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Australian Institute of  
Health and Welfare

# Australian hospital statistics



**2012–13**



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**Australian Institute of  
Health and Welfare**

*Authoritative information and statistics  
to promote better health and wellbeing*

HEALTH SERVICES SERIES

Number 54

# **Australian hospital statistics**

## **2012–13**

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare  
Canberra

Cat. no. HSE 145

**The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare is a major national agency which provides reliable, regular and relevant information and statistics on Australia's health and welfare. The Institute's mission is authoritative information and statistics to promote better health and wellbeing.**

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This publication is part of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's Health services series. A complete list of the Institute's publications is available from the Institute's website <[www.aihw.gov.au](http://www.aihw.gov.au)>.

ISSN 1036-613X

ISBN 978-1-74249-561-3

### **Suggested citation**

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2014. Australian hospital statistics 2012–13. Health services series no. 54. Cat. no. HSE 145. Canberra: AIHW.

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Published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

**Please note that there is the potential for minor revisions of data in this report.  
Please check the online version at <[www.aihw.gov.au](http://www.aihw.gov.au)> for any amendments**

# Foreword

I am pleased to present *Australian hospital statistics 2012–13*, an authoritative annual report that provides a comprehensive range of performance information and other statistics about Australia's public and private hospitals. Continuing a focus on timeliness for the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's hospital information products, the data are being reported within 10 months of the end of the reference period.

A shorter companion report – *Australia's hospitals 2012–13 at a glance* – accompanies this report. It provides a summary of the detailed information presented here, in a form accessible to a general readership.

There are a number of new features in the 2012–13 reports including:

- the use of the AIHW's updated hospital peer groups classification
- enhanced reporting on the types of conditions that arose during hospital stays
- a wider range of international comparisons, using indicators from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's *Health at a glance 2013* report.

The reports are based on the AIHW's comprehensive national hospitals databases. These databases are also the source of data for hospital performance indicators reported by the Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) Reform Council and by the National Health Performance Authority. As well, the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision uses these data for its *Report on Government Services*.

The use of the Institute's databases and robust processes with the jurisdictions to validate the data supplied for these (and other) purposes ensures that the performance indicators and statistics in this report are consistent with the national hospitals information reported elsewhere.

The Institute continues to work with national stakeholders to improve the national statistical information on hospitals, and its relevance to contemporary public policy debate on hospital service delivery. We look forward to continuing to work with data users and data providers to further improve the timeliness, quality and usefulness of the national data collections and on further enhancing the presentation of information in our *Australian hospital statistics* products.

David Kalisch

Director

April 2014



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# Acknowledgments

This report would not have been possible without the valued cooperation and efforts of the data providers – the state and territory health authorities and individual public and private hospitals. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) thanks them for their timely supply of data, assistance with data validation and the preparation of this report.

The AIHW's Australian Hospital Statistics Advisory Committee has been of great assistance to this project. Committee members are:

- Jenny Hargreaves (AIHW) (Chair)
- Neville Board (Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care)
- Jason Boyd (National Health Performance Authority)
- Paul Collins (Private Health Insurance Administration Council)
- Sue Cornes (Queensland Department of Health)
- James Downie (Independent Hospital Pricing Authority)
- Tina Hardin (South Australian Department for Health and Ageing)
- Jerry Hearn (Australian Government Department of Health)
- Lynette Lee (clinical advisor)
- Jennifer MacNamee (National Casemix and Classification Centre)
- Peter Mansfield (Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services)
- Brian McLinden (Australian Bureau of Statistics)
- Rosangela Merlo (Victorian Department of Health)
- Julie Mitchell (Northern Territory Department of Health)
- George Neale (Australian Private Hospitals Association)
- Julie Price (Department of Veterans' Affairs)
- Elisabeth Sallur (Western Australian Department of Health)
- Mohan Singh (Australian Capital Territory Health Directorate)
- Paul Tridgell (Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association)
- Allan Went (New South Wales Ministry of Health)

Within the AIHW, Elizabeth Berryman, Katrina Burgess, Brooke Macpherson, Jane McIntyre, Tony Mole, Nick Thompson and Danling Zhou prepared the report, with expert advice from Jenny Hargreaves and George Bodilsen.

# Abbreviations

|           |                                                                                                                          |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ABS       | Australian Bureau of Statistics                                                                                          |
| ACT       | Australian Capital Territory                                                                                             |
| ACHI      | Australian Classification of Health Interventions                                                                        |
| ACS       | Australian Coding Standard                                                                                               |
| admwt     | admission weight                                                                                                         |
| AHCA      | Australian health care agreement                                                                                         |
| AIHW      | Australian Institute of Health and Welfare                                                                               |
| ALOS      | average length of stay                                                                                                   |
| AMI       | acute myocardial infarction                                                                                              |
| AR-DRG    | Australian Refined Diagnosis Related Group                                                                               |
| ARIA      | Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia                                                                              |
| ASGS      | Australian Statistical Geography Standard                                                                                |
| CC        | complications and/or comorbidities                                                                                       |
| CCC       | catastrophic complications and/or comorbidities                                                                          |
| CDE       | common bile duct exploration                                                                                             |
| COAG      | Council of Australian Governments                                                                                        |
| CSCC      | catastrophic or severe complications or comorbidity                                                                      |
| DoH       | Department of Health                                                                                                     |
| DRG       | Diagnosis Related Group                                                                                                  |
| DVA       | Department of Veterans' Affairs                                                                                          |
| ECMO      | extracorporeal membranous oxygenation                                                                                    |
| ECT       | electroconvulsive therapy                                                                                                |
| g         | grams                                                                                                                    |
| GP        | general practitioner                                                                                                     |
| HITH      | hospital in the home                                                                                                     |
| ICD-10-AM | International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision, Australian Modification |
| IFRAC     | admitted patient cost proportion (or inpatient fraction)                                                                 |
| IHPA      | Independent Hospital Pricing Authority                                                                                   |
| IRSD      | Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage                                                                             |
| ISO       | International Organization of Standardization                                                                            |
| MDC       | Major Diagnostic Category                                                                                                |

|          |                                                                      |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| METeOR   | Metadata Online Registry                                             |
| NAPEDC   | Non-admitted patient emergency department care                       |
| NCCC     | National Casemix and Classification Centre                           |
| NEAT     | National Emergency Access Target                                     |
| NEST     | National Elective Surgery Target                                     |
| NESWTDC  | National Elective Surgery Waiting Times Data Collection              |
| NHA      | National Healthcare Agreement                                        |
| NHCDC    | National Hospital Cost Data Collection                               |
| NHDD     | National health data dictionary                                      |
| NHISSC   | National Health Information Standards and Statistics Committee       |
| NHMBWG   | National Health Ministers' Benchmarking Working Group                |
| NHMD     | National Hospital Morbidity Database                                 |
| NHPA     | National Health Performance Authority                                |
| NHPC     | National Health Performance Committee                                |
| NHPF     | National Health Performance Framework                                |
| NMDS     | National Minimum Data Set                                            |
| NNAPEDCD | National Non-admitted Patient Emergency Department Care Database     |
| NOCD     | National Outpatient Care Database                                    |
| NPA-IPHS | National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospital Services |
| NPHEd    | National Public Hospital Establishments Database                     |
| NSW      | New South Wales                                                      |
| NT       | Northern Territory                                                   |
| OECD     | Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development               |
| OPC      | Outpatient care                                                      |
| OR       | operating room                                                       |
| PHEC     | Private Health Establishments Collection                             |
| PICQ     | Performance Indicators for Coding Quality                            |
| PPH      | potentially preventable hospitalisation                              |
| Qld      | Queensland                                                           |
| RSI      | relative stay index                                                  |
| SA       | South Australia                                                      |
| SA2      | statistical area level 2                                             |
| SCRGSP   | Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision    |
| SEIFA    | Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas                                     |

|     |                          |
|-----|--------------------------|
| SES | socioeconomic status     |
| SRG | Service Related Group    |
| SRR | separation rate ratio    |
| Tas | Tasmania                 |
| Vic | Victoria                 |
| VMO | visiting medical officer |
| WA  | Western Australia        |
| W   | with                     |
| W/O | without                  |

## Symbols

|        |                          |
|--------|--------------------------|
| ..     | not applicable           |
| n.a.   | not available            |
| n.e.c. | not elsewhere classified |
| n.p.   | not published            |

# Summary

There were 1,338 hospitals in Australia in 2012–13. The 746 public hospitals accounted for about 68% of hospital beds (58,300) and the 592 private hospitals accounted for about 32% of beds (28,000, based on 2011–12 data).

## Expenditure and staffing

Public hospitals spent over \$42 billion in 2012–13. Salary expenditure (for about 274,700 employees) accounted for about 62% of the recurrent expenditure.

Adjusted for inflation, public hospital expenditure increased by an average of 5% each year between 2008–09 and 2012–13. Over the same period, revenue increased by an average of 15% per year (adjusted for inflation).

Between 2008–09 and 2012–13, the number of salaried medical officers employed in Australia's public hospitals increased by about 4.8% on average every year, compared with an increase of 2.7% for nurses and for staff overall.

## Admitted patient care

In 2012–13, there were almost 9.4 million separations from hospitals for admitted patients – 5.5 million in public hospitals and 3.8 million in private hospitals.

Between 2008–09 and 2012–13, the number of separations increased by 3.1% on average each year for public hospitals and by 4.1% for private hospitals. However, if a change in emergency department admission policy in Victoria had not occurred, it is estimated that public hospital separations would have risen by an average of 3.8% each year. Notably, between 2008–09 and 2012–13:

- Western Australia had the greatest average annual increase in separations (6.3%)
- same-day separations increased at a higher rate than overnight separations (3.6% and 2.7%, respectively)
- subacute and non-acute separations increased by an average of 8.2% for public hospitals, and at a higher rate in private hospitals (13.7%)
- non-emergency medical care increased by an average of 6.4% for private hospitals, and 4.2% for public hospitals.

In 2012–13, there were almost 27.7 million patient days reported for admitted patients – 18.8 million in public hospitals and 8.9 million in private hospitals.

Between 2008–09 and 2012–13, patient days in public hospitals increased by about 1.8% each year compared with 3.0% for private hospitals.

## Surgery

In 2012–13, there were 2.5 million admissions that involved surgery. Of these, about 300,000 were emergency admissions and 2.0 million were elective admissions. The majority of elective admissions that involved surgery occurred in private hospitals (67%).

Indigenous Australians had about twice the rate of emergency admissions involving surgery compared with other Australians (27 per 1,000 persons and 13 per 1,000, respectively). In contrast, for elective admissions involving surgery, Indigenous Australians had a rate that was about two-thirds the rate for other Australians (58 per 1,000 persons and 88 per 1,000, respectively).



# 1 Introduction

*Australian hospital statistics 2012–13* continues the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's (AIHW) series of reports describing the characteristics and activity of Australia's hospitals. The AIHW has previously published comprehensive reports for the financial years 1993–94 to 2011–12 (AIHW 2013a and earlier) and smaller summary reports such as *Australia's hospitals 2011–12 at a glance* (AIHW 2013b).

More detailed reports on some aspects of Australia's hospitals have already been published separately in, for example, *Australian hospital statistics 2012–13: emergency department care* (AIHW 2013c), *Australian hospital statistics 2012–13: elective surgery waiting times* (AIHW 2013d) and *Australian hospital statistics 2012–13: Staphylococcus aureus bacteraemia in Australian public hospitals* (AIHW 2013e).

*Australia's hospitals 2012–13 at a glance* (AIHW 2014) accompanies this report and presents a summary of the information about hospitals from the *Australian hospital statistics* series for 2012–13.

Other reports in this series to be released later in 2014 include a comprehensive report on private hospitals and another on the updated AIHW hospital peer group classification.

The AIHW also reports information on hospital funding and expenditure in its *Health expenditure Australia* series (AIHW 2013f and earlier).

## Data sources

The AIHW has undertaken the collection and reporting of the data in this report under the auspices of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council, through the National Health Information Agreement. Most of the data collected were as specified in the national minimum data sets relating to hospitals.

The AIHW uses the data supplied by state and territory health authorities to assemble the following databases which form the foundation for the Institute's statistical reporting on hospitals:

- the National Public Hospital Establishments Database (NPHED), covering resources, expenditure and revenue for public hospitals
- the National Hospital Morbidity Database (NHMD), covering the diagnoses and other characteristics of admitted patients, and the care they received in public and private hospitals
- the National Non-admitted Patient Emergency Department Care Database (NNAPEDCD), covering emergency department care and waiting times for public hospitals
- the National Elective Surgery Waiting Times Data Collection (NESWTDC), covering waiting times and other characteristics of elective surgery in public hospitals
- the National Outpatient Care Database (NOCD), covering services provided to non-admitted, non-emergency department patients in outpatient clinics of selected public hospitals



- the National *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteraemia (SAB) Data Collection, covering counts of cases of SAB for each public hospital covered by SAB surveillance arrangements, and for private hospitals that chose to provide data
- the National Elective Surgery Target Database (NESTD), a calendar year collection, covering waiting times and other characteristics of elective surgery in public hospitals
- the National Emergency Access Target Database (NEATD), a calendar year collection covering emergency department care and length of stay in emergency departments
- The Health Expenditure Database (HED) comprises a wide range of information about health expenditure in Australia, compiled from a wide range of government and non-government sources, including the Government health expenditure National Minimum Data Set (NMDS).

More information about the AIHW's hospital databases is in Appendix A, and in the Data Quality Statements accompanying this report online at <[www.aihw.gov.au](http://www.aihw.gov.au)>. Detailed information about the HED is available in the latest *Health Expenditure Australia* report (AIHW 2013f).

### **Box 1.1: Data limitations**

States and territories are primarily responsible for the quality of the data they provide. However, the AIHW undertakes extensive validations on receipt of data, checking for valid values, logical consistency and historical consistency. Where possible, data in individual data sets are checked with data from other data sets. Potential errors are queried with jurisdictions, and corrections and resubmissions may be made in response to these queries. Except as noted, the AIHW does not adjust data to account for possible data errors or missing or incorrect values.

Variations in reporting practices across states and territories and over time may affect these statistics. Where possible, variations have been noted in the text. Comparisons between states and territories and reporting years should be made with reference to the accompanying notes in the chapters and in the appendixes. The AIHW takes active steps to improve the consistency of these data over time.

## **Structure of this report**

The broad topics addressed in the report are:

- changes to resources and activity over time (Chapter 2)
- performance indicators (Chapter 3)
- hospital resources (including the number of hospitals, hospital beds, expenditure, resources and staffing) (Chapter 4)
- non-admitted patient care (Chapter 5)
- admitted patient care including:
  - admitted patient overview (Chapter 6)
  - same-day acute separations (Chapter 7)
  - overnight acute separations (Chapter 8)
  - surgical separations for elective and emergency admissions (Chapter 9) and
  - subacute and non-acute care (Chapter 10).

Appendix A provides summary information on the AIHW's hospitals databases, the hospitals included in each of the databases, the categorisation of hospitals as public or private and other issues affecting the quality or comparability of the data.

Appendix B includes notes on definitions and classifications, the presentation of data, the population estimates used to calculate population rates and analysis methods.

Appendix C presents information on the hospital peer groups used in this report.

Appendix D presents information on episodes of admitted patient care using the Service Related Group (SRG) classification.

Appendix E provides summary information on the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority's (IHPA) 2010–11 and 2011–12 National Hospital Cost Data Collection (NHCDC). The NHCDC is the source of Australian Refined Diagnosis Related Groups (AR-DRG) cost weight information.

## Chapter structure

The chapters are structured to address a common set of questions concerning the source data for each chapter, with section titles that include:

- What data are reported? – which outlines the data sets used to inform the chapter.
- What are the limitations of the data? – which provides caveats that should be considered when interpreting the data presented.
- What methods were used? – which outlines issues such as inclusions and exclusions of records and calculation methods, with references to more detailed information in the technical appendix.

The data presentations that follow these sections address, where possible, the following questions:

- How has activity changed over time?
- How much activity was there in 2012–13?
- Who used these services?
- How did people access these services?
- How urgent was the care?
- How long did people wait for care?
- Why did people receive the care?
- What care was provided?
- What was the safety and quality of the care?
- How long did patients stay?
- What was the cost of the care?
- Who paid for the care?
- How was the care completed?

Generally, summary tables and figures are placed immediately below the discussion in related text. Where appropriate, tables and figures within the chapter are accompanied by footnotes referring readers to more detailed statistical tables at the end of the chapter, or accompanying the report online at <[www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/](http://www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/)>.

