

5 Waiting times for elective surgery

Introduction

This chapter presents summary data on elective surgery waiting times for patients admitted for their elective surgery during 2000–01. The data cover public hospitals only, except as noted below in the description of the scope of the data collection.

The waiting times data presented here are generally used as the main summary measure of elective surgery waiting times, although they provide measures of waiting times only for patients who complete their wait and are admitted. Most patients are admitted after waiting; however, 10% to 20% of patients are removed from waiting lists for other reasons, for example, they were admitted as an emergency patient for the awaited procedure; or they could not be contacted, had died, had been treated elsewhere or had declined the surgery.

This chapter presents a State and Territory overview of elective surgery waiting times, including information on the number of days waited at the 50th and 90th percentiles by patients admitted from waiting lists for elective surgery, presented by hospital peer group (Appendix 5).

The 50th percentile (the median or the middle value in a group of data arranged from lowest to highest) represents the number of days within which 50% of patients were admitted; half the waiting times will have been shorter, and half the waiting times longer, than the median. The 90th percentile data represent the number of days within which 90% of patients were admitted. The 50th and 90th percentiles were calculated using SAS version 8 and rounded to the nearest number of days.

Information on the coverage of the National Elective Surgery Waiting Times Data Collection is presented, including the number of hospitals in each peer group compared to the number of hospitals reporting to the collection in each peer group. Estimates of the coverage based on the proportions of elective surgery admissions that were covered by the collection are also included.

The number of admissions from waiting lists reported to the National Elective Surgery Waiting Times Data Collection and the proportion of patients who waited more than 12 months for admission are presented.

Data are also presented on the number of patients added to waiting lists and the number of patients removed from waiting lists for admission or another reason. This provides information about the movement of patients onto and off waiting lists. Data on the reasons for removal (elective admission or another reason) are also presented.

Information is also included by the specialty of the surgeon who was to perform the elective surgery and by indicator procedure. Finally, information is presented on the number of admissions from elective surgery waiting lists in 2000–01.

National Health Data Dictionary definitions (NHDC 2000) are the basis of the National Elective Surgery Waiting Times Data Collection and are summarised in the Glossary. However, some of the definitions used varied slightly among the States and Territories in 2000–01 and in comparison with previous reporting periods. Comparisons between

jurisdictions and between 2000–01 and previous reporting periods should therefore be made with reference to the notes on the definitions used.

Variation in methods to calculate waiting times

Waiting times are generally calculated by comparing the date on which a patient was added to a waiting list with the date that they were admitted. Days on which the patient was 'not ready for care' are excluded.

There was some variation in the method the States and Territories used to calculate waiting times for patients who changed clinical urgency category while they were on the waiting list, and for patients who were transferred from a waiting list managed by one hospital to that managed by another.

Changed clinical urgency category

For patients who changed clinical urgency category, three methods were used:

- (a) counting the time waited in the most recent urgency category plus any time waited in more urgent categories, e.g. time waited in category 2, plus time spent previously in category 1 (this is the agreed national standard for counting);
- (b) counting the time waited in all urgency categories;
- (c) counting the time waited in the most recent urgency category only.

New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory counted the time waited in the most recent urgency category plus the time waited in previous urgency categories if the previous urgency categories were of higher urgency (a). South Australia and the Northern Territory counted total waiting time in all urgency categories (b). Victoria counted only the time waited in the most recent urgency category (c). Victoria has used the nationally agreed standard since 1 July 2001.

It should be noted that methods (a) and (c) are equivalent for patients in urgency category 1 (the most urgent category), who cannot have spent time in a more urgent category. Method (b) would have had the effect of increasing the apparent waiting time (and thus the proportion of patients with extended waits) for category 1 patients admitted in South Australia and the Northern Territory compared with other jurisdictions.

For urgency categories 2 and 3, the variation in counting method could have the effect of increasing the reported waiting times for admissions in South Australia and the Northern Territory compared with all other jurisdictions and in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory compared with Victoria.

