



Fact Sheet: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' use of aged care services

How many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people use aged care services?

At 30 June 2018, nearly 4,700 older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people accessed Australian Government subsidised residential aged care or home care services (Figure 1).

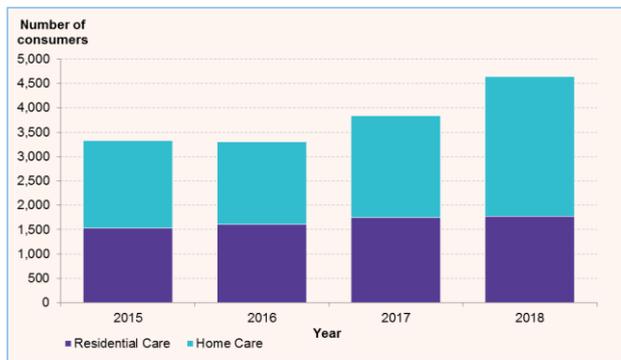


Figure 1: Numbers of aged care consumers identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, by care type, 30 June 2015 to 2018

The representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in aged care varies by care type. At 30 June 2018, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples represented 3 per cent of Australia's population. Only 1 per cent of people in residential aged care identified as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australian. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians are more highly represented in the Home Care Packages program, representing just over 4 per cent of consumers for that program.

In addition to the above programs, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians can access care through home support services such as those provided through the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP). In 2017-18, 3 per cent of CHSP recipients identified as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australian. Care is also available through flexible aged care programs such as the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program.

Before accessing aged care, an individual aged care assessment is undertaken to determine what sort of care best suits a person's needs. During 2017-18, there were 3,518 completed aged care assessments for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This represents 2 per cent of all aged care assessments undertaken for older Australians in that year.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in aged care services are younger than non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians are more likely to access aged care earlier in life than non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (Figures 2 and 3). The target population for aged care services encompasses all older people aged 65 years and over and also includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50-64 years.

The average age of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in residential aged care at 30 June 2018 was 73 years, compared with 85 years for non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

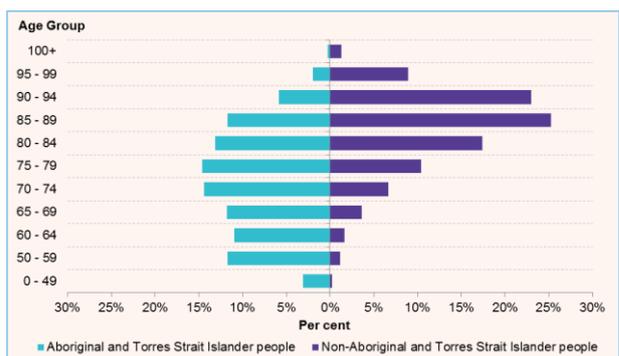


Figure 2: Permanent residents, by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identification and age group, 30 June 2018

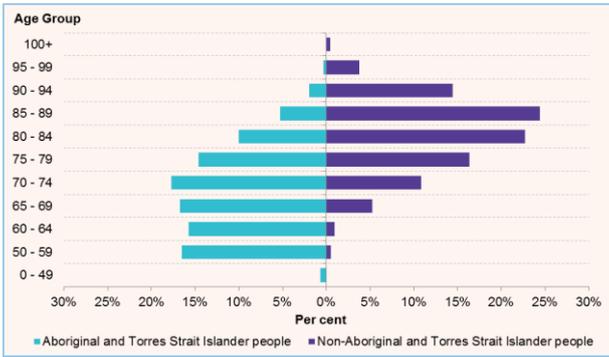


Figure 3: Home Care Package consumers, by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identification and age group, 30 June 2018

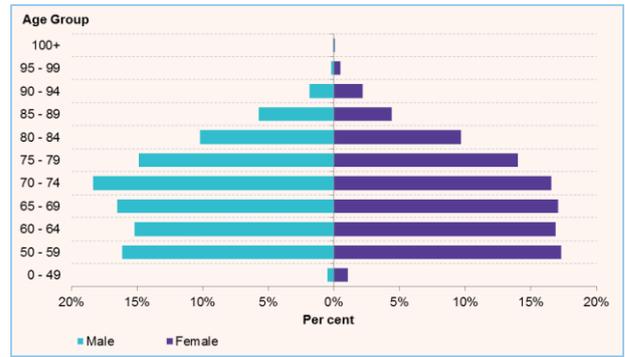


Figure 5: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in home care, by sex and age group, 30 June 2018

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in aged care are older than and outnumber Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in Australia have a longer life expectancy than Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men.

At 30 June 2018, six out of every ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people using residential aged care were women. Additionally, those women tended on average to be older than the men (Figure 4).

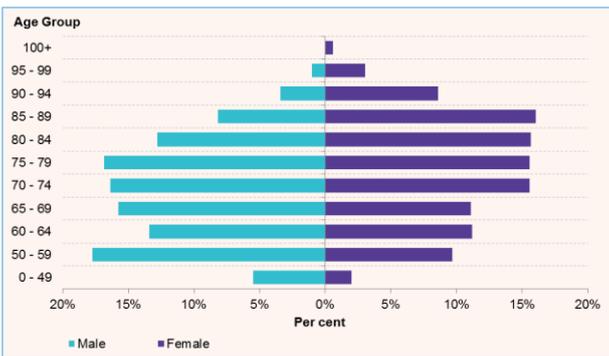


Figure 4: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in permanent residential care, by sex and age group, 30 June 2018

Nearly seven out of every ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with a Home Care Package are women. In home care, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women alike tended to be younger than those in residential aged care, with the women in home care being, on average, slightly older than the men (Figure 5).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more likely to use aged care services in rural and remote areas of Australia

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are much more highly represented as consumers of care in the more remote areas of Australia (Figure 6), both for residential aged care but particularly in home care.

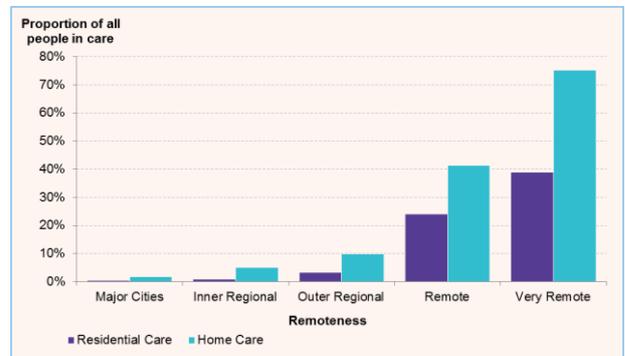


Figure 6: Representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in aged care, by care type and remoteness areas of Australia, 30 June 2018

Flexible aged care services are provided under the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program and are located mainly in rural and remote areas. Organisations are funded under this program to provide culturally appropriate aged care to older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people close to home. These services can deliver a mix of residential and home care services in accordance with the needs of the community.



At 30 June 2018, in addition to the 35 services funded by the Australian Government under the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program, there were 22 residential facilities, 96 home care services, and 218 home support outlets that had 50 per cent or more of their clients identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Australians.

More information can be found on the *Indigenous people receiving aged care services* dashboard on the *GEN – Aged Care Data website* (www.gen-agedcaredata.gov.au).