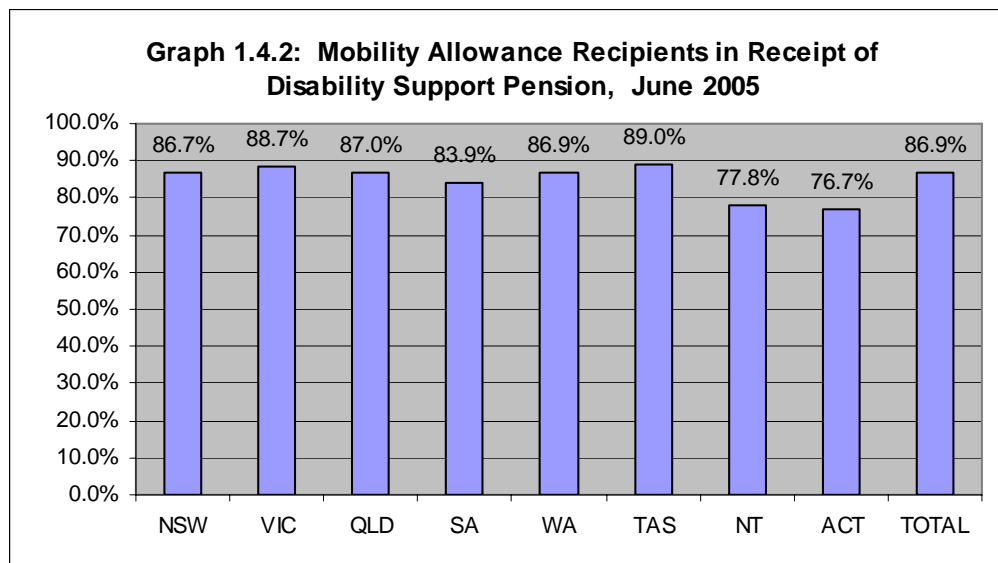
Nationally, 8.0% of the Mobility Allowance population did not receive an income support payment. This ranged from 5.8% in Tasmania to 19.6% in the ACT.

38.6% of those also in receipt of Parenting Payment Single and 32.2% of those also in receipt of Newstart Allowance were from South Australia.

Table 1.4: Mobility Allowance Recipients by Primary Payment Type and State/Territory, June 2005

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	TOTAL
DSP	12,263	11,837	8,395	4,951	3,703	1,427	186	395	43,157
Age Pension	583	464	310	269	159	68	7	15	1,875
Newstart Allowance	49	48	40	79	25	3	1	0	245
Parenting Payment Single	23	26	18	51	5	6	1	2	132
Youth Allowance	30	16	13	16	5	1	0	2	83
Wife (DSP)	7	2	3	9	3	2	1	0	27
Other Payment	31	31	36	46	14	4	0	0	162
No Payment	1,160	924	830	477	345	93	43	101	3,973
Total	14,146	13,348	9,645	5,898	4,259	1,604	239	515	49,654

Note: 3 'not coded' recipients are not shown in this table.

