



Younger people in residential aged care

The Australian Government is working to reduce the number of younger people (under the age of 65) entering residential aged care, and to help younger people who are already living in residential aged care to move into age-appropriate accommodation with the supports they need.

This factsheet presents highlights from the GEN [Younger people in residential aged care dashboard](#).

Younger people in residential aged care (YPIRAC) targets

The following targets express the goal of reducing the number of younger people in residential aged care. These targets are measured by counting all people under the age of 65 entering or living in permanent residential aged care, excluding First Nations people aged 50–64.

Target 1 – No people under the age of 65 entering residential aged care by 1 January 2022

During October to December 2023, **42 people** under the age of 65 entered permanent residential aged care for the first time in Australia. This is a **28% decrease** from the same period in 2022.

Target 2 – No people under the age of 45 living in residential aged care by 1 January 2022

At 31 December 2023, there were **34 people** aged under 45 living in permanent residential aged care in Australia. This is a **31% decrease** from the same date in 2022.

Target 3 – No people under the age of 65 living in residential aged care by 1 January 2025

At 31 December 2023, there were **1,470 people** aged under 65 living in permanent residential aged care in Australia. This is a **31% decrease** from the same date in 2022.

While Targets 1 and 2 have passed, the Government remains committed to Target 3 and will continue to report progress against Targets 1 and 2.

Younger people eligible for residential aged care

It is recognised that there are some younger people who are eligible to access care and support through residential aged care facilities, either on a temporary or permanent basis (Department of Health and Aged Care 2023).

Where it is their preference, this includes:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (First Nations) people aged 50–64, and/or
- A person who is homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, and aged 50–64.

First Nations people aged 50–64

First Nations people aged 50–64 entering or living in permanent residential aged care are not counted in the YPIRAC targets and are reported separately.

Entering residential aged care – During October to December 2023:

- **15** First Nations people aged 50–64 entered permanent residential aged care for the first time. This is a **32% decrease** from the same period in 2022.

Living in residential aged care – At 31 December 2023:

- **246** First Nations people aged 50–64 were living in permanent residential aged care. This is a **15% decrease** from the same period in 2022.

Note: Data was extracted on 2 April 2024 by the AIHW from the Aged Care Data Warehouse (ACDW). Past or future extracts may differ.

See GEN [Younger people in residential aged care 'Data Download'](#) for more information on First Nations people aged 50–64.

People who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, aged 50–64

Data on the number of younger people in residential aged care who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, is limited.

Data for the GEN Younger people in residential aged care dashboard is sourced from the ACDW, which currently does not contain data on homelessness. As a result, these people cannot yet be excluded from the YPIRAC targets.

Using data from the National Screening and Assessment Form (NSAF), provided by the Department of Health and Aged Care (the Department), an indication of the number of younger people in permanent residential aged care at 31 December who identified as having 'inadequate housing' at the time of their assessment is provided below.

At 31 December 2023:

- **267** people aged 50–64 living in residential aged care had the 'inadequate housing' indicator marked as 'yes' at the time of their assessment.
- Of these, **65** were First Nations people, **196** were non-Indigenous, and **6** did not state or inadequately described their Indigenous status.

Notes:

Data was extracted on 13 March 2024 by the Department using a live data source within the Department's Aged Care Client database. Past or future extracts may differ.

The data uses the 'Complex Needs Inadequate Housing Indicator' sourced from the NSAF. This indicator is a non-mandatory field within the NSAF and therefore is an underrepresentation of the total cohort.

Details on the inadequate housing indicator can be found on pages 128 and 129 of the *My Aged Care – National Screening and Assessment Form User Guide*.

The following analysis includes only younger people reported against the targets, that is, people under the age of 65 entering or living in permanent residential aged care, excluding First Nations people aged 50–64

Age distribution

At 31 December 2023, the majority (62%) of younger people living in permanent residential aged care were aged 60–64. Just over 1 in 3 (35%) were aged 45–59, and 2% were aged 18–44. The age distribution was similar for males and females (Figure 1).

