

Disability Future Directions 2025

Demographic trends Monograph

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Summary

Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) can be used to estimate future numbers of persons with disability or with profound or severe core activity limitation. The method is to apply ABS age or age/sex-specific disability rates to ABS population projections. ABS produces several alternative projection series, based on different assumptions about the various components of population growth (fertility, mortality, interstate and overseas migration).¹ This document draws on the mid-level published projections of 'Series B'. (Its use here does not imply ABS recommendation of Series B over the other two published series. The assumption is that age-specific disability prevalences will remain unchanged, as they have since 1998.

1 Population

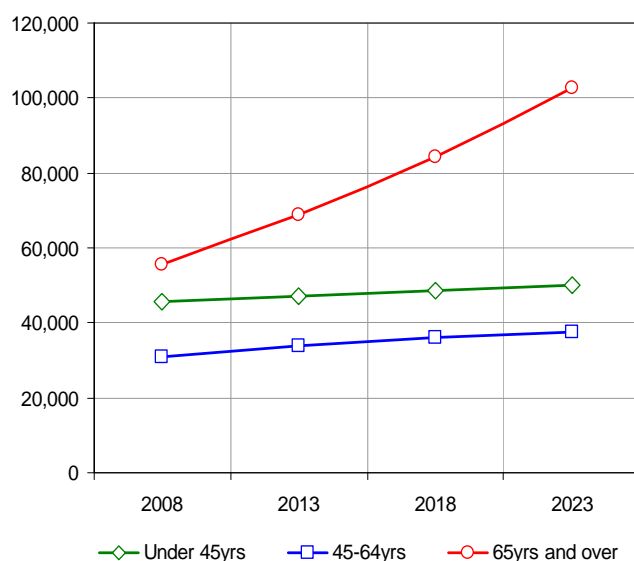
The Western Australian population is expected to increase by about 22 per cent between 2008 and 2023, but most of this increase will be in the population aged 65 or over. Over this 15 year period the population of greatest concern to disability service provision - those aged under 65 years - can be expected to increase by a much lower proportion: 12.7 per cent. This is equivalent to an annual rate of increase of 0.80 per cent.

2 Disability

Because of the nexus between disability and age, and the large increase expected in the number of older Western Australians, the total number of persons with disability will increase substantially in the next 15 years - by about 38 per cent to an expected 632,600 by 2023. The situation is quite different for persons with disability and aged under 65 years: numbers are expected to increase by only 16 per cent, to an estimated 359,500.

3 Profound or severe core activity limitation

The DSC 'reference population' is persons aged under 65 years with profound or severe core activity limitation. Almost all service users are drawn from this group,



which is expected to show an overall increase of only 14 per cent over 15 years (equivalent to an annual rate of increase of 0.89 per cent). Meanwhile the number in the 65 years and over age group is likely to increase by 85 per cent.

The projected numerical increases in profound or severe core activity limitation numbers are shown here for three age groups, of which it is expected that:

- the under 45yrs group (which supplies 80 per cent of DSC service users) will show the lowest rate of increase,

equivalent to 0.60 per cent annually over the 15 year period 2008-2023;

- the 45-64yrs group will show an overall 15 year increase equivalent to 1.30 per cent annually; and
- the 65yrs and over group will show a much higher rate of increase (more than 4 per cent annually).
- That is, DSC services focus on those age groups which are expected to show minimal numerical increase.

4 Service users

'Baseline' projections of service user numbers can be derived simply by taking expected changes in the reference population and holding constant one measure of performance ('service reach' - the proportion of this population accessing services). A shortcoming of this approach - which has not been acknowledged in some approaches to planning - is that the rate of demand for service is likely to increase, being driven not only by accumulating unmet demand but also by an expected reduction in the availability of informal carers. Data indicates that over the next 15 years, demand pressures will be socially rather than demographically driven.

Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) can be used to estimate future numbers of persons with disability or with profound or severe core activity limitation. The method is to apply ABS age/sex-specific disability rates to ABS population projections.² The assumption is that age-specific disability prevalences will remain unchanged, as they have since 1998.³

1 Population projections, Western Australia

Population change is a function of rates of fertility, mortality, interstate migration, and overseas migration. Due to better-quality data sources, actual rates of the first two can be calculated with greater accuracy than actual rates of interstate migration, while overseas migration rates have been historically volatile and may continue so. ABS publishes 'high', 'medium', and 'low' population projections which take account of different assumptions regarding future rates of these factors.⁴ The 'medium' projection - 'Series B' - is used in all DSC calculations which follow. (This does not imply ABS recommendation of Series B).

The most recent ABS state-level projections were published as Excel tables on the ABS website in June 2006⁵. These tables use upwardly-revised fertility and migration rates, resulting in a total population projection for 2023 which is about 4 per cent higher than was previously estimated. Table 1 reports data selected from the June 2006 ABS release, and shows (by age group) the numerical and percentage increases projected for the next 15 years, and the equivalent annual rates of increase.

Table 1
Population projections by age group, Western Australia
Fifteen-year period 2008-2023

Age group	ABS population projections				Changes over 15-year period		
	2008	2013	2018	2023	Numerical increase 2008-23	Overall %age increase 2008-23	Annual increase 2008-23
0-4yrs	127,000	129,800	133,100	137,100	10,200	8.0%	0.52%
5-14yrs	275,500	278,300	284,100	290,300	14,800	5.4%	0.35%
15-24yrs	294,700	303,100	305,400	308,100	13,400	4.6%	0.30%
25-34yrs	286,300	309,400	326,700	336,000	49,700	17.3%	1.07%
35-44yrs	312,700	319,700	325,900	348,100	35,400	11.3%	0.72%
45-54yrs	301,000	317,100	330,800	338,000	37,000	12.3%	0.78%
55-64yrs	241,900	272,500	298,700	315,000	73,100	30.2%	1.78%
Total, 0-64yrs	1,839,100	1,930,000	2,004,600	2,072,700	233,600	12.7%	0.80%
65yrs +	263,800	328,000	405,000	483,600	219,900	83.4%	4.12%
Total, all ages	2,102,900	2,258,000	2,409,700	2,556,300	453,500	21.6%	1.31%

Data source: ABS product 3222.0 Population Projections, Australia. Table B5, Population projections by age and sex, Western Australia - Series B. Data summed and rounded by DSC. Changes over 15-year period are DSC calculations. 'Annual increase' is the compound annual growth rate (CAGR)

Note that over the 15 year period it is expected that:

- the Western Australian population will increase by 21.6 per cent, to a total of 2,556,300;
- the number of Western Australians aged over 65 years will increase by 83.4 per cent; and
- the number aged under 65 years will increase by only 12.7 per cent, which corresponds to an annual rate of increase of 0.8 per cent.

Table 2 shows annual ABS population projections for the first five years of the 15 year planning period.

*Table 2
Population projections by age group, Western Australia
Five-year period 2008-2013*

Age group	ABS population projections						Changes over 5-year period		
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Numerical increase 2008-13	Overall %age increase 2008-13	Annual increase 2008-13
0-4yrs	127,000	127,700	128,200	128,700	129,300	129,800	2,900	2.3%	0.45%
5-14yrs	275,500	275,600	275,900	276,400	277,200	278,300	2,800	1.0%	0.20%
15-24yrs	294,700	297,300	299,200	300,600	302,000	303,100	8,400	2.8%	0.56%
25-34yrs	286,300	290,000	294,700	299,500	304,800	309,400	23,100	8.1%	1.56%
35-44yrs	312,700	313,600	315,300	316,900	318,200	319,700	7,000	2.2%	0.44%
45-54yrs	301,000	306,100	309,200	311,600	314,600	317,100	16,100	5.3%	1.05%
55-64yrs	241,900	249,400	257,300	265,800	268,500	272,500	30,700	12.7%	2.42%
Total, 0-64yrs	1,839,100	1,859,700	1,879,800	1,899,600	1,914,500	1,930,000	90,853	4.9%	0.97%
65yrs +	263,800	274,400	285,400	296,700	312,700	328,000	64,229	24.4%	4.45%
Total, all ages	2,102,900	2,134,100	2,165,200	2,196,300	2,227,200	2,258,000	155,082	7.4%	1.43%

