



# Admissions into aged care

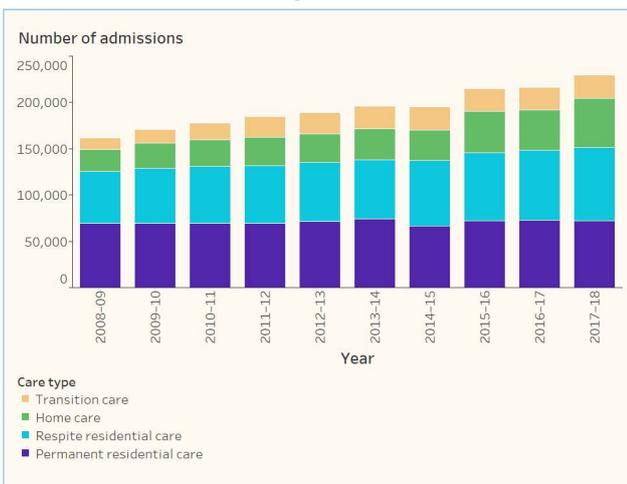
## How do people start using aged care services?

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.

## What types of care did people enter?

In 2017–18, there were more than 229,000 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 1).

The number of admissions into aged care services has increased over recent years (Figure 1). Home care admissions have seen the greatest increase, going from 23,300 in 2008–09 to 53,700 in 2017–18 (Figure 1).



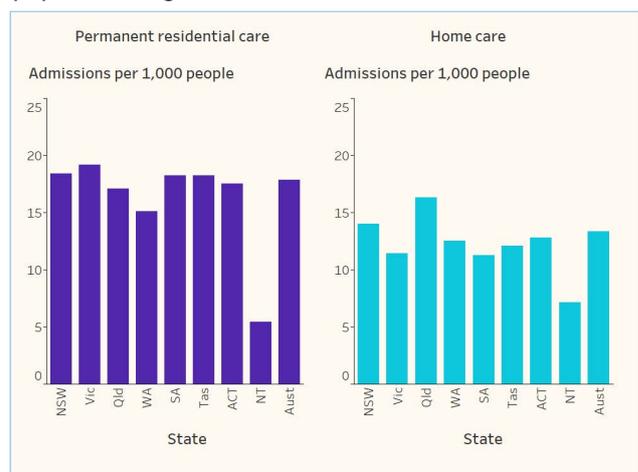
**Figure 1:** Admissions into aged care, by care type, 2008–09 to 2017–18

## 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 2017–18, there were 17.9 admissions into permanent residential care and 19.7 admissions into respite residential aged care per 1,000 of the target population. The national rate of admission for home care was 13.3 people per 1,000, and for transition care 6.2 per 1,000.

In 2017–18, Victoria had the highest rate of entries into permanent residential aged care (19.2 per 1,000 people in the target population) (Figure 2). South Australia had the highest rates of entries for respite residential care and transition care (27.8 and 7.3 entries per 1,000 people respectively), while Queensland had the highest rate of entries into home care (16.3 per 1,000 people in the target population) (Figure 2).

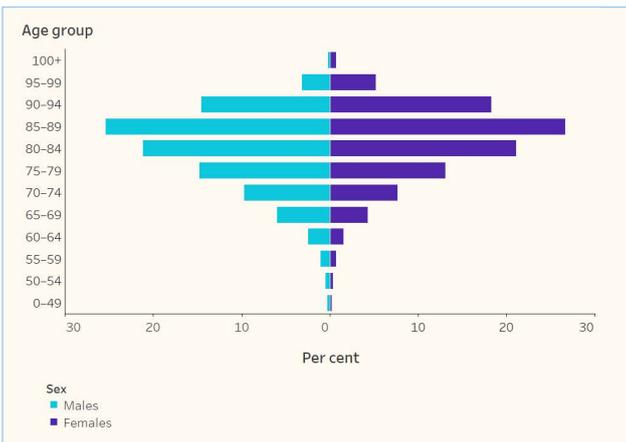


**Figure 2:** Admissions into aged care services per 1,000 people in the target population, by care type and state, 2017–18

## At what age are people admitted to aged care services?

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

Women made up 60% of admissions into aged care services in 2017–18. 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 3).



**Figure 3:** Age and sex of people who were admitted to residential care and home care, 2017–18

## What are the characteristics of people entering aged care for the first time?

Admissions are the number of *entries* into a type of aged care over a period, rather than the number of *people* entering aged care. A person can be counted multiple times if they enter the same type of aged care more than once, however, a first admission can only be counted once for each person entering a type of aged care in their lifetime.

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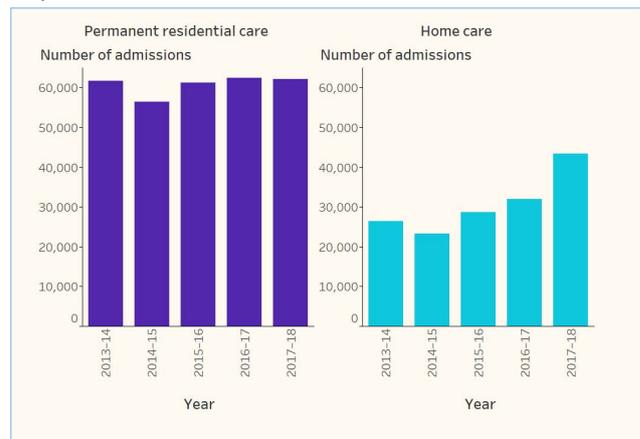
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The most common age group of people entering both permanent residential care and home care for the first time was 85–89 years, accounting for around a quarter of first admissions.

The majority of people entering aged care for the first time in 2017–18 were women for both permanent residential aged care (59%) and home care (61%).

The number of first admissions into permanent residential care has remained relatively steady over the past five years, from 61,600 in 2013–14 to 62,200 in 2017–18 (Figure 4). However, first admissions for home care have increased by 64% over the past five years, from 26,500 in 2013–14 to 43,300 in 2017–18.



**Figure 4:** First admissions into aged care, by care type, 2013–14 to 2017–18

### Suggested citation

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