## Changes in separation rates due to changes in underlying population data

All populations, except those used for analyses by Indigenous status, are based on the 2011 Census data. The age-standardised separations rates (per 1,000 population) presented in this report for the years 2008–09 to 2011–12 in time series tables have been calculated using ‘rebased’ estimated resident populations. Therefore, the separation rates reported for 2008–09 to 2011–12 in this report are not comparable to the separation rates presented in earlier *Australian hospital statistics* reports.

## Comparisons between public and private hospitals

Most chapters contain data for both public and private hospitals. However, Chapter 5 presents information only for public hospital non-admitted patient care including emergency department care and outpatient clinics.

In particular, chapters 6 to 10 on admitted patient care present many comparisons of the numbers of separations, patient days and separations per 1,000 population for public and private hospitals.

## Additional online data

This report is available on the AIHW website at <[www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/](http://www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/)>.

The report and the companion summary *Australia’s hospitals 2012–13 at a glance* are presented in PDF format and all tables are available as downloadable Excel spread sheets. *Australia’s hospitals 2012–13 at a glance* is also available in HTML format on the website, and is updated whenever new data are available.

The website also includes additional data in Excel spread sheets on diagnoses, procedures and AR-DRGs for admitted patients. Some of the report’s tables are presented with more detail online. For example, some online tables present separations in 5-year age groups rather than 10-year age groups.

## Interactive data cubes

The website also has interactive cubes of data from the NHMD, which allow users to specify tables and graphs as required. These include:

- Principal diagnoses:
  - 1993–94 to 1997–98 (using ICD-9-CM to classify diagnoses)
  - 1998–99 to 2012–13 (using ICD-10-AM to classify diagnoses)
- AR-DRGs:
  - version 4.0/4.1/4.2 for 1997–98 to 2004–05
  - version 5.0/5.1/5.2 for 1998–99 to 2009–10
  - version 6.0/6.0x for 2010–11, 2011–12 and 2012–13.

Each principal diagnosis and AR-DRG cube includes information on the number of separations (same-day and overnight), patient days and average length of stay, by age group, sex and year of separation for each principal diagnosis or AR-DRG.

- Procedures:
  - 2000–01 and 2001–02 (using ACHI 2nd edition to classify procedures)
  - 2002–03 and 2003–04 (using ACHI 3rd edition to classify procedures)
  - 2004–05 and 2005–06 (using ACHI 4th edition to classify procedures)
  - 2006–07 and 2007–08 (using ACHI 5th edition to classify procedures)
  - 2008–09 and 2009–10 (using ACHI 6th edition to classify procedures)
  - 2010–11 to 2012–13 (using ACHI 7th edition to classify procedures).

The procedures cubes include information on numbers of procedures by age group, sex, year of separation and whether the procedure was undertaken on a same-day basis.

Online interactive data are also available for elective surgery waiting times summary statistics for 2001–02 to 2012–13, including information on:

- reason for removal from waiting lists
- surgical specialty
- indicator procedures.

## Updates

Online tables and interactive data cubes will be updated in the event of errors being found in this report after publication, or if data are resupplied by states and territories after its release.

## 2 Overview: 2008–09 to 2012–13

This chapter presents an overview of hospital resources and activity between 2008–09 and 2012–13.

### What data are reported?

#### Resources

Data on hospital resources include the number of public and private hospitals, the number of public and private hospital beds, and public hospital expenditure, revenue and staffing.

Information on public hospital resources was sourced from the NPHED (see Appendix A). Information on health expenditure for 2011–12 was sourced from *Health expenditure Australia 2011–12* (AIHW 2013f) and the Health Expenditure Database (HED). Information on private hospital resources was sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS') Private Health Establishments Collection (PHEC) for 2011–12 (*Private hospitals Australia 2011–12*, ABS 2013a). Health expenditure information and private hospital information on available beds, staff, occasions of service, expenditure and revenue for 2012–13 were not available at the time of publication.

#### Activity

Data on hospital activity include summary information on non-admitted and admitted patient activity in public and private hospitals.

Information on non-admitted patient services in public hospitals was sourced from the NPHED. Information on non-admitted patient services in private hospitals was sourced from the *Private hospitals Australia* reports published by the ABS (ABS 2010, 2011a, 2012, 2013a).

Information on admitted patient services was derived from the NHMD for both public and private hospitals.

More time series data for the years 2008–09 to 2012–13, for states and territories are included in:

- Chapter 5 for non-admitted patient care
- Chapter 6 for admitted patients in public and private hospitals
- Chapter 7 for same-day acute care in public and private hospitals
- Chapter 8 for overnight acute care in public and private hospitals
- Chapter 9 for admissions involving surgery in public and private hospitals and for public hospital elective surgery waiting times
- Chapter 10 for subacute and non-acute care in public and private hospitals.

### **Box 2.1: What are the limitations of the data?**

The comparability of data on hospitals resources and activity over time may be affected by changes in coverage and in administrative and reporting arrangements.

#### **Variation in data on hospital services**

Although there are national standards for data on hospital services, there are some variations in how hospital services are defined and counted, between public and private hospitals, among the states and territories, and over time.

For example, there is variation in admission practices for some services, such as chemotherapy and endoscopy. As a result, people receiving the same type of service may be counted as same-day admitted patients in some hospitals, and as non-admitted patients in other hospitals.

In addition, some services are provided by hospitals in some jurisdictions, and by non-hospital health services in other jurisdictions. The national data on hospital care does not include care provided by non-hospital providers, such as community health centres.

See Appendix A for more information.

### **Box 2.2: What methods were used?**

- The hospital types reported in this chapter are *Public acute hospitals*, *Public psychiatric hospitals*, *Private free-standing day hospital facilities* and *Other private hospitals*.
- Time series data in this chapter show average annual changes from 2008–09 to 2012–13 (or the latest available year of data), and annual change between 2011–12 and 2012–13 (or the change between the two latest available years of data if the 2012–13 data are unavailable). Annual change rates are not adjusted for any changes in data coverage and/or re-categorisation of the hospital as public or private, except where noted in the text.
- Expenditure and revenue are shown in both current price and constant price terms. Current prices refer to amounts as reported, unadjusted for inflation. Current price amounts are less comparable between years than constant price amounts. Constant price values are adjusted for inflation and are expressed in terms of prices in the reference year. The ABS Government Final Consumption Expenditure, State and Local – Hospitals and Nursing Homes deflator was used for public hospitals. The ABS Household Final Consumption Expenditure Hospital Services deflator was used for private hospitals.
- Separations for which the care type was reported as *Newborn* (without qualified days), and records for *Hospital boarders* and *Posthumous organ procurement* have been excluded from statistics on separations. For *Newborn* care, patient days that were not qualified are excluded from the counts of patient days.
- Separations per 1,000 population and patient days per 1,000 population are reported as directly age-standardised rates based on the Australian population as at 30 June of the year of interest. The Australian population as at 30 June 2001 was used as the reference population. Age-standardisation of rates enables valid comparison across years and/or jurisdictions without being affected by the differences in age distributions.

**Box 2.2 (continued): What methods were used?**

- Average cost weight comparisons are based on the latest available public and/or private cost weights and the relevant AR-DRG versions applying to each year.
- The relative stay index (RSI) is calculated as the actual number of patient days for separations in selected AR-DRGs (version 6.0x) divided by the expected number of patient days (based on national figures for the years 2008–09 to 2012–13 combined) and standardised for casemix.

See Appendix B for more information.

## Hospital resources 2008–09 to 2012–13

### How many hospitals?

In 2012–13, there were 746 public hospitals compared with 756 in 2008–09. There were 592 private hospitals in 2011–12, compared with 564 in 2008–09 (Table 2.1).

Between 2011–12 and 2012–13, the decrease in the number of *Public acute hospitals* was due to the amalgamation of 5 small public hospitals within parent campuses in Western Australia and the closure of 2 small outpatient hospitals in Victoria.

More information on the types of hospitals, and their distribution by state and territory in 2012–13 is in Chapter 4.

**Table 2.1: Public and private hospitals<sup>(a)</sup>, 2008–09 to 2012–13**

|                                               | 2008–09 | 2009–10 | 2010–11 | 2011–12 | 2012–13 | Change (%)            |               |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                                               |         |         |         |         |         | Average since 2008–09 | Since 2011–12 |
| Public hospitals                              |         |         |         |         |         |                       |               |
| Public acute hospitals                        | 737     | 736     | 735     | 736     | 729     | –0.3                  | –1.0          |
| Public psychiatric hospitals                  | 19      | 17      | 17      | 17      | 17      | –2.7                  | 0.0           |
| Total                                         | 756     | 753     | 752     | 753     | 746     | –0.3                  | –0.9          |
|                                               |         |         |         |         |         | Average since 2008–09 | Since 2010–11 |
| Private hospitals                             |         |         |         |         |         |                       |               |
| Private free-standing day hospital facilities | 285     | 302     | 314     | 311     | n.a.    | 0.7                   | –1.0          |
| Other private hospitals                       | 279     | 279     | 279     | 281     | n.a.    | 0.2                   | 0.7           |
| Total                                         | 564     | 581     | 593     | 592     | n.a.    | 0.5                   | –0.2          |
| Total                                         | 1,320   | 1,334   | 1,345   | 1,345   | n.a.    | 0.2                   | 0.0           |

(a) Private hospital information was sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' *Private hospitals Australia* reports (ABS 2010, 2011a, 2012, 2013).

Note: See boxes 2.1 and 2.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## How many beds?

Between 2008–09 and 2012–13, public hospital bed numbers rose overall (an average of 0.8% per year), and beds per 1,000 population decreased (an average of 0.7% per year).

From 2009–10, the number of available beds was reported separately as the number of same-day and overnight admitted patient beds. Same-day beds/chairs accounted for about 12% of available public hospital beds in 2012–13. For state and territory data, see Table 4.5 in Chapter 4.

Data on the number of private hospital beds was not available at the time of this report for 2012–13. Between 2008–09 and 2011–12, private hospital bed numbers rose by an average of 1.1% per year.

**Table 2.2: Public and private hospital beds and beds per 1,000 population, 2008–09 to 2012–13**

|                                               | 2008–09 | 2009–10 | 2010–11 | 2011–12 | 2012–13 | Change (%)            |               |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                                               |         |         |         |         |         | Average since 2008–09 | Since 2011–12 |
| Public hospitals                              |         |         |         |         |         |                       |               |
| Public acute hospitals <sup>(a)</sup>         | 54,408  | 54,824  | 55,855  | 56,707  | 56,539  | 1.0                   | –0.3          |
| Same-day beds/chairs                          | n.a.    | 6,235   | 6,582   | 7,023   | 7,195   | n.a.                  | 2.5           |
| Overnight beds                                | n.a.    | 48,577  | 49,207  | 49,559  | 49,343  | n.a.                  | –0.4          |
| Public psychiatric hospitals                  | 2,140   | 2,088   | 1,983   | 1,838   | 1,772   | –4.6                  | –3.6          |
| Total                                         | 56,548  | 56,912  | 57,838  | 58,545  | 58,311  | 0.8                   | –0.4          |
| Beds per 1,000 population <sup>(b)</sup>      | 2.66    | 2.63    | 2.61    | 2.60    | 2.59    | –0.7                  | –0.4          |
|                                               |         |         |         |         |         | Average since 2008–09 | Since 2010–11 |
| Private hospitals <sup>(c)</sup>              |         |         |         |         |         |                       |               |
| Private free-standing day hospital facilities | 2,495   | 2,822   | 2,957   | 2,973   | n.a.    | 1.3                   | 0.5           |
| Other private hospitals                       | 24,685  | 24,926  | 25,394  | 26,031  | n.a.    | 1.1                   | 2.5           |
| Total                                         | 27,180  | 27,748  | 28,351  | 29,004  | n.a.    | 1.1                   | 2.3           |
| Beds per 1,000 population <sup>(b)</sup>      | 1.26    | 1.25    | 1.26    | 1.29    | n.a.    | 0.7                   | 2.3           |
| All hospitals                                 | 83,728  | 84,660  | 86,189  | 87,549  | n.a.    | 0.8                   | 1.6           |
| Beds per 1,000 population <sup>(b)</sup>      | 3.94    | 3.91    | 3.89    | 3.89    | n.a.    | –0.1                  | 0.1           |

(a) The total may not equal the sum of *Overnight beds* and *Same-day beds/chairs* as some beds were not identified as same-day or overnight.

(b) Beds per 1,000 population is a crude rate based on the Australian population as at the beginning of the period (30 June).

(c) Private hospital information was sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' *Private hospitals Australia* reports (ABS 2010, 2011a, 2012, 2013).

Note: See boxes 2.1 and 2.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## How were hospitals funded?

A summary measure of the significance of Australia's hospitals is the amount that is spent on them—an estimated \$53.5 billion in 2011–12, about 3.6% of Australia's gross domestic product, or about \$2,377 per person (*Health expenditure Australia 2011–12*, AIHW 2013f).



The financial data presented in Table 2.3 are sourced from the AIHW's HED. Financial data reported from the HED are not directly comparable with data reported from the NPHED. Hospital expenditure reported for the purpose of the HED collection may cover activity that is not covered by the NPHED. The HED financial data include trust fund expenditure, whereas the NPHED does not.

Funding for public hospitals has grown in real terms – adjusted for inflation, it increased by 5.3% each year, on average, between 2007–08 and 2011–12.

The sources of funding for public hospitals are the Australian Government, state and territory governments and non-government sources (including private health insurance and self-funded patients). Between 2007–08 and 2011–12, after adjusting for inflation, public hospital funding from non-government sources increased by 9.7% on average each year (Table 2.3).

Between 2007–08 and 2011–12, spending on private hospitals increased by 7.4% on average each year. About 66% of private hospital funding was non-government and about 30% was provided by the Australian Government.

**Table 2.3: Funding sources for public and private hospitals, constant prices (\$ million), 2007–08 to 2011–12**

|                            | 2007–08 | 2008–09 | 2009–10 | 2010–11 | 2011–12 | Change (%)            |               |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                            |         |         |         |         |         | Average since 2007–08 | Since 2010–11 |
| Public hospitals           |         |         |         |         |         |                       |               |
| Australian Government      | 13,389  | 15,148  | 14,404  | 15,811  | 16,072  | 4.7                   | 1.7           |
| State/territory government | 18,299  | 18,003  | 20,263  | 20,748  | 22,411  | 5.2                   | 8.0           |
| Non-government             | 2,453   | 2,872   | 2,937   | 3,350   | 3,552   | 9.7                   | 6.0           |
| Total                      | 34,141  | 36,023  | 37,604  | 39,910  | 42,034  | 5.3                   | 5.3           |
| Private hospitals          |         |         |         |         |         |                       |               |
| Australian Government      | 3,115   | 3,116   | 3,440   | 3,559   | 3,464   | 2.7                   | −2.7          |
| State/territory government | 305     | 386     | 395     | 460     | 494     | 12.8                  | 7.4           |
| Non-government             | 5,198   | 6,407   | 6,597   | 7,003   | 7,517   | 9.7                   | 7.3           |
| Total                      | 8,618   | 9,909   | 10,432  | 11,021  | 11,475  | 7.4                   | 4.1           |

Source: *Health expenditure Australia 2011–12* (AIHW 2013f).

## How did hospital expenditure and revenue change?

The financial data presented in table 2.4 and 2.5 are sourced from the NPHED.

Recurrent expenditure by public hospitals in 2012–13 was almost \$42 billion (Table 2.4). In constant price terms (adjusted for inflation), the average annual increase in recurrent expenditure by public hospitals was 4.7% between 2008–09 and 2012–13.

For 2012–13, expenditure data were not available for 3 public hospitals in Queensland, which reported about \$560 million expenditure in 2011–12. After adjusting for the missing expenditure data, the average annual increase in recurrent expenditure for public hospitals was about 5.1% between 2008–09 and 2012–13 (adjusted for inflation).

Total revenue for public hospitals grew in real terms (constant prices) by an average of 15.0% per year between 2008–09 and 2012–13.

Recurrent expenditure for private hospitals in 2011–12 was more than \$10 billion. In constant price terms (adjusted for inflation) the average annual increase in recurrent expenditure for private hospitals was 12.2% between 2008–09 and 2011–12. Total revenue for private hospitals has grown in real terms by 5.5% in the same period.

