

# NHCDC Public Sector 2023–24

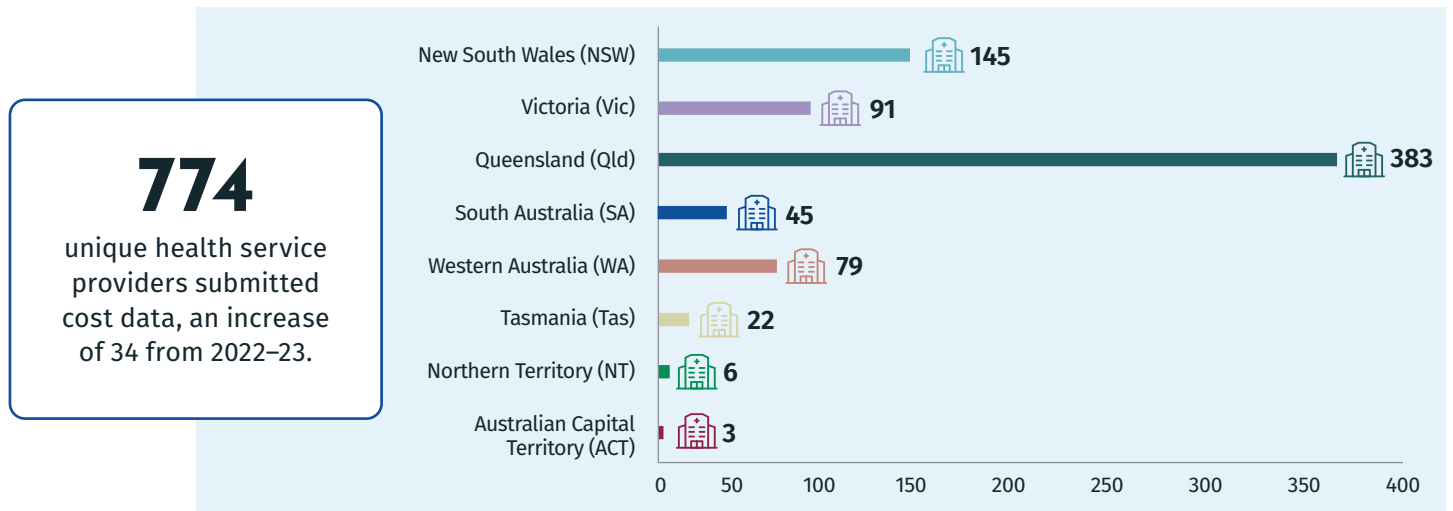


This National Hospital Cost Data Collection (NHCDC) collected public hospital and health services cost information for the 2023–24 financial year. Record counts and associated costs reported in previous cost reports may differ from those published in the NHCDC Public Sector Report, appendix tables and infographics due to jurisdictional resubmissions. The dataset has been updated. Therefore, figures from prior years may not correspond with previously published reports.

