

## 4 Income support payments

### Introduction

This section includes details of selected pensions, benefits and allowances paid by the Department of Family and Community Services (DFACS) and selected pensions paid by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA). The intention is to present data to indicate the proportion of the population in receipt of income support from the Commonwealth Government, to highlight variations in the distribution of this population across the Northern Territory and to compare this distribution with other data in the atlas. Comparisons are made with data from 1989, published in the first edition of the atlas.

### Explanatory notes

#### Data mapped

The pensions and benefits included in the analysis are listed in **Table 4.1**, which also shows the way in which the DFACS and DVA data were combined for mapping. Percentages were calculated on population figures representing as near as possible the ages applicable to the particular pensioner and beneficiary groups.

Details of those receiving the DVA service pension (Age) have been combined with those for the DFACS Age Pension and, similarly, details of recipients of the DVA Service Pension (Permanently Incapacitated) have been combined with those for the Disability Support Pension (DSP) paid by DFACS. People in receipt of the Veteran Disability pension (which includes the Totally and Permanently Incapacitated pension) were excluded from the analysis, as this pension is paid as compensation for service related incapacity, and is not regarded as an income support payment. Recipients of the War Widows pension were excluded on the same grounds.

In the case of the Sole Parent Pension, only females were mapped, as they comprise the majority of this pension group (93.6 per cent of all of such pensioners at 30 June 1996).

Data mapped for unemployment beneficiaries relate to Youth Training Allowance, the Newstart Allowance and the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP). The CDEP is a job creation scheme initiated in 1977 by Aboriginal communities to help remote, isolated Aboriginal communities develop an alternative to continued reliance on unemployment benefits. In 1985, the scheme was expanded to include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in urban and rural areas. Under the scheme, members of participating communities, organisations or groups forgo individual unemployment benefits for a wages grant paid to the community. Each community decides on its own work program. The program may include projects such as road works, house repairs and maintenance, and the production of artefacts and activities in support of traditional lifestyle and culture. Although the CDEP data were only available at 30 June 1998, they have been included with the other data for unemployment beneficiaries, which have a reference date of 30 June 1996.

The proportion of children aged under 16 years and living in families receiving the Family Payment (when paid at greater than

the minimum rate<sup>1</sup>) have been mapped as a percentage of all children aged under 16 years at the 1996 Census. Two groups of families are eligible for this payment. One includes families receiving one of the following income support payments: the DFACS Age, Disability Support and Sole Parent Pensions; Youth Training Allowance or Newstart Allowance; Sickness and Special Benefits; or the CDEP. These families are 'automatic' recipients of the Family Payment and account for just over three quarters (75.4 per cent) of families receiving this payment at June 1999. The other group includes families with a family member in the workforce, but with a low income. Payments such as the double orphan's pension and the Family Payment (minimum rate) and Family Tax Payment have been specifically excluded from this analysis, as families in receipt of such payments may also receive relatively high incomes. Details of the small number of children of DVA pensioners were not available.

**Table 4.1: Income support payments mapped, 30 June 1996**

Department of Family & Community Services (DFaCS)	Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA)	Denominator (percentage of the population)
<b>Pensions</b>	<b>Pensions</b>	<b>Age group (years)</b>
Age <sup>1</sup>	Service (Age) <sup>2</sup>	Males 65 & over Females 60 & over
Disability Support	Service (PI) <sup>3</sup>	Males 15-64 Females 15-59
Sole Parent <sup>4</sup>	.. <sup>5</sup>	Females 15-54
<b>Labour market allowances</b>		
Youth Training Allowance & Newstart Allowance <sup>6</sup>	..	Males 15-64 Females 15-59
<b>Children<sup>7</sup></b>	..	Population 0-14

<sup>1</sup>Excludes wife pension, as recipients are under age-pensionable age. The small number of males under 65 years and females under 60 years of age receiving an Age Pension were also excluded from this analysis

<sup>2</sup>Includes wife/widow pension, as recipients are mainly of age-pensionable age

<sup>3</sup>Permanently Incapacitated: data for males aged 65 years and over and females aged 60 years and over were included with Age Pensions

<sup>4</sup>Details for males were excluded from the analysis

<sup>5</sup>DVA War Widows pensioners are excluded as this pension is primarily a compensation payment and not an income support payment

<sup>6</sup>Youth Training Allowance and Job Search Allowance are the unemployment benefit schemes: also includes people in Community Development Employment Programs at 30 June 1998

<sup>7</sup>Includes children (aged under 16 years) in families receiving a selected pension or benefit, or the Family Payment (greater than minimum rate): see text

<sup>8</sup>Excludes children of DVA pensioners as separate details were not available

Source: Compiled from data from DFACS and DVA

<sup>1</sup>The Family Payment is designed to assist with the costs of bringing up children. Families with low incomes (around \$23,000 a year for families with two children at 30 June 1996) and those receiving an income support payment receive Family Payment at a rate above the minimum rate.

The data are collected by the postcode of the postal address of the recipient of the income support payment. See *Area mapped* for a discussion of why data in **Darwin** was not converted to SLA.

In some instances, the number of people in receipt of a pension or benefit in a postcode exceeds the population in that postcode: this is particularly a problem with the Age Pension data. This is the case even when the pensioner/beneficiary data are compared with the population data by five year age group, separately for males and females. As a result, the calculation of the proportion of the population in receipt of a particular pension or benefit type can produce percentages of greater than 100 per cent. Other percentages of less than 100 per cent may also be overstated.

### Area mapped

No attempt was made to estimate the number of income recipients in each SLA within the postcodes, in **Darwin**, as there is no reliable way to do this. The data in Chapter 3 have been

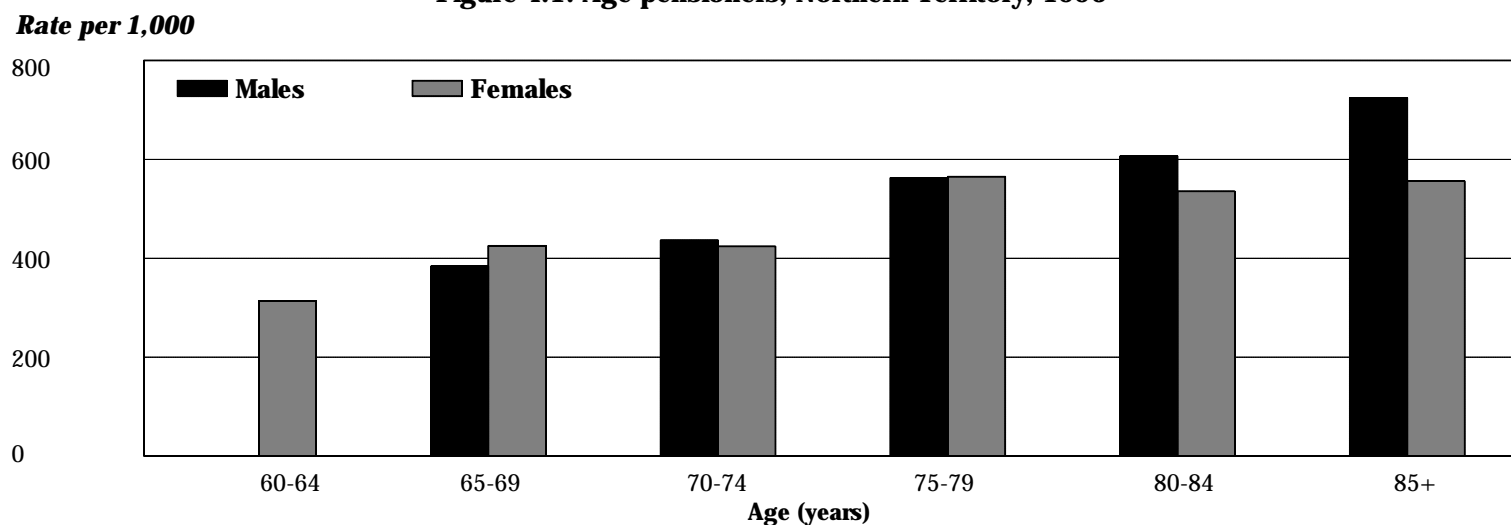
mapped by postcode area to enable comparisons to be made of the distribution of the variables with those in this chapter.

### Details of age and sex of recipients

The age and sex profiles of recipients of the Age and Disability Support Pensions and unemployment benefits and the age profiles of female sole parent pensioners are shown in the following charts.

Females can receive the Age Pension from age 60 years and males from age 65 years (**Figure 4.1**). Although the numbers of females receiving this pension are higher from 75 years of age, their rates are lower in the older age groups. Rates for females follow a pattern of a decline in the 70 to 74 year age group, then increasing over the next age group before declining. As can be seen from **Figure 4.1**, rates for males increase with each age group.

**Figure 4.1: Age pensioners, Northern Territory, 1996**

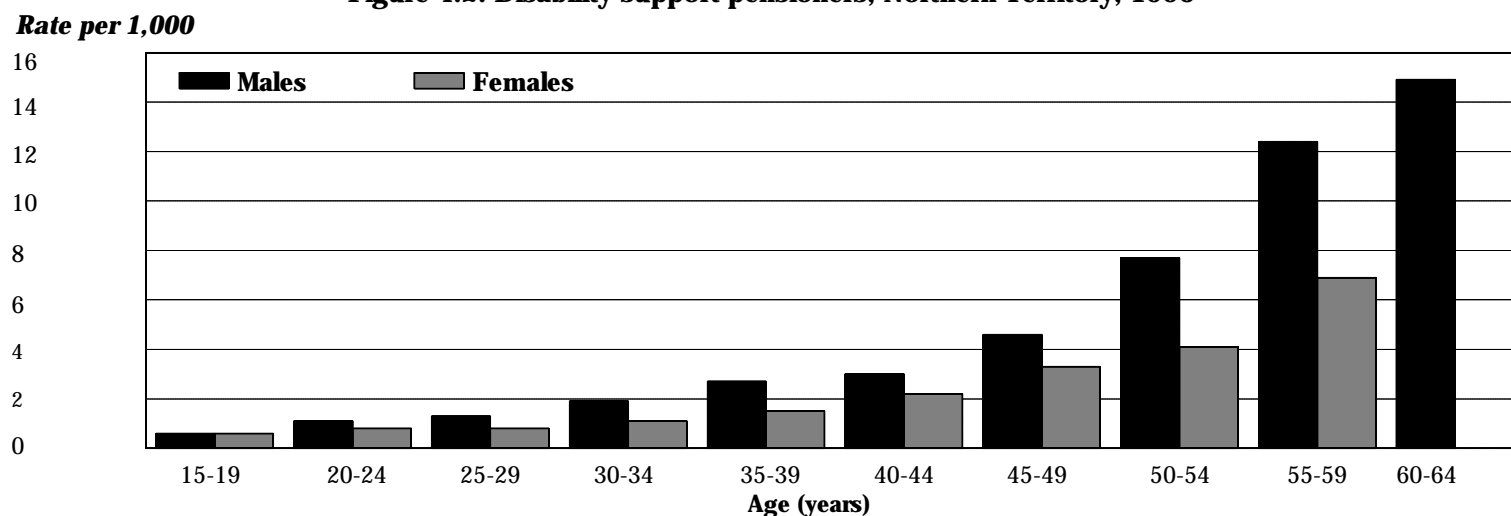


Source: Calculated on data supplied by DFACS (Age Pension) and DVA (Service Pension (Age))

Male rates are marginally higher in each age group under 40 years for those receiving the Disability Support Pension, with substantially higher rates at older ages (**Figure 4.2**). From age

60 years, females eligible for this pension are transferred to the Age Pension. The rates for both males and females grow steadily across the ages, most markedly from around 50 years of age.