Data source: ABS product 3222.0 Population Projections, Australia. Table B5, Population projections by age and sex, Western Australia - Series B. Data summed and rounded by DSC. Changes over 5-year period are DSC calculations. 'Annual increase' is the compound annual growth rate (CAGR)

The population from which CSTDA-funded service users are drawn (all age groups including persons aged under 65 years) can be expected to show a collective increase of 4.9 per cent over the first five years of the long-term planning period, that is, to increase by about 1 per cent annually. For some age groups, the expected annual rates of increase are much lower: 0.20 per cent for the 5-14yrs group, for example.

2 Disability projections, 2008-2023

Age-specific rates of disability, calculated from ABS (2003) estimates, have been applied to the latest available ABS age-specific population projections.⁶ Table 3 summarises the results.

Table 3
Persons with disability: ABS age-specific prevalences, Western Australia 2003,
and DSC projected disability numbers by age group

Fifteen-year period 2008-2023

Age group	Age-specific prevalence 2003	DSC disability projections				Changes over 15-year period		
		2008	2013	2018	2023	Numerical increase 2008-2023	%age increase 2008-2023	Annual increase
0-4yrs	4.1%	5,100	5,300	5,400	5,600	500	10%	0.63%
5-14yrs	11.6%	31,900	32,200	32,800	33,600	1,700	5%	0.35%
15-24yrs	9.3%	27,300	28,100	28,300	28,500	1,200	4%	0.29%
25-34yrs	14.6%	41,800	45,100	47,700	49,000	7,200	17%	1.07%
35-44yrs	15.1%	46,900	48,000	48,900	52,200	5,300	11%	0.72%
45-54yrs	23.4%	70,400	74,200	77,400	79,100	8,700	12%	0.78%
55-64yrs	35.4%	85,600	96,500	105,700	111,500	25,900	30%	1.78%
Total, 0-64yrs	16.2%	309,000	329,400	346,200	359,500	50,500	16%	1.01%
65yrs +	56.0%	148,500	184,300	226,900	273,100	124,600	84%	4.15%
Total, all ages	20.6%	457,500	513,700	573,100	632,600	175,100	38%	2.18%

Data sources: (a) ABS (2004) *Disability, Ageing and Carers Australia 2003: Summary of Findings - State Tables for Western Australia Table 1*; (b) ABS product 3222.0 *Population Projections, Australia. Table B5, Population projections by age and sex, Western Australia - Series B. Data summed and rounded by DSC. Changes over 15-year period are DSC calculations. Projections for 65yrs+ are calculated from age-decade-specific rates, not from the overall rate (56.0%) shown here. 'Annual rate of change' is the compound annual growth rate (CAGR)*

Note that:

- The total number of Western Australians with disability can be expected to increase from an estimated 457,500 in 2008 to about 632,600 in 2023. Most of the numerical increase is accounted for by those aged 65 years and over. This is illustrated in Figure 1 below.
- The number of Western Australians aged under 65 years with disability can be expected to increase by 50,500 (or 16 per cent) over the next 15 years. This is a greater increase than that in the corresponding population (12.7 per cent - see Table 1) because some age groups expected to show relatively high rates of increase also have relatively high disability prevalences.
- The number of persons aged under 25 years with disability (an estimated 64,300 in 2008) is expected to increase by only 3,400 (5 per cent) over the next 15 years. This corresponds to an annual rate of increase of only 0.34 per cent.

