



Young People in Residential Aged Care in Australia, 2019-2020

March 2021



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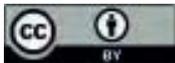
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Executive Summary

Objective

To utilise the available administrative data to describe the characteristics and geographical distribution of young people in permanent residential aged care (RAC) in Australia in 2019-2020.

Datasets

The most recent data available from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) National Aged Care Data Clearinghouse was obtained. The statistics within these datasets include de-identified aggregated data from the 2019-2020 financial year from Residential Aged Care, Transition Care Programme and Home Care Packages. The primary dataset uses data from Data Requests R2021_4133, R2021_4224 and R2021_4114, customised requests for the Summer Foundation, along with publicly available data from the NDIA and GEN website. The data is broken down by age and jurisdiction.

Key findings

Across Australia, 4,860 people under 65 years, including 130 people under 45 years, were living in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2020. They accounted for 2.6% and 0.1%, respectively, of all residents in permanent RAC. The number of young people under 65 years residing in permanent RAC decreased by 13.3% (746 people) compared to 12 months prior. For people aged under 45 years, the number decreased by 20.2% (33 people).

Most young people living in permanent RAC have a disability and thus may be eligible for NDIS funding. However, when comparing the number of young people living in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2020 to the number of young people who were active NDIS participants, it was found that almost one quarter (23.9%) of young people living in permanent RAC were not participants in the NDIS. This is an improvement on the previous year, where over one third (36.6%) of young people living in permanent RAC were not active NDIS participants as at 30 June 2019.

Across Australia, 1,436 people under 65 years, including 31 people under 45 years, were admitted to permanent RAC in the 2019-2020 financial year. They accounted for 2.1% and 0.04%, respectively, of all admissions to permanent RAC. The number of people under 65 years admitted to permanent RAC decreased by 31.9% (674 people) compared to the number admitted in the 2018-2019 financial year, and for people aged under 45 years, the number decreased by 32.6% (15 people). On average, approximately 27 young Australians entered permanent RAC each week, with on average 1 person aged under 45 years entering every 2 weeks. Adjusting the number of total admissions to remove those who had been transferred from another RAC facility showed that the 'real' number of admissions to permanent RAC was 1,199. However, given that the number of first admissions to permanent RAC in 2019-2020 was 1,125 people, there were 74 young people who were re-admitted to permanent RAC during the financial year.

There were 1,355 young people who exited from permanent RAC in 2019-2020. This was 81 less than the total number of admissions to permanent RAC in the same period. This means that 5.6% more young people were admitted to permanent RAC than those who left. The higher number of admissions than exits of young people from permanent RAC is of note because the total number of young people residing in permanent RAC across Australia decreased by 13.3% from 30 June 2019 to 30 June 2020.

Of the 1,355 people under 65 years who exited permanent RAC in 2019-2020, approximately 1 in 8 (12.9%) returned to the community, while more than half died (56.9%). Of the remaining, 4.5% exited to hospital, 17.5% moved to another residential care facility, and 8.2% left for other reasons.

Conclusions

The data included in the analysis was collected largely for administration and funding purposes by the Australian Government. The data is useful for understanding the characteristics and geographical distribution of young people in RAC in Australia; however, it has limitations for informing the design and development of more appropriate housing and support options and the prevention of new admissions to RAC.

The issue of young people living in permanent RAC is a complex issue, evidenced by considerable movement in and out of the aged care system by young people. Focusing on preventing new admissions to RAC has the potential to make the greatest shift; however, substantial effort must be given to enabling young people to exit from RAC with the supports they require to live successfully in the community.

Abbreviations & definitions

Term	Definition
ACFI	Aged Care Funding Instrument
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
JATF	Joint Agency Taskforce
NDIA	National Disability Insurance Agency
NDIS	National Disability Insurance Scheme
RAC	Residential aged care
SDA	Specialist Disability Accommodation
The Strategy	The Younger People in Residential Aged Care Strategy 2020-25
Young person	A person aged less than 65 years

Term	Australian State/Territory
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
QLD	Queensland
SA	South Australia
TAS	Tasmania
VIC	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

The Australian Government has committed to ensuring that no person under the age of 65 years is living in residential aged care (RAC) facilities by 2025, unless warranted by exceptional circumstances (Australian Government Department of Social Services, 2020). This initiative was first released in March 2019 as the Younger People in Residential Aged Care Action Plan (Australian Government Department of Social Services, 2019), which aimed to reduce the number of younger people aged under 65 years living in aged care by helping them access more age-appropriate housing and support options. However, in response to the Interim Report from the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety (2019), on 25 November 2019 the Australian Government strengthened its initial commitment and revised the targets for the Younger People in Residential Aged Care Action Plan (Prime Minister of Australia, 2019).

The revised targets seek to ensure that, apart from in exceptional circumstances, there are:

1. No people under the age of 65 entering RAC by 2022
2. No people under the age of 45 living in RAC by 2022
3. No people under the age of 65 living in RAC by 2025

On 30 September 2020, the Australian Government released the Younger People in Residential Aged Care Strategy 2020-25 (the Strategy), which details the strategy that will be used to meet those targets (Australian Government Department of Social Services, 2020). Implementation of this is being driven by the Joint Agency Taskforce (JATF), which includes representation from the Department of Social Services, Department of Health and the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).

The Strategy has 4 priority areas that are designed to 'give younger people greater choice and control over where they live and the types of supports needed to transition out of, or not enter residential aged care' (Australian Government Department of Social Services, 2020). These priority areas are:

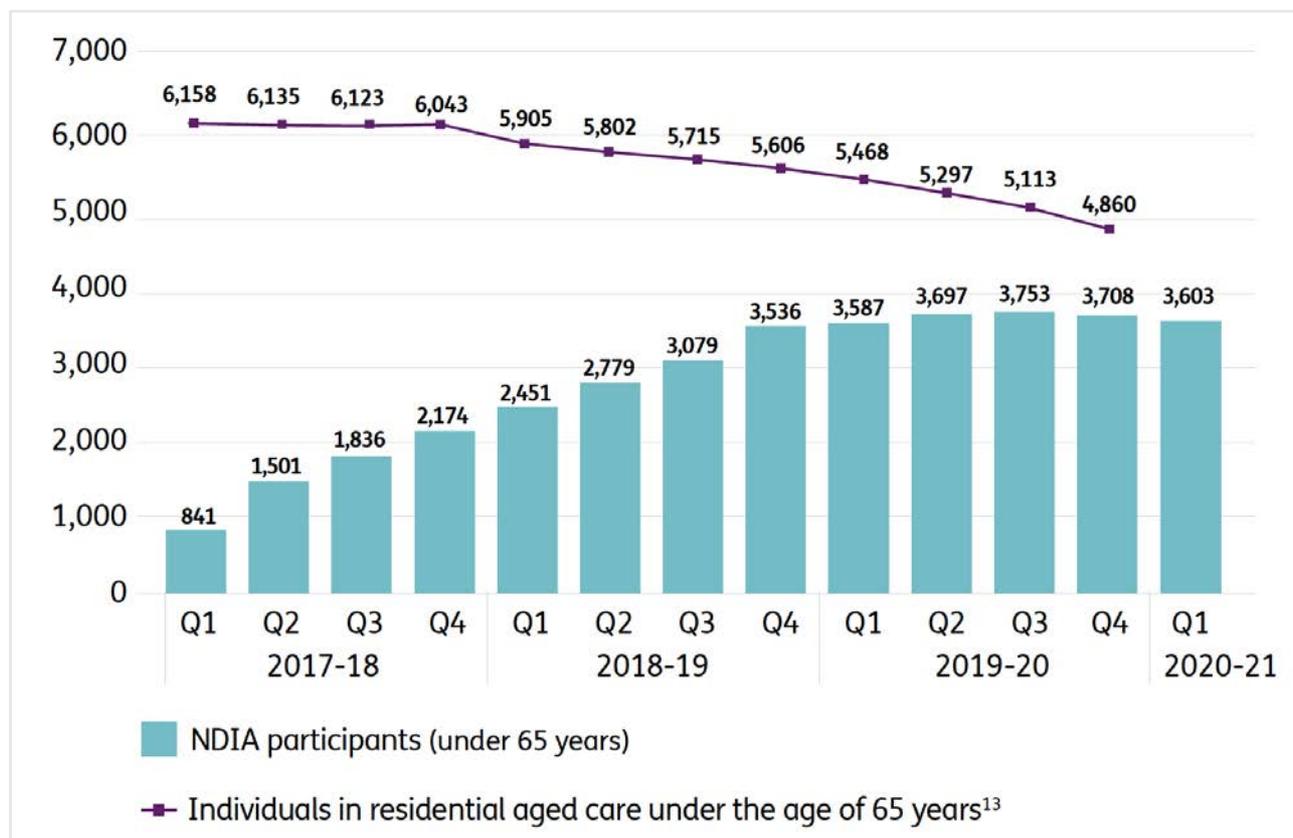
1. Understanding younger people and systems
2. Improving the systems
3. Creating options
4. Supporting change

Within each of these 4 priority areas, concrete areas for future actions have been outlined so that the targets can be met by:

- Preventing younger people from entering RAC
- Supporting younger people to leave RAC
- Supporting younger people while they are in RAC

Early data from the NDIA indicates that the approach so far may be working, since the number of young people in aged care appears to be decreasing (see Figure 1.1). This recent decrease is of considerable interest given that there was little change in the numbers of young people in aged care over the decade from 2008 to 2018 (Brown *et al.*, 2020).

Figure 1.1. Comparison of the number of people under 65 years living in permanent RAC who are NDIS participants to the total number of people under 65 years living in permanent RAC (Figure 11, taken from National Disability Insurance Agency, 2020b).



As at 30 September 2020, 3,603 individuals in permanent RAC under the age of 65 years were active participants in the NDIS, including 113 people under the age of 45 (National Disability Insurance Agency, 2020b). The number of NDIS participants living in permanent RAC changes in response to 2 things: (i) NDIS participants entering or leaving RAC; and (ii) people in RAC being enrolled in or leaving the NDIS. While the number of NDIS participants who lived in permanent RAC increased considerably between 2017 and 2019 due to young people living in RAC being progressively enrolled as NDIS participants, the number of NDIS enrolments of young people living in permanent RAC has almost plateaued in the 2019-2020 financial year (see Figure 1.1).

The enrolment of individuals living in permanent RAC in the NDIS is a critical part of the Strategy (Australian Government Department of Social Services, 2020) since young people enter RAC largely due to the lack of suitable housing and support options. Yet as at 30 June 2020, 23.7% of young people in RAC were not yet enrolled in the NDIS (see Figure 1.1), which is problematic given that these individuals are unlikely to have sufficient supports to allow them to live in more age-appropriate accommodation.

There is a significant shortage of housing and support options that provide the level and type of support needed by people with disability and complex needs (Australian Government Department of Social Services, 2019). As at 31 December 2020, there were 4,921 Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) properties enrolled in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), and 15,667 NDIS participants with SDA funding in their plan (National Disability Insurance Agency, 2021). It is estimated that approximately 28,000 participants will require SDA when the NDIS is fully rolled out (Australian Government Department of Social Services, 2019). Ensuring eligible participants have the ability to

exercise choice and control and, if they desire, are able to move from RAC facilities, is a current priority for the NDIA, as indicated by their appointment of dedicated planners to support younger people in aged care (National Disability Insurance Agency, 2020b).

As at 30 September 2020, only 13.5% of people under 65 years in permanent RAC (487 people) who were active NDIS participants had been approved for and had SDA funding included in their plans (Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee, 2020c). Thus, to achieve further reductions in the number of younger people living in permanent RAC, active NDIS participants require improved access to SDA funding. Now that the NDIA has dedicated planners to support younger people in permanent RAC to find alternative accommodation (National Disability Insurance Agency, 2020b), this might start to be achieved. However, the development of new SDA properties takes a considerable amount of time; nonetheless, there are many properties currently in development that could be suitable for young people living in permanent RAC (Housing Hub and Summer Foundation, 2021).

Another important consideration relates to the fact that younger people with disability living in aged care often have complex health needs, thus accessing proactive primary health supports is essential to enabling them to leave aged care (Australian Government Department of Social Services, 2019). Priority 1 of the Strategy is understanding younger people and systems, with the goal outcome of meeting the needs of younger people and giving greater choice and control (Australian Government Department of Social Services, 2020). A critical component of this priority is mapping the interfaces between the disability, aged care, health and housing systems and identifying potential service/system gaps and barriers that will prevent young people transitioning from RAC into age-appropriate housing. Additionally, a greater understanding of the young people currently residing in RAC will be necessary to develop further initiatives to support them leaving RAC.

1.2 Purpose of this report

In order to change the current systems that lead to younger people entering and remaining in aged care, we need to understand as much as we can about this population. This report analysed the 2019-2020 administrative data available for aged care in Australia to create more information about people under 65 years in aged care.

2. Method

The most recent data available from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) National Aged Care Data Clearinghouse (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, no date) was obtained for this report. The statistics within these datasets include de-identified aggregated data from the 2019-2020 financial year from Residential Aged Care.

The primary dataset uses data from Data Requests R2021_4133, R2021_4224 and R2021_4114, which were provided as customised requests for the Summer Foundation. The data is broken down by age and jurisdiction and uses terminology according to the National Aged Care Data Clearinghouse Data Dictionary (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2020). Unless otherwise specified, the data reported is based on the primary dataset.

The primary dataset was analysed to extract, summarise and compare key information on young people in aged care regarding their characteristics, support needs and geographical distribution. When required, footnotes are used to clarify data transformations.

Note that for this dataset, references to age relate to the age of the resident as at the end of the time period measured, i.e. for admissions and exits from RAC, the age is calculated as at 30 June 2020, regardless of the date that they were admitted to or exited from RAC.

To provide context for the aged care data, additional Australian statistical datasets were analysed as required, including datasets from the AIHW National Aged Care Data Clearinghouse, the NDIA, and the Australian Bureau of Statistics. When data from these additional datasets are reported in this document, footnotes are used to indicate a reference for that dataset. The purpose of this report was to primarily summarise key findings from the data.

3. Young people residing in permanent RAC

3.1 Number of young people residing in permanent RAC

Across Australia, 4,860 people under 65 years, including 130 people under 45 years, were living in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2020. They accounted for 2.6% and 0.1%, respectively, of all residents in permanent RAC. The number of young people under 65 years residing in permanent RAC decreased by 13.3% (746 people) compared to the previous financial year, ending on 30 June 2019.¹ For people aged under 45 years, the number decreased by 20.2% (33 people). See Table 3.1.

Table 3.1. Change in the number of young people residing in permanent RAC between 2020 and 2019

	Less than 45 years	Less than 65 years
Number of young people in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2020	130	4,860
Number of young people in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2019 ²	163	5,606
Change in the number of young people in permanent RAC between 2020 and 2019	33 ↓	746 ↓
% change in the number of young people in permanent RAC between 2020 and 2019	20.2% ↓	13.3% ↓

A detailed breakdown of the number of young people in permanent RAC in each jurisdiction, by age group, is provided in Table 3.2.

¹ Data obtained from AIHW Aged Care Data Clearinghouse, Data Request R1920_3728; data is from the 2018-2019 financial year.

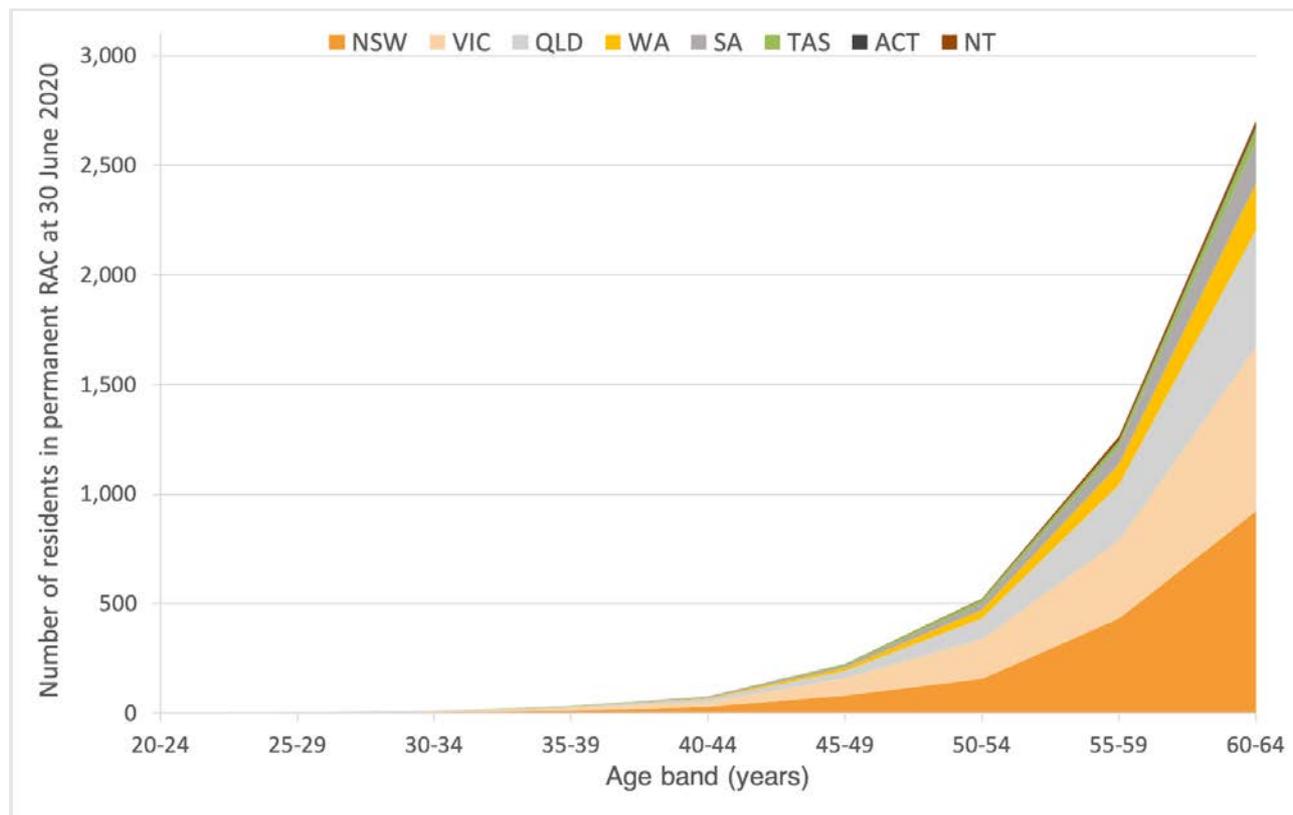
² Ibid.

Table 3.2. Number of young people in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2020, by age and jurisdiction

Age	Australia	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
0-24 years	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-29 years	6	1	3	1	0	1	0	0	0
30-34 years	13	4	3	3	1	1	1	0	0
35-39 years	32	10	16	4	0	1	1	0	0
40-44 years	78	29	22	16	3	6	2	0	0
45-49 years	227	81	81	33	15	11	5	0	1
50-54 years	527	158	183	95	40	28	18	0	3
55-59 years	1,268	436	357	255	94	81	24	5	16
60-64 years	2,710	925	749	533	215	190	64	13	21
Less than 45 years	130	45	44	24	4	9	4	0	0
Less than 60 years	2,150	720	665	407	153	129	51	5	20
Less than 65 years	4,860	1,645	1,414	940	368	319	115	18	41

Figure 3.1 shows the contribution of each specific age group to the total population of young people in permanent RAC. It can be seen that older individuals, particularly those aged between 55-64 years, constituted a larger proportion of residents in permanent RAC, with the number of residents increasing as age increased. This pattern is consistent across the states and territories.

Figure 3.1. Number of young people in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2020, by age as at 30 June 2020, broken down by jurisdiction. Within each age group, the total number of residents was summed for all jurisdictions, showing the total number of permanent residents for a given age band as well as the proportion contributed by each jurisdiction.



While the number of young people living in permanent RAC varied across Australian states and territories, the proportion per state was fairly similar to that of the proportion of the Australian population residing in that state, with some exceptions. There was a smaller proportion of people under 65 years residing in permanent RAC within Western Australia and the ACT than would be expected based on the population within those states; this was also the case for people under 45 years within Western Australia. In contrast, there was a larger proportion of people under 45 years residing in permanent RAC within Victoria and Tasmania than would be expected based on the population within those states. See Table 3.3.

On average, the population-standardised prevalence of people under 65 years in permanent RAC was 22.6 per 100,000 population aged under 65 years (See Table 3.3). The exception to this was Western Australia and the ACT, both of which had a substantially lower population-standardised prevalence of young people in permanent RAC (16.3 and 4.8, respectively, per 100,000), while in Tasmania the population-standardised prevalence was higher than the national average (26.8 per 100,000).

Table 3.3. Young people in permanent RAC compared to Australian population estimates at 30 June 2020, by jurisdiction

	Australia	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
Young people under 45 years									
Number of young people under 45 years in permanent RAC	130	45	44	24	4	9	4	0	0
% of young people under 45 years in permanent RAC by jurisdiction	100.0%	34.6%	33.8%	18.5%	3.1%	6.9%	3.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Number of people aged under 45 years ('000) ³	15,273	4,834	4,058	3,069	1,600	984	286	275	167
% of population aged under 45 years by jurisdiction	100.0%	31.6%	26.6%	20.1%	10.5%	6.4%	1.9%	1.8%	1.1%
Population-standardised prevalence (young people in permanent RAC per 100,000 population aged under 45 years) ⁴	0.9	0.9	1.1	0.8	0.2	0.9	1.4	0.0	0.0
Young people under 65 years									
Number of young people under 65 years in permanent RAC	4,860	1,645	1,414	940	368	319	115	18	41
% of young people under 65 years in permanent RAC by jurisdiction	100.0%	33.8%	29.1%	19.3%	7.6%	6.6%	2.4%	0.4%	0.8%
Number of people aged under 65 years ('000) ⁵	21,498	6,800	5,640	4,343	2,255	1,431	430	374	225
% of population aged under 65 years by jurisdiction	100.0%	31.6%	26.2%	20.2%	10.5%	6.7%	2.0%	1.7%	1.0%
Population-standardised prevalence (young people in permanent RAC per 100,000 population aged under 65 years) ⁶	22.6	24.2	25.1	21.6	16.3	22.3	26.8	4.8	18.2

The number of young people in permanent RAC appears to have been decreasing over the past 8 quarters, from 30 September 2019 through to 30 June 2020, in all jurisdictions. This is the case for all people under 65 years as well as the subgroup of people under 45 years. See Figure 3.2.

