

**Original and Extended Medicare Safety Nets by electorate
(based on patient enrolment postcode)
2009 Calendar Year (year of service)**

Electorate	Number of people qualifying for a Medicare Safety Net (1)	Number of singles who have received a safety net benefit (2)	Number of families who have received a safety net benefit (3)	Number of people who have received a safety net benefit (4)	Total safety net benefits paid (5)
Adelaide	8,132	545	2,390	5,375	\$3,858,902
Aston	11,463	389	3,364	7,012	\$3,588,636
Ballarat	7,086	200	1,996	3,973	\$2,391,356
Banks	12,068	591	3,561	7,535	\$4,973,773
Barker	3,715	91	1,041	2,075	\$1,257,927
Barton	11,059	639	3,297	6,680	\$5,514,623
Bass	5,363	147	1,560	3,346	\$1,224,833
Batman	8,539	553	2,462	5,396	\$4,972,855
Bendigo	5,669	199	1,620	3,423	\$1,505,552
Bennelong	13,979	885	4,309	9,124	\$6,443,003
Berowra	17,987	767	5,453	11,833	\$6,396,914
Blair	5,764	182	1,655	3,529	\$1,310,519
Blaxland	5,380	395	1,506	2,804	\$2,445,400
Bonner	17,515	615	5,194	11,870	\$5,273,863
Boothby	7,118	318	2,126	4,390	\$3,073,950
Bowman	11,414	398	3,503	7,372	\$2,977,484
Braddon	3,261	81	931	1,721	\$414,750
Bradfield	26,806	1,379	8,248	19,000	\$10,218,034
Brand	6,939	201	2,052	3,858	\$1,617,024
Brisbane	16,557	1,101	4,813	11,702	\$6,438,362
Bruce	7,790	343	2,470	5,046	\$2,706,892
Calare	5,246	241	1,533	2,948	\$1,162,297
Calwell	6,451	243	1,887	3,674	\$2,709,585
Canberra	21,030	925	6,423	14,510	\$5,875,677
Canning	8,196	244	2,472	4,847	\$1,607,575
Capricornia	12,331	391	3,605	8,047	\$2,657,013
Casey	12,286	340	3,516	7,676	\$3,252,481
Charlton	8,933	377	2,741	5,697	\$2,465,690
Chifley	4,377	238	1,269	2,280	\$1,622,590
Chisholm	13,640	670	4,114	9,063	\$5,115,786
Cook	17,029	779	5,115	11,234	\$6,728,821
Corangamite	13,414	334	3,884	8,338	\$2,916,183
Corio	9,903	308	2,834	6,241	\$2,597,891
Cowan	11,745	311	3,409	6,991	\$3,263,390
Cowper	7,883	412	2,497	5,058	\$1,271,469
Cunningham	10,989	481	3,282	6,735	\$3,247,642
Curtin	17,269	1,098	5,181	12,002	\$5,740,484
Dawson	13,140	371	4,011	8,831	\$2,942,167
Deakin	12,887	534	3,832	8,389	\$4,534,622
Denison	6,996	344	2,112	4,474	\$1,133,052
Dickson	14,201	396	4,154	9,245	\$3,680,773
Dobell	8,211	409	2,477	4,987	\$2,614,483
Dunkley	12,567	480	3,736	8,286	\$3,379,596

