

5 Income support payments

Introduction

This section includes details of selected pensions, benefits and allowances paid by Centrelink and the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA). The intention is to present data to indicate the proportion of the population in receipt of income support from the Commonwealth Government, to highlight variations in the distribution of this population across the State and to compare this distribution with other data in the atlas. Comparisons are made with data from 1992 and 1996.

Explanatory notes

Data mapped

The pensions and benefits included in the analysis are listed in Table 5.1, which also shows the way in which the Centrelink and DVA data were combined for mapping. Percentages were calculated on population figures representing as near as possible the ages applicable to the particular pensioner and beneficiary groups.

Details of those receiving the DVA service pension (Age) have been combined with those for the Centrelink Age Pension and, similarly, details of recipients of the DVA Service Pension (Permanently Incapacitated) have been combined with those for the Disability Support Pension (DSP) paid by Centrelink. People in receipt of the Veteran Disability pension (which includes the Totally and Permanently Incapacitated pension) were excluded from the analysis, as this pension is paid as compensation for service-related incapacity, and is not regarded as an income support payment. Recipients of the War Widows' pension were excluded on the same grounds.

In the case of the sole parents receiving a Parenting Payment (Single), only females were mapped, as they comprised over 90% of this pension group.

Data mapped for unemployment beneficiaries relate to Youth Training Allowance, the Newstart Allowance and Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP). CDEP is, officially, designated as a job creation scheme: however, it is, effectively, a 'work for the dole' scheme for the Indigenous population. It is for this reason that it is included in these unemployment figures. The major influence of the inclusion of these data is on the figures for the **Northern and Far Western** and **Eyre** regions. The box, overleaf, includes additional information on this program.

Table 5.1: Income support payments mapped, 2004

Centrelink	Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA)	Denominator (percentage of the population)
Pensions	Pensions	Age group (years)
Age ¹	Service ²	Males 65 & over Females 60 & over
Disability Support	Service ³	Males 15 to 64 Females 15 to 59
Sole parent ⁴	.. ⁵	Females 15 to 54
Labour market allowances		
Youth Training & Newstart ⁶	..	Males 15 to 64 Females 15 to 59
Children⁷	..	Population 0 to 16

¹Excludes wife pension, as recipients are under age-pensionable age. The small number of males under 65 years and females under 60 years of age receiving an Age Pension were also excluded from this analysis

²Age: Includes wife/widow pension, as recipients are mainly of age-pensionable age

³Permanently Incapacitated: data for males aged 65 years and over and females aged 60 years and over were included with Age Pensions

⁴Includes females receiving a Parenting Payment Single. Details for males were excluded from the analysis

⁵DVA War Widows' pensioners are excluded, as this pension is primarily a compensation payment and not an income support payment

⁶Youth Training Allowance and Job Search Allowance are the unemployment benefit schemes: also includes people in Community Development Employment Projects at 30 June 2003

⁷Includes children (aged under 16 years) in families as described in the text

Source: Compiled from data from Centrelink and DVA

Dependent children in low income families receiving welfare payments from Centrelink are also mapped as a proportion of all children under 17 years of age. The majority (92.3%) of children in welfare-dependent families are under 16 years of age, with the remaining 7.7% dependent students aged from 16 to 24 years: thus the proportion was calculated on the population under 17 years.

Families included are those in receipt of the maximum rate Family Tax Benefit (A) (whether receiving income support payments or not) plus customers not on maximum rate Family Tax Benefit (B), but with incomes under \$32,485. Payments such as the double orphans' pension and the Family Payment (minimum rate) and Family Tax Payment (B) where income is \$32,485 or higher have been excluded from this analysis.

Children in families under the CDEP are not included, as details of the number of children were not available. Details of the small number of children of DVA pensioners were also not available.

The 1.65 million children in these low income families are comprised of children of those who receive the Family Tax Benefit (A):

- at the maximum rate, and are on income support (53.6% of children in these low income families);
- at the maximum rate, and are not on income support (15.3%); and
- those who do not get the maximum rate, but have an income under \$32,485 (31.1%).

These figures exclude over 690,000 children of those receiving the Parenting Payment, where the income is \$32,485 per annum, or higher.

Under the arrangements existing in June 1999, three quarters (74.6%) of children were in families who were 'automatic' recipients of the Family Payment, that is, those on income support: the marked drop in this proportion to 53.6% in 2004 shows the extent to which the nature of this program has changed.

Community Development Employment Project (CDEP)

The CDEP was initiated in 1977 by Aboriginal communities to help remote, isolated Aboriginal communities develop an alternative to continued reliance on unemployment benefits. In 1985, the scheme was expanded to include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in urban and rural areas.

Under the scheme, members of participating communities, organisations or groups forgo individual unemployment benefits for a wages grant paid to the community. Each community decides on its own work program. The program may include projects such as road works, house repairs and maintenance, and the production of artefacts and activities in support of traditional lifestyle and culture.

Although the CDEP data were only available for 2003, they have been included with the other data for unemployment beneficiaries, which have a reference date of June 2004.

Data issues

The data are collected by the postcode of the postal address of the recipient of the income support payment. In the majority of cases, this is also the postcode of their usual residence. The postcode data were converted to Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) using a converter produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). This process is described in Chapter 2. In some instances, the number of people in receipt of a pension or benefit in a postcode area exceeds the population of the applicable age in that postcode: this is particularly a problem with the Age Pension data. As a result, the calculation of the proportion of the population in receipt of a particular pension or benefit type can produce percentages of greater than 100 per cent. Other percentages of less than 100 per cent may also be overstated.

The reason for this is not clear. It is unlikely to be the result of people claiming both a Centrelink Age Pension and a DVA Service Pension (Age), as checks are made each year to ensure that such events do not occur. It is likely, in part, to be a result of faults in the process of allocating data from postcodes to SLAs.

It would have been possible to scale all the percentages back to 100, or less than 100, but this would have concealed the problem and would not have represented the data for the areas as estimated. Percentages in excess of 100 per cent are noted separately in the text. Previous experience shows that postcode data for the other pension or benefit types have a similar, although less marked, problem; however, again it is not possible to say to what extent they may also be overstated.

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Age pensioners, June 2004

People eligible for an Age Pension from Centrelink comprise females aged 60 years and over and males aged 65 years and over; the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) provides a service pension to eligible males at age 60 years and females at age 55 years. The data mapped are the sum of these pension types, referred to generally as age pensioners, expressed as a percentage of all females aged 60 years and over and all males aged 65 years and over at 30 June 2004.

In 1992, 83.9% of South Australians in the eligible age groups were receiving an Age Pension; by 2004 the proportion had fallen to 70.1%, a decline of 16.4% (Table 5.2). There was a similar decline in Metropolitan Adelaide (17.5%) and in country South Australia (16.4%). These declining proportions have occurred at the same time as the number of people receiving an Age Pension has increased, from 134,047 in 1992 to 184,617 in 2004, and are a result of a faster rate of increase in the population.

Table 5.2: Age pensioners

Section of State	Per cent			
	1992	1996	2004	Per cent change ¹
Metropolitan Adelaide (incl. Gawler)	85.3	76.2	70.3	-17.5
Country	83.0	75.1	69.4	-16.4
South Australia	83.9	75.9	70.1	-16.4

¹Per cent change over 12 years in the proportion of people receiving an age or service pension

Metropolitan regions

Over two thirds of people in the appropriate age group in the metropolitan regions (excluding Gawler) were receiving an Age Pension in 2004 (70.3%, 133,264 people). There were relatively high proportions in the north-west, outer northern and some outer southern SLAs (Map 5.1).

Strong correlations were found for age pensioners with variables such as unskilled and semi-skilled workers, low income families, jobless families, smoking during pregnancy, being Indigenous and other variables in this chapter. There were also strong correlations with GP services, outpatient attendances, public hospital admissions, domiciliary care clients, being on a hospital booking list and incidence of lung cancer. These results, together with a strong inverse correlation with the Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage (IRSD), indicate a strong association at the SLA level between receiving an Age Pension and socioeconomic disadvantage (Table 8.1).

Central Northern Adelaide

In Central Northern region, there were 94,181 people receiving an Age Pension, 71.3% of people in this age group. This was over half (51.0%) of all people on an Age Pension in South Australia (Table 5.3). Salisbury - Inner North, with 2,165 people on an Age Pension, had a proportion in excess of 100% - see note on page 164 for an explanation for the estimate of 116.1%. There were also high proportions in Playford - West Central (91.8%, 1,309), Tea Tree Gully - Central (88.4%, 2,821), Salisbury - South-East (83.9%, 4,212), Playford - East Central (83.8%, 1,449), Charles Sturt - North-East (82.3%, 3,867), West Torrens - East (81.5%,

3,653), Port Adelaide Enfield - Port (80.6%, 4,044), Playford - Elizabeth (80.4%, 4,118) and Port Adelaide Enfield - Coast (79.8%, 3,975).

Large numbers of people on an Age Pension were located in West Torrens - West (4,653 people, 65.0%), Charles Sturt - Coastal (4,504, 66.6%), Tea Tree Gully - South (4,318, 77.9%), Charles Sturt - Inner West (4,264, 75.7%) and Port Adelaide Enfield - East (4,162, 74.4%).

The SLAs with low proportions of people on an Age Pension were typically those of high relative socioeconomic status. These included Walkerville (43.3%, 722), Burnside - North-East (45.4%, 2,163) and - South-West (46.0%, 2,121), Adelaide (47.9%, 1,038), Adelaide Hills - Central (52.7%, 866), Salisbury Balance (57.1%, 346) and Unley - East (57.8%, 2,088).

