



COVID-19 outbreaks in Australian residential aged care facilities

National snapshot

As at 8:00 am 16 March 2023 there are 1,086 active COVID-19 cases in 178 active outbreaks in residential aged care facilities across Australia. There have been 93 new outbreaks, 18 new resident deaths and 951 combined new resident and staff cases reported since 9 March 2023.

Table 1: Aged Care COVID-19 data as at 8.00am 16 March 2023¹

Category	Active ²	Previous 7 days	Cumulative Total	Previous 7 days
Outbreaks ³	178	32	13,299	93
Residential Aged Care Facilities affected	178	32	2,809	2
Resident Cases ⁴	759	120	131,329	682
Resident Deaths	N/A	N/A	5,149	18
Staff Cases	327	64	80,912	269

Residential aged care homes with active outbreaks are included in Appendix 1.

Table 2: Overview of Active Outbreaks in Australia

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Total
Total Facilities with outbreaks	5	49	1	55	19	1	35	13	178
Total number of active resident cases	10	232	1	205	41	14	217	39	759
Total number of active staff cases	3	84	0	127	20	1	73	19	327
Total Outbreaks Opened in Previous 7 Days	2	25	0	25	10	0	23	8	93
Total Outbreaks Closed in Previous 7 Days	0	20	0	14	5	1	14	7	61

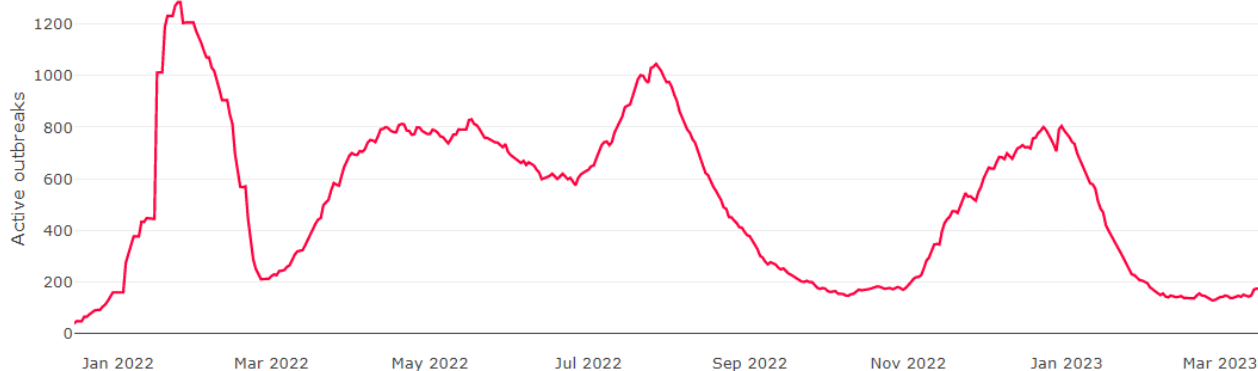
¹ Outbreak opening and closure includes changes in the status of exposure sites to outbreaks (and vice versa), which are applied retrospectively to facility records. New case information can also change the status of a recovered site back to an active outbreak site. As a result, changes in active outbreak status may not align with day on day variations to active totals. These adjustments will also affect the number of cases in staff and residents reported each week.

² Active residents and staff cases are the total currently positive cases in active outbreaks

³ An outbreak is considered to be active pending advice from the relevant Public Health Unit. An outbreak is defined as at least 1 positive case in a resident or 2+ cases in staff.

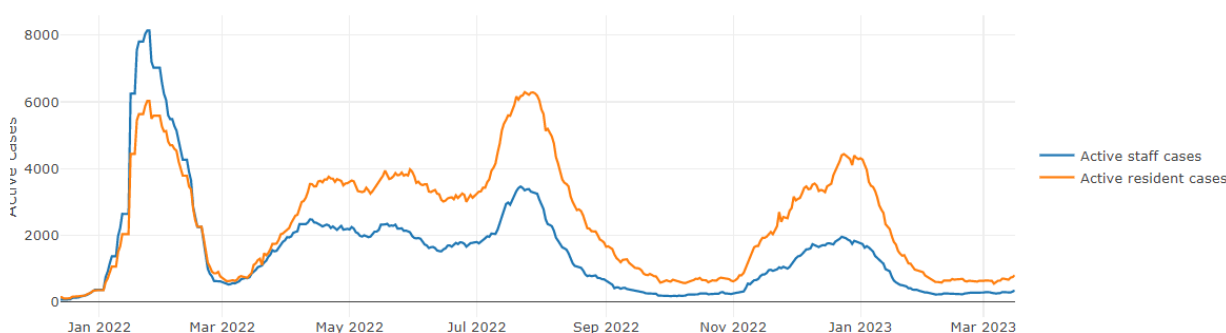
⁴ Case numbers and numbers of deaths are dependent upon reporting from facilities and validation of deaths from state and territory governments. This is subject to change as further information is provided.