Transfers between waiting lists

For patients who were transferred from a waiting list managed by one hospital to that managed by another, the time waited on the first list is not generally included in the waiting time reported to the National Elective Surgery Waiting Times Data Collection. Therefore, the number of days waited reflects the waiting time on the list managed by the reporting hospital only. This would have the effect of shortening the reported waiting time compared with the time actually waited for these patients.

Victoria and Western Australia were able to report the total time waited on all waiting lists. This could have the effect of increasing the reported waiting time for admissions in Victoria and Western Australia compared with other jurisdictions. South Australia has indicated that it is uncommon for patients to be transferred from a waiting list managed by one public hospital to that managed by another in that jurisdiction.

State and Territory overview

Coverage

The National Elective Surgery Waiting Times Data Collection covers public acute hospitals only. Private hospitals are not included, except for two hospitals in New South Wales that were funded by the New South Wales Health Department to provide services for public patients. Some public patients treated under contract in private hospitals in Victoria and Tasmania are also included.

All public hospitals that undertake elective surgery are generally included, however, some are not. Table 5.1 shows that coverage of the collection (as indicated by the proportion of hospitals included) was highest for the *Principal referral and specialist women's and children's* peer group. Data for one Queensland hospital in this peer group was not reported to the collection. For the *Large hospital* peer group, data for 7 hospitals in Victoria and 2 hospitals in Western Australia were not reported to the collection. Data for 60 out of 112 hospitals in the *Medium hospital* peer group were reported to the collection, with New South Wales the only State for which waiting times for all hospitals in this peer group were reported. Hospitals that were not included may not actually undertake elective surgery, may not have had waiting lists, or may have had different waiting list characteristics compared with reporting hospitals.

Table 5.1 also presents estimates of the proportions of elective surgery admissions that were covered by the National Elective Surgery Waiting Times Data Collection. The Institute derived these estimates from data provided by the States and Territories for the National Hospital Morbidity Database. The estimates were derived as:

- the number of separations with a surgical procedure for public hospitals reporting to the National Elective Surgery Waiting Times Data Collection as a proportion of the number of separations with a surgical procedure for all public hospitals.

Separations for cosmetic surgery were excluded. The definition of 'surgical procedure' used for these estimates is detailed in the Glossary and based on the procedures used to define surgical Australian Refined Diagnosis Related Groups version 4.2 (DHAC 1998, 2000a, 2000b). It should be noted that, since these estimates are based on all admissions, rather than on elective admissions only, they provide an indication of coverage, but are not actual measures of coverage.

Based in this measure, overall coverage of the National Elective Surgery Waiting Times Data Collection was about 85%, and ranged from 100% in the New South Wales, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, to about 67% in South Australia (Table 5.1). Coverage was highest for the *Principal referral and specialist women's and children's* peer group hospitals at about 99%, and progressively lower for the *Large hospitals* and *Medium hospitals* groups.

Distribution of days waited

Overall, the median waiting time for patients who were admitted from waiting lists was 27 days, ranging from 22 days in Queensland to 44 days in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 5.1). Ninety per cent of patients were admitted within 202 days, ranging from 132 days in Queensland to 294 days in Tasmania.

The shortest median waiting time was for patients admitted from waiting lists in hospitals in the *Principal referral and specialist women's and children's* peer group (26 days). In the *Large hospitals* and *Medium hospitals* peer groups, it was 30 days.

Proportion waiting more than 12 months

Overall, the proportion of patients admitted after waiting more than 12 months was 4.4%. This proportion varied among the States and Territories, ranging from 2.3% in the Northern Territory to 7.6% in Tasmania.

In the *Principal referral and specialist women's and children's* peer group, 4.2% of patients were admitted after waiting more than 365 days, as were 4.6% of patients in the *Large hospitals* peer group, and 4.4% of patients in the *Medium hospitals* peer group.