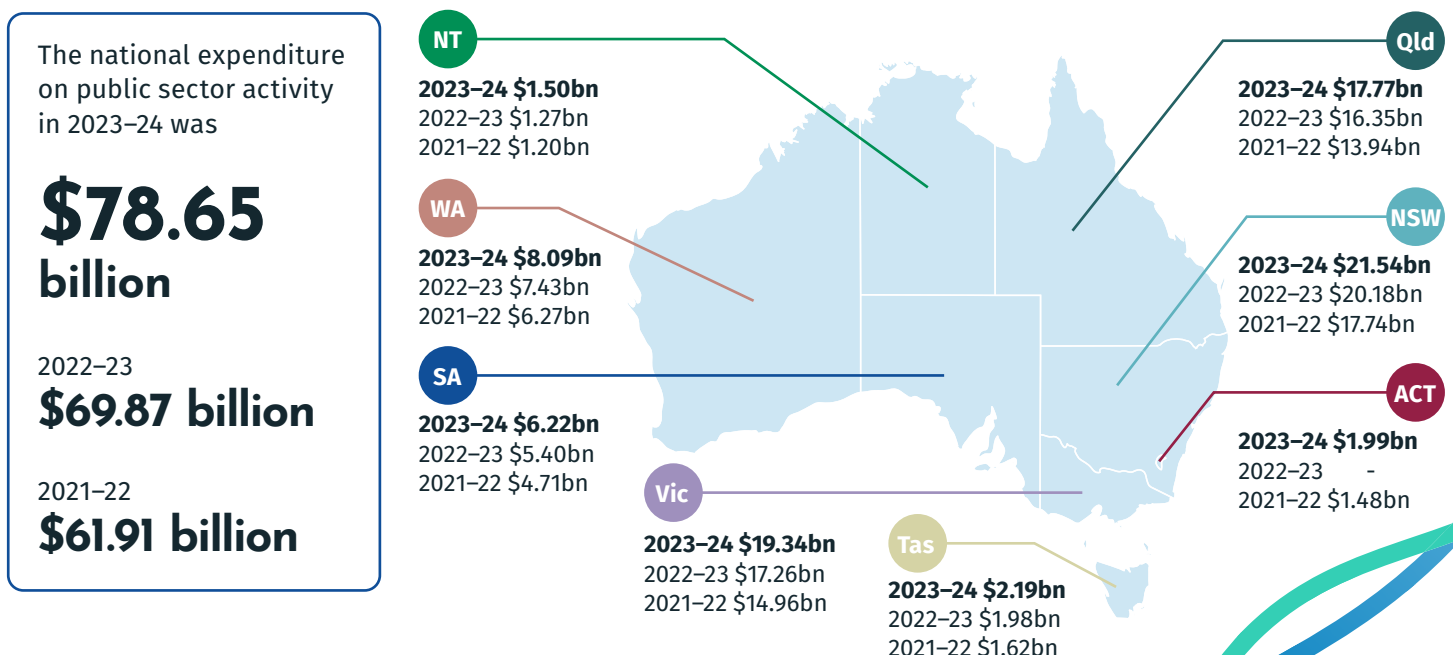
The NHCDC Public Sector Report contains a detailed summary of the NHCDC data. Data quality statements provided by each jurisdiction describe the methodology used to allocate costs to patient activity when preparing their NHCDC data. The below figures show the number of public hospitals and health services participating, including contracted care facilities. A contracted care activity occurs when a public institution, such as a public hospital, commissions another institution, such as a private hospital, to provide a service.

Note IHACPA did not receive NHCDC data from the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) for 2022–23.

## Number of public hospitals, including health service providers, that submitted NHCDC data



## How much costed patient activity is submitted in the NHCDC?



## Patient activity streams

Patient activity refers to services and procedures received by the patient in relation to their care. The NHCDC results are presented by the following 5 broad patient activity streams.



### Admitted acute care

An admitted acute care **separation** represents a formal admission to hospital to receive short-term treatment. This includes treating illnesses, injuries, performing surgery or diagnostic procedures and managing childbirth.



### Non-admitted care

A non-admitted care **service event** represents a patient encounter that has not undergone the formal hospital admission process and does not occupy a hospital bed. This includes hospital outpatient clinics, community based clinics and patients' homes.



### Subacute and non-acute care

Subacute and non-acute care **episodes and phases** represent the delivery of a specialised care service that is related to the optimisation of the patient's functioning and quality of life. This includes psychogeriatric care, geriatric evaluation and management care, rehabilitation and palliative care.



### Emergency department care

An emergency department care **presentation** represents the delivery of a service provided to a patient in a hospital's emergency department. Emergency departments are dedicated hospital-based facilities specifically designed and staffed to provide 24-hour emergency care.



### Mental health care

A mental health care **phase or episode** represents the delivery of a mental health care service to a patient and can be provided either in an admitted or a community setting.

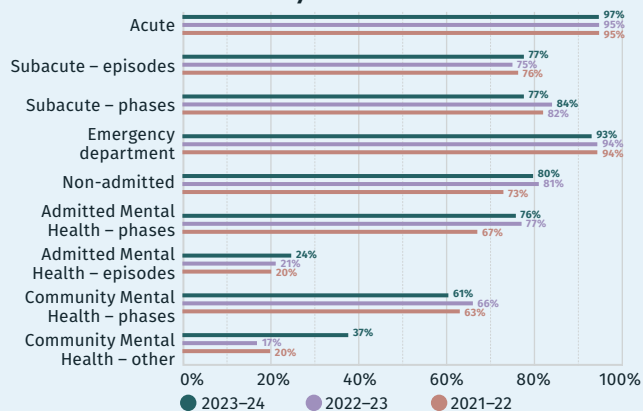
## Costed activity

In addition to submitting cost data to the NHCDC, jurisdictions submit activity data to IHACPA for activity based funding purposes. When both activity and NHCDC cost data relating to a particular patient encounter are submitted, IHACPA links the data.