Southern Adelaide

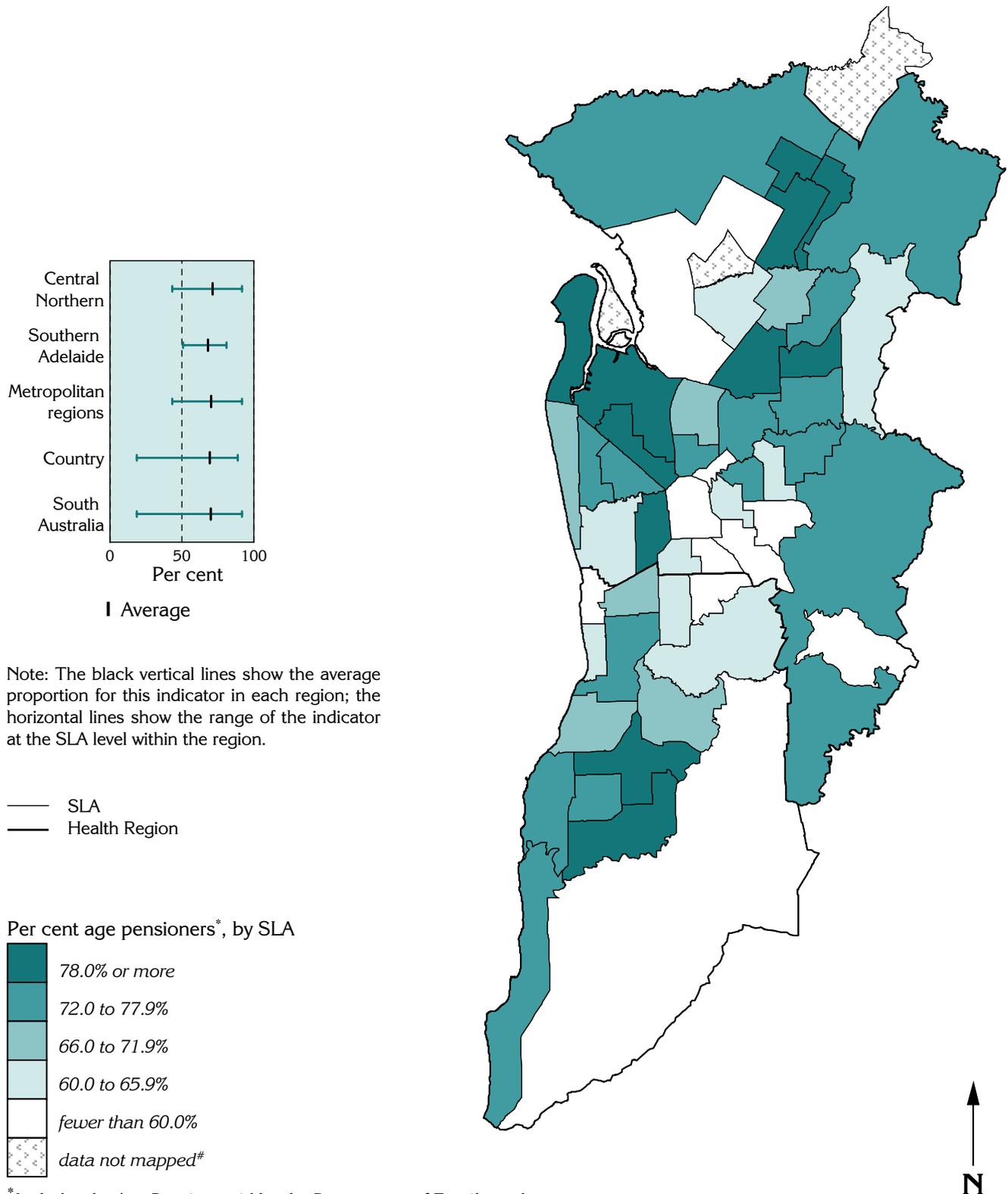
Southern region had 39,083 people receiving an Age Pension, 68.1% of people meeting the age requirement (Table 5.3). Onkaparinga - Woodcroft (81.0%, 3,036) and - Hackham (79.4%, 1,154) were the only SLAs in this region with rates in the highest range.

The SLAs with large numbers of age pensioners in this region were Marion - Central (5,904, 73.2%) and - North (4,563, 71.2%).

SLAs with low proportions of people in receipt of Age Pensions were the relatively affluent Mitcham - North-East (50.8%, 1,680), Holdfast Bay - North (55.2%, 2,787) and Onkaparinga - Hills (57.7%, 1,044).

Map 5.1

Age pensioners, metropolitan regions, June 2004



Note: The black vertical lines show the average proportion for this indicator in each region; the horizontal lines show the range of the indicator at the SLA level within the region.

*Includes the Age Pension paid by the Department of Family and Community Services and the Service Pension (Age) paid by the Department of Veterans' Affairs

#Data were not mapped for Torrens Island (mapped with Port Adelaide) or for SLAs with fewer than five cases: Gawler has been mapped in the State map

Source: Calculated on data from Centrelink

Age pensioners, June 2004

Country South Australia

In country South Australia, just over two-thirds (69.4%) of those in the appropriate age group were receiving an Age Pension.

Table 5.3: Regional totals, age pensioners, June 2004

Region	No.	% in Region	% of State
Hills Mallee Southern	14,879	69.1	8.1
Wakefield ¹	13,074	68.9	7.1
South East	6,330	65.3	3.4
Northern & Far Western	4,867	75.5	2.6
Eyre	3,654	66.6	2.0
Mid North	4,554	73.3	2.5
Riverland	3,994	71.7	2.2
Country SA	48,825	69.4	26.4
Central Northern	94,181	71.3	51.0
Southern	39,083	68.1	21.2
Metropolitan regions	133,264	70.3	72.1
South Australia	184,744	70.1	100.0

¹Gawler is included in Wakefield region

High proportions of the population receiving an Age Pension were strongly correlated with avoidable mortality, being Indigenous, dwellings with no motor vehicle, hospital admissions, cancer incidence and female sole parent pensioners. These results, together with a strong inverse correlation with the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, indicate a strong association at the SLA level between receiving an Age Pension and socioeconomic disadvantage (Table 8.2).

The Regions

Northern and Far Western had the highest proportion of age pensioners, with three-quarters of the population (75.5%) eligible by age in receipt of the pension (4,867 people). Within this region, the SLAs with high proportions of age pensioners were Unincorporated Whyalla (88.8%, 53 people), Whyalla (80.5%, 2,711) and Port Augusta (75.0%, 1,455). Low proportions of age pensioners were mapped in Unincorporated Far North (48.3%, 153) and Unincorporated Flinders Ranges (53.0%, 35).

In the **Mid North**, 73.3% of those in the appropriate age group were receiving an Age Pension (4,554 people). Within this region, the Port Pirie SLAs of - City (79.0%, 2,117) and Balance (75.7%, 477) had relatively high proportions of age pensioners. SLAs with low proportions of age pensioners included Unincorporated Pirie (18.6%, five pensioners) and Orroroo/Carrieton (52.1%, 118).

Riverland had 71.7% of people in the appropriate age group receiving an Age Pension (3,994 people). Unincorporated Riverland had over twice

as many age pensioners (21) as the population in the eligible age groups, an error likely to be related to the pension data being based on postcode area and its conversion to SLA (see page 164). Berri and Barmera - Barmera had a proportion of 78.7% (666 people).

There were 14,879 age pensioners in **Hills Mallee Southern** (69.1%). In this region, high proportions were mapped in Yankalilla (76.2%, 660 people) and Murray Bridge (75.1%, 2,363). A number of SLAs had large numbers of people receiving an Age Pension, including Victor Harbor (2,867 people, 68.2%), Alexandrina - Coastal (2,045, 74.0%), Mount Barker - Central (1,411, 64.6%), Mid Murray (1,172, 70.1%) and Alexandrina - Strathalbyn (1,045, 70.0%). Just over half the age-eligible population of Kangaroo Island were receiving an Age Pension (54.3%, 370).

Wakefield had just over two-thirds (68.9%) of the age-eligible population receiving Age Pensions (13,074 people). Yorke Peninsula - North had a high proportion of age pensioners (77.1%, 1,513 people). Large numbers of this group resided in Gawler (2,528 people, 72.1%), Copper Coast (2,095, 71.6%), Yorke Peninsula - North (1,513, 77.1%) and Light (1,103, 70.0%). Yorke Peninsula - South had a low 59.2% (663 people).

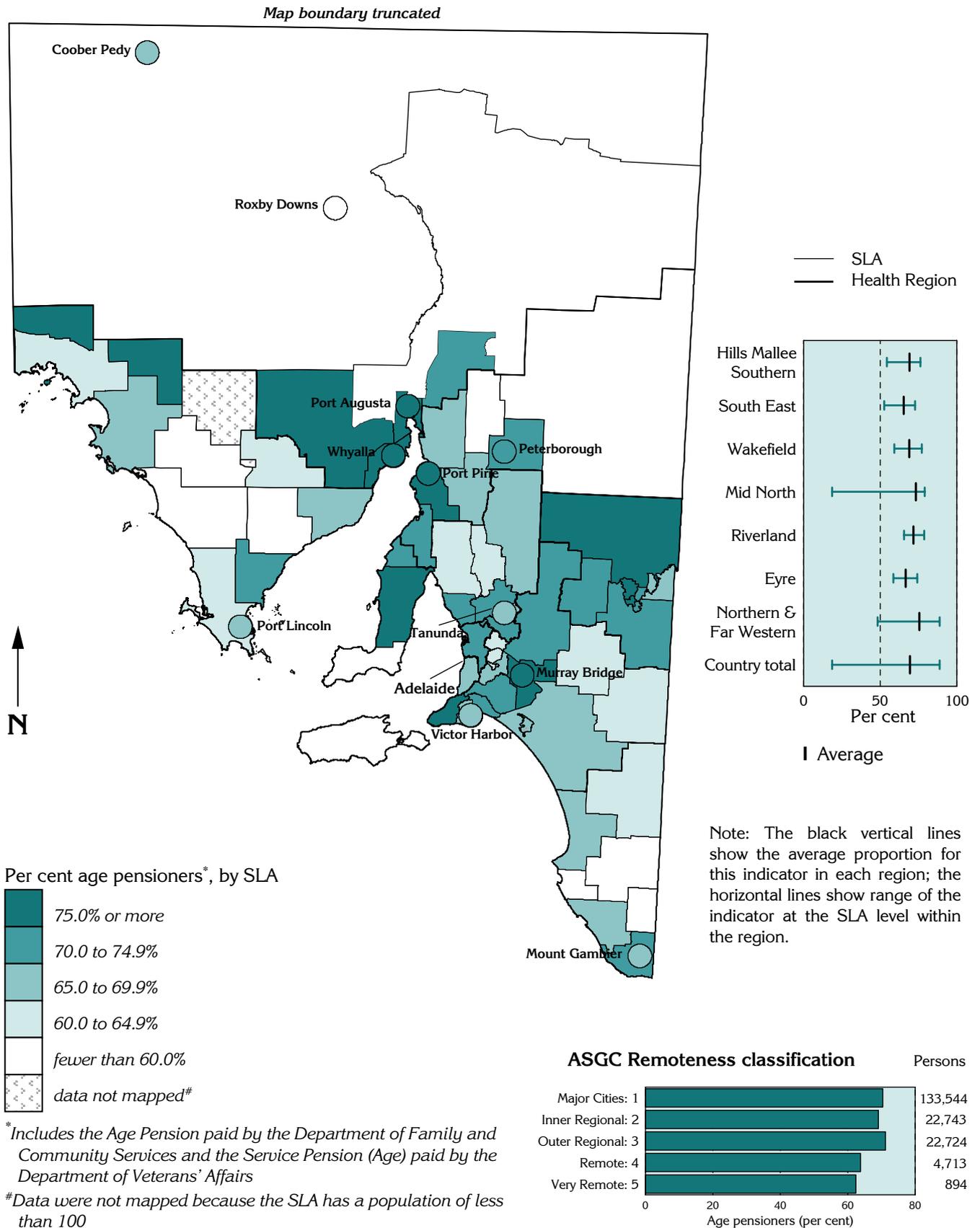
Two-thirds (66.6%) of those eligible by age in **Eyre** were in receipt of an Age Pension (3,654 people). Tumby Bay had 476 age pensioners (74.2%) and Port Lincoln had 1,525 (68.9%). Unincorporated West Coast had 50 pensioners, over three times the population of pensionable age. Low proportions were mapped in Elliston (58.6%, 89 people), Le Hunte (58.7%, 131) and Cleve (58.7%, 203).