Admissions from waiting lists

Hospitals in the *Principal referral and specialist women's and children's* peer group accounted for 65.5% of admissions from elective surgery waiting lists. Another 19.3% were reported for hospitals in the *Large hospitals* peer group and 13.4% of admissions from waiting lists were reported for hospitals in the *Medium hospitals* peer group. Overall, the number of admissions from waiting lists ranged from 5,516 in the Northern Territory to 192,867 in New South Wales.

There were 26.4 admissions reported for elective surgery per 1,000 population (crude rate) for Australia overall.

Additions and removals from waiting lists

Table 5.2 shows the movement of patients on and off waiting lists in 2000–01. Patients are removed from waiting lists either when they are admitted on an elective basis for the procedure for which they were waiting or for a range of other reasons such as admission as an emergency patient for the procedure for which they were waiting; the surgery not being required; or the patient not being able to be contacted by the hospital, having died, having the surgery elsewhere or declining the surgery (see the Glossary for a full description of the categories). For the Australian Capital Territory, there were a small number of cases with invalid reason for removal data, so these were coded as 'not reported'.

Of total removals (elective admissions and other), elective admissions accounted for the greatest proportion overall (84.7%), ranging from 59.0% in the Northern Territory to 88.8% in South Australia.

Information on the reason for removal other than elective admission for the awaited procedure was not available for Queensland. For the other States and Territories, surgery not required or declined was the reason for removal with the greatest proportion of removals (16.2%, 35,922 patients) following admissions as elective patients. A further 1.2% of patients (2,695) were admitted as emergency patients, 3.4% (7,617) could not be contacted

and 6.9% (15,298) were treated elsewhere. The reason for removal was not reported for 1.9% (11,514) of patients who were removed from waiting lists.

Specialty of surgeon

Distribution of waiting times

Table 5.3 shows the distribution of days waited by patients admitted from waiting lists, by the specialty of the surgeon who was to perform the surgery and by State and Territory.

Ophthalmology and orthopaedic surgery were the surgical specialties with the longest median waiting times (52 and 44 days respectively). All other surgical specialties except ear, nose and throat surgery had median waiting times of less than 30 days; cardio-thoracic surgery had the shortest median waiting time (11 days).

The median waiting time varied markedly among the States and Territories for orthopaedic surgery, with 50% of patients being admitted within 24 days in Queensland and within 129 days in Tasmania. For general surgery, variation in the median waiting time was less marked, ranging from 22 days in New South Wales to 37 days in the Northern Territory.

The length of time by which 90% of patients had been admitted also varied by surgical specialty, from 74 days for cardio-thoracic surgery to 370 days for ophthalmology.

Proportion waiting more than 12 months

Table 5.4 shows the proportion of patients admitted from waiting lists who waited more than 12 months, by the specialty of the surgeon who was to perform the surgery and by State and Territory.

Ophthalmology and ear, nose and throat surgery were the specialties with the highest proportion of patients who waited more than a year to be admitted (10.3% and 8.7% respectively). Cardio-thoracic surgery had the lowest proportion of patients who waited more than a year (0.1%), followed by neurosurgery (1.0%) and gynaecology (1.2%).

There was marked variation among the States and Territories in the proportion of patients who waited more than a year to be admitted for some surgical specialties. For example, 3.5% of patients admitted for orthopaedic surgery waited more than a year in Queensland, compared with 21.1% of patients in Tasmania. For ophthalmology, 2.4% of patients waited more than a year to be admitted in the Northern Territory, compared with 25.3% of patients in Tasmania.

