

Technical Notes

Younger People in Residential Aged Care Dashboard: Data to 31 March 2026

These notes provide general information about data arrangements and the AIHW's collation, processing and reporting of data included in the [Younger People in Residential Aged Care \(YPIRAC\) Dashboard](#).

The YPIRAC Dashboard tracks the progress being made towards the Younger People in Residential Aged Care Targets (the Targets), using the most recent data available, as per Recommendation 74 of the [Australian Government Response to the Final Report of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety](#). 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.

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 and 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).

When the YPIRAC dashboard started in April 2021, reporting of the YPIRAC targets were measured by counting all people under the age of 65 entering or living in permanent residential aged care. From the release of data to 31 December 2023 and onwards, First Nations people aged 50–64 are excluded from the YPIRAC targets but are reported separately in the downloadable data tables.

At present, data on people aged 50–64 who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless is limited. An indication of this cohort is provided in the fact sheet using data from the National Screening and Assessment Form (NSAF), provided by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (the Department).

From 1 July 2024, the NSAF was replaced with the Integrated Assessment Tool (IAT) and includes a mandatory field for client diversity (homeless/at risk of becoming homeless). However, 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, data in the fact sheet will continue to use the 'Complex Needs Inadequate Housing Indicator' sourced from the NSAF until all new assessments have transitioned to the IAT. Once data and reporting developments are completed, data sourced from the IAT will be used for the fact sheet and dashboard.

The updated reporting of YPIRAC and First Nations people aged 50–64 separately can only be applied to quarters from September 2018 onwards (see [Data source](#) section). A historical version of the data is available for download on the [YPIRAC Dashboard](#). This

presents the YPIRAC counts before First Nations people aged 50–64 were reported separately, and includes periods from July 2016 to September 2023. Data from the current and historical data tables are not comparable.

Data source

The majority of data for the YPIRAC Dashboard to 31 March 2026 are sourced from the Department's [Aged Care Data Warehouse](#) (ACDW – previously known also as the CASPER data warehouse). The ACDW collates a variety of aged care data. Data extraction for each update of the YPIRAC Dashboard is performed using an IBM Cognos tool to query data in the ACDW. The IBM Cognos tool used to extract data for the YPIRAC dashboard has access to the previous 5 years of data only.

The ACDW currently contains limited data on homelessness. As a result, data for the fact sheet box 'People who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, aged 50–64' is instead derived by the Department from their Siebel database. All other data in this release has been updated and is based on the Department's ACDW.

The YPIRAC Dashboard is made available on AIHW's [GEN](#) Aged Care website. GEN contains data and information about aged care services in Australia. It reports on capacity and activity in the aged care system, focusing on people, their aged care assessments, and the aged care services they use. The majority of reporting on GEN is based on data from AIHW's [National Aged Care Data Clearinghouse](#) (NACDC), which is sourced from an annual snapshot from the ACDW.

Data coverage

Data Quality

The live data available in the ACDW are comparable to the data that are later provided to AIHW in an annual snapshot (static dataset) for the NACDC. The NACDC has a Data Quality Statement which outlines various aspects of data quality. The live ACDW data are not the responsibility of the AIHW, but many of the data quality issues identified in the [National Aged Care Data Clearinghouse Data Quality Statement](#) are also applicable to the live ACDW data.

Data coverage

The number of younger people living in permanent residential aged care does not include other aged care that may be provided in a residential setting, such as respite residential aged care, or flexible aged care programs such as the [National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care \(NATSIFAC\) Program](#). Younger people living in respite residential aged care are out-of-scope for the calculation of the YPIRAC Targets, but the data are available in the ACDW. Younger people receiving the equivalent of permanent residential aged care via the NATSIFAC Program or other flexible programs are of interest, but this data are not available to AIHW.

'Ageing out'

People who are at one point under age 65 and living in permanent residential aged care, but 'age out' of the cohort by turning 65, are not included in the results on the YPIRAC dashboard once they turn 65. YPIRAC who 'age out' of the cohort are not counted as 'exits'. Other work by AIHW and others seeks to describe the experiences of YPIRAC after they turn 65. For published information on exit reasons that include ageing out, see the AIHW reports, [Exploring pathways for younger people living in residential aged care](#) and [National Disability Insurance Scheme participation by younger people living in residential aged care](#).

COVID-19 impacts

Between 2020–2023, the Australian Government declared a human biosecurity emergency response to COVID-19. Public health and social measures during this time may have impacted permanent residential aged care in Australia. This could affect entries and exits reported during the period and could vary by state and territory.

Methods

Data extraction from ACDW

Data for the YPIRAC Dashboard are extracted from ACDW at least 6 weeks following the end of each quarter. As data from the ACDW is live, differences between the current and previous extracts may be observed.

Analysis is presented by quarter as defined in ACDW (January–March, April–June, July–September, October–December). Each quarter, all ACDW data in the time series are refreshed as far back as the IBM Cognos tool will allow. Data for quarters older than five years are no longer available in the IBM Cognos tool. Once this data becomes unavailable, the dashboard displays the last available extract for those quarters.

Definition of YPIRAC

Younger people in residential aged care are identified in the data via ACDW using the following extraction criteria:

- Younger people Indicator = 'Younger people in RACS <65'
- Program Type = 'Residential'
- Care Type = 'Permanent'
- Additional indicators 'Indigenous status' and 'Age' are used to identify First Nations people aged 50–64. This subpopulation is excluded from the YPIRAC targets and reported separately in the downloadable data tables.

