

The Economic Value of Unpaid Work Performed by Volunteers and Carers in South Australia

**Report prepared for The Office of Disability, Ageing and Carers,
SA Department for Families and Communities**

by Dr Lisel O'Dwyer

The Australian Institute for Social Research

University of Adelaide

The Economic Value of Unpaid Work

- Why is it important?
 - it makes a significant contribution to the South Australian community AND economy
 - need to identify and quantify the scale of the contribution for government and policy makers so unpaid work can be supported
 - economic value needs to be communicated to the media and community

What is Unpaid Work?

- Volunteering
- Caring
- Childcare
- The literature focusses on the first 2 of these, probably because informal childcare is difficult to quantify
- Unpaid work has social and personal benefits to individuals, esp for older persons
- Also has economic value to wider community –
 - older people can and do contribute to the economy (popular myth that they are a drain on it)

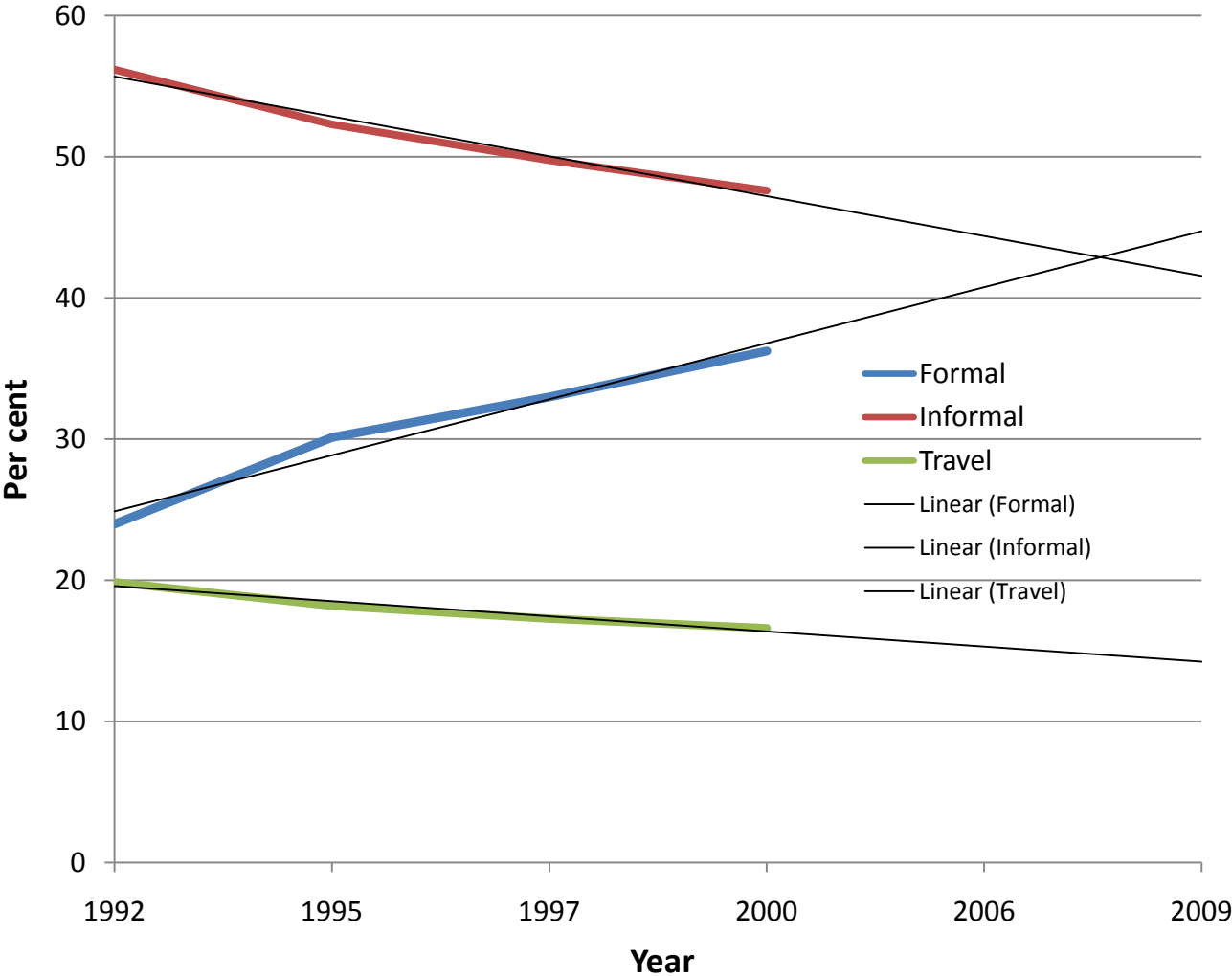
The Economic Value of Volunteering and Caring by Older People in SA

- Lots of literature on valuing volunteering and caring for Australia, and sometimes by age
 - Different age groups used (15+, 18+, 55+, 65+)
 - No consistency
- No literature on both of these groups for SA by age (ie 65+).
- Therefore had to update existing literature for SA
- Followed methodology established in the literature

Volunteering

- Consists of 3 parts:
 - Formal volunteering
 - through an organisation
 - Informal volunteering
 - Travel to and from place volunteering is done
- Time Use Surveys show the relative balance of each
- No ABS data collected on informal volunteering
 - Extrapolated based on time use

Distribution of Volunteers' Time Over Formal and Informal Volunteering and Related Travel



Source: Source: Estimates of the Households Research Unit based on Australian Bureau of Statistics Time Use and Voluntary Work surveys, 1992, 1995, 1997 and 2000, in Ironmonger 2002 Table 3

Sources of Data

- Census
 - Had question on both volunteers and carers in 2006
 - Can cross tabulate by other demographic characteristics and for a range of selected geographic regions
 - Covers the whole population, not just a small sample
 - But wording of questions in Census not comparable with other ABS surveys of volunteers and carers
 - Also a significant undercount

Data (cont)

- 2006 Survey of Volunteers
 - Formal volunteers only
 - Data on number of informal volunteers and travel time based on ABS Time Use Surveys
 - Assumes that informal volunteers spend the same amount of time on volunteering that formal ones do
 - Number of hours spent annually collected in S of V
 - Available by age groups via custom request from ABS
 - Multiplied by hourly value from 2006 Average Weekly Earnings

Data (cont)

- 2006 ABS Survey of Volunteers
 - By age 65+ and 75+
 - By capital city and rest of state
 - Sample size for SA in 2006 was 1500
 - 450-500 of those were volunteers
 - Further breakdowns by age and location unreliable due to small numbers
- 2009 ABS Survey of Volunteers
 - Only preliminary data released so far
 - Data for SA available in June 2011
 - Number of hours not collected

Comparison of Census 2006 and Survey of Volunteers 2006, Australia

	Census		SofV	
	"000	%	"000	%
18-24 years	268	10.1	574	11.0
25-34 years	371	14.0	859	16.4
35-44 years	614	23.1	1275	24.4
45-54 years	586	22.1	1102	21.1
55-64 years	452	17.0	726	13.9
65-74 years	285	10.8	454	8.7
75-84 years	132	5.0	205	3.9
85 years and over	17	0.6	31	0.6
Total	2654	100	5227	100

Carers

- Primary carers
- Non primary carers
- Definitions of primary and non primary changed (improved) between 2003 and 2009
ABS Surveys of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC)
 - But can't compare numbers or proportions in each category over time
 - This study groups all carers together

Carers (cont.)

- Midpoint of 2006 used, based on 2003 and 2009 data to enable grouping with 2006 volunteer data
- Data on number of hours only available for primary carers
 - We impute a value of 5 hours per week for non-primary carers (after Access Economics 2010)

Comparison of Census 2006 and Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2003 & 2009

	SDAC 2003	Census 2006	SDAC 2009
	"000	"000	"000
NSW	748	547	850
Vic	690	412	703
Qld	536	294	494
SA	223	136	214
WA	247	140	252
Tas	70	41	66
NT	-	11	18
ACT	34	26	35
Australia	2,557	1,606	2,632

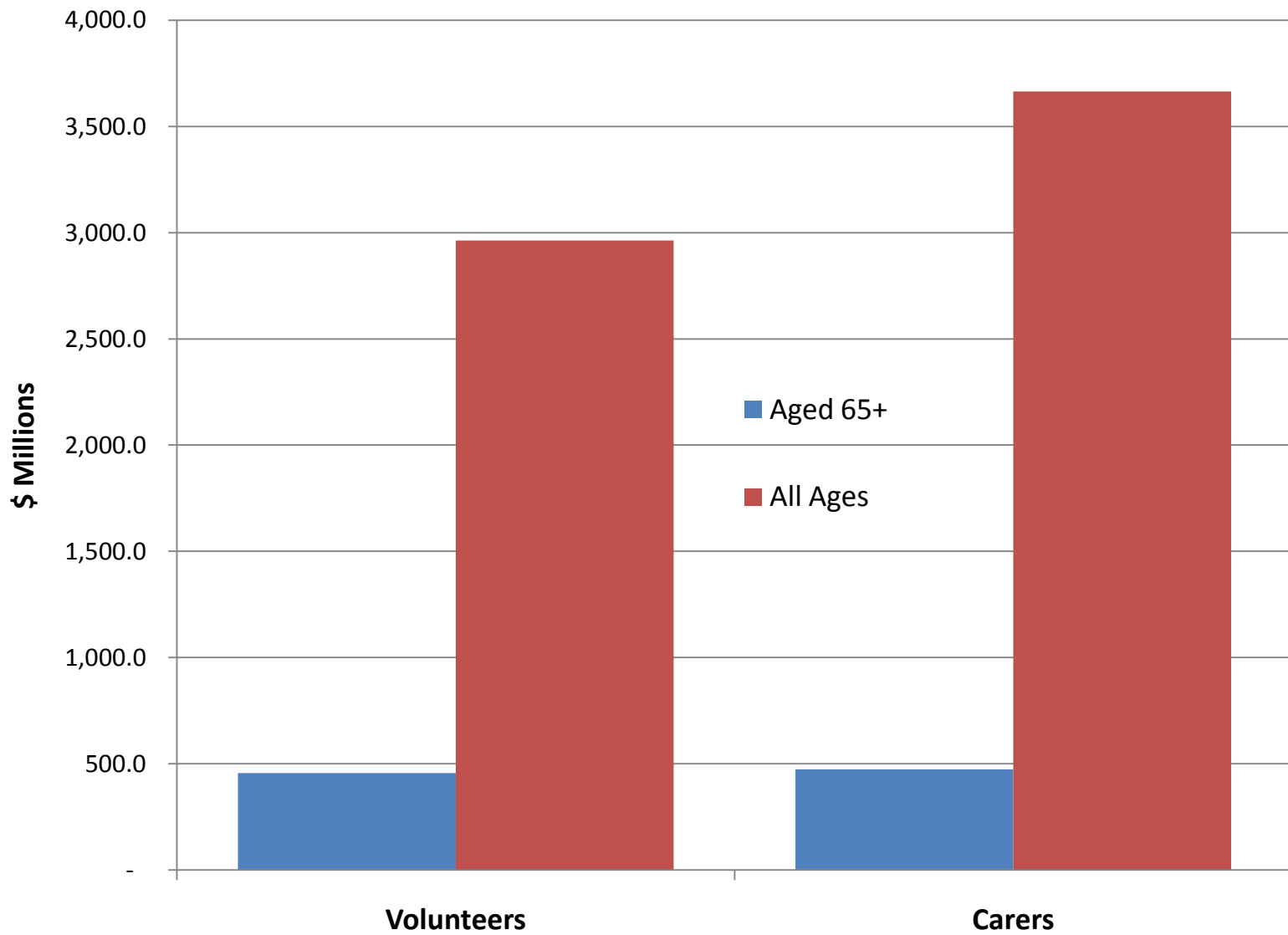
Value of Unpaid Work by Age and in Relation to Gross State Product, South Australia, 2006