Admissions from waiting lists

Table 5.5 presents State and Territory information on the total number of patients admitted for elective surgery from waiting lists in 2000–01. Nationally, admissions from waiting lists were highest for general surgery (137,633) and lowest for neurosurgery (8,202). Admissions from waiting lists were highest for general surgery for all jurisdictions except the Northern Territory, and the Australian Capital Territory where the highest number of admissions was for gynaecology and orthopaedic surgery, respectively. Neurosurgery had the lowest number of admissions for all States and Territories where it is undertaken, except for the Australian Capital Territory where the lowest number of admissions was for cardio-thoracic surgery.

Indicator procedures

Distribution of days waited

Table 5.6 shows State and Territory data on the distribution of days waited by patients admitted from waiting lists, by indicator procedure. Nationally, the indicator procedure with the lowest median waiting time was coronary artery bypass graft (16 days) and the indicator procedure with the highest median waiting time was total knee replacement (114 days).

There was marked variation among the States and Territories in the median waiting time for septoplasty, ranging from 55 days in Western Australia to 143 days in the Northern Territory and 389 days in Tasmania.

The length of time by which 90% of patients had been admitted also varied by indicator procedure, from 89 days for coronary artery bypass graft to 584 days for septoplasty.

Proportion waiting more than 12 months

State and Territory information on the proportion of patients who waited more than 12 months to be admitted from waiting lists for elective surgery is shown by indicator procedure in Table 5.7. The indicator procedure with the highest proportion of patients waiting more than a year was septoplasty (20.5%), followed by total knee replacement (19.0%). The lowest proportion of patients waiting more than a year were waiting for a coronary artery bypass graft (0.2%).

The proportion of patients admitted from waiting lists who waited more than a year varied among the States and Territories. For example, 3.0% of patients waited more than a year for admission for cataract extraction in the Northern Territory, compared with 43.2% in Tasmania. For total hip replacement, the proportion ranged from 5.5% in Queensland to 27.7% in Tasmania.

Admissions from waiting lists

Table 5.8 provides information on the number of patients admitted from waiting lists for elective surgery in 2000–01, by indicator procedure and State and Territory. Overall, 30.7% of patients admitted for elective surgery were waiting for one of the indicator procedures. There was some variation among the States and Territories: Victoria had the highest proportion of admissions for the indicator procedures (33.0%) and the Australian Capital Territory had the lowest proportion (17.0%).

Cataract extraction was the highest volume indicator procedure for all jurisdictions except Queensland, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory, where cystoscopy was the highest. Myringoplasty was the lowest volume indicator procedure for all States and Territories except Tasmania, where prostatectomy was the lowest, and the Northern Territory, where haemorrhoidectomy and hysterectomy were the lowest. Coronary artery bypass grafts are not done in the Northern Territory.

Table 5.1: Waiting time statistics for patients admitted from waiting lists, by public hospital peer group, States and Territories, 2000-01

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Principal referral & women's & children's hospitals									
Number of hospitals in peer group	23	17	15	5	4	2	1	1	58
Number of reporting hospitals ^(a)	23	17	14	5	4	2	1	1	57
Estimated coverage of surgical separations (%) ^(c)	100	100	97	100	100	100	100	100	99
Number of admissions ^(d)	108,603	82,104	76,017	21,809	25,741	10,461	5,245	3,633	333,013
Days waited at 50th percentile	24	28	21	23	29	36	n.p.	n.p.	26
Days waited at 90th percentile	201	221	133	217	167	292	n.p.	n.p.	194
% waited more than 365 days	4.6	4.5	3.3	4.5	2.8	7.6	n.p.	n.p.	4.2
Large hospitals									
Number of hospitals in peer group	18	13	7	2	3	1	1	1	46
Number of reporting hospitals ^(a)	18	6	7	0	3	1	1	1	37
Estimated coverage of surgical separations (%) ^(c)	100	54	100	0	100	100	100	100	79
Number of admissions ^(d)	38,558	24,151	19,443	..	10,421	2,534	1,946	1,262	98,315
Days waited at 50th percentile	33	29	23	..	41	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	30
Days waited at 90th percentile	272	161	131	..	235	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	207
% waited more than 365 days	6.5	2.3	4.0	..	4.3	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	4.6
Medium hospitals									
Number of hospitals in peer group	41	30	15	12	14	..	..	..	112
Number of reporting hospitals ^(a)	41	2	11	6	0	..	..	..	60
Estimated coverage of surgical separations (%) ^(c)	100	13	91	74	0	..	..	..	56
Number of admissions ^(d)	37,833	4,133	8,722	17,629	..	..	..	..	68,317
Days waited at 50th percentile	31	23	28	31	..	..	..	..	30
Days waited at 90th percentile	251	210	127	214	..	..	..	..	221
% waited more than 365 days	5.5	4.3	1.4	3.4	..	..	..	..	4.4

