COVID-19 outbreaks in Australian residential aged care facilities

National snapshot

As at 8:00am on 25 June 2021 there are 3 active cases of COVID-19 related to aged care.

Table 1: Aged Care COVID-19 data as at 0800 on 25 June 2021[1]

Active outbreaks	0
Active resident cases	3
Active staff cases	0
Deaths	678
Total number of residential aged care facilities that have had an outbreak	215
Total number of outbreaks at residential aged care facilities	223
Number of residential aged care facilities with resolved outbreaks	215 (223 outbreaks closed)[2]
Number of residential aged care facilities with only one case (resident or staff member) of COVID-19	95
Total resident cases	2,032
Recovered resident cases	1,351
Total staff cases	2,232
Recovered staff cases	2,232

[1] These figures exclude transition care.

[2] Some residential aged care facilities have had more than one outbreak.

Analysis

Current situation in Australia

In Australia, a total of 30,408 cases of COVID-19 have been reported, including 184[3] active cases and 910 deaths.

As at 8:00 am 25 June 2021, there are 3 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in aged care in Victoria, including:

- 3 active cases in residential aged care recipients.

The Department of Health is closely monitoring the current COVID-19 outbreak in Melbourne, Victoria; and Sydney, New South Wales (NSW).

The Victorian Aged Care Response Centre (VACRC) has continued to be operational throughout the pandemic and is providing support to residential aged care facilities in Melbourne as needed.

In NSW, all residential age care facilities are being monitored through the NSW Aged Care State Health Emergency Operations Centre.
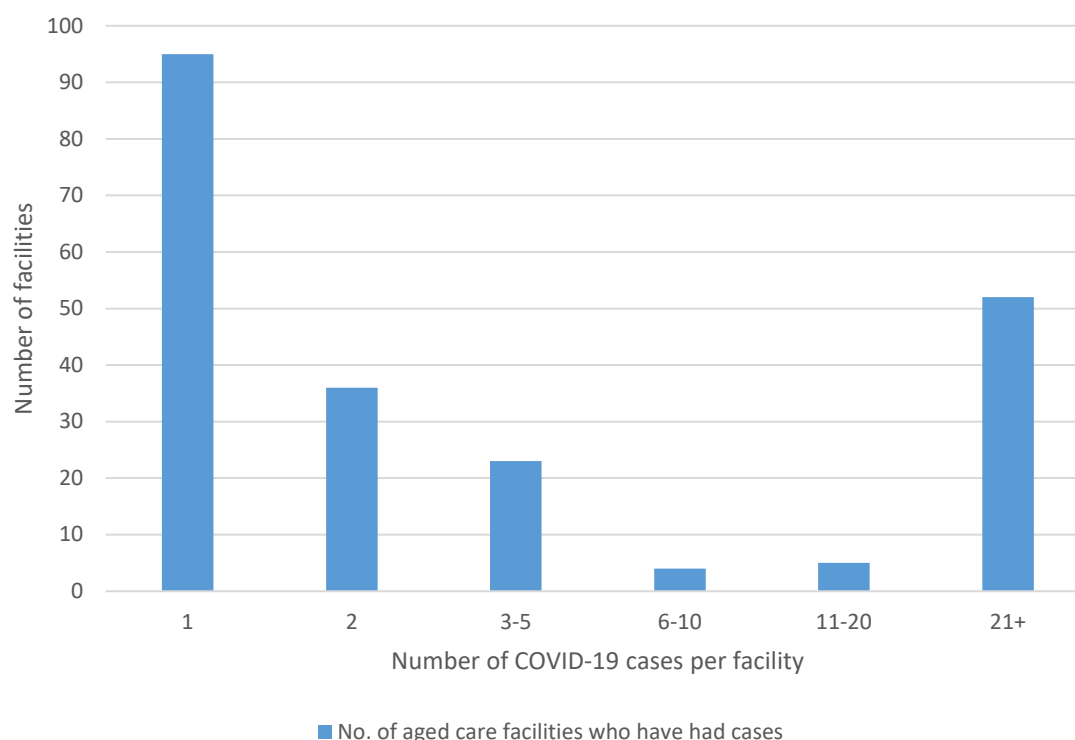
The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) has declared 7 Sydney LGAs a COVID-19 hotspot for the purposes of Commonwealth support from 23 June 2021 to 30 June 2021. (*LGAs - City of Sydney, Bayside, Canada Bay, Inner West, Randwick, Waverley, Woollahra).* Declaring a hotspot for Commonwealth support triggers additional supports including asymptomatic testing via General Practice Respiratory Clinics.