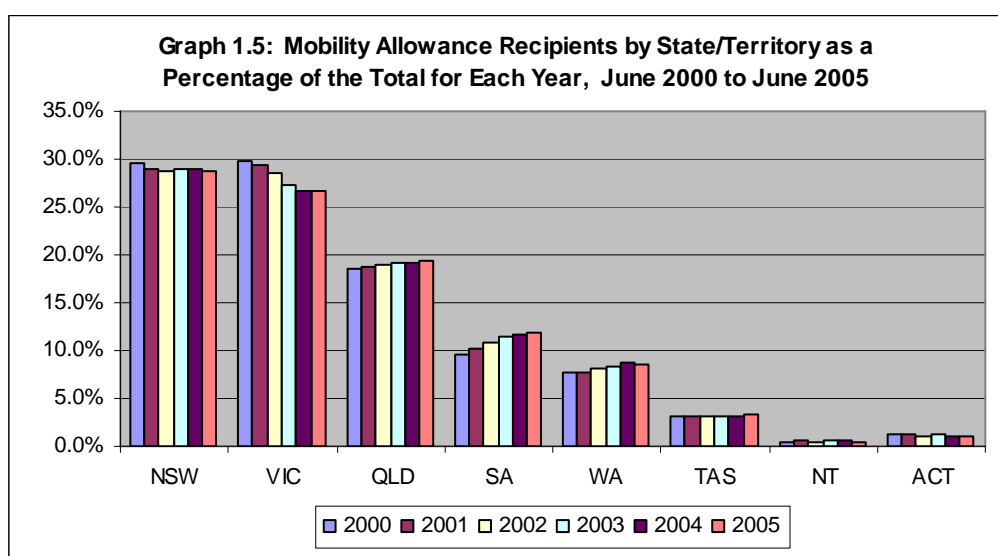


1.5 Recipients by State/Territory, June 2000 to June 2005

While the majority of Mobility Allowance recipients were from New South Wales and Victoria, representing over half the total population in each year, the proportion of the population in these two states decreased from 2000 to 2005 (down 0.8 and 3.2 percentage points respectively). The proportion of recipients in Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia increased from 2000 to 2005, up 0.8, 2.2 and 1.0 percentage points respectively.

Table 1.5: Mobility Allowance Recipients by State/Territory, June 2000 and June 2005

	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005	
NSW	10,374	29.5%	10,906	29.0%	11,903	28.7%	12,768	28.9%	13,526	28.9%	14,117	28.7%
VIC	10,467	29.8%	11,047	29.4%	11,798	28.5%	12,093	27.3%	12,495	26.7%	13,077	26.6%
QLD	6,486	18.5%	7,083	18.9%	7,877	19.0%	8,477	19.2%	8,967	19.1%	9,513	19.3%
SA	3,401	9.7%	3,837	10.2%	4,482	10.8%	5,024	11.4%	5,496	11.7%	5,832	11.9%
WA	2,676	7.6%	2,907	7.7%	3,409	8.2%	3,723	8.4%	4,091	8.7%	4,227	8.6%
TAS	1,066	3.0%	1,139	3.0%	1,285	3.1%	1,369	3.1%	1,478	3.2%	1,595	3.2%
NT	171	0.5%	203	0.5%	214	0.5%	236	0.5%	247	0.5%	235	0.5%
ACT	409	1.2%	436	1.2%	472	1.1%	534	1.2%	531	1.1%	548	1.1%
UNKNOWN	104	0.3%	16	0.0%	16	0.0%	15	0.0%	16	0.0%	71	0.1%
TOTAL	35,154	100.0%	37,574	100.0%	41,456	100.0%	44,239	100.0%	46,847	100.0%	49,215	100.0%



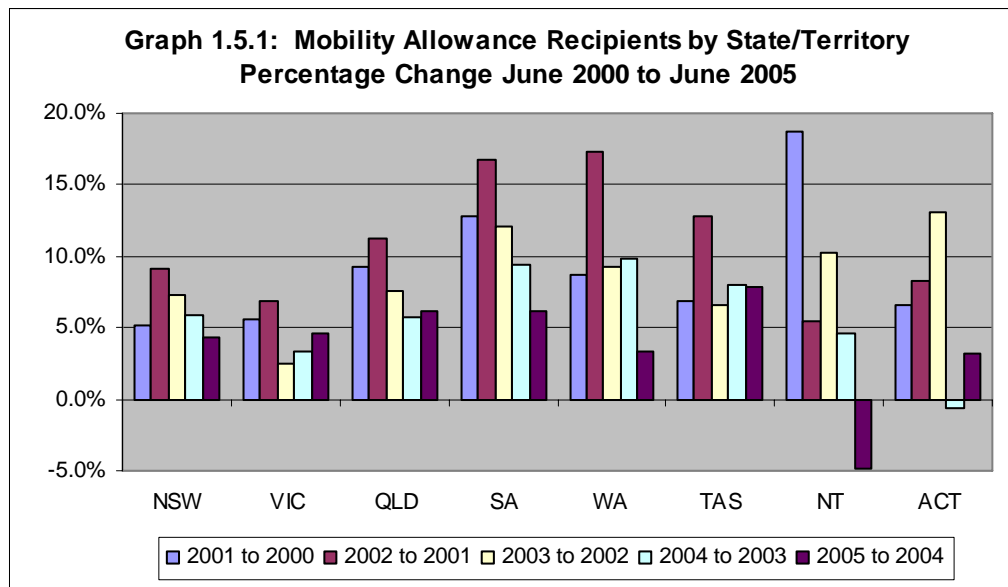
South Australia and Western Australia also recorded the largest percentage change over the period June 2000 to June 2005 (up 71.5% and 58.0% respectively). Victoria recorded the lowest change, up by only 24.9%.