Figure 1: National Outbreak Trends in Aged Care



Notes: (i) Residential aged care case data as at 16 Mar 2023
 (ii) The large increase in outbreaks on 16 January 2022 is driven by a reporting lag.

Figure 2: Trends in Aged Care Cases – December 2021 to Present



Notes: (i) Residential aged care case data as at 16 Mar 2023
 (ii) The large increase in active cases on 16 January 2022 is driven by a reporting lag.
 (iii) Cases are considered active for 14 days from the date they are reported.

Mortality

For the period of 1 January 2022 to 10 March 2023, COVID-19 is recorded as the cause of death in 5.7 per cent of all deaths in permanent residents in aged care facilities.

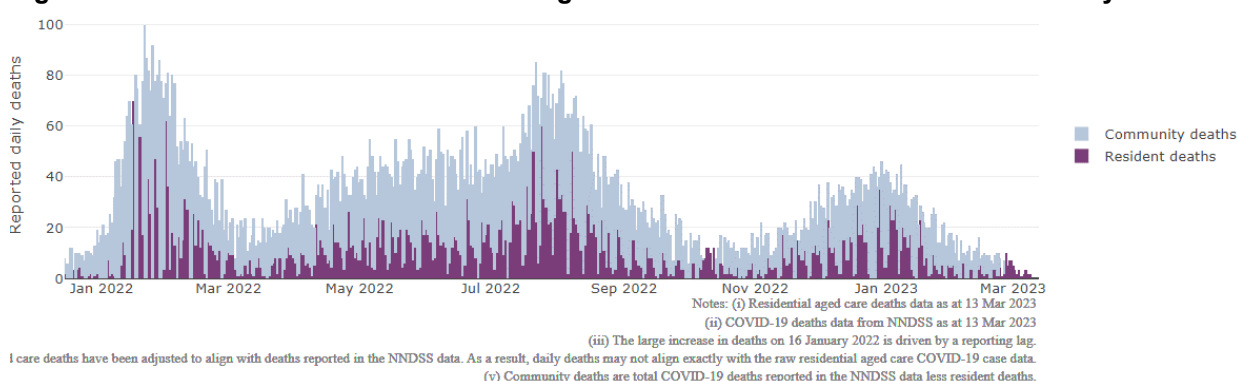
Since the beginning of the Omicron outbreak in mid December⁵ 2021, there have been 76,526 deaths in residential aged care from all causes (report period from 15 December 2021 to 10 March 2023)⁶. COVID-19 deaths account for 5.6 per cent of this figure.

Over the course of the pandemic, all-cause excess mortality in Residential Aged Care was below expected numbers in 2020, and within expected range in 2021.

⁵ The Omicron outbreak start date has been redefined from late November 2021 to mid December 2021. Changes have been made to align reporting with the start date of Omicron published in the Department’s external facing Epidemiology report.

⁶ The Department is now accessing aged care deaths data from the SIEBEL dataset. Figures are live and subject to change. Source: Department of Health and Aged Care unpublished data / SIEBEL dataset.

Figure 3: COVID-19 Deaths in Residential Aged Care Facilities overlaid with Community deaths



Workforce in active residential aged care outbreaks

As at 17 March 2023, workforce surge staff have filled a total of 164,078 shifts in aged care services impacted by COVID-19, including 751 in the past 7 days. In the past 7 days (to 17 March) surge workforce providers have assisted 22 residential aged care homes. These shifts include roles for GPs, nurses, care workers, allied health workers, executive and ancillary staff. This includes:

Table 3: Workforce resources supplied to residential aged care facilities

Workforce provider	Total Shifts	Previous 7 days
Recruitment, Consulting and Staffing Association	101,589	182
Healthcare Australia (Workforce Surge)	13,637	62
Healthcare Australia (NACER)	2,295	N/A
Mable	2,711	N/A
Aspen Medical	21,693	166
HealthX	18,097	341
Torrens	4,056	N/A

The Australian Defence Force provided support to a total of 542 residential aged care homes between February and September 2022. The ADF deployment ceased on 30 September 2022.