The **South East** had the lowest proportion of people (65.3%) receiving an Age Pension (6,330 people). The SLA with the highest proportion in this region was Grant (72.7%, 740 people). Large numbers of age pensioners were located in Mount Gambier (2,454 people, 68.3%) and Wattle Range - West (1,025, 67.9%). The SLAs of Robe (52.6%, 155), Wattle Range - East (52.7%, 264) and Naracoorte and Lucindale (57.2%, 743) all had relatively low proportions of age pensioners.

ASGC Remoteness Classification

There was a fairly consistent gradient across the remoteness areas, with the largest number of age pensioners recorded in the Major Cities (133,544 people, 70.4%) and the lowest in the Very Remote areas (894 people, 62.4%). The category of Outer Regional did not follow the gradient, having a higher proportion (71.2%, 22,724) than Major Cities.

Map 5.2 Age pensioners, South Australia, June 2004



Source: Calculated on data from Centrelink

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
A Social Health Atlas of South Australia, 2006

Disability support pensioners, June 2004

People eligible for a Disability Support Pension (DSP), paid by Centrelink, must be aged 16 years or over and have not reached age-pensionable age; be permanently blind; or have a physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairment level of 20% or more, and a continuing inability to work. Details of males under 65 years of age and females under 60 years receiving the DVA service pension (permanently incapacitated) have been combined with the DSP data: details on people above these ages are included in the data for Age Pensioners.

The proportion of the population receiving the Disability Support Pension increased by 45.7%, from 4.6% in 1992 to 6.7% in 2004. The increase in country areas was greater (48.9%) than the increase in Metropolitan Adelaide (39.6%). In 1992, there was a slightly higher proportion in Metropolitan Adelaide (4.8%) compared to the country areas (4.5%), but by 2004, the proportion in both sections of the State was 6.7%.

Table 5.4: Disability support pensioners

Section of State	Per cent			
	1992	1996	2004	Per cent change ¹
Metropolitan Adelaide (incl. Gawler)	4.8	6.2	6.7	39.6
Country	4.5	6.3	6.7	48.9
South Australia	4.6	6.2	6.7	45.7

¹Per cent change over 12 years in the proportion of people receiving a disability support pension

Metropolitan regions

There were 48,273 people in receipt of the DSP in the metropolitan regions (excluding Gawler) in 2004 (6.7% of the population of pensionable age) (Table 5.5). The highest proportions were mapped in the outer northern and southern SLAs with low proportions in the east (Map 5.3), following the pattern of socioeconomic disadvantage seen in Chapter 4.

High rates of the population in receipt of these pensions were very strongly correlated with a number of variables associated with work issues, such as low income families, jobless families, unemployment beneficiaries and unskilled and semi-skilled workers. They were also very strongly correlated with dwellings rented from the Housing Trust, Indigenous status, smoking during pregnancy, high rates of premature death and other variables in this chapter. Very strong correlations were also found with the use of a range of health services, such as public hospital admissions, outpatient attendances, community mental health services (and Child and Adolescent Mental Health services), Domiciliary Care clients, emergency department attendances and booking lists. These results, together with a very strong correlation with the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, indicate a strong association at the SLA level between socioeconomic disadvantage and disability support pensioners (Table 8.1).

Central Northern Adelaide

Central Northern had a higher proportion of people receiving a DSP (7.0%, 35,328 people) compared to Southern (6.1%, 12,945 people). Playford - Elizabeth had more than double the regional average, with 15.4% (2,271 people), as did Port

Adelaide Enfield - Port (13.3%, 2,175) and - Inner (11.7%, 1,395). There were also high proportions in Playford - West Central (10.9%, 865), Charles Sturt - North-East (10.6%, 1,757), Salisbury - Central (9.1%, 1,655), Port Adelaide Enfield - East (8.9%, 1,735), Charles Sturt - Inner East (8.9%, 1,186) and - Inner West (8.8%, 1,339), Port Adelaide Enfield - Coast (8.7%, 1,591) and Salisbury - Inner North (8.6%, 1,466).

Tea Tree Gully - South (1,136 people, 5.2%), Salisbury - North-East (964, 6.6%) and Playford - East Central (915, 6.9%) had relatively large numbers of people receiving the DSP.

Adelaide Hills - Central (2.0%, 178 people) and - Ranges (2.2%, 156), Burnside - South-West (2.8%, 378) and - North-East (3.1%, 415), Tea Tree Gully - Hills (3.2%, 272) and Salisbury Balance (3.8%, 205) had low proportions.

Southern Adelaide

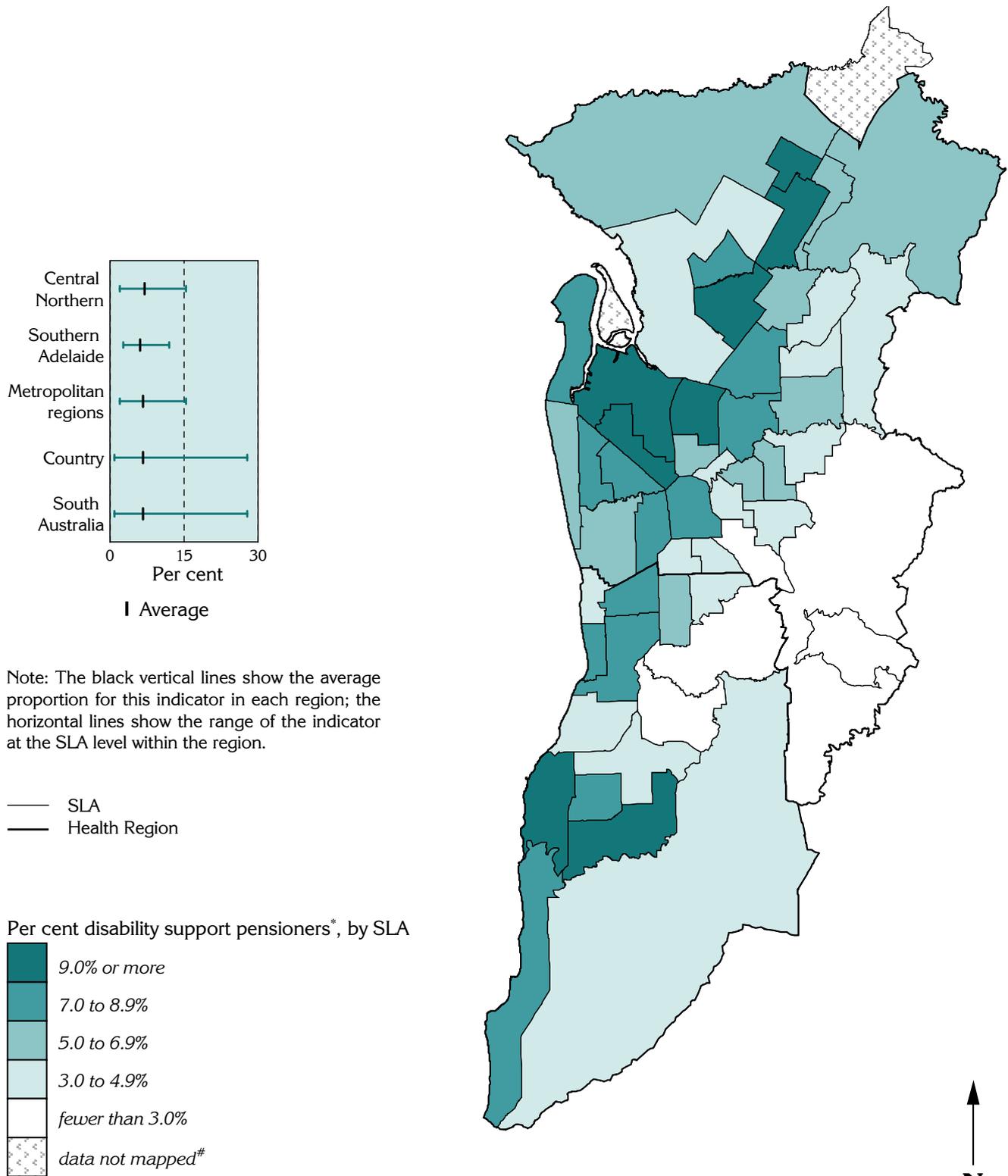
There were 12,945 people receiving the DSP in Southern in 2004 (6.1% of the population of pensionable age). High proportions of people in receipt of the DSP were mapped in a number of the Onkaparinga SLAs, including - North Coast (12.0%, 1,354 people) and - Hackham (10.0%, 937). There was also a high proportion in Marion - North (8.8%, 1,339).

Onkaparinga - Woodcroft had a relatively large number of people (1,136) receiving the DSP (4.7%).

The SLAs with low proportions of people in receipt of the DSP in this region included Mitcham - Hills (2.7%, 433 people), Onkaparinga - Reservoir (2.9%, 506), Marion - South (3.2%, 477), Mitcham - North-East (3.4%, 332) and Onkaparinga - Hills (3.6%, 263).

Map 5.3

Disability support pensioners, metropolitan regions, June 2004



Note: The black vertical lines show the average proportion for this indicator in each region; the horizontal lines show the range of the indicator at the SLA level within the region.

*Includes the Disability Support Pension paid by the Department of Family and Community Services and the Service Pension (Permanently Incapacitated) paid by the Department of Veterans' Affairs

#Data were not mapped for Torrens Island (mapped with Port Adelaide): Gawler has been mapped in the State map

Source: Calculated on data from Centrelink

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
A Social Health Atlas of South Australia, 2006

Disability support pensioners, June 2004

Country South Australia

In country South Australia, 17,757 people were receiving a Disability Support Pension (DSP) in June 2004 (Table 5.5). SLAs with the highest proportions were located in the less remote parts of the State, and in some of the towns mapped (Map 5.4). Readers should be aware that proportions may be inflated due to data issues (see page 164).

Table 5.5: Regional totals, disability support pensioners, June 2004

Region	No.	% in Region	% of State
Hills Mallee Southern	4,780	6.7	7.2
Wakefield ¹	4,145	6.7	6.3
South East	1,936	4.9	2.9
Northern & Far Western	2,582	8.1	3.9
Eyre	1,070	5.0	1.6
Mid North	1,844	10.2	2.8
Riverland	1,399	6.8	2.1
Country SA	17,757	6.7	26.8
Central Northern	35,328	7.0	53.4
Southern	12,945	6.1	19.6
Metropolitan regions	48,273	6.7	73.0
South Australia	66,172	6.7	100.0

¹Gawler is included in Wakefield region

There was a very strong correlation at the SLA level between rates of Disability Support Pension recipients and high rates of jobless families. There were also strong correlations with low income families, terminations of pregnancy, Child and Adolescent Mental Health services and other variables in this chapter. These results, together with a strong inverse correlation with the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, indicate a strong association at the SLA level between socioeconomic disadvantage and being a DSP recipient (Table 8.2).

The Regions

The highest proportion of people receiving the DSP was recorded for the **Mid North** (10.2%, 1,844 people). There was a particularly high take-up of nearly three times the country average in Peterborough, with a proportion of 17.9% (197 people). Other SLAs with high proportions included Port Pirie - City (12.0%, 997) and Barunga West (11.0%, 163). There was also a large number of people receiving the DSP in Port Pirie - City (997, 12.0%).

