

## 2 Admitted patients

This chapter presents information concerning patient characteristics and service-related characteristics for both short-stay and long-stay patients with a mental health principal diagnosis, as well as separations reporting specialised care but having no mental health principal diagnosis. Data from hospital morbidity records provide information on the treatment and care provided in hospitals for mental disorders or associated disabilities. Information on the principal diagnosis of each admitted patient is coded using the International Classification of Diseases, 9th revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM). In addition to mental health specific principal diagnoses, other relevant principal diagnoses are included, such as other reasons for hospitalisation associated with mental illness, for example special screening for mental disorders. A short section in this chapter that provides information about patients with no mental health principal diagnosis but who were cared for in a specialised psychiatric unit or ward.

### 2.1 Short-stay patients with a mental health principal diagnosis—patient characteristics

The definition of a short-stay patient is one where a record shows a separation length of stay of less than 36 days within one institution, excluding same-day separations and all leave days. Patients with a stay of less than 36 days comprised 94% of all mental health principal diagnoses.

#### Principal diagnosis

The principal diagnosis is defined as the diagnosis established, after study, to be chiefly responsible for occasioning the admitted patient's episode of care in hospital (NHDC 1997). Arriving at a diagnosis of a mental disorder relies on the clinician's recognition of particular patterns of symptoms through a consideration of different aspects of the patient's behaviour, thought processes, state of mood, and level of arousal. In most cases, there are no key identifying symptoms or specific tests that can be conducted to confirm the diagnosis of a mental disorder, and for some conditions there is a continued reliance on clinical judgments on the extent to which behaviour deviates from the accepted norm (AIHW 1998).

Table 2.1.1 shows hospital separations, same-day separations, patient days, and psychiatric care days for short-stay patients with mental disorders. The data represent the number of separations, patient days, and psychiatric care days that were recorded and are not a count of the number of individuals who received treatment during the period.

The greatest number of same-day separations were recorded for *affective disorders* (1.5 per 1,000 population), followed by *schizophrenic disorders* (0.5 per 1,000 population), and *anxiety disorders* (0.4 per 1,000 population). The greatest number of overnight separations (1.5 per 1,000 population) and patient days (16.5 days per 1,000 population) were also recorded for principal diagnoses of *affective disorders*. The greatest number of overnight psychiatric care days occurred for principal diagnoses of *schizophrenic disorders* (217,981 days), closely followed by *affective disorders* (207,868 days). Overnight patients with *affective disorders* averaged 11 patient days per separation and 7.5 psychiatric care days per separation, whereas for patients with *schizophrenic disorders*, the averages were 11 patient and 10 psychiatric care days.

## Specialised and general care

Table 2.1.2 shows the breakdown of separations between specialised care (e.g. those who received treatment in a public psychiatric unit or ward or public psychiatric hospital) and general care. Note that specialised care separations can have patient days in both general care and psychiatric care (see Glossary). For patients who received only specialised care the greatest number of overnight separations were recorded for principal diagnoses of *schizophrenic disorders* (18,916 separations) followed by *affective disorders* (17,497). Patients with *affective disorders* had the greatest number of same-day separations, patient days in general care, and psychiatric care days. For patients that received only general care, the greatest number of overnight separations occurred for principal diagnoses of *other organic psychotic conditions* (10,599 separations) followed by *affective disorders* (10,191). The greatest number of same-day separations and patient care days in general care were recorded for *affective disorders*.

Table 2.1.3 compares general and specialised care across States and Territories for same-day separations, overnight separations, and patient days for separations with mental health principal diagnoses. For New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, the majority of same-day separations occurred in specialised care, whereas for the other States and Territories the majority of same-day separations occurred in general care only. For New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and the Northern Territory, the majority of overnight separations occurred in specialised care, as well as the majority of patient days for overnight separations. Overall, South Australia recorded the greatest number of overnight separations per 1,000 population with a rate of 9.2, followed by Queensland with 8.4. Western Australia had the highest rate of total separations per 1,000 population at 14.8.

Table 2.1.4 compares general and specialised care between the hospital sectors for same-day separations, overnight separations, and patient days. In public acute hospitals, same-day separations occurred in relatively equal proportions of general and specialised care; however, in private hospitals and public psychiatric hospitals, the majority of same-day separations occurred in specialised care. Approximately 45% of overnight separations recorded in public acute and private hospitals occurred in general care. Almost 90% of overnight separations recorded in public psychiatric hospitals were for specialised care. Public acute hospitals recorded the greatest number of separations overall, at a rate of approximately 7.0 per 1,000 population.

Public psychiatric hospitals recorded the greatest proportion of specialised overnight patient days (94.5%). Approximately half of overnight patient days occurred in specialised care in private and public acute hospitals.

## Selected mental health diagnoses

Throughout this report, mental health diagnoses have been clustered to achieve maximum consistency with the diagnosis groups reported in the National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing of Adults (ABS 1998a). Many diagnoses relevant in hospital care were not identified in the National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing of Adults data because of low-prevalence and have been clustered into *all other disorders*. Refer to Appendix 1 for details on the clustering of mental health diagnosis groups.

Comparisons of specialised and general care separations for selected mental health diagnoses can indicate the extent to which the type of mental health problem is associated with different types of care. Table 2.1.5 shows that the States and Territories differ with regard to proportions of specialised and general care reported. The majority of same-day separations reported in New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland for patients hospitalised with *affective disorders*, *anxiety disorders* and *other disorders* occurred in specialised care. For the other States and the two Territories the majority of same-day

separations occurred in general care only. For admitted patients with principal diagnoses of *substance abuse and dependence*, the majority of same-day separations recorded in all States and Territories (except New South Wales) occurred in general care.

The majority of overnight separations reported in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and the Northern Territory for patients diagnosed with *affective disorders*, *anxiety disorders* and *other disorders* occurred in specialised care. For patients with principal diagnoses of *substance abuse and dependence*, the majority of overnight separations recorded in all States and Territories (except the Northern Territory) occurred in general care (see Table 2.1.5).

For all selected disorders the majority of patient days for overnight separations occurred in general care, except in New South Wales for patients with *anxiety disorders* (see Table 2.1.5).

### **Males by age group**

For males that were aged 24 years or under, the majority of separations and patient days occurred in specialised care (see Tables 2.1.6). For males aged 25–44 years, the majority of same-day separations occurred in general care only, but the majority of overnight separations and patient days for overnight separations occurred in specialised care. For males over 45 years of age the majority of same-day separations occurred in specialised care. Only the majority of overnight separations occurred in specialised care for males in the age group 45–54 years. Males aged 65 years and over had the greatest rate of separations per 1,000 population with 17.6.

The majority of patient days for overnight separations occurred in specialised care for males aged less than 65 years. For males 65 years of age and older, the majority of patient days for overnight separations occurred in general care.

### **Females by age group**

For females, the majority of same-day separations occurred in specialised care regardless of age group. For females aged 18–64 years the majority of overnight separations occurred in specialised care, but for females 17 years and under and 65 years and over, the majority of overnight separations occurred in general care. Females aged 25–44 years had the greatest rate of separations per 1,000 population with 16.8.

The majority of patient days for overnight separations occurred in specialised care for females in all age groups under 65 years (Table 2.1.6).

### **Comparison between males and females**

Same-day separations generally tend to be of a specialised nature, particularly in the under 17 age group. Female same-day separations are generally more likely to be in specialised care than male separations. Under 45 years, males have more specialised overnight separations than females, and spend a greater proportion of patient days in specialised care.

Females have a higher separation rate per 1,000 population than males in all age groups, except for the youngest (under 25 years) and oldest (65 years and over) groups.

The low proportions of specialised overnight separations in the 65 and over age group (24% for males and 26% for females) probably reflects the fact that many older people with a mental health problem are better catered for by aged care services.

### **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status**

Table 2.1.7 shows that for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons the greatest number of same-day separations occurred for the principal diagnoses of *other non-psychotic mental conditions* (15% of all same-day separations) and the greatest number of overnight separations occurred for *substance dependence* (16% of all overnight separations). The greatest

number of separations per 1,000 population was recorded for principal diagnoses of *substance dependence* (1.7 separations per 1,000 ATSI population), closely followed by *schizophrenic disorders* (1.6 separations per 1,000 ATSI population). In comparison, for the total Australian population the greatest number of same-day separations and overnight separations were recorded for principal diagnoses of *affective disorders* (3.0 separations per 1,000 population), followed by *schizophrenic disorders* (1.7 separations per 1,000 population).

Overall, approximately 12 separations per 1,000 population occurred for mental health principal diagnoses in both the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population and the total Australian population.

For the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, the greatest number of patient days in both general care and psychiatric care were recorded for principal diagnoses of *schizophrenic disorders* followed by *affective disorders*. For the total Australian population, the greatest number of patient days in general care occurred for principal diagnoses of *other organic psychotic conditions*, followed by *affective disorders*, and the greatest number of psychiatric care days were recorded for diagnoses of *affective disorders* followed by *schizophrenic disorders*.

When interpreting data on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons, it should be noted that there is considerable variation in the total number of reported Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander separations per 1,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population among the States and Territories (AIHW 1999). This may indicate that there is variation in the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons who are identified as such in the morbidity data collections and/or in the total population, and/or there is variation in the hospitalisation rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons. Victoria was unable to supply Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status data for private hospitals for 1997–98 and the Victorian Department of Human Services has flagged the potential for under-identification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander separations in the data provided for public hospitals.

A study was recently undertaken collaboratively between the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Institute to identify methods of assessing the quality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identification in hospitals (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Welfare Information Unit 1999). This study indicated that the quality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identification in Australian hospitals may vary widely, with results from the 12 hospitals involved in the project ranging from 55% to 100% completeness of identification for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons. Data on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status contained in this chapter should therefore be interpreted cautiously.

### **Area of usual residence**

Area of usual residence refers to the geographical location of usual residence of admitted patients. The majority of separations recorded for short-stay patients with a mental health diagnosis were for patients who live in the metropolitan area regardless of State/Territory or hospital sector (see Table 2.1.8). The metropolitan areas in Australia have a higher age-standardised rate of separations (1.39 separations per 1,000 population) than both rural (0.39 per 1,000) and remote areas (0.05 per 1,000). The age-standardised rate for overnight separations is more consistent between metropolitan (0.75 per 1,000), rural (0.32 per 1,000) and remote areas (0.04 per 1,000) (Table 2.1.8).

### **Country of birth**

Table 2.1.9 shows that the greatest number of same-day and overnight separations had the principal diagnoses of *affective disorder* reported regardless of whether the patient was born in Australia, another English-speaking country or elsewhere. *Schizophrenic disorders* had the

second largest number of same-day and overnight separations where the country of birth was reported as Australia or a non-English-speaking country.

The greatest number of patient days were reported for the principal diagnoses of *affective disorders* regardless of whether the patient was born in Australia, another English-speaking country or elsewhere. (Table 2.1.10). For patients born in English-speaking countries other than Australia the greatest number of psychiatric care days were recorded for principal diagnoses of *affective disorders*. However, for patients born in Australia and in non-English-speaking countries, the greatest number of psychiatric care days were reported for principal diagnoses of *schizophrenic disorders*, followed by *affective disorders* (Table 2.1.10).

### **Principal procedures**

A principal procedure is defined as the most significant procedure that was performed for the treatment of the principal diagnosis. If no procedure is performed for treatment of the principal diagnosis, other procedures can be reported as the principal procedure. It needs to be noted that procedures are not part of the NMDS—institutional mental health care but have been included to provide additional information.

Table 2.1.11 presents the 30 principal procedures with the highest number of separations of patients with a mental health principal diagnoses. It needs to be noted that for 68% of the separations, no procedure was recorded. Table 2.1.11 shows that the greatest number of separations occurred with a principal procedure within the group *other group therapy* (13,223 separations) followed by *other electroshock therapy* (8,695 separations). Same-day separations made up 62.7% of the separations associated with *other electroshock therapy* and 88.8% of separations associated with *other group therapy*.

**Table 2.1.2: Mental health principal diagnosis <sup>(a)</sup> of short-stay patients <sup>(b)</sup> by type of care, Australia, 1997–98**

Principal diagnosis	Specialised care <sup>(c)</sup>				General care		
	Overnight separations	Same-day separations	Patient days in general care	Psychiatric care days	Overnight separations	Same-day separations	Patient days in general care
Senile and presenile organic conditions	1,025	286	262	17,769	4,833	286	64,552
Other organic psychotic conditions	3,222	342	346	29,382	10,599	342	93,096
Schizophrenic disorders	18,916	6,345	866	224,326	3,216	6,345	28,185
Affective disorders <sup>(d)</sup>	17,497	18,466	2,362	226,334	10,191	18,466	105,469
Other affective psychoses	5,269	2,968	348	58,502	5,302	2,968	42,471
Anxiety disorders <sup>(d)</sup>	1,975	4,823	227	29,743	1,595	4,823	14,731
Paranoid states	978	203	155	10,976	343	203	3,699
Other psychoses	2,105	429	124	19,847	1,024	429	7,661
Other neurotic disorders	1,128	1,212	135	9,741	3,907	1,212	18,856
Personality disorders <sup>(e)</sup>	4,280	1,416	276	28,255	1,216	1,416	7,477
Eating disorders	758	4,512	n.p.	12,866	755	4,512	785
Substance abuse	810	470	45	5,810	2,456	470	8,331
Substance dependence	2,245	1,686	299	24,442	9,958	1,686	62,596
Acute alcoholic intoxication	616	171	219	4,086	1,783	171	7,553
Other drug dependence and abuse	538	332	52	4,779	718	332	4,200
Physiological malfunction arising from mental factors	20	n.p.	n.p.	156	282	n.p.	1,416
Special syndromes or syndromes not elsewhere classified	53	260	154	725	1,040	260	13,211
Acute reaction to stress	1,109	397	37	5,138	1,909	397	8,740
Adjustment reaction excluding PTSD	5,462	2,314	356	35,463	4,480	2,314	25,313
Specific non-psychotic mental disorders <sup>(f)</sup>	194	167	51	2,103	1,259	167	11,837
Other non-psychotic mental conditions	786	4,460	23	10,861	894	4,460	5,250
Observation for suspected mental condition	110	61	12	662	54	61	207
V codes associated with mental illness <sup>(g)</sup>	21	n.p.	n.p.	123	42	n.p.	243
<b>Total</b>	<b>69,117</b>	<b>51,324</b>	<b>6,354</b>	<b>762,089</b>	<b>67,856</b>	<b>34,059</b>	<b>535,879</b>

(a) See classification inclusions list in Appendix 1.

(b) Short-stay separations are those with less than 36 patient days.

(c) A separation is classified as having specialised care if at least one day of care was given in a specialised psychiatric unit or ward. A specialised care separation may therefore include some general care days.

