

4 Overview of activity in Australian hospitals

Introduction

This chapter presents summary statistics for admitted patients in public and private hospitals, and for non-admitted patients in public hospitals. Information is included on the number of separations for patients and their aggregated and average lengths of stay, presented on the basis of the sector of the hospital (public or private) and the type of hospital within the sector. Later chapters present information on the basis of characteristics of the patients and their hospital stays (Chapters 5 to 10).

Tables 4.1 and 4.2 are derived from the National Hospital Morbidity Database and present summary separation, patient day, average length of stay and average cost weight information by hospital sector and type. Table 4.1 reports the available national statistics for the years 1994–95 to 1998–99 and Table 4.2 reports the statistics for 1998–99 by State and Territory. All types of episode of care are included, except as noted below for the average cost weight information. That is, separations for which the type of episode of care was *Acute care*, *Rehabilitation care*, *Palliative care*, *Non-acute care* and *Other care* are included, as are *Newborn* episodes of care, provided that they had at least one qualified patient day.

Newborn is a new episode type, introduced in 1998–99 for use for all patients aged 9 days or less on admission. It was implemented by New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia, and may have slightly reduced the numbers of separations reported by New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia (public hospitals) in 1998–99 compared with 1997–98, and slightly increased their average lengths of stay. Victoria had been reporting separations for these patients according to the *Newborn* definition (that is, using a single episode for these patients) prior to 1998–99 so this implementation is not likely to have markedly affected Victorian separation or average length of stay data. Tasmania and the Northern Territory reported a new episode of care for patients aged less than 10 days at admission with each change in qualification status. The Australian Capital Territory and Western Australia counted separations for patients aged 10 days or less on admission as qualified (*Acute care*) if at least one day was qualified. This variation should be considered when State and Territory data are being compared. Further information on *Newborn* episodes and the reporting of separations data for patients aged 9 days or less on admission is included in the Glossary and in Appendix 3.

For 1998–99, the hospital sectors and types reported in this chapter are public acute hospitals, public psychiatric hospitals, private free-standing day facilities and other private hospitals. Data are also presented for all public hospitals combined, all acute hospitals (that is, excluding public psychiatric hospitals), all private hospitals and all hospitals.

Tables 4.3 and 4.4 present summary separation and patient day information for public hospitals from the National Public Hospital Establishments Database by type of admitted patient episode. The categories in this table (defined in the *National Health Data Dictionary* Version 7) describe the broad programs of health care provided to admitted patients.

In most States and Territories, there are some differences between the reporting of separations and patient days to the National Hospital Morbidity and the National Hospital Establishments Databases as presented in this chapter. A brief discussion of these differences may be found in the technical notes (Appendix 3).

Data on non-admitted patient occasions of service in public hospitals, also derived from the National Public Hospital Establishments Database, are summarised in Table 4.5. The occasions of service are categorised by service type and provide information on the range of emergency department, outpatient and other non-admitted services provided by public hospitals.

Admitted patients by sector and hospital type

Separations

There were 5,735,049 separations reported from public and private acute and psychiatric hospitals in 1998–99 (Table 4.2), an increase of 171,975 (3.1%) compared with 1997–98 (Table 4.1). Public hospital separations increased by 2.4% (89,593) compared with 1997–98 and there was a 4.6% (82,382) increase in the private sector.

Public patient separations comprised 87.2% of public acute hospital separations, an increase over the 86% reported in 1997–98, 84% in 1996–97, 83% in 1995–96 and 80% reported in

1994–95. There was a decrease in private patient separations in public acute hospitals. Further detail on patient accommodation status is presented in Chapter 5.

The number of separations reported for public psychiatric hospitals (20,276) decreased by 2,290 when compared with 1997–98, a decrease of 10%.

The private sector accounted for 32.7% of the 5.74 million separations (1,875,358), compared with 32.2% (1,792,976) in 1997–98. Private free-standing day hospital facilities accounted for 261,139 or 13.9% of private sector separations, compared with 248,045 or 13.8% in 1997–98.

There was some variation in the number of separations reported for each month of the year, for both the public and private sectors (Figures 4.3 and 4.4). The fewest separations were reported for January for both sectors, apparent for both same day and non-same day separations.

Same day separations

1998–99 saw a continuation of the recent annual increases in the proportions of admitted patients being treated on a same day basis, that is, admitted and separated on the same date.

Same day separations have been distinguished from other separations in this report to illustrate the proportions of total separations which they represent, and also to demonstrate the effect on average lengths of stay when patients receiving this type of hospital care are classified as admitted. In most countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), same day patients are not admitted, and reported average lengths of stay are therefore greater than those calculated for Australia (OECD 1999).

In Australia in 1998–99, a total of 2,747,617 separations were on a same day basis, an increase of 6.6% compared with 1997–98 and 39.9% compared with 1994–95. These separations comprised 47.9% of overall separations (compared with 46.3% (2,577,652) in 1997–98) and there were increases in the proportions of same day patients in both public acute hospitals (from 43.3% to 44.7%) and private hospitals (from 53.1% to 54.8%).

There was some variation among the States and Territories in the proportion of separations that were same day separations. For public acute hospitals, New South Wales had a lower proportion than the national average (40.7%), whereas the Australian Capital Territory

(50.1%) and the Northern Territory (50.4%) had markedly higher proportions. In the private sector, New South Wales (58.8%) and Victoria (55.5%) reported higher proportions than average. The Australian Capital Territory (37.4%) and Tasmania (44.6%) reported lower proportions, reflecting the incomplete coverage of private free-standing day hospital facilities for these two jurisdictions.

Separation rates

The age-standardised separation rate per 1,000 population increased by 0.9% between 1997–98 and 1998–99 for public acute hospitals and by 2.5% for private hospitals (Table 4.1, Figure 4.1).

