



# COVID-19 outbreaks in Australian residential aged care homes

# National snapshot

As at 8:00 am 8 August 2024, there are 1,450 active COVID-19 cases reported in 195 active outbreaks in residential aged care homes (RACHs) across Australia. There have been 94 new outbreaks, 21 new resident deaths and 1,508 combined new resident and staff cases reported since 1 August 2024.

Table 1: Aged Care COVID-19 data as at 8.00am 8 August 20241

Category	Active <sup>2</sup>	Change in active (7 days)	Cumulative Total	Cumulative increase (7 days)
Outbreaks <sup>3</sup>	195	10	22,540	94
RACHs affected	195	10 2,895		0
Resident cases <sup>4</sup>	1,090	-66	220,170	1,108
Resident deaths	N/A	N/A	6,937	21
Staff cases	360	-54	119,459	400

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

Table 2: Overview of active outbreaks in Australia

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Total
Total RACHs with outbreaks	3	66	0	64	14	4	39	5	195
Total number of active resident cases	29	410	0	278	53	13	255	52	1,090
Total number of active staff cases	3	119	0	143	14	2	68	11	360
Total outbreaks opened in previous 7 days	3	30	0	27	10	0	22	2	94
Total outbreaks closed in previous 7 days	1	25	0	19	2	4	16	4	71

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Active residents and staff cases are the total currently positive cases in active outbreaks

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> An outbreak is considered to be active pending advice from the relevant Public Health Unit. An outbreak is defined as at least 1 (one) positive case in a resident or 2+ cases in staff.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Case numbers and numbers of deaths are dependent upon reporting from RACHs. This is subject to change as further information is provided.

Figure 1: National outbreak trends in aged care

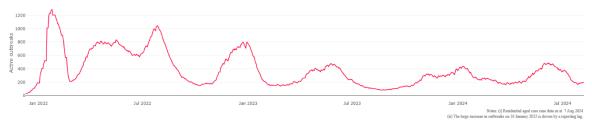
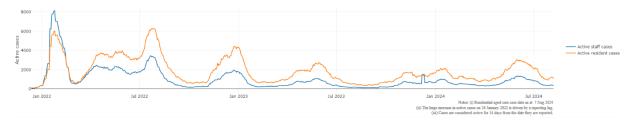


Figure 2: Trends in aged care cases - December 2021 to present



## Mortality

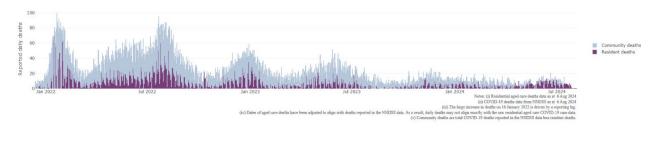
For the period of 1 January 2024 to 27 June 2024, COVID-19 is recorded as the cause of death in 2.2% of all deaths in permanent residents in aged care homes.

Since the beginning of the Omicron outbreak in mid-December<sup>5</sup> 2021, there have been 158,602 deaths in residential aged care from all causes (report period from 15 December 2021 to 6 August 2024)<sup>6</sup>. COVID-19 deaths account for 3.8% of this figure.

There has been a decrease year on year for the rate of case fatality<sup>7</sup>, from a 33% case fatality rate in resident COVID-19 cases in 2020 to 3.3% in 2022 and 1.7% currently.

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. In the first half of 2022, all-cause excess mortality in residential aged care was above the expected range. Excess mortality for the second half of the 2022 is yet to be finalised.

Figure 3: COVID-19 deaths in RACHs overlaid with community deaths



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Case fatality calculated as total reported resident COVID-19 deaths divided by total resident COVID-19 cases.

### Workforce in active residential aged care outbreaks

As at 9 August 2024, surge workforce providers report a total of 196,736 shifts in aged care services impacted by COVID-19. These shifts include roles for GPs, nurses, care workers, allied health workers, executive and ancillary staff. In the past 7 days (from 2 August 2024) surge workforce providers have assisted 5 residential aged care homes and filled 129 shifts in aged care services.

Table 3: Workforce resources supplied to RACHs

Workforce provider	Total shifts	Previous 7 days
Aspen Medical	31,025	0
HealthX	36,089	129
Randstad	878	0
Recruitment, Consulting and Staffing Association	103,905	N/A
Healthcare Australia (Workforce Surge)	15,777	N/A
Healthcare Australia (NACER)	2,295	N/A
Mable	2,711	N/A
Torrens	4,056	N/A

<sup>\*</sup>Note: Workforce providers currently with ceased contracts are displayed as 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 RACHs with outbreak sites prioritised for delivery. The National Medical Stockpile has deployed 48,269 treatment courses of Lagevrio (Molnupiravir) to RACHs.

