



Younger people in residential aged care

The Australian Government is working to reduce the number of younger people (under the age of 65) going into residential aged care, and to help younger people who are already in residential aged care to move into age-appropriate accommodation with the supports they need. This factsheet presents highlights from the GEN resource page [Younger people in residential aged care](#).

Number of younger people in residential aged care

Age distribution

At 30 June 2021, the majority (59%) of younger people living in permanent residential aged care were aged 60–64. Nearly 4 in 10 (39%) were aged 45–59, and 3% were aged 18–44. The age distribution was similar for men and women (Figure 1).

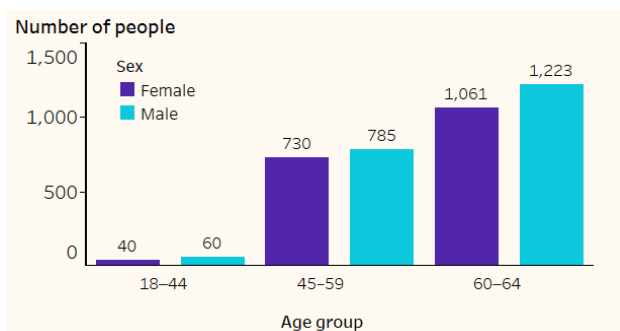


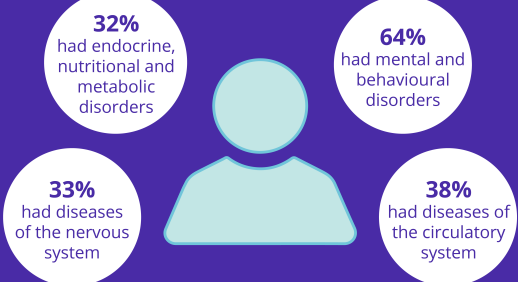
Figure 1: Age distribution of men and women under age 65 in permanent residential aged care, at 30 June 2021

Characteristics of younger people in residential aged care

Health conditions

Younger people living in residential aged care often have multiple health conditions.

In 2019–2020, among younger people in residential aged care in Australia whose health conditions were known:



Epilepsy, head injuries and incontinence are all more likely to be experienced by those **under the age of 45** than among those aged 45–64. People under age 45 are more likely than people aged 45–64 to have (acquired and congenital) health conditions and disabilities related to brain function.

Source: Analysis of younger people living in residential aged care: Report prepared for the Department of Health. Ipsos, July 2020. Data refer to the period July 2019 to February 2020.

Younger People in Residential Aged Care Strategy 2020–25

The Strategy sets out to achieve the goal of reducing the number of younger people in residential aged care through the following targets, apart from in exceptional circumstances:

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

During April to June 2021, **156 people** under the age of 65 were admitted into permanent residential aged care in Australia. This is a **37.1% decrease** from the same period in 2020.

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

At 30 June 2021, there were **100 people** aged under 45 living in residential aged care in Australia. This is a **23.1% decrease** from the same date in 2020.

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

At 30 June 2021, there were **3,899 people** aged under 65 living in residential aged care in Australia. This is a **19.7% decrease** from the same date in 2020.

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

The number of 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 2020 and 2021 (Figure 2).

Data notes

1. Unless otherwise noted, all analyses presented in this Factsheet are based on AIHW analysis of the Department of Health's Ageing and Aged Care Data Warehouse, August 2021.
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.

Suggested citation

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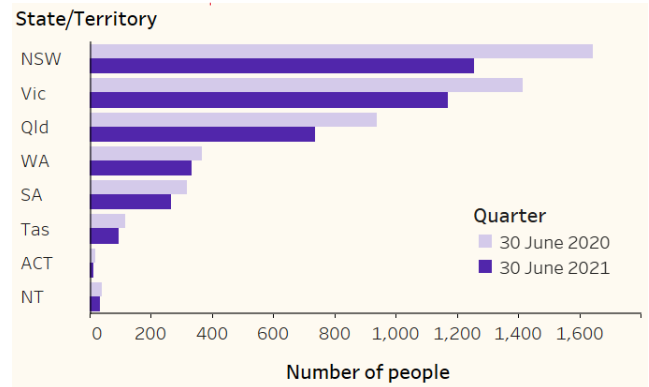


Figure 2: Number of people under age 65 in permanent residential aged care, by state and territory, at 30 June 2020 and 30 June 2021.

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 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, 901 younger people exited from permanent residential aged care. More than two thirds (67%) of exits from permanent residential aged care (604 people) had death recorded as the reason for leaving. Among the remaining exits, 60% (178 people) returned to family or home, 10% (29 people) exited to hospital, and 30% (90 people) exited to a destination recorded as an other location.

In the same period, the majority of exits (56%) were for people aged 60–64, more than 4 in 10 (42%) were for people aged 45–59, and 2% were for people aged 18–44. Access to NDIS supports may have contributed to the ability of younger people to exit permanent residential aged care to the family home, although the available data do not yet support analysis of this.

The average length of stay was 4 years and 5 months for younger people who were living in permanent residential aged care on 30 June 2021. 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>>



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