Unpaid work	Persons aged 65+	Share of GSP	All unpaid workers aged 18+	Share of GSP
	\$millions	%	\$millions	%
Volunteering	456	0.7	2,963	5.0
Caring	474	0.8	3,665	6.0
Total	930	1.5	6,629	11.0

Total GSP in 2006 =
\$65,177 million*

*Source: 5220.0 Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, Table 5. Expenditure, Income and Industry Components of Gross State Product, South Australia, Chain volume measures and current prices, all sectors.

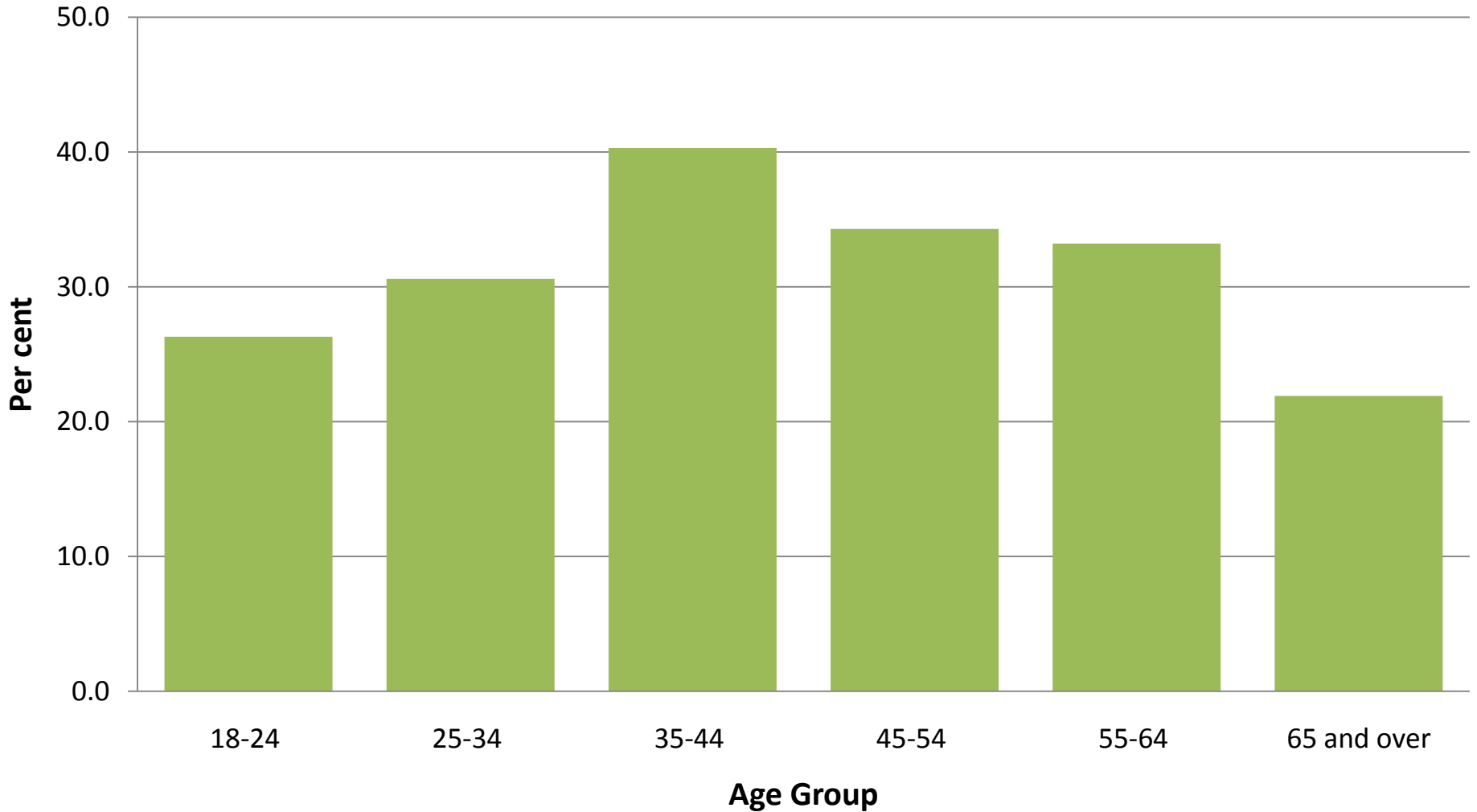
Value of Volunteering and Caring by Age Group, South Australia, 2006



Older Volunteers and Carers' Economic Contribution as Percentage of Value of All Unpaid Work, South Australia, 2006

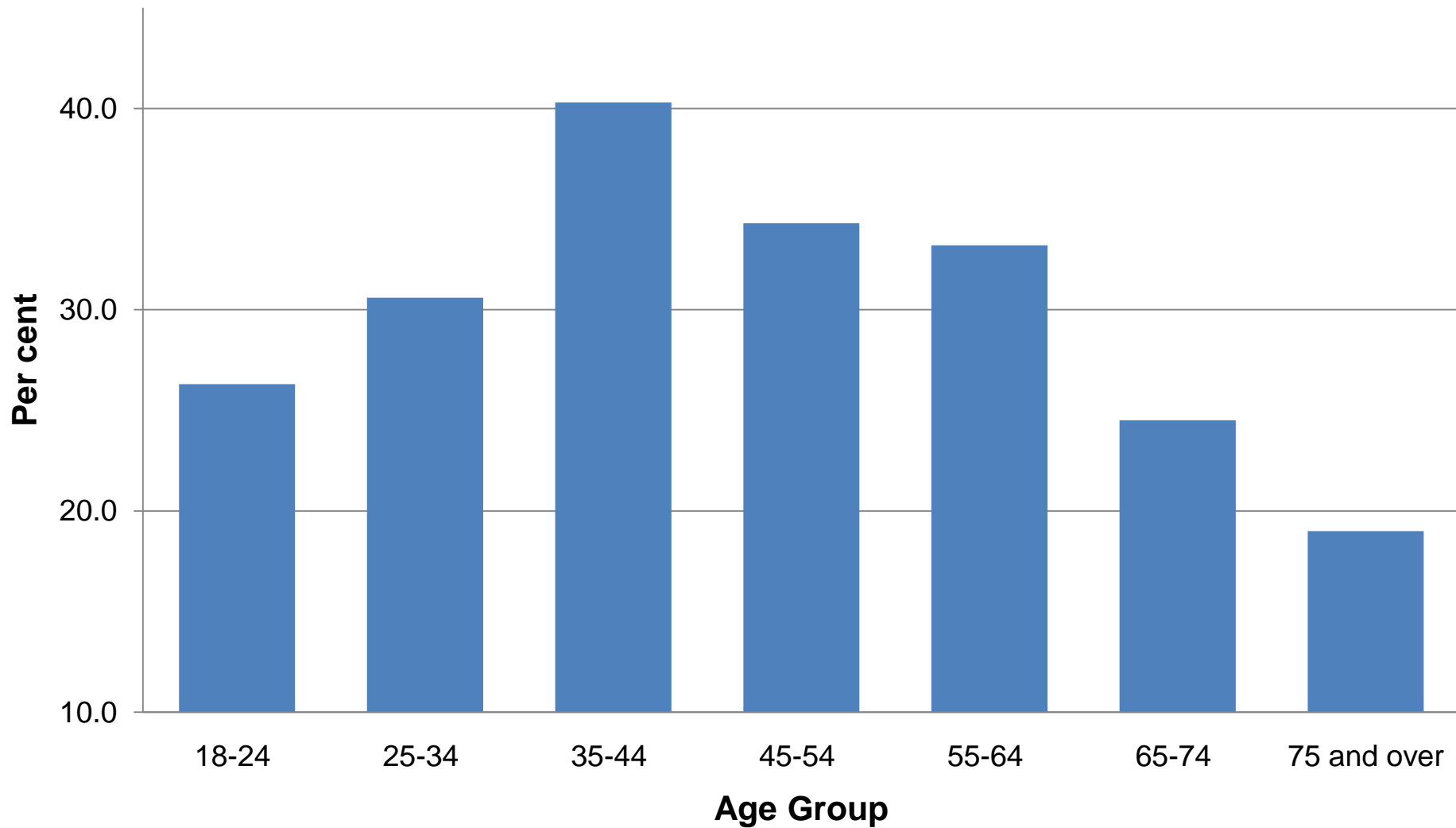
	Aged 65+	All Ages
Volunteers	15.4	100
Carers	12.9	100
Total	14.0	100