(d) Cluster of disorders replicates the ABS National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing; see classification appendix for a detailed list of inclusions.

(e) Includes sexual deviations and disorders.

(f) Due to organic brain damage.

(g) V11, V15.4, V17.0, V40, V65.2, V66.3, V79.0, V79.1, V79.3, V79.8 and V79.9.

n.p. Not published

**Table 2.1.3: Specialised and general care of short-stay patients<sup>(a)</sup> with a mental health principal diagnosis<sup>(b)</sup>, States and Territories, 1997–98**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA <sup>(c)</sup>	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Same-day separations</b>									
In general care only	5,314	7,446	3,124	12,948	2,772	2,271	130	54	34,059
In specialised care <sup>(d)</sup>	27,191	14,126	8,505	36	868	552	18	28	51,324
Per cent specialised	83.65	65.48	73.14	0.28	23.85	19.55	12.16	34.15	60.11
<b>Overnight separations</b>									
In general care only	20,428	13,033	11,521	11,561	8,076	2,054	984	199	67,856
In specialised care <sup>(d)</sup>	22,892	18,133	17,321	2,257	5,847	1,633	399	635	69,117
Per cent specialised	52.84	58.18	60.05	16.33	42.00	44.29	28.85	76.14	50.46
<b>Total separations</b>	<b>75,825</b>	<b>52,738</b>	<b>40,471</b>	<b>26,802</b>	<b>17,563</b>	<b>6,510</b>	<b>1,531</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>222,356</b>
Overnight separations per 1,000 population (age-standardised) <sup>(e)</sup>	6.83	6.59	8.43	7.68	9.20	7.89	4.61	4.48	7.30
Separations per 1,000 population	12.03	11.40	11.82	14.79	11.85	13.77	4.98	4.86	11.94
Separations per 1,000 population (age-standardised) <sup>(e)</sup>	11.9	11.2	11.8	14.8	11.6	13.5	5.1	4.9	11.8
<b>Patient days for overnight separations</b>									
Total general care days <sup>(f)</sup>	133,082	97,218	80,084	96,585	71,870	18,147	10,282	906	508,174
Total psychiatric care days	245,502	199,048	153,497	30,336	60,768	13,014	3,436	5,164	710,765
Per cent specialised	72.03	71.95	69.36	23.93	46.47	43.54	25.18	85.54	62.52

(a) Short-stay separations are those with less than 36 patient days.

(b) See classification inclusions list in Appendix 1.

(c) Acute general hospitals in WA did not report total psychiatric care days, therefore figures reported may be misleading and should not be directly compared to figures from other states. WA figures include activity from psycho-geriatric facilities. WA figures include same-day group therapy at some units.

(d) A separation is classified as having specialised care if at least one day of care was given in a specialised psychiatric unit or ward. A specialised care separation may therefore include some general care d

(e) Figures are directly age-standardised to the Australian population at 30 June 1991.

(f) Total general care days include general ward patient days from both general and specialised separations.

**Table 2.1.4: Specialised and general care of short-stay patients<sup>(a)</sup> with a mental health principal diagnosis<sup>(b)</sup> by hospital sector, Australia, 1997–98**

	Public acute	Private <sup>(c)</sup>	Public psychiatric	Total
<b>Same-day separations</b>				
In general care only	18,574	15,380	105	34,059
In specialised care	19,581	29,818	1,925	51,324
Per cent specialised	51.32	65.97	94.83	60.11
<b>Overnight separations</b>				
In general care only	51,736	14,367	1,753	67,856
In specialised care	43,634	11,813	13,670	69,117
Per cent specialised	45.75	45.12	88.63	50.46
<b>Total separations</b>	<b>133,525</b>	<b>71,378</b>	<b>17,453</b>	<b>222,356</b>
Overnight separations per 1,000 population <sup>(d)</sup>	5.12	1.42	0.84	7.36
Separations per 1,000 population <sup>(d)</sup>	7.17	3.87	0.95	11.94
<b>Patient days for overnight separations</b>				
Total general care days <sup>(e)</sup>	346,374	153,216	8,584	508,174
Total psychiatric care days	412,314	151,449	147,002	710,765
Per cent specialised	54.35	49.71	94.48	58.31

(a) Short-stay separations are those with less than 36 patient days.

(b) See classification inclusions list in Appendix 1.

(c) Includes some separations from private free-standing day facilities.

(d) Figures are crude rates per 1,000 population at 31 December 1997.

(e) Total general care days include general ward patient days from both general and specialised separations.

**Table 2.1.5: Specialised and general care of short-stay patients <sup>(a)</sup> with a mental health principal diagnosis <sup>(b)</sup> by disorder group <sup>(c)</sup>, States and Territories, 1997–98**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA <sup>(d)</sup>	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Affective disorders</b>									
<b>Same-day separations</b>									
In general care only	783	1,848	270	4,933	832	915	n.p.	n.p.	9,636
In specialised care	8,045	6,415	3,764	n.p.	38	197	n.p.	n.p.	18,466
Per cent specialised	91.13	77.64	93.31	0.04	4.37	17.72	7.14	25.00	65.71
<b>Overnight separations</b>									
In general care only	1,686	1,291	1,494	2,667	2,316	414	301	22	10,191
In specialised care	5,467	4,888	4,779	307	1,535	348	91	82	17,497
Per cent specialised	76.43	79.11	76.18	10.32	39.86	45.67	23.21	78.85	63.19
<b>Total separations</b>	<b>15,981</b>	<b>14,442</b>	<b>10,307</b>	<b>7,909</b>	<b>4,721</b>	<b>1,874</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>55,790</b>
Separations per 1,000 population	2.54	3.12	3.01	4.37	3.18	3.97	1.46	0.57	3.00
Separations per 1,000 population(age-standardised) <sup>(e)</sup>	2.53	3.07	3.05	4.36	3.28	3.98	1.45	0.52	3.00
<b>Patient days for overnight separations</b>									
Total general care days <sup>(f)</sup>	83,391	70,586	61,524	33,200	43,835	8,026	4,545	956	306,063
Total psychiatric care days	77,562	67,689	52,370	5,020	18,507	3,406	912	868	226,334
Per cent specialised	48.19	48.95	45.98	13.13	29.69	29.79	16.71	47.59	42.51
<b>Anxiety disorders</b>									
<b>Same-day separations</b>									
In general care only	273	227	50	2,252	72	447	n.p.	—	3,322
In specialised care	3,171	616	503	—	531	n.p.	—	—	4,823
Per cent specialised	92.07	73.07	90.96	—	88.06	n.p.	—	—	59.21
<b>Overnight separations</b>									
In general care only	338	157	388	341	232	110	n.p.	n.p.	1,595
In specialised care	795	431	601	n.p.	126	17	n.p.	n.p.	1,975
Per cent specialised	70.17	73.30	60.77	0.29	35.20	13.39	7.14	40.00	55.32
<b>Total separations</b>	<b>4,577</b>	<b>1,431</b>	<b>1,542</b>	<b>2,594</b>	<b>961</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>n.p.</b>	<b>11,715</b>
Separations per 1,000 population	0.73	0.31	0.45	1.43	0.65	1.22	0.09	0.03	0.63
Separations per 1,000 population(age-standardised) <sup>(e)</sup>	0.68	0.29	0.42	1.47	0.61	1.07	0.09	0.03	0.60
<b>Patient days for overnight separations</b>									
Total general care days <sup>(f)</sup>	13,078	6,696	9,320	3,033	2,895	1,275	237	22	36,556
Total psychiatric care days	14,381	6,490	6,738	29	1,902	171	13	19	29,743
Per cent specialised	52.37	49.22	41.96	0.95	39.65	11.83	5.20	46.34	44.86

(continued)

**Table 2.1.5 (continued): Specialised and general care of short-stay patients<sup>(a)</sup> with a mental health principal diagnosis<sup>(b)</sup> by disorder group<sup>(c)</sup>, States and Territories, 1997–98**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA <sup>(d)</sup>	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Substance abuse and dependence</b>									
<b>Same-day separations</b>									
In general care only	980	1,394	1,108	394	179	136	n.p.	n.p.	4,203
In specialised care	1,689	277	164	n.p.	10	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	2,156
Per cent specialised	63.28	16.58	12.89	1.75	5.29	4.23	25.00	14.29	33.90
<b>Overnight separations</b>									
In general care only	5,142	2,252	2,774	1,413	630	168	22	13	12,414
In specialised care	1,799	609	450	91	63	26	n.p.	13	3,055
Per cent specialised	25.92	21.29	13.96	6.05	9.09	13.40	n.p.	50.00	19.75
<b>Total separations</b>	<b>9,610</b>	<b>4,532</b>	<b>4,496</b>	<b>1,905</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>21,828</b>
Separations per 1,000 population	1.53	0.98	1.31	1.05	0.59	0.71	0.11	0.18	1.17
Separations per 1,000 population (age-standardised) <sup>(e)</sup>	1.48	0.94	1.27	1.02	0.57	0.71	0.11	0.16	1.13
<b>Patient days for overnight separations</b>									
Total general care days <sup>(f)</sup>	41,957	19,536	19,786	7,625	4,896	1,112	170	82	95,164
Total psychiatric care days	20,092	5,552	3,182	812	469	103	n.p.	36	30,252
Per cent specialised	32.38	22.13	13.85	9.62	8.74	8.48	n.p.	30.51	24.12
<b>All other disorders</b>									
<b>Same-day separations</b>									
In general care only	3,278	3,977	1,696	5,369	1,689	773	71	45	16,898
In specialised care	14,286	6,818	4,074	27	289	347	12	26	25,879
Per cent specialised	81.34	63.16	70.61	0.50	14.61	30.98	14.46	36.62	60.50
<b>Overnight separations</b>									
In general care only	13,262	9,333	6,865	7,140	4,898	1,362	635	161	43,656
In specialised care	14,831	12,205	11,491	1,858	4,123	1,242	302	538	46,590
Per cent specialised	52.79	56.67	62.60	20.65	45.70	47.70	32.23	76.97	51.63
<b>Total separations</b>	<b>45,657</b>	<b>32,333</b>	<b>24,126</b>	<b>14,394</b>	<b>10,999</b>	<b>3,724</b>	<b>1,020</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>133,023</b>
Separations per 1,000 population	7.25	6.99	7.04	7.95	7.42	7.88	3.32	4.09	7.14
Separations per 1,000 population (age-standardised) <sup>(e)</sup>	7.49	7.19	7.20	8.17	7.80	8.57	3.27	3.90	7.36
<b>Patient days for overnight separations</b>									
Total general care days <sup>(f)</sup>	240,158	199,448	142,951	83,063	81,012	20,748	8,766	5,010	781,156
Total psychiatric care days	160,658	133,443	99,712	24,511	40,758	9,886	2,523	4,269	475,760
Per cent specialised	40.08	40.09	41.09	22.79	33.47	32.27	22.35	46.01	37.85

(a) Short-stay separations are those with less than 36 patient days.

(b) See classification inclusions list in Appendix 1.

(c) Disorder group as defined in the ABS *Mental Health and Wellbeing Profile of Adults Australia*.

(d) Acute general hospitals in WA did not report total psychiatric care days, therefore figures reported may be misleading and should not be directly compared to figures from other states. WA include activity from psycho-geriatric facilities. WA figures include same-day group therapy at some units.

(e) Figures are directly age-standardised to the Australian population at 30 June 1991.

(f) Total general care days include general ward patient days from both general and specialised separations.

n.p. Not published

— Nil

**Table 2.1.6: Specialised and general care of short-stay patients<sup>(a)</sup> with a mental health principal diagnosis<sup>(b)</sup> by gender and age group, Australia, 1997–98**

	17 and under	18–24	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	65 and over	Total
<b>Males</b>								
<b>Same-day separations</b>								
In general care only	1,083	1,524	2,822	2,905	3,833	1,283	2,999	16,449
In specialised care	6,503	1,763	2,145	2,528	4,454	1,636	4,220	23,249
Per cent specialised	85.72	53.64	43.19	46.53	53.75	56.05	58.46	58.56
<b>Overnight separations</b>								
In general care only	1,634	3,031	5,609	5,614	4,655	2,573	7,690	30,806
In specialised care	1,647	6,755	10,523	7,232	5,078	1,996	2,435	35,666
Per cent specialised	50.20	69.03	65.23	56.30	52.17	43.69	24.05	53.66
<b>Total separations</b>	<b>10,867</b>	<b>13,073</b>	<b>21,099</b>	<b>18,279</b>	<b>18,020</b>	<b>7,488</b>	<b>17,344</b>	<b>106,170</b>
Separations per 1,000 population <sup>(c)</sup>	4.50	13.67	14.66	12.74	14.69	9.31	17.55	11.46
<b>Patient days for overnight separations</b>								
Total general care days <sup>(d)</sup>	7,463	15,294	27,477	30,796	31,071	19,081	82,506	213,688
Total psychiatric care days	14,788	61,529	95,599	69,029	58,905	24,453	34,882	359,185
Per cent specialised	66.46	80.09	77.67	69.15	65.47	56.17	29.72	62.70
<b>Females</b>								
<b>Same-day separations</b>								
In general care only	995	1,783	3,097	4,594	3,830	1,408	1,903	17,610
In specialised care	2,789	3,284	5,359	5,308	5,759	2,612	2,964	28,075
Per cent specialised	73.71	64.81	63.38	53.61	60.06	64.98	60.90	61.45
<b>Overnight separations</b>								
In general care only	2,063	3,173	7,532	6,435	4,187	2,332	11,328	37,050
In specialised care	1,908	4,303	8,210	7,495	5,073	2,474	3,988	33,451
Per cent specialised	48.05	57.56	52.15	53.80	54.78	51.48	26.04	47.45
<b>Total separations</b>	<b>7,755</b>	<b>12,543</b>	<b>24,198</b>	<b>23,832</b>	<b>18,849</b>	<b>8,826</b>	<b>20,183</b>	<b>116,186</b>
Separations per 1,000 population <sup>(c)</sup>	3.38	13.63	16.80	16.53	15.73	11.14	15.88	12.42
<b>Patient days for overnight separations</b>								
Total general care days <sup>(d)</sup>	12,394	17,236	41,631	42,585	31,655	20,245	128,740	294,486
Total psychiatric care days	15,645	37,763	74,286	74,636	56,648	31,952	60,650	351,580
Per cent specialised	55.80	68.66	64.09	63.67	64.15	61.21	32.02	54.42

(a) Short-stay separations are those with less than 36 patient days.

(b) See classification inclusions list in Appendix 1.

(c) Figures are crude rates per 1000 population at 31 December 1997.

(d) Total general care days include general ward patient days from both general and specialised separations.