The Northern Territory recorded its largest change in 2000/01, up 18.9%. The Northern Territory also recorded the largest change, down 4.9% in 2004/05. The ACT was the only other state/territory to record a decrease in recipient numbers, down 0.6% in 2003/04.

The largest percentage change for the total population occurred in 2002 with a 10.3% increase over the 2001 figure. All States recorded their largest increases in 2002 with Western Australia and South Australia recording the largest increases at 17.3% and 16.8% respectively.

Table 1.5.1: Mobility Allowance Recipients by State/Territory – Percentage Change, June 2000 to June 2005

	2001 to 2000	2002 to 2001	2003 to 2002	2004 to 2003	2005 to 2004	% Change 2005 to 2000
NSW	5.1%	9.1%	7.3%	5.9%	4.4%	36.1%
VIC	5.5%	6.8%	2.5%	3.3%	4.7%	24.9%
QLD	9.2%	11.2%	7.6%	5.8%	6.1%	46.7%
SA	12.8%	16.8%	12.1%	9.4%	6.1%	71.5%
WA	8.6%	17.3%	9.2%	9.9%	3.3%	58.0%
TAS	6.8%	12.8%	6.5%	8.0%	7.9%	49.6%
NT	18.7%	5.4%	10.3%	4.7%	-4.9%	37.4%
ACT	6.6%	8.3%	13.1%	-0.6%	3.2%	34.0%
TOTAL	6.9%	10.3%	6.7%	5.9%	5.1%	40.0%

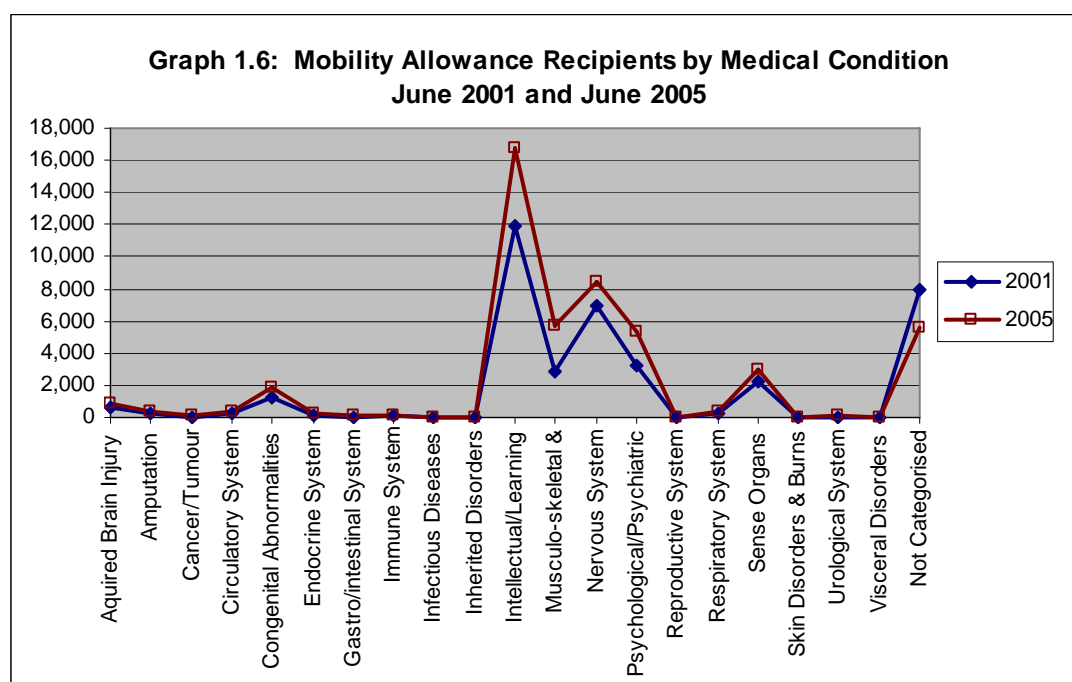


1.6 Recipients by Medical Condition, June 2001 to June 2005

Those who have an intellectual/learning disorder represented the majority of Mobility Allowance recipients in both 2001 and 2005 (almost double the number of recipients in the second largest group, nervous system). Recipient numbers increased by 11,456 over the period June 2001 to June 2005. Excluding the 'not categorised' group, intellectual/learning disorder represented 35.1% of this increase, musculo-skeletal 20.9% and nervous system 10.3%.

