Australian
Aged Care
Collaboration

It's time to care about aged care.

REPORT

February 2021

This report has been prepared by Australian Aged Care Collaboration.
REPORT VERSION: Final
DATE: February 2021

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Australian Aged Care Collaboration

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FOREWORD

Over the past two years, the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety has heard troubling accounts of under-resourcing, neglect, staff shortages and cases of abuse at residential aged care homes.

The Royal Commission has prompted a national discussion about how Australia cares for its older citizens and whether – despite being a wealthy nation – we are depriving older people of the care and support they deserve.

Regrettably, this isn't the first time those discussions have taken place. More than 20 reviews over 20 years have identified systemic problems that have only been responded to in a piecemeal way. The challenges will only grow because Australia's population is ageing.

As a nation, are we prepared to continue with the status quo, or will we act to ensure that the rights of older Australians are upheld? Do we stand by the principle that every Australian should have the same level of care, choice and quality of life that everyone else rightly expects?

How do we want older Australians to live and who will care for them? Shouldn't we be aiming for a world-class, sustainable aged care system that enables all older Australians, and those who care for them, to be valued and have a happy life whether that's in their own home or in a communal setting?

But the reality is that over the last two decades, public policy, regulation and resourcing have failed to keep pace with the:

- needs of our ageing population
- increasing demands placed on families and friends
- reality that better health care and longer lives has changed the community's expectations regarding what support older people should receive.

The Aged Care Royal Commission, global COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent scrutiny of aged care have further highlighted this dilemma.

Thankfully, Australia now has the greatest opportunity in a generation to provide a fair go for current and future older citizens, and create a rights-based system where services are not rationed.

Together, the Australian Aged Care Collaboration represents more than 1,000 organisations that are responsible for about 70 per cent of the services delivered to the 1.3 million Australians receiving aged care – either at home or in communal residential settings.

Our members include not-for-profit providers, primarily church and other charity organisations, but also a number of private operators.

Doing nothing to fix the aged care dilemma is not an option for Australia as a nation, and we as a community.

This report seeks to explain, in a simple way, the challenges with aged care and highlight those communities that are most at risk if our country again fails to rise to the challenge.

We identify those Members of Parliament who represent our oldest communities and recognise that they play a critical role in developing the public policy that Australia needs.

THE TIME TO FIX THE SYSTEM IS NOW.

.....

Pat Sparrow
Chief Executive Officer
Aged & Community
Services Australia (ACSA)

Kasy Chambers
Executive Director
Anglicare Australia

Nicole Hornsby
Executive Director
Baptist Care Australia

Pat Garcia
Chief Executive Officer
Catholic Health Australia

Sean Rooney
Chief Executive Officer
Leading Aged Services
Australia (LASA)

Claerwen Little
National Director
UnitingCare Australia

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

More than 4.1 million Australians, or almost 16 per cent of the population, are currently over the age of 65[1]. By 2057, that will rise to 8.8 million, or 22 per cent of the population, and by 2097 it will reach 12.8 million people, or one in four Australians.[2]

Of these 4.1 million people, about 1.3 million currently receive some form of government subsidised aged care.[3]

About 80 per cent, or 1 million people, remain in their own homes and receive a range of occasional or regular visits from nurses and other support staff.

Most of the remaining 20 per cent, or 245,000 people[4] [5], have greater needs and live in government-subsidised residential aged care communal homes with 24-hour onsite care. The Royal Commission spent much of its time focusing on this latter group.

Systemic problems

The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety's Interim Report found the current aged care system fails to meet the needs of Australia's older, vulnerable, citizens. It does not deliver uniformly safe and quality care, is unkind and uncaring towards older people and, in too many instances, it neglects them.[6]

Commissioners described the many systemic problems that older people and their families have in trying to access aged care services, dealing with service shortfalls, and the dispiriting nature of residential care. This included examples of serious substandard care and unsafe practices, an underpaid, undervalued and insufficiently trained workforce, poor access to the wider health system and isolation of young people with disabilities.[7]

The Commission also noted that Australia's "ageist mindset" was a key contributor that allowed these issues to go unaddressed for so long and it had to change.[8]

1. Australian Government Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services 2021, Part F, Section 14, 20 January 2021, accessed 22 January 2021, Table 14.A1 https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/report-on-government-services/2021/community-services/aged-care-services
2. Australian Government Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Older Australians at a Glance, 10 September 2018, accessed 12 January 2021,. https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/older-people/older-australia-at-a-glance/contents/demographics-of-older-australians/australia-s-changing-age-and-gender-profile
3. Australian Government Department of Health, 2019–20 Report on the Operation of the Aged Care Act 1997, p.11, November 2020, accessed 21 January 2021, https://www.gen-agedcaredata.gov.au/resources/reports-and-publications/2020/november/2019%E2%80%9320-report-on-the-operation-of-the-aged-care-a
4. Australian Government Department of Health, 2019–20 Report on the Operation of the Aged Care Act 1997, ibid.
5. A small number of other people access flexible services, residential respite and short-term restorative care.
6. Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, Aged Care in Australia: A Shocking Tale of Neglect, 31 October 2019, accessed 12 January 2021, https://agedcare.royalcommission.gov.au/news-and-media/royal-commission-aged-care-quality-and-safety-interim-report-released
7. Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, Aged Care in Australia: A Shocking Tale of Neglect, ibid.
8. Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, Interim Report: Neglect, Volume 1, 2019, accessed 15 January 2021, https://agedcare.royalcommission.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-02/interim-report-volume-1.pdf

Time to fix the system

Total expenditure on aged care in 2019-20 was about $26 billion. In 2019–20, the Australian Government spent $21 billion, with most of the remainder paid directly by consumers.,[9] including the:

- Productivity Commission Inquiry Report, *Caring for Older Australians,* 2011
- Australian Government Department of Health, *Legislated Review of Aged Care 2017* (the 'Tune Review'), 2017
- Australian Government Department of Health, *Review of National Aged Care Quality Regulatory Process* (the 'Carnell/Paterson Review'), 2017
- Aged Care Workforce Strategy Taskforce, *A Matter of Care* (the 'Pollaers Report'), 2018.

While all these reports presented solutions to the challenges facing the sector, successive governments have failed to provide the resources to adequately fix the problem.

Approximately 75 per cent of aged care funding is provided by the government, with the remaining amount largely provided by older Australians themselves (excluding refundable accommodation deposits).[10]

No single government is responsible for creating the conundrum, but all governments must work to fix it, with a combination of policy reform, more effective compliance and regulation, and more resources.

It should be a non-partisan issue as everyone has a right to age in comfort, with dignity, regardless of their circumstances and to choose where they live. Similarly, those who care for them should be supported, paid fairly and be well-trained.

The *It's Time to Care About Aged Care* report seeks to highlight some of these problems for those who may not have heard them before.

Spending on aged care

Total expenditure on aged care in 2019-20 was about $26 billion. In 2019–20, the Australian Government spent $21 billion, with most of the remainder paid directly by consumers.[11]

9. Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, Background Paper 8 – A History of Aged Care Reviews, 28 October 2019, accessed 14 January 2021, https://agedcare.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/background-paper-8-history-aged-care-reviews
10. Australian Government Aged Care Financing Authority, Eighth Report on the Funding and Financing of the Aged Care Industry – July 2020, accessed 11 January 2021 https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/eighth-report-on-the-funding-and-financing-of-the-aged-care-industry-july-2020
11. Australian Government Department of Health, 2019–20 Report on the Operation of the Aged Care Act 1997, Op.cit.

This is about half of what is spent by other comparable countries. Australia spends 1.2 per cent of its GDP on long-term care for older people, compared to an international average of 2.5 per cent.[12]

Australia's financing of aged care is highly skewed towards residential aged care, with 6.4 per cent of over 65s in Australia living in these communal homes, compared with an OECD average of only 3.6 per cent.[13]

On current policy projections, a further 88,000 places will be required in residential aged care over the next 10 years, at a cost of $55 billion.[14] The residential aged care system is already in crisis with 64 per cent of homes operating at a loss in 2020, compared to 56 per cent the previous year, making the entire system unsustainable.[15]

In regional and remote areas, 78 per cent of aged care homes operate at a loss.[16]

Similarly, the shortfall in home care funding means that almost 100,000 people[17] are waiting for care at their approved level – with people in need of the highest-level packages typically waiting at least 12 months.[18]

These findings may explain why the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety found that Australians strongly support increased funding of aged care to ensure universal access to high-quality care in the future.[19]

Australia's 'oldest' electorates

Part 3 of this report seeks to help the public identify which communities in Australia have the oldest populations, and hence are the most vulnerable to a continuation of the current system.

Members of Parliament who represent these communities will have the greatest opportunity to fix the system for the better.

12. Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, Review of International Systems for Long-term Care of Older People – Research Paper No. 2, January 2020, accessed 22 January 2021, https://agedcare.royalcommission.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-09/Research%20Paper%202%20-%20Review%20of%20international%20systems%20for%20long-term%20care%20of....pdf
13. OECD, Health at a Glance 2017: OECD Indicators, OECD Publishing, Paris, 2017, accessed 22 January 2021, https://doi.org/10.1787/health_glance-2017-en.
14. Australian Government Aged Care Financing Authority, Attributes for sustainable aged care: A funding and financing perspective, p.41, undated, accessed 28 January 2021, https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2019/11/acfa-report-on-attributes-for-sustainable-aged-care.pdf
15. StewartBrown, Aged Care Financial Performance Survey: Aged Care Sector Report - for financial year ended 30 June 2019, 2019, accessed 18 January 2021, https://www.stewartbrown.com.au/images/documents/StewartBrown---FY19-Aged-Care-Financial-Performance-Survey-Report.pdf
16. StewartBrown, ibid.
17. Australian Government Department of Health, Home care packages program data report: 1 July– 30 September 2020, accessed 16 January 2021, https://gen-agedcaredata.gov.au/Resources/Reports-and-publications/2020/December/Home-care-packages-program-data-report-1-July%E2%80%93-30-
18. Australian Government Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services 2021, Part F, Section 14, Op.cit. Table 14.A26
19. Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, Australians strongly support funding of high-quality aged care, 23 July 2020, accessed 21 January 2021, https://agedcare.royalcommission.gov.au/news-and-media/australians-strongly-support-funding-high-quality-aged-care

Older Australians are often clustered into specific communities, where they hold disproportionate influence to determine the election outcome in that seat. For example, Lyne on the NSW north coast is Australia's 'oldest' electorate, with 56 per cent of residents aged over 55.

Of the 30 'oldest' seats, half are marginal. In some cases, they are held by only a few hundred votes.

These seats contain 814,950 voters aged over 55, an extraordinarily concentrated voting block.

This means that aged care issues could determine the outcome in up to 15 seats at the next election, at a time when the government of the day only holds a three-seat majority.

These marginal 'older' electorates are evenly spread, with eight held by the current Government and seven held by the Opposition and cross benches, making aged care a non-partisan issue.

Surprisingly perhaps, 14 of the 15 seats are in regional areas, suggesting aged care as an issue will be won or lost in the bush.

Critical decision makers

Critical decision makers on both sides of politics represent these older communities.

For example, the current Minister for Health, Greg Hunt, holds the eighth oldest electorate, Flinders, in Melbourne, with 50.7 per cent of voters aged over 55.

Similarly, Labor's former Aged Care Minister Justine Elliott holds the sixth oldest electorate in Australia, Richmond, on the NSW north coast, with 51.4 per cent of voters aged over 55 years old.