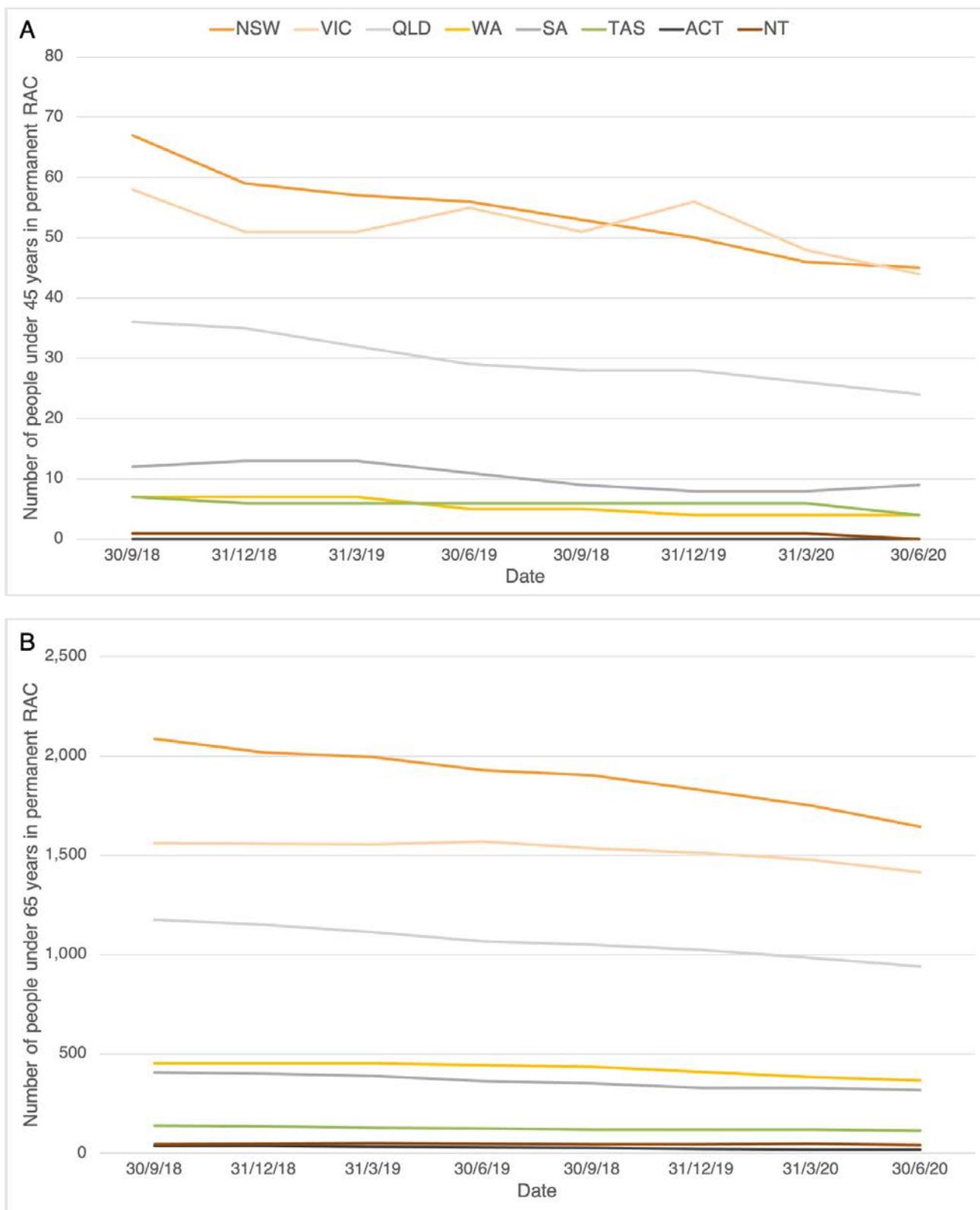
³ Data obtained from Quarterly Population Estimates by State/Territory, Sex and Age, as at June 2020, http://stat.data.abs.gov.au/index.aspx?DatasetCode=ERP_QUARTERLY, people aged less than 45 years.

⁴ Calculated as the number of young people in permanent RAC per 100,000 population aged less than 45 years.

⁵ Data obtained from Quarterly Population Estimates by State/Territory, Sex and Age, as at June 2020, http://stat.data.abs.gov.au/index.aspx?DatasetCode=ERP_QUARTERLY, people aged less than 65 years.

⁶ Calculated as the number of young people in permanent RAC per 100,000 population aged less than 65 years.

Figure 3.2. Time series showing the number of young people in permanent RAC between 30 September 2018 and 30 June 2020. A: people under 45 years; B: people under 65 years.



3.2 Demographic characteristics of young people in permanent RAC

3.2.1 Sex

Just over half of young people in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2020 were male. However, in South Australia, Tasmania, and the Northern Territory, the proportion of males was just under half. See Tables 3.4 and 3.5 for a breakdown of the sex of young people in permanent RAC.

Table 3.4. Sex of young people in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2020, across Australia

Sex	Less than 45 years		Less than 65 years	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Male	69	53.1%	2,618	53.9%
Female	61	46.9%	2,242	46.1%
Total	130	100.0%	4,860	100.0%

Table 3.5. Sex of young people under 65 years in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2020, by jurisdiction

	Australia	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
Number of male young people in permanent RAC	2,618	915	766	487	211	153	54	12	20
% of young people in permanent RAC who were male	53.9%	55.6%	54.2%	51.8%	57.3%	48.0%	47.0%	66.7%	48.8%
Number of female young people in permanent RAC	2,242	730	648	453	157	166	61	6	21
% of young people in permanent RAC who were female	46.1%	44.4%	45.8%	48.2%	42.7%	52.0%	53.0%	33.3%	51.2%

3.2.2 Marital status

Nearly all (91.0%) of people under 65 years in permanent RAC had a partner or previously had one; yet less than 1 in 20 (4.4%) were still married or in a de facto relationship. This is in stark contrast to that seen 2 years previously, where nearly half (46.9%) of young people in permanent RAC had a partner or previously had one at 30 June 2018⁷; with approximately 1 in 5 (18.9%) married or in a de facto relationship. See Tables 3.6, 3.7 and Figure 3.3 for a breakdown of the marital status of young people in permanent RAC.

⁷ Data obtained from AIHW Aged Care Data Clearinghouse, Data Request R1819_3140; data is from the 2017-2018 financial year.

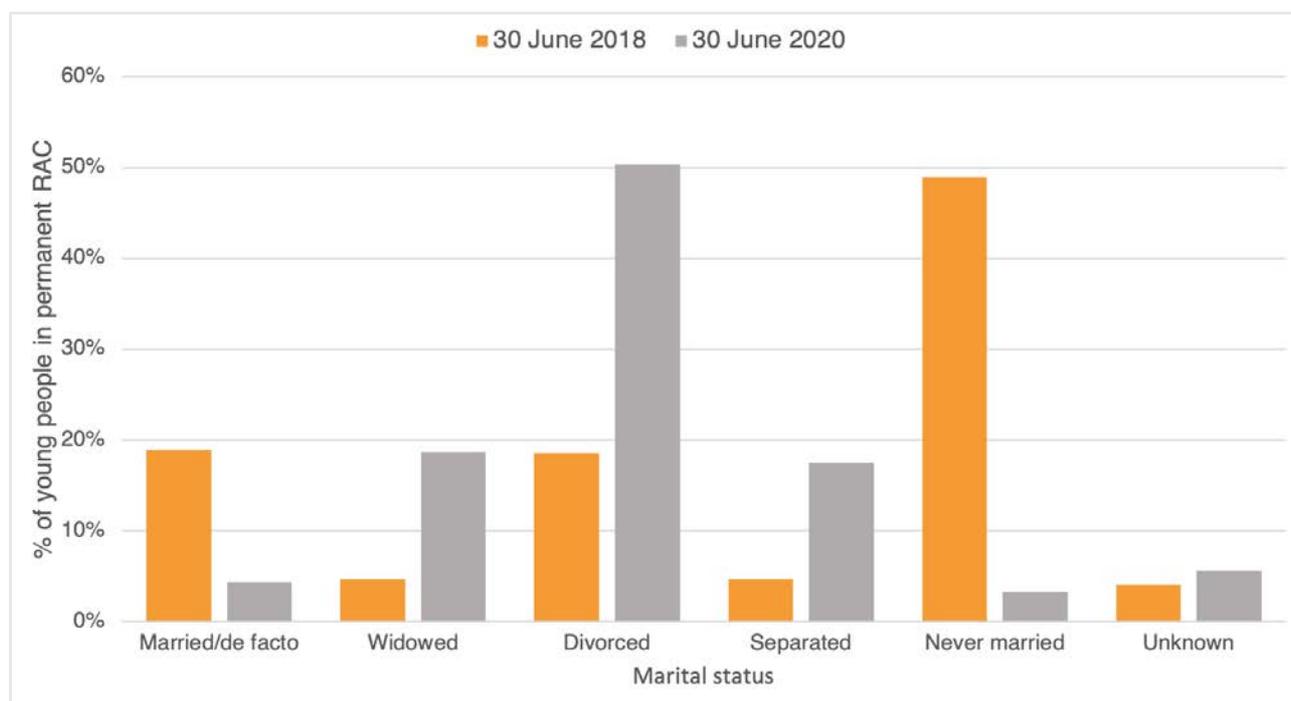
Table 3.6. Marital status of young people in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2020, across Australia

Marital Status	Less than 45 years		Less than 65 years	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Married/de facto	0	0.0%	213	4.4%
Widowed	23	17.7%	909	18.7%
Divorced	97	74.6%	2,449	50.4%
Separated	6	4.6%	851	17.5%
Never married	3	2.3%	163	3.4%
Unknown	1	0.8%	275	5.7%
Total	130	100.0%	4,860	100.0%

Table 3.7. Marital status of young people under 65 years in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2020, by jurisdiction

Marital status	Australia	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
Married/de facto	213	60	52	46	20	18	7	1	9
Widowed	909	300	245	179	72	71	30	6	6
Divorced	2,449	834	757	473	173	137	57	5	13
Separated	851	301	257	149	69	51	19	4	1
Never married	163	63	45	27	13	12	1	0	2
Unknown	275	87	58	66	21	30	1	2	10
Total	4,860	1,645	1,414	940	368	319	115	18	41

Figure 3.3. Marital status of young people under 65 years in permanent RAC, across Australia. Comparison between 30 June 2018⁸ and 30 June 2020.



3.2.3 Indigenous people

Across Australia, 8.5% of people under 65 years (414 people) who were living in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2020 identified as Indigenous, which was 2.7-times greater than the proportion of Indigenous people within the population of Australia (3.1%).⁹

The proportion of young people in permanent RAC who identified as Indigenous was substantially higher in Western Australia and the Northern Territory, with 22.0% and 82.9%, respectively; however, it was substantially smaller in Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, the ACT. Compared to the proportion of young people who identified as Indigenous within each state, according to the 2016 Australian Census,¹⁰ there was a substantially larger proportion of young people who identified as Indigenous within permanent RAC than would be expected. See Table 3.8 and Figure 3.4.

⁸ Ibid.

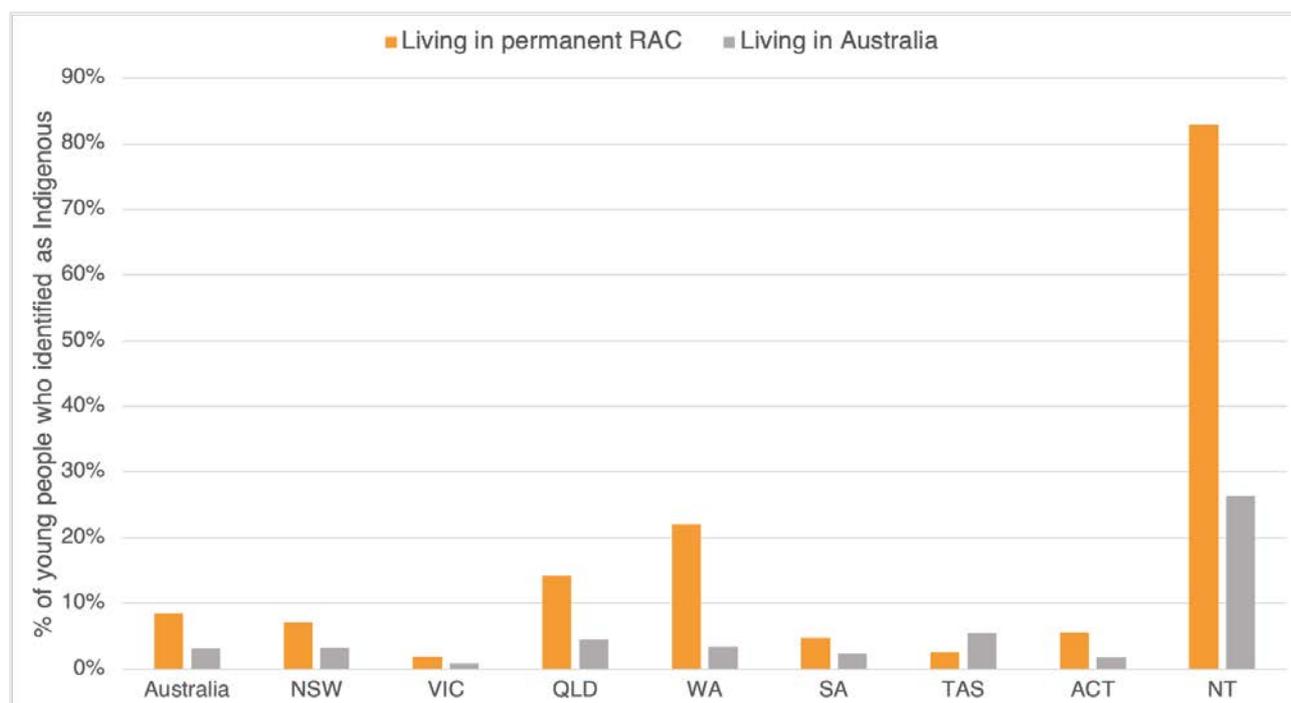
⁹ Proportion of people under 65 years who identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander within the Australian population compared to the total number of people under 65 years; based on the 2016 Australian Census. Data extracted from <http://stat.data.abs.gov.au/>, People > Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples > Census 2016 by SA2+.

¹⁰ Ibid.

Table 3.8. Young people under 65 years in permanent RAC who identified as Indigenous as at 30 June 2020, by jurisdiction

	Australia	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
Number of young people in permanent RAC who identified as Indigenous	414	120	26	134	81	15	3	1	34
% of young people in permanent RAC who identified as Indigenous ¹¹	8.5%	7.3%	1.8%	14.3%	22.0%	4.7%	2.6%	5.6%	82.9%
% of population aged under 65 years who identified as Indigenous ¹²	3.1%	3.3%	0.9%	4.5%	3.4%	2.4%	5.4%	1.8%	26.4%

Figure 3.4. Comparison of the proportions of young people who identified as Indigenous who were living in permanent RAC vs those in the Australian population.



Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people are eligible for the aged care system from 50 years, thus the Younger People in Residential Aged Care Strategy 2020-25 considers that people aged 50-64 years who identify as Indigenous will continue to be eligible for entry to aged care (Australian Government Department of Social Services, 2020). However, the strategy does also state that Indigenous people aged 50-4 years will be provided a choice on where they live. See Table 3.9.

¹¹ Proportion of people under 65 years in permanent RAC who identified as Indigenous, compared to the total number of young people in RAC.

¹² Proportion of people under 65 years who identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander within the Australian population compared to the total number of people under 65 years; based on the 2016 Australian Census. Data extracted from <http://stat.data.abs.gov.au/>, People > Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples > Census 2016 by SA2+.

Table 3.9. Young people in permanent RAC who identified as Indigenous as at 30 June 2020, across Australia

	Less than 45 years	Less than 50 years	Less than 65 years
Number of young people in permanent RAC who identified as Indigenous	6	38	414
% of young people in permanent RAC who identified as Indigenous ¹³	4.6%	10.6%	8.5%
% of population who identified as Indigenous ¹⁴	3.6%	3.5%	3.1%

3.2.4 Country of birth and preferred language

Approximately 4 out of 5 (81.3%) people under 65 years in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2020 were born in Australia. The remaining 18.8% were born across all regions of the world, with 7.5% born in Europe, 4.1% born in Asia, and 2.5% born in Other Oceania and Antarctica. A fairly similar spread was seen for people under 45 years, although there was a greater proportion who were born in Asia (8.4%) and in North Africa and Middle East (5.4%, compared to 1.5% for under 65 years); while there was a smaller proportion who were born in Europe (3.1%). See Table 3.10 for further breakdown.

Table 3.10. Country/region of birth of young people in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2020, across Australia

Country of birth ¹⁵	Less than 45 years		Less than 65 years	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Australia (includes External Territories)	102	78.5%	3,949	81.3%
Other Oceania and Antarctica	5	3.8%	122	2.5%
North-West Europe	0	0.0%	204	4.2%
Southern and Eastern Europe	4	3.1%	162	3.3%
North Africa and the Middle East	7	5.4%	72	1.5%
South-East Asia	3	2.3%	104	2.1%
North-East Asia	3	2.3%	49	1.0%
Southern and Central Asia	5	3.8%	50	1.0%
Americas	0	0.0%	24	0.5%
Sub-Saharan Africa	1	0.8%	47	1.0%
Inadequately described	0	0.8%	77	1.6%
Total	130	100.0%	4,860	100.0%

¹³ Proportion of people under 65 years in permanent RAC who identified as Indigenous, compared to the total number of young people in RAC.

¹⁴ Proportion of people who identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander within the Australian population compared to the total number of people in the population for each age grouping; based on the 2016 Australian Census. Data extracted from <http://stat.data.abs.gov.au/>, People > Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples > Census 2016 by SA2+.

¹⁵ Country of birth is classified using the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 2016, Table 1.1 – Major groups, except that 'Oceania and Antarctica' have been split into 'Australia (includes External Territories)' and 'Other Oceania and Antarctica' <https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1269.0>

When considering the country of birth for people who were not born in Australia, 5.7% were born in another English-speaking country, while 11.5% were born in non-English speaking countries. It is noteworthy that there were some differences in proportions based on jurisdiction, with some states or territories having higher or lower percentages for different countries of birth. In particular, Tasmania and Northern Territory had a greater proportion of people under 65 years who were born in Australia (91.3% and 92.7% respectively). See Table 3.11 for a breakdown of the country of birth of young people in permanent RAC by jurisdiction.

Table 3.11. Country of birth of young people under 65 years in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2020, by jurisdiction

Country of birth	Australia	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
Australia	3,949	1,299	1,145	803	278	268	105	13	38
Other English-speaking countries	277	75	55	73	45	25	3	1	0
Non-English-speaking countries	557	236	199	53	43	16	6	4	0
Unknown	77	36	15	10	2	10	1	0	3
Total	4,860	1,646	1,414	939	368	319	115	18	41

The majority (93.5%) of people under 65 years in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2020 had English as their preferred language, with only 5.5% having another preferred language. However, people under 45 years were more likely to have a preferred language other than English, with 11.5% preferring another language. See Table 3.12.

Table 3.12. Preferred language of young people in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2020, across Australia

Preferred language	Less than 45 years		Less than 65 years	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
English	109	83.8%	4,546	93.5%
Other languages	15	11.5%	265	5.5%
Not stated/Inadequately described	6	4.6%	49	1.0%
Total	130	100.0%	4,860	100.0%

There was little difference in preferred language between jurisdictions with the exception of the Northern Territory, where just over one-third (34.1%) of young people in permanent RAC preferred a language other than English. This is likely due to the fact that 82.9% of young people in permanent RAC in the Northern Territory identified as Indigenous (see Table 3.8). See Table 3.13 for a breakdown of the preferred language of young people in permanent RAC by jurisdiction.

Table 3.13. Preferred language of young people under 65 years in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2020, by jurisdiction

Preferred language	Australia	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
English	4,546	1,508	1,334	913	337	303	112	16	23
Other languages	265	119	72	18	27	11	2	2	14
Not stated/Inadequately described	49	19	8	8	4	5	1	0	4
Total	4,860	1,646	1,414	939	368	319	115	18	41

The Younger People in Residential Aged Care Strategy 2020-25 lists that one of the circumstances where a person under 65 years can enter permanent RAC is when cultural or community considerations make aged care the most appropriate option (Australian Government Department of Social Services, 2020). While it is difficult to precisely define such a circumstance, it could relate to the combination of a person's country of birth and preferred language. Tables 3.14 and 3.15 show the small proportion of people under 45 years and under 65 years, respectively, according to their country of birth and preferred language.

Table 3.14. Country of birth and preferred language of young people under 45 years in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2020, across Australia

Country of birth		English	Other languages	Not stated / Inadequately described	Total
Australia	Number	96	2	4	102
	Percentage	73.8%	1.5%	3.1%	78.5%
Other English-speaking countries	Number	3	0	0	3
	Percentage	2.3%	0.0%	0.0%	2.3%
Non-English-speaking countries	Number	10	13	2	25
	Percentage	7.7%	10.0%	1.5%	19.2%
Unknown	Number	0	0	0	0
	Percentage	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	Number	109	15	6	130
	Percentage	84.6%	11.5%	3.8%	100.0%

Table 3.15. Country of birth and preferred language of young people under 65 years in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2020, across Australia

Country of birth		English	Other languages	Not stated / Inadequately described	Total
Australia	Number	3,870	44	35	3,949
	Percentage	79.6%	0.9%	0.7%	81.3%
Other English-speaking countries	Number	276	0	1	277
	Percentage	5.7%	0.0%	0.0%	5.7%
Non-English-speaking countries	Number	333	216	8	557
	Percentage	6.9%	4.5%	0.2%	11.5%
Unknown	Number	67	5	5	77
	Percentage	1.4%	0.1%	0.1%	1.6%
Total	Number	4,546	265	49	4,860
	Percentage	93.5%	5.5%	1.0%	100.0%

4. Admissions of young people into permanent RAC

4.1 Total admissions of young people into permanent RAC

Across Australia, 1,436 people under 65 years, including 31 people under 45 years, were admitted to permanent RAC in the 2019-2020 financial year. They accounted for 2.1% and 0.04%, respectively, of all admissions to permanent RAC. The number of people under 65 years admitted to permanent RAC decreased by 31.9% (674 people) compared to the number admitted in the 2018-2019 financial year.¹⁶). See Table 4.1.

Table 4.1. Change in the number of young people admitted into permanent RAC between 2019-2020 and 2018-2019

	Less than 45 years	Less than 65 years
Number of young people admitted into permanent RAC in 2019-2020	31	1,436
Number of young people admitted into permanent RAC in 2018-2019 ¹⁷	46	2,110
Change in the number of young people admitted into permanent RAC between 2019-2020 and 2018-2019	15 ↓	674 ↓
% change in the number of young people admitted into permanent RAC between 2019-2020 and 2018-2019	32.6% ↓	31.9% ↓

A detailed breakdown of the number of young people admitted to permanent RAC in each jurisdiction, by age group, is provided in Table 4.2.

¹⁶ Data obtained from AIHW Aged Care Data Clearinghouse, Data Request R1920_3728; data is from the 2018-2019 financial year. ¹⁷ Ibid.