Northern and Far Western had a rate of 8.1% (2,582 people). Unincorporated Whyalla had an extremely high proportion with over one quarter of the population estimated to receive the DSP (27.8%, 36). There were also high proportions in Coober Pedy (14.7%, 223) and Whyalla (10.3%,

1,383). Port Augusta had 768 people receiving the DSP (8.7%). Very low rates were recorded for Unincorporated Flinders Ranges (0.9%, eight people) and Unincorporated Far North (2.8%, 102).

In the **Riverland**, 6.8% of the population received the DSP (1,399). The Unincorporated Riverland had a high proportion of 9.3% (although a very small number of nine people). Renmark Paringa - Renmark had 354 DSP recipients (7.3%) and Berri and Barmera - Berri had 324 (7.2%).

In **Hills Mallee Southern**, 4,780 people were receiving the DSP in 2004 (6.7%). A number of SLAs in this region had relatively high proportions, including Mid Murray (9.9%, 522), Alexandrina - Coastal (9.9%, 609), Murray Bridge (9.7%, 1,031), Victor Harbor (9.5%, 591) and Yankalilla (9.4%, 229). Mount Barker - Central (544 people, 5.0%) and Alexandrina - Strathalbyn (305, 5.3%) both had large numbers. A number of SLAs had low proportions, including Southern Mallee (2.6%, 34), Adelaide Hills - North (2.6%, 120) and Adelaide Hills Balance (2.9%, 166), Mount Barker Balance (3.8%, 212) and Karoonda East Murray (3.9%, 29).

Wakefield had the same proportion of DSP recipients as **Hills Mallee Southern**, of 6.7% (4,145 people). High proportions of the population in Copper Coast (11.5%, 735 people), Yorke Peninsula - North (11.1%, 468) and Goyder (10.2%, 257) were receiving a DSP. There were relatively large numbers of DSP recipients in Gawler (786 people, 6.7%), Mallala (377, 7.3%), Light (305, 4.0%) and Wakefield (300, 7.6%). The SLAs of Barossa - Tanunda (3.2%, 92) and Clare and Gilbert Valleys (3.8%, 190) both had low proportions of this pensioner group.

Eyre had a low proportion of 5.0% in this pensioner group (1,070 people). Port Lincoln had 537 DSP recipients (6.0%). Low proportions were mapped for the SLAs of Elliston (1.0%, seven people), Cleve (2.3%, 27) and Kimba (3.5%, 23).

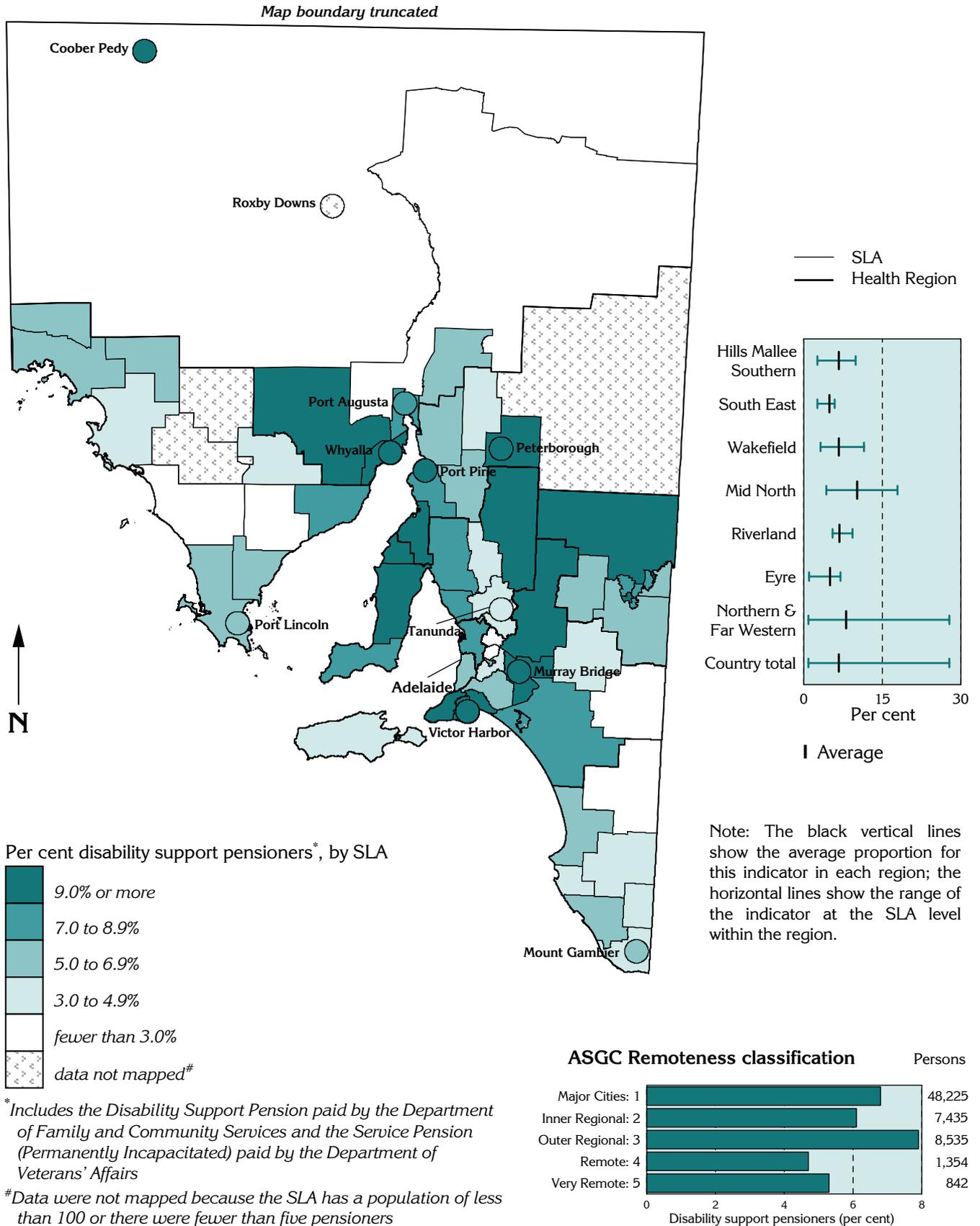
South East also had a low proportion, with 4.9% (1,936 people) of the population receiving the DSP. Large numbers were recorded for Mount Gambier (880 people, 5.9%) and Wattle Range - West (323, 5.8%). SLAs with low proportions included Tatiara (2.6%, 113), Naracoorte and Lucindale (3.2%, 166) and Robe (3.6%, 28).

ASGC Remoteness Classification

There was no consistent gradient across the remoteness classes, although the Major Cities areas (6.8%, 48,225 people) had a higher proportion than the Very Remote areas (5.3%, 842). The highest proportion, of 7.9%, was calculated for the Outer Regional areas (8,535 people).

Map 5.4

Disability support pensioners, South Australia, June 2004



Source: Calculated on data from Centrelink

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
A Social Health Atlas of South Australia, 2006

Female sole parent pensioners, June 2004

People eligible for a Parenting Payment Single paid by Centrelink comprise female and male sole parents with at least one child under 16 years of age (who meet certain qualifications, or the child attracts a child disability allowance). Only female sole parent pensioners have been mapped because females comprise the majority of all sole parent pensioners (90.6% at 30 June 2004).

In 2004, 7.6% of the South Australian female population aged from 15 to 54 years were in receipt of the Parenting Payment Single (Table 5.6). Comparisons with the 1992 and 1996 figures show that there has been an increase in the proportion of female sole parent pensioners, rising from 6.1% in 1992 and 6.6% in 1996 (an increase of 24.6%).

Table 5.6: Female sole parent pensioners

Section of State	Per cent			
	1992	1996	2004	Per cent change ¹
Metropolitan Adelaide (incl. Gawler)	6.1	6.6	7.6	24.6
Country	6.2	6.7	7.5	21.0
South Australia	6.1	6.6	7.6	24.6

¹Per cent change over 12 years in the proportion of females receiving a sole parent pension

Metropolitan regions

In 2004, there were 23,806 females in the metropolitan regions (excluding Gawler) in receipt of the Parenting Payment Single, representing 7.6% of the female population aged from 15 to 54 years.

The correlation analysis showed very strong associations at the SLA level with the variables for unskilled and semi-skilled workers, jobless families, single parent families, unemployment, the Indigenous population, low income families and public rental housing. Very strong inverse correlations were recorded with female labour force participation, high income families, full-time educational participation, managers and administrators, and professionals, and school subject achievement scores. These results, together with the very strong inverse correlation with the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, indicate a strong association at the SLA level between female sole parent pensioners and socioeconomic disadvantage (Table 8.1).

Central Northern Adelaide

High proportions of female sole parent pensioners were generally recorded in the outer northern and north-western areas of the region (Map 5.5). Playford - Elizabeth and Playford - West Central had the highest proportions, of 22.1% (1,422 females) and 18.6% (654), respectively. Other SLAs in this region to record rates well above the average were Salisbury - Central (13.6%, 1,090 females), Salisbury - Inner North (13.3%, 1,019) and Port Adelaide Enfield - Port (12.8%, 906).

The SLA of Adelaide had the lowest proportion of female sole parent pensioners, with only two per cent of its female population aged from 15 to 54 years in this category (89 females).

Proportions of below three per cent were also recorded in Burnside - South-West (2.5%, 146 females), Walkerville (2.6%, 48), Unley - West (2.9%, 155) and Norwood Payneham St Peters - West (2.9%, 162).

Playford - Elizabeth SLA had the largest number, with 1,422 female sole parent pensioners, followed by Salisbury - Central (1,090), Salisbury - Inner North (1,019), Salisbury - South East (979) and Port Adelaide Enfield - Port (906).

