Services and places in aged care

How is aged care provided?

Australia's aged care system had almost 210,000 government-subsidised places in residential aged care and flexible care programs on 30 June 2017. This included transition care and short-term restorative care, as well as other flexible programs like multi-purpose services (Table 1).

Program	Places
Residential care	200,689
Transition care and short-term restorative care	4,419
Other flexible care	4,518

Table 1: Places in aged care, Australia, 30 June 2017

Community-based programs—home care and home support—provide services directly to people and the concept of a 'place' does not apply here.

How are places allocated?

Government-funded places are allocated to regions depending on how many people there are in the target population (people aged 70 and over), and the care needs of people in the region.

The highest provision of mainstream residential care places compared to the target population is found in South Australia (82 places per 1,000 people in the target population) (Figure 1).

The Northern Territory has the lowest ratio for mainstream residential care places (48 places per 1,000 people in the target population) (Figure 1).

However, the Northern Territory also has a large number of flexible care places relative to the target population. The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program provides 33 places per 1,000 people in the target population in the Northern Territory.
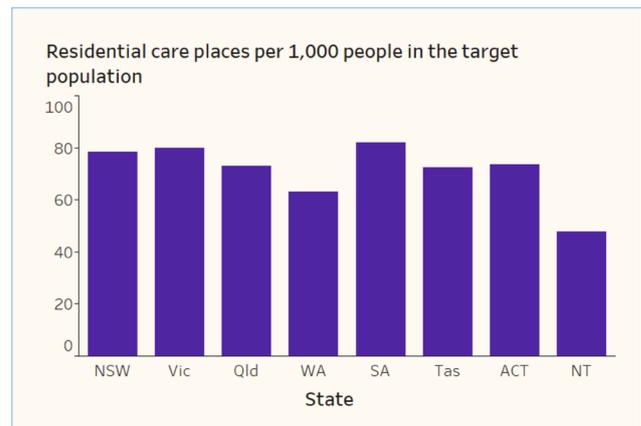

Figure 1: Places in mainstream residential care per 1,000 people in the target population, by state, 30 June 2017

Where are aged care services located?

Almost 2 in 3 (62%) of Australia's residential aged care facilities are located in *Major cities*. The proportion is slightly lower for transition care and short-term restorative care services (54% and 58%). Other flexible programs offer relatively few services in urban areas—no multi-purpose services and only 13% of services in the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program are located in *Major cities*.

Who manages aged care services?

Not-for-profit organisations manage almost 3 in 5 (58%) residential aged care services in Australia, followed by private (33%) and government organisations (9%).

These proportions vary depending on where the facility is located. In *Major cities*, 54% of residential aged care services are run by not-for profit organisations (44% are privately-run). These proportions decrease with remoteness, while government-run services increase to the point that they account for a quarter of residential aged care services in *Outer regional* and *Remote & Very remote* regions (25% and 26%) (Figure 2).
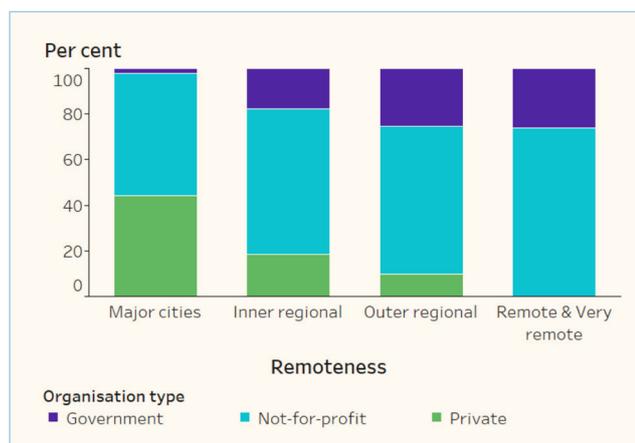
Figure 2: Residential aged care services by location and organisation type, 30 June 2017

What size are aged care services?

Privately-run residential care places are more likely to be delivered in larger services. Places managed by not-for-profit and government organisations are more likely to be in smaller services (Figure 3).
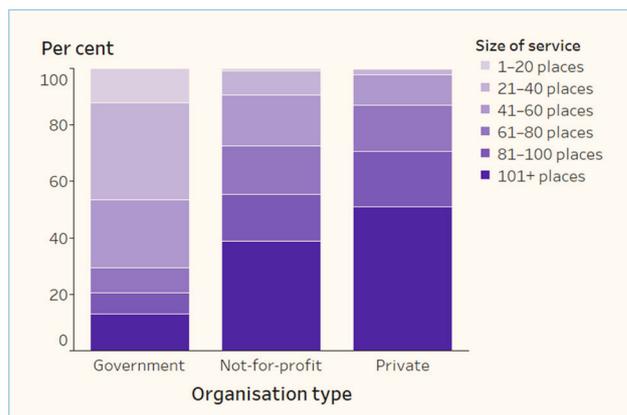

Figure 3: Places in residential aged care by organisation type and service size, 30 June 2017

More than half (51%) of the places managed by private organisations were delivered in services with more than 100 places, compared with 39% of places managed by not-for-profit organisations and 13% of places managed by government organisations (Figure 3).

Where can I find out more?

Report on the operation of the *Aged Care Act 1997*:

Department of Health 2017. 2016–17 Report on the operation of the *Aged Care Act 1997*. Accessed 14 March 2018. Available at: <https://gen-agedcaredata. gov.au/Resources/Reports-and-publications/2017/November/2016–17_Report_on_the_Operation_of_the_Aged_Ca>

Information and data on aged care in Australia

GEN-agedcaredata.gov.au

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