(continued)

Table 5.1 (continued): Waiting time statistics for patients admitted from waiting lists, by public hospital peer group, States and Territories, 2000-01

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Total^(a)									
Total number of hospitals	219	145	155	90	79	24	2	5	719
Number of reporting hospitals ^(b)	109	25	33	11	7	3	2	5	195
Estimated coverage of surgical separations (%) ^(c)	100	70	94	75	67	100	100	100	85
Number of admissions ^(d)	192,867	110,388	104,688	39,438	35,562	12,995	6,836	5,516	508,290
Admissions per 1,000 population ^(e)	29.7	23.0	29.1	20.8	23.7	27.6	21.9	28.1	26.4
Days waited at 50th percentile	28	28	22	27	34	37	44	23	27
Days waited at 90th percentile	229	205	132	215	199	294	266	198	202
% waited more than 365 days	5.2	4.0	3.3	4.0	3.6	7.6	5.3	2.3	4.4

(a) Includes data for hospitals not included in the specified hospital peer groups and some private hospitals contracted to do elective surgery.

(b) Number of hospitals reporting to the National Elective Surgery Waiting Times Data Collection. See Appendix 5 for further information.

(c) The number of separations with a surgical procedure for public hospitals reporting to the National Elective Surgery Waiting Times Data Collection as a proportion of the number of separations with a surgical procedure for all public hospitals.

(d) Number of admissions for elective surgery reported to the National Elective Surgery Waiting Times Data Collection.

(e) Crude rate.

.. not applicable.

n.p. not published because there was only one hospital in the peer group.

Table 5.2: Number of additions to and removals from waiting lists, States and Territories, 2000–01

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Additions	218,477	129,156	123,854	44,251	38,109	15,361	7,264	7,630	584,102
Removals^(a)									
Admitted as an elective patient ^(b)	192,867	110,388	104,688	39,438	35,562	12,995	6,836	5,516	508,290
Admitted as an emergency admission	1,578	628	n.a.	292	187	n.a.	3	7	2,695
Could not be contacted/died	3,670	1,740	n.a.	790	442	731	244	n.a.	7,617
Treated elsewhere	8,196	4,005	n.a.	1,283	916	584	314	n.a.	15,298
Surgery not required or declined	14,890	9,714	n.a.	6,816	1,850	1,085	1,567	n.a.	35,922
Not reported ^(c)	.	3,842	18,916	1,218	1,076	.	1,558	3,820	30,430
Total removals	221,201	130,317	123,604	49,837	40,033	15,395	10,522	9,343	600,252

(a) See Glossary for a full description of these categories.

(b) For Tasmania and the Northern Territory, small numbers of emergency admissions were included with the elective admissions.

(c) For the Australian Capital Territory, includes a small number of cases with invalid reason for removal codes.
n.a. not available.

. . . not applicable.