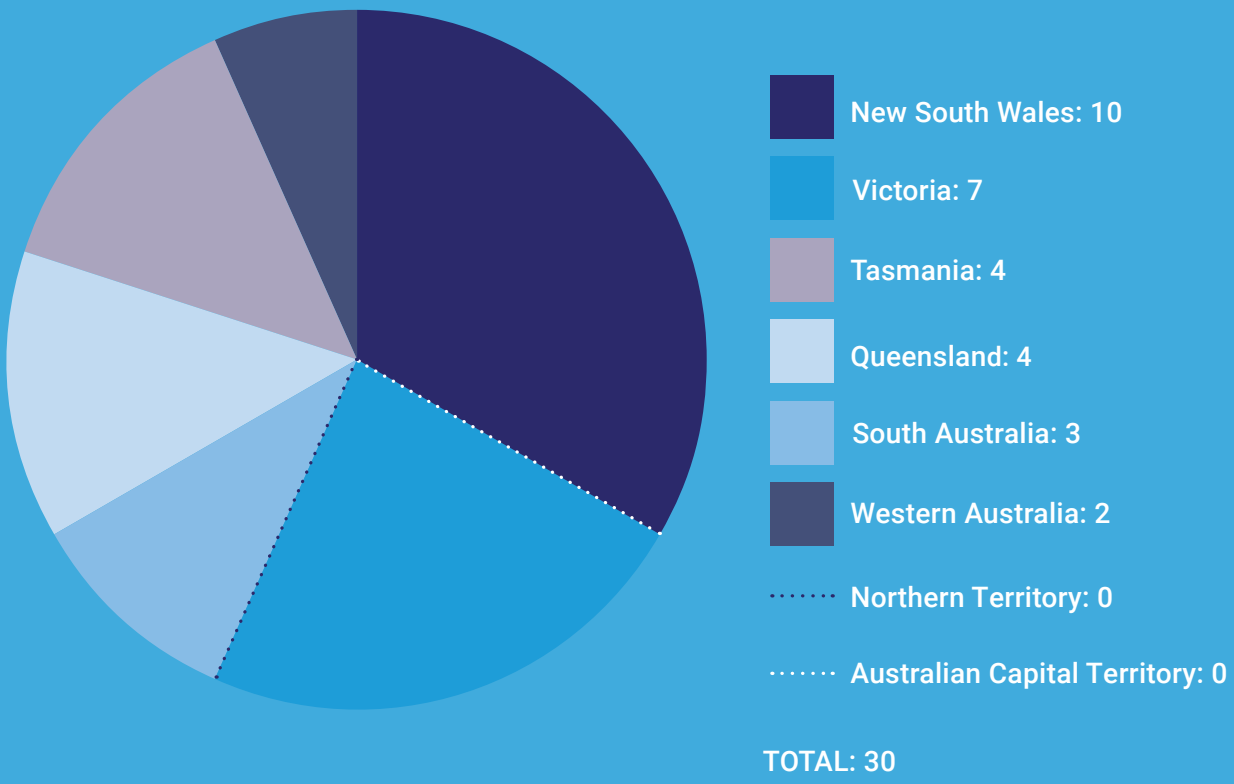
The 30 oldest electorates are: Lyne (NSW), Gilmore (NSW), Hinkler (Qld), Wide Bay (Qld), Cowper (NSW), Richmond (NSW), Page (NSW), Flinders (Vic), Mayo (SA), Barker (SA), Grey (SA), Mallee (Vic), Gippsland (Vic), Monash (Vic), Indi (Vic), Braddon (Tas), Wannon (Vic), Lyons (Tas), Farrer (NSW), Nicholls (Vic), New England (NSW), Maranoa (Qld), Robertson (NSW), O'Connor (WA), Franklin (Tas), Fisher (Qld), Canning (WA), Bass (Tas) and Eden-Monaro (NSW).

The 30 Members of Parliament who represent these seats have the greatest opportunity to represent the needs of their electorates, so that older Australians are finally given the respect, resources and support they deserve.

The Australian community looks to these elected officials to stand up for them in the national debate and to help influence positive outcomes on behalf of their constituents.

There is no doubt that a better care model is needed.

FIGURE 1: AUSTRALIA'S 30 'OLDEST' ELECTORATES



Noel, 95 years, Residential Aged Care, Neutral Bay, NSW
Geologist, filmmaker, world traveller
100 of Noel's films can be found on his YouTube channel

KEY STATISTICS

Demographics

1.3M
Australians receive some form of government-funded aged care

80%
OF AGED CARE RECIPIENTS LIVE IN THEIR OWN HOME

20 REVIEWS IN 20 YEARS

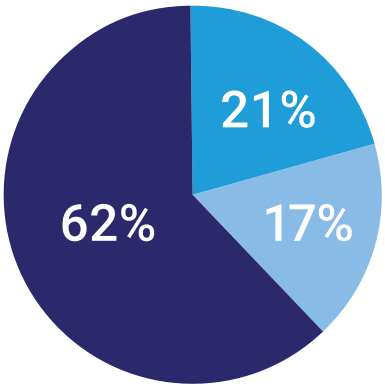
4.1 million
Australians are over the age of 65

By 2057, that will rise to
8.8 million,
or 22% of the population,
and by 2097 it will reach
12.8 million
people, or one in four Australians*1

Providers

TYPE OF RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE PROVIDER

- Not-for-profit
- Private
- Government



Electorates

814,950
VOTERS
aged over 55 live in 15 marginal seats

*1 https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/older-people/older-australia-at-a-glance/contents/demographics-of-older-australians/australia-s-changing-age-and-gender-profile

Aged care

360,000+ people work in the AGED CARE SECTOR*2

16,000 people died
waiting for a home care package just in the 12 months ending June 2018*3

63,000 AUSTRALIANS NEED A HOME CARE PACKAGE

An extra **88,000** residential aged care places are needed over the next 10 years at a cost of $55 billion

78,000 EXTRA WORKERS NEEDED IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS

Funding

Government spends more than **$20 billion** a year on aged care

Australia spends **1.2%** of its GDP on aged care, compared to an international average of 2.5%*4

*2 The Aged Care Workforce Consensus and Survey 2016, Flinders University, https://gen-agedcaredata.gov.au/Resources/Reports-and-publications/2017/March/The-aged-care-workforce,-2016
*3 RC Interim Report (pg 154)
*4 https://agedcare.royalcommission.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-09/Research%20Paper%202%20-%20Review%20of%20international%20systems%20for%20long-term%20care%20of....pdf

SECTION 1

CHALLENGES IN THE AUSTRALIAN AGED CARE SYSTEM

Australia's aged care system does not currently meet community expectations.

The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety found the current system fails to meet the needs of its older, vulnerable citizens and does not deliver uniformly safe and quality care, is at times unkind and uncaring towards older people and, in too many instances, it neglects them[20].

Commissioners Richard Tracey AM, RFD, QC and Lynelle Briggs AO described the aged care system as "a shocking tale of neglect",[21] which "diminishes Australia as a nation".[22]

20. Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, Aged Care in Australia: A Shocking Tale of Neglect, Op.cit.
21. Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, Aged Care in Australia: A Shocking Tale of Neglect, Op.cit.
22. Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, Aged Care in Australia: A Shocking Tale of Neglect, Op.cit.

KEY FINDINGS

- As a nation, Australia has drifted into an ageist mindset that undervalues older people and limits their possibilities.[23]
- Left out of sight and out of mind, aged care services are floundering. They are fragmented, unsupported and underfunded.[24]
- The aged care system is unable to accommodate the level of demand for home care services.[25]
- Waiting times of more than two years for high care Level 4 Home Care Packages are unacceptable.
- People are dying on the home care waiting list.[26]
- Additional funding is needed immediately to increase access to Home Care Packages.[27]

1.1 FUNDING AND FINANCING FOR AGED CARE

The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety held seven days of hearings on how the funding system works in Australia and overseas, and considered a range of options that have the potential to transform the way aged care is funded and delivered here.

One thing is clear. Australia's aged care system needs a secure and sustainable source of funding now and into the future.

23. Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, Interim Report: Neglect, Foreword, 31 October 2019, accessed 22 January 2021, https://agedcare.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/interim-report-foreword
24. Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, Interim Report: Neglect, Foreword, ibid.
25. Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, Aged Care in Australia: A Shocking Tale of Neglect, Op.cit.
26. Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, Aged Care in Australia: A Shocking Tale of Neglect, Op.cit.
27. Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, Aged Care in Australia: A Shocking Tale of Neglect, Op.cit.

KEY STATISTICS

- Australia needs to build an extra 88,000 residential aged care places over the next 10 years at a cost of $55 billion to meet the rising demand for residential aged care.[28]
- In 2019-20, governments spent more than $21 billion on all forms of aged care, with approximately 63 per cent of this on communal 'residential aged care'.[29]
- Residential aged care funding ($13.4 billion) is about twice that of home care and support ($6.7 billion).[30]
- Australian Government spending on aged care has been increasing as the population has aged.
- Nevertheless, 64 per cent of aged care homes operated at a loss in 2020, compared to 56 per cent the previous year, making the entire system unsustainable.[31]
- In regional and remote areas, 78 per cent of aged care homes operate at a loss.[32]
- The proportion of aged care homes planning to either upgrade or rebuild has fallen 6 per cent compared with 19 per cent in 2015-16.[33]
- Up to 100,000 Australians are either missing out on a home care package entirely, or are receiving one that is at a lower level than their assessed needs.[34]
- Aged Care providers agree that staff are underpaid but struggle to increase wages because of inadequate funding.[35]

28. Australian Government Aged Care Financing Authority, Eighth Report on the Funding and Financing of the Aged Care Industry – July 2020, Op.cit.
29. Australian Government Department of Health, 2019-20 Report on the Operation of the Aged Care Act 1997, https://www.gen-agedcaredata.gov.au/www_aihwgen/media/ROACA/20366-Health-Report-on-the-Operation-of-the-Aged-Care-Act-2019%e2%80%932020-accessible.pdf
30. Australian Government Department of Health, 2019–20 Report on the Operation of the Aged Care Act 1997, Op.cit.
31. StewartBrown, Op.cit.
32. StewartBrown, Op.cit.
33. Australian Government Aged Care Financing Authority, Eighth Report on the Funding and Financing of the Aged Care Industry – July 2020, Op.cit.
34. Australian Government Department of Health, Home care packages program data report: 1 July– 30 September 2020, Op.cit.
35. Australian Government Department of Health, A Matter of Care: Australia's Aged Care Workforce Strategy, June 2018, accessed 15 January 2021, https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/a-matter-of-care-australias-aged-care-workforce-strategy

The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety's interim report noted there were issues with affordability and sustainability of our aged care system.[36]

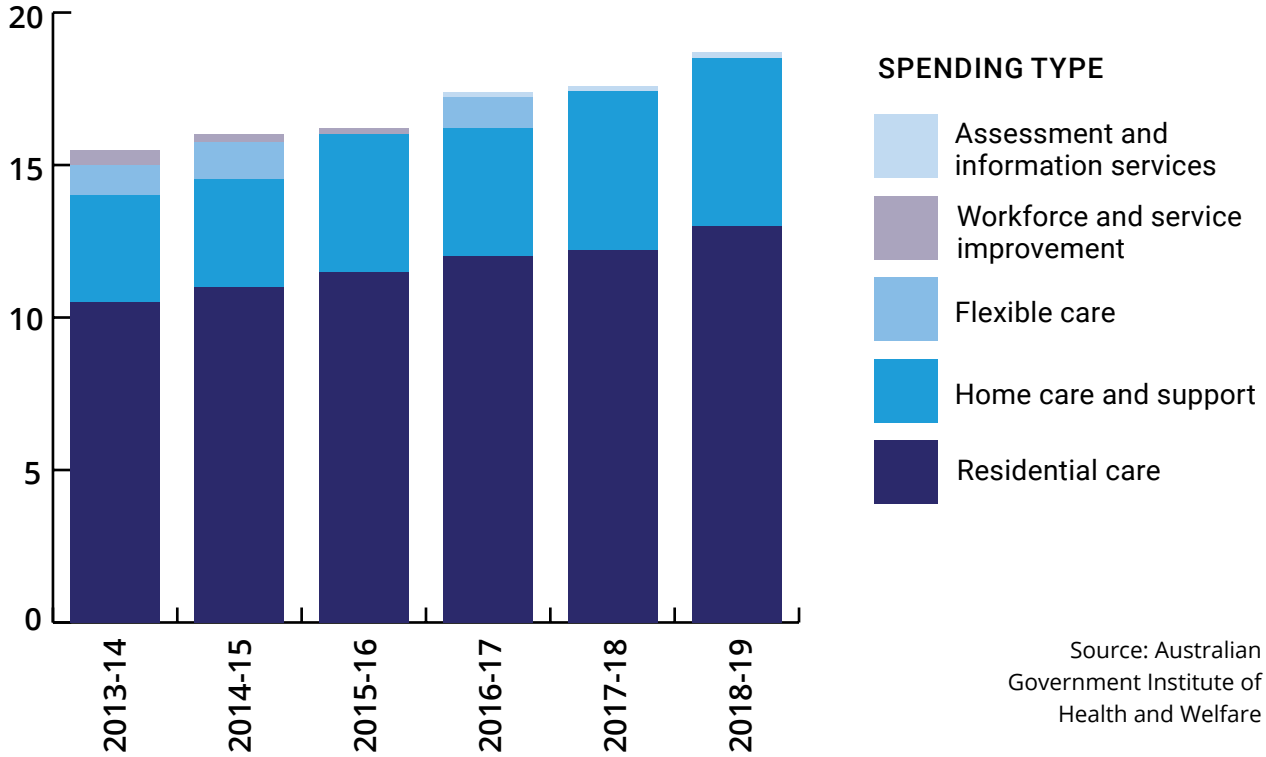
The current system is funded through a combination of:

- government spending and
- means-tested and mostly capped user contributions.

Government subsidies pay for almost 75 per cent of all costs, and user contributions represent the rest.

FIGURE 2: GOVERNMENT SPENDING ON AGED CARE SERVICES BY SPENDING TYPE, 2013-14 TO 2018-19

Spending ($ billion)



Source: Australian Government Institute of Health and Welfare

36. Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, Interim Report: Neglect, Volume 1, Op.cit.

International comparisons

Research conducted for the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety found that Australia spends far less on aged care than comparable countries.

Australia devotes 1.2 per cent of its GDP on long-term care for older people, compared to an international average of 2.5 per cent.[37]

The governments of Denmark and Sweden spend more than 4 per cent.[38]

This may explain why the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety found that Australians strongly support increased funding to ensure universal access to high-quality care in the future.[39]

37. Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, Review of International Systems for Long-term Care of Older People – Research Paper No. 2, Op.cit.
38. Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, Review of International Systems for Long-term Care of Older People – Research Paper No. 2, Op.cit.
39. Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, Australians strongly support funding of high-quality aged care, Op.cit.

