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# **Nursing homes in Australia 1996–97**

**A statistical overview**

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare  
and  
Department of Health and Family Services  
Canberra

AIHW cat. no. AGE 9

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# Preface

In 1997, the Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare agreed to participate in a joint venture to publish nursing home and hostel data, with the Institute taking over the task of producing the publications. Previously, nursing home and hostel data had been published by the Department of Health and Family Services in two report series—*Nursing Homes for the Aged: A Statistical Overview* and *Hostels for the Aged: A Statistical Overview*. From 1997, the Aged Care Statistics Series, produced by the Aged Care Unit of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, replaces those earlier publications, providing access to annual data on both nursing homes and hostels.

The first publication in the series, entitled *Nursing Homes in Australia 1995–96*, was released in December 1997. The second, *Hostels in Australia 1995–96*, was released in May this year. This report, the third in the series, presents the corresponding data for Australian nursing homes in 1996–97. Later this year, Aged Care Statistics Series Report No. 4 will be released, containing the 1996–97 data on hostels. It is envisaged that from 1997–98, the nursing home and hostel data will be combined into one volume, reflecting the amalgamation of the two systems under recent reforms to the structure of aged care services.

The new series is largely consistent with the series it succeeds, although changes in data availability and the needs of information users have led to some differences. For example, in many instances tables are now split by type of care (permanent and respite care). Information is also provided by region in some cases. An innovation in this publication is the inclusion of data on occupied bed-days and characteristics of newly admitted residents which have not previously been available in this or the earlier series of reports.

The statistics presented in this report were derived from information held on the Commonwealth Nursing Home Payment System (NHPS) by the Department of Health and Family Services.

A large range of information is presented, focusing on the characteristics of nursing home residents (including age, sex, marital status and dependency levels) and the patterns of service use (including length of stay, admissions and separations).

The information in this publication is presented in the following sections:

- Population and nursing home service capacity;
- Nursing home residents and nursing home characteristics;
- Nursing home admissions and new residents;
- Nursing home separations;
- Nursing home resident characteristics; and
- Nursing home resident dependency.

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Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services

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Peter Braun and John Patroni in the Strategic Development Section of the Aged and Community Care Division of the Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services provided the nursing home data used to produce the statistics presented here, and made constructive comments on the draft report.

Diane Gibson and Richard Madden of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare provided useful comments and other valuable assistance with the compilation of the report. Rod Hall of the Data Management Unit of the Institute provided technical assistance with data transfer and programming, and Michael Paxton provided technical support in producing the statistics. Amanda Nobbs arranged publication of the report.