

Younger people in residential aged care

Progress towards Government targets

DECEMBER 2022

2,934

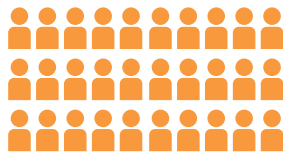
AUSTRALIANS WITH
DISABILITY UNDER 65
LIVING IN AGED CARE



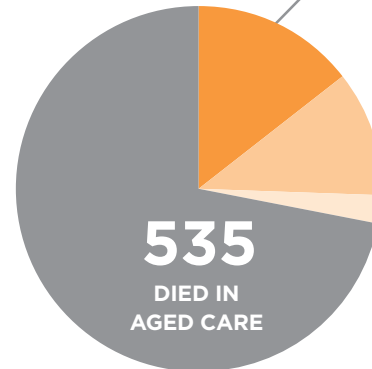
MORE THAN



PEOPLE UNDER 65 ENTER
AGED CARE **EVERY MONTH¹**



EXITS OF YOUNGER PEOPLE FROM RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS¹:



122

RETURNED TO
HOME OR FAMILY

89

MOVED TO 'OTHER'
HOUSING

21

WENT TO HOSPITAL

535
DIED IN
AGED CARE

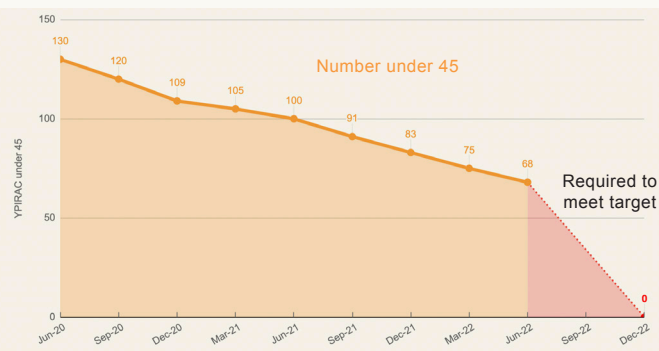
There are 2,934 Australians with disability under 65 **living in aged care**. They are referred to as younger people in residential aged care (YPIRAC). In 2019 the Federal Government committed to getting them out once and for all, and to prevent more from moving in². At the end of this year 2 of the Government's YPIRAC Targets fall due.

New Minister for the NDIS, Bill Shorten has **committed** to the YPIRAC Strategy. However, meeting the targets cannot be taken for granted.

View the progress towards each target here:

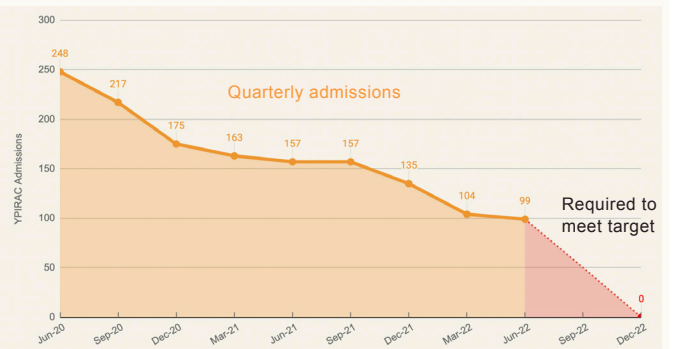
Target 2: No people under 45 living in aged care by the end of 2022

Figure 2: Total number of people under 45 living in aged care*



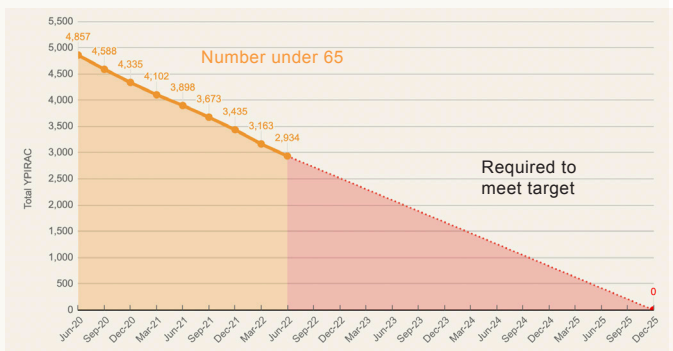
Target 1: No people under 65 entering aged care by the end of 2022

Figure 1: Total number of people under 65 entering aged care*



Target 3: No people under 65 living in aged care by the end of 2025

Figure 3: Total number of people under 65 living in aged care*



*Source: AIHW YPIRAC Data (June 2022)

Why are younger people still entering aged care?

The inefficiencies at the health-disability interface mean it is still easier to discharge people from hospital to aged care than secure NDIS funding for housing.

Historically, one of the key reasons is because aged care funding can be allocated to hospital patients in a matter of days, allowing quick discharge. In contrast, the NDIA currently takes, on average, 160 days to [approve funding](#) for housing and support for participants in hospital,³ making discharge to aged care more likely. More effective hospital discharge and timely approval of NDIS plans, including funding for specialist disability accommodation (SDA), will disrupt pathways to aged care and ensure participants are able to discharge from hospital into safe and secure housing with the supports they need to live well in the community.