Among the States and Territories, the Northern Territory reported the highest age-standardised public acute hospital separation rate in 1998–99 (347.6 per 1,000 population) and Tasmania reported the lowest (164.1 per 1,000 population) (Table 4.2). Private hospital separation rates ranged from 59.4 per 1,000 population in the Australian Capital Territory (for which separations from same day facilities and one other public hospital were not included in the database) to 115.1 per 1,000 population in Queensland. For all hospitals combined, the Northern Territory reported the highest age-standardised separation rate (347.6 per 1,000 population), despite its private hospital not being included in the database.

These rates are likely to have been affected by whether or not separate episodes of care (see Glossary) within a hospital stay were counted as individual separations, and the way in which hospital stays for patients aged 9 days or less on admission were counted (see Appendix 3). The private sector in the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania had not implemented separate episodes of care in 1998–99 and this would have had the effect of reducing the number of separations and increasing the average length of stay for these hospitals in comparison with the others.

The age-standardised separation rate for public psychiatric hospitals varied widely, from 0.2 per 1,000 population in Victoria, to 2.5 per 1,000 population in South Australia. This variation reflects differences in the extent to which public psychiatric services have been mainstreamed into public acute hospitals.

Average cost weight of separations

In Table 4.2, average cost weights are presented for 1998–99 based on the cost weights for the version 4.0/4.1 Australian Refined Diagnosis Related Group (AR-DRG) into which each separation was classified on the basis of demographic and clinical characteristics of the patient. Separations were only included where the type of episode of care was reported as *Acute*, or was not reported, or where the episode type was *Newborn* and the separation had at least one qualified day. Thus separations for rehabilitation, palliative care, non-acute care, other care and newborns with no qualified days were excluded.

The average cost weight information provides a guide to the relative complexity and resource use of admissions within hospitals, with a value of 1.00 representing the theoretical average for all separations. Separate private and public sector cost weights were used, as they reflect the differing cost structures of the two sectors. Public sector cost weights were used for the rows for *Public acute and private hospitals* and *Total*.

In Table 4.1 and Table 4.2, average cost weights for 1998–99 are based on AR-DRG version 4.1 for States that provided data in ICD-10-AM and AR-DRG version 4.0 for States and Territories that provided data in ICD-9-CM (see Appendix 4 for more information), and combined cost weights for versions 4.0 and 4.1 (see Appendix 10 for further information). In Table 4.1, average cost weights for 1997–98 are based on AN-DRG version 3.1 and 1997–98 cost weights. Average cost weights for 1996–97 are based on AN-DRG version 3.1

and its corresponding cost weights. Comparisons of average cost weights between the reporting years and between the sectors should therefore be made with caution. Further information about the AR-DRG classification and cost weights is included in Chapter 10.

Table 4.2 indicates that, within the public sector, most States and Territories had average cost weights close to the national average for public acute hospitals. The Northern Territory was the only exception, with an average cost weight of 0.78. This reflects the high proportion (32.7%) of separations in the Northern Territory that were for *Admit for renal dialysis* (AR-DRG L61Z), an AR-DRG with a relatively low cost weight (see Chapter 10).

The validity of comparisons of average cost weights is limited by differences in the extent to which each jurisdiction's psychiatric services are integrated into its public hospital system. For example, in Victoria, almost all public psychiatric hospitals are now mainstreamed and are therefore included in the public acute hospital data. Cost weights are of little use as a measure of resource requirements for these services because the relevant AR-DRGs are much less homogeneous than for other acute services.

The average cost weight for private free-standing day hospitals was markedly lower (0.51) than for other private hospitals (0.98), reflecting the lesser complexity and day-only nature of most admissions in these hospitals. The average cost weights for the 'other' private hospitals differed slightly among the States and Territories.

Patient days

Patient days represent the number of full or partial days stay for patients who separated from hospital during the reporting period, and represent the aggregated length of stay for all patients (see Glossary). They have previously been referred to as bed days. A total of 22,319,041 patient days were reported for 1998–99, 72.9% in the public sector and 27.0% in the private sector.

There was a decrease in patient days reported for public acute hospitals (162,807, 1.1%) in 1998–99 compared with 1997–98, but there was an increase reported for private hospitals (50,112, 0.8%). Patient days for public acute and private hospitals combined decreased by 0.53% (112,695) and for all hospitals combined, it decreased by 1.0% (236,089).

Public psychiatric hospital patient days decreased by 8.75% (123,394) nationally. Age-standardised rates for 1998–99 ranged from 4.7 patient days per 1,000 population in Victoria to 146.0 per 1,000 population in Queensland.

The number of age-standardised patient days per 1,000 population in 1998–99 fell by 2.5% for public acute and private hospitals combined compared with 1997–98. Public acute hospital patient days per 1,000 fell by 2.9%, with those for private hospitals decreasing by 1.6%.

Of the States and Territories, the Northern Territory reported the highest number of patient days per 1,000 population for public acute hospitals in 1998–99 (1,293.0 per 1,000 population) and Tasmania reported the lowest (649.8 per 1,000 population). The highest age-standardised population rate for patient days in private hospitals was reported by Queensland (386.9 per 1,000 population). Age-standardised, the highest rate for all hospitals combined was reported by the Northern Territory (1,293.0 per 1,000 population) and the lowest by Victoria (1,051.9 per 1,000 population).

Average length of stay

The average length of stay for public acute and private hospitals combined was 3.7 days, a slight reduction from 3.8 days in 1997–98, reflecting the increases in same day separations and a continuation of the trend suggested by the data over the last few years (Figure 4.2). For public acute hospitals, there was a slight decrease from 4.0 days in 1997–98 to 3.9 days

in 1998–99, and a decrease was evident for public patients, while private patients remained the same as in 1997–98. For private hospitals, the average length of stay was 3.2 days in 1998–99, a reduction from 3.3 days in the previous year. The average length of stay for public psychiatric hospitals increased from 62.4 days in 1997–98 to 63.4 days in 1998–99. New South Wales reported the greatest average length of stay for public acute hospitals (4.3 days) and the Northern Territory reported the shortest (3.5 days). For private hospitals other than free-standing day hospital facilities, the Australian Capital Territory reported the greatest average length of stay (4.0 days) and Western Australia reported the shortest (3.3 days).

