

# Child Support Scheme Facts and Figures 2001-2002



**ChildSupport**  
*Helping parents manage  
their responsibilities*



ATTORNEY-  
GENERAL'S  
DEPARTMENT

# Child Support Scheme

Facts and Figures

# 2001-2002



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## **Comments on this paper**

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## Child Support Scheme - Key Facts and Figures

	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
<b>Support for Children</b>			
Child Support transfers:			
CSA Collect	\$598.2m	\$619.4m	\$636.4m
Private Collect	\$788.0m	\$780.7m	\$814.2m
Total	\$1,386.2m	\$1,400.1m	\$1,450.6m
CSA collection performance since inception:	86.3%	87.5%	87.7%
Total Collections	\$4,010.5m	\$4,698.4m	\$5,392.9m
Total Liabilities	\$4,645.2m	\$5,368.1m	\$6,151.7m
Average weekly liabilities per case:			
Stage 1 CSA Collect	\$52.64	\$56.37	\$52.37
Stage 1 Private Collect	\$49.42	\$49.56	\$49.28
Stage 2 CSA Collect	\$51.59	\$47.01	\$48.89
Stage 2 Private Collect	\$86.66	\$80.52	\$81.32
<b>Support for Parents</b>			
CSA Caseload:	569,710	612,332	657,332
% CSA Collect	54.8%	52.3%	50.6%
% Private Collect	45.2%	47.7%	49.4%
% Stage 1 Court Orders	7.1%	5.7%	4.7%
% Stage 2 Formula Assessment	92.9%	94.3%	95.3%
Children who are eligible for child support payments (Eligible Children —			
Stage 2 Cases only	822,761	901,356	1,002,663
CSA client numbers:			
Payers	539,166	582,315	610,230
Payees	539,154	582,518	606,941
Total	1,078,320	1,164,833	1,217,171
Legal Services Funding	\$7.7m	\$7.8m	\$5.3m
<b>CSS Savings &amp; Costs to Government</b>			
Total savings to Government outlays	\$425.0m	\$380.4m	\$423.0m
Scheme costs by agency:			
CSA	\$198.2m	\$203.7m	\$214.0m
FaCS	\$3.0m	\$2.3m	\$2.3m
A-GD	\$7.8m	\$7.8m	\$5.3m
Dollars collected by CSA for each dollar spent.	\$7.00	\$6.85	\$6.78
CSA cost to collect each dollar. <sup>1</sup>	14.3 cents	14.6 cents	14.7 cents

1. In previous years this was measured as Scheme costs to collect a dollar.

# Introduction

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This report is the sixth edition of *Child Support Scheme Facts and Figures* and is the first edition to be released since the implementation of the Child Support Agency's new computer system Cuba (so named after the Roman goddess of children). The implementation of the new computer system has given CSA the opportunity to capture a wider range of more accurate data, and that more accurate data is reflected in this publication.

*Facts and Figures* is an annual publication released jointly by the Agencies and Departments with responsibilities under the Child Support Scheme.

## 1.0 A Brief Overview and History of the Australian Child Support Scheme

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### 1.1 The Aims of the Child Support Scheme

The Australian Child Support Scheme was introduced in 1988 to: 'strike a fairer balance between public and private forms of support [for children] to alleviate the poverty of sole parent families.'<sup>1</sup> The Scheme aims to ensure that:

- parents share in the cost of supporting their children according to their capacity;
- adequate support is available to all children not living with both parents;
- Commonwealth involvement and expenditure is limited to the minimum necessary for ensuring children's needs are met;
- work incentives for both parents to participate in the labour force are not impaired; and

- the overall arrangements are non-intrusive to personal privacy and are simple, flexible and efficient.<sup>2</sup>

### 1.2 A Brief History of the Child Support Scheme

Prior to the introduction of the Child Support Scheme, child support could only be obtained by the parents reaching an agreement or by seeking an order from a court. This meant that child support was effectively denied to those parents who could not reach an agreement with their former partner and could not afford to take court action.

During the 1970s and 1980s there was a rapid growth in the number of single parents with day-to-day care and responsibility for the children of a former marriage or relationship. There was community concern and criticism about the prevailing child maintenance system. Three issues were of particular concern:

- the non-payment of maintenance;
- the low levels of maintenance payments; and
- reliance on social welfare payments.

A number of reviews and studies resulted in the government deciding to establish a child support system to overcome these problems. The government published *Child Support – A discussion paper on child maintenance* in 1986 and, after extensive consultation with external parties, it implemented the Child Support Scheme in 2 stages.

Stage 1 was introduced by the *Child Support (Registration and Collection) Act 1988*. This Act gave the Commissioner of Taxation, as Child

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<sup>1</sup> Cabinet Sub-Committee on Maintenance, *Child Support: discussion paper on child maintenance* (1986), p. 14.

<sup>2</sup> *An examination of the operation and effectiveness of the Child Support Scheme, Government Response to the Report by the Joint Select Committee on Certain Family Law Issues*, November 1997, p. 3.



Support Registrar, the responsibility for collecting child support payments in respect of court orders and court-registered agreements. This collection is undertaken on application from the parent entitled to receive child support.

Stage 2 was introduced by the *Child Support (Assessment) Act 1989*. This Act established a further responsibility on the Child Support Registrar to administratively assess child support using a formula based on the income of both parents, and therefore their capacity to pay. Stage 2 applies only to parents who separated on or after 1 October 1989, or who have a child born on or after that date.

Legislative reforms of the Scheme are ongoing. The *Child Support Legislation Amendment Act 2001* received Royal Assent on 30 June 2001 and the reforms were implemented from 1 July 2001. The measures included:

- support for second families with an additional reason for changing a formula assessment for parents who have income derived from a second job, regular overtime or other additional income source which is earned for the benefit of children from a subsequent family (commenced 1 July 2001);
- further support for second families with changes to the Family Tax Benefit and Child Care Benefit income tests to take into account 100 per cent of child support liabilities paid (commenced 1 July 2001);
- support for resident parents with a measure to allow child support debts to be recovered from the non-resident parent's share of the Family Tax Benefit for the children for whom they have a child support debt (commences 1 July 2002);
- introducing Departure Prohibition Orders to prevent non-resident parents from leaving Australia where they have persistently failed to meet their child support obligations; and

- changes to recognise that CSA is a part of FaCS.

### 1.3. The Child Support Formula

CSA uses a legislative formula to calculate the amount of child support to be paid. The formula is applied to the liable parent's taxable income (which, for CSA purposes, includes rental losses, exempt foreign employment income and Reportable Fringe Benefits):

1. Less an allowance for living expenses and for each natural or adopted dependent child living with the liable parent;
2. Less half the resident parent's excess income over average weekly earnings.

After making the above deductions, a percentage of the remaining income is paid as support. The percentage varies according to the number of children:

No. of Children	1	2	3	4	5 or more
<b>Child Support</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>36%</b>

The basic formula used to assess the annual rate of child support is:

$$\{ (A - B) - (C / 2) \} \times D = E$$

Where:

- A is the child support income amount (taxable income)
- B is the exempted income amount
- C is the amount of payee income above the disregarded income amount
- D is the child support percentage
- E is the amount payable by the payer

Taxable income used in the child support formula is the income shown on the payer's tax return for the last financial year. For child support purposes the maximum taxable income used in the formula from January 2002 was \$113,542.

A payer's exempt income is an allowance for living expenses and is deducted before the child support percentage is applied. It is based on 110 per cent of the single rate of social security pension. If the payer has care of other natural or adopted children, the exempt amount is increased to 220 per cent of the partnered pension rate plus an allowance for each child depending on their age (see Table 1.2).

**Table 1.2: Exempt Income Amounts**

	Exempt Income 1.1.2001-31.12.2001	Exempt Income 1.1.2002-31.12.2002
No natural or adopted children	\$11,271	\$11,740
With natural or adopted children <sup>1</sup>	\$18,813	\$19,597
Allowance for child under 13	\$2,049	\$2,169
Allowance for child 13-15	\$2,857	\$3,025
Allowance for child 16-17	\$4,276	\$4,454

Source: Relevant FaCS Pension Rates 2001-02, CCH Court Handbook.

If a payee's child support income amount exceeds the disregarded income amount<sup>3</sup>, then the liable parent's income is reduced by 50 per cent of the payee's excess income for the period concerned (the annual rate of the child support amount cannot be reduced below 25 per cent of the rate that would have been payable if the payee had less than the disregarded income amount). The payee's disregarded income amount is that part of the payee's income below Average Weekly Earnings of all employees.

If either parent's income has decreased by 15 per cent or more since the previous year of income, they could apply for the assessment to be varied to reflect their current income.

## 1.4 Administrative Arrangements between the Child Support Agency, the Department of Family and Community Services and the Attorney-General's Department

Until October 1998 the Child Support Scheme was administered by CSA as part of the Australian Taxation Office, the Department of Social Security and the Attorney-General's Department.

In October 1998 it was announced CSA would be removed from the Australian Taxation Office and become part of the new Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS). As a result of these changes the Scheme partners are now FaCS, incorporating CSA, and the Attorney-General's Department.

### 1.4.1 The Child Support Agency in the Department of Family and Community Services

CSA was created to administer the *Child Support (Registration and Collection) Act 1988* and the *Child Support (Assessment) Act 1989*.

The role of CSA is to:

- register cases;
- assess child support payable (Stage 2 cases only);
- collect payments where requested; and
- provide an information service for parents on child support matters.

These activities are undertaken in Branch Offices (currently 17) around Australia. CSA also has Regional Service Centres located in 21 Centrelink offices and one ATO Office (Darwin) in regional Australia.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> The "disregarded income amount" recognises that the carer makes a significant contribution to the care of the children covered by the assessment. See Appendix 2 for more details.

<sup>4</sup> "More child support services for Regional Australia", Media Release, Hon. Larry Anthony, Minister for Community Services, 31 August 1999.

CSA has access to taxation information to enable efficient assessment and collection of child support.

### **1.4.2 The Role of the Department of Family and Community Services**

FaCS has a general responsibility to advise the government on matters relating to income support and social welfare policy, including child support. In addition to CSA, there are 3 further roles in the administration of the Child Support Scheme:

- strategic policy development, analysis and research;
- ensuring appropriate linkages between income support and child support; and
- reporting to Government and Parliament.

### **1.4.3 The Role of Centrelink**

Centrelink is the primary service delivery agency for the FaCS portfolio and delivers a range of Government assistance programs, including family payments. Centrelink's primary role in terms of the Child Support Scheme is:

- ensuring applicants for more than the minimum rate of Family Tax Benefit take reasonable action to obtain child support; and
- adjusting family allowance payments to individuals in receipt of child support payments.

Centrelink has 310 customer service and call centres across Australia. It makes an estimated 300 million payments per annum with over 5.6 million customers.<sup>5</sup>

CSA and Centrelink are working together to enhance service delivery to mutual clients. Centrelink receives child support applications, and

from late December 1998 has transmitted these electronically to CSA.

### **1.4.4 The Role of the Attorney-General's Department**

The Attorney-General's Department (A-GD) has a general responsibility to advise the Government on matters relating to family law. The Department also provides Legal Aid support to eligible parents under the Child Support Scheme.

## **1.5 How the Child Support Scheme works**

Australian families may make child support arrangements in one of 3 ways:

- Self-Administration: an entirely private arrangement between the parents, which includes cases where child support is not sought;
- Private Collect: registration with the Child Support Agency but with payment made directly between the parents; or
- CSA Collect: registration and collection by the Child Support Agency.

Registration with CSA can proceed on the application of either parent, however only the payee can apply for child support to be collected. The application can be to register a court order, a child support agreement or for CSA to issue an administrative assessment.

Payers can make payments directly to CSA where CSA collection is required. Alternatively, child support can be deducted from a payer's salary or wages in much the same way that income tax is deducted.

<sup>5</sup> Centrelink Information. A guide to payments and services, 2001-02, July 2002, p. 2.