**Table 2.1.7: Reported Indigenous status<sup>(a)</sup> of short-stay patients<sup>(b)</sup> with a mental health principal diagnosis<sup>(c)</sup>, Australia, 1997–98**

Principal diagnosis	Patients reported as Indigenous					All patients				
	Same-day separations	Overnight separations	Separations per 1,000 ATSI <sup>(g)</sup>	Days in general care	Psychiatric care days	Same-day separations	Overnight separations	Separations per 1,000 <sup>(g)</sup>	Days in general care	Psychiatric care days
Senile and presenile organic conditions	n.p.	23	0.06	239	58	438	5,858	0.34	64,376	17,769
Other organic psychotic conditions	67	540	1.54	2,397	970	1,764	13,821	0.84	91,678	29,382
Schizophrenic disorders	116	527	1.63	4,655	4,065	8,475	22,132	1.65	20,576	224,326
Affective disorders <sup>(c)</sup>	128	384	1.30	3,329	2,488	28,102	27,688	3.01	79,729	226,334
Other affective psychoses	29	217	0.62	1,375	734	6,607	10,571	0.93	36,212	58,502
Anxiety disorders <sup>(c)</sup>	30	55	0.22	272	163	8,145	3,570	0.63	6,813	29,743
Paranoid states	n.p.	22	0.06	200	168	687	1,321	0.11	3,167	10,976
Other psychoses	34	94	0.32	556	420	1,253	3,129	0.24	6,532	19,847
Other Neurotic disorders	101	183	0.72	691	256	3,215	5,035	0.45	15,776	9,741
Personality disorders <sup>(d)</sup>	n.p.	79	0.22	440	347	2,823	5,496	0.45	5,715	28,255
Eating disorders	n.p.	n.p.	0.02	71	n.p.	5,012	1,513	0.35	3,597	12,866
Substance abuse	124	220	0.87	651	222	2,407	3,266	0.31	5,969	5,810
Substance dependence	82	571	1.66	2,495	466	3,952	12,203	0.87	58,943	24,442
Acute alcoholic intoxication	84	201	0.72	600	98	1,001	2,399	0.18	6,771	4,086
Other drug dependence and abuse	14	36	0.13	185	87	500	1,256	0.09	3,752	4,779
Physiological malfunction arising from mental factors	n.p.	n.p.	0.01	n.p.	—	246	302	0.03	1,172	156
Special syndromes or syndromes not elsewhere classified	n.p.	16	0.05	36	—	534	1,093	0.09	4,222	725
Acute reaction to stress	21	78	0.25	225	87	1,005	3,018	0.22	7,772	5,138
Adjustment reaction excluding PTSD	27	212	0.61	1,022	788	3,532	9,942	0.73	22,137	35,463
Specific non-psychotic mental disorders <sup>(e)</sup>	n.p.	13	0.04	108	88	290	1,453	0.09	11,598	2,103
Other non-psychotic mental conditions	161	47	0.53	363	250	5,273	1,680	0.38	—	10,861
Observation for suspected mental condition	n.p.	n.p.	0.02	20	n.p.	86	164	0.01	133	662
V codes associated with mental illness <sup>(f)</sup>	n.p.	n.p.	0.02	n.p.	n.p.	36	63	0.01	210	123
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,041</b>	<b>3,536</b>	<b>11.61</b>	<b>19,939</b>	<b>11,765</b>	<b>85,383</b>	<b>136,973</b>	<b>12.00</b>	<b>456,850</b>	<b>762,089</b>

(a) A full definition of Indigenous status is in the glossary. The completeness of Indigenous status varies, hence these data should be used with caution.

(b) Short-stay separations are those with less than 36 patient days.

(c) Cluster of disorders replicates the ABS National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing; see classification appendix for a detailed list of inclusions.

(d) Includes sexual deviations and disorders.

(e) Due to organic brain damage.

(f) V11, V15.4, V17.0, V40, V65.2, V66.3, V67.3, V79.0, V79.1, V79.3, V79.8 and V79.9.

(g) Rates are crude rates based on the 31 December 1997 population.

n.p. Not published

— Nil

**Table 2.1.8: Area of usual residence of short-stay patients with a mental health principal diagnosis, States and Territories, 1997–98**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA <sup>(d)</sup>	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Area of usual residence</b>	<b>Public acute hospitals</b>								
Metropolitan	32,455	20,029	16,727	10,398	6,830	1,761	1,237	403	89,840
Rural	10,987	8,891	8,037	2,395	3,426	2,017	104	56	35,913
Remote	732	244	1,691	1,935	208	34	n.p.	416	5,261
Other <sup>(f)</sup>	711	397	1,045	97	158	24	n.p.	41	2,511
<b>Total public acute hospitals</b>	<b>44,885</b>	<b>29,561</b>	<b>27,500</b>	<b>14,825</b>	<b>10,622</b>	<b>3,836</b>	<b>1,380</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>133,525</b>
	<b>Private hospitals<sup>(e)</sup></b>								
Metropolitan	19,445	20,636	9,103	8,756	2,853	2,032	129	—	62,954
Rural	1,792	1,423	2,567	721	444	372	n.p.	—	7,325
Remote	34	16	143	204	13	n.p.	n.p.	—	412
Other <sup>(f)</sup>	n.p.	255	324	n.p.	52	n.p.	16	—	687
<b>Total private hospitals</b>	<b>21,279</b>	<b>22,330</b>	<b>12,137</b>	<b>9,684</b>	<b>3,362</b>	<b>2,435</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>71,378</b>
	<b>Public psychiatric hospitals</b>								
Metropolitan	7,486	—	477	1,857	2,677	177	—	—	12,674
Rural	1,286	—	275	221	730	62	—	—	2,574
Remote	50	—	11	197	24	—	—	—	282
Other <sup>(f)</sup>	839	847	71	18	148	—	—	—	1,923
<b>Total public psychiatric hospitals</b>	<b>9,661</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>2,293</b>	<b>3,579</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>17,453</b>
	<b>All hospitals</b>								
Metropolitan	59,386	40,665	26,307	21,011	12,360	3,970	1,366	403	165,468
Rural	14,065	10,314	10,879	3,337	4,600	2,451	110	56	45,812
Remote	816	260	1,845	2,336	245	36	n.p.	416	5,955
Other <sup>(f)</sup>	1,558	1,499	1,440	118	358	53	n.p.	41	5,121
<b>Total hospitals</b>	<b>75,825</b>	<b>52,738</b>	<b>40,471</b>	<b>26,802</b>	<b>17,563</b>	<b>6,510</b>	<b>1,531</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>222,356</b>

(continued)

**Table 2.1.8 (continued): Area of usual residence<sup>(a)</sup> of short-stay patients<sup>(b)</sup> with a mental health principal diagnosis,<sup>(c)</sup> States and Territories, 1997–98**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA <sup>(d)</sup>	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Area of usual residence	Age-standardised population rate <sup>(g)</sup>								
All separations per 1,000 population									
Metropolitan	1.34	1.23	1.54	1.80	1.16	2.14	0.52	0.55	1.39
Rural	0.37	0.35	0.39	0.47	0.48	0.34	6.67	0.17	0.39
Remote	0.06	0.07	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.06	—	0.02	0.05
Overnight separations per 1,000 population									
Metropolitan	0.66	0.65	1.00	0.79	0.87	0.94	0.47	0.50	0.75
Rural	0.32	0.28	0.33	0.38	0.42	0.26	5.59	0.15	0.32
Remote	0.05	0.06	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.05	—	0.02	0.04

(a) Defined according to the *Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Areas Classification*, 1991 Census edition. See glossary for more information.

(b) Short-stay separations are those with less than 36 patient days.

(c) See classification inclusions list in Appendix 1.

(d) WA figures include activity from psycho-geriatric units. WA figures include same-day group therapy at some units.

(e) Private includes 64 separations from private free-standing day hospitals.

(f) Includes unspecified and overseas/interstate patients, as well as patients with other states of usual residence for Qld and SA.

(g) Population rates in this section do not include any separations in the area of usual residence category 'other'.

n.p. Not published

— Nil

**Table 2.1.9: Mental health principal diagnosis separations<sup>(a)</sup> of short-stay patients<sup>(b)</sup> by country of birth, Australia, 1997–98**

Principal diagnosis	Australia		Other English-speaking countries		Non-English-speaking countries	
	Overnight separations	Same-day separations	Overnight separations	Same-day separations	Overnight separations	Same-day separations
Senile and presenile organic conditions	4,156	378	851	25	851	35
Other organic psychotic conditions	10,397	1,258	1,660	163	1,764	343
Schizophrenic disorders	16,789	6,409	1,506	549	3,837	1,517
Affective disorders <sup>(c)</sup>	20,385	20,561	2,840	2,758	4,463	4,783
Other affective psychoses	8,267	4,828	965	775	1,339	1,004
Anxiety disorders <sup>(c)</sup>	2,870	6,285	295	629	405	1,231
Paranoid states	908	452	145	52	268	183
Other psychoses	2,292	736	226	230	611	287
Other neurotic disorders	4,056	2,279	419	254	560	682
Personality disorders <sup>(d)</sup>	4,453	2,255	439	258	604	310
Eating disorders	1,367	4,323	35	156	111	533
Substance abuse	2,561	1,837	259	125	446	445
Substance dependence	9,579	3,004	1,087	437	1,537	511
Acute alcoholic intoxication	1,804	829	286	71	309	101
Other drug dependence and abuse	1,041	396	75	56	140	48
Physiological malfunction arising from mental factors	239	185	32	22	31	39
Special syndromes or syndromes not elsewhere classified	903	393	82	102	108	39
Acute reaction to stress	2,404	741	234	91	380	173
Adjustment reaction excluding PTSD	7,724	2,601	782	350	1,436	581
Specific non-psychotic mental disorders <sup>(e)</sup>	1,004	166	201	n.p.	248	117
Other non-psychotic mental conditions	1,514	4,824	32	27	134	422
Observation for suspected mental condition	132	80	n.p.	—	23	n.p.
V codes associated with mental illness <sup>(f)</sup>	50	25	n.p.	n.p.	10	n.p.
<b>Total</b>	<b>104,895</b>	<b>64,845</b>	<b>12,463</b>	<b>7,144</b>	<b>19,615</b>	<b>13,394</b>

(a) Short-stay separations are those with less than 36 patient days.

(b) See classification inclusions list in Appendix 1.

(c) Cluster of disorders replicates the ABS *Mental Health and Wellbeing Profile of Adults Australia 1997*; see classification appendix for a detailed list of inclusions.

(d) Includes sexual deviations and disorders.

(e) Due to organic brain damage.

(f) V11, V15.4, V17.0, V40, V65.2, V66.3, V79.0, V79.1, V79.3, V79.8 and V79.9.

n.p. Not published

— Nil

**Table 2.1.10: Mental health principal diagnosis <sup>(a)</sup> patient days and psychiatric care days of short-stay patients <sup>(b)</sup> by country of birth, Australia, 1997–98**

Principal diagnosis	Australia		Other English-speaking countries		Non-English-speaking countries	
	Patient days	Psychiatric care days	Patient days	Psychiatric care days	Patient days	Psychiatric care days
Senile and presenile organic conditions	58,115	10,811	11,833	3,084	12,635	3,874
Other organic psychotic conditions	90,347	22,039	16,383	2,521	16,094	4,822
Schizophrenic disorders	187,200	166,201	18,970	16,598	47,207	41,527
Affective disorders <sup>(c)</sup>	238,378	165,093	35,996	24,345	59,791	36,896
Other affective psychoses	76,441	44,049	10,200	6,157	14,680	8,296
Anxiety disorders <sup>(c)</sup>	35,632	24,713	3,725	2,129	5,344	2,901
Paranoid states	9,761	7,377	1,716	1,201	3,353	2,398
Other psychoses	19,217	13,652	2,278	1,564	6,137	4,631
Other neurotic disorders	21,813	7,083	2,812	929	4,107	1,729
Personality disorders <sup>(d)</sup>	29,343	23,134	2,958	1,960	4,492	3,161
Eating disorders	18,726	11,283	648	281	2,101	1,302
Substance abuse	10,637	4,521	1,335	495	2,214	794
Substance dependence	66,487	19,779	8,643	2,225	12,207	2,438
Acute alcoholic intoxication	8,741	3,017	1,611	686	1,506	383
Other drug dependence and abuse	7,422	3,975	592	310	1,017	494
Physiological malfunction arising from mental factors	1,204	109	188	n.p.	182	40
Special syndromes or syndromes not elsewhere classified	4,501	552	430	100	550	73
Acute reaction to stress	10,519	4,048	1,197	344	2,199	746
Adjustment reaction excluding PTSD	46,698	27,138	5,161	2,749	9,273	5,576
Specific non-psychotic mental disorders <sup>(e)</sup>	9,623	1,434	1,994	218	2,374	451
Other non-psychotic mental conditions	14,353	9,829	284	124	1,497	908
Observation for suspected mental condition	652	485	70	60	159	117
V codes associated with mental illness <sup>(f)</sup>	281	61	30	18	58	44
<b>Total</b>	<b>966,091</b>	<b>570,383</b>	<b>129,054</b>	<b>68,105</b>	<b>209,177</b>	<b>123,601</b>

(a) Short-stay separations are those with less than 36 patient days.

(b) See classification inclusions list in Appendix 1.

(c) Cluster of disorders replicates the ABS *Mental Health and Wellbeing Profile of Adults Australia 1997*; see classification appendix for a detailed list of inclusions.

(d) Includes sexual deviations and disorders.

(e) Due to organic brain damage.

(f) V11, V15.4, V17.0, V40, V65.2, V66.3, V79.0, V79.1, V79.3, V79.8 and V79.9.