Figure 1
Persons with disability:
 DSC projections, Western Australia 2008-2023, by age group

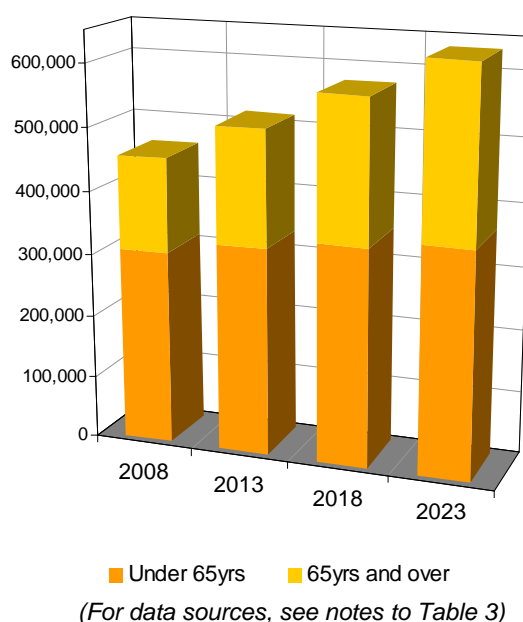


Table 4 shows annual disability projections for the five-year period 2008-2013. Note that the annual rate of increase in the number of persons with disability aged under 65 years is 1.29 per cent for this first five years of the long-term planning period. (Thereafter it falls, to 1.00 per cent in the second five years - 2013-2018 - and 0.76 per cent in the period 2018-2023.)

Table 4
Persons with disability:
 DSC projected disability numbers by age group, Western Australia
 Five-year period 2008-2013

Age group	DSC disability projections						Changes over 5-year period		
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Numerical increase 2008-2013	%age increase 2008-2013	Annual increase
0-4yrs	5,100	5,200	5,200	5,200	5,200	5,300	200	3.9%	0.77%
5-14yrs	31,900	31,900	31,900	32,000	32,100	32,200	300	0.9%	0.19%
15-24yrs	27,300	27,500	27,700	27,800	27,900	28,100	800	2.9%	0.58%
25-34yrs	41,800	42,300	43,000	43,700	44,500	45,100	3,300	7.9%	1.53%
35-44yrs	46,900	47,100	47,300	47,600	47,800	48,000	1,100	2.3%	0.46%
45-54yrs	70,400	71,600	72,300	72,900	73,600	74,200	3,800	5.4%	1.06%
55-64yrs	85,600	88,300	91,100	94,100	95,100	96,500	10,900	12.7%	2.43%
Total, 0-64yrs	309,000	313,900	318,500	323,300	326,200	329,400	20,400	6.6%	1.29%
65yrs +	148,500	154,400	160,700	167,100	175,800	184,300	35,800	24.1%	4.41%
Total	457,500	468,300	479,200	490,400	502,000	513,700	56,200	12.3%	2.34%

Data sources: (a) ABS (2004) Disability, Ageing and Carers Australia 2003: Summary of Findings - State Tables for Western Australia Table 1; (b) ABS product 3222.0 Population Projections, Australia. Table B5, Population projections by age and sex, Western Australia - Series B. Data summed and rounded by DSC. Changes over 5-year period are DSC calculations. Projections for 65yrs+ are calculated from age-decade-specific rates, not from the overall rate (56.0%) shown here. 'Annual rate of change' is the compound annual growth rate (CAGR)

3 Profound or severe core activity limitation projections, 2008-2023

Persons with profound or severe core activity limitation (those who need personal assistance as a result of impairment) are of particular interest to DSC, as they comprise the 'potential population' for purposes of the Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA).⁷ Age-specific rates of profound or severe core activity limitation, calculated from ABS estimates, have been applied to the ABS population projections reported in Tables 1 and 2 of this paper, with the results which follow.