Where a payment is not made, and CSA is unable to come to a voluntary payment arrangement with the payer, the Registrar has a range of administrative enforcement powers available, including:

- deduction from salary and wages (44.4 per cent of all CSA collections were paid this way in 2001-02);
- interception of income tax refunds (8.9 per cent of all CSA collections were paid this way in 2001-02);
- collection of monies owed to the defaulting parent from third parties under Section 72A, e.g. accessing funds in savings accounts, superannuation funds and solicitors' trust accounts (less than one per cent of all CSA collections were paid this way in 2001-02).<sup>6</sup>

In addition, debts can be pursued through the courts to seek orders for sale of assets and property, or debts can be pursued by instituting bankruptcy proceedings.

## 2.0 Reasonable Action to Obtain Child Support

### 2.1 Child Support Customers

Centrelink and CSA have mutual clients primarily as a result of the Maintenance Action Test. As mentioned in section 1.4.3, Family Tax Benefit Part A customers who have children from a previous relationship must take reasonable action to obtain child support. A high proportion of applications for registration with CSA, therefore, come from Centrelink. Reasonable action for Stage 2 customers means lodging an application for assessment under the child support formula and either:

- having the payments collected by CSA; or
- privately collecting 100 per cent of the assessed amount; or

- lodging a child support agreement that meets 100 per cent of the assessed amount.

### 2.2 Maintenance Action being taken by FaCS Child Support Customers

Maintenance action is recorded by Centrelink for each child because a parent may have different maintenance action in progress for different children e.g. where the children have different fathers.

The following is a summary of maintenance action being taken on behalf of children of FTB Part A customers. By June 2002:

- a total of 95.2 per cent of children of FTB Part A customers had maintenance action completed on their behalf. This means these cases were registered with CSA or an application had been lodged;
- another 3.7 per cent of children of FTB Part A customers were granted an exemption; and
- the remaining 1.1 per cent of children of FTB Part A customers at that time did not have reasonable maintenance action requirements met on their behalf.

Based on the figures in Table 2.1 and the chart above, it can be seen that reasonable maintenance action requirements have been met for almost 99 per cent of children (95.2 per cent 'complete' plus 3.7 per cent 'exempted') of FaCS child support customers. In fact, at June 2002, only 1.1 per cent of children did not have reasonable maintenance action requirements met on their behalf and, in many cases, this can be a temporary situation.

<sup>6</sup> These percentages are obtained from the *Money For Kids (MFK)* Report, and apply for the period up to the end of February 2002. Data from the *MFK* Report was not available for the period 1 March to 30 June 2002.

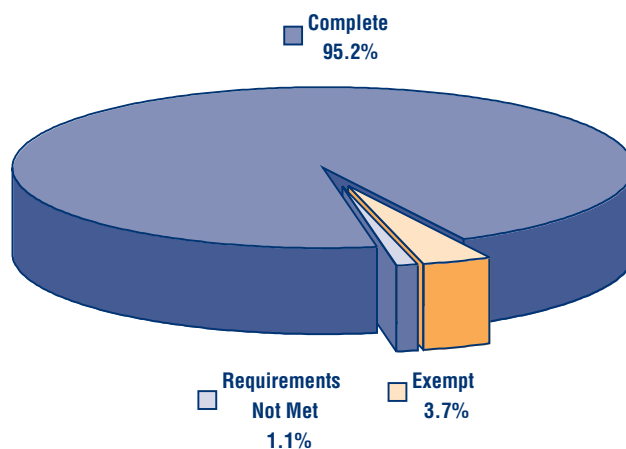
**Table 2.1: Action Taken to Obtain Child Support**

Maintenance Action	Number of Children	%
<b>Complete</b>	<b>911,092</b>	<b>95.2</b>
<b>Exempt</b>	<b>35,838</b>	<b>3.7</b>
<b>Requirements Not Met</b>	<b>10,128</b>	<b>1.1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>957,058</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: FaCS, November 2002.

Note: Percentages may not add due to rounding.

**Chart 2.1: Maintenance Action**



Source: Family and Children Branch, FaCS, November 2002.

### 3.0 Caseload

#### 3.1 Active Caseload<sup>7</sup> at June 2002

As at June 2002 there were 657,332 active cases. Some 4.7 per cent (30,626) were Stage 1 active cases, and 95.3 per cent (626,706) were Stage 2 active cases.<sup>8</sup> Each case has 2 CSA clients; the payer (the parent who pays the child support) and the payee (the parent who receives the child support). There are fewer payer and payee clients than active cases as some payers and payees are involved in more than one case. As a result, CSA had more than 1.2 million payers and payees by June 2002.

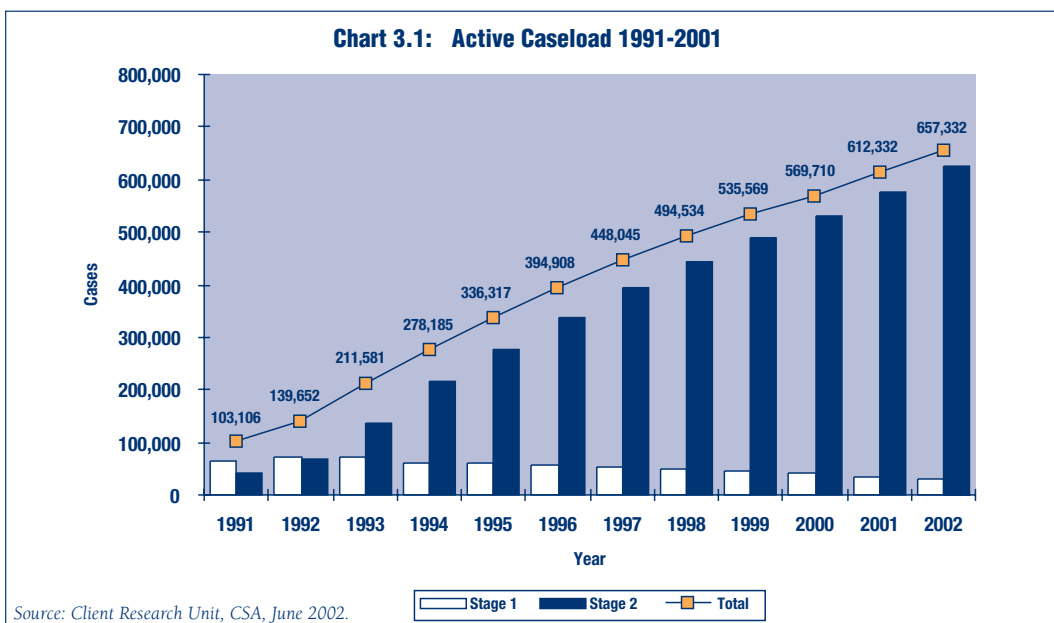
#### 3.2 Caseload by Stage and Payment Arrangement

The Stage 1 active caseload has been declining since 1993. This will continue as the children in Stage 1 move out of the child support eligible population. The trends in both Stage 1 and Stage 2 caseloads are reflected in Table 3.1 and Chart 3.1.

Chart 3.1 shows growth in active cases has increased slightly after having slowed over the past five years. Between 1993 and 1994 the caseload grew by an average of 5,550 cases per month. This compares with an increase of 3,552 cases

<sup>7</sup> "Active Cases" include Stage 1 and Stage 2 cases that are registered and have a current liability collected, where processing is not finalised, and cases that have been assessed but where the liability is being collected privately.

<sup>8</sup> *Child Support Agency Monthly Performance Report for June 2001 (CS5)*, p. 9.



**Table 3.1: Caseload Growth by Stage and Payment Arrangement<sup>1</sup>**

30 June	Stage 1		Stage 2		Total
	Active Caseload		Active Caseload		
	Number	%	Number	%	
1991	62,758	60.9	40,348	39.1	103,106
1992	70,787	50.7	68,865	49.3	139,652
1993	73,819	34.9	137,762	65.1	211,581
1994	61,082	22.0	217,103	78.0	278,185
1995	60,226	17.9	276,091	82.1	336,317
1996	58,442	14.8	336,466	85.2	394,908
1997	54,645	12.2	393,400	87.8	448,045
1998	50,935	10.3	443,599	89.7	494,534
1999	45,986	8.6	489,583	91.4	535,569
2000	40,664	7.1	529,046	92.9	569,710
2001	34,650	5.7	577,682	94.3	612,332
2002	30,626	4.7	626,706	95.3	657,332

Source: Child Support Agency, June 2002.

Note: 1. Active caseload figures for Stage 1 in this table include "processing not finalised", "registered and collecting", "elections not to collect" and "keyed court orders/no applications". Active caseload figures for Stage 2 in this table include "processing not finalised", "total assessed, registered and collecting" and "total assessed but not collecting".  
2. The FaCS Annual Report 2001-02 reports 667,957 cases, which is higher than the figure recorded in this table and elsewhere in this report. The higher figure in the annual report includes cases that had ended with arrears, whereas this table only counts cases with a current liability (nil and above nil liabilities).  
3. Percentages may not add due to rounding.

per month between June 2000 and June 2001 and an average of 3,750 cases per month between June 2001 and June 2002.

The increase in the percentage of Private Collect cases to 49.4 per cent of all cases (see Table 3.2 and Charts 3.2 and 3.3 below) is consistent with the Government's aim to ensure arrangements are non-intrusive to personal privacy.

### 3.3 Assessment Type

Table 3.3 and Chart 3.4 show the assessment types by CSA Collect and Private Collect arrangements. The majority of assessments are formula-based. Private Collect arrangements are more likely to be based on agreements than CSA Collect arrangements (5.6 per cent as opposed to 3.4 per cent).

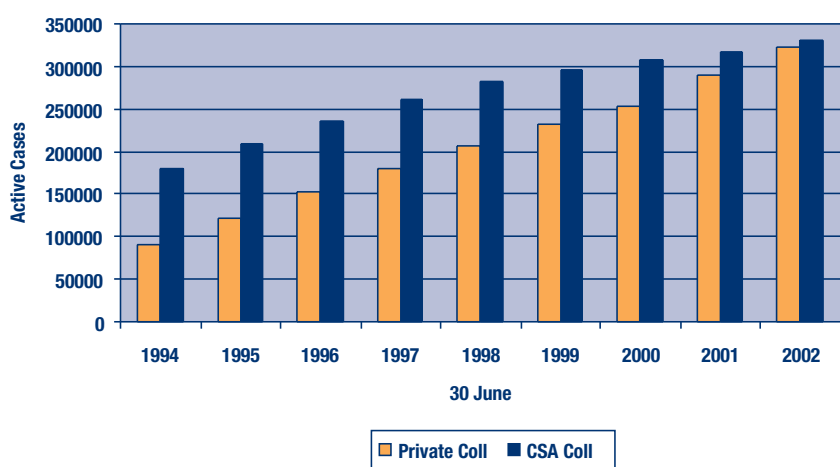
**Table 3.2: Caseload by Payment**

End June	Private Collect		CSA Collect		Total
	Number	%	Number	%	
1994	91,468	33.6	180,581	66.4	272,049
1995	121,514	36.7	209,477	63.3	330,991
1996	152,018	39.3	235,008	60.7	387,026
1997	179,241	40.7	261,000	59.3	440,241
1998	207,569	42.4	281,473	57.6	489,042
1999	232,064	44.0	295,290	56.0	527,354
2000	254,237	45.2	308,047	54.8	562,284
2001	289,443	47.7	317,724	52.3	607,167
2002	323,234	49.4	331,202	50.6	654,436

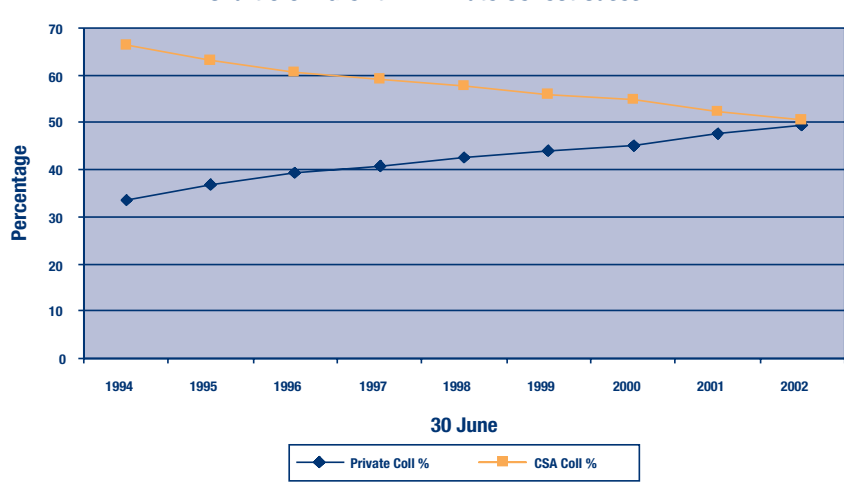
Source: Child Support Agency, June 2002.

