



People using aged care

Who uses aged care services?

Almost one-quarter of a million (249,000) people use Australia’s government-funded aged care services on a typical day¹. This number has increased over the last decade (Figure 1).

The majority of these people are in permanent residential care (71%). Home care has grown the most over the decade, increasing from 18% of people using aged care in 2006 to 26% in 2016.

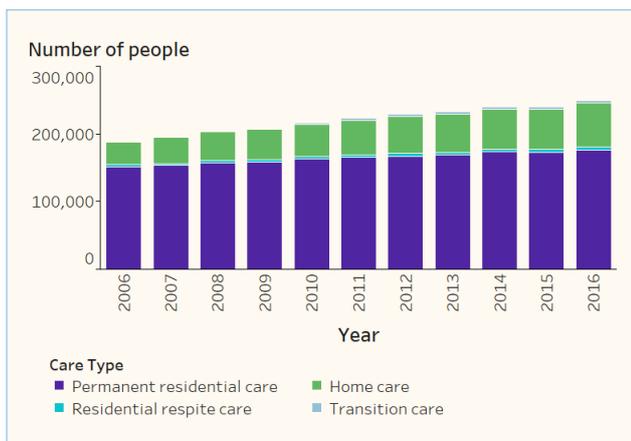


Figure 1: People using aged care services, 30 June 2006–2016

What proportion of the population uses aged care services?

The target population for aged care services is older people aged 65 years and over and Indigenous people aged 50–64 years. The use of residential care is much higher than in home care (48 and 17, per 1,000 older people, respectively).

South Australia’s usage rate for residential care was highest at 55 people per 1,000 of the target population (Figure 2). The Northern Territory was the only state or territory to have a higher usage rate for home care than residential care (29 per 1,000 older people compared with 18) (Figure 2).

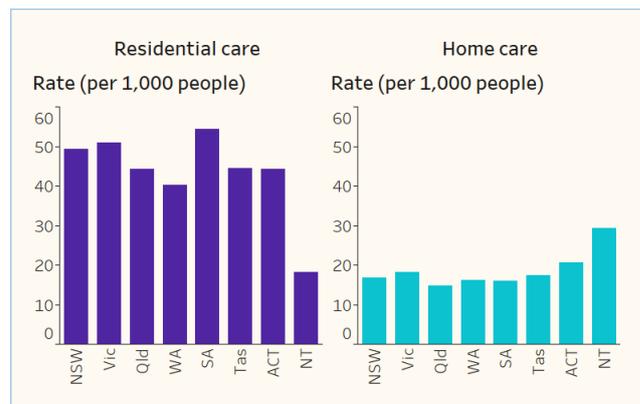


Figure 2: People using aged care services per 1,000 of the target population, by state, 30 June 2016

Women outnumber men in aged care

Women in Australia have a longer life expectancy than men and so are more likely to need aged care support. Accordingly, 2 in 3 people using aged care services are women.

A larger proportion of men using aged care services are in younger age groups compared to women (Figure 3). At June 2016, there were nearly 2,800 people aged 100 years or older in aged care.

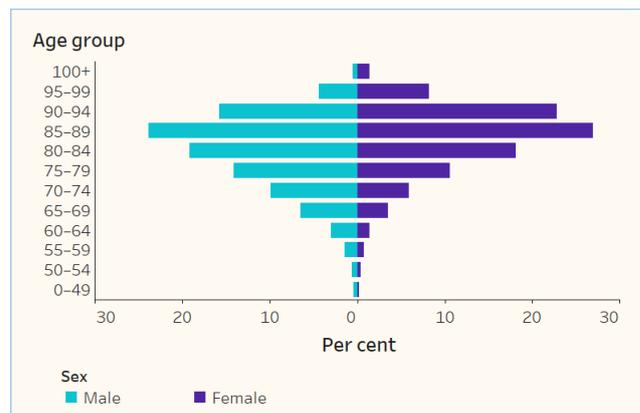


Figure 3: Age and sex of people using aged care services, 30 June 2016

¹ In addition, during 2015–16, around 640,000 older people were assisted in their home under the *Commonwealth Home Support Programme*, along with around 290,000 older people in Victoria and Western Australia under the *Home and Community Care* program.

Indigenous people are underrepresented in residential aged care

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make up 3% of Australia's population, yet less than 1% of people using mainstream residential aged care identified as Indigenous. In home care, 4% of people identified as Indigenous.

Indigenous people are more likely to use aged care services earlier in life than their non-Indigenous counterparts. The average age of Indigenous people in residential aged care is 73 years, compared with 85 years for non-Indigenous people.

There are also special programs and services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people which are not able to be reported in any detail.

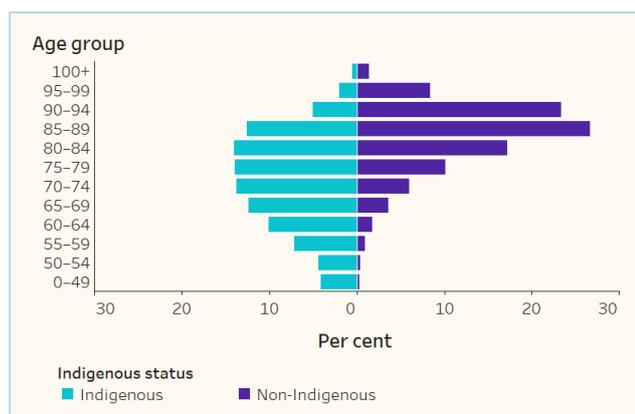


Figure 4: Age and Indigenous status of people in permanent residential aged care services, 30 June 2016

Does the use of residential care differ by location?

About 69% of people receiving aged care services are in the *Major cities of Australia*—where most aged care services are located.

People in *Remote and Very remote* areas are more likely to use residential care for respite than people in *Major cities* (4.6% compared with 2.6%) (Figure 5).

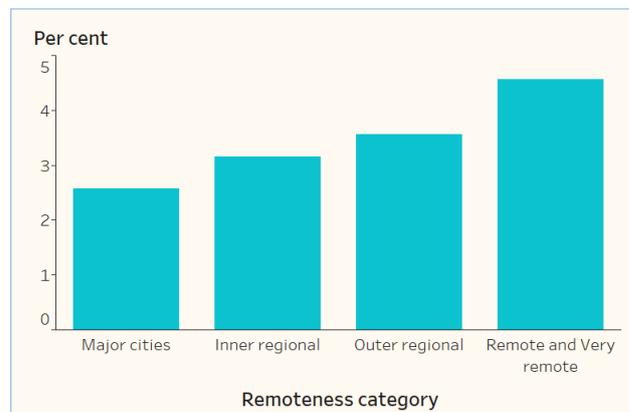


Figure 5: Proportion of people in residential aged care receiving respite care, 30 June 2016

Where can I find out more?

Department of Health:

Report on the Operation of the Aged Care Act

<<https://agedcare.health.gov.au/publications-and-articles/reports/report-on-the-operation-of-the-aged-care-act-1997>>

Report on Government Services

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

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Suggested citation

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2017. GEN fact sheet 2015–16: People using aged care. Canberra: AIHW.

ISBN 978-1-76054-183-5

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Information and data on aged care in Australia

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