133,476 prescriptions for Lagevrio (Molnupiravir) have been issued to residents in RACHs, with a further 17,088 prescriptions for Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir + ritonavir) also issued since 28 February 2022 and up to 31 July 2024.

\*Note: Oral antiviral data is only being updated monthly.

#### Vaccination in RACHs

On 29 February 2024, recommendations for 2024 COVID-19 vaccinations were released. Recommended doses for the program in 2024 are based on an individual's age and level of severe immunocompromise.

In 2024, those aged 75 years and over are recommended to get a COVID-19 vaccine dose every 6 months. Those aged over 65 years of age, and adults with severe immunocompromise are recommended to receive a COVID-19 vaccine dose every 12 months and are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine dose every 6 months based on individual risk-benefit assessments. All other adults can receive a single dose this year.

Recommendations can be found on the Department of Health and Aged Care (department) website at:

https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/covid-19-vaccines/getting-your-vaccination/booster-doses.

People are encouraged to seek vaccination advice from their healthcare providers, specific to their circumstances.

People living in residential aged care are a high priority for the Government's COVID-19 vaccination program.

Older age remains the biggest risk factor for severe COVID-19 disease. Vaccination offers added protection to help reduce the risk of severe illness or hospitalisation of aged care residents.

The department is working with both the aged care and primary care sectors to ensure residents have access to the COVID-19 vaccine. The department continues to target support for RACHs to arrange COVID-19 vaccinations with local primary care providers such as GPs, community pharmacists and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services.

#### As at 7 August 2024:

- 68.2% of aged care residents have received a booster dose in the last 12 months.
- For residents over the age of 75:
  - 84,693 (51.5%) aged care residents received a booster dose in the last 6 months.
- 23,362 aged care residents have received a vaccination in the last 28 days (compared to 22,096 in the 28 days prior).

Table 4: Aged care COVID-19 Booster Doses (data as at 7 August 2024)

luviadiatian	75+ with booster	in last 6 months
Jurisdiction	Residents vaccinated	% of residents vaccinated
National	84,693	51.5%
NSW	26,654	50.3%
VIC	23,587	55.5%
QLD	15,508	47.0%
WA	8,220	53.9%
SA	7,495	52.2%
TAS	1,934	52.2%
ACT	1,093	51.7%
NT	202	56.1%

Data in this report is sourced from Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) data of residents in permanent residential aged care homes.

An updated data methodology was implemented on 7 August 2024. Aged Care AIR data as at 07 August 2024; Matched AIR data uses a snapshot of permanent residents in residential aged care homes as at 31 May 2024. The Residential Aged Care Home {RACH} Recipient ID to Medicare PIN linkage file was loaded into Health Enterprise Data Warehouse on 11 July 2024 which linked Medicare Consumer Directory data as at 11 October 2023 and RACH recipient data as at 31 January 2024.

Note: Booster doses in this report refer to any dose 2 or above administered to an individual.

#### Infection control and audit

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (Commission) conducts site audits and assessment contacts (site and non-site) to monitor and assess residential aged care services against the Aged Care Quality Standards (see Table 5 below). This may include conducting infection control monitoring (ICM) spot checks.

An ICM spot check involves an on-site visit to residential aged care services, without an outbreak, to observe infection control practices, to ensure that staff, management, and visitors are adhering to safe personal protective equipment protocols and to safe infection control arrangements, as required under the Quality Standards.

As at 8 August 2024, the Commission had conducted 6,050 ICM spot checks to observe infection control practices and PPE protocols in RACHs.

Table 5: Total quality assessment and monitoring activities with residential services (including IPC), by type and month 1 March 2020 to 8 August 2024

Regulatory Activities	2019-20 (1 Mar - 30 Jun 2020)	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (to 8 Aug 2024)	Total
Site visits	318	3,452	1,732	3,814	2,855	294	12,465
Non-site activities	3,709	8,381	6,665	1,413	489	97	20,764
Total activities	4,027	11,833	8,397	5,227	3,344	391	33,229

# Appendix: National residential aged care homes (RACHs) with active outbreaks COVID-19

Please note, information reported in this table has been directly reported to the department by RACHs.

'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, RACHs are able to correct these in the COVID-19 Support Portal through My Aged Care. Where a RACH 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). Data below for individual services is as at 8 August 2024.