The completeness of the NHCDC is measured by the percentage of linked activity data, this is also known as 'costed activity'.

**97%** of the admitted acute care episode, submitted through IHACPA's activity data collection, had matching cost data.

### Level of costed activity for 2021–22 to 2023–24



## Cost buckets

IHACPA reports on cost data submitted to the NHCDC using cost buckets. Cost buckets represent cost pools within a hospital, which relate to a particular function of the hospital. For example, the pathology department.

For 2023–24, the nursing cost bucket accounted for the biggest share of the costs for admitted acute, admitted subacute, admitted mental health, and community mental health activity streams. The medical cost bucket accounted for the biggest share of the costs for emergency department and non-admitted care. The table below provides the proportion of costs by selected cost buckets.

### Proportion of costs by selected cost buckets and activity stream

Cost bucket	Acute (%)	Subacute (%) – episodes	Subacute (%) – phases	Emergency dept. (%)	Non-admitted (%)	Admitted mental health (%) – phases	Admitted mental health (%) – episodes	Community mental health (%) – phases	Community mental health (%) – other
Nursing	17.2	30.7	32.3	20.8	14.3	34.4	34.2	23.6	23.6
Medical	11.7	12.3	15.2	24.5	16.1	15.3	16.0	15.3	16.7
On-costs	9.4	10.4	10.5	9.4	9.1	11.3	9.2	13.3	9.7
Clinical supplies	7.8	11.7	12.0	9.7	9.8	10.7	14.6	10.7	12.5
Non-clinical	5.9	10.1	10.9	8.1	9.2	11.6	9.2	12.4	12.4
Pathology	3.4	1.1	0.7	6.4	3.2	0.8	0.8	0.4	1.0
Allied health	3.0	10.5	5.9	1.3	11.7	4.7	5.5	20.1	18.9
Prosthesis	2.6	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Imaging	2.5	0.7	0.6	10.3	3.8	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.0
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>63.5</b>	<b>87.6</b>	<b>88.1</b>	<b>90.5</b>	<b>77.4</b>	<b>89.0</b>	<b>89.7</b>	<b>95.8</b>	<b>94.8</b>

### Number of encounters per activity stream

	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Admitted acute separations	6,224,642	6,506,233	<b>6,964,697</b>
Subacute and non-acute episodes	151,706	164,415	<b>181,825</b>
Subacute phases	64,477	72,889	<b>73,858</b>
Emergency department presentations	8,270,175	8,574,940	<b>9,056,784</b>
Emergency virtual care	-	-	<b>35,355</b>
Non-admitted service events	32,394,791	27,799,857	<b>30,448,478</b>
Admitted mental health phases	79,935	92,898	<b>102,858</b>
Admitted mental health episodes	27,918	29,812	<b>34,520</b>
Community mental phases	555,828	729,446	<b>755,730</b>
Community mental other	219,032	216,179	<b>505,586</b>

### Total number of encounters for 2023–24

**48,177,939**

## Admitted acute care

The admitted acute care expenditure reported in the NHCDC was

**\$44.69 billion**

The proportion of total hospital expenditure reported in the NHCDC in 2023–24.

56.8%

2022–23

**\$40.59 billion**

2021–22

**\$36.16 billion**

Number of hospitals that submitted admitted acute care cost data



**428**  
2023–24



**414**  
2022–23



**379**  
2021–22



The national average cost per admitted acute care separation for 2023–24 was

**\$6,415**

2022–23

**\$6,238**

2021–22

**\$5,807**

The data contains detailed cost information for

**6,964,697**

admitted acute care separations.

14.5%

Admitted acute care accounted for 14.5% of all hospital patient activity reported in the NHCDC for 2023–24.

The separations were captured through 802 different Australian Refined Diagnosis Related Groups (AR-DRGs) Version 12.0. The most commonly reported AR-DRGs related to haemodialysis, pharmacotherapy for neoplastic disorders and colonoscopy, minor complexity.

## Comparing patient complexity

To compare costs between jurisdictions, IHACPA 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 2023–24, a single heart transplant patient separation accounts for **34.85 weighted separations**. A colonoscopy (minor complexity) accounts for **0.49 weighted separations**. This reflects the greater complexity of heart transplants.

If a jurisdiction's average cost per weighted separation is lower than its average cost per separation, that jurisdiction's activity is comprised of a higher proportion of complex AR-DRGs.