With same day separations excluded (as is the practice in most OECD countries), average lengths of stay have not reduced markedly over the last few years (Table 4.1, Figure 4.2). The average length of stay in 1998–99 was shorter than in 1997–98 for public acute hospitals (6.3 days compared with 6.4 days). For private hospitals, the average length of stay decreased from 6.0 days in 1997–98 to 5.9 days in 1998–99. These figures indicate that most of the reductions in average length of stay overall are a result of increasing proportions of same day separations, rather than reductions in length of stay for non-same day stays. The average lengths of stay are within the range of those reported for 1996 and 1997 average lengths of stay for acute care for other OECD countries (OECD 1999).

Admitted patients by public hospital program areas

Data on the number of separations and patient days spent in public hospitals, by type of admitted patient episode, are provided in Tables 4.3 and 4.4. The type of admitted patient episode classifies separations and patient days into the broad programs of health care. Detailed information on patient diagnoses and procedures and on the AR-DRGs of admitted patient episodes are provided in later chapters (see Chapters 7, 8 and 10).

Public hospitals reported 3,862,295 separations for 1998–99. By far, the majority of separations were for *Medical/surgical/obstetrics*, which together accounted for 76% of all separations. The next most frequent separation categories were *Dialysis* and *Endoscopy*, which accounted for 11% and 5% of all separations respectively.

However, Table 4.4, which provides information on the number of patient days spent in public hospitals by type of episode, shows a different picture. Over 16 million patient days were reported for public hospitals in 1998–99. *Medical/surgical/obstetrics* separations again dominated, accounting for the majority of patient days (67%). *Mental health* separations, which accounted for 3.5% of separations, accounted for 12% of all patient days. Other episode types which had high average lengths of stay (as derived from Tables 4.3 and 4.4) included *Intellectual handicap*, *Nursing home type patients*, *Rehabilitation*, and *Non-medical and social patients*. *Dialysis* and *Endoscopy* had relatively short average lengths of stay (1.0 day and 2.1 days), and thus accounted for relatively fewer patient days.

Non-admitted patients in public hospitals

Information on non-admitted patient occasions of service delivered by Australian public acute and psychiatric hospitals is provided in Table 4.5.

Over 34 million non-admitted patient occasions of service were delivered to individuals through Australian public acute hospitals in 1998–99. The largest group of these were *Other medical/surgical/obstetric* encounters (32.9% of the total), followed by *Accident and emergency services* (14.6%) and *Pathology* (12.2%). *Allied health* and *Community health* were also frequently provided services, together accounting for 14.5% of non-admitted patient

services. These categories include services such as: physiotherapy, speech therapy, dietary advice, baby clinics, aged care assessment teams and immunisation clinics.

In addition to the services provided to individuals, 486,202 group sessions were delivered through public acute hospitals. These services include group activities conducted in the same areas against which individual non-admitted patient services are recorded. A group service is defined as a service provided to two or more patients, but excludes services provided to two or more family members, which are treated as services provided to an individual. Because of the inconsistent reporting of group sessions against the sub-categories, the total number of sessions only is reported.

Users of these data should note that there is considerable variation among States and Territories and between reporting years, for the way in which non-admitted patient occasions of service data are collected. In particular, South Australian hospitals reported non-admitted patient services using a different set of categories that are not consistent with those used by other States and Territories. South Australia's casemix payment system determines the categories for reporting non-admitted patient services and these only partially align with the national categories. Categories for which there is no equivalent category are reported as 'not applicable'. Over the last few years, New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia, Queensland and Tasmania all had changes in reporting arrangements for non-admitted occasions of service. For example, in New South Wales the large increase from 117,025 mental health occasions of service in 1997-98 to 995,176 in 1998-99 is due to reclassification of a class of occasions of service previously reported under community health.

Differing admission practices between the States and Territories will also lead to variation among jurisdictions in the services reported in Table 4.5. States and Territories may also differ in the extent to which these types of services are provided in non-hospital settings (such as community health centres), which is beyond the scope of this data collection.

Data on the number of non-admitted patient occasions of service provided through public psychiatric hospitals are also requested, although data collection in this area is poor. A total of 198,297 services was provided in New South Wales and Queensland, the only States or Territories for which these data were supplied (Table 4.5). These services include emergency and outpatient care and outreach/community care provided to individuals or groups. Information collected for these hospitals is not disaggregated further, due to the restricted range of services usually provided through psychiatric hospitals.

Table 4.1: Summary of separation, same day separation, average cost weight, patient day and average length of stay statistics, by hospital type, Australia, 1994–95 to 1998–99