Roshna, 24 years, Care Worker, Darwin, NT

Roshna is a support worker with the Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation and is adored by all her clients. She develops close bonds with the people she works with, encouraging them to become socially active, and helping them to develop their independence.

1.2 MORE THAN 20 REVIEWS IN 20 YEARS – WHY IS THE SYSTEM STILL FAILING TO MEET COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS?

The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety is one of more than 20 such inquiries into aged care since major reforms were introduced to the system through the Commonwealth Aged Care Act 1997.[40]

The Royal Commission's final report may highlight the systemic problems that have been previously reported including:

- quality of care
- appropriately skilled and qualified nursing and personal care workers
- integration of aged care with the broader health system
- navigating the aged care system
- advocacy services for older people
- coordination across different levels of government
- access to care, particularly for people with complex needs
- regulatory oversight of aged care providers
- an adequate complaints system
- transparency about finances and standards of care.

We cannot allow another report to fall on deaf ears. The Royal Commission report must receive different treatment, because the ageing population is even more in need of acute medical, nursing and social care.

40. Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, Background Paper 8 – A History of Aged Care Reviews, Op.cit.

Previous reports and inquiries include:

1990s

1. Senate Community Affairs References Committee. *Report on Funding of Aged Care Institutions,* 1997.
2. Productivity Commission, *Nursing Home Subsidies*, Inquiry Report, 1999.

2000s

3. L Gray, *Two Year Review of the Aged Care Reforms*, 2001.
4. Australian National Audit Office, P Nicoll & D Jackson, *Managing residential aged care accreditation: the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency Ltd*, 2003.
5. WP Hogan, *Review of Pricing Arrangements in Residential Aged Care*, 2004.
6. Senate Community Affairs References Committee, *Quality and Equity in Aged Care*, 2005.
7. House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health and Ageing, *Future Ageing, Inquiry into long-term strategies to address the ageing of the Australian population over the next 40 years*, 2005.
8. Campbell Research and Consulting, *Evaluation of the impact of accreditation on the delivery of quality of care and quality of life to residents in Australian Government subsidised residential aged care homes: final report,* 2007.
9. Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration, *Residential and community aged care in Australia*, 2009.
10. National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission, *A healthier future for all Australians: final report: June 2009*, 2009.
11. Australian National Audit Office & S Lack, *Protection of residential aged care accommodation bonds: Department of Health and Ageing*, 2009.

2010s

12. Productivity Commission, *Caring for older Australians: inquiry report*, 2011.
13. Australian National Audit Office, *Managing Aged Care Complaints: Department of Health and Ageing*, 2012.
14. Australian Skills Quality Authority, *Training for Aged and Community Care in Australia*, 2013.
15. House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health and Ageing, *Thinking Ahead, Report on the inquiry into dementia: early diagnosis and intervention*, 2013.
16. Senate Community Affairs References Committee, *Care and management of younger and older Australians living with dementia and behavioural and psychiatric symptoms of dementia (BPSD)*, 2014.
17. Senate Community Affairs References Committee, *Adequacy of existing residential care arrangements available for young people with severe physical, mental or intellectual disabilities in Australia*, 2015.
18. Australian Law Reform Commission, E*lder Abuse – A National Legal Response*, 2017.
19. K Carnell & R Paterson, *Review of National Aged Care Quality Regulatory Processes*, 2017.
20. Productivity Commission, Introducing Competition and Informed User Choice into Human Services: Reforms to Human Services, Inquiry Report, 2017.
21. Senate Community Affairs References Committee, *Future of Australia's aged care sector workforce*, 2017.
22. D Tune, Legislated review of aged care 2017, 2017.
23. Australian National Audit Office, *Indigenous aged care: Department of Health, Australian Aged Care Quality Agency*, 2017.
24. Aged Care Strategy Taskforce, *A matter of care, Australia's Aged Care Workforce Strategy*, 2018.

25. House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport, *Advisory report on the Aged Care Amendment (Staffing Ratio Disclosure) Bill 2018*, 2018.

26. House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport, *Report on the Inquiry into the Quality of Care in Residential Aged Care Facilities in Australia*, 2018.

27. BT Lander, Independent Commissioner Against Corruption, *Oakden: a shameful chapter in South Australia's history*, 2018.

28. Senate Economics References Committee, *Financial and tax practices of for-profit aged care providers*, 2018

29. Senate Community Affairs Committee, *Effectiveness of the Aged Care Quality Assessment and accreditation framework for protecting residents from abuse and poor practices, and ensuring proper clinical and medical care standards are maintained and practised*, Final Report, 2019.

30. Queensland Parliamentary Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee, *Inquiry into aged care, end-of-life and palliative care and voluntary assisted dying*, 2018–2019.

31. Queensland Parliamentary Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee, *Inquiry into Earle Haven Retirement Village*, 2019.

Robert, 79 years, Residential Aged Care, Hove, SA

US Navy sailor, homicide detective, accomplished musician

Bob had a #1 hit in the US with his Vietnam War protest song *America Land of the Free*.

1.3 WORKFORCE CHALLENGES

More than 360,000 people work in the aged care sector. Of these, a quarter of a million people are employed as direct care staff.[41]

Aged Care providers agree that staff are underpaid, but struggle to increase wages because of inadequate funding.[42]

Government funding shortfalls have seen employment costs increase as a proportion of total expenses, which has contributed to a large number of providers reporting annual financial losses.

The availability of appropriately trained staff in aged care is also a major issue.

With one in two people in residential aged care living with dementia, specialist carers have never been in higher demand. Likewise, the coronavirus pandemic has led to increased demands on infection-control, at a time when residential aged care has not been funded to provide hospital-grade infection prevention and control.

With 32 per cent of our aged care workforce born overseas, continued migration during and after the COVID-19 pandemic is crucial.[43]

Given projected growth in the aged care workforce, high quality education and innovative evidence-based training are essential to maintain quality and culturally responsive care and address social isolation and loneliness.

The future

To meet the projected needs of older Australians, the aged care workforce will need to triple by 2050.[44]

Currently 366,027 people work in the aged care sector, half of whom will be in retirement age within 15 years.[45]

However, as this report shows, increases in workload and stress are causing many aged care workers to leave the industry. This presents a major risk that could impact hundreds of thousands of older Australians.

41. The Aged Care Workforce Census and Survey National Institute of Labour Studies, Flinders University 2016, https://gen-agedcaredata.gov.au/Resources/Reports-and-publications/2017/March/The-aged-care-workforce,-2016
42. Australian Government Department of Health, A Matter of Care: Australia's Aged Care Workforce Strategy, Op.cit.
43. The Aged Care Workforce Census and Survey National Institute of Labour Studies, Flinders University 2016, https://gen-agedcaredata.gov.au/Resources/Reports-and-publications/2017/March/The-aged-care-workforce,-2016
44. Royal Commission in Aged Care Quality and Safety, Background Paper 1 – Navigating the maze: An overview of Australia's current aged care system, 25 February 2019, accessed 21 January 2021, https://agedcare.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/background-paper-1-navigating-maze-overview-australias-current-aged-care-system
45. The Aged Care Workforce Census and Survey National Institute of Labour Studies, Flinders University 2016, https://gen-agedcaredata.gov.au/Resources/Reports-and-publications/2017/March/The-aged-care-workforce,-2016

1.4 COVID-19

COVID-19 has had a devastating effect on the aged care sector, with the virus responsible for hundreds of deaths across Australia.

In its special report on COVID-19, the Aged Care Royal Commissioners, the Honourable Tony Pagone QC and Lynelle Briggs AO, called the COVID-19 pandemic "the greatest challenge Australia's aged care sector has faced," with residents, their families and staff suffering the most.[46]

At the height of the pandemic in Australia, Aged Care Emergency Response Operations Centres were created in each state to manage the public health response in aged care.

In Victoria, many COVID-19 positive aged care residents were denied access to hospital, and were confined to their communal care homes for treatment, which in turn created a risk for other vulnerable but otherwise healthy elderly residents.

Intensive care beds in our public hospitals were presumably reserved for younger patients.

It should be recognised that residential aged care homes are not hospitals and are not designed to be. They do not have full-time access to doctors, nor specialists, intensive care units and operating theatres, and are not funded by the government to do so.

They are homes.

They are staffed by a combination of dedicated registered nurses, enrolled nurses and care workers, with medical practitioners providing consultations on a routine and as-needed basis. Alternatively, residents are transferred to hospital, if accepted, for care when needed.

46. Royal Commission in Aged Care Quality and Safety, COVID-19 report identifies immediate areas for action, 1 October 2020, accessed 12 January 2021, https://agedcare.royalcommission.gov.au/news-and-media/covid-19-report-identifies-immediate-areas-action

SECTION 2

TYPES OF AGED CARE IN AUSTRALIA

Broadly speaking, Australians can access government-subsidised aged care services under three different programs:

1. Own home – support for people living independently with low care needs (Commonwealth Home Support Program – CHSP).
2. Own home – support for people living independently with greater care needs (Home Care Package Program).
3. Communal care homes – where residents generally have greater nursing and personal care needs 24 hours per day, either on a permanent basis or as short-term respite stays (Residential Aged Care Homes).

Of the 4.1 million Australians currently over the age of 65,[47] more than 1.3 million receive some form of government-funded aged care, either in their own homes, or in a communal setting where they receive higher-level care.[48]

The funding and regulation of aged care services is predominantly the responsibility of the Australian Government.

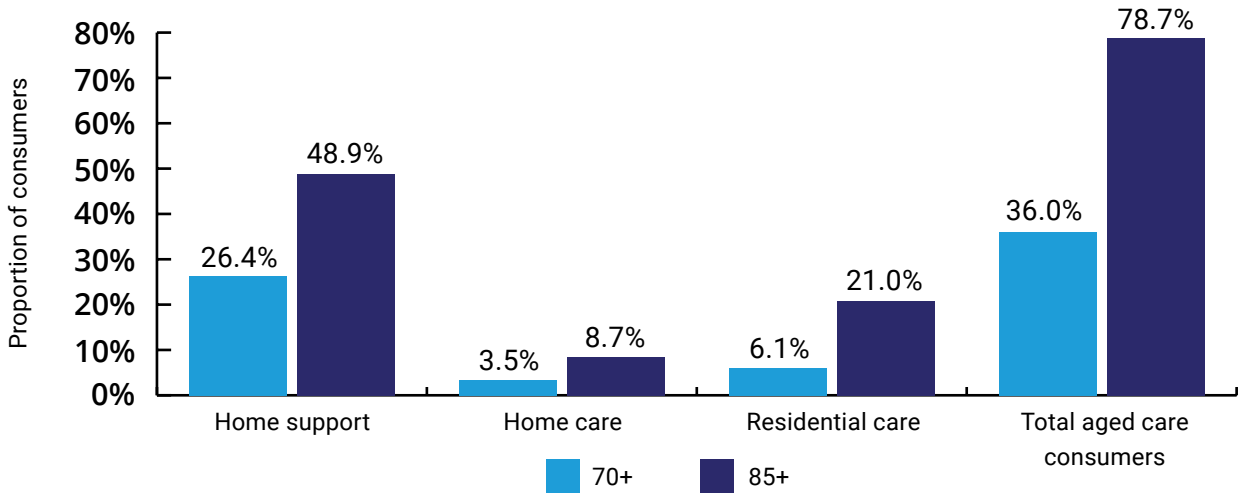
47. Australian Government Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services 2021, Part F, Section 14, Op.cit. Table 14.A1
48. Australian Government Department of Health, 2017–18 Report on the Operation of the Aged Care Act 1997, p vii., November 2018 (last updated: 29 March 2019), accessed 16 January 2021, https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/2017-18-report-on-the-operation-of-the-aged-care-act-1997-roaca

TABLE 1: NUMBER OF AUSTRALIANS WHO ACCESSED GOVERNMENT-SUBSIDISED AGED CARE SERVICES

Major types of aged care support[49]	Number of people receiving some government-subsidised care (2019-20)[50]	% of people receiving government-subsidised aged care	No of providers (2018-19)[51]
1. Own home - support for people living independently with low care needs (CHSP)	839,373	64%	1,450
2.Own home - support for people living independently with greater care needs (Home Care Packages)	173,743	13%	920
3. Communal - residential aged care	244,363	19%	845
TOTAL	1,257,479	100%	3,215

Note: a number of providers operate across more than one type of service.

FIGURE 3: PROPORTION OF OLDER AUSTRALIANS WHO RECEIVE AGED CARE SERVICES[52]



49. This table excludes programs such as flexible care, residential respite and short-term restorative care.
50. Australian Government Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Aged care data snapshot, October 2020, accessed 21 January 2021, https://gen-agedcaredata.gov.au/Resources/Access-data/2020/October/Aged-care-data-snapshot%E2%80%942020
51. Australian Government Aged Care Financing Authority, Eighth Report on the Funding and Financing of the Aged Care Industry – July 2020, Op.cit.
52. Australian Government Aged Care Financing Authority, Eighth Report on the Funding and Financing of the Aged Care Industry – July 2020, Op.cit.

Keyur, 37 years, Nurse Practitioner, Brompton, SA

Keyur's passion for helping older Australians led him to continue his studies beyond his nursing qualifications.