## Highest volume AR-DRGs for 2023–24

AR-DRG	Description	Separations	Average length of stay	Average cost	Cost weight
L61Z	Haemodialysis	1,475,589	1.0	\$744	0.12
R63Z	Pharmacotherapy for Neoplastic Disorders	320,875	1.0	\$2,864	0.45
G48B	Colonoscopy, Minor Complexity	100,022	1.0	\$3,163	0.49
F74B	Chest Pain, Minor Complexity	89,178	1.1	\$1,008	0.16
C16Z	Lens Interventions	83,761	1.0	\$3,727	0.58

## Highest volume AR-DRGs for 2022–23

AR-DRG	Description	Separations	Average length of stay	Average cost	Cost weight
L61Z	Haemodialysis	1,413,034	1.0	\$688	0.11
R63Z	Pharmacotherapy for Neoplastic Disorders	306,481	1.0	\$2,716	0.44
G48B	Colonoscopy, Minor Complexity	91,553	1.1	\$2,988	0.48
F74B	Chest Pain, Minor Complexity	87,852	1.1	\$1,004	0.16
C16Z	Lens interventions	72,927	1.0	\$3,520	0.56

## National results for admitted acute care



	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Average cost per weighted sep	\$5,812	\$6,038	<b>\$6,050</b>
Same-day (SD) as % of all seps	50%	51%	<b>50%</b>
Average length of stay (days)	3.13	3.07	<b>2.98</b>
Average length of stay (days) — exc. SD	5.25	5.22	<b>4.99</b>



	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Average cost per weighted sep	\$5,838	\$6,299	<b>\$6,590</b>
Same-day (SD) as % of all seps	63%	63%	<b>63%</b>
Average length of stay (days)	2.26	2.32	<b>2.25</b>
Average length of stay (days) — exc. SD	4.46	4.58	<b>4.43</b>



	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Average cost per weighted sep	\$5,129	\$5,626	<b>\$5,639</b>
Same-day (SD) as % of all seps	61%	62%	<b>62%</b>
Average length of stay (days)	2.11	2.11	<b>2.07</b>
Average length of stay (days) — exc. SD	3.89	3.90	<b>3.81</b>



	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Average cost per weighted sep	\$6,044	\$6,745	<b>\$7,159</b>
Same-day (SD) as % of all seps	56%	55%	<b>56%</b>
Average length of stay (days)	2.59	2.74	<b>2.71</b>
Average length of stay (days) — exc. SD	4.58	4.86	<b>4.87</b>



	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Average cost per weighted sep	\$6,563	\$7,243	<b>\$7,414</b>
Same-day (SD) as % of all seps	64%	64%	<b>64%</b>
Average length of stay (days)	2.14	2.19	<b>2.15</b>
Average length of stay (days) — exc. SD	4.17	4.32	<b>4.22</b>



	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Average cost per weighted sep	\$6,888	\$7,906	<b>\$8,438</b>
Same-day (SD) as % of all seps	62%	61%	<b>62%</b>
Average length of stay (days)	2.48	2.59	<b>2.52</b>
Average length of stay (days) — exc. SD	4.86	5.12	<b>4.95</b>



	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Average cost per weighted sep	\$7,692	\$7,761	<b>\$9,394</b>
Same-day (SD) as % of all seps	73%	72%	<b>72%</b>
Average length of stay (days)	1.93	1.94	<b>1.95</b>
Average length of stay (days) — exc. SD	4.47	4.42	<b>4.41</b>



	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Average cost per weighted sep	\$6,578	-	<b>\$7,030</b>
Same-day (SD) as % of all seps	57%	-	<b>57%</b>
Average length of stay (days)	2.61	-	<b>2.35</b>
Average length of stay (days) — exc. SD	4.74	-	<b>4.18</b>



	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Average cost per weighted sep	\$5,807	\$6,238	<b>\$6,415</b>
Same-day (SD) as % of all seps	59%	59%	<b>59%</b>
Average length of stay (days)	2.44	2.47	<b>2.41</b>
Average length of stay (days) — exc. SD	4.55	4.62	<b>4.47</b>

## Subacute and non-acute care

The subacute and non-acute expenditure reported in the NHCDC was

# \$5.06 billion

This represents **6.4%** of total hospital expenditure reported in the NHCDC for 2023-24.