- Notes:
1. The active caseload numbers in this table exclude cases where processing has not been finalised and therefore does not agree with caseload figures elsewhere in this publication.
  2. The CSA Collect total for June 2002 includes 588 cases where the payee resides overseas.
  3. Percentages may not add due to rounding.

**Chart 3.2: CSA Caseload - Private Collect and CSA Collect**



**Chart 3.3: Growth In Private Collect Cases**



CSA Collect cases are more than 6 times more likely to have a liability that is based on a change of assessment from the formula than Private Collect cases (4.4 per cent to 0.7 per cent).

### 3.4 Change of Assessment

In 1992 a change was introduced to allow parents to apply to CSA for a departure from a formula assessment of child support. Prior to that, an application had to be made to the Court. Since 1992 there have been more than 200,000 applications. For the 9 months ending March 2002, 86 per cent of applications were accepted, and of these, 57.9 per cent have resulted in the assessment being varied. Change of Assessment applications have been declining as a percentage of the active Stage 2

caseload, being 8.3 per cent in 1997-98, 6.4 per cent in 1998-99, 5.8 per cent in 1999-2000 and 5.5 per cent in 2000-01. This comparison could not be drawn for the 2001-02 year as Change of Assessment data was only available for the period 1 July 2001 to 1 March 2002.

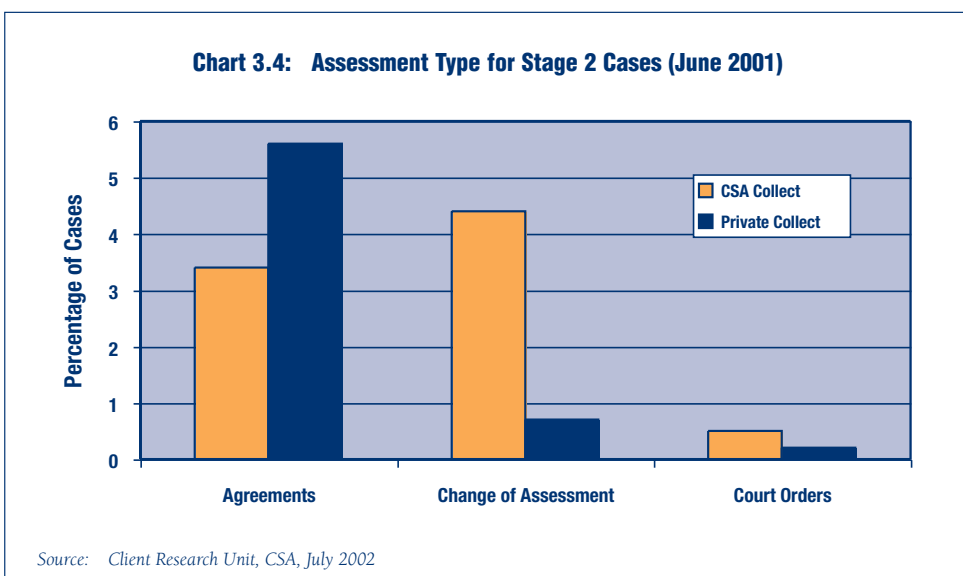
### 3.5 Type of Care Arrangement

The table indicates that care arrangements other than 'sole' (where the child spends more than 70 per cent of the nights with one parent) are a small minority of cases in both groups. Private Collect percentages for cases with 'substantial', 'shared' and 'major' care, however, are more than twice that of CSA Collect cases.

**Table 3.3: Stage 2 Caseload by Assessment Type and Payment Arrangement (June 2001)<sup>1</sup>**

Assessment Type	CSA Collect		Private Collect		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Formula	284,917	91.7	291,239	93.6	576,156	92.6
Agreements	10,452	3.4	17,381	5.6	27,833	4.5
Change of Assessment	13,785	4.4	2,103	0.7	15,888	2.6
Court Orders	1,458	0.5	536	0.2	1,994	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>310,612</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>311,259</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>621,871<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Child Support Agency, June 2002.  
Notes: 1. Excludes cases where processing was not finalised.  
2. Percentages may not add due to rounding.





**Table 3.4: Change of Assessment – Stage 2 Only, 1 July 2000 to 1 March 2002**

	Payer Initiated		Payee Initiated		Registrar Initiated		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Applications accepted</b>								
<b>Assessment varied</b>	7,193	50.0	6,693	68	396	90.4	14,282	57.9
<b>Assessment not varied</b>	4,061	28.3	1,828	18.6	12	2.7	5,901	23.9
<b>Refused to make decision</b>	897	6.2	186	1.9	0	0.0	1,083	4.4
<b>Client Agreement</b>	19	0.1	9	0.1	6	1.4	34	0.1
<b>Total</b>	12,170	84.7	8,716	88.6	414	94.5	21,300	86.4
<b>Applications not accepted</b>								
<b>Withdrawn</b>	879	6.1	538	5.5	14	3.2	1,431	5.8
<b>Incomplete</b>	1,113	7.7	505	5.1	0	0.0	1,618	6.6
<b>Ineligible</b>	210	1.5	77	0.8	10	2.3	297	1.2
<b>Total</b>	2,202	15.3	1,120	11.4	24	5.5	3,346	13.6
<b>Applications finalised</b>	14,372	100.0	9,836	100.0	438	100.0	24,646	100.0

Note: Percentages may not add due to rounding.

**Table 3.5: Stage 2 Caseload by Care Code (June 2002)**

Time children spend with payee Care Code	% of Nights	CSA Collect		Private Collect		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No	%
<b>Substantial</b>	30.0-39.9	793	0.3	1,653	0.5	2,446	0.4
<b>Shared</b>	40.0-59.9	5,799	1.9	16,996	5.5	22,795	3.7
<b>Major</b>	60.0-69.9	5,006	1.6	9,385	3.0	14,391	2.3
<b>Sole</b>	70.0 and over	299,014	96.3	283,225	91.0	582,239	93.6
<b>Total</b>		310,612	100.0	311,259	100.0	621,871	100.0

Source: Client Research Dataset, CSA, June 2002.

Notes: Percentages may not add due to rounding.

## 4.0 Client Overview by Payment Arrangement and Stage

### 4.1 Number of Clients

As at June 2002 there were 657,332 active cases recorded on the Child Support System. However, a number of clients are involved in more than one case, meaning that there are fewer payees or payers than there are cases. The number of payers and payees involved in multiple cases are recorded in Tables 4.1 and 4.2 below.

Tables 4.1 and 4.2 show that over 93 per cent of payers and payees are involved in just one case. About 6 per cent of payers and payees are involved in two cases, while just 0.4 per cent of all payers and 0.3 per cent of payees are involved in 3 or more cases.

## 4.2 Number of Children

The following sections record the number of 'eligible children' and the number of 'relevant dependent children' under Stage 2 of the Child Support Scheme.

### 4.2.1 Children Covered by Child Support Assessments (Stage 2)

Cases registered with CSA as at 30 June 2002 accounted for a total of 1,002,663 children. Children who are eligible to be included in a formula assessment are:

1. children who were born on or after 1 October 1989; or
2. children whose parents separated on or after 1 October 1989; or
3. children who have a sibling born on or after 1 October 1989. The child must also be under 18, not married or in a de facto relationship, not adopted by someone else and either an

**Table 4.1: Payers by Number of Cases and Payment Arrangement, June 2002**

Number of Cases	CSA Collect		Private Collect		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1	277,965	91.4	294,265	96.1	572,230	93.8
2	24,210	8.0	11,289	3.7	35,499	5.8
3	1,756	0.6	547	0.2	2,304	0.4
4	143	0.0	27	0.0	170	0.0
5 and over	22	0.0	6	0.0	27	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>304,096</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>306,134</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>610,230</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Child Support Agency, June 2002.

Notes: Percentages may not add due to rounding.

**Table 4.2: Payees by Number of Cases and Payment Arrangement, June 2002**

Number of Cases	CSA Collect		Private Collect		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1	277,056	91.2	288,195	95.1	565,251	93.1
2	25,098	8.3	14,379	4.7	39,477	6.5
3	1,577	0.5	531	0.2	2,108	0.3
4 and over	86	0.0	19	0.0	105	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>303,817</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>303,124</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>606,941</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Child Support Agency, June 2002.

Notes: Percentages may not add due to rounding.

**Table 4.3: Eligible Children per Case – Stage 2 cases only, June 2002**

No. of Children Per Case	CSA Collect			Private Collect			Total		
	Cases	Children	% of Cases	Cases	Children	% of Cases	Cases	Children	% of Cases
1	180,779	180,779	58.2	163,712	163,712	52.6	344,491	344,491	55.4
2	93,632	187,264	30.1	104,392	208,784	33.5	198,024	396,048	31.8
3	27,663	82,989	8.9	33,132	99,396	10.6	60,795	182,385	9.8
4	6,597	26,388	2.1	7,916	31,664	2.5	14,513	58,052	2.3
5	1,412	7,060	0.5	1,568	7,840	0.5	2,980	14,900	0.5
6	377	2,262	0.1	410	2,460	0.1	787	4,722	0.1
7	107	749	0.0	97	679	0.0	204	1,428	0.0
8 or more	45	369	0.0	32	268	0.0	77	637	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>310,612</b>	<b>487,860</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>311,259</b>	<b>514,803</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>621,871</b>	<b>1,002,663</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Child Support Agency, July 2002.

Notes: Percentages may not add due to rounding.

Australian citizen or resident or present in Australia on the day of application.

Table 4.3 records the number of children covered by child support assessments by CSA Collect and Private Collect groups. There is little difference in the distribution of eligible children between CSA Collect and Private Collect cases. For example, 58 per cent of Stage 2 CSA Collect cases have one eligible child, while almost 53 per cent of Stage 2 Private Collect cases have one eligible child. There are up to 2 eligible children in 88 per cent of CSA Collect cases and 86 per cent in Private Collect cases. There are up to 3 children in about 97 per cent of cases in both CSA Collect and Private Collect categories.

#### 4.2.2 Payers' Subsequent Families

Formula assessments make allowance for 'relevant dependent children' of the payer. These are children under the age of 18 years who are the natural or adopted child of a parent and that parent is the sole or principal provider of ongoing daily care for the child, or has major care of the child.

The impact of the presence of relevant dependent children is to increase the payer's exempt income amount. More than 6 per cent of all assessments are adjusted for relevant children as shown in Table 4.4.

**Table 4.4: Relevant Dependent Children per Case by Payment Arrangement – Stage 2 Cases only, June 2002**

Number of Children	CSA Collect		Private Collect		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1	15,391	5.0	7,536	2.4	22,927	3.7
2	8,033	2.6	2,941	0.9	10,974	1.8
3	2,345	0.8	673	0.2	3,018	0.5
4	700	0.2	168	0.1	868	0.1
5 or more	300	0.1	61	0.0	361	0.0
<b>Total cases with relevant dependent children</b>	<b>26,769</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>11,379</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>38,148</b>	<b>6.1</b>
<b>Total Stage 2 cases</b>	<b>310,612</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>311,259</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>621,871</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Child Support Agency, June 2002.

Notes: 1. In previous years this table has included relevant dependent children, plus other children who do not directly affect the child support formula. This year, for the first time, CSA is able to separately report just relevant dependent children. If reported as in previous years, this table would count 103,286 children.

2. Percentages may not add due to rounding.

**Table 4.5: Payer Gender by Payment Arrangement, June 2002**

	CSA Collect		Private Collect		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Male</b>	<b>302,753</b>	<b>91.1</b>	<b>281,963</b>	<b>88.5</b>	<b>584,716</b>	<b>89.8</b>
<b>Female</b>	<b>29,186</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>36,207</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>65,393</b>	<b>10.0</b>
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>332,335</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>318,620</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>650,955</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Client Research Unit, CSA, June 2002.

