



Younger people in residential aged care

The Australian Government is working to reduce the number of younger people (under the age of 65) entering residential aged care, and to help younger people who are already living in residential aged care to move into age-appropriate accommodation with the supports they need.

This fact sheet presents highlights from the GEN [Younger people in residential aged care dashboard](#).

Younger people in residential aged care (YPIRAC) targets

The following targets express the goal of reducing the number of younger people in residential aged care. These targets are measured by counting all people under the age of 65 entering or living in permanent residential aged care, excluding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (First Nations) people aged 50–64.

Target 1 – No people under the age of 65 entering residential aged care by 1 January 2022

During January to March 2026, **33 people** under the age of 65 entered permanent residential aged care in Australia for the first time. This is a **decrease of 4 people** from the same period in 2025.

Target 2 – No people under the age of 45 living in residential aged care by 1 January 2022

At 31 March 2026, there were **10 people** aged under 45 living in permanent residential aged care in Australia. This is a **decrease of 5 people** from the same date in 2025.

Target 3 – No people under the age of 65 living in residential aged care by 1 January 2025

At 31 March 2026, there were **722 people** aged under 65 living in permanent residential aged care in Australia. This is a **decrease of 235 people** from the same date in 2025.

The Australian Government remains committed to ensuring there are no younger people under the age of 65 living in residential aged care and to supporting younger people to access alternative, age-appropriate accommodation and supports outside of aged care.

Younger people eligible for residential aged care

The current dashboard presents data up to the January to March 2026 period. On 1 November 2025, the [Aged Care Act 2024](#) (the Aged Care Act) came into effect, which prevents entry into residential aged care by younger people, except under very limited circumstances and where it is their preference.

Under the Aged Care Act, access to Australian Government-funded aged care services is limited to people with care needs who are either:

- aged 65 years and over
- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (First Nations) people and aged 50 years or over
- homeless, or at risk of homelessness, and aged 50 years or over
- already living in an aged care home or accessing aged care services (including having an existing aged care assessment and/or approval).



First Nations people aged 50–64

First Nations people aged 50–64 entering or living in permanent residential aged care are not counted in the YPIRAC targets and are reported separately.

Entering residential aged care – During January to March 2026:

- **26 First Nations people** aged 50–64 entered permanent residential aged care in Australia for the first time. This is an **increase of 6 people** from the same period in 2025.

Living in residential aged care – At 31 March 2026:

- **207 First Nations people** aged 50–64 were living in permanent residential aged care in Australia. This is a **decrease of 7 people** from the same period in 2025.

Notes: Data was extracted on 9 June 2026 by AIHW from the Aged Care Data Warehouse (ACDW). Past or future extracts may differ.

See GEN [Younger people in residential aged care 'Data tables'](#) for more information on First Nations people aged 50–64.



People who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, aged 50–64

Data for the GEN Younger people in residential aged care dashboard is sourced from the ACDW, which currently contains limited data on the number of younger people in residential aged care who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. As a result, these people cannot yet be reported separately from the YPIRAC targets.

Using data from the National Screening and Assessment Form (NSAF), provided by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (the Department), an indication of the

number of younger people in permanent residential aged care at 31 March who identified as having 'inadequate housing' at the time of their assessment is provided below.

At 31 March 2026, of the younger people living in residential aged care with an NSAF assessment:

- **140** people aged 50–64 living in residential aged care had the 'inadequate housing' indicator marked as 'yes' at the time of their assessment.
- Of these, **45** were First Nations people, **94** were non-Indigenous, and **1** person did not state or inadequately described their Indigenous status.

Notes: Data was extracted on 9 June 2026 by the Department using a live data source within the Department's Aged Care Client database. Past or future extracts may differ.

The data reports on the non-mandatory 'Complex Needs Inadequate Housing Indicator' field from the National Screening and Assessment Form (NSAF). The NSAF was replaced by the Integrated Assessment Tool (IAT) on 1 July 2024, which includes a mandatory field indicating whether a person is homeless or at risk of homelessness. However, reporting based on this field in the IAT is still under development, and complete data are not yet available.

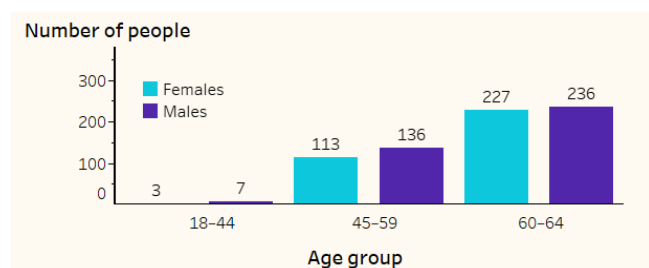
The data presented here includes only those younger people who received an NSAF assessment. Over time, the number of younger people living in residential aged care with an NSAF assessment will decrease. As such, the data should be interpreted with care, as they do not include all younger people aged 50–64 who, at the time of their aged care eligibility assessment, were experiencing or were at risk of experiencing homelessness. Future fact sheet releases will incorporate IAT data as they become available.

The following analysis includes only younger people reported against the targets, that is, people under the age of 65 entering or living in permanent residential aged care, excluding First Nations people aged 50–64.

Age distribution

At 31 March 2026, the majority (64%) of younger people living in permanent residential aged care were aged 60–64. Just over 1 in 3 (34%) were aged 45–59, and 1.4% were aged 18–44. The age distribution was similar for males and females.