Table 5
Persons with profound or severe core activity limitation:
*ABS age-specific prevalences, Western Australia 2003,
 and DSC projected numbers by age group*
Fifteen-year period 2008-2023

Age group	Age-specific prevalence 2003	DSC profound or severe core activity limitation projections				Changes over 15-year period		
		2008	2013	2018	2023	Numerical increase 2008-2023	%age increase 2008-2023	Annual increase
0-4yrs	3.2%	4,000	4,100	4,200	4,300	300	8%	0.48%
5-14yrs	6.6%	18,100	18,300	18,700	19,100	1,000	6%	0.36%
15-24yrs	1.7%	5,100	5,300	5,300	5,400	300	6%	0.38%
25-34yrs	3.4%	9,600	10,400	11,000	11,300	1,700	18%	1.09%
35-44yrs	2.9%	8,900	9,100	9,300	9,900	1,000	11%	0.71%
45-54yrs	5.2%	15,500	16,400	17,100	17,400	1,900	12%	0.77%
55-64yrs	6.4%	15,400	17,400	19,100	20,100	4,700	31%	1.79%
Total, 0-64yrs	4.1%	76,600	81,000	84,700	87,500	10,900	14%	0.89%
65yrs +	20.3%	55,400	68,800	84,200	102,600	47,200	85%	4.19%
Total, all ages	5.9%	132,000	149,800	168,900	190,100	58,100	44%	2.46%

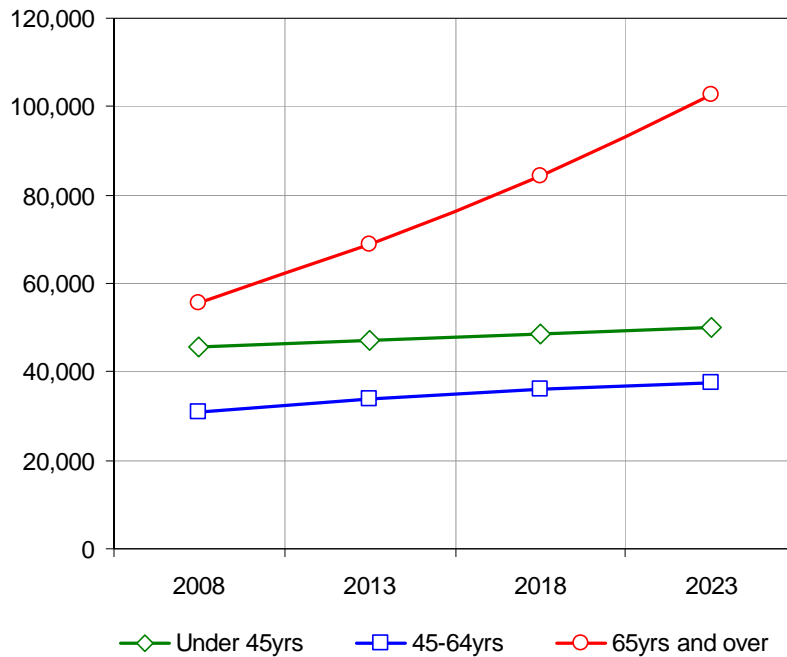
Data sources: (a) ABS (2004) Disability, Ageing and Carers Australia 2003: Summary of Findings - State Tables for Western Australia Table 1; (b) ABS product 3222.0 Population Projections, Australia. Table B5, Population projections by age and sex, Western Australia - Series B. Data summed and rounded by DSC. Changes over 15-year period are DSC calculations. Projections for 65yrs+ are calculated from age-decade-specific rates, not from the overall rate (20.3%) shown here. 'Annual rate of change' is the compound annual growth rate (CAGR)

The total number of Western Australians with profound or severe core activity limitation is projected to increase by about 44 per cent from the DSC estimate of 132,000 in 2008 to 190,100 in 2023.

The DSC 'reference population' (those aged under 65 years with profound or severe core activity limitation) is projected to increase at a much lower rate - by about 14 per cent over the same period, from 76,600 to 87,500. This corresponds to an annual rate of increase of 0.89 per cent. To place this annual rate of increase in context, it should be noted that the comparable rate between 1988 and 2003 was twice as high: 1.9 per cent.⁸ This is a major change: in the next 15 years demographic pressure on service will be much reduced in comparison to the recent past. Other pressures however - such as changed availability of family carers - are likely to emerge.