**Table 2.4: Recurrent expenditure<sup>(a)</sup> and revenue (\$ million), public and private hospitals, 2008–09 to 2012–13**

|                                            | 2008–09 | 2009–10 | 2010–11 | 2011–12 | 2012–13 <sup>(b)</sup> | Change (%)            |               |
|--------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                                            |         |         |         |         |                        | Average since 2008–09 | Since 2011–12 |
| <b>Public hospitals</b>                    |         |         |         |         |                        |                       |               |
| Total recurrent expenditure <sup>(a)</sup> |         |         |         |         |                        |                       |               |
| Constant prices <sup>(c)</sup>             | 34,715  | 35,994  | 38,982  | 41,567  | 41,741                 | 4.7                   | 0.4           |
| Current prices                             | 31,322  | 33,706  | 36,985  | 40,384  | 41,741                 | 7.4                   | 3.4           |
| Total revenue                              |         |         |         |         |                        |                       |               |
| Constant prices <sup>(c)</sup>             | 3,297   | 3,652   | 4,137   | 4,752   | 5,769                  | 15.0                  | 21.4          |
| Current prices                             | 2,975   | 3,420   | 3,925   | 4,617   | 5,769                  | 18.0                  | 25.0          |
|                                            |         |         |         |         |                        | Average since 2008–09 | Since 2010–11 |
| <b>Private hospitals<sup>(d)(e)</sup></b>  |         |         |         |         |                        |                       |               |
| Total recurrent expenditure <sup>(a)</sup> |         |         |         |         |                        |                       |               |
| Constant prices <sup>(c)</sup>             | 7,486   | 8,517   | 9,418   | 10,043  | n.a.                   | 12.2                  | 6.6           |
| Current prices                             | 8,137   | 8,946   | 9,610   | 10,043  | n.a.                   | 8.7                   | 4.5           |
| Total revenue                              |         |         |         |         |                        |                       |               |
| Constant prices <sup>(c)</sup>             | 9,763   | 10,283  | 10,867  | 11,228  | n.a.                   | 5.5                   | 3.3           |
| Current prices                             | 8,982   | 9,790   | 10,650  | 11,228  | n.a.                   | 8.9                   | 5.4           |
| <b>All hospitals<sup>(d)(e)</sup></b>      |         |         |         |         |                        |                       |               |
| Total recurrent expenditure <sup>(a)</sup> |         |         |         |         |                        |                       |               |
| Constant prices <sup>(c)</sup>             | 42,201  | 44,512  | 48,400  | 51,611  | n.a.                   | 7.1                   | 6.6           |
| Current prices                             | 39,460  | 42,653  | 46,595  | 50,428  | n.a.                   | 8.7                   | 8.2           |
| Total revenue                              |         |         |         |         |                        |                       |               |
| Constant prices <sup>(c)</sup>             | 13,060  | 13,935  | 15,004  | 15,980  | n.a.                   | 7.2                   | 6.5           |
| Current prices                             | 11,957  | 13,210  | 14,575  | 15,845  | n.a.                   | 10.4                  | 8.7           |

(a) Excludes depreciation.

(b) For 2012–13, expenditure data were missing for 3 public hospitals in Queensland, which reported about \$560 million of recurrent expenditure in 2011–12.

(c) The ABS Government Final Consumption Expenditure, State and Local – Hospitals & Nursing Homes deflator was used for public hospitals, expressed in terms of prices in the reference year 2012–13. The ABS Household Final Consumption Expenditure deflator was used for private hospitals, expressed in terms of prices in the reference year 2011–12.

(d) Private hospital information was sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' *Private hospitals Australia* reports (ABS 2010, 2011a, 2012, 2013a).

(e) Average yearly increases for private hospitals and for all hospitals are calculated for the period 2008–09 to 2011–12 and latest year increases are calculated for the period 2010–11 to 2011–12.

Note: See boxes 2.1 and 2.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

Source: National Public Hospital Establishments Database.

## How many people were employed in public hospitals?

Between 2008–09 and 2012–13, the numbers of full-time equivalent staff employed in public hospitals in Australia increased by an average of 2.7% each year. There was variation in the relative size and direction of change across staff categories during this period (Table 2.5), with the greatest rise for the *Salaried medical officers* category (4.8%).

For 2012–13, staffing data were not available for 3 public hospitals in Queensland, which reported about 3,800 full-time equivalent staff in 2011–12. After adjusting for the missing staffing data, the average annual increase in full-time equivalent staff for Australian public hospitals was about 3.1% between 2008–09 and 2012–13.

**Table 2.5: Full-time equivalent staff, public hospitals, 2008–09 to 2012–13**

|                                                     | 2008–09        | 2009–10        | 2010–11        | 2011–12        | 2012–13 <sup>(a)</sup> | Change (%)            |               |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                                                     |                |                |                |                |                        | Average since 2008–09 | Since 2011–12 |
| Salaried medical officers                           | 29,166         | 30,576         | 32,514         | 34,293         | 35,124                 | 4.8                   | 2.4           |
| Total nurses                                        | 111,870        | 113,938        | 119,126        | 123,368        | 124,584                | 2.7                   | 1.0           |
| Diagnostic and allied health professionals          | 35,506         | 35,456         | 36,993         | 37,175         | 38,753                 | 2.2                   | 4.2           |
| Administrative and clerical staff                   | 37,640         | 38,158         | 41,073         | 42,339         | 42,839                 | 3.3                   | 1.2           |
| Other personal care staff, domestic and other staff | 32,714         | 33,289         | 33,921         | 33,675         | 33,403                 | 0.5                   | –0.8          |
| <b>Total staff</b>                                  | <b>246,895</b> | <b>251,417</b> | <b>263,626</b> | <b>270,851</b> | <b>274,703</b>         | <b>2.7</b>            | <b>1.4</b>    |

(a) For 2012–13, staffing data were missing for 3 public hospitals in Queensland, which reported about 3,800 full-time equivalent staff in 2011–12.

Note: See boxes 2.1 and 2.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## Hospital activity 2008–09 to 2012–13

### How much non-admitted patient activity?

Hospitals provide services to non-admitted patients through emergency departments, outpatient clinics and a range of other services. For outpatient clinic data, these data should be treated with caution due to changes in reporting practices between 2009–10 and 2012–13. For more information, see Chapter 5.

Overall, the number of non-admitted patient occasions of service reported for *Public acute hospitals* increased by 2.5% per year between 2008–09 and 2012–13 (Table 2.6). For private hospitals, the number of non-admitted patient occasions of service increased by 0.4% per year between 2008–09 and 2011–12.

### How much admitted patient activity?

**Admission** to hospital is a formal process, and follows a decision made by a medical officer that a patient needs to be admitted for appropriate management or treatment of their condition, or for appropriate care or assessment of needs.

**Separation** is the term used to refer to the episode of admitted patient care, which can be a total hospital stay (from admission to discharge, transfer or death) or a portion of a hospital stay beginning or ending in a change of type of care (for example, from acute care to

rehabilitation). Separation also means the process by which an admitted patient completes an episode of care by being discharged, dying, being transferred to another hospital or by a change of care type.

Between 2008–09 and 2012–13, the overall number of hospital separations rose from 8.1 million to 9.4 million (Table 2.7). Over this period, the rate of growth in separations was higher for private hospitals (4.2%) than for public hospitals (3.1%).

Between 2011–12 and 2012–13, there was a change in Victoria's emergency department admission policy, which resulted in a decrease in admissions, particularly for same-day separations. After adjusting for this change (as detailed in Chapter 6), public hospital separations were estimated to have increased by an average of about 3.8% per year between 2008–09 and 2012–13.

**Table 2.6: Non-admitted patient occasions of service ('000), public acute and private hospitals<sup>(a)</sup>, 2008–09 to 2012–13**

|                                           | 2008–09       | 2009–10       | 2010–11       | 2011–12       | 2012–13     | Change (%)            |               |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                                           |               |               |               |               |             | Average since 2008–09 | Since 2011–12 |
| <b>Public acute hospitals</b>             |               |               |               |               |             |                       |               |
| <i>Individual occasions of service</i>    | 49,161        | 49,471        | 50,177        | 53,124        | 54,115      | 2.4                   | 1.9           |
| Emergency                                 | 7,172         | 7,390         | 7,651         | 7,809         | 7,924       | 2.5                   | 1.5           |
| Outpatient-related <sup>(a)</sup>         | 16,516        | 16,789        | 16,682        | 16,868        | 18,088      | 2.3                   | 7.2           |
| Diagnostic <sup>(b)</sup>                 | 17,065        | 16,815        | 17,197        | 19,349        | 17,678      | 0.9                   | –8.6          |
| Other <sup>(c)</sup>                      | 8,407         | 8,476         | 8,646         | 9,098         | 10,425      | 5.5                   | 14.6          |
| Group occasions of service                | 341           | 328           | 318           | 303           | 516         | 10.9                  | 70.4          |
| <i>Total</i>                              | 49,501        | 49,799        | 50,494        | 53,427        | 54,631      | 2.5                   | 2.3           |
|                                           |               |               |               |               |             | Average since 2008–09 | Since 2010–11 |
| <b>Private hospitals<sup>(d)(e)</sup></b> |               |               |               |               |             |                       |               |
| Accident and emergency                    | 501           | 527           | 516           | 531           | n.a.        | 2.0                   | 2.8           |
| Other outpatient <sup>(f)</sup>           | 1,525         | 1,550         | 1,646         | 1,569         | n.a.        | 1.0                   | –4.7          |
| <i>Total<sup>(d)(e)</sup></i>             | 2,026         | 2,077         | 2,162         | 2,100         | n.a.        | 1.0                   | –2.9          |
| <b>All hospitals<sup>(e)</sup></b>        | <b>51,527</b> | <b>51,876</b> | <b>52,657</b> | <b>55,527</b> | <b>n.a.</b> | <b>2.5</b>            | <b>5.5</b>    |

(a) Includes *Allied health services, Dental, Dialysis, Endoscopy and Other medical/surgical/obstetric services*.

(b) Includes *Radiology and organ imaging, Pathology and Pharmacy services*.

(c) Includes *Psychiatric, Alcohol and drug, Community health services, District nursing and Outreach services*.

(d) Does not include data for *Private free-standing day hospital facilities*.

(e) Average yearly increases for private hospitals and for all hospitals are calculated for the period 2008–09 to 2011–12 and latest year increases are calculated for the period 2010–11 to 2011–12.

(f) Includes *Dialysis, Radiology and organ imaging, Endoscopy, Pathology, Other medical/surgical/diagnostic, Psychiatric, Alcohol and drug, Dental, Pharmacy and Allied health services, Community health services, District nursing services and Non-medical and social services*.

Note: See boxes 2.1 and 2.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

Private hospitals consistently accounted for about 40% of separations between 2008–09 and 2012–13 (Table 2.7). Over the same period, there was a fall in separations from *Public psychiatric hospitals*. In part, this reflects a change of service delivery arrangements, including shifts from *Public psychiatric hospitals* to *Public acute hospitals* or to residential care.

Between 2008–09 and 2012–13, the number of separations per 1,000 population rose by an average of 1.4% per year, with growth observed in all types of hospitals except *Public psychiatric hospitals* (Table 2.8). The highest growth in separation rate was observed in *Other private hospitals* (2.1% on average per year) and overnight separation rates increased for both public and private hospitals.

**Table 2.7: Separations ('000), public and private hospitals, 2008–09 to 2012–13**

|                                               | 2008–09      | 2009–10      | 2010–11      | 2011–12      | 2012–13      | Change (%)            |               |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                                               |              |              |              |              |              | Average since 2008–09 | Since 2011–12 |
| <b>Public hospitals</b>                       |              |              |              |              |              |                       |               |
| Public acute hospitals                        | 4,880        | 5,058        | 5,269        | 5,502        | 5,520        | 3.1                   | 0.3           |
| Public psychiatric hospitals                  | 11           | 11           | 10           | 10           | 10           | –2.0                  | 4.9           |
| <i>Total</i>                                  | <i>4,891</i> | <i>5,069</i> | <i>5,279</i> | <i>5,511</i> | <i>5,530</i> | <i>3.1</i>            | <i>0.3</i>    |
| <b>Private hospitals</b>                      |              |              |              |              |              |                       |               |
| Private free-standing day hospital facilities | 729          | 783          | 809          | 844          | 855          | 4.1                   | 1.3           |
| Other private hospitals                       | 2,528        | 2,678        | 2,764        | 2,901        | 2,989        | 4.3                   | 3.0           |
| <i>Total</i>                                  | <i>3,257</i> | <i>3,462</i> | <i>3,573</i> | <i>3,745</i> | <i>3,843</i> | <i>4.2</i>            | <i>2.6</i>    |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                          | <b>8,148</b> | <b>8,531</b> | <b>8,853</b> | <b>9,256</b> | <b>9,374</b> | <b>3.6</b>            | <b>1.3</b>    |

Note: See boxes 2.1 and 2.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 2.8: Separations per 1,000 population, public and private hospitals, 2008–09 to 2012–13**

|                                               | 2008–09      | 2009–10      | 2010–11      | 2011–12      | 2012–13      | Change (%)            |               |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                                               |              |              |              |              |              | Average since 2008–09 | Since 2011–12 |
| <b>Public hospitals</b>                       |              |              |              |              |              |                       |               |
| Public acute hospitals                        | 221.8        | 224.8        | 229.8        | 236.0        | 231.6        | 1.1                   | –1.8          |
| Public psychiatric hospitals                  | 0.5          | 0.5          | 0.5          | 0.4          | 0.5          | –3.3                  | 3.2           |
| <i>Total</i>                                  | <i>222.3</i> | <i>225.4</i> | <i>230.3</i> | <i>236.4</i> | <i>232.1</i> | <i>1.1</i>            | <i>–1.8</i>   |
| Overnight separations                         | 102.6        | 105.3        | 109.2        | 113.8        | 115.4        | 3.0                   | 1.4           |
| <b>Private hospitals</b>                      |              |              |              |              |              |                       |               |
| Private free-standing day hospital facilities | 32.8         | 34.5         | 34.9         | 35.7         | 35.3         | 1.8                   | –1.2          |
| Other private hospitals                       | 113.4        | 117.6        | 118.9        | 122.4        | 123.4        | 2.1                   | 0.8           |
| <i>Total</i>                                  | <i>146.2</i> | <i>152.1</i> | <i>153.8</i> | <i>158.2</i> | <i>158.7</i> | <i>2.1</i>            | <i>–0.1</i>   |
| Overnight separations                         | 44.5         | 46.3         | 47.0         | 48.3         | 49.3         | 2.6                   | 2.0           |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                          | <b>368.5</b> | <b>377.4</b> | <b>384.0</b> | <b>394.6</b> | <b>390.8</b> | <b>1.4</b>            | <b>–1.0</b>   |
| <b>Overnight separations</b>                  | <b>147.2</b> | <b>151.6</b> | <b>156.2</b> | <b>162.1</b> | <b>164.7</b> | <b>2.8</b>            | <b>1.6</b>    |

Note: See boxes 2.1 and 2.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## How many same-day and overnight separations?

A **same-day separation** occurs when a patient is admitted and separated from hospital on the same date.

An **overnight separation** occurs when a patient is admitted and separated from hospital on different dates.

Between 2008–09 and 2012–13, the number of same-day separations increased at a greater rate than overnight separations (4.0% and 3.0% average per year, respectively) (Table 2.9), with the rate of increase for same-day separations being higher in private hospitals (4.9%) than in public hospitals (3.1%).

In 2012–13, same-day separations accounted for 58% of separations, and this proportion was fairly stable over the five-year period. For more information on same-day acute admitted patient care, see Chapter 7.

There was an increase in overnight separations between 2008–09 and 2012–13, with the rate of increase being higher for public hospitals (3.1%) than for private hospitals (2.7%).

In 2012–13, overnight separations made up almost 50% of separations in public hospitals and 31% in private hospitals. For more information on overnight acute admitted patient care, see Chapter 8.

