



# People's care needs in aged care

Australia's age care system offers a variety of services to support people as their care needs change. This fact sheet presents highlights from the GEN topic People's care needs in aged care, specifically people in permanent residential aged care with an Australian National Aged Care Classification (AN-ACC) assessment.

Permanent residential care provides up to 24-hour care for people who need ongoing assistance with everyday tasks and health care, and who are no longer able to live independently.

At 30 June 2023, 184,000 people in permanent residential care had a current AN-ACC assessment. Most of these people were assessed as having some mobility needs (95%).

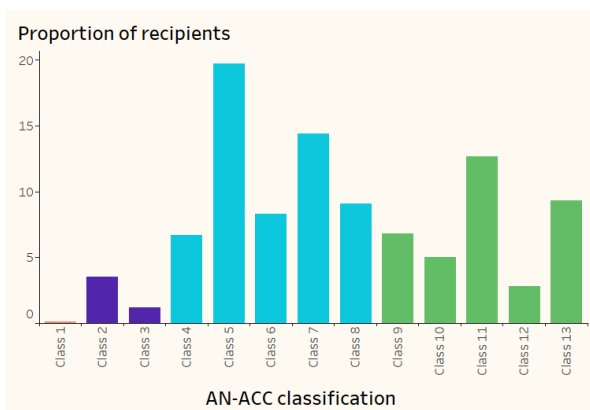
## Australian National Aged Care Classification (AN-ACC)

In 2022, The Australian National Aged Care Classification (AN-ACC) replaced the Aged Care Funding Instrument (ACFI) as the tool used for allocating government funding to residential aged care service providers based on the assessed needs of the people in care. The tool considers a residents' physical ability, cognitive ability, behaviour and mental health.

There are 13 AN-ACC classes (Figure 1) with each class representing residents with similar needs and the cost of staff time to deliver consistent care:

- Class 1 is for people admitted for palliative care
- Classes 2 and 3 are considered 'Independently mobile'
- Classes 4–8 are considered as having 'Assisted mobility'
- Classes 9–13 are considered as being 'Not mobile'.

**Figure 1: People in permanent residential care by AN-ACC classification, 30 June 2023**



Note: Excludes people without a current AN-ACC assessment.

## Residential care needs by age and sex

People at different ages have different care needs.

At 30 June 2023, the proportion of people in the *independently mobile* category gradually decreased with age, from 9.8% of people aged of 60–64 to 1.1% of people aged 100+. In contrast, the proportion of people in the *not mobile* category was highest among people aged 0–49 (67%), followed by those aged 50–54 (50%), 55–59 (49%) and people aged 100 and over (45%).

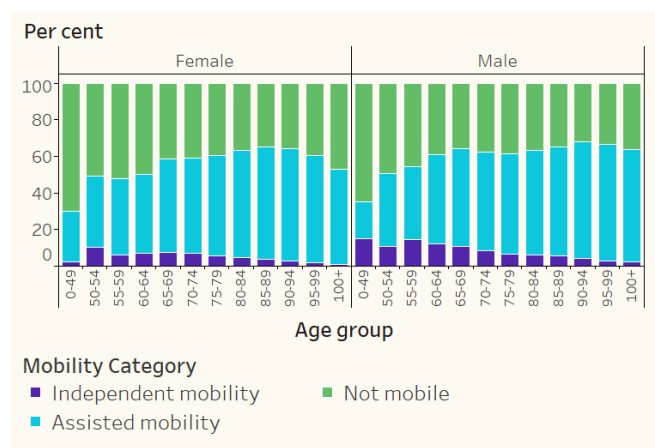
Overall, men and women reported very similar proportions of mobility classification ratings.

For example, 58.7% of women were in the *assisted mobility* category compared with 58.3% of men. A slightly higher proportion of men were in the *independent mobility* category compared with women (6.1% and 4.0%, respectively), and a slightly higher proportion of women were in the *not mobile* category compared with men (37.3% and 35.6%, respectively)

The age profiles of men and women in permanent residential care vary and this is reflected in their differing assessment classes.

Compared with men, a greater proportion of women had some mobility needs – they were in the *assisted mobility* or *not mobile* categories – for all age groups (Figure 2).

**Figure 2: Proportion of AN-ACC mobility assessments by age group and sex, 30 June 2023**



Note: Excludes unknown sex and age and people admitted to palliative care.