6.4%

2022-23

# \$4.38 billion

2021-22

# \$3.71 billion

Number of hospitals that submitted subacute and non-acute care cost data



**368**  
2023-24



**368**  
2022-23



**349**  
2021-22



The national average cost per AN-SNAP separation in 2023-24 was

**\$24,569 per episode** and **\$8,016 per phase**

IHACPA uses the Australian National Subacute and Non-Acute Patient Classification (AN-SNAP) system to classify subacute and non-acute care.

2022-23  
**\$23,351 per episode and \$7,455 per phase**

2021-22  
**\$21,399 per episode and \$7,256 per phase**

The subacute and non-acute care data contains detailed cost information for

**181,825** episodes and **73,858** phases

0.5%

This represents **0.5%** of all hospital patient activity reported in the NHCDC for 2023-24.

### National average cost per subacute care type

	2021-22 (\$)	2022-23 (\$)	2023-24 (\$)
Psychogeriatric care	52,597	59,856	<b>57,021</b>
Geriatric evaluation and management	21,595	23,940	<b>23,867</b>
Rehabilitation care	23,310	22,159	<b>23,303</b>
Palliative care per episode	12,520	12,558	<b>14,256</b>
Palliative care per phase	7,256	7,455	<b>8,016</b>
Maintenance	18,152	25,219	<b>27,375</b>

## National results

NSW	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Number of hospitals	88	93	<b>90</b>
Total expenditure	\$924m	\$1,150m	<b>\$1,277m</b>
Episodes	35,623	45,876	<b>48,288</b>
Average cost per episode (\$/ep)	\$20,916	\$20,489	<b>\$21,654</b>
ALOS per episode	16.6	16.8	<b>16.6</b>
Phases	28,082	35,010	<b>36,822</b>
Average cost per phase (\$/ph)	\$6,358	\$6,002	<b>\$6,288</b>
ALOS per phase	4.2	3.9	<b>3.7</b>

SA	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Number of hospitals	19	20	<b>20</b>
Total expenditure	\$316m	\$375m	<b>\$462m</b>
Episodes	13,363	16,261	<b>17,757</b>
Average cost per episode (\$/ep)	\$21,988	\$21,490	<b>\$24,329</b>
ALOS per episode	17.4	17.1	<b>18.1</b>
Phases	2,918	3,397	<b>4,088</b>
Average cost per phase (\$/ph)	\$7,446	\$7,495	<b>\$7,249</b>
ALOS per phase	4.5	4.4	<b>3.9</b>

NT	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Number of hospitals	6	6	<b>6</b>
Total expenditure	\$68m	\$60m	<b>\$83m</b>
Episodes	900	814	<b>901</b>
Average cost per episode (\$/ep)	\$63,268	\$60,459	<b>\$74,287</b>
ALOS per episode	39.4	36.6	<b>41.9</b>
Phases	1,152	1,120	<b>1,418</b>
Average cost per phase (\$/ph)	\$9,855	\$9,694	<b>\$11,003</b>
ALOS per phase	3.8	3.8	<b>4.0</b>

Vic	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Number of hospitals	66	65	<b>64</b>
Total expenditure	\$917m	\$1,104m	<b>\$1,175m</b>
Episodes	30,342	32,473	<b>34,468</b>
Average cost per episode (\$/ep)	\$26,252	\$29,676	<b>\$30,098</b>
ALOS per episode	22.5	24.2	<b>22.9</b>
Phases	15,741	15,824	<b>16,462</b>
Average cost per phase (\$/ph)	\$7,624	\$8,854	<b>\$8,345</b>
ALOS per phase	4.8	5.0	<b>4.8</b>

WA	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Number of hospitals	33	35	<b>35</b>
Total expenditure	\$366m	\$390m	<b>\$426m</b>
Episodes	11,914	12,383	<b>13,581</b>
Average cost per episode (\$/ep)	\$30,753	\$31,515	<b>\$31,382</b>
ALOS per episode	18.8	18.2	<b>17.4</b>
Phases	-	-	-
Average cost per phase (\$/ph)	-	-	-
ALOS per phase	-	-	-

ACT	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Number of hospitals	3	-	<b>3</b>
Total expenditure	\$114m	-	<b>\$179m</b>
Episodes	4,731	-	<b>6,292</b>
Average cost per episode (\$/ep)	\$24,006	-	<b>\$28,476</b>
ALOS per episode	16.9	-	<b>14.8</b>
Phases	-	-	-
Average cost per phase (\$/ph)	-	-	-
ALOS per phase	-	-	-