Table 5.3: Days waited by patients admitted from waiting lists, by specialty of surgeon, States and Territories, percentiles, 2000-01

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Cardio-thoracic									
Days waited at 50th percentile	13	9	12	11	9	13	12	..	11
Days waited at 90th percentile	78	58	72	47	98	101	43	..	73
Ear, nose & throat surgery									
Days waited at 50th percentile	53	33	31	56	48	42	64	32	41
Days waited at 90th percentile	373	315	252	313	314	379	358	223	331
General surgery									
Days waited at 50th percentile	22	24	23	23	31	36	27	37	24
Days waited at 90th percentile	147	174	117	152	160	248	171	184	148
Gynaecology									
Days waited at 50th percentile	23	34	23	19	25	33	48	6	24
Days waited at 90th percentile	119	199	89	70	139	140	223	55	119
Neurosurgery									
Days waited at 50th percentile	14	16	9	15	16	37	28	..	15
Days waited at 90th percentile	66	112	98	119	91	473	119	..	92
Ophthalmology									
Days waited at 50th percentile	81	38	27	83	40	98	50	93	52
Days waited at 90th percentile	451	183	419	295	253	817	501	217	371
Orthopaedic surgery									
Days waited at 50th percentile	52	51	24	70	64	129	75	41	44
Days waited at 90th percentile	371	316	165	437	328	547	301	283	324
Plastic surgery									
Days waited at 50th percentile	24	22	23	24	28	35	53	21	24
Days waited at 90th percentile	106	161	132	195	176	211	276	121	143
Urology									
Days waited at 50th percentile	25	27	24	17	39	36	48	47	26
Days waited at 90th percentile	132	174	110	80	199	309	168	71	142
Vascular surgery									
Days waited at 50th percentile	12	15	15	15	11	29	22	..	14
Days waited at 90th percentile	72	134	123	136	52	206	396	..	101
Other									
Days waited at 50th percentile	6	21	13	10	3	4	43	20	12
Days waited at 90th percentile	58	124	99	40	32	21	156	80	91
Total									
Days waited at 50th percentile	28	28	22	27	34	37	44	23	27
Days waited at 90th percentile	229	205	132	215	199	294	266	198	202

.. not applicable.

Table 5-4: Proportion of patients admitted from waiting lists who waited more than 12 months, by speciality of surgeon, States and Territories, 2000-01

Surgical speciality	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Cardio-thoracic	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	..	0.1
Ear, nose & throat surgery	10.4	8.4	6.9	7.2	7.7	10.7	9.6	4.5	9.7
General surgery	2.5	3.5	2.4	2.4	1.9	6.0	2.7	2.4	2.7
Gynaecology	1.4	1.9	0.9	0.3	0.6	0.5	4.9	0.3	1.2
Neurosurgery	0.3	0.9	1.7	1.6	0.4	16.4	0.0	..	1.0
Ophthalmology	17.4	2.5	12.3	4.6	4.5	25.3	16.6	2.4	10.3
Orthopaedic surgery	10.3	7.7	3.5	13.9	8.3	21.1	4.5	6.6	8.2
Plastic surgery	1.7	3.1	2.7	3.9	3.5	4.5	5.0	1.6	2.9
Urology	2.0	3.2	1.8	1.1	4.5	8.5	0.7	0.0	2.6
Vascular surgery	1.6	3.0	4.6	2.8	0.2	5.6	13.3	..	2.8
Other	0.2	1.7	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.3	2.7	1.1
Total	5.2	4.0	3.3	4.0	3.6	7.6	5.3	2.3	4.4

.. not applicable.

Table 5.5: Admissions from waiting lists, by speciality of surgeon, States and Territories, 2000-01