**Table 2.9: Same-day and overnight separations ('000), public and private hospitals, 2008–09 to 2012–13**

|                                                              | 2008–09      | 2009–10      | 2010–11      | 2011–12      | 2012–13      | Change (%)            |               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                                                              |              |              |              |              |              | Average since 2008–09 | Since 2011–12 |
| Same-day separations                                         |              |              |              |              |              |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                                             |              |              |              |              |              |                       |               |
| Public acute hospitals                                       | 2,460        | 2,573        | 2,685        | 2,806        | 2,783        | 3.1                   | –0.8          |
| Public psychiatric hospitals <sup>(a)</sup>                  | 1            | 1            | 1            | 1            | 1            | n.p.                  | n.p.          |
| <i>Total</i>                                                 | <i>2,461</i> | <i>2,574</i> | <i>2,685</i> | <i>2,807</i> | <i>2,784</i> | <i>3.1</i>            | <i>–0.8</i>   |
| Proportion of total public separations (%)                   | 50.3         | 50.8         | 50.9         | 50.9         | 50.3         | 0.0                   | –1.2          |
| Private hospitals                                            |              |              |              |              |              |                       |               |
| Private free-standing day hospital facilities                | 728          | 782          | 808          | 843          | 853          | 4.1                   | 1.3           |
| Other private hospitals                                      | 1,456        | 1,562        | 1,627        | 1,729        | 1,794        | 5.4                   | 3.7           |
| <i>Total</i>                                                 | <i>2,184</i> | <i>2,344</i> | <i>2,435</i> | <i>2,572</i> | <i>2,647</i> | <i>4.9</i>            | <i>2.9</i>    |
| Proportion of total public separations (%)                   | 67.0         | 67.7         | 68.1         | 68.7         | 68.9         | 0.7                   | 0.3           |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                                         | <b>4,645</b> | <b>4,918</b> | <b>5,120</b> | <b>5,379</b> | <b>5,431</b> | <b>4.0</b>            | <b>1.0</b>    |
| <b>Proportion of total separations (%)</b>                   | <b>57.0</b>  | <b>57.6</b>  | <b>57.8</b>  | <b>58.1</b>  | <b>57.9</b>  | <b>0.4</b>            | <b>–0.3</b>   |
| Overnight separations                                        |              |              |              |              |              |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                                             |              |              |              |              |              |                       |               |
| Public acute hospitals                                       | 2,420        | 2,485        | 2,585        | 2,696        | 2,737        | 3.1                   | 1.5           |
| Public psychiatric hospitals <sup>(b)</sup>                  | 10           | 11           | 9            | 9            | 10           | –1.9                  | 6.4           |
| <i>Total</i>                                                 | <i>2,430</i> | <i>2,495</i> | <i>2,594</i> | <i>2,705</i> | <i>2,747</i> | <i>3.1</i>            | <i>1.5</i>    |
| Private hospitals                                            |              |              |              |              |              |                       |               |
| Private free-standing day hospital facilities <sup>(a)</sup> | 1            | 1            | 1            | 1            | 1            | n.p.                  | n.p.          |
| Other private hospitals                                      | 1,073        | 1,117        | 1,137        | 1,171        | 1,195        | 2.7                   | 2.0           |
| <i>Total</i>                                                 | <i>1,074</i> | <i>1,118</i> | <i>1,138</i> | <i>1,173</i> | <i>1,196</i> | <i>2.7</i>            | <i>2.0</i>    |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                                         | <b>3,504</b> | <b>3,613</b> | <b>3,732</b> | <b>3,877</b> | <b>3,943</b> | <b>3.0</b>            | <b>1.7</b>    |

(a) The average change per year is not shown due to low numbers.

(b) Due to the low and variable numbers of separations for public psychiatric hospitals, caution should be used in interpreting the average rates of change.

Note: See boxes 2.1 and 2.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## How urgent was the care?

Admissions to hospital can be categorised as *Emergency* (required within 24 hours) or *Elective* (required at some stage beyond 24 hours). Emergency/elective status is not assigned for some admissions (for example, obstetric care and planned care, such as dialysis). This section classifies separations as *Emergency* or *Non-emergency* (which includes elective and other planned care).

Between 2008–09 and 2012–13, separations with an urgency of admission of *Emergency* increased for both public and private hospitals (3.1% and 5.2% per year, respectively) (Table 2.10). For *Non-emergency* admissions, separations increased for both public and private hospitals (3.2% and 4.4% per year, respectively). For private hospitals, *Non-emergency medical* care increased by 6.4% each year. Table 2.10 also presents information on the broad category of admitted patient service. See 'What care was provided?' for more information.

**Table 2.10: Separations by broad category of service, public and private hospitals, 2008–09 to 2012–13**

|                          | 2008–09   | 2009–10   | 2010–11   | 2011–12   | 2012–13   | Change (%)            |               |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                          |           |           |           |           |           | Average since 2008–09 | Since 2011–12 |
| Public hospitals         |           |           |           |           |           |                       |               |
| Childbirth               | 208,196   | 211,134   | 213,454   | 218,903   | 223,814   | 1.8                   | 2.2           |
| Specialist mental health | 103,185   | 96,793    | 101,173   | 109,410   | 113,705   | 2.5                   | 3.9           |
| Emergency                |           |           |           |           |           |                       |               |
| Surgical                 | 226,586   | 229,783   | 243,841   | 256,880   | 260,880   | 3.6                   | 1.6           |
| Medical                  | 1,659,662 | 1,693,780 | 1,812,229 | 1,902,150 | 1,869,786 | 3.0                   | –1.7          |
| Other                    | 54,246    | 55,189    | 57,451    | 59,964    | 63,431    | 4.0                   | 5.8           |
| Total emergency          | 1,940,494 | 1,978,752 | 2,113,521 | 2,218,994 | 2,194,097 | 3.1                   | –1.1          |
| Non-emergency            |           |           |           |           |           |                       |               |
| Surgical                 | 660,738   | 676,874   | 687,115   | 695,239   | 698,500   | 1.4                   | 0.5           |
| Medical                  | 1,718,910 | 1,832,704 | 1,882,496 | 1,991,141 | 2,024,868 | 4.2                   | 1.7           |
| Other                    | 259,500   | 273,031   | 281,373   | 277,805   | 275,211   | 1.5                   | –0.9          |
| Total non-emergency      | 2,639,148 | 2,782,609 | 2,850,984 | 2,964,185 | 2,998,579 | 3.2                   | 1.2           |
| Total                    | 4,891,023 | 5,069,288 | 5,279,132 | 5,511,492 | 5,530,195 | 3.1                   | 0.3           |
| Private hospitals        |           |           |           |           |           |                       |               |
| Childbirth               | 81,390    | 84,320    | 80,006    | 80,782    | 81,872    | 0.1                   | 1.3           |
| Specialist mental health | 131,378   | 145,643   | 130,090   | 140,091   | 143,745   | 2.3                   | 2.6           |
| Emergency                |           |           |           |           |           |                       |               |
| Surgical                 | 30,596    | 33,131    | 36,617    | 38,678    | 39,432    | 6.5                   | 1.9           |
| Medical                  | 123,919   | 133,212   | 144,549   | 146,399   | 147,663   | 4.5                   | 0.9           |
| Other                    | 11,203    | 12,375    | 13,967    | 15,692    | 15,835    | 9.0                   | 0.9           |
| Total emergency          | 165,718   | 178,718   | 195,133   | 200,769   | 202,930   | 5.2                   | 1.1           |
| Non-emergency            |           |           |           |           |           |                       |               |
| Surgical                 | 1,206,830 | 1,265,071 | 1,291,089 | 1,349,008 | 1,371,995 | 3.3                   | 1.7           |
| Medical                  | 1,006,337 | 1,084,585 | 1,147,340 | 1,227,888 | 1,289,030 | 6.4                   | 5.0           |
| Other                    | 665,772   | 703,378   | 729,760   | 746,139   | 753,759   | 3.2                   | 1.0           |
| Total non-emergency      | 2,878,939 | 3,053,034 | 3,168,189 | 3,323,035 | 3,414,784 | 4.4                   | 2.8           |
| Total                    | 3,257,425 | 3,461,715 | 3,573,418 | 3,744,677 | 3,843,331 | 4.2                   | 2.6           |
| All hospitals            | 8,148,448 | 8,531,003 | 8,852,550 | 9,256,169 | 9,373,526 | 3.6                   | 1.3           |

Note: See boxes 2.1 and 2.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## What care was provided?

The care that the patient received can be described in a variety of ways. This section presents information describing care by the following broad categories of service:

- *Childbirth*: separations for which the Australian Refined Diagnosis Related Group (AR-DRG) was associated with childbirth (does not include newborn care).
- *Specialist mental health*: separations for which specialised psychiatric care days were reported. Excludes separations associated with childbirth.
- *Surgical*: separations for which the AR-DRG belonged to the *Surgical* partition (involving an operating room procedure), excluding separations for *Childbirth* and *Specialist mental health*.
- *Medical*: separations for which the AR-DRG belonged to the *Medical* partition (not involving an operating room procedure), excluding separations for *Childbirth* and *Specialist mental health*.
- *Other*: separations for which the AR-DRG did not belong to the *Surgical* or *Medical* partitions (involving a non-operating room procedure, such as endoscopy), excluding separations for *Childbirth* and *Specialist mental health*.

Between 2008–09 and 2012–13, private hospitals accounted for the majority of *Non-emergency surgical* separations (about 65% each year) and the majority of *Specialist mental health* separations (56% in 2012–13) (Table 2.10).

Public hospitals consistently accounted for over 70% of *Childbirth* separations between 2008–09 and 2012–13.

## Average cost weight

Average cost weight information provides a guide to the expected resource use for separations, with a value of 1.00 representing the theoretical average for all separations (based on the year of the NHCDC cost weights).

The validity of comparisons of average cost weights across jurisdictions is limited by differences in the extent to which each jurisdiction's acute care psychiatric services are integrated into its public hospital system. Cost weights are of less use as a measure of resource requirements for acute psychiatric services because the relevant AR-DRGs are less homogenous than for other acute services. See Appendix E for more information.

In part of Table 2.11, public sector cost weights were used for both public and private hospitals to enable comparison between sectors, because public and private sector cost weights are not comparable.

Using public cost weights for both public and private hospitals, average cost weights were similar for *Other private hospitals* and for *Public acute hospitals* between 2008–09 and 2012–13 (Table 2.11). Average cost weights were lowest for *Private free-standing day hospital facilities*.

Using private hospital cost weights for separations for private hospitals, the average cost weight for private hospitals increased by about 1.3% on average between 2008–09 and 2012–13. It increased by about 1.5% each year for *Private free standing day hospital facilities*.



**Table 2.11: Average cost weight of separations, public and private hospitals, 2008–09 to 2012–13**

|                                                           | 2008–09 | 2009–10 | 2010–11 | 2011–12 | 2012–13 | Change (%)            |               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                                                           |         |         |         |         |         | Average since 2008–09 | Since 2011–12 |
| Average public cost weight of separations <sup>(a)</sup>  |         |         |         |         |         |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                                          |         |         |         |         |         |                       |               |
| Public acute hospitals                                    | 1.01    | 1.01    | 0.99    | 1.00    | 1.02    | 0.3                   | 2.3           |
| Public psychiatric hospitals                              | 2.34    | 2.36    | 2.32    | 2.28    | 2.31    | –0.3                  | 1.6           |
| Total                                                     | 1.01    | 1.01    | 1.00    | 1.00    | 1.02    | 0.3                   | 2.3           |
| Private hospitals                                         |         |         |         |         |         |                       |               |
| Private free-standing day hospital facilities             | 0.46    | 0.46    | 0.46    | 0.47    | 0.47    | 0.9                   | 1.7           |
| Other private hospitals                                   | 1.02    | 1.02    | 1.02    | 1.01    | 1.02    | –0.2                  | 0.3           |
| Total                                                     | 0.89    | 0.89    | 0.88    | 0.88    | 0.89    | –0.1                  | 0.6           |
| All hospitals                                             | 0.96    | 0.96    | 0.95    | 0.95    | 0.97    | 0.1                   | 1.6           |
| Average private cost weight of separations <sup>(b)</sup> |         |         |         |         |         |                       |               |
| Private hospitals                                         |         |         |         |         |         |                       |               |
| Private free-standing day hospital facilities             | 0.33    | 0.33    | 0.33    | 0.34    | 0.35    | 1.5                   | 1.5           |
| Other private hospitals                                   | 0.90    | 0.90    | 0.90    | 0.95    | 0.95    | 1.3                   | 0.4           |
| Total                                                     | 0.77    | 0.76    | 0.77    | 0.80    | 0.81    | 1.3                   | 0.7           |

(a) AR-DRG version 6.0x public cost weights 2010–11 were used for both public and private hospitals.

(b) AR-DRG version 6.0x private cost weights 2011–12.

Note: See boxes 2.1 and 2.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## How long did people stay in hospital?

In 2012–13, 68% of patient days were in public hospitals (Table 2.12).

Between 2008–09 and 2012–13, the average lengths of stay for public acute and private hospitals fell slightly.

For overnight separations, the average length of stay in all hospitals combined fell from 6.0 days to 5.6 days between 2008–09 and 2012–13, an average annual decrease of 1.6%. The average length of stay excluding same-day separations is comparable with the length of stays reported for other member countries by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (OECD 2013) (which also do not include same-day activity). See Chapter 8 for more information on OECD comparisons.

Between 2008–09 and 2012–13, overall patient days per 1,000 population fluctuated for *Public acute hospitals* and *Other private hospitals*. Over the same period, patient days per 1,000 population increased by about 1.9% per year for *Private free-standing day hospitals* (Table 2.13).

Patient days for *Public psychiatric hospitals* fluctuated between 2008–09 and 2012–13. In part, this may reflect changes in service delivery arrangements, such as the shifts from *Public psychiatric hospitals* to *Public acute hospitals* and residential care. However, separation records from public psychiatric hospitals include some with very long individual lengths of stay, including some as long as several years. The pattern of these separations from public psychiatric hospitals can vary over time and patient day counts can therefore fluctuate markedly for these hospitals.

**Table 2.12: Patient days and average length of stay, public and private hospitals, 2008–09 to 2012–13**

|                                                                      | 2008–09       | 2009–10       | 2010–11       | 2011–12       | 2012–13       | Change (%)            |               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                                                                      |               |               |               |               |               | Average since 2008–09 | Since 2011–12 |
| <b>Patient days ('000')</b>                                          |               |               |               |               |               |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                                                     |               |               |               |               |               |                       |               |
| Public acute hospitals                                               | 17,302        | 17,440        | 17,894        | 18,313        | 18,242        | 1.3                   | –0.4          |
| Public psychiatric hospitals <sup>(a)</sup>                          | 587           | 663           | 593           | 678           | 581           | –0.3                  | –14.3         |
| <i>Total</i>                                                         | <i>17,889</i> | <i>18,103</i> | <i>18,487</i> | <i>18,991</i> | <i>18,823</i> | <i>1.3</i>            | <i>–0.9</i>   |
| Private hospitals                                                    |               |               |               |               |               |                       |               |
| Private free-standing day hospital facilities                        | 729           | 783           | 809           | 844           | 855           | 4.1                   | 1.3           |
| Other private hospitals                                              | 7,164         | 7,479         | 7,598         | 7,901         | 8,018         | 2.9                   | 1.5           |
| <i>Total</i>                                                         | <i>7,893</i>  | <i>8,262</i>  | <i>8,408</i>  | <i>8,745</i>  | <i>8,873</i>  | <i>3.0</i>            | <i>1.5</i>    |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                                                 | <b>25,782</b> | <b>26,365</b> | <b>26,895</b> | <b>27,736</b> | <b>27,696</b> | <b>1.8</b>            | <b>–0.1</b>   |
| <b>Average length of stay (days)</b>                                 |               |               |               |               |               |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                                                     |               |               |               |               |               |                       |               |
| Public acute hospitals                                               | 3.5           | 3.4           | 3.4           | 3.3           | 3.3           | –1.7                  | –0.7          |
| Public psychiatric hospitals <sup>(a)</sup>                          | 52.8          | 59.1          | 58.6          | 69.3          | 56.6          | 1.8                   | –18.3         |
| <i>Total</i>                                                         | <i>3.7</i>    | <i>3.6</i>    | <i>3.5</i>    | <i>3.4</i>    | <i>3.4</i>    | <i>–1.8</i>           | <i>–1.2</i>   |
| Private hospitals                                                    |               |               |               |               |               |                       |               |
| Private free-standing day hospital facilities                        | 1.0           | 1.0           | 1.0           | 1.0           | 1.0           | 0.0                   | 0.0           |
| Other private hospitals                                              | 2.8           | 2.8           | 2.7           | 2.7           | 2.7           | –1.4                  | –1.5          |
| <i>Total</i>                                                         | <i>2.4</i>    | <i>2.4</i>    | <i>2.4</i>    | <i>2.3</i>    | <i>2.3</i>    | <i>–1.2</i>           | <i>–1.1</i>   |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                                                 | <b>3.2</b>    | <b>3.1</b>    | <b>3.0</b>    | <b>3.0</b>    | <b>3.0</b>    | <b>–1.7</b>           | <b>–1.4</b>   |
| <b>Average length of stay, excluding same-day separations (days)</b> |               |               |               |               |               |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                                                     |               |               |               |               |               |                       |               |
| Public acute hospitals                                               | 6.1           | 6.0           | 5.9           | 5.8           | 5.6           | –2.0                  | –1.8          |
| Public psychiatric hospitals <sup>(a)</sup>                          | 56.0          | 63.0          | 62.5          | 74.2          | 59.7          | 1.6                   | –19.5         |
| <i>Total</i>                                                         | <i>6.3</i>    | <i>6.2</i>    | <i>6.1</i>    | <i>6.0</i>    | <i>5.8</i>    | <i>–2.1</i>           | <i>–2.4</i>   |
| Private hospitals <sup>(a)</sup>                                     |               |               |               |               |               |                       |               |
| Private free-standing day hospital facilities <sup>(b)</sup>         | n.p.          | n.p.          | n.p.          | n.p.          | n.p.          | n.p.                  | n.p.          |
| Other private hospitals                                              | 5.3           | 5.3           | 5.3           | 5.3           | 5.2           | –0.5                  | –1.1          |
| <i>Total</i>                                                         | <i>5.3</i>    | <i>5.3</i>    | <i>5.2</i>    | <i>5.3</i>    | <i>5.2</i>    | <i>–0.5</i>           | <i>–1.1</i>   |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                                                 | <b>6.0</b>    | <b>5.9</b>    | <b>5.8</b>    | <b>5.8</b>    | <b>5.6</b>    | <b>–1.6</b>           | <b>–2.1</b>   |

(a) Due to the low and variable numbers of separations, which can include some very long stay patients for whom relatively large numbers of patient days are reported, caution should be used in interpreting the average rates of change and average length of stay.

