

# Introduction

This publication is part of an annual series of statistics about aspects of residential aged care in Australia. Australia's aged care system is structured around two main forms of formal care delivery: residential and community care. Both forms of care continue to expand in absolute terms as the population of older people who require assistance grows.

The number of residential aged care places has increased, but there is a continuing strong emphasis on the provision and evaluation of innovative and flexible community care to help people stay in their own homes. There are two community care programs which aim to deliver the equivalent of care provided in the residential aged care sector to people living in the community.

Community Aged Care Packages (CACPs) provide care for frail or disabled older people whose dependency and complex care needs would qualify them for entry to an aged care home at least for low level care. The Extended Aged Care at Home (EACH) program aims to deliver care at home that is equivalent to high level residential care. This program began as a pilot in 2000, but is now established as an ongoing program.

This publication is primarily concerned with residential aged care. The section on provision of aged care places, however, also includes data on CACPs and EACH places. Places and packages through all three programs are included in the Australian Government's provision ratio targets for aged care. Access to assistance from each program requires a recommendation from an Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT).

This report has been structured slightly differently from earlier reports in the series.

Chapter 1 presents data on the provision of places and packages, including data on allocated places for recent financial years. Chapter 2 reports data on the number, size and location of residential aged care services, while Chapter 3 examines patterns of service use by residents, including admissions and separations. Chapter 4 describes characteristics of residents as at 30 June 2004, and characteristics of newly admitted and separated residents during 2003-04. Three appendixes provide additional time series data, population data and notes on the data and their limitations.

Cases where data are unknown or not reported have been excluded in relevant calculations presented in the text.

# 1 Provision

## Operational places and packages

Residential aged care provision increased in absolute terms from 151,181 places at 30 June 2003 to 156,580 places at 30 June 2004 (Table 1.1). At the same time the provision of Community Aged Care Packages (CACPs) increased from 27,881 at 30 June 2003 to 29,063 at 30 June 2004. At 30 June 2003 a total of 255 places under the Extended Aged Care at Home (EACH) program were available. This rose to 860 EACH places at 30 June 2004.

In addition to reporting provision by mainstream services, the tables in this section of the report also incorporate residential aged care places and CACPs delivered by Multi-Purpose Services and services receiving flexible funding under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aged Care Strategy.

Because residential aged care places, CACPs and now EACH places are intrinsically linked, they are combined to present an indication of the provision of aged care against the planning target. The planning ratio target for the 2003-04 reporting year was 100 places and packages per 1,000 persons aged 70 years and over. The provision ratio declined in the late 1980s and early 1990s but stabilised in the mid-to-late 1990s at around 93-94 places and packages per 1,000 persons aged 70 years and over (AIHW 1995:381-2; AIHW 1997:384-5). Since 2002, the ratio has risen as a consequence of new aged care places and packages being made available (see Table 1.1 and Figure 1.1).

The combined ratio of residential aged care places and CACPs per 1,000 persons aged 70 years and over increased from 98.1 at 30 June 2003 to 99.8 at 30 June 2004. These changes resulted from an increase in CACPs from a provision ratio of 15.3 at 30 June 2003 to 15.6 at 30 June 2004, and an increase in the residential aged care ratio from 82.8 at 30 June 2003 to 84.2 at 30 June 2004. Taking into account the contribution from EACH places at 30 June 2004, the provision ratio was 100.3 places and packages per 1,000 persons aged 70 years and over.

**Table 1.1: Number of operational residential aged care places, CACPs and EACH places and the provision ratio per 1,000 persons aged 70 years and over<sup>(a)</sup> 30 June 1995 to 30 June 2004.**

Year	Residential places	CACP packages	EACH places	Total	Residential places provision ratio	CACP provision ratio	EACH provision ratio	Total provision ratio <sup>(a)</sup>
1995	134,810	2,542		137,352	92.2	1.7		93.9
1996	136,851	4,431		141,282	90.6	2.9		93.5
1997	139,058	6,124		145,182	89.2	3.9		93.1
1998	139,917	10,046		149,963	87.1	6.3		93.3
1999	141,697	13,896		155,593	85.6	8.4		94.0
2000	142,342	18,308		160,650	83.6	10.8		94.4
2001	144,013	24,629		168,642	82.2	14.0		96.2
2002	146,268	26,425		172,693	81.7	14.8		96.4
2003	151,181	27,881	255 <sup>(b)</sup>	179,062	82.8	15.3		98.1
2004	156,580	29,063	860	186,488	84.2	15.6	0.5	100.3

(a) The ratios are based on Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) population estimates released in December 2004, cat. no. 3101.0, and are recalculated back to 1997. (ABS 2004b).