**Table 2.1.11: Thirty procedures with the highest number of separations, short-stay patients<sup>(a)</sup> with a mental health diagnosis,<sup>(b)</sup> Australia, 1997–98**

Principal procedure	Separations			Patient days	Psychiatric care days
	Overnight	Same-day	Total		
Other group therapy	1,476	11,747	13,223	34,670	28,464
Other electroshock therapy	3,246	5,449	8,695	47,252	37,415
Computerised axial tomography of head	6,033	497	6,530	70,836	28,011
Alcohol detoxification	4,855	120	4,975	30,349	7,578
Behaviour therapy	346	4,337	4,683	9,750	9,093
Assessment	4,189	159	4,348	45,422	24,212
Drug detoxification	3,888	156	4,044	19,334	3,872
Occupational therapy assessment	1,319	195	1,514	20,081	9,690
Occupational therapy—self-care	708	663	1,371	11,472	6,214
Alcohol rehabilitation and detoxification	1,024	22	1,046	14,341	5,601
Other diagnostic physical therapy procedure	1,029	n.p.	1,031	13,867	2,332
Alcohol rehabilitation	269	671	940	2,958	943
Discharge planning	899	34	933	10,618	4,109
Combined alcohol and drug detoxification	861	25	886	5,639	889
Nutritional assessment	820	23	843	11,506	5,396
Alcoholism counselling	75	708	783	1,261	280
Other counselling	160	547	707	1,857	852
Other psychiatric drug therapy	222	433	655	3,556	3,310
Interview and evaluation, described as comprehensive	615	39	654	2,944	—
Advocacy	561	11	572	6,969	6,298
Electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) > 8 treatments	370	195	565	8,930	8,061
Drug rehabilitation and detoxification	508	42	550	5,071	2,361
Magnetic resonance imaging of brain and brain stem	214	213	427	2,543	1,057
Other supportive counselling	411	12	423	4,872	3,246
Crisis intervention	404	17	421	4,059	3,415
Recreational therapy	391	19	410	6,339	5,426
Other individual psychotherapy	311	94	405	5,216	3,178
Spinal tap	n.p.	n.p.	402	2,740	247
General therapeutic techniques	n.p.	n.p.	390	4,924	878
Other psychiatric interview and evaluation	346	38	384	2,695	992
All other procedures	7,295	1,286	8,581	87,345	32,994
No procedure or not reported	93,394	57,571	150,965	804,906	515,675
<b>Total</b>	<b>136,973</b>	<b>85,383</b>	<b>222,356</b>	<b>1,304,322</b>	<b>762,089</b>

(a) Separations with less than 36 patient days.

(b) See classification inclusions list in Appendix 1.

n.p. Not published

— Nil

## 2.2 Short-stay patients with a mental health principal diagnosis—service-related characteristics

### Length of stay for short-stay overnight separations

Average and median lengths of stay give two measures of central tendency which, when viewed together, can give an indication of the distribution of length of stay data. While an average may be inflated or deflated by the presence of outliers, median statistics show the point at which the distribution is split in half. Table 2.2.1 presents the average and median length of stay for short-stay overnight separations with a mental health diagnosis by hospital sector and State and Territory. It needs to be noted that not all private hospital separations are included in the National Hospital Morbidity Database. Comparisons between jurisdictions based on private hospital data need to be used with caution due to the variation in the levels of private hospital reporting between jurisdictions.

For public hospitals, the longest average length of stay for short-stay patients with a mental health principal diagnosis was recorded for the Australian Capital Territory (10 days) followed by Victoria and South Australia (approximately 9.5 days). In the private sector, the longest average length of stay was recorded for New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory (13 days) followed by South Australia (12 days). For public psychiatric hospitals, the longest average length of stay was recorded for Western Australia (13 days). The longest median length of stay for public acute hospitals was recorded in the Australian Capital Territory (7 days). In public psychiatric hospitals, Western Australia (12 days) had the highest median. New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory shared the highest median length of stay (11 days) for private hospitals (Table 2.2.1).

Table 2.2.2 shows that for public acute hospitals the longest average length of stay and longest median length of stay in psychiatric care was recorded for Victoria (10 and 8 days) and South Australia (10 and 8 days). For private hospitals, the longest average length of stay and longest median length of stay was recorded in New South Wales (14 and 12 days), although data were unavailable for Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory. For public psychiatric hospitals the longest average length of stay and longest median length of stay was recorded in Western Australia (13 and 12 days).

Table 2.2.3 shows that for both public acute and private hospitals the longest average length of stay and longest median length of stay for short-stay separations with general care only was recorded for the Australian Capital Territory (10 and 7 days for public acute, and 13 and 11 days for private).

A breakdown by sex is presented in Table 2.2.4, which shows that for both male and female patients the longest average length of stay and longest median length of stay for overnight separations were recorded in the Australian Capital Territory.

In public acute hospitals the longest average length of stay for short-stay overnight separations was recorded for the principal diagnoses of *senile and presenile organic conditions* (14 days). This was the finding in all States and Territories except in Western Australia and the Northern Territory, where the principal diagnoses with the longest average length of stay were *eating disorders* (Table 2.2.5).

In private hospitals the longest average length of stay for short-stay overnight separations was recorded for the principal diagnoses of *senile and presenile organic conditions* (14 days). Across States and Territories, the longest average length of stay was recorded for different principal diagnoses in each (Table 2.2.6).

In public psychiatric hospitals the longest average length of stay for short-stay overnight separations were recorded for the principal diagnoses of *senile and presenile organic conditions* (18 days). In New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia the longest average length of stay for overnight separations was recorded for principal diagnoses of *senile and presenile conditions*; however, in other States and Territories there was no consistent finding (see Table 2.2.7).

Table 2.2.8 shows that in public acute hospitals the longest median length of stay for overnight separations was recorded for principal diagnoses of *senile and presenile organic conditions* (11 days). This was the finding in all jurisdictions except in Western Australia, South Australia, and the Northern Territory, where principal diagnoses of *eating disorders* were associated with the longest median length of stay.

In private hospitals the longest median length of stay for overnight separations were recorded for principal diagnoses of *senile and presenile organic conditions* (12 days). Across States and Territories there was no consistent finding for the principal diagnoses associated with the longest median length of stay (Table 2.2.9).

In public psychiatric hospitals the longest median length of stay for overnight separations was recorded for the principal diagnoses of *senile and presenile organic conditions* (18 days). In Queensland and South Australia the longest median length of stay for overnight separations was recorded for *senile and presenile conditions*; however, in other States and Territories there was no consistent finding (Table 2.2.10).

## **Mental health legal status**

The National Hospital Morbidity Database provides information on the patient's mental health legal status on, or during, the admission. Involuntary patients are persons who are detained under mental health legislation for the purpose of assessment or provision of appropriate treatment or care. Note that mental health legal status is only relevant to persons in specialised care as involuntary patients are only cared for in designated units.

Table 2.2.11 shows the number of separations of short-stay patients with a mental health principal diagnosis by mental health legal status, hospital sector, and State and Territory. In public acute hospitals, for both same-day and overnight separations the majority of separations were recorded for the legal status of voluntary. For private hospitals, the majority of both same-day and overnight separations had no recorded mental health legal status. It should be noted that the reliability of the private hospital data is limited, as a large proportion (89.7%) of the legal status data for private hospitals was not recorded or provided. Also needs to be noted that there is the variation in the level of private hospital reporting between jurisdictions. Generally, in public psychiatric hospitals most separations are involuntary.

Table 2.2.12 presents the number of separations for private hospitals with specialised psychiatric care by mental health legal status and principal diagnosis. The greatest number of overnight and same-day separations were recorded for the principal diagnoses of *affective disorders* (4,699 overnight separations and 12,973 same-day separations) and this was the principal diagnoses with the greatest number of separations recorded where the legal status was voluntary or not provided. Principal diagnoses of *schizophrenic disorders* had the greatest number of same-day separations under the mental health legal status of involuntary. The principal diagnoses of *other neurotic disorders* had the greatest number of overnight separations under the mental health legal status of involuntary.

Principal diagnoses of *schizophrenic disorders* had the greatest number of overnight and same-day separations for the legal status of involuntary (38% of all involuntary separations). Principal diagnoses of *affective disorders* were associated with the greatest number of overnight and same-day separations under the mental health legal status of *voluntary* (41% of all voluntary separations). Records for admitted patients with principal diagnoses of

*adjustment reaction excluding post-traumatic stress disorder* showed the majority of overnight separations had a legal status of involuntary. Principal diagnoses *other non-psychotic mental conditions* had the greatest number of same-day separations for which no legal status was recorded (Table 2.2.13).

Table 2.2.14 shows the number of separations in a specialised ward by mental health legal status, sex and age group. For males 17 years of age and under, the greatest number of separations recorded were same-day separations for which no legal status was recorded. For males 18–24 years, the greatest number of separations recorded were overnight separations with the legal status of involuntary. For males aged 25–64 years, the greatest number of separations occurred for overnight separations with the legal status of voluntary. For males 65 years of age and over, the greatest number of separations were same-day separations under the legal status of voluntary.

For females 17 years of age and under, the greatest number of separations recorded were same-day separations for which no legal status was recorded. For females aged 18–44 years, the greatest number of separations occurred for overnight separations with the legal status of voluntary. Females aged 45–64 years of age recorded the greatest number of separations for same-day separations under the legal status of voluntary. Females 65 years of age and over recorded the greatest number of separations for overnight separations with the legal status of voluntary.

**Table 2.2.1: Average and median length of stay, short-stay<sup>(a)</sup> overnight separations with a mental health principal diagnosis<sup>(b)</sup> by hospital sector, States and Territories, 1997–98**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA <sup>(c)</sup>	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Sector</b>	<b>Average</b>								
Public acute hospitals	7.77	8.90	7.20	7.86	7.96	7.73	9.54	7.28	7.96
Private hospitals	13.20	11.36	10.60	10.37	12.36	10.80	13.06	n.a.	11.64
Public psychiatric hospitals	8.77	10.16	12.57	13.44	10.37	9.57	..	..	10.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.74</b>	<b>9.51</b>	<b>8.10</b>	<b>9.19</b>	<b>9.53</b>	<b>8.45</b>	<b>9.92</b>	<b>7.28</b>	<b>8.90</b>
	<b>Median</b>								
Public acute hospitals	5	6	4	5	5	5	7	4	5
Private hospitals	11	9	8	8	10	8	11	n.a.	9
Public psychiatric hospitals	5	7	10	12	7	6	..	..	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>

(a) Separations with less than 36 patient days.

(b) See classification inclusions list in Appendix 1.

(c) WA figures include activity from psycho-geriatric units.

.. Not applicable

n.a. Not available

**Table 2.2.2: Average and median length of stay in psychiatric care,<sup>(a)</sup> short-stay<sup>(b)</sup> overnight separations with a mental health principal diagnosis,<sup>(c)</sup> by hospital sector, States and Territories, 1997–98**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA <sup>(d)</sup>	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Sector</b>	<b>Average</b>								
Public acute hospitals	10.01	10.43	8.11	n.a.	10.42	7.71	8.61	8.13	9.45
Private hospitals	13.64	12.82	11.45	n.a.	n.a.	..	..	..	12.82
Public psychiatric hospitals	9.86	10.17	12.57	13.44	10.37	9.57	..	..	10.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>10.72</b>	<b>10.98</b>	<b>8.86</b>	<b>13.44</b>	<b>10.39</b>	<b>7.97</b>	<b>8.61</b>	<b>8.13</b>	<b>10.28</b>
	<b>Median</b>								
Public acute hospitals	7	8	5	n.a.	8	5	6	5	6
Private hospitals	12	11	9	n.a.	n.a.	..	..	..	11
Public psychiatric hospitals	6	7	10	12	7	6	..	..	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>

(a) Average and median over only separations with specialised care (in specialised unit or ward in an acute hospital or any ward in a psychiatric hospital).

(b) Separations with less than 36 patient days.

(c) See classification inclusions list in Appendix 1.

include

activity from psycho-geriatric facilities.

.. Not applicable

n.a. Not available

**Table 2.2.3: Average and median length of stay of short-stay<sup>(a)</sup> overnight separations with a mental health principal diagnosis<sup>(b)</sup> in general care only, States and Territories, 1997–98**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA <sup>(c)</sup>	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Sector</b>	<b>Average</b>								
Public acute hospitals	6.07	6.89	5.47	7.86	6.67	7.76	9.92	4.24	6.61
Private hospitals	10.96	9.33	9.69	10.37	12.36	10.80	13.06	..	10.52
Public psychiatric hospitals	4.89	1.00	—	—	—	—	..	..	4.89
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.33</b>	<b>7.46</b>	<b>6.78</b>	<b>8.35</b>	<b>8.85</b>	<b>8.84</b>	<b>10.40</b>	<b>4.24</b>	<b>7.40</b>
	<b>Median</b>								
Public acute hospitals	4	4	3	5	4	5	7	3	4
Private hospitals	8	6	7	8	10	8	11	..	8
Public psychiatric hospitals	4	1	—	—	—	—	..	..	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>

(a) Separations with less than 36 patient days.

(b) See classification inclusions list in Appendix 1.

include

activity from psycho-geriatric facilities.

.. Not applicable

— Nil

**Table 2.2.4: Average and median length of stay, short-stay<sup>(a)</sup> overnight separations with a mental health principal diagnosis,<sup>(b)</sup> by sex, States and Territories, 1997–98**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA <sup>(c)</sup>	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Sex</b>	<b>Average</b>								
Male	8.51	9.22	7.92	8.86	9.17	8.14	9.47	7.17	8.62
Female	8.97	9.75	8.28	9.48	9.82	8.71	10.34	7.50	9.16
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.74</b>	<b>9.51</b>	<b>8.10</b>	<b>9.19</b>	<b>9.53</b>	<b>8.45</b>	<b>9.92</b>	<b>7.28</b>	<b>8.90</b>
	<b>Median</b>								
Male	5	6	5	6	6	5	7	4	6
Female	6	7	5	7	7	6	7	5	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>

(a) Separations with less than 36 patient days.

(b) See classification inclusions list in Appendix 1.

(c) WA figures include activity from psycho-geriatric facilities.

**Table 2.2.5: Average length of stay, short-stay<sup>(a)</sup> overnight separations with a mental health principal diagnosis,<sup>(b)</sup> public acute hospitals, States and Territories, 1997–98**

Principal diagnosis	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA <sup>(g)</sup>	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Senile and presenile organic conditions	13.04	14.54	13.74	14.75	12.66	13.69	14.72	14.00	13.70
Other organic psychotic conditions	8.42	9.77	7.37	7.92	8.06	8.55	7.26	4.96	8.44
Schizophrenic disorders	10.97	11.11	9.37	10.05	10.18	9.75	11.16	10.81	10.46
Affective disorders <sup>(c)</sup>	10.24	10.20	8.87	10.17	9.48	9.82	11.22	9.19	9.81
Other affective psychoses	7.96	8.36	7.37	7.37	8.28	7.66	11.16	9.29	7.98
Anxiety disorders <sup>(c)</sup>	5.62	11.07	5.47	7.98	7.80	6.95	8.05	4.40	7.36
Paranoid states	10.99	10.36	9.33	11.18	8.50	9.83	10.06	9.63	10.27
Other psychoses	8.05	8.51	6.74	7.96	6.34	7.09	10.30	7.63	7.79
Other neurotic disorders	4.17	3.88	3.75	5.09	4.06	5.48	6.28	6.09	4.18
Personality disorders <sup>(d)</sup>	5.13	5.83	4.77	6.78	6.55	4.63	5.96	5.11	5.43
Eating disorders	10.29	11.05	7.19	16.53	10.49	10.04	6.91	15.00	10.06
Substance abuse	2.03	2.06	2.59	3.28	2.26	1.76	1.56	2.69	2.40
Substance dependence	4.55	5.55	5.10	4.83	5.71	4.66	6.69	3.62	4.94
Acute alcoholic intoxication	3.02	2.72	3.74	3.07	3.60	5.38	2.71	1.14	3.35
Other drug dependence and abuse	4.91	4.43	3.76	3.65	3.04	3.72	1.00	5.17	4.42
Physiological malfunction arising from mental factors	4.03	3.80	3.94	7.04	2.15	3.17	8.00	3.00	3.99
Special syndromes or syndromes not elsewhere classified	4.05	3.67	2.97	4.38	3.90	2.10	5.33	7.00	3.75
Acute reaction to stress	3.69	3.03	3.51	4.65	4.06	3.28	2.75	2.78	3.67
Adjustment reaction excluding PTSD	4.94	5.11	5.09	7.02	5.42	4.78	5.63	4.22	5.20
Specific non-psychotic mental disorders <sup>(e)</sup>	8.06	9.87	6.48	6.03	9.65	9.80	2.50	7.20	9.22
Other non-psychotic mental conditions	5.89	7.50	4.90	6.56	5.54	4.11	3.05	4.11	5.90
Observation for suspected mental condition	4.20	3.94	4.37	8.20	3.00	4.33	—	1.00	4.30
V codes associated with mental illness <sup>(f)</sup>	5.70	2.75	3.46	1.00	5.00	1.00	—	—	4.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.77</b>	<b>8.90</b>	<b>7.20</b>	<b>7.86</b>	<b>7.96</b>	<b>7.73</b>	<b>9.54</b>	<b>7.28</b>	<b>7.96</b>

(a) Separations with less than 36 patient days.