Table 4.2. Number of young people admitted into permanent RAC in 2019-2020, by age and jurisdiction

Age	Australia	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
20-24 years	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-29 years	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
30-34 years	5	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
35-39 years	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
40-44 years	21	8	8	5	0	0	0	0	0
45-49 years	65	20	25	12	4	3	2	0	0
50-54 years	143	41	49	30	9	7	5	0	2
55-59 years	360	115	102	64	35	31	11	0	2
60-64 years	836	272	239	172	68	59	17	1	8
Less than 45 years	31	9	15	6	0	1	0	0	0
Less than 60 years	600	185	191	112	48	42	18	0	4
Less than 65 years	1,436	457	430	284	116	101	35	1	12

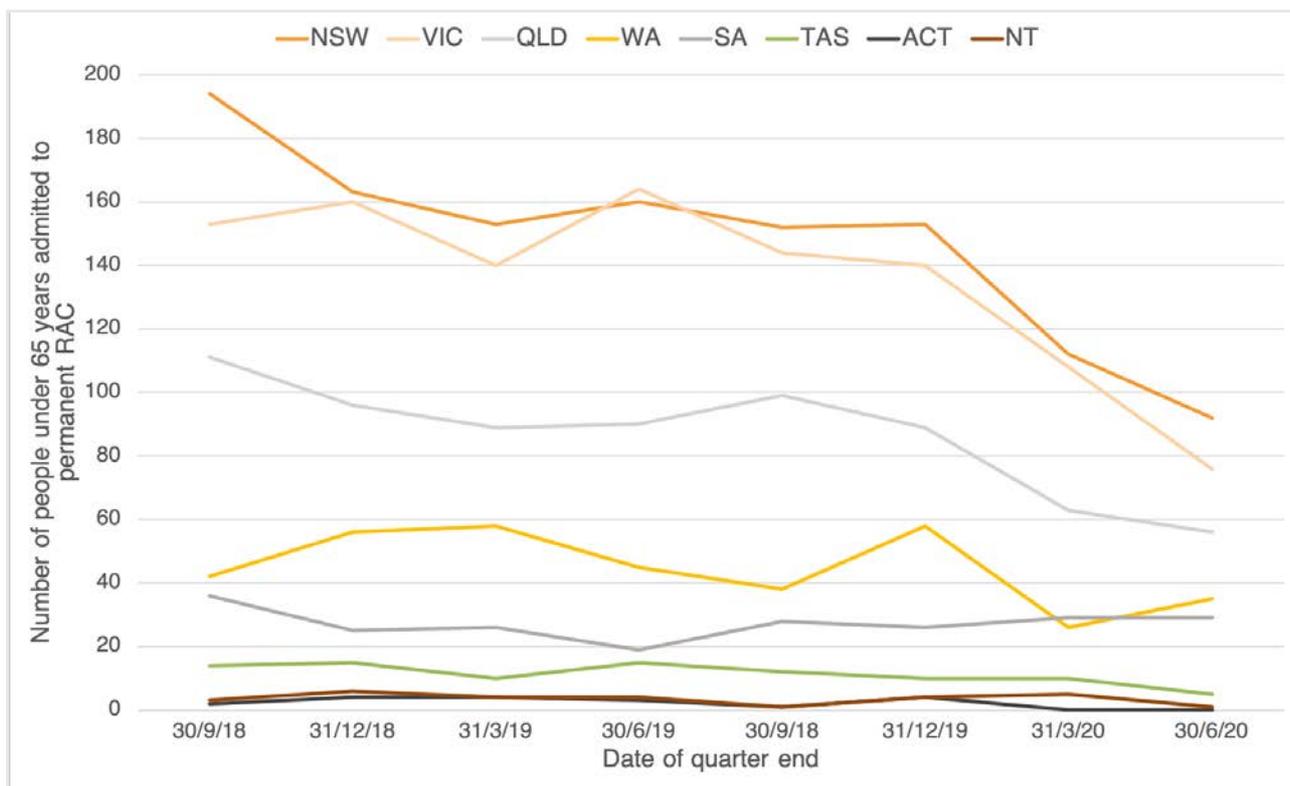
On average, approximately 27 young Australians entered permanent RAC each week, with on average 1 person aged under 45 years entering every 2 weeks. Table 4.3 shows the average weekly admissions to permanent RAC, broken down by jurisdiction.

Table 4.3. Average weekly admissions into permanent RAC in 2019-2020, by age and jurisdiction

Age	Australia	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
Less than 45 years	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Less than 60 years	11.5	3.7	3.7	2.2	0.9	0.8	0.3	0.0	0.1
Less than 65 years	27.6	8.8	8.3	5.5	2.2	1.9	0.7	0.0	0.2

The number of young people under 65 years admitted into permanent RAC has been decreasing steadily over the past 8 quarters, from September 2019 to 30 June 2020. This has been most noticeable for the jurisdictions with the largest proportion of young people admitted to permanent RAC, including New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland. See Figure 4.1.

Figure 4.1. Time series showing the number of young people under 65 years admitted to permanent RAC each quarter, between 30 September 2018 and 30 June 2020.



4.2 Real admissions of young people into permanent RAC (not due to a transfer)

The admissions data reported above includes all admissions to permanent RAC within the 2019-2020 financial year, including admissions resulting from people transferring from one residential care facility to another (see Section 5 for more information on exits from RAC). These transfers between facilities artificially inflate the actual number of admissions to permanent RAC within the financial year. To gain a better understanding of the real admissions to RAC, the total admissions were adjusted to remove the number of people who were recorded as exiting permanent RAC to another residential care facility within the same period, based on the procedure outlined in Brown et al (2020). The 'real' admissions to permanent RAC are shown in Table 4.4.

Table 4.4. Number of 'real' admissions into permanent RAC in 2019-2020, by age and jurisdiction

Age	Australia	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
Less than 45 years	22	4	12	5	0	1	0	0	0
Less than 60 years	487	137	157	94	40	40	17	0	2
Less than 65 years	1,199	359	362	240	99	96	32	1	10

Based on this adjustment, the average number of 'real' admissions to permanent RAC was, on average, approximately 23 young Australians per week, with less than 1 of these aged less than 45 years. Table 4.5 shows the average weekly 'real' admissions to permanent RAC, broken down by jurisdiction.

Table 4.5. Average weekly 'real' admissions into permanent RAC in 2019-2020, by age and jurisdiction

Age	Australia	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
Less than 45 years	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Less than 60 years	9.4	2.6	3.0	1.8	0.8	0.8	0.3	0.0	0.1
Less than 65 years	23.1	6.9	7.0	4.6	1.9	1.8	0.6	0.0	0.2

4.3 First admissions of young people into permanent RAC

In the 2019-2020 financial year, 1,125 young people were admitted to permanent RAC across Australia for the first time, accounting for 78.3% of all admissions of young people to permanent RAC. See Tables 4.6 and 4.7.

Table 4.6. First admissions of young people aged under 65 years into permanent RAC in 2019-2020, by jurisdiction

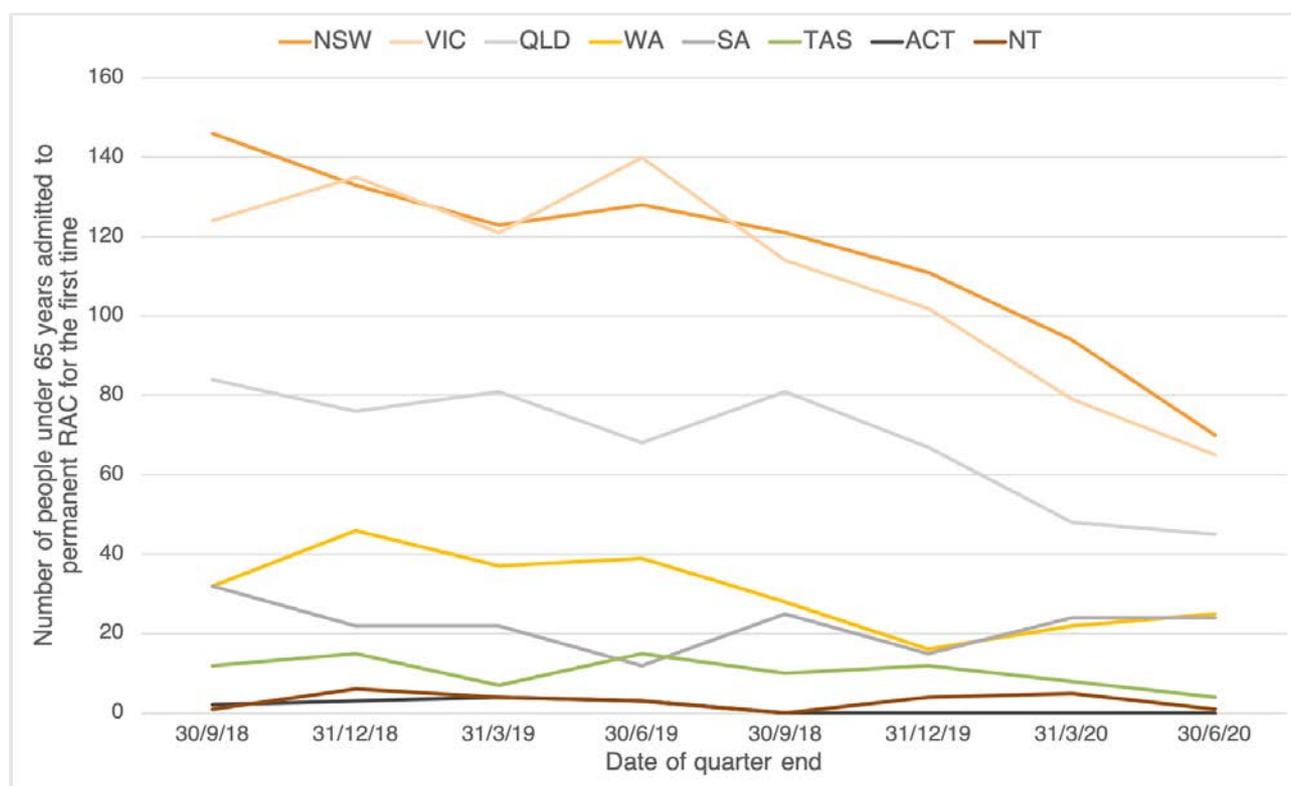
	Australia	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
Number of first admissions to permanent RAC	1,125	360	334	222	86	84	29	0	10
Total number of admissions to permanent RAC	1,436	457	430	284	116	101	35	1	12
First admissions to permanent RAC as % of all admissions	78.3%	78.8%	77.7%	78.2%	74.1%	83.2%	82.9%	0.0%	83.3%

Table 4.7. Number of young people admitted for the first time to permanent RAC in 2019-2020, by age and jurisdiction

Age	Australia	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
20-24 years	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-29 years	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
30-34 years	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
35-39 years	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
40-44 years	15	7	6	2	0	0	0	0	0
45-49 years	47	14	17	9	3	3	1	0	0
50-54 years	117	31	44	27	5	4	5	0	1
55-59 years	284	92	72	51	29	29	9	0	2
60-64 years	653	215	188	133	49	47	14	0	7
Less than 45 years	24	8	13	2	0	1	0	0	0
Less than 60 years	472	145	146	89	37	37	15	0	3
Less than 65 years	1,125	360	334	222	86	84	29	0	10

The number of young people under 65 years admitted into permanent RAC for the first time has been decreasing steadily over the past 8 quarters, from September 2019 to 30 June 2020. This has been most noticeable for the jurisdictions with the largest proportion of young people admitted to permanent RAC, including New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, and mimics the total number of admissions to permanent RAC (Figure 4.1). See Figure 4.2.

Figure 4.2. Time series showing the number of young people under 65 years admitted for the first time into permanent RAC for each quarter, between as at 30 September 2018 and 30 June 2020.



By comparing the number of first admissions to permanent RAC to the number of ‘real’ admissions to permanent RAC, i.e. the number of admissions minus the number of transfers from another RAC, it can be seen there were 74 young people across Australia who were re-admitted to permanent RAC in 2019-2020. See Table 4.8.

Table 4.8. Re-admissions of young people aged under 65 years into permanent RAC in 2019-2020, by jurisdiction

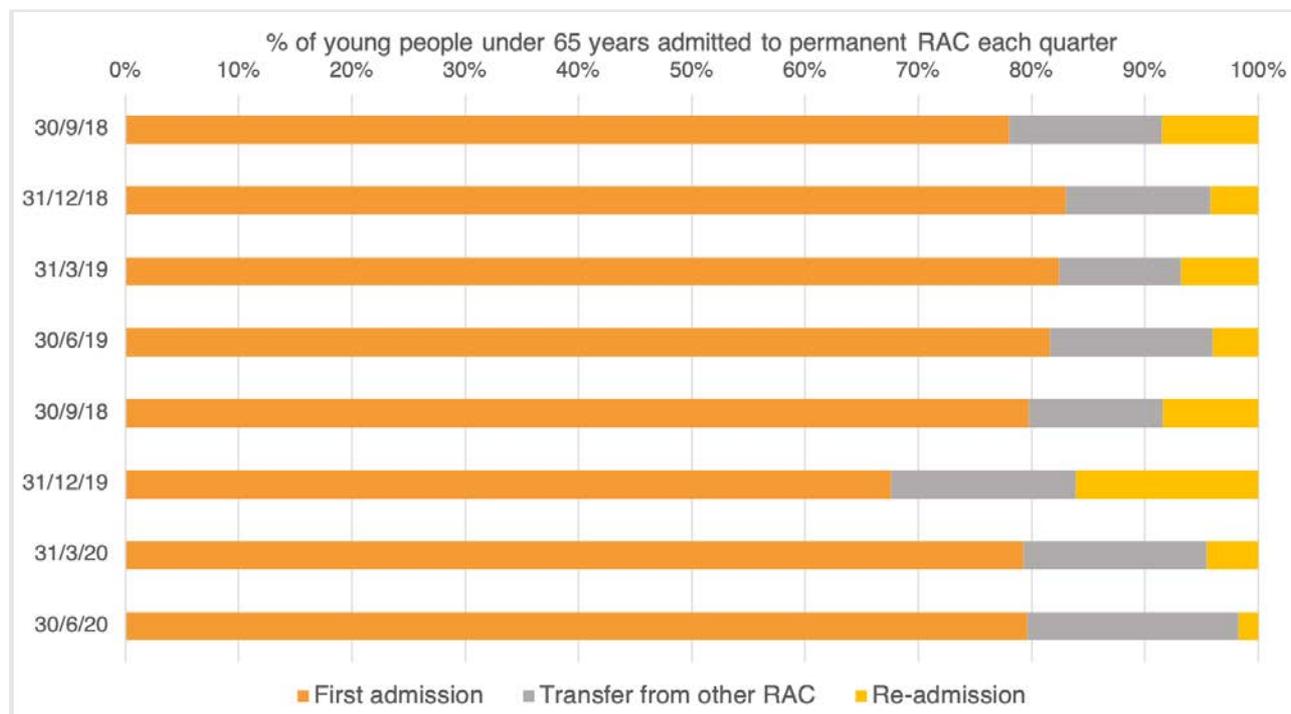
	Australia	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
Admissions to permanent RAC minus transfers to other residential care ¹⁸	1,199	359	362	240	99	96	32	1	10
Number of first admissions to permanent RAC	1,125	360	334	222	86	84	29	0	10
Number of re-admissions to permanent RAC ¹⁹	74	-1	28	18	13	12	3	1	0

Over the past 8 quarters, between 30 September 2018 to 30 June 2020, the types of admissions into permanent RAC of people under 65 years have changed little. While there was a decrease in the proportion of first admissions in the quarter ending 31 December 2019, this returned to previous levels during the subsequent quarters. See Figure 4.3.

¹⁸ From Table 4.4.

¹⁹ Re-admissions were calculated as the number of ‘real’ admissions minus the number of ‘first’ admissions.

Figure 4.3. Comparison between quarters of the type of admission for young people under 65 years admitted to permanent RAC between 30 September 2018 and 30 June 2020. Values are expressed as a percentage of the total number of young people who were admitted to permanent RAC within a given quarter.



4.4 Admissions of young people into permanent RAC from respite RAC

While respite care is designed to be a temporary stay, 536 young people were transferred from respite care to permanent RAC in 2019-2020, accounting for 37.3% of permanent RAC admissions in people under 65 years. It is noteworthy that there was considerable variation between Australian states with regards to the proportion of young people who entered permanent RAC via respite care. In particular, New South Wales, South Australia and the Northern Territory had larger proportions of people under 65 years entering permanent RAC via respite RAC (53.8%, 63.4% and 58.3%, respectively); in contrast, the proportions were smaller for Victoria, Western Australia, Tasmania and the ACT (23.3%, 20.7%, 28.6% and 0%, respectively). See Tables 4.9 and 4.10.

Table 4.9. Transfers of young people aged under 65 years from respite care into permanent RAC in 2019-2020, by jurisdiction

	Australia	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
Transfers of young people from respite care to permanent RAC	536	246	100	85	24	64	10	0	7
Admissions of young people to permanent RAC (from any source)	1,436	457	430	284	116	101	35	1	12
% of young people who entered permanent RAC via respite care	37.3%	53.8%	23.3%	29.9%	20.7%	63.4%	28.6%	0.0%	58.3%

Table 4.10. Transfers of young people from respite care into permanent RAC in 2019-2020, by age and jurisdiction

Age	Australia	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
Less than 45 years	9	6	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Less than 60 years	210	97	44	26	11	25	5	0	2
Less than 65 years	536	246	100	85	24	64	10	0	7

On average, approximately 10 young Australians entered permanent RAC each week after being transferred from their ‘temporary’ stay in respite care. Table 4.11 shows the weekly transfers from respite care to permanent RAC, broken down by jurisdiction.

Table 4.11. Average weekly transfers of young people from respite care into permanent RAC in 2019-2020, by age and jurisdiction

Age	Australia	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
Less than 45 years	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Less than 60 years	4.0	1.9	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.0
Less than 65 years	10.3	4.7	1.9	1.6	0.5	1.2	0.2	0.0	0.1

The number of young people under 65 years who were admitted to permanent RAC via a transfer from respite RAC decreased by 10.4% (62 people) compared to the number who in the 2018-2019 financial year.²⁰ While any decrease is promising, because it indicates that fewer young people are entering permanent RAC from what should have been a temporary stay in respite care (see Table 4.12), it is concerning that the decrease wasn’t as substantial as that seen for admissions of any type to permanent RAC (32.6%, see Table 4.1). This suggests that while the number of young people being admitted to permanent RAC is decreasing, respite care is still a large ‘feeder’ into the system that needs to be addressed.

Table 4.12. Change in the number of young people transferred from respite care into permanent RAC between 2019-2020 and 2018-2019

	Less than 45 years	Less than 65 years
Number of young people transferred from respite care into permanent RAC in 2019-2020	9	536
Number of young people transferred from respite care into permanent RAC in 2018-2019 ²¹	7	598
Change in the number of young people transferred from respite care into permanent RAC between 2019-2020 and 2018-2019	2 ↑	62 ↓
% change in the number of young people transferred from respite care into permanent RAC between 2019-2020 and 2018-2019	28.6% ↑	10.4% ↓

²⁰ Data obtained from AIHW Aged Care Data Clearinghouse, Data Request R1920_3728; data is from the 2018-2019 financial year.

²¹ Ibid.

5. Exits of young people from permanent RAC

5.1 Total exits of young people from permanent RAC

Across Australia, 1,355 people under 65 years, including 35 people under 45 years, exited from permanent RAC in the 2019-2020 financial year. They accounted for 2.0% and 0.1%, respectively, of all people who exited from permanent RAC. The number of people under 65 years who exited permanent RAC decreased by 15.9% (256 people) compared to the number who exited in the 2018-2019 financial year.²² For people aged under 45 years, the number decreased by 22.2% (10 people). See Table 5.1.

While at first glance a decrease in the numbers may seem like a good thing, that is not the case for exits from permanent RAC. While a small number of young people leave aged care to go to more appropriate accommodation, the majority of exits from RAC are due to death, hospitalisation, or moving to another RAC. Some young people who exit to hospital subsequently die, and some returning to the family home also subsequently die. Since the government's targets include assisting young people to find more suitable accommodation in the community, the aim would be to see an increase in the number of young people exiting from permanent RAC to the community.

Table 5.1. Change in the number of young people who exited permanent RAC between 2019-2020 and 2018-2019

	Less than 45 years	Less than 65 years
Number of young people who exited permanent RAC in 2019-2020	35	1,355
Number of young people who exited permanent RAC in 2018-2019 ²³	45	1,611
Change in the number of young people who exited permanent RAC between 2019-2020 and 2018-2019	10 ↓	256 ↓
% change in the number of young people who exited permanent RAC between 2019-2020 and 2018-2019	22.2% ↓	15.9% ↓

A detailed breakdown of the number of young people who exited permanent RAC in each jurisdiction, by age group, is provided in Table 5.2.

²² Ibid.

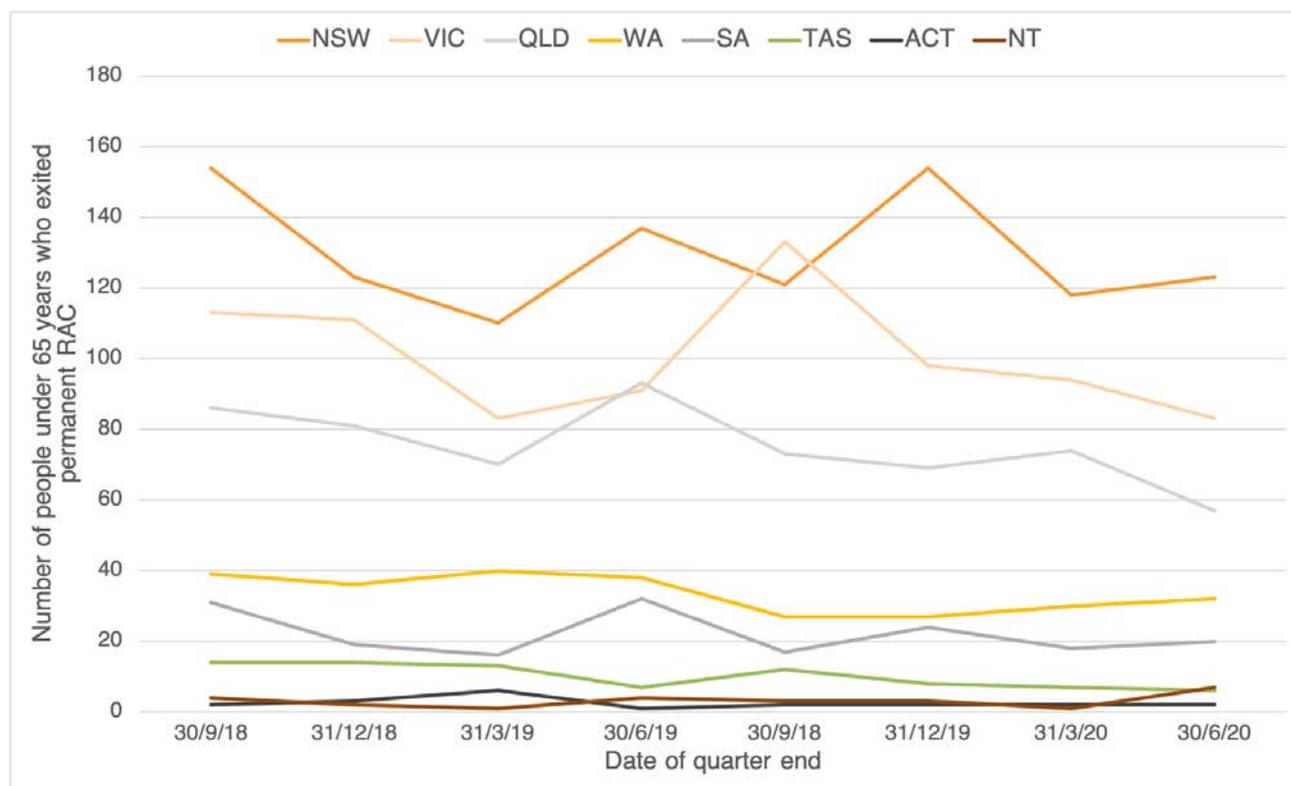
²³ Ibid.

