



A JOINT COMMONWEALTH AND STATE/TERRITORY PROGRAM
PROVIDING FUNDING AND ASSISTANCE FOR AUSTRALIANS IN NEED

Western Australia (WA) Home and Community Care Minimum Data Set (MDS) Version 2

Bulletin 13 - September 2008

MDS Report due: Tuesday 21st October 2008

HACC MDS reporting is upon us again. Organisations are reminded to report their data by the fifteenth business day, which will be Tuesday 21st October 2008.

Reporting as early as possible in the month ensures that there is sufficient time to make corrections and re-submit if/ as required.

Quarterly MDS data should be sent to the National Data Repository (NDR) at:

mdssubmission@haccmds.gov.au

At the same time, providers* should 'cc' a copy of the MDS data to the HACC mailbox:

haccwa@health.wa.gov.au

On submitting your data, you should receive two response emails (within 24 hours) from the NDR.

If you do not receive these response emails from the NDR, check that the email address you used was correct. If you are sure it was correct but you have had no response, you should contact the NDR Helpdesk:

Ph: 1800 638 427

You should also receive an email from HACC WA within a week, which will include an attached summary of your data. You should check this summary to ensure that your reported volumes look correct.

* Alternative arrangements exist for some agencies, such as those in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions

Carers and MDS

For people with an ongoing functional disability, HACC can provide basic support to build and maintain their skills so that they can carry out essential everyday activities and continue living independently in the community. HACC can also provide support to the carers of these people.

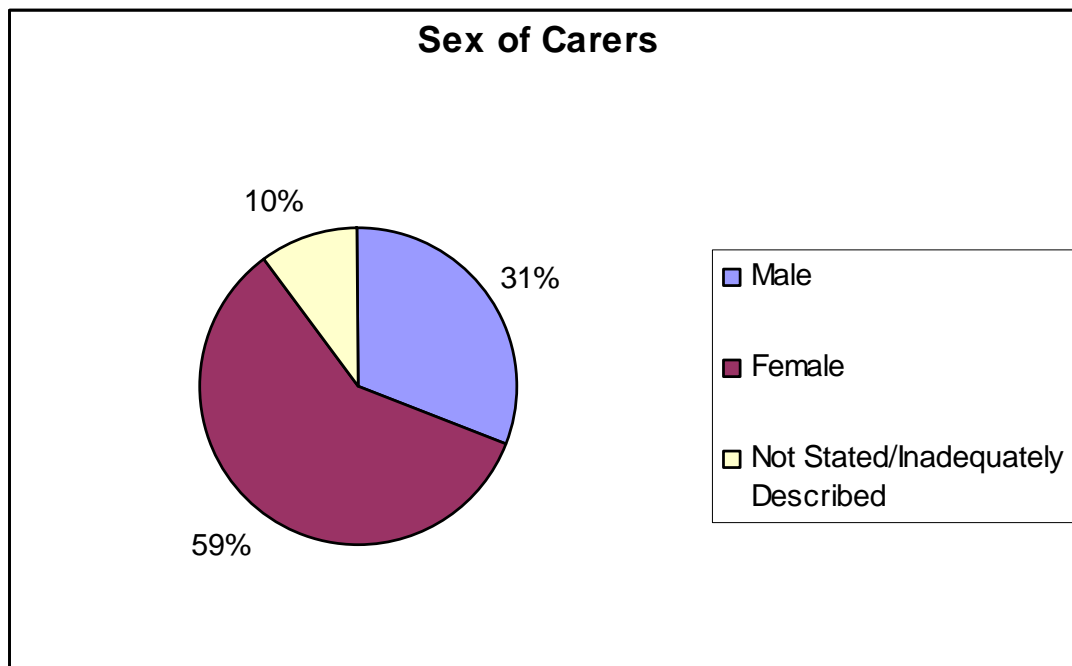
A carer is a person, such as a spouse, relative or neighbour, who provides regular and sustained care and assistance to another person, without payment other than a pension or benefit.