	1994–95 ^(a)	1995–96 ^(b)	1996–97	1997–98 ^(c)	1998–99
Separations ('000)					
Public acute hospitals ^(d)	3,420	3,568	3,622	3,748	3,839
Public patients ^(e)	2,720	2,963	3,058	3,222	3,347
Private patients	489	438	393	355	319
Public psychiatric hospitals ^(f)	n.a.	25	20	23	20
Private hospitals ^(g)	1,460	1,577	1,685	1,793	1,875
Public acute & private hospitals ^(h)	4,880	5,146	5,307	5,541	5,715
Total	4,880	5,171	5,327	5,563	5,735
Same day separations ('000)					
Public acute hospitals ^(d)	1,290	1,419	1,520	1,622	1,716
Public patients ^(e)	1,039	1,197	1,302	1,412	1,512
Private patients	178	168	160	152	141
Public psychiatric hospitals ^(f)	n.a.	1	1	2	2
Private hospitals ^(g)	673	772	859	953	1,028
Public acute & private hospitals ^(h)	1,964	2,192	2,379	2,575	2,745
Total	1,964	2,192	2,380	2,578	2,748
Same day separations as a % of total					
Public acute hospitals ^(d)	37.7	39.8	42.0	43.3	44.7
Public patients ^(e)	38.2	40.4	42.6	43.8	45.2
Private patients	36.5	38.4	40.9	42.7	44.4
Public psychiatric hospitals ^(f)	n.a.	5.5	3.9	10.6	11.3
Private hospitals ^(g)	46.1	48.9	51.0	53.1	54.8
Public acute & private hospitals ^(h)	40.1	42.5	44.8	46.5	48.0
Total	40.2	42.4	44.7	46.3	47.9
Separations per 1,000 population⁽ⁱ⁾					
Public acute hospitals ^(d)	183.9	190.6	193.1	197.0	198.7
Public patients ^(e)	146.5	158.7	163.6	170.0	173.9
Private patients	26.1	23.2	20.8	18.5	16.3
Public psychiatric hospitals ^(f)	n.a.	1.7	1.1	1.2	1.1
Private hospitals ^(g)	80.4	85.1	89.2	93.2	95.5
Public acute & private hospitals ^(h)	263.0	274.7	281.6	289.4	293.5
Total	263.0	276.0	282.7	290.6	294.5
Average cost weight of separations^(j)					
Public acute hospitals ^(d)	n.a.	1.04	1.02	1.00	0.99
Public patients ^(e)	n.a.	1.01	0.99	0.97	0.98
Private patients	n.a.	1.09	1.08	1.07	1.07
Public psychiatric hospitals ^(f)	n.a.	1.23	1.37	1.58	1.79
Private hospitals ^(g)	n.a.	0.95	0.94	0.96	0.91
Public acute & private hospitals ^(h)	n.a.	1.01	0.99	0.98	0.97
Total	n.a.	1.01	1.00	0.99	0.97
Patient days ('000)					
Public acute hospitals ^(d)	15,567	15,607	15,181	15,152	14,989
Public patients ^(e)	12,086	12,608	12,494	12,460	12,691
Private patients	2,173	1,878	1,622	1,419	1,274
Public psychiatric hospitals ^(f)	n.a.	948	1,350	1,409	1,285
Private hospitals ^(g)	5,407	5,893	5,834	5,995	6,045
Public acute & private hospitals ^(h)	20,974	21,499	21,015	21,146	21,034
Total	20,974	22,448	22,366	22,555	22,319

(continued)

Table 4.1 (continued): Summary of separation, same day separation, average cost weight, patient day and average length of stay statistics, by hospital type, Australia, 1994–95 to 1998–99

	1994–95 ^(a)	1995–96 ^(b)	1996–97	1997–98 ^(c)	1998–99
Patient days per 1,000 population⁽ⁱ⁾					
Public acute hospitals ^(d)	826.7	817.8	789.4	774.1	751.3
Public patients ^(e)	642.5	662.3	652.1	640.4	639.6
Private patients	114.9	97.8	83.6	71.7	62.6
Public psychiatric hospitals ^(f)	n.a.	89.8	72.3	74.7	66.6
Private hospitals ^(g)	293.2	311.6	302.0	303.8	299.4
Public acute & private hospitals ^(h)	1,115.9	1,125.9	1,089.4	1,075.9	1,048.7
Total	1,115.9	1,177.1	1,161.7	1,150.6	1,115.3
Average length of stay (days)					
Public acute hospitals ^(d)	4.6	4.4	4.2	4.0	3.9
Public patients ^(e)	4.4	4.3	4.1	3.9	3.8
Private patients	4.4	4.3	4.1	4.0	4.0
Public psychiatric hospitals ^{(f)(k)}	n.a.	52.1	66.3	62.4	63.4
Private hospitals ^(g)	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.3	3.2
Public acute & private hospitals ^(h)	4.3	4.2	4.0	3.8	3.7
Total	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.1	3.9
Average length of stay, excluding same day separations (days)					
Public acute hospitals ^(d)	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.3
Public patients ^(e)	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.1	6.1
Private patients	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.4
Public psychiatric hospitals ^{(f)(k)}	n.a.	54.4	69.0	69.7	71.4
Private hospitals ^(g)	6.0	6.4	6.0	6.0	5.9
Public acute & private hospitals ^(h)	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.2
Total	6.5	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.6

(a) For 1994–95 Victorian private hospital data are incomplete. About 98% of the separations were included.

(b) Statistical separations were introduced in 1995–96 and would have resulted in an increase in separations reported for that and subsequent years compared with previous years.

(c) Some data on patient days have been revised since previously published.

(d) Includes the Department of Veterans' Affairs hospitals.

(e) Although public and private patients account for the bulk of separations from public hospitals, there are also separations for other categories of patients, as detailed in Table 5.1.

(f) Public psychiatric hospital data were not included until 1995–96, and that year Queensland was unable to report. Victoria was not able to provide patient days data for all separations in 1995–96 and for 407 separations in 1996–97, as leave days could not be identified.

(g) Includes private psychiatric hospitals and private free-standing day hospital facilities.

(h) Excludes public psychiatric hospitals.

(i) Figures are rates per 1,000 directly age-standardised to the Australian population at 30 June 1991.

For public psychiatric hospitals and private hospitals, rates were derived using populations of the reporting States and Territories only, without adjustment for incomplete reporting.

(j) Separations for which the type of episode of care was reported as acute, or as newborn with qualified patient days, or was not reported. For further details see Chapter 10. Public national cost weights were used for the *Public acute & private hospitals* and *Total* rows. AR-DRG version 4.0/4.1 was used for 1998–99, AN-DRG version 3.1 for 1996–97 and 1997–98, and version 3.0 for 1995–96.

(k) Caution should be used with average length of stay for public psychiatric hospitals. The figures include a small percentage of long stay patients who affect the average markedly. The median length of stay for Australia was 7 days and the median length of stay excluding same day separations for Australia was 10 days.

n.a. not available.

