



# Admissions into aged care

Australia's aged care system offers a range of services to support people's varying personal and health circumstances. This fact sheet presents highlights from the GEN topic Admissions into aged care.

Aged care admissions refer to the number of *entries* into an aged care service over a specified period, rather than the unique count of *people*. People are counted as a separate 'admission' to aged care every time they start using a service (e.g. a person entering respite residential care 3 times during a financial year will be counted as 3 admissions). A person's first admission to a care type is counted only once, although they will have multiple first admissions should they use a range care types. Data in this fact sheet relate to admissions to residential care, home care, transition care and short-term restorative care.

In 2022–23, there were around 317,000 admissions to aged care services in Australia (almost 79,000 to permanent residential care, over 94,000 to respite residential care, almost 121,000 to home care, over 14,000 to transition care, and over 8,000 to short-term restorative care).

## Aged care admissions by age and sex

Although the majority of aged care admissions are for older people, admissions for younger people also occur. In 2022–23, around 2,000 admissions to aged care services were for people aged under 65 (representing less than 1% of total admissions). More women than men are entering aged care; 3 in 5 (60%) admissions to aged care services were for women. Higher proportions of women entered permanent residential aged care at an older age compared with men (Figure 1).

**Figure 1: Admissions into permanent residential care, by age group and sex, 2022–23**

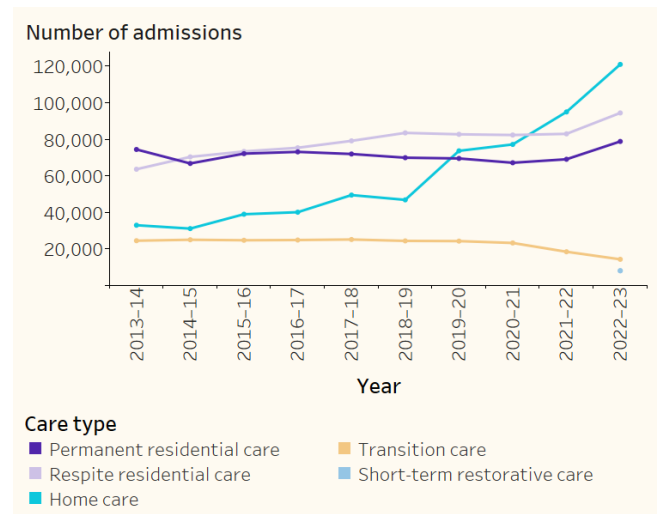


## Aged care admissions over time

More people in Australia are now entering aged care services than 10 years ago, which partly reflects the growing older population.

Since 2013–14, the number of annual admissions to aged care services has increased by 62% (from around 196,000 to over 317,000 admissions). The number of admissions to permanent residential care has increased by 5.9%, whereas admissions to respite residential care increased by 48%. The largest increase in admissions was to home care, which saw a 267% increase in admissions over the decade (Figure 2).

**Figure 2: Total admissions to aged care services, by care type, 2013–14 to 2022–23**



## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians admissions to aged care

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (First Nations) people are eligible to receive aged care services at an earlier age than non-Indigenous people. In 2022–23, First Nations people accounted for 1.8% of admissions to aged care services.

Admissions to aged care for First Nations people more commonly occurred at younger ages than for non-Indigenous Australians – 11% of admissions to permanent residential care were for Indigenous Australians aged under 65, compared with 0.3% for non-Indigenous Australians.

## Remoteness

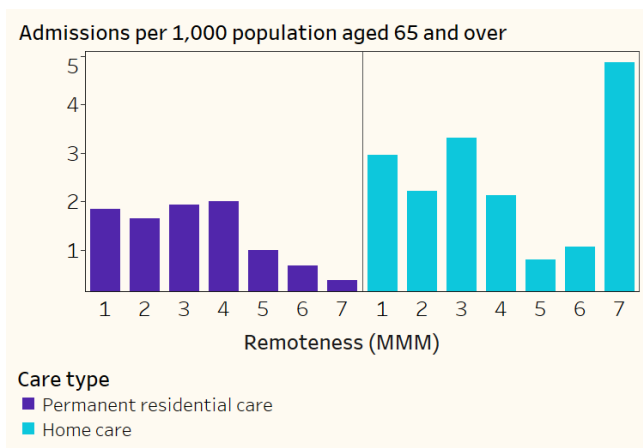
The proportion of admissions to aged care services for people in the target population varies between remoteness areas. The location of services may mean that people living in remote areas need to move to more populated areas to access higher-level aged care services.

The Modified Monash Model (MMM) is one of several classifications for defining whether a location is a city, rural, remote or very remote. The model measures remoteness and population size on a scale of Modified Monash (MM) category MM 1 (metropolitan areas) to MM 7 (very remote communities).

Per capita admissions to permanent residential aged care were highest in more densely populated areas (MM 1-4) and declined with increasing remoteness (Figure 3).

By comparison, home care services in very remote communities (MM 7) appeared to have the highest per capita admissions (Figure 3). However, the people using home care can live some distance away from the physical location of the service.

**Figure 3: Total admissions to permanent residential care and home care per 1,000 population aged 65 and over, by remoteness, 2022 –23**



*Note:* Remoteness is based on the location of the service (facility) from which the care is delivered. Only the total admissions for the population aged 65 and over was used to align with the aged care target population.

## Admissions for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

Many older Australians were born overseas, speak a variety of languages, may not speak English fluently or have different religious or cultural practices. These characteristics can influence how people access and engage with aged care services and the support they require.

People born in non-English-speaking countries accounted for 29% of home care admissions and 20% of permanent residential care admissions.

Nearly 1 in 5 (18%) admissions to home care were for people who preferred to speak a language other than English, whereas closer to 1 in 10 (11%) admissions to permanent residential care were for people who preferred to speak a language other than English.

### Where can I find out more?

**GEN Topic: Admissions into aged care**

[https://www\\_gen-agedcaredata.gov.au/Topics/Admissions-into-aged-care](https://www_gen-agedcaredata.gov.au/Topics/Admissions-into-aged-care)

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