The CMO has activated the Support for Aged Care Workers in COVID-19 (SACWIC) grant to support providers to implement single site working arrangements in specified locations within the hotspot area and in areas in close proximity to the hot spot area.

As at 8:00 am 25 June 2021, there are no new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in aged care.The Department is working closely with NSW and Victoria in monitoring the current situation.

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[3] *Classification of active cases varies by jurisdiction.

Figure 1: Distribution of Australian residential aged care facilities by total number of cases of COVID-19 (includes staff and resident cases)

Of the 215 residential aged care facilities that have had a case(s) of COVID-19, 95 facilities (44 per cent) have had a single case of COVID-19.
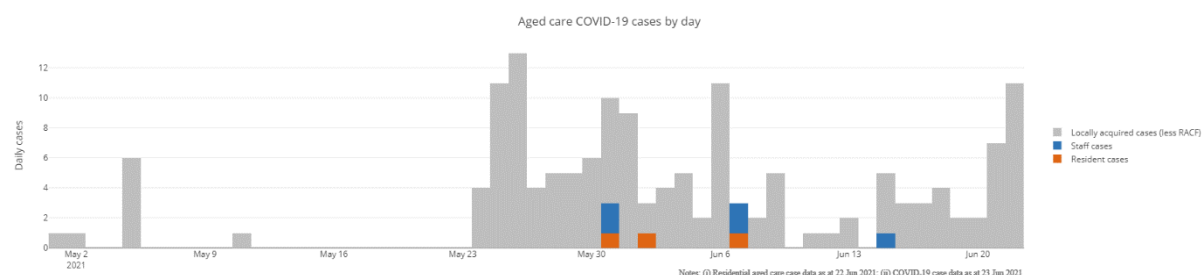

Figure 2: Number of daily reported COVID-19 cases in Australian residential aged care facilities overlayed with national locally acquired cases[4].

International comparisons

During the COVID-19 pandemic, no country has been able to avoid outbreaks or deaths in residential aged care when there has been widespread community transmission.

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[4] National daily cases sourced from NNDSS data as at 24 June 2021 and are filtered to locally acquired cases. Case numbers reflect the date of reporting which may differ to diagnosis date. Residential aged care facility staff and resident data sourced from the Department of Health Aged Care COVID Liaison Team. Totals reflect the date of case report and may be affected by delayed reporting.

'RACF' refers to cases in residential aged care facilities (staff and residents)

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The Australian death rate is 0.37 per cent (3.7 in 1,000) against the total number of residential aged care beds across the country.

By comparison, Canada has experienced more than 22 times the number of deaths in care homes; than Australia as at 25 June 2021.

- As at 25 June 2021, Canada had experienced 26,052 deaths – 15,233 (or 59 per cent) in care homes.

Workforce in active residential aged care outbreaks

As part of the aged care response, significant surge workforce assistance has been provided including by both State and National Aged Care Emergency Response (NACER) teams, with many workers deployed from interstate.

Table 2: Workforce resources supplied to residential aged care facilities

Agency	Resources Supplied (as at 20 June 2021)
State and NACER (National Aged Care Emergency Response) Teams	Tasmanian Government: 7 clinical and 2 support staff. Western Australian Government: 19 clinical personnel and 4 support staff. South Australian Government: 18 clinical personnel and 4 support staff. 12 NACER teams (70 personnel) have been deployed. The deployment of State and NACER teams is now complete.
Recruitment, Consulting, and Staffing Association (RCSA)	Staff supplied to fill 24,862 shifts.
Healthcare Australia	Staff supplied filled 5,249 shifts for workforce surge and 2,295 shifts for NACER teams.
Mable	Supplied 130 staff to fill 2,711 shifts.
Aspen Medical	Supplied 283 staff to fill 791 roles including clinical first responders.
Health X	Supplied 43 staff to fill 1,936 shifts.
Torrens Health	Supplied 1,248 shifts in surge workforce roles and 1,270 shifts as Residential Aged Care visitation Assistants (RACVAs).
Residential Aged Care Visitation Assistant (RACVA)	RACVAs completed 1,205 shifts.