Oral antiviral treatments

Distribution of the oral anti-viral Lagevrio (Molnupiravir) commenced on 6 February 2022 to all RACFs with outbreak sites prioritised for delivery. The National Medical Stockpile has deployed 48,269 treatment courses of Lagevrio (Molnupiravir) to aged care facilities.

54,830 prescriptions for Lagevrio (Molnupiravir) have been issued to residents in residential aged care facilities, with a further 3,129 prescriptions for Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir + ritonavir) also issued since 28 February 2022 and up to 12 March 2023.

Vaccination in Residential Aged Care Facilities

People living in residential aged care homes remain a high priority for the Government's COVID-19 vaccination program, with continued ongoing targeted support and increasing communications to maintain the high level of vaccination within this group.

The Government continues to provide all residential aged care facilities with access to COVID vaccination clinics to ensure residents have every opportunity to get vaccinated. As at 2 March 2023, with the 'Winter dose' program from 2022 finalised 85.2% of aged care residents estimated to be eligible for fourth doses have received a fourth dose.

The Department of Health and Aged Care is proactively working with Primary Health Networks to support residential aged care homes that may need assistance with facilitating COVID-19 vaccinations.

The 2023 COVID-19 vaccine booster program started on 20 February 2023. The new program has moved away from dose numbers and focusses on ensuring protection for aged care residents is topped up if it has been more than six months since the last immunising event (an infection or a vaccine dose), regardless of the number of doses.

In the initial phase of the 2023 booster rollout, the Government is targeting residential aged care homes that were early adopters of the fourth dose. In parallel, support is provided to individual aged care homes seeking assistance, linking them to their local Primary Health Network. The Department continues to monitor low dose sites and communicate to facilities there is no minimum number of residents required for COVID-19 vaccination clinics.

The Department is finalising reporting arrangements for the new booster program, moving away from dose numbers and focussing on recency of coverage. Specific information on national and state/territory vaccination uptake for the 2023 COVID-19 booster dose will be available soon.

As at 2 March 2023, a total of 638,705 doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered to residents in residential aged care homes. Information is now received from the Australian Immunisation Register, meaning reported numbers may differ from previous reports. Information from the Australian Immunisation Register provides a more accurate representation of residents currently in residential aged care.

Infection control and audits

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (Commission) conducts a range of site and non-site activities to monitor and assess residential aged care services, including site audits and assessment contacts (site and non-site) (see Table 5 below). In August 2020, the Commission commenced an infection control monitoring (ICM) spot check program in all Australian jurisdictions.

The ICM spot check program involves on-site visits to residential aged care services, without an outbreak, to check compliance with personal protective equipment (PPE) and infection control arrangements. The purpose of the ICM spot check is to observe infection control practices, to ensure that staff, management and visitors were adhering to safe personal protective equipment protocols and to safe infection control arrangements as required under the quality standards.

As at 16 March 2023, the Commission had conducted 4,512 ICM spot checks to observe infection control practices and PPE protocols in residential aged care facilities.

Table 5: Total Quality Assessment and Monitoring Activities with residential services (including IPC), by type and month 1 March 2020 to 16 March 2023

Regulatory Activities	2019-20 (1 Mar - 30 Jun 2020)	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (to 16 March 2023)	Total
Site visits	318	3,452	1,733	2,261	7,764
Non-site activities	3,709	8,382	6,645	1,203	19,939
Total activities	4,027	11,834	8,378	3,464	27,703

Appendix 1: National residential aged care services with Active outbreaks COVID-19

Please note, information reported in this table has been directly reported to the Department of Health and Aged Care by residential aged care facilities. Total cases refers to all staff and resident cases associated with the active outbreak and may not reflect the count of currently active cases. Where numbers have been incorrectly reported, facilities are able to correct these in the COVID-19 Support Portal through My Aged Care. Where a facility is reporting less than six resident or staff cases or less than six deaths, data has been suppressed to protect the privacy of affected individuals (note that “n/p” indicates data is not provided to protect privacy).