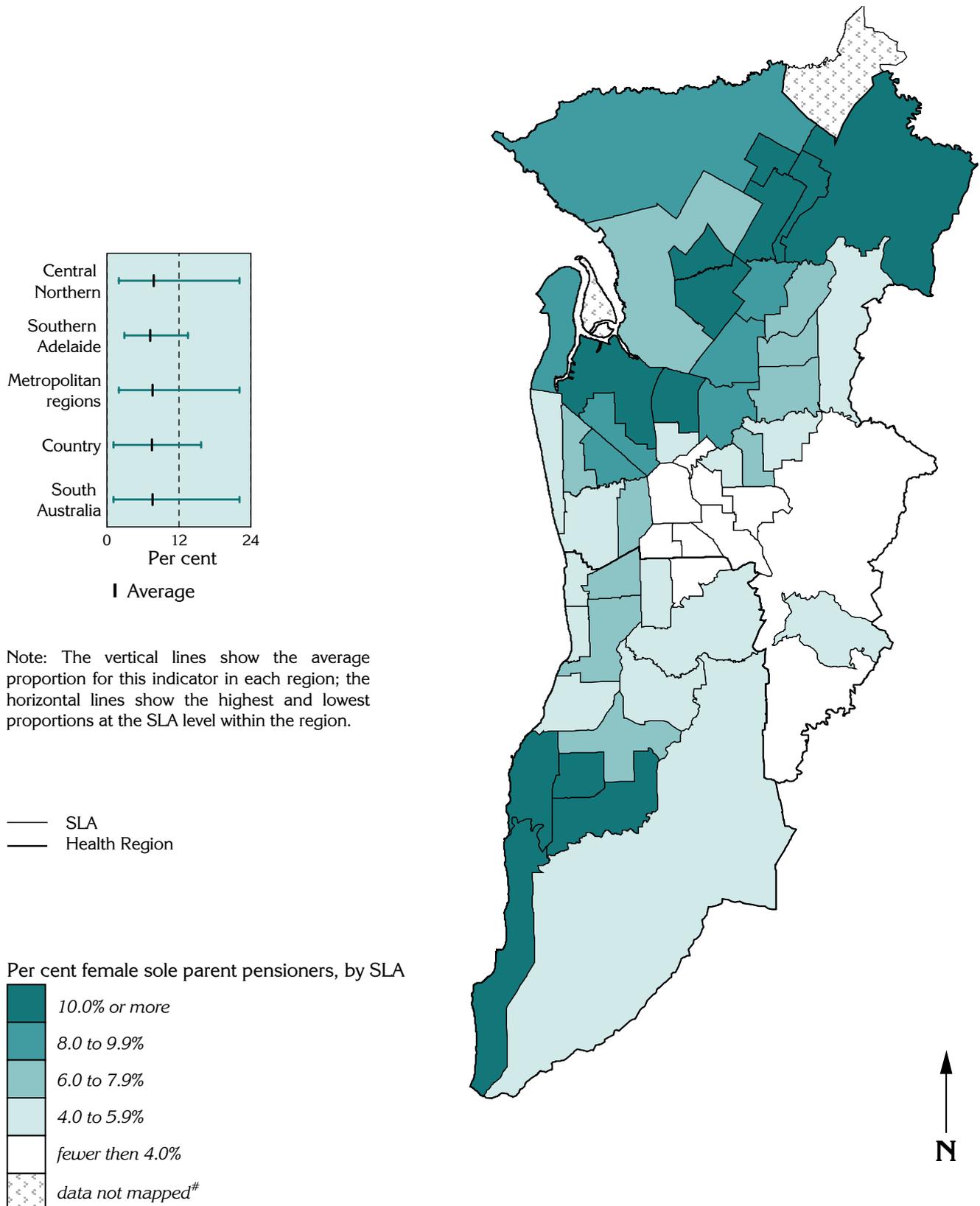
Southern Adelaide

More than ten per cent of the female population aged 15 to 54 years were in receipt of the Parenting Payment Single in the Southern regional SLAs of Onkaparinga - Hackham (13.5%, 558 females), - North Coast (13.2%, 617), - South Coast (11.5%, 803) and - Morphett (10.9%, 758).

The lowest proportions in the Southern region were recorded in Mitcham - North-East (2.9%, 124 females), Holdfast Bay - North (4.0%, 206), Mitcham - Hills (4.1%, 277) and Mitcham - West (4.7%, 292).

Map 5.5

Female sole parent pensioners, metropolitan regions, June 2004



Note: The vertical lines show the average proportion for this indicator in each region; the horizontal lines show the highest and lowest proportions at the SLA level within the region.

[#]Data were not mapped for Torrens Island (mapped with Port Adelaide); Gawler has been mapped in the State map

Source: Calculated on data from Centrelink

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
A Social Health Atlas of South Australia, 2006

Female sole parent pensioners, June 2004

Country South Australia

The number of females (aged from 15 to 54 years) receiving the Parenting Payment Single in the country regions of South Australia was 8,244, representing 7.5% of the females in this age group.

The majority of regions had proportions near the country average, with the exception of **Northern and Far Western** (a higher 10.9%, 1,420 females) and **Wakefield** (a lower 6.3%, 1,626). Large variations in the proportions of female sole parent pensioners in **Northern and Far Western, Mid North** and **Eyre** are evident from the graph on the opposite page.

Table 5.7: Regional totals, female sole parent pensioners, June 2004

Region	No.	% in Region	% of State
Hills Mallee Southern	2,087	7.0	6.5
Wakefield ¹	1,626	6.3	5.1
South East	1,213	7.3	3.8
Northern & Far Western	1,420	10.9	4.4
Eyre	654	7.4	2.0
Mid North	584	7.9	1.8
Riverland	659	7.7	2.1
Country SA	8,244	7.5	25.7
Central Northern	17,112	7.8	53.4
Southern	6,694	7.2	20.9
Metropolitan regions	23,806	7.6	74.3
South Australia	32,050	7.6	100.0

¹Gawler is included in Wakefield region only

The correlation analysis showed a strong, or very strong association between high rates of female sole parent pensioners and the variables for single parent families, dwellings with no motor vehicle, jobless families, public rental housing and people receiving rent assistance. There were strong inverse associations with managers and administrators, and professionals and publicly assessed subject achievement scores. These results, together with the inverse correlation with the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, indicate a strong association at the SLA level between female sole parent pensioners and socioeconomic disadvantage (Table 8.2).

The Regions

Within the **Northern and Far Western** region, high proportions and numbers of female sole parent pensioners were recorded in the SLAs of Whyalla (14.2%, 802 females), Port Augusta (12.8%, 477) and Coober Pedy (10.4%, 58).

Peterborough (15.7%, 66 females) and Port Pirie - City (11.4%, 399) in the **Mid North** region had proportions of female sole parent pensioners well

above the average, while proportions of less than five per cent were recorded in the SLAs of Northern Areas (2.4%, 26 females) and Barunga West (4.3%, 24).

There were 659 females aged 15 to 54 years in receipt of the Parenting Payment Single in the **Riverland** region (7.7%). Proportions within this region ranged from 5.9% in Loxton Waikerie - East (110 females) to 9.4% in Renmark Paringa - Renmark (197).

The lowest proportions of female sole parent pensioners in the **Eyre** region were recorded in Tumby Bay (4.7%, 28 females), Lower Eyre Peninsula (4.9%, 50) and Streaky Bay (5.6%, 27). Proportions above ten per cent were recorded in Unincorporated West Coast (13.7%, 22), Port Lincoln (10.7%, 424) and Ceduna (10.5%, 100).

In the **South East** region, 1,213 females were in receipt of the Parenting Payment Single (7.3%), of whom half were located in Mount Gambier (610, 9.3%). The other SLAs in this region had proportions below the country average, including Naracoorte and Lucindale (4.6%, 100), Wattle Range - East (4.8%, 39) and Tatiara (6.2%, 107).

Hills Mallee Southern had the largest number of female sole parent pensioners among the regions, with 2,087 females representing 7.0% of females aged 15 to 54 years. Within this region, there were high proportions in the SLAs of Murray Bridge (11.6%, 509 females), Victor Harbor (8.8%, 217) and Mount Barker - Central (7.6%, 378). There were 3.6% female sole parent pensioners in Kangaroo Island (42 females) with low proportions also in Adelaide Hills - North (3.7%, 71), Mid Murray (4.9%, 97), Yankalilla (5.1%, 49) and Adelaide Hills Balance (5.1%, 125).

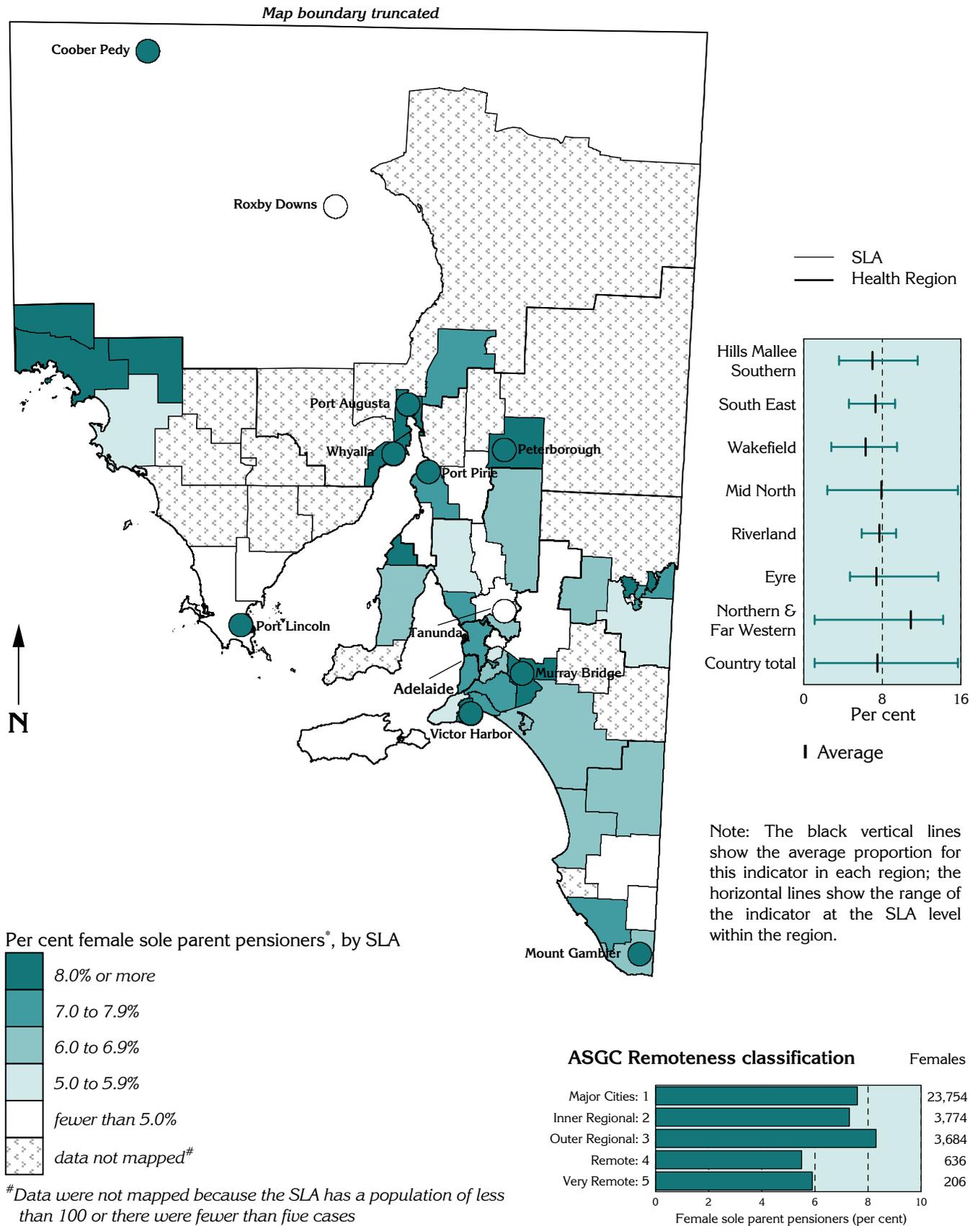
There were 1,626 female sole parent pensioners in **Wakefield**, 6.3% of females aged from 15 to 54 years. The majority of SLAs within this region had lower than average proportions: the lowest were recorded in Barossa - Tanunda (2.8%, 34 females), Clare and Gilbert Valleys (3.2%, 65), Light (4.5%, 147) and Barossa - Angaston (5.4%, 112). There were relatively large numbers of females in receipt of the Parenting Payment Single in Gawler (496, 9.5%) and Copper Coast (230, 8.8%).