Formal Volunteering Rates by Age Group, South Australia 2006



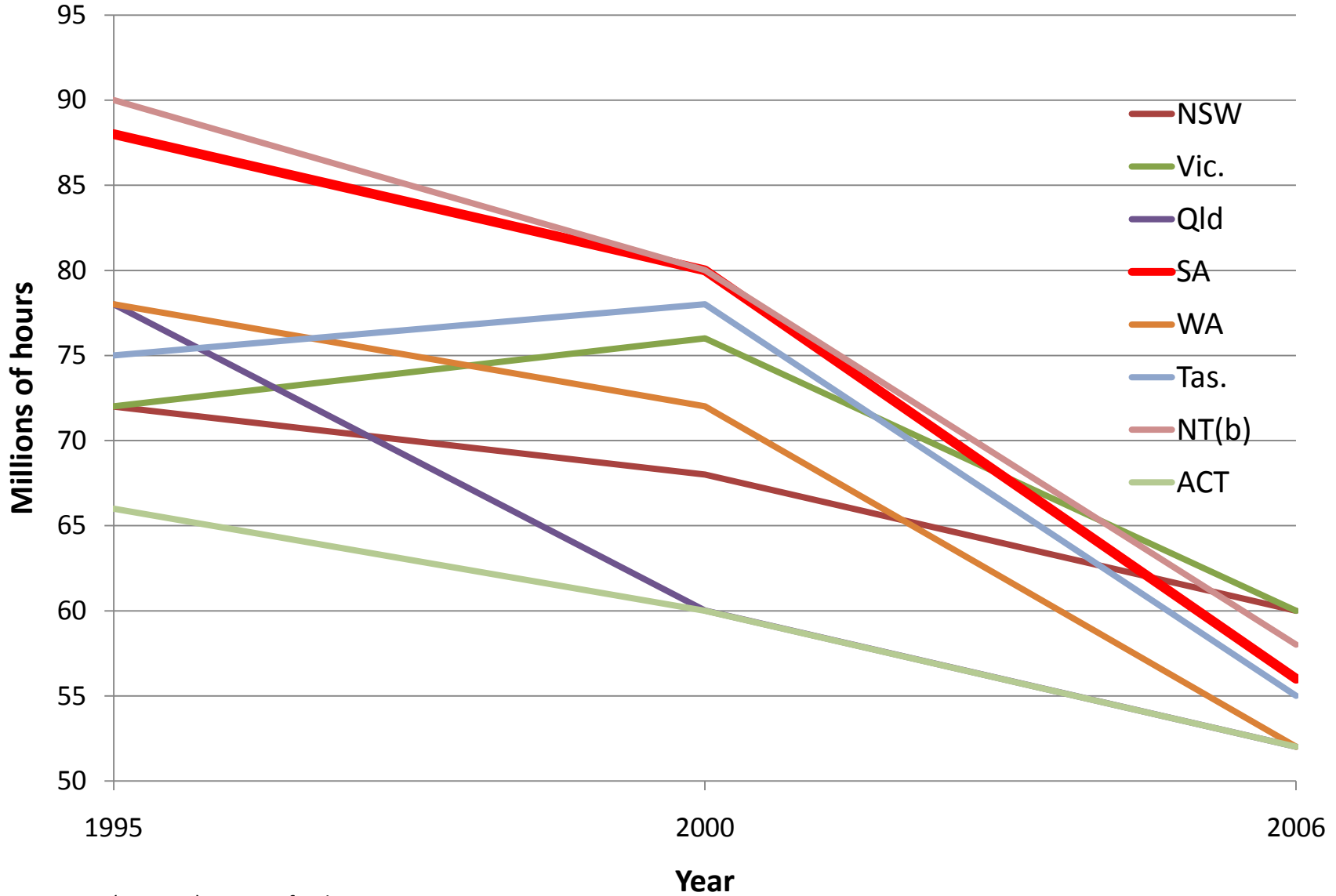
Source: ABS 2006 Survey of Volunteers, unpublished data, Cat. No. 4441