Provision of personal protective equipment (PPE)

A range of resources and online training on the use of PPE is available on the Department's website for aged care workers.

Since March 2020, the Commonwealth Government has been working with state and territory governments to ensure aged care facilities have sufficient PPE. PPE is dispatched both directly from the National Medical Stockpile (NMS) and by jurisdictions on the NMS' behalf, depending on the specific circumstances.

As at 22 June 2021, the NMS has provided aged care facilities with approximately:

- 20 million masks
- 5 million gowns
- 11 million gloves
- 4 million goggles and face shields
- 80,000 bottles of hand sanitiser

The NMS remains well positioned to respond rapidly to critical shortages of PPE and other medical supplies anywhere in Australia. This includes a series of bulk dispatches of personal protective equipment (PPE) intended to avert any potential critical supply shortages, as well as urgent deployments to organisations and individuals at risk of exposure to COVID-19.

Testing of aged care residents and staff

The Australian Government has engaged Sonic Healthcare to provide a dedicated pathology service for the testing of suspected cases of COVID-19 in residential aged care facilities. The service is intended to supplement existing public health pathology services in aged care through the provision of services from the private sector as required. Testing regimens for residents and staff at aged care facilities that experience a COVID-19 outbreak is based on advice from the relevant Public Health Unit.

As at 15 June 2021, Sonic Healthcare has conducted 396,952 COVID-19 tests at 2,453 unique residential aged care facilities nationally.

Vaccination in Residential Aged Care Facilities

The Australian Government has identified consumers and staff in RACFs as being high priority targets for Phase 1 of its vaccine rollout.

All first dose COVID-19 vaccination clinics across residential aged care facilities in the Commonwealth's aged care roll out are now completed. As at 25 June 2021, 309,472 COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered to people in 2,566 residential aged care facilities across Australia. 2,547 of these facilities have had their second dose visit.

The Australian Government continues to provide additional support to the Victorian Government in the rollout of vaccines to Aged Care services in response to the current outbreaks.

Support is also being provided to the New South Wales Government in response to the current outbreak. The Commonwealth is deploying in-reach roving vaccination clinics for residents and workforce of the 94 residential aged care facilities in the 7 LGAs that have been declared a hotspot within Sydney (LGAs - City of Sydney, Bayside, Canada Bay, Inner West, Randwick, Waverley, Woollahra).

The Department will continue to monitor the situation and will expand the scope of activity in NSW as needed.

Infection control and audits

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (Commission) conducted an infection control monitoring (ICM) program in all Australian jurisdictions, working in partnership with local health authorities. This program was in addition to the Commission's usual assessment and auditing program, and included spot checks to residential aged care services, without an outbreak, to check compliance with PPE and infection control arrangements. The purpose of the visit was 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 31 March, the Commission has undertaken 2,727 spot checks to observe infection control practices and PPE protocols in residential aged care facilities. The Commission is transitioning to a COVID-normal regulatory response and has ICM Spot Check Visit program. ICM spot check visits will no longer be undertaken as separate activities and will instead monitoring will now be undertaken within the Commission's usual regulatory operations.

All residential aged care facilities are required to engage an onsite clinical lead to provide leadership and increase capacity in relation to infection prevention and control. The Australian Government is providing a second payment of the COVID-19 supplement to assist facilities in meeting the additional costs of preparing for and responding to COVID-19.

In addition, under the Commonwealth-State Plan to boost aged care preparedness, states and territories are complementing the activity being undertaken by the Commission through additional site visits by state health services at the local level, which includes work relating to infection prevention and control (see Table 3 below). These visits are strengthening state health service relationships with local aged care services as part of the standing up of joint health aged care emergency response centres in each jurisdiction.

The Australian Government is working collaboratively with the states and territories to further bolster infection prevention and control through high quality face-to-face training in the aged care sector. In particular, the Government has committed $57.8 million to fund states and territories to deploy accredited infection prevention and control (IPC) experts into residential aged care facilities to provide training, and assist with the refinement of outbreak management plans where needed.

