



# 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 factsheet 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 First Nations people aged 50–64.

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

During October to December 2024, **57 people** under the age of 65 entered permanent residential aged care for the first time in Australia. This is an **increase of 17 people** from the same period in 2023.

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

At 31 December 2024, there were **21 people** aged under 45 living in permanent residential aged care in Australia. This is a **decrease of 13 people** from the same date in 2023.

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

At 31 December 2024, there were **1,060 people** aged under 65 living in permanent residential aged care in Australia. This is a **decrease of 409 people** from the same date in 2023.

While the YPIRAC targets have not been met, the Australian Government remains committed to ensuring there are no younger people under the age of 65 living in residential aged care and will continue to report progress towards the targets.

## Younger people eligible for residential aged care

It is recognised that there are some younger people who are eligible to access care and support through residential aged care facilities, either on a temporary or permanent basis (Department of Health and Aged Care 2024).

Where it is their preference, this includes:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (First Nations) people aged 50–64, and/or
- A person who is homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, and aged 50–64.

### 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 October to December 2024:**

- **24 First Nations people** aged 50–64 entered permanent residential aged care for the first time. This is an **increase of 7 people** from the same period in 2023.

**Living in residential aged care – At 31 December 2024:**

- **227 First Nations people** aged 50–64 were living in permanent residential aged care. This is a **decrease of 25 people** from the same period in 2023.

Notes: Data was extracted on 13 February 2025 by the AIHW from the Aged Care Data Warehouse (ACDW). Past or future extracts may differ.

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

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

Data on the number of younger people in residential aged care who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, is limited.

Data for the GEN Younger people in residential aged care dashboard is sourced from the ACDW, which currently does not contain data on homelessness. 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 and Aged Care (the Department), an indication of the number of younger people in permanent residential aged care at 31 December who identified as having 'inadequate housing' at the time of their assessment is provided below.

At 31 December 2024:

- **215 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, **66** were First Nations people, **147** were non-Indigenous, and **2** did not state or inadequately described their Indigenous status.

Notes: Data was extracted on 7 February 2025 by the Department using a live data source within the Department's Aged Care Client database. Past or future extracts may differ.

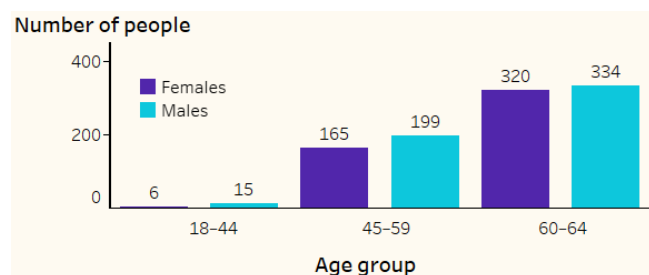
The data uses the 'Complex Needs Inadequate Housing Indicator' sourced from the NSAF. This indicator is a non-mandatory field within the NSAF and therefore is an under-representation of the total cohort.

From 1 July 2024, NSAF was replaced with the Integrated Assessment Tool (IAT) and includes a mandatory field for 'homeless/at risk of being homeless'. However, at the time of preparation, the Department's data and reporting development in respect to the IAT is continuing. As such, there is currently an under-representation of younger people who identify as homeless/at risk of becoming homeless through an IAT assessment. For this reason, the factsheet will continue to use the NSAF indicator until all new assessments have transitioned to the IAT.

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

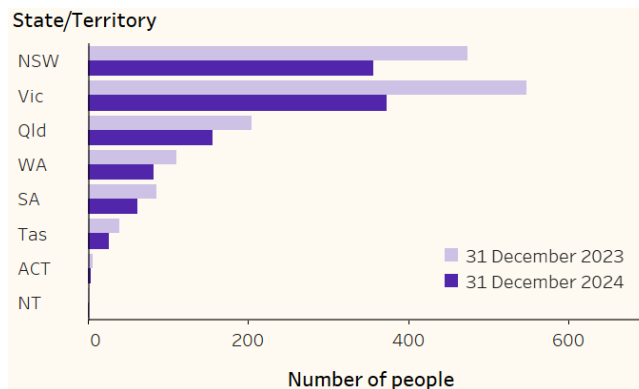
At 31 December 2024, the majority (62%) of younger people living in permanent residential aged care were aged 60–64. Just over 1 in 3 (34%) were aged 45–59, and 2% were aged 18–44. The age distribution was similar for males and females (Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** Age distribution of males and females under age 65 living in permanent residential aged care, at 31 December 2024

## 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 admissions of younger people to residential aged care. The number of younger people in permanent residential aged care decreased in every state and territory between 2023 and 2024 (Figure 2).