(b) Average overnight length of stay for *Private free-standing day hospital facilities* is not shown as it is based on a small number of records.

Note: See boxes 2.1 and 2.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 2.13: Patient days per 1,000 population, public and private hospitals, 2008–09 to 2012–13**

|                                               | 2008–09        | 2009–10        | 2010–11        | 2011–12        | 2012–13        | Change (%)            |               |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                                               |                |                |                |                |                | Average since 2008–09 | Since 2011–12 |
| <b>Public hospitals</b>                       |                |                |                |                |                |                       |               |
| Public acute hospitals                        | 774.2          | 763.2          | 767.3          | 770.6          | 750.8          | –0.8                  | –2.6          |
| Public psychiatric hospitals                  | 27.2           | 30.2           | 26.7           | 30.4           | 25.5           | –1.7                  | –16.3         |
| <i>Total</i>                                  | <i>801.4</i>   | <i>793.4</i>   | <i>794.0</i>   | <i>801.0</i>   | <i>776.2</i>   | <i>–0.8</i>           | <i>–3.1</i>   |
| <b>Private hospitals</b>                      |                |                |                |                |                |                       |               |
| Private free-standing day hospital facilities | 32.8           | 34.5           | 34.9           | 35.7           | 35.3           | 1.9                   | –1.2          |
| Other private hospitals                       | 316.8          | 323.6          | 321.3          | 327.3          | 324.4          | 0.6                   | –0.9          |
| <i>Total</i>                                  | <i>349.6</i>   | <i>358.1</i>   | <i>356.2</i>   | <i>363.1</i>   | <i>359.7</i>   | <i>0.7</i>            | <i>–0.9</i>   |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                          | <b>1,151.0</b> | <b>1,151.5</b> | <b>1,150.2</b> | <b>1,164.1</b> | <b>1,135.9</b> | <b>–0.3</b>           | <b>–2.4</b>   |

*Note:* See boxes 2.1 and 2.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## Relative stay index

A relative stay index (RSI) greater than 1 indicates that the average episode's length of stay is higher than would be expected given the casemix for the category of interest (for example, by hospital sector or jurisdiction). An RSI of less than 1 indicates that the length of stay was less than would have been expected. More information on RSIs by *Medical*, *Surgical* and *Other* categories of AR-DRGs and by funding source is in Chapter 3. Details of the methods used are in Appendix B.

The directly standardised RSI is comparable between cells. Therefore, when comparing between groups and over time, it is more appropriate to use the directly standardised RSI. The directly standardised RSI for public hospitals was consistently lower than that for private hospitals between 2008–09 and 2012–13 (Table 2.14).

The indirectly standardised RSI is not technically comparable between cells but is a comparison of the hospital group with the 5-year average based on the casemix of that group. Changes over time are not shown in Table 2.14 for the indirectly standardised RSI as it uses different weights to calculate the expected length of stay depending on the casemix for each year.

When interpreting RSI information, it should be noted that patient day counts can fluctuate markedly for public psychiatric hospitals.

**Table 2.14: Relative stay index, public and private hospitals, 2008–09 to 2012–13**

|                                                                  | 2008–09     | 2009–10     | 2010–11     | 2011–12     | 2012–13     | Change (%)            |               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                                                                  |             |             |             |             |             | Average since 2008–09 | Since 2011–12 |
| <b>Indirectly standardised relative stay index<sup>(a)</sup></b> |             |             |             |             |             |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                                                 |             |             |             |             |             |                       |               |
| Public acute hospitals                                           | 1.02        | 1.00        | 0.99        | 0.96        | 0.92        | ..                    | ..            |
| Public psychiatric hospitals                                     | 1.30        | 1.30        | 1.33        | 1.34        | 1.34        | ..                    | ..            |
| <i>Total</i>                                                     | 1.03        | 1.00        | 0.99        | 0.96        | 0.93        | ..                    | ..            |
| Private hospitals                                                |             |             |             |             |             |                       |               |
| Private free-standing day hospital facilities                    | 0.81        | 0.80        | 0.80        | 0.80        | 0.81        | ..                    | ..            |
| Other private hospitals                                          | 1.09        | 1.08        | 1.07        | 1.06        | 1.04        | ..                    | ..            |
| <i>Total</i>                                                     | 1.07        | 1.05        | 1.05        | 1.04        | 1.02        | ..                    | ..            |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                                             | <b>1.04</b> | <b>1.02</b> | <b>1.01</b> | <b>0.98</b> | <b>0.95</b> | ..                    | ..            |
| <b>Directly standardised relative stay index<sup>(b)</sup></b>   |             |             |             |             |             |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                                                 |             |             |             |             |             |                       |               |
| Public acute hospitals                                           | 1.04        | 1.02        | 1.01        | 0.98        | 0.94        | –2.5                  | –4.1          |
| Public psychiatric hospitals                                     | 3.02        | 3.79        | 1.83        | 2.60        | 5.17        | 14.4                  | 98.8          |
| <i>Total</i>                                                     | 1.05        | 1.02        | 1.01        | 0.98        | 0.94        | –2.7                  | –4.1          |
| Private hospitals                                                |             |             |             |             |             |                       |               |
| Private free-standing day hospital facilities                    | 0.50        | 0.45        | 0.44        | 0.43        | 0.42        | –4.3                  | –2.3          |
| Other private hospitals                                          | 1.16        | 1.14        | 1.14        | 1.13        | 1.11        | –1.1                  | –1.8          |
| <i>Total</i>                                                     | 1.14        | 1.13        | 1.12        | 1.12        | 1.09        | –1.1                  | –2.7          |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                                             | <b>1.04</b> | <b>1.02</b> | <b>1.01</b> | <b>0.99</b> | <b>0.96</b> | <b>–2.0</b>           | <b>–3.0</b>   |

(a) Relative stay index based on all hospitals combined for the 5-year period using the indirect method. The indirectly standardised relative stay index is not technically comparable between cells but is a comparison of the hospital group with the 5-year average based on the casemix of that group.

(b) Relative stay index based on all hospitals combined for the 5-year period using the direct method. The directly standardised relative stay index is comparable between cells.

*Note:* See boxes 2.1 and 2.2 for notes on data limitations and methods. See Appendix B for details on the methodology.

### 3 Hospital performance indicators

Performance indicators are defined as statistics or other units of information that, directly or indirectly, reflect either the extent to which an anticipated outcome is achieved or the quality of the processes leading to that outcome (NHPC 2001).

#### National health performance reporting

In Australia, national public reporting of hospital performance is undertaken by a number of organisations under nationally agreed arrangements.

The national arrangements for hospital performance reporting in Australia comprise the:

- National Health Performance Framework (NHPF) – a conceptual framework for performance assessment that is not linked to any agreement. At the request of health ministers, a set of performance indicators are reported biennially in *Australia's health* (AIHW 2012a).
- National Healthcare Agreement (NHA) – agreed performance indicators and benchmarks are reported annually by the COAG Reform Council (CRC) (CRC 2013a). The NHA performance indicators based on 2007–08 to 2011–12 hospital data have been published by the CRC (CRC 2010, 2011 and 2012). The performance indicators presented here are based on data for 2012–13 and on specifications anticipated to be used for the council's 2014 report.
- National Partnership Agreements (NPA) – specified indicators or benchmarks for each agreement are reported annually by the CRC (CRC 2013b). The NPA-IPHS includes reporting of performance related to emergency departments and elective surgery in public hospitals.
- National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA) and associated Performance and Accountability Framework – information on the performance of public and private hospitals and Local Hospital Networks are reported by the National Health Performance Authority (NHPA) on the *MyHospitals* website.
- The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) also has performance reporting-related roles under the NHRA, reporting publicly on the state of safety and quality, including performance against national standards (ACSQHC 2013).
- Review of Government Service Provision – information on the equity, efficiency and effectiveness of government services (including hospitals) are reported by the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision (SCRGSP 2014).

The AIHW provides data from its national hospitals databases to support this range of reporting, and reports many of the hospitals-related performance indicators in the *Australian hospital statistics* series each year.

This chapter presents hospital performance indicators within the context of the National Health Performance Framework (NHPF).

# The National Health Performance Framework

In 2001, the National Health Performance Committee (NHPC) developed a framework to report on the performance of the Australian health system, which was adopted by health ministers. In 2008, the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Committee's National Health Information Standards and Statistics Committee (NHISSC) endorsed a revised framework, termed the National Health Performance Framework 2009 (NHPF). It is consistent with health performance frameworks used internationally (International Organization for Standardization 2010; Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development 2013, ISO 2010) and therefore can also support comparisons of Australia's performance internationally.

The NHPC described the framework as a structure to guide the understanding and evaluation of the health system, facilitating consideration of how well the health system or program is performing. The framework has three domains: 'Health Status', 'Determinants of Health' and 'Health System Performance'. Questions are posed for each domain and a number of dimensions have been identified within each domain. The dimensions guide the development and selection of performance indicators that can be used together to answer that domain's questions. Sometimes, single indicators can provide information relevant to several dimensions of the framework.

A set of indicators was developed to populate these domains and, since 2008, at the request of health ministers, the AIHW has reported on these National Health Performance Indicators biennially in *Australia's health* (AIHW 2012a). There are 40 indicators across the 14 dimensions of the 3 domains.

The Health System Performance domain is most directly relevant to the assessment of the provision of hospital and other health-care services. Its 6 dimensions are: *Effectiveness, Safety, Responsiveness, Continuity of care, Accessibility* and *Efficiency & sustainability* (Table 3.1).

The questions asked for the Health System Performance domain in the NHPF are:

- How does the health system perform?
- What is the level of quality of care across the range of patient care needs?
- Does the system deliver value for money and is it sustainable?
- Is it the same for everyone?

**Table 3.1: The National Health Performance Framework – Health System Performance domain**

|                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Effectiveness</b><br>Care/intervention/action provided is relevant to the client's needs and based on established standards. Care, intervention or action achieves desired outcome. | <b>Safety</b><br>The avoidance or reduction to acceptable limits of actual or potential harm from healthcare management or the environment in which health care is delivered.                                       |
| <b>Continuity of care</b><br>Ability to provide uninterrupted, coordinated care or service across programs, practitioners, organisations and levels over time.                         | <b>Accessibility</b><br>People can obtain health care at the right place and right time irrespective of income, physical location and cultural background.                                                          |
| <b>Responsiveness</b><br>Service is client orientated. Clients are treated with dignity, confidentiality, and encouraged to participate in choices related to their care.              | <b>Efficiency and sustainability</b><br>Achieving desired results with most cost-effective use of resources. Capacity of system to sustain workforce and infrastructure, to innovate and respond to emerging needs. |

## What data are reported?

Seven hospital performance indicators are presented in this chapter.

Information for another 2 indicators that do not relate to hospital performance is included in other chapters.

Indicators related to hospital performance are listed in Table 3.2 against the dimensions of the NHPF. Some indicators can be related to more than one dimension of the NHPF, even though they are presented here against only one dimension.

Table 3.2 also shows which set of nationally agreed performance indicators the indicator relates to.

## Performance indicators related to hospitals

### National Health Performance Framework

*Australian hospital statistics* reports 6 indicators under the health system performance domain:

- adverse events treated in hospitals
- falls resulting in patient harm in hospitals
- rates of services: hospital procedures
- cost per casemix-adjusted separation for acute care episodes (calculation method currently under review)
- relative stay index
- average length of stay for selected AR-DRGs.

### National Healthcare Agreement

The NHA includes 33 performance indicators (disaggregated by Indigenous status, disability status, remoteness area and socio-economic status where possible) and 7 performance benchmarks that are to be reported regularly under the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations.

Of the 9 NHA performance indicators based on hospital data, 6 relate to the outcome of *Australians receive appropriate high quality and affordable hospital and hospital related care*, and 1 of these is presented in this chapter:

- unplanned/unexpected readmissions following selected surgical episodes of care (same public hospital).

Four of the remaining five NHA hospital performance indicators based on the 2012–13 hospital data have already been reported in earlier AIHW publications. Those indicators are:

- waiting times for emergency department care: proportion seen on time – in *Australian hospitals statistics 2012–13: emergency department care* (AIHW 2013c)
- waiting times for emergency department care: proportion completed within 4 hours – in *Australian hospitals statistics 2012–13: emergency department care* (AIHW 2013c)
- waiting times for elective surgery: waiting time (in days) – in *Australian hospitals statistics 2012–13: elective surgery waiting times* (AIHW 2013d)

- Healthcare associated infections – in *Australian hospitals statistics 2012–13: Staphylococcus aureus bacteraemia in Australian public hospitals* (AIHW 2013e).

The AIHW and the CRC did not report the performance indicator ‘waiting times for elective surgery: proportion seen on time’, due to apparent variations in reporting of clinical urgency categories. For more information refer to *Australian hospital statistics 2012–13: elective surgery waiting times* (AIHW 2013d).

## Other performance indicators

Of the 3 NHA performance indicators based on hospital data that relate to different outcome areas, 2 are presented elsewhere in this report and 1 has been reported in a previous AIHW publication (see Table 3.3):

- *Selected potentially preventable hospitalisations* relates to the outcome *Australians receive appropriate high quality and affordable primary and community health services* and is presented in Chapter 6.
- *Hospital patient days used by those eligible and waiting for residential aged care* relates to the outcome *Older Australians receive appropriate high quality and affordable health and aged services* and is presented in Chapter 10.
- *Selected potentially avoidable GP type presentations to emergency departments* – has been reported in *Australian hospitals statistics 2012–13: emergency department care* (AIHW 2013c).

### Box 3.1: What are the limitations of the data?

Any interpretation of the performance indicators presented here should take into consideration the limitations of the data from which they are derived. Information on variation in data recording practices, data quality and database coverage is presented in Appendix A.

While the rates could be interpreted as reflecting hospital system performance, they may also reflect variation in underlying needs for hospitalisation, admission and data recording practices, and availability of non-hospital services.



**Table 3.2: National hospital performance indicators, by National Health Performance Framework dimension**

| Where in <i>Australian hospital statistics</i> (AHS) reports? | Indicator                                                                                                               | Related national indicator set |      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------|
|                                                               |                                                                                                                         | NHA                            | NHPF |
|                                                               | <b>Effectiveness</b>                                                                                                    |                                |      |
|                                                               | No indicators available                                                                                                 |                                |      |
|                                                               | <b>Safety</b>                                                                                                           |                                |      |
| Tables 3.4, S3.1 and S3.2                                     | Adverse events treated in hospitals                                                                                     |                                | ✓    |
| Table 3.5                                                     | Unplanned/unexpected readmissions following selected surgical episodes of care (same public hospital)                   | ✓                              |      |
| AHS: SAB 2012–13                                              | Healthcare associated infections                                                                                        | ✓                              |      |
| Table 3.6                                                     | Falls resulting in patient harm in hospitals                                                                            |                                | ✓    |
|                                                               | <b>Responsiveness</b>                                                                                                   |                                |      |
|                                                               | No indicators available                                                                                                 |                                |      |
|                                                               | <b>Continuity of care</b>                                                                                               |                                |      |
|                                                               | No indicators available                                                                                                 |                                |      |
|                                                               | <b>Accessibility</b>                                                                                                    |                                |      |
| Tables 3.9, 3.10, S3.3, S3.4 and S3.5                         | Rates of services: hospital procedures                                                                                  |                                | ✓    |
| AHS: ED 2012–13                                               | Waiting time for emergency hospital care: proportion seen on time                                                       | ✓                              |      |
| AHS: ED 2012–13                                               | Waiting time for emergency hospital care: proportion of emergency department presentations completed in 4 hours or less | ✓                              |      |
| AHS: ESWT 2012–13                                             | Waiting times for elective surgery: waiting times in days (indicator procedure)                                         | ✓                              |      |
|                                                               | <b>Efficiency &amp; sustainability</b>                                                                                  |                                |      |
| The method for this indicator is currently under review.      | Cost per casemix-adjusted separation for acute care episodes                                                            |                                | ✓    |
| Tables 3.10 and 3.11                                          | Relative stay index                                                                                                     |                                | ✓    |
| Figure 3.4 and Table 3.15                                     | Average length of stay for selected AR-DRGs                                                                             |                                | ✓    |

AHS: ED 2012–13—*Australian hospital statistics 2012–13: emergency department care.*

AHS: ESWT 2012–13—*Australian hospital statistics 2012–13: elective surgery waiting times.*

AHS: SAB 2012–13—*Australian hospitals statistics 2012–13: Staphylococcus aureus bacteraemia in Australian public hospitals.*

AR-DRG—Australian Refined Diagnosis Related Group.