Notes: 1. The 'total' figure includes 846 cases where the gender of the payer could not be identified from data held on the Child Support System (396 CSA Collect and 450 Private Collect).

2. Percentages may not add due to rounding.

**Table 4.6: Payee Gender by Payment Arrangement, June 2001**

	CSA Collect		Private Collect		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Male</b>	<b>28,421</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>35,754</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>64,175</b>	<b>9.9</b>
<b>Female</b>	<b>303,688</b>	<b>91.4</b>	<b>282,587</b>	<b>88.7</b>	<b>586,275</b>	<b>90.1</b>
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>332,335</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>318,620</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>650,955</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Client Research Unit, CSA, June 2002.

Notes: 1. The 'total' figure includes 505 cases where the gender of the payee could not be identified from data held on the Child Support System (226 CSA Collect and 279 Private Collect).

2. Percentages may not add due to rounding.

### 4.3 Number and Gender of Payers and Payees

Table 4.5 shows that 91.1 per cent of CSA Collect payers are male and 8.8 per cent are female. Furthermore, 88.5 per cent of all Private Collect payers are male and 11.4 per cent are female.

Table 4.6 shows that 8.6 per cent of CSA Collect payees are male and 91.4 per cent of CSA Collect payees are female. Furthermore, 11.2 per cent of Private Collect payees are male and 88.7 per cent are female.

### 4.4 Age of Cases

Table 4.7 breaks the caseload into age of cases by Stage.<sup>9</sup> Age data relates to the year that the case was first registered. Almost 73 per cent of Stage 1 cases are between 11 and 15 years old while nearly 74 per cent of Stage 2 cases are 8 years old and under.

### 4.5 Income of Payers and Payees

Tables 4.8, 4.9, 4.10 and 4.11 show payer and payee incomes by CSA Collect and Private Collect arrangements from 2 sources: the Tax Returns Data Base (TRDB) and the Child Support System (CSS). The data from the TRDB is for all parents who have lodged a tax return, and is the taxable income, i.e. after taxable deductions have been made. The data from the CSS includes the TRDB information but also includes estimated or derived income amounts for parents who have not lodged a tax return.

Tables 4.8 to 4.11 show that payer median taxable incomes are significantly greater than the median taxable income of payees. Family Tax Benefit payments are not included in the incomes shown. Payees from Private Collect and CSA Collect payment arrangements have similar median

<sup>9</sup> Caseload figures exclude "processing not finalised" cases.

**Table 4.7: Age of Cases by Stage, June 2002**

Case Age in Years. <sup>1</sup>	Stage 1		Stage 2		Total Cases by Age	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1 2002 <sup>2</sup>	199	0.7	38,525	6.2	38,724	6.0
2 2001	472	1.7	79,995	12.9	80,467	12.4
3 2000	514	1.8	72,171	11.6	72,685	11.2
4 1999	505	1.8	57,227	9.2	57,732	8.9
5 1998	649	2.3	52,979	8.5	53,628	8.2
6 1997	794	2.8	57,042	9.2	57,836	8.9
7 1996	889	3.1	52,331	8.4	53,220	8.2
8 1995	915	3.2	48,112	7.7	49,027	7.5
9 1994	1,175	4.1	48,331	7.8	49,506	7.6
10 1993	1,674	5.9	51,381	8.3	53,055	8.2
11 1992	2,302	8.1	30,366	4.9	32,668	5.0
12 1991	3,561	12.5	19,004	3.1	22,565	3.5
13 1990	5,408	19.0	13,675	2.2	19,083	2.9
14 1989	6,834	24.0	649	0.1	7,483	1.2
15 1988	2,603	9.1	81 <sup>3</sup>	0.0	2,684	0.4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>28,494</b>	<b>100.0<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>621,869</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>650,363</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Child Support Agency, June 2002.

Notes: 1. Data relates to the year the case was registered.

2. The 2002 data is for the half year to 30 June.

3. These are cases that began as Stage 1 cases but are now Stage 2 cases.

4. Percentages may not add due to rounding.

incomes but payers in Private Collect arrangements have significantly higher median child support incomes than those in CSA Collect arrangements.

**Table 4.8: Payer Child Support Income, June 2002<sup>1</sup>**

Payers	CSA Collect	Private Collect	Totals
<b>Total number</b>	<b>332,335</b>	<b>318,620</b>	<b>650,955</b>
<b>Median</b>	<b>\$18,084</b>	<b>\$22,520</b>	<b>\$20,991</b>
<b>Maximum</b>	<b>\$770,041</b>	<b>\$2,211,821</b>	<b>\$2,211,821</b>

Source: Child Support System of the Child Support Agency, June 2002.

Note: 1. These incomes include cases with nil liabilities (zero incomes).

**Table 4.9: Payer Taxable Income (TRDB), June 2002**

Payers <sup>1</sup>	CSA Collect	Private Collect	Totals
<b>Total number</b>	<b>161,927</b>	<b>200,016</b>	<b>361,943</b>
<b>Median</b>	<b>\$28,921</b>	<b>\$32,444</b>	<b>\$30,809</b>
<b>Maximum</b>	<b>\$7,046,446</b>	<b>\$13,044,042</b>	<b>\$13,044,042</b>

Source: Tax Returns Database and Child Support System of the Child Support Agency, June 2002.

Notes: 1. There were 289,012 payers who were non-lodgers (170,408 CSA Collect and 118,604 Private Collect).

**Table 4.10: Payee Child Support Income, June 2002**

Payees	CSA Collect	Private Collect	Totals
<b>Total number</b>	<b>332,335</b>	<b>318,620</b>	<b>650,955</b>
<b>Median<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$10,290</b>	<b>\$10,398</b>	<b>\$10,347</b>
<b>Maximum</b>	<b>\$1,152,073</b>	<b>\$1,876,622</b>	<b>\$1,876,622</b>

Source: Child Support System of the Child Support Agency, June 2002.

Note: 1. Child Support Median Income recorded in this table does not include many of the benefits paid to resident parents by Centrelink.

**Table 4.11: Payee Taxable Income (TRDB), June 2002**

Payees <sup>1</sup>	CSA Collect	Private Collect	Totals
<b>Total number</b>	<b>150,694</b>	<b>154,294</b>	<b>304,988</b>
<b>Median</b>	<b>\$20,092</b>	<b>\$19,704</b>	<b>\$19,894</b>
<b>Maximum</b>	<b>\$1,217,675</b>	<b>\$2,636,406</b>	<b>\$2,636,406</b>

Source: Tax Returns Database and Child Support System of the Child Support Agency, June 2002.

Notes: 1. There were 345,967 payees who were non-lodgers (181,641 CSA Collect and 164,326 Private Collect).

#### 4.6 Income Sources of CSA Payers who lodge Tax Returns

Table 4.12 shows the source of income for payers who lodged tax returns. It shows the numbers of payers who earned some or all of their income from these different sources. One payer may have earned income from a number of these sources.

The most common source of income for payers who lodged tax returns was salary and wages,

with almost 88 per cent of all payers deriving some or all of their income from this source. By comparison just over 19 per cent of payers who lodged tax returns received some or all of their income from government benefits and allowances.

For those payers with an income the source with the highest average earnings was Salary and Wages (\$35,457) followed by Net Income or Loss for Business (\$19,419) and Partnerships and Trusts (\$16,124).

**Table 4.12: Income Sources of CSA Payers Who Lodge Tax Returns, June 2002**

Top 10 Income Sources	Number	%	Average Earnings (\$)
Salary and Wages	316,557	87.5	35,457
Allowance, Director's Fees	91,812	25.4	2,178
Gross Interest	71,333	19.7	531
Government Benefits and Allowances	69,556	19.2	3,899
Net Income or Loss From Business	34,583	9.6	19,419
Dividends	50,436	13.9	2,494
Gross Rent	28,908	8.0	8,345
Partnerships and Trusts	24,805	6.9	16,124
Eligible Termination Payments	14,006	3.9	9,846
Lump Sum Payments	9,558	2.6	6,656
<b>Total for CSA Payers</b>	<b>361,943<sup>1</sup></b>		<b>36,633<sup>2</sup></b>

Note: 1. This total differs from the sum of the main income sources because payers can earn income from more than one source  
2. This is the average income for all payers who lodged a tax return. Therefore it is not the sum of the average incomes  
3. The results in this table are derived from the Tax Return Data Base (TRDB) of the ATO and only include those CSA payers who lodged tax returns for the 2000-2001 financial year. For this reason the number of payers in receipt of benefits is particularly affected and under reports the number of payers in receipt of government benefits. Centrelink data suggests there are about 195,000 payers in receipt of the following benefit types: Newstart Allowance, Parenting Payment Single, and various pension types.

## 5.0 Program Outcomes

### 5.1 Liabilities

The following liability statistics are broken down into CSA Collect and Private Collect categories.

#### 5.1.1 Liabilities by CSA and Private Collect

Until 30 June 1999 payers were not required to pay child support if their liability calculated under the formula was less than \$260 per year. From 1 July 1999, however, a minimum liability of \$260 per year now applies to most parents.

There are a number of reasons why a parent is not required to pay child support, including the following:

- Stage 1 court orders can have a clause that the payer will not have to pay child maintenance during periods of unemployment or in other circumstances;
- A Stage 1 payer can apply to CSA not to enforce the court order during periods of unemployment;

- Where parents have an Agreement that the liability be nil;
- Where the parent has no income in a year; and
- Where the parents share the care of their child and their incomes are equal.

Tables 5.1 and 5.2 show the percentage of CSA Collect payers and Private Collect payers within specified liability ranges, while Chart 5.1 plots those percentages. The table and chart demonstrate that:

- a smaller proportion of CSA Collect cases have nil liabilities than Private Collect cases;
- a higher proportion of CSA Collect cases have \$260 minimum liabilities than Private Collect cases;
- a higher proportion of CSA Collect payers have liabilities under \$4,000; and
- a higher proportion of Private Collect payers have liabilities of between \$4,000 and \$14,000, which is in line with the data presented in Tables 4.8 and 4.9, indicating that payers' median incomes are significantly higher in Private Collect cases.

**Table 5.1: Liability by Payment Arrangement, June 2002**

Liability	CSA Collect		Private Collect		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Over \$260	187,576	56.4	214,570	67.3	402,146	61.8
\$260	102,133	30.7	62,150	19.5	164,283	25.2
\$1 to \$259	21,970	6.6	8,327	2.6	30,297	4.7
Nil	20,656	6.2	33,573	10.5	54,229	8.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>332,335</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>318,620</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>650,955</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Client Research Unit, Child Support Agency, June 2002.

Note: Percentages may not add due to rounding.