Surgical speciality	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Cardio-thoracic	4,446	3,518	3,790	929	817	470	145	..	14,115
Ear, nose & throat surgery	15,239	12,016	8,481	3,882	3,686	814	920	511	45,349
General surgery	58,665	24,629	29,904	9,543	9,064	3,246	960	1,652	137,663
Gynaecology	35,251	13,464	16,652	6,578	5,167	2,587	1,140	1,823	82,662
Neurosurgery	3,296	2,139	1,270	640	711	146	296	..	8,498
Ophthalmology	18,549	13,380	6,920	4,550	3,545	506	344	548	48,342
Orthopaedic surgery	25,721	15,488	18,342	4,833	4,338	1,479	1,146	619	71,966
Plastic surgery	7,180	8,795	7,205	2,908	3,316	1,239	300	124	31,067
Urology	16,623	11,187	7,995	4,266	3,882	1,896	756	55	46,660
Vascular surgery	4,161	2,344	2,217	818	963	197	264	..	10,964
Other	3,736	3,428	1,912	691	73	415	565	113	10,933
Total	192,867	110,388	104,688	39,438	35,562	12,995	6,836	5,516	508,290

.. not applicable.

Table 5.6: Days waited by patients admitted from the waiting lists, by indicator procedure and States and Territories, percentiles, 2000-01

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Cataract extraction									
Days waited at 50th percentile	135	53	36	105	49	279	48	107	80
Days waited at 90th percentile	487	206	515	297	301	864	571	224	420
Cholecystectomy									
Days waited at 50th percentile	43	45	36	37	44	70	54	51	42
Days waited at 90th percentile	266	201	146	156	171	329	288	187	211
Coronary artery bypass graft									
Days waited at 50th percentile	20	14	17	13	13	27	31	..	16
Days waited at 90th percentile	93	80	81	53	117	108	44	..	89
Cystoscopy									
Days waited at 50th percentile	25	28	27	21	45	45	65	47	27
Days waited at 90th percentile	119	154	120	92	230	270	170	148	138
Haemorrhoidectomy									
Days waited at 50th percentile	34	76	42	44	76	132	95	66	44
Days waited at 90th percentile	211	326	333	181	231	315	325	209	262
Hysterectomy									
Days waited at 50th percentile	39	40	29	35	49	56	115	31	38
Days waited at 90th percentile	188	239	107	107	178	206	349	199	180
Inguinal herniorrhaphy									
Days waited at 50th percentile	36	36	34	37	57	84	56	58	38
Days waited at 90th percentile	236	259	139	172	224	385	420	206	222
Myringoplasty									
Days waited at 50th percentile	117	81	60	163	69	162	474	180	96
Days waited at 90th percentile	502	472	752	494	355	1,662	575	563	547
Myringotomy									
Days waited at 50th percentile	24	24	34	46	38	27	98	26	29
Days waited at 90th percentile	202	98	138	198	98	54	239	91	129
Prostatectomy									
Days waited at 50th percentile	28	35	24	17	38	33	30	53	28
Days waited at 90th percentile	154	224	106	76	446	77	100	495	165

(continued)

Table 5.6 (continued): Days waited by patients admitted from waiting lists, by indicator procedure, States and Territories, percentiles, 2000-01

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Septoplasty									
Days waited at 50th percentile	105	96	58	55	162	389	168	143	95
Days waited at 90th percentile	529	621	1,037	434	405	1,034	453	354	584
Tonsillectomy									
Days waited at 50th percentile	106	43	55	87	82	130	113	54	66
Days waited at 90th percentile	458	320	294	324	498	640	400	189	399
Total hip replacement									
Days waited at 50th percentile	113	108	55	77	120	221	70	49	95
Days waited at 90th percentile	467	339	217	411	472	537	188	286	405
Total knee replacement									
Days waited at 50th percentile	160	111	68	84	111	402	90	110	114
Days waited at 90th percentile	563	375	344	463	448	756	273	449	512
Varicose veins stripping & ligation									
Days waited at 50th percentile	55	119	64	61	104	245	321	134	72
Days waited at 90th percentile	347	727	749	484	422	942	523	524	497
Other elective surgery									
Days waited at 50th percentile	21	23	20	21	27	31	40	19	22
Days waited at 90th percentile	145	184	110	186	154	241	231	132	152
Total									
Days waited at 50th percentile	28	28	22	20	34	37	44	25	27
Days waited at 90th percentile	229	205	132	215	199	294	266	168	202

... not applicable.

