



# Pathways in aged care

## What is 'PIAC'?

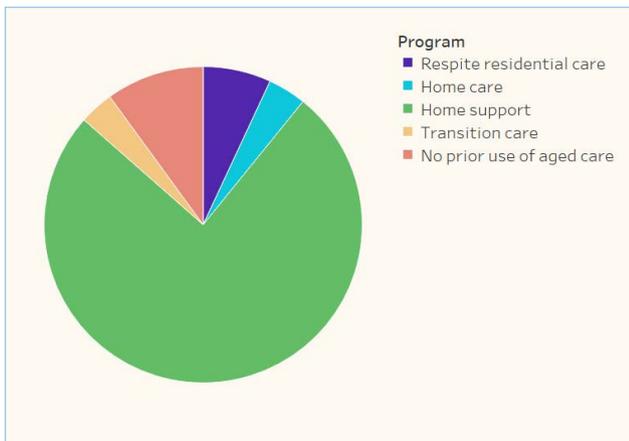
Pathways in aged care or 'PIAC' is a link map that allows data from different aged care databases to be connected, using privacy preserving linkage methods. Information can be brought together for each person who used aged care programs between July 1997 and June 2014. Data from PIAC can be used to examine a particular cohort of people using aged care and study their patterns of use in detail, including people's geographical movements between assessment and entry to care.

## What does PIAC tell us about patterns of use?

People who enter permanent residential aged care often use a mix of different aged care programs prior to entry (figure 1).

PIAC showed that among the 61,300 people who entered permanent residential aged care for the first time in 2013–14:

- 90% had previously used other aged care services—in all, they had used aged care in more than 1,000 combinations (or 'pathways').
- For 76% of people who entered the aged care system, Home Support (termed Home and Community Care or HACC at the time) was the first aged care service they ever used.



**Figure 1:** People who first entered permanent residential care in 2013–14, by first-used program

## Do the characteristics of people who need to move to receive care differ?

Information about people's location before and after they entered an aged care facility was collected for 60,550 records in 2013–14.

Around three-quarters (75%) of people who entered permanent residential care moved away from their immediate area, with the average distance being 54 kilometres, but this varied depending on people's characteristics.

## People in remote areas move further to access aged care

The average distance that people living in *remote and very remote* areas moved to enter residential aged care was over 400 kilometres, compared with 39 kilometres for people living *Major cities* (figure 2).

More than half (56%) of people living in *regional* areas near towns of 5,000–50,000 people did not move for permanent residential care, while under half (40%) of people living in *remote/very remote* areas had to move more than 100 kilometres.



**Figure 2:** Distance people moved for first admission into permanent residential aged care, by remoteness, 2013–14

## Indigenous people four times as likely to move 100+ km to access care

Indigenous people make up less than 1% of people using mainstream residential aged care, and were almost as likely to not move outside of their immediate area for permanent residential care (27%) as non-Indigenous people entering care (25%). However, Indigenous people who did need to move were four times as likely to move over 100 kilometres than non-Indigenous people (21% compared with 5.5%).

## Around two thirds of people with a carer moved less than 10km for care

Over a third (38%) of people who had a carer at the time of their assessment for permanent residential care moved less than 10 kilometres to enter care, and almost a quarter of people with a carer (24%) did not move away from their immediate area.

## People who had used aged care previously less likely to move long distances

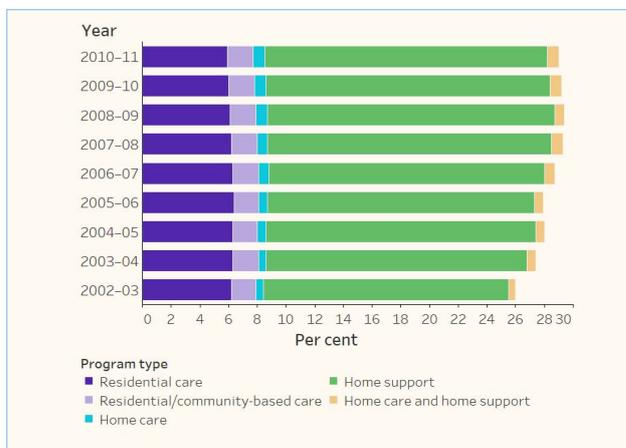
People who last used respite residential aged care before entering permanent residential care, were more likely to have not moved at all (27%). People who had not previously used aged care and those who had used home care packages were most likely to have moved more than 100 kilometres (both 6.4%).

## Patterns in aged care use have changed over time

PIAC provides an insight into changes in the patterns of use of aged care services and changes in the characteristics of people using them between 2002–03 and 2010–11.

- Around 1 in 10 men (and 1 in 7 women) aged 65–74 years used aged care services in any given year, rising to 1 in 3 men (and 2 in 5 women) aged 75–84.
- Both men and women had the highest usage rates of aged care services in the older age groups, with two thirds of men and 4 in 5 women aged 85 years and over using aged care services in any given year.

Between 2002–03 and 2010–11, the proportion of older people using residential aged care has decreased, and the number of older people using community based care has increased (figure 3)



**Figure 3:** Proportion of the older population (aged 65 and over) using aged care, by year and program type, 2002–03 to 2010–11

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### Suggested citation

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2019. GEN fact sheet 2017–18: People's care needs in aged care. Canberra: AIHW.

ISBN 978-1-76054-312-9

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## Information and data on aged care in Australia

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