Table 5.2. Number of young people who exited permanent RAC in 2019-2020, by age and jurisdiction

Age	Australia	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
20-24 years	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-29 years	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30-34 years	6	0	5	0	0	1	0	0	0
35-39 years	5	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	0
40-44 years	22	11	7	3	0	0	1	0	0
45-49 years	75	23	22	21	5	3	1	0	0
50-54 years	137	52	31	27	12	10	2	1	2
55-59 years	365	140	105	59	27	23	4	4	3
60-64 years	743	259	209	144	63	41	16	2	9
Less than 45 years	35	13	15	4	1	1	2	0	0
Less than 60 years	612	228	173	110	45	37	9	5	5
Less than 65 years	1,355	487	382	254	108	78	25	7	14

In contrast to the decreasing numbers of people living in permanent RAC and being admitted into permanent RAC over the past 8 quarters (Figures 3.2 and 4.1, respectively), the number of young people under 65 years who exited permanent RAC has essentially showed no consistent trend from September 2019 to 30 June 2020. This pattern was consistent between jurisdictions. See Figure 5.1.

Figure 5.1. Time series showing the number of young people under 65 years admitted to permanent RAC each quarter, between 30 September 2018 and 30 June 2020.



In the 2019-2020 financial year, 1,355 young people exited from permanent RAC, which was 81 less than the number of admissions to permanent RAC in the same period. This means that 5.6% more young people were admitted to permanent RAC than those who left. See Table 5.3.

The higher number of admissions than exits of young people from permanent RAC is of note because the total number of young people residing in permanent RAC across Australia decreased by 13.3% from 30 June 2019 to 30 June 2020 (see Table 3.1). This difference is in part due to ‘ageing out’ of people who were aged 64 years in the previous year, thus turning 65 years in the current year, and therefore no longer remaining part of the under 65 years cohort examined in this dataset. This conclusion is supported by the fact that there were 701 people aged 64 years as at 30 June 2020, who will either age out of the cohort in the next financial year or exit permanent RAC for another reason.

Table 5.3. Exits vs admissions of young people under 65 years from permanent RAC in 2019-2020, by jurisdiction

	Australia	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
Number of young people admitted to permanent RAC	1,436	457	430	284	116	101	35	1	12
Number of young people exiting permanent RAC	1,355	487	382	254	108	78	25	7	14
Difference between admissions and exits ²⁴	81	-30	48	30	8	23	10	-6	-2

²⁴ The difference between admissions and exits was calculated as admissions minus exits; a positive number indicates that more people were admitted to permanent RAC than those who left. Note: this does not take into account individuals who aged out of the cohort during 2019-2020.

5.2 Reasons for young people exiting from permanent RAC

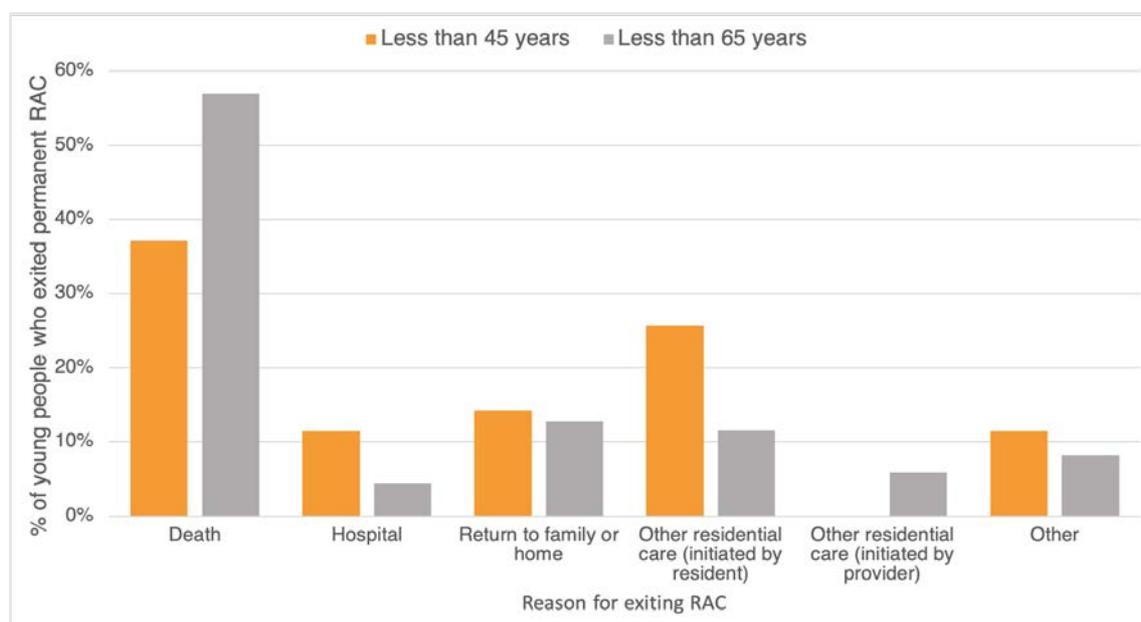
Of the 1,355 people under 65 years who exited permanent RAC in 2019-2020, approximately 1 in 8 (12.9%) returned to the community, while more than half died (56.9%). Of the remaining, 4.5% exited to hospital, 17.5% moved to another residential care facility, and 8.2% left for other reasons. In contrast, in the subgroup of people under 45 years who exited from permanent RAC (35 people), approximately 1 in 7 returned to the community (14.3%), while 37.1% exited due to death. See Table 5.4 and Figure 5.1.

It is noteworthy that for people under 65 years, approximately one-third of transfers to another residential care facility were initiated by the provider, rather than the resident. In contrast, people under 45 years only transferred between residential care facilities at the initiative of the resident.

Table 5.4. Reason for young people exiting permanent RAC in 2019-2020, by age group

Reason for exiting RAC	Less than 45 years		Less than 65 years	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Death	13	37.1%	771	56.9%
Hospital	4	11.4%	61	4.5%
Return to family or home	5	14.3%	175	12.9%
Other residential care (initiated by resident)	9	25.7%	157	11.6%
Other residential care (initiated by provider)	0	0.0%	80	5.9%
Other	4	11.4%	111	8.2%
Total	35	100.0%	1,355	100.0%

Figure 5.1. Comparison of the reason for young people exiting permanent RAC in 2019-2020, broken down by age group.

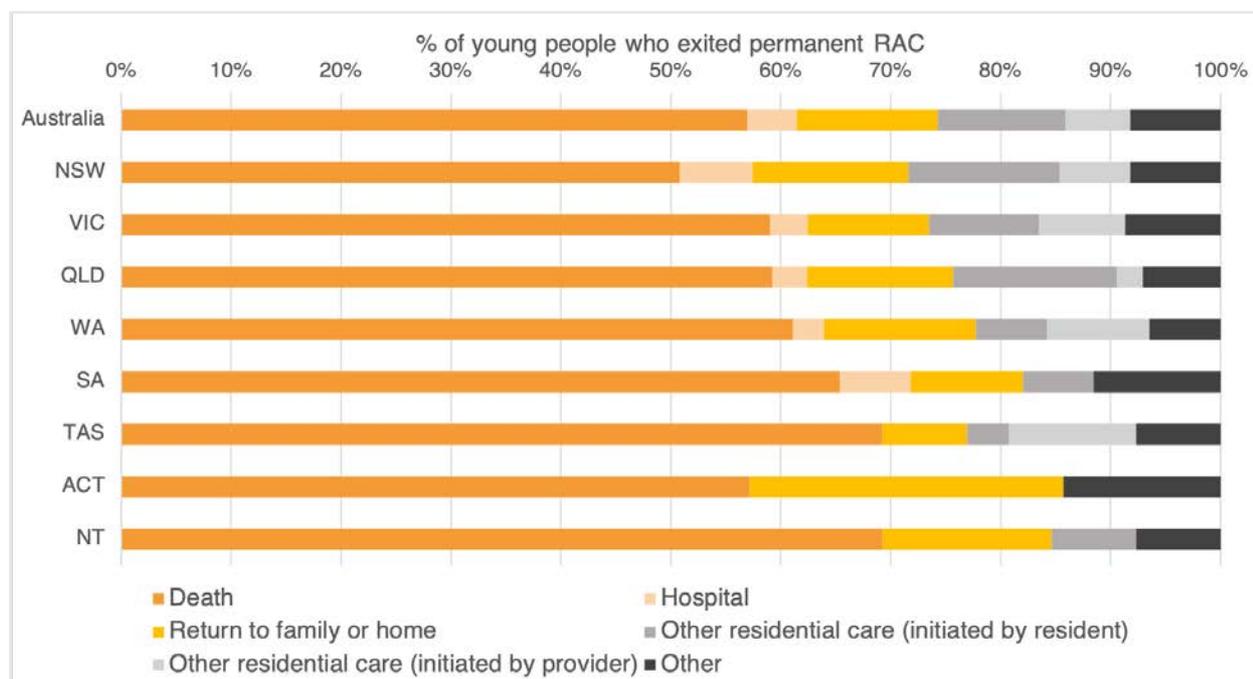


There was considerable variability between jurisdictions with regard to the reason why young people exited permanent RAC. For instance, the proportion of young people who died was higher in South Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory (65.4%, 72.0% and 64.3%, respectively) than the national average. Returning to the community occurred more frequently in New South Wales, the ACT and the Northern Territory (14.2%, 28.6% and 14.3%, respectively) than in other states. Transferring to other residential care when initiated by the resident occurred at a higher rate in the New South Wales and Queensland (13.8% and 15.0%, respectively) than in other states; yet, transferring to other residential care when initiated by the provider occurred at a higher rate in Western Australia and Tasmania (9.3% and 12.0%, respectively) than in other states. See Table 5.5 and Figure 5.2.

Table 5.5. Reason for young people under 65 years exiting a permanent RAC facility in 2019-2020, by jurisdiction

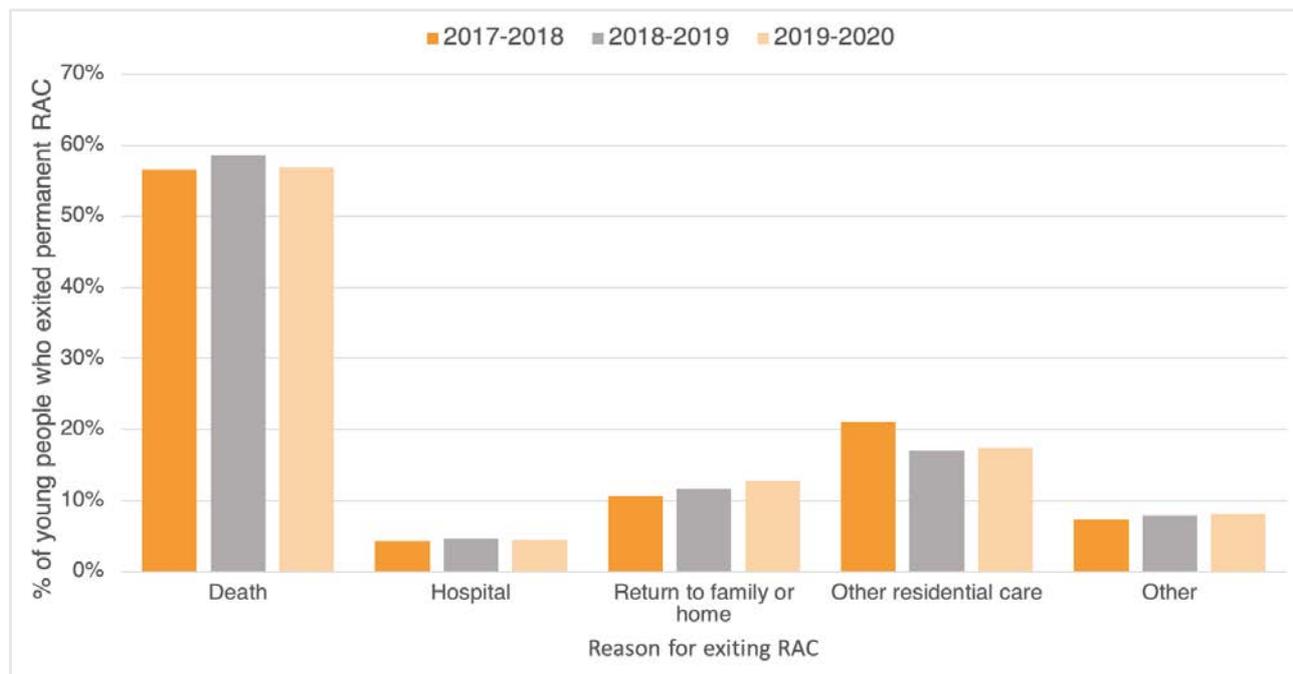
Reason for exiting RAC	Australia	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
Death	771	247	225	151	66	51	18	4	9
Hospital	61	32	13	8	3	5	0	0	0
Return to family or home	175	69	43	34	15	8	2	2	2
Other residential care (initiated by resident)	157	67	38	38	7	5	0	0	2
Other residential care (initiated by provider)	80	31	30	6	10	0	3	0	0
Other	111	41	33	17	7	9	2	1	1
Total	1,355	487	382	254	108	78	25	7	14

Figure 5.2. Comparison between jurisdictions of the reason for young people under 65 years exiting permanent RAC in 2019-2020. Values are expressed as a percentage of the total number of young people who exited permanent RAC within a given jurisdiction.



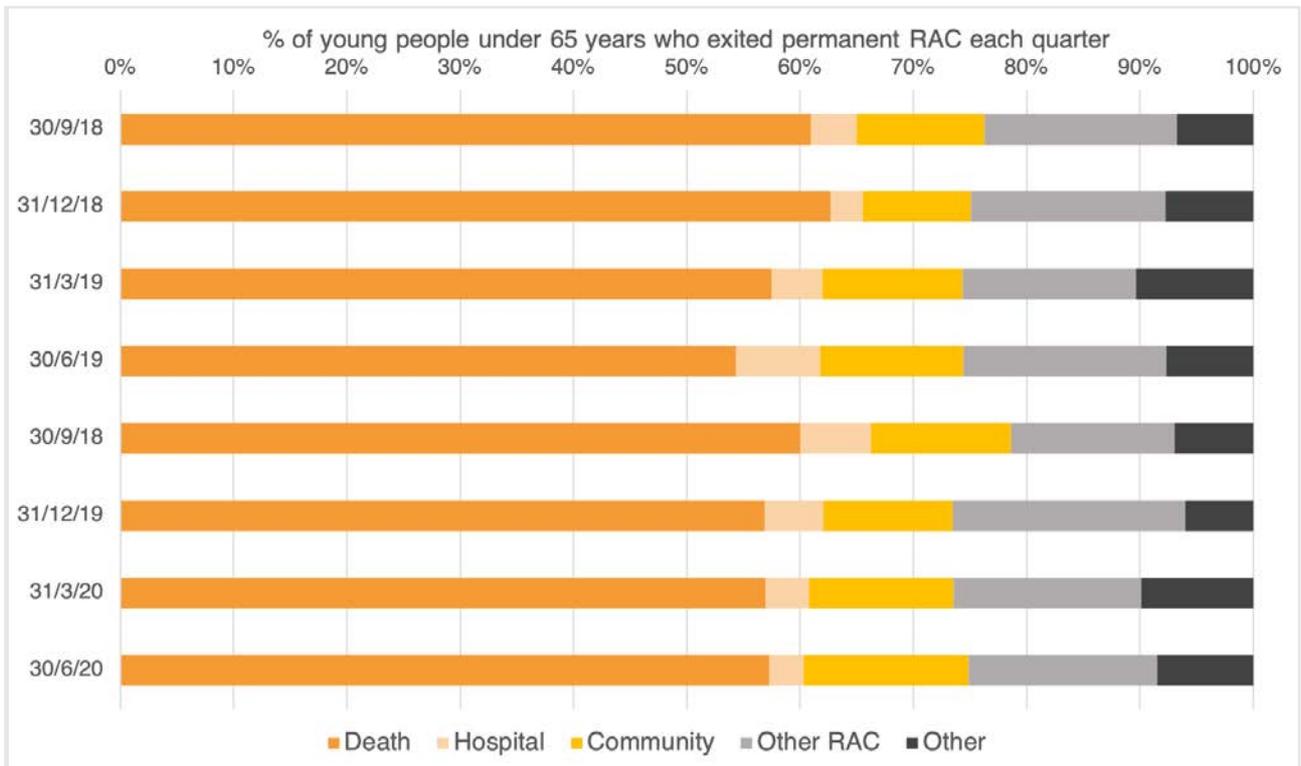
There has been little change in the reason why young people exited permanent RAC over the past 3 years, demonstrating that even though the numbers of people exiting from RAC has decreased slightly, the pattern for exits has not changed substantially. There may however be a slight trend towards exit to community-based options, such as to family or home, with the proportion who exited in this manner being 10.7%, 11.7% and 12.9% in 2017-2018, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020, respectively. Nonetheless, this does not change the fact that more than half of young people died while living in permanent RAC in all of these years. See Figure 5.3.

Figure 5.3. Comparison of the reason for young people under 65 years exiting permanent RAC over the past 3 financial years. Values are expressed as a percentage of the total number of young people who exited permanent RAC within a given year.



Over the past 8 quarters, between 30 September 2018 to 30 June 2020, the types of exits from permanent RAC of people under 65 years have changed little. See Figure 5.5.

Figure 5.5. Comparison between quarters of the reason for young people under 65 years exiting permanent RAC between 30 September 2018 and 30 June 2020. Values are expressed as a percentage of the total number of young people who exited permanent RAC within a given quarter.



6. Length of stay by young people in permanent RAC

6.1 Time spent in permanent RAC so far

As at 30 June 2020, 6 out of 10 (60.3%) people under 65 years who were residing in permanent RAC had lived there for more than 2 years, while 1 in 4 (25.1%) had lived there for 5 years or more. For people under 45 years, almost two-thirds (65.4%) had lived in permanent RAC for more than 2 years, while 3 in 10 (30.8%) had lived there for more than 5 years. See Table 6.1.

Table 6.1. Length of stay so far in permanent RAC for young people residing in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2020, across Australia

Length of stay	Less than 45 years		Less than 65 years	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Less than 4 weeks	2	1.5%	89	1.8%
4 weeks to less than 3 months	4	3.1%	174	3.6%
3 months to less than 6 months	2	1.5%	260	5.3%
6 months to less than 1 year	15	11.5%	508	10.5%
1 year to less than 2 years	22	16.9%	899	18.5%
2 years to 5 years	45	34.6%	1,710	35.2%
More than 5 years	40	30.8%	1,220	25.1%
Total	130	100.0%	4,860	100.0%

The length of stay for young people currently residing in permanent RAC was similar between jurisdictions, except in the ACT where the proportion of young people with a current length of stay less than 2 years was smaller than the national average, but the proportion with a current length of stay more than 5 years was larger. See Table 6.2 for a breakdown of length of stay by jurisdiction.

Table 6.2. Length of stay so far in permanent RAC for young people under 65 years residing in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2020

Length of stay		Australia	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
Less than 2 years	Number	1,930	611	608	361	162	116	51	4	17
	Percentage	39.7%	37.1%	43.0%	38.4%	44.0%	36.4%	44.3%	22.2%	41.5%
2 to 5 years	Number	1,710	573	504	341	121	117	33	7	14
	Percentage	35.2%	34.8%	35.6%	36.3%	32.9%	36.7%	28.7%	38.9%	34.1%
More than 5 years	Number	1,220	461	302	238	85	86	31	7	10
	Percentage	25.1%	28.0%	21.4%	25.3%	23.1%	27.0%	27.0%	38.9%	24.4%

For the people under 65 years who were living in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2020, the mean length of stay so far was almost 4 years (1,422 days); however, for people under 45 years, the mean length of stay so far was almost 5 years (1,817 days). In most jurisdictions, the subgroup of people under 45 years had a longer mean length of stay so far than was seen for all people under 65 years. See Table 6.3 for breakdown by age and jurisdiction.

Table 6.3. Mean length of stay (days) so far in permanent RAC for young people residing in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2020, by age and jurisdiction

Age	Australia	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
Less than 45 years ²⁵	1,817	1,951	1,387	1,745	1,339	3,889	1,296	N/A	N/A
Less than 65 years	1,422	1,550	1,252	1,470	1,349	1,496	1,264	1,926	1,354

²⁵ N/A indicates that there were no young people of the specified age residing in permanent RAC within that jurisdiction.

6.2 Final length of stay in permanent RAC

Of the people under 65 years who exited permanent RAC in 2019-2020, 1 in 3 (36.9%) had lived in permanent RAC for 2 years or more, while 1 in 8 (12.8%) had lived there for 5 years or more. For people under 45 years who exited permanent RAC, 4 in 10 (40.0%) had lived there for 2 years or more, while 1 in 6 (17.1%) had lived there for more than 5 years. See Table 6.4.

Table 6.4. Final length of stay in permanent RAC for young people who exited permanent RAC in 2019-2020, across Australia

Length of stay	Less than 45 years		Less than 65 years	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Less than 4 weeks	1	2.9%	108	8.0%
4 weeks to less than 3 months	3	8.6%	183	13.5%
3 months to less than 6 months	4	11.4%	140	10.3%
6 months to less than 1 year	4	11.4%	200	14.8%
1 year to less than 2 years	9	25.7%	225	16.6%
2 years to 5 years	8	22.9%	326	24.1%
More than 5 years	6	17.1%	173	12.8%
Total	35	100.0%	1,355	100.0%

The final length of stay for young people who exited permanent RAC in 2019-2020 was fairly similar between jurisdictions. See Table 6.5.

