

Data sources and limitations

The data presented in this report are drawn from the Aged and Community Care Management Information System (ACCMIS). This data repository contains information gathered through a number of instruments. Of those instruments, the following two are directly relevant to this report.

- The Aged Care Client Record (Form 3020). This is a form used for the assessment and approval of a care recipient for either residential aged care, a CACP, or flexible care (for example, an EACH package). This form is completed by a delegate of an Aged Care Assessment Team in consultation with the applicant and signed either by the applicant or by someone on behalf of the applicant.
- The Provider Claim Form. This form is completed by the service provider for claiming the Community Care Subsidy that is payable for the service for a payment period, normally a calendar month.

Other instruments through which information on the service providers are gathered include the Approved Provider Status Application and the Community Care Service Agreement between the Australian Government and the service provider.

General population data are taken from the latest AIHW population databases supplied by the ABS.

Care recipients' personal details

All care recipients receiving a CACP or an EACH package must have a valid Aged Care Client record (that is, the recipient must have an 'approved' status). This record is normally valid for a period of 12 months from the date of approval. Approval of applications is a responsibility of Aged Care Assessment Teams and their delegates.

The information entered into ACCMIS from the Aged Care Client Record is the major source of the following data items:

- sex
- date of birth
- Indigenous status
- birthplace
- preferred language
- usual residence status (before admission)
- living arrangements (before admission).

Some recipient details, such as financial hardship status, are obtained from the Provider Claim Form.

The response categories for the characteristic 'usual living arrangements before becoming a recipient of a package' have changed with the introduction of the new ACAT form on 1 January 2003 and the ACAP data dictionary.

Care recipients' admission and separation details

The Provider Claim Form is sent to approved service providers at the beginning of a payment period. This form has the details of existing recipients under the care of the service providers (the form would be blank for a new service provider). It is the responsibility of service providers to check this form for accuracy and record new data and changes relating to new admissions, separations and leave for their care recipients.

The Provider Claim Form is the original source for the following data items:

- date of admission
- date of separation
- separation mode
- length of stay (derived from date of admission and date of separation).

Service providers' details

Details about community aged care service providers are collected through the Approved Provider Status Application and the Community Care Service Agreement between the Australian Government and the service provider. These documents are the main source for the following data items:

- location of outlets (by both state/territory and geographic area)
- size of outlets
- financial hardship target percentage for CACP providers.

Limitations of the data

The following points should be noted when interpreting the data presented in this report.

The data used for this report were those available in ACCMIS in December 2005. However, as ACCMIS is 'refreshed' periodically, minor differences in some data will occur depending on the version used for reporting.

- The basis for the general population figure used in the calculation of the service provision ratio was the ABS estimated resident population at 30 June 2005 released in December 2005, along with AIHW calculations on remoteness. The service provision ratios presented in this report may be different from those calculated by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing due to differences in the population figures used.
- Some socio demographic characteristics of care recipients are recorded at the time of application and hence may not reflect their true characteristics while receiving care from the program. These characteristics include their pension status, usual residence status and living arrangements. Care recipients' actual financial hardship status may also be different from the status at the initial assessment by the service providers.
- Because of the non-compulsory nature of self-identified Indigenous status, the number of people presented in this report who were of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin may be an underestimation of the true number using the program.
- Although the location of service-providing outlets can be used to assume the location of CACP and EACH care recipients, it is possible that outlets provide services to care recipients who live outside the outlets' jurisdictions or geographic areas.

- The lack of information on areas such as type of assistance received by care recipients, their levels of dependency and carer support means that analysis of recipients' care needs was outside the scope of this report.
- Each allocated package is provided to one specific service recipient, referred to as a funded care recipient. However, when all the allocated packages provided by a service are filled but the funding for these packages allows for additional services to be provided to other people, outlets may provide services to additional people, referred to as supplementary recipients. The Community Aged Care Packages Census, noted earlier, reported 3.3% of all CACP recipients as supplementary care recipients (AIHW 2004a). These recipients are not represented in the CACP reporting. This arrangement is not used in EACH provision.

Glossary (CACP and EACH)

Admission	The occasion on which the recipient begins to receive community care from the outlet. Admission date may also be referred to as 'date of commencement'.
Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT)	Multidisciplinary team of health professionals responsible for determining eligibility for care.