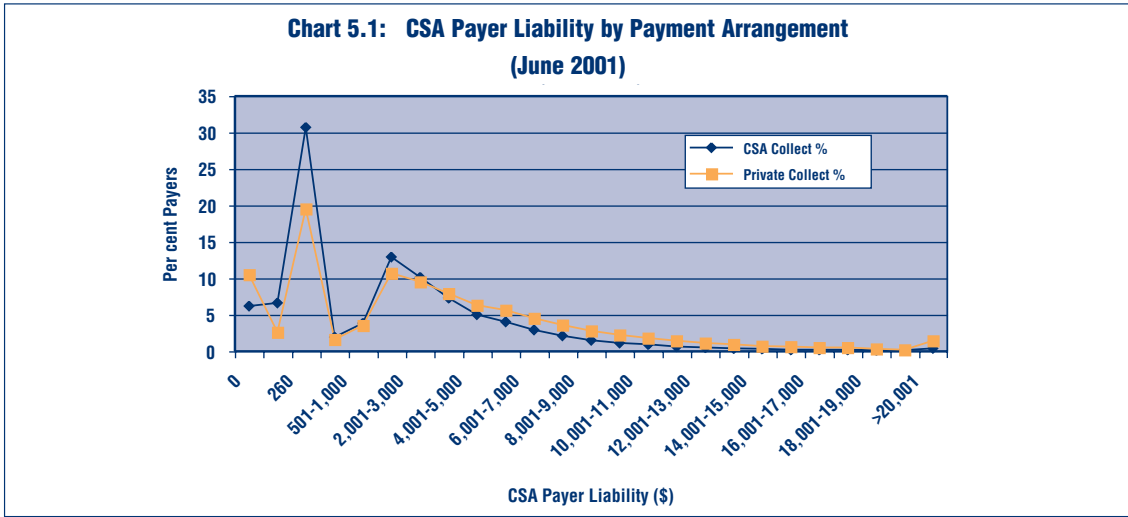
**Table 5.2: Liability by Payment Arrangement, June 2002**

Annual Payer Liability (\$)	CSA Collect		Private Collect		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
0	20,656	6.2	33,573	10.5	54,229	8.3
1-259	21,970	6.6	8,327	2.6	30,297	4.7
260	102,133	30.7	62,150	19.5	164,283	25.2
261-500	6,364	1.9	5,227	1.6	11,591	1.8
501-1,000	12,742	3.8	11,002	3.5	23,744	3.6
1,001-2,000	42,767	12.9	34,125	10.7	76,892	11.8
2,001-3,000	33,442	10.1	30,303	9.5	63,745	9.8
3,001-4,000	24,250	7.3	25,051	7.9	49,301	7.6
4,001-5,000	16,725	5.0	20,071	6.3	36,796	5.7
5,001-6,000	13,446	4.0	17,788	5.6	31,234	4.8
6,001-7,000	9,617	2.9	14,346	4.5	23,963	3.7
7,001-8,000	6,966	2.1	11,398	3.6	18,364	2.8
8,001-9,000	4,916	1.5	8,807	2.8	13,723	2.1
9,001-10,000	3,604	1.1	6,997	2.2	10,601	1.6
10,001-11,000	2,872	0.9	5,766	1.8	8,638	1.3
11,001-12,000	2,146	0.6	4,323	1.4	6,469	1.0
12,001-13,000	1,554	0.5	3,468	1.1	5,022	0.8
13,001-14,000	1,196	0.4	2,847	0.9	4,043	0.6
14,001-15,000	909	0.3	2,126	0.7	3,035	0.5
15,001-16,000	784	0.2	1,838	0.6	2,622	0.4
16,001-17,000	616	0.2	1,504	0.5	2,120	0.3
17,001-18,000	521	0.2	1,509	0.5	2,030	0.3
18,001-19,000	445	0.1	1,092	0.3	1,537	0.2
19,001-20,000	248	0.1	638	0.2	886	0.1
>20,001	1,446	0.4	4,344	1.4	5,790	0.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>332,335</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>318,620</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>650,955</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Child Support Agency, June 2002.

Note: Percentages may not add due to rounding.





### 5.1.2 Average Child Support Liabilities

Table 5.3 records the average daily and weekly child support for each Stage and payment arrangement. There are 2 sets of averages: one set includes all cases and the other excludes cases where the assessment is \$260 a year or less. In Stage 2 cases, where liabilities of \$260 or less have been excluded, there is a difference of \$26.12 per week between the average Stage 2 CSA Collect liability (\$81.16 per week) and the average Private Collect liability (\$107.28 per week). Where all cases have been included, the difference between the Stage 2 CSA Collect and Stage 2 Private Collect average liability figures is \$32.42 per week.

Table 5.4 outlines the total average weekly liability for Stage 2 CSA Collect and Private Collect cases based upon the number of eligible children. In all cases the average liabilities of the Private Collect cases are higher than the average liabilities for Stage 2 CSA Collect cases.

### 5.2 Payments

#### 5.2.1 Total Credits and Liabilities

Table 5.5 shows total liabilities and all credits since 1988. As at June 1991 a total of \$283 million in liabilities had been registered for payers, and \$185 million had actually been collected. In other words CSA collections represented 65 per cent of all liabilities. By June 2002 CSA Collect cumulative liabilities had risen to \$6,151.7 million and cumulative credits were up to \$5,392.9 million. This resulted in an 87.7 per cent collection rate.

The liabilities and collections in Table 5.5 are also depicted in Chart 5.2. Total liabilities are represented by the white bars, while the credits are recorded in the blue bars. Running across the top of the chart are the credit amounts as a percentage of all liabilities.

Chart 5.3 shows the total Private Collect liabilities for 1993-94 to 2001-02. CSA assumes that the collection rate for privately-collected child support is 100 per cent as payees are able to request collection by CSA where the payer fails to meet their obligation.

**Table 5.3: Average Child Support Liability by Stage and Payment Arrangement, June 2002**

Stage	Payment Arrangement	Average Liabilities (all cases)		Average Liabilities (Liability more than \$260)	
		Weekly \$	Annual \$	Weekly \$	Annual \$
Stage 1	CSA	52.37	2,730.56	52.80	2,753.09
	Private	49.28	2,569.77	49.52	2,581.95
	<b>Total</b>	<b>51.50</b>	<b>2,685.15</b>	<b>51.87</b>	<b>2,704.63</b>
Stage 2	CSA	48.90	2,549.55	81.16	4,231.96
	Private	81.32	4,240.36	107.28	5,593.65
	<b>Total</b>	<b>64.66</b>	<b>3,371.49</b>	<b>95.52</b>	<b>4,980.46</b>
All	CSA	49.08	2,559.30	78.64	4,100.60
	Private	80.58	4,201.72	105.51	5,501.55
	<b>Total</b>	<b>64.14</b>	<b>3,344.60</b>	<b>93.00</b>	<b>4,849.14</b>

Source: Data obtained from the Client Research Unit dataset, June 2002.

Notes: 1. The annual rate is divided by 52.14 weeks to arrive at the weekly rate in the first column.

**Table 5.4: Average Weekly Liabilities by the Number of Eligible Children by Payment Arrangement<sup>1</sup> – Stage 2 Cases only, June 2002**

Eligible Children	CSA Collect		Private Collect		Total	
	Number	Average \$	Number	Average \$	Number	Average \$
1	173,003	37.99	146,564	56.80	319,567	46.62
2	88,124	62.52	93,507	103.95	181,631	83.85
3	25,460	71.46	29,335	122.35	54,795	98.70
4	5,986	65.96	6,772	119.13	12,758	94.18
5	1,241	56.60	1,316	97.41	2,557	77.61
6	334	63.88	345	83.57	679	73.89
7	91	45.76	86	64.79	177	55.01
8	36	47.38	17	53.59	50	49.50
<b>Total<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>294,275</b>	<b>48.91</b>	<b>277,953</b>	<b>81.33</b>	<b>572,228</b>	<b>64.66</b>

Source: Child Support Agency, June 2002.

Note: 1. Nil liability cases have been excluded from this table.

2. Cases with more than 8 Eligible Children have been excluded from this table for privacy reasons because of the small numbers involved. A total of 14 cases have been deleted.

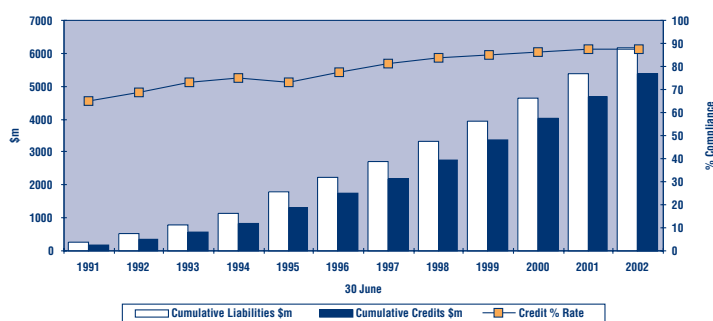
**Table 5.5: Cumulative Credits and Liabilities for CSA Collect Cases, June 2002<sup>1</sup>**

End June	Cumulative Liabilities \$m	Cumulative Credits \$m	Collection Rate %
1988-1991 <sup>2</sup>	283.0	185.0	65.0
1988-1992	505.1	346.4	69.0
1988-1993	784.9	569.4	73.0
1988-1994	1,131.3	848.2	75.0
1988-1995	1,795.8	1,315.8	73.3
1988-1996	2,228.4	1,729.1	77.6
1988-1997	2,725.7	2,209.1	81.0
1988-1998	3,305.6	2,761.3	83.5
1988-1999	3,940.4	3,357.5	85.2
1988-2000	4,645.2	4,010.5	86.3
1988-2001	5,368.1	4,698.4	87.5
1988-2002	6,151.7	5,392.9	87.7

Source: Child Support Agency, June 2002.

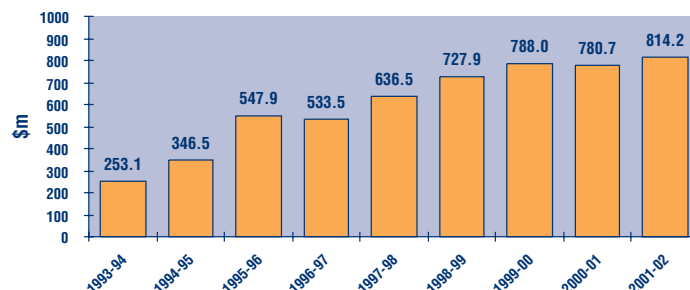
- Notes:
1. The difference between the "All Liabilities" figures and the "All Credits" figures are the Gross Maintenance Debt figures, not Net Maintenance Debt figures reported elsewhere in this publication. Net Maintenance Debt figures exclude Write Off amounts.
  2. The 1991 credit and liability totals include amounts for 1988, 1989 and 1990.

**Chart 5.2: Cumulative Liabilities and Collections (CSA Collect Cases) since 1991**



Source: CS5 Report, Child Support Agency, June 2002.

**Chart 5.3: Private Collect Liabilities Since 1993-94**



Source: CS5 Report, Child Support Agency, June 2002.

## 5.2.2 Child Support Transferred

'Transfers' are child support liabilities that have been collected by CSA (CSA Collect), as well as payments that have been paid directly between parents but where the eligible carers are registered with CSA (Private Collect

arrangements). The total amount of child support transferred in 2001-02 was \$1,450.6 million, including \$814.2 million in private collections and \$636.4 million in funds collected by CSA. This is a \$50.5 million (3.6 per cent) increase from the 'transfers' total of \$1,400.1 million in 2000-2001 (see Table 5.6 and Chart 5.4).

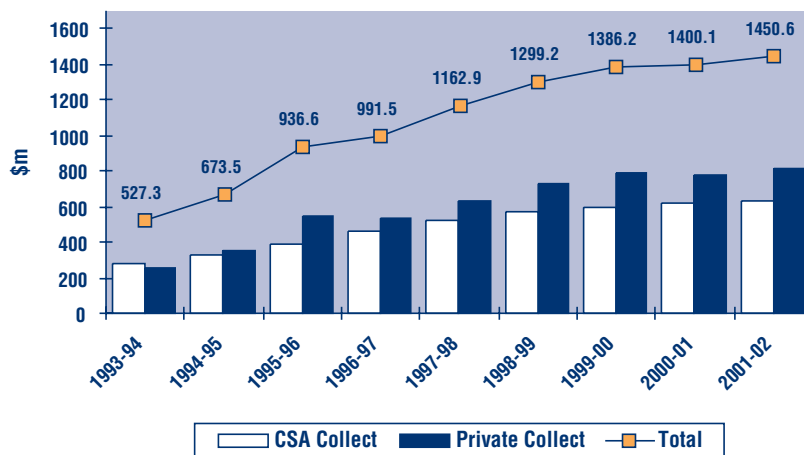
**Table 5.6: Transfers (\$m.)**

	CSA Collect <sup>1</sup>		Private Collect		Total
1994	274.2	52.0	253.1	48.0	527.3
1995	327.0	48.6	346.5	51.4	673.5
1996	388.7	41.5	547.9	58.5	936.6
1997	458.0	46.2	533.5	53.8	991.5
1998	526.4	45.3	636.5	54.7	1,162.9
1999	571.3	44.0	727.9	56.0	1,299.2
2000	598.2	43.2	788.0	56.8	1,386.2
2001	619.4	44.2	780.7	55.8	1,400.1
2002	636.4	43.9	814.2	56.1	1,450.6

Source: CS5 Report, CSA, June 2002.

- Notes:
1. The CSA Collect figures include amounts for Interim Disbursement, Final Disbursement, Emergency Disbursement and Non-Agency Payments (NAPs).
  2. Private Collect totals assume 100 per cent of privately paid child support is transferred. Where this is not so, the payee is entitled to ask the CSA to collect the liability.