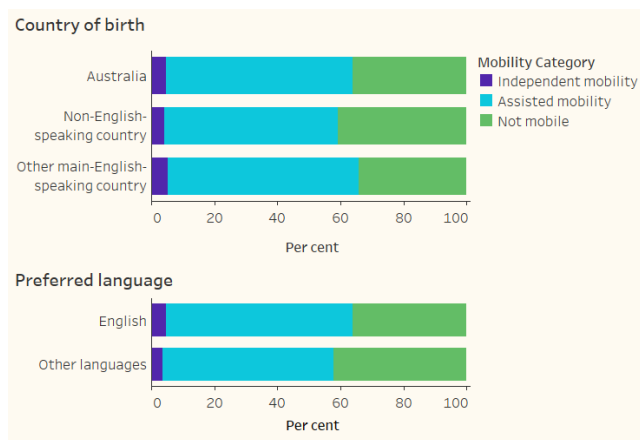
## Residential care needs of people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

Australia's older population is culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD). The situations and needs of CALD Australians vary due to their diverse backgrounds, resulting in contracting proportions of AN-ACC mobility classifications.

At 30 June 2023, a greater proportion of people born in non-English-speaking countries were in the *not mobile* category compared with people born in Australia and people born in other mainly English-speaking countries (41%, 36% and 34%, respectively).

People who preferred to speak other languages had a greater proportion of people in the *not mobile* category compared with people who preferred to speak English (42% and 36%, respectively) (Figure 3).

**Figure 3: Proportion of AN-ACC mobility assessments by country of birth and preferred language, 30 June 2023**



Note: Excludes unknowns and people admitted for palliative care.

## Residential care needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Similar proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (First Nations) people and non-Indigenous people in permanent residential care were in the 3 mobility categories.

At 30 June 2023:

- 38% of First Nations people were in the *not mobile* category compared with 37% of non-Indigenous people.
- 56% of First Nations people were in the *assisted mobility* category compared with 59% of non-Indigenous people.
- 6.1% of First Nations people were in the *independent mobility* category compared with 4.6% of non-Indigenous people.

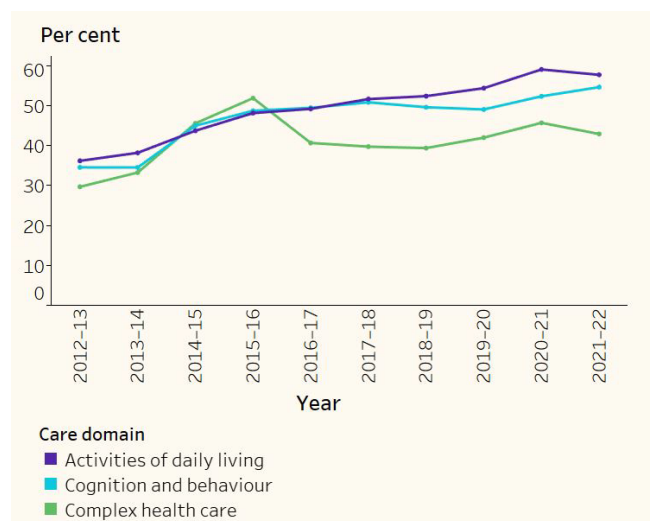
## Residential care needs over time

The AN-ACC model replaced the ACFI in 2022. The ACFI was the tool used to assess the care needs of people entering and living in permanent residential care between 2008 and 2022. The ACFI provided basic information on a person's care needs across three care domains:

- activities of daily living (for example, nutrition, mobility and personal hygiene),
- cognition and behaviour (for example, cognitive deficits, wandering and depression)
- complex health care (for example, requiring assistance with administering medications).

Between 2012–13 and 2021–22, the proportion of people assessed as having high care needs when they first entered permanent residential care increased over time (Figure 4).

**Figure 4: Proportion of people entering permanent residential care for the first time with high care need ratings, 2012–13 to 2021–22**



### Where can I find out more?

**GEN topic: Care needs in aged care**

< <https://www.gen-agedcaredata.gov.au/topics/people-s-care-needs-in-aged-care> >

**Australian National Aged Care Classification (AN-ACC) funding model**

< <https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/AN-ACC> >

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