(b) See classification inclusions list in Appendix 1.

(c) WA figures include activity from psycho-geriatric facilities.

(d) Cluster of disorders replicates the ABS National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing; see classification appendix for a detailed list of inclusions.

(e) Includes sexual deviations and disorders.

(f) Due to organic brain damage.

(g) V11, V15.4, V17.0, V40, V65.2, V66.3, V79.0, V79.1, V79.3, V79.8 and V79.9.

— Nil

**Table 2.2.6: Average length of stay, short-stay<sup>(a)</sup> overnight separations with a mental health principal diagnosis,<sup>(b)</sup> private hospitals, States and Territories, 1997–98**

Principal diagnosis	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Senile and presenile organic conditions	14.24	13.95	12.75	13.68	13.91	14.77	15.63	n.a.	13.67
Other organic psychotic conditions	11.18	10.57	10.68	9.75	10.93	9.07	11.87	n.a.	10.64
Schizophrenic disorders	13.83	12.93	12.05	14.37	11.90	10.50	12.00	n.a.	12.89
Affective disorders <sup>(c)</sup>	14.59	13.28	11.37	11.35	13.63	12.39	13.33	n.a.	12.88
Other affective psychoses	11.99	10.31	10.57	10.29	12.25	10.17	18.21	n.a.	11.03
Anxiety disorders <sup>(c)</sup>	15.73	11.88	11.96	10.01	9.08	11.62	9.33	n.a.	12.97
Paranoid states	12.52	12.36	10.20	9.50	13.82	11.25	—	n.a.	11.89
Other psychoses	10.95	11.23	12.71	9.73	13.23	10.33	6.00	n.a.	11.68
Other neurotic disorders	9.40	9.74	6.80	6.78	9.81	5.94	7.86	n.a.	8.12
Personality disorders <sup>(d)</sup>	10.32	12.62	8.30	8.61	9.39	9.67	11.71	n.a.	10.54
Eating disorders	13.13	13.37	11.07	15.79	12.21	17.17	16.00	n.a.	12.94
Substance abuse	12.57	9.21	10.43	8.97	5.42	11.55	15.50	n.a.	10.34
Substance dependence	13.16	9.55	9.84	9.10	12.35	8.92	19.00	n.a.	10.90
Acute alcoholic intoxication	11.17	10.04	9.22	7.40	3.33	12.00	—	n.a.	10.57
Other drug dependence and abuse	11.95	11.70	8.76	4.00	7.87	25.00	15.00	n.a.	11.21
Physiological malfunction arising from mental factors	6.86	6.75	7.08	6.43	8.50	5.20	2.00	n.a.	6.62
Special syndromes or syndromes not elsewhere classified	6.04	5.21	5.54	3.82	8.00	8.73	—	n.a.	5.42
Acute reaction to stress	7.17	6.89	7.52	8.55	11.56	2.71	—	n.a.	8.19
Adjustment reaction excluding PTSD	11.17	10.88	8.40	9.44	9.28	10.00	7.40	n.a.	9.94
Specific non-psychotic mental disorders <sup>(e)</sup>	10.50	10.91	9.23	9.50	10.24	3.00	15.33	n.a.	10.56
Other non-psychotic mental conditions	12.22	14.80	7.68	6.45	15.50	1.50	—	n.a.	11.16
Observation for suspected mental condition	7.00	5.00	—	—	—	—	—	n.a.	6.33
V codes associated with mental illness <sup>(f)</sup>	18.00	—	8.67	1.00	11.00	7.00	—	n.a.	9.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>13.20</b>	<b>11.36</b>	<b>10.60</b>	<b>10.37</b>	<b>12.36</b>	<b>10.80</b>	<b>13.06</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>11.64</b>

(a) Separations with less than 36 patient days.

(b) See classification inclusions list in Appendix 1.

(c) Cluster of disorders replicates the ABS National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing; see classification appendix for a detailed list of inclusions.

(d) Includes sexual deviations and disorders.

(e) Due to organic brain damage.

(f) V11, V15.4, V17.0, V40, V65.2, V66.3, V79.0, V79.1, V79.3, V79.8 and V79.9.

n.a. Not available

— Nil

**Table 2.2.7: Average length of stay, short-stay<sup>(a)</sup> overnight separations with a mental health principal diagnosis,<sup>(b)</sup> public psychiatric hospitals, States and Territories, 1997–98**

Principal diagnosis	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA <sup>(c)</sup>	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Senile and presenile organic conditions	16.44	1.00	19.30	18.55	18.07	—	..	..	18.08
Other organic psychotic conditions	7.81	9.95	10.60	12.87	8.50	13.40	..	..	9.33
Schizophrenic disorders	12.07	12.05	14.80	15.81	12.66	11.06	..	..	12.93
Affective disorders <sup>(d)</sup>	13.02	12.43	13.62	16.35	11.91	8.39	..	..	13.05
Other affective psychoses	11.14	10.45	13.78	15.47	11.57	8.59	..	..	11.85
Anxiety disorders <sup>(d)</sup>	8.46	6.33	10.25	29.00	7.29	—	..	..	8.49
Paranoid states	10.41	9.56	10.73	15.95	12.04	7.00	..	..	11.93
Other psychoses	9.87	9.26	13.91	13.41	8.89	12.50	..	..	10.68
Other neurotic disorders	6.41	8.00	11.60	10.17	5.00	4.67	..	..	6.82
Personality disorders <sup>(e)</sup>	5.66	7.59	8.44	9.22	5.03	11.46	..	..	6.75
Eating disorders	14.59	—	—	5.00	15.33	—	..	..	14.31
Substance abuse	4.17	7.56	9.75	9.40	2.33	5.00	..	..	5.09
Substance dependence	5.89	6.30	8.00	8.35	3.80	1.00	..	..	5.95
Acute alcoholic intoxication	3.96	15.00	5.67	6.43	3.69	—	..	..	4.24
Other drug dependence and abuse	7.89	4.57	3.00	8.13	4.17	11.00	..	..	7.86
Special syndromes or syndromes not elsewhere classified	16.33	1.00	—	9.33	—	—	..	..	11.14
Acute reaction to stress	4.08	5.41	8.82	6.50	3.23	—	..	..	4.32
Adjustment reaction excluding PTSD	5.01	5.09	8.98	7.76	5.02	6.00	..	..	5.62
Specific non-psychotic mental disorders <sup>(f)</sup>	6.05	8.00	13.08	14.92	5.82	—	..	..	9.67
Other non-psychotic mental conditions	6.07	1.00	10.82	8.75	3.47	—	..	..	6.71
Observation for suspected mental condition	3.50	—	6.25	6.51	1.00	—	..	..	5.90
V codes associated with mental illness <sup>(g)</sup>	14.00	6.33	—	—	—	—	..	..	8.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.77</b>	<b>10.16</b>	<b>12.57</b>	<b>13.44</b>	<b>10.37</b>	<b>9.57</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>10.09</b>

(a) Separations with less than 36 patient days.

(b) See classification inclusions list in Appendix 1.

(c) WA figures include activity from psycho-geriatric facilities.

(d) Cluster of disorders replicates the ABS National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing; see classification appendix for a detailed list of inclusions.

(e) Includes sexual deviations and disorders.

(f) Due to organic brain damage.

(g) V11, V15.4, V17.0, V40, V65.2, V66.3, V79.0, V79.1, V79.3, V79.8 and V79.9.

.. Not applicable

— Nil

**Table 2.2.8: Median length of stay, short-stay<sup>(a)</sup> overnight separations with a mental health principal diagnosis,<sup>(b)</sup> public acute hospitals, States and Territories, 1997–98**

Principal diagnosis	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA <sup>(c)</sup>	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Senile and presenile organic conditions	11.0	13.0	11.0	13.0	10.0	13.0	15.0	14.0	11.0
Other organic psychotic conditions	6.0	6.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	6.0	5.0	3.0	6.0
Schizophrenic disorders	8.0	8.0	6.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	9.0	7.0	8.0
Affective disorders <sup>(d)</sup>	8.0	7.0	6.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	9.0	6.0	7.0
Other affective psychoses	5.0	5.0	4.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	9.0	5.5	5.0
Anxiety disorders <sup>(d)</sup>	3.0	8.0	4.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	6.0	1.0	4.0
Paranoid states	8.0	9.0	6.0	10.0	7.0	7.0	9.5	5.5	8.0
Other psychoses	6.0	6.0	5.0	6.0	4.0	6.0	7.0	5.0	6.0
Other neurotic disorders	2.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	4.0	5.0	3.0	2.0
Personality disorders <sup>(e)</sup>	3.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Eating disorders	7.0	8.0	4.0	17.0	11.0	9.0	6.0	19.0	7.0
Substance abuse	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.0
Substance dependence	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	4.0
Acute alcoholic intoxication	1.0	1.0	4.0	1.0	3.0	3.5	3.0	1.0	2.0
Other drug dependence and abuse	3.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	3.0	3.0
Physiological malfunction arising from mental factors	2.0	3.0	2.5	4.5	1.0	3.0	8.0	3.0	2.0
Special syndromes or syndromes not elsewhere classified	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	6.0	6.0	2.0
Acute reaction to stress	2.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	2.0
Adjustment reaction excluding PTSD	5.0	3.0	3.0	5.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	4.0
Specific non-psychotic mental disorders <sup>(f)</sup>	6.0	7.0	3.0	2.5	7.0	9.0	2.5	6.0	7.0
Other non-psychotic mental conditions	4.0	4.0	3.0	5.0	3.0	2.5	2.0	3.5	4.0
Observation for suspected mental condition	2.0	2.0	3.0	11.0	3.0	4.0	—	1.0	3.0
V codes associated with mental illness <sup>(g)</sup>	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	4.5	1.0	—	—	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>

(a) Separations with less than 36 patient days.

(b) See classification inclusions list in Appendix 1.

(c) WA figures include activity from psycho-geriatric facilities.

(d) Cluster of disorders replicates the ABS National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing; see classification appendix for a detailed list of inclusions.

(e) Includes sexual deviations and disorders.

(f) Due to organic brain damage.

(g) V11, V15.4, V17.0, V40, V65.2, V66.3, V79.0, V79.1, V79.3, V79.8 and V79.9.

— Nil

**Table 2.2.9: Median length of stay, short-stay<sup>(a)</sup> overnight separations with a mental health principal diagnosis,<sup>(b)</sup> private hospitals, States and Territories, 1997–98**

Principal diagnosis	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Senile and presenile organic conditions	12.0	12.0	10.0	12.5	12.0	12.0	15.0	n.a.	12.0
Other organic psychotic conditions	8.0	8.0	7.0	7.0	8.0	7.0	9.0	n.a.	8.0
Schizophrenic disorders	12.0	11.0	10.0	13.0	11.0	5.5	12.0	n.a.	11.0
Affective disorders <sup>(c)</sup>	14.0	12.0	9.0	9.0	12.0	11.0	11.0	n.a.	11.0
Other affective psychoses	9.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	10.0	8.0	18.5	n.a.	9.0
Anxiety disorders <sup>(c)</sup>	15.0	9.0	10.0	9.0	7.0	9.0	7.0	n.a.	11.0
Paranoid states	9.0	10.0	7.0	7.5	14.0	10.0	—	n.a.	9.0
Other psychoses	9.0	8.0	10.0	8.0	12.0	9.0	6.0	n.a.	9.0
Other neurotic disorders	7.0	7.0	4.0	5.0	7.0	5.0	9.0	n.a.	5.0
Personality disorders <sup>(d)</sup>	6.5	11.0	5.0	6.0	7.0	7.0	10.0	n.a.	8.0
Eating disorders	9.5	12.0	7.0	16.0	8.0	16.0	20.0	n.a.	10.0
Substance abuse	12.0	8.0	8.0	5.0	3.0	10.5	15.5	n.a.	8.0
Substance dependence	12.0	6.0	7.0	7.0	9.0	7.0	19.0	n.a.	7.0
Acute alcoholic intoxication	9.0	7.5	6.5	2.5	2.5	12.0	—	n.a.	8.0
Other drug dependence and abuse	8.5	7.0	7.0	3.5	7.0	30.0	15.0	n.a.	7.0
Physiological malfunction arising from mental factors	7.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	8.5	4.0	2.0	n.a.	4.0
Special syndromes or syndromes not elsewhere classified	3.0	5.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	9.0	—	n.a.	5.0
Acute reaction to stress	5.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	8.5	2.0	—	n.a.	6.0
Adjustment reaction excluding PTSD	9.0	9.0	6.0	6.5	6.0	8.0	5.0	n.a.	7.0
Specific non-psychotic mental disorders <sup>(e)</sup>	9.0	9.0	8.0	11.5	11.0	3.0	17.0	n.a.	9.0
Other non-psychotic mental conditions	8.0	8.5	3.0	4.0	11.0	1.5	—	n.a.	6.5
Observation for suspected mental condition	7.0	5.0	—	—	—	—	—	n.a.	5.0
V codes associated with mental illness <sup>(f)</sup>	18.0	—	12.0	1.0	10.0	7.0	—	n.a.	10.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>9.0</b>

(a) Separations with less than 36 patient days.

(b) See classification inclusions list in Appendix 1.

(c) Cluster of disorders replicates the ABS National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing; see classification appendix for a detailed list of inclusions.

(d) Includes sexual deviations and disorders.