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Durack	5,872	178	1,684	3,334	\$1,466,884
Eden-Monaro	10,338	470	3,213	6,761	\$2,360,988
Fadden	11,669	594	3,678	7,553	\$3,476,178
Fairfax	8,841	463	2,774	5,396	\$2,951,417
Farrer	6,888	207	2,015	4,160	\$1,739,091
Fisher	7,393	409	2,403	4,652	\$2,665,585
Flinders	12,098	438	3,638	7,891	\$2,864,799
Flynn	11,092	379	3,325	6,832	\$2,759,715
Forde	7,040	243	2,070	3,959	\$2,156,335
Forrest	8,612	211	2,519	4,969	\$1,563,799
Fowler	4,888	350	1,442	2,628	\$2,401,874
Franklin	7,900	242	2,393	5,018	\$1,187,706
Fraser	20,584	895	6,213	14,240	\$6,390,857
Fremantle	13,786	576	4,074	8,875	\$3,982,119
Gellibrand	8,974	506	2,640	5,646	\$5,270,838
Gilmore	7,591	313	2,357	4,639	\$1,910,160
Gippsland	4,792	120	1,331	2,670	\$927,692
Goldstein	22,755	1,059	6,738	15,709	\$7,957,784
Gorton	8,410	255	2,427	5,155	\$3,807,383
Grayndler	10,132	1,094	2,906	6,522	\$7,119,565
Greenway	8,384	307	2,447	4,541	\$3,397,523
Grey	2,555	75	761	1,409	\$1,185,832
Griffith	16,124	854	4,712	11,229	\$6,009,986
Groom	13,138	377	3,885	8,457	\$3,056,571
Hasluck	9,265	342	2,798	5,734	\$2,321,192
Herbert	9,248	277	2,766	5,858	\$2,053,972
Higgins	21,034	1,520	6,092	15,151	\$8,427,236
Hindmarsh	6,549	341	1,998	4,230	\$3,336,859
Hinkler	6,347	298	2,073	4,034	\$1,498,598
Holt	10,518	233	2,968	5,905	\$2,922,763
Hotham	11,763	515	3,449	7,675	\$4,523,462
Hughes	13,269	457	3,798	8,114	\$4,896,596
Hume	8,663	347	2,581	5,287	\$2,032,325
Hunter	8,217	296	2,479	5,083	\$1,958,425
Indi	6,394	243	1,890	3,935	\$1,742,503
Isaacs	11,509	405	3,382	7,359	\$4,075,979
Jagajaga	12,452	496	3,657	7,801	\$4,784,873
Kennedy	7,133	261	2,186	4,259	\$1,380,431
Kingsford Smith	13,507	1,117	3,954	8,772	\$7,789,750
Kingston	4,361	164	1,277	2,408	\$1,738,264
Kooyong	19,267	1,197	5,658	13,565	\$7,329,775
La Trobe	11,327	366	3,231	6,731	\$3,290,364
Lalor	9,118	239	2,679	5,041	\$3,949,124
Leichhardt	5,673	351	1,752	3,390	\$1,517,318
Lilley	15,764	844	4,802	10,907	\$4,725,558
Lindsay	7,018	331	2,002	3,796	\$2,022,572

Electorate	Number of people qualifying for a Medicare Safety Net (1)	Number of singles who have received a safety net benefit (2)	Number of families who have received a safety net benefit (3)	Number of people who have received a safety net benefit (4)	Total safety net benefits paid (5)
Lingiari	1,960	50	512	1,104	\$714,418
Longman	6,438	188	2,015	3,887	\$1,774,103
Lyne	6,157	332	1,962	3,803	\$1,190,814
Lyons	4,243	102	1,252	2,480	\$740,918
Macarthur	6,243	210	1,814	3,424	\$2,393,934
Mackellar	21,896	1,197	6,793	14,833	\$8,197,597
Macquarie	9,401	524	2,683	5,401	\$2,552,409
Makin	5,953	202	1,795	3,519	\$2,375,633
Mallee	5,228	132	1,482	2,958	\$947,775
Maranoa	9,647	288	2,787	5,740	\$2,195,912
Maribyrnong	8,184	371	2,400	5,293	\$3,565,751
Mayo	6,132	227	1,765	3,594	\$2,111,734
McEwen	10,065	279	2,846	5,869	\$3,424,811
McMahon	5,790	337	1,725	3,082	\$2,416,755
McMillan	4,339	156	1,231	2,328	\$1,327,635
McPherson	13,359	698	4,144	8,631	\$4,179,012
Melbourne	11,081	1,319	3,263	7,715	\$7,553,717
Melbourne Ports	19,041	1,695	5,460	13,228	\$10,044,569
Menzies	12,766	490	3,947	8,422	\$4,566,815
Mitchell	15,230	583	4,552	9,299	\$5,912,626
Moncrieff	12,851	794	4,079	8,550	\$4,105,788
Moore	14,076	351	4,132	8,723	\$3,661,940
Moreton	13,583	660	4,063	9,004	\$4,510,751
Murray	7,401	163	2,085	4,566	\$1,579,845
New England	7,067	258	2,080	4,265	\$1,526,151
Newcastle	9,265	508	2,788	6,041	\$3,211,528
North Sydney	23,027	1,906	6,939	16,600	\$12,051,450
O'Connor	4,230	126	1,245	2,306	\$1,007,351
Oxley	9,240	352	2,761	5,788	\$2,864,574
Page	12,114	599	3,678	7,659	\$2,383,821
Parkes	5,117	231	1,510	3,017	\$1,275,920
Parramatta	8,389	551	2,546	4,941	\$3,642,177
Paterson	8,553	367	2,714	5,451	\$1,938,864
Pearce	9,401	323	2,790	5,549	\$2,480,168
Perth	10,830	648	3,231	7,056	\$3,557,930
Petrie	10,031	479	3,077	6,722	\$2,479,525
Port Adelaide	3,969	208	1,182	2,392	\$2,144,500
Rankin	8,392	276	2,489	4,909	\$2,689,830
Reid	10,446	736	3,152	6,251	\$5,705,232
Richmond	9,368	692	2,924	5,859	\$2,719,416
Riverina	12,268	377	3,595	7,446	\$2,167,416
Robertson	8,957	498	2,682	5,578	\$3,224,798
Ryan	20,850	978	6,237	14,383	\$5,876,648
Scullin	5,554	193	1,639	3,091	\$2,390,936
Shortland	8,740	389	2,692	5,505	\$2,426,144
Solomon	7,279	178	2,086	4,486	\$2,394,342

