

Elapsed time for commencing Home Care

Question

Can you provide annual data to 30 June 2016, and comparable data for each year since the commencement of the Home Care Packages Program by package level, state/territory and remoteness for the rate of people who commenced their packages after their initial ACAT approval within one month, within two months, within three months, within four months, within five months, within six months, more than six months.

Background

Elapsed times for reports the proportions of people who commenced Home Care by the time period within which they commenced care.

This indicator needs to be interpreted with caution. The measure of 'elapsed time' is utilised, rather than 'waiting times' as the period of time between the ACAT approval and commencement of Home Care can be affected by factors other than time spent 'waiting'.

Hospital discharge policies and practices or a client's choice not to commence care immediately but to take up the option at a later time for example, might delay entry or commencement of care.

A client's decision to take up care at a point in time can be affected by the availability of alternative care options (for example, informal care) or their preference for a particular service — a client's perceptions of a service's fee regimes or quality may affect this preference.

The measure does not include clients who may have spent time waiting, but did not commence Home Care or who ultimately decided to delay or not take up a care placement offer during the relevant period.