Service Name	State	Resident Deaths	Resident Cases	Staff Cases	Total Cases
Goodwin Monash	Australian Capital Territory	0	23	<6	n/p
IRT Kangara Waters	Australian Capital Territory	0	<6	0	<6
Villaggio Sant Antonio Hostel	Australian Capital Territory	0	7	0	7
Anglican Care C A Brown	New South Wales	<6	15	8	23
Anglicare Brian King Gardens	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Anglicare Farrer Brown Court	New South Wales	0	12	0	12
Annandale Grove Care Community	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Anthem	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	6
Arcare Warriewood	New South Wales	0	8	<6	n/p
Archbold House Aged Care Facility	New South Wales	0	11	<6	n/p
BaptistCare George Forbes House	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
BaptistCare Kularoo Centre	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
BaptistCare Mid Richmond Centre - Coraki	New South Wales	<6	30	11	41
BaptistCare Shalom Centre	New South Wales	0	7	<6	n/p
BaptistCare The Gracewood Centre	New South Wales	0	17	<6	n/p
Bilyara Hostel	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	7
Blayney Multi-Purpose Service	New South Wales	0	9	7	16
Bolton Clarke Brentwood (PKA - Brentwood Residential Aged Care Facility)	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6

Service Name	State	Resident Deaths	Resident Cases	Staff Cases	Total Cases
Bolton Clarke Greenwood	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	<6
Bolton Clarke Macquarie View - Bolton Point	New South Wales	0	20	8	28
Bolton Clarke Willowdale	New South Wales	<6	25	8	33
Bowral House Nursing Home	New South Wales	0	18	<6	n/p
Bupa Banora Point	New South Wales	0	15	6	21
Cameron Park Care Community	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Catholic Healthcare George Mockler Hostel	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Catholic Healthcare Villa Maria Centre	New South Wales	0	9	<6	n/p
Estia Health Dalmeny	New South Wales	0	13	7	20
Estia Health Epping - The Poplars	New South Wales	0	10	8	18
Estia Health Kilbride	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	<6
Estia Health Kogarah	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Estia Health Ryde	New South Wales	0	0	<6	<6
Estia Health Willoughby	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	<6
Florence Price Gardens	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Garden Village	New South Wales	0	12	<6	n/p
Gillawarna Village	New South Wales	<6	30	<6	n/p
Green Hills Residential Care Service	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	8
Groves House	New South Wales	0	9	0	9
HammondCare - Cardiff	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	<6
HammondCare Mason	New South Wales	<6	<6	0	<6
Hawkesbury Living Pty Limited	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	<6
Heritage Botany	New South Wales	0	19	<6	n/p
Hixson Gardens Aged Care Facility	New South Wales	0	0	<6	<6
Hunters Hill Montefiore Home	New South Wales	0	41	12	53
IRT Moruya	New South Wales	0	15	10	25

Service Name	State	Resident Deaths	Resident Cases	Staff Cases	Total Cases
IRT Thomas Holt Kirrawee	New South Wales	0	21	<6	n/p
Macquarie Lodge Aged Care Plus Centre	New South Wales	0	7	<6	n/p
Maitland Grange Care Community	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Murwillumbah Greens Care Community	New South Wales	0	22	7	29
Narraweena Grove Care Community	New South Wales	0	8	<6	n/p
Oran Park House Aged Care Facility	New South Wales	0	31	0	31
Orange Grove Care Community	New South Wales	<6	11	<6	n/p
Pathways Cronulla Pines	New South Wales	0	13	<6	n/p
Patrick Bugden VC Gardens	New South Wales	0	9	0	9
Princess Juliana Lodge	New South Wales	0	29	<6	n/p
Raymond Terrace Gardens Care Community	New South Wales	0	8	<6	n/p
Ron Middleton VC Gardens	New South Wales	0	12	<6	n/p
Scalabrini Village Nursing Home (Bexley)	New South Wales	<6	48	18	66
St Brigid's Green Maroubra	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
St Vincent's Care Services Bronte	New South Wales	0	0	<6	<6
St Vincent's Care Services Haberfield	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
SummitCare Canley Vale	New South Wales	0	11	0	11
The Whiddon Group - Glenfield - Easton Park	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	<6
The Whiddon Group - Kelso	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
The Whiddon Group - Narrabri - Jessie Hunt	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	8
Uniting Arrunga Ermington	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Uniting Banks Lodge Peakhurst	New South Wales	0	7	0	7
Uniting Caroona Kalina Goonellabah	New South Wales	0	18	6	24
Uniting Wesley Heights Manly	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Yallambee Village	New South Wales	0	8	0	8
Anam Cara	Queensland	0	<6	6	n/p