Table 6.5. Final length of stay in permanent RAC for young people under 65 years who exited permanent RAC in 2019-2020

Length of stay		Australia	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
Less than 2 years	Number	856	299	253	160	70	48	15	3	8
	Percentage	63.2%	61.5%	66.2%	62.7%	64.8%	61.5%	57.7%	42.9%	61.5%
2 to 5 years	Number	326	122	84	70	24	16	5	3	2
	Percentage	24.1%	25.1%	22.0%	27.5%	22.2%	20.5%	19.2%	42.9%	15.4%
More than 5 years	Number	173	65	45	25	14	14	6	1	3
	Percentage	12.8%	13.4%	11.8%	9.8%	13.0%	17.9%	23.1%	14.3%	23.1%

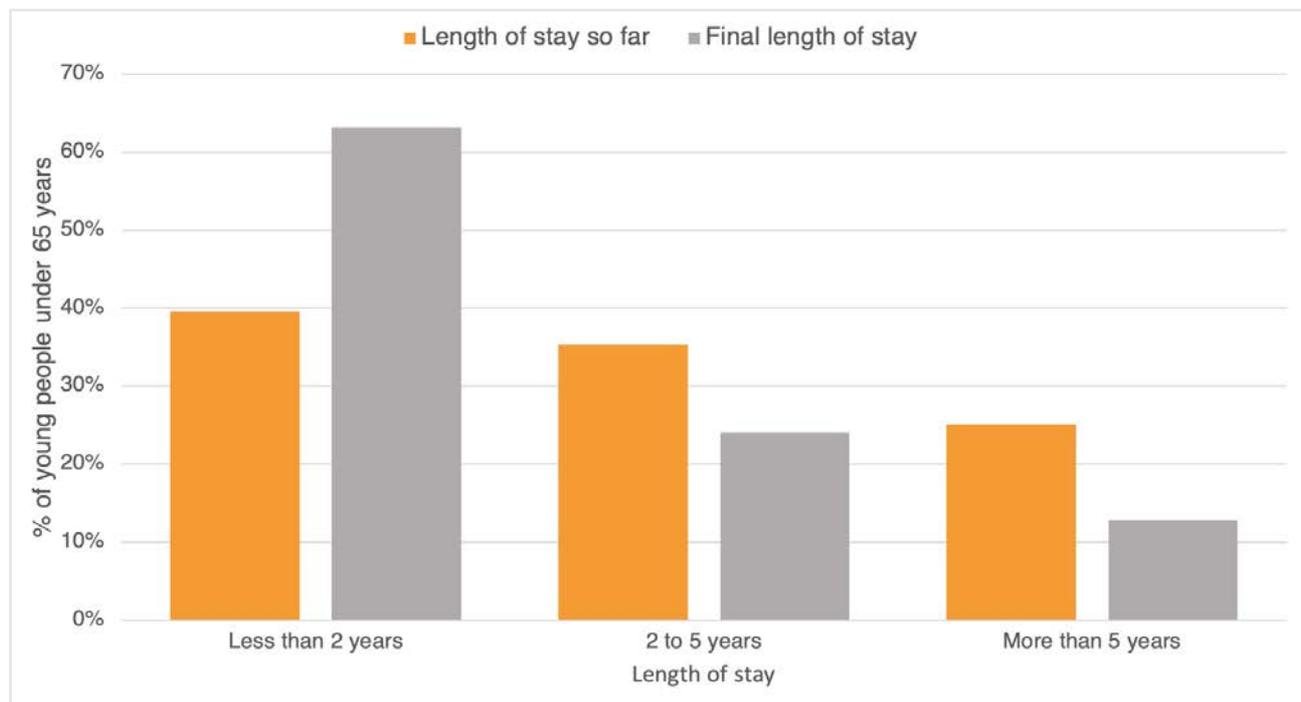
For the people under 65 years who exited permanent RAC in 2019-2020, the mean final length of stay was 2¼ years (832 days); however, for people under 45 years, the mean final length of stay was just over 3 years (1,155 days). The mean final length of stay varied between jurisdictions, with people under 45 years having a substantially shorter final length of stay in Western Australia and South Australia; this difference was not evident for all people under 65 years. See Table 6.6 for breakdown by age and jurisdiction.

Table 6.6. Mean final length of stay (days) in permanent RAC for young people who exited permanent RAC in 2019-2020, by age and jurisdiction

Age	Australia	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
Less than 45 years ²⁶	1,155	1,404	1,024	1,250	381	308	1,257	NA	NA
Less than 65 years	832	896	738	813	800	915	985	1,031	929

The length of stay for young people in permanent RAC was considerably different for people who were still residing in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2020 when compared to those who exited permanent RAC in 2019-2020 (see Figure 6.1).

Figure 6.1. Length of stay for young people under 65 years in permanent RAC. Length of stay so far represents young people who were residing in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2020, while final length of stay represents young people who exited permanent RAC (for any reason) in 2019-2020.

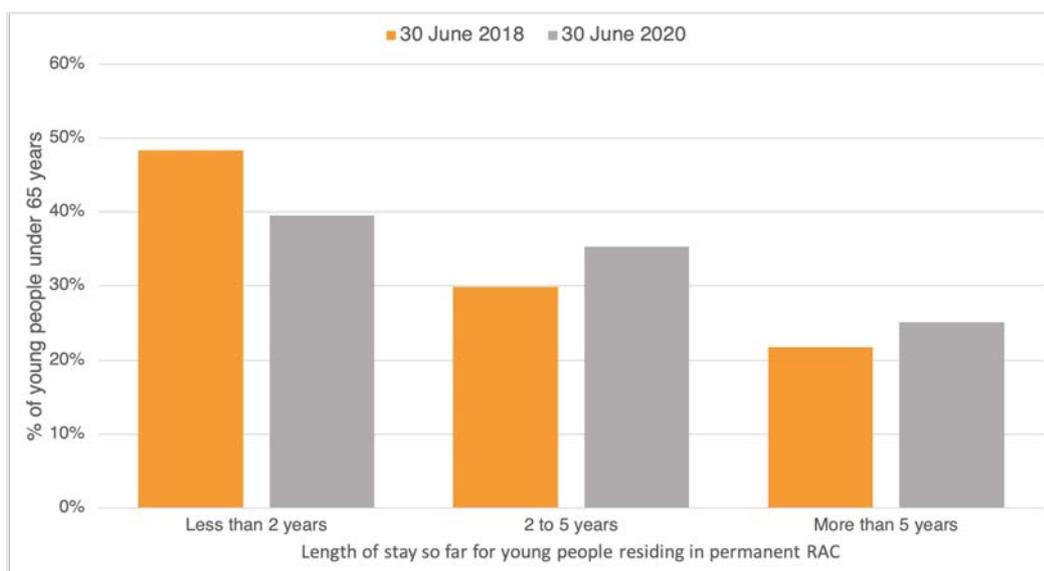


²⁶ N/A indicates that there were no young people of the specified age residing in permanent RAC within that jurisdiction.

6.3 Change in length of stay over time

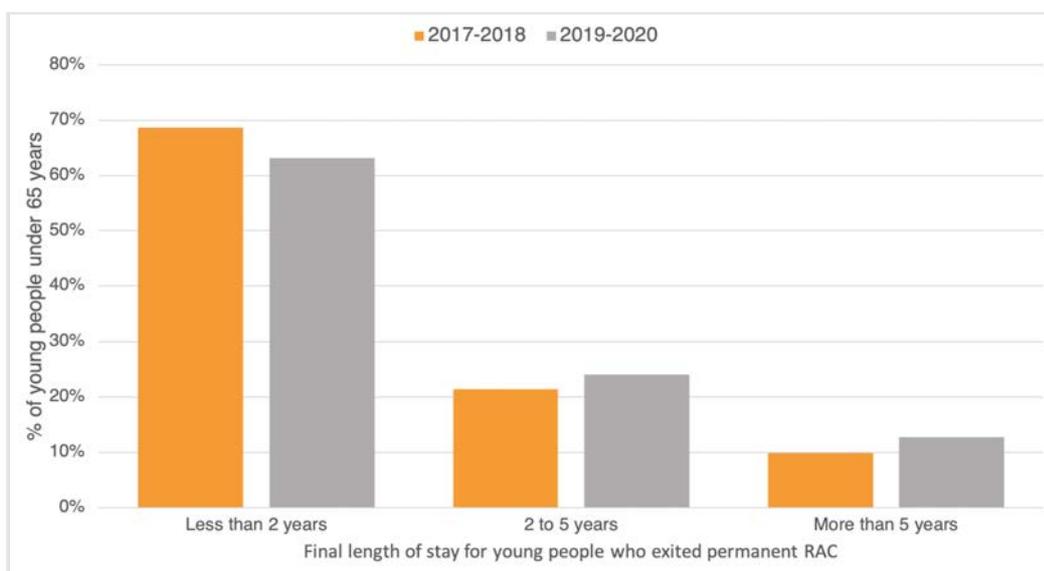
For people under 65 years who were still residing in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2020, the length of stay so far was longer than was evident for the young people who were residing in permanent RAC 2 years prior as at 30 June 2018. Figure 6.2 demonstrates this shift in the length of stay so far. The mean length of stay for young people living in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2020 was 12.6% greater (1,422 days compared to 1,266 days).

Figure 6.2. Length of stay so far for young people under 65 years in permanent RAC, across Australia. Comparison between 30 June 2018 and 30 June 2020.



A similar pattern was seen for the final length of stay, such that for people under 65 years who had exited permanent RAC in 2019-2020, the final length of stay was longer than was evident for the young people who exited permanent RAC in 2017-2018. Figure 6.3 demonstrates this shift in the final length of stay. The mean final length of stay for young people living in RAC as at 30 June 2020 was 14.7% greater (833 days compared to 726 days).

Figure 6.3. Final length of stay for young people under 65 years who had exited permanent RAC (for any reason), across Australia. Comparison between 2017-2018 and 2019-2020.



7. Support & health needs of young people in permanent RAC

7.1 Support needs of young people in permanent RAC

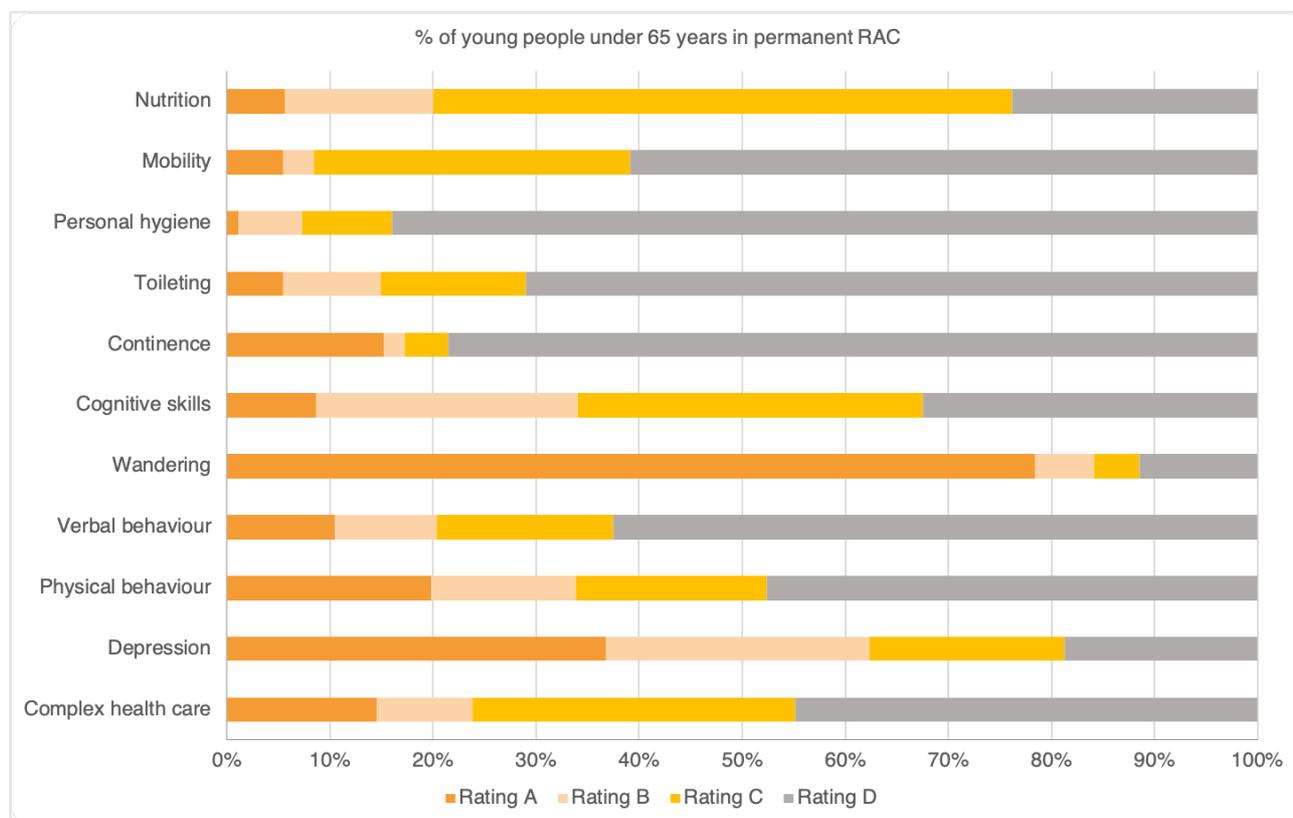
The Aged Care Funding Instrument (ACFI) is used to assess the care and support needs of people in permanent RAC (Australian Government Department of Health, 2016). Its primary purpose is to determine the funding allocation for a residential care facility, based on the usual care needs of the residents.

The ACFI considers 3 domains: activities of daily living, behaviour and complex care. Each domain has several subdomains, resulting in a total of 12 ACFI subdomains. Each subdomain is from A to D to give an indication of the amount of support that each resident requires: A requires no support; D requires the most support.

The intensity of support required by people under 65 years living in permanent RAC depends on the ACFI subdomain considered. For instance, considerable support is needed with activities of daily living such as mobility, personal hygiene, toileting and continence, yet little support is needed with behaviours such as wandering or for medication. See Figure 7.1.

Note that for the data provided in Section 7.1, ACFI scores were unavailable for 11 people under 65 years, including 2 people under 45 years. Thus, proportions are expressed based on the number of people within an age group for which ACFI scores were available, rather than on the total number of residents within permanent RAC of that age group.

Figure 7.1. Proportion of young people under 65 years in permanent RAC, across Australia, as at 30 June 2020, based on their rating for each subdomain of the ACFI. Values are expressed as a percentage of the total number of young people for whom an ACFI score was available, for each subdomain. Rating A requires no support, while Rating D requires the most support, with Ratings B and C requiring intermediate levels of support.



7.1.1 Activities of Daily Living Domain

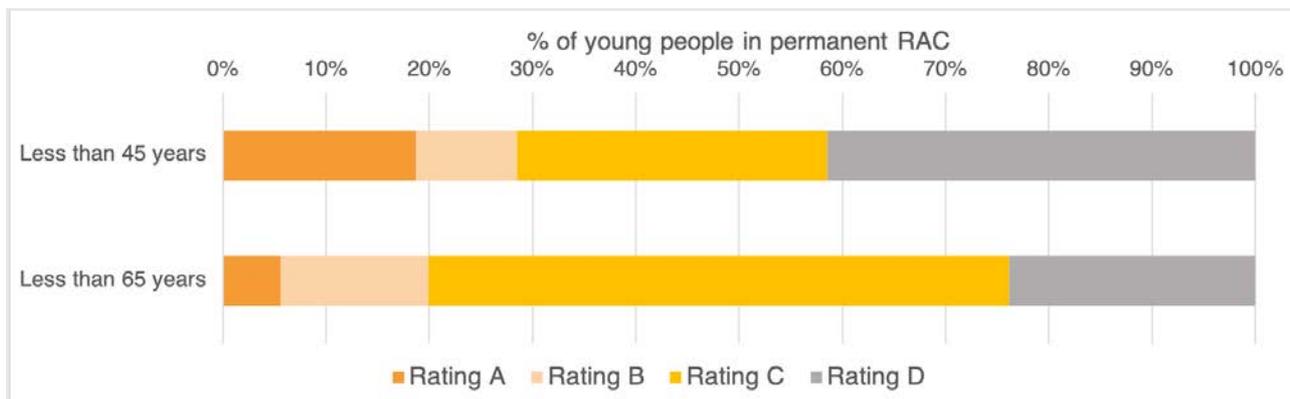
The Activities of Daily Living (ADL) Domain of the ACFI includes subdomains 1-5: Nutrition; Mobility; Personal Hygiene; Toileting; and Continence (Australian Government Department of Health, 2016). Ratings within this domain are based on the level of independence of the resident at performing tasks of daily living.

The Nutrition subdomain of the ACFI relates to a resident's usual day to day support needs for eating, including residents who require enteral feeding for some of their nutrition. If, however a resident only receives nutrition through tube feeding, that is addressed in ACFI 12: Complex Health Care. Nutrition ratings are based on the activities of 'readiness to eat' and 'eating'. Ratings are given as follows:

- A: no assistance is required for either of the nutrition activities.
- B: supervision is required for at least 1 of the nutrition activities or that physical assistance is needed for readiness to eat provided that the resident is independent for eating.
- C: physical assistance is required for at least 1 of the nutrition activities.
- D: physical assistance is required for both nutrition activities.

For young people living in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2020, 40.6% of people under 45 years required physical assistance with nutrition (rating D), while it was 23.9% of all people under 65 years. See Figure 7.2.

Figure 7.2. ACFI 1: Nutrition. Proportion of young people in permanent RAC across Australia, as at 30 June 2020, based on their rating for the Nutrition subdomain of the ACFI. Values are expressed as a percentage of the total number of young people for whom an ACFI score was available.

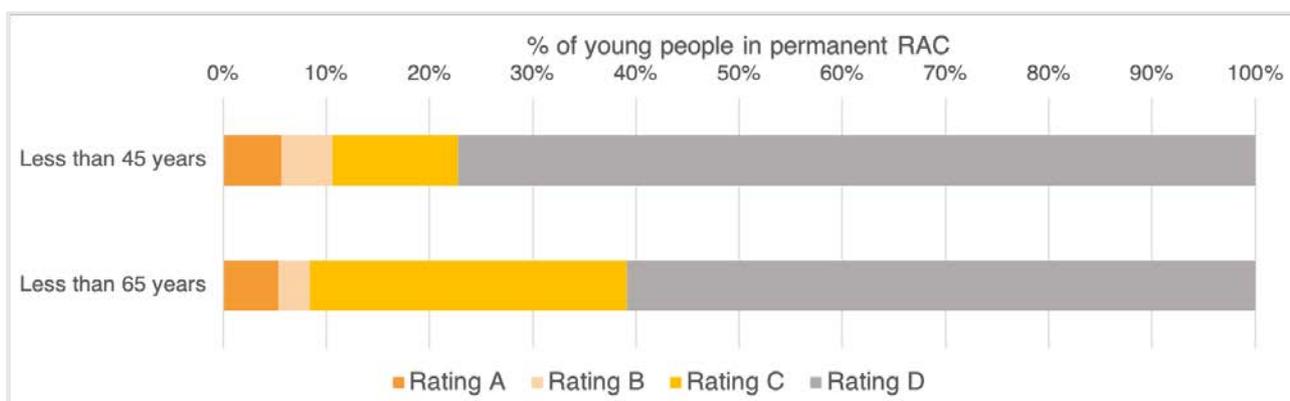


The Mobility subdomain of the ACFI relates to a resident’s usual day-to-day support needs for mobility. If manual handling is required for changing position of a resident to maintain skin integrity, that is addressed in ACFI 12: Complex Health Care. Mobility ratings are based on the activities of ‘transfers’ and ‘locomotion’. Ratings are given as follows:

- A: no assistance is required for either of the mobility activities.
- B: requires supervision *or* physical assistance in 1 of transfers or locomotion, but not both.
- C: requires supervision and/or physical assistance in transfers *and* locomotion.
- D: requires mechanical lifting equipment for transfers and/or physical assistance for *both* transfers and locomotion.

Almost all people under 65 years in permanent RAC (94.5%) had mobility restrictions that required supervision and/or physical assistance (rating B, C or D), with over half (60.8%) requiring mechanical lifting equipment for transfers or physical assistance for both transfers and locomotion. For people under 45 years, over three-quarters (76.6%) required mechanical lifting equipment for transfers or physical assistance for both transfers and locomotion. See Figure 7.3.

Figure 7.3. ACFI 2: Mobility. Proportion of young people in permanent RAC across Australia, as at 30 June 2020, based on their rating for the Mobility subdomain of the ACFI. Values are expressed as a percentage of the total number of young people for whom an ACFI score was available.

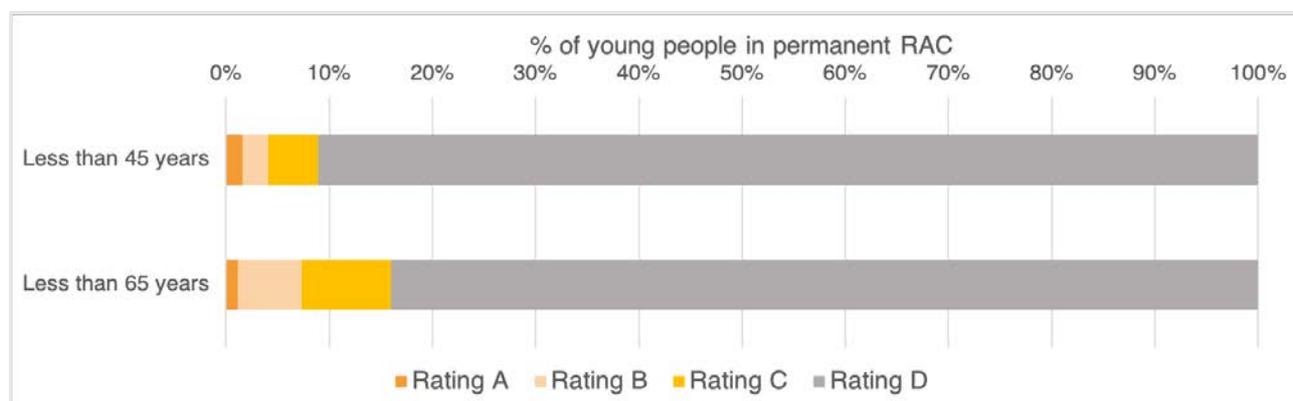


The Personal Hygiene subdomain of the ACFI relates to a resident’s usual day-to-day support needs for personal hygiene, with ratings based on the activities of ‘dressing and undressing’, ‘washing and drying, and ‘grooming’. Ratings are given as follows:

- A: no assistance is required for any of the personal hygiene activities.
- B: supervision is required for at least 1 of the personal hygiene activities.
- C: physical assistance is required for at least 1 of the personal hygiene activities.
- D: physical assistance is required for all 3 of the personal hygiene activities.

Almost all young people in permanent RAC (98.4% and 98.8% for under 45 years and under 65 years, respectively) required supervision and/or physical assistance for personal hygiene (rating B, C or D). See Figure 7.4.

Figure 7.4. ACFI 3: Personal Hygiene. Proportion of young people in permanent RAC across Australia, as at 30 June 2020, based on their rating for the Personal Hygiene subdomain of the ACFI. Values are expressed as a percentage of the total number of young people for whom an ACFI score was available.

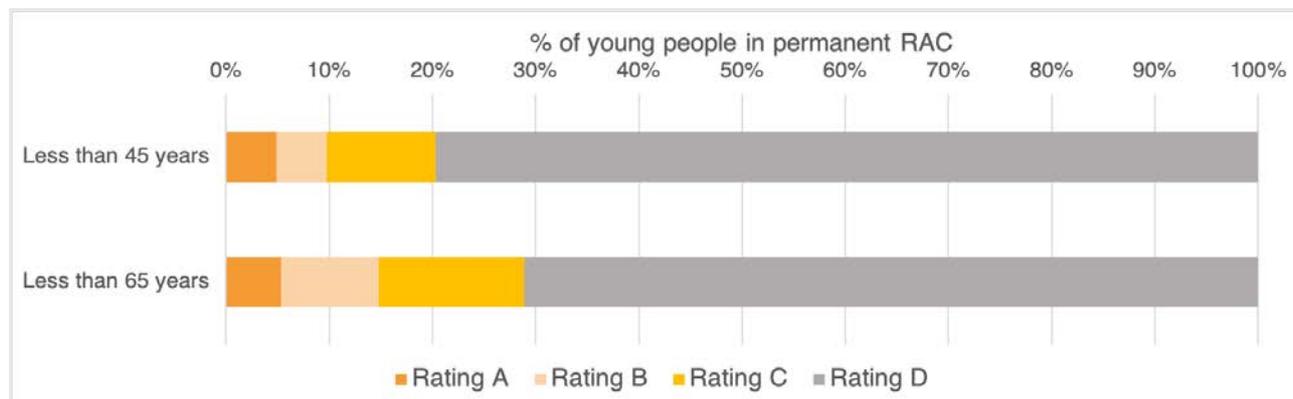


The Toileting subdomain of the ACFI relates to a resident’s usual day-to-day support needs for toileting, regardless of whether the resident uses a toilet, commode, urinal or bedpan. This subdomain also includes emptying of drainage bags for residents with stomas and catheters, however clinical care of catheters, as well as administration of suppositories and enemas is addressed in ACFI 12: Complex Health Care. Toileting ratings are based on the activities of ‘use of a toilet’ and ‘toilet completion’. Ratings are given as follows:

- A: no assistance is required for either of the toileting activities.
- B: supervision is required for at 1 or both of the toileting activities.
- C: physical assistance is required for 1 of the toileting activities.
- D: physical assistance is required for both toileting activities.