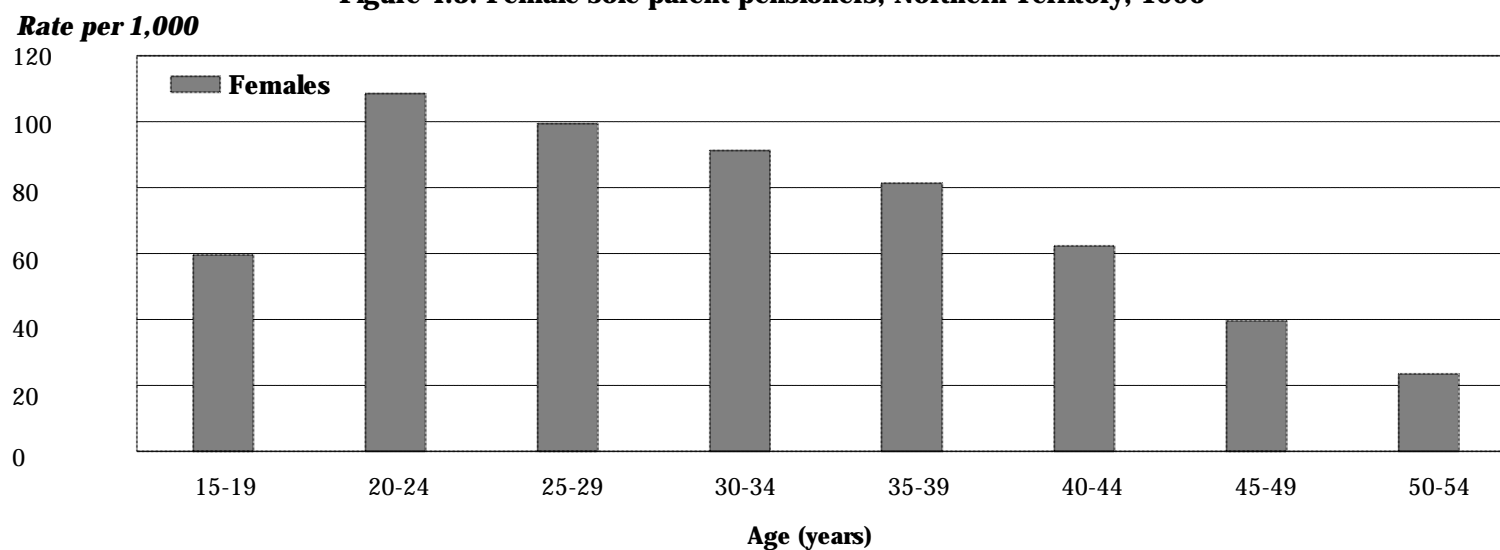
**Figure 4.2: Disability support pensioners, Northern Territory, 1996**



Source: Calculated on data supplied by DFACS (Disability Support Pension) and DVA (Service Pension (Permanently Incapacitated))

Age-specific rates for female sole parent pensioners reveal a distribution where the highest rates are in the 20 to 24 year age group, followed by steadily declining rates at older ages: there is also a notable rate in the 15 to 19 year age group (Figure 4.3).

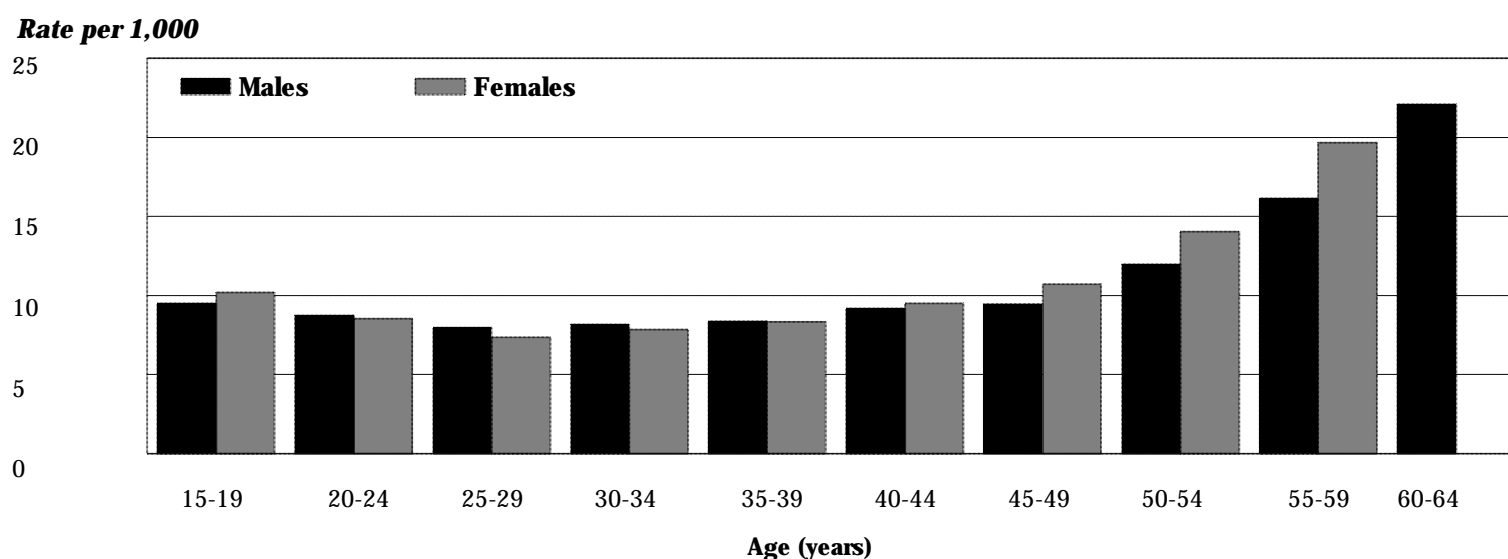
**Figure 4.3: Female sole parent pensioners, Northern Territory, 1996**



Source: Calculated on data supplied by DFACS

Both male and female unemployment rates remain relatively consistent until the age of 49 years, after which they increase steadily to 55 to 59 years for females and 60 to 64 years for males (Figure 4.4).

**Figure 4.4: Unemployment beneficiaries, Northern Territory, 1996**



<sup>1</sup>Excludes people in the Community Development Employment Program

Source: Calculated on data supplied by DFACS (Youth Training and Newstart Allowances)

## Age pensioners, 30 June 1996

### Capital city comparison

People eligible for an Age Pension from the Department of Family and Community Services (DFACS), comprise females aged 60 years and over and males aged 65 years and over. The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) provides a service pension to eligible males at age 60 years and females at age 55 years. The data mapped are the sum of these pension types, referred to generally as age pensioners, expressed as a percentage of all females aged 60 years and over and all males aged 65 years and over at 30 June 1996.

The proportion of the population in receipt of an Age Pension declined in all capital cities between 1989 and 1996 (**Table 4.2**), although **Adelaide** remained as the capital city with the highest proportion. This decline has occurred because although there are now more people receiving the Age Pension than was the case in 1989, the population of pensionable age has increased at a faster rate. The largest declines were evident for **Darwin** (which became the capital base with the lowest proportion of its population on an Age Pension), **Hobart** and **Brisbane**, and the least for **Melbourne**.

**Table 4.2: Age pensioners, capital cities**  
*Per cent*

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra <sup>1</sup>	All Capitals
1996	64.7	71.3	69.9	76.2	69.9	72.3	41.3	53.5	68.9
1989	69.8	72.2	79.0	82.6	76.8	81.7	64.4	58.6	73.7

<sup>1</sup>Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

### Darwin

#### Postcodes (aggregates of suburbs)

In 1996, 2,108 people (41.3 per cent of people of age-pensionable age) in **Darwin** were receiving an Age Pension. The relatively low proportion and number reflect **Darwin's** status as Australia's 'youngest' capital city, with just 5.0 per cent of its population aged 65 years and over compared to the Australian figure of 11.6 per cent.

However, the above similarity does not extend to the distribution of age pensioners across **Darwin**. The highest proportion of age pensioners (66.6 per cent) was recorded in the postcode area of Palmerston, which had both the lowest proportion and number of people aged 65 years and over (**Map 4.1**). By way of contrast, Darwin: South West had the lowest proportion of age pensioners (32.8) but recorded the highest proportion of people aged 65 years and over at the 1996 Census (7.0 per cent). Darwin: North East (36.0 per cent) and Darwin: North West (45.6 per cent) had percentages either side of the **Darwin** average.

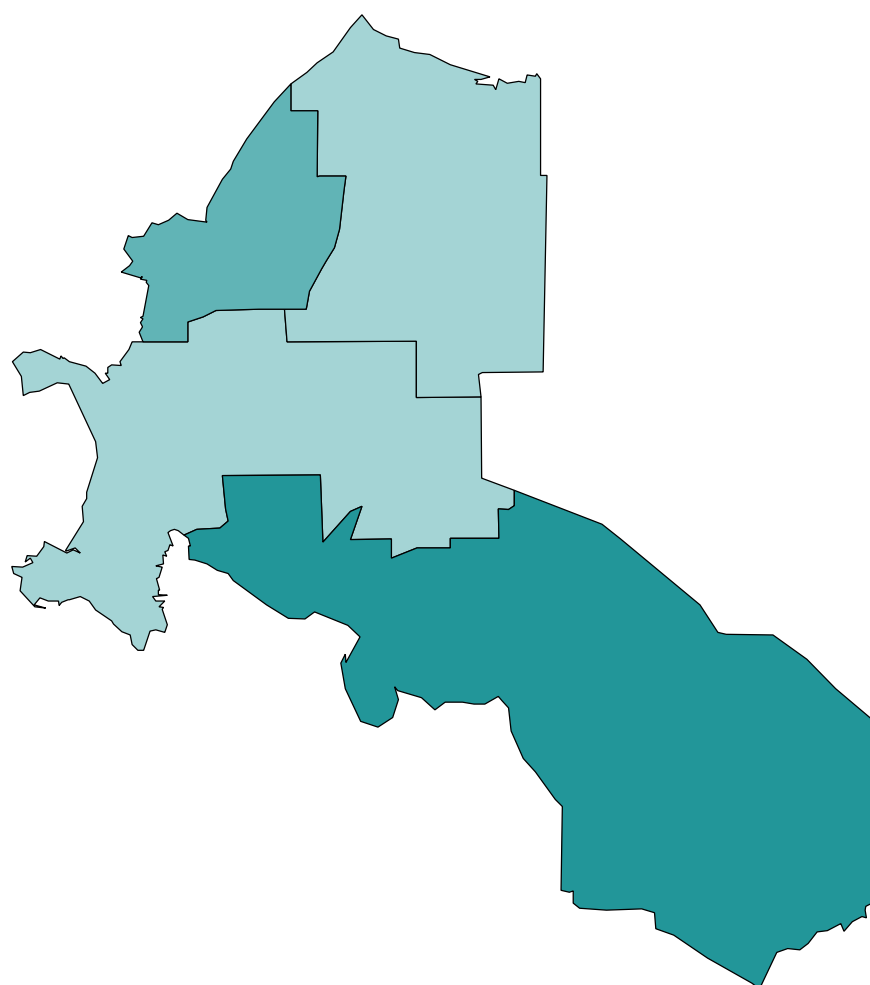
All of the postcode areas had fewer than 1,000 people in receipt of an Age Pension. The highest number was 774 people in Darwin: North West and the lowest number was 354 people in Palmerston.

While there were too few areas available for a correlation analysis to be undertaken at the postcode level, there were some associations evident between the rates for this variable and those for low income families and early school leavers.

