A profile of carers in Australia

Informal carers make a significant contribution to the lives of others. Caring can be very rewarding, however the time taken to care can impact on a carer’s ability to work and their opportunities to study and participate in the community.

The results of the 2015 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers provide a profile of carers in Australia.

2.7 million Australians provided informal care in 2015

Almost all primary carers cared for a family member

The average age of a primary carer was 55

More than two thirds of primary carers were female

More than half (55%) of primary carers provided care for at least 20 hours per week

56% of primary carers participated in the workforce*, compared to 80% of non-carers

The weekly median income* of a primary carer was $520, which was 42% lower than non-carers

* Labour force and income figures are for persons aged between 15 and 64 living in households.

Further information is available in Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2015 (cat. no. 4430.0) available from the ABS website (www.abs.gov.au). A pdf version of the information sheet is available from the Downloads tab of this publication.