Keyur now also holds a BA in physiotheraphy and a Diploma of Yoga Therapy, and has additional expertise in wound care, pain management, behavioural management, antibiotics stewardship, falls management and clinical leadership.

2.1 WHO PROVIDES AGED CARE SERVICES?

Aged care providers are diverse, ranging in size from home care providers to single home operators to those with a national footprint.

They include not-for-profit, privately owned, and a smaller number of State and Local Government-owned homes.

Charitable and religious not-for-profit organisations operate the largest number of homes.

All are subject to the same national Aged Care Quality Standards, which were introduced on 1 July 2019.

In theory, Australians can choose between three types of providers to service their aged care needs. However, in practice it may come down to personal financial means, availability of services and location.

TABLE 2: TYPES OF AGED CARE PROVIDERS 2018-19[53]

Type of provider	CHSP (low care)	%	Home Care Packages (higher care)	%	Residential aged care	%
Government	350	24%	114	12%	97	11%
Private	102	7%	335	36%	288	33%
Not-for-profit	1,006	69%	479	52%	488	56%
TOTAL	1,458	100%	928	100%	873	100%

53. All data is at 30 June 2019. Australian Government Aged Care Financing Authority, Eighth Report on the Funding and Financing of the Aged Care Industry – July 2020, Op.cit.

2.2 HOME CARE AND SUPPORT – FOR PEOPLE LIVING IN THEIR OWN HOME.

The Australian Government funds home care and support services to 1 million Australians through two programs:

1. Support for those with low care needs (Commonwealth Home Support Program CHSP). - 850,000 people
2. Support for those with greater care needs. (Home Care Package Program) - 150,000.

They range from Level 1 (lowest needs) up to Level 4 (highest needs).

However, up to 100,000 Australians are either missing out on a Home Care Package entirely (63,000), or are receiving one that is at a lower level than their assessed needs (37,000).[54]

Department of Health figures show almost 16,000 people died waiting for a home care package just in the 12 months ending June 2018.[55]

In 2016-17 the Australian Government funded 71,400 home care packages and by September 2020 it had raised that figure to 163,000.[56]

In December 2020 the Federal Government announced a top-up of 10,000 packages costing $850.8 million over four years.[58]

This represents an additional 83,000 packages since the 2018-19 Budget, at a cost of $5.5 billion.[58] These packages are often at the lower levels of care, meaning those with high care needs continue to be forced into residential aged care.

Given long waiting periods for packages, some people are being effectively forced to choose a lesser level of care while they wait for the level they need or are forced into residential aged care.

The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, in its 2019 interim report, urged the government to immediately address this significant shortage of home-care packages, calling it a "cruel and discriminatory system".[59]

54. Australian Government Department of Health, Home care packages program data report: 1 July– 30 September 2020, Op.cit.
55. Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, Interim Report: Neglect, Volume 1, Op.cit. p.154
56. Australian Government Department of Health, Home care packages program data report: 1 July– 30 September 2020, Op.cit.
57. Joint Media Release Morrison, Hunt and Colbeck, 16 December 2020, https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/record-investment-in-home-care-packages-continues
58. Australian Government Department of Health, Home care packages program data report: 1 July– 30 September 2020, Op.cit.
59. Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, Interim Report: Neglect, Volume 1, Op.cit.

WHAT'S IN A HOME CARE PACKAGE?

Services that may be purchased using a home care package include:

PERSONAL SERVICES.

Examples include help with showering or bathing, dressing and mobility.

CARE MANAGEMENT.

Identifying support needs and coordinating care and services that will help people achieve the goals identified in their care plan.

SUPPORT SERVICES.

Examples include help with washing and ironing, house cleaning, gardening, basic home maintenance, home modifications related to care needs, transport to help with shopping, doctor visits or attending social activities.

CARE RELATED SERVICE.

Examples include nursing and other health support including physiotherapy (exercise, mobility, strength and balance), services of a dietitian (nutrition assessment, food and nutrition advice, dietary changes) and hearing and vision services.

Wait list

Almost 63,000 people are waiting for any type of home care package. An additional 36,000 have been offered an inadequate package for their needs.

TABLE 3: DISTRIBUTION OF THE 62,395 PEOPLE, BY STATE OR TERRITORY, OF THOSE WHO ARE WAITING FOR ANY TYPE OF HOME CARE PACKAGE

State/territory	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Total	Share
NSW	1,820	8,611	6,159	1,322	17,912	28.7%
VIC	813	8,314	7,062	2,299	18,488	29.6%
QLD	494	4,281	3,675	739	9,189	14.7%
WA	75	2,064	2,929	1,489	6,557	10.5%
SA	176	2,629	3,755	882	7,442	11.9%
TAS	44	669	791	271	1,775	2.8%
ACT	13	265	262	106	646	1.0%
NT	-	126	136	64	326	0.5%
Unknown	2	26	21	11	60	0.1%
TOTAL	3,437	26,985	24,790	7,183	62,395	100.0%
Share	5.5%	43.2%	39.7%	11.5%	100.0%	

Note: A person with an approval at multiple levels is only counted once at their highest active approved level.
Source: Home Care Packages Data Report, September 2020

Wait times

As at 30 November 2020, the average wait time for a home care package was more than 12 months.

TABLE 4 : ESTIMATED WAIT TIME FOR PEOPLE ENTERING THE NPS ON 30 NOVEMBER 2020, BY HCP LEVEL

Package level	First package assignment	Time to first package	Time to approved package
Level 1	Level 1	3-6 months	3-6 months
Level 2	Level 1	3-6 months	12+ months
Level 3	Level 1	3-6 months	12+ months
Level 4	Level 2	12+ months	12+ months

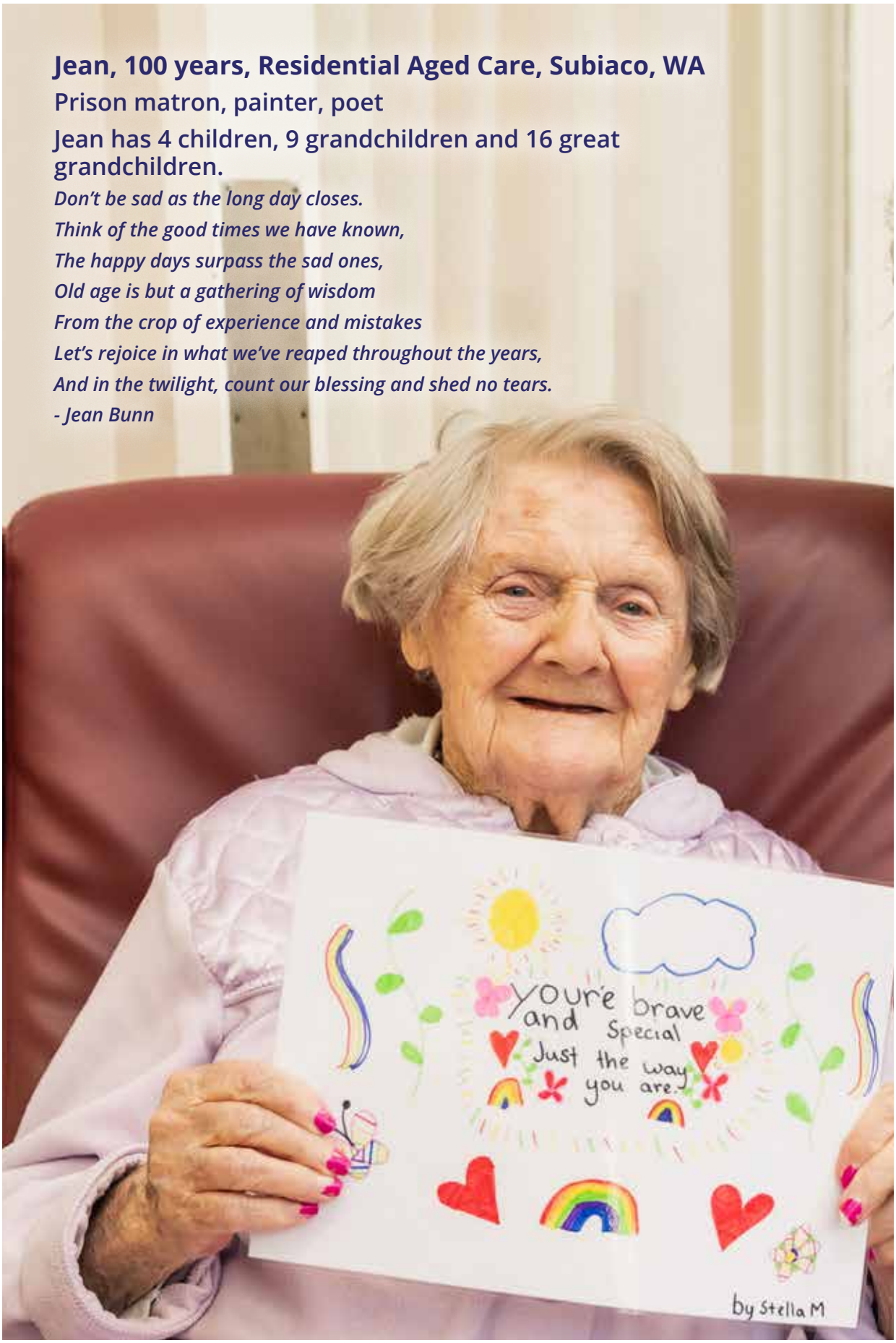
Source: Home Care Packages Data Report, September 2020

Jean, 100 years, Residential Aged Care, Subiaco, WA

Prison matron, painter, poet

Jean has 4 children, 9 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

Don't be sad as the long day closes.
Think of the good times we have known,
The happy days surpass the sad ones,
Old age is but a gathering of wisdom
From the crop of experience and mistakes
Let's rejoice in what we've reaped throughout the years,
And in the twilight, count our blessing and shed no tears.
- Jean Bunn



2.3 RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE SERVICES – FOR PEOPLE LIVING IN COMMUNAL HOMES

Residential aged care facilities are communal homes where residents generally have greater clinical needs and require 24-hour per day support, either on a permanent basis or as short-term respite.

All homes are designed differently. However, individuals will either share a room or have one of their own, with communal dining facilities; and in newer homes may have shared facilities such as cafes, libraries and dedicated rooms for social programs.

Australians entering residential aged care are asked to contribute to the cost of:

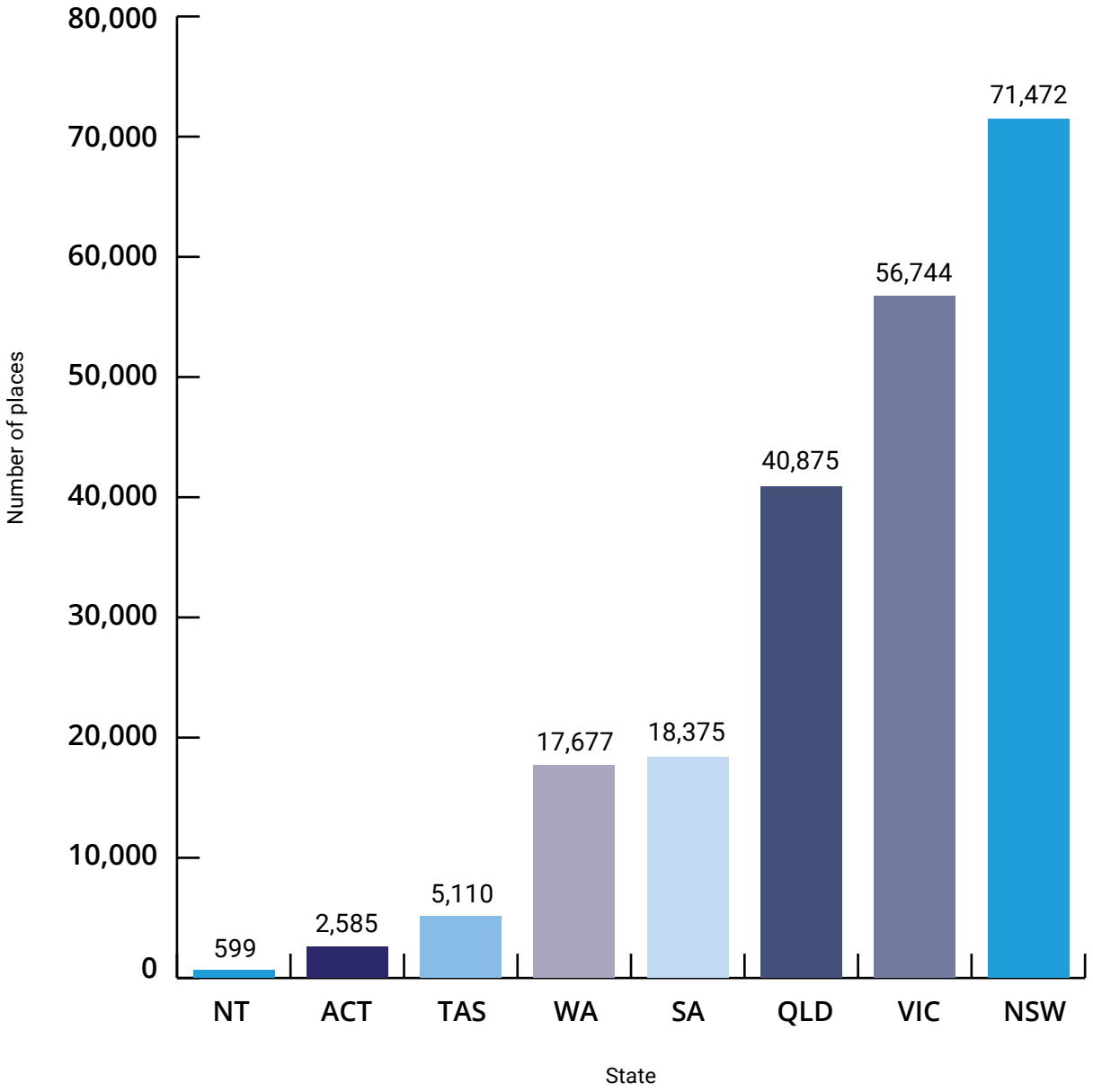
- daily living expenses such as cleaning, laundry, meals and social participation
- personal care such as help with dressing, eating, showering or bathing; nursing, physiotherapy, dietetics and dental hygiene
- accommodation.[60]

Means testing of services is intended to ensure equity of access.