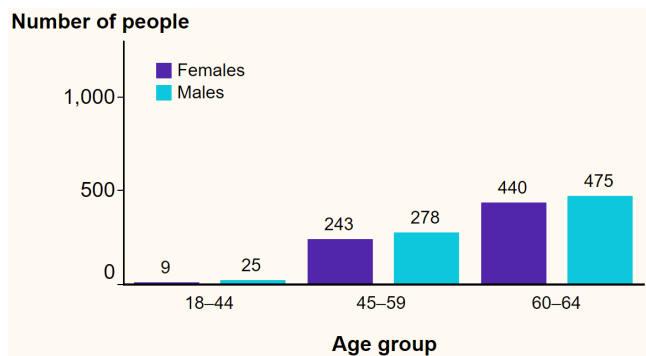


Figure 1. Age distribution of males and females under age 65 living in permanent residential aged care, at 31 December 2023

Number of younger people in residential aged care by state and territory

The number of younger people living in permanent residential aged care in Australia has been steadily decreasing. This has largely been driven by the reduction in admissions of younger people to residential aged care. The number of younger people in permanent residential aged care decreased in every state and territory between 2022 and 2023 (Figure 2).

Data notes

1. Unless otherwise noted, analyses presented in this Factsheet are based on AIHW analysis of the Department of Health and Aged Care's ACDW, April 2024.
2. Current length of stay presented in this Factsheet is based on a person's current length of stay in permanent residential aged care, that is the length of time the person has been in permanent aged care during the current stay. This does not include time spent during other stays.
3. Exits from permanent residential aged care include exits classified as 'final discharge' and do not include transfers to other aged care facilities.

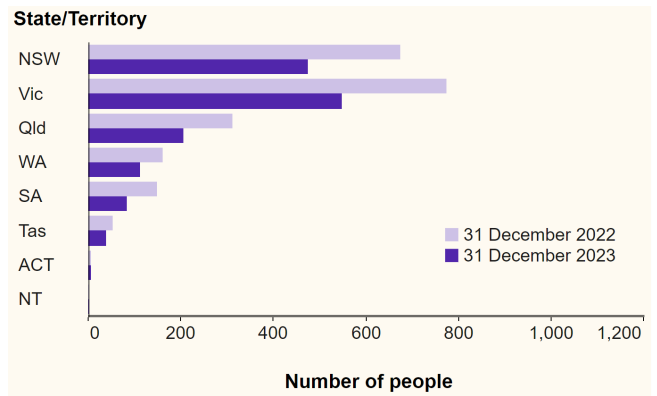


Figure 2. Number of people under age 65 living in permanent residential aged care, by state and territory, at 31 December 2022 and 31 December 2023

Exits and length of stay

People leave residential aged care for a number of reasons. When a person leaves an aged care service it is referred to here as an exit. In the year from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023, 440 younger people exited from permanent residential aged care. Six in ten (63%) exits from permanent residential aged care (277 people) had death recorded as the reason for leaving. Among the remaining exits, half (48%, 78 people) returned to family or home, close to half (47%, 77 people) exited to a destination recorded as an 'other' location, and 5% (8 people) exited to hospital.

Access to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) supports has contributed to the ability of younger people to exit permanent residential aged care to a more appropriate setting. At 31 December 2023, the NDIA reported 1,433 younger people in residential aged care had an approved NDIS plan, including 475 people who had a goal to leave residential aged care (NDIA 2024). Note this includes all participants younger than 65 living in residential aged care with an NDIS approved plan, and does not report First Nations people aged 50-64 separately.

The average length of stay was 6.0 years for younger people who were living in permanent residential aged care at 31 December 2023. See data notes for a description of how length of stay is calculated.

Where can I find out more?

GEN Resource: Younger people in residential aged care
(including additional data tables)

<<https://www.gen-agedcaredata.gov.au/Resources/Younger-people-in-residential-aged-care>>

References

- Department of Health and Aged Care (2023) *Principles and guidelines for a younger person's access to Commonwealth funded aged care services*, Department of Health and Aged Care.
- NDIA (National Disability Insurance Agency) (2024) *NDIS Quarterly report to disability ministers 31 December 2023*, NDIA.

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