

# **Health care usage and costs**

**A comparison of veterans and war widows and widowers with the rest of the community**

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# Contents

List of tables and figures .....	vi
Preface .....	ix
Acknowledgments .....	x
Abbreviations, symbols and definitions .....	xi
<b>1 Executive summary .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Introduction .....	1
1.2 Differences in age structure, service-related disability and marital status between Gold Card holders and the rest of the community .....	2
1.3 Summary of results .....	3
<b>2 Introduction and background .....</b>	<b>12</b>
2.1 Purpose of the project .....	12
2.2 Scope .....	12
2.3 Gold Card holder population and the rest of community .....	13
2.4 Methods summary .....	17
<b>3 Findings .....</b>	<b>19</b>
3.1 Local medical officer (LMO) and general practitioner (GP) (out-of-hospital) medical services .....	19
3.2 Pharmaceuticals .....	35
3.3 Hospital services .....	39
<b>4 Conclusion .....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>References .....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Appendix A Gold Card eligibility .....</b>	<b>51</b>
Criteria .....	51
Qualifying service .....	52
<b>Appendix B Data sources and methods of estimation .....</b>	<b>53</b>
Population data .....	53
Age-standardisation .....	53
Local medical officer and general practitioner (out-of-hospital) medical services .....	53
Pharmaceuticals .....	54
Hospital services .....	57
<b>Appendix C Detailed health care usage and cost tables .....</b>	<b>59</b>

# List of tables and figures

## Tables

Table 1:	Age-standardised LMO and GP attendances per person for Gold Card holders and the rest of the community, by age, Australia, 1999-00.....	6
Table 2:	Ratio of LMO and GP attendances per person for Gold Card holders and the rest of the community, by age, Australia, 1999-00.....	7
Table 3:	Age-standardised PBS script utilisation per person for Gold Card holders and the rest of the community, by age, Australia, 1999-00.....	8
Table 4:	Ratio of hospital separations per person for Gold Card holders and the rest of the community, by age, Australia, 1999-00 .....	10
Table 5:	DVA treatment population by level of disability pension, Gold Card holders, males, by age, Australia, December 1999.....	15
Table 6:	DVA treatment population by level of disability pension, Gold Card holders, females, by age, Australia, December 1999 .....	16
Table 7:	DVA treatment population by level of disability pension, Gold Card holders, persons, by age, Australia, December 1999 .....	17
Table 8:	Age-standardised LMO and GP attendances per person for Gold Card holders and the rest of the community, by age, Australia, 1999-00.....	21
Table 9:	Ratio of LMO and GP attendances per person for Gold Card holders and the rest of the community, by age, Australia, 1999-00.....	22
Table 10:	Age-standardised LMO and GP cost per attendance for Gold Card holders and the rest of the community, by age, Australia, 1999-00 (\$) .....	24
Table 11:	Ratio of LMO and GP cost per attendance for Gold Card holders and the rest of the community, by age, Australia, 1999-00.....	25
Table 12:	Age-standardised LMO and GP expenditure per person for Gold Card holders and the rest of the community, by age, Australia, 1999-00 (\$) .....	30
Table 13:	Ratio of LMO and GP expenditure per person for Gold Card holders and the rest of the community, by age, Australia, 1999-00 .....	31
Table 14:	Attendances per person on LMO and GP services, Gold Card holders, aged 40 years and over, Australia, 1997-98 to 1999-00.....	32
Table 15:	Expenditure per person on LMO and GP services, Gold Card holders, aged 40 years and over, Australia, 1997-98 to 1999-00.....	33