Table 4.2: Summary of separation, same day separation, average cost weight, patient day and average length of stay statistics, by hospital type, States and Territories, 1998–99

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Separations									
Public hospitals	1,273,396	970,150	708,713	357,569	355,863	80,517	58,598	54,885	3,859,691
Public acute hospitals	1,263,161	968,993	707,227	354,441	352,125	79,985	58,598	54,885	3,839,415
Public psychiatric hospitals	10,235	1,157	1,486	3,128	3,738	532	..	..	20,276
Private hospitals ^(a)	566,617	495,667	411,279	186,997	150,741	47,167	16,890	n.a.	1,875,358
Private free-standing day hospital facilities	123,835	47,063	70,831	9,994	8,310	1,106	n.a.	..	261,139
Other private hospitals	442,782	448,604	340,448	177,003	142,431	46,061	16,890	n.a.	1,614,219
Public acute & private hospitals ^(b)	1,829,778	1,464,660	1,118,506	541,438	502,866	127,152	75,488	54,885	5,714,773
Total	1,840,013	1,465,817	1,119,992	544,566	506,604	127,684	75,488	54,885	5,735,049
Same day separations									
Public hospitals	516,646	468,028	317,948	161,062	159,318	38,705	29,359	27,653	1,718,719
Public acute hospitals	514,635	467,997	317,925	161,008	159,151	38,697	29,359	27,653	1,716,425
Public psychiatric hospitals	2,011	31	23	54	167	8	..	..	2,294
Private hospitals ^(a)	333,444	275,266	227,631	92,564	72,068	21,016	6,319	n.a.	1,028,308
Private free-standing day hospital facilities	122,238	47,063	70,828	9,990	8,310	1,106	n.a.	..	259,535
Other private hospitals	211,206	228,203	156,803	82,574	63,758	19,910	6,319	n.a.	768,773
Public acute & private hospitals ^(b)	848,079	743,263	545,556	253,572	231,219	59,713	35,678	27,653	2,744,733
Total	850,090	743,294	545,579	253,626	231,386	59,721	35,843	28,078	2,747,617
Same day separations as a % of total									
Public hospitals	40.6	48.2	44.9	45.0	44.8	48.1	50.1	50.4	44.5
Public acute hospitals	40.7	48.3	45.0	45.4	45.2	48.4	50.1	50.4	44.7
Public psychiatric hospitals	19.6	2.7	1.5	1.7	4.5	1.5	..	..	11.3
Private hospitals ^(a)	58.8	55.5	55.3	49.5	47.8	44.6	37.4	n.a.	54.8
Private free-standing day hospital facilities	98.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	n.a.	..	99.4
Other private hospitals	47.7	50.9	46.1	46.7	44.8	43.2	37.4	n.a.	47.6
Public acute & private hospitals ^(b)	46.3	50.7	48.8	46.8	46.0	47.0	47.3	50.4	48.0
Total	46.2	50.7	48.7	46.6	45.7	46.8	47.5	51.2	47.9
Separations per 1,000 population^(c)									
Public hospitals	192.1	199.4	202.8	196.0	226.6	165.2	205.9	347.6	199.7
Public acute hospitals	190.5	199.2	202.4	194.3	224.0	164.1	205.9	347.6	198.7
Public psychiatric hospitals	1.7	0.2	0.4	1.7	2.5	1.1	..	..	1.1
Private hospitals ^(a)	83.8	99.4	115.1	101.5	91.0	94.1	59.4	n.a.	95.5
Private free-standing day hospital facilities	18.5	9.4	19.8	5.5	4.9	2.0	n.a.	..	13.3
Other private hospitals	65.4	90.0	95.3	96.0	86.1	92.1	59.4	n.a.	82.2
Public acute & private hospitals ^(b)	274.3	298.6	317.5	295.8	315.1	258.1	265.3	347.6	293.5
Total	276.0	298.8	317.9	297.6	317.6	259.3	265.3	347.6	294.5

(continued)

Table 4.2 (continued): Summary of separation, same day separation, average cost weight, patient day and average length of stay statistics, all hospitals, States and Territories, 1998-99

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Average cost weight of separations^(d)									
Public hospitals	1.03	1.00	0.98	0.96	1.00	1.01	0.99	0.78	1.00
Public acute hospitals	1.02	1.00	0.98	0.95	0.99	1.01	0.99	0.78	0.99
Public psychiatric hospitals	1.56	1.81	2.04	2.04	2.06	1.86	..	..	1.79
Private hospitals ^(a)	0.88	0.93	0.92	0.89	0.98	0.95	1.06	n.a.	0.91
Private free-standing day hospital facilities	0.51	0.45	0.52	0.52	0.69	0.81	n.a.	..	0.51
Other private hospitals	1.00	0.98	1.00	0.91	1.00	0.95	1.06	n.a.	0.98
Public acute & private hospitals ^(b)	0.98	0.97	0.96	0.93	0.99	0.99	1.01	0.78	0.97
Total	0.98	0.97	0.96	0.93	0.99	0.99	1.01	0.78	0.97
Patient days									
Public hospitals	5,869,605	3,710,720	3,040,511	1,409,868	1,453,184	383,163	216,337	190,840	16,274,228
Public acute hospitals	5,398,366	3,688,596	2,527,633	1,276,022	1,354,529	336,503	216,337	190,840	14,988,826
Public psychiatric hospitals	471,239	22,124	512,878	133,846	98,655	46,660	..	..	1,285,402
Private hospitals ^(a)	1,670,588	1,634,549	1,407,207	587,435	518,214	160,082	66,738	n.a.	6,044,813
Private free-standing day hospital facilities	123,835	47,063	70,831	9,994	8,310	1,106	n.a.	..	261,139
Other private hospitals	1,546,753	1,587,486	1,336,376	577,441	509,904	158,976	66,738	n.a.	5,783,674
Public acute & private hospitals ^(b)	7,068,954	5,323,145	3,934,840	1,863,457	1,872,743	496,585	283,075	190,840	21,033,639
Total	7,540,193	5,345,269	4,447,718	1,997,303	1,971,398	543,245	283,075	190,840	22,319,041
Patient days per 1,000 population^(c)									
Public hospitals	853.3	734.8	857.3	770.0	857.4	748.7	797.6	1,293.0	817.8
Public acute hospitals	781.1	730.1	711.2	697.6	795.6	649.8	797.6	1,293.0	751.3
Public psychiatric hospitals	72.2	4.7	146.0	72.4	61.8	99.0	..	..	66.6
Private hospitals ^(a)	240.0	317.1	386.9	319.8	294.8	306.7	247.6	n.a.	299.4
Private free-standing day hospital facilities	18.5	9.4	19.8	5.5	4.9	2.0	n.a.	..	13.3
Other private hospitals	221.5	307.7	367.0	314.2	289.9	304.7	247.6	n.a.	286.1
Public acute & private hospitals ^(b)	1,021.1	1,047.2	1,098.1	1,017.4	1,090.3	956.4	1,045.2	1,293.0	1,048.7
Total	1,093.3	1,051.9	1,244.1	1,089.7	1,152.1	1,055.4	1,045.2	1,293.0	1,115.3
Average length of stay (days)									
Public hospitals	4.6	3.8	4.3	3.9	4.1	4.8	3.7	3.5	4.2
Public acute hospitals	4.3	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.8	4.2	3.7	3.5	3.9
Public psychiatric hospitals ^(e)	46.0	19.1	345.1	42.8	26.4	87.7	..	..	63.4
Private hospitals ^(a)	2.9	3.3	3.4	3.1	3.4	3.4	4.0	n.a.	3.2
Private free-standing day hospital facilities	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	n.a.	..	1.0
Other private hospitals	3.5	3.5	3.9	3.3	3.6	3.5	4.0	n.a.	3.6
Public acute & private hospitals ^(b)	3.9	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.7	3.9	3.7	3.5	3.7
Total	4.1	3.6	4.0	3.7	3.9	4.3	3.7	3.5	3.9