Table 3: Total Quality Assessment and Monitoring Activities with residential services (including IPC), by type and month 1 July 2020 – to 24 June 2021

Regulatory Activities	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May – 21	Jun - 21	Total[5]
Site visits	132	329	580	485	329	360	292	258	293	149	131	106	3,444
Non-site activities	1,414	2,796	439	341	467	1,123	356	357	232	101	35	25	7,686
Total activities	*1,546*	*3,125*	*1,019*	*826*	*796*	*1,483*	*648*	*615*	*525*	*250*	*166*	*131*	*11,130*

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[5] Please note totals are based on data from March 2020 to June 2021, however above is data from July 2020-June 2021 for readability.

Appendix 1: National residential aged care services with two or more positive COVID-19 cases

Victorian data is from the Public Health Events Surveillance System (PHESS). Case data for residential aged care facilities in all states except Victoria is collected by the Commonwealth Government.

No	State	Residential Aged Care Facility	Total Cases	Resident total	Resident resolved	Staff total	Staff Resolved	Resident deaths[6]	Resolved / Active
1	NSW	Dorothy Henderson Lodge, BaptistCare	22	17	11	5	5	6	R
2	NSW	Newmarch House Aged Care Facility	71	37	18	34	34	19	R
3	NSW	Opal Aged Care Bankstown	6	3	0	3	3	3	R
4	NSW	Storm Village - Anglican Care	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
5	SA	Anglicare Brompton	4	0	0	4	4	0	R
6	TAS	Melaleuca Home For The Aged	2	1	0	1	1	1	R
7	VIC	Arcare Burnside	5	0	0	5	5	0	R
8	VIC	Arcare Craigieburn	82	37	22	45	45	15	R
9	VIC	Arcare Maidstone (1st Outbreak)	7	0	0	7	7	0	R
10	VIC	Arcare Maidstone (2nd Outbreak)	8	3	0	5	5	0	R

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[6] In Victoria, a death is reported when a person with COVID-19 dies during an active outbreak at an aged care facility, irrespective of the cause of death.

No	State	Residential Aged Care Facility	Total Cases	Resident total	Resident resolved	Staff total	Staff Resolved	Resident deaths[6]	Resolved / Active
11	VIC	Arcare Sydenham	47	22	16	25	25	6	R
12	VIC	Assisi Centre Aged Care	3	0	0	3	3	0	R
13	VIC	Aurrum Healesville	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
14	VIC	Aurrum Plenty	83	47	34	36	36	13	R
15	VIC	Aurrum Reservoir	3	0	0	3	3	0	R
16	VIC	Avonlea Grange Hostel	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
17	VIC	Baptcare Brookview Community	21	10	9	11	11	1	R
18	VIC	Baptcare Strathalan Community	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
19	VIC	Baptcare The Orchards Community	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
20	VIC	Baptcare Wyndham Lodge Community	232	101	71	131	131	30	R
21	VIC	Benetas St George's	70	32	20	38	38	12	R
22	VIC	Bill Crawford Lodge	5	2	2	3	3	0	R
23	VIC	BlueCross Autumdale	54	24	11	30	30	13	R
24	VIC	BlueCross Baradine	2	0	0	2	2	0	R

No	State	Residential Aged Care Facility	Total Cases	Resident total	Resident resolved	Staff total	Staff Resolved	Resident deaths[6]	Resolved / Active
25	VIC	BlueCross Chelsea Manor	5	0	0	5	5	0	R
26	VIC	BlueCross Elly Kay	2	1	0	1	1	1	R
27	VIC	BlueCross Ivanhoe	5	0	0	5	5	0	R
28	VIC	BlueCross Riverlea (1st Outbreak)	3	0	0	3	3	0	R
29	VIC	BlueCross Riverlea (2nd Outbreak)	1	0	0	1	1	0	R
30	VIC	BlueCross Ruckers Hill	108	48	36	60	60	12	R
31	VIC	BlueCross Silverwood	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
32	VIC	BlueCross The Boulevard	69	36	22	33	33	14	R
33	VIC	BlueCross Westgarth	32	14	8	18	18	6	R
34	VIC	Boyne Russell House	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
35	VIC	Bupa Edithvale	78	44	26	34	34	18	R
36	VIC	Bupa Greensborough	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
37	VIC	Bupa Sunshine	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
38	VIC	Bupa Templestowe	11	3	1	8	8	2	R