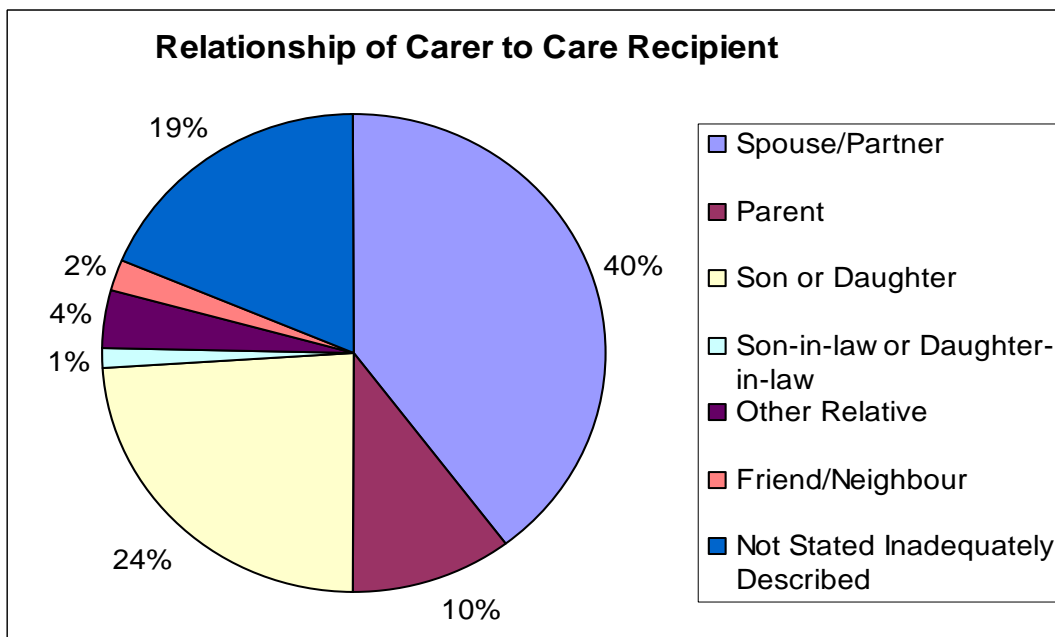
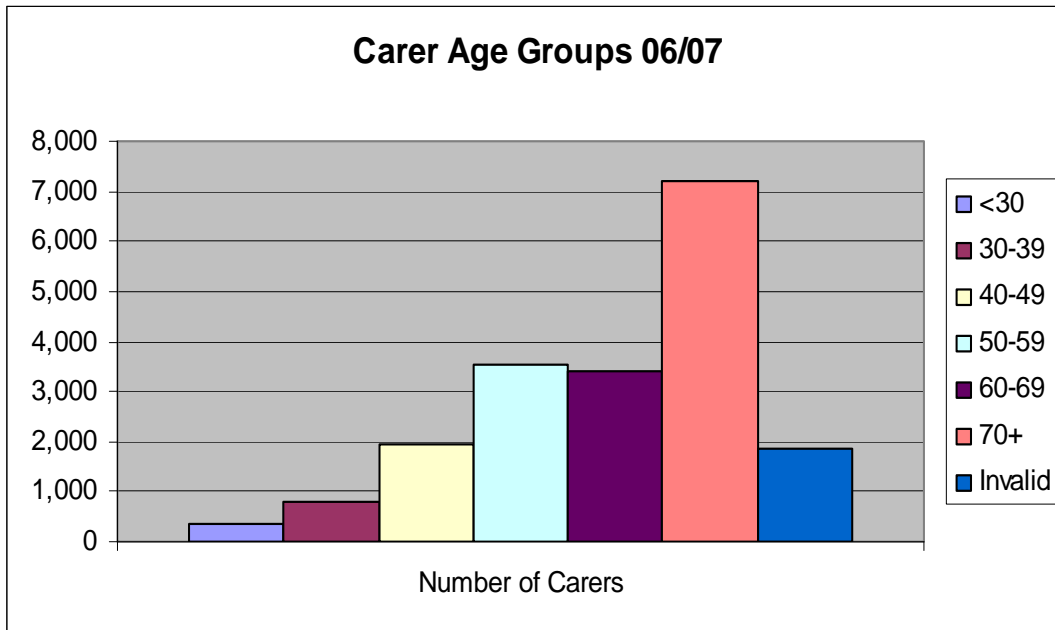
HACC provides direct services to carers through Respite Care and Counselling, Support Information and Advocacy (CSIA)- Carer. **In order for these service types to be recorded in MDS, Carer details must also be recorded on the client record.** If the Carer details are missing, these service type volumes will be rejected by the NDR and will not be included as part of the HACC Program's official MDS activity reports for the Agency.

Therefore, if your Respite volumes or CSIA- Carer volumes look too low (in the final official data reports), you should review your MDS recording and make sure that the Carer details are always being recorded on client records where these service type volumes are being recorded.

Carer Statistics

There were over 19,000 carers recorded in MDS for the 2006/07 year. Some interesting details about these carers are shown in the figures below:





- 59% of these carers were female.
- Over 36% of carers were aged over 70.
- Most carers are the client's spouse or partner followed by son or daughter
- Of the 19,127 recorded carers, 4,168 received CSIA-Carer and 3,271 received Respite Care

It is worth noting the high proportion of “Not Stated”, “Inadequately Described” and “Invalid” entries in each of the figures above. This highlights the need to complete all details on client records. This leads to improved data quality and reliable statistical reporting.

Sometimes a carer may also require HACC assistance due to their own frailty or disability, i.e. **outside of their role as a carer**. If this is the case, your agency should maintain a separate MDS client record for them detailing the other support services they receive.

For example:

Mrs Jones cares for her husband who is quite frail and suffering from dementia. A HACC agency provides Mr Jones with Personal Care and Mrs Jones with Respite to allow her a break from her caring role. This Respite Care will be recorded **on Mr Jones’ client record** along with the Personal Care. Mrs Jones’ details, as the carer, must be included on her husband’s client record in order for the Respite volumes to be counted.

If Mrs Jones is herself assessed as requiring support to get to medical appointments (Transport), then the agency will maintain a **separate client record** for Mrs Jones with the relevant service types (Transport) recorded.

The following table may clarify how service types should be allocated on each client record.

Client Record	Care Recipient details	Carer Details	Care Recipient Services	Carer Services
1	Mr Jones details	Mrs Jones details	Personal Care	Respite Care
2	Mrs Jones details		Transport	

Further Information

If you have any further questions regarding this Bulletin or MDS in general, please contact Trish Morton-Smith ☎9222 2301 or Jan Harse ☎ 9222 4065.

Further MDS information is available from the WA HACC website:

<http://www.health.wa.gov.au/HACC/mds/index.cfm>

On this website, you will also find a link to the Australian Government MDS website, from which further MDS resources including the **National MDS User Guide** can be downloaded.