Qld	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Number of hospitals	113	128	<b>130</b>
Total expenditure (\$m)	\$942m	\$1,209m	<b>\$1,351m</b>
Episodes	52,240	53,214	<b>56,687</b>
Average cost per episode (\$/ep)	\$15,515	\$19,870	<b>\$20,776</b>
ALOS per episode	12.0	13.1	<b>13.3</b>
Phases	15,871	16,822	<b>14,271</b>
Average cost per phase (\$/ph)	\$8,310	\$9,001	<b>\$12,127</b>
ALOS per phase	4.9	5.0	<b>5.4</b>

Tas	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Number of hospitals	21	21	<b>20</b>
Total expenditure	\$68m	\$95m	<b>\$107m</b>
Episodes	2,593	3,394	<b>3,851</b>
Average cost per episode (\$/ep)	\$24,478	\$26,315	<b>\$26,534</b>
ALOS per episode	22.9	20.9	<b>20.9</b>
Phases	713	716	<b>797</b>
Average cost per phase (\$/ph)	\$6,050	\$7,538	<b>\$6,025</b>
ALOS per phase	4.4	3.5	<b>3.5</b>

National	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Number of hospitals	349	368	<b>368</b>
Total expenditure	\$3,714m	\$4,383m	<b>\$5,059m</b>
Episodes	151,706	164,415	<b>181,825</b>
Average cost per episode (\$/ep)	\$21,399	\$23,351	<b>\$24,569</b>
ALOS per episode	16.7	17.4	<b>17.1</b>
Phases	64,477	72,889	<b>73,858</b>
Average cost per phase (\$/ph)	\$7,256	\$7,455	<b>\$8,016</b>
ALOS per phase	4.5	4.4	<b>4.3</b>

## Emergency department care

The emergency department expenditure reported in the NHDC was

# \$9.56 billion

12.2%

This represents **12.2%** of total hospital expenditure reported in the NHDC for 2023–24.

2022–23

## \$8.40 billion

2021–22

## \$7.37 billion

Number of hospitals that submitted emergency department care cost data



The national average cost per emergency department presentation in 2023–24 was

# \$1,055

2022–23  
**\$980**

2021–22  
**\$891**

The data contains detailed cost information for

# 9,056,784

emergency department presentations.

18.8%

Emergency department care accounted for **18.8%** of all hospital patient activity reported in the NHDC for 2023–24.

## National results

NSW	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Total expenditure	\$2,234m	\$2,597m	<b>\$2,816m</b>
Avg cost per ED presentation	\$907	\$953	<b>\$995</b>
Avg cost per admitted ED presentation	\$1,318	\$1,420	<b>\$1,461</b>
Avg cost per non-admitted ED presentation	\$775	\$797	<b>\$834</b>
% of ED presentations admitted to hospital	24%	25%	<b>26%</b>
Vic	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Total expenditure	\$1,671m	\$1,912m	<b>\$2,076m</b>
Avg cost per ED presentation	\$919	\$1,022	<b>\$1,086</b>
Avg cost per admitted ED presentation	\$1,375	\$1,551	<b>\$1,629</b>
Avg cost per non-admitted ED presentation	\$682	\$742	<b>\$770</b>
% of ED presentations admitted to hospital	34%	35%	<b>37%</b>
Qld	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Total expenditure	\$1,625m	\$1,929m	<b>\$2,218m</b>
Avg cost per ED presentation	\$751	\$858	<b>\$946</b>
Avg cost per admitted ED presentation	\$1,123	\$1,300	<b>\$1,436</b>
Avg cost per non-admitted ED presentation	\$600	\$680	<b>\$757</b>
% of ED presentations admitted to hospital	29%	29%	<b>28%</b>
SA	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Total expenditure	\$518m	\$602m	<b>\$643m</b>
Avg cost per ED presentation	\$905	\$1,007	<b>\$1,007</b>
Avg cost per admitted ED presentation	\$1,351	\$1,505	<b>\$1,403</b>
Avg cost per non-admitted ED presentation	\$713	\$815	<b>\$925</b>
% of ED presentations admitted to hospital	30%	28%	<b>29%</b>
WA	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Total expenditure	\$806m	\$928m	<b>\$1,059m</b>
Avg cost per ED presentation	\$1,053	\$1,197	<b>\$1,248</b>
Avg cost per admitted ED presentation	\$1,684	\$1,875	<b>\$1,971</b>
Avg cost per non-admitted ED presentation	\$866	\$985	<b>\$1,032</b>
% of ED presentations admitted to hospital	23%	24%	<b>23%</b>