Service Name	State	Resident Deaths	Resident Cases	Staff Cases	Total Incidents
BaptistCare Griffith	Australian Capital Territory	0	<6	<6	<6
Fred Ward Gardens	Australian Capital Territory	0	<6	0	<6
Goodwin Ainslie (Goodwin House)	Australian Capital Territory	0	<6	0	<6
Goodwin Monash	Australian Capital Territory	0	<6	0	<6
RFBI Holt Masonic Village	Australian Capital Territory	0	<6	0	<6
ACDMA Aged Care Services	New South Wales	0	27	<6	n/p
Advantaged Care at Edensor Gardens	New South Wales	0	11	<6	n/p
Auburn Glen Care Community	New South Wales	0	0	<6	<6
Beresford Hall	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Calvary Ryde Retirement Community - Mary Potter Residential Care	New South Wales	0	13	0	13
Canberra Nursing Home	New South Wales	0	9	6	15
Carino Care at Rockdale	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	8
Carinya House	New South Wales	0	9	<6	n/p
Catholic Healthcare Bethlehem House	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	<6
Catholic Healthcare Holy Spirit Dubbo	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Catholic Healthcare St James Villa	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Catholic Healthcare St John's Villa	New South Wales	0	19	<6	n/p
Chamberlain Gardens Aged Care	New South Wales	0	13	<6	n/p
Clelland Lodge	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Dural House Aged Care	New South Wales	0	10	<6	n/p
Elizabeth Lodge (Rushcutters Bay)	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	<6

Service Name	State	Resident Deaths	Resident Cases	Staff Cases	Total Incidents
Emmaus	New South Wales	<6	33	19	52
Estia Health Blakehurst	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Goodhew Gardens	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Heritage Illawong	New South Wales	0	8	<6	n/p
Holbrook District Hospital	New South Wales	0	11	10	21
Hunters Hill Montefiore Home	New South Wales	0	0	<6	<6
IBIS Care Miranda	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
James Milson Village North Sydney	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Killarney Court Aged Care Facility	New South Wales	0	12	<6	n/p
Lucy Chieng Aged Care Centre	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Mayfield Aged Care	New South Wales	0	31	7	38
Meadowbank Grove Care Community	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Mountain View Lodge Hostel	New South Wales	0	9	<6	n/p
Porter Lodge	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
RFBI Dubbo Masonic Village	New South Wales	0	7	<6	n/p
RFBI Glen Innes Masonic Village	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Rutherford Park Care Community	New South Wales	0	7	<6	n/p
S Antonio Da Padova Nursing Home	New South Wales	0	0	<6	<6
St Agnes Site	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	<6
St Basil's Lakemba	New South Wales	0	10	0	10
Stanmore Place Care Community	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Stella Maris Aged Care Facility	New South Wales	0	0	<6	<6
The Whiddon Group - Kelso	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	<6
Uniting Arrunga Ermington	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Uniting Caroon Jarman Goonellabah	New South Wales	0	16	<6	n/p
Uniting Caroon Yamba	New South Wales	0	7	0	7
Uniting Mullauna Blacktown	New South Wales	0	12	<6	n/p
Uniting Ronald Coleman Lodge Woollahra	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6