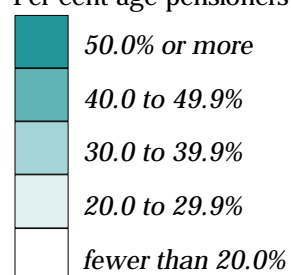
## Map 4.1

### Age pensioners\*, Darwin, 1996

as a percentage of males aged 65 years and over and females aged 60 years and over in each postcode area#



Per cent age pensioners



\*Includes the Age Pension paid by the Department of Family and Community services and the Service Pension (Age) paid by the Department of Veterans' Affairs

#SLAs have been grouped to approximate postcode areas

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2  
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

# Age pensioners, 30 June 1996

## State/Territory comparison

In 1989, there were 517,855 people living in the non-metropolitan areas of Australia who received an Age Pension: by 1996 this had increased to 539,312. Over this period, the proportion of the population in receipt of an Age Pension declined in all States and the Northern Territory (**Table 4.3**): the non-metropolitan areas of Tasmania had the highest proportion in both periods. This decline has occurred because although the number of people receiving the Age Pension was higher in 1996 than was the case in 1989, the population of pensionable age has increased at a faster rate. The largest declines were evident for the Northern Territory (with the lowest proportion in both periods), Western Australia and Queensland, and the least for South Australia.

**Table 4.3: Age pensioners, State/Territory**  
*Per cent*

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total <sup>1</sup>
<b>1996</b>									
Capital city	64.7	71.3	69.9	76.2	69.9	72.3	41.3	53.5 <sup>2</sup>	68.9
Other major urban centres <sup>3</sup>	79.8	82.7	56.2	..	..	..	..	..	71.5
Rest of State/Territory	68.3	74.3	62.1	75.1	60.8	77.6	37.3	— <sup>4</sup>	68.1
Whole of State/Territory	67.7	72.5	64.3	75.9	67.5	75.4	39.1	55.4	68.9
<b>1989</b>									
Rest of State/Territory	80.3	76.0	77.6	75.7	76.6	85.6	65.9	— <sup>4</sup>	78.2

<sup>1</sup>Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

<sup>2</sup>Includes Queanbeyan (C)

<sup>3</sup>Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

<sup>4</sup>Data unreliable: included with ACT total

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

## Rest of Territory

In 1996, there were 2,456 people in the non-metropolitan areas of the Northern Territory (37.3 per cent of people of age-pensionable age) who received an Age Pension. The relatively low number is a reflection of the low proportion of people aged 65 years and over in non-metropolitan Northern Territory, particularly in areas characterised by high proportions of Indigenous people.

As **Map 4.2** shows, age pensioners reported less than 50 per cent of the population of age-pensionable age in all but four SLAs in the non-metropolitan areas of the Northern Territory. These SLAs were Tanami (57.8 per cent), Groote Eylandt (52.5 per cent), East Arnhem-Balance (51.7 per cent) and Bathurst-Melville (50.5 per cent). Indigenous Australians comprised over 50.0 per cent of the population of these SLAs.

The next highest proportions were in Gulf (45.8 per cent), West Arnhem (45.4 per cent), Alice Springs (43.9 per cent), Sandover-Balance (40.8 per cent) and Litchfield [Part B] (40.4 per cent).

The SLAs with values in the second lowest range mapped formed a band stretching from Daly (27.1 per cent) and Coomalie (25.4 per cent) to Tableland (24.7 per cent).

The four SLAs with proportions in the lowest range mapped (all with fewer than 15 age pensioners) were all in the north-western part of the Northern Territory. These were Jabiru (7.0 per cent), South Alligator (11.7 per cent), Litchfield [Part A] (13.4 per cent) and Cox-Finniss (16.6 per cent).

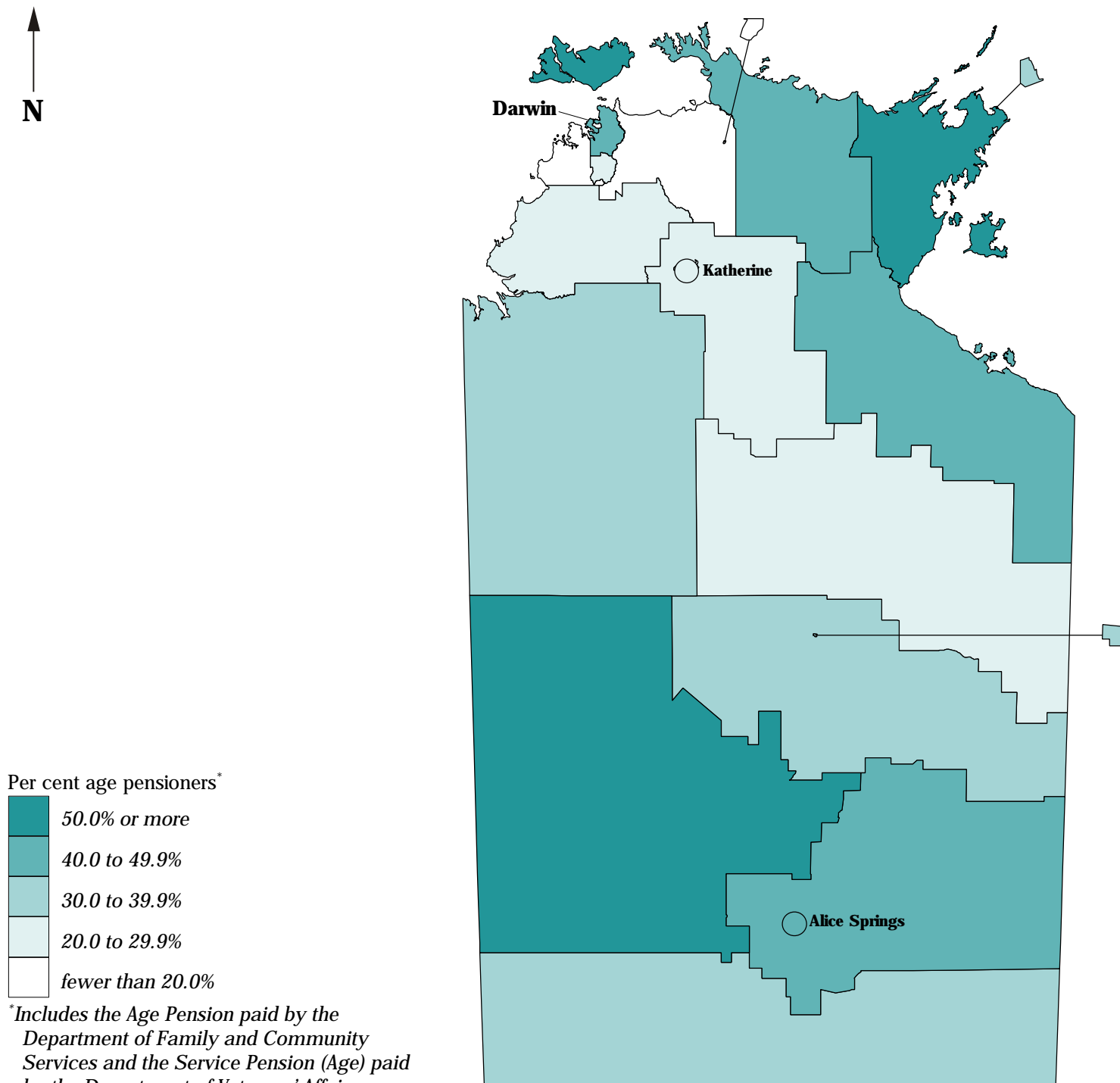
The number of age pensioners were low at the SLA level, with 789 in Alice Springs, 330 in Litchfield [Part B] and 197 in Tanami. The majority of SLAs had fewer than 100 people receiving an Age Pension.

There were correlations of meaningful significance with the variables for the Indigenous population (0.61), children aged from 0 to 4 years (0.60), single parent families (0.53), private dwellings without a motor vehicle (0.53) and people in receipt of unemployment benefits (0.53). Weaker correlations were recorded with the variables for early school leavers (0.42) and low income families (0.33). These results, together with the inverse correlation of meaningful significance with the IRSD (-0.58), indicate an association at the SLA level between high proportions of age pensioners and socioeconomic disadvantage.

## Map 4.2

### Age pensioners\*, Northern Territory, 1996

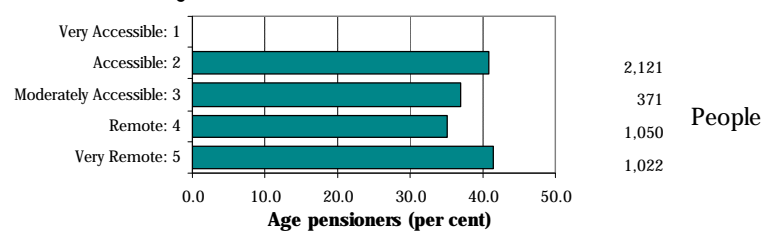
as a percentage of males aged 65 years and over and females aged 60 years and over in each area



Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

### Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



The proportions of the population of pensionable age in receipt of the Age Pension are all relatively low. The highest proportions are in the Very Remote (41.4 per cent of the eligible population) and Accessible (40.8 per cent) ARIA categories, with slightly lower proportions of 37.0 per cent in the Moderately Accessible and 35.1 per cent in the Remote areas. New South Wales is the only other State or Territory with similarly high proportions in the Very Remote and Accessible areas.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC  
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

# Disability support pensioners, 30 June 1996

## Capital city comparison

People eligible for a Disability Support Pension, paid by the Department of Family and Community Services (DFACS), must be aged 16 years or over and have not reached age-pensionable age; be permanently blind or have a physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairment level of 20 per cent or more and a continuing inability to work. Details of males under 65 years of age and females under 60 years of age receiving the DVA service pension (permanently incapacitated) have been combined with the Disability Support Pension data: details on people above these ages were included in the data for age pensioners.

The proportion of the population in the capital cities in receipt of the Disability Support Pension has increased considerably since 1989, rising from 2.6 per cent in 1989 to 3.9 per cent in 1996. High levels of unemployment have impacted significantly on the increase in the number of disability support pensioners (Centrelink 1997). This increase was evident in all capital cities, with the largest increases recorded in **Hobart**, **Adelaide**, **Sydney** and **Brisbane**. In both 1989 and 1996, **Hobart** and **Adelaide** had the largest proportions of disability support pensioners, while **Canberra** and **Darwin** had the lowest.

**Table 4.4: Disability support pensioners, capital cities**

	<i>Per cent</i>								
	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra <sup>1</sup>	All Capitals
1996	3.8	3.7	4.1	5.1	3.9	5.6	3.1	2.2	3.9
1989	2.3	2.6	2.7	3.5	3.0	3.6	2.1	1.2	2.6

<sup>1</sup>Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

## Darwin

### Postcodes (aggregates of suburbs)

In 1989, there were 1,081 people in receipt of a Disability Support Pension in **Darwin**, 2.1 per cent of the eligible population (females aged from 15 to 59 years and males aged from 15 to 64 years). By 1996 the number had almost doubled to 1,815 people and the proportion had increased to 3.1 per cent. Despite the increase, the proportion in **Darwin** remained well below the *All capitals* average of 3.9 per cent (Table 4.4).

The highest proportion of disability support pensioners (3.6 per cent) was recorded in the southern postcode area of Palmerston (Map 4.3). Palmerston also recorded the lowest IRSD score in **Darwin** as well as having high proportions for many of the indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage, such as housing authority rented dwellings, low income families and early school leavers.

Darwin: South West and Darwin: North West had 3.5 per cent and 3.2 per cent of their eligible population in receipt of a Disability Support Pension, respectively. The lowest proportion was recorded in Darwin: North East (2.1 per cent).