ASGC Remoteness classification

Female sole parent pensioners represent a higher proportion of the population in more accessible areas, with 7.6% in the Major Cities, 7.3% in the Inner Regional and 8.3% in the Outer Regional. The lowest proportions were recorded for females in Remote (5.5%) and Very Remote (5.9%) areas.

Map 5.6

Female sole parent pensioners, South Australia, June 2004



Source: Calculated on data from Centrelink

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
A Social Health Atlas of South Australia, 2006

People receiving an unemployment benefit, June 2004

People receiving an unemployment benefit are shown as a percentage of the potentially eligible population (of males aged 15 to 64 years and females aged 15 to 59 years). The data mapped are the proportion of the population receiving 'unemployment benefits': these include the Youth Training Allowance and Newstart Allowance paid by Centrelink, and people participating in Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) schemes in 2003 (see pages 163-4 for details of the CDEP).

In 2004, 4.9% of the eligible population, as defined above, were in receipt of an unemployment benefit, with a larger proportion in country South Australia (5.4%) than in Metropolitan Adelaide (4.6%) (Table 5.8). Over the twelve-year period from 1992 to 2004, the proportion of the population receiving an unemployment benefit has decreased considerably, from 9.0% in 1992 to 4.9% in 2004 (down by 45.6%). This trend should be seen in the context of the Disability Support Pension data (which show an increase over this period), as some people who would have been placed on an unemployment benefit in the past, may now be placed on a Disability Support Pension.

Table 5.8: People receiving an unemployment benefit

Section of State	Per cent			
	1992	1996	2004	Per cent change ¹
Metropolitan Adelaide (incl. Gawler)	8.9	8.0	4.6	-48.3
Country	9.2	8.7	5.4	-41.3
South Australia	9.0	8.2	4.9	-45.6

¹Per cent change over 12 years in the proportion of people receiving an unemployment benefit

Metropolitan regions

In 2004, 4.6% of the eligible population in the metropolitan regions (excluding Gawler) were in receipt of an unemployment benefit (as described above), representing 33,279 people. The SLAs with the highest proportions of people receiving an unemployment benefit were located in three distinct areas: in the north, in an area extending from the inner north around to the south-west, and in the outer south (Map 5.7).

The correlation analysis showed a strong, or very strong, association at the SLA level between high levels of people in receipt of an unemployment benefit and many of the indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage. Conversely, female labour force participation and participation in full-time education at age 16 years, high income families, school assessed subject scores and Internet use at home were very strongly inversely correlated with high levels of people in receipt of an unemployment benefit. These results, together with the very strong inverse correlation with the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, indicate a strong association at the SLA level between the receipt of an unemployment benefit and socioeconomic disadvantage (Table 8.1).

Central Northern Adelaide

There were 24,489 people in the Central Northern region in receipt of an unemployment benefit, 4.9% of the eligible population (Table 5.9). The largest number and proportion of unemployment beneficiaries was recorded in the SLA of Playford - Elizabeth, with 1,900 people representing 12.9% of the eligible population.

High proportions were also recorded in the SLAs of Port Adelaide Enfield - Port (9.6%, 1,575 people), Playford - West Central (9.2%, 731), Port Adelaide Enfield - Inner (8.0%, 952) and Charles Sturt - North-East (7.8%, 1,298).

The SLA of Adelaide Hills - Ranges had the lowest proportion, with 1.4% of its eligible population in receipt of unemployment benefits (100 people). Proportions of lower than two per cent were also recorded in the SLAs of Adelaide Hills - Central (1.7%, 153), Burnside - South-West (1.8%, 236) and Tea Tree Gully - Hills (1.9%, 165).

Southern Adelaide

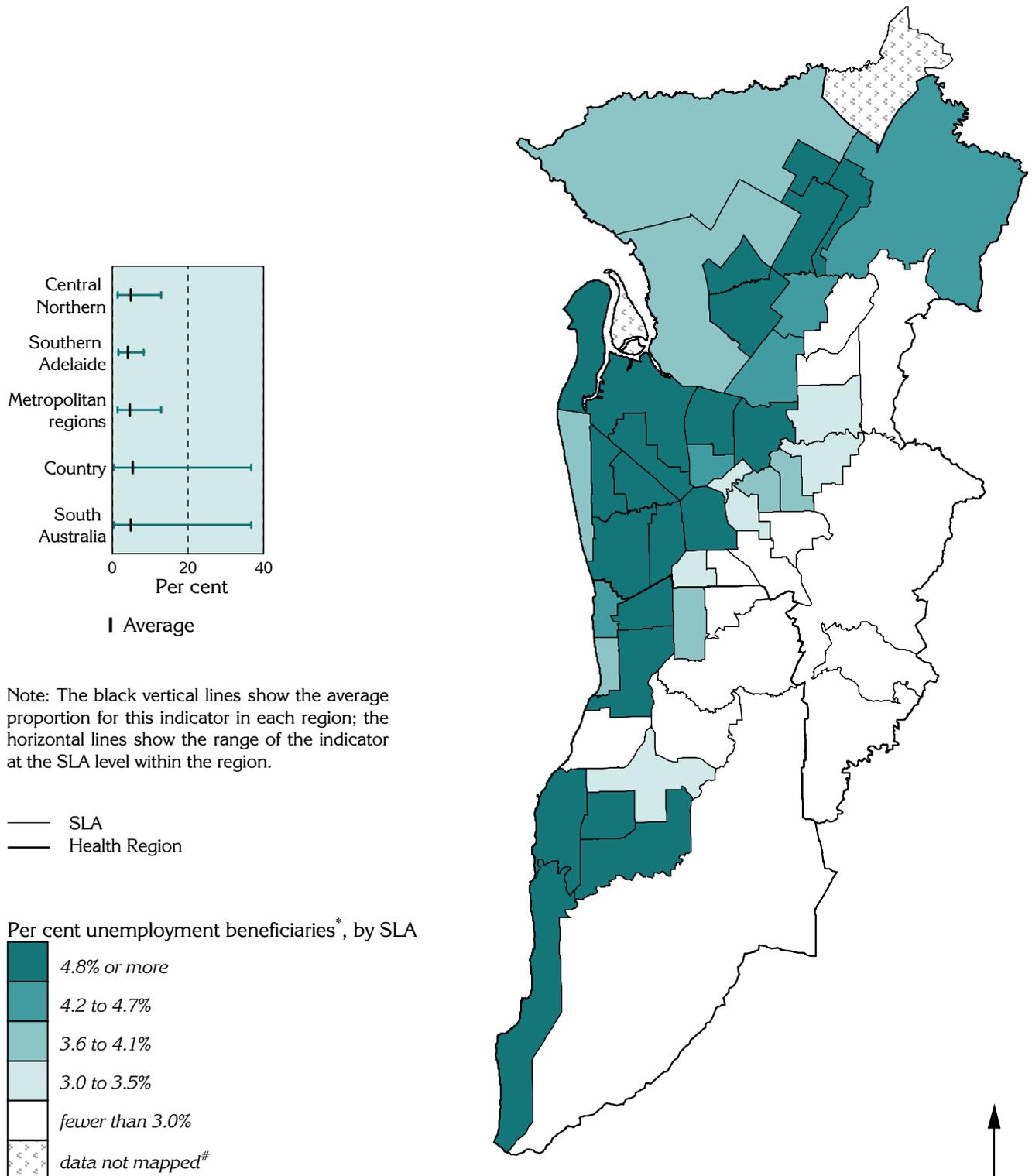
There were fewer unemployment beneficiaries in the Southern region than in Central Northern (4.1% of the eligible population, 8,789 people).

The highest rates were recorded in the SLAs of Onkaparinga - North Coast (8.3%, 932 people), - Hackham (7.3%, 690) and - South Coast (5.5%, 863). However, the largest number of unemployment beneficiaries was recorded in Marion - Central (1,027 people, 5.0%).

The areas of Mitcham - North-East (1.6%, 154 people), Mitcham - Hills (2.2%, 346), Onkaparinga - Reservoir (2.3%, 414), Marion - South (2.4%, 354) and Onkaparinga - Hills (2.7%, 195) recorded both the lowest proportions and numbers of people in receipt of an unemployment benefit in the Southern region.

Map 5.7

People receiving an unemployment benefit, metropolitan regions, June 2004



Note: The black vertical lines show the average proportion for this indicator in each region; the horizontal lines show the range of the indicator at the SLA level within the region.

— SLA
 — Health Region

Per cent unemployment beneficiaries*, by SLA

4.8% or more
 4.2 to 4.7%
 3.6 to 4.1%
 3.0 to 3.5%
 fewer than 3.0%
 data not mapped#

*Includes people in receipt of Newstart Allowance, the Youth Training Allowance and those covered by the Community Development Employment Program as a percentage of males aged 15 to 64 years and females aged 15 to 59 years

#Data were not mapped for Torrens Island (mapped with Port Adelaide): Gawler has been mapped in the State map

Source: Calculated on data from Centrelink

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
 A Social Health Atlas of South Australia, 2006

People receiving an unemployment benefit, June 2004

Country South Australia

In country South Australia in 2004, 5.4% of the population (aged 15 to 64 for males and 15 to 59 years for females) were receiving an unemployment benefit (14,309 people). These figures include 2,450 country residents who were in CDEP schemes in 2003; the rate without CDEP is 4.5%.

The largest number and proportion of people receiving an unemployment benefit was in the **Northern and Far Western** region (10.9% and 3,465 people). This is expected, as the region has the largest number of Indigenous people in CDEP schemes (1,260), increasing the rate of recipients from 6.9% to 10.9%.

Table 5.9: Regional totals, people receiving an unemployment benefit, June 2004

Region	No.	% in Region	
		With CDEP	Without CDEP
Hills Mallee Southern	2,926	4.1	3.7
Wakefield ¹	2,163	3.5	3.3
South East	1,595	4.0	3.8
Northern & Far Western	3,465	10.9	6.9
Eyre	1,727	8.1	5.1
Mid North	1,216	6.7	6.7
Riverland	1,217	5.9	5.5
Country SA	14,309	5.4	4.5
Central Northern	24,489	4.9	4.8
Southern	8,789	4.1	4.1
Metropolitan regions	33,279	4.6	4.6
South Australia	47,783	4.9	4.6

¹Gawler is included in Wakefield region

The correlation analysis showed a strong association at the SLA level between high levels of unemployment beneficiaries and the variables for unemployment, the Indigenous population, dwellings with no motor vehicle and single parent families. These results, together with the strong inverse correlation with the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, suggest an association at the SLA level between the receipt of an unemployment benefit and socioeconomic disadvantage (Table 8.2).

The Regions

In the **Northern and Far Western** region, more than ten per cent of the eligible population were in receipt of an unemployment benefit in the SLAs of Unincorporated Far North (21.8%, 802 people), Port Augusta (12.9%, 1,136) and Coober Pedy (12.0%, 182). As noted above, the overall rate of 10.9% is substantially influenced by the inclusion of participants in CDEP schemes.

The SLAs of Unincorporated West Coast (36.7%, 159 people) and Ceduna (31.1%, 698), in the **Eyre** region, had the highest rate of unemployment

beneficiaries at the SLA level in country areas. There was a large degree of variation in **Eyre**, as evident from the graph on page 181. The lowest proportions in this region were recorded in Tumbay Bay (3.1%, 48 people), Franklin Harbor (3.3%, 26) and Lower Eyre Peninsula (3.6%, 96). Inclusion of the participants in CDEP schemes increased the overall rate from 5.1% to 8.1%.

