

Raise the Rate

People receiving Newstart and Youth Allowance in Western Australia

May 2018



Australia's social safety net is something most of us contribute to, and most of us benefit from, at different times in our lives. Our safety net should allow people to afford a roof over their head and put food on the table. The current rates of Newstart and Youth Allowance do not cover the cost of basic essentials.

Key statistics (2017)

Around 6.7% of working-age people in Western Australia receive an unemployment or student payment.

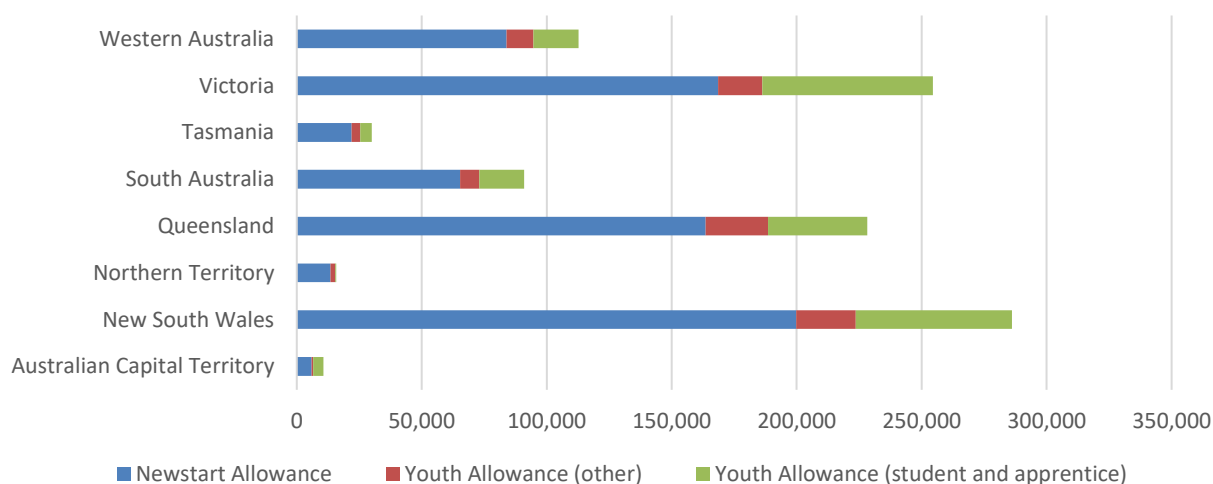
Newstart

- There are 87,689 recipients of Newstart Allowance
- Around 62% of Newstart recipients have received Newstart for 12 months or more
- 80% of people are paid at the single rate of the allowance
- Most people receiving the payment are aged between 25 and 55 (70%)
- Around 15% of people receiving Newstart identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- Most people receiving Newstart are men

Youth Allowance

- There are 11,798 recipients of Youth Allowance (Other) (unemployment payment for young people aged 16-21)
- There are 11,896 recipients of Youth Allowance (student and apprentice)
- The vast majority of recipients are paid the single rate
- Most people receiving Youth Allowance are women

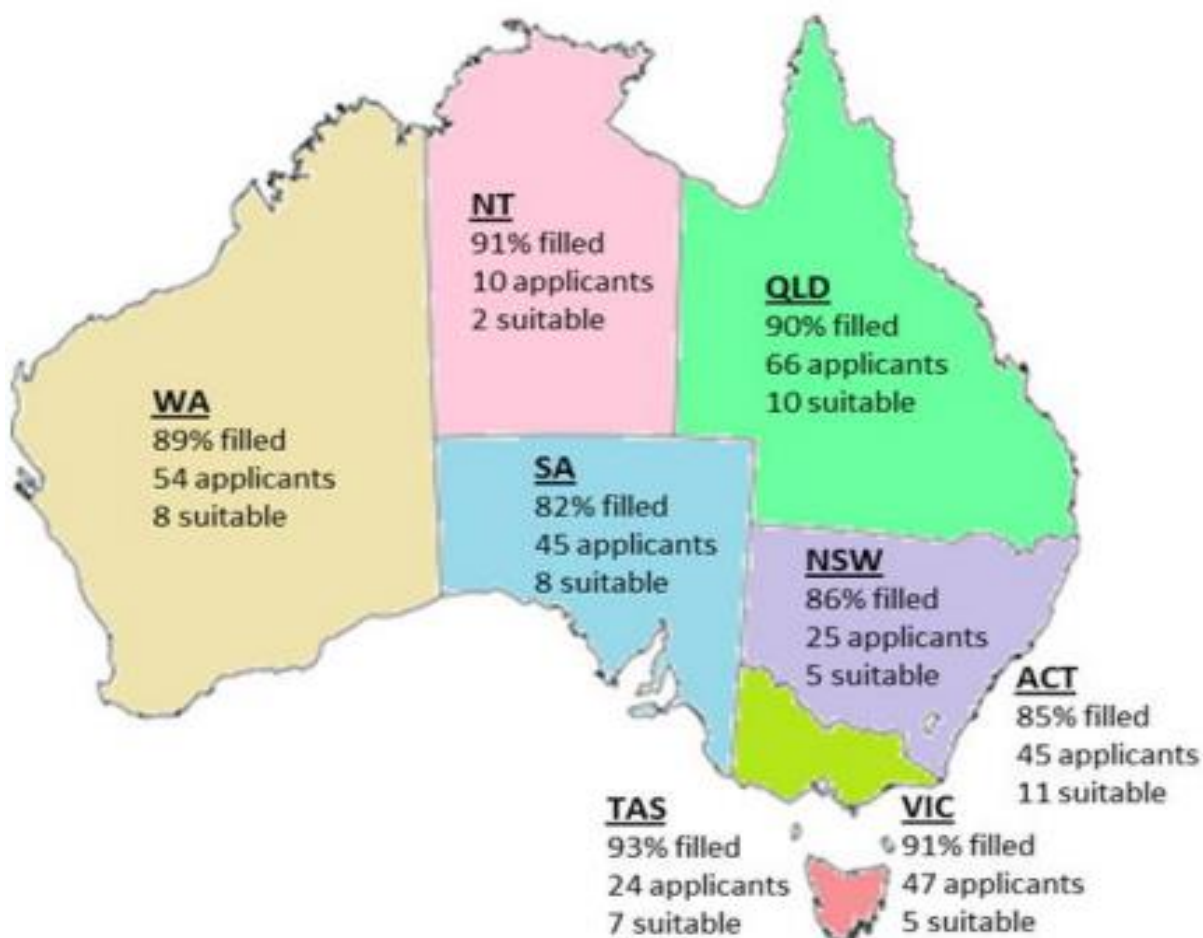
Receipt of Newstart and Youth Allowance by state (Sept 2017)



Data sourced from Department of Social Services (2017) 'DSS Payment Demographic Data'
<https://data.gov.au/dataset/dss-payment-demographic-data>

2015 data from the Department of Employment found that there were 54 applicants for each entry-level position in Western Australia, with only eight applicants suitable for each of those jobs. 89% of entry-level vacancies were filled.

Entry-level vacancies filled and number of applicants and suitable applicants by location



Source: Department of Employment (2015) 'Entry level jobs – opportunities and barriers' Labour Market Research and Analysis Branch, <https://docs.jobs.gov.au/system/files/doc/other/entryleveloverall.pdf>