

National Healthcare Agreement: PI 30a—Elapsed time for aged care services: residential aged care, 2021

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National Healthcare Agreement: PI 30a–Elapsed time for aged care services: residential aged care, 2021

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Indicator
Indicator type:	Progress measure
Short name:	PI 30a–Elapsed time for aged care services: residential aged care, 2021
METEOR identifier:	727524
Registration status:	Health , Standard 19/11/2020
Description:	The elapsed time between an Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT) approval and entry into a residential aged care service.
Indicator set:	National Healthcare Agreement (2021) Health , Standard 19/11/2020
Outcome area:	Aged Care Health , Standard 07/07/2010

Collection and usage attributes

Computation description:	<p>Elapsed time for aged care services: residential aged care is calculated by subtracting the date at which the person enters residential aged care from the approval date of the most recent ACAT assessment.</p> <p>Data for residential care only includes permanent age care residents.</p> <p>Elapsed time period: within 2 days or less, 7 days or less, less than 1 month, less than 3 months, less than 9 months, and 9 months and over.</p> <p>Presented as percentages of people admitted by length of the elapsed time period and service type.</p>
Computation:	100 x (Numerator ÷ Denominator) calculated separately for each service type and elapsed time period.
Numerator:	Number of aged care recipients who first commence a service within elapsed time periods during the financial year.

Numerator data elements:**Data Element / Data Set****Data Element**

Aged care recipient—ACAT approval date

Data Source

[Australian Government Department of Health's Ageing and Aged Care data warehouse](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set**Data Element**

Aged care recipient—first admission indicator

Data Source

[Australian Government Department of Health's Ageing and Aged Care data warehouse](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set**Data Element**

Aged care recipient—service commencement date

Data Source

[Australian Government Department of Health's Ageing and Aged Care data warehouse](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Denominator:

Total number of aged care recipients who first commence a service during the financial year, excluding those whose ACAT approval was on or after commencement in a service.

Denominator data elements:

Data Element / Data Set

Data Element

Aged care recipient—first admission indicator

Data Source

[Australian Government Department of Health's Ageing and Aged Care data warehouse](#)

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Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

Data Element

Aged care recipient—service commencement date

Data Source

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Disaggregation:

2019–20—State and territory, by:

- Indigenous status
- remoteness (Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Remoteness Structure)
- 2016 Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD) quintiles

2019–2020—Nationally, by 2016 SEIFA IRSD deciles (not reported).

Analysis of Indigenous status is by self-reported indication on the associated last ACAT assessment record made before entry into aged care.

Disaggregation by state and territory is based on the location of the aged care service.

Disaggregation by remoteness and SEIFA is based on the recipient's postcode at time of assessment.

Some disaggregations may result in numbers too small for publication.

Disaggregation data elements:

Data Element / Data Set

Data Element

Establishment—geographical location

Data Source

[Australian Government Department of Health's Ageing and Aged Care data warehouse](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Used for disaggregation by state/territory for residential aged care residents.

Data Element / Data Set

Data Element

Aged care recipient—area of usual residence

Data Source

[Australian Government Department of Health's Ageing and Aged Care data warehouse](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Used for disaggregation by state/territory, remoteness and SEIFA

Data Element / Data Set

Data Element

Aged care recipient—Indigenous status

Data Source

[Australian Government Department of Health's Ageing and Aged Care data warehouse](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Comments:

Most recent data available for 2021 National Healthcare Agreement performance reporting: 2019–20.

Administrative data on waiting time for residential aged care is not available in the Australian Government Department of Health's Ageing and Aged Care data warehouse.

This indicator needs to be interpreted with care. The measure of 'elapsed time' is described because the period between entry into residential aged care and the ACAT approval may be due to factors, which cannot be categorised as 'waiting' time. These include:

- care placement offers that are not accepted
- the availability of alternative community care, informal care and respite services
- variations in care fee regimes that influence client choice of preferred service
- building quality and perceptions about quality of care that influence client choice of preferred service
- obtaining approval for care for use in the future, without intending to accept the care offer in the short term.

'Elapsed time for aged care services' and 'waiting time for aged care services' are distinct but related concepts.

- Elapsed time is the time in days between when a person is approved for aged care service by an ACAT delegate and when they are assigned the care type applicable to that particular approval. It is not necessarily representative of 'waiting time' as client choice may play a part, e.g. a person may choose to explore alternative care options when the care type they are approved for may already be available, or they may simply choose not to take up that care at that time.
- Waiting time for aged care services is the period between a person choosing to take up a care type that they cannot immediately access and them commencing the receipt of that care. Waiting time may therefore only be a portion of total elapsed time to enter aged care.

To access Australian Government subsidised residential aged care or home care packages, a person must undergo an Aged Care Assessment and be found eligible ('approved') for that care type. 'Approval' specifically is an administrative step in the assessment process, granted by a specified delegate in the assessment workforce and following a comprehensive, preferably face-to-face assessment of the client and their care needs.

From 1 July 2014, as part of Australian Government reforms to the aged care system, the distinction between low care and high care was removed for permanent residential aged care. Therefore, residential care data from 2014–15 onwards will be reported for total residential care only. (Residential care data for previous years was reported disaggregated by low care and high care).

Representational attributes

Representation class: Percentage

Data type: Real

Unit of measure: Person

Format: N[NN].N

Data source attributes

Data sources:**Data Source**

[Australian Government Department of Health's Ageing and Aged Care data warehouse](#)

Frequency

Ongoing

Data custodian

Australian Government Department of Health

Accountability attributes

Reporting requirements: National Healthcare Agreement

Organisation responsible for providing data: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

Further data development / collection required: Specification: Minor work required. The measure needs minor work to meet the intention of the indicator.

Consideration to be given to collect "reason for delayed uptake" where elapsed time is greater than 3 months.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

Supersedes [National Healthcare Agreement: PI 30–Elapsed time for aged care services, 2020](#)

[Health](#), Standard 16/01/2020

Has been superseded by [National Healthcare Agreement: PI 30a–Elapsed time for aged care services: residential aged care, 2022](#)

[Health](#), Standard 24/09/2021

See also [National Healthcare Agreement: PI 30b–Elapsed time for aged care services: home care packages, 2021](#)

[Health](#), Standard 19/11/2020