



Admissions into aged care

How do people start using aged care services?

When a person needs to use government-funded aged care services, they are first assessed by a specialist team. If appropriate, the assessment results in recommendation and approval for certain types of care.

In 2016-17 the average time between approval and entering aged care services across Australia was longer for residential care (105 days) than for home care (67 days) (Figure 1).

What types of care did people enter?

In 2016-17, there were more than 215,000 admissions to residential aged care, home care and transition care across Australia. Approximately 1 in 3 of these admissions was to permanent residential care and 1 in 3 to respite residential care (Figure 2).

The number of admissions into aged care services has increased over recent years (Figure 2). Home care admissions have seen the greatest increase, going from over 24,000 in 2007-08 to almost 43,000 in 2016-17 (Figure 2).

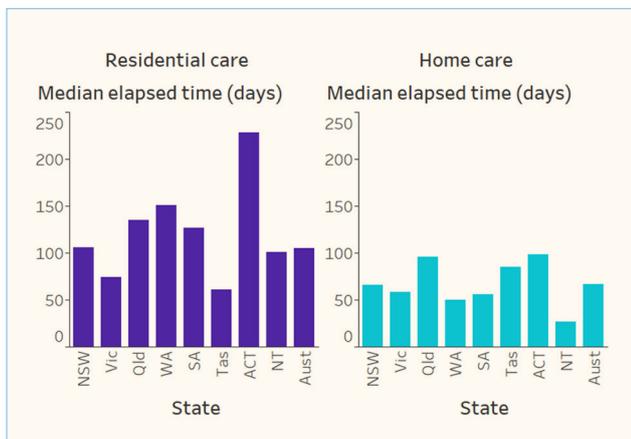


Figure 1: Median time between approval and entry into aged care services, by care type and state, 2016-17

The Australian Capital Territory had the longest median time between approval and entering into residential care (228 days). Similarly for home care, the Australian Capital Territory had the longest median elapsed time (98 days), followed by Queensland (96 days) (Figure 1).

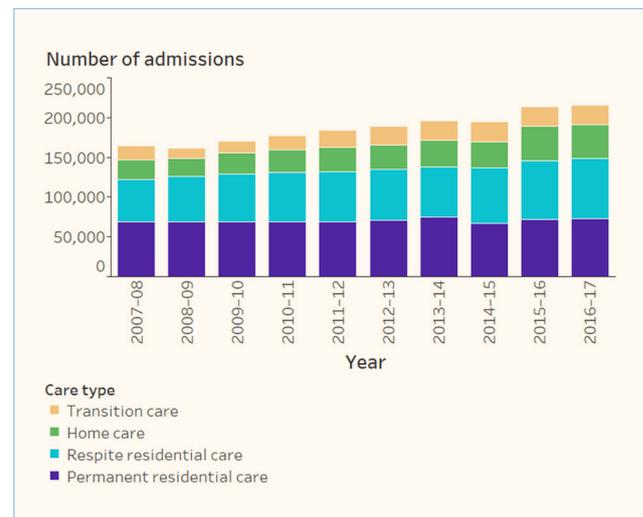


Figure 2: Admissions into aged care, by care type, 2007-08 to 2016-17

What proportion of the population entered aged care services?

The target population for aged care services is all people aged 65 years and over, and Indigenous people aged 50–64 years.

Across Australia in 2016–17, there were 19 admissions into each type of residential care (respite and permanent) per 1,000 of the target population. The national rate of admission for home care was 11 people per 1,000, and for transition care 6 per 1,000.

In 2016–17, the Australian Capital Territory had the highest rate of entries into permanent residential aged care (20 per 1,000 people in the target population) and home care (15 per 1,000) (Figure 3). South Australia had the highest rates of entries for respite residential care and transition care (27 and 7 entries per 1,000 people respectively).

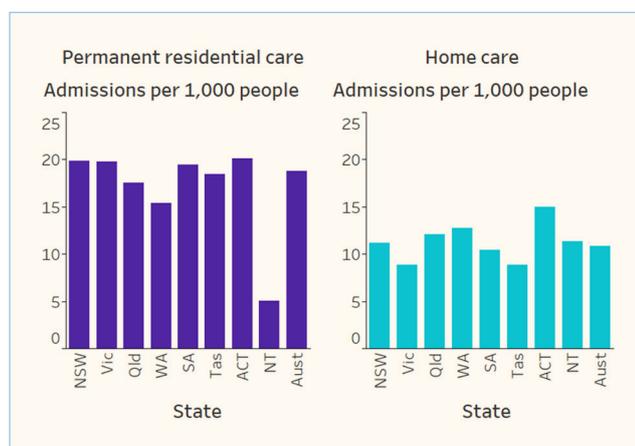


Figure 3: Admissions into aged care services per 1,000 people in the target population, by care type and state, 2016–17

At what age are people admitted to aged care services?

The most common age at admission was 85–89 years for both males and females, followed by the 80–84 age group.

Women made up 60% of admissions into aged care services in 2016–17. Women tend to enter aged care services later in life than men and as such, a larger proportion of men admitted to aged care services were in younger age groups compared with women (Figure 4).

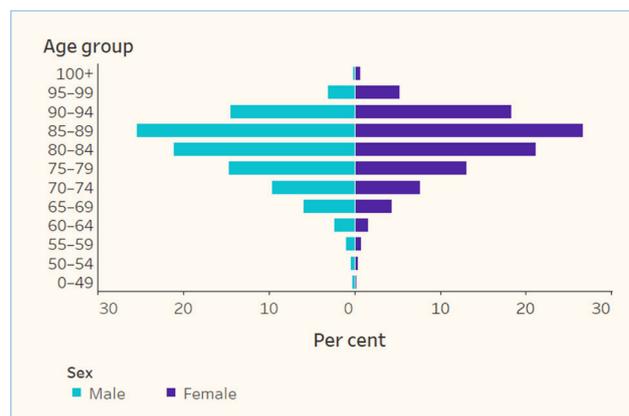


Figure 4: Age and sex of people who were admitted to residential care and home care, 2016–17

Where can I find out more?

Report on Government Services:

Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision 2018. Report on government services 2018: Part F, Chapter 14, aged care services report and attachment tables. Accessed 9 May 2018. Available at: <http://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/report-on-government-services/2018/community-services/aged-care-services>

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