

Appendix 1 - Socioeconomic indexes

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) are derived from Census of Population and Housing data by the ABS. The most general index is the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage. A high score reflects an area's lack of disadvantage. Scores for Census Collection Districts are standardised on a mean of 1,000 and standard deviation of 100 across all CCDs in Australia. The Disadvantage Index average score for all Victorian CCDs in 2001 was 1,016. (ABS, Cat. No. 2039.0, Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas, Australia, 2001)

The ABS SEIFA disadvantage index is based on:

Educational qualifications, parental income, unemployment, occupation, one parent families, early school leaving, public housing rental, Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander population, level of English language competence and multiple families in dwellings

The Community Adversity and Resilience index (the Vinson report) index is based on:

Health, unemployment, low birth weight, child maltreatment, childhood injuries, education, psychiatric admissions, crime, income, dire shortage of money, mortality, sickness and disability support, imprisonment, early school leaving and disconnection of electricity.

Appendix 2 - Data sources for individual incomes

Average individual (personal) income data is now reported in the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) experimental estimates of personal income for small areas (ABS Information Paper 6524.0, June 2005). The data is available at Statistical Local Area (SLA) level. As it is experimental it comes with a number of caveats. The data comes to the ABS from two sources - Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and social security payments data. As a result, this income data does not include a total population number and does not lend itself to analysis of proportions of the population in various income groups.

Individual and household income is reported in the ABS Census, but in income group bands. Taxation data also includes some income data but only for taxpayers (see statistics section of the Australian Taxation Office website www.ato.gov.au).

Appendix 3 -Government benefit recipient categories, 2005

Disability support pension

Support paid to eligible people between 16 years of age and pension age with a physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairment who are unable to work at least 30 hours a week at award wages, or be reskilled to work within the next 2 years, because of their impairment.

Aged pension

Men over the age of 65 and women aged between 60 and 65 years of age, with income and assets below a certain amount, are eligible for the aged pension. Currently women qualify at different ages depending on their date of birth. By 2014, the minimum qualifying age for women will be 65 years, as for men.

Long term NewStart recipient

An eligible jobseeker receiving income support for 12 months or more.

NewStart allowance

Job search allowance paid to unemployed between the ages of 21 years and pension age. Activity, assets and income tests normally apply.

Parenting payment

Income support for low income people with primary care of at least one dependent child under 16 years. Single Parenting payment for sole parents, Parenting Allowance for low income partnered parents.

Short term NewStart recipient

Eligible jobseeker receiving income support for less than 12 months.

Sickness allowance

Support for people temporarily incapacitated for work as a result of illness and who can return to the workforce

Youth allowance

Means tested allowance for young people looking for work, studying, or ill. The allowance can be paid to full time students aged 16-25 years, or to eligible unemployed youth aged 16-21.

Note: Eligibility changes announced in the 2005-06 Commonwealth Budget are not reflected here.

Appendix 4 - Data from UNICEF-OECD child poverty league

The poverty rates used for the child poverty table refer to the following years: 2001 (Switzerland, France, Germany, New Zealand), 2000 (Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Czech Republic, Luxembourg, Japan, Australia, Canada, Portugal, Ireland, Italy, USA), 1999 (Hungary, Netherlands, Greece, Poland, UK), 1998 (Mexico), 1997 (Belgium, Austria) and 1995 (Spain).

For the majority of countries the data are from the Luxembourg Income Study (LIS) - Key Figures, at www.lisproject.org/keyfigures.htm.

Appendix 5 - Categorisation of access to shopping

Major shopping centres include inner Melbourne strip centres, major commercial and freestanding centres, and central business district retail centres as at 2001. Bulky goods centres have been excluded from the analysis of access to everyday shopping.

Neighbourhood retail centres in residential areas are defined as those with either four or more shops, at least one of which sells fresh food, or centres with three shops and a post office, or with a supermarket and two other shops.

Appendix 6 - Mapping access to services

A range of nine services expected by various age groups in an urban community -public libraries, post offices, police stations, maternal and child health centres, kindergartens and child care centres, Centrelink offices, community health centres, aged care centres and nursing homes, and government and non-government primary schools - was mapped for 2001 and grouped into clusters where 2 to 3 and 4 to 9 services are located within 400 metres of each other. The maps represent the percentage of Census Collection Districts (CCDs) within one kilometre of each cluster. CCDs have an average of 225 dwellings per CCD.