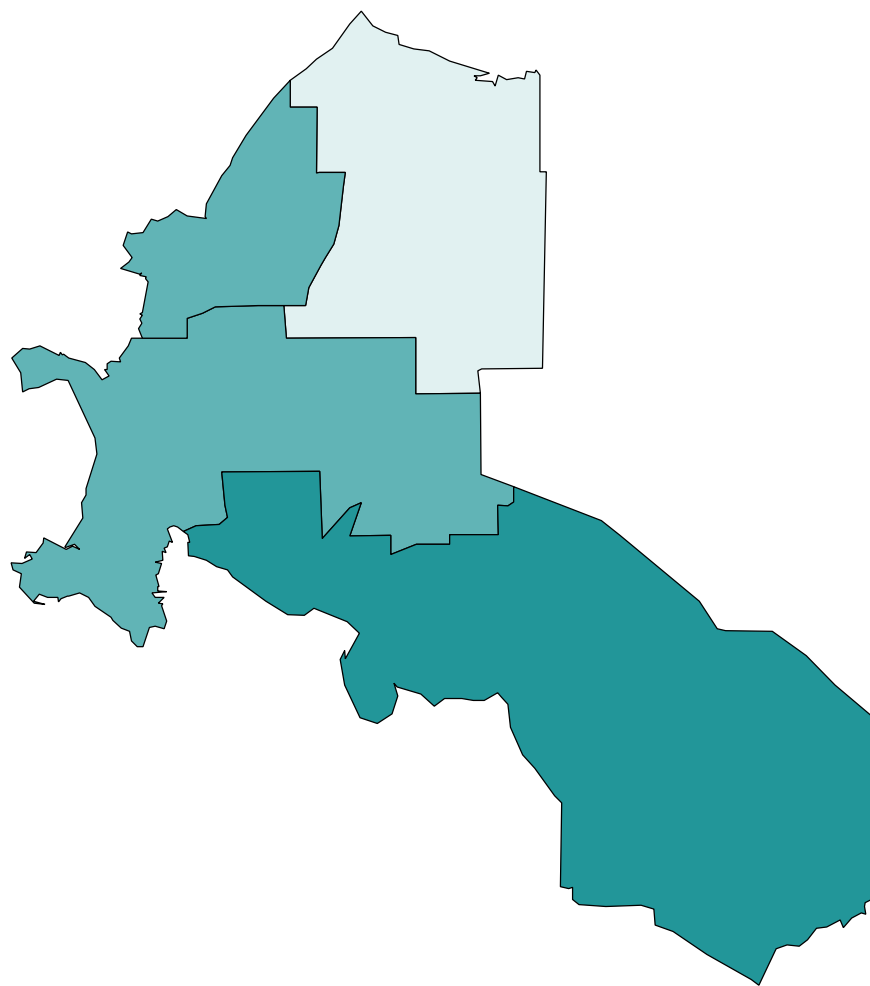
None of the postcode areas in **Darwin** had more than 700 disability support pensioners. The highest numbers were recorded in Darwin: North West (668 people) and Darwin: South West (530). Darwin: North East had 312 disability support pensioners and Palmerston had 305.

The correlation analysis was not undertaken as there were too few areas.

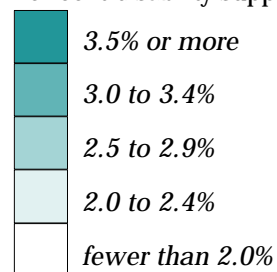
### Map 4.3

### Disability support pensioners\*, Darwin, 1996

as a percentage of males aged 15 to 64 years and females aged 15 to 59 years in each postcode area#



Per cent disability support pensioners\*



\*Includes the Disability Support Pension paid by the Department of Family and Community Services and the Service Pension (Permanently Incapacitated) paid by the Department of Veterans' Affairs

#SLAs have been grouped to approximate postcode areas

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2  
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

# Disability support pensioners, 30 June 1996

## State/Territory comparison

In 1996, the proportions of people in receipt of the Disability Support Pension (see previous text page for details of those included) were generally higher in the non-metropolitan areas than in the capital cities, with the exception of South Australia, Western Australia and Northern Territory. The average for the *Rest of State/Territory* areas was 5.0 per cent, with similar proportions recorded in Queensland (4.6 per cent), Victoria (4.9 per cent) and South Australia (5.0 per cent). The highest proportion was in Tasmania (6.2 per cent) and the lowest in the Northern Territory (2.7 per cent). Comparisons between 1989 and 1996 show an increase in the proportions across all States and Territories, with the largest increases evident in Tasmania, South Australia and New South Wales.

**Table 4.5: Disability support pensioners, State/Territory**  
*Per cent*

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total <sup>1</sup>
<b>1996</b>									
Capital city	3.8	3.7	4.1	5.1	3.9	5.6	3.1	2.2 <sup>2</sup>	3.9
Other major urban centres <sup>3</sup>	6.1	4.7	3.9	..	..	..	..	..	5.1
Rest of State/Territory	5.7	4.9	4.6	5.0	3.7	6.2	2.7	— <sup>4</sup>	5.0
Whole of State/Territory	4.5	4.0	4.2	5.1	3.8	6.0	2.8	2.1	4.3
<b>1989</b>									
Rest of State/Territory	3.9	3.3	3.1	3.3	3.1	3.7	2.2	— <sup>4</sup>	3.4

<sup>1</sup>Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

<sup>2</sup>Includes Queanbeyan (C)

<sup>3</sup>Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

<sup>4</sup>Data unreliable: included with ACT total

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

## Rest of Territory

In 1989, 1,228 people in the non-metropolitan areas of the Northern Territory were receiving a Disability Support Pension (2.2 per cent of the population aged from 15 to 64 years for males and 15 to 59 years for females). By 1996, both the number and proportion had increased to 1,859 people and 2.7 per cent respectively. Despite the increase, the Northern Territory had the lowest proportion of any *Rest of State/Territory* area.

SLAs with the highest proportions of disability support pensioners were in Tennant Creek (4.9 per cent), Coomalie (4.8 per cent) and Alice Springs (3.6 per cent). Gulf, with 3.0 per cent, was the only SLA mapped in the second highest range (Map 4.4).

SLAs with proportions in the middle range mapped were the town of Katherine (2.9 per cent) in the north of the Territory, and Petermann (2.7 per cent) and Sandover-Balance (2.5 per cent) in the south.

SLAs with between 2.0 and 2.5 per cent of the eligible population in receipt of a Disability Support Pension formed a contiguous area in the centre of the Northern Territory. This area included Tanami (2.4 per cent), Tableland, Daly and Elsey Balance (each with 2.3 per cent), Tennant Creek Balance (2.2 per cent), Victoria and West Arnhem (both 2.1 per cent) and Cox-Finiss (2.0 per cent).

All of the SLAs with fewer than 2.0 per cent of their eligible population receiving a Disability Support Pension were in the northern area of the Territory. The lowest proportions were recorded in Jabiru (0.6 per cent) and South Alligator (0.8 per cent), and represented just six and eight pensioners, respectively. The SLAs of Nhulunbuy, Groote Eylandt, Litchfield [Part A], East Arnhem Balance and Bathurst Melville also had proportions below 2.0 per cent.

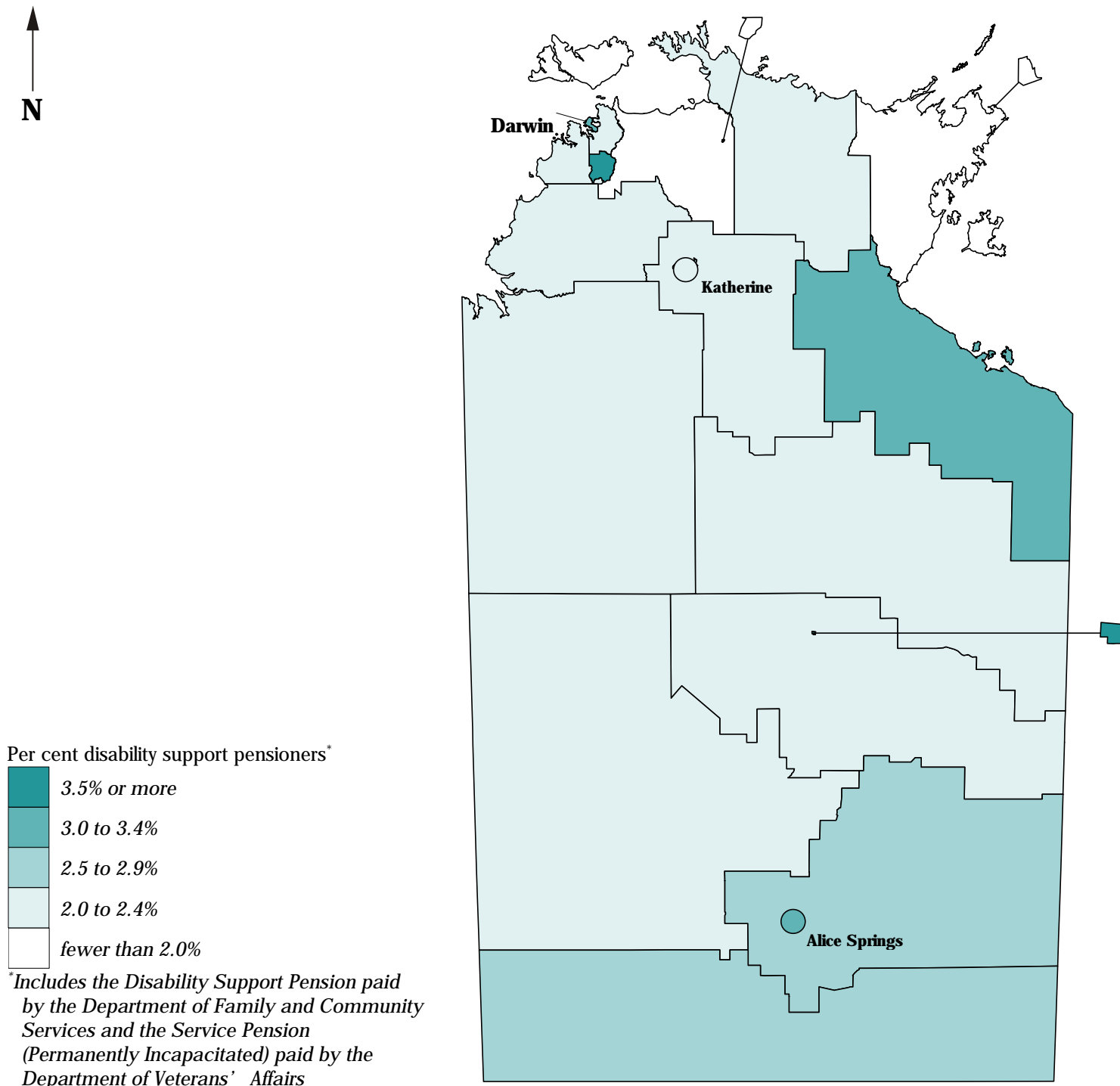
Overall, the number of people in receipt of a Disability Support Pension in the non-metropolitan areas of the Northern Territory was low. The highest numbers were in Alice Springs (629 people, with the highest number in the suburb of Larapinta (199 people)), Litchfield [Part B] (204) and Katherine (199 people). Most SLAs had fewer than 100 disability support pensioners.

There was no consistent evidence in the correlation analysis of an association at the SLA level between high disability support pensioners and socioeconomic status.