In 2018-19, 873 organisations provided residential aged care services to 242,000 Australians[61] located across the country, with 79 per cent of recipients located in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland.[62]

60. Australian Government, Aged Care Financing Authority, Seventh Report on the Funding and Financing of the Aged Care Industry – July 2019, p.22, accessed 21 January 2021, https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/seventh-report-on-the-funding-and-financing-of-the-aged-care-industry-july-2019
61. Australian Government Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Services and places in aged care, 30 June 2019, accessed 13 January 2021, https://gen-agedcaredata.gov.au/Topics/Services-and-places-in-aged-care
62. Australian Government Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Services and places in aged care, ibid.

FIGURE 4: RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE PLACES BY STATE AND TERRITORY, 30 JUNE 2019

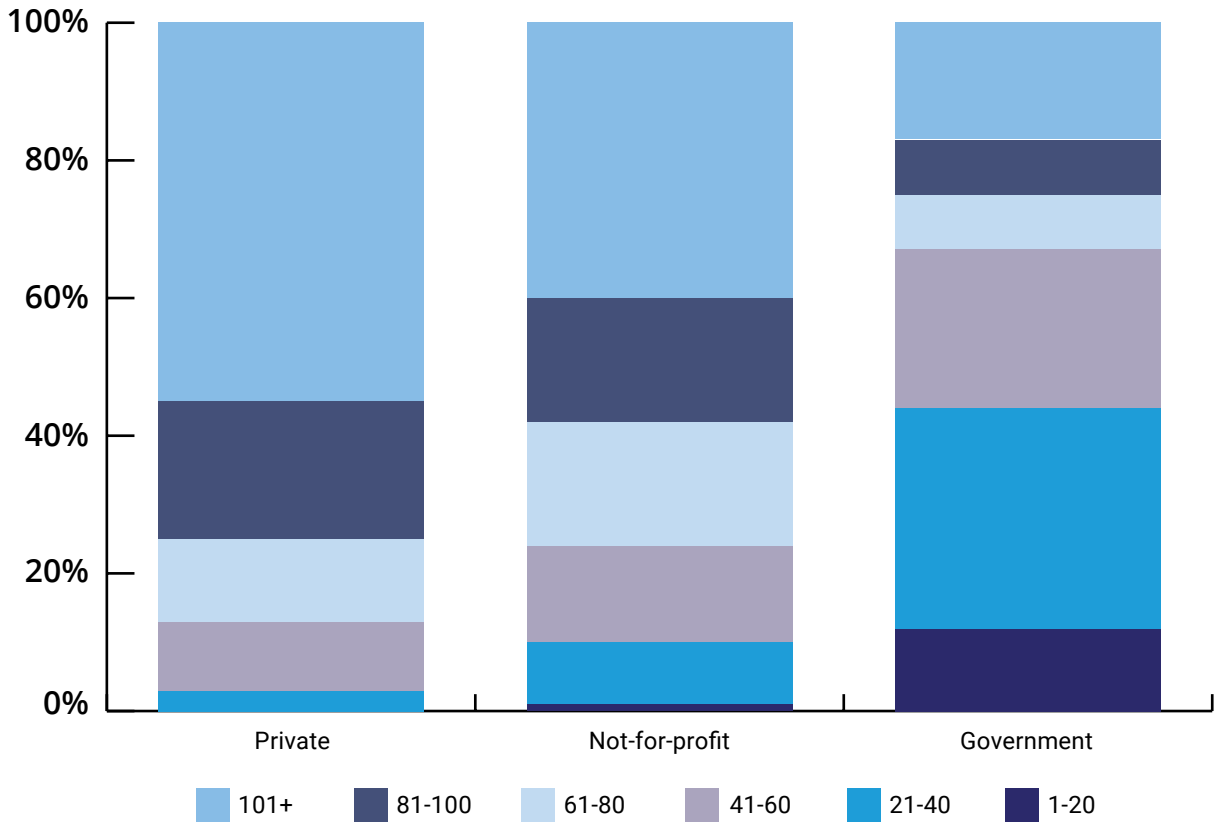


2.3.1 THE MAJORITY OF RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE PROVIDERS ARE SMALL, NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS

Not-for-profit organisations manage over half (57 per cent) of residential aged care homes, followed by private (34 per cent) and government organisations (9 per cent).[63] Not-for-profit providers and State and Local Government provide most of the residential aged care services in outer metropolitan and rural and regional areas.

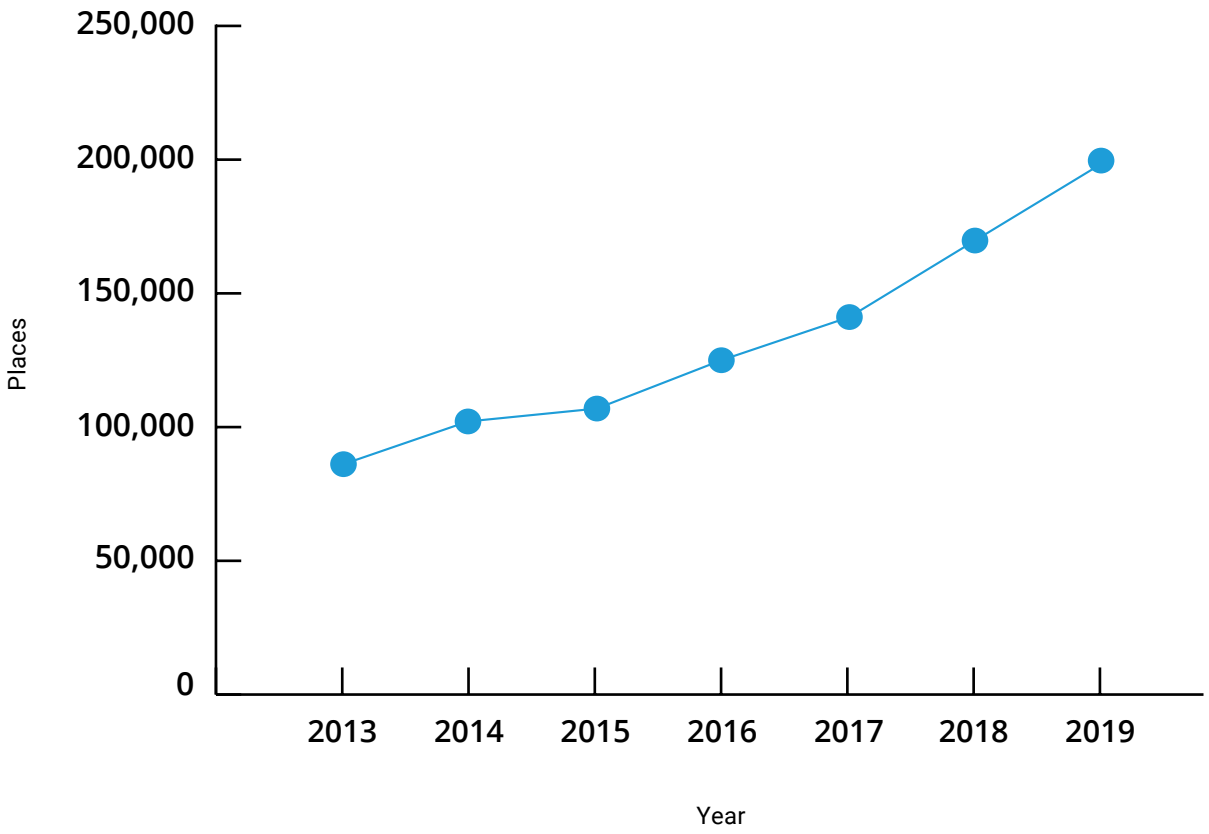
However, much of the growth in overall residential aged care supply in recent years has been provided by private providers.[64]

FIGURE 5: PLACES IN RESIDENTIAL CARE BY SIZE OF SERVICE AND ORGANISATION TYPE (ALL), 30 JUNE 2019



63. Australian Government Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Services and places in aged care: Factsheet 2018-19, 2019, accessed 18 January 2021, https://gen-agedcaredata.gov.au/www_aihwgen/media/Factsheets-for-2019%e2%80%932020-GEN-update/Services-and-places-Factsheet.pdf?ext=.pdf
64. Australian Government Aged Care Financing Authority, Eighth Report on the Funding and Financing of the Aged Care Industry – July 2020, Op.cit. p.80.

FIGURE 6: AS AUSTRALIA'S POPULATION HAS AGED, THE NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE BEDS HAS INCREASED[65]



This reflects government policy that allocates the number of beds to a ratio based on the number of people aged 70 and over.

65. Australian Government Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Services and places in aged care: 2018-19, revised 8 July 2020, accessed 18 January 2021, https://gen-agedcaredata.gov.au/www_aihwgen/media/Infographics-for-2019%e2%80%932020-GEN-update/Services-and-places-Infographic_revised.pdf

SECTION 3

WHO CAN FIX AUSTRALIA'S AGED CARE SYSTEM?

Aged care is a compelling and pressing concern in a range of communities across Australia with concentrated clusters of older residents.

But where are these communities, and who can fix our seemingly broken aged care system?

The Australian Aged Care Collaboration has ranked each of the 151 Federal Parliamentary electorates by age from 'oldest' to 'youngest', according to the proportion of older residents living within them.

Our 30 'oldest' electorates typically have a majority of voters aged over 55, making the quality of aged care a relevant and compelling concern within those communities.

Their Members of Parliament have the opportunity to truly achieve something great – and avoid the mistakes of past governments – by creating a sustainable and equitable aged care system that will stand the test of time.

More than 814,000 voters over the age of 55 live in Australia's 15 'oldest' marginal electorates.

Lyne on the NSW north coast is Australia's 'oldest' electorate, with 56 per cent of voters aged over 55.

Of these 30 'older' electorates, 15 are marginal. In some cases, they are held by only a few hundred votes.

This means that aged care issues could determine the winner in up to 15 seats at the next election.

These marginal 'older' electorates are evenly spread, with eight held by the current Government and seven held by the Opposition and cross benches.

TABLE 5: MARGINAL SEATS IN 'OLDER' ELECTORATES

PARTY	NUMBER OF MARGINAL SEATS IN AUSTRALIA'S 30 OLDEST ELECTORATES
Liberal Party of Australia	6
Australian Labor Party	5
National Party of Australia	2
Independent/minor party	2
TOTAL	15

Extraordinarily, 14 of the 15 are in regional areas, suggesting aged care as an issue will be won or lost in the bush.

Phil, 49 years, Hospitality Services Manager, Malaga, WA

Phil's passion for food started almost 30 years ago. Today, he runs a project called 'Reimagining the meal experience', which aims to reinvent how food is prepared and served to older people in a way that meets their individual needs. "We want to give our clients more choice and make the meal experience more social."

3.1 CRITICAL DECISION MAKERS

Critical decision makers on both sides of politics are affected.

Labor's former Minister for Ageing, Justine Elliott, holds the sixth oldest electorate in Australia, Richmond on the NSW north coast, with 51.4 per cent of voters aged over 55 years old.

Similarly, the current Minister for Health and Aged Care, Greg Hunt, holds the eighth oldest electorate, Flinders in inner city Melbourne, with 50.7 per cent of voters aged over 55.

Fifteen Members of Parliament have the greatest opportunity to represent the needs of their electorates, so that older Australians are finally given the respect, resources and support they deserve.

3.2 EVERYONE CAN PLAY A PART

Time after time these opportunities have been lost in the past. As noted already in this report, the aged care sector has undergone at least 20 reviews and inquiries over 20 years.

While all these reviews presented solutions to the challenges facing the sector, successive governments failed to provide the resources to adequately protect those who have spent their lives contributing to the society we all live in.

No single government is responsible for creating the problem, but all governments must work to fix it, with a combination of greater compliance and regulation, clearer guidelines and more resources.

It should be a bipartisan issue as everyone has a right to age in comfort, with dignity, regardless of their circumstances and where they live. Similarly, those who care for them should be supported, paid fairly and be well trained.