Service Name	State	Resident Deaths	Resident Cases	Staff Cases	Total Incidents
Uniting Thomas Roseby Lodge Marrickville	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Wahroonga House	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	<6
Warrigal Care Shell Cove	New South Wales	0	34	17	51
Weeroona Aged Care Residence	New South Wales	0	9	<6	n/p
Wesley Vickery	New South Wales	0	9	<6	n/p
Mulakunya Flexible Aged Care Service (Nguiu)	Northern Territory	0	<6	0	<6
Anglicare SQ Symes Grove Home for the Aged	Queensland	0	<6	<6	<6
Arcare Helensvale St James	Queensland	0	<6	<6	6
Arcare Parkinson	Queensland	0	<6	0	<6
Arcare Parkwood	Queensland	0	<6	0	<6
Arcare Slacks Creek	Queensland	0	6	<6	n/p
Benevolent Living	Queensland	0	16	12	28
Blue Care Carbrook Wirunya Aged Care Facility	Queensland	0	26	17	43
Blue Care Kenmore Aged Care Facility	Queensland	0	7	<6	n/p
Blue Care Mackay Homefield Aged Care Facility	Queensland	0	0	<6	<6
Blue Care Redcliffe Aged Care Facility	Queensland	<6	<6	0	<6
Blue Care Redland Bay Yarrabee Aged Care Facility	Queensland	0	<6	6	n/p
Blue Care Wynnum Aged Care Facility	Queensland	0	6	<6	n/p
Bolton Clarke Carrington	Queensland	0	<6	<6	<6
Bolton Clarke Centaur	Queensland	0	<6	<6	8
Bolton Clarke Galleon Gardens	Queensland	0	0	<6	<6
Bolton Clarke Pioneers Nursing Home	Queensland	<6	<6	0	<6
Bupa Glenvale	Queensland	<6	19	12	31
Burpengary Gardens Care Community	Queensland	0	11	0	11
Burpengary Manor Aged Care	Queensland	0	<6	<6	<6
Calvary Gympie Views	Queensland	<6	46	20	66
Carramar Aged Care	Queensland	0	6	<6	n/p

Service Name	State	Resident Deaths	Resident Cases	Staff Cases	Total Incidents
Central & Upper Burnett District Home for the Aged Nursing Home	Queensland	0	<6	<6	<6
Churches of Christ Brig-o-doon Aged Care Service	Queensland	0	<6	<6	<6
Churches of Christ Clive Burdeu Aged Care Service	Queensland	0	29	6	35
Churches of Christ Fair Haven Aged Care Service Maryborough	Queensland	0	9	<6	n/p
Churches of Christ Little Mountain Aged Care Service	Queensland	0	8	<6	n/p
Churches of Christ Moonah Park Aged Care Service	Queensland	0	0	<6	<6
Estia Health Gold Coast	Queensland	0	12	<6	n/p
Glenella Care	Queensland	0	<6	0	<6
Good Shepherd Lodge	Queensland	0	<6	<6	<6
Infinite Care Mount Lofty	Queensland	0	<6	<6	<6
Lodges on George	Queensland	0	<6	0	<6
Lutheran Services - Salem	Queensland	0	9	<6	n/p
Lutheran Services - Zion	Queensland	<6	<6	<6	<6
Marebello	Queensland	0	41	15	56
Maryborough Community Aged Care	Queensland	0	7	6	13
Milton House	Queensland	<6	<6	<6	<6
NewDirection Care at Bellmere	Queensland	0	0	<6	<6
Newstead Grand Care Community	Queensland	<6	9	<6	n/p
North Lakes Terrace Care Community	Queensland	0	32	11	43
Ozcare Villa Vincent	Queensland	0	0	<6	<6
PresCare - Alexandra Gardens	Queensland	<6	<6	0	<6
Redcliffe Aged Care Service	Queensland	0	<6	0	<6
Regis Birkdale	Queensland	0	<6	0	<6
Regis Home Hill	Queensland	<6	22	22	44
Regis Kuluin	Queensland	0	<6	<6	<6
Regis Salisbury	Queensland	0	23	<6	n/p
Residency by Dillons Tin Can Bay	Queensland	0	8	10	18

Service Name	State	Resident Deaths	Resident Cases	Staff Cases	Total Incidents
St Vincent's Care Services Bardon	Queensland	0	<6	<6	6
St Vincent's Care Services Kangaroo Point - Marycrest	Queensland	0	<6	<6	<6
St Vincent's Care Services Mitchelton	Queensland	0	<6	<6	<6
Sylvan Woods Nursing Home	Queensland	0	<6	0	<6
TriCare Annerley Aged Care Residence	Queensland	0	<6	0	<6
TriCare Stafford Lakes Aged Care Residence	Queensland	0	22	7	29
Wheller Gardens - John Wesley Gardens	Queensland	<6	20	8	28
ACH Group Residential Care - Highercombe	South Australia	0	<6	0	<6
Alwyndor Aged Care	South Australia	0	<6	<6	<6
Aminya Village Hostel	South Australia	0	<6	0	<6
Belalie Lodge	South Australia	0	<6	0	<6
Boandik St Mary's	South Australia	0	<6	<6	7
Charla Lodge	South Australia	0	<6	0	<6
Copperhouse Court Hostel	South Australia	0	<6	0	<6
Estia Health Hope Valley	South Australia	0	<6	<6	6
Estia Health Valley View	South Australia	0	<6	<6	6
Japara Oaklands	South Australia	0	<6	0	<6
Kalyra McLaren Vale Aged Care	South Australia	0	8	<6	n/p
Keith & District Hospital Inc	South Australia	0	0	<6	<6
Lerwin Nursing Home	South Australia	0	<6	0	<6
Mary Cecelia Hart Court Hostel	South Australia	0	0	<6	<6
Regis Marleston	South Australia	0	<6	0	<6
Regis Playford	South Australia	<6	24	6	30
Reynella Lodge	South Australia	0	<6	0	<6
Sandpiper Lodge Residential Care	South Australia	<6	7	<6	n/p
The Pines Lodge Residential Care	South Australia	0	<6	<6	<6
Uniting AgeWell Aldersgate Village	Tasmania	0	14	<6	n/p
Arcare Caulfield	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6