Table 16: Growth in expenditure per person, attendances per person and cost per attendance on LMO and GP services for Gold Card holders and the rest of the community aged 40 years and over, Australia, 1997-98 to 1999-00 (per cent).....	35
Table 17: Age-standardised PBS script utilisation per person for Gold Card holders and the rest of the community, by age, Australia, 1999-00.....	36
Table 18: Age-standardised cost per PBS script for Gold Card holders and the rest of the community, by age, Australia, 1999-00 (\$).....	38
Table 19: Age-standardised PBS script cost per person for Gold Card holders and the rest of the community, by age, Australia, 1999-00 (\$) .....	39
Table 20: Age-standardised acute hospital separations per person for Gold Card holders and the rest of the community, by age, Australia, 1999-00.....	42
Table 21: Ratio of acute hospital separations per person for Gold Card holders and the rest of the community, by age, Australia, 1999-00 .....	43
Table 22: Age-standardised average length of hospital stay for Gold Card holders and the rest of the community, acute hospital episodes, by age, Australia, 1999-00 .....	44
Table 23: Ratio of average length of hospital stay for Gold Card holders and the rest of the community, acute hospital episodes, by age, Australia, 1999-00 .....	45
Table 24: Age-standardised hospital DRG weights for Gold Card holders and the rest of the community, acute hospital episodes, by age, Australia, 1999-00 .....	46
Table 25: Ratio of age-standardised hospital DRG weights for Gold Card holders and the rest of the community, by age, Australia, 1999-00.....	47
Table B1: PBS scripts written for Gold Card holders and the rest of the community, Australia, April 1999-March 2000.....	56

# Figures

- Figure 1: Population structure for Gold Card holders, by age and sex, Australia, 1999-00 ..... 13
- Figure 2: Population structure for the rest of community, by age and sex, Australia, 1999-00 ..... 14
- Figure 3: LMO and GP attendances per person, ratio of Gold Card holders to rest of community, males, aged 40 years and over, by level of service-related disability pension, Australia, 1999-00 ..... 23
- Figure 4: Cost per LMO and GP attendance, ratio of Gold Card holders to rest of community, males, aged 40 years and over, by level of service-related disability pension, Australia, 1999-00 ..... 26
- Figure 5: Cost per LMO and GP attendance, ratio of Gold Card holders to rest of community, males, by age group, Australia, 1999-00 ..... 26
- Figure 6: Expenditure per person on LMO and GP attendances for Gold Card holders and the rest of the community, males, Australia, 1999-00 (\$) ..... 27
- Figure 7: Expenditure per person on LMO and GP attendances for Gold Card holders and the rest of the community, females, Australia, 1999-00 (\$) .... 28
- Figure 8: Expenditure per person on LMO and GP services, ratio of Gold Card holders to rest of community, males, aged 40 years and over, by level of service-related disability pension, Australia, 1999-00 ..... 29
- Figure 9: Expenditure per person on LMO and GP services, Gold Card holders, persons, aged 40 years or more, by level of service-related disability pension, Australia, 1997-98 to 1999-00 ..... 34
- Figure 10: PBS script utilisation per person, males, Australia, 1999-00 ..... 37



# Preface

This report presents the findings of the health care usage and costs study. The study was commissioned by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), and compares health care use and expenditure for veterans and war widows and widowers who are Gold Card holders, with that of the remainder of the community. It also looks at factors driving growth in expenditures for both groups in the period 1997-98 to 1999-00.

The study focuses on the major components of the DVA's health expenditure. These are local medical officer services (equivalent to Medicare GP services), pharmaceuticals, and private and public hospital services. A range of data sets, which measure utilisation and expenditure for each of these components for both veterans and the rest of the community, are analysed.

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# Abbreviations, symbols and definitions

## Abbreviations

AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
AR-DRG	Australian Refined Diagnosis Related Group
BEACH	Bettering the Evaluation and Care of Health
BLI	Blind Disability Allowance
DHA	Department of Health and Ageing
DVA	Department of Veterans' Affairs
EDA	Extreme Disablement Adjustment
GP	general practitioner
HIC	Health Insurance Commission
INT	Intermediate Disability Allowance
LMO	local medical officer
MBS	Medicare Benefits Schedule
NHTP	nursing home type patients
PBS	Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme
RPBS	Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme
TAS	Treatment Account System
TPI	totally and permanently incapacitated
TTI	temporarily totally incapacitated
VEA	Veterans' Entitlement Act

## Symbols

..	not applicable
n.a.	not available

## **Definitions**

GP/LMO attendances: Unreferred attendances (Items 1 to 84, 86, 87, 89-93, 95-98, 101, 160-173, 193-195, 601-602, 697-698, 700-779, 980, 996-998 and 17600 of the Medicare Benefits Schedule)