As we approach the next Federal Budget, and the subsequent election, Parliamentarians from all sides of politics have an opportunity to provide the necessary leadership to finally ensure older Australians are given the fair go they deserve.

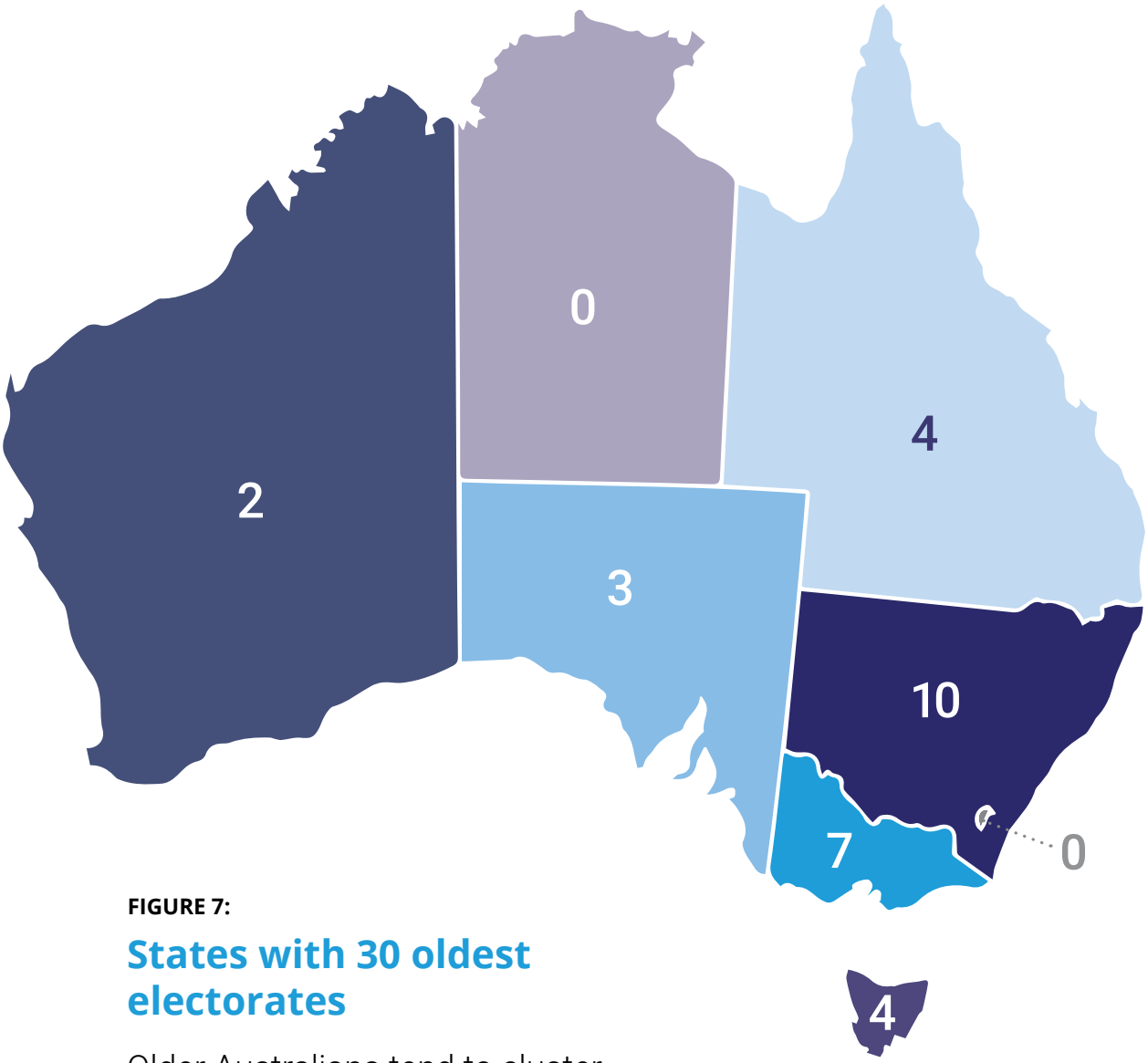


FIGURE 7:

States with 30 oldest electorates

Older Australians tend to cluster in particular communities. Of the five 'oldest' electorates in both NSW and South Australia, four are marginal. Similarly, three of Victoria and Tasmania's 'oldest' five seats respectively are marginal.

3.3 AUSTRALIA'S 30 'OLDEST' ELECTORATES

TABLE 6: AUSTRALIA'S 30 'OLDEST' ELECTORATES

Rank of oldest	Electorate	Voters aged 55+	Total voters	% over age 55	Party	MP	Margin	Safe or Marginal	State
1	Lyne	67,807	119,739	56.6%	National	David Gillespie	7.6%	SAFE	NSW - REGIONAL
2	Gilmore	67,487	124,104	54.4%	Labor	Fiona Phillips	1.3%	MARGINAL	NSW - REGIONAL
3	Hinkler	60,182	111,223	54.1%	Lib/National	Keith Pitt	7.3%	SAFE	QLD - REGIONAL
4	Wide Bay	59,186	111,115	53.3%	Lib/National	Llew O'Brien	6.6%	SAFE	QLD - REGIONAL
5	Cowper	65,019	125,827	51.7%	National	Pat Conaghan	3.4%	MARGINAL	NSW - REGIONAL
6	Richmond	60,099	116,862	51.4%	Labor	Justine Elliot	2.0%	MARGINAL	NSW - REGIONAL
7	Page	61,371	119,791	51.2%	National	Kevin Hogan	4.7%	MARGINAL	NSW - REGIONAL
8	Flinders	57,240	112,895	50.7%	Liberal	Greg Hunt	2.8%	MARGINAL	VIC - METRO
9	Mayo	61,987	123,841	50.1%	Centre Alliance	Rebekha Sharkie	2.6%	MARGINAL	SA - REGIONAL
10	Barker	59,069	118,877	49.7%	Liberal	Tony Pasin	9.5%	SAFE	SA - REGIONAL
11	Grey	59,905	120,566	49.7%	Liberal	Rowan Ramsey	2.2%	MARGINAL	SA - REGIONAL
12	Mallee	56,331	114,049	49.4%	National	Anne Webster	8.1%	SAFE	VIC - REGIONAL
13	Gippsland	55,359	112,457	49.2%	National	Darren Chester	8.3%	SAFE	VIC - REGIONAL
14	Monash	56,963	116,933	48.7%	Liberal	Russell Broadbent	3.7%	MARGINAL	VIC - REGIONAL
15	Indi	55,623	114,247	48.7%	Independent	Helen Haines	0.7%	MARGINAL	VIC - REGIONAL
16	Braddon	38,707	80,472	48.1%	Liberal	Gavin Pearce	1.5%	MARGINAL	TAS - REGIONAL
17	Wannon	55,510	115,890	47.9%	Liberal	Dan Tehan	5.2%	SAFE	VIC - REGIONAL
18	Lyons	39,229	82,101	47.8%	Labor	Brian Mitchell	2.6%	MARGINAL	TAS - REGIONAL
19	Farrer	55,146	115,785	47.6%	Liberal	Sussan Ley	5.5%	SAFE	NSW - REGIONAL
20	Nicholls	52,851	112,532	47.0%	National	Damian Drum	10.2%	SAFE	VIC - METRO
21	New England	51,891	110,876	46.8%	National	Barnaby Joyce	7.2%	SAFE	NSW - REGIONAL
22	Maranoa	49,529	106,260	46.6%	Lib/National	David Littleproud	11.2%	SAFE	QLD - REGIONAL
23	Robertson	52,038	111,827	46.5%	Liberal	Lucy Wicks	2.1%	MARGINAL	NSW - REGIONAL
24	O'Connor	47,152	102,346	46.1%	Liberal	Rick Wilson	7.2%	SAFE	WA - REGIONAL
25	Franklin	35,582	77,298	46.0%	Labor	Julie Collins	6.1%	SAFE	TAS - METRO
26	Fisher	54,161	118,296	45.8%	Lib/National	Andrew Wallace	6.4%	SAFE	QLD - METRO
27	Canning	50,840	111,074	45.8%	Liberal	Andrew Hastie	5.8%	SAFE	WA - METRO

Rank of oldest	Electorate	Voters aged 55+	Total voters	% over age 55	Party	MP	Margin	Safe or Marginal	State
28	Bass	35,358	77,431	45.7%	Liberal	Bridget Archer	0.2%	MARGINAL	TAS - REGIONAL
29	Eden-Monaro	52,198	114,468	45.6%	Labor	Kristy McBain	0.4%	MARGINAL	NSW - REGIONAL
30	Shortland	51,726	114,320	45.2%	Labor	Pat Conroy	2.2%	MARGINAL	NSW - REGIONAL

3.4 THE 15 MARGINAL SEATS FROM AUSTRALIA'S 30 'OLDEST' ELECTORATES

TABLE 7: THE 15 MARGINAL SEATS FROM AUSTRALIA'S 30 'OLDEST' ELECTORATES

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15	Indi	55,623	114,247	48.7%	Independent	Helen Haines	0.7%	MARGINAL	VIC - REGIONAL
2	Gilmore	67,487	124,104	54.4%	Labor	Fiona Phillips	1.3%	MARGINAL	NSW - REGIONAL
16	Braddon	38,707	80,472	48.1%	Liberal	Gavin Pearce	1.5%	MARGINAL	TAS - REGIONAL
6	Richmond	60,099	116,862	51.4%	Labor	Justine Elliot	2.0%	MARGINAL	NSW - REGIONAL
23	Robertson	52,038	111,827	46.5%	Liberal	Lucy Wicks	2.1%	MARGINAL	NSW - REGIONAL
11	Grey	59,905	120,566	49.7%	Liberal	Rowan Ramsey	2.2%	MARGINAL	SA - REGIONAL
30	Shortland	51,726	114,320	45.2%	Labor	Pat Conroy	2.2%	MARGINAL	NSW - REGIONAL
18	Lyons	39,229	82,101	47.8%	Labor	Brian Mitchell	2.6%	MARGINAL	TAS - REGIONAL
9	Mayo	61,987	123,841	50.1%	Centre Alliance	Rebekha Sharkie	2.6%	MARGINAL	SA - REGIONAL
8	Flinders	57,240	112,895	50.7%	Liberal	Greg Hunt	2.8%	MARGINAL	VIC - METRO
5	Cowper	65,019	125,827	51.7%	National	Pat Conaghan	3.4%	MARGINAL	NSW - REGIONAL
14	Monash	56,963	116,933	48.7%	Liberal	Russell Broadbent	3.7%	MARGINAL	VIC - REGIONAL
7	Page	61,371	119,791	51.2%	National	Kevin Hogan	4.7%	MARGINAL	NSW - REGIONAL

TABLE 8: FIVE 'OLDEST' ELECTORATES IN EACH STATE

Rank of oldest	Electorate	Voters aged 55+	Total voters	% over age 55	Party	MP	Margin	Safe or Marginal	State
NSW									
1	Lyne	67,807	119,739	56.6%	National	David Gillespie	7.6%	SAFE	NSW - REGIONAL
2	Gilmore	67,487	124,104	54.4%	Labor	Fiona Phillips	1.3%	MARGINAL	NSW - REGIONAL
5	Cowper	65,019	125,827	51.7%	National	Pat Conaghan	3.4%	MARGINAL	NSW - REGIONAL
6	Richmond	60,099	116,862	51.4%	Labor	Justine Elliot	2.0%	MARGINAL	NSW - REGIONAL
7	Page	61,371	119,791	51.2%	National	Kevin Hogan	4.7%	MARGINAL	NSW - REGIONAL
VICTORIA									
8	Flinders	57,240	112,895	50.7%	Liberal	Greg Hunt	2.8%	MARGINAL	VIC - METRO
12	Mallee	56,331	114,049	49.4%	National	Anne Webste	8.1%	SAFE	VIC - REGIONAL
13	Gippsland	55,359	112,457	49.2%	National	Darren Chester	8.3%	SAFE	VIC - REGIONAL
14	Monash	56,963	116,933	48.7%	Liberal	Russell Broadbent	3.7%	MARGINAL	VIC - REGIONAL
15	Indi	55,623	114,247	48.7%	Independent	Helen Haines	0.7%	MARGINAL	VIC - REGIONAL
QUEENSLAND									
3	Hinkler	60,182	111,223	54.1%	Lib/National	Keith Pitt	7.3%	SAFE	QLD - REGIONAL
4	Wide Bay	59,186	111,115	53.3%	Lib/National	Llew O'Brien	6.6%	SAFE	QLD - REGIONAL
22	Maranoa	49,529	106,260	46.6%	Lib/National	David Littleproud	11.2%	SAFE	QLD - REGIONAL
26	Fisher	54,161	118,296	45.8%	Lib/National	Andrew Wallace	6.4%	SAFE	QLD - METRO
32	Fairfax	52,948	117,985	44.9%	Lib/National	Ted O'Brien	6.7%	SAFE	QLD - REGIONAL
WESTERN AUSTRALIA									
24	O'Connor	47,152	102,346	46.1%	Liberal	Rick Wilson	7.2%	SAFE	WA - REGIONAL
27	Canning	50,840	111,074	45.8%	Liberal	Andrew Hastie	5.8%	SAFE	WA - METRO
36	Tangney	42,237	95,223	44.4%	Liberal	Ben Morton	5.7%	SAFE	WA - METRO
38	Forrest	47,834	108,193	44.2%	Liberal	Nola Marino	7.3%	SAFE	WA - REGIONAL
60	Moore	42,569	102,731	41.4%	Liberal	Ian Goodenough	6%	SAFE	WA - METRO
SOUTH AUSTRALIA									
9	Mayo	61,987	123,841	50.1%	Centre Alliance	Rebekha Sharkie	2.6%	MARGINAL	SA - REGIONAL
10	Barker	59,069	118,877	49.7%	Liberal	Tony Pasin	9.5%	SAFE	SA - REGIONAL
11	Grey	59,905	120,566	49.7%	Liberal	Rowan Ramsey	2.2%	MARGINAL	SA - REGIONAL
33	Boothby	56,156	125,286	44.8%	Liberal	Nicolle Flint	0.7%	MARGINAL	SA - METRO
37	Sturt	55,484	125,362	44.3%	Liberal	James Stevens	3.4%	MARGINAL	SA - METRO
TASMANIA									
16	Braddon	38,707	80,472	48.1%	Liberal	Gavin Pearce	1.5%	SAFE	TAS - REGIONAL
18	Lyons	39,229	82,101	47.8%	Labor	Brian Mitchell	2.6%	MARGINAL	TAS - REGIONAL
25	Franklin	35,582	77,298	46.0%	Labor	Julie Collins	6.1%	SAFE	TAS - METRO
28	Bass	35,358	77,431	45.7%	Liberal	Bridget Archer	0.2%	MARGINAL	TAS - REGIONAL
48	Clark	31,427	73,315	42.9%	Independent	Andrew Wilkie	11.1%	MARGINAL	TAS - METRO

