



Admissions into aged care

How do people start using aged care services?

When a person needs to use government-funded aged care services, they are first assessed by a specialist team. If appropriate, the assessment results in recommendation and approval for certain types of care. This factsheet presents highlights from the GEN topic Admissions into aged care.

What types of care did people enter?

In 2018–19, there were almost 221,200 admissions to residential aged care, home care and transition care across Australia. More than two-thirds of these were an admission to residential care—for either permanent (almost 70,000) or respite care (over 83,500) (Figure 1).

The number of admissions into aged care services has increased over recent years (Figure 1). Home care admissions have seen the greatest increase, increasing from almost 25,200 in 2009–10 to almost 43,800 in 2018–19 (Figure 1).

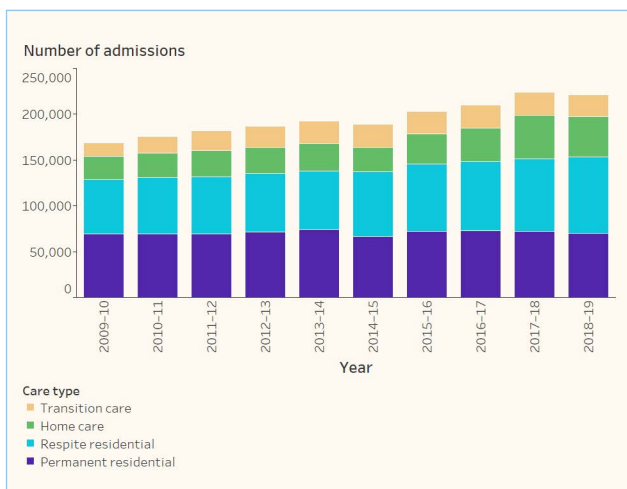


Figure 1: Admissions into aged care, by care type, 2009–10 to 2018–19

What rate of the population entered aged care services?

The target population for aged care services is all people aged 65 years and over, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50–64 years.

In 2018–19, there were 16.8 admissions into permanent residential care and 20.1 admissions into respite residential aged care per 1,000 people in the target population. The rate for home care was 10.5 admissions per 1,000 people, and for transition care 5.8 admissions per 1,000 people.

In 2018–19, Victoria had the highest rate of admissions into permanent residential aged care (18.2 per 1,000 people in the target population) (Figure 2). South Australia had the highest rates of admissions for respite residential care and transition care (28.3 and 7.3 admissions per 1,000 people respectively), while Queensland had the highest rate of admissions into home care (11.6 per 1,000 people in the target population) (Figure 2).

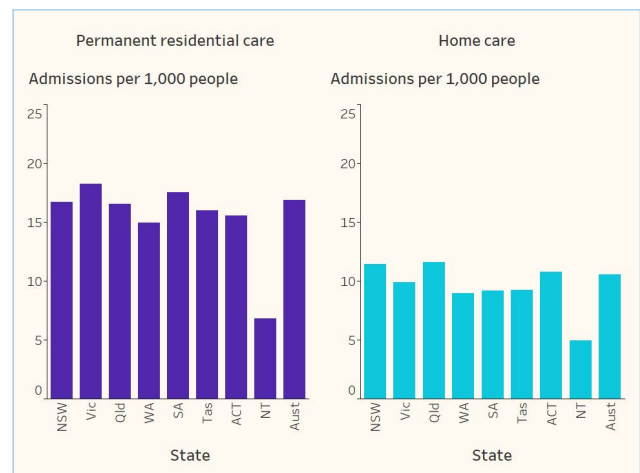


Figure 2: Admissions into aged care services per 1,000 people in the target population, by care type and state, 2018–19

At what age are people admitted to aged care services?

The most common age at admission was 85–89 years for both men and women, followed by the 80–84 age group.

Women made up 59% of admissions into permanent residential aged care and home care services in 2018–19. Women tend to enter aged care services later in life than men and as such, a larger proportion of men admitted to aged care services were in younger age groups compared with women (Figure 3).

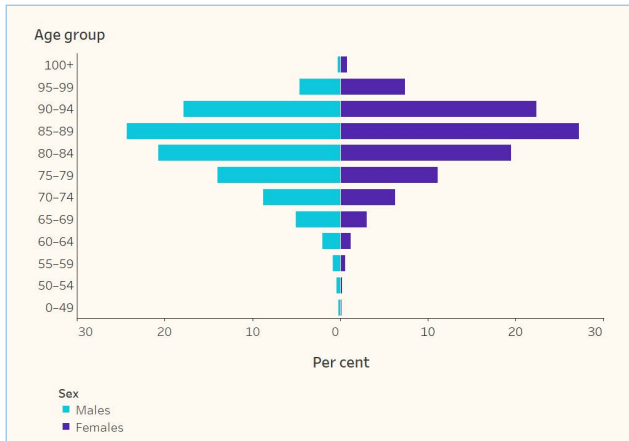


Figure 3: Age and sex of people who were admitted to permanent residential care and home care, 2018–19

What are the characteristics of people entering aged care for the first time?

Admissions are the number of *entries* into a type of aged care over a period, rather than the number of people entering aged care. A person can be counted multiple times if they enter the same type of aged care more than once, however, a first admission can only be counted once for each person entering a type of aged care in their lifetime.

The most common age group of people entering permanent residential care for the first time was 85–89 years, accounting for around a quarter of first admissions. The most common age group of people entering home care for the first time was 80–84.

Nearly two-thirds of people entering aged care for the first time in 2018–19 were women for both permanent residential aged care (59%) and home care (62%).

The number of first admissions into permanent residential care has remained relatively steady over the past five years, from around 56,500 in 2014–15 to almost 60,800 in 2018–19 (Figure 4). However, despite a slight decrease from last year, first admissions for home care have increased by 73% over the past five years, from over 23,200 in 2014–15 to over 40,000 in 2018–19.

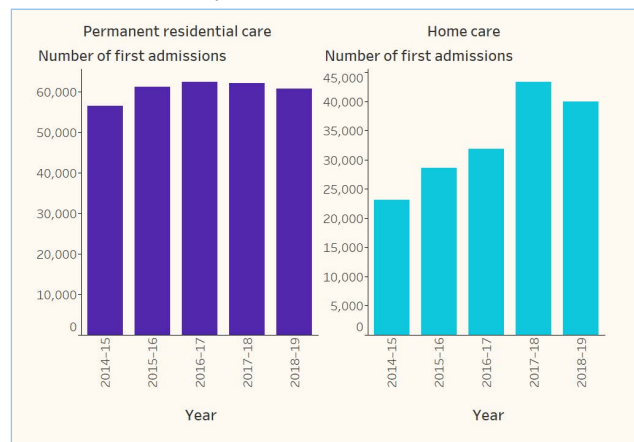


Figure 4: First admissions into aged care, by care type, 2013–14 to 2018–19

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GEN-agedcaredata.gov.au

Contact

GPO Box 570, Canberra, ACT 2601
(02) 6244 1000 | GEN@aihw.gov.au