Tas	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Total expenditure	\$198m	\$239m	<b>\$276m</b>
Avg cost per ED presentation	\$1,141	\$1,373	<b>\$1,556</b>
Avg cost per admitted ED presentation	\$1,928	\$2,317	<b>\$2,646</b>
Avg cost per non-admitted ED presentation	\$831	\$979	<b>\$1,103</b>
% of ED presentations admitted to hospital	28%	29%	<b>29%</b>
NT	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Total expenditure	\$171m	\$193m	<b>\$228m</b>
Avg cost per ED presentation	\$998	\$1,063	<b>\$1,234</b>
Avg cost per admitted ED presentation	\$1,568	\$1,905	<b>\$2,083</b>
Avg cost per non-admitted ED presentation	\$759	\$672	<b>\$841</b>
% of ED presentations admitted to hospital	30%	32%	<b>32%</b>
ACT	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Total expenditure	\$144m	-	<b>\$241m</b>
Avg cost per ED presentation	\$1,006	-	<b>\$1,549</b>
Avg cost per admitted ED presentation	\$1,628	-	<b>\$2,569</b>
Avg cost per non-admitted ED presentation	\$717	-	<b>\$832</b>
% of ED presentations admitted to hospital	32%	-	<b>41%</b>
National	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Total expenditure	\$7,365m	\$8,400m	<b>\$9,557m</b>
Avg cost per ED presentation	\$891	\$980	<b>\$1,055</b>
Avg cost per admitted ED presentation	\$1,335	\$1,493	<b>\$1,598</b>
Avg cost per non-admitted ED presentation	\$715	\$776	<b>\$833</b>
% of ED presentations admitted to hospital	28%	28%	<b>29%</b>

## Non-admitted care

The non-admitted expenditure reported in the NHCDC was

**\$12.66 billion**

This represents **16.1%** of total hospital expenditure reported in the NHCDC for 2023–24.

16.1%

2022–23

**\$11.19 billion**

2021–22

**\$10.50 billion**

Number of hospitals that submitted non-admitted care cost data



**445**  
2023–24



**439**  
2022–23



**421**  
2021–22



The national average cost per non-admitted care service event in 2023–24 was

**\$416**

2022–23  
**\$403**

2021–22  
**\$324**

The data contains detailed cost information for

**30,448,478**

non-admitted patient service events.

63.2%

Non-admitted care accounted for **63.2%** of all hospital patient activity reported in the NHCDC for 2023–24.

IHACPA uses the Tier 2 Non-Admitted Services Classification (Tier 2) to classify non-admitted care. The classification splits clinics by whether a procedure was undertaken and by those led by medical, nurse practitioner or allied health personnel.

## Tier 2 results from 2023–24

Tier 2	Description	Service events	Total expenditure	Average cost per service event
Procedures (10 series)	Clinics with healthcare professionals that provide procedural based health services, which include treatment related to chemotherapy, renal dialysis and radiation therapy.	1,714,817	\$1,531m	\$893
Medical consultation (20 series)	Clinics where medical consultation is provided by a medical or nurse practitioner, which includes treatment related to ophthalmology, orthopaedics and obstetrics.	12,297,200	\$6,047m	\$492
Diagnostic service (30 series)	Clinics that provide diagnostic services as inputs to the healthcare services of other non-admitted clinics, which includes pathology and mammography screening.	69,010	\$28m	\$402
Allied health or clinical nurse specialist intervention (40 series)	Clinics where there are allied health personnel or clinical nurse specialists providing the majority of services in a clinic, which includes midwifery, physiotherapy and primary healthcare.	16,367,451	\$5,059m	\$309

## National results for non-admitted care



	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Total expenditure	\$3,242m	\$3,577m	\$3,884m
Total service events	9,923,216	10,329,842	10,834,326
Average cost per service event	\$327	\$346	\$358
Average cost per medical consultation – 20 series	\$399	\$435	\$423
Average cost per allied health / clinical nurse intervention – 40 series	\$247	\$248	\$282



	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Total expenditure	\$1,787m	\$2,013m	\$2,198m
Total service events	4,726,182	4,962,830	5,502,177
Average cost per service event	\$378	\$406	\$399
Average cost per medical consultation – 20 series	\$458	\$497	\$503
Average cost per allied health / clinical nurse intervention – 40 series	\$261	\$285	\$278