Service Name	State	Resident Deaths	Resident Cases	Staff Cases	Total Cases
Anglicare SQ Symes Grove Home for the Aged	Queensland	0	<6	<6	<6
Beauaraba Lodge	Queensland	<6	37	8	45
Bethania Parklands Care Community	Queensland	0	27	11	38
Bethesda Caring Centre	Queensland	0	<6	0	<6
Blue Care Carina Aged Care Facility	Queensland	0	<6	<6	<6
Blue Care Kenmore Aged Care Facility	Queensland	0	<6	<6	<6
Blue Care Kingaroy Canowindra Aged Care Facility	Queensland	0	<6	<6	8
Blue Care Toowoomba Residential Aged Care Facility	Queensland	0	16	6	22
Bolton Clarke Chelsea	Queensland	0	15	6	21
Bolton Clarke Fairview	Queensland	0	11	9	20
Bolton Clarke Fernhill	Queensland	0	11	<6	n/p
Bolton Clarke Moreton Shores	Queensland	0	<6	0	<6
Bolton Clarke Seaton Place	Queensland	0	0	<6	<6
Bupa New Farm	Queensland	0	9	<6	n/p
Bupa Tugun	Queensland	0	11	<6	n/p
Dovetree	Queensland	0	<6	0	<6
Estia Health Maroochydore	Queensland	0	<6	6	n/p
Estia Health Mudgeeraba	Queensland	0	8	<6	n/p
<b>Eventide Charters Towers</b>	Queensland	0	6	6	12
Infinite Care Cornubia	Queensland	0	22	<6	n/p
Kawana Waters Care Community	Queensland	<6	24	10	34
Lutheran Services - Orana	Queensland	0	10	0	10
Lutheran Services - Tabeel	Queensland	0	9	<6	n/p
Lutheran Services - Zion	Queensland	0	<6	0	<6
Morayfield Grove Care Community	Queensland	0	6	0	6
Narangba Aged Care	Queensland	0	<6	0	<6

Service Name	State	Resident Deaths	Resident Cases	Staff Cases	Total Cases
NewDirection Care at Bellmere	Queensland	0	<6	14	n/p
Oxley Grove Care Community	Queensland	0	13	<6	n/p
Ozcare Caroline Chisholm	Queensland	0	29	15	44
Ozcare Parkwood Gardens	Queensland	0	<6	<6	<6
Palm Lake Bethania Aged Care Facility	Queensland	0	10	<6	n/p
Paradise Lakes Care Centre	Queensland	0	<6	<6	<6
Parkview	Queensland	0	9	<6	n/p
Redland Residential Care Facility	Queensland	<6	8	<6	n/p
Regis Ayr	Queensland	0	<6	<6	<6
Regis Birkdale	Queensland	0	<6	<6	<6
Regis Caboolture	Queensland	0	7	<6	n/p
Regis Camp Hill	Queensland	0	9	<6	n/p
Regis Kirwan	Queensland	<6	39	11	50
Regis Lodges on George	Queensland	0	21	16	37
Regis Magnolia	Queensland	<6	8	11	19
Regis Salisbury	Queensland	0	<6	<6	6
Regis Sandgate - Musgrave	Queensland	0	9	<6	n/p
Regis Whitfield	Queensland	0	<6	0	<6
Regis Yeronga	Queensland	0	10	<6	n/p
Sinnamon Village - Kentish Court	Queensland	0	8	<6	n/p
Sir James Terrace	Queensland	0	<6	<6	<6
Southern Cross Care Chinchilla - Illoura Village	Queensland	<6	22	11	33
Southern Cross Care Murgon - Castra	Queensland	0	<6	0	<6
Southern Cross Care Nanango - Karinya	Queensland	<6	15	16	31
Springwood Terrace Care Community	Queensland	0	13	10	23
St Luke's Green Residential Care	Queensland	0	<6	0	<6