(b) In 2003, the EACH program was in a pilot phase.

#### Notes

1. From 1999, the data in this table include places and packages provided by Multi-Purpose Services and flexible funding under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aged Care Strategy. At 30 June 2004 there were a total of 447 Packages and 2,093 places from these sources.
2. The ratios for 2004 differ from those published by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing which, for reporting purposes, used small area projections based on the ABS 2002 Population Projections, Series B.

## State and territory variations

The ratios for residential aged care places per 1,000 persons aged 70 years and over varied across the states and territories. The Northern Territory had the highest level of provision at 101.3 places per 1,000 people aged 70 years and over, followed by South Australia (89.8) and Tasmania (86.8). These were followed by Queensland (86.1), Victoria (83.3), Western Australia (83.3), New South Wales (82.7), and the Australian Capital Territory (73.7) (Table 1.3).

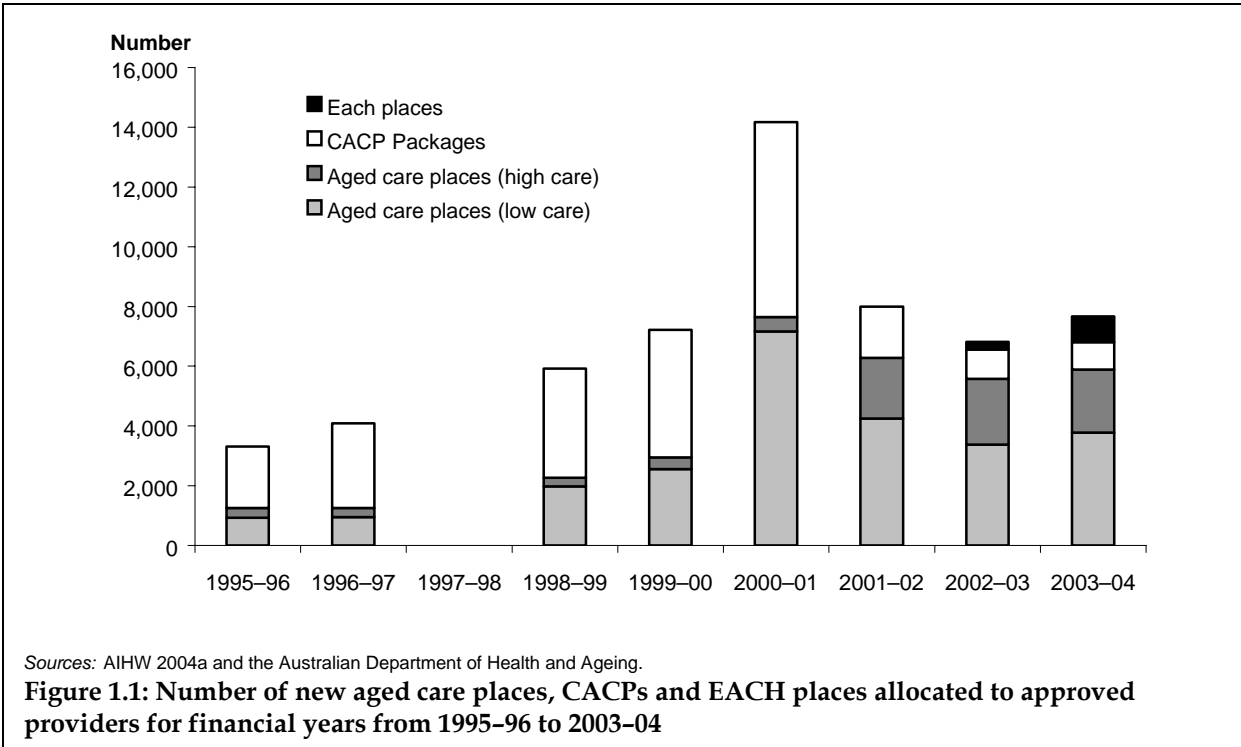
The ratios of the combined number of CACPs, EACH places and residential aged care places per 1,000 persons aged 70 years and over at the state/territory level were: Northern Territory (223.1), South Australia (106.3), Tasmania (104.9), Queensland (100.9), Victoria (99.3), Western Australia (99.0), New South Wales (98.3), and the Australian Capital Territory (93.9) (Table 1.3).