(continued)

Table 4.2 (continued): Summary of separation, same day separation, average cost weight, patient day and average length of stay statistics, all hospitals, States and Territories, 1998-99

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Average length of stay, excluding same day separations (days)									
Public hospitals	7.1	6.5	7.0	6.4	6.6	8.2	6.4	6.0	6.8
Public acute hospitals	6.5	6.4	5.7	5.8	6.2	7.2	6.4	6.0	6.3
Public psychiatric hospitals ^(e)	57.1	19.6	350.6	43.5	27.6	89.0	..	..	71.4
Private hospitals ^(a)	5.7	6.2	6.4	5.2	5.7	5.3	5.7	n.a.	5.9
Private free-standing day hospital facilities	1.0	..	1.0	1.0	..	..	..	..	1.0
Other private hospitals	5.8	6.2	6.4	5.2	5.7	5.3	5.7	n.a.	5.9
Public acute & private hospitals ^(b)	6.3	6.3	5.9	5.6	6.0	6.5	6.2	6.0	6.2
Total	6.8	6.4	6.8	6.0	6.3	7.1	6.2	6.1	6.6

(a) Includes private psychiatric hospitals.

(b) Excludes public psychiatric hospitals.

(c) Figures are directly age-standardised to the Australian population at 30 June 1991. In the *Total* column, the rates for private hospitals were derived using populations of the reporting States and Territories only, without adjustment for incomplete reporting.

(d) Separations for which the type of episode of care was reported as acute, or as newborn with qualified patient days, or was not reported. For further details, see Chapter 10. Public national cost weights were used for the *Public acute and private hospitals* and *Total* rows.

(e) Caution should be used with average length of stay for public psychiatric hospitals. The figures include a small percentage of long stay patients who affect the average markedly. The median length of stay for Australia was 7 days and the median length of stay excluding same day separations for Australia was 10 days.

.. not applicable.

n.a. not available.

Separations or patient days per 1,000 population

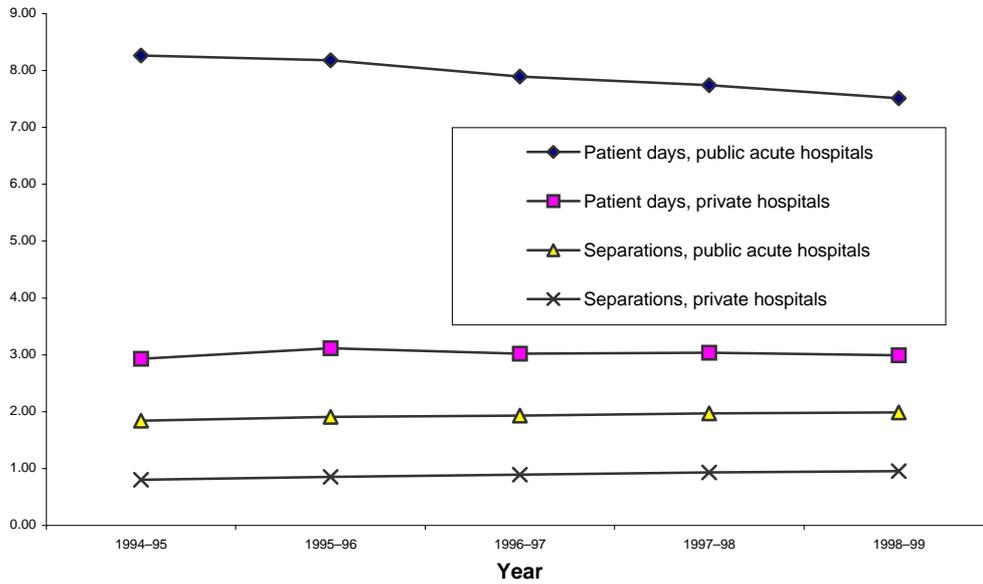


Figure 4.1: Separations and patient days per 1,000 population, public acute and private hospitals, Australia, 1994-95 to 1998-99

Average length of stay (days)