Service Name	State	Resident Deaths	Resident Cases	Staff Cases	Total Incidents
Arcare Maidstone	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Ashleigh House Hostel	Victoria	0	<6	<6	<6
Benetas St Laurence Court - Kangaroo Flat	Victoria	0	7	<6	n/p
Bentons Lodge - Residential Aged Service	Victoria	0	11	<6	n/p
Campbell Place	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Chaffey Aged Care	Victoria	0	23	26	49
Cobden District Health Services	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Coinda Lodge Nursing Home	Victoria	0	<6	<6	<6
Craigcare Moonee Ponds	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Doutta Galla Yarraville Village Aged Care Facility	Victoria	0	12	<6	n/p
Edgarley Home	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Edward Street Nursing Home	Victoria	0	<6	6	n/p
Epping Meadows Care Community	Victoria	0	7	0	7
Estia Health Glen Waverley	Victoria	0	22	11	33
Estia Health Melton South	Victoria	<6	61	7	68
Estia Health South Morang	Victoria	<6	42	12	54
Havilah Hostel	Victoria	0	<6	<6	6
Homewood Residential Aged Care	Victoria	0	21	0	21
Japara Balmoral Grove	Victoria	0	0	<6	<6
Japara Kelaston	Victoria	0	7	<6	n/p
Kew Gardens Aged Care	Victoria	<6	8	8	16
Luson Bloom	Victoria	<6	17	<6	n/p
Margery Cole Residential Care Service	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Mayflower Reservoir	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Monash Gardens	Victoria	0	33	<6	n/p
Mount Clear Aged Care	Victoria	<6	45	<6	n/p
Oasis Aged Care	Victoria	<6	7	6	13
Penshurst Nursing Home	Victoria	0	0	<6	<6

Service Name	State	Resident Deaths	Resident Cases	Staff Cases	Total Incidents
Regis Cranbourne	Victoria	<6	29	<6	n/p
Regis Macleod	Victoria	0	<6	<6	<6
Villa Maria Catholic Homes Shanagolden Aged Care Residence	Victoria	0	6	<6	n/p
Warrandyte Gardens Care Community	Victoria	0	7	<6	n/p
Wimmera Nursing Home	Victoria	0	7	6	13
Woorayl Lodge Hostel	Victoria	0	<6	<6	<6
Aegis Shoreline	Western Australia	0	<6	0	<6
Aegis Stirling	Western Australia	0	12	12	24
Baptistcare Bethel	Western Australia	0	<6	0	<6
Brightwater The Cove	Western Australia	0	0	<6	<6
Canning Lodge	Western Australia	0	0	<6	<6
Clarence Estate Residential Health and Aged Care	Western Australia	0	<6	<6	<6
Jeremiah Donovan House	Western Australia	0	7	<6	n/p
Juniper Sarah Hardey	Western Australia	0	8	<6	n/p
Katanning MPS	Western Australia	0	<6	0	<6
MercyCare Wembley Catherine McAuley	Western Australia	0	<6	<6	9
Regents Garden Aubin Grove	Western Australia	0	<6	0	<6
Regents Garden Residential Aged Care Resort - Lake Joondalup	Western Australia	0	<6	<6	8
Treeby Parklands Care Community	Western Australia	0	<6	<6	n/p