**Chart 5.4: CSA Transfers by Payment Arrangement**



Source: Child Support Agency Monthly Performance Report, (CS5), CSA June 2002.

### 5.2.3 Collections - CSA Collect Cases

Child support payments can be received by CSA in a number of ways:

- Employer Withholding: these are monies withheld by the parent's employer and paid directly to CSA by the employer on the employee's behalf;
- Cash: monies paid by the parent directly to CSA by cheque or money order;
- Tax Refund Intercept Payments (TRIPs): these are monies intercepted from a payers tax refund by CSA; or

- Non-Agency Payments (NAPs): these are payments made directly to the payee or a third party by the payer instead of to CSA. These payments are made in lieu of child support and might include money or the payment of medical bills, school fees etc.

Table 5.7 and Chart 5.5 show that the cash component, as a percentage of child support payments, is increasing while Employer Withholding and NAPs are decreasing. The percentage amount collected through TRIPs has been relatively stable.

**Table 5.7: Child Support Payments - Percentages**

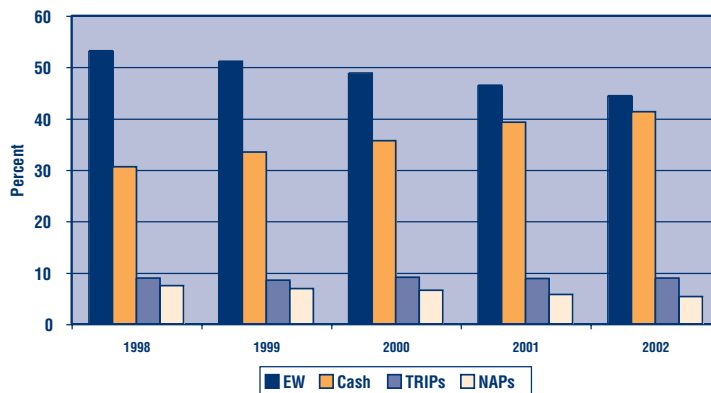
30 June	Employer Withholding	Cash <sup>2</sup>	TRIPs	NAPs
1998	53.1	30.6	8.9	7.4
1999	51.1	33.4	8.5	6.9
2000	48.8	35.6	9.1	6.5
2001	46.4	39.2	8.8	5.7
2002 <sup>1</sup>	44.4	41.3	8.9	5.3

Source: Money for Kids Report, Child Support Agency, March 2002.

Notes: 1. The data for 2001-02 relates to the period up to the end February 2002. Data was not available for the remainder of the financial year due to the redevelopment of the CSA's computer system (CUBA).

2. Cash in this table includes cheques, Australia Post Billpay, BPay, and s72A enforcement payments.

**Chart 5.5: CSA Payments by Method**



Source: Money For Kids Report, CSA, March 2002.

**Table 5.8: Payer Gross Maintenance Debt by Payer Child Support Income, June 2002**  
(including CSA Collect and Private Collect cases that have ended with arrears)

Maint. Debt (\$)	\$0		\$1-12,000		\$12-20,000		\$20-50,000		\$50,000+		Total			
	No.	Sum \$m	No.	Sum \$m	No.	Sum \$m	No.	Sum \$m	No.	Sum \$m	No.	Sum \$m		
0	28,853	0.0	101,277	0.0	41,870	0.0	192,813	0.0	56,040	0.0	420,853	61.1	0.0	0.0
1-260	8,439	0.8	40,024	4.1	7,401	0.8	18,239	1.8	2,861	0.3	76,964	11.2	7.8	1.0
261-500	2,499	0.9	13,317	4.9	3,317	1.2	8,846	3.3	1,110	0.4	29,089	4.2	10.8	1.4
501-1K	2,696	1.9	13,962	9.8	4,110	3.0	13,302	9.8	1,586	1.2	35,656	5.2	25.7	3.4
1,001-2K	2,662	3.9	10,069	14.6	3,859	5.5	18,017	26.1	1,743	2.5	36,350	5.3	52.6	6.9
2,001-5K	4,358	14.4	12,828	40.9	4,417	14.1	22,809	74.3	2,370	7.6	46,782	6.8	151.3	20.0
5,001-10K	3,257	23.5	6,024	41.7	1,984	13.7	12,924	90.6	1,497	10.5	25,686	3.7	180.0	23.7
10,000+	4,328	96.5	2,974	49.5	1,074	18.1	8,228	140.0	1,359	25.9	17,963	2.6	329.9	43.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>57,092</b>	<b>142.0</b>	<b>200,475</b>	<b>165.5</b>	<b>68,032</b>	<b>56.4</b>	<b>295,178</b>	<b>345.9</b>	<b>68,566</b>	<b>48.4</b>	<b>689,343</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>758.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Child Support Agency, June 2002.

Note: This table records Gross Maintenance Debt by all cases, including those with a current liability (active cases) and those that have ended with arrears. Totals may not add due to rounding.

### 5.2.4 Liabilities and Debt – CSA Collect Cases

Table 5.8 shows the number of payers in each income range by the size of gross maintenance debt (GMD) attributable to both current liability cases and ended cases. The table shows that only 2.6 per cent of payers have a maintenance debt greater than \$10,000. The debt associated with these payers, however, comprises 43.5 per cent of the total debt.

### 5.2.5 Debt – CSA Collect Cases

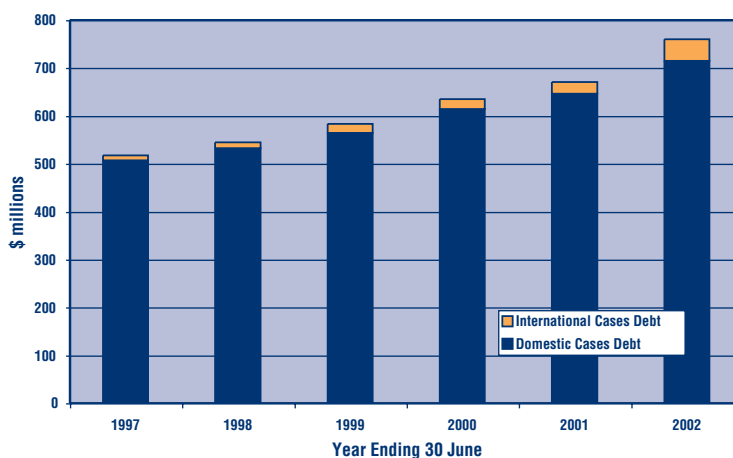
Table 5.9, Chart 5.6 and Chart 5.7 record Scheme arrears amounts as at the end of the past 6 financial years. Column A in Table 5.9 records Cumulative Net Maintenance Debt (NMD). Column B records write-off amounts (debt deemed to be uncollectible) while Column C reports Cumulative Gross Maintenance Debt (GMD), which is calculated by adding NMD and write-off together. Cumulative GMD associated with overseas cases

**Table 5.9: Child Support Gross Maintenance Debt and its Components**

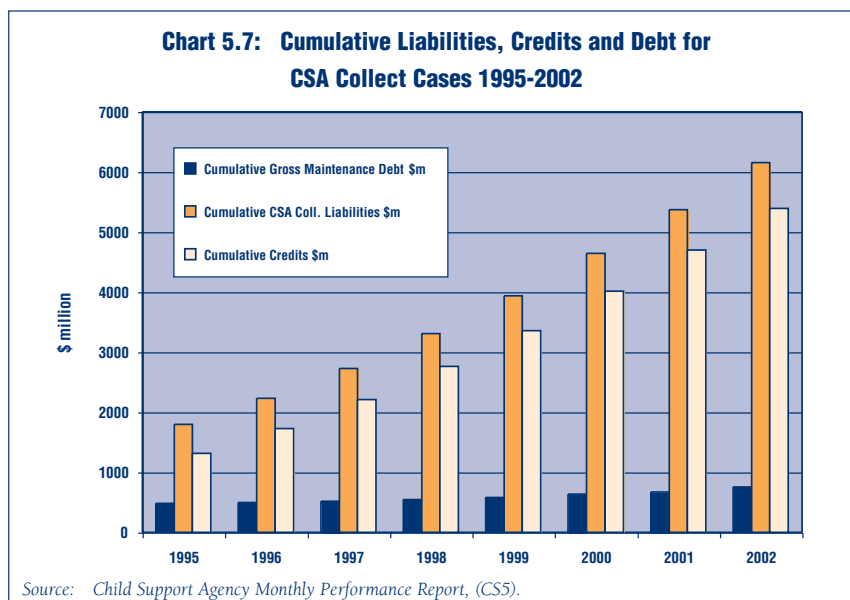
30 June	A. Cumulative Net Maintenance Debt (\$m.)	B. Write-Off (\$m.)	C. Cumulative Gross Maintenance Debt (GMD) (\$m.)	D. Cumulative GMD on Domestic Cases (\$m.)	E. Cumulative GMD on Overseas Cases (\$m.)	F. Cumulative GMD on Overseas Cases as % of Total GMD
1997	458.4	58.2	516.6	506.7	9.9	1.9
1998	450.3	94.0	544.3	532.2	12.1	2.2
1999	455.6	127.2	582.8	564.2	18.6	3.2
2000	542.6	92.2	634.7	613.8	20.9	3.3
2001	595.9	73.7	669.7	645.8	23.9	3.6
2002	673.7	85.1	758.7	714.2	44.5	5.9

Source: Child Support Agency Monthly Performance Report, (CS5).

**Chart 5.6: Gross Maintenance Debt and its Components**



Source: Child Support Agency Monthly Performance Report, (CS5).



is recorded in Column E, while Column F expresses the Cumulative GMD associated with overseas cases as a percentage of all GMD.

CSA research indicates that GMD is increasing as a result of 3 factors: the dramatic increase in the number of overseas cases that have come to Australia with large debts; the increase in debt associated with cases that have a \$260 p.a. minimum liability; and because of the unexpectedly rapid increase in the active caseload.

## 6.0 Legal Services Overview

### 6.1 Background

The Child Support Scheme Legal Services Program aims to provide information to low income parents (particularly FaCS customers) about their rights and responsibilities under the Child Support Scheme. These legal services assist with legal advice, information, minor assistance, and, when appropriate, legal representation to ensure that children with separated parents benefit from the Child Support Scheme.

Legal Aid Commissions in each State and Territory, and 13 specialist Community Legal Services located throughout Australia, provide services to parents

eligible to receive child support (carer parents) and parents responsible for paying child support (liable parents).

The following activities are undertaken by legal services on behalf of carer parents:

- assistance in preparing and completing legal documents;
- obtaining court orders;
- advising self-representing clients about what is involved in attending court;
- assistance with establishing proof of parentage;
- assisting clients to interpret child support documents from other government bodies;
- assisting Stage 2 clients to understand the change of assessment process; and
- court representation as appropriate.

In addition to the above activities for carer parents, a number of specific activities are undertaken on behalf of liable parents including:

- assisting clients to understand their rights of appeal under the change of assessment arrangements;



- assisting clients to interpret their child support obligations;
- assisting with preparing and completing legal documents;
- advising self-representing clients about what is involved in attending court; and
- court representation as appropriate.

CSA also actively supports clients by liaising directly with the legal service providers to resolve child support issues. CSA also refers clients to independent legal services as appropriate, to ensure that clients are fully informed and have access to legal advice and information.

Legal aid commissions expend funds on child support matters in accordance with Commonwealth priorities and guidelines.

The legal aid agreements for 2000-01 to 2003-04 incorporate an outputs-based reporting framework which identifies expenditure on particular categories of service delivery, including child support. The Commonwealth monitors each commission's performance in terms of effectiveness (the extent to which outcomes have been achieved), efficiency (the outputs produced for the quantum of funds provided) and service quality. Monitoring of performance will be undertaken on an ongoing basis through the examination of information and data provided by commissions in accordance with the agreements. Commonwealth funding for child support matters is also administered through the Community Legal Services Program to 13 centres in Australia who provide specialist child support legal services to clients. In the 2001-02 financial year, the total allocation was \$1,275,591.