In **Mid North**, 1,216 people were in receipt of an unemployment benefit, representing 6.7% of the eligible population. Within this region, there were high proportions of unemployment beneficiaries living in Peterborough (11.0%, 121), and Port Pirie - City (9.5%, 787). Almost two thirds (64.8%) of people in receipt of an unemployment benefit in this region were located in Port Pirie - City.

In **Riverland**, 5.9% of the labour force (1,217 people) were in receipt of an unemployment benefit. Large proportions of beneficiaries were recorded in Berri and Barmera - Berri (8.8%, 393 people) and - Barmera (6.5%, 167), and in Unincorporated Riverland (8.8%, eight people).

The proportion of people in receipt of an unemployment benefit in **Hills Mallee Southern** was 4.1% (2,926 people). Relatively low rates were recorded in this region, particularly in the SLAs of Adelaide Hills - North (0.4%, 20), Adelaide Hills Balance (1.7%, 97) and Mount Barker - Balance (2.6%, 143). Murray Bridge had a large number of people receiving an unemployment benefit and the highest proportion in this region (899 people, 8.4%).

In **South East**, 4.0% of the population (1,595 people) were receiving an unemployment benefit, just under half of whom were located in Mount Gambier (736 people, 5.0%). Within the region, the highest proportion was recorded in Grant (5.4%, 289) and the lowest in Tatiara (1.4%, 63).

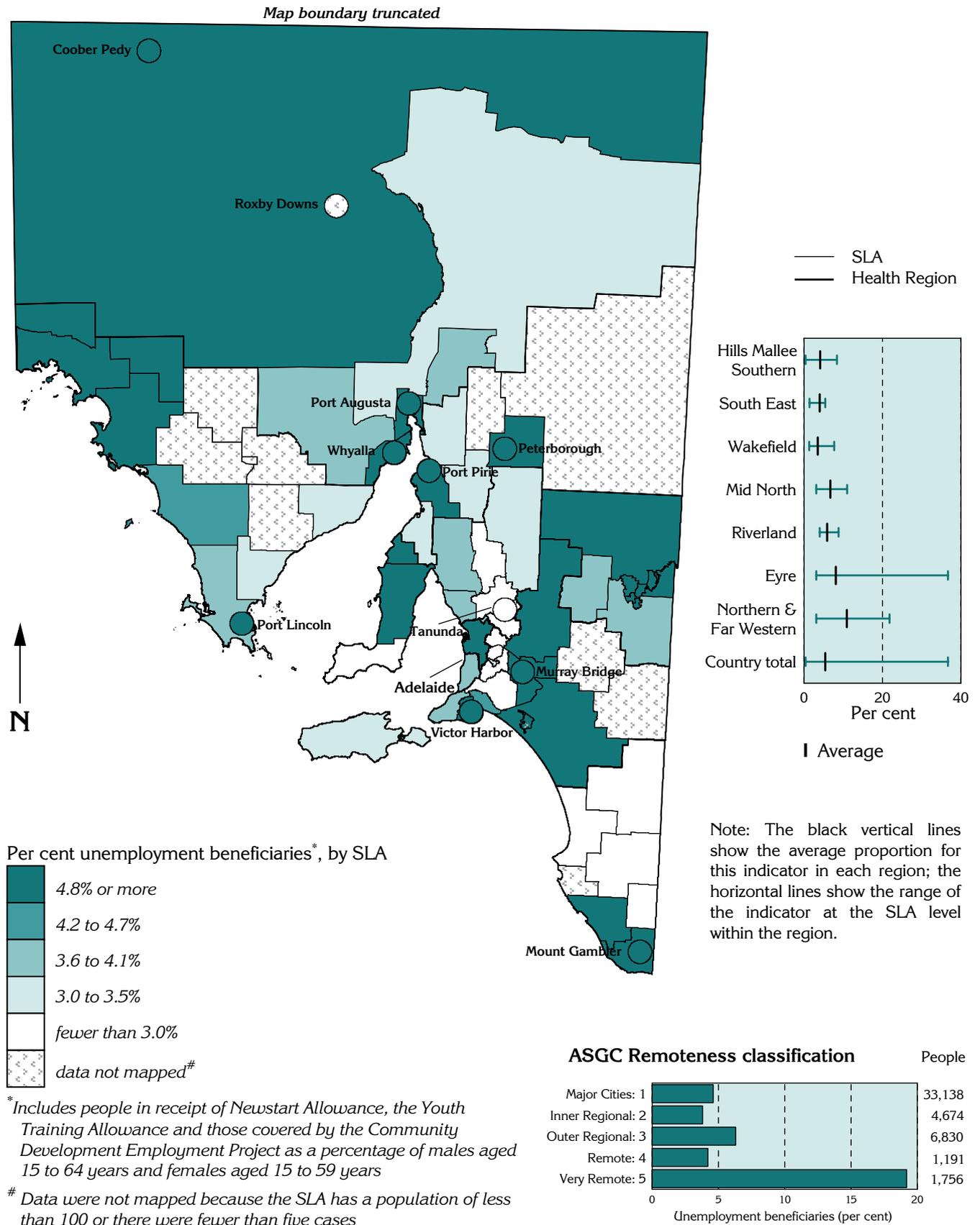
Wakefield had a relatively low proportion of people in receipt of an unemployment benefit (3.5%, 2,163 people); these were spread throughout the region, with proportions ranging from 7.7% in Yorke Peninsula - North (325 people) to 1.3% in Barossa - Tanunda (37).

ASGC Remoteness classification

By far the highest proportion of unemployment beneficiaries was in the Very Remote areas (19.2%), with the lowest in Inner Regional (3.8%) and Remote (4.2%) areas. The distribution of the Indigenous population and the inclusion of the CDEP figures are likely to have influenced the high proportion in the Very Remote areas.

Map 5.8

People receiving an unemployment benefit, South Australia, June 2004



Source: Calculated on data from Centrelink

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
A Social Health Atlas of South Australia, 2006

Children in welfare-dependent and other low income families, June 2004

Dependent children living in families receiving the Family Tax Benefit (A), but with an income of less than \$32,485, have been mapped as a proportion of all children under 17 years of age. Families receiving these pension and benefit types represent the majority of families reliant on government welfare payments for their main source of income, or wage earners on low incomes. The income cut-offs applicable to the data for earlier periods shown were \$20,700 in 1992 and \$23,000 in 1996. Further details are provided in the explanatory notes at the beginning of the chapter (see page 163).

In 1992, 37.7% of children in South Australia aged under 17 years were living in families receiving income support (Table 5.10). In 1996, the proportion had increased to 43.9%, before declining to 37.5% in 2004. The overall slight decrease in the proportion of dependent children in South Australia from 1992 to 2004 (down by 0.6%) is a result of an increase in the proportion in Metropolitan Adelaide (6.9%) and the more substantial decrease in country South Australia (-15.8%). The authors believe these time trend data represent children in families with similarly low incomes: the higher proportion reported in *Inequality in South Australia: Key determinants of wellbeing* (Hetzel 2004) was incorrect, as it included families on FTB (A) with incomes higher than the more realistic cut-off of \$32,485, used here.

Table 5.10: Children in welfare-dependent and other low income families

Section of State	Per cent			
	1992	1996	2004	Per cent change ¹
Metropolitan Adelaide (incl. Gawler)	35.2	42.0	36.9	6.9
Country	44.1	48.1	38.8	-15.8
South Australia	37.7	43.9	37.5	-0.6

¹Per cent change over 12 years in the proportion of children in welfare-dependent and other low income families

Metropolitan regions

Overall, 36.9% of children aged under 17 years of age in the metropolitan regions were living in families receiving government income support at June 2004, a total of 84,466 children.

The distribution of dependent children in families receiving income support is similar to that for other variables mapped in this chapter. The highest proportions were recorded in the northern, north-western and outer southern SLAs, with low proportions in the inner east and south of the city.

The correlation analysis showed a very strong association at the SLA level between high levels of dependent children and many of the indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage, including the variables for jobless families, unskilled and semi-skilled workers and low income families. These results, together with the very strong inverse correlation with the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, suggests a strong association at the SLA level between children living in welfare-dependent and other low income families and socioeconomic disadvantage (Table 8.1).

Central Northern Adelaide

Almost three quarters (72.4%) of the metropolitan region's welfare-dependent children were located in the Central Northern region (61,132 children, 38.4% of the population under 17 years of age).

Within this region, the SLAs of Playford - Elizabeth (75.2%, 4,831 children), Port Adelaide Enfield - Port (62.5%, 3,356), Salisbury - Central (59.9%, 4,017), Playford - West Central (57.1%, 2,248), Port Adelaide Enfield - Inner (55.3%, 2,114) and Charles Sturt - North-East (50.4%, 2,626) had more than half of their children under 17 years of age living in welfare-dependent and other low income families.

The lowest proportions were recorded in the inner eastern areas of Burnside - South-West (13.1%, 514 children), Walkerville (14.5%, 182), Burnside - North-East (15.8%, 626), Unley - East (17.1%, 581) and Norwood Payneham St Peters - West (17.5%, 492).

