

Figure 2: Exits from permanent residential aged care, by discharge reason, 2008-09 to 2017-18

How long are people in aged care?

The time that a person spent using aged care varies depending on the reason for leaving. People who left permanent residential care to go home tended to have shorter lengths of stay (9 months on average) than those who left for other reasons (Figure 3). The longest average length of stay was for people who stayed in residential care until death (32 months) (Figure 3).



Figure 3: Average length of stay in permanent residential care, by discharge reason, 2017-18

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In 2017-18, people who left permanent residential aged care stayed on average for 30 months (2 years and 5 months). Women stayed on average almost a year longer than men (2 years and 8 months, compared with 2 years).

For respite care, the average length of stay was under 1 month, with women staying on average 26 days and men 25.

The average length of stay in home care (25 months, or just over 2 years) was almost a year shorter than in permanent residential care. Women stayed in home care on average 5 months longer than men (27 months, compared with 22 months).

Length of stay generally increased with age for people in permanent residential aged care. In home care, people aged less than 60 years stayed on average longer than people aged 60 to 84 years. From the age of 85 years, the average length of stay in home care increased with age (Figure 4). In both residential aged care and home care, people aged 100 years and over had the longest length of stay.

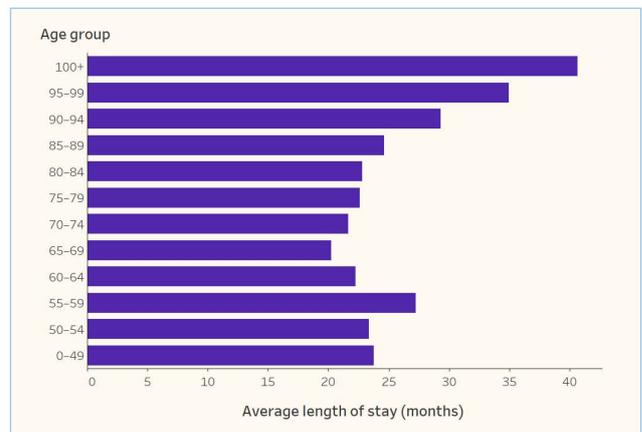


Figure 4: Average length of stay in home care, by age group, 2017-18

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