## Map 4.4

### Disability support pensioners\*, Northern Territory, 1996

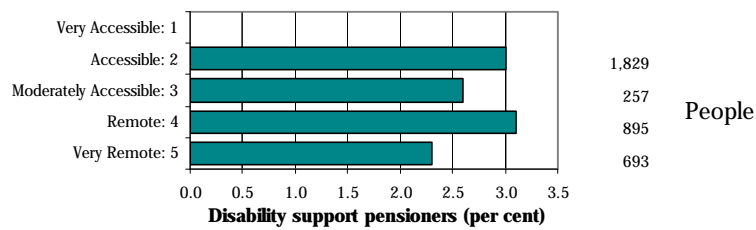
as a percentage of males aged 15 to 64 years and females aged 15 to 59 years in each Statistical Local Area



Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

### Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



Access to services is of particular importance to people with a disability and is reflected in the graph adjacent. The proportion of the eligible population receiving a Disability Support Pension is highest in the Accessible category (3.0 per cent) and Remote areas (3.1 per cent) and lowest in the Very Remote areas (2.3 per cent), with a slightly higher proportion of 2.6 per cent in the Moderately Accessible areas.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

# Female sole parent pensioners, 30 June 1996

## Capital city comparison

People eligible for a Sole Parent Pension paid by the Department of Family and Community Services (DFACS) comprise female and male sole parents who have at least one child under 16 years of age (who meets certain qualifications, or attracts a child disability allowance). The majority (93.6 per cent) of sole parent pensioners at 30 June 1996 were females, of whom some eighty per cent were between the ages of 20 and 44 years. Only female sole parent pensioners have been mapped because they comprise such a large proportion of all sole parent pensioners.

In 1996, 5.5 per cent of the *All capitals* female population living in the capital cities and aged from 15 to 54 years were in receipt of the Sole Parent Pension (**Table 4.6**). Proportions varied little from the *All capitals* figure, ranging from 7.2 per cent in **Hobart** to 4.8 per cent in **Canberra**. Comparisons with the 1989 figures show that there has been an increase in the proportion of female sole parent pensioners, rising from 4.1 per cent. The largest increase was recorded in **Melbourne** (up by 47.1 per cent), with increases of around one third in all other capital cities excepting **Darwin** and **Hobart**.

**Table 4.6: Female sole parent pensioners, capital cities**  
*Per cent*

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra <sup>1</sup>	All Capitals
<b>1996</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>5.5</b>
<b>1989</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>4.1</b>

<sup>1</sup>Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

## Darwin

### Postcodes (aggregates of suburbs)

In 1989, there were 1,466 females in receipt of the Sole Parent Pension in **Darwin**, 6.3 per cent of the female population aged between 15 and 54 years. By 1996, this figure had risen to 1,812 people and the proportion had increased to 6.8 per cent.

The postcode area of Palmerston had by far the highest proportion of female sole parent pensioners in **Darwin** (12.5 per cent) (**Map 4.5**). Palmerston also had the highest proportions of housing authority rented dwellings, unemployed people and low income families.

Darwin: North West and Darwin: North East had similar proportions for this variable with 6.5 and 6.4 per cent respectively.

The lowest proportion of female recipients of the Sole Parent Pension was in Darwin: South West (3.9 per cent). This area also had the highest proportions of high income families and people in high status occupations (such as managers, professionals and administrators) and the lowest proportions of indicators of low socioeconomic status including public rental housing, and low income families.

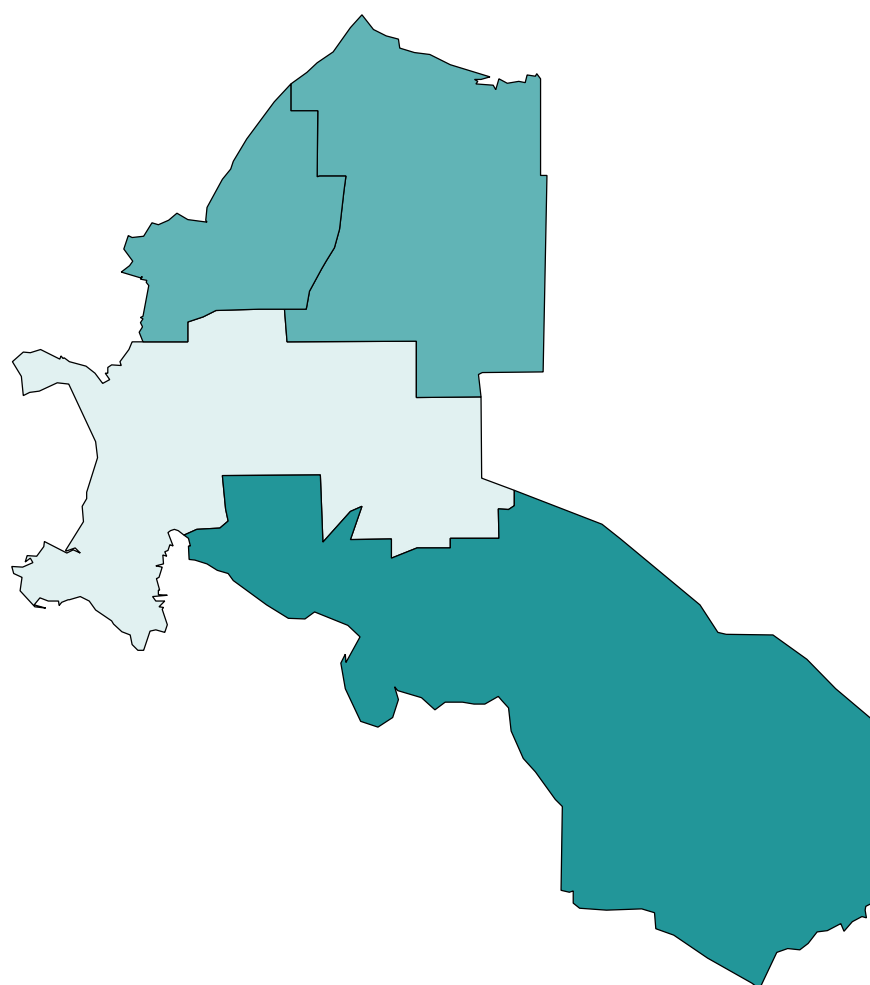
Darwin: North West had the largest number of female sole parent pensioners in **Darwin** (611 females) and Palmerston had the second highest number (504 females). Darwin: North East and Darwin: South West had 456 and 241 female recipients of the Sole Parent Pension respectively.

The correlation analysis was not undertaken as there were too few areas.

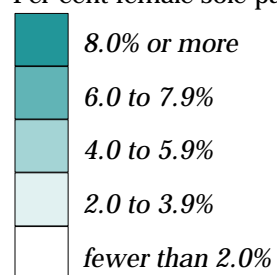
## Map 4.5

### Female sole parent pensioners, Darwin, 1996

as a percentage of females aged 15 to 54 years in each postcode area\*



Per cent female sole parent pensioners



\*SLAs have been grouped to approximate postcode areas

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2  
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

# Female sole parent pensioners, 30 June 1996

## State/Territory comparison

In the non-metropolitan areas of Australia, 7.5 per cent of the female population aged from 15 to 54 years were in receipt of the Sole Parent Pension (defined on previous text page). Of the non-metropolitan areas, New South Wales had the highest proportion with 8.3 per cent of its population in this category, while South Australia had the lowest (6.7 per cent). **Table 4.7** indicates that the proportions of female sole parent pensioners have increased since 1989, with the exception of the Northern Territory where the percentage remained unchanged.

**Table 4.7: Female sole parent pensioners, State/Territory**  
*Per cent*

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total <sup>1</sup>
<b>1996</b>									
Capital city	5.2	5.0	6.0	6.6	6.0	7.2	6.8	4.8 <sup>2</sup>	5.5
Other major urban centres <sup>3</sup>	7.5	7.3	7.4	..	..	..	..	..	7.4
Rest of State/Territory	8.3	6.8	7.2	6.7	7.1	7.2	7.6	— <sup>4</sup>	7.5
Whole of State/Territory	6.2	5.5	6.7	6.6	6.3	7.2	7.2	4.7	6.2
<b>1989</b>									
Rest of State/Territory	6.4	4.8	5.5	5.3	5.0	5.6	7.6	— <sup>4</sup>	5.6

<sup>1</sup>Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

<sup>2</sup>Includes Queanbeyan (C)

<sup>3</sup>Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

<sup>4</sup>Data unreliable: included with ACT total

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

## Rest of Territory

The number of females receiving the Sole Parent Pension in the non-metropolitan areas of the Northern Territory increased from 1,878 in 1989 to 2,321 in 1996. Although the proportion in the *Rest of Territory* remained at 7.6 per cent at the two reference dates, the 1996 number represented an increase of 23.6 per cent female sole parent pensioners on the 1989 figure.

All four SLAs with proportions of female sole parent pensioners in the highest range mapped, above 10.0 per cent, were in the northern end of the Northern Territory (**Map 4.6**). Gulf recorded the highest proportion (11.8 per cent), followed by Cox-Finniss (10.9 per cent), West Arnhem (10.4 per cent) and Elsey-Balance (10.1 per cent).

With the exception of Tennant Creek (8.1 per cent), SLAs with proportions of between 8.0 and 10.0 per cent were also in the northern part of the Northern Territory; they were Daly (9.6 per cent), Victoria (9.4 per cent), Bathurst-Melville (9.2 per cent), East Arnhem-Balance (8.9 per cent), Coomalie (8.4 per cent) and Nhulunbuy (8.0 per cent).

Of the eight SLAs with proportions in the middle range mapped, the highest proportions were recorded in Litchfield [Part B] (a semi-urban SLA near **Darwin**, with 7.6 per cent) and Alice Springs (also with 7.6 per cent). Other areas in this range included Tableland (6.9 per cent), Petermann (6.7 per cent), Katherine (6.1 per cent) and Groote Eylandt (6.0 per cent).

Jabiru (2.7) was the only SLA to record a proportion in the lowest range mapped. A further three SLAs had proportions of below 6.0 per cent; they were South Alligator (4.0 per cent), and Tennant Creek-Balance and Litchfield [Part A] (both 5.9 per cent).

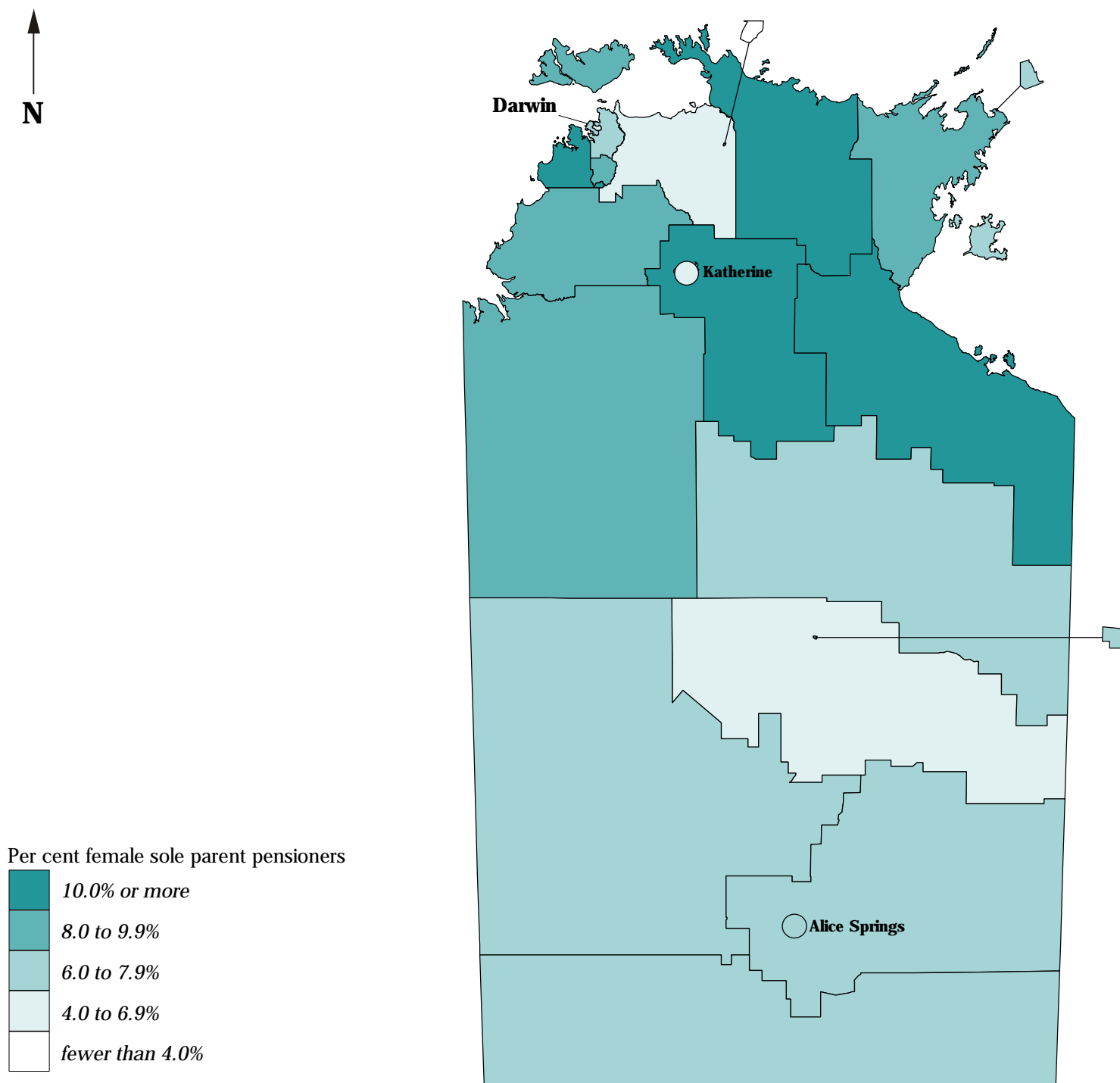
The highest numbers of females in receipt of the Sole Parent Pension were recorded in Alice Springs (623 females), Litchfield [Part B] (283 females) and Katherine (181 females).

