



People using aged care

Who uses aged care services?

In 2016–17, almost 800,000 people used entry-level home support services from the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) and in Western Australia the Home and Community Care (HACC) program. This makes up 67% of aged care users over the year (Figure 1).

More than 1 in 5 (23%) people using aged care during 2016–17 used residential aged care (Figure 1). Home care users represented 8% of all people using aged care during the year, and transition care 2% (Figure 1).

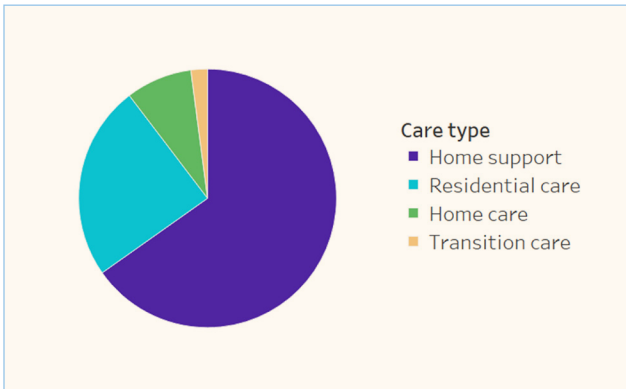


Figure 1: People using aged care, by care type, 2016–17

The rest of this factsheet presents data on people using mainstream aged care (residential care, home care, and transition care) on 30 June 2017.

More people are using aged care services

The number of people using residential care, home care, and transition care has increased over the last decade (Figure 2).

Home care has seen the most growth, increasing by 84% between 2007 and 2017, while the number of people using residential aged care increased by 17% (Figure 2).

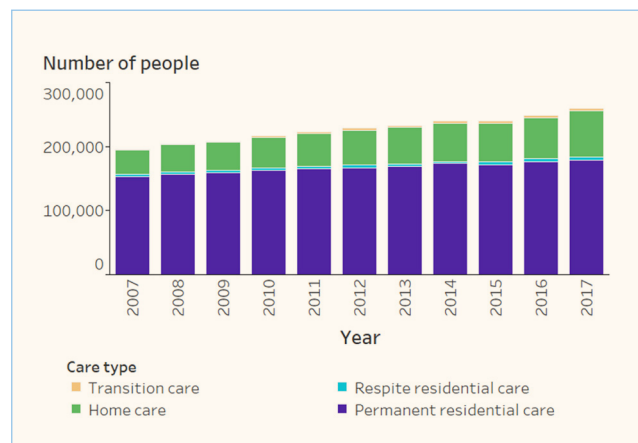


Figure 2: People using mainstream aged care, by care type, 30 June 2007–2017

Women outnumber men in aged care

Women in Australia have a longer life expectancy than men and so are more likely to need aged care support. Accordingly, 2 in 3 people using residential care and home care services are women.

A larger proportion of men using residential care and home care are in younger age groups compared with women (Figure 3).

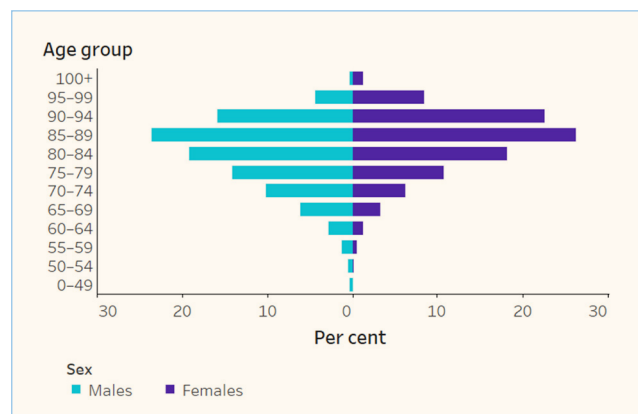


Figure 3: People using residential care and home care, by age and sex, 30 June 2017

Indigenous people are underrepresented in residential aged care

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make up 3% of Australia's population, yet less than 1% of people using mainstream residential aged care identified as Indigenous. In home care, 4% of people identified as Indigenous, and in home support 3%.

Indigenous people are more likely to use aged care services earlier in life than their non-Indigenous counterparts. A higher proportion of Indigenous people using residential care are in younger age groups, compared with non-Indigenous people (Figure 4).

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aged Care Program also provides services, but data on people using those services are not available.

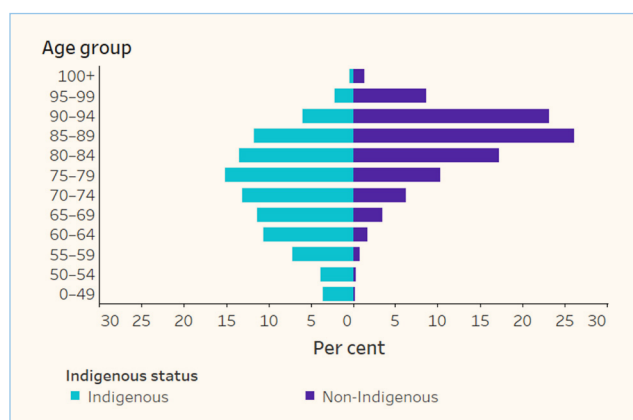


Figure 4: People using residential aged care, by age and Indigenous status, 30 June 2017

Does the use of residential care differ by location?

About 69% of people using residential aged care services are in the *Major cities* of Australia—where most aged care services are located.

People in *Remote* and *Very remote* areas are more likely to use residential aged care for respite than people in *Major cities* (5.2% compared with 2.7%) (Figure 5).

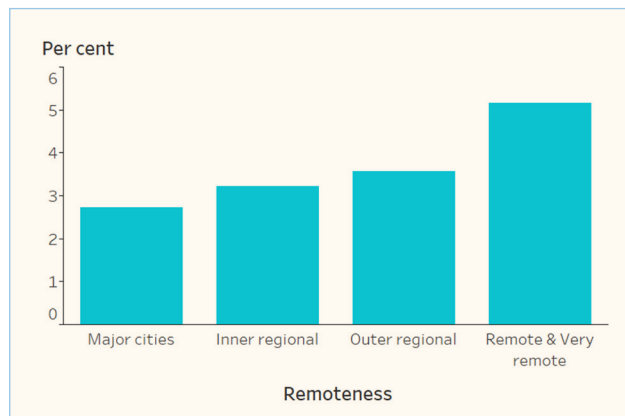


Figure 5: Proportion of people in residential aged care using respite care, 30 June 2017

Where can I find out more?

Report on the operation of the Aged Care Act 1997:

Department of Health 2017. 2016–17 Report on the operation of the *Aged Care Act 1997*. Accessed 5 April 2018. Available at: <https://gen-agedcaredata.gov.au/Resources/Reports-and-publications/2017/November/2016-17_Report_on_the_Operation_of_the_Aged_Ca>

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Information and data on aged care in Australia

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