

What are aged care cost collections?



The Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority (IHACPA) undertakes cost collections to gain a greater understanding of the resources and costs associated with delivering aged care services in residential and in-home settings.

IHACPA's cost collections allow aged care pricing advice to be developed for the Minister of Health and Aged Care that reflects contemporary cost structures, changes in costs over time and care delivery models.

To ensure that the pricing advice is reflective of the breadth of service providers and the variety in resident care requirements, a representative sample of aged care residents and providers is required to ensure the data collected reflects this variation.

IHACPA relies on numerous data sources to complete its cost collections. IHACPA requires data which address three key themes:

- the cost of resources to deliver aged care services
- the types of services delivered to consumers of aged care services
- administrative and clinical information about consumers and service providers.

In 2023, IHACPA undertook two cost collections, the Residential Aged Care Costing Study and the Support at Home Costing Study (SAHCS). This contributed to the initial development of data collection specifications and data acquisition methods for the aged care sector.

IHACPA has since commenced the Residential Aged Care Cost Collection (RACCC) 2024 and the Support at Home Cost Collection (SAHCC) 2024. Both of these aim to build upon and leverage their respective 2023 data sets.

Visit the IHACPA website to access the aged care cost collection reports at www.ihacpa.gov.au/aged-care-cost-reports

Residential Aged Care Cost Collections

RACCC 2024 aims to increase the number of participants from the 2023 collection and to perform deep dive analyses for targeted areas to improve IHACPA's understanding of areas such as care related administration costs, allied health, indirect care time and respite services. RACCC 2024 commenced in July 2024 and will be finalised at the start of 2025.

IHACPA will continue to conduct cost collections in the residential aged care sector. We encourage all aged care providers to participate in IHACPA's residential aged care cost collections. Express interest via the QR code on the next page.

By participating in our residential aged care cost collections, you will:

- play a role in shaping pricing advice to the Australian Government
- contribute significantly to IHACPA's understanding of costs associated with aged care services
- receive a facility benchmarking and data insights pack, providing you with valuable benchmarked costed data summaries.

“ Influencing change in the sector, it is important the aged care industry continues to provide data on care needs/ staff time to ensure funding to the sector is reflective of the cost of delivering care.

Aged care costing study participant

Support at Home Cost Collections

SAHCC 2024 will leverage the findings of the SAHCS to further contribute to the development of a cost and activity dataset reflective of services provided through the in-home aged care sector. SAHCC 2024 commenced in July 2024 until September 2024.

The scope of the SAHCC 2024 included **Home Care Packages** and **Short-Term Restorative Care** programs. The Commonwealth Home Support Program will be considered in future cost collections.

The purpose of the SAHCC 2024 was to increase the sample of cost and activity data at service and subcategory level collected. An example of the level of data requested from service types:



Domestic assistance

General house cleaning, assistance with household activities, laundry services and shopping delivery.



Meals and nutrition

Meal delivery, meal preparation and nutrition.



Care management

Clinical, non-clinical and restorative.



Social and community engagement

Group social support, individual social support, accompanied activities, cultural support, digital education and support and maintenance of personal affairs.

IHACPA will continue to conduct cost collections in the in-home aged care sector. To express interest, scan the QR code below.

By participating in our support at home cost collections, you will:

- build on IHACPA's understanding of current service provision, data maturity, business systems and the drivers of cost variation of in-home aged care services
- receive a benchmarking report comparing your organisation's program costs to other in-home aged care providers to gain sector insight
- provide the opportunity for underrepresented geographical locations, provider types and service types to be better captured.

“ It's good to be part of something that can support and improve the [aged care] industry.

Aged care costing study participant

How to participate in IHACPA cost collections

IHACPA's cost data cycle informs annual pricing advice to the Australian Government. Participation in cost collection ensures that the costs of aged care are accurately captured and that pricing advice is directly informed by the actual costs of delivering care.

Use the QR code to [express your organisation's interest in participating](#).

For more information email agedcarecosting@ihacpa.gov.au or visit www.ihacpa.gov.au/aged-care-costing