Service Name	State	Resident Deaths	Resident Cases	Staff Cases	Total Cases
St Paul de Chartres Residential Aged Care	Queensland	0	19	18	37
St Vincent's Care Douglas	Queensland	0	<6	0	<6
St Vincent's Care Services Bardon	Queensland	0	<6	<6	<6
St Vincent's Care Services Maroochydore	Queensland	0	<6	0	<6
St Vincent's Care Services Mitchelton	Queensland	<6	71	22	93
Sunrise Beach Aged Care	Queensland	0	<6	0	<6
The Good Shepherd Nursing Home	Queensland	0	<6	<6	8
Theodore Multipurpose Health Service	Queensland	0	<6	0	<6
Villa Maria Eastern Heights	Queensland	0	9	<6	n/p
Wheller Gardens - John Wesley Gardens	Queensland	0	0	<6	<6
Woodford Manor Aged Care	Queensland	<6	20	8	28
ACH Group Residential Care - Perry Park (high care)	South Australia	<6	28	7	35
Aldersgate Aged Care Services	South Australia	0	11	<6	n/p
Aldinga Beach Care Community	South Australia	0	6	<6	n/p
AnglicareSA Grange	South Australia	0	12	0	12
Ardrossan Community Hostel	South Australia	0	<6	<6	<6
Ashman Grove Aged Care Hostel	South Australia	0	18	<6	n/p
Dunbar Homes Salisbury	South Australia	0	<6	0	<6
Estia Health Encounter Bay	South Australia	0	<6	0	<6
Estia Health Salisbury	South Australia	0	25	8	33
Helping Hand Aged Care - Lealholme Port Pirie	South Australia	0	7	<6	n/p
Olive Grove Aged Care	South Australia	0	9	<6	n/p
Renmark Nursing Home	South Australia	0	<6	<6	<6
Resthaven Marion	South Australia	0	<6	0	<6
UnitingSA Hawksbury Gardens Aged Care	South Australia	0	<6	0	<6
Baptcare Karingal Community Care	Tasmania	0	21	14	35

Service Name	State	Resident Deaths	Resident Cases	Staff Cases	Total Cases
Coroneagh Park	Tasmania	0	<6	0	<6
Rivulet	Tasmania	0	9	<6	n/p
Snug Village	Tasmania	0	<6	0	<6
Alan David Lodge	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Aurrum Brunswick	Victoria	0	16	<6	n/p
Bairnsdale Parklands Care Community	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Baptcare Amberlea Community	Victoria	0	16	11	27
Baptcare The Orchards Community	Victoria	0	11	0	11
Belvedere Aged Care	Victoria	0	<6	<6	<6
Benetas Dalkeith Gardens	Victoria	0	10	<6	n/p
BlueCross Box Hill	Victoria	<6	77	0	77
BlueCross Cresthaven	Victoria	0	15	0	15
Bupa Croydon	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Calvary Cordelia Grove	Victoria	0	13	<6	n/p
Calvary Elouera	Victoria	0	<6	<6	8
Calvary Rosanna Views	Victoria	0	7	0	7
Calvary Viewhills Manor	Victoria	0	<6	<6	<6
Clifton Views	Victoria	0	15	0	15
Craigcare Plumpton Villa	Victoria	0	10	6	16
Epping Meadows Care Community	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Estia Health Benalla (Thomas St)	Victoria	<6	33	14	47
Estia Health Knoxfield	Victoria	<6	23	<6	n/p
Estia Health Ringwood	Victoria	0	21	8	29
Fronditha Anesi Aged Care Services - Thornbury	Victoria	0	40	6	46
Heritage Gardens	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Inverloch Coast Care Community	Victoria	0	61	24	85

Service Name	State	Resident Deaths	Resident Cases	Staff Cases	Total Cases
J.H.F. McDonald Wing Nursing Home	Victoria	0	<6	<6	6
Kirrak House	Victoria	0	8	8	16
Lifeview The Willows	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Luson The Vue	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Maculata Place	Victoria	0	<6	<6	6
Melbourne Hebrew Memorial Nursing Home	Victoria	0	6	<6	n/p
Murrenda Residential Aged Care Home	Victoria	0	6	<6	n/p
Princes Court Homes Hostel	Victoria	<6	14	10	24
Regis East Malvern	Victoria	<6	<6	<6	<6
Rose Lodge	Victoria	0	9	0	9
Salisbury House Nursing Home	Victoria	0	15	<6	n/p
Sherbrooke Private Nursing Home	Victoria	0	<6	<6	<6
The Alba Aged Care Suites	Victoria	0	<6	<6	8
Twin Parks Aged Care Centre	Victoria	0	<6	<6	<6
Vasey RSL Care Brighton East	Victoria	0	14	<6	n/p
Vermont Aged Care	Victoria	0	<6	<6	7
Aegis Shorehaven	Western Australia	0	50	8	58
Carine Parkside Care Community	Western Australia	0	12	8	20
Italian Village Fremantle	Western Australia	0	16	<6	n/p
McNamara Lodge	Western Australia	<6	20	7	27
Regis Bunbury	Western Australia	0	14	<6	n/p