Almost all young people in permanent RAC (94.5% for both under 45 years and under 65 years) required supervision and/or physical assistance for toileting (rating B, C or D). See Figure 7.5.

Figure 7.5. ACFI 4: Toileting. Proportion of young people in permanent RAC across Australia, as at 30 June 2020, based on their rating for the Toileting subdomain of the ACFI. Values are expressed as a percentage of the total number of young people for whom an ACFI score was available.

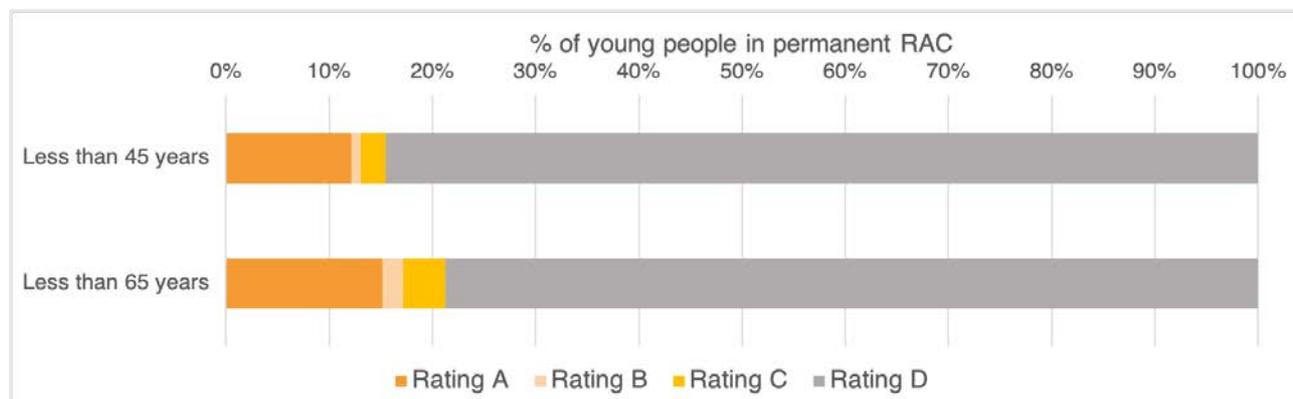


The Continence subdomain of the ACFI relates to a resident’s usual support needs for continence of urine and faeces, over a period of 3- or 7-days, respectively. Administration of stool softeners, aperients, suppositories or enemas is addressed in ACFI 11: Medication or ACFI 12: Complex Health Care. Continence ratings are based on the activities of ‘urinary continence’ and ‘faecal continence and are given as follows:

- A: no episodes of urinary or faecal continence or can self-manage continence devices.
- B: incontinent of urine up to 1 time per day or incontinent of faeces up to 2 times per week.
- C: incontinent of urine 2-3 times per day or passes urine during scheduled toileting or incontinent of faeces 3-4 times per week or passes faeces during scheduled toileting.
- D: incontinent of urine more than 3 times per day or passes urine during scheduled toileting or incontinent of faeces more than 4 times per week or passes faeces during scheduled toileting.

More than 8 in every 10 young people living in permanent RAC (85.9% and 84.7% for under 45 years and under 65 years, respectively) had regular episodes of incontinence or required scheduled toileting (rating B, C or D). See Figure 7.6.

Figure 7.6. ACFI 5: Continence. Proportion of young people in permanent RAC across Australia, as at 30 June 2020, based on their rating for the Continence subdomain of the ACFI. Values are expressed as a percentage of the total number of young people for whom an ACFI score was available.



7.1.2 Behaviour Domain

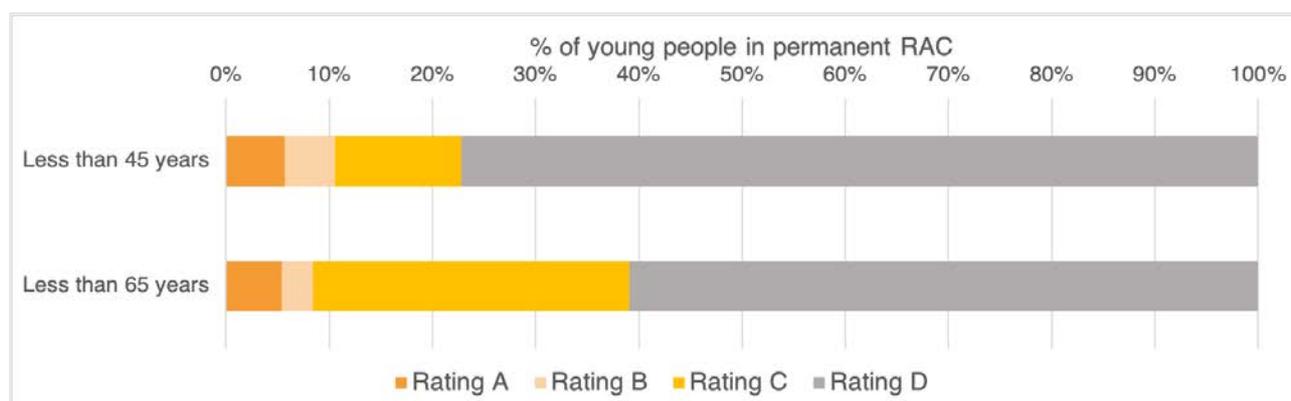
The Behaviour Domain of the ACFI includes subdomains 6-10: Cognitive Skills; Wandering; Verbal Behaviour; Physical Behaviour; and Depression (Australian Government Department of Health, 2016).

The Cognitive Skills subdomain of the ACFI relates to a resident's usual cognitive skills, based on the Psychogeriatric Assessment Scales – Cognitive Impairment Scale (PAS – CIS). This assessment tool is not suitable for some people of non-English speaking backgrounds, including some people who identify as Indigenous. Ratings are given as follows:

- A: no or minimal impairment of cognitive skills.
- B: mild impairment of cognitive skills.
- C: moderate impairment of cognitive skills.
- D: severe impairment of cognitive skills.

A mild to severe cognitive impairment (rating B, C or D) was present in more than 9 out of every 10 young people in permanent RAC (94.5% and 91.4% for under 45 years and under 65 years, respectively). For people under 45 years 55.5% had a severe cognitive impairment (rating D), while it was 32.5% for all people under 65 years. See Figure 7.7.

Figure 7.7. ACFI 6: Cognitive Skills. Proportion of young people in permanent RAC across Australia, as at 30 June 2020, based on their rating for the Cognitive Skills subdomain of the ACFI. Values are expressed as a percentage of the total number of young people for whom an ACFI score was available.

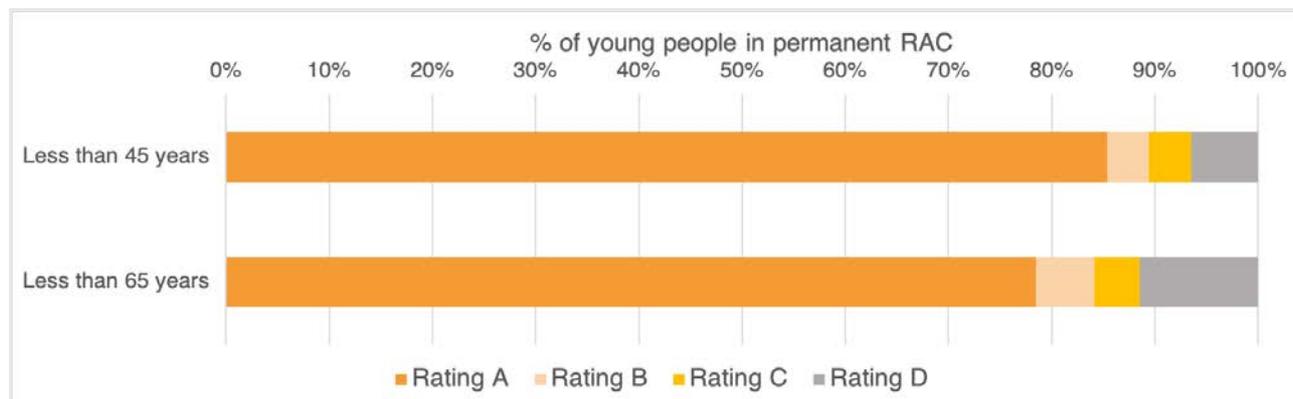


The Wandering subdomain of the ACFI relates to a resident's usual tendency to enter areas within or outside the aged care facility where their presence would be deemed unwelcome or inappropriate, e.g. kitchens or other residents' rooms, or interfering while wandering in such places. The behaviour of wandering must also require attention from a staff member. Ratings are given as follows:

- A: problem wandering occurs less than 2 days per week or not at all.
- B: problem wandering occurs at least 2 days per week.
- C: problem wandering occurs at least 6 days per week.
- D: problem wandering occurs at least 2 times per day, at least 6 days per week.

For young people living in permanent RAC, wandering behaviours are the least concerning such that 75.8% of people under 65 years, and 85.2% of people in the subgroup under 45 years, had problem wandering less than 2 days per week or not at all (rating A; see Figure 7.8). This is likely due to the fact that almost all young people living in permanent RAC have considerable mobility restrictions (see Figure 7.3).

Figure 7.8. ACFI 7: Wandering. Proportion of young people in permanent RAC across Australia, as at 30 June 2020, based on their rating for the Wandering subdomain of the ACFI. Values are expressed as a percentage of the total number of young people for whom an ACFI score was available.

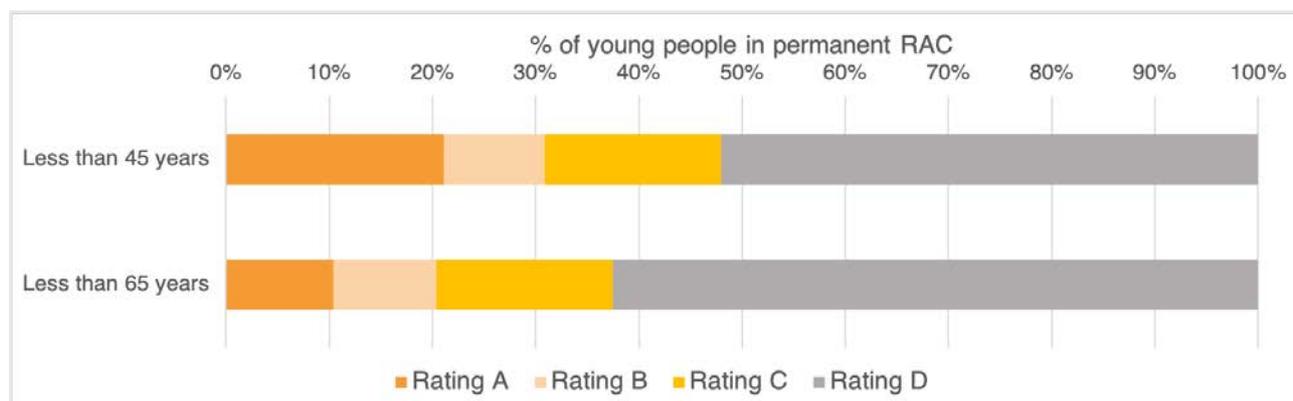


The Verbal Behaviour subdomain of the ACFI relates to a resident’s usual verbal behaviours that are deemed as problematic for staff members, visitors or other residents. This includes verbal refusal of care, verbal disruption that is not related to an unmet need, paranoid ideation that disturbs others, and verbal sexually inappropriate advances directed at another person. Ratings are given as follows:

- A: problem verbal behaviour occurs less than 2 days per week or not at all.
- B: problem verbal behaviour occurs at least 2 days per week.
- C: problem verbal behaviour occurs at least 6 days per week.
- D: problem verbal behaviour occurs at least 2 times per day, at least 6 days per week.

For young people living in permanent RAC, problem verbal behaviours were reported for 79.6% of people under 65 years, and 68.8% of people in the subgroup under 45 years (rating C or D). See Figure 7.9).

Figure 7.9. ACFI 8: Verbal Behaviour. Proportion of young people in permanent RAC across Australia, as at 30 June 2020, based on their rating for the Verbal Behaviour subdomain of the ACFI. Values are expressed as a percentage of the total number of young people for whom an ACFI score was available.

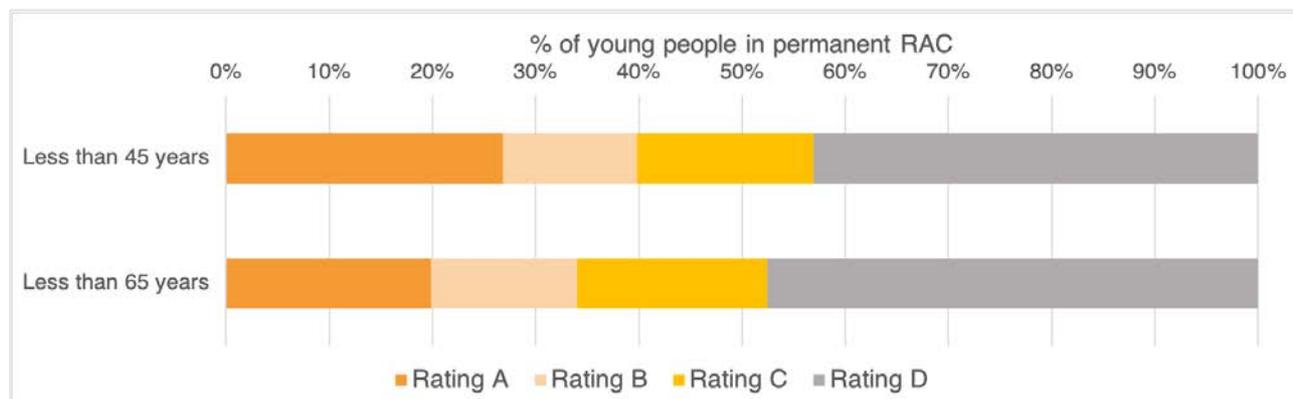


The Physical Behaviour subdomain of the ACFI relates to a resident’s usual physical behaviours that are deemed problematic for staff members, visitors, other residents or property. This includes physical conduct that is threatening and has the potential to physically harm another person or property, socially inappropriate behaviours that impacts other residents, and being constantly physically agitated. Ratings are given as follows:

- A: problem physical behaviour occurs less than 2 days per week or not at all.
- B: problem physical behaviour occurs at least 2 days per week.
- C: problem physical behaviour occurs at least 6 days per week.
- D: problem physical behaviour occurs at least 2 times per day, at least 6 days per week.

For young people living in permanent RAC, problem physical behaviours were reported for 66.1% of people under 65 years, and 60.9% of people in the subgroup under 45 years (rating C or D). See Figure 7.10).

Figure 7.10. ACFI 9: Physical Behaviour. Proportion of young people in permanent RAC across Australia, as at 30 June 2020, based on their rating for the Physical Behaviour subdomain of the ACFI. Values are expressed as a percentage of the total number of young people for whom an ACFI score was available.

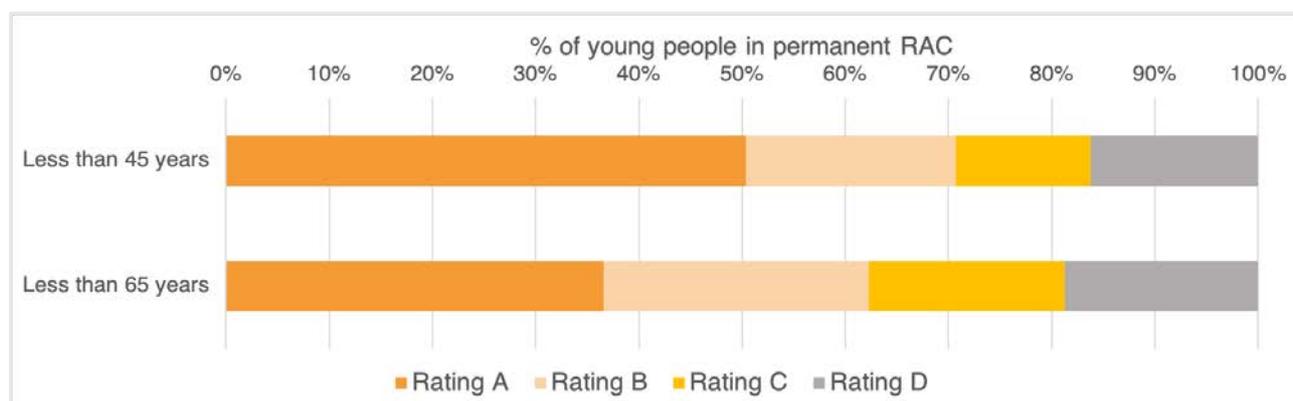


The Depression subdomain of the ACFI relates to a resident’s usual symptoms associated with depression and dysthymia, but excludes behaviours addressed in ACFI 8 Verbal Behaviour, ACFI 9 Physical Behaviour, and physical illness or disability recorded as a medical diagnosis (see Section 7.2). This subdomain is assessed using the Cornell Scale for Depression and may be supplemented with a clinical diagnosis from a medical professional. Ratings are given as follows:

- A: no or minimal symptoms of depression.
- B: symptoms of depression caused mild to major interference with the resident’s ability to function and participate in regular activities, but where there was not a formal or provisional diagnosis of depression.
- C: symptoms of depression caused moderate interference with the resident’s ability to function and participate in regular activities *and* there was a formal or provisional diagnosis of depression.
- D: symptoms of depression caused major interference with the resident’s ability to function and participate in regular activities *and* there was a formal or provisional diagnosis of depression.

More than a third (37.7%) of people under 65 years in permanent RAC, and 28.9% of the subgroup under 45 years, had depression that caused moderate to major interference with their ability to function and participate in regular activities, along with a formal or provisional diagnosis of depression (rating C or D; see Figure 7.11). This is over 3.5-times higher than the prevalence of depression in Australians generally, with only 10.2% of people under 65 years and 8.2% of people under 45 years having symptoms of depression.²⁷

Figure 7.11. ACFI 10: Depression. Proportion of young people in permanent RAC across Australia, as at 30 June 2020, based on their rating for the Depression subdomain of the ACFI. Values are expressed as a percentage of the total number of young people for whom an ACFI score was available.



It is noteworthy that the proportion of people under 65 years in permanent RAC with a formal or provisional diagnosis of depression was higher in Victoria (44.1% compared to 37.7% nationally), but smaller in Western Australia and the Northern Territory (21.6% and 12.2%, respectively). Similarly, the proportion of people under 45 years with depression was larger in Victoria (34.9% compared to 28.9% nationally). See Table 7.1.

Table 7.1. Prevalence of formal or provisional diagnosed depression²⁸ in young people in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2020, by jurisdiction

	Australia	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
Number of people under 45 years in permanent RAC with depression	37	12	15	6	1	3	N/A	N/A	N/A
% of people under 45 years in permanent RAC with depression	28.9%	27.3%	34.9%	25.0%	25.0%	33.3%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of people under 65 years in permanent RAC with depression	1,790	578	623	352	79	109	38	6	5
% of people under 65 years in permanent RAC with depression	37.7%	35.2%	44.1%	37.5%	21.6%	34.3%	33.3%	33.0%	12.2%

²⁷ Data obtained from National Health Survey: First Results, 2017-18; data calculated using Table 3.1 (Mood (affective) disorders, "Depression/feeling depressed") and Appendix 1 (sample counts and estimates).

²⁸ ACFI 10 Depression, rating of C or D.

7.1.3 Complex Health Care Domain

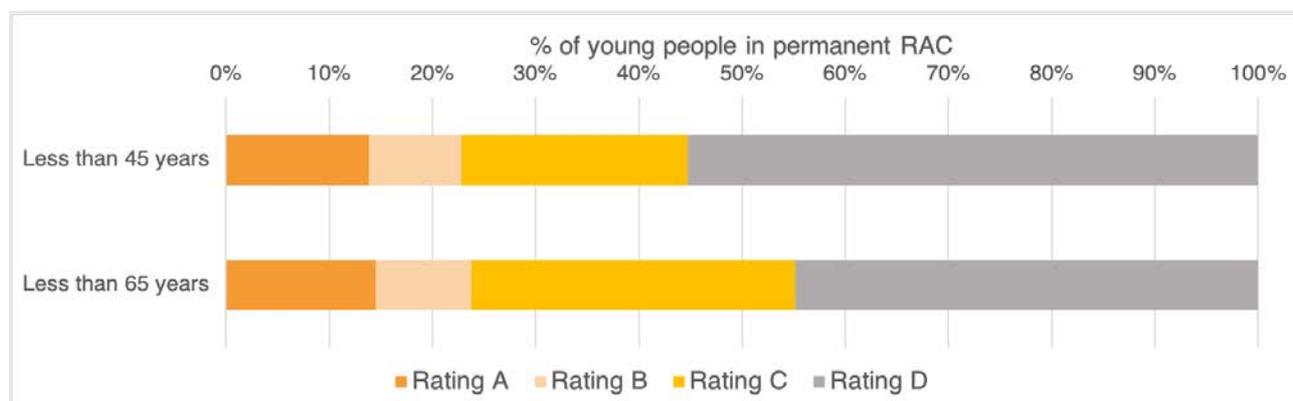
The Complex Health Care Domain of the ACFI includes subdomains 11-12: Medication; and Complex Health Care Procedures (Australian Government Department of Health, 2016). The Medication subdomain of the ACFI relates to a resident’s usual day-to-day support needs for medication administration. Please note that due to irregularities in the data collection (which report ratings A to D) and the 2017 ACFI user guide (possible ratings only A, B, and C), reliable data for ACFI 11 could not be reported.

The Complex Health Care subdomain of the ACFI relates to a resident’s need for ongoing complex health care procedures and activities; it does not include temporary nursing interventions. This subdomain is rated based on the technical complexity and frequency of the procedures. For instance, daily measurement of blood pressure, administration of suppositories for bowel care, and management of arthritic joints all have a score of 1. Special feeding by a Registered Nurse for people with severe aphagia, ongoing catheter care, and oxygen therapy that is not self-managed all have a score of 3. More complex procedures such as suctioning airways or tracheostomy care, management of ongoing tube feeding, and complex pain management all have a score of 6. Lastly, a palliative care program involving End of Life care has a score of 10. Ratings for complex health care subdomain are based on the total score of all ongoing procedures and are given as follows:

- A: score of 0, i.e. no procedures required.
- B: score of 1-4.
- C: score of 5-9.
- D: score of 10 or more.

