



2008 Community Care Census Summary

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In 2008 the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing undertook a census to gather information about users of services that supported older people to live in the community. The census was conducted over a seven-day period between 18 February and 23 May 2008 selected by participating service providers or 'outlets'. They were asked to provide answers to questions about services delivered directly to care recipients and carers only during this selected week. (Carers Australia was a member of the project's advisory group.)

The census was designed to collect information to improve knowledge about:

- The needs of older people who are dealing with the effects of ageing and wish to continue living in the community for as long as possible
- The way service providers operate under these programs to meet the needs of service recipients.

Data was collected from 1,242 outlets providing packaged care and/or respite services, including data on 40,284 packaged care recipients, and 8,673 National Respite for Carers Program (NRCP) carers and care recipients.

Around 1,021 (82%) of outlets defined themselves as 'not for profit', 47 (4%) identified as 'for profit' and 174 (14%) as local or state government organisations. Most outlets (90%) reported that they collect a fee, contribution or co-payment for services from care recipients. Note: the census also collected data on the relationship between a recipient's pension and/or accommodation status and the need for services.

The 2008 Community Care Census built on a census of two Australian Government community care programs undertaken in 2002 by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.¹ The 2002 census described the services delivered to about 25,500 care recipients in receipt of assistance through a Community Aged Care Package and 290 care recipients in receipt of assistance through an Extended Aged Care at Home package. It provided the first comprehensive collection of information on key aspects of service delivery for these programs.

The 2008 Community Care Census provides valuable information about the needs of care recipients and their carers and the type of services they receive. The study compared the characteristics and needs of carers and care recipients receiving three types of packaged care: Community Aged Care Package (CACP), Extended Aged Care at Home (EACH) and Extended Aged Care at Home Dementia (EACHD), as well as the NRCP.

Two new programs were added to the 2008 census – EACHD and respite funded through the NRCP. Additional information was also sought on the range of care recipients' needs and how they were met through program services, including the

payment of fees, the extent of sub-contracting of services and aspects of case management and care coordination.

Where possible the figures for NSW have been used although in some cases only national data was available.

Community Care Census key statistics NSW:

- 14,058 recipients of packaged care in NSW (35% of national total), consisting of 12,468 recipients of CACP, 1,143 EACH and 447 EACHD
- 2,868 NRCP care recipients, 33% of the national total
- 65% of packaged care recipients in NSW lived in major cities, 26% inner regional
- 70% of NCRP recipients in NSW lived in major cities, 22% inner regional
- NSW had the largest proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander packaged care recipients (40%), which was 5% of total packaged care in the state
- Over one third of NRCP Indigenous care recipients resided in NSW, followed by NT.

Gender of carers: the majority of carers were female:

- 64% of carers for recipients of packaged care in NSW were female
- 2009 (70%) of carers receiving NCRP in NSW were female.

Relationship of carer to care recipient: carers receiving NCRP and/or packaged care were most likely to be spouses and children:

- For recipients of NCRP, daughters were the most common carer (30%), followed by wife/female partner (27%) and husband/male partner (13%), son (12%) and mother (8%)
- For recipients of CACP, daughters were the most common type of carer (38%), for EACH and EACHD daughters and wives/female partners were each approximately the same proportion
- Around 58% of total care recipients were reported as having a primary carer (55% CACP, 79% EACH, and 87% EACHD clients).

Living arrangements: most care recipients in both surveys were living with their family/carer, with the exception of recipients of CACP – over half of whom were living alone:

- 75% of carers receiving NCRP were living with their care recipient
- 63% of recipients of CACP were living alone, although this was much lower for EACH (32%) and EACHD (24%).

Assistance needs: packaged care and NRCP service outlets provided information about whether care recipients required the assistance or supervision of another person ('always' or 'sometimes') in relation to a range of activities related to their own personal care, and their ability to live independently in the community. EACH, EACHD and NCRP care recipients tended to require more assistance with daily activities than CACP recipients.

In many cases both primary carers and service providers were involved in assisting care recipients to perform these activities.

Length of time care recipient can be unattended: the length of time a person can look after themselves can indicate the level of need of the care recipient. EACHD

recipients had the highest proportion unable to be left alone, followed by EACH and NCRP care recipients:

- 41% of NCRP care recipients could not be left alone, while less than one fifth could be left unattended for one day or more.
- 52% of CACP recipients were reported as not requiring supervision, although the proportion of EACH and EACHD recipients was much lower (6% and 1% respectively).
- EACH and EACHD recipients tended to require higher levels of supervision than CACP, with 43% of EACH and 62% of EACHD recipients unable to be left alone.

Use of respite services (NRCP): the key circumstance that triggered the NRCP carer to contact the respite agency was also recorded for each carer who received respite services during the Census Week:

- The main trigger was 'emotional stress and strain on the carer' (43%)
- The second most common trigger was 'increasing needs of the care recipient' (22%)
- This order was common to all states and territories.

Pensions and benefits: the majority of care recipients receiving packaged care and NCRP received some form of government pension or benefit, as did over half the NCRP carers:

- Packaged care: 71% of all packaged care recipients received an Age Pension, 11% a Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Pension, 2% a Disability Support Pension:
 - 362 individuals received the Carer Allowance while 102 received the Carer Payment (nationally)
- Around 61% of NRCP carers and 88% of NRCP care recipients were in receipt of a pension or benefit:
 - Age pension: 27% of NRCP carers, 60% of care recipients
 - Disability Support Pension: 2% NRCP carers, 8% NRCP care recipients
 - Carer Allowance: 1679 carers, 65 care recipients (national)
 - Carer Payment: 1063 carers, 25 care recipients (national)
 - DVA treatment cards: 57 carers and 195 care recipients in NSW.

Work and care:

- Around 35% of carers receiving services from NCRP were reported to be in paid employment.

Financial hardship: the 2008 census utilised an Australian Government definition of 'financial hardship' with determined perimeters. In line with this definition:

- Just above a quarter of carers receiving NCRP in NSW experienced financial hardship
- 19% carers receiving packaged care in NSW experienced financial hardship.

Language and country of origin: most carers and care recipients spoke English at home and were born in Australia. Care recipients were less likely to have been born in Australia than carers for NCRP. Due to limited data it is difficult to draw other conclusions.

See table below.

Table 1 – Language and country of birth					
	Role	Spoke English at home %*	Most common other languages	Born In Australia % *	Most common other countries of birth
NRCP	Carer	84	Italian, Greek, Cantonese, Vietnamese	72	England, Italy, Greece, Vietnam
	Care recipient	79	Greek	65	Italy, England, Greece, China
Packaged care (all)	Care recipient	84	Italian, Greek	67	England, Italy, Greece, Poland

*NB national statistics

References:

¹ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2004) *Community Aged Care Census 2002*. AIHW cat. No. AGE 35. (Aged Care Statistics Series No. 17). Canberra: AIHW accessible at: http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/age/cacpc02/cacpc02_c01.pdf, and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2004) *Extended Aged Care at Home (EACH) Census: A report on the results of the census conducted in May 2002*. AIHW cat. No. AGE 33. (Aged Care Statistics Series No. 15). Canberra: AIHW accessible at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/age/eachc02/eachc02.pdf>

Further information: see the full report on the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing Website at: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ageing-communitycare-census-2008.htm>