## 6.2 Statistics and Advice Work Types

### 6.2.1 Legal Aid Commission Statistics

During 2001-02 legal aid commissions recorded the following child support related activities:

- A total of 518 clients attended child support forums;
- A total of 2,697 clients applied for legal aid assistance under the Child Support Scheme;
- 2,574 applications for child support related legal aid assistance were approved;
- 114 applications for child support related legal aid assistance were refused; and
- 2,656 child support related cases were finalised.

The following advice interviews were recorded nationally:

• Advice	1,837
• Minor Assistance	808
• CSS assisting with application for maintenance	3,649
• CSS assisting with application to vary existing maintenance/order/ agreement	1,384
• Draft letter to FaCS seeking exemption	932
• CSS phone advice - non-1800 number	2,708
• CSS phone advice - 1800 number	947
• Not specified	2,113

### 6.2.2 Community Legal Services Statistics

During 2001-02 community legal services funding specifically to provide child support services recorded the following number of activities: (Activity type for problem type)

• Advice	3,639
• Information	1,413
• Community Legal Education	0
• Cases Opened	967
• Cases Closed	1,167

#### Income Source:

Employed full-time	693
Employed part-time	395
Self employed	127
Centrelink benefit	1,734
Other Government benefit	146
No income	109
Employed temporarily	9
Student allowance	7
Community development employment program	3
Other	103

### 6.3 Additional Child Support Information Collected by Community Legal Services Relating to Child Support Activities for 2001-02

Parent/Case Type:	Number
Carer (only)	757
Liable (only)	425
Both carer and liable	0
Stages:	
Stage 1	141
Stage 2	968
Parentage:	
Not disputed	697
Other proof sought	98
Test required	97
Test positive	7
Test negative	0
Age of Client:	
Less than 26 years	365
26-35 years	979
36-45 years	1,352
over 45 years	527

## 7.0 Savings and Costs

### 7.1 Savings

Savings to Government outlays are achieved as a result of the application of the maintenance income test to payments of more than base rate Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A. As at June 2002, payments of more than the minimum rate Family Tax Benefit are reduced by 50 cents for each dollar of maintenance received above \$1,095 per annum for a parent with one child from a previous relationship. The threshold is increased where there are additional children or if there is a couple with both partners receiving maintenance.

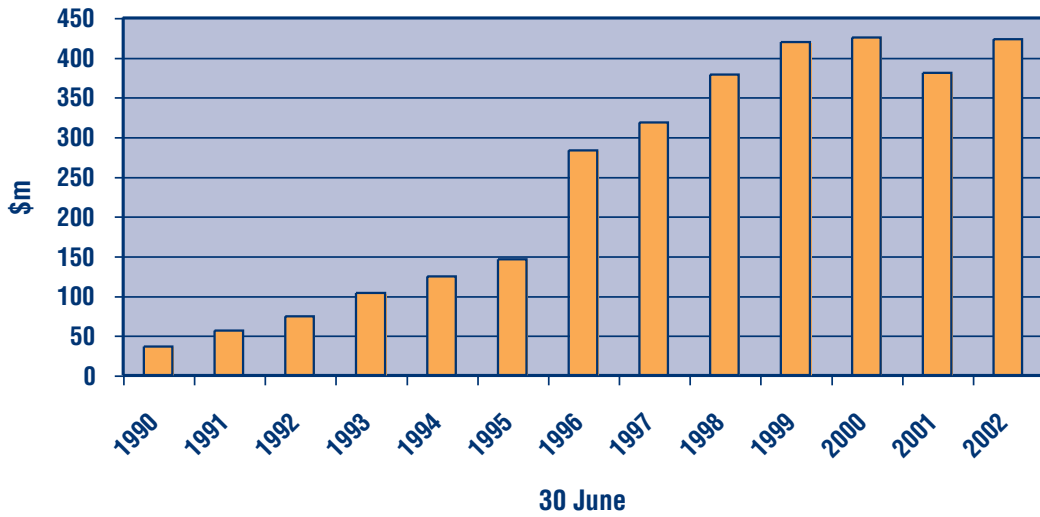
**Table 7.1: Net Savings Assigned to the Child Support Scheme**

1995-96 \$m	1996-97 \$m	1997-98 \$m	1998-99 \$m	1999-00 \$m	2000-01 \$m	2001-02 \$m
283	318	378.3	419.2	425.0 <sup>1</sup>	380.4	423.0

Source: Department of Family and Community Services, June 2002.

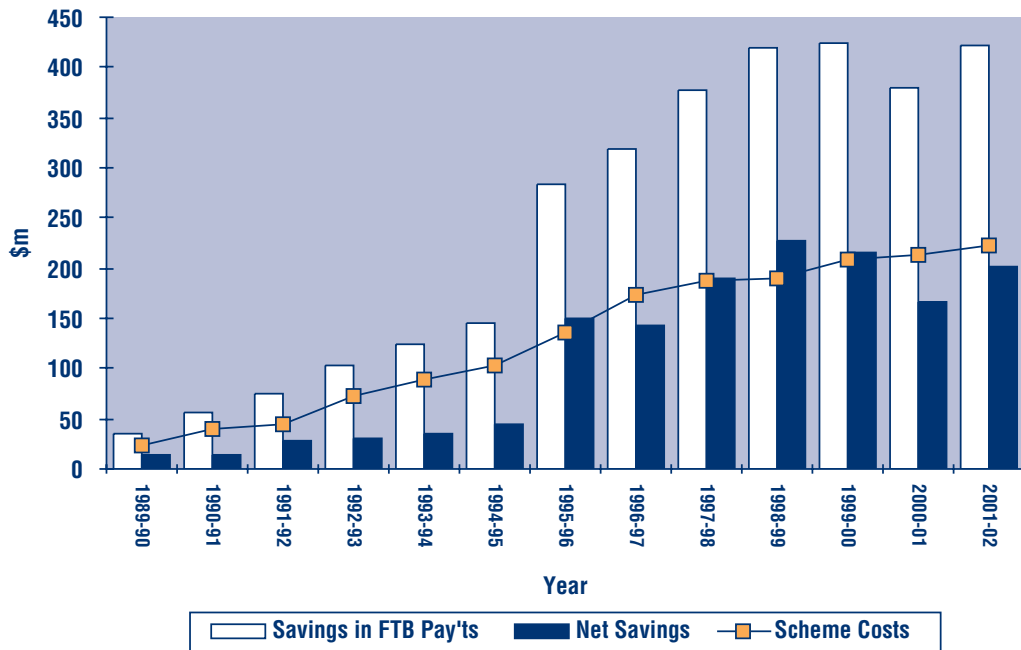
Notes: 1. This figure was revised from the \$594.4m reported by FaCS in July 2000.

**Chart 7.1: Net Savings Attributable to the Child Support Scheme**



Source: Department of Family and Community Services, June 2002.

**Chart 7.2: Savings and Costs of the Child Support Scheme**



Source: Child Support Agency Monthly Performance Report (CS5), CSA, June 2002.

## 7.2 Scheme Costs

Agency/Dept	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-2000	2000-01	2001-02
		\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
<b>CSA</b>	<b>114.8</b>	<b>160.6</b>	<b>169.7</b>	<b>108.1</b>	<b>198.2</b>	<b>203.7</b>	<b>214.0</b>
<b>FaCS</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>2.7<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.3</b>
<b>AGD</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>5.3<sup>5</sup></b>
<b>Scheme Costs</b>	<b>131.6</b>	<b>173.9</b>	<b>187.7</b>	<b>190.6</b>	<b>209.0</b>	<b>213.8</b>	<b>221.6</b>
<b>Savings in FaCS</b>							
<b>pay't (net)</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>423</b>
<b>Net Savings<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>151</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>201</b>

Source: Child Support Agency, Department of Family and Community Services and Attorney-General's Department.

Notes:

1. The 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 CSA costs figures are not directly comparable with the 1995-96 figure of \$114.85 million. The later figures are accrued cost estimates which include, for example, all CSA costs for salaries, administrative costs, leave, IT redevelopment, internal user charges (IUCs) etc.
2. The 1999-2000 savings attributable to the Child Support Scheme are not comparable with data for earlier years. The increase in savings reflects steps taken by Centrelink to streamline the process for private collection customers.
3. Attorney-General's Department 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 costs for its responsibilities within the Child Support Scheme are not comparable with data for earlier years. The 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 figures are the actual amounts that A-G's spent administering its child support work: earlier figures are amounts that were allocated by the Department of Finance for those CSS responsibilities.
4. With the creation of the Department of Family and Community Services in the 1998-99 year and the establishment of Centrelink as an entity separate to FaCS, a decision was taken by FaCS to remove Centrelink costs in relation to the Child Support Scheme.
5. Expenditure by Legal Aid Commissions on Commonwealth matters is undertaken by Commissions in accordance with Commonwealth legal aid priorities. As such the Attorney-General's Department does not set funding levels to be expended by Legal Aid Commissions on particular areas of law. In 2001-02, Legal Aid Commissions (excluding ACT and NT) expended \$3.982 million on child support representation. Expenditure excludes resources dedicated to the provision of advice/information for child support matters. Statistics for the NT and ACT are not available. In addition, Community Legal Centres expended \$1.276 million on the provision of services for child support matters.
6. Net Savings equals Net Savings to Government outlays minus Scheme Costs.

## 7.3 Comparisons with Overseas Agencies

The Australian Child Support Agency has conducted preliminary research into how broad cost-effectiveness indicators of the Australian Child Support Scheme compare with other child support organisations.

The reader should note that these figures have not been standardised using agreed definitions, although an international project is continuing to develop such standards between the Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and UK child support organisations. Given the lack of standardisation between the information for each jurisdiction, close comparisons between these data is inadvisable. Surveyed agencies define collections in different ways.<sup>10</sup>

## 7.4 CSA Staff

Table 7.5 records staffing levels for CSA at June 2002. The table also notes the gender breakdown by classification levels.

At the end of June 2002 there were 2,594 FTE staff in CSA. Of that number 1,863 were females (72 per cent) and 731 were males (28 per cent). At levels APS 1-6 (and equivalents) 72 per cent of all officers were female but at the Senior Officer levels males accounted for 44 per cent of CSA staff.

<sup>9</sup> The reader is referred to the paper Child Support Schemes: Australia and Comparisons, Client Research Unit, Child Support Agency, March 2001.

**Table 7.3: Comparative Statistics for Australian and Overseas Child Support Programs (1998-99)<sup>1,2</sup>**

Country		Total A\$m. Collected or Transferred	Program Costs A\$m.	A\$ Collected for each \$1 Spent	Cost of Collecting \$1	Caseload	Agency Staff Numbers (FTEs)	Cost A\$ per Agency FTE	Arrears A\$
Australia	1997-98	1,162.9	169.7	6.85	14.6 cents	494,534	2,587	65,597	450.3
	1998-99	1,299.2	180.1	7.21	13.9 cents	535,569	2,663	67,634	455.6
	1999-00	1,386.2	198.2	6.99	14.3 cents	569,710	2,714	75,055	542.6
Canada <sup>3</sup>	1998-99	1,225.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	389,273	1,590	62,830	1,746.6
New Zealand	1997-98	153.2	33.7	4.55	22.0 cents	131,750	509	66,220	224.9
	1998-99	160.2	36.4	4.40	22.7 cents	132,500	475	76,571	259.1
United Kingdom	1998-99	1,686.7	589.3	2.86	35.0 cents	923,960	9,299	63,372	n/a
United States <sup>4</sup>	1996-97	22,673.9	5,815.8	3.90	25.6 cents	19,057,164	52,483	110,987	75,703.8
	1997-98	24,342.9	6,082.4	4.00	25.0 cents	19,419,449	56,212	n/a	n/a

Notes: 1. Currency amounts in this table are A\$ and were converted using the exchange rate quoted in *The Australian Financial Review*, 7 July 2000. These topline results do not necessarily reflect different policy aims and administrative arrangements between agencies.  
2. Australian staff numbers in this table are Average Staffing Level (ASL). There was also a small number of FaCS staff dedicated to the Child Support Scheme, and a small number of staff in the Attorney-General's Department who had child support responsibilities.