The higher level of provision in the Northern Territory is a consequence of a comparatively young population profile and a relatively large Indigenous population; as a result of their poorer health status, Indigenous people access residential aged care and Community Aged Care Packages at younger ages, on average, than do non-Indigenous people. If the population figures used in the denominator to calculate the places ratio include Indigenous people aged between 50 years and 69 years as well as the general population aged 70 years and over, a different picture emerges. For the Northern Territory, the ratio for residential aged care reduces from 101.3 to 50.5, whereas the aggregate Australian ratio only reduces from 84.2 to 82.3. The ratio for CACPs, EACH and residential aged care reduces from 223.1 to 111.2 in the Northern Territory, while the ratio for Australia only reduces from 100.3 to 98.0.

# Allocated places and packages to approved providers

Given the time lags between residential places, EACH places and CACPs being approved, allocated and then becoming operational, consideration of operational places and packages alone does not give a complete picture of the aged care sector. There are a significant number of new residential places and CACPs allocated to approved providers from recent aged care approvals rounds. In the February 2004 round an additional 2,105 high care residential places, and 3,784 low care residential aged care places were allocated to approved providers (Figure 1.1). The allocation of high care places during 2003-04 has continued at a similar level as occurred during the previous 2 years. This level of allocation has been significantly higher during the last 3 years compared with allocations in the preceding 5 years from 1995-96. A similar number of CACPs was allocated as in the previous year. The ratio of allocated CACPs to residential aged care places was lower in the past 3 years up to 30 June 2004 than was the case in the preceding period. The data supporting Figure 1.1 was supplied by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

Further statistics about CACPs will be published as a separate report in this series (AIHW forthcoming). More detailed information about CACP and EACH care recipients and the type of assistance they receive was published recently (AIHW 2004b). The remainder of this report is concerned with residential aged care only.



**Table 1.2: Residential aged care places, CACPs and EACH places, state/territory by remoteness<sup>(a)</sup>, 30 June 2004**

State/territory	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote	Very remote	Australia
Number						
<b>Residential places</b>						
NSW	37,226	12,528	3,926	217	13	53,910
Vic	28,166	9,033	2,515	53	n.a.	39,767
Qld	15,112	8,192	4,212	345	218	28,079
WA	10,161	1,543	1,229	261	165	13,359
SA	11,442	1,645	1,624	333	123	15,167
Tas	n.a.	3,100	1,065	47	23	4,235
ACT	1,534	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1,534
NT	n.a.	n.a.	241	170	118	529
<i>Australia</i>	<i>103,641</i>	<i>36,041</i>	<i>14,812</i>	<i>1,426</i>	<i>660</i>	<i>156,580</i>
<b>CACPs</b>						
NSW	6,733	2,468	683	50	21	9,955
Vic	5,510	1,601	263	14	n.a.	7,388
Qld	2,135	1,337	909	142	168	4,691
WA	1,735	305	206	153	43	2,442
SA	1,901	444	253	72	55	2,725
Tas	n.a.	583	234	24	15	856
ACT	391	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	391
NT	n.a.	n.a.	190	118	307	615
<i>Australia</i>	<i>18,405</i>	<i>6,738</i>	<i>2,738</i>	<i>573</i>	<i>609</i>	<i>29,063</i>
<b>Each places</b>						
NSW	161	55	33	0	0	249
Vic	174	75	0	0	n.a.	249
Qld	75	30	25	4	0	134
WA	75	0	0	0	0	75
SA	49	20	8	0	0	77
Tas	n.a.	25	0	0	0	25
ACT	30	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	30
NT	n.a.	n.a.	21	0	0	21
<i>Australia</i>	<i>564</i>	<i>205</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>860</i>
<b>Total (places and packages)</b>						
Number						
NSW	44,120	15,051	4,642	267	34	64,114
Vic	33,850	10,709	2,778	67	n.a.	47,404
Qld	17,322	9,559	5,146	491	386	32,904
WA	11,971	1,848	1,435	414	208	15,876
SA	13,392	2,109	1,885	405	178	17,969
Tas	n.a.	3,708	1,299	71	38	5,116
ACT	1,955	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1,955
NT	n.a.	n.a.	452	288	425	1,165
<b>Australia</b>	<b>122,610</b>	<b>42,984</b>	<b>17,637</b>	<b>2,003</b>	<b>1,269</b>	<b>186,503</b>
<b>Total (places and packages)</b>						
Per cent						
NSW	68.8	23.5	7.2	0.4	0.1	100.0
Vic	71.4	22.6	5.9	0.1	n.a.	100.0
Qld	52.6	29.1	15.6	1.5	1.2	100.0
WA	75.4	11.6	9.0	2.6	1.3	100.0
SA	74.5	11.7	10.5	2.3	1.0	100.0
Tas	n.a.	72.5	25.4	1.4	0.7	100.0
ACT	100.0	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	100.0
NT	n.a.	n.a.	38.8	24.7	36.5	100.0
<b>Australia</b>	<b>65.7</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Refers to the location of the services. The table uses the Australian Standard Geographical Classification Remoteness Structure as developed by the ABS.

