

Department of Health

Response to Notice to Give Information No. NTG-0808

13 November 2020

- 1 This is a response to the Notice to Give Information No. NTG-0808 dated 8 October 2020 (**Notice**), which has been issued by the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety (**Royal Commission**) to the Secretary, Department of Health (**Department**).
- 2 The Notice seeks certain updates relating to younger people in residential aged care (**YPIRAC**). This response builds on the Department’s response to NTG-0760 dated 15 July 2020 [CTH.1000.0004.9242] (**NTG-760 Response**) and the Department’s response to NTG-0794 dated 2 September 2020 [CTH.1000.0006.3540] (**NTG-794 Response**).
- 3 This information is produced to the Royal Commission on the basis that it will be tendered and received in evidence by the Royal Commission pursuant to the Notice and on the basis that the information be treated as evidence pursuant to section 6DD of the *Royal Commissions Act 1902* (Cth).

Question 3

On 2 September 2020, the Department of Health provided the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety (the **Royal Commission**) with information generated from data extracted in August 2020 as set out in the below table. Provide additional quarterly data for each category up to 2020-21Q1.

Number of younger people	2019-20Q2	2019-20Q3	2019-20Q4
In residential care at the start of period	5,468	5,297	5,113
Admitted during the period	332	282	247
Discharged during the period²	313	282	291
In residential care at the end of the period	5,297	5,113	4,860

- 4 Table 1 below provides additional quarterly data for the number of YPIRAC at the start of each period, the number of younger people admitted to residential aged care during the period and the number of younger people discharged from residential aged care during the period.¹

¹ The Department notes that the data provided in this response is live recipients’ data extracted in November 2020, and future extracts of this data are subject to change.



Table 1: Quarterly data for the number of YPIRAC per quarter for the period 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020

Number of younger people	2019-20Q2	2019-20Q3	2019-20Q4	2020-21Q1
In residential care at the start of period	5,468	5,297	5,113	4,860
Admitted during the period	332	282	247	215
Discharged during the period ²	313	282	291	306
In residential care at the end of the period	5,297	5,113	4,860	4,588

Question 4

Provide the numbers of younger people in residential aged care on a monthly basis from 1 July 2020 to 30 September 2020 inclusive. Provide quarterly data if monthly data is not available.

Question 5

In relation to the people the subject of paragraph 4 above, what is the age breakdown of these younger people in residential aged care?

- 5 Table 2 below provides the number of YPIRAC on a monthly basis for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 September 2020, broken down by age.

Table 2: Monthly data for the number of YPIRAC for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 September 2020 broken down by age

Age Group	2020-07	2020-08	2020-09
0 to 24	1	1	1
25 to 34	18	18	17
35 to 44	109	106	101
45 to 54	728	714	697
55 to 64	3,911	3,847	3,772
Total	4,767	4,686	4,588

² The Department notes that the number of residents under 65 years of age at the start of the period, and remained in care during the period, but 'aged out' of the cohort by becoming 65 years of age or over at the end of the period, do not count as 'Discharges from Aged Care'. As such, they have not been included in the final numbers for this category.



Question 6

Provide the number of younger people assessed by an Aged Care Assessment Team in the 2020 calendar year to the date of this Notice.

- a. Of that figure, how many were admitted into a residential aged care facility?
- b. Of that figure, how many ACAT assessments recommending residential aged care were not approved by the delegate?

- 6 The Department confirms that 2,579 younger people had one or more completed assessments by an Aged Care Assessment Team (**ACAT**) between 1 January 2020 and 8 October 2020 (**total number of younger people assessed**):³
 - (a) 437 were admitted to Permanent Residential Care;⁴
 - (b) 248 were admitted to Residential Respite Care;⁵
 - (c) 130 were admitted to both Permanent and Residential Respite Care.
- 7 Of the total number of younger people assessed:
 - (a) 58 assessments and recommendations for Permanent Residential Care were rejected;
 - (b) 64 assessments and 66⁶ recommendations for Residential Respite Care⁷ were rejected; and
 - (c) 44 recommendations for both Permanent and Residential Respite Care were rejected.
- 8 The Department notes that recommendations are rejected by ACATs for a number of reasons, including that the client is ineligible for care and there being other service types appropriate to their care needs.

³ The Department notes that when multiple assessments are taken into account, the total number of assessments is 2,756.

⁴ The Department notes that as people may have been admitted to either, or (one after the other) both, permanent residential care and residential respite care, data is provided for admissions to each care type and for people admitted to both following an assessment between 1 January 2020 and 8 October 2020.

⁵ Residential Respite Care includes admissions to Residential Respite Low Care and Residential Respite High Care.

⁶ The Department notes that 14 of the 66 rejected recommendations for Residential Respite Care were recommendations for low-level respite care that were replaced with a recommendation for high-level respite care.

⁷ Residential Respite Care includes rejected recommendations for Residential Respite Low Care and Residential Respite High Care.

Question 7

State how many younger people living in residential aged care as at 30 September 2020 identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

- a. State how many of those are 49 years and under.
- b. State how many of those are between 50-64 years of age (inclusive).
- c. State how many of those are 65 years and over.

9 The Department confirms that as at 30 September 2020:

- (a) there were 34 people living in permanent residential aged care who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander aged 49 years and under;
- (b) there were 381 people living in permanent residential aged care who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander aged between 50-64 years of age (inclusive); and
- (c) there were 1,448 people living in permanent residential aged care who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander aged 65 years and over.

Question 8

Provide details of how the additional \$10.6 million announced in the joint media release by the Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, and the Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians and Youth and Sport dated 30 September 2020, will be spent to help achieve the Younger People Action Plan Targets.

10 On 30 September 2020, the Government announced as part of the 2020-21 Budget, an additional investment of \$10.6 million to achieve the Younger People in Residential Aged Care Action Plan (**Action Plan**) targets. The following steps have been taken by the Department to achieve the targets set out in the Action Plan:

- (a) The initiatives undertaken by the Department outlined in both the NTG-760 Response⁸ and the NTG-794 Response;⁹
- (b) Funds from the 2020-21 Budget Measure will support the establishment of a national network of YPIRAC System Coordinators to help younger people find age-appropriate accommodation and supports to allow them to live independently in the community. The Department plans to undertake a competitive process to select an organisation to undertake the YPIRAC System Coordinator Program. Once established, YPIRAC System Coordinators will work with younger people and their families to access the Commonwealth, and state and territory housing, disability and health services, and social supports they need;

⁸ Response to Questions 5 and 13.

⁹ Response to Question 8.

- (c) The Department will commission the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare to undertake further analysis and reporting on younger people in residential aged care to better understand the cohort. This work also aims to inform future action to support the YPIRAC Strategy and monitor progress against the targets; and
- (d) The Department, with support from the National Disability Insurance Agency (**NDIA**), is planning to review the urgent circumstances pathway under the Aged Care Assessment Supplementary Guidelines for Younger People which commenced in August 2019. The Department intended for a review of the urgent circumstances pathway to occur after the pathway had been operating for at least 12 months, that is, from August 2020. The terms and scope of this review are in the process of being established in consultation with the NDIA and the Department of Social Services.