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Hostels in Australia 1996–97

A statistical overview

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
and
Department of Health and Family Services
Canberra

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Preface

In 1997, the Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare agreed to participate in a joint venture to publish hostel and nursing home data, with the Institute taking over the task of producing the publications. Previously, hostel and nursing home data had been published by the Department of Health and Family Services in two report series — *Hostels for the Aged: A Statistical Overview* and *Nursing Homes for the Aged: A Statistical Overview*. From 1997, the Aged Care Statistics Series, produced by the Aged Care Unit of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, replaces those earlier publications, providing access to annual data on both hostels and nursing homes.

To date, three publications in the series have been released. They are *Nursing Homes in Australia 1995–96*, *Hostels in Australia 1995–96*, and *Nursing Homes in Australia 1996–97*. This report presents data for Australian hostels in 1996–97. Future reports in this series are expected to combine nursing home and hostel data into one volume, reflecting the amalgamation of the two systems under recent reforms to the structure of aged care services.

The new series is largely consistent with the series it succeeds, although changes in data availability and information needs have led to some differences. For example, in many instances tables are split by type of care (permanent and respite). Information is also provided by region in some cases.

The statistics presented in this report were derived from information held on the Commonwealth Hostel Information Payment System (CHIPS) by the Department of Health and Family Services.

A large range of information is presented, focusing on the characteristics of hostel residents (including age, sex, marital status and dependency levels) and the patterns of service use (including length of stay, admissions and separations).

The information in this publication is presented in the following sections:

- Population and hostel service capacity;
- Hostel residents and hostel characteristics;
- Hostel admissions;
- Hostel separations;
- Hostel resident characteristics; and
- Hostel resident dependency.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and
Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services

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