No	State	Residential Aged Care Facility	Total Cases	Resident total	Resident resolved	Staff total	Staff Resolved	Resident deaths[6]	Resolved / Active
39	VIC	Bupa Traralgon	19	7	5	12	12	2	R
40	VIC	Bupa Woodend	4	1	1	3	3	0	R
41	VIC	Campbell Place Aged Care Facility	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
42	VIC	Chomley House Hostel	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
43	VIC	Churches of Christ Care Arcadia Aged Care Service Essendon	22	10	6	12	12	4	R
44	VIC	Coppin Centre Melbourne	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
45	VIC	Craigcare Pascoe Vale	94	47	31	47	47	16	R
46	VIC	Cumberland Manor	107	53	42	54	54	11	R
47	VIC	Doutta Galla Footscray Aged Care Facility (1st Outbreak)	1	0	0	1	1	0	R
48	VIC	Doutta Galla Footscray Aged Care Facility (2nd Outbreak)	56	30	21	26	26	9	R
49	VIC	Doutta Galla Lynch's Bridge Aged Care Facility	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
50	VIC	Doutta Galla Woornack Aged Care Facility	42	20	12	22	22	8	R

No	State	Residential Aged Care Facility	Total Cases	Resident total	Resident resolved	Staff total	Staff Resolved	Resident deaths[6]	Resolved / Active
51	VIC	Doutta Galla Yarraville Village Aged Care Facility	86	42	25	44	44	17	R
52	VIC	Edenvale Manor Aged Care Facility	20	14	10	6	6	4	R
53	VIC	Embracia in Reservoir (1st Outbreak)	1	0	0	1	1	0	R
54	VIC	Embracia in Reservoir (2nd Outbreak)	1	0	0	1	1	0	R
55	VIC	Embracia Moonee Valley	61	26	17	35	35	9	R
56	VIC	Epping Gardens	190	103	65	87	87	38	R
57	VIC	Estia Health Ardeer	133	49	32	84	84	17	R
58	VIC	Estia Health Glen Waverley	6	2	2	4	4	0	R
59	VIC	Estia Health Heidelberg West	97	29	19	68	67	10	R
60	VIC	Estia Health Keilor (1st Outbreak)	4	2	2	2	2	0	R
61	VIC	Estia Health Keilor (2nd Outbreak)	42	24	18	18	18	6	R
62	VIC	Estia Health Keysborough	21	8	5	13	13	3	R
63	VIC	Estia Health Ringwood (1st Outbreak)	1	0	0	1	1	0	R
64	VIC	Estia Health Ringwood (2nd Outbreak)	1	0	0	1	1	0	R

No	State	Residential Aged Care Facility	Total Cases	Resident total	Resident resolved	Staff total	Staff Resolved	Resident deaths[6]	Resolved / Active
65	VIC	Florence Aged Care Facility	46	28	20	18	18	8	R
66	VIC	Fronditha Thalpori Aged Care Services - St Albans	3	1	0	2	2	1	R
67	VIC	Glendale Aged Care	93	45	29	48	48	16	R
68	VIC	Glenlyn Aged Care Facility	63	40	36	23	23	4	R
69	VIC	Grace Of Mary Greek Cypriot Elderly Hostel	55	22	11	33	33	11	R
70	VIC	Grant Lodge Aged Care Facility (1st Outbreak)	1	0	0	1	1	0	R
71	VIC	Grant Lodge Aged Care Facility (2nd Outbreak)	1	0	0	1	1	0	R
72	VIC	HammondCare - Caulfield Village Aged care Facility	2	2	2	0	0	0	R
73	VIC	Holloway Aged Care Services	3	1	0	2	2	1	R
74	VIC	James Barker House	3	1	1	2	2	0	R
75	VIC	Japara Central Park	40	18	15	22	22	3	R
76	VIC	Japara Elanora	63	31	19	32	32	12	R
77	VIC	Japara Goonawarra	103	53	33	50	50	20	R
78	VIC	Japara Millward	36	19	15	17	17	4	R