Figure 1. Age distribution of males and females under age 65 living in permanent residential aged care, at 31 March 2026

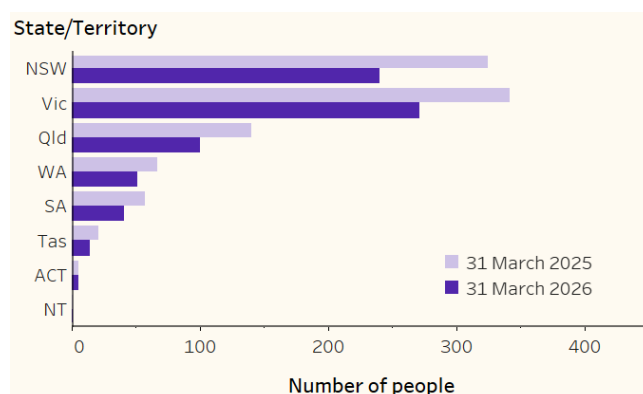


Number of younger people in residential aged care by state and territory

The number of younger people living in permanent residential aged care in Australia has been steadily decreasing. This has largely been driven by the reduction in the number of younger people entering residential aged care. The number of younger people living in permanent residential aged care decreased in

every state and territory between 2025 and 2026, except in the ACT and NT where the numbers remained the same.

Figure 2. Number of people under age 65 living in permanent residential aged care, by state and territory, at 31 March 2025 and 31 March 2026



Exits and length of stay

People leave residential aged care for a number of reasons. When a person leaves an aged care service it is referred to here as an exit. In the year from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, 188 younger people exited permanent residential aged care. Nearly 7 in 10 (68%) exits from permanent residential aged care (128 people) had death recorded as the reason for leaving. Among the remaining exits, 48% (29 people) returned to family or home, 40% (24 people) exited to a destination recorded as an 'other' location, and 1 in 8 (12%, 7 people) exited to hospital.

The average length of stay was 6.9 years for younger people who were living in permanent residential aged care at 31 March 2026. See data notes for a description of how length of stay is calculated.

Accessing supports outside of aged care

Younger people accessing the NDIS

Many younger people living in permanent residential aged care, live with disability. The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) can support NDIS participants to exit permanent residential aged care to a more appropriate setting, if they choose to. At 31 March 2026, the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) reported 497 younger people living in residential aged care had an approved NDIS plan, including 65 people who had a goal to leave residential aged care (NDIA 2026). This excludes First Nations people aged 50–64. Data on YPIRAC who are NDIS participants can be found in the [NDIS Quarterly report to disability ministers March 2026](#).

Younger people who are not NDIS participants

While the NDIS supports NDIS participants living in permanent residential aged care to explore and access alternative accommodation, it should be noted, not all younger people living in permanent residential aged care have disability or are eligible for the NDIS.

Through Ability First Australia's (AFA) YPIRAC System Coordinator Program, AFA works one-on-one with younger people living in permanent residential aged care who are not currently NDIS participants to support them to identify options available to them and to access suitable alternatives, if this is their preference. This includes younger people who are eligible for aged care; First Nations people aged 50–64, and people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness aged 50–64 (see the section *Younger people eligible for residential aged care*).

The AFA YPIRAC System Coordinator Program was established in October 2021. Since starting in October 2021, the program has assisted:

- 173 people to gain access to the NDIS
- 11 people to exit residential aged care

After the commencement of the Aged Care Act on 1 November 2025, the program closed all cases and was inactive from November to December 2025. After receiving additional funding to extend the program, AFA resumed working with younger people living in permanent residential aged care who are not NDIS participants from early 2026. Since restarting, only new cases have been opened by AFA and previous cases have not been reopened. As such, the data presented here cannot be compared to earlier AFA data and does not reflect the total number of younger people in permanent residential aged care who are not NDIS participants. Instead, it only includes younger people who have been contacted by the program from early 2026 onwards. At the time of reporting, AFA could not confirm entries to residential aged care due to homelessness, or risk of homelessness; this is expected to be available in future fact sheets.

As at 31 March 2026, AFA had contacted, or were attempting to contact, 43 younger people living in permanent residential aged care who were not NDIS participants.

As the program recommenced in early 2026, most younger people were yet to confirm whether their preference was to stay in permanent residential aged care, or exit. This will be reported in future fact sheets as more data becomes available.

Notes: All data related to the AFA YPIRAC System Coordinator Program is owned by AFA and has been provided as aggregated data to AIHW for the purpose of publishing in this fact sheet. Participants in the AFA YPIRAC System Coordinator Program provide informed consent to data being collected by AFA, and for the publication of aggregated data. No person-level data has been provided to the AIHW.

As all cases were closed leading up to the extension of the program, the AFA data presented in this fact sheet is different to previous fact sheets and therefore is not comparable. More information on the YPIRAC System Coordinator Program can be found on the [AFA website](#).

Data presented in the *Younger people accessing the NDIS* and *Younger people who are not NDIS participants* sections are extracted from different data sources and are not comparable. Data are extracted at a point in time and fluctuations are expected as people move through the NDIS application and approval process.

Where can I find out more?

GEN Resource: Younger people in residential aged care (including additional data tables)

<https://www.gen-agedcaredata.gov.au/resources/younger-people-in-residential-aged-care>

Data notes

1. Unless otherwise noted, analyses presented in this fact sheet are based on AIHW analysis of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's ACDW, March 2026.

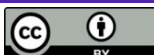
2. Current length of stay presented in this fact sheet is based on a person's current length of stay in permanent residential aged care, that is the length of time the person has been in permanent residential aged care during the current stay. This does not include time spent during other stays.

3. Exits from permanent residential aged care include exits classified as 'final discharge' and do not include transfers to other aged care facilities.

References

NDIA (National Disability Insurance Agency) (2026) [NDIS Quarterly report to disability ministers March 2026](#), NDIA.

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