Fact Sheet: Multi-Purpose Services Program Residential Care 2019-20

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 2020, 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 2019-20, the Australian Government provided aged care funding of $200.2 million for the MPS Program, including $9.6 million to support MPS providers to meet the workforce costs and challenges of delivering aged care services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

MPS Residential Care Clients

In 2019-20, a total of 4,012 people received residential and/or respite care through an MPS nationally. 215 clients (5% of total MPS clients compared with 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 81 years for men and 84 for women, which is similar to mainstream residential care.

MPS Client Age and Sex

At 30 June 2020, there were 2,316 people receiving residential and/or respite care in an MPS. Of these clients, 63% were female. Female clients were also, on average, slightly older than males.
Remoteness of MPS clients

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 29.6% of clients are in remote or very remote areas.

In comparison, at 30 June 2020, 0.55% of residents in permanent mainstream care were in remote or very remote areas.

Reasons for exit from MPS

In 2019-20, there were 1,008 exits by people receiving permanent residential care from an MPS. The highest proportion of exits in this program were due to client death, at 67%.

In comparison, during the same period in mainstream permanent residential aged care, 84% of exits were due to death.

There were 1,737 completed episodes of respite care reported over the year. A client may have more than one episode of respite care in a year. 75% of respite stays were 22 days or shorter.

Clients returning to the community represented 10% of all recorded exits in 2019-20, a substantial increase from 2% in the previous year.