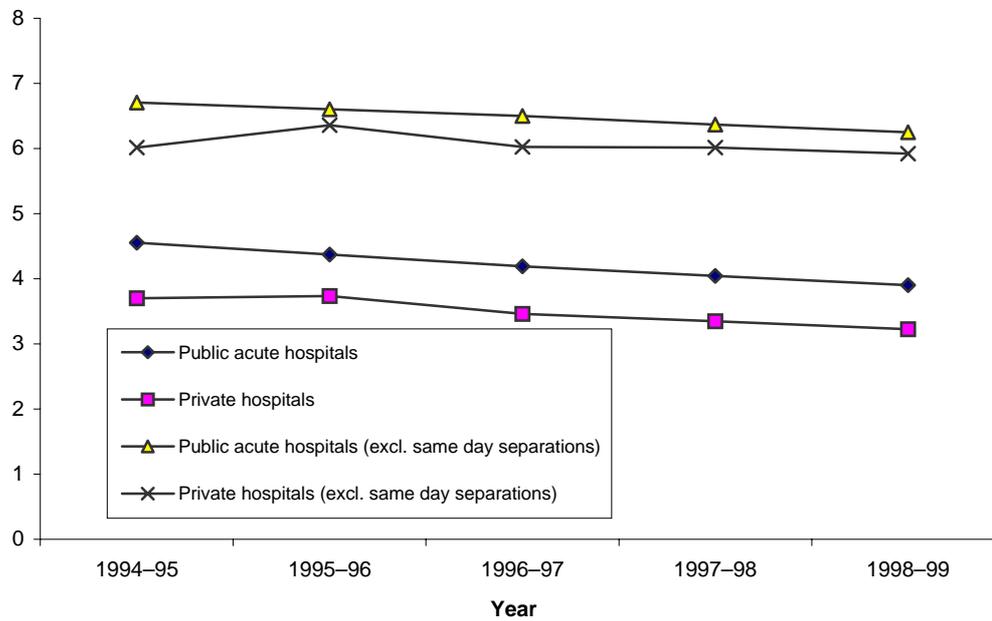


Figure 4.2: Average length of stay, public acute and private hospitals, Australia, 1994-95 to 1998-99

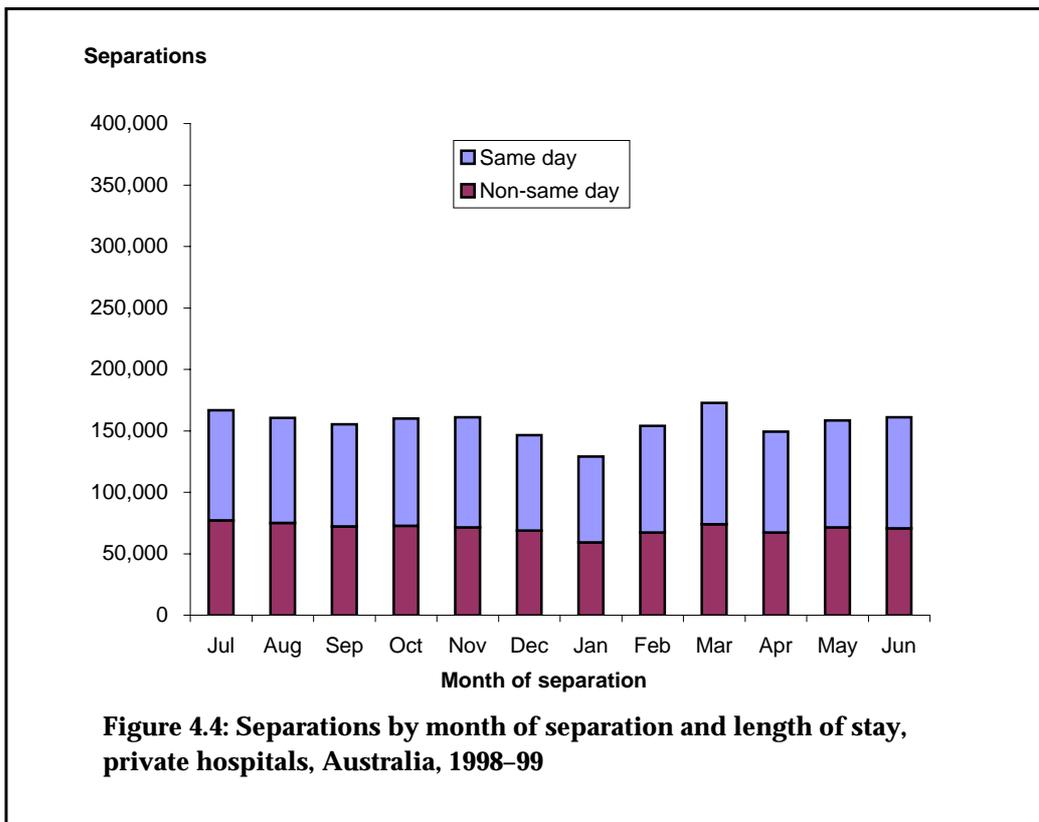
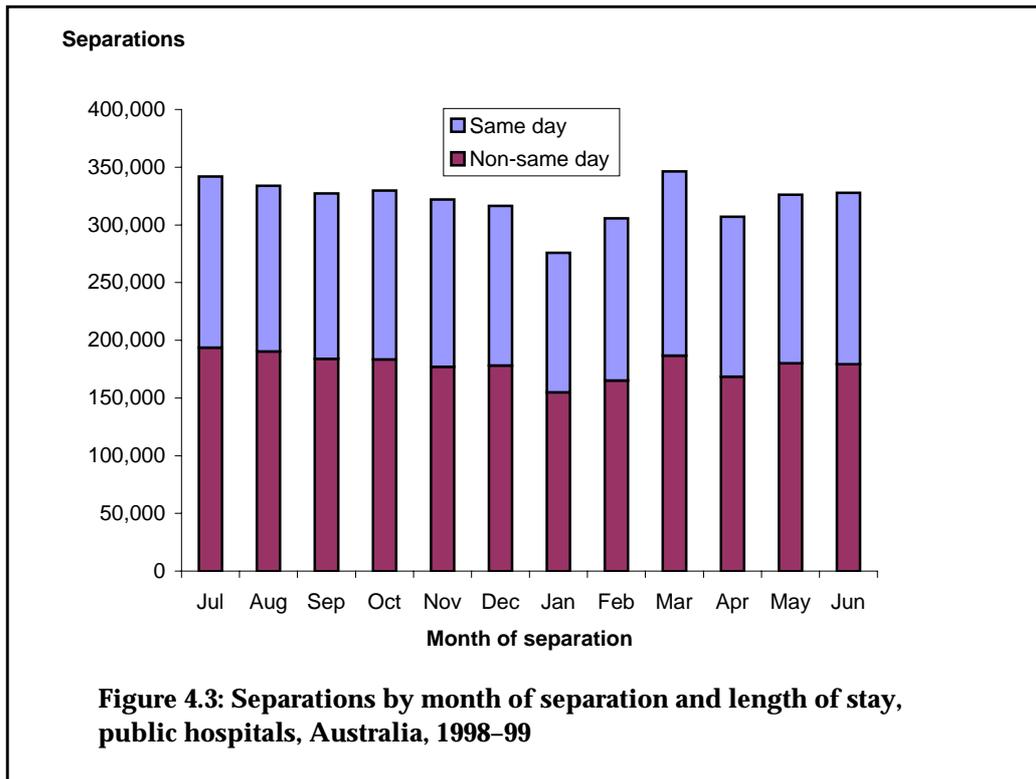