Table 5.7: Proportion of patients admitted from waiting lists who waited more than 12 months, by indicator procedure, States and Territories, 2000-01

Indicator procedure	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Cataract extraction	22.0	3.2	17.4	4.4	6.5	43.2	19.3	3.0	13.6
Cholecystectomy	5.8	3.1	2.1	2.2	1.3	9.2	6.2	3.7	4.1
Coronary artery bypass graft	0.1	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	..	0.2
Cystoscopy	1.5	2.2	1.8	1.7	5.3	3.9	0.4	2.3	2.0
Haemorrhoidectomy	4.4	8.1	9.3	5.5	2.2	7.7	10.0	0.0	5.8
Hysterectomy	2.5	2.4	1.0	0.5	0.6	1.1	7.1	0.0	1.9
Inguinal herniorrhaphy	4.4	6.4	3.7	3.1	2.7	10.8	12.4	3.5	4.6
Myringoplasty	19.1	16.9	17.8	19.4	8.8	34.3	62.5	24.2	18.2
Myringotomy	2.5	0.5	2.1	2.6	0.5	1.2	0.0	0.0	1.3
Prostatectomy	2.9	5.8	3.0	0.9	12.7	0.0	0.0	13.6	4.3
Septoplasty	20.1	22.8	22.1	14.2	13.7	52.4	25.0	10.0	20.5
Tonsillectomy	17.8	7.8	7.2	6.5	17.9	23.3	22.2	2.9	11.9
Total hip replacement	16.3	8.2	5.5	12.6	15.3	27.7	0.0	5.0	12.3
Total knee replacement	26.3	10.5	9.2	14.8	16.0	52.5	3.9	15.8	19.0
Varicose veins stripping & ligation	8.9	25.7	23.4	17.0	13.3	38.2	28.2	23.7	16.6
Other elective surgery	2.6	3.4	2.1	3.8	2.3	5.9	4.4	0.0	2.9
Total	5.2	4.0	3.3	4.0	3.6	7.6	5.3	2.3	4.4

.. not applicable.

Table 5.8: Admissions from waiting lists, by indicator procedure, States and Territories, 2000-01

Indicator procedure	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Cataract extraction	13,785	8,687	4,116	3,124	2,235	264	202	405	32,818
Cholecystectomy	6,972	2,981	3,411	908	922	433	113	107	15,747
Coronary artery bypass graft	1,924	1,515	1,553	251	440	336	25	..	6,044
Cystoscopy	10,476	6,510	4,769	1,782	1,553	612	242	176	26,120
Haemorrhoidectomy	1,487	484	517	255	223	65	10	18	3,059
Hysterectomy	5,060	1,744	2,291	1,010	700	370	113	13	11,306
Inguinal herniorrhaphy	5,798	2,556	2,788	915	825	287	89	115	13,383
Myringoplasty	350	332	326	160	114	35	8	33	1,358
Myringotomy	690	2,742	1,942	731	659	84	64	54	6,966
Prostatectomy	2,375	1,147	737	340	440	14	12	22	5,087
Septoplasty	1,260	1,375	488	459	241	42	16	20	3,901
Tonsillectomy	4,296	3,080	2,578	891	761	60	63	105	11,834
Total hip replacement	2,187	1,384	922	342	476	155	50	20	5,536
Total knee replacement	2,683	1,113	1,145	297	570	118	76	19	6,221
Varicose veins stripping & ligation	1,860	814	837	305	415	51	78	38	4,398
Other elective surgery	131,564	73,924	76,268	27,688	24,988	10,059	5,675	4,366	354,512
% indicator procedures	31.8	33.0	27.1	29.8	29.7	22.6	17.0	20.8	30.3
Total	192,867	110,388	104,688	39,438	35,562	12,995	6,836	5,516	508,290

.. not applicable.