George, 94 years, Residential Aged Care, Marayong. NSW

Fighter in the Polish Home Army, Prisoner of War, turner, engineer

George grew up during WWII and had a tumultuous life before immigrating to Australia in 1952 to start a new life with his fiancée

Lucyna, 60 years, Hotel Services, Marayong, NSW

Lucyna works in the laundry and servery, providing a very important service to residents – clean clothing and delicious food! Her Polish background allows her to communicate with many residents in their native tongue, which is hugely helpful in ensuring mutual understanding. Lucyna loves seeing the satisfaction on the faces of the residents she helps every day.

APPENDIX

FULL LIST OF AUSTRALIA'S 151 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTORATES

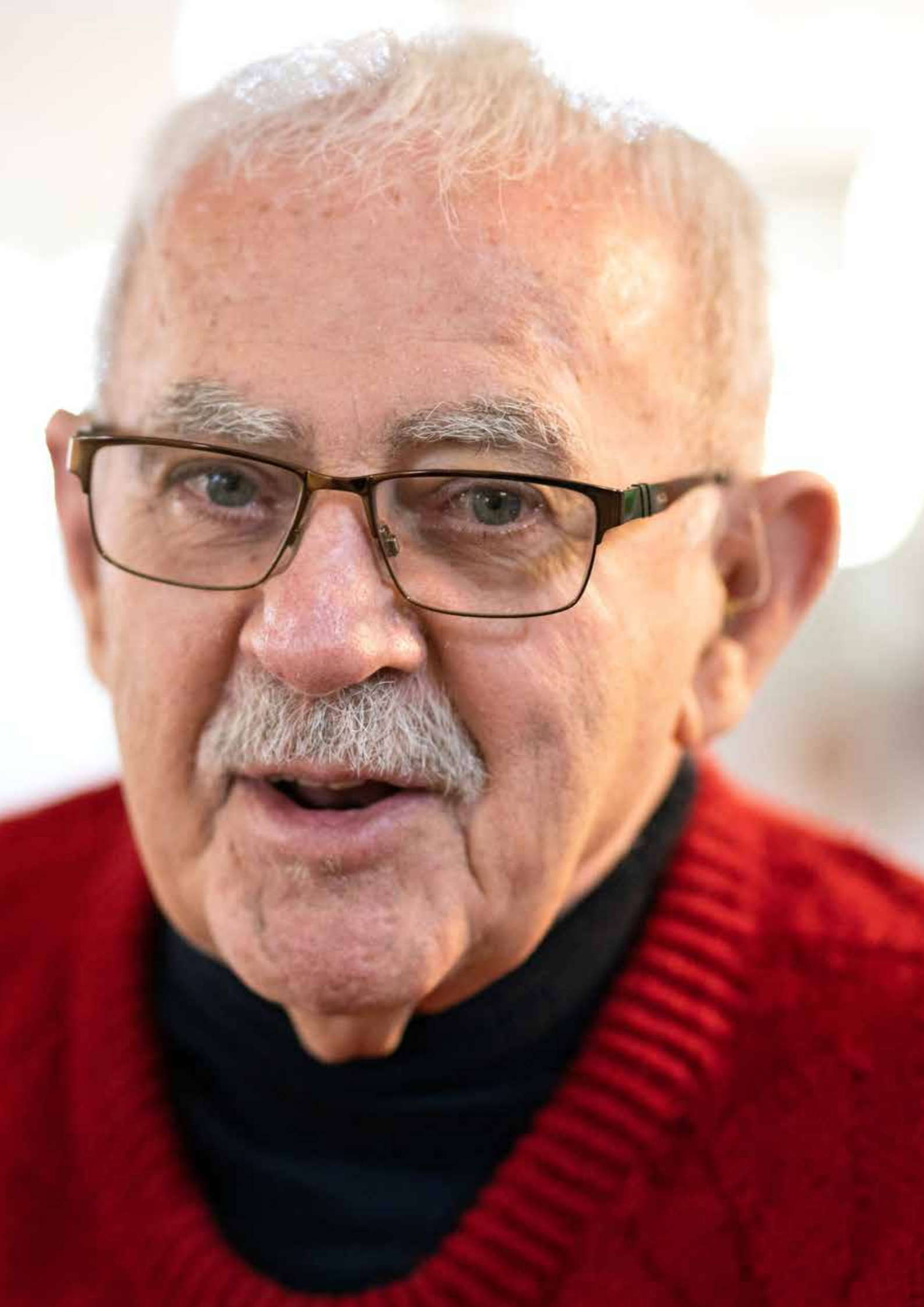
Rank of oldest	Electorate	Voters aged 55+	Total voters	% over age 55	Party	MP	Margin	Safe or Marginal	State
1	Lyne	67,807	119,739	56.6%	National	David Gillespie	7.6%	SAFE	NSW - REGIONAL
2	Gilmore	67,487	124,104	54.4%	Labor	Fiona Phillips	1.3%	MARGINAL	NSW - REGIONAL
3	Hinkler	60,182	111,223	54.1%	Lib/National	Keith Pitt	7.3%	SAFE	QLD - REGIONAL
4	Wide Bay	59,186	111,115	53.3%	Lib/National	Llew O'Brien	6.6%	SAFE	QLD - REGIONAL
5	Cowper	65,019	125,827	51.7%	National	Pat Conaghan	3.4%	MARGINAL	NSW - REGIONAL
6	Richmond	60,099	116,862	51.4%	Labor	Justine Elliot	2.0%	MARGINAL	NSW - REGIONAL
7	Page	61,371	119,791	51.2%	National	Kevin Hogan	4.7%	MARGINAL	NSW - REGIONAL
8	Flinders	57,240	112,895	50.7%	Liberal	Greg Hunt	2.8%	MARGINAL	VIC - METRO
9	Mayo	61,987	123,841	50.1%	Centre Alliance	Rebekha Sharkie	2.6%	MARGINAL	SA - REGIONAL
10	Barker	59,069	118,877	49.7%	Liberal	Tony Pasin	9.5%	SAFE	SA - REGIONAL
11	Grey	59,905	120,566	49.7%	Liberal	Rowan Ramsey	2.2%	MARGINAL	SA - REGIONAL
12	Mallee	56,331	114,049	49.4%	National	Anne Webster	8.1%	SAFE	VIC - REGIONAL
13	Gippsland	55,359	112,457	49.2%	National	Darren Chester	8.3%	SAFE	VIC - REGIONAL
14	Monash	56,963	116,933	48.7%	Liberal	Russell Broadben	3.7%	MARGINAL	VIC - REGIONAL
15	Indi	55,623	114,247	48.7%	Independent	Helen Haines	0.7%	MARGINAL	VIC - REGIONAL
16	Braddon	38,707	80,472	48.1%	Liberal	Gavin Pearce	1.5%	MARGINAL	TAS - REGIONAL
17	Wannon	55,510	115,890	47.9%	Liberal	Dan Tehan	5.2%	SAFE	VIC - REGIONAL
18	Lyons	39,229	82,101	47.8%	Labor	Brian Mitchell	2.6%	MARGINAL	TAS - REGIONAL
19	Farrer	55,146	115,785	47.6%	Liberal	Sussan Ley	5.5%	SAFE	NSW - REGIONAL
20	Nicholls	52,851	112,532	47.0%	National	Damian Drum	10.2%	SAFE	VIC - METRO
21	New England	51,891	110,876	46.8%	National	Barnaby Joyce	7.2%	SAFE	NSW - REGIONAL
22	Maranoa	49,529	106,260	46.6%	Lib/National	David Littleproud	11.2%	SAFE	QLD - REGIONAL
23	Robertson	52,038	111,827	46.5%	Liberal	Lucy Wicks	2.1%	MARGINAL	NSW - REGIONAL
24	O'Connor	47,152	102,346	46.1%	Liberal	Rick Wilson	7.2%	SAFE	WA - REGIONAL
25	Franklin	35,582	77,298	46.0%	Labor	Julie Collins	6.1%	SAFE	TAS - METRO
26	Fisher	54,161	118,296	45.8%	Lib/National	Andrew Wallace	6.4%	SAFE	QLD - METRO
27	Canning	50,840	111,074	45.8%	Liberal	Andrew Hastie	5.8%	SAFE	WA - METRO
28	Bass	35,358	77,431	45.7%	Liberal	Bridget Archer	0.2%	MARGINAL	TAS - REGIONAL
29	Eden-Monaro	52,198	114,468	45.6%	Labor	Kristy McBain	0.4%	MARGINAL	NSW - REGIONAL
30	Shortland	51,726	114,320	45.2%	Labor	Pat Conroy	2.2%	MARGINAL	NSW - REGIONAL
31	Riverina	51,248	113,987	45.0%	National	Michael McCormack	9.7%	SAFE	NSW - REGIONAL
32	Fairfax	52,948	117,985	44.9%	Lib/National	Ted O'Brien	6.7%	SAFE	QLD - REGIONAL
33	Boothby	56,156	125,286	44.8%	Liberal	Nicole Flint	0.7%	MARGINAL	SA - METRO
34	Menzies	48,491	108,904	44.5%	Liberal	Kevin Andrews	3.8%	MARGINAL	VIC - METRO
35	Bowman	50,007	112,613	44.4%	Lib/National	Andrew Laming	5.1%	SAFE	QLD - METRO
36	Tangney	42,237	95,223	44.4%	Liberal	Ben Morton	5.7%	SAFE	WA - METRO