Almost 7 out of 8 young people in RAC (85.9% and 85.5% for under 45 years and under 65 years, respectively) require regular complex health care procedures (rating B, C or D). People under 45 years were over 20% more likely to have very high complex health care needs (rating D) than people under 65 years (54.3% compared to 44.9%).

Figure 7.13. ACFI 12: Complex Health Care. Proportion of young people in permanent RAC across Australia, as at 30 June 2020, based on their rating for the Complex Health Care subdomain of the ACFI. Values are expressed as a percentage of the total number of young people for whom an ACFI score was available.



7.1.4 Palliative care

If a resident of aged care is undergoing a palliative care program involving End of Life Care, this is recorded during the ACFI assessment to allow a claim by the facility for the cost of the program since it involves intensive clinical nursing and/or complex pain management (Australian Government Department of Health, 2016).

As at 30 June 2020, 0.4% of people under 65 years (18 people) residing in permanent RAC were recorded as receiving palliative care. None of the people under 45 years residing in permanent RAC were recorded as receiving palliative care.

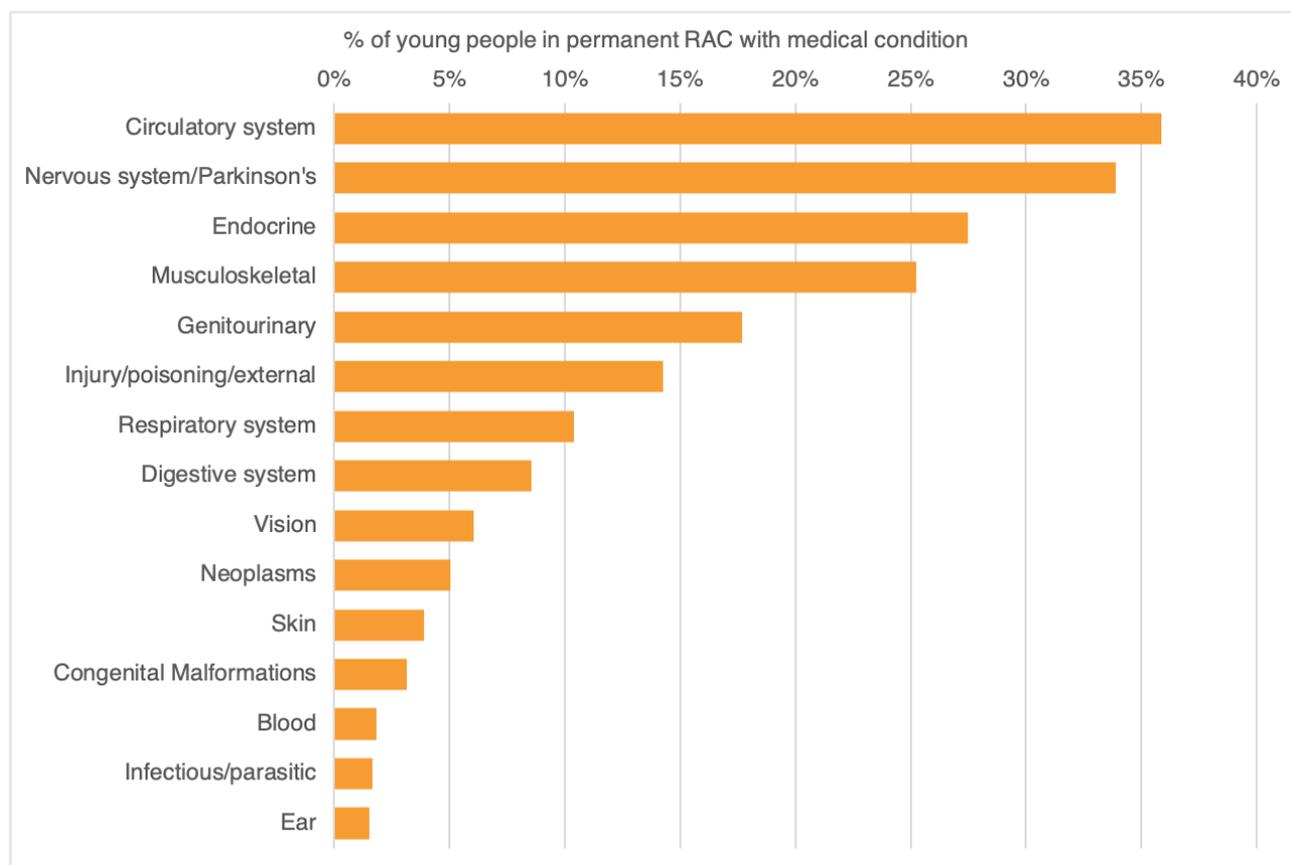
The young people who were receiving palliative care while in permanent RAC were not evenly spread among jurisdictions. Of the 18 people, 7 resided in Victoria, 6 in Queensland, 3 in New South Wales, and 2 in Western Australia. The other 4 jurisdictions did not have any young people who were reported to be receiving palliative care.

7.2 Medical conditions affecting young people in permanent RAC

During the ACFI assessment, as explained in Section 7.1, up to 3 medical conditions, based on ICD-10 classifications, can be documented for a resident provided they are relevant to their care needs (Australian Government Department of Health, 2016). If more than 3 medical conditions are present, the 3 most significant conditions, in terms of impact on care needs, must be listed. Therefore, the frequency of medical conditions reported by ACFI assessments is an under-representation of all medical conditions within young people in permanent RAC, but does highlight the conditions of greatest concern. Note that behavioural and mental conditions are not included in this category of assessment (see Section 7.3).

The 5 most common medical conditions affecting young people in permanent RAC were: circulatory system disorders (35.8%); nervous system/Parkinson's disease (33.9%); endocrine disorders (27.5%); musculoskeletal diseases (25.2%); and genitourinary diseases (17.7%). See Figure 7.14.

Figure 7.14. Prevalence of medical conditions in young people in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2020. Note that a maximum of 3 medical conditions can be documented per person.²⁹



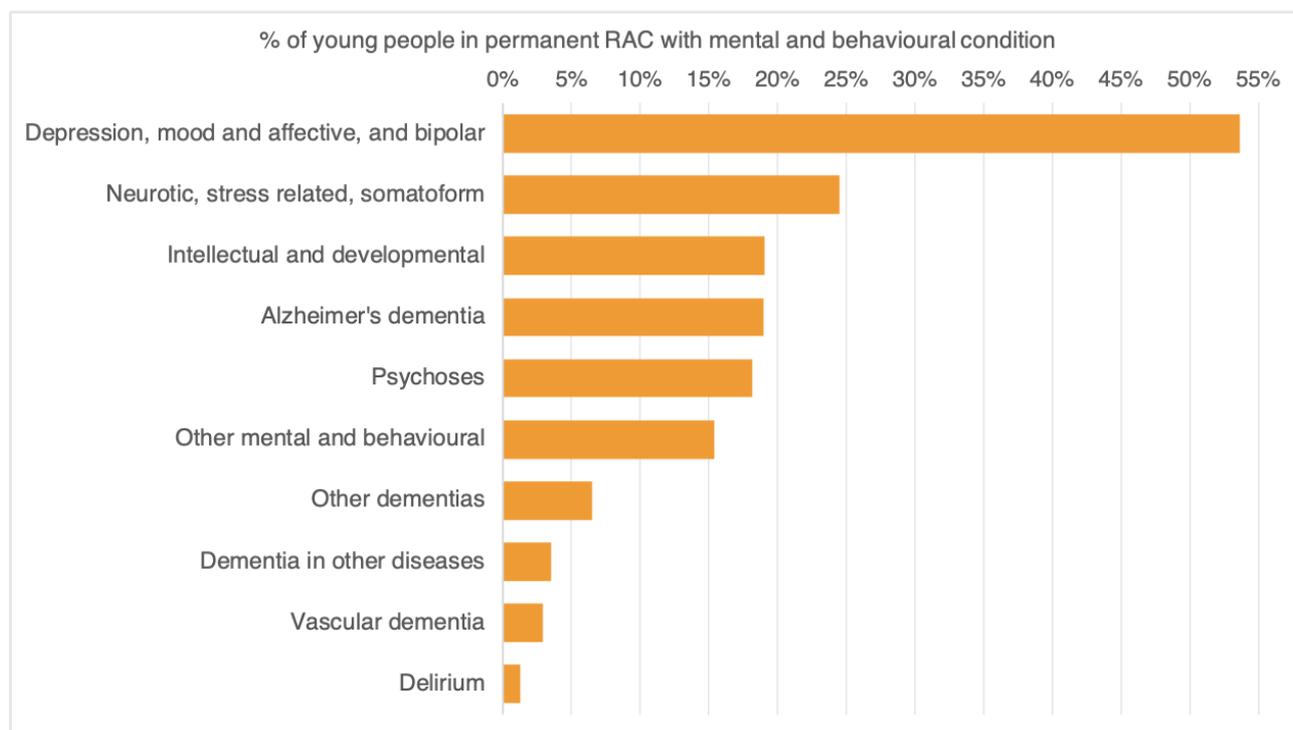
7.3 Mental and behavioural conditions affecting young people in permanent RAC

If a resident of an aged care facility has 1 or more mental or behavioural condition(s) that impacts on their care needs, these are documented in the ACFI assessment (Australian Government Department of Health, 2016). This process is similar to that used for documenting medical conditions and is based on ICD-10 classifications, as described in Section 7.3.

The 5 most common mental or behavioural conditions affecting young people in permanent RAC were: depression, mood and affective, and bipolar disorder (53.6%); neurotic, stress related, and somatoform disorders (24.5%); intellectual and developmental disorders (19.1%); Alzheimer’s dementia (19.0%); and psychoses (18.2%). See Figure 7.15.

²⁹ The ACFI assessment allows more than one mental or behavioural condition, based on ICD-10 classifications, to be documented for each resident. For this reason, percentages will not add to 100%.

Figure 7.15. Prevalence of mental and behavioural conditions in young people in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2020. Note that more than 1 mental or behavioural condition can be documented per person.

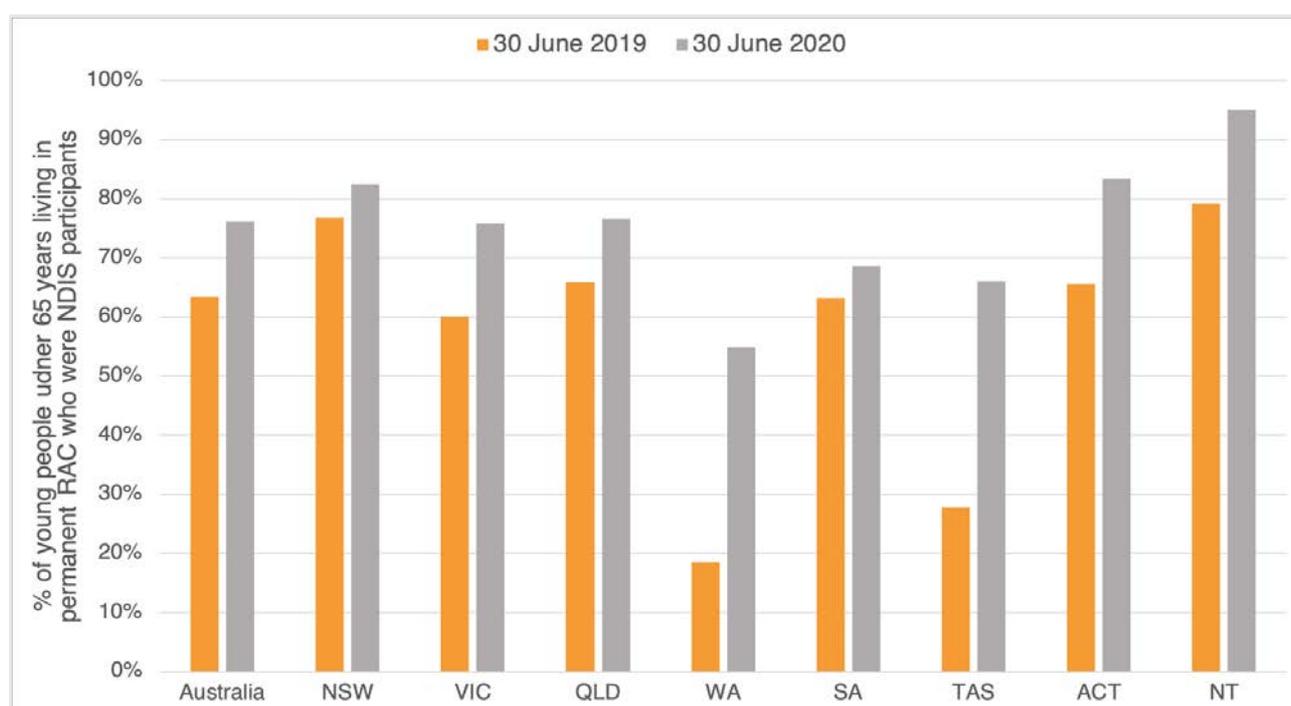


8. NDIS support for young people in permanent RAC

8.1 NDIS eligibility of young people in permanent RAC

Based on their support needs (see Section 7.1), most young people living in permanent RAC have a disability and thus should be eligible to be NDIS participants. However, when comparing the number of young people living in permanent RAC as at 30 June 2020 to the number of young people who were active NDIS participants,³⁰ it was found that almost one quarter (23.7%) of young people living in permanent RAC were not active participants in the NDIS. This is an improvement on the previous year, where over one third (34.4%) of young people living in permanent RAC were not active NDIS participants as at 30 June 2019. See Figure 8.1.

Figure 8.1. Proportion of young people under 65 years in permanent RAC who were active NDIS participants. Comparison between 30 June 2019 and 30 June 2020.



³⁰ Data obtained from Tables E.10, F.10, G.10, H.10, I.10, J.10, K.10, L.10 and M.10 of the NDIS Quarterly Report to Disability Ministers, 30 June 2020 (National Disability Insurance Agency, 2020a).

8.2 Characteristics of young people in permanent RAC with an active NDIS plan

Additional information about young people in permanent RAC who were active NDIS participants has been obtained from the Questions on Notice provided by the Budget Estimates of the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee, Social Services Portfolio, which were held on 29 October 2020. The data in sections 8.2 through 8.5 are based on this source and are indicated in footnotes as appropriate. While this data falls outside the 2019-2020 financial year, it is reported here to provide the latest information.

As at 30 September 2020, there were 3,603 people under 65 years in permanent RAC who were active NDIS participants, including 113 people under the age of 45 years. Of these, 53.4% were male and 46.1% were female. It is also noteworthy that 97.8% resided in permanent RAC facilities that were in non-remote regions, while only 2.2% resided in remote or very remote regions. See Table 8.2.

Table 8.2. Demographic characteristics of young people in permanent RAC who were active NDIS participants as at 30 September 2020³¹

	Number	Percentage
Age band		
0-44 years	113	3.1%
45-54 years	640	17.8%
55-64 years	2,850	79.1%
<i>Total less than 65 years</i>	<i>3,603</i>	<i>100.0%</i>
Gender		
Female	1,661	46.1%
Male	1,925	53.4%
Unidentified	18	0.5%
Remoteness		
Non-remote	3,523	97.8%
Remote and very remote	80	2.2%

Of the 3,603 people under 65 years in permanent RAC who were active NDIS participants, the 5 most common disability profiles were: Other Neurological (28.0%), Acquired Brain Injury (18.1%), Intellectual Disability (12.7%), Stroke (11.5%) and Psychosocial Disability (11.2%). However, it is noteworthy that the proportion of people with each disability profile differed depending on the age band considered.

³¹ Data obtained from Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee, Answer to Question on Notice, Social Services Portfolio, Budget Estimates - 29 October 2020. Question No: NDIA SQ20-000359. Remoteness is defined using the Modified Monash Model; 'non-remote' includes categories MM 1-5 while 'remote and very remote' includes categories MM 6-7.

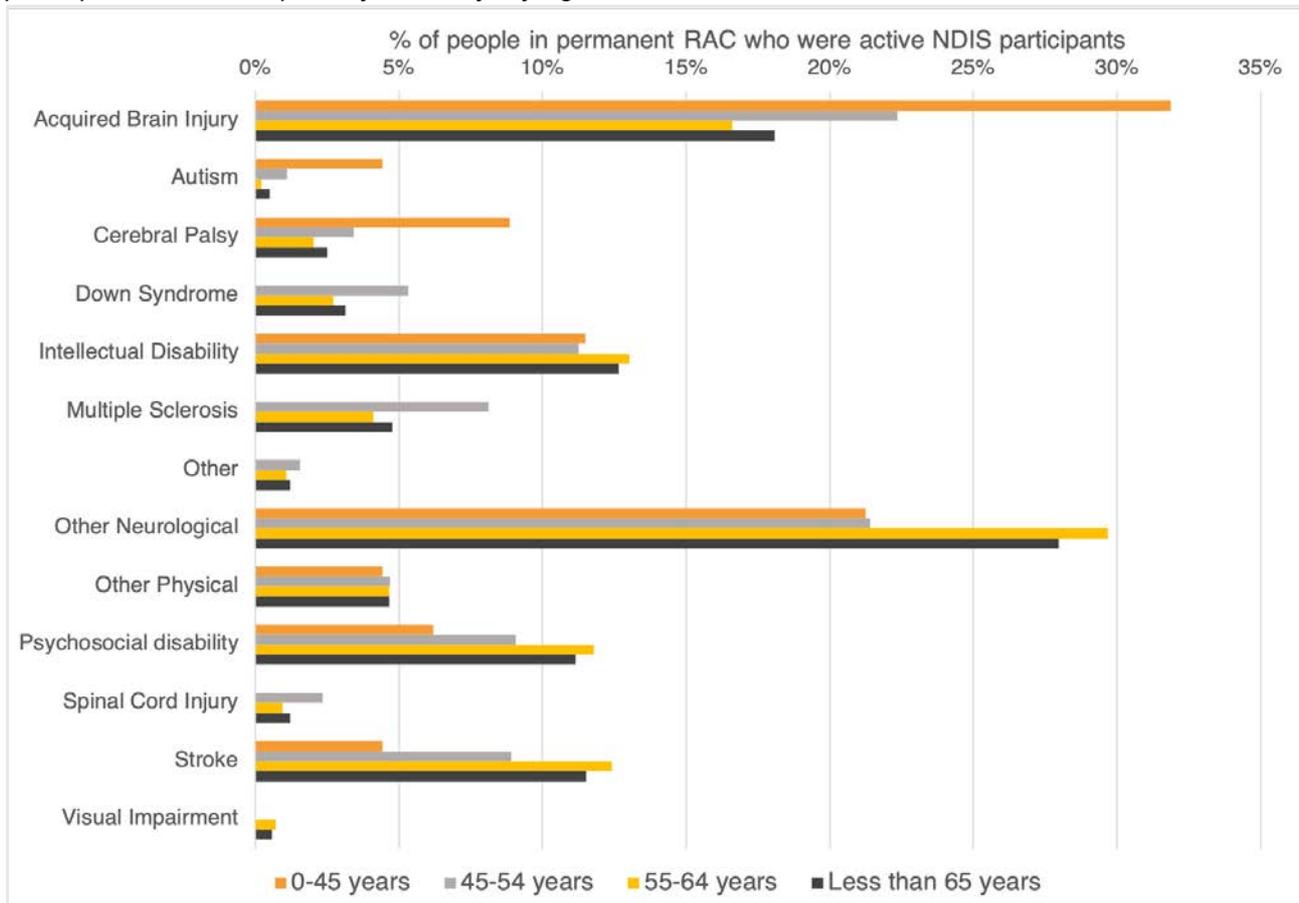
For instance, people aged under 45 years were considerably more likely to have acquired brain injury, autism or cerebral palsy than people who were aged 45-64 years. See Table 8.3 and Figure 8.2.

Table 8.3. Disability profile of young people in permanent RAC who were active NDIS participants, at 30 September 2020³²

	0-44 years		45-54 years		55-64 years		Less than 65 years	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Acquired Brain Injury	36	31.9%	143	22.3%	473	16.6%	652	18.1%
Autism	5	4.4%	7	1.1%	6	0.2%	18	0.5%
Cerebral Palsy	10	8.8%	22	3.4%	58	2.0%	90	2.5%
Down Syndrome	<5	N/A	34	5.3%	77	2.7%	113	3.1%
Intellectual Disability	13	11.5%	72	11.3%	371	13.0%	456	12.7%
Multiple Sclerosis	<5	N/A	52	8.1%	117	4.1%	172	4.8%
Other	0	0.0%	10	1.6%	31	1.1%	44	1.2%
Other Neurological	24	21.2%	137	21.4%	846	29.7%	1,008	28.0%
Other Physical	5	4.4%	30	4.7%	133	4.7%	168	4.7%
Psychosocial disability	7	6.2%	58	9.1%	336	11.8%	402	11.2%
Spinal Cord Injury	<5	N/A	15	2.3%	27	0.9%	44	1.2%
Stroke	5	4.4%	57	8.9%	354	12.4%	415	11.5%
Visual Impairment	0	0.0%	<5	N/A	20	0.7%	21	0.6%
Total	113	100.0%	640	100.0%	2,850	100.0%	3,603	100.0%

³² Data obtained from Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee, Answer to Question on Notice, Social Services Portfolio, Budget Estimates - 29 October 2020. Question No: NDIA SQ20-000357 and NDIA SQ20-000359. Note participant numbers <5 have been masked by the NDIA for confidentiality purposes; N/A designates when it was not possible to accurately calculate the percentage values because of the masked data.

Figure 8.2. Proportion of young people under 65 years in permanent RAC who were active NDIS participants based on primary disability, by age band³³



8.3 NDIS funding provided to young people in permanent RAC

8.3.1 NDIS plan budgets and utilisation

Across Australia, NDIS plans for people under 65 years in permanent RAC, as at 30 September 2020, had a mean budget of \$159,000. The NDIS plans in the 5th percentile were \$110,000 and those in the 95th percentile were \$219,000, indicating that there was a substantial range of plan sizes for young people in permanent RAC. While there was some difference in plan budgets between jurisdictions, the range between 5th and 95th percentile in each jurisdiction was quite similar. However, NDIS plans in Victoria and the Northern Territory tended to be higher than the national average, while those in Eastern Australia and the ACT tended to be lower. See Table 8.4.

³³ Data obtained from Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee, Answer to Question on Notice, Social Services Portfolio, Budget Estimates - 29 October 2020. Question No: NDIA SQ20-000357 and NDIA SQ20-000359.

Table 8.4. Annualised NDIS plan budgets for people under 65 years in permanent RAC, at 30 September 2020, by jurisdiction³⁴

	Australia	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
5 th Percentile (\$)	110,000	107,000	114,000	112,000	118,000	125,000	114,000	117,000	128,000
50 th Percentile (\$)	151,000	144,000	161,000	149,000	145,000	158,000	154,000	141,000	164,000
95 th Percentile (\$)	219,000	214,000	241,000	203,000	198,000	202,000	235,000	197,000	227,000
Mean (\$)	159,000	155,000	169,000	153,000	151,000	160,000	160,000	147,000	168,000

The utilisation rate of NDIS plans by people under 65 years in permanent RAC was 69% across Australia; this was quite similar across jurisdictions, with the exception of Western Australia where the utilisation rate was only 61%. When considering the funding categories available within NDIS plans, Core funding was the most commonly utilised, ranging from 66-77% across jurisdictions and 72% nationally. In contrast, Capacity Building funding utilisation ranged from 40-57%, while Capital funding utilisation was extremely varied and ranged from 19-73%. See Table 8.5.