There was a correlation of meaningful significance with the variable for single parent families (0.51) and weaker associations with the variables for the Indigenous population (0.45), unemployed people (0.41) and low income families (0.40). There was also a weak inverse correlation with high income families (-0.49). These results, together with the inverse correlation with the IRSD (-0.45), suggest the existence of an association between high proportions of female sole parent pensioners and socioeconomic disadvantage.

## Map 4.6

### Female sole parent pensioners, Northern Territory, 1996

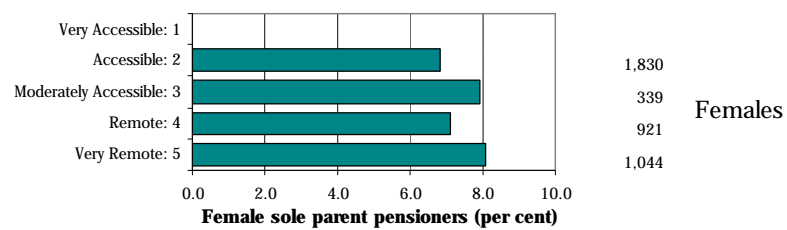
as a percentage of all females aged 15 to 54 years in each Statistical Local Area



Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

### Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



There are two separate, but similar, gradients evident in the graph of female sole parent pensioners by ARIA category. The first is between the Accessible (6.8 per cent, the lowest proportion) and Moderately Accessible (7.9 per cent) areas; and the second is from the Remote (7.1 per cent) to the Very Remote (8.1 per cent, the highest proportion) areas. Again, the numbers of female sole parent pensioners in the two 'remote' areas are relatively high.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC  
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

# People receiving an unemployment benefit, 30 June 1996

## Capital city comparison

People receiving an unemployment benefit, as described below, are shown as a percentage of the eligible population (of males aged 15 to 64 years and females aged 15 to 59 years), rather than as a percentage of the labour force as is usually the case. This approach has been adopted as the intention in this section is to examine the spatial pattern of distribution of income support payments.

The data mapped are the proportion of the population receiving 'unemployment benefits': it includes the Youth Training Allowance (YTA) and Newstart Allowance (NSA) paid by DFACS. The 792 residents of the capital cities and other major urban centres in the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) schemes in 1998 have also been included (see page 81 for details of the CDEP).

In 1996, 5.4 per cent of the eligible population, as defined above, were in receipt of an unemployment benefit, varying from 5.0 per cent in **Canberra** to 8.2 per cent in **Hobart**. Over the period from 1989 to 1996, the proportion of the population receiving an unemployment benefit has increased considerably across Australia and in each of the capital cities. The largest increase was evident in **Melbourne**, where the proportion increased from 1.9 per cent in 1989 to 6.9 per cent in 1996.

**Table 4.8: People receiving an unemployment benefit, capital cities**  
*Per cent*

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra <sup>1</sup>	All Capitals
<b>1996</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.4</b>
<b>1989</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.7</b>

<sup>1</sup>Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

## Darwin

### Postcodes (aggregates of suburbs)

In 1989, 5.7 per cent of the population in **Darwin** (2,934 people aged from 15 to 64 years for males and 15 to 59 years for females) were in receipt of an unemployment benefit. By 1996, the proportion had increased to 7.5 per cent and the number had increased (by 51.9 per cent) to 4,457 people. These 1996 figures include 125 people in CDEP schemes, with the majority (92 Indigenous people) living in the postcode area of Darwin: North East (all in the SLA of Lee Point-Leanyer Swamp).

The pattern of distribution of people receiving an unemployment benefit is not consistent with the distribution of people classified as being unemployed in **Darwin**, or, indeed, with the distribution of indicators of low socioeconomic status (**Map 4.7**). The highest proportion of people receiving an unemployment benefit, 8.4 per cent, was recorded in the established inner city suburbs of Darwin: South West. This postcode area also had high proportions for variables such as high income families and people in high status occupations, as well as the lowest proportions for a number of indicators of low socioeconomic status including low income families and public rental housing. One possible explanation may be that the numbers of people receiving unemployment benefits can be influenced by the large number of visitors drawn to Darwin's climate and seeking casual work. The younger unemployed would be well represented in this group who tend to concentrate in the hostels and flats of the inner city area.

The postcode areas of Darwin: North West and Palmerston had proportions of 7.7 and 7.5 per cent respectively. The lowest proportion was recorded in Darwin: North East (6.2 per cent).

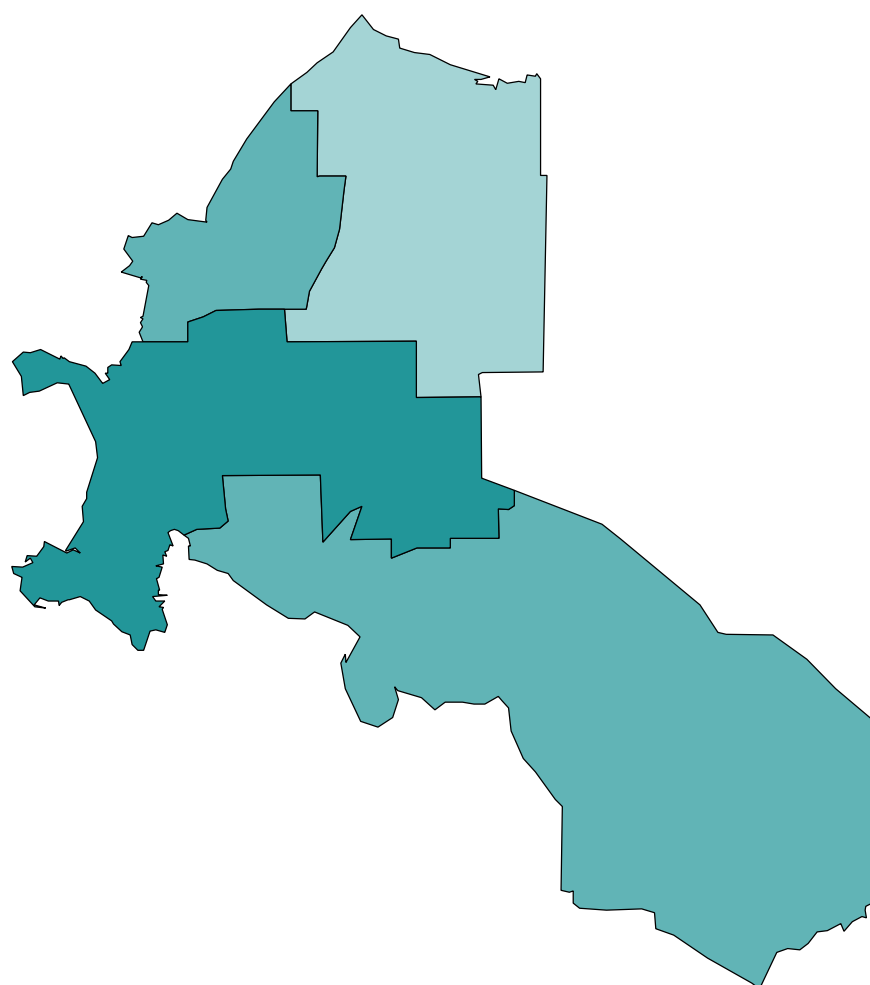
The largest numbers of people receiving an unemployment benefit were recorded in Darwin: North West (1,602 people) and Darwin: South West (1,292 people). Lower numbers were recorded in Darwin: North East (926 people) and Palmerston (636 people).

The correlation analysis was not undertaken as there were too few areas.

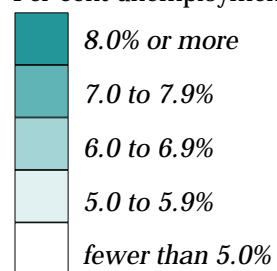
## Map 4.7

### Unemployment beneficiaries\*, Darwin, 1996

as a percentage of males aged 15 to 64 years and females aged 15 to 59 years in each postcode area#



Per cent unemployment beneficiaries\*



\*Includes people in receipt of Newstart Allowance, the Youth Training Allowance and those covered by the Community Development Employment Program

#SLAs have been grouped to approximate postcode areas

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2  
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

# People receiving an unemployment benefit, 30 June 1996

## State/Territory comparison

In 1996, the proportions of people in receipt of an unemployment benefit (see previous text page for details of programs included) in the *Rest of State/Territory* areas were higher than those recorded in the capital cities. The difference was most notable in the Northern Territory, where the proportion recorded in **Darwin** (7.5 per cent) was considerably lower than that recorded in the non-metropolitan area (17.2 per cent). Excluding the Northern Territory, the non-metropolitan proportions varied little from the *Whole of State/Territory* total, ranging from 7.8 per cent in Victoria to 9.2 per cent in Tasmania. The 24,316 residents of the non-metropolitan areas of Australia in Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) schemes in 1998 (see page 81 for details of the CDEP) have also been included.

Since 1989, the proportion of people receiving unemployment benefits in the areas outside of the major urban centres has increased markedly, rising from 4.9 per cent in 1989 to 8.8 per cent in 1996 (**Table 4.9**). This represented an additional 135,289 people in receipt of unemployment benefits, rising from 152,306 in 1989 to 287,595 in 1996.

**Table 4.9: People receiving an unemployment benefit, State/Territory**  
*Per cent*

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total <sup>1</sup>
<b>1996</b>									
Capital city	5.4	6.9	6.6	8.0	6.2	8.2	7.5	5.0 <sup>2</sup>	5.4
Other major urban centres <sup>3</sup>	8.6	9.0	9.9	..	..	..	..	..	9.1
Rest of State/Territory	8.9	7.8	9.1	8.7	7.9	9.2	17.2	.. <sup>4</sup>	8.8
Whole of State/Territory	6.6	7.1	8.1	8.2	6.6	8.8	12.7	4.9	7.2
<b>1989</b>									
Rest of State/Territory	5.8	3.2	5.1	5.7	3.6	5.5	9.0	.. <sup>4</sup>	4.9

<sup>1</sup>Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

<sup>2</sup>Includes Queanbeyan (C)

<sup>3</sup>Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

<sup>4</sup>Data unreliable: included with ACT total

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

## Rest of Territory

In 1989, 9.0 per cent of the population (aged 15 to 64 years for males and 15 to 59 years for females) in the non-metropolitan areas of the Northern Territory were receiving an unemployment benefit, a total of 4,950 people. By 1996 the proportion had increased to 17.2 per cent and the number of people had increased considerably (by 142.7 per cent) to 12,013 people.