Figure 2 summarises the data from Table 5. Data has been simplified by age-aggregation into three ‘bands’ which show different overall rates of increase (and, importantly, different rates of DSC service use). Numerical changes are shown for the 15 year period 2008 to 2023.

Figure 2
Persons with profound or severe core activity limitation
 DSC projected numbers, Western Australia 2008-2023, by age group *



DSC calculations from these data sources: (a) ABS (2004) *Disability, Ageing and Carers Australia 2003: Summary of Findings - State Tables for Western Australia Table 1*; (b) ABS product 3222.0 *Population Projections, Australia. Table B5, Population projections by age and sex, Western Australia - Series B*.

In each of these three age bands, the 15 year percentage increases which are expected in numbers of persons with profound or severe core activity limitation are as follows:

- under 45 years 9.4 per cent overall increase (0.60 per cent annually)
- 45 to 64 years 21.4 per cent overall increase (1.30 per cent annually); and
- 65 years and over 85.2 per cent overall increase (4.19 per cent annually).

These projections have significant implications for DSC planning, in that:

- The under 45 years age band, from which the great majority (80 per cent) of DSC service users are drawn, is projected to show minimal increase over the next 15 years - in fact the under 25 years sub-group, from which more than half of all DSC service users are drawn, is expected to show an overall 15 year increase of only 5.9 per cent, corresponding to 0.38 per cent annually.
- The 65 years and over age group is set to show the highest increase, but it has the least relevance for and lowest impact on disability services planning.

Table 6 shows more details of the five-year period 2008-2013.

Table 6
Persons with profound or severe core activity limitation:
 ABS age-specific prevalences, Western Australia 2003,
 and DSC projected numbers by age group
Five-year period 2008-2013

Age group	DSC profound or severe core activity limitation projections						Changes over 5-year period		
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Numerical increase 2008-2013	%age increase 2008-2013	Annual increase
0-4yrs	4,000	4,000	4,100	4,100	4,100	4,100	100	2.5%	0.5%
5-14yrs	18,100	18,100	18,100	18,200	18,200	18,300	200	1.1%	0.2%
15-24yrs	5,100	5,200	5,200	5,200	5,300	5,300	200	3.9%	0.8%
25-34yrs	9,600	9,700	9,900	10,100	10,200	10,400	800	8.3%	1.6%
35-44yrs	8,900	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,100	9,100	200	2.2%	0.4%
45-54yrs	15,500	15,800	16,000	16,100	16,200	16,400	900	5.8%	1.1%
55-64yrs	15,400	15,900	16,400	17,000	17,100	17,400	2,000	13.0%	2.5%
Total, 0-64yrs	76,600	77,700	78,700	79,700	80,200	81,000	4,400	5.7%	1.1%
65yrs +	55,400	57,600	60,000	62,600	65,700	68,800	13,400	24.2%	4.4%
Total, all ages	132,000	135,300	138,700	142,300	145,900	149,800	17,800	13.5%	2.6%

Data sources: (a) ABS (2004) Disability, Ageing and Carers Australia 2003: Summary of Findings - State Tables for Western Australia Table 1; (b) ABS product 3222.0 Population Projections, Australia. Table B5, Population projections by age and sex, Western Australia - Series B. Data summed and rounded by DSC. Changes over 5-year period are DSC calculations. Projections for 65yrs+ are calculated from age-decade-specific rates, not from the overall rate (20.3%) shown here. 'Annual rate of change' is the compound annual growth rate (CAGR)

4 DSC service users

Estimating numerical change and rates of change in the DSC reference population is relatively straightforward. If rates of disability remain constant, and if the selected ABS population projection series proves to have been an appropriate choice, then the estimates will be quite precise. However, all that is being estimated is the size of the 'pool' from which demand for DSC services will come.