	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Total expenditure	\$2,711m	\$3,061m	\$3,274m
Total service events	8,554,330	6,998,983	7,314,568
Average cost per service event	\$317	\$437	\$448
Average cost per medical consultation – 20 series	\$426	\$459	\$466
Average cost per allied health / clinical nurse intervention – 40 series	\$335	\$345	\$356



	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Total expenditure	\$1,009m	\$1,011m	\$1,243m
Total service events	3,534,331	1,862,756	2,176,597
Average cost per service event	\$285	\$543	\$571
Average cost per medical consultation – 20 series	\$592	\$629	\$676
Average cost per allied health / clinical nurse intervention – 40 series	\$198	\$257	\$307



	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Total expenditure	\$1,015m	\$1,096m	\$1,212m
Total service events	2,829,078	2,673,077	2,874,529
Average cost per service event	\$359	\$410	\$422
Average cost per medical consultation – 20 series	\$468	\$511	\$534
Average cost per allied health / clinical nurse intervention – 40 series	\$252	\$298	\$308



	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Total expenditure	\$235m	\$268m	\$283m
Total service events	835,257	660,413	578,542
Average cost per service event	\$282	\$406	\$490
Average cost per medical consultation – 20 series	\$417	\$450	\$534
Average cost per allied health / clinical nurse intervention – 40 series	\$306	\$342	\$404



	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Total expenditure	\$162m	\$162m	\$174m
Total service events	306,629	311,956	300,743
Average cost per service event	\$527	\$521	\$578
Average cost per medical consultation – 20 series	\$593	\$594	\$664
Average cost per allied health / clinical nurse intervention – 40 series	\$376	\$347	\$383



	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Total expenditure	\$341m	-	\$398m
Total service events	1,685,768	-	866,996
Average cost per service event	\$202	-	\$459
Average cost per medical consultation – 20 series	\$433	-	\$519
Average cost per allied health / clinical nurse intervention – 40 series	\$316	-	\$412



	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Total expenditure	\$10,501m	\$11,189m	\$12,665m
Total service events	32,394,791	27,799,857	30,448,478
Average cost per service event	\$324	\$402	\$416
Average cost per medical consultation – 20 series	\$446	\$481	\$492
Average cost per allied health / clinical nurse intervention – 40 series	\$270	\$285	\$309

## Mental health care

The mental health expenditure reported in the NHDC was

**\$6.65 billion**

8.5%

This represents **8.5%** of total hospital expenditure reported in the NHDC for 2023–24.

2022–23

**\$5.29 billion**

2021–22

**\$4.17 billion**



Mental health care is provided to patients in both admitted and community settings. IHACPA reports mental health costs using the Australian Mental Health Care Classification (AMHCC) and the AR-DRG classifications.

Community mental health costs are reported at the phase level using the AMHCC, however when costed activity cannot be split into single phases these results are described below as 'Other'.

The admitted setting includes consumers who are formally admitted for treatment in a general ward or a designated psychiatric unit in a general or a psychiatric hospital.

Number of hospitals that submitted **admitted mental health** care phase data



2023–24 **129** 2022–23 **122** 2021–22 **106**

The national average cost per admitted mental health patient in 2023–24 was **\$25,784 per phase** and **\$23,984 per episode**.

Number of hospitals that submitted **admitted mental health** care episode data



2023–24 **145** 2022–23 **136** 2021–22 **133**

The community setting includes mental health care services delivered to consumers who are not admitted to an inpatient facility or reside in a residential mental health care facility.

Number of services that submitted **community mental health** care phase data



2023–24 **249** 2022–23 **223** 2021–22 **208**

The national average cost per community mental health patient phase in 2023–24 was **\$3,034 per phase**.

Number of services that submitted **community mental health** care episode data



2023–24 **188** 2022–23 **178** 2021–22 **116**

## Mental health care summary, 2022–23 to 2023–24

Mental health setting	2022–23			2023–24		
	Phases	Episodes/Other	Total expenditure	Phases	Episodes/Other	Total expenditure
Admitted mental health	92,898	29,812	\$3,014m	102,858	34,520	\$3,480m
Community mental health	729,446	216,179	\$2,271m	755,730	505,586	\$3,072m

## Further information

To learn more about the Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority, get in touch with us via the details below.

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Find us online to connect with us.



Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority



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