Table 4.3: Separations by type of admitted patient episode, public acute and psychiatric hospitals, States and Territories, 1998–99

Type of admitted patient episode	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Mental health	38,862	27,737	23,680	15,205	13,074	3,870	1,141	741	124,310
Alcohol & drug	11,225	4,048	5,878	3,027	863	337	139	231	25,748
Nursing home type	2,540	1,865	2,040	133	810	317	52	40	7,797
Rehabilitation	24,523	18,776	15,033	3,092	3,318	441	318	223	65,724
Intellectual handicap	48	102	60	11	12	6	10	6	255
Dental	6,921	7,688	6,339	2,826	2,950	901	511	422	28,558
Non-medical & social	6,638	2,481	2,658	1,173	895	312	60	150	14,367
Dialysis	120,118	128,625	64,317	45,207	29,319	9,808	11,176	17,851	426,421
Endoscopy	84,460	58,078	26,840	16,487	16,683	3,662	5,156	964	212,330
Perinatal	12,569	10,003	6,348	2,260	1,986	733	954	1,440	36,293
Medical/surgical/obstetrics	965,498	710,732	555,519	268,202	286,146	60,247	40,589	33,559	2,920,492
Total separations	1,273,402	970,135	708,712	357,623	356,056	80,634	60,106	55,627	3,862,295

Table 4.4: Patient days by type of admitted patient episode, public acute and psychiatric hospitals, States and Territories, 1998–99

Type of admitted patient episode	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Mental health	677,681	321,608	575,680	227,562	148,225	51,474	15,804	6,920	2,024,954
Alcohol & drug	80,428	16,925	71,703	15,435	5,689	2,045	569	1,005	193,799
Nursing home type	295,082	87,989	155,001	26,576	132,829	36,667	2,542	4,170	740,856
Rehabilitation	373,814	318,898	94,081	78,651	69,952	9,125	8,808	4,424	957,753
Intellectual handicap	1,411	365	554	128	51	22	214	22	2,767
Dental	8,532	8,624	7,220	3,341	3,480	1,012	665	594	33,468
Non-medical & social	101,816	29,197	28,833	9,161	6,450	12,532	572	1,505	190,066
Dialysis	120,590	128,885	64,569	45,344	29,354	9,876	11,254	18,162	428,034
Endoscopy	188,541	111,248	55,129	33,153	35,452	7,219	12,031	2,631	445,404
Perinatal	120,384	87,404	62,597	27,040	27,615	8,570	10,016	11,274	354,900
Medical/surgical/obstetrics	3,914,344	2,599,617	1,925,123	943,531	995,662	245,120	156,535	142,364	10,922,296
Total patient days	5,882,623	3,710,760	3,040,490	1,409,922	1,454,759	383,662	219,010	193,071	16,294,297

Table 4.5: Non-admitted patient occasions of service, by type of non-admitted patient care, public acute and psychiatric hospitals, States and Territories, 1998–99

Type of non-admitted patient care	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas ^(a)	ACT	NT	Total ^(b)
Public acute hospitals									
Accident & emergency	1,442,842	1,102,011	1,137,045	606,726	461,240	70,984	83,207	106,400	5,010,455
Dialysis	..	..	1,997	..	..	938	..	..	2,935
Pathology	1,711,718	702,880	939,510	638,479	..	95,855	32,400	58,595	4,179,437
Radiology & organ imaging	752,735	499,299	791,166	324,442	248,758	43,573	57,893	64,966	2,782,832
Endoscopy & related procedures	..	..	1,980	..	..	3,453	..	..	5,433
Other medical/surgical/obstetric	6,011,019	1,336,099	2,109,044	511,972	847,006	184,747	182,087	71,715	11,253,689
Mental health	995,176	814,119	130,448	89,813	18,972	238	5,717	..	2,054,483
Alcohol & drug	..	49,374	91,429	..	..	..	..	..	140,803
Dental	..	193,459	444,793	7,987	8,596	1,233	..	..	656,068
Pharmacy	444,406	345,234	763,324	176,036	..	63,165	404	14,064	1,806,633
Allied health	..	987,760	607,230	698,641	297,281	83,666	65,350	16,882	2,756,810
Community health	992,307	430,173	152,862	634,879	..	..	..	..	2,210,221
District nursing	69,782	405,192	46,729	129,018	..	..	..	..	650,721
Other outreach	..	12,692	103,654	155,684	451,633	5,880	11,170	..	740,713
Total services	12,419,985	6,878,292	7,321,211	3,973,677	2,333,486	553,732	438,228	332,622	34,251,233
Group sessions	179,430	56,305	36,552	26,348	179,141	n.a.	8,426	..	486,202
Public psychiatric hospitals									
Emergency & outpatient individual sessions	23,240	n.a.	13,493	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	..	..	36,733
Emergency & outpatient group sessions	..	n.a.	1,413	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	..	..	1,413
Outreach/community individual sessions	..	n.a.	157,903	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	..	..	157,903
Outreach/community group sessions	..	n.a.	2,248	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	..	..	2,248
Total services	23,240	n.a.	175,057	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	..	..	198,297

(a) For Tasmania data were only available for the 3 major hospitals.

(b) For public psychiatric hospitals, includes only those States and Territories for which data are available.

n.a. not available.

.. not applicable.