Electorate	Number of people qualifying for a Medicare Safety Net (1)	Number of singles who have received a safety net benefit (2)	Number of families who have received a safety net benefit (3)	Number of people who have received a safety net benefit (4)	Total safety net benefits paid (5)
Stirling	11,888	604	3,626	7,879	\$3,997,928
Sturt	8,683	463	2,592	5,579	\$3,209,873
Swan	10,471	679	3,183	6,802	\$3,614,987
Sydney	11,837	1,882	3,432	8,450	\$9,543,730
Tangney	16,733	605	5,000	10,838	\$4,270,820
Throsby	7,520	368	2,352	4,443	\$1,956,954
Wakefield	3,129	134	886	1,659	\$1,488,021
Wannon	8,153	259	2,279	4,916	\$1,483,248
Warringah	23,968	1,861	7,200	17,201	\$11,900,885
Watson	7,316	474	2,051	3,956	\$3,500,398
Wentworth	26,629	3,269	7,686	20,028	\$15,881,891
Werriwa	5,420	261	1,615	2,965	\$2,584,372
Wide Bay	6,409	388	2,041	4,059	\$1,941,560
Wills	9,649	609	2,794	6,081	\$5,188,035
Wright	8,131	266	2,356	4,792	\$2,200,615
Unallocated	422	66	120	319	\$258,718

**Original and Extended Medicare Safety Nets
By State/Territory (based on patient enrolment postcode)
2009 Calendar Year (year of service)**

State	Number of people qualifying for a Medicare Safety Net (1)	Number of singles who have received a safety net benefit (2)	Number of families who have received a safety net benefit (3)	Number of people who have received a safety net benefit (4)	Total safety net benefits paid (5)
NSW	519,733	31,353	155,693	331,878	\$ 203,238,942
VIC	393,655	17,850	114,947	251,266	\$ 143,650,555
QLD	329,334	14,172	99,417	213,599	\$ 94,352,258
SA	60,296	2,768	17,813	36,631	\$ 25,781,495
WA	159,339	6,498	47,403	99,776	\$ 44,158,876
TAS	27,764	915	8,248	17,040	\$ 4,701,259
NT	9,205	226	2,589	5,572	\$ 3,101,945
ACT	41,761	1,821	12,682	28,850	\$ 12,293,226
AUSTRALIA	1,541,087	75,603	458,792	984,612	\$ 531,278,558

Notes:

