

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

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

What is the cost of Australia's sub-acute and non-acute care patients?

Sub-acute care is defined as specialised multidisciplinary care in which the primary need for care is optimisation of the patient's functioning and quality of life.

Sub-acute care comprises the following care types:

- Rehabilitation care
- Palliative care
- Geriatric evaluation and management (GEM) care
- Psychogeriatric care

Non-acute care relates to maintenance care in which the treatment goal is to support a patient with impairment, activity limitation or participation restriction due to a health condition.



The national expenditure on sub-acute and non-acute care patient activity was

\$2.79 billion

6.4%

This represents 6.4% of total hospital expenditure reported in the NHCDC in Round 21.



Round 20
\$2.73 billion

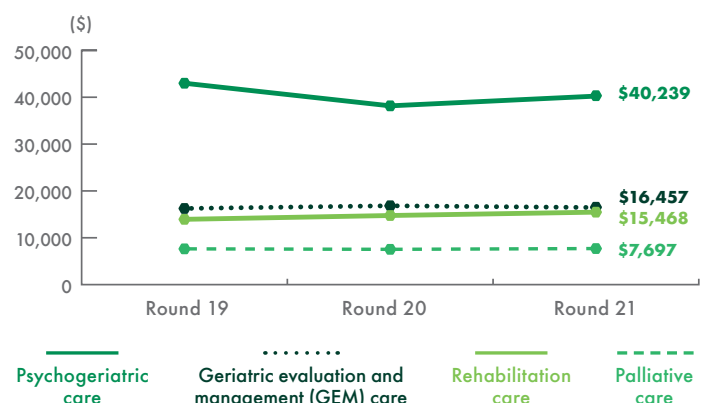
Round 19
\$2.61 billion

The national average cost per AN-SNAP class (which groups activity to a separation or phase) was

\$13,997

Round 20 \$13,803 | Round 19 \$13,492

National average cost per sub-acute care type



IHPA uses the **Australian National Sub-Acute and Non-Acute Patient (AN-SNAP)** classification system to classify sub-acute and non-acute care provided by Australian hospitals.

Palliative care

cost data is collected according to four phases:

Average cost, by palliative care phase

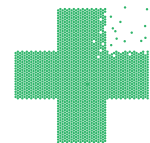
Deteriorating phase	\$5,762
Stable phase	\$8,633
Unstable phase	\$2,931
Terminal phase	\$3,209

Hospitals that submitted sub-acute and non-acute care cost data



166,844

The sub-acute and non-acute care data contain detailed cost information for 166,844 patient separations and 32,714 palliative care phases.



Taken together, sub-acute and non-acute care accounted for less than one percent (0.66%) of all hospital patient separations reported in Round 21 of the NHCDC.

0.66%

Results across Australia

NSW	R19	R20	R21
Total expenditure (\$)	831.1m	847.0m	797.4m
Total separations	78,603	80,637	81,094
Avg cost per separation (\$)	10,573	10,504	9,833
Number of hospitals	95	97	92
Avg length of stay (days)	11	11	10

VIC	R19	R20	R21
Total expenditure (\$)	645.2m	654.3m	739.2m
Total separations	39,874	38,515	44,533
Avg cost per separation (\$)	16,180	16,989	16,600
Number of hospitals	56	59	62
Avg length of stay (days)	20	20	19

QLD	R19	R20	R21
Total expenditure (\$)	613.3m	632.3m	647.5m
Total separations	43,395	42,699	42,858
Avg cost per separation (\$)	14,133	14,808	15,108
Number of hospitals	120	101	101
Avg length of stay (days)	12	12	12

SA	R19	R20	R21
Total expenditure (\$)	136.9m	157.6m	137.2m
Total separations	14,307	16,060	10,258
Avg cost per separation (\$)	9,566	9,812	13,372
Number of hospitals	15	14	18
Avg length of stay (days)	9	8	12

WA	R19	R20	R21
Total expenditure (\$)	241.9m	271.8m	308.2m
Total separations	10,695	11,331	11,756
Avg cost per separation (\$)	22,621	23,987	26,214
Number of hospitals	35	34	31
Avg length of stay (days)	17	20	18

TAS	R19	R20	R21
Total expenditure (\$)	42.7m	50.3m	57.7m
Total separations	2,256	2,681	3,044
Avg cost per separation (\$)	18,926	18,768	18,958
Number of hospitals	4	4	20
Avg length of stay (days)	16	15	15

NT	R19	R20	R21
Total expenditure (\$)	38.4m	39.6m	40.7m
Total separations	873	1,008	984
Avg cost per separation (\$)	44,039	39,255	41,312
Number of hospitals	5	5	5
Avg length of stay (days)	29	23	23

ACT	R19	R20	R21
Total expenditure (\$)	63.0m	78.4m	65.5m
Total separations	3,634	4,948	5,031
Avg cost per separation (\$)	17,340	15,853	13,010
Number of hospitals	2	2	2
Avg length of stay (days)	15	12	11



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