Rank of oldest	Electorate	Voters aged 55+	Total voters	% over age 55	Party	MP	Margin	Safe or Marginal	State
37	Sturt	55,484	125,362	44.3%	Liberal	James Stevens	3.4%	MARGINAL	SA - METRO
38	Forrest	47,834	108,193	44.2%	Liberal	Nola Marino	7.3%	SAFE	WA - REGIONAL
39	Bendigo	50,933	115,369	44.1%	Labor	Lisa Chesters	4.5%	MARGINAL	VIC - REGIONAL
40	Kennedy	49,169	111,469	44.1%	Independent	Bob Katter	6.7%	SAFE	QLD - REGIONAL
41	Calare	51,865	118,510	43.8%	National	Andrew Gee	6.6%	SAFE	NSW - REGIONAL
42	Corangamite	52,084	119,012	43.8%	Labor	Libby Coker	0.5%	MARGINAL	VIC - REGIONAL
43	Mackellar	48,368	110,626	43.7%	Liberal	Jason Falinski	6.6%	SAFE	NSW- METRO
44	Whitlam	52,752	120,915	43.6%	Labor	Stephen Jones	5.5%	SAFE	NSW - METRO
45	Parkes	47,170	108,330	43.5%	National	Mark Coulton	8.5%	SAFE	NSW - REGIONAL
46	Hindmarsh	54,278	124,953	43.4%	Labor	Mark Butler	3.3%	MARGINAL	SA - METRO
47	Goldstein	47,277	110,036	43.0%	Liberal	Tim Wilson	3.9%	MARGINAL	VIC - METRO
48	Clark	31,427	73,315	42.9%	Independent	Andrew Wilkie	11.1%	SAFE	TAS - METRO
49	Macquarie	45,449	106,422	42.7%	Labor	Susan Templeman	0.1%	MARGINAL	NSW - REGIONAL
50	Berowra	45,017	105,831	42.5%	Liberal	Julian Leeser	7.8%	SAFE	NSW - METRO
51	Longman	51,614	121,385	42.5%	Lib/National	Terry Young	1.6%	MARGINAL	QLD - REGIONAL
52	Moncrieff	49,108	115,596	42.5%	Lib/National	Angie Bell	7.7%	SAFE	QLD - REGIONAL
53	Cook	45,812	107,922	42.4%	Liberal	Scott Morrison	9.5%	SAFE	NSW - METRO
54	Chisholm	45,182	106,500	42.4%	Liberal	Gladys Liu	0.3%	MARGINAL	VIC - METRO
55	Dobell	49,761	117,603	42.3%	Labor	Emma McBride	0.8%	MARGINAL	NSW - METRO
56	Paterson	52,999	125,693	42.2%	Labor	Meryl Swanson	2.5%	MARGINAL	NSW - REGIONAL
57	Bradfield	44,903	107,520	41.8%	Liberal	Paul Fletcher	8.3%	SAFE	NSW - METRO
58	Hunter	51,423	123,228	41.7%	Labor	Joel Fitzgibbon	1.5%	MARGINAL	NSW - REGIONAL
59	Ballarat	48,998	118,083	41.5%	Labor	Catherine King	5.5%	SAFE	VIC - REGIONAL
60	Moore	42,569	102,731	41.4%	Liberal	Ian Goodenough	6%	SAFE	WA - METRO
61	Groom	44,658	108,088	41.3%	Lib/National	Garth Hamilton	10.2%	SAFE	QLD - REGIONAL
62	Banks	43,897	106,621	41.2%	Liberal	David Coleman	3.1%	MARGINAL	NSW - METRO
63	Curtin	41,994	102,211	41.1%	Liberal	Celia Hammond	7.2%	SAFE	WA - METRO
64	Kingston	49,486	120,616	41.0%	Labor	Amanda Rishworth	6.0%	SAFE	SA - METRO
65	Hotham	44,680	109,010	41.0%	Labor	Clare O'Neil	3.0%	MARGINAL	VIC- METRO
66	Makin	48,822	120,760	40.4%	Labor	Tony Zappia	4.9%	MARGINAL	SA - METRO
67	Kooyong	43,891	108,656	40.4%	Liberal	Josh Frydenberg	2.9%	MARGINAL	VIC - METRO
68	Corio	44,815	111,307	40.3%	Labor	Richard Marles	5.2%	SAFE	VIC - REGIONAL
69	Bruce	44,397	110,416	40.2%	Labor	Julian Hill	7.1%	SAFE	VIC - METRO
70	Cunningham	46,341	115,607	40.1%	Labor	Sharon Bird	6.7%	SAFE	NSW - REGIONAL
71	Fowler	43,089	107,589	40.0%	Labor	Chris Hayes	7.0%	SAFE	NSW - METRO
72	Hasluck	40,512	101,311	40.0%	Liberal	Ken Wyatt	2.7%	MARGINAL	WA - METRO

Rank of oldest	Electorate	Voters aged 55+	Total voters	% over age 55	Party	MP	Margin	Safe or Marginal	State
73	Fraser	44,073	110,245	40.0%	Labor	Daniel Mulino	7.1%	SAFE	VIC - METRO
74	McPherson	45,177	113,201	39.9%	Lib/National	Karen Andrews	6.1%	SAFE	QLD - REGIONAL
75	Flynn	41,992	105,561	39.8%	Lib/National	Ken O'Dowd	4%	MARGINAL	QLD - REGIONAL
76	Fadden	47,847	120,454	39.7%	Lib/National	Stuart Robert	7.1%	SAFE	QLD - METRO
77	Dawson	42,795	107,950	39.6%	Lib/National	George Christensen	7.3%	SAFE	QLD - REGIONAL
78	Casey	45,011	113,804	39.6%	Liberal	Tony Smith	2.3%	MARGINAL	VIC - REGIONAL
79	Petrie	47,466	120,071	39.5%	Lib/National	Luke Howarth	4.2%	MARGINAL	QLD - METRO
80	Deakin	42,887	108,623	39.5%	Liberal	Michael Sukkar	2.4%	MARGINAL	VIC - METRO
81	Jagajaga	42,709	108,507	39.4%	Labor	Kate Thwaites	3.3%	MARGINAL	VIC - METRO
82	Aston	43,802	111,377	39.3%	Liberal	Alan Tudge	5.1%	MARGINAL	VIC - METRO
83	Wright	45,765	117,009	39.1%	Lib/National	Scott Buchholz	7%	SAFE	QLD - REGIONAL
84	Capricornia	41,199	105,666	39.0%	Lib/National	Michelle Landry	6%	SAFE	QLD - REGIONAL
85	Hume	45,371	116,849	38.8%	Liberal	Angus Taylor	6.5%	SAFE	NSW - REGIONAL
86	Warringah	40,372	104,119	38.8%	Independent	Zali Steggall	3.6%	MARGINAL	NSW - REGIONAL
87	Stirling	40,143	103,579	38.8%	Liberal	Vince Connelly	2.8%	MARGINAL	WA - METRO
88	Isaacs	42,625	110,584	38.5%	Labor	Mark Dreyfus	3.2%	MARGINAL	VIC - METRO
89	Dunkley	42,726	111,599	38.3%	Labor	Peta Murphy	1.4%	MARGINAL	VIC - METRO
90	Bennelong	42,401	111,289	38.1%	Liberal	John Alexander	3.5%	MARGINAL	NSW - METRO
91	Leichhardt	42,880	112,833	38.0%	Lib/National	Warren Entsch	2%	MARGINAL	QLD - REGIONAL
92	Barton	41,467	109,206	38.0%	Labor	Linda Burney	4.7%	MARGINAL	NSW - METRO
93	Hughes	40,080	105,869	37.9%	Liberal	Craig Kelly	4.9%	MARGINAL	NSW - METRO
94	Adelaide	46,793	124,048	37.7%	Labor	Steve Georganas	4.1%	MARGINAL	SA - METRO
95	McMahon	40,039	106,741	37.5%	Labor	Chris Bowen	3%	MARGINAL	NSW - METRO
96	Watson	40,328	107,788	37.4%	Labor	Tony Burke	6.8%	SAFE	NSW - METRO
97	Bean	39,825	107,079	37.2%	Labor	David Smith	4%	MARGINAL	ACT- METRO
98	North Sydney	40,917	110,058	37.2%	Liberal	Trent Zimmerman	4.6%	MARGINAL	NSW - METRO
99	Bonner	39,829	107,250	37.1%	Lib/National	Ross Vasta	3.7%	MARGINAL	QLD - METRO
100	Reid	40,538	110,102	36.8%	Liberal	Fiona Martin	1.6%	MARGINAL	NSW - METRO
101	Blaxland	38,887	105,996	36.7%	Labor	Jason Clare	7%	SAFE	NSW - METRO
102	Higgins	40,725	111,153	36.6%	Liberal	Katie Allen	1.9%	MARGINAL	VIC - METRO
103	Durack	36,083	98,717	36.6%	Liberal	Melissa Price	7%	SAFE	WA - REGIONAL
104	Newcastle	43,516	119,299	36.5%	Labor	Sharon Claydon	7%	SAFE	NSW - METRO
105	Kingsford Smith	40,680	111,559	36.5%	Labor	Matt Thistlethwaite	4.4%	MARGINAL	NSW - METRO
106	Fremantle	39,817	110,242	36.1%	Labor	Josh Wilson	3%	MARGINAL	WA - METRO
107	Spence	44,330	123,362	35.9%	Labor	Nick Champion	7%	SAFE	SA - METRO
108	Wentworth	36,681	102,291	35.9%	Liberal	Dave Sharma	0.7%	MARGINAL	NSW - METRO
109	Dickson	39,248	109,759	35.8%	Liberal	Peter Dutton	2%	MARGINAL	QLD - METRO

Rank of oldest	Electorate	Voters aged 55+	Total voters	% over age 55	Party	MP	Margin	Safe or Marginal	State
110	Perth	37,558	105,102	35.7%	Labor	Patrick Gorman	2%	MARGINAL	WA - METRO
111	Swan	37,102	103,849	35.7%	Liberal	Steve Irons	1.3%	MARGINAL	WA - METRO
112	Lilley	39,292	110,721	35.5%	Labor	Anika Wells	0.3%	MARGINAL	QLD - METRO
113	Mitchell	40,228	114,285	35.2%	Liberal	Alex Hawke	9%	SAFE	NSW - METRO
114	Blair	41,801	119,173	35.1%	Labor	Shayne Neumann	1%	MARGINAL	QLD - REGIONAL
115	Cowan	35,389	101,039	35.0%	Labor	Anne Aly	0%	MARGINAL	WA - METRO
116	Forde	39,342	112,790	34.9%	Lib/National	Bert van Manen	4%	MARGINAL	QLD - METRO
117	Maribyrnong	39,935	114,506	34.9%	Labor	Bill Shorten	6%	SAFE	VIC - METRO
118	Ryan	37,412	108,277	34.6%	Liberal	Julian Simmonds	3%	MARGINAL	QLD - METRO
119	Moreton	36,260	105,273	34.4%	Labor	Graham Perrett	1%	MARGINAL	QLD - METRO
120	Scullin	36,956	108,211	34.2%	Labor	Andrew Giles	11%	SAFE	VIC - METRO
121	Herbert	37,904	111,347	34.0%	Lib/National	Phillip Thompson	4%	MARGINAL	QLD - REGIONAL
122	Canberra	33,372	98,165	34.0%	Labor	Alicia Payne	9%	SAFE	ACT - METRO
123	McEwen	38,466	113,266	34.0%	Labor	Rob Mitchell	3%	MARGINAL	VIC - REGIONAL
124	Parramatta	35,050	103,298	33.9%	Labor	Julie Owens	2%	MARGINAL	NSW - METRO
125	Rankin	35,484	105,602	33.6%	Labor	Jim Chalmers	3%	MARGINAL	QLD - METRO
126	Brand	37,436	111,500	33.6%	Labor	Madeleine King	3%	MARGINAL	WA - METRO
127	Macnamara	37,670	114,302	33.0%	Labor	Josh Burns	3%	MARGINAL	VIC - METRO
128	Burt	36,101	110,167	32.8%	Labor	Matt Keogh	2%	MARGINAL	WA - METRO
129	Pearce	40,972	126,952	32.3%	Liberal	Christian Porter	4%	MARGINAL	WA - METRO
130	Oxley	34,812	108,256	32.2%	Labor	Milton Dick	3%	MARGINAL	QLD - METRO
131	Werriwa	38,650	120,373	32.1%	Labor	Anne Stanley	3%	MARGINAL	NSW - METRO
132	Lindsay	38,918	121,340	32.1%	Liberal	Melissa McIntosh	3%	MARGINAL	NSW - METRO
133	Cooper	36,080	112,878	32.0%	Labor /Green	Ged Kearney	7%	SAFE	VIC - METRO
134	Chifley	36,712	115,493	31.8%	Labor	Ed Husic	6%	SAFE	NSW - METRO
135	Macarthur	39,620	125,501	31.6%	Labor	Mike Freelander	4%	MARGINAL	NSW - METRO
136	Gellibrand	35,637	113,317	31.4%	Labor	Tim Watts	7%	SAFE	VIC - METRO
137	Grayndler	33,805	109,699	30.8%	Labor/ Green	Anthony Albanese	8%	SAFE	NSW - METRO
138	La Trobe	35,736	118,051	30.3%	Liberal	Jason Wood	2%	MARGINAL	VIC - METRO
139	Calwell	34,283	114,285	30.0%	Labor	Maria Vamvakinou	9%	SAFE	VIC - METRO
140	Wills	33,377	112,472	29.7%	Labor/Greens	Peter Khalil	4%	SAFE	VIC - METRO
141	Greenway	33,844	114,068	29.7%	Labor	Michelle Rowland	1%	MARGINAL	NSW - METRO
142	Gorton	32,529	117,569	27.7%	Labor	Brendan O'Connor	8%	SAFE	VIC - METRO

Rank of oldest	Electorate	Voters aged 55+	Total voters	% over age 55	Party	MP	Margin	Safe or Marginal	State
143	Holt	31,173	113,329	27.5%	Labor	Anthony Byrne	4%	MARGINAL	VIC - METRO
144	Griffith	31,932	116,210	27.5%	Labor	Terri Butler	1%	MARGINAL	QLD - METRO
145	Brisbane	32,703	119,673	27.3%	Lib/National	Trevor Evans	2%	MARGINAL	QLD - METRO
146	Fenner	27,060	99,631	27.2%	Labor	Andrew Leigh	5%	MARGINAL	ACT - METRO
147	Sydney	31,246	115,679	27.0%	Labor	Tanya Plibersek	9%	SAFE	NSW - METRO
148	Lalor	29,705	115,466	25.7%	Labor	Joanne Ryan	6%	SAFE	VIC - METRO
149	Melbourne	27,683	108,068	25.6%	Independent	Adam Bandt	11%	SAFE	VIC - METRO
150	Solomon	9,931	69,555	14.3%	Labor	Luke Gosling	2%	MARGINAL	NT - METRO
151	Lingiari	8,569	71,331	12.0%	Labor	Warren Snowdon	3%	MARGINAL	NT - REGIONAL



Australian
Aged Care
Collaboration