

# **Residential aged care in Australia 2003–04**

**A statistical overview**

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Australian Institute of Health and Welfare  
Canberra

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# Preface

This report presents statistics on the Australian residential aged care system over the period 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004. It is the seventh such report in the Aged Care Statistics Series produced by the Ageing and Aged Care Unit of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, under an agreement with the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

The first report in the series for the 1997-98 financial year followed a series of changes to the structure of aged care services under the *Aged Care Act 1997*, whereby the former nursing home and hostel sectors were unified. This allowed providers to offer both high and low care and allowed residents to age in place. Prior to this, data on residential aged care had been published initially by the then Australian Government Department of Health and Family Services and subsequently by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare through separate publications for nursing homes and hostels.

In the 2004 Budget, the Australian Government announced a number of further changes to the residential aged care system. These changes will occur over the next 4 years and will have implications for data reporting from 2004-05 on. These changes include:

- An increase in the target for the provision of operational aged care places from 100 operational places for every 1,000 people aged 70 years or over to 108 operational places. Twenty of these operational places will be targeted to care provided in the community through Community Aged Care Packages and the Extended Care at Home program.
- The announcement of indicative numbers of new aged care places 3 years in advance.
- The introduction of new residential care supplements in 2006 to direct assistance to people with higher care needs by supporting the provision of care to people with dementia exhibiting challenging behaviours and people requiring complex palliative nursing care.
- The reduction in the number of categories in the Resident Classification Scale funding tool from eight to three.
- There will no longer need to be an ACAT assessment as the care needs of a resident remaining in the same home increase.

These changes will be gradually reflected in future reports in this series as the data permit.

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# Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACAT	Aged Care Assessment Team
ACCMIS	Aged and Community Care Management Information System
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ARIA	Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia
CACP	Community Aged Care Package
CHIPS	Commonwealth Hostel Information Payment System (the previous payment system for hostels)
DoHA	Department of Health and Ageing (Australian Government)
DVA	Department of Veterans' Affairs (Australian Government)
EACH	Extended Aged Care at Home
MIDAS	Management Information and Data Analysis Section
NHPS	Nursing Home Payment System (the previous payment system for nursing homes)
PCAI	Personal Care Assessment Instrument
RCI	Resident Classification Instrument
RCS	Resident Classification Scale
SPARC	System for the Payment of Aged Residential Care (the current payment system for residential care)

