



### *Non-metropolitan zones*

- Rural zone (Index of remoteness less than or equal to 10.5)
  - Large rural centres Urban centre population between 25,000 and 99,999
  - Small rural centres Urban centre population between 10,000 and 24,999
  - Other rural area Urban centre population under 10,000
- Remote zone (Index of remoteness greater than 10.5)
  - Remote centre Urban centre population 5,000 or over
  - Other remote area Urban centre population under 5,000

The System for the Payment of Aged Residential Care (SPARC), which is the current information system for residential aged care, contains SLA codes for each aged care service and these SLA codes are converted to geographic areas according to the above classification.

### **High care residents**

A high care resident is one who is assigned to classification levels 1–4 using the Resident Classification Scale. The level of care required is broadly equivalent to the nursing home care provided under the previous system of residential care.

### **Hostel for the aged**

A hostel is a care service in which residents receive hostel care or personal care services unless designated as a co-habitee. In this publication all references to hostels are to hostels for the aged, that is, those hostels designed to provide services to older people. A small number of young people with disabilities live in hostels for the aged. Hostels specifically established for young people with a disability are not included in this publication. Following the introduction of the *Aged Care Act 1997* hostels no longer exist as legal entities. Current practice in the Department of Health and Ageing is to refer to both former nursing homes and former hostels as 'aged care services'.

### **Length of stay**

The length of stay of a separated resident is based upon the time between the date of admission and the date of separation. For a current resident, it is the time between the date of admission and 30 June 2001. The admission day and the specified day (30 June 2001) are included but the separation day is excluded from the calculation of length of stay.

### **Low care residents**

A low care resident is one who is assigned to classification levels 5–8 using the Resident Classification Scale. The level of care required is broadly equivalent to the hostel level of care provided under the previous system of residential care.

### **NHPS**

NHPS is the abbreviation for 'Nursing Home Payment System' which used to be the information system for nursing homes.

### **Nursing and personal care**

This refers to care which a care recipient requires for a medically related condition and/or assistance with personal tasks such as washing and dressing.

### **Nursing home for the aged**

All nursing homes approved under the National Health Act other than nursing homes for disabled people. In this publication all references to nursing homes are to nursing homes for the aged. There have been a small number of young people with disabilities living in nursing homes for the aged. Following the introduction of the *Aged Care Act 1997* nursing homes no longer exist as legal entities. Current practice in the Department of Health and Ageing is to refer to both former nursing homes and former hostels as 'aged care homes'.

### **Permanent admission**

A permanent admission is an admission to residential aged care for probable long-term care purposes.

### **Permanent care**

A resident in residential aged care is under permanent care if this resident entered the service as a permanent admission.

### **Permanent resident**

A resident who was admitted to residential aged care for permanent care (long-term care).

### **Personal care**

Personal care assistance is provided to a care recipient to perform activities such as bathing, toileting and dressing.

### **Personal Care Assessment Instrument (PCAI)**

The PCAI was forwarded under the previous system of residential care to Commonwealth offices in States and Territories by hostels for each resident who may have been eligible for a personal care subsidy. On the basis of the information provided, residents were assigned to one of three service-need categories for the purpose of funding. The three categories were Personal Care High (PCH), Personal Care Intermediate (PCI) and Personal Care Low (PCL). The PCAI categories were used in previous reports in this series to measure the level of dependency based on the assumption that the level of dependency positively relates to the level of care needs. This classification system has been replaced by the RCS (see below).

### **Place-day**

A place-day is a day on which a care recipient is occupying a place. The day that a care recipient enters residential aged care and the day he or she leaves are counted as one day.

### **Resident**

A resident is a person who has been assessed by an Aged Care Assessment Team as requiring residential care and who resides in a Commonwealth-funded aged care service.

### **Resident Classification Instrument (RCI)**

The RCI was, under the previous system, forwarded to Commonwealth State offices by nursing homes for each resident admitted. On the basis of the information provided, residents were assigned to one of five service-need categories for the purpose of funding. Category 1 represented the highest level of care needs and category 5 the lowest. The RCI categories were used in previous reports in this series to measure the level of dependency based on the assumption that the level of dependency positively relates to the level of care needs. This classification system has been replaced by the RCS (see below).

### **Resident Classification Scale (RCS)**

The RCS is an instrument which assesses a care recipient's care needs. This scale has 8 classification levels ranging from low care (RCS 8) to high care (RCS 1), with each level having a specified subsidy level which is paid to the provider for providing the required care to the care recipient. The RCS was introduced with the amalgamation of hostels and nursing homes into one system of care on 1 October 1997, replacing the RCI (nursing homes) and the PCAI (hostels).

### **Residential aged care service**

A service which consists of a number of approved places at a specific location.

### **Residential care**

Personal and/or nursing care that is provided to a person in a residential care service in which the person is also provided with accommodation that includes appropriate staffing, meals, cleaning services, and furnishings, furniture and equipment, for the provision of that care and accommodation.

### **Respite admission**

A respite admission is a short-term admission to residential aged care for respite care purposes.

### **Respite care**

Respite care is care given as an alternative care arrangement with the primary purpose of giving the carer or a care recipient a short-term break from their usual care arrangement.

### **Respite resident**

A respite resident is one who is admitted to residential aged care for respite care.

### **Separation**

A separation occurs when a person is discharged from residential aged care and has not re-entered the same or another service within 2 days.

### **Separation day**

A separation day is the last day of a person's stay in an aged care service; the day on which the person leaves the service. In the case of a person transferring between services, where the time between leaving one service and entering another is less than 2 days, this is not viewed as a separation.

### **Separation mode**

The separation mode indicates the destination of a resident at separation, including death.

### **SPARC**

SPARC is the abbreviation for the 'System of Payment for Aged Residential Care' which is the current information system for residential aged care.

### **Transfer**

A transfer occurs where a person leaves an aged care service on one day and is admitted to another within 2 days.

**Usual housing status**

Usual housing status refers to housing tenure prior to the resident's application for admission to residential aged care.

# References

- ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 1997. 1996 Census dictionary. Cat. no. 2901.0. Canberra: ABS.
- ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 1998. Experimental projections of the Indigenous population: 1996 to 2006. Cat. no. 3231.0. Canberra: ABS.
- ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2000. Population by age and sex, Australian States/ Territories, unpublished data. Cat. no. 3201.0. Canberra: ABS.
- ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2001. Population by age and sex, Australian States and Territories, unpublished data. Cat. no. 3201.0. Canberra: ABS.
- AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 1995. Australia's Welfare 1995: services and assistance. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 1997. Australia's Welfare 1997: services and assistance. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 1999. Residential aged care facilities in Australia 1998: a statistical overview. AIHW cat. no. AGE 14. AIHW and DHAC Aged Care Statistics Series no. 5. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2000. Residential aged care facilities in Australia 1998-99: a statistical overview. AIHW cat. no. AGE 16. Canberra: AIHW (Aged Care Statistics Series).
- AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2001a. Australia's Welfare 2001: services and assistance. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2001b. Residential aged care in Australia 1999-00: a statistical overview. AIHW cat. no. AGE 19. Canberra: AIHW (Aged Care Statistics Series no. 9).
- Gibson D, Braun P, Benham C & Mason F 2001. Projections of older immigrants: people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, 1996-2026. AIHW cat. no. AGE 18. Canberra: AIHW (Aged Care Series no. 6).
- DPIE & DSHS (Department of Primary Industries and Energy, and Department of Human Services and Health) 1994. Rural, remote and metropolitan areas classification, 1991 census edition. Canberra: Australian Government Publishing Service.