

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

Additional Estimates – 17 February 2022

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Social Services Portfolio

National Disability Insurance Agency

Topic: Younger People in Aged Care exits

Question reference number: NDIA SQ22-000011

Outcome Number: 3

Senator: Karen Grogan

Type of Question: Spoken Hansard Pages: 83, 84

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 25 March 2022

Question:

Senator GROGAN: Can I take you to young people in residential aged care. I'm interested in looking at some data. We received a response to a question on notice from last time, SQ21-000191. It says that 94 per cent of people under the age of 65 who have been moved out of residential aged care were moved out because they either aged out or died. Can you tell us the location and what the pathway was for the other 300 people?

Senator Ruston: I will have to defer to officials for that.

Mr McNaughton: Without knowing the specifics of all those cases, I can talk generally of what our planners do in our young people in residential aged care planning team. They would be working with the participant, if they've got a goal to exit aged care—

Senator GROGAN: No, these are the ones who have exited.

Mr McNaughton: Yes, they've exited. Some actually go back to their family homes because we've done a home modification, put in the right supports and planned for them to move back to the family home. The majority would move into specialist disability accommodation.

That's usually the pathway for people who move from residential aged-care settings.

Senator GROGAN: Do you have some data on that which you could provide us with: what sort of percentage, how many of that 300 and what their pathway is? What I'm hearing is that it's not all 300 of them in that situation.

Mr McNaughton: Yes. The majority would be going into specialist disability accommodation, but I can take that on notice and get an exact breakdown for you.

Senator GROGAN: If you could, that would be handy. We'd also quite like you to give us an update on exactly the same question as in that question on notice.

Mr McNaughton: We can do that.

Answer:

Please note the correct percentage from SQ21-000191 is 74%, not 94% as stated by Senator Grogan. The table below shows the exit pathway for the cohort of 300 participants referenced in SQ21-000191:

Housing supports	FY 2020-21
Supported Independent Living	23
Other group residential setting	66
Own/Family Home (rented and owned)	55
Specialist Disability Accommodation	72
Other / Missing	66
Independent Living Options	8
Medium Term Accommodation	10
Total	300

The number of people aged under 65 years in Residential Aged Care (RAC) has decreased from 6,043 at 30 June 2018 to 3,677 at 30 September 2021. Approximately 6,000 people under the age of 65 were in RAC at the end of each quarter for several years prior to the NDIS – however, the 6,000 people were not the same group of people each quarter. Significant numbers exited the cohort due to mortality and turning 65 years, and significant numbers entered each quarter.

The main reason for the reduction in the number of people under the age of 65 in RAC over the 3 years (from 2018 to 2021) is because of the large reduction in the number of people entering RAC under the age of 65 years. In addition, some people under the age of 65 in RAC have exited to more appropriate settings (743 since 1 July 2016).

The table below focuses solely on exits from RAC (not the reduction in new entrants) during 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021.

Exit Reason (from YPIRAC cohort)	January 2021 - December 2021	% Exit
Ageing out	451	44%
Mortality	367	36%
Exited the Scheme	13	1%
Other exit reasons	201	20%
Total	1,032	100%

During this period, 201 people under the age of 65 exited RAC with housing supports. The table below is a breakdown of the exits with housing supports:

Housing supports	January 2021 - December 2021
Supported Independent Living	65
Other group residential setting	38
Own/Family Home (rented and owned)	34
Specialist Disability Accommodation	30
Other / Missing	31
Independent Living Options	<5
Medium Term Accommodation	<5
Total	201