Note: These figures include places and packages provided by Multi-Purpose Services and places and packages funded under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aged Care Strategy.

n.a. Not applicable.

**Table 1.3: Residential aged care places, CACPs and EACH places per 1,000 persons aged 70 years and over, state/territory by remoteness<sup>(a)</sup>, 30 June 2004**

State/territory	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote	Very remote	Total (70+)	Total (70+ and Indigenous population aged 50–69 years)
							Ratio
<b>Residential places</b>							
NSW	84.5	82.8	69.6	66.5	26.1	82.7	81.0
Vic	83.8	82.9	80.4	66.2	n.a.	83.3	82.8
Qld	88.3	83.7	86.1	65.0	70.5	86.1	83.1
WA	86.7	69.2	82.8	59.6	107.1	83.3	80.3
SA	92.2	83.0	82.7	72.9	155.0	89.8	88.5
Tas	n.a.	96.5	68.4	59.7	85.6	86.8	83.9
ACT	73.8	0.0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	73.7	72.8
NT	n.a.	n.a.	78.6	144.2	120.9	101.3	50.5
<i>Australia</i>	<i>85.6</i>	<i>83.4</i>	<i>78.1</i>	<i>70.3</i>	<i>92.1</i>	<i>84.2</i>	<i>82.3</i>
<b>CACP packages</b>							
NSW	15.3	16.3	12.1	15.3	42.2	15.3	15.0
Vic	16.4	14.7	8.4	17.5	n.a.	15.5	15.4
Qld	12.5	13.7	18.6	26.7	54.4	14.4	13.9
WA	14.8	13.7	13.9	34.9	27.9	15.2	14.7
SA	15.3	22.4	12.9	15.8	69.3	16.1	15.9
Tas	n.a.	18.1	15.0	30.5	55.8	17.6	17.0
ACT	18.8	0.0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	18.8	18.5
NT	n.a.	n.a.	61.9	100.1	314.5	117.8	58.7
<i>Australia</i>	<i>15.2</i>	<i>15.6</i>	<i>14.4</i>	<i>28.2</i>	<i>85.0</i>	<i>15.6</i>	<i>15.3</i>
<b>EACH places</b>							
NSW	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4
Vic	0.5	0.7	0.0	0.0	n.a.	0.5	0.5
Qld	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.8	0.0	0.4	0.4
WA	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.5
SA	0.4	1.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.4
Tas	n.a.	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.5
ACT	1.4	0.0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1.4	1.4
NT	n.a.	n.a.	6.8	0.0	0.0	4.0	2.0
<i>Australia</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>0.5</i>
<b>Total</b>							
NSW	100.1	99.5	82.3	81.8	68.3	98.3	96.3
Vic	100.7	98.3	88.8	83.6	n.a.	99.3	98.7
Qld	101.3	97.7	105.1	92.5	124.9	100.9	97.4
WA	102.1	82.9	96.7	94.5	135.0	99.0	95.4
SA	107.9	106.4	96.0	88.6	224.3	106.3	104.8
Tas	n.a.	115.4	83.4	90.2	141.5	104.9	101.3
ACT	94.1	0.0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	93.9	92.7
NT	n.a.	n.a.	147.4	244.3	435.3	223.1	111.2
<b>Australia</b>	<b>101.3</b>	<b>99.4</b>	<b>92.9</b>	<b>98.7</b>	<b>177.0</b>	<b>100.3</b>	<b>98.0</b>

(a) Refers to the location of the places. The table uses the Australian Standard Geographical Classification Remoteness Structure as developed by the ABS.

n.a. Not applicable.

Notes

- These figures include places and packages provided by Multi-Purpose Services and places and packages funded under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aged Care Strategy.
- The 2004 Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) population figures were derived at the AIHW from the 2003 ASGC population figures and the ABS estimated resident population figures for state/territory 30 June 2004 released in December 2004. (cat.no. 3101.0). (ABS 2001 and ABS 2004b).  
The Indigenous population aged 50–69 years uses ABS projections cat. no. 3238.0. (ABS 2004a).