

Rates of under 65s living in Aussie aged care are dropping

February 9 2022

The number of Australians aged under 65 living in permanent residential aged care fell by 20 percent from almost 4,600 in September 2020 to around 3,700 in September 2021, according to a new report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). The number of Australians aged under 45 living in residential aged care fell by 24 percent, from 120 to 91 during the same time period.

The report, *Younger people in residential aged care*, shows the number of younger people in permanent residential aged care decreased in every state and territory between 2020 and 2021.

"The Australian Government has set targets to have no people under the age of 45 living in residential aged care by 2022, and under the age of 65 by 2025 (other than in exceptional circumstances), through the *Younger People in Residential Aged Care Strategy 2020–25*, released in September 2020. Today's report tracks progress against these targets over the past year," said AIHW spokesperson Louise York.

"The goal of the Strategy is to reduce the number of younger people entering residential aged care and support those already living in residential aged care to move into age-appropriate accommodation with the supports they need."

From July to September 2021, 151 people aged under 65 entered permanent residential aged care, a 30 percent decrease from the same period in 2020. The decrease in admissions has resulted in lower overall

numbers of younger people living in residential aged care.

The [number](#) of younger people living in residential aged care ranged from 10 in the ACT to 1,184 in New South Wales.

In September 2021, just over half (53 percent) of the younger people living in residential aged care were male and 10 percent were identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. The majority (59 percent) of [younger people](#) living in [residential aged care](#) were aged 60–64. Nearly 4 in 10 (39 percent) were aged 45–59, and 2 percent were aged 18–44.

Provided by Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)

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