(e) Due to organic brain damage.

(f) V11, V15.4, V17.0, V40, V65.2, V66.3, V79.0, V79.1, V79.3, V79.8 and V79.9.

n.a. Not available

— Nil

**Table 2.2.10: Median length of stay, short-stay<sup>(a)</sup> overnight separations with a mental health principal diagnosis,<sup>(b)</sup> public psychiatric hospitals, States and Territories, 1997–98**

Principal diagnosis	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA <sup>(c)</sup>	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Senile and presenile organic conditions	14.0	1.0	23.0	19.0	19.0	—	..	..	18.0
Other organic psychotic conditions	5.0	8.0	8.0	12.0	5.0	12.5	..	..	6.0
Schizophrenic disorders	9.0	10.0	13.0	14.0	10.0	8.0	..	..	10.0
Affective disorders <sup>(d)</sup>	11.0	9.0	12.0	15.0	10.0	5.0	..	..	11.0
Other affective psychoses	8.0	7.0	12.0	14.0	9.0	5.0	..	..	9.0
Anxiety disorders <sup>(d)</sup>	6.0	9.0	4.5	29.0	4.0	—	..	..	5.0
Paranoid states	8.0	8.0	9.0	16.0	10.5	7.0	..	..	9.0
Other psychoses	8.0	8.0	14.5	12.0	6.0	12.5	..	..	9.0
Other neurotic disorders	4.0	7.0	8.0	10.0	2.0	3.0	..	..	5.0
Personality disorders <sup>(e)</sup>	3.0	5.0	4.5	7.0	4.0	6.5	..	..	4.0
Eating disorders	16.0	—	—	5.0	8.0	—	..	..	14.5
Substance abuse	2.0	3.0	3.5	7.0	1.0	3.5	..	..	2.0
Substance dependence	4.0	4.0	5.0	5.0	2.0	1.0	..	..	4.0
Acute alcoholic intoxication	3.0	15.0	2.5	3.5	3.0	—	..	..	3.0
Other drug dependence and abuse	5.0	4.0	3.0	6.0	4.0	8.5	..	..	6.0
Special syndromes or syndromes not elsewhere classified	20.0	1.0	—	—	—	—	..	..	2.0
Acute reaction to stress	3.0	2.5	6.0	2.5	1.5	—	..	..	2.0
Adjustment reaction excluding PTSD	4.0	3.0	5.5	5.0	3.0	4.0	..	..	4.0
Specific non-psychotic mental disorders <sup>(f)</sup>	4.0	8.0	5.0	15.0	4.0	—	..	..	5.0
Other non-psychotic mental conditions	2.0	1.0	9.5	8.0	3.0	—	..	..	3.0
Observation for suspected mental condition	2.5	—	2.5	3.0	1.0	—	..	..	3.0
V codes associated with mental illness <sup>(g)</sup>	14.0	5.0	—	—	—	—	..	..	9.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>7.0</b>

(a) Separations with less than 36 patient days.

(b) See classification inclusions list in Appendix 1.

(c) WA figures include activity from psycho-geriatric facilities.

(d) Cluster of disorders replicates the ABS National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing; see classification appendix for a detailed list of inclusions.

(e) Includes sexual deviations and disorders.

(f) Due to organic brain damage.

(g) V11, V15.4, V17.0, V40, V65.2, V66.3, V79.0, V79.1, V79.3, V79.8 and V79.9.

.. Not applicable

— Nil

**Table 2.2.11: Mental health legal status, short-stay separations<sup>(a)</sup> with a mental health principal diagnosis<sup>(b)</sup> by hospital sector, States and Territories, 1997–98**

Mental health legal status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA <sup>(c)</sup>	SA	Tas	ACT	NT <sup>(d)</sup>	Australia
<b>Public acute hospitals</b>									
Same-day separations									
Involuntary	267	409	867	n.a.	12	46	n.p.	n.a.	1,601
Voluntary	8,147	2,933	2,839	n.a.	683	497	n.p.	n.a.	15,099
Not reported	2,832	3	—	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.	2,835
<i>Total</i>	<i>11,246</i>	<i>3,345</i>	<i>3,706</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>695</i>	<i>543</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>19,553</i>
Overnight separations									
Involuntary	4,511	5,632	5,973	n.a.	521	237	160	n.a.	17,034
Voluntary	6,999	7,374	7,714	n.a.	1,920	1,166	239	n.a.	25,412
Not reported	460	93	—	n.a.	—	—	—	n.a.	553
<i>Total</i>	<i>11,970</i>	<i>13,099</i>	<i>13,687</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>2,441</i>	<i>1,403</i>	<i>399</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>42,999</i>
<b>Total public acute</b>	<b>23,216</b>	<b>16,444</b>	<b>17,393</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>3,136</b>	<b>1,946</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>62,552</b>
<b>Private hospitals<sup>(e)</sup></b>									
Same-day separations									
Involuntary	13	n.a.	82	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	95
Voluntary	8,368	n.a.	4,688	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	13,056
Not reported	5,930	n.a.	—	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	5,930
<i>Total</i>	<i>14,311</i>	<i>10,737</i>	<i>4,770</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>29,818</i>
Overnight separations									
Involuntary	n.p.	n.a.	63	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	64
Voluntary	n.p.	n.a.	2,766	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	2,766
Not reported	n.p.	n.a.	—	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0
<i>Total</i>	<i>4,751</i>	<i>4,233</i>	<i>2,829</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>11,813</i>
<b>Total private</b>	<b>19,062</b>	<b>14,970</b>	<b>7,599</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>41,631</b>
<b>Public psychiatric hospitals</b>									
Same-day separations									
Involuntary	218	26	7	27	120	n.p.	n.a.	n.a.	403
Voluntary	131	18	22	9	53	n.p.	n.a.	n.a.	237
Not reported	1,285	—	—	—	—	—	n.a.	n.a.	1,285
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,634</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>173</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>1,925</i>
Overnight separations									
Involuntary	3,255	489	412	1,413	2,142	135	n.a.	n.a.	7,846
Voluntary	2,645	312	393	844	1,264	95	n.a.	n.a.	5,553
Not reported	271	—	—	—	—	—	n.a.	n.a.	271
<i>Total</i>	<i>6,171</i>	<i>801</i>	<i>805</i>	<i>2,257</i>	<i>3,406</i>	<i>230</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>13,670</i>
<b>Total public psychiatric</b>	<b>7,805</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>2,293</b>	<b>3,579</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>15,595</b>

(a) Separations with less than 36 patient days.

(b) Since Mental health legal status is a required item only for separations with care in specialised wards, this data includes only those with a mental health principal diagnosis and care in a specialised psychiatric area.

(c) WA figures include activity from psycho-geriatric units.

(d) Mental health legal status was not collected for admitted patients in Northern Territory in 1997-98.

(e) Private includes 64 separations from private free-standing day hospitals.

.. Not applicable

n.p. Not published

n.a. Not available

— Nil

**Table 2.2.12: Mental health legal status, short-stay<sup>(a)</sup> patients with a mental health principal diagnosis,<sup>(b)</sup> private hospitals, Australia, 1997–98**

Principal diagnosis	Involuntary		Voluntary		Other		Total	
	Overnight	Same-day	Overnight	Same-day	Overnight	Same-day	Overnight	Same-day
Senile and presenile organic conditions	—	—	28	13	93	n.p.	121	21
Other organic psychotic conditions	—	—	45	—	72	41	117	41
Schizophrenic disorders	20	39	522	1,488	565	2,097	1,107	3,624
Affective disorders <sup>(c)</sup>	n.p.	n.p.	2,016	5,685	2,679	7,282	4,699	12,973
Other affective psychoses	n.p.	—	436	784	482	885	921	1,669
Anxiety disorders <sup>(c)</sup>	n.p.	22	513	982	622	2,742	1,139	3,746
Paranoid states	—	—	35	31	40	19	75	50
Other psychoses	n.p.	—	46	29	38	13	87	42
Other neurotic disorders	26	16	205	418	112	70	343	504
Personality disorders <sup>(d)</sup>	—	n.p.	105	231	148	262	253	495
Eating disorders	—	10	152	1,598	76	1,608	228	3,216
Substance abuse	—	—	132	83	108	153	240	236
Substance dependence	n.p.	—	830	968	418	264	1,249	1,232
Acute alcoholic intoxication	—	—	121	30	114	18	235	48
Other drug dependence and abuse	n.p.	—	154	224	42	71	198	295
Physiological malfunction arising from mental factors	—	—	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	n.p.	n.p.
Special syndromes or syndromes not elsewhere classified	—	—	n.p.	—	n.p.	—	13	—
Acute reaction to stress	—	—	38	56	32	23	70	79
Adjustment reaction excluding PTSD	n.p.	—	305	365	334	743	640	1,108
Specific non-psychotic mental disorders <sup>(e)</sup>	—	—	n.p.	52	13	13	14	65
Other non-psychotic mental conditions	—	—	31	18	21	355	52	373
Observation for suspected mental condition	—	—	n.p.	—	n.p.	—	n.p.	—
V codes associated with mental illness <sup>(f)</sup>	—	—	—	—	n.p.	—	n.p.	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>5,732</b>	<b>13,056</b>	<b>6,017</b>	<b>16,667</b>	<b>11,813</b>	<b>29,818</b>

(a) Separations with less than 36 patient days.

(b) Since Mental health legal status is a required item only for separations with care in specialised wards, these data include only those with a mental health principal diagnosis and care in a specialised psychiatric area.

(c) Cluster of disorders replicates the ABS National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing; see classification appendix for a detailed list of inclusions.

(d) Includes sexual deviations and disorders.

(e) Due to organic brain damage.

(f) V11, V15.4, V17.0, V40, V65.2, V66.3, V79.0, V79.1, V79.3, V79.8 and V79.9.

n.p. Not published

— Nil

Note: Refer to Table 2.2.11 for State/ Territory breakdown. Not all jurisdictions were able to provide this data element; in such cases data are reported as other.

**Table 2.2.13: Mental health legal status, short-stay<sup>(a)</sup> patients with a mental health principal diagnosis,<sup>(b)</sup> public hospitals, Australia, 1997–98**

Principal diagnosis	Involuntary		Voluntary		Other		Total	
	Overnight	Same-day	Overnight	Same-day	Overnight	Same-day	Overnight	Same-day
Senile and presenile organic conditions	316	11	528	254	60	—	904	265
Other organic psychotic conditions	1,720	83	1,241	171	144	47	3,105	301
Schizophrenic disorders	9,903	440	7,618	1,689	288	592	17,809	2,721
Affective disorders <sup>(c)</sup>	4,595	436	8,000	4,586	203	471	12,798	5,493
Other affective psychoses	1,346	91	2,934	1,047	68	161	4,348	1,299
Anxiety disorders <sup>(c)</sup>	143	42	673	919	20	116	836	1,077
Paranoid states	524	21	365	132	14	—	903	153
Other psychoses	1,096	96	855	177	67	114	2,018	387
Other neurotic disorders	235	41	522	576	28	91	785	708
Personality disorders <sup>(c)</sup>	1,712	178	2,256	719	59	24	4,027	921
Eating disorders	129	53	381	1,240	n.p.	n.p.	530	1,296
Substance abuse	305	103	257	129	n.p.	n.p.	570	234
Substance dependence	287	26	695	427	n.p.	n.p.	996	454
Acute alcoholic intoxication	204	69	171	51	n.p.	n.p.	381	123
Other drug dependence and abuse	133	16	198	20	n.p.	n.p.	340	37
Physiological malfunction arising from mental factors	n.p.	—	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	12	n.p.
Special syndromes or syndromes not elsewhere classified	n.p.	n.p.	25	85	n.p.	172	40	260
Acute reaction to stress	367	87	664	229	n.p.	n.p.	1,039	318
Adjustment reaction excluding PTSD	1,503	163	2,983	672	336	371	4,822	1,206
Specific non-psychotic mental disorders <sup>(e)</sup>	87	n.p.	91	96	n.p.	—	180	102
Other non-psychotic mental conditions	194	34	447	2,076	93	1,977	734	4,087
Observation for suspected mental condition	63	n.p.	41	55	n.p.	—	107	61
V codes associated with mental illness <sup>(f)</sup>	n.p.	—	14	n.p.	—	—	20	n.p.
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,876</b>	<b>2,005</b>	<b>30,969</b>	<b>15,353</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>4,120</b>	<b>56,669</b>	<b>21,478</b>

(a) Separations with less than 36 patient days.

(b) Since Mental health legal status is a required item only for separations with care in specialised wards, these data include only those with a mental health principal diagnosis and care in a specialised psychiatric area.

(c) Cluster of disorders replicates the ABS National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing; see classification appendix for a detailed list of inclusions.

(d) Includes sexual deviations and disorders.

(e) Due to organic brain damage.

(f) V11, V15.4, V17.0, V40, V65.2, V66.3, V79.0, V79.1, V79.3, V79.8 and V79.9.

n.p. Not published

— Nil

**Table 2.2.14: Mental health legal status, short-stay patients<sup>(a)</sup> with a mental health principal diagnosis<sup>(b)</sup> by gender and age group, Australia, 1997–98**

Age group	Involuntary		Voluntary		Other		Total	
	Overnight	Same-day	Overnight	Same-day	Overnight	Same-day	Overnight	Same-day
<b>Male</b>								
17 and under	489	63	886	2,343	258	4,095	1,633	6,501
18–24	3,466	220	2,979	763	212	778	6,657	1,761
25–34	5,006	325	5,027	1,372	340	438	10,373	2,135
35–44	2,959	202	3,756	1,538	401	786	7,116	2,526
45–54	1,487	76	2,872	2,279	681	2,096	5,040	4,451
55–64	624	44	1,072	890	290	702	1,986	1,636
65 and over	588	64	1,432	3,843	406	313	2,426	4,220
<i>Total</i>	<i>14,619</i>	<i>994</i>	<i>18,024</i>	<i>13,028</i>	<i>2,588</i>	<i>9,208</i>	<i>35,231</i>	<i>23,230</i>
<b>Female</b>								
17 and under	497	112	1,187	949	221	1,726	1,905	2,787
18–24	1,614	135	2,362	1,847	288	1,301	4,264	3,283
25–34	2,809	289	4,520	2,982	817	2,087	8,146	5,358
35–44	2,398	183	4,139	2,842	905	2,280	7,442	5,305
45–54	1,453	112	2,734	3,238	850	2,407	5,037	5,757
55–64	742	76	1,321	1,416	410	1,120	2,473	2,612
65 and over	811	199	2,411	2,107	762	658	3,984	2,964
<i>Total</i>	<i>10,324</i>	<i>1,106</i>	<i>18,674</i>	<i>15,381</i>	<i>4,253</i>	<i>11,579</i>	<i>33,251</i>	<i>28,066</i>
<b>Persons</b>								
17 and under	986	175	2,073	3,292	479	5,821	3,538	9,288
18–24	5,080	355	5,341	2,610	500	2,079	10,921	5,044
25–34	7,815	614	9,547	4,354	1,157	2,525	18,519	7,493
35–44	5,357	385	7,895	4,380	1,306	3,066	14,558	7,831
45–54	2,940	188	5,606	5,517	1,531	4,503	10,077	10,208
55–64	1,366	120	2,393	2,306	700	1,822	4,459	4,248
65 and over	1,399	263	3,843	5,950	1,168	971	6,410	7,184
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,943</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>36,698</b>	<b>28,409</b>	<b>6,841</b>	<b>20,787</b>	<b>68,482</b>	<b>51,296</b>

(a) Separations with less than 36 patient days.