Younger people with disability are often told aged care is the only suitable place for them to live given their support needs. Aged care does not enable younger people to live an ordinary life.

"I was told by the Aged Care Assessment teams that there was no smaller and age-appropriate accommodation available and then I was never contacted again once in aged care."

Simone, lived in aged care in her 50s

"I have no idea how I got to leave the nursing home, everyone thought I was happy there because I didn't say how I was feeling, I didn't think it mattered."

Ellen, lived in aged care in her 30s

Notes

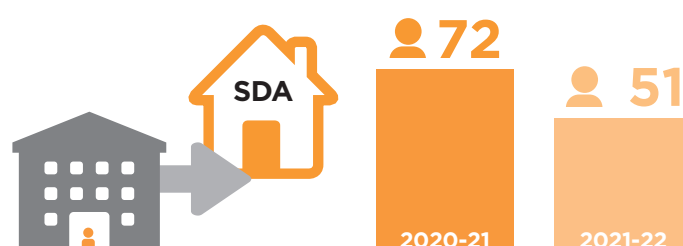
1. AIHW (2022). Younger people in residential aged care. <https://www.gen-agedcaredata.gov.au/Resources/Younger-people-in-residential-aged-care>
2. DSS (2020). Younger people in residential aged care. <https://www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers/programmes-services/for-people-with-disability/younger-people-with-disability-in-residential-aged-care-initiative>
3. Gailberger (2022). 'Hospital patents wait to be discharged in NDIS "bed block".' Herald Sun, August 8.
4. NDIA (2022). 'NDIS Quarterly Report to Disability Ministers: Q1 2022-2023.'
5. Housing Hub & PIAC (2022). Housing delayed and denied: NDIA decision-making on Specialist Disability Accommodation. <https://apo.org.au/node/317588>

Why aren't younger people in residential aged care moving out faster?

The average YPIRAC lives in aged care for 5 years, up from 3.7 years when the targets were announced.¹



SDA is part of the solution to the issue; however, in the past 12 months only 51 younger people [moved from aged care into SDA](#).⁴ This is fewer than in 2020-21, when 72 people moved into SDA from aged care.



Many NDIS participants who receive inadequate funding for SDA request a review of the decision. Reviews can take [more than 400 days for some participants](#)⁵. The NDIA's slow decision-making is due partly to overly bureaucratic processes and little consideration of participants' individual circumstances.

Many YPIRAC are not aware of the housing options that exist outside of aged care. They need independent and expert support to explore housing and support options in order to make an informed choice. Some YPIRAC may say no at first and need patient and skilled support over time.

Most younger people enter aged care from a hospital. NDIS participants who are stuck in hospital often have a mix of disability and health support needs that are beyond the skills of a generic NDIS funded support co-ordinator. Both younger people in aged care and younger people at risk need access to skilled navigators with expertise in disability, health and housing.

Tables

Table 1. Number of first admissions for people under the age of 65 to permanent residential aged care, by state and territory

Year	Quarter	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
2020	January to March	94	81	49	22	25	8	0	5	284
2020	April to June	72	69	51	25	25	5	0	1	248
2020	July to September	68	54	39	32	19	3	0	2	217
2020	October to December	54	41	35	13	19	9	0	4	175
2021	January to March	40	47	35	18	19	3	1	0	163
2021	April to June	44	44	36	18	9	3	1	2	157
2021	July to September	46	41	23	28	12	5	0	2	157
2021	October to December	34	45	25	18	8	3	0	2	135
2022	January to March	32	34	20	10	7	2	0	1	106
2022	April to June	36	26	16	9	3	4	0	5	99

Table 2. Number of people under the age of 45 living in permanent residential aged care, by state and territory

Year	Quarter	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
2020	January to March	46	48	26	4	8	6	0	1	139
2020	April to June	45	44	24	4	9	4	0	0	130
2020	July to September	38	41	23	5	9	4	0	0	120
2020	October to December	31	41	20	4	9	4	0	0	109
2021	January to March	30	42	17	4	8	4	0	0	105
2021	April to June	31	43	12	3	7	4	0	0	100
2021	July to September	29	38	12	3	6	3	0	0	91
2021	October to December	26	35	10	3	6	3	0	0	83
2022	January to March	21	35	9	1	6	3	0	0	75
2022	April to June	20	30	9	1	5	3	0	0	68

Table 3. Number of people under the age of 65 living in permanent residential aged care, by state and territory

Year	Quarter	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
2020	January to March	1748	1478	983	384	328	121	20	47	5109
2020	April to June	1644	1414	939	368	319	115	18	40	4857
2020	July to September	1549	1345	873	368	292	105	16	40	4588
2020	October to December	1436	1275	827	355	281	107	12	42	4335
2021	January to March	1350	1211	775	345	273	102	13	34	4103
2021	April to June	1253	1168	737	337	264	94	12	34	3899
2021	July to September	1185	1104	676	332	243	93	10	30	3673
2021	October to December	1105	1047	622	319	223	81	10	28	3435
2022	January to March	1012	978	566	287	205	76	10	27	3161
2022	April to June	942	914	518	267	186	71	8	28	2934