

The National Hospital Cost Data Collection (NHCDCC) is an annual collection of hospital cost data at the line-item level. NHCDCC data are provided to the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority (IHPA) from each jurisdiction's Department of Health.

The Round 21 NHCDCC collected public hospital cost information for the 2016–17 financial year. [The NHCDCC Cost Report](#) contains detailed summary tables of all reported figures.

What is the cost of Australia's admitted acute care patients?

Admitted acute care is provided to patients who are formally admitted to hospital to receive active but short-term treatment.

The treatment goal for these patients is to:

- Cure, treat or relieve symptoms of illness or injury
- Reduce severity of an illness or injury and protect against complications
- Perform surgery
- Perform diagnostic or therapeutic procedures
- Manage childbirth

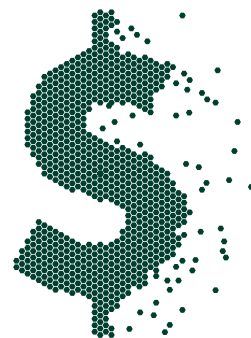


The national expenditure on admitted acute care patient activity was

\$29.85 billion

68.2%

This represents 68.2% of total hospital expenditure reported in the NHCDCC in Round 21



Round 20
\$28.22 billion

Round 19
\$27.44 billion



Round 20 **2.56 days**
Round 19 **2.75 days**

The average length of stay for admitted acute care separations was **2.43 days**.

In 56 percent of admitted acute care separations, the patient was admitted and separated from the hospital on the same day.

When these same-day separations are excluded, the average length of stay was 4.23 days.

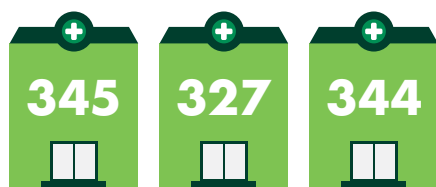
The average cost per admitted acute care separation was

\$5,171

Round 20 **\$5,217** | Round 19 **\$5,195**



Number of hospitals that submitted admitted acute care cost data



Round 19

Round 20

Round 21

5,773,102

The data contains detailed cost information for 5,773,102 admitted acute care patient separations.

The separations were represented by 810 different Australian Refined-Diagnosis Related Groups (AR-DRGs) Version 9.0. The most commonly reported related to renal dialysis, chemotherapy and chest pain.

Taken together, admitted acute care accounted for 17.7% of all hospital patient activity reported to Round 21 of the NHCDC.

17.7 PERCENT

Comparing patient complexity

To compare costs between jurisdictions, IHPA uses 'weighted patient separations'. A weighted separation considers the relative complexity associated with treating each patient. This is based on the average cost required to treat that separation type at the national level.

For example, in Round 21, a single heart transplant patient separation accounts for 36.1 weighted separations. A colonoscopy accounts 0.42 of a weighted separation. This reflects the greater complexity of heart transplants.

If a jurisdiction's average cost per weighted separation is lower than the actual average, its mix of services provided to patients is more complex than the national average.



Results across Australia

NSW	R19	R20	R21
Avg cost per sep (\$)	5,539	5,657	5,477
Avg cost per weighted sep (\$)	5,135	5,133	5,074
Same-day (SD) as % of all seps	46.8%	46.7%	47.7%
Avg length of stay (days)	3.23	3.19	2.89
Avg length of stay (days) – exc. SD	5.19	5.12	4.62

VIC	R19	R20	R21
Avg cost per sep (\$)	4,382	4,468	4,494
Avg cost per weighted sep (\$)	4,590	4,730	4,654
Same-day (SD) as % of all seps	59.2%	60.6%	60.9%
Avg length of stay (days)	2.50	2.28	2.25
Avg length of stay (days) – exc. SD	4.69	4.27	4.19

QLD	R19	R20	R21
Avg cost per sep (\$)	4,841	4,817	4,922
Avg cost per weighted sep (\$)	5,030	5,043	5,076
Same-day (SD) as % of all seps	54.6%	56.3%	58.0%
Avg length of stay (days)	2.41	2.21	2.14
Avg length of stay (days) – exc. SD	4.10	3.78	3.71

SA	R19	R20	R21
Avg cost per sep (\$)	6,612	6,300	6,008
Avg cost per weighted sep (\$)	5,916	5,784	5,625
Same-day (SD) as % of all seps	47.3%	49.1%	50.3%
Avg length of stay (days)	3.25	2.81	2.73
Avg length of stay (days) – exc. SD	5.27	4.56	4.48

WA	R19	R20	R21
Avg cost per sep (\$)	6,167	6,210	6,475
Avg cost per weighted sep (\$)	6,344	6,322	6,594
Same-day (SD) as % of all seps	55.6%	57.1%	58.4%
Avg length of stay (days)	2.6	2.3	2.2
Avg length of stay (days) – exc. SD	4.5	4.0	4.0

TAS	R19	R20	R21
Avg cost per sep (\$)	5,516	5,568	5,813
Avg cost per weighted sep (\$)	5,224	5,184	5,290
Same-day (SD) as % of all seps	55.9%	55.1%	53.4%
Avg length of stay (days)	2.69	2.53	2.71
Avg length of stay (days) – exc. SD	4.82	4.41	4.67

NT	R19	R20	R21
Avg cost per sep (\$)	4,380	4,002	3,972
Avg cost per weighted sep (\$)	7,029	6,858	6,587
Same-day (SD) as % of all seps	69.3%	71.2%	71.3%
Avg length of stay (days)	2.27	2.01	1.97
Avg length of stay (days) – exc. SD	5.12	4.50	4.4

ACT	R19	R20	R21
Avg cost per sep (\$)	6,978	6,400	5,751
Avg cost per weighted sep (\$)	6,765	6,202	5,613
Same-day (SD) as % of all seps	54.3%	54.5%	54.7%
Avg length of stay (days)	2.97	2.66	2.57
Avg length of stay (days) – exc. SD	5.32	4.64	4.46