'Baseline' projections of service user numbers can be derived simply by taking expected changes in the reference population and holding constant 'service reach', that is, the proportion of this population accessing services. (This is a common, though perhaps ill-advised, measure of CSTDA performance).⁹ Service reach differs across age groups. The extremes are the 15-24 years age group (services reach 720 in every 1,000 persons with profound or severe core activity limitation) and the 55-64 years age group (services reach 73 in every 1,000).

Table 7 shows 'CSTDA service reach per 1000 profound or severe core activity limitation' calculated from the 2007 DSC Minimum Data Set (minus those persons accessing the Community Aids and Equipment Programme only) and applies these rates to the profound or severe core activity limitation projections reported in Table 5.

Table 7
DSC service users:
*Projected numbers at constant 2007 age-specific
CSTDA service reach, by age group*
Fifteen-year period 2008-2023

<i>Age group</i>	<i>CSTDA service reach per 1000 P/S core activity limitation</i>	DSC service user projections (at constant 2007 CSTDA service reach)			
		<i>2008</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2023</i>
<i>0-4yrs</i>	225.52	910	930	950	980
<i>5-14yrs</i>	258.20	4,680	4,730	4,820	4,930
<i>15-24yrs</i>	720.13	3,700	3,800	3,830	3,870
<i>25-34yrs</i>	189.19	1,820	1,970	2,080	2,130
<i>35-44yrs</i>	239.34	2,140	2,180	2,230	2,380
<i>45-54yrs</i>	123.39	1,920	2,020	2,110	2,150
<i>55-64yrs</i>	73.27	1,130	1,270	1,400	1,470
Total, 0-64yrs	205.10	16,300	16,900	17,420	17,910
<i>65yrs +</i>	8.32	470	590	720	860
Total, all ages	124.10	16,770	17,490	18,140	18,770

DSC calculations from these data sources: (a) ABS (2004) Disability, Ageing and Carers Australia 2003: Summary of Findings - State Tables for Western Australia Table 1; (b) ABS product 3222.0 Population Projections, Australia. Table B5, Population projections by age and sex, Western Australia - Series B. (c) Interrogation of DSC ACDC database, 15/11/2007

Were the same proportion of each age group of persons with profound or severe core activity limitation to be given access to the same mix of support services over the next 15 years the overall increase in the number of service users aged under 65 years would be 9.8 per cent (from 16,300 in 2008 to 17,900 in 2023) - equivalent to an annual increase of 0.63 per cent. This is an even lesser increase than is projected for the reference population because the age groups which have higher rates of service access are projected to show lower rates of numerical increase.

The problem with this approach is the assumption of unchanging service access rates. The actual (expressed) demand from the 'pool' of possible service users will be mediated by changes in social conditions, attitudes and expectations. The generational shifts in fertility which have reduced the rate of increase in the reference population have been accompanied by changes in female career expectations and workforce participation - changes which have caused concern that the availability of co-resident family carers will decrease, producing an increased demand for formal support.

The availability of family carers is particularly sensitive to the female 'propensity to care', that is, to the willingness of women to reduce hours of work or to leave the workforce in order to care. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare¹⁰ has considered the impact of changes in this parameter, in terms of:

- a 'baseline scenario', assuming propensity to care remains at 1998 levels, which shows the number of available carers in the 25 to 59 years age group increasing over the 15 years to 2013 at a rate higher than that expected in the number of their children with disability, simply due to demographics; and
- scenarios assuming a 20 per cent reduction in the propensity to care of employed women in this age group, which has the total number of available carers falling - by about 4 per cent, or a 30 per cent reduction, which would result in a 16 per cent fall in the number of available carers - over the period to 2013.

The issue here is how to determine which of these AIHW scenarios is most likely, as any change in the availability of carers is likely to affect the 'rate of demand' for disability support (that is, the proportion of the reference population actively seeking access to services).

There are early indications from the Commission's 'Combined Application Process' (CAP) database that this might already be happening: in 2001 there were about 5.0 applications per 1,000 persons in the reference population, and in 2005 there were about 6.8 per 1,000.¹¹

Clearly, a major change for the Commission is that external pressure on disability resources will no longer be primarily driven by demographics, but will be consequent on social change, as evidenced by increases in the rate of demand for services. Monitoring this rate (from the CAP database) and profiling the applications which appear to account for any increased rate, has the potential to offer insight into some of the changes which are in train or which can be expected. This insight should have the capacity to usefully inform the Commission's planning process.