These figures for 1996 include 5,999 people in the non-metropolitan areas of the Northern Territory in CDEP schemes. Over half of the SLAs in the non-metropolitan areas of the Northern Territory had high CDEP participation rates, with the highest in Gulf (29.3 per cent, accounting for 506 people) and Victoria (27.1 per cent, accounting for 455 people). A further twelve SLAs had between 10.0 and 20.0 per cent of the eligible population in a CDEP scheme, including West Arnhem (18.9 per cent), East Arnhem-Balance (17.0 per cent), Cox-Finiss (16.6 per cent), Bathurst-Melville (16.2 per cent), Petermann (15.8 per cent) and Elsey-Balance (15.5 per cent). The highest numbers were in Tanami (604 people), East Arnhem-Balance (603 people) and Litchfield [Part B] (559 people). Generally, there were low participation rates in the towns, with Alice Springs recording a CDEP participation rate of 2.2 per cent.

There were nine non-metropolitan SLAs in the Northern Territory with more than 25.0 per cent of the population in receipt of an unemployment benefit (**Map 4.8**). The highest proportions were in Gulf (38.3 per cent), Victoria (37.2 per cent), West Arnhem (29.6 per cent) and Petermann (29.1 per cent).

Three areas recorded less than 10.0 per cent of the population in receipt of an unemployment benefit; they were Jabiru (2.8 per cent, representing a relatively low number of 30 people), South Alligator (5.8 per cent) and Katherine (8.2 per cent). Alice Springs had 10.0 per cent of its eligible population in receipt of unemployment benefits.

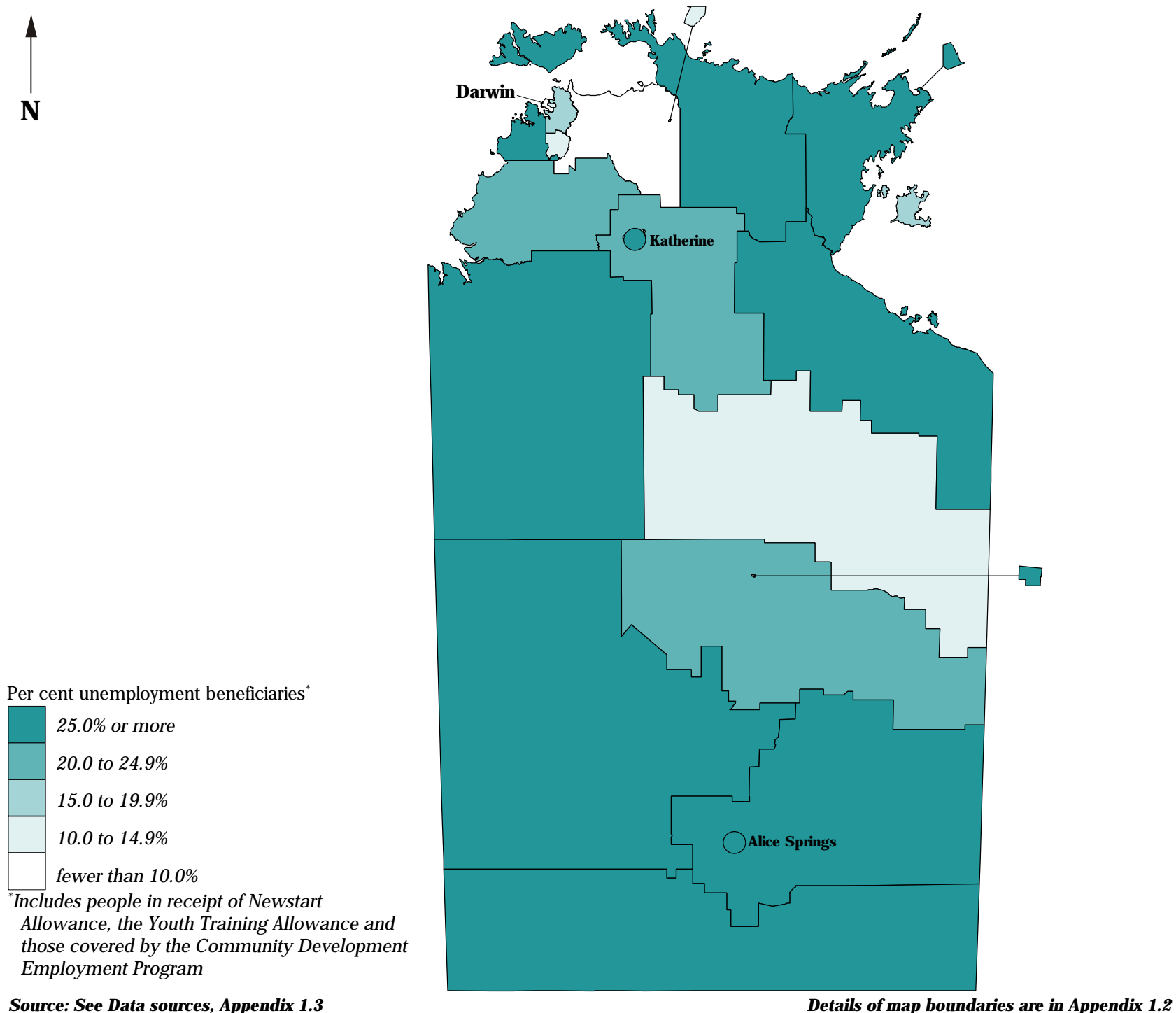
The largest numbers of people receiving an unemployment benefit were in Alice Springs (1,764 people), Litchfield [Part B] (1,374 people), Tanami (1,112 people), East Arnhem-Balance (910 people), Petermann (806 people) and West Arnhem (692 people).

There were correlations of substantial significance with the variables for low income families (0.73) and the Indigenous population (0.71), and correlations of meaningful significance with the variables for single parent families (0.65), early school leavers (0.60) and dwellings without a motor vehicle (0.58). These results, together with the inverse correlation of substantial significance with the IRSD (-0.73), indicate an association at the SLA level between high proportions of unemployment beneficiaries and socioeconomic disadvantage.

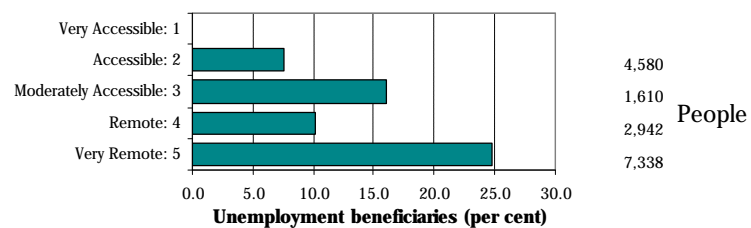
## Map 4.8

### Unemployment beneficiaries\*, Northern Territory, 1996

as a percentage of males aged 15 to 64 years and females aged 15 to 59 years in each Statistical Local Area



### Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



There is a distinctive pattern of distribution evident in the graph of unemployment beneficiaries by ARIA category (these figures include people participating in CDEP schemes). The main pattern is of steeply rising rates, from 7.6 per cent of the eligible population in the Accessible areas, to 16.1 per cent in the Moderately Accessible areas and to 24.7 per cent in the Very Remote areas. This pattern is broken by the lower rate, of 10.2 per cent, in the Remote areas. The largest number (as well as percentage) of unemployment beneficiaries is in the Very Remote areas and is likely to have been influenced by the high proportion of Indigenous people.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC  
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

# Dependent children of selected pensioners and beneficiaries, 30 June 1996

## Capital city comparison

Dependent children aged under 16 years and living in families receiving an income support payment or the family payment (at above the minimum rate) from the Department of Family and Community Services (DFACS) have been mapped as a percentage of all children aged under 16 years. Families included are those receiving the DFACS Age, Disability Support and Sole Parent Pensions; Youth Training or Newstart Allowances; sickness and special benefits; and the family allowance payment (the explanatory notes on page 81 contain more detail). Families receiving these pension and benefit types represent the majority of families reliant on government welfare payments for their main source of income, or with wage earners on low incomes.

In 1989, 24.3 per cent of children aged under 16 years (554,177 children) were living in families receiving income support (**Table 4.10**). By 1996, the proportion had increased to 39.2 per cent and the number had risen to just under one million (968,923 children). While the number of children has risen by a substantial 56.8 per cent, their proportion of the population aged under 16 years has risen by 61.3 per cent. This indicates that the growth in the proportion of children in this welfare dependent population is outstripping the growth of the total population of this age. This trend was evident across all capital cities, with the biggest increases occurring in **Melbourne** (almost double the 1989 proportion), **Canberra** and **Sydney** and the smallest in **Darwin** and **Hobart**. **Canberra** recorded the lowest proportion in both 1989 (17.7 per cent) and 1996 (28.1 per cent).

**Table 4.10: Dependent children of selected pensioners and beneficiaries, capital cities**  
*Per cent*

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra <sup>1</sup>	All Capitals
<b>1996</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>38.0</b>	<b>43.7</b>	<b>45.6</b>	<b>39.4</b>	<b>45.5</b>	<b>40.3</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>39.2</b>
<b>1989</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>31.2</b>	<b>26.4</b>	<b>34.7</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>24.3</b>

<sup>1</sup>Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

## Darwin

### Postcodes (aggregates of suburbs)

In 1989, 5,751 children in **Darwin** were living in families receiving an income support payment (29.9 per cent of the population aged from 0 to 15 years). By 1996, the number of children had increased (by 43.9 per cent) to 8,274 children and the proportion had risen to 40.3 per cent of the eligible population.

In 1996, the developing suburbs of Palmerston had the highest proportion of dependent children in families receiving an income support payment in **Darwin** (51.7 per cent) (**Map 4.9**). As mentioned in other variables in this chapter, Palmerston had the highest proportions for most of the indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage, including single parent families, low income families and housing authority rented dwellings.

Darwin: North West, which also had the second highest proportions for single parent families and low income families and Darwin: North East had the next highest proportions, of 40.9 per cent and 39.6 per cent, respectively. Darwin: South West had the lowest proportion (26.9 per cent).