Table 1.6: Mobility Allowance Recipients by Medical Condition, June 2001 to June 2005

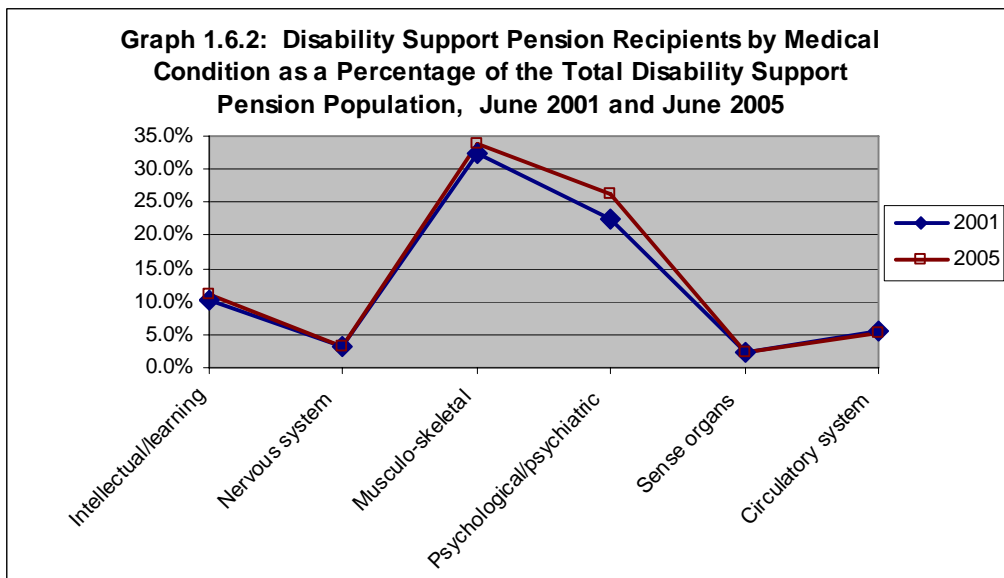
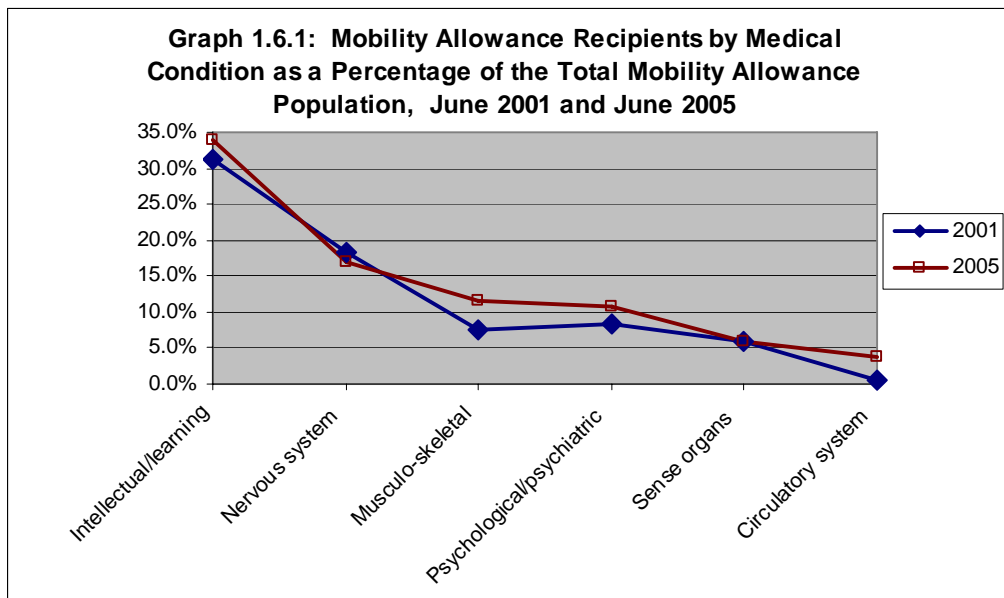
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Acquired Brain Injury	568	667	769	840	898
Amputation	196	261	301	324	347
Cancer/Tumour	57	79	94	107	120
Circulatory System	228	300	351	375	413
Congenital Abnormalities	1,286	1,546	1,699	1,811	1,864
Endocrine System	139	186	214	256	287
Gastro/intestinal System	31	52	68	85	92
Immune System	140	154	152	161	169
Infectious Diseases	34	43	51	55	53
Inherited Disorders	42	48	44	55	60
Intellectual/Learning Disorders	11,922	13,438	14,598	15,773	16,789
Musculo-skeletal & Connective Tissue Disorders	2,842	3,868	4,528	5,235	5,738
Nervous System	7,008	7,505	7,832	8,174	8,442
Psychological/Psychiatric	3,203	3,785	4,270	4,826	5,358
Reproductive System	6	11	16	13	23
Respiratory System	214	288	345	368	398
Sense Organs	2,263	2,533	2,664	2,813	2,928
Skin Disorders & Burns	19	31	37	39	44
Urological System	35	50	63	64	69
Visceral Disorders	11	14	12	20	15
Not Categorised	7,957	7,138	6,454	5,947	5,550
TOTAL	38,201	41,997	44,562	47,341	49,657