NHA—National Healthcare Agreement.

NHPF—National Health Performance Framework.

**Table 3.3: Other performance indicators that use hospitals data in this report**

| Indicator                                                                          | Related national indicator set |      | Where                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                    | NHA                            | NHPF |                                                     |
| Selected potentially avoidable GP type presentations to emergency departments      | ✓                              |      | AHS: ED 2012–13                                     |
| Selected potentially preventable hospitalisations                                  | ✓                              | ✓    | <b>Chapter 6.</b> Tables 6.17, 6.18, 6.19 and 6.35. |
| Hospital patient days used by those eligible and waiting for residential aged care | ✓<br>Proxy                     |      | <b>Chapter 10.</b> Table 10.16.                     |

AHS: ED 2012–13—*Australian hospital statistics 2012–13: emergency department care.*

NHA—National Healthcare Agreement.

NHPF—National Health Performance Framework.

### Box 3.2: What methods were used?

The following should be noted:

- unless otherwise indicated in footnotes, separations with a care type of *Newborn* (without qualified days) and records for *Hospital boarders* and *Posthumous organ procurement* have been excluded
- separation rates are age-standardised (see Appendix B)
- public hospitals include *Public acute* and *Public psychiatric hospitals*
- private hospitals include *Private free-standing day hospital facilities* and *Other private hospitals*
- the abbreviation n.p. – not published may appear in a table to protect the confidentiality of private hospital or other data, or for measures based on counts of less than 100 (see Appendix B).

Details of methods, including the selection of AR-DRGs, diagnoses and procedures used, are presented in Appendix B for:

- adverse events treated in hospitals
- rates of service: hospital procedures
- relative stay index
- average length of stay for selected AR-DRGs
- unplanned readmissions (METeOR identifier: 497129).

## How did hospitals perform in 2012–13?

### Effectiveness

Care/intervention/action provided is relevant to the client's needs and based on established standards. Care, intervention or action achieves desired outcome.

There are no indicators of effectiveness available for hospitals.

## Safety

The avoidance or reduction to acceptable limits of actual or potential harm from health-care management or the environment in which health care is delivered.

### Performance indicator: adverse events treated in hospitals

Adverse events are defined as incidents in which harm resulted to a person receiving health care. They include infections, falls resulting in injuries and problems with medication and medical devices. Some of these adverse events may be preventable.

Hospital separations data include information on diagnoses, places of occurrence and external causes of injury and poisoning that can indicate that an adverse event was treated and/or occurred during the hospitalisation. However, other diagnosis codes may also suggest that an adverse event has occurred, and some adverse events are not identifiable using these codes. A separation may be recorded against more than 1 category in Table 3.4 as some adverse events are reported as diagnoses and others as external causes or places of occurrence (of the injury or poisoning).

The data in Table 3.4 can be interpreted as representing selected adverse events in health care that have resulted in, or have affected, hospital admissions, rather than all adverse events that occurred in hospitals. Some of the adverse events included in these tables may represent events that occurred before admission. Condition onset flag (COF) information (see Chapter 6 and Appendix B) can be used to provide other information about adverse events occurring, and treated within, single episodes of care.

In 2012–13, 5.5% of separations reported 1 or more *International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision, Australian Modification* (ICD-10-AM) codes indicating 1 or more adverse events (Table 3.4). The proportion of separations with an adverse event was 6.5% for public hospitals and 4.0% for private hospitals. The data for public hospitals are not comparable with the data for private hospitals because their casemixes differ and recording practices may be different.

The proportion of same-day separations with an adverse event was 1.7% overall, and 10.7% of overnight separations had an adverse event (Table 3.4).

Separations for sub- and non-acute care had higher rates of adverse events than acute care separations (10.7 and 5.2 separations with an adverse event per 100, respectively), and emergency admissions had higher rates of adverse events than non-emergency admissions (9.7 and 3.9 separations with an adverse event per 100, respectively).

For public hospitals, about 53% of separations with an adverse event reported *Procedures causing abnormal reactions/complications* and 37% reported *Adverse effects of drugs, medicaments and biological substances*.

For private hospitals, about 69% of separations with an adverse event reported *Procedures causing abnormal reactions/complications* and 20% reported *Adverse effects of drugs, medicaments and biological substances*.

**Table 3.4: Separations with an adverse event<sup>(a)</sup> per 100 separations, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Adverse event                                                   | Public hospitals |            | Private hospitals |            | Total          |            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|----------------|------------|
|                                                                 | Separations      | Per 100    | Separations       | Per 100    | Separations    | Per 100    |
| <b>External cause of injury or poisoning</b>                    |                  |            |                   |            |                |            |
| Adverse effects of drugs, medicaments and biological substances | 133,040          | 2.4        | 31,273            | 0.8        | 164,313        | 1.8        |
| Misadventures to patients during surgical and medical care      | 16,277           | 0.3        | 7,326             | 0.2        | 23,603         | 0.3        |
| Procedures causing abnormal reactions/complications             | 189,535          | 3.4        | 106,457           | 2.8        | 295,992        | 3.2        |
| Other external causes of adverse events                         | 9,308            | 0.2        | 1,128             | 0.0        | 10,436         | 0.1        |
| <b>Place of occurrence of injury and poisoning</b>              |                  |            |                   |            |                |            |
| Place of occurrence: Health service area                        | 350,259          | 6.3        | 149,308           | 3.9        | 499,567        | 5.3        |
| <b>Diagnoses</b>                                                |                  |            |                   |            |                |            |
| Selected post-procedural disorders                              | 45,401           | 0.8        | 27,968            | 0.7        | 73,369         | 0.8        |
| Haemorrhage and haematoma complicating a procedure              | 26,249           | 0.5        | 14,962            | 0.4        | 41,211         | 0.4        |
| Infection following a procedure                                 | 22,994           | 0.4        | 12,480            | 0.3        | 35,474         | 0.4        |
| Complications of internal prosthetic devices                    | 73,965           | 1.3        | 43,389            | 1.1        | 117,354        | 1.3        |
| Other diagnoses of complications of medical and surgical care   | 51,177           | 0.9        | 21,811            | 0.6        | 72,988         | 0.8        |
| <b>Total (any of the above)</b>                                 | <b>359,390</b>   | <b>6.5</b> | <b>153,178</b>    | <b>4.0</b> | <b>512,568</b> | <b>5.5</b> |
| <b>Length of stay<sup>(b)</sup></b>                             |                  |            |                   |            |                |            |
| Same-day separations                                            | 52,701           | 1.9        | 38,866            | 1.5        | 91,567         | 1.7        |
| Overnight separations                                           | 306,689          | 11.2       | 114,312           | 9.6        | 421,001        | 10.7       |
| <b>Type of care<sup>(b)</sup></b>                               |                  |            |                   |            |                |            |
| Acute care separations                                          | 330,298          | 6.2        | 133,897           | 3.7        | 464,195        | 5.2        |
| Sub- and non-acute care separations                             | 29,092           | 14.9       | 19,281            | 7.6        | 48,373         | 10.7       |
| <b>Urgency of admission<sup>(b)</sup></b>                       |                  |            |                   |            |                |            |
| Emergency admissions                                            | 217,079          | 9.5        | 24,705            | 12.0       | 241,784        | 9.7        |
| Non-emergency admissions                                        | 142,311          | 4.4        | 128,473           | 3.5        | 270,784        | 3.9        |

(a) Separations that included ICD-10-AM diagnosis and/or external cause codes that indicated an adverse event was treated and/or occurred during the hospitalisation.

(b) The categories *Length of stay*, *Type of care* and *Urgency of admission* are not mutually exclusive. Each separation with an adverse event is included in 3 categories; for example as a *Same-day* separation, an *Acute* care separation and an *Emergency* admission.

### Performance indicator: unplanned/unexpected readmissions within 28 days of selected surgical procedures

‘Unplanned or unexpected readmissions after surgery’ is defined as the number of separations involving selected procedures where readmission occurred within 28 days of the previous separation, and was considered to be ‘unplanned or unexpected’ because the principal diagnosis related to an adverse event. The measure is regarded as an indicator of the safety of care. It could also be regarded as an indicator of effectiveness of care; however, the specifications identify adverse events as causes of readmission, rather than reasons that could indicate effectiveness.

The specified principal diagnoses are the same as the diagnoses listed in Table 3.4 for *Selected post-procedural disorders*, *Haemorrhage and haematoma complicating a procedure*, *Infection following*

a procedure, Complications of internal prosthetic devices and Other diagnoses of complications of medical and surgical care.

Rates of unplanned or unexpected readmissions were highest for *Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy* (33 per 1,000 separations), *Prostatectomy* and *Hysterectomy* (both 31 per 1,000 separations) (Table 3.5). For *Cataract extraction*, fewer than 4 per 1,000 separations were readmitted within 28 days.

**Table 3.5: Separations<sup>(a)</sup> and rate per 1,000 separations, unplanned/unexpected readmissions for selected procedures, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                        | NSW    | Vic    | Qld   | WA <sup>(b)</sup> | SA    | Tas   | ACT   | NT   | Total <sup>(c)</sup> |
|----------------------------------------|--------|--------|-------|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|------|----------------------|
| <b>Appendicectomy</b>                  |        |        |       |                   |       |       |       |      |                      |
| Separations                            | 9,095  | 7,012  | 5,639 | 3,075             | 1,929 | 565   | 686   | 345  | 25,271               |
| Number of readmissions                 | 204    | 160    | 124   | 88                | 52    | 15    | 14    | 15   | 584                  |
| Per 1,000 separations                  | 22.4   | 22.8   | 22.0  | 28.6              | 27.0  | 26.5  | 20.4  | 43.5 | 23.1                 |
| <b>Cataract extraction</b>             |        |        |       |                   |       |       |       |      |                      |
| Separations                            | 18,706 | 15,990 | 6,321 | 9,292             | 5,848 | 1,131 | 1,093 | 665  | 49,754               |
| Number of readmissions                 | 64     | 48     | 29    | 88                | 17    | 5     | 1     | 4    | 168                  |
| Per 1,000 separations                  | 3.4    | 3.0    | 4.6   | 2.6               | 2.9   | 4.4   | 0.9   | 6.0  | 3.4                  |
| <b>Hip replacement</b>                 |        |        |       |                   |       |       |       |      |                      |
| Separations                            | 2,881  | 2,173  | 1,245 | 1,071             | 726   | 203   | 155   | 45   | 7,428                |
| Number of readmissions                 | 53     | 35     | 20    | 17                | 14    | 6     | n.p.  | n.p. | 131                  |
| Per 1,000 separations                  | 18.4   | 16.1   | 16.1  | 15.9              | 19.3  | 29.6  | n.p.  | n.p. | 17.6                 |
| <b>Hysterectomy</b>                    |        |        |       |                   |       |       |       |      |                      |
| Separations                            | 3,070  | 2,704  | 1,980 | 963               | 837   | 250   | 130   | 67   | 9,038                |
| Number of readmissions                 | 97     | 70     | 63    | 42                | 24    | 13    | n.p.  | n.p. | 277                  |
| Per 1,000 separations                  | 31.6   | 25.9   | 31.8  | 43.6              | 28.7  | 52.0  | n.p.  | n.p. | 30.6                 |
| <b>Knee replacement</b>                |        |        |       |                   |       |       |       |      |                      |
| Separations                            | 4,488  | 2,448  | 1,854 | 1,302             | 858   | 216   | 211   | 56   | 10,131               |
| Number of readmissions                 | 97     | 37     | 65    | 29                | 16    | n.p.  | 0     | n.p. | 227                  |
| Per 1,000 separations                  | 21.6   | 15.1   | 35.1  | 22.3              | 18.6  | n.p.  | 0.0   | n.p. | 22.4                 |
| <b>Prostatectomy</b>                   |        |        |       |                   |       |       |       |      |                      |
| Separations                            | 2,342  | 2,077  | 1,032 | 677               | 622   | 173   | 97    | 23   | 6,366                |
| Number of readmissions                 | 64     | 55     | 42    | 23                | 18    | 10    | n.p.  | n.p. | 198                  |
| Per 1,000 separations                  | 27.3   | 26.5   | 40.7  | 34.0              | 28.9  | 57.8  | n.p.  | n.p. | 31.1                 |
| <b>Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy</b> |        |        |       |                   |       |       |       |      |                      |
| Separations                            | 6,500  | 6,558  | 4,087 | 2,357             | 2,322 | 347   | 291   | 253  | 20,358               |
| Number of readmissions                 | 197    | 191    | 146   | 100               | 87    | 18    | 13    | 21   | 673                  |
| Per 1,000 separations                  | 30.3   | 29.1   | 35.7  | 42.4              | 37.5  | 51.9  | 44.7  | 83.0 | 33.1                 |

(a) Separations are counted in the denominator if the admission for the selected procedure occurred between 1 July 2012 and 19 May 2013.

(b) Data for Western Australia were separately calculated and provided by Western Australia. Data for all other jurisdictions were sourced from the National Hospital Morbidity Database.

(c) Total excludes data for Western Australia.

Note: See boxes 3.1 and 3.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## Performance indicator: falls resulting in patient harm in hospitals

This indicator is intended to report hospital separations where a fall occurred in hospitals, resulting in patient harm. The rates presented here may underestimate falls occurring in hospitals as the place of occurrence was not reported (or unspecified) for about 26% of separations with an external cause of injury of falls. It is also possible that these rates may overestimate falls as it is not currently possible to identify falls specifically in hospitals – the current data identifies falls occurring in any health service area. However, separations with an injury or poisoning principal diagnosis are excluded to minimise the inclusion of falls that occurred before admission.

In 2012–13, more than 27,000 separations reported a fall that occurred in a health service area (Table 3.6). More falls per 1,000 separations were reported for public hospitals than for private hospitals and there were large variations in the rates reported among states and territories.