Table 8.5. NDIS plan utilisation rate by people under 65 years in permanent RAC for the support period 1 January 2020 to 30 June 2020, by jurisdiction³⁵

	Australia	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
Core	72%	75%	69%	73%	66%	69%	68%	77%	75%
Capacity Building	52%	53%	52%	57%	40%	42%	47%	41%	43%
Capital	54%	55%	61%	47%	22%	73%	71%	53%	19%
Overall	69%	72%	67%	70%	61%	66%	66%	73%	71%

8.3.2 Funding for support coordination

As at 30 September 2020, 3,183 people under 65 years living in permanent RAC had support coordination funded in their NDIS plan.³⁶ Of these, 3,167 people had Level 2 support coordination funding, while 68 people had Level 3 support coordination funding.³⁷ NDIS participants with Level 3 support coordination receive funding of up to 100 hours over a 12-month plan, while Level 2 support coordination varies considerably, ranging from 1-2 hours per month up to 7-9 hours per month, depending on identified need. Young people in permanent RAC receive an average of \$2,900 worth of support coordination, which equates to approximately 25-30 hours of support.³⁸

³⁴ Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee, Answer to Question on Notice, Social Services Portfolio, Budget Estimates - 29 October 2020. Question No: NDIA SQ20-000360.

³⁵ Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee, Answer to Question on Notice, Social Services Portfolio, Budget Estimates - 29 October 2020. Question No: NDIA SQ20-000360. Utilisation is measured for the support period 1 January 2020 to 30 June 2020, based on payments submitted up to 30 September 2020.

³⁶ Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee, Answer to Question on Notice, Social Services Portfolio, Budget Estimates - 29 October 2020. Question No: NDIA SQ20-000361.

³⁷ Note that some people had both Level 2 and Level 3 support coordination funding in their NDIS plan.

³⁸ Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee, Answer to Question on Notice, Social Services Portfolio, Budget Estimates - 29 October 2020. Question No: NDIA SQ20-000361.

8.3.3 Funding for home modifications and assistive technology

While approximately three-quarters of people under 65 years in permanent RAC are active NDIS participants (see Table 8.1), only 0.8% had funding for home modifications while 63.0% had funding for assistive technology. It is noteworthy that people under 45 years were 1.4-times more likely to have funding for assistive technology than people aged 55-64 years. Funding for assistive technology and/or home modifications did not differ substantially depending on gender; however, people in non-remote areas were more likely to have funding for home modifications than those in remote or very remote areas. See Table 8.6.

Table 8.6. Demographic characteristics of young people in permanent RAC who have home modifications and/or assistive technology in their NDIS plans, as a proportion of the number of young people in permanent RAC who were active NDIS participants in that demographic, at 30 September 2020³⁹

	Number of people under 65 years in permanent RAC with an NDIS plan	Home Modifications		Assistive Technology	
		Number	% of people in that demographic	Number	% of people in that demographic
Age band					
0-44 years	113	<5	N/A	97	85.8%
45-54 years	640	<5	N/A	441	68.9%
55-64 years	2,850	22	0.8%	1,733	60.8%
<i>Total less than 65 years</i>	3,603	29	0.8%	2,271	63.0%
Gender					
Female	1,661	13	0.8%	1,065	64.1%
Male	1,925	16	0.8%	1,194	62.0%
Unidentified	18	0	0.0%	12	66.7%
Remoteness					
Non-remote	3,523	29	0.8%	2,215	62.9%
Remote and very remote	80	0	0.0%	56	70.0%

³⁹ Data obtained from Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee, Answer to Question on Notice, Social Services Portfolio, Budget Estimates - 29 October 2020. Question No: NDIA SQ20-000359. Remoteness is defined using the Modified Monash Model; 'non-remote' includes categories MM 1-5 while 'remote and very remote' includes categories MM 6-7. Note participant numbers <5 have been masked by the NDIA for confidentiality purposes. Percentage is calculated based on there being 3,603 people under 65 years in permanent RAC who have an active NDIS plan (see Table 8.2); N/A designates when it was not possible to accurately calculate the percentage values because of the masked data.

Disability profile did have an influence on whether home modifications or assistive technology was funded. People under 65 years in permanent RAC were more likely to have home modifications included in their NDIS plan if their disability profile was Other Physical (3.6%), Stroke (2.2%), or Other Neurological (0.6%). Most other disability types did not receive any funding for home modifications. In contrast, funding for assistive technology was much broader in terms of disability, with at least one-third of people in all disability profiles receiving funding for assistive technology. However, funding for assistive technology was much more common for people with the following disability profiles: Multiple Sclerosis (91.3%), Spinal Cord Injury (90.9%), Other Physical (88.7%), Cerebral Palsy (86.7%), and Stroke (81.6%). See Table 8.7.

Table 8.7. Disability profile of people under 65 years in permanent RAC who have home modifications and/or assistive technology funding in their NDIS plans, as a proportion of the total number of people under 65 years in permanent RAC who were active NDIS participants with that disability, at 30 September 2020⁴⁰

	Number of people under 65 years in permanent RAC with an NDIS plan	Home Modifications		Assistive Technology	
		Number	% of people with that disability	Number	% of people with that disability
Acquired Brain Injury	652	<5	N/A	432	66.3%
Autism	18	0	0.0%	9	50.0%
Cerebral Palsy	90	0	0.0%	78	86.7%
Down Syndrome	113	0	0.0%	71	62.8%
Intellectual Disability	456	<5	N/A	245	53.7%
Multiple Sclerosis	172	<5	N/A	157	91.3%
Other	44	0	0.0%	29	65.9%
Other Neurological	1,008	6	0.6%	572	56.7%
Other Physical	168	6	3.6%	149	88.7%
Psychosocial disability	402	0	0.0%	139	34.6%
Spinal Cord Injury	44	<5	N/A	40	90.9%
Stroke	415	9	2.2%	340	81.9%
Visual Impairment	21	0	0.0%	10	47.6%
Total	3,603	29	0.8%	2,271	63.0%

⁴⁰ Data obtained from Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee, Answer to Question on Notice, Social Services Portfolio, Budget Estimates - 29 October 2020. Question No: NDIA SQ20-000357 and NDIA SQ20-000359. Note participant numbers <5 have been masked by the NDIA for confidentiality purposes; N/A designates when it was not possible to accurately calculate the percentage values because of the masked data.

8.3.4 Funding for Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA)

As at 30 September 2020, there were 3,603 people under 65 years in permanent RAC who were active NDIS participants, however only 13.5% (487 people) had been approved for and had SDA funding included in their plans.⁴¹ None of these people have previously lived in SDA, however a total of \$5,362,811 of annualised committed supports is attributable to SDA in the NDIS plans of these people. At this stage, none of this funding has been used by residents since it is not possible for a person to be residing concurrently in both permanent RAC and SDA.

Of these 487 people with SDA funding in their NDIS plan, 72% reside within major cities, 9% within cities of population more than 50,000, 17% within cities of population less than 50,000, and 1% in remote areas.⁴² The bulk of these residents have acquired neurological disability, such that 25% have an acquired brain injury (ABI), 15% have had a stroke, 6% have multiple sclerosis, 2% have a spinal cord injury.⁴³ Another 18% have 'other neurological disability', however it cannot be determined if this was acquired or congenital. It is however known that 2% have cerebral palsy, 2% have Down syndrome and 12% have intellectual disability.

While SDA supports have been added to the NDIS plans of 487 people under 65 years living in permanent RAC, only 93 have a 'future need' recognised by an SDA panel recommendation. It is only when a 'future need' is flagged that an SDA design category is specified within their plan. Of the 93 people with this need identified, 47% require SDA with High Physical Support, 56% require SDA which is Fully Accessible, 24% require Improved Liveability, 1% require Robust SDA, and 2% with a flagged 'future need' do not have an SDA design category specified.⁴⁴

8.4 Young people in permanent RAC who have an NDIS goal of 'where I live'

As at 30 September 2020, there were 2,828 people under 65 in permanent RAC with 'where I live' as a goal in their NDIS plan, representing 78.5% of all people under 65 years in permanent RAC who were active NDIS participants. Of these, 3.2% (90 people) were aged 0-44 years, while 96.8% (2,738 people) were aged 55-64 years. Given that only 487 young people in permanent RAC have SDA funding in their NDIS plans, this suggests that only 17.2% of the 2,828 people with 'where I live' in their plans have been approved for SDA funding.⁴⁵ See Figure 8.3.

⁴¹ Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee, Answer to Question on Notice, Social Services Portfolio, Budget Estimates - 29 October 2020. Question No: NDIA SQ20-000369.

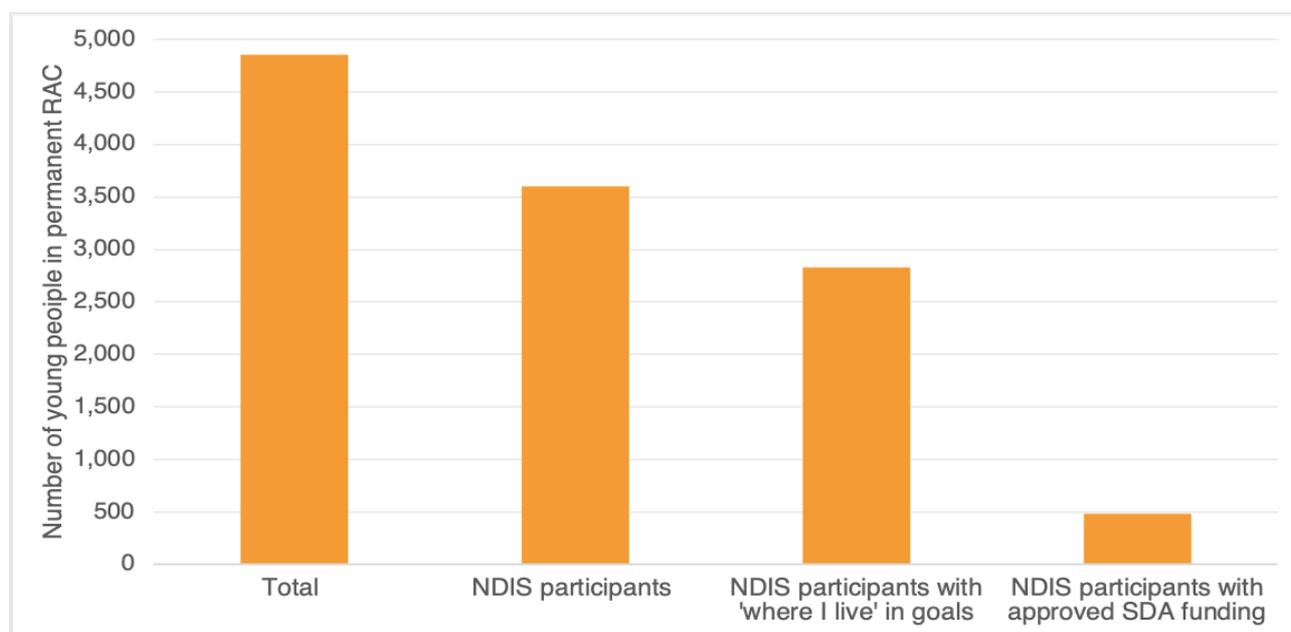
⁴² Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee, Answer to Question on Notice, Social Services Portfolio, Budget Estimates - 29 October 2020. Question No: NDIA SQ20-000369.

⁴³ Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee, Answer to Question on Notice, Social Services Portfolio, Budget Estimates - 29 October 2020. Question No: NDIA SQ20-000369.

⁴⁴ Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee, Answer to Question on Notice, Social Services Portfolio, Budget Estimates - 29 October 2020. Question No: NDIA SQ20-000369.

⁴⁵ Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee, Answer to Question on Notice, Social Services Portfolio, Budget Estimates - 29 October 2020. Question No: NDIA SQ20-000362.

Figure 8.3. Comparison of young people under 65 years in permanent RAC, based on NDIS participant status, 'where I live' as a goal in plans, and SDA funding approved⁴⁶



8.5 NDIS participants who have exited from permanent RAC

As at 30 September 2020, across Australia there were 456 people under 65 years who were active NDIS participants who were former RAC residents. Of these, 9.0% (41 people) were aged 0-44 years, 27.4% (125 people) were aged 45-54 years, and 63.6% (290 people) were aged 55-64 years. See Table 8.8. However, it does need to be considered that this does not represent all of the people under 65 years who were an NDIS participant while living in RAC and who have subsequently exited from RAC; instead, it represents only people under 65 years who are current NDIS participants. This means that there may be some people who exited from RAC while they were an NDIS participant, but have since stopped being an NDIS participant or have died. Another important point to consider is that there is no time frame for when these 456 NDIS participants under 65 years exited RAC; while some will have exited during the 2019-20 financial year, some will likely have exited in the years prior to then or in the quarter following. Of the active NDIS participants who have previously exited from RAC the most common disability group was those with an acquired brain injury, representing 31.7% (13 people) of those aged 0-44 years, 25.6% (32 people) aged 45-54 years, and 22.4% (65 people) aged 55-64 years. See Table 8.8.

⁴⁶ Data obtained from Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee, Answer to Question on Notice, Social Services Portfolio, Budget Estimates - 29 October 2020. Question No: NDIA SQ20-000362.

Table 8.8. Disability profile of the total number of active NDIS participants as at 30 September 2020 who have previously exited from permanent RAC, at 30 September 2020⁴⁷

	0-44 years		45-54 years		55-64 years	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Acquired Brain Injury	13	31.7%	32	25.6%	65	22.4%
Autism	<5	N/A	0	0.0%	<5	N/A
Cerebral Palsy	<5	N/A	5	4.0%	6	2.1%
Down Syndrome	<5	N/A	<5	N/A	<5	N/A
Intellectual Disability	<5	N/A	6	4.8%	32	11.0%
Multiple Sclerosis	0	0.0%	7	5.6%	16	5.5%
Other	0	0.0%	<5	N/A	<5	N/A
Other Neurological	8	19.5%	24	19.2%	60	20.7%
Other Physical	<5	N/A	9	7.2%	15	5.2%
Psychosocial disability	<5	N/A	13	10.4%	29	10.0%
Spinal Cord Injury	<5	N/A	<5	N/A	<5	N/A
Stroke	<5	N/A	22	17.6%	52	17.9%
Visual Impairment	0	0.0%	<5	N/A	<5	N/A
Total	41	100.0%	125	100.0%	290	100.0%

⁴⁷ Data obtained from Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee, Answer to Question on Notice, Social Services Portfolio, Budget Estimates - 29 October 2020. Question No: NDIA SQ20-000357. Note participant numbers <5 have been masked by the NDIA for confidentiality purposes; N/A designates when it was not possible to accurately calculate the percentage values because of the masked data.

9. Respite residential aged care

In addition to permanent RAC, people aged under 65 years used respite care, which is designed to provide help to people who need assistance but do not require the full and permanent level of care in permanent RAC. Respite care in residential care facilities is designed to support older people who require ongoing and continuous carer support, allowing people and their carer to have a break for a few days to a few weeks (Commonwealth of Australia, 2020).

Across Australia, 1,614 people under 65 years, including 53 people under 45 years, were admitted to respite care in the 2019-2020 financial year. They accounted for 1.9% and 0.1%, respectively, of all admissions to respite care. The number of people under 65 years admitted to respite care decreased by 26.9% (594 people) compared to the number admitted in the 2018-2019 financial year.⁴⁸ See Table 9.1 for a detailed breakdown for each jurisdiction, by age group.

For people under 65 years, compared to the proportion of Australians under 65 years per state, the proportion of respite care admissions per state was smaller than expected for Queensland, Western Australia and the ACT, but was higher than expected for New South Wales, South Australia and the Northern Territory. The pattern was a little different for the subgroup of people under 45 years, with a smaller proportion of admissions to respite care than expected for Queensland and Western Australia, but a greater proportion than expected for New South Wales and Victoria. There were no admissions for people under 45 years to respite care in South Australia, Tasmania, the ACT or the Northern Territory. See Table 9.1.

Table 9.1. Admissions of young people to respite care in 2019-2020, by jurisdiction, compared to Australian population estimates

	Australia	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
Young people under 45 years									
Number of young people under 45 years admitted to respite care	53	27	20	4	2	0	0	0	0
% of young people under 45 years admitted to respite care by jurisdiction	100.0%	50.9%	37.7%	7.5%	3.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
% of population aged under 45 years by jurisdiction ⁴⁹	100.0%	31.6%	26.6%	20.1%	10.5%	6.4%	1.9%	1.8%	1.1%
Young people under 65 years									
Number of young people under 65 years admitted to respite care	1,614	627	394	257	111	166	34	2	23
% of respite care admissions by jurisdiction	100.0%	38.8%	24.4%	15.9%	6.9%	10.3%	2.1%	0.1%	1.4%
% of population aged under 65 years by jurisdiction ⁵⁰	100.0%	31.6%	26.2%	20.2%	10.5%	6.7%	2.0%	1.7%	1.0%

⁴⁸ Data obtained from AIHW Aged Care Data Clearinghouse, Data Request R1920_3728; data is from the 2018-2019 financial year.

⁴⁹ See Table 3.3 for population estimates of people aged under 45 years by jurisdiction.

⁵⁰ See Table 3.3 for population estimates of people aged under 65 years by jurisdiction.

On average, approximately 31 young Australians entered respite care each week, with 1 of these being aged less than 45 years. Table 9.2 shows the average weekly admissions to respite care, broken down by jurisdiction.

Table 9.2. Average weekly admissions into permanent RAC in 2019-2020, by age and jurisdiction

Age	Australia	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
Less than 45 years	1.0	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Less than 65 years	31.0	12.1	7.6	4.9	2.1	3.2	0.7	0.0	0.4

For over half (56.9%) of the young people admitted to respite care in 2019-2020, it was their first admission, indicating that 43.1% (696 people) were admitted to respite care for at least the second time. There was some variation between jurisdictions with respect to the rate of first admissions to respite care, such that the ACT and the Northern Territory had a smaller proportion of first admissions (0% and 43.5%, respectively), indicating a higher rate of re-admissions to respite care. See Tables 9.3 and 9.4.

Table 9.3. First admissions of young people aged under 65 years into respite care in 2019-2020, by jurisdiction

	Australia	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
Number of first admissions to respite care	918	383	195	149	58	104	19	0	10
Total number of admissions to respite care	1,614	627	394	257	111	166	34	2	23
First admissions to respite care as % of all admissions	56.9%	61.1%	49.5%	58.0%	52.3%	62.7%	55.9%	0.0%	43.5%

Not only did the number of people under 65 years admitted to respite care decrease substantially compared to the number admitted in the 2018-2019 financial year (26.9% decrease or 594 people), the number of first admissions to respite care decreased by 21.5% (252 people).⁵¹ There was however little difference in the proportion of admissions to respite care that were first admissions, with 56.9% in 2019-2020 and 53.0% in 2018-2019.

⁵¹ Data obtained from AIHW Aged Care Data Clearinghouse, Data Request R1920_3728; data is from the 2018-2019 financial year.

Table 9.4. Change in the number of young people admitted into respite care between 2019-2020 and 2018-2019

	Total admissions	First admissions
Number of young people admitted into respite care in 2019-2020	1,614	918
Number of young people admitted into respite care in 2018-2019 ⁵²	2,208	1,170
Change in the number of young people admitted into respite care between 2019-2020 and 2018-2019	594 ↓	252 ↓
% change in the number of young people admitted into respite care between 2019-2020 and 2018-2019	26.9% ↓	21.5% ↓

⁵² Ibid.

10. Conclusion

The data included in the analysis was collected largely for administration and funding purposes by the Australian Government. While this data provides some useful insights, it should be noted that the data has limitations for informing interventions. These limitations extend to informing the design and development of more appropriate housing and support options, and the prevention of new admissions to RAC. The data was not collected to inform the Younger People in Residential Aged Care Strategy, nor can the Summer Foundation verify the quality of the data or access person-level records. Nonetheless, this data is valuable for understanding the characteristics and geographical distribution of young people in RAC in Australia. Knowledge about the current population of younger people in aged care is critical since it can inform organisations and government bodies that are working to create the systems change needed to resolve the issue of young people in aged care in Australia.

Of particular interest in the 2019-2020 aged care data was that the number of young people under the age of 65 living in permanent RAC decreased by 13.3% (746 people) compared to the previous year. While it remains to be seen if this decrease will continue, given that the number of young people in aged care did not change substantially in the previous 10-year period (Brown *et al.*, 2020), initial data reported by the NDIA suggests that it may be decreasing (National Disability Insurance Agency, 2020a). Creating a sustained decrease in the number of young people living in permanent RAC requires both reducing the number of young people being admitted into permanent RAC, while also increasing the number who exit from RAC.

Regarding admissions, 1,436 people under 65 years, including 31 people under 45 years, were admitted to permanent RAC in the 2019-2020 financial year. This equates to an average of 27 young people being admitted each week, including 1 person aged under 45 years every 2 weeks. This however includes people being transferred between RAC facilities, as well as first time admissions to permanent RAC and re-admissions. After adjusting for transfers between RAC facilities and subtracting first-time admissions to permanent RAC, it was noted that 74 young people were re-admitted to permanent RAC during the financial year.

There were 1,355 young people who exited from permanent RAC in 2019-2020. This was 81 less than the total number of admissions to permanent RAC in the same period. This means that 5.6% more young people were admitted to permanent RAC than those who left. The higher number of admissions than exits of young people from permanent RAC is of note because the total number of young people residing in permanent RAC across Australia decreased by 13.3% from 30 June 2019 to 30 June 2020.

Out of the people who did exit RAC, 56.9% (771 people) died, 4.5% (61 people) exited to hospital, and 8.2% (111 people) exited to unknown destinations. There was also a considerable shuffling of young people between RAC facilities, with 17.5% (237 people) classed as exiting to another RAC facility, which means that they were transferred to another permanent RAC facility and remained within the system. Only 12.9% (175 people) exited RAC to return to the community. Given that 74 people were re-admitted to RAC during 2019-2020, this suggests that some exits from RAC are temporary.

Beyond permanent RAC, figures on respite care were considered. In 2019-2020, 1,614 people under 65 years were admitted to respite care across Australia. They accounted for 1.9% and 0.1%, respectively, of all admissions to respite care. The number of people under 65 years admitted to respite care decreased by 26.9% (594 people) compared to the number admitted in the 2018-2019 financial year.

Of the 4,860 people aged under 65 in permanent RAC, there were 3,604 people who were active NDIS participants; however, only 13.5% (487 people) had been approved for and had SDA funding included in their plans. As at 30 September 2020, there were 2,828 people under 65 in permanent RAC with 'where I live' as a goal in their NDIS plan, representing 78.5% of all people under 65 years in permanent RAC who were active NDIS participants. Given that only 487 young people in permanent RAC have SDA funding in their NDIS plans, this suggests that only 17.2% of the 2,828 people with 'where I live' in their plans have been approved for SDA funding.

The issue of young people living in permanent RAC is thus a complex issue, evidenced by considerable movement in and out of the aged care system by young people. Focusing on preventing new admissions to RAC has the potential to make the greatest shift; however, substantial effort must also be given to enabling young people to exit from RAC with the supports they need to return to community living.

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