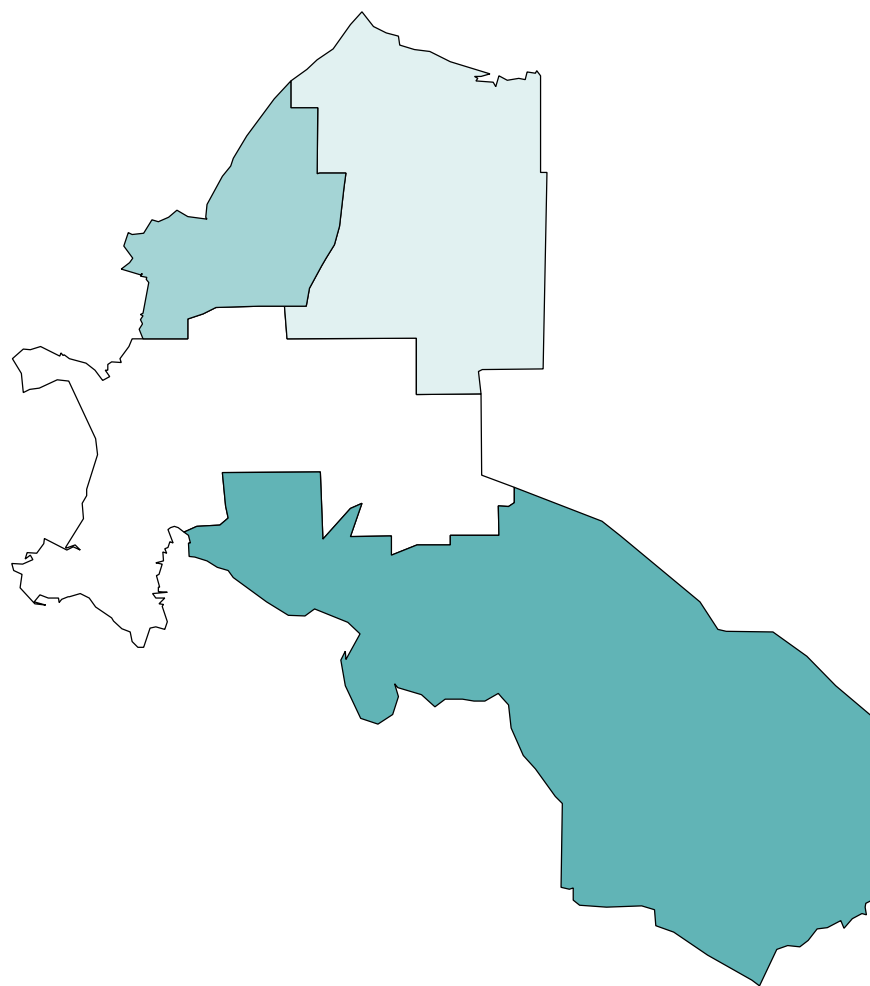
Darwin: North West had the largest number of dependent children in families receiving an income support payment (2,612 children), with more than 2,000 children in this category also in Darwin: North East (2,468 children) and Palmerston (2,222 children). Darwin: South West had the lowest number of dependent children (972 children).

The correlation analysis was not undertaken as there were too few areas.

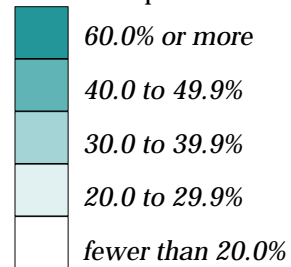
## Map 4.9

### Dependent children of selected pensioners and beneficiaries\*, Darwin, 1996

as a percentage of all children aged from 0 to 15 years in each postcode area<sup>#</sup>



Per cent dependent children



\*Includes children aged under 16 years and living in families receiving the Family Payment (when paid at greater than minimum rate)

<sup>#</sup>SLAs have been grouped to approximate postcode areas

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2  
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

# Dependent children of selected pensioners and beneficiaries, 30 June 1996

## State/Territory comparison

In 1996, 51.4 per cent of the population aged under 16 years and living outside of the major urban centres were living in families in receipt of an income support payment from the Department of Family and Community Services (see page 81 for further details). Proportions varied little across the non-metropolitan areas, with the highest recorded in New South Wales (54.1 per cent) and Tasmania (53.2 per cent) and the lowest in Western Australia (43.7 per cent) and Victoria (49.1 per cent).

Both the numbers and proportions have increased since 1989, rising from 37.8 per cent and 450,900 children in 1989 to 51.4 per cent and 686,689 children in 1996 (Table 4.11). The largest proportional increase was recorded in Victoria, where the 1996 figure was a 57.7 per cent increase from 1989. The overall increase from 37.8 per cent of the population aged under 16 years in 1989 to 51.4 per cent in 1996 represents a rise of 33.3 per cent, around half that of the increase for the capital cities (61.3 per cent).

**Table 4.11: Dependent children of selected pensioners and beneficiaries, State/Territory**  
Per cent

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total <sup>1</sup>
<b>1996</b>									
Capital city	37.2	38.0	43.7	45.6	39.4	45.5	40.3	28.1 <sup>2</sup>	39.2
Other major urban centres <sup>3</sup>	41.4	43.4	48.4	..	..	..	..	..	44.0
Rest of State/Territory	54.1	49.1	52.5	51.5	43.7	53.2	52.9	— <sup>4</sup>	51.4
Whole of State/Territory	42.6	41.3	48.2	47.3	40.7	50.1	47.8	27.4	43.5
<b>1989</b>									
Rest of State/Territory	41.4	31.3	41.0	38.8	31.9	38.3	42.6	— <sup>4</sup>	37.8

<sup>1</sup>Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

<sup>2</sup>Includes Queanbeyan (C)

<sup>3</sup>Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

<sup>4</sup>Data unreliable: included with ACT total

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

### Problems with the data

The data shows one SLA as having a proportion in excess of 100 per cent. This is clearly not accurate: the notes on page 82 include some possible reasons for this result.

The area in this category was Petermann (906 children: 140.3 per cent of the population aged under 16 years).

### Rest of Territory

In 1989, 10,617 children under 16 years of age in the non-metropolitan areas of the Northern Territory were living in families receiving an income support payment (42.6 per cent of the population at these ages). By 1996, the number of children had increased (by 51.4 per cent) to 16,069 children and the proportion had risen to 52.9 per cent of the eligible population.

Very high proportions of children under 16 years of age were living in families receiving an income support payment in Cox-Finniss (88.8 per cent), Elsey-Balance (80.8 per cent), Gulf (71.6 per cent), Victoria (64.5 per cent) and Bathurst-Melville (60.6 per cent) (Map 4.10). Other high proportions, in the second highest range mapped, were recorded in Tanami (59.1 per cent) and Sandover-Balance (56.1 per cent) in the south of the Northern Territory and Litchfield [Part A] (58.4 per cent), Litchfield [Part B] (55.4 per cent) and West Arnhem (53.1 per cent) in the north.

Nine localities had between 40.0 and 50.0 per cent of children aged under 16 years living in the poorest families; they included Tableland (49.8 per cent), Tennant Creek (49.6 per cent), Coomalie (48.8 per cent), East Arnhem-Balance (45.9 per cent), Nhulunbuy (45.3 per cent), Daly (45.2 per cent) and South Alligator (41.7 per cent). This range also included the towns of Alice Springs (48.7 per cent) and Katherine (40.8 per cent).

The lowest proportion, recorded in Jabiru (16.8 per cent), represented 62 children. The next lowest proportions were considerably higher, at 37.5 per cent in Groote Eylandt and 38.4 per cent in Tennant Creek-Balance.

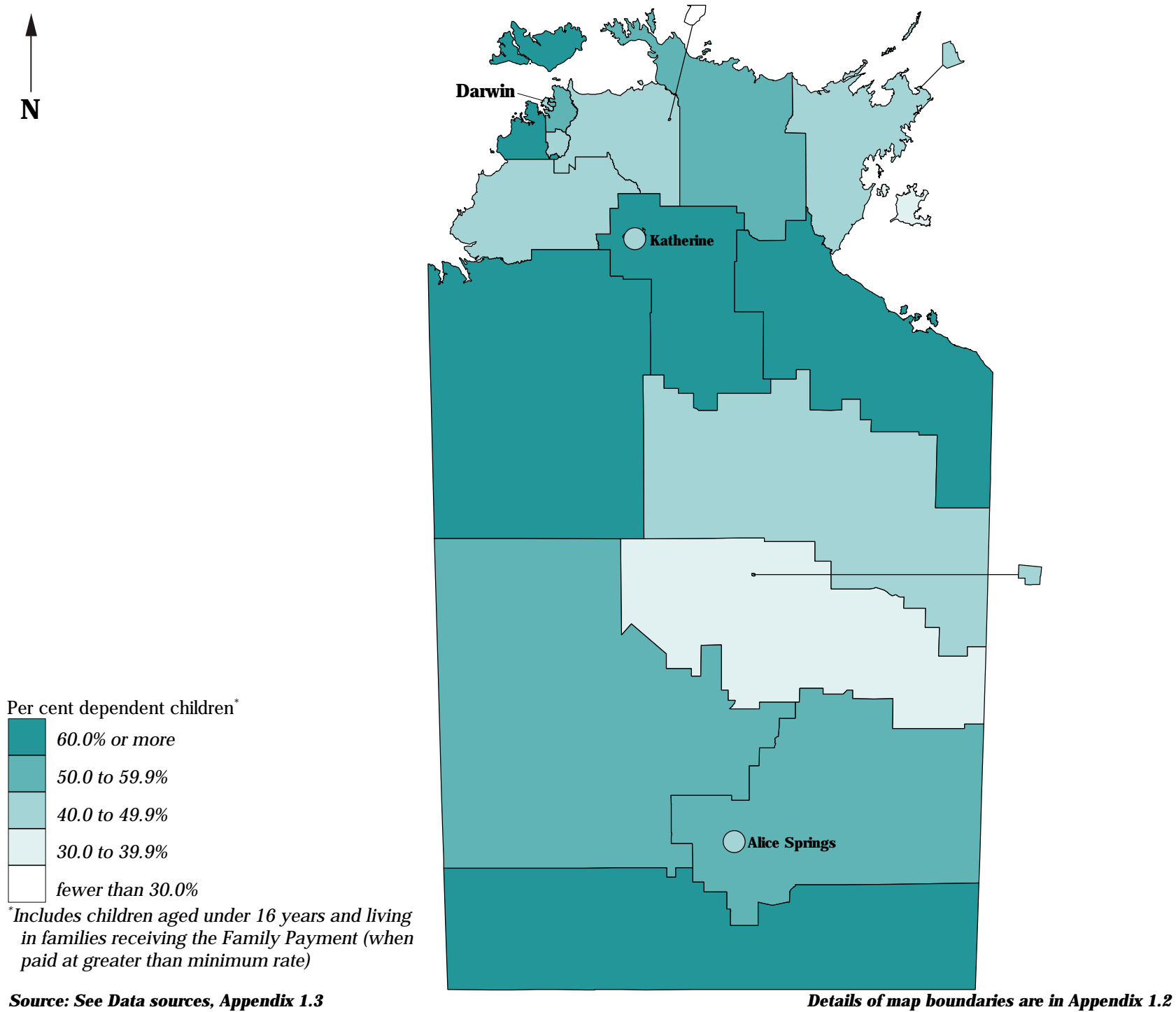
The largest numbers of dependent children were recorded in Alice Springs (3,343 children), Litchfield [Part B] (1,840 children), Tanami (1,251 children), Katherine (1,156 children) and East Arnhem-Balance (1,061 children).

There was a weak correlation at the SLA level with the variable for low income families (0.23) and weak inverse correlations with high income families (-0.27) and female labour force participation (-0.22). These results, together with the weak inverse correlation with the IRSD (-0.11), suggest an association at the SLA level between high proportions of dependent children in families receiving an income support payment and socioeconomic disadvantage.

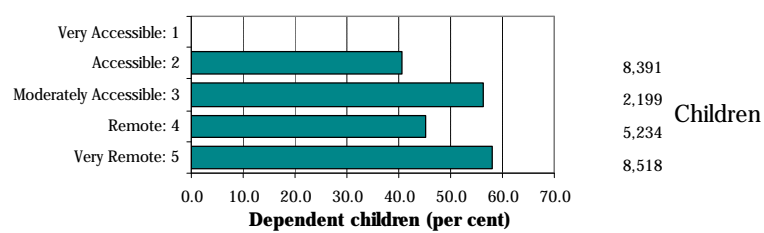
### Map 4.10

## Dependent children of selected pensioners and beneficiaries\*, Northern Territory, 1996

as a percentage of the total population in each Statistical Local Area



### Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



The pattern of distribution of the population aged under 16 years living in families receiving an income support payment is close to that described for unemployment beneficiaries. Proportions increase from a low of 40.5 per cent in the Accessible ARIA category to highs of 56.4 per cent in the Moderately Accessible areas and 57.9 per cent in the Very Remote areas, which also has the largest number of children in these families. This pattern is broken by the lower rate, of 45.2 per cent, in the Remote areas.

**Source:** Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

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