Volunteering Rates by Age Group Up to 75+, South Australia 2006

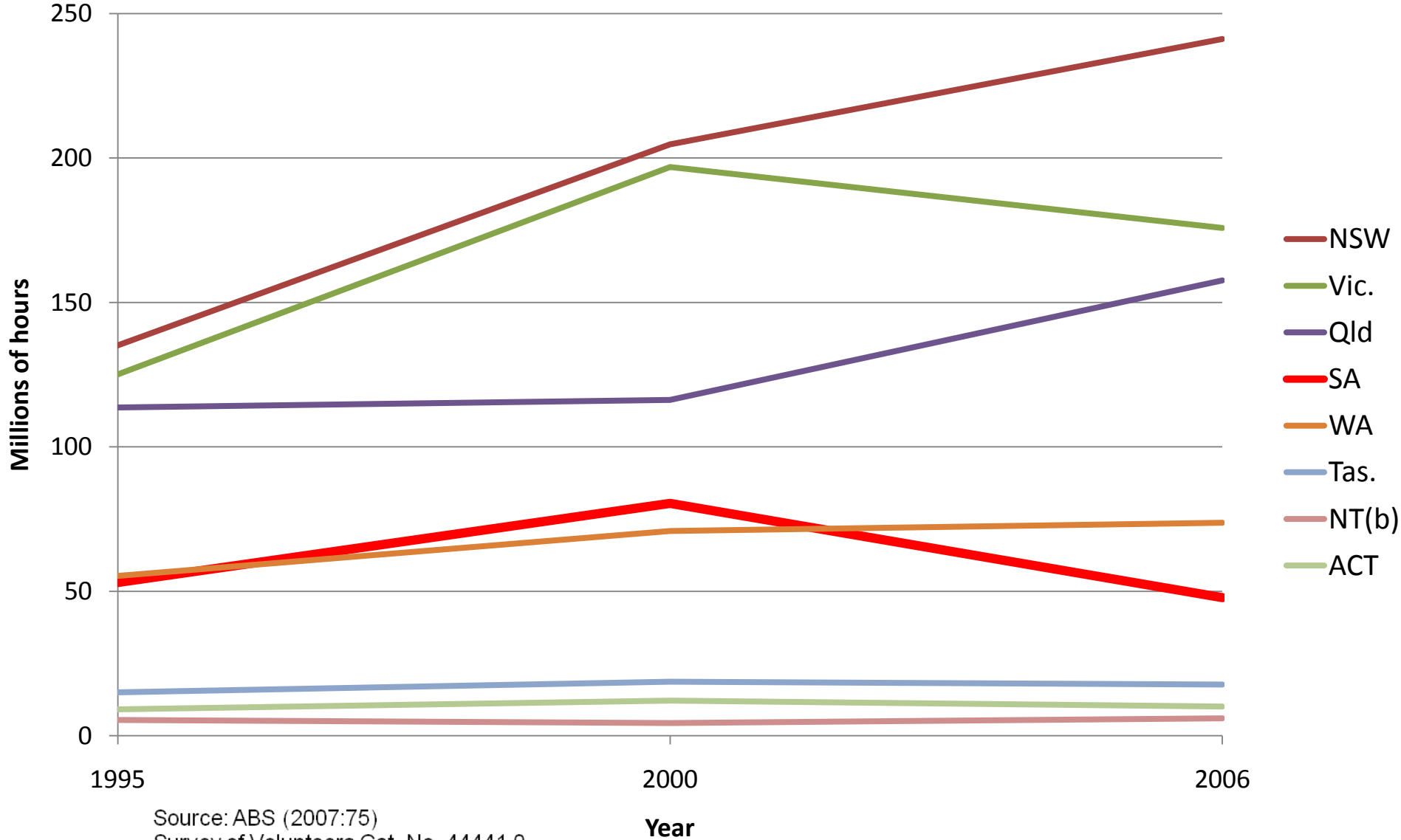


Source: ABS 2006 Survey of Volunteers, unpublished data, Cat. No. 4441

Median Annual Hours Spent Volunteering by State, 1995-2006

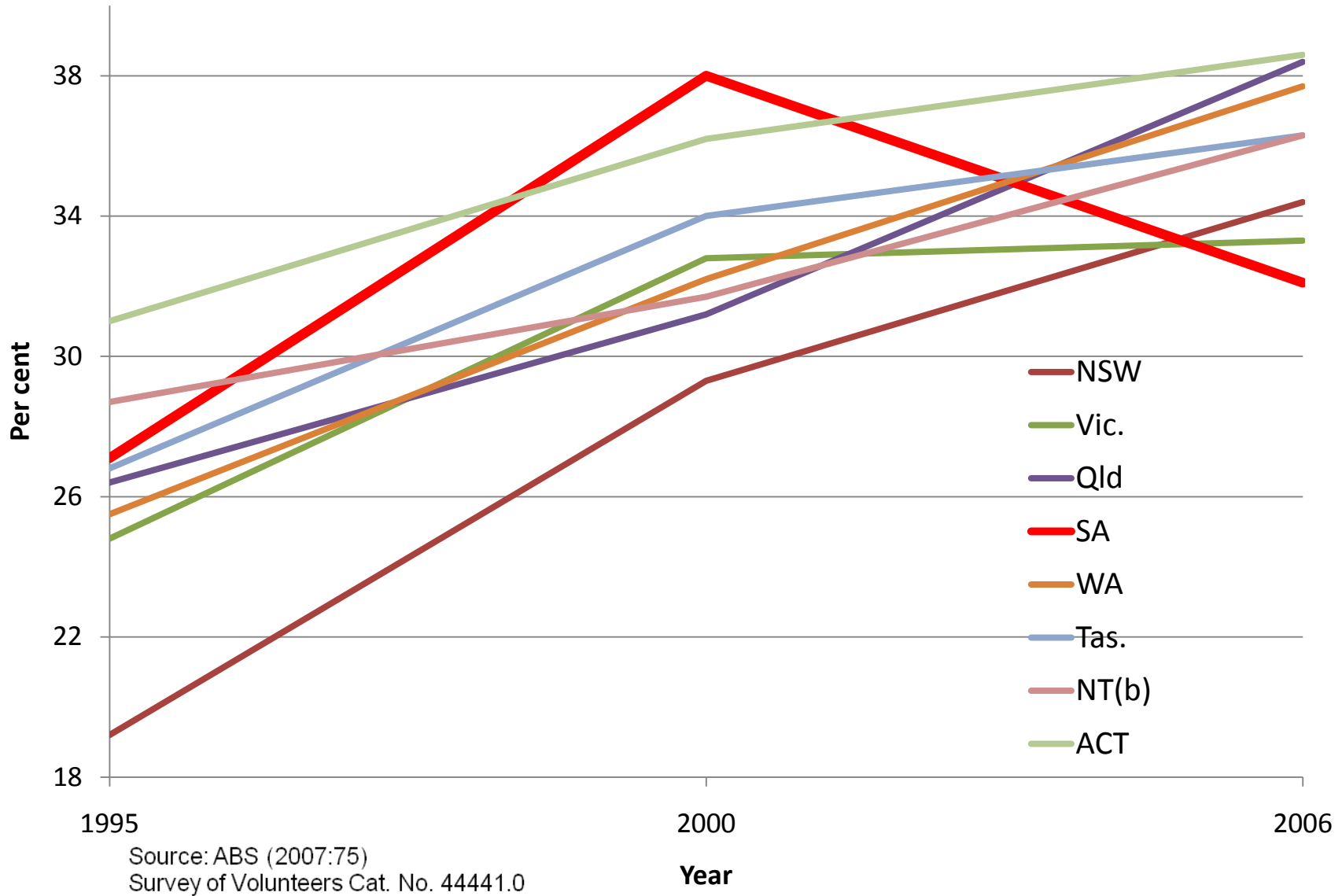


Total Annual Hours Spent Volunteering by State, 1995-2006

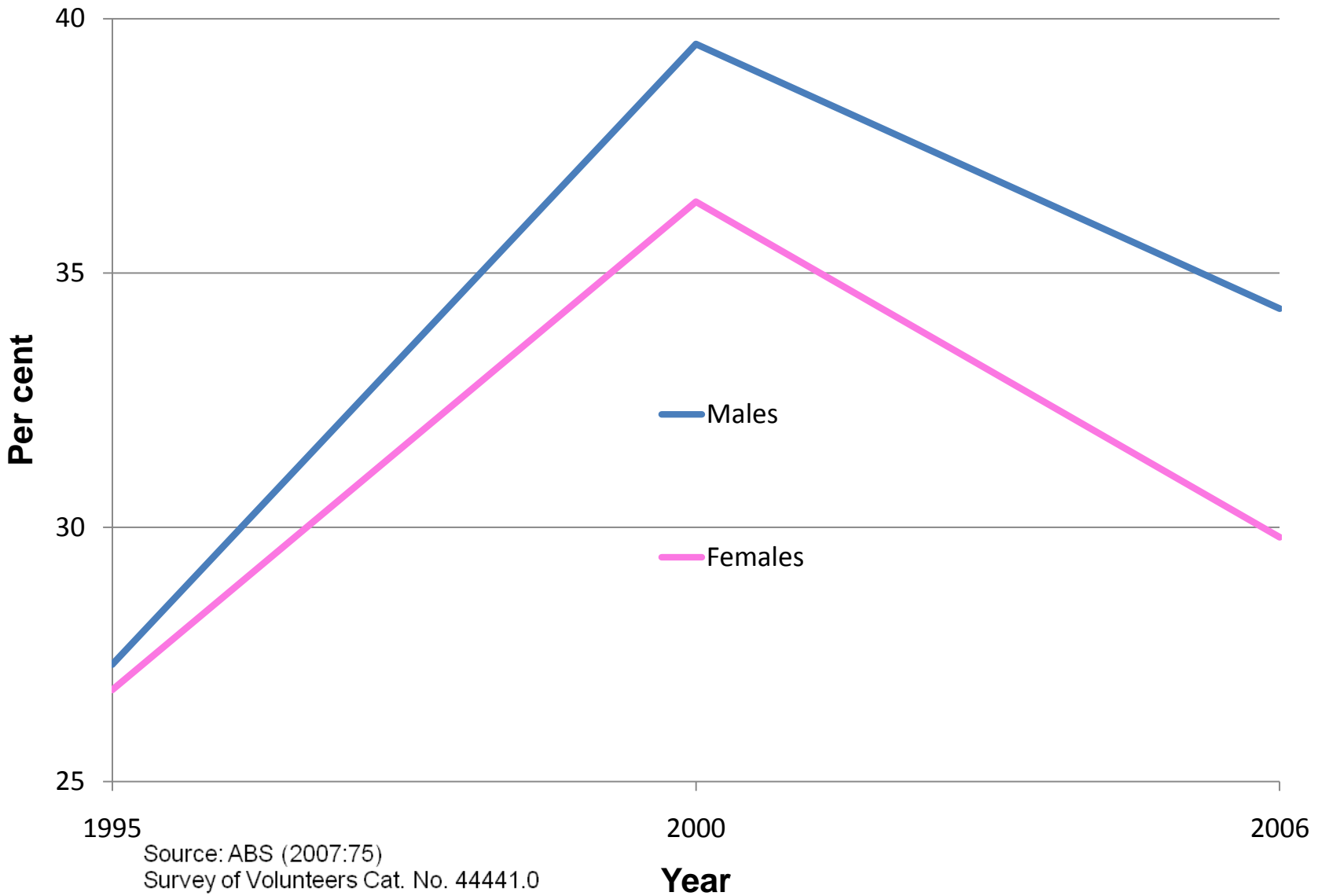


Source: ABS (2007:75)
Survey of Volunteers Cat. No. 44441.0

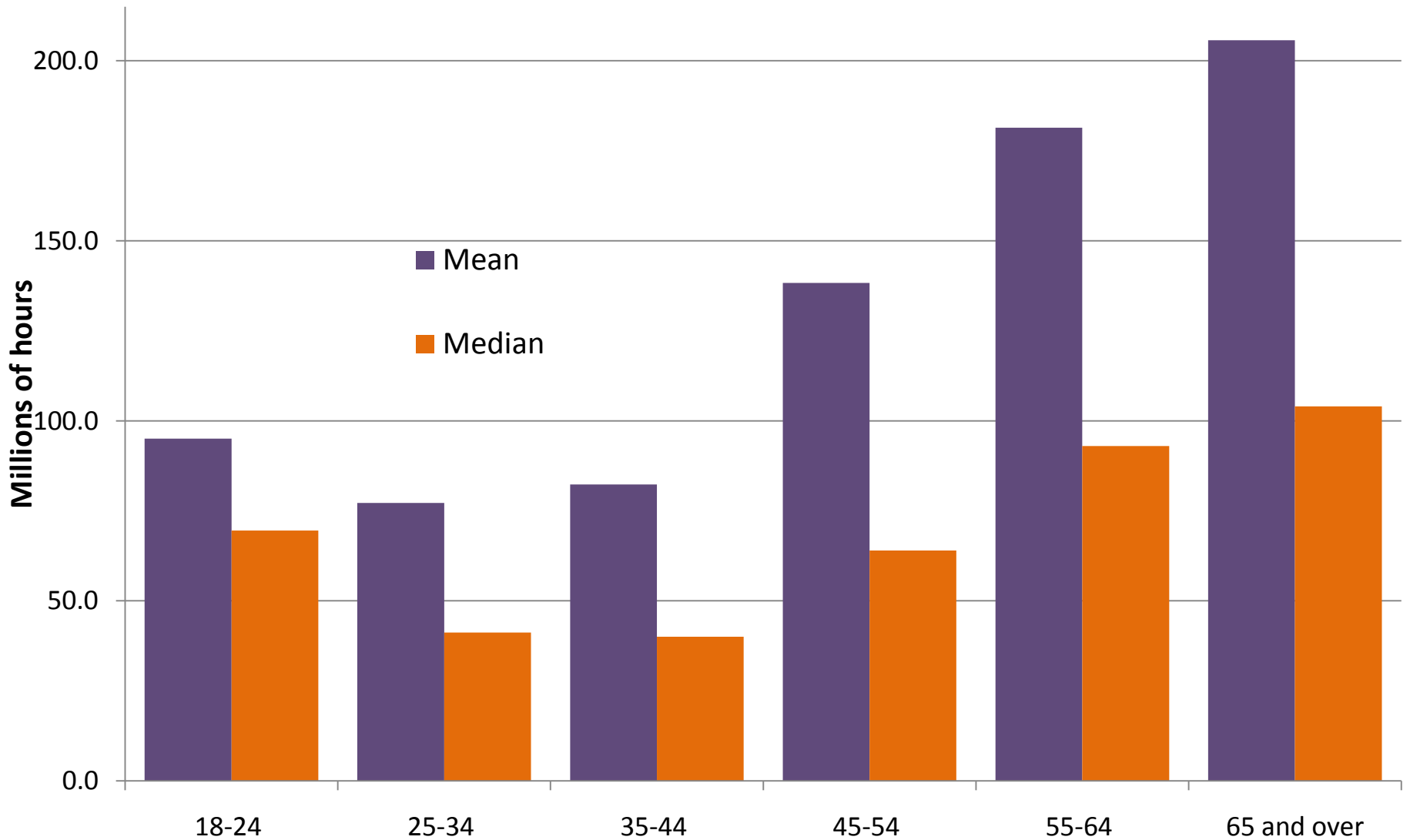
Formal Volunteer Rates 1995-2006 by State, Australia