The data element 'Younger people Indicator' identifies all people under age 65. 'Program Type' identifies that the person is in residential aged care, and 'Care Type' identifies that the care is classified as permanent residential aged care (rather than for example, respite residential aged care).

The YPIRAC targets only include younger people in *permanent* residential aged care. A number of younger people also use *respite* residential aged care. Respite residential aged care is available on either a planned or emergency basis to people who intend to return to their own home but require temporary residential aged care. It supports people in transition stages of health, as well as providing carers with a break from their caring duties (AIHW 2019a).

Respite residential aged care may be a temporary situation but in many cases for YPIRAC it occurs at some stage before an entry to permanent residential aged care (AIHW 2019b). Respite residential aged care stays tend to be short in duration and are not currently captured in the dashboard.

Indigenous status refers to whether a person has identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin. The 'Indigenous' variable in ACDW includes 'Indigenous' (including Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander), 'Non-Indigenous' (neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander origin), and 'Unknown'. Only people in the 'Indigenous' category are included in counts for First Nations people aged 50–64 entering or living in permanent residential aged care. People in all other Indigenous status categories are included in the YPIRAC counts.

Target measures

In response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, the Australian Government announced the YPIRAC Targets, apart from in exceptional circumstances, to work towards there being:

- **no people under the age of 65 entering residential aged care by 1 January 2022**
- **no people under the age of 45 living in residential aged care by 1 January 2022**
- **no people under the age of 65 living in residential aged care by 1 January 2025**

The three targets are calculated using the YPIRAC definition as above, and the following measures/filters in ACDW:

Target #	Target description	Measure	Other filters	Other notes
1	Number of first entries for people under age 65 to residential aged care	Number of Admissions	• First Admission Indicator (Y/N) = 'Y'	• Number of admissions refers to entries during the selected period (e.g. one quarter) • Number of first admissions refers to a person's first entry to permanent residential aged care, and does not include readmissions or transfers between facilities • Indigenous status and Age included to separate counts of YPIRAC who are First Nations people aged 50–64 from the Target count.
2	Number of people under age 45 living in residential aged Care	Number of Recipients	• Select ages 18–44	• Number of people refers to people on the last day of the period (e.g. a quarter)
3	Number of people under age 65 living in residential aged care	Number of Recipients		• Number of people refers to people on the last day of the period (e.g. a quarter) • In the time series, records with an unknown age or age of less than 18 are included in counts of YPIRAC if they have Younger people Indicator = 'Younger people in RACS <65'. For these cases, it is assumed the person is <65, but exact age is not known. However, these records are excluded from age-specific counts (e.g. 18–44, 45–59, 60–64), as exact age can't be determined or is unreliable using ACDW for these cases. • Indigenous status and Age are included to separate counts of YPIRAC who are First Nations people aged 50–64 from the Target count.

The three Targets are presented in an interactive dashboard by quarter and by state and territory of the residential aged care service. The three Targets are also available in the downloadable data tables by quarter and state and territory of the residential aged care service. The number of YPIRAC are also presented by quarter, sex and age group in the downloadable data tables. All tables include separate reporting for YPIRAC who are First Nations people aged 50–64, except for Table 2 (Target 2), which does not include anyone aged 45 or above.

Additional measures

Exits

YPIRAC exits from permanent residential aged care per quarter are available in the downloadable data tables.

Number of exits refers to a person's last exit from permanent residential aged care and does not include transfers between facilities. The concept of 'last' exit is calculated in ACDW using the data element 'Last Discharge Indicator (Y/N)' = 'Y'.

Exits are presented by age group (18–44, 45–59, 60–64) and by 'Discharge Reason' as defined in ACDW, excluding transfers between facilities. Reasons for discharge as defined in ACDW are 'Death', 'To Hospital', 'Return to Family or Home', and 'Other'. AIHW does not have visibility of what precisely 'Other' includes. YPIRAC who turn 65 while in permanent residential aged care are not counted as 'exits'. They have 'aged out' of the YPIRAC cohort but have not exited permanent residential aged care. There are differing views regarding if deaths in aged care should be described as 'exits'. Regardless of terminology, the number of YPIRAC who die while in aged care is important to count, and the data are presented in the Exits section of the report, as this is how they are captured in the ACDW. Deaths that occur after a person has exited to a location such a hospital, family or home or 'other', are not necessarily captured as a 'death' or discharge reason of death in the ACDW.

Length of Stay

Average current length of stay by quarter is available in the downloadable data tables. Average current length of stay is based on the length of time a person has spent in permanent residential aged care during their current stay. This does not include time spent during other stays, for example if a person were discharged home or to hospital for some time and then returned to permanent residential aged care. Thus, average *current* length of stay will be less than average *total* length of stay, which accounts for all the time that a person has spent in permanent residential aged care across various stays.

Reviews and checks

All data are reviewed by the Data Custodian of AIHW's National Aged Care Data Clearinghouse, and representatives from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, Department of Social Services and the National Disability Insurance Agency, the three agencies working together to reduce the number of younger people in residential aged care.

References

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2019a. [Pathways in Aged Care 2014: technical guide](#). Cat. no. AGE 82. Canberra: AIHW.

AIHW 2019b. [Pathways of younger people entering permanent residential aged care](#). Cat. no. AGE 89. Canberra: AIHW.