**Table 7.4: CSA Total Staff by Gender and Classifications, June 2001<sup>1, 2, 3, 4</sup>**

	Male	%	Female	%	Total Staff
APS 1-6	655	27.1	1,766	72.9	2,421
SOG/EL1-2	73	44.0	93	56	166
SES	3	42.9	4	57.1	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>28.2</b>	<b>1,863</b>	<b>71.8</b>	<b>2,594</b>

Source: Child Support Agency, June 2002.

Notes: 1. Numbers are Actual Full Time Equivalents (FTE) which include staff on unpaid leave. Unpaid categories include staff who are on leave without pay, unpaid maternity leave, and compensation.  
2. Staff on Higher Duties Allowance (HDA) are recorded at HDA level rather than their nominal classification.  
3. The bulk of Scheme staff are employed by the CSA. There is also a small number of staff employed in other areas of FaCS, and the Attorney-General's Department, both of which also have administrative responsibilities under the Child Support Scheme.  
4. Percentages may not add due to rounding.

## 7.5 CSA Telephone Performance

Research has established that CSA clients prefer communicating by telephone. Recognising this fact, CSA has allocated considerable time and funding to improving its telephone system. This effort is reflected in the telephone performance statistics in Table 7.6.

**Table 7.5: CSA Telephone Statistics**

<b>End June</b>	<b>Main Queue<sup>1</sup> (calls per day)</b>	<b>Response Time<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>IVR Calls per day<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Total Phone Traffic (queue and IVR total)<sup>4</sup></b>
<b>1994</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>1995</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>80% in 3 mins</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>9,000</b>
<b>1996</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>80% in 2 mins</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>6,000</b>
<b>1997</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>90% in 2 mins</b>	<b>2,308</b>	<b>10,308</b>
<b>1998</b>	<b>8,500</b>	<b>93.3% in 2 mins 83.5% in 30 secs</b>	<b>4,154</b>	<b>12,700</b>
<b>1999</b>	<b>8,500</b>	<b>86% in 2 mins</b>	<b>4,681</b>	<b>13,200</b>
<b>2000</b>	<b>8,450</b>	<b>87% in 2 mins</b>	<b>6,287</b>	<b>14,700</b>
<b>2001</b>	<b>9,371</b>	<b>95.5% in 2 mins</b>	<b>5,753</b>	<b>15,124</b>
<b>2002</b>	<b>8,679</b>	<b>88.5% in 2 mins 79.3% in 30 secs</b>	<b>5,177</b>	<b>13,856</b>

Source: CSA, as at 30 June for the years in question.

- Notes:
1. Main Queue includes public calls, which have been logged on to the CSA phone system. The total excludes Change of Assessment (COA) and Complaints calls.
  2. Response time is calculated on calls logged in to the Main Queue.
  3. IVR (Interactive Voice Response) was introduced by the CSA during 1995-96. An IVR traffic figure for that year is not available. The calls to the Main Queue decreased during that year as a result of the introduction of the IVR. IVR calls are counted on a monthly basis given that the system operates 7 days per week. In this instance, however, calls have been calculated on a daily basis using the following method. In 2000-01 there were 113,159 IVR calls per month or 1.5 million for the year. This figure was then divided by 260, which is the number of days in a working year, to produce the result of 5,753. This makes the IVR calls per day consistent with the way the calls per day are measured for the Main Queue.
  4. The totals in this column include all Main Queue calls and IVR calls calculated on a daily basis using the method described in note 3 above.



# Appendix 1: Contact Details

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Parents are able to obtain information from CSA, Centrelink and legal service providers on the following numbers.

## Child Support Agency

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- General Enquiries **Phone 131 272**
- CSA Info Service (IVR automated service for quick account enquiries and general information) **Phone 131 107**
- Child Support Change of Assessment **Phone 131 141**
- CSA Complaints **Phone 132 919**
- Web Site **[www.csa.gov.au](http://www.csa.gov.au)**

## Centrelink

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- Pensions Information **Phone 132 300**
- Family Payments **Phone 136 150**
- Enquiries in languages other than English **Phone 131 202**
- Appointments **Phone 131 021**

## Family Assistance Office

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- General Enquiries **Phone 136 150**



## Family Court of Australia

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- Web Site: [www.familycourt.gov.au](http://www.familycourt.gov.au)
  
- Adelaide (08) 8205 2666
- Brisbane (07) 3248 2200
- Canberra (02) 6267 0511
- Dandenong (03) 9767 6200
- Darwin (08) 8981 1488
- Hobart (03) 6232 1725
- Melbourne (03) 860 03777
  
- Newcastle (02) 4926 1255
- Parramatta (02) 9893 5555
- Sydney (02) 9217 7111
- Townsville (07) 4722 9333
- Family Court WA (08) 9224 8222

## Federal Magistrates Service

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- Phone: 1300 367 110
- Web Site: [www.fms.gov.au](http://www.fms.gov.au)

## Other Support Services

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### Family Relationship Services

- Centacare: 1300 138 070
- Family Services Australia: 1300 365 859
- Relationships Australia: 1300 364 277
- Telephone Interpreting Service: 131 450

Financial counselling services are available in each state:

- NSW 1800 808 488
- Tas. (03) 6223 4595
- Vic. (03) 9614 5433
- WA (08) 9221 9411
- Qld (07) 3257 1957
- ACT (02) 6257 1788
- SA (08) 8202 5182
- NT (08) 8932 6111
  
- Family Law Hotline: 1800 050 321  
(Toll free information line)

# Carer Parent Services

## Child Support Scheme

If you require assistance to understand your rights and responsibilities under the Child Support Scheme, a number of Legal Aid related agencies throughout Australia provide specialised independent services. For more information or advice about how the Scheme applies to you, please contact one of the services listed below.

### AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Legal Aid Office (ACT)

Phone: (02) 6243 3411

Advice Line: 1300 654 314

### NEW SOUTH WALES

Legal Aid Commission of NSW

Phone: (02) 9744 3833

Phone: 1800 451 784 Toll Free

Macarthur Legal Centre

Phone: (02) 4628 2042

Illawarra Legal Centre Inc.

Phone: (02) 4276 1939

Southwest Sydney Legal Centre

Phone: (02) 9601 7777

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Legal Service Commission of South Australia

Child Support Section

Phone: (08) 8463 3576

1300 366 424

Southern County Justice Centre

Phone: (08) 8384 5222

Westside Community Lawyers

Phone: (08) 8243 5521

Para District Legal Service

Phone: (08) 8281 6911

### TASMANIA\*

Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania

Launceston

Phone: (03) 6336 2050

Hobart

Phone: (03) 6233 8383

Hobart Community Legal Service

Phone: (03) 6223 2500

\* Carer parents in the south of the state should contact the Hobart Community Legal Service. Carers in the north and northwest of the state should contact the Legal Aid Commission.

### NORTHERN TERRITORY

Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission

Family Law Advice Sessions

Phone: (08) 8999 3000

Advice Line

Phone: 1800 019 343

### QUEENSLAND

Legal Aid Queensland

Child Support Unit

Phone: 1300 651 188 (Toll Free)

Fax: (07) 3238 3545

Caxton Legal Centre Inc.

Phone: (07) 3254 1811

### VICTORIA

Victoria Legal Aid

Phone: (03) 9269 0408

Peninsula Community Legal Centre Inc.

Phone: (03) 9783 3600

Geelong Community Legal Service Inc.

Phone: (03) 5229 0775

Springvale Monash Legal Service

Phone: (03) 9562 3144

Springvale Community Aid and Advice Bureau Inc.

Phone: (03) 9546 5255

### WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Legal Aid Western Australia

Child Support Legal Unit

Carer parents

Phone: (08) 9261 6253

1300 650 579

Bunbury Community Legal Centre

Phone: (08) 9791 3206

Gosnells Community Centre

Phone (08) 9398 1455

# Liabie Parent Services

## Child Support Scheme

If you require assistance to understand your rights and responsibilities under the Child Support Scheme, a number of Legal Aid related agencies throughout Australia provide specialised independent services. These services may be able to assist you to purchase a self-help kit, attend an information session or receive telephone information and/or advice. For more information or advice about how the Scheme applies to you, please contact one of the services listed below.

### AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Legal Aid Office (ACT)

Phone: (02) 6243 3411

Advice Line: 1300 654 314

### NEW SOUTH WALES

Legal Aid Commission of NSW Child Support Service

Phone: (02) 9744 3833

1800 451 784 Toll-Free

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Legal Services Commission of South Australia Child Support Section

Phone: (08) 8463 3576

1300 366 424

Southern Community Justice Centre

Phone: (08) 8384 5222

Westside Community Lawyers

Phone: (08) 8243 5521

### TASMANIA

Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania Child Support Information Sessions  
Launceston Office

Phone: (03) 6336 2050

Hobart Office

Phone: (03) 6233 8383

### WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Legal Aid Western Australia  
Child Support Legal Unit  
Liabie Parent Forums

Phone: (08) 9261 6318

Phone: 1800 199 363

Bunbury Community Legal Centre

Phone: (08) 9791 3206

### NORTHERN TERRITORY

Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission  
Family Law Advice Sessions

Phone: (08) 8999 3000

1800 019 343

### QUEENSLAND

Legal Aid Queensland Child Support Unit  
(Liabie Parent Project)

Phone: 1300 651 188 Toll-Free

Fax: (07) 3238 3545

Caxton Legal Centre

Phone: (07) 3254 1811

### VICTORIA

Victoria Legal Aid

Liabie Parents Information Service

Phone: (03) 9269 0408

1800 677 402

Peninsula Community Legal Service

Phone: (03) 9783 3600

1800 064 784 (0359 area only)

Geelong Community Legal Service

Liabie Parent Child Support Worker

Phone: (03) 5221 4744

Springvale Legal Service

Phone: (03) 9562 3144

Springvale Monash Community Aid and Advice Bureau

Phone: (03) 9546 5255

## Amounts Used in Child Support Assessments

	Child Support Year										
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999	2000	2001	2002	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Liabe Parent's exempted income amount											
Single yearly rate of pension (no relevant dependents)	7,959	8,221	8,362	8,733	9,006	9,043	10,219	10,482	11,271	11,740	
Twice married pension rate (with relevant dependents)	13,276	13,712	13,946	14,570	15,023	15,085	17,051	17,498	18,813	19,597	
Additional amount for child under 13 at end of child support year	1,609	1,669	1,747	1,830	1,888	1,895	1,958	2,018	2,049	2,169	
Additional amount for child 13-15 at end of child support year	2,272	2,356	2,447	2,558	2,639	2,649	2,733	2,813	2,857	3,025	
Additional amount for child 16 or over at end of child support yr.	3,319	3,428	3,487	3,643	3,756	3,771	3,875	3,977	4,276	4,454	
<i>Source: Social Security Act 1991</i>											
<b>Resident Parents disregarded income amount</b>											
Yearly equivalent of average weekly earnings.	32,063	33,259	34,549	36,130	37,424	38,787	31,351	31,699	33,717	35,012	
Additional amount for first child under 6 as at start of c.s. year	3,687	3,825	3,973	4,155	4,304	4,461	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Additional amount for each other child under 6 as at start of c.s. yr.	802	831	864	903	936	970	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Additional amount for child 6 or over and under 12 as at start of c.s. yr.	1,603	1,663	1,727	1,807	1,871	1,939	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
<b>Other amounts</b>											
Yearly equivalent of 2.5 times AWE	80,158	83,148	86,373	90,325	93,560	96,968	101,153	103,103	108,732	113,542	
Inflation factor	1,035	1,020	1,035	1,040	1,045	1,040	1,040	1,0375	1,0375	1,0375	
<b>Weekly Protected Earnings Rate (for the period 1 Jan. to 31 Dec.)</b>	<b>191.48</b>	<b>197.78</b>	<b>201.15</b>	<b>210.15</b>	<b>216.68</b>	<b>217.58</b>	<b>218.85</b>	<b>221.03</b>	<b>237.3</b>	<b>246.68</b>	

Notes: 1. The values recorded for the years 1994-95 to 1998-99 cover financial years i.e. 1 July to 30 June for those years.

2. The 1999 values apply to the period 1 July 1999 to 31 December 1999.

3. The 2000, 2001 and 2002 values are for the calendar years - 1 January to 31 December.