**Table 3.6: Separations for falls resulting in patient harm in hospitals, per 1,000 separations, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                                                | NSW        | Vic        | Qld        | WA         | SA         | Tas         | ACT         | NT          | Total <sup>(a)</sup> |               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------|
|                                                                |            |            |            |            |            |             |             |             | Rate                 | Number        |
| <b>Hospital sector</b>                                         |            |            |            |            |            |             |             |             |                      |               |
| Public                                                         | 4.8        | 3.5        | 3.5        | 3.6        | 4.3        | 5.3         | 3.8         | 1.6         | 4.0                  | 21,920        |
| Private                                                        | 1.5        | 1.4        | 1.7        | 1.3        | 1.4        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1.5                  | 5,776         |
| <b>Indigenous status<sup>(b)</sup></b>                         |            |            |            |            |            |             |             |             |                      |               |
| Indigenous                                                     | 1.6        | 1.5        | 1.0        | 0.6        | 1.3        | 2.4         | 1.3         | 0.9         | 1.1                  | 420           |
| Other Australians                                              | 3.6        | 2.6        | 2.8        | 2.8        | 3.2        | 3.0         | 2.7         | 2.5         | 3.0                  | 27,050        |
| <b>Remoteness of residence<sup>(c)</sup></b>                   |            |            |            |            |            |             |             |             |                      |               |
| Major cities                                                   | 3.7        | 2.4        | 2.8        | 2.7        | 3.3        | 3.1         | 3.5         | 0.8         | 3.0                  | 19,197        |
| Inner regional                                                 | 3.2        | 3.3        | 2.7        | 2.6        | 2.5        | 3.9         | 1.3         | 2.9         | 3.1                  | 5,526         |
| Outer regional                                                 | 2.8        | 3.6        | 2.3        | 3.0        | 2.9        | 3.2         | 6.5         | 2.3         | 2.8                  | 2,486         |
| Remote and Very remote                                         | 2.0        | 2.6        | 1.8        | 1.4        | 2.0        | 3.0         | n.p.        | 1.0         | 1.5                  | 386           |
| <b>Socioeconomic status of area of residence<sup>(d)</sup></b> |            |            |            |            |            |             |             |             |                      |               |
| 1—Lowest                                                       | 3.7        | 2.8        | 2.9        | 3.0        | 3.3        | 3.9         | 2.3         | 1.0         | 3.2                  | 6,349         |
| 2                                                              | 3.4        | 3.0        | 2.9        | 2.8        | 3.4        | 4.2         | 4.8         | 2.1         | 3.2                  | 5,965         |
| 3                                                              | 3.7        | 2.7        | 2.9        | 2.6        | 3.0        | 3.3         | 3.6         | 2.0         | 3.0                  | 5,791         |
| 4                                                              | 3.7        | 2.4        | 2.4        | 2.5        | 3.0        | 3.3         | 3.5         | 2.0         | 2.8                  | 4,951         |
| 5—Highest                                                      | 3.1        | 2.2        | 2.0        | 2.5        | 2.3        | 2.3         | 3.2         | 2.0         | 2.6                  | 4,348         |
| <b>Total</b>                                                   | <b>3.5</b> | <b>2.6</b> | <b>2.7</b> | <b>2.6</b> | <b>3.1</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>3.0</b>           | <b>27,696</b> |

(a) The total includes separations for which the place of usual residence was not reported.

(b) *Other Australians* includes separations for which the Indigenous status was not reported.

(c) Disaggregation by remoteness area of usual residence, not remoteness of hospital. However, state/territory data are reported by jurisdiction of the hospital, regardless of the jurisdiction of usual residence.

(d) Disaggregation by socioeconomic group is based on the usual residence of the patient, not the location of the hospital. The socioeconomic status of area of residence is based on the ABS Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD). These socioeconomic groups represent approximately 20% of the national population, but do not necessarily represent 20% of the population in each state or territory.

**Responsiveness**

Service is client orientated. Clients are treated with dignity, confidentiality, and encouraged to participate in choices related to their care.

There are no indicators of responsiveness available for hospitals.

**Continuity of care**

Ability to provide uninterrupted, coordinated care or service across programs, practitioners, organisations and levels over time.

There are no indicators of continuity of care available for hospitals.

**Accessibility**

People can obtain health care at the right place and right time irrespective of income, physical location and cultural background.

**Performance indicator: rates of services—hospital procedures**

This indicator relates to accessibility of hospital services and may also relate to the appropriateness of hospital care. Generally, the procedures were selected because of the frequency with which they are undertaken, because they are often elective and discretionary and because alternative treatments are sometimes available.

Table 3.7 presents the separations per 1,000 population for selected hospital procedures. *Cataract extraction* was the most common procedure (9.1 per 1,000 population). The rates varied between public and private sectors (2.8 and 6.2 per 1,000 population, respectively) but were fairly similar by Indigenous status and by socioeconomic status. Persons usually resident in *Very remote* areas had the highest separation rates for *Cataract extraction*.

There was some variation in the numbers of separations per 1,000 population for the selected procedures among states and territories. For example, separations for *Cataract extraction* ranged from 7.4 per 1,000 population in the Australian Capital Territory to 11.0 per 1,000 in Western Australia (Table 3.8). However, as data are not available for private free-standing day hospitals in the Australian Capital Territory, this is likely to underestimate the separation rate for *Cataract extraction* in the Australian Capital Territory.

Additional information for these procedures for public and private hospitals, and by Indigenous status, remoteness area and socioeconomic status of area of residence is in tables that accompany this report online at <[www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/](http://www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/)>.

Table 3.7: Rates of service: selected hospital procedures<sup>(a)</sup>, all hospitals, 2012–13

|                                                      | Cataract<br>extraction                  | Cholecystectomy | Coronary<br>angioplasty | Coronary<br>artery<br>bypass graft | Cystoscopy | Haemorrhoidectomy | Hip<br>replacement | Hysterectomy <sup>(b)</sup> |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Hospital sector</b>                               | <b>Separations per 1,000 population</b> |                 |                         |                                    |            |                   |                    |                             |
| Public                                               | 2.8                                     | 1.4             | 0.9                     | 0.3                                | 2.3        | 0.7               | 0.6                | 1.0                         |
| Private                                              | 6.2                                     | 0.9             | 0.7                     | 0.2                                | 3.1        | 1.3               | 0.9                | 1.3                         |
| <b>Indigenous status<sup>(c)</sup></b>               |                                         |                 |                         |                                    |            |                   |                    |                             |
| Indigenous                                           | 8.7                                     | 3.1             | 2.2                     | 1.1                                | 3.6        | 1.2               | 0.8                | 2.1                         |
| Other Australians                                    | 8.9                                     | 2.3             | 1.5                     | 0.5                                | 5.4        | 2.0               | 1.5                | 2.2                         |
| <b>Remoteness of residence</b>                       |                                         |                 |                         |                                    |            |                   |                    |                             |
| Major cities                                         | 8.8                                     | 2.2             | 1.6                     | 0.5                                | 5.6        | 1.9               | 1.5                | 2.1                         |
| Inner regional                                       | 9.3                                     | 2.4             | 1.4                     | 0.5                                | 5.0        | 2.4               | 1.6                | 2.7                         |
| Outer regional                                       | 9.8                                     | 2.4             | 1.5                     | 0.5                                | 4.9        | 2.2               | 1.7                | 2.7                         |
| Remote                                               | 8.7                                     | 2.2             | 1.3                     | 0.6                                | 4.6        | 1.5               | 1.5                | 2.3                         |
| Very remote                                          | 10.1                                    | 2.0             | 1.5                     | 0.7                                | 4.0        | 0.9               | 1.1                | 2.2                         |
| <b>Socioeconomic status<br/>of area of residence</b> |                                         |                 |                         |                                    |            |                   |                    |                             |
| 1—Lowest                                             | 9.3                                     | 2.7             | 1.5                     | 0.6                                | 5.0        | 2.2               | 1.5                | 2.4                         |
| 2                                                    | 8.8                                     | 2.4             | 1.5                     | 0.5                                | 5.1        | 2.1               | 1.5                | 2.4                         |
| 3                                                    | 9.7                                     | 2.4             | 1.6                     | 0.5                                | 5.7        | 2.0               | 1.6                | 2.5                         |
| 4                                                    | 9.0                                     | 2.2             | 1.5                     | 0.5                                | 5.8        | 1.9               | 1.6                | 2.2                         |
| 5—Highest                                            | 8.3                                     | 1.8             | 1.4                     | 0.4                                | 5.2        | 1.8               | 1.5                | 2.0                         |
| <b>Total</b>                                         | <b>9.1</b>                              | <b>2.3</b>      | <b>1.5</b>              | <b>0.5</b>                         | <b>5.4</b> | <b>2.0</b>        | <b>1.5</b>         | <b>2.3</b>                  |

(continued)



Table 3.7 (continued): Rates of service: selected hospital procedures<sup>(a)</sup>, all hospitals, 2012–13

|                                                      | Inguinal<br>herniorrhaphy               | Knee<br>replacement | Myringotomy | Prostatectomy <sup>(d)</sup> | Septoplasty | Tonsillectomy | Varicose<br>veins<br>stripping and<br>ligation |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|------------------------------|-------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Hospital sector</b>                               | <b>Separations per 1,000 population</b> |                     |             |                              |             |               |                                                |
| Public                                               | 1.0                                     | 0.6                 | 0.7         | 0.9                          | 0.3         | 1.0           | 0.2                                            |
| Private                                              | 1.2                                     | 1.3                 | 1.2         | 1.8                          | 0.8         | 1.5           | 0.4                                            |
| <b>Indigenous status<sup>(c)</sup></b>               |                                         |                     |             |                              |             |               |                                                |
| Indigenous                                           | 1.4                                     | 1.2                 | 1.8         | 1.6                          | 0.4         | 1.6           | 0.2                                            |
| Other Australians                                    | 2.2                                     | 1.9                 | 1.8         | 2.6                          | 1.1         | 2.5           | 0.6                                            |
| <b>Remoteness of residence</b>                       |                                         |                     |             |                              |             |               |                                                |
| Major cities                                         | 2.2                                     | 1.8                 | 1.9         | 2.8                          | 1.2         | 2.4           | 0.6                                            |
| Inner regional                                       | 2.1                                     | 2.0                 | 1.8         | 2.7                          | 1.0         | 2.8           | 0.6                                            |
| Outer regional                                       | 2.3                                     | 2.2                 | 1.6         | 2.6                          | 1.0         | 2.7           | 0.5                                            |
| Remote                                               | 2.0                                     | 1.9                 | 1.9         | 1.9                          | 0.6         | 2.2           | 0.4                                            |
| Very remote                                          | 1.8                                     | 1.5                 | 1.8         | 2.0                          | 0.5         | 1.4           | 0.3                                            |
| <b>Socioeconomic status<br/>of area of residence</b> |                                         |                     |             |                              |             |               |                                                |
| 1—Lowest                                             | 2.1                                     | 2.0                 | 1.6         | 2.5                          | 1.0         | 2.3           | 0.5                                            |
| 2                                                    | 2.1                                     | 1.9                 | 1.7         | 2.5                          | 1.1         | 2.5           | 0.6                                            |
| 3                                                    | 2.2                                     | 2.0                 | 1.9         | 2.8                          | 1.1         | 2.5           | 0.6                                            |
| 4                                                    | 2.2                                     | 1.8                 | 1.9         | 2.9                          | 1.2         | 2.5           | 0.6                                            |
| 5—Highest                                            | 2.1                                     | 1.6                 | 2.1         | 2.8                          | 1.3         | 2.5           | 0.7                                            |
| <b>Total</b>                                         | <b>2.2</b>                              | <b>1.9</b>          | <b>1.8</b>  | <b>2.7</b>                   | <b>1.1</b>  | <b>2.5</b>    | <b>0.6</b>                                     |

(a) The procedures are defined using Australian Classification of Health Interventions (ACHI) codes as detailed in tables accompanying this report online in Appendix B.

(b) For *Hysterectomy*, the rate per 1,000 population was calculated for the estimated resident female population aged 15 to 69 years.

(c) Separation rates by Indigenous status were directly age-standardised, using the projected Indigenous population (low series) as at 30 June 2012, based on the 2006 Census data. The population for other Australians was based on the estimated resident populations as at 30 June 2012, based on the 2006 Census data. As the projected estimates use a highest age group of 65 and over and population data for June 2012, standardised rates calculated for analyses by Indigenous status are not directly comparable to the rates presented elsewhere.

(d) For *Prostatectomy*, the rate per 1,000 population was calculated for the estimated resident male population.

Note: See boxes 3.1 and 3.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 3.8: Rates of service: selected hospital procedures<sup>(a)</sup> and other selected statistics, all hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| Procedure                                     | NSW    | Vic    | Qld    | WA     | SA     | Tas   | ACT   | NT    | Total   |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|---------|
| <b>Cataract extraction</b>                    |        |        |        |        |        |       |       |       |         |
| Separations                                   | 71,471 | 52,494 | 43,624 | 25,125 | 17,269 | 6,974 | 2,270 | 1,224 | 220,451 |
| Separations not within state of residence (%) | 2      | 2      | 3      | <1     | 3      | <1    | 24    | 3     | 2       |
| Proportion of separations public patients (%) | 29     | 32     | 16     | 40     | 36     | 18    | 55    | 63    | 29      |
| Separations per 1,000 population              | 8.7    | 8.5    | 9.5    | 11.0   | 8.4    | 10.9  | 7.4   | 9.8   | 9.1     |
| Standardised separation rate ratio            | 1.0    | 0.9    | 1.0    | 1.2    | 0.9    | 1.2   | 0.8   | 1.1   |         |
| <b>Cholecystectomy</b>                        |        |        |        |        |        |       |       |       |         |
| Separations                                   | 16,695 | 13,556 | 10,766 | 5,086  | 4,003  | 1,297 | 910   | 368   | 52,681  |
| Separations not within state of residence (%) | 2      | 2      | 2      | 1      | 2      | <1    | 22    | 5     | 2       |
| Proportion of separations public patients (%) | 53     | 54     | 49     | 51     | 58     | 53    | 53    | 67    | 53      |
| Separations per 1,000 population              | 2.2    | 2.4    | 2.4    | 2.1    | 2.3    | 2.4   | 2.5   | 1.7   | 2.3     |
| Standardised separation rate ratio            | 1.0    | 1.0    | 1.0    | 0.9    | 1.0    | 1.0   | 1.1   | 0.7   |         |
| <b>Coronary angioplasty</b>                   |        |        |        |        |        |       |       |       |         |
| Separations                                   | 12,319 | 9,535  | 7,412  | 3,550  | 2,742  | 737   | 1,104 | ..    | 37,399  |
| Separations not within state of residence (%) | 1      | 4      | 8      | 2      | 10     | 1     | 45    | ..    | 5       |
| Proportion of separations public patients (%) | 45     | 45     | 45     | 44     | 51     | 55    | 48    | ..    | 46      |
| Separations per 1,000 population              | 1.5    | 1.6    | 1.6    | 1.5    | 1.4    | 1.2   | 3.3   | ..    | 1.5     |
| Standardised separation rate ratio            | 1.0    | 1.0    | 1.0    | 1.0    | 0.9    | 0.8   | 2.2   | ..    |         |
| <b>Coronary artery bypass graft</b>           |        |        |        |        |        |       |       |       |         |
| Separations                                   | 3,902  | 3,252  | 2,556  | 911    | 1,163  | 204   | 245   | ..    | 12,233  |
| Separations not within state of residence (%) | 4      | 4      | 9      | 2      | 13     | 1     | 53    | ..    | 6       |
| Proportion of separations public patients (%) | 52     | 51     | 47     | 48     | 53     | 47    | 54    | ..    | 51      |
| Separations per 1,000 population              | 0.5    | 0.5    | 0.5    | 0.4    | 0.6    | 0.3   | 0.8   | ..    | 0.5     |
| Standardised separation rate ratio            | 1.0    | 1.1    | 1.1    | 0.8    | 1.2    | 0.6   | 1.5   | ..    |         |

(continued)

**Table 3.8 (continued): Rates of service: selected hospital procedures<sup>(a)</sup> and other selected statistics, all hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| <b>Procedure</b>                                      | <b>NSW</b> | <b>Vic</b> | <b>Qld</b> | <b>WA</b> | <b>SA</b> | <b>Tas</b> | <b>ACT</b> | <b>NT</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|--------------|
| <b>Cystoscopy</b>                                     |            |            |            |           |           |            |            |           |              |
| Separations                                           | 32,809     | 35,591     | 25,372     | 18,130    | 12,079    | 3,290      | 2,085      | 446       | 129,802      |
| Separations not within state of residence (%)         | 2          | 2          | 3          | <1        | 1         | <1         | 27         | 3         | 2            |
| Proportion of separations public patients (%)         | 36         | 45         | 35         | 39        | 39        | 28         | 48         | 62        | 39           |
| Separations per 1,000 population                      | 4.1        | 5.9        | 5.5        | 7.7       | 6.2       | 5.3        | 6.2        | 3.1       | 5.4          |
| Standardised separation rate ratio                    | 0.8        | 1.1        | 1.0        | 1.4       | 1.2       | 1.0        | 1.2        | 0.6       |              |
| <b>Haemorrhoidectomy</b>                              |            |            |            |           |           |            |            |           |              |
| Separations                                           | 21,485     | 10,252     | 7,473      | 2,847     | 2,560     | 1,156      | 356        | 516       | 46,645       |
| Separations not within state of residence (%)         | 1          | 2          | 2          | <1        | 1         | <1         | 17         | 1         | 1            |
| Proportion of separations public patients (%)         | 30         | 41         | 19         | 40        | 30        | 27         | 32         | 34        | 31           |
| Separations per 1,000 population                      | 2.8        | 1.8        | 1.6        | 1.2       | 1.4       | 2.1        | 1.0        | 2.4       | 2.0          |
| Standardised separation rate ratio                    | 1.4        | 0.9        | 0.8        | 0.6       | 0.7       | 1.0        | 0.5        | 1.2       |              |
| <b>Hip replacement</b>                                |            |            |            |           |           |            |            |           |              |
| Separations                                           | 11,586     | 10,102     | 6,574      | 4,283     | 3,460     | 1,285      | 802        | 104       | 38,196       |
| Separations not within state of residence (%)         | 2          | 3          | 5          | <1        | 4         | 1          | 33         | 6         | 3            |
| Proportion of separations public patients (%)         | 36         | 35         | 34         | 39        | 35        | 28         | 39         | 71        | 36           |
| Separations per 1,000 population                      | 1.4        | 1.6        | 1.4        | 1.8       | 1.7       | 2.0        | 2.4        | 0.8       | 1.5          |
| Standardised separation rate ratio                    | 0.9        | 1.1        | 0.9        | 1.2       | 1.1       | 1.3        | 1.6        | 0.5       |              |
| <b>Hysterectomy, females aged 15–69<sup>(b)</sup></b> |            |            |            |           |           |            |            |           |              |
| Separations                                           | 7,780      | 6,231      | 6,029      | 2,943     | 2,131     | 674        | 443        | 175       | 26,406       |
| Separations not within state of residence (%)         | 2          | 2          | 4          | <1        | 3         | <1         | 21         | 3         | 3            |
| Proportion of separations public patients (%)         | 42         | 46         | 36         | 35        | 47        | 43         | 36         | 47        | 41           |
| Separations per 1,000 population <sup>(b)</sup>       | 2.1        | 2.2        | 2.6        | 2.7       | 2.5       | 2.6        | 2.4        | 1.6       | 2.3          |
| Standardised separation rate ratio                    | 0.9        | 0.9        | 1.1        | 1.2       | 1.1       | 1.1        | 1.0        | 0.7       |              |