- Electorate safety nets statistics published prior to November 2009 were on a year of processing basis. These statistics have been compiled on a calendar year of service basis (having regard to services processed up to six months after the end of calendar year 2009) consistent with the basis on which the safety nets operate. Date of processing refers to the date on which the claim was processed by Medicare Australia, whilst date of service data compiles the data based on the date that the service was provided to the patient. The date of processing and date of service are not necessarily the same date. For example, a person may receive a service in November 2009 (date of service) but may not claim the Medicare benefit, including any safety net benefits, until January 2010 (date of processing). This lag in payment of benefits can mean that there is a significant difference between data compiled on date of service versus date of processing.
- Published safety net statistics have regard to the original Medicare safety net and the extended Medicare safety net.

- The original Medicare benefits safety net covers the 'gap amount' that is, the difference between the Medicare benefit paid and the schedule fee for out-of hospital services. Once an annual threshold of cumulative 'gap amounts' has been reached, the Medicare rebate is paid at 100% of the Schedule Fee for the remainder of the calendar year. In 2009 the threshold for the original Medicare safety net was \$383.90.
- Under the extended Medicare safety net, (EMSN) Medicare meets 80% of the out-of-pocket costs for Medicare services provided outside hospital, once an annual threshold of out-of-pocket costs is reached. Out-of-pocket costs refers to the difference between the Medicare benefit and the fee charged by the practitioner. There are two threshold levels for the EMSN. Concession card holders and families in receipt of Family Tax Benefit Part A are eligible for the lower threshold. All other singles and families are eligible for the general EMSN threshold. The thresholds applying to calendar year 2009 were \$555.70 (for Concession Card Holders and families in receipt of Family Tax Benefit Part A) and \$1,111.60 (for all others).
- The number of people qualifying for the Medicare safety net is not equivalent to the number of people receiving benefits under the safety net.
- Only health services receiving a Medicare benefit rebate appear in Medicare data sets.
- All funding data is in nominal/current dollars of the year in question i.e. not adjusted for price inflation.
- Electorate level data should be considered as estimates only. Allocations of services and funding for other than safety net data were based on patient enrolment postcode. Safety net data for families were allocated to electorates having regard to the postcode of the family contact, otherwise they were based on the postcode for the oldest member of the family at 31 December of the year in question.
- Where a postcode boundary overlaps different electorate boundaries, the postcode data is allocated to the respective electorates using a postcode to CED concordance file, built by the Department of Health and Ageing, using Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) population data. This assumes that Medicare postcode data is geographically distributed in the same proportions as the population was distributed for these split postcodes. This may result in some postcode-based service and funding data being allocated to an electorate different from that of the address of the service provider or user.
- Where possible, PO Box postcodes have been allocated to an electorate using geospatial programs and a PO Box/delivery area postcode file from Australia Post.
- Electorate data should not be aggregated to produce state and national totals as some postcode data cannot be allocated to electorate. State and national totals are included in the attached PDF and RTF files.
- It is important to note that some people would receive assistance from services outside this electorate, and similarly services located in this electorate may provide assistance to people living in other electorates.
- In compiling statistics by state/territory, each postcode has been allocated to only one state. In contrast, the electorate concordance file, allocates fractions of particular postcodes across states. Some postcodes are not represented on the concordance file. As a consequence, state/territory totals derived from aggregations of electorate data, differ slightly from state/territory data in this report, or elsewhere.

Table Column Explanations:

- (1) Number of people qualifying for the safety nets: the number of single people who have received a safety net benefit plus the total number of people who are in a registered family unit that has reached the safety net threshold and where at least one family member has received safety net benefits from either the original or extended Medicare safety net or both.
- (2) Contains the number of single people who are not part of a family but who qualified and received a safety net benefit from either the original or extended Medicare safety net, or both.
- (3) Contains the number of families who have qualified and where at least one family member has received a safety net benefit from either the original or extended Medicare safety net, or both.
- (4) Contains the number of single people and the total number of people within a family who received a safety net benefit from either the original or extended Medicare safety net, or both.
- (5) Contains the total of the benefits paid under both the extended Medicare safety net, which was introduced in March 2004, and the original Medicare safety net.