

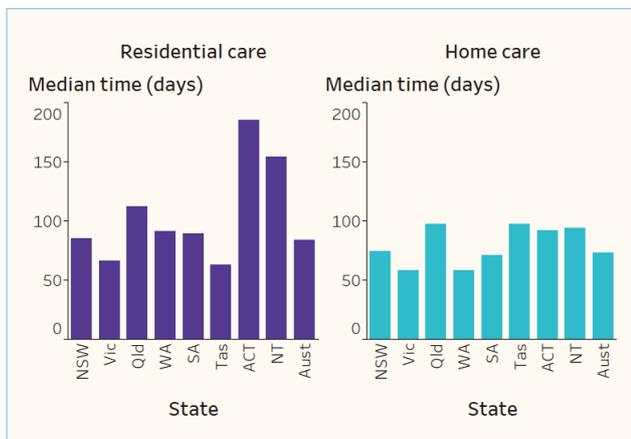


# Admissions into aged care

## How do people start using aged care services?

When a person feels they need 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.

In 2015–16 the average time between approval and entering aged care services across Australia was longer for residential care (84 days) than for home care (73 days) (Figure 1).



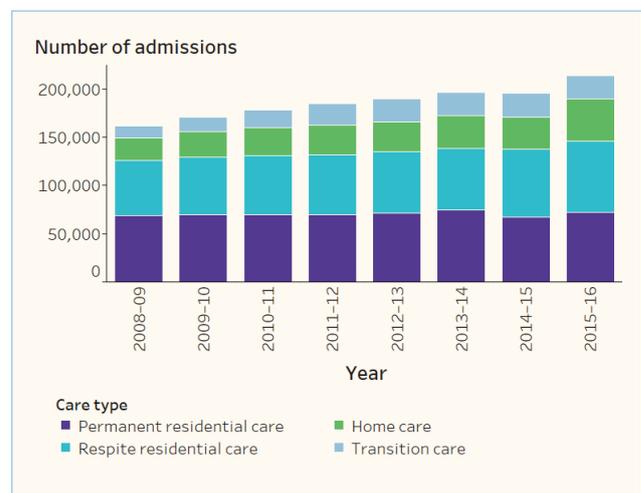
**Figure 1:** Median time between approval and entry into aged care services, 2015–16

The Australian Capital Territory had the longest median time between approval and entering into residential care (185 days). Queensland and Tasmania had the longest median times for home care (both 97 days).

## What types of care did people enter?

In 2015–16, there were 214,000 admissions to aged care across Australia. Approximately 1 in 3 of these admissions was to permanent residential care and 1 in 3 to respite residential care (Figure 2).

The number of admissions into aged care services has increased over recent years (Figure 2). The biggest year-on-year increase occurred between 2014–15 and 2015–16 (Figure 2). Home care admissions have seen the greatest increase, going from 23,000 in 2008–09 to 44,000 in 2015–16 (Figure 2).

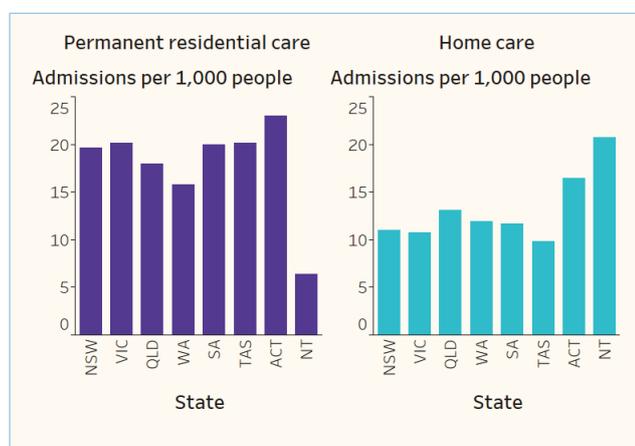


**Figure 2:** Admissions into aged care, 2008–09 to 2015–16

## What proportion of the population entered aged care services?

The target population for admissions to aged care services is all people aged 65 years and over, and Indigenous people aged 50–64 years.

Across Australia in 2015–16, there were 19 admissions into each type of residential care (respite and permanent) per 1,000 of the target population. The national rate of admission for home care was 12 people per 1,000, and for transition care 6 per 1,000. In 2015–16, the Australian Capital Territory had the highest rate of entries into permanent residential aged care (23 per 1,000 people in the target population). The Northern Territory had the highest rate of admissions into home care (21 per 1,000) (Figure 3).

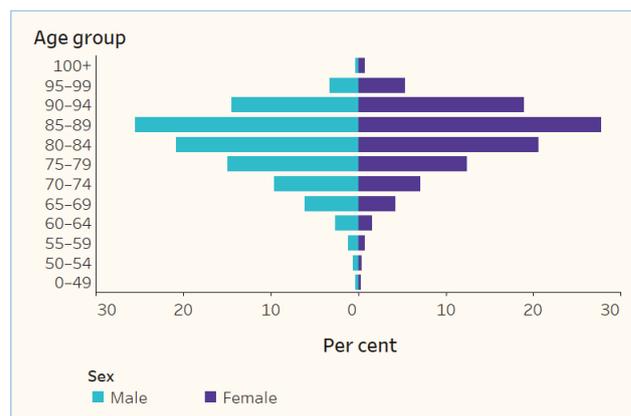


**Figure 3:** Admissions into aged care services per 1,000 people aged 70 and over

## At what age are people admitted to aged care services?

Women made up 60% of admissions into aged care services in 2015–16. 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 4).

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



**Figure 4:** Age and sex of people who were admitted to aged care services, 2015–16

## Where can I find out more?

**Productivity Commission:**

**Report on Government Services**

<http://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/report-on-government-services/2017/community-services>

### Suggested citation

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Information and data on aged care in Australia

[GEN-agedcaredata.gov.au](http://GEN-agedcaredata.gov.au)

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