Formal Volunteer Rates by Sex, 1995-2006, South Australia



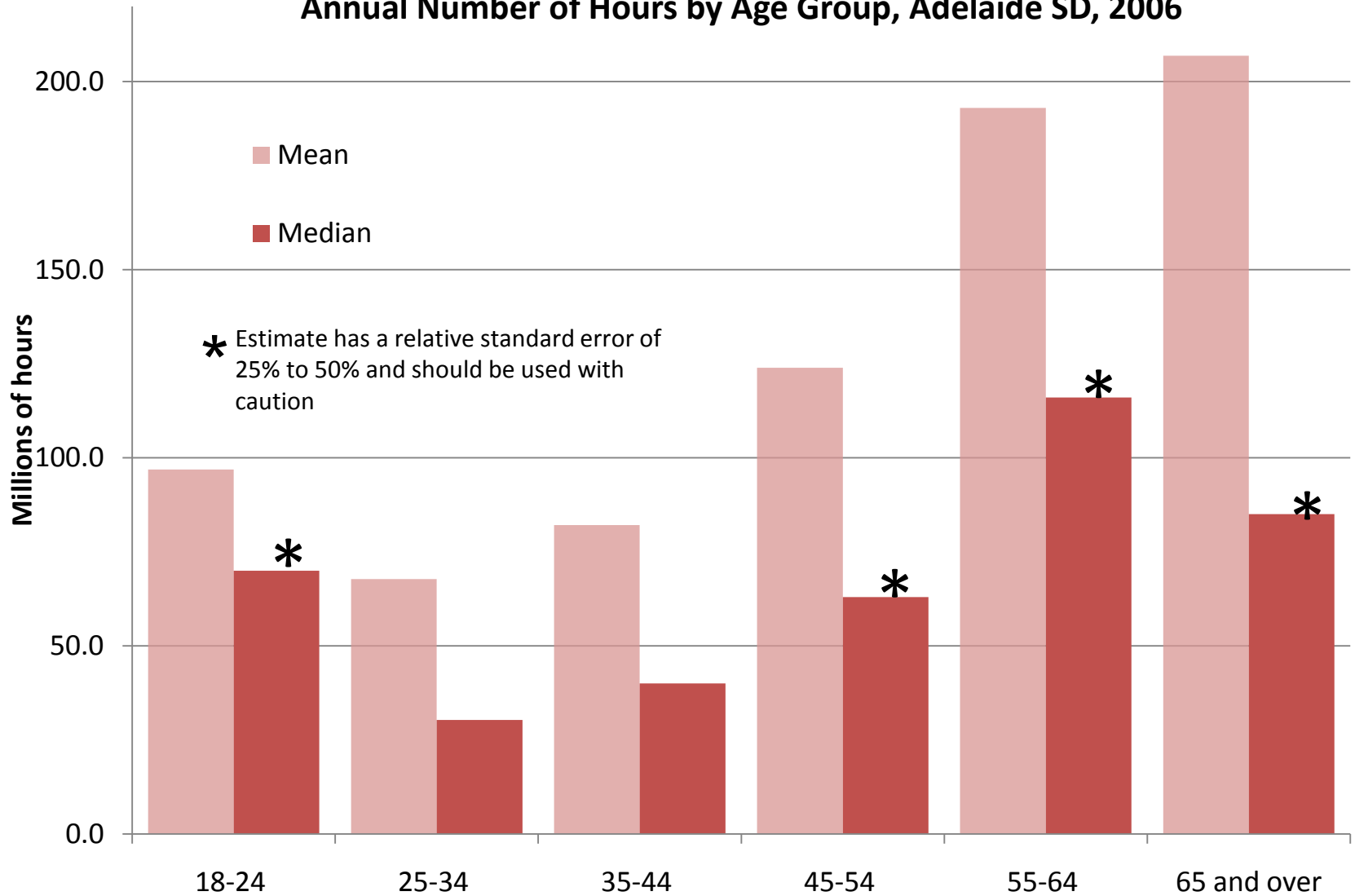
Number of Annual Hours Spent Volunteering by Age Group, South Australia, 2006



Source: ABS 2006 Survey of Volunteers, unpublished data, Cat. No. 4441

Age Group

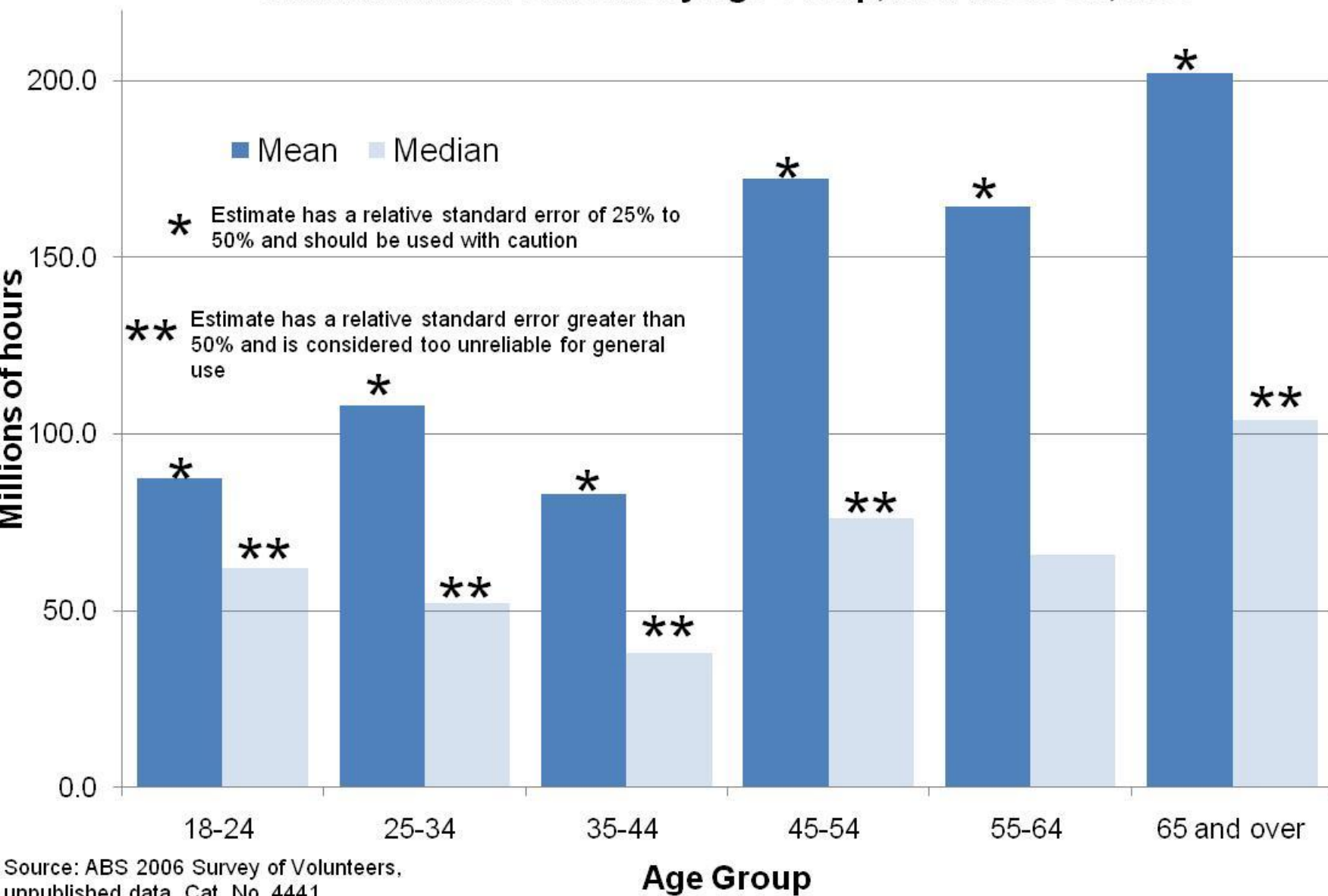
Annual Number of Hours by Age Group, Adelaide SD, 2006



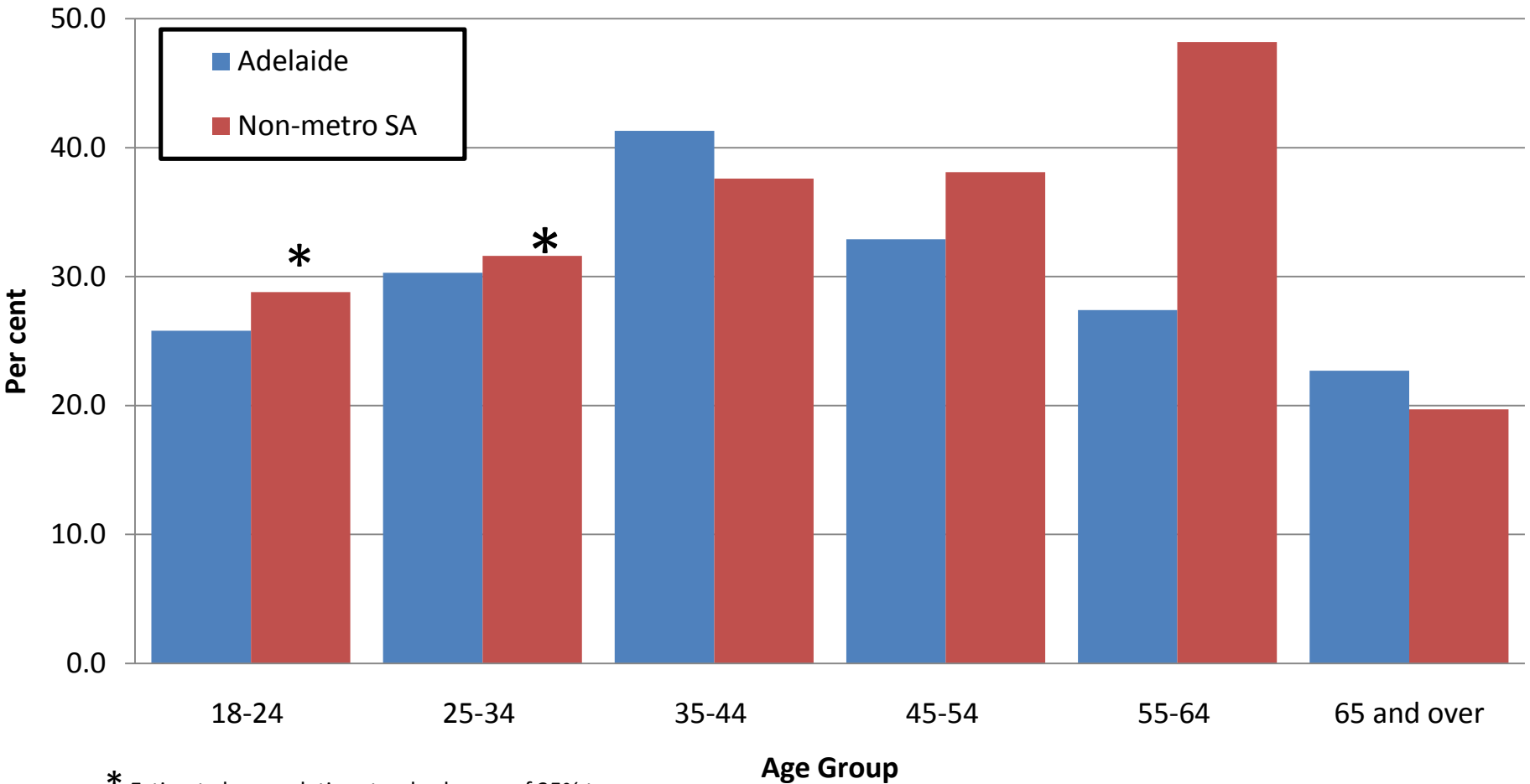
Source: ABS 2006 Survey of Volunteers, unpublished data, Cat. No. 4441