(b) Since Mental health legal status is a required item only for separations with care in specialised wards, these data include only those with a mental health principal diagnosis and care in a specialised psychiatric area.

## 2.3 Long-stay patients with a mental health principal diagnosis

### Principal diagnosis

Specialised care separations account for approximately 75% of all long-stay separations with a mental health principal diagnosis (Table 2.3.1). The greatest number of separations with some specialised care were reported for *schizophrenic disorders* (3,649 separations), which also contributed the greatest number of patient days (722,388 patient days). The second highest number of long-stay separations with some specialised care were *affective disorders* with 2,769 separations. *Other organic psychotic conditions* had the average length of stay (461 patient days).

For separations with general care only, *senile and presenile organic conditions* accounted for 805 separations (24.0%) and *affective disorders* for 734 separations (21.9%). Generally, the number of patient days per separation was smaller for patients in general care only, except in the case of *other psychoses* and *senile and presenile organic conditions*.

### Specialised and general care

Table 2.3.2 compares general and specialised care across States and Territories for overnight separations and patient days for overnight separations recorded for patients with a mental health principal diagnosis. For all States and Territories except the Australian Capital Territory and Western Australia, the majority of long-stay separations occurred in specialised care. Approximately 82% of patient days for long-stay separations occurred in specialised care units, with only the Australian Capital Territory recording more general care days than specialised care days for long-stay patients with a mental health principal diagnosis. Western Australia and South Australia recorded the greatest number of long-stay separations per 1,000 population (approximately 1.0 per 1,000).

### Sex and age group

For all sex and age groupings, the majority of long-stay separations had specialised care: 79% for males and 71% for females. For males, the 18–24-year-old age group had the highest level of specialised separations, whereas for females it was highest for the 25–34 age group. Males generally had more specialised care days than females (Table 2.3.3).

### Length of stay

Tables 2.3.1 to 2.1.4 contain data on length of stay, but caution must be used in interpreting these results. Average and median length of stay calculations show marked differences, indicating that the distribution of length of stay for long-stay patients is skewed. For public psychiatric hospitals an average length of stay of 325 days compares with a median stay of 62 days. This indicates that some extremely long separations are contributing to the average (Table 2.3.4).

Queensland had the highest overall average length of stay for long-stay separations with a mental health diagnosis at approximately 247 days. This was due to Queensland's average length of stay for public psychiatric hospitals (879 days). Western Australia recorded the highest median length of stay for all hospitals (56 days).

The highest average and median length of stay for public acute hospitals were recorded in New South Wales, whereas for private hospitals Queensland's average and mean were the highest (Table 2.3.4).

Table 2.3.5 shows that males and females in some States had quite different average and median lengths of stay. This may reflect the differing distributions of disorders by sex and therefore of care needs (see Appendix 3).

Table 2.3.6 outlines the average and median length of stay for stays that include care in specialised psychiatric care units or wards. Generally the patterns found in the overall length of stay figures in Table 2.3.4 are replicated in length of stays including specialised psychiatric care, except for public acute hospitals. In public acute hospitals, Victoria has the highest average length of stay for all states (77 days) and the Northern Territory has the highest median length of stay (53).

Length of stay figures for long-stay separations with general care only reflect a very small number of total mental health separations. Very few long-stay mental health separations in public psychiatric hospitals have no specialised care, and so this category was not included in Table 2.3.7.

### **Mental health legal status**

Male long-stay separations had a higher proportion of involuntary mental health legal status overall: 50% of males had an involuntary status, compared to 34% for females. This difference is particularly notable in the 18–44 year age groups; over 50% of long-stay males with specialised psychiatric care in these age groups had an involuntary legal status (Table 2.3.8).

### **Procedures**

For long-stay patients, the 30 procedures with the highest number of separations accounted for only 6% of separations. Fifty-six per cent of separations had no principal procedure listed. *Electroconvulsive therapy* and *other electroshock therapy* were reported for approximately 10% of total long-stay separations (Table 2.3.9).

**Table 2.3.1: Mental health principal diagnosis<sup>(a)</sup> for long-stay patients<sup>(b)</sup> by type of care, Australia, 1997–98**

Principal diagnosis	Specialised care			General care	
	Separations	Patient days	Psychiatric care days	Separations	Patient days
Senile and presenile organic conditions	735	114,050	113,849	805	130,857
Other organic psychotic conditions	374	172,386	172,221	613	74,954
Schizophrenic disorders	3,649	722,388	719,992	300	23,935
Affective disorders <sup>(c)</sup>	2,769	188,979	186,452	734	40,775
Other affective psychoses	723	125,524	123,630	179	13,929
Anxiety disorders <sup>(c)</sup>	256	14,017	13,873	59	3,109
Paranoid states	127	28,491	28,397	29	1,910
Other psychoses	135	13,986	13,841	38	5,606
Other neurotic disorders	78	5,149	5,032	41	2,547
Personality disorders <sup>(d)</sup>	167	14,764	14,675	45	2,922
Eating disorders	262	18,030	17,258	157	9,638
Substance abuse	30	1,588	1,587	19	867
Substance dependence	196	15,906	15,877	143	8,008
Acute alcoholic intoxication	13	642	630	n.p.	279
Other drug dependence and abuse	36	1,838	1,818	n.p.	393
Physiological malfunction arising from mental factors	n.p.	43	43	n.p.	163
Special syndromes or syndromes not elsewhere classified	n.p.	78	78	n.p.	217
Acute reaction to stress	12	646	615	17	1,102
Adjustment reaction excluding PTSD	114	6,679	6,584	48	2,780
Specific non-psychotic mental disorders <sup>(e)</sup>	52	11,636	11,598	64	3,904
Other non-psychotic mental conditions	46	53,011	53,010	35	2,764
Observation for suspected mental condition	n.p.	142	142	—	—
V codes associated with mental illness <sup>(f)</sup>	n.p.	103	103	n.p.	82
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,781</b>	<b>1,510,076</b>	<b>1,501,305</b>	<b>3,350</b>	<b>330,741</b>

(a) See classification inclusions list in Appendix 1.

(b) Separations with 36 patient days or greater.

(c) Cluster of disorders replicates the ABS National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing; see classification appendix for a detailed list of inclu:

(d) Includes sexual deviations and disorders.

(e) Due to organic brain damage.

(f) V11, V15.4, V17.0, V40, V65.2, V66.3, V79.0, V79.1, V79.3, V79.8 and V79.9.

n.p. Not published.

— Nil.

**Table 2.3.2: Specialised and general care of long-stay patients<sup>(a)</sup> with a mental health principal diagnosis,<sup>(b)</sup> States and Territories, 1997–98**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA <sup>(d)</sup>	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Overnight separations</b>									
In general care only	715	591	542	890	444	78	86	n.p.	3,350
In specialised care	3,411	2,554	1,920	828	910	87	31	40	9,781
Per cent specialised	82.67	81.21	77.99	48.20	67.21	52.73	26.50	90.91	74.49
<b>Total separations</b>	<b>4,126</b>	<b>3,145</b>	<b>2,462</b>	<b>1,718</b>	<b>1,354</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>13,131</b>
Separations per 1,000 population	0.65	0.68	0.72	0.95	0.91	0.35	0.38	0.23	0.71
Separations per 1,000 population (age-standardised) <sup>(e)</sup>	0.69	0.72	0.77	1.05	0.97	0.37	0.38	0.29	0.75
<b>Patient days for overnight separations</b>									
Total general care days <sup>(f)</sup>	125,207	46,713	66,693	66,148	24,450	4,683	5,266	352	339,512
Total psychiatric care days	522,500	187,597	541,390	119,369	104,251	22,393	1,519	2,286	1,501,305
Per cent specialised	80.67	80.06	89.03	64.34	81.00	82.70	22.39	86.66	81.56

(a) Separations with 36 patient days or greater.

(b) See classification inclusions list in Appendix 1.

(c) Acute general hospitals in WA did not report total psychiatric care days, therefore figures reported may be misleading and should not be directly compared with figures from other states. WA figures include activity from psycho-geriatric facilities.

(d) A separation is classified as having specialised care if at least one day of care was given in a specialised psychiatric unit or ward. A specialised care separation may therefore include some general care days.

(e) Rates were directly age-standardised to the Australian population at 30 June 1991.

(f) Total general care days include general ward patient days from both general and specialised separations.

n.p. Not published.

— Nil.

**Table 2.3.3: Specialised and general care of long-stay patients<sup>(a)</sup> with a mental health principal diagnosis<sup>(b)</sup> by gender and age group, Australia, 1997–98**

	17 and under	18–24	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	65 and over	Total
<b>Males</b>								
<b>Overnight separations</b>								
In general care only	53	72	109	78	119	76	749	1,256
In specialised care	131	731	1,027	771	605	413	1,038	4,716
Per cent specialised	71.20	91.03	90.40	90.81	83.56	84.46	58.09	78.97
<b>Total separations</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>1,136</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>1,787</b>	<b>5,972</b>
Separations per 1,000	0.08	0.84	0.79	0.59	0.59	0.61	1.81	0.64
<b>Patient days for overnight separations</b>								
Total general care days <sup>(d)</sup>	4,516	6,054	8,142	6,410	6,791	7,700	88,002	127,615
Total psychiatric care days	46,591	119,882	180,390	141,260	135,241	119,027	164,994	907,385
Per cent specialised	91.16	95.19	95.68	95.66	95.22	93.92	65.22	87.67
<b>Females</b>								
<b>Overnight separations</b>								
In general care only	128	110	150	209	181	140	1,176	2,094
In specialised care	225	417	753	820	700	510	1,640	5,065
Per cent specialised	63.74	79.13	83.39	79.69	79.46	78.46	58.24	70.75
<b>Total separations</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>903</b>	<b>1,029</b>	<b>881</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>2,816</b>	<b>7,159</b>
Separations per 1,000 population	0.15	0.57	0.63	0.71	0.74	0.82	2.22	0.77
<b>Patient days for overnight separations</b>								
Total general care days <sup>(d)</sup>	8,196	6,630	8,994	12,071	10,789	11,018	154,199	211,897
Total psychiatric care days	13,833	28,797	88,250	96,979	94,833	79,658	191,570	593,920
Per cent specialised	62.79	81.29	90.75	88.93	89.79	87.85	55.40	73.70

(a) Separations with 36 patient days or more.

(b) See classification inclusions list in Appendix 1.

(c) A separation is classified as having specialised care if at least one day of care was given in a specialised psychiatric unit or ward. A specialised care separation may therefore include some general care days.

(d) Total general care days include general ward patient days from both general and specialised separations.

**Table 2.3.4: Average and median length of stay of long-stay<sup>(a)</sup> separations with a mental health principal diagnosis<sup>(b)</sup> by hospital sector, States and Territories, 1997–98**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA <sup>(c)</sup>	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Sector</b>	<b>Average</b>								
Public acute hospitals	102.8	75.5	82.3	78.8	58.1	61.3	58.9	60.0	84.0
Private hospitals	56.3	63.3	71.9	59.8	50.2	46.9	47.3	n.a.	61.7
Public psychiatric hospitals	339.6	126.2	879.5	144.2	133.5	383.6	..	..	324.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>157.0</b>	<b>74.5</b>	<b>247.0</b>	<b>108.0</b>	<b>95.1</b>	<b>164.1</b>	<b>58.0</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>140.2</b>
	<b>Median</b>								
Public acute hospitals	55.0	51.0	50.0	53.0	47.0	47.0	48.0	51.0	52.0
Private hospitals	48.0	48.0	49.0	49.0	45.0	41.0	43.0	n.a.	48.0
Public psychiatric hospitals	56.0	52.0	104.0	65.0	58.0	56.0	..	..	62.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>53.0</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>53.0</b>	<b>56.0</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>47.0</b>	<b>48.0</b>	<b>51.0</b>	<b>52.0</b>

(a) Separations with 36 patient days or more.

(b) See classification inclusions list in Appendix 1.

(c) WA figures include activity from psycho-geriatric facilities.

n.a. Not available.

.. Not applicable.

— Nil.

**Table 2.3.5: Average and median length of stay of long-stay<sup>(a)</sup> separations with a mental health principal diagnosis<sup>(b)</sup> by sex, States and Territories, 1997–98**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA <sup>(c)</sup>	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Sex</b>	<b>Average</b>								
Male	204.3	80.7	286.7	119.9	117.3	242.9	63.7	63.3	173.3
Female	117.0	70.1	206.9	97.9	77.3	89.9	53.9	54.7	112.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>157.0</b>	<b>74.5</b>	<b>247.0</b>	<b>108.0</b>	<b>95.1</b>	<b>164.1</b>	<b>58.0</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>140.2</b>
	<b>Median</b>								
Male	54.0	50.0	55.0	57.0	53.0	48.5	48.0	55.0	53.0
Female	52.0	50.0	52.0	55.5	49.0	47.0	47.5	48.0	52.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>53.0</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>53.0</b>	<b>56.0</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>47.0</b>	<b>48.0</b>	<b>51.0</b>	<b>52.0</b>

(a) Separations with 36 patient days or more.

(b) See classification inclusions list in Appendix 1.

(c) WA figures include activity from psycho-geriatric facilities; this cannot be clearly identified for other jurisdictions.

**Table 2.3.6: Average and median length of stay in psychiatric care of long-stay<sup>(a)</sup> separations with a mental health principal diagnosis,<sup>(b)</sup> States and Territories, 1997–98**

Sector	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA <sup>(c)</sup>	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Average								
Public acute hospitals	66.2	76.8	57.1	n.a.	53.4	50.9	49.0	57.2	67.6
Private hospitals	55.0	54.3	66.9	n.a.	n.a.	..	..	n.a.	57.8
Public psychiatric hospitals	343.3	126.0	879.5	144.2	133.5	383.6	..	..	352.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>153.2</b>	<b>73.5</b>	<b>282.0</b>	<b>144.2</b>	<b>114.6</b>	<b>257.4</b>	<b>49.0</b>	<b>57.2</b>	<b>114.3</b>
Median									
Public acute hospitals	51.0	52.0	47.0	n.a.	47.0	47.0	42.0	52.5	50.0
Private hospitals	48.0	48.0	51.0	n.a.	n.a.	..	..	n.a.	48.0
Public psychiatric hospitals	57.0	52.0	104.0	65.0	58.0	56.0	..	..	62.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>51.0</b>	<b>51.0</b>	<b>53.0</b>	<b>65.0</b>	<b>54.0</b>	<b>49.0</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>52.0</b>	<b>44.0</b>

(a) Separations with 36 patient days or more.