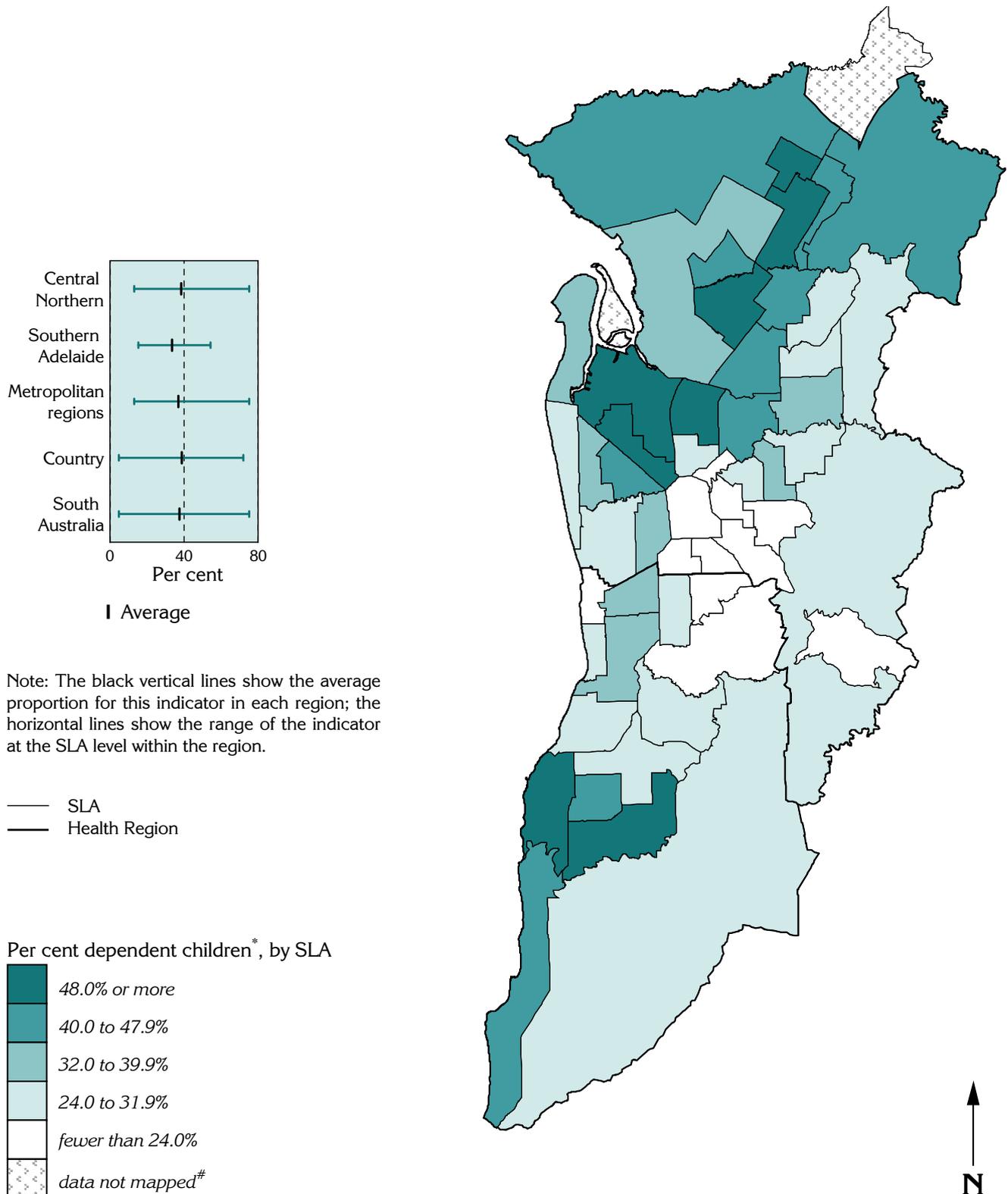
Southern Adelaide

There were 23,334 children in the Southern region living in welfare-dependent and other low income families, representing 33.5% of children under 17 years of age. The highest proportions of dependent children were in the Onkaparinga SLAs of - North Coast (54.3%, 2,052 children), - Hackham (53.8%, 1,960), - Morphett (47.0%, 2,651) and - South Coast (44.8%, 2,678).

Lowest proportions were recorded for Mitcham - North-East (15.3%, 470 children), Holdfast Bay - North (21.4%, 591), Mitcham - Hills (22.5%, 1,063) and Marion - South (24.0%, 1,326). Onkaparinga - Woodcroft (2,765 children, 31.1%) had the largest number of dependent children in the region.

Map 5.9

Children in welfare-dependent and other low income families, metropolitan regions, June 2004



Note: The black vertical lines show the average proportion for this indicator in each region; the horizontal lines show the range of the indicator at the SLA level within the region.

— SLA
 — Health Region

Per cent dependent children*, by SLA

48.0% or more
 40.0 to 47.9%
 32.0 to 39.9%
 24.0 to 31.9%
 fewer than 24.0%
 data not mapped#

*Includes children living in welfare-dependent and other low income families as a percentage of children aged under 17 years

#Data were not mapped for Torrens Island (mapped with Port Adelaide); Gawler has been mapped in the State map

Source: Calculated on data from Centrelink

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
 A Social Health Atlas of South Australia, 2006

Children in welfare-dependent and other low income families, June 2004

Country South Australia

There were 39,223 dependent children of selected pensioners and beneficiaries in country South Australia at June 2004, representing 38.8% of children under the age of 17 years.

Across the regions, **Mid North** (47.6%) had the highest proportion of dependent children, followed by **Northern and Far Western** (42.7%) and **Riverland** (42.6%). The lowest proportion was recorded in **South East**, with 31.5% of children living in welfare-dependent families.

Table 5.11: Region totals, children in welfare-dependent & other low income families, June 2004

Region	No.	% in Region	% of State
Hills Mallee Southern	10,772	40.4	8.7
Wakefield ¹	8,365	36.5	6.8
South East	4,854	31.5	3.9
Northern & Far Western	5,352	42.7	4.3
Eyre	3,172	36.9	2.6
Mid North	3,392	47.6	2.7
Riverland	3,366	42.6	2.7
Country SA	39,223	38.8	31.7
Central Northern	61,132	38.4	49.4
Southern	23,334	33.5	18.9
Metropolitan regions	84,466	36.9	68.3
South Australia	123,689	37.5	100.0

¹Gawler is included in Wakefield region

The correlation analysis showed a strong association at the SLA level between high levels of children in welfare-dependent and other low income families and the variables for single parent families, jobless families, dwellings with no motor vehicle, unemployment, low income families and dwellings rented from the State Housing Trust. These results, together with the strong inverse correlation with the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, indicate a strong association at the SLA level between dependent children of selected pensioners and beneficiaries and socioeconomic disadvantage (Table 8.2).

The Regions

Just under half (47.6%) of children aged under 17 years in **Mid North** were living in families receiving income support (3,392 children). The largest proportion across all country regions was recorded in Peterborough, with almost three quarters of children in welfare-dependent families (72.0%, 299 children). The largest numbers of dependent children were in the SLAs of Port Pirie - City (1,728, 52.2%) and Northern Areas (443, 39.2%).

Only 4.8% of children in Roxby Downs were living in welfare-dependent and other low income families (57 children), in a region with an overall rate of 42.7%. The highest proportions at the SLA level in **Northern and Far North Western** were recorded in Coober Pedy (64.4%, 277), Whyalla (48.1%, 2,572) and Port Augusta (47.5%, 1,612).

There were 3,366 children in the **Riverland** living in welfare-dependent and other low income families, comprising 42.6% of children aged under 17 years. Within the region, there were high proportions of dependent children living in Unincorporated Riverland (52.4%, with a small number of 19 children), Renmark Paringa - Renmark (46.0%, 886) and Berri and Barmera - Berri (44.0%, 743).

More than one quarter of country South Australia's children who were in welfare-dependent families were in **Hills Mallee Southern** (10,722 children, 40.4%). Proportions within this region ranged from 25.9% in Karoonda East Murray (71 children) to 53.0% in Murray Bridge (2,264).

The number of children in **Eyre** living in families receiving income support payments was 3,172, over one third (36.9%) of children under 17 years. The highest proportion was in the SLA of Unincorporated West Coast (67.4%, 116); and the largest numbers were in Port Lincoln (1,458 children, 40.4%), Ceduna (524, 51.4%) and Lower Eyre Peninsula (339, 30.7%).

Wakefield region had the second highest regional number of welfare-dependent children (8,365), representing 36.5% of children under 17 years. Within this region, there were high proportions in the SLAs of Goyder (49.7%, 460 children), Copper Coast (47.3%, 1,124) and Wakefield (42.3%, 650). There was a relatively large number of dependent children in Gawler (1,696 children, 39.3%).

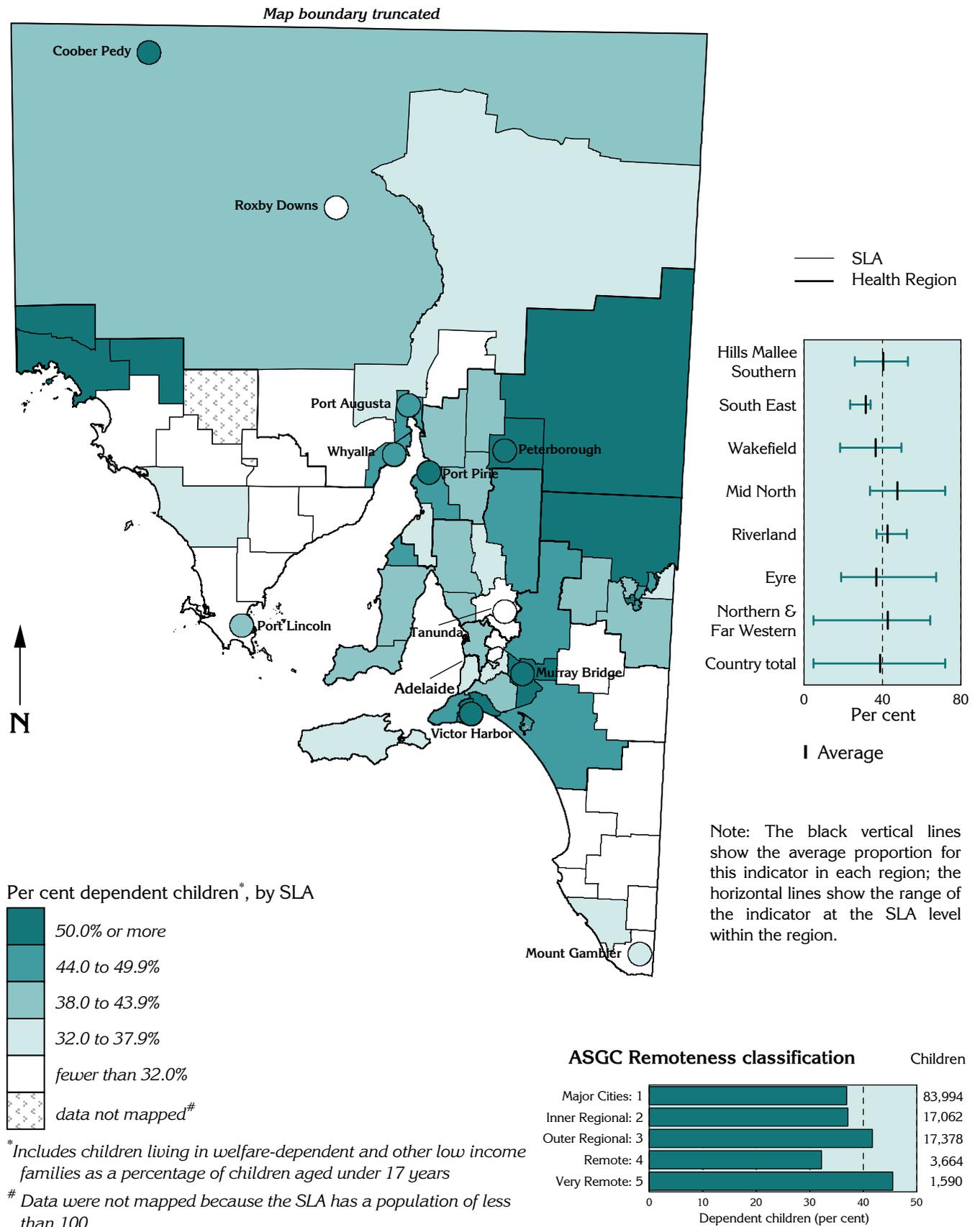
The **South East** region had the lowest proportion of dependent children in low income families (31.5% and 4,854 children), with the largest number located in Mount Gambier (1,967 children, 33.4%); the highest and lowest proportions were in Wattle Range - West (33.9%, 752) and Robe (23.5%, 74), respectively.

ASGC Remoteness classification

The proportion of the population aged under 17 years living in families receiving income support payments was highest in the Very Remote (45.5%) and Outer Regional areas (41.7%), and the lowest was recorded in the Remote areas (32.2%).

Map 5.10

Children in welfare-dependent and other low income families, South Australia, June 2004



Source: Calculated on data from Centrelink

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
 A Social Health Atlas of South Australia, 2006

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