Age Group

Annual Number of Hours by Age Group, Non-Metro SA, 2006



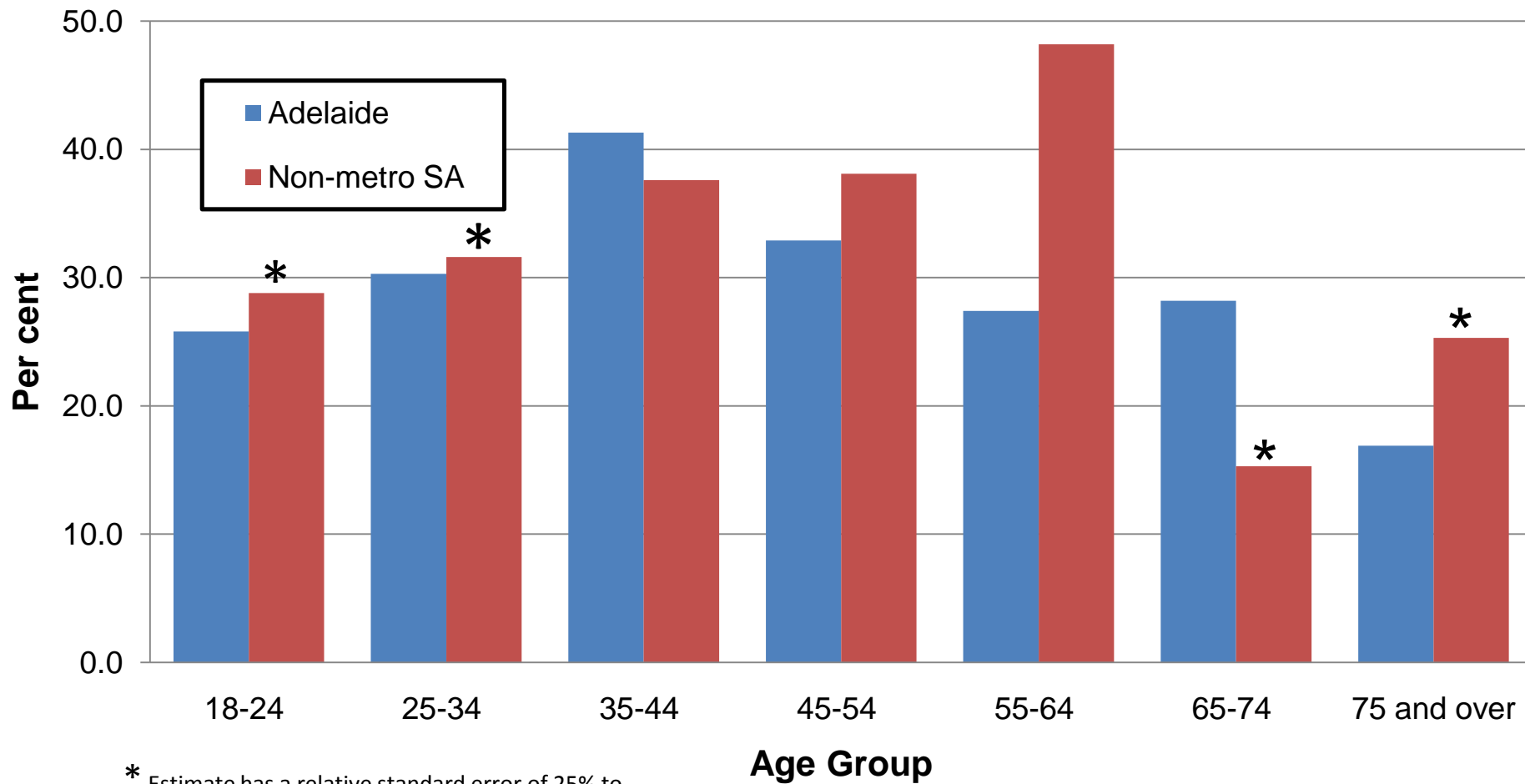
Formal Volunteering Rates by Age Group and Location, South Australia 2006



* Estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

Source: ABS 2006 Survey of Volunteers, unpublished data, Cat. No. 4441

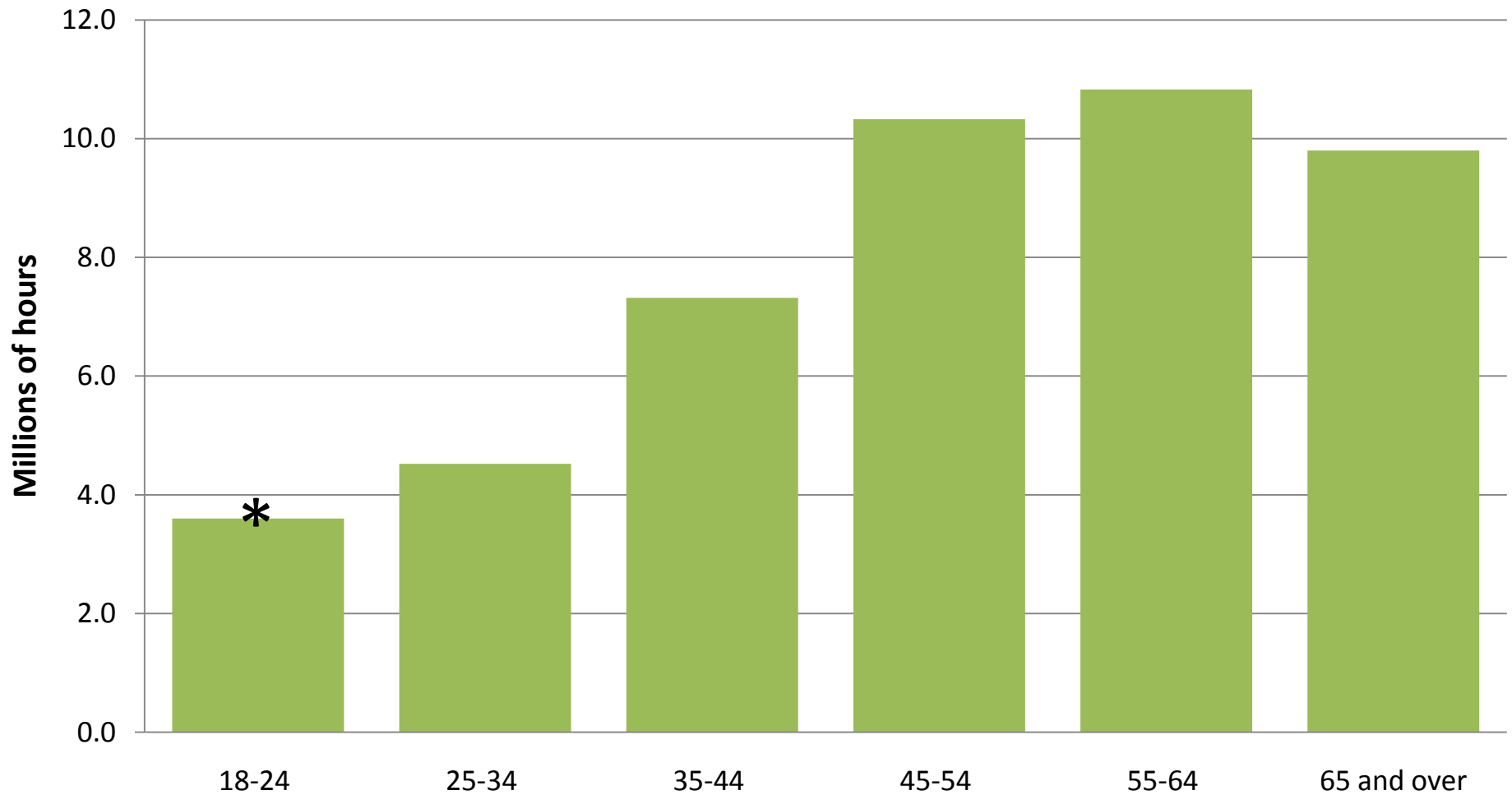
Formal Volunteering Rates by Age Group Up to 75+ and by Location, South Australia 2006



* Estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

Source: ABS 2006 Survey of Volunteers, unpublished data, Cat. No. 4441

Total Annual Hours by Age Group, South Australia, 2006

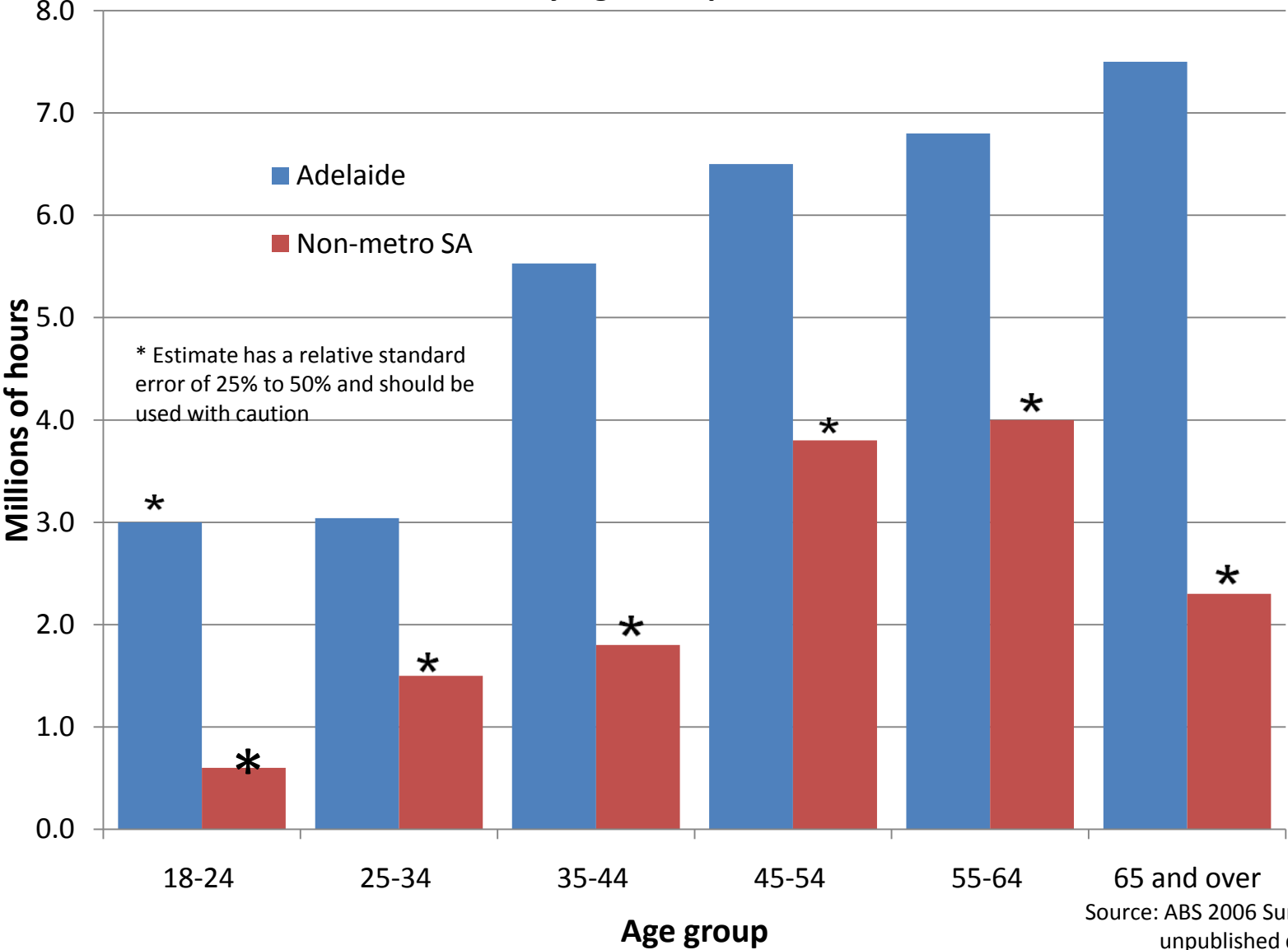


* Estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

Age Group

Source: ABS 2006 Survey of Volunteers, unpublished data, Cat. No. 4441

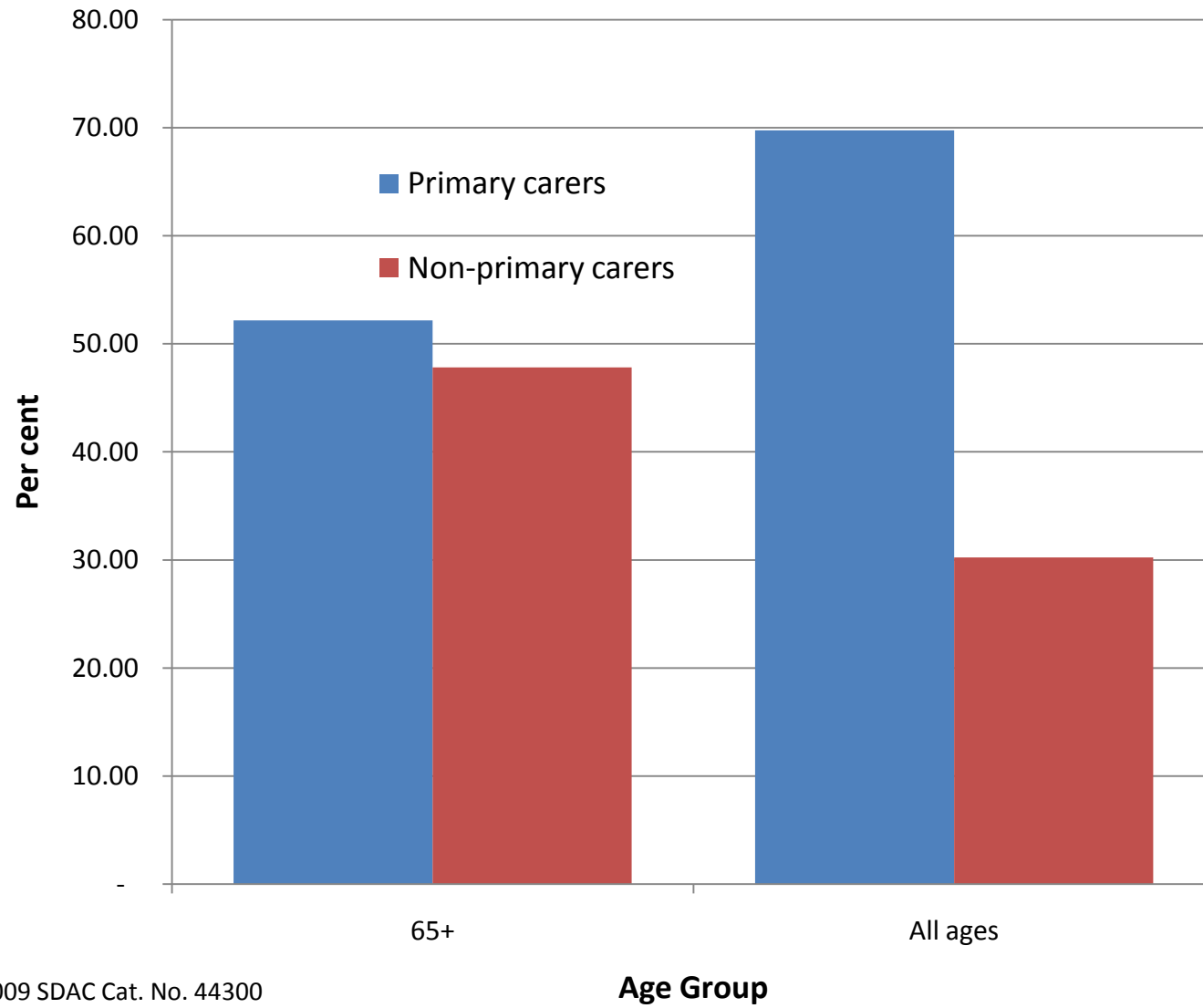
Total Annual Hours by Age Group and Location, South Australia, 2006



* Estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

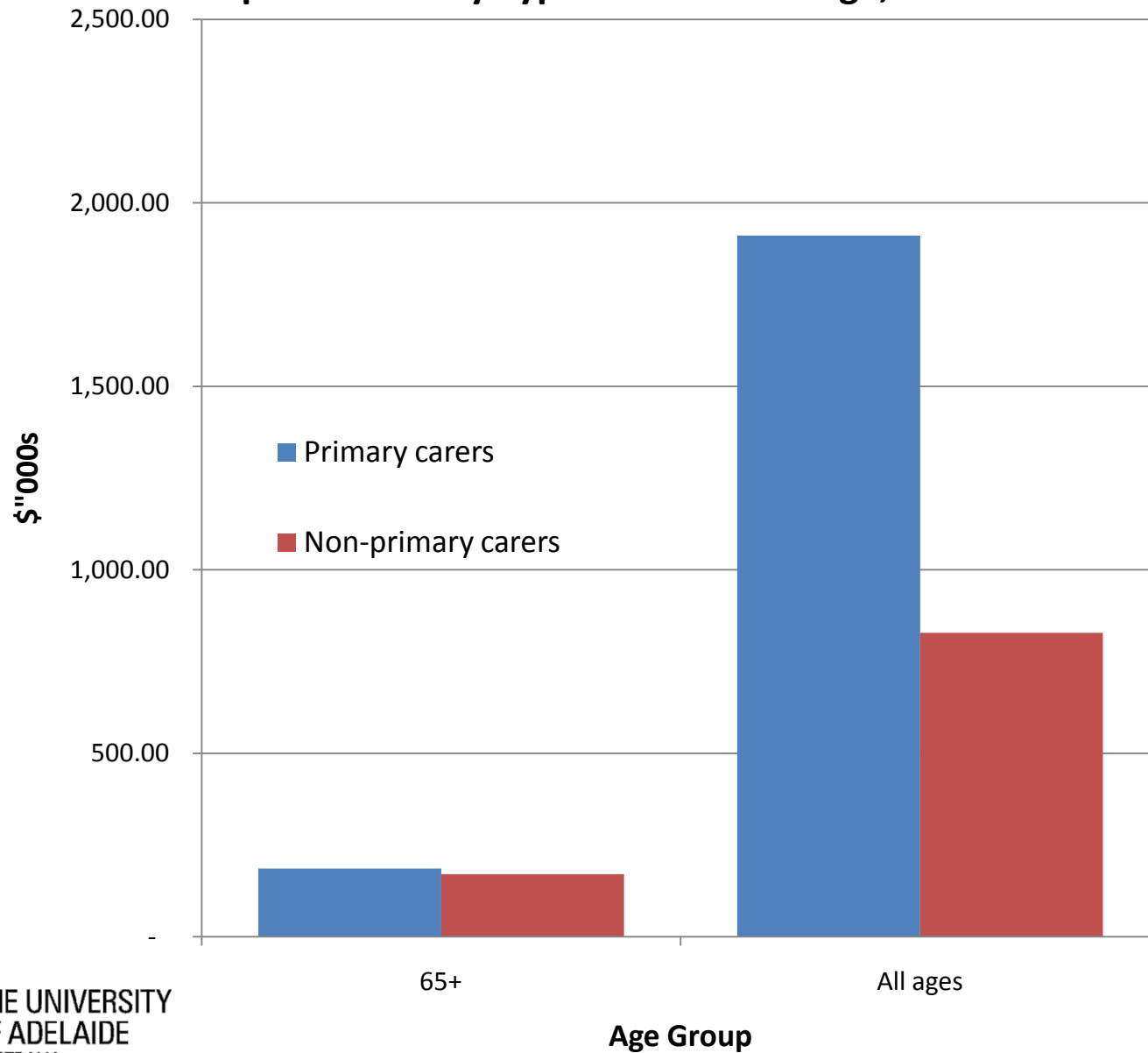
Source: ABS 2006 Survey of Volunteers, unpublished data, Cat. No. 4441

