

# A profile of people with communication disability in Australia

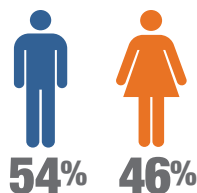


Communication disability affects a person's ability to understand and be understood by others. Levels of limitation range from mild to profound and can be temporary or last a lifetime.

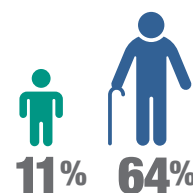
Results from the 2015 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers provide insight into the prevalence of communication disability in Australia and the impact on the lives of those who are affected by it.



There were **1.2 million** Australians with **communication disability**<sup>1</sup> in 2015



More than **half** of people with communication disability were **male**



**Children**<sup>2</sup> and **older people**<sup>3</sup> made up the majority of people with communication disability



**Children**<sup>2</sup> were **more likely** to have **profound/severe** communication disability than **older people**<sup>3</sup>



People with communication disability were **less likely** to have a **non-school qualification**<sup>4</sup> (**42%**) than people without communication disability (61%)



**38%** of people with communication disability were **participating in the labour force**<sup>5</sup> compared with 80% of people without communication disability



**1 in 7** people with communication disability<sup>6</sup> **needed formal assistance**<sup>7</sup> with communication



**1/2** of all people<sup>6</sup> who needed formal assistance<sup>7</sup> with communication **had an unmet need** for this assistance



**3 in 5 people**<sup>6</sup> who had an **unmet need** for formal assistance<sup>7</sup> with communication were **children**<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> People who have a limitation in understanding family, friends and/or strangers and/or being understood by family, friends and/or strangers.

<sup>2</sup> Children (those aged 0-12 years) with communication disability.

<sup>3</sup> Older people (those aged 65 years and over) with communication disability.

<sup>4</sup> Non-school qualification figures are for people aged 15 years and over living in households.

<sup>5</sup> Labour force figures are for people aged 15-64 years living in households.

<sup>6</sup> People with communication disability, living in households.

<sup>7</sup> Paid assistance from government or non-government organisations or persons, on a regular basis.