(b) See classification inclusions list in Appendix 1.

(c) Acute general hospitals in WA do not report total psychiatric care days. Therefore figures reported maybe misleading and should not be directly compared with other states. WA figures include activity from psycho-geriatric facilities.

n.a. Not available.

.. Not applicable.

— Nil.

**Table 2.3.7: Average and median length of stay of long-stay<sup>(a)</sup> separations with a mental health principal diagnosis<sup>(b)</sup> in general care only, States and Territories, 1997–98**

Sector	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA <sup>(c)</sup>	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Average								
Public acute hospitals	178.8	70.7	166.2	78.8	64.5	68.7	60.8	71.5	112.8
Private hospitals	52.2	105.9	78.2	59.8	50.2	46.9	47.3	n.a.	67.5
Public psychiatric hospitals	88.9	—	—	—	—	—	..	..	88.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>166.0</b>	<b>79.0</b>	<b>119.4</b>	<b>74.3</b>	<b>55.0</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>59.4</b>	<b>71.5</b>	<b>98.7</b>
Median									
Public acute hospitals	61.0	49.5	65.5	53.0	48.0	47.0	48.0	47.0	54.0
Private hospitals	42.0	43.0	46.5	49.0	45.0	41.0	43.0	n.a.	46.0
Public psychiatric hospitals	50.0	—	—	—	—	—	..	..	50.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>57.0</b>	<b>48.0</b>	<b>52.5</b>	<b>52.0</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>44.5</b>	<b>47.5</b>	<b>47.0</b>	<b>50.0</b>

(a) Separations with 36 patient days or more.

(b) See classification inclusions list in Appendix 1.

(c) Acute general hospitals in WA do not report total psychiatric care days. Therefore figures reported maybe misleading and should not be directly compared with other states. WA figures include activity from psycho-geriatric facilities.

.. Not applicable.

— Nil.

**Table 2.3.8: Mental health legal status of long-stay patients <sup>(a)</sup> with a mental health diagnosis <sup>(b)</sup> by sex and age group, Australia, 1997–98**

	<b>Involuntary</b>		<b>Voluntary</b>		<b>Other</b>		<b>Total</b>
<b>Males</b>							
17 and under	54	41.2	58	44.3	19	14.5	131
18–24	459	62.8	243	33.2	29	4.0	731
25–34	652	63.5	321	31.3	54	5.3	1,027
35–44	448	58.1	275	35.7	48	6.2	771
45–54	227	37.5	293	48.4	85	14.0	605
55–64	175	42.4	202	48.9	36	8.7	413
65 and over	324	31.2	637	61.4	77	7.4	1,038
<b>Total males</b>	<b>2,339</b>	<b>49.6</b>	<b>2,029</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>4,716</b>
<b>Females</b>							
17 and under	43	19.1	133	59.1	49	21.8	225
18–24	178	42.7	179	42.9	60	14.4	417
25–34	321	42.6	314	41.7	118	15.7	753
35–44	315	38.4	358	43.7	147	17.9	820
45–54	230	32.9	325	46.4	145	20.7	700
55–64	178	34.9	258	50.6	74	14.5	510
65 and over	439	26.8	1021	62.3	180	11.0	1,640
<b>Total females</b>	<b>1,704</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>2,588</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>5,065</b>
<b>Persons</b>							
17 and under	97	27.2	191	53.7	68	19.1	356
18–24	637	55.5	422	36.8	89	7.8	1,148
25–34	973	54.7	635	35.7	172	9.7	1,780
35–44	763	48.0	633	39.8	195	12.3	1,591
45–54	457	35.0	618	47.4	230	17.6	1,305
55–64	353	38.2	460	49.8	110	11.9	923
65 and over	763	28.5	1,658	61.9	257	9.6	2,678
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,020</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>4,640</b>	<b>47.4</b>	<b>1,121</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>9,781</b>

(a) Separations with 36 patient days or more.

(b) See classification inclusions list in Appendix 1.

**Table 2.3.9: Thirty procedures with the highest number of separations, long-stay patients<sup>(a)</sup> with a mental health principal diagnosis,<sup>(b)</sup> Australia, 1997–98**

<b>Principal procedure</b>	<b>Separations</b>	<b>Patient days</b>	<b>Psychiatric care days</b>
Computerised axial tomography of head	739	54,195	33,394
Other electroshock therapy	736	48,874	41,227
Electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) > 8 treatments	577	49,541	43,141
Assessment	514	32,697	23,847
Other group therapy	314	17,965	16,125
Occupational therapy assessment	297	26,091	16,398
Nutritional assessment	211	19,214	14,374
Other diagnostic physical therapy procedure	119	9,883	3,882
Behaviour therapy	109	6,730	6,169
Occupational therapy-self care	106	8,312	5,753
Advocacy	99	11,865	11,504
Discharge planning	95	7,407	5,304
Recreational therapy	91	6,941	6,603
Alcohol rehabilitation and detoxification	71	3,008	571
Other individual psychotherapy	61	3,067	1,767
Other psychiatric drug therapy	57	3,303	3,121
Alcohol detoxification	51	2,494	1,811
Oesophagogastroduodenoscopy (EGD) with closed biopsy	51	3,336	2,145
Therapy	49	2,877	1,579
Ambulation and gait training	48	5,038	494
Lithium therapy	48	2,589	622
Other supportive counselling	47	9,946	9,505
Electroencephalogram	45	2,540	1,836
Neuroleptic therapy	43	2,442	2,343
Suture of skin and subcutaneous tissue of other sites	43	9,051	6,127
Drug rehabilitation and detoxification	39	1,909	516
General therapeutic techniques	38	2,567	1,450
Drug detoxification	31	1,578	1,110
Combined alcohol and drug rehabilitation	30	1,387	1,243
Other specified nutritional intervention	30	1,823	590
All other procedures	943	165,143	136,047
No principal procedure given	7,399	1,317,004	1,100,707
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,131</b>	<b>1,840,817</b>	<b>1,501,305</b>

(a) Separations with 36 patient days or more.

(b) See classification inclusions list in Appendix 1.

## **2.4 Other patients with specialised care**

A small number of patients with no mental health principal diagnosis received treatment in a specialised unit or ward (10,096 separations). Approximately two-thirds of these separations had a mental health additional diagnosis (Table 2.4.1).

A large number of separations with specialised care but no mental health principal or additional diagnosis were attributed to categories which are known to be linked to psychiatric illness.

Table 2.4.2 shows the distribution of these separations across States and Territories. New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria account for 92% of all separations with no mental health principal diagnosis but some specialised care. The mental health legal status of these records is largely voluntary (Table 2.4.3).

**Table 2.4.1: Separations with specialised care<sup>(a)</sup> but no mental health principal diagnosis<sup>(b)</sup> by principal and additional<sup>(c)</sup> diagnosis, Australia, 1997–98**

Principal diagnosis	With mental health additional diagnosis				Without mental health additional diagnosis				Per cent separations without secondary mental health principal diagnosis
	Overnight	Same-day	Patient days	Psychiatric care days	Overnight	Same-day	Patient days	Psychiatric care days	
No principal diagnosis recorded	n.p.	n.p.	30	30	676	86	51,450	51,294	99.9
Infectious and parasitic diseases	n.p.	n.p.	117	82	43	n.p.	694	675	85.2
Neoplasms	25	n.p.	702	459	29	14	610	386	62.3
Endocrine nutritional metabolic immunity	26	n.p.	521	392	n.p.	n.p.	118	99	26.3
Blood and blood-forming organs	n.p.	n.p.	147	133	n.p.	11	57	52	66.7
Nervous system and sense organs	190	n.p.	23,166	22,674	96	117	4,460	4,388	52.0
Diseases of the circulatory system	49	n.p.	1,259	830	65	12	859	616	59.2
Diseases of the respiratory system	47	n.p.	1,397	1,132	21	25	260	244	46.9
Diseases of the digestive system	42	n.p.	955	644	33	27	182	116	57.7
Diseases of the genitourinary system	32	n.p.	539	423	16	53	191	140	67.0
Pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium	578	576	10,772	10,620	60	26	489	423	6.9
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	12	—	247	207	n.p.	12	104	65	60.0
Diseases of the musculoskeletal and connective tissue	46	76	1,051	826	38	515	1,005	865	81.9
Congenital anomalies	n.p.	—	49	34	n.p.	n.p.	1,019	1,002	84.6
Conditions originating in the perinatal period	—	—	—	—	10	—	142	91	100.0
Symptoms, signs and ill-defined conditions	98	39	1,318	1,146	179	49	2,443	2,398	62.5
Injury and poisoning	1,697	147	14,722	12,492	230	66	2,365	2,100	13.8
Care involving use of rehabilitation procedures (V57)	359	1,996	26,259	26,116	13	—	748	738	0.5
Housing, household and economic circumstances (V60)	204	18	1,540	1,480	10	34	86	86	16.5
Other family circumstances (V61)	25	n.p.	203	203	197	n.p.	1,460	1,459	87.6
Other psychological circumstances (V62)	15	n.p.	202	201	194	21	1062	1058	91.1
General medical examination, including psychiatric examinations (V70)	30	21	159	159	38	270	540	540	85.8
Other V codes	51	48	1,627	1,581	90	165	740	654	72.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,546</b>	<b>2,956</b>	<b>86,982</b>	<b>81,864</b>	<b>2,067</b>	<b>1,527</b>	<b>71,084</b>	<b>69,489</b>	<b>35.6</b>

(a) At least one day or part day of care given in a designated psychiatric unit or ward during the separation.

(b) See classification inclusions list in Appendix 1.

(c) See glossary.

n.p. Not published.

— Nil.

**Table 2.4.2: Separations with specialised care<sup>(a)</sup> but no mental health principal diagnosis,<sup>(b)</sup> States and Territories, 1997–98**

Principal diagnosis	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA <sup>(c)</sup>	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Infectious and parasitic diseases	18	n.p.	n.p.	—	34	n.p.	—	n.p.	52
Neoplasms	38	15	12	—	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	65
Endocrine nutritional metabolic immunity	16	n.p.	13	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	—	34
Blood and blood-forming organs	21	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	n.p.	—	—	28
Nervous system and sense organs	120	171	78	n.p.	20	10	n.p.	n.p.	407
Diseases of the circulatory system	88	14	16	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	n.p.	123
Diseases of the respiratory	36	35	19	—	n.p.	n.p.	—	n.p.	90
Diseases of the digestive system	77	10	14	—	—	n.p.	—	n.p.	101
Diseases of the genitourinary system	41	42	15	—	n.p.	n.p.	—	n.p.	98
Pregnancy childbirth and puerperium	209	354	628	n.p.	29	15	—	n.p.	1,235
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	n.p.	16	n.p.	—	—	—	—	—	30
Diseases of the musculoskeletal and connective tissue	180	464	25	—	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	669
Congenital anomalies	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	—	—	—	n.p.
Conditions originating in the perinatal period	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Symptoms signs and ill-defined conditions	138	60	130	46	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	387
Injury and poisoning	897	204	856	n.p.	61	81	19	21	2,139
Care involving use of rehabilitation procedures (V57)	2,301	n.p.	56	—	—	n.p.	—	—	2,365
Housing, household and economic circumstances (V60)	13	11	233	—	n.p.	n.p.	—	n.p.	263
Other family circumstances (V61)	160	62	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	—	231
Other psychological circumstances (V62)	121	n.p.	14	n.p.	—	89	—	n.p.	231
General medical examination, including psychiatric examinations (V70)	20	33	300	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	n.p.	353
Other V codes	113	86	133	—	n.p.	15	n.p.	n.p.	353
Not reported	n.p.	533	n.p.	—	—	207	—	—	740
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,632</b>	<b>2,135</b>	<b>2,569</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>10,096</b>

(a) At least one day or part day of care given in a designated psychiatric unit or ward during the separation.

(b) See classification inclusions list in Appendix 1.

(c) Acute General Hospitals in WA do not report total psychiatric care days. Therefore figures reported maybe misleading and should not be directly compared with other states. WA figures include activity from psycho-geriatric facilities.

n.p. Not published.

— Nil.

**Table 2.4.3: Separations with specialised care<sup>(a)</sup> but no mental health principal diagnosis<sup>(b)</sup> by mental health legal status and hospital sector, Australia, 1997–98**

Mental health legal status	Private		Public		All hospitals	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Involuntary	n.p.	0.1	1,728	22.0	1,731	17.1
Voluntary	922	41.5	5,169	65.7	6,091	60.3
Other	1,299	58.4	975	12.4	2,274	22.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,224</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7,872</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10,096</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) At least one day or part-day of care given in a designated psychiatric unit or ward during the separation.

(b) See classification inclusions list in Appendix 1.

n.p. Not published.

**Table 2.4.4: Separations with specialised care<sup>(a)</sup> but no mental health principal diagnosis<sup>(b)</sup> by mental health legal status, age group and sex, Australia, 1997–98**

	Involuntary	Voluntary	Other	Total
<b>Males</b>				
17 and under	28	114	225	367
18–24	232	268	113	613
25–34	344	730	174	1,248
35–44	195	887	170	1,252
45–54	114	471	124	709
55–64	45	199	92	336
65 and over	50	199	131	380
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,008</i>	<i>2,868</i>	<i>1,029</i>	<i>4,905</i>
<b>Females</b>				
17 and under	56	145	223	424
18–24	110	378	55	543
25–34	214	1,139	311	1,664
35–44	164	888	267	1,319
45–54	81	261	148	490
55–64	35	139	75	249
65 and over	60	273	166	499
Not reported	n.p.	—	—	n.p.
<i>Total</i>	<i>723</i>	<i>3,223</i>	<i>1,245</i>	<i>5,191</i>
<b>Persons</b>				
17 and under	84	259	448	791
18–24	342	646	168	1,156
25–34	558	1,869	485	2,912
35–44	359	1,775	437	2,571
45–54	195	732	272	1,199
55–64	80	338	167	585
65 and over	110	472	297	879
Not reported	n.p.	—	—	n.p.
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,731</b>	<b>6,091</b>	<b>2,274</b>	<b>10,096</b>

(a) At least one day or part-day of care given in a designated psychiatric unit or ward during the separation.

(b) See classification inclusions list in Appendix 1.

n.p. Not published.

— Nil.