**Figure 2.** Number of people under age 65 living in permanent residential aged care, by state and territory, at 31 December 2023 and 31 December 2024

## 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 January 2024 to 31 December 2024, 328 younger people exited from permanent residential aged care. Around 2 in 3 (67%) exits from permanent residential aged care (220 people) had death recorded as the reason for leaving. Among the remaining exits, 47% (51 people) returned to family or home, 39% (42 people) exited to a destination recorded as an 'other' location, and over 1 in 10 (14%, 15 people) exited to hospital.

The average length of stay was 6.6 years for younger people who were living in permanent residential aged care at 31 December 2024. 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 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 December 2024, the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) reported 811 younger people living in residential aged care had an approved NDIS plan, including 203 people who had a goal to leave residential aged care (NDIA 2025). 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 minister December 2024](#).

### Younger people who are not NDIS participants

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

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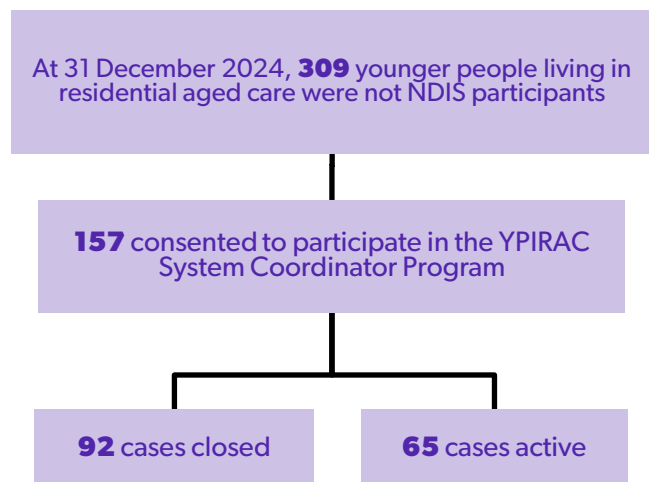
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Through Ability First Australia's (AFA) YPIRAC System Coordinator Program, AFA works one-on-one with younger people living in residential aged care who are not currently NDIS participants to support them to identify options available to them and to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



Of the 65 younger people with active cases:

- Over 2 in 5 (43%, 28) had a preference to stay living in residential aged care
- Almost 2 in 5 (38%, 25) had a preference to leave residential aged care
- About 1 in 5 (18%, 12) were yet to confirm their preference.

Since starting in October 2021, the AFA YPIRAC System Coordinator Program has assisted younger people achieve a range of outcomes, based on their preferences and the accommodation options available to them. Of the 661 younger people with closed cases:

- 23% (151) gained access to the NDIS with help from AFA
- 19% (128) remained living in residential aged care with optimal supports in place
- 4% (24) exited residential aged care to live elsewhere, 7 of whom exited with AFA help
- 9% (61) died
- 45% (297) did not consent to joining the program or were uncontactable.

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 factsheet. 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.

The AFA YPIRAC System Coordinator Program was established in October 2021. Data reported in this factsheet ranges from October 2021 to the extraction date on 31 December 2024. 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* section 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 Factsheet are based on AIHW analysis of the Department of Health and Aged Care's ACDW, Feb 2025.

2. Current length of stay presented in this Factsheet 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 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

Department of Health and Aged Care (2024) [Principles and guidelines for a younger person's access to Commonwealth funded aged care services](#), Department of Health and Aged Care.

NDIA (National Disability Insurance Agency) (2025) [NDIS Quarterly report to disability ministers December 2024](#), NDIA.

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