No	State	Residential Aged Care Facility	Total Cases	Resident total	Resident resolved	Staff total	Staff Resolved	Resident deaths[6]	Resolved / Active
79	VIC	Japara The Regent	42	21	18	21	21	3	R
80	VIC	Kalyna Care	101	57	31	44	44	26	R
81	VIC	Kirkbrae Kilsyth Nursing Home	115	61	40	54	54	21	R
82	VIC	Liscombe House	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
83	VIC	Little Sisters of the Poor St Joseph's Home	2	1	0	1	1	1	R
84	VIC	Lynden Aged Care	3	1	1	2	2	0	R
85	VIC	Maculata Place Shepparton Villlages	3	1	1	2	2	0	R
86	VIC	Martin Luther Homes The Basin	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
87	VIC	Mecwacare John Atchison Centre	84	45	27	39	39	18	R
88	VIC	Melbourne Hebrew Memorial Nursing Home (1st Outbreak)	1	0	0	1	1	0	R
89	VIC	Melbourne Hebrew Memorial Nursing Home (2nd Outbreak)	1	0	0	1	1	0	R
90	VIC	Menarock Life Emmavale Gardens	4	1	1	3	3	0	R
91	VIC	Menarock Life Essendon Aged Care	47	20	13	27	27	7	R

No	State	Residential Aged Care Facility	Total Cases	Resident total	Resident resolved	Staff total	Staff Resolved	Resident deaths[6]	Resolved / Active
92	VIC	Menarock Life McGregor Gardens Aged Care	4	1	1	3	3	0	R
93	VIC	Menarock Life Rosehill Aged Care Facility	82	51	34	31	31	17	R
94	VIC	Mercy Place Dandenong	21	13	10	8	8	3	R
95	VIC	Mercy Place Montrose	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
96	VIC	Mercy Place Parkville	97	58	36	39	39	22	R
97	VIC	Mercy Place Templestowe	2	1	1	1	1	0	R
98	VIC	Mercy Place Wyndham	5	2	1	3	3	1	R
99	VIC	Mitchell House Hostel Morwell	2	1	1	1	1	0	R
100	VIC	Montefiore Homes Community Residence Jewish Care Hannah and Daryl Cohen Centre Windsor Aged Care Facility	67	33	31	34	34	2	R
101	VIC	Opal Hobsons Bay Altona North	37	22	13	15	15	9	R
102	VIC	Opal South Valley	56	32	24	24	24	8	R
103	VIC	Outlook Gardens Aged Care	99	41	28	58	58	13	R
104	VIC	Point Cook Manor Aged Care	2	0	0	2	2	0	R

No	State	Residential Aged Care Facility	Total Cases	Resident total	Resident resolved	Staff total	Staff Resolved	Resident deaths[6]	Resolved / Active
105	VIC	Princeton View	71	28	19	43	43	9	R
106	VIC	Rathdowne Place Carlton	9	1	1	8	8	0	R
107	VIC	Regis Brighton	67	24	13	43	43	11	R
108	VIC	Regis Cranbourne	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
109	VIC	Regis Fawkner	5	4	3	1	1	1	R
110	VIC	Regis Macleod	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
111	VIC	Regis Macleod (2nd Outbreak)	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
112	VIC	Riddell Gardens Hostel	2	2	0	0	0	2	R
113	VIC	Royal Freemasons Gregory Lodge	66	39	24	27	27	15	R
114	VIC	Royal Freemasons Monash Gardens Hostel	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
115	VIC	Sheridan Aged Care (Kyabram District Health Service)	3	0	0	3	3	0	R
116	VIC	St Basil's Homes for the Aged in Victoria	191	94	49	97	97	45	R
117	VIC	St Vincent's Care Services Eltham - Eltham Lodge	2	0	0	2	2	0	R

No	State	Residential Aged Care Facility	Total Cases	Resident total	Resident resolved	Staff total	Staff Resolved	Resident deaths[6]	Resolved / Active
118	VIC	Sutton Park Assisted Aged Care	77	46	39	31	31	7	R
119	VIC	Twin Parks Aged Care Centre	125	79	57	46	46	22	R
120	VIC	Uniting AgeWell Box Hill	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
121	VIC	Uniting AgeWell Kingsville	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
122	VIC	Uniting AgeWell Preston (1st Outbreak)	1	0	0	1	1	0	R
123	VIC	Uniting AgeWell Preston (2nd Outbreak)	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
124	VIC	Villa Maria Catholic Homes Berwick Aged Care Residence	8	5	5	3	3	0	R
125	VIC	Villa Maria Catholic Homes Corpus Christi Aged Care Residence	3	0	0	3	3	0	R
126	VIC	Villa Maria Catholic Homes St Bernadette's Aged Care Residence	17	4	1	13	13	3	R
127	VIC	Village Glen Aged Care Residences - Mornington	38	21	16	17	17	5	R
128	VIC	Westernport Nursing Home	2	0	0	2	2	0	R