This rate is certain to increase, being driven not only by accumulating unmet demand, but also - almost certainly - by changes in the availability of informal carers.¹²

Changes in the rate of demand for services can be monitored from the CAP database. Increases in the number of new CAP applicants can be compared with increases in the reference population.

Observed changes, or expected changes, can be used to better inform projections of service demand.

- ¹ For an account of the particular assumptions concerning future rates of fertility, mortality, and interstate and overseas migration, see ABS (2006) Product 3222.0 Population Projections, Australia.
- ² All ABS population projections available at 15 November 2007 refer to the 2001 Census.
- ³ ABS disability surveys of 1998 and 2003 reported higher rates of disability than had been noted in previous surveys, but as discussed in ABS Working Paper No 2001/1 (Accounting for change in disability and severe restriction 1981-1998) this is more a reflection of changes in collection methodology, in the definition of disability, and in the readiness to report disability, rather than an indication of a real increase in disability.
- ⁴ ABS produces several alternative projection series, based on different assumptions about the various components of population growth (fertility, mortality, interstate and overseas migration).⁴ This document draws on the mid-level published projections of 'Series B'. (Its use here does not imply ABS recommendation of Series B over the other two published series.
- ⁵ www.abs.gov.au (22/11/2007) 3222.0 Population Projections, Australia. Table B5. Population projections, By age and sex, Western Australia - Series B (Released 14/06/2006)
- ⁶ Previous DSC disability projections used age/sex-specific rates. In the case of the population aged under 65 years, this appears to offer no advantage over the use of age-only rates.
- ⁷ The 'potential population' for CSTDA services is calculated by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare by applying an 'Indigenous weighting' of 2.4 to the Indigenous population, in order to arrive at an 'Indigenous factor' which can be used to adjust, for each jurisdiction, the ABS estimate of persons aged under 65 years with profound or severe core activity limitation. This weighting has not been applied in the projections made here. For an account of the adjustment process, see AIHW (2006) Disability rates among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: Updating the Indigenous factor in disability services performance indicator denominators.
- ⁸ This is calculated by 'backcasting', that is, applying current age-specific rates of profound or severe core activity limitation to earlier population estimates - in this case to the populations reported in the 1998 and 2003 ABS disability surveys.
- ⁹ The Productivity Commission's annual Report on Government Services uses 'service reach' as a performance measure, making comparisons over time and across jurisdictions. While these comparisons are valid enough, use of the entire 'potential population' as a denominator can mislead. It can be seen as implying that services ought reach the whole of this number, whereas it is evident from ABS survey data that most persons in this 'potential' service user group do not need and are not seeking access to CSTDA services.
- ¹⁰ For a discussion of this issue, see Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2004) Carers in Australia: assisting frail older people and people with a disability page xiv onwards, and Chapter 4, which considers various scenarios - pages 49-52 concern carers aged 25 to 59 years.
- ¹¹ In April 2001, there were 349 applications for service from a DSC-estimated reference population of 70,500 persons aged under 65 years and with profound or severe core activity limitation. In April 2005 there were 496 applications from a reference population of 73,300. Applications had risen by over 40%, while the reference population increased by less than 4%. Changes in the way that unsuccessful applications are now handled (most are automatically re-submitted in the next round) do not fully account for the increase in the rate of demand.
- ¹² See (a) AIHW (2004) Carers in Australia. Chapter 4, Scenario projections 2003-2013, for evidence of change in the availability of carers and estimates of possible consequences on demand for formal support (b) ABS (2008) Product 4102.0 Australian Social Trends: articles on 'Families with a young child with a disability' and 'People with a need for assistance' (c) ABS (2004) Product 3236.0 Household and Family Projections, Australia 2001-2026.