

Mental Health Establishments NMDS 2014–15: National Mental Health Establishments Database, 2017; Quality Statement

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Quality Statement
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Data quality

Data quality statement summary:

- The long term nature of the data contained in the National Mental Health Establishments Database (NMHED) means any analysis must consider all of the coherence caveats included in this quality statement. These specify classification changes from year to year. For example, changes to the classification of services from hospital to residential services.
- From 2014–15, all Youth beds are reported separately; previously these were rolled into the General category.
- Small numbers of beds for some Residential mental health service unit target population categories are rolled into the General category for some states and territories.
- Service level expenditure comparisons between states and territories must take into consideration the service profile mix in each jurisdiction.

Description

The National Mental Health Establishments Database (NMHED) contains data on specialised mental health care services managed or funded by state or territory health authorities in Australia. The NMHED is specified by the Mental health establishments (MHE) National Minimum Data Set (NMDS) (see [link](#)).

The NMHED includes data from 1992–93 to 2014–15. Since 2005–06 data have been compiled as specified by the MHE NMDS. Prior to this, data were collected through the National Survey of Mental Health Services and the Community Mental Health Establishments NMDS.

The NMHED includes information on the characteristics of specialised mental health services (for example, program type and target populations) and summary information on their expenditure, staffing and activity (for example, patient days, available beds, separations, service contacts and episodes).

The Mental Health Establishments (MHE) NMDS is associated with the Community Mental Health Care NMDS, Residential Mental Health Care NMDS, Admitted Patient NMDS and the Mental Health National Outcomes and Casemix Collection, which are used to collect data about clients and care provided by specialised mental health services.

Institutional environment: The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) is a major national agency set up by the Australian Government under the [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987](#) to provide reliable, regular and relevant information and statistics on Australia's health and welfare. It is an independent corporate Commonwealth Entity established in 1987, governed by a management Board, and accountable to the Australian Parliament through the Health portfolio.

The AIHW aims to improve the health and wellbeing of Australians through better health and welfare information and statistics. It collects and reports information on a wide range of topics and issues, ranging from health and welfare expenditure, hospitals, disease and injury, and mental health, to ageing, homelessness, disability and child protection.

The Institute also plays a role in developing and maintaining national metadata standards. This work contributes to improving the quality and consistency of national health and welfare statistics. The Institute works closely with governments and non-government organisations to achieve greater adherence to these standards in administrative data collections to promote national consistency and comparability of data and reporting.

One of the main functions of the AIHW is to work with the states and territories to improve the quality of administrative data and, where possible, to compile national data sets based on data from each jurisdiction, to analyse these data sets and disseminate information and statistics.

The [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987](#), in conjunction with compliance to the [Privacy Act 1988](#), (Cth) ensures that the data collections managed by the AIHW are kept securely and under the strictest conditions with respect to privacy and confidentiality.

For further information see the AIHW website www.aihw.gov.au.

Mental health services may be required to provide data to state and territory health authorities through a variety of administrative arrangements, contractual requirements or legislation. States and territories use these data for service planning, monitoring and internal and public reporting. In addition, state and territory health authorities supply data for the NMHED under the terms of the National Health Information Agreement (see [link](#)), as specified by the MHE NMDS (see 'Interpretability' section below).

The services that report to MHE NMDS may also report client level data in accordance with the to Community Mental Health Care NMDS (METeOR ID [646644](#)), Residential Mental Health Care NMDS (METeOR ID [525052](#)), Admitted patient NMDS (METeOR ID [553164](#)) and Mental Health National Outcomes and Casemix Collection (see [link](#)).

Timeliness: States and territories are required to supply data annually in accordance with the MHE NMDS specifications. The reference period for this data set is 2014–15, that is, services provided between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015. Data for the 2014–15 reference period were supplied to the AIHW at the beginning of May 2016.

The AIHW publishes data from the NMHED in its online product [Mental health services in Australia](#) annually.

Accessibility: The AIHW produces the annual series Mental health services in Australia, primarily as an online publication at <http://mhsa.aihw.gov.au/home/>. This includes pdf documents of all sections in the publication, as well as data workbooks and an interactive data portal.

In addition, a companion hard copy In brief summary document is produced and is available from the Digital and Media Communications Unit of the AIHW.

Interpretability:

Metadata information for the MHE NMDS is published in the AIHW's online metadata repository—METeOR.

METeOR can be accessed on the AIHW website:

<http://meteor.aihw.gov.au>

Data published annually in *Mental health services in Australia* include additional important caveat information to ensure appropriate interpretation of the analyses presented by the AIHW. Readers are advised to take note of footnotes and caveats specific to individual data tables that influence interpretability of specific data.

Relevance:

The scope of the MHE NMDS is highly relevant to provide a system-wide view of all specialised mental health services, managed or funded by state or territory health authorities.

Specialised psychiatric care (and associated costs) provided to patients admitted to wards/units that are not specialised public mental health inpatient units is not in scope.

Accuracy:

States and territories are primarily responsible for the quality of the MHE NMDS data they provide. The AIHW undertake extensive validation after files are submitted for review. Validation is conducted in two stages: (1) The compliance stage is managed by the AIHW and is concerned with ensuring that the file is structurally compliant. (2) The data validation stage is managed by the AIHW and is primarily concerned with identifying and explaining or fixing inconsistent, anomalous, and exceptional issues, including invalid values, missing data and historical inconsistency.

Although there are national standards for the reporting of mental health services data, differences in financial accounting, counting and classification practices may affect the comparability of these data.

Data are subject to ongoing historical validation. Due to this ongoing validation, 2005–06 to 2013–14 data could differ from previously reported data.