Type of Carer by Age, South Australia, 2009

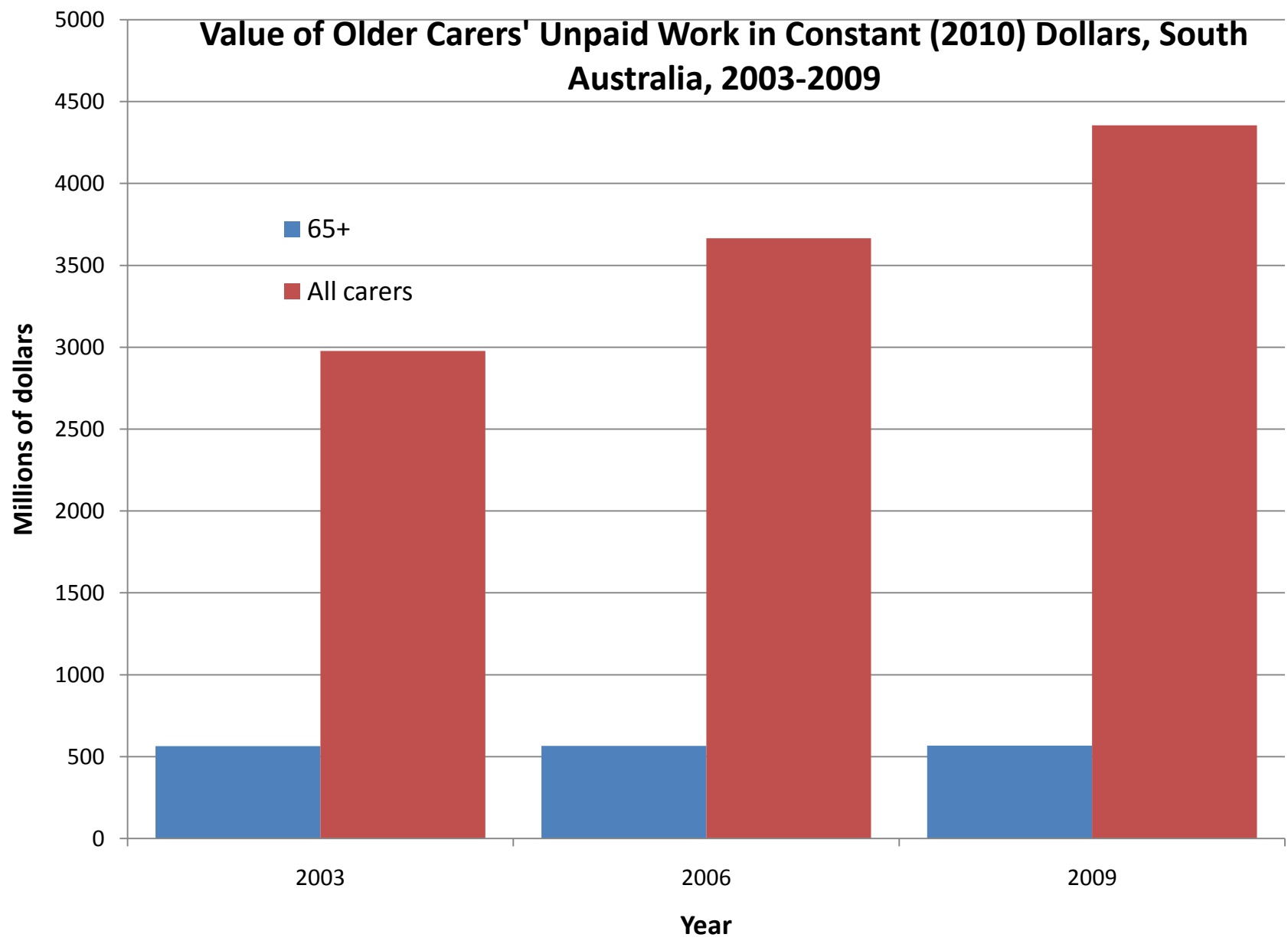


Source: 2009 SDAC Cat. No. 44300

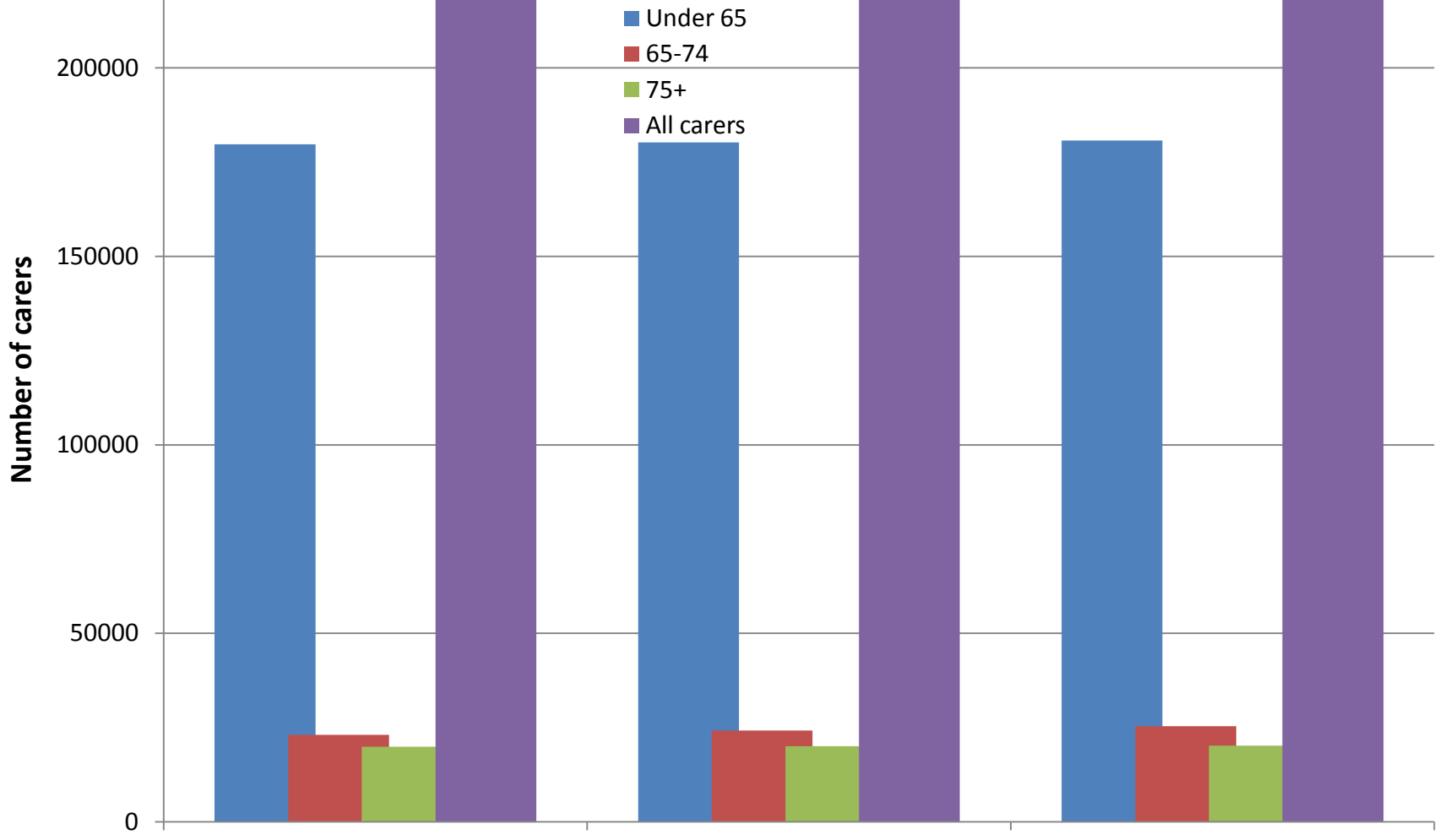
Value of Unpaid Carers by Type of Carer and Age, South Australia, 2009



Value of Older Carers' Unpaid Work in Constant (2010) Dollars, South Australia, 2003-2009



Number of Older Carers, 2003-2009, South Australia



*2006 data extrapolated from midpoint of 2003 and 2009 SDAC surveys

Year*

Source: ABS 2003 and 2009 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers Cat. No. 4430

Other recent work in SA

- Harrison Research (2010) report for Office of Volunteers
 - Overstates level of formal volunteering at 51% in 2006, compared with 32% using Survey of Volunteer data for SA in 2006
 - Different data collection method
 - Easier to refuse
 - Biased toward including volunteers in survey
- No economic value calculated

Concluding remarks

- Conservative ballpark estimates
 - Values depend on method used (opportunity cost vs replacement cost) and inclusion of indirect benefits and losses
- Older volunteers and carers make a small but significant contribution to GSP
 - Potential to encourage more older persons to volunteer
 - Need to support older persons in caring roles