Fact Sheet: Multi-Purpose Services Program
Residential Care 2020-21

The Multi-Purpose Services (MPS) Program enables older people living in regional, rural and remote areas to receive the aged care services they need close to their own community.

MPS Places

At 30 June 2021, there were 179 operational MPS across Australia (except ACT), with a total of 3,688 operational flexible aged care places.

MPS Funding

The program is jointly funded by the Australian Government and state and territory governments. In 2020-21, the Australian Government provided aged care funding of $216.5 million for the MPS Program, including $19.6 million to support MPS providers to meet the challenges of delivering aged care services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

MPS Residential Care Clients

In 2020-21, a total of 3,946 people received residential and/or respite care through an MPS nationally. 265 clients (6.7% of total MPS clients compared with 1.1% of total mainstream residential care clients) identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people.

Nearly half of all clients were aged between 85 and 94 years. The average age at entry was 82 years for men and 85 for women, which is similar to mainstream residential care.

MPS Client Age and Sex

At 30 June 2021, there were 2,352 people receiving residential and/or respite care in an MPS. Of these clients, 64.3% were female. Female clients were also, on average, slightly older than males.
The MPS Program focuses on providing services to older people in rural and remote areas. As such, more than half of MPS clients using residential care are in outer regional areas and 31.1% of clients are in remote or very remote areas.

In comparison, at 30 June 2021, 0.56% of residents in permanent mainstream care were in remote or very remote areas.

In 2020-21, there were 1,001 exits by people receiving permanent residential care from an MPS. The highest proportion of exits in this program were due to client death, at 57%.

In comparison, during the same period in mainstream permanent residential aged care, 83% of exits were due to death.

There were 1,739 completed episodes of respite care reported over the year. A client may have more than one episode of respite care in a year. 75.4% of respite stays were 22 days or shorter.

Clients returning to the community represented 3% of all recorded exits from permanent care in 2020-21, a significant decrease from 10% in the previous year.

### Remoteness of MPS clients

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### Reasons for exit from MPS

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