At June 2005, only 11.6% of the Mobility Allowance population had a musculo-skeletal medical condition compared to 33.9% of the DSP population. For the same period, 33.8% of all Mobility Allowance recipients had an intellectual/learning medical condition compared to only 11.0% of the DSP population.

Table 1.6.1: Mobility Allowance and DSP Recipients by Main Medical Condition as a Percentage of the Total for each year, June 2001 and June 2005

	Mobility Allowance		Disability Support Pension	
	2001	2005	2001	2005
Intellectual/learning	31.2%	33.8%	10.1%	11.0%
Nervous system	18.3%	17.0%	3.1%	3.3%
Musculo-skeletal	7.4%	11.6%	32.5%	33.9%
Psychological/psychiatric	8.4%	10.8%	22.6%	26.2%
Sense organs	5.9%	5.9%	2.2%	2.4%
Circulatory system	0.6%	3.8%	5.4%	5.1%



1.7 Recipients by Employment Type

Mobility Allowance recipients who were employed and did not have an activity type were the largest individual group, representing 50.8% of the total Mobility Allowance population at June 2005. Just over 56% of Mobility Allowance recipients had a vocational activity type (44.1% of these were employed and 55.9% were not employed).

Almost 36% of all employed Mobility Allowance recipients were also in a Business Service (previously known as Supported Employment Organisations).

Table 1.7: Mobility Allowance Recipients by Activity Type, June 1995 to June 2005

Activity Type	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
CRS Total	43	43	43	39	31	42	42	49	72	95	120
Tertiary Training and Employed	282	347	363	311	220	233	556	826	1,320	1,577	1,740
Tertiary Training Only	198	257	356	522	855	1,017	1,271	1,613	1,566	1,396	1,127
Tertiary Total	480	604	719	833	1,075	1,250	1,827	2,439	2,886	2,973	2,867
Vocational and Employed	2,547	2,582	2,401	1,784	1,146	1,204	4,927	6,427	9,040	10,594	12,297
Vocational Training Only	6,085	6,860	7,727	9,145	9,361	10,118	11,420	12,860	14,058	14,994	15,596
Vocational Total	8,632	9,442	10,128	10,929	10,507	11,322	16,347	19,287	23,098	25,588	27,893
Employed Only	10,296	11,394	12,462	13,778	14,040	14,637	13,776	15,965	17,794	17,927	17,802
No Activity Type	802	1,302	2,112	3,264	6,869	8,416	6,209	4,257	712	758	975
Total	20,253	22,785	25,464	28,843	32,522	35,667	38,201	41,997	44,562	47,341	49,657

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Employment Only	50.9%	50.1%	49.0%	47.8%	43.2%	41.1%	36.1%	38.1%	40.0%	37.9%	35.9%
Training Only	31.1%	31.3%	31.8%	33.6%	31.4%	31.3%	33.3%	34.5%	35.1%	34.7%	33.8%
Combined Training and Employment	14.0%	12.9%	10.9%	7.3%	4.2%	4.0%	14.4%	17.3%	23.3%	25.8%	28.3%
No Activity Type	4.0%	5.7%	8.3%	11.3%	21.1%	23.6%	16.3%	10.1%	1.6%	1.6%	2.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