Coherence:

Data are reported for each year from 1992–93 to 2014–15. Data should be consistent across most jurisdictions and across years within most jurisdictions, with the following exceptions.

Youth beds

Admitted patient cost per bed day comparisons

Costs per inpatient bed day by [target population](#) and [program type](#) may not be comparable across jurisdictions. Classification of expenditure into target populations and program type is based on the classification of services as reported to the MHE NMDS rather than the characteristics of their patient populations. For a service to be classified as providing a Child and adolescent, Youth, Older persons' or Forensic mental health service for example, it must be recognised by the relevant state or territory funding authority as having a corresponding specialised function and is specifically funded to provide such specialty services. It is likely that the cost per patient day for General mental health services in a jurisdiction that has separate Child and adolescent and Older persons services (for example, NSW and Victoria), may not be comparable to the average cost in a jurisdiction that has General services only (for example, NT).

Full-time-equivalent (FTE) staffing

Data collected for specific professional categories are only available from 1994–95. Data prior to 2005–06 may exclude small numbers of staff employed by specialised mental health service organisations.

In 2012–13, the [Organisational overhead setting](#) was introduced. The category includes FTE staff not directly involved in the delivery of patient care services in the admitted patient, residential or community mental health care service settings, or in the operations of those settings. This does not imply that these roles do not have an impact on service delivery. The introduction of this new category may have resulted in an observed decreased FTE in the other service setting categories for some jurisdictions, and may not have been consistently applied both within and between

jurisdictions.

New South Wales

For NSW, Confused and Dementia Elderly (CADE) residential mental health services were reclassified as admitted patient hospital services from 1 July 2007. All data relating to these services have been reclassified from 2007–08 onwards, including expenditure. Long term analysis of admitted and residential services must take this change into consideration.

Housing and Accommodation Support Initiative (HASI) services provided in New South Wales are considered out-of-scope as residential services according to the Mental Health Establishments NMDS.

The quality of the NSW 2010–11 MHE NMDS was affected by the reconfiguration of 10 Area Health Services into 18 Local Health Districts mid the 2010–11 financial year. In 2013–14, NSW restructured all Hospital, Cluster and Organisation entities resulting in a decrease in the reported number of organisations.

Victoria

For Victoria, 70% of the expenditure reported by Prevention and Recovery Care (PARC) units has been deemed to be NGO expenditure, contrasting with data presented in the Facilities section, where beds, mental health care days, etc. are shown as government operated services.

Prior to 2014–15, a small number of residential beds reported as Youth residential services were included in the General category at the request of Victoria. From 2014–15 onwards, these beds are reported as classified in the data collection.

Queensland

Long term analysis of admitted and residential services in Qld must take the following reporting changes into consideration:

- Caution is required when interpreting trends in Queensland for hospital admitted patient services and community residential services from 1999–00. Commencing in 1999–00, Queensland opened a number of services that fall within the national definition of residential mental health services, but reported these facilities as hospital admitted patient services. For the years 1999–00 to 2004–05, under the National Survey of Mental Health Services (NSMHS), these services were reclassified by the Australian Government as residential mental health services to achieve consistency with national definitions and across jurisdictions. Following the introduction in 2005–06 of the Mental Health Establishments NMDS data collection, Queensland has continued to report these facilities as hospital admitted patient services. In contrast to the earlier years' data, no service reclassification has been made and the data for all years from 2005–06 are presented as reported by Queensland.
- A number of services previously classified as forensic were reclassified as general services in 2009–10 to more accurately reflect the function of these services.
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FTE data for a small number of Youth hospital services have been reported in the General category at the request of Queensland.

Queensland provides Older persons' mental health inpatient services using a number of different service models; however, the majority of Older persons' acute care is reported through General units, which limits comparability with jurisdictions that report these services differently. Queensland does not report any Forensic services; however, forensic patients can and do access acute care through General units.

Queensland implemented a new methodology to calculate FTE for the 2009–10 collection period, resulting in a reduction in reported FTE. Changes in reporting practises in Queensland may have resulted in a decrease in Consumer workers FTE in 2012–13. Consideration of these issues change should be made when conducting time series analysis.

Western Australia

For WA data, a review of services resulted in the reclassification of beds between the acute and non-acute categories for the 2010–11 collection, to more accurately reflect the function of these services. Several residential services reported as 24-hour staffed services in 2009–10 transitioned to a non-24-hour staffed model of care as of 1 July 2010. Long term analysis of admitted services must take these changes into consideration.

A small number of beds in Youth residential mental health care services were reclassified as General at the request of WA.

South Australia

A small number of beds in Forensic residential mental health care services were reclassified as General at the request of SA.

Tasmania

In 2014–15 Tasmania reclassified 27 non-acute admitted beds to residential beds, reflecting a change in function of the unit. Long term analysis of admitted and residential services must take this change into consideration.

Australian Capital Territory

A small number of beds in Youth residential mental health care services were reclassified as General at the request of ACT.

Northern Territory

Domestic staffing FTE figures are routinely unavailable for the NT.

Data products

Implementation start date: 01/07/2014

Source and reference attributes

Steward: [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](#)

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Supersedes [Mental Health Establishments NMDS 2013–14: National Residential Mental Health Care Database, 2015: Quality Statement](#)
[AIHW Data Quality Statements](#), Superseded 04/05/2017

Has been superseded by [Mental Health Establishments NMDS 2015–16: National Mental Health Establishments Database, 2018: Quality Statement](#)
[AIHW Data Quality Statements](#), Superseded 21/03/2019

See also [Mental health establishments NMDS 2014-15 Health](#), Superseded 13/11/2014