Birthplace (country of birth)

Countries other than Australia are grouped as follows (ABS 1998):

<i>Other Oceania/ New Zealand/Antarctica</i>	Includes American Samoa, Antarctica, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Pacific Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.
<i>UK & Ireland</i>	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, Ireland.
<i>North & Western Europe</i>	Includes Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greenland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland and Sweden.
<i>Southern & Eastern Europe</i>	Includes Albania, Andorra, Bulgaria, Byelorussian SSR, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Gibraltar, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Ukrainian SSR, former USSR and former Yugoslavia.
<i>North Africa & the Middle East</i>	Includes Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Upper Volta.
<i>Southeast Asia</i>	Includes Brunei, Cambodia Myanmar, East Timor, Indonesia, Kampuchea, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.
<i>Northeast Asia</i>	Includes China, Mongolia, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Macau and Taiwan.
<i>Southern & Central Asia</i>	Includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
<i>North America</i>	Bermuda, Canada, St Pierre and Miquelon, United States of America
<i>Other America/Caribbean</i>	Includes Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Grenada, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands Antilles, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

<i>Sub-Saharan Africa</i>	Includes Botswana, British Indian Ocean Territory, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Comoros, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Réunion, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo and Zimbabwe.
Care recipient	A person assessed by an Aged Care Assessment Team as having significant care needs which can be appropriately met through the provision of residential care, community care and/or flexible care.
Financial hardship status	Refers to whether the person is considered to experience financial hardship based on certain criteria, such as home ownership and pension status (CACP).
Housing-linked packages	Refers to packages that provide care to financially disadvantaged people in designated rental housing developments, including public or community housing, and in secure private rental accommodation.
Leave	A situation where the recipient temporarily ceases to receive services from the outlet to take a holiday, to enter hospital or to temporarily receive alternative care.
Length of stay	The time between the date of admission and the date of separation.
Living arrangements	Refers to the normal cohabitation of the recipient at the time of assessment.
Low-level residential care	Refers to general accommodation services provided in residential facilities, such as meals, laundry and room cleaning, together with additional daily personal assistance such as bathing, showering and personal hygiene. Care also includes organising, supervising and administering of medication; toileting and continence management; meal assistance; transfers; mobility; dressing/undressing; fitting of sensory/communication aids; assessment and referral for appropriate support; communication assistance; and provision of special diets and emotional support.
Multi-Purpose Services	Operating in rural and remote communities, these provide a mix of Commonwealth- and state-funded services, including aged care services, best suited to the needs of each community.

Preferred language

Languages other than English are grouped as follows (ABS 1997):

<i>Australian Indigenous</i>	Includes all Australian Indigenous languages.
<i>Other Northern European</i>	Includes Danish, Dutch, German, Irish, Norwegian, Swedish, Welsh and Yiddish.
<i>Southern European</i>	Includes French, Greek, Italian, Maltese, Portuguese and Spanish.
<i>Eastern European</i>	Includes Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Estonian, Finnish, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Macedonian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak and Ukrainian.
<i>Southwest Asian & North African</i>	Includes Arabic, Turkish, Hebrew and Persian.
<i>Southern Asian</i>	Includes Hindi, Tamil, Bengali, Sinhalese and Urdu.
<i>Southeast Asian</i>	Includes Burmese, Khmer, Lao, Thai, Filipino, Bahasa (Indonesian and Malay), Timorese and Vietnamese.
<i>Eastern Asian</i>	Includes Chinese (various dialects), Japanese and Korean.
<i>African (excluding North African)</i>	Includes Afrikaans, Asante, Mauritian Creole, Oromo, Shona, Somali, Swahili, Yoruba and Zulu.
<i>Oceanic</i>	Includes Fijian, Samoan, Tongan and other South Pacific languages.

Remoteness

The geographic areas used in this report are based on the Australian Standard Geographical Classification Remoteness Structure developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. This classification categorises all Census Collection Districts (CDs) in Australia according to their remoteness, based on physical road distance to the nearest urban centre. Remoteness is measured by the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) (ABS 2001). The structure of the classification is as follows:

<i>Major cities</i>	CDs with an average ARIA index value of 0 to 0.2
<i>Inner regional</i>	CDs with an average ARIA index value greater than 0.2 and less than or equal to 2.4
<i>Outer regional</i>	CDs with an average ARIA index value greater than 2.4 and less than or equal to 5.92
<i>Remote</i>	CDs with an average ARIA index value greater than 5.92 and less than or equal to 10.53
<i>Very remote</i>	CDs with an average ARIA index value greater than 10.53

Separation	The point at which the recipient ceases to receive community care from an outlet.
Separation mode	Indicates the destination of a care recipient at separation, including death.
Service outlet	An organisation or incorporated body which has been approved to provide Community Aged Care Package services or Extended Aged Care at Home. The outlet also has the responsibility to plan, coordinate and manage the provision of community care services to its care recipients.
Supplementary care recipients	Care recipients receiving regular Community Aged Care Package assistance but for whom their service providers are not entitled to claim the Community Care Subsidy.
Usual residence status	Refers to the housing tenure before the recipient's application for a Community Aged Care Package.

References

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