(continued)

**Table 3.8 (continued): Rates of service: selected hospital procedures<sup>(a)</sup> and other selected statistics, all hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| Procedure                                       | NSW    | Vic    | Qld    | WA    | SA    | Tas   | ACT | NT   | Total  |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-----|------|--------|
| <b>Inguinal herniorrhaphy</b>                   |        |        |        |       |       |       |     |      |        |
| Separations                                     | 16,729 | 12,562 | 10,278 | 5,394 | 3,575 | 1,363 | 834 | 379  | 51,114 |
| Separations not within state of residence (%)   | 1      | 2      | 3      | 1     | 1     | <1    | 21  | 4    | 2      |
| Proportion of separations public patients (%)   | 41     | 41     | 35     | 39    | 43    | 40    | 39  | 45   | 40     |
| Separations per 1,000 population                | 2.2    | 2.1    | 2.2    | 2.3   | 2.0   | 2.3   | 2.4 | 1.9  | 2.2    |
| Standardised separation rate ratio              | 1.0    | 1.0    | 1.0    | 1.0   | 0.9   | 1.1   | 1.1 | 0.9  |        |
| <b>Knee replacement</b>                         |        |        |        |       |       |       |     |      |        |
| Separations                                     | 15,974 | 9,895  | 9,211  | 5,255 | 4,115 | 1,120 | 811 | 129  | 46,510 |
| Separations not within state of residence (%)   | 1      | 3      | 5      | <1    | 5     | <1    | 36  | 1    | 3      |
| Proportion of separations public patients (%)   | 33     | 31     | 25     | 31    | 26    | 24    | 31  | 54   | 30     |
| Separations per 1,000 population                | 1.9    | 1.6    | 1.9    | 2.2   | 2.0   | 1.7   | 2.4 | 0.9  | 1.9    |
| Standardised separation rate ratio              | 1.0    | 0.9    | 1.0    | 1.2   | 1.1   | 0.9   | 1.3 | 0.5  |        |
| <b>Myringotomy (with insertion of tube)</b>     |        |        |        |       |       |       |     |      |        |
| Separations                                     | 11,193 | 9,403  | 7,454  | 5,375 | 4,450 | 713   | 796 | 251  | 39,635 |
| Separations not within state of residence (%)   | 2      | 3      | 3      | <1    | 1     | <1    | 26  | <1   | 2      |
| Proportion of separations public patients (%)   | 28     | 36     | 37     | 32    | 41    | 30    | 23  | 57   | 34     |
| Separations per 1,000 population                | 1.6    | 1.8    | 1.7    | 2.3   | 3.0   | 1.5   | 2.3 | 1.0  | 1.8    |
| Standardised separation rate ratio              | 0.9    | 1.0    | 0.9    | 1.3   | 1.6   | 0.8   | 1.2 | 0.5  |        |
| <b>Prostatectomy<sup>(c)</sup></b>              |        |        |        |       |       |       |     |      |        |
| Separations                                     | 10,444 | 8,617  | 6,064  | 2,924 | 2,284 | 934   | 572 | 46   | 31,885 |
| Separations not within state of residence (%)   | 3      | 3      | 5      | <1    | 2     | <1    | 30  | n.p. | 3      |
| Proportion of separations public patients (%)   | 31     | 31     | 27     | 32    | 31    | 25    | 28  | n.p. | 30     |
| Separations per 1,000 population <sup>(c)</sup> | 2.7    | 3.0    | 2.6    | 2.6   | 2.4   | 3.0   | 3.7 | n.p. | 2.7    |
| Standardised separation rate ratio              | 1.0    | 1.1    | 1.0    | 0.9   | 0.9   | 1.1   | 1.4 | n.p. |        |

(continued)

**Table 3.8 (continued): Rates of service: selected hospital procedures<sup>(a)</sup> and other selected statistics, all hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| Procedure                                     | NSW    | Vic    | Qld    | WA    | SA    | Tas | ACT   | NT   | Total  |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-----|-------|------|--------|
| <b>Septoplasty</b>                            |        |        |        |       |       |     |       |      |        |
| Separations                                   | 8,161  | 7,426  | 4,089  | 2,285 | 2,479 | 293 | 395   | 125  | 25,253 |
| Separations not within state of residence (%) | 3      | 2      | 4      | <1    | 2     | <1  | 27    | 0    | 3      |
| Proportion of separations public patients (%) | 25     | 29     | 20     | 22    | 30    | 23  | 28    | 24   | 25     |
| Separations per 1,000 population              | 1.1    | 1.3    | 0.9    | 1.0   | 1.5   | 0.6 | 1.0   | 0.5  | 1.1    |
| Standardised separation rate ratio            | 1.0    | 1.2    | 0.8    | 0.9   | 1.3   | 0.5 | 0.9   | 0.5  |        |
| <b>Tonsillectomy</b>                          |        |        |        |       |       |     |       |      |        |
| Separations                                   | 15,962 | 12,705 | 10,368 | 6,332 | 4,451 | 844 | 1,284 | 351  | 52,297 |
| Separations not within state of residence (%) | 2      | 4      | 3      | <1    | 2     | <1  | 24    | 1    | 3      |
| Proportion of separations public patients (%) | 36     | 47     | 33     | 32    | 44    | 35  | 22    | 63   | 38     |
| Separations per 1,000 population              | 2.4    | 2.5    | 2.4    | 2.8   | 3.0   | 1.8 | 3.6   | 1.4  | 2.5    |
| Standardised separation rate ratio            | 1.0    | 1.0    | 1.0    | 1.1   | 1.2   | 0.7 | 1.5   | 0.6  |        |
| <b>Varicose veins stripping and ligation</b>  |        |        |        |       |       |     |       |      |        |
| Separations                                   | 4,223  | 4,301  | 2,309  | 1,417 | 1,002 | 222 | 426   | 79   | 13,979 |
| Separations not within state of residence (%) | 1      | 1      | 2      | <1    | 2     | <1  | 27    | n.p. | 2      |
| Proportion of separations public patients (%) | 33     | 36     | 21     | 23    | 42    | 14  | 42    | n.p. | 32     |
| Separations per 1,000 population              | 0.6    | 0.7    | 0.5    | 0.6   | 0.6   | 0.4 | 1.2   | n.p. | 0.6    |
| Standardised separation rate ratio            | 0.9    | 1.2    | 0.8    | 1.0   | 1.0   | 0.7 | 1.9   | n.p. |        |

(a) The procedures are defined using Australian Classification of Health Interventions (ACHI) codes as detailed in tables accompanying this report online in Appendix B.

(b) For *Hysterectomy*, the rate per 1,000 population was calculated for the estimated resident female population aged 15 to 69 years.

(c) For *Prostatectomy*, the rate per 1,000 population was calculated for the estimated resident male population.

Note: See boxes 3.1 and 3.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

### **Efficiency and sustainability**

Achieving desired results with most cost-effective use of resources. Capacity of system to sustain workforce and infrastructure, to innovate and respond to emerging needs.

### **Performance indicator: cost per casemix-adjusted separation**

The methodology for the cost per casemix-adjusted separation analysis is being reviewed, taking into consideration developments in costing approaches of other agencies, including the IHPA.

The AIHW aims to publish the results in an addendum to this report in the second half of 2014.

### **Performance indicator: relative stay index**

Relative stay indexes (RSIs) are calculated as the observed number of patient days for separations in selected AR-DRGs, divided by the expected number of patient days (based on national figures), standardised for casemix. The adjustment for casemix allows variation in the types of services provided to be taken into account.

An RSI greater than 1 indicates that an average patient's length of stay is longer than would be expected given the casemix for the category of interest (for example, hospital sector or jurisdiction). An RSI of less than 1 indicates that the length of stay was shorter than would have been expected. More detail on these methods is in Appendix B.

Table 3.9 presents both indirectly and directly standardised RSIs for all hospitals for 2012–13. Additional information on RSI by funding source is included in Table 3.10.

The indirectly standardised RSI is not technically comparable between cells (for example, between hospital groups) but is a comparison of the hospital group with the national average based on the casemix of that group. The directly standardised RSI is re-scaled so that each group represents the national casemix and allows comparison of RSI values across groups of hospitals.

Overall, the directly standardised RSI for private hospitals was 1.15, compared with 0.98 for public hospitals, indicating relatively shorter lengths of stay in the public sector compared with the private sector.

Table 3.9 also presents RSI information for the *Medical*, *Surgical* and *Other* categories of AR-DRGs (DoHA 2010). These figures indicate relatively shorter lengths of stay for *Medical* separations in public hospitals, and for *Surgical* and *Other* separations in private hospitals.

**Table 3.9: Relative stay index by medical/surgical/other type of AR-DRG<sup>(a)</sup>, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| Type of hospital                                                 | NSW         | Vic         | Qld         | WA          | SA          | Tas         | ACT         | NT          | Total       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Indirectly standardised relative stay index<sup>(b)</sup></b> |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| <i>Public hospitals</i>                                          | 1.04        | 0.93        | 0.86        | 0.98        | 1.04        | 1.01        | 1.02        | 1.13        | 0.97        |
| Medical                                                          | 1.02        | 0.93        | 0.82        | 0.94        | 1.02        | 1.02        | 1.00        | 1.06        | 0.95        |
| Surgical                                                         | 1.08        | 0.94        | 0.95        | 1.05        | 1.06        | 0.99        | 1.04        | 1.34        | 1.02        |
| Other                                                            | 1.14        | 0.95        | 0.94        | 1.01        | 1.08        | 0.97        | 1.08        | 1.24        | 1.04        |
| <i>Private hospitals</i>                                         | 1.09        | 1.07        | 1.09        | 1.01        | 1.00        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1.07        |
| Medical                                                          | 1.29        | 1.18        | 1.20        | 1.10        | 1.02        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1.19        |
| Surgical                                                         | 0.98        | 0.99        | 0.98        | 0.95        | 0.99        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 0.98        |
| Other                                                            | 0.89        | 0.92        | 0.99        | 0.97        | 0.94        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 0.94        |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                                             | <b>1.05</b> | <b>0.98</b> | <b>0.94</b> | <b>0.99</b> | <b>1.02</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>1.00</b> |
| <b>Medical</b>                                                   | <b>1.06</b> | <b>0.99</b> | <b>0.92</b> | <b>0.98</b> | <b>1.02</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>1.00</b> |
| <b>Surgical</b>                                                  | <b>1.04</b> | <b>0.96</b> | <b>0.97</b> | <b>1.00</b> | <b>1.03</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>1.00</b> |
| <b>Other</b>                                                     | <b>1.07</b> | <b>0.94</b> | <b>0.97</b> | <b>1.00</b> | <b>1.03</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>1.00</b> |
| <b>Directly standardised relative stay index<sup>(c)</sup></b>   |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| <i>Public hospitals</i>                                          | 1.05        | 0.95        | 0.88        | 1.00        | 1.05        | 1.01        | 1.05        | 1.19        | 0.98        |
| Medical                                                          | 1.02        | 0.94        | 0.82        | 0.95        | 1.03        | 1.02        | 1.04        | 1.07        | 0.95        |
| Surgical                                                         | 1.10        | 0.97        | 0.98        | 1.08        | 1.08        | 0.99        | 1.07        | 1.39        | 1.03        |
| Other                                                            | 1.16        | 0.99        | 0.99        | 1.04        | 1.09        | 0.99        | 1.11        | 1.32        | 1.06        |
| <i>Private hospitals</i>                                         | 1.23        | 1.14        | 1.17        | 1.09        | 1.12        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1.15        |
| Medical                                                          | 1.37        | 1.23        | 1.27        | 1.18        | 1.19        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1.24        |
| Surgical                                                         | 1.00        | 1.00        | 1.01        | 0.94        | 0.99        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1.00        |
| Other                                                            | 1.00        | 1.01        | 1.06        | 1.05        | 0.99        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1.01        |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                                             | <b>1.05</b> | <b>0.99</b> | <b>0.94</b> | <b>0.99</b> | <b>1.03</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>1.00</b> |
| <b>Medical</b>                                                   | <b>1.06</b> | <b>1.00</b> | <b>0.92</b> | <b>0.99</b> | <b>1.04</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>1.00</b> |
| <b>Surgical</b>                                                  | <b>1.04</b> | <b>0.97</b> | <b>0.97</b> | <b>1.01</b> | <b>1.03</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>1.00</b> |
| <b>Other</b>                                                     | <b>1.07</b> | <b>0.94</b> | <b>0.97</b> | <b>1.01</b> | <b>1.03</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>1.00</b> |

(a) Separations for which the care type was reported as *Acute* or *Newborn with qualified days*, or was not reported.

(b) The indirectly standardised relative stay index is not technically comparable between cells but is a comparison of the hospital group with the national average based on the casemix of that group.

(c) The directly standardised relative stay index is comparable between cells.

*Note:* See boxes 3.1 and 3.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## Performance indicator: average lengths of stay for selected AR-DRGs

The selected AR-DRGs (Table 3.11) were chosen on the basis of:

- homogeneity, where variation is more likely to be attributable to the hospital's performance rather than variations in the patients themselves
- representativeness across clinical groups (Major Diagnostic Categories [MDCs]) and surgical and medical AR-DRGs
- differences between jurisdictions and/or sectors
- policy interest as evidenced by:
  - inclusion of similar groups in other tables in *Australian hospital statistics*, such as indicator procedures for elective surgery waiting times
  - high volume and/or cost
  - changes in volume over years.

Due to changes in the classification between AR-DRG version 5.2, AR-DRG version 6.0 and AR-DRG version 6.0x, the data presented here are not comparable with the data presented in previous reports.

There were notable differences (more than 1 day) in the ALOS between public and private hospitals for 8 of the 20 selected AR-DRGs. For example, the ALOS for E65B *Chronic obstructive airways disease without catastrophic complications or comorbidities* was 4.3 days for public hospitals and 7.7 days for private hospitals.

There were some notable differences in ALOS between states and territories. For example, for F62B *Heart failure and shock without catastrophic complications or comorbidities*, the ALOS in public hospitals ranged from 3.7 days in Queensland to 4.7 days in South Australia (Table 3.11). For private hospitals, the ALOS for F62B ranged from 6.7 days in Queensland to 8.4 days in New South Wales.

## Additional material

An additional table accompanies this report online:

Table S3.1: Separations per 1,000 population for selected procedures, all hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13.



**Table 3.10: Relative stay index (indirectly standardised), by funding source, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                          | NSW         | Vic         | Qld         | WA          | SA          | Tas         | ACT         | NT          | Total       |
|------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Public hospitals</b>                  |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Public patients <sup>(a)</sup>           | 1.03        | 0.93        | 0.85        | 0.96        | 1.02        | 1.00        | 1.01        | 1.13        | 0.96        |
| Private health insurance                 | 1.06        | 0.96        | 0.91        | 1.10        | 1.14        | 1.02        | 1.11        | 1.00        | 1.02        |
| Self-funded                              | 0.97        | 0.95        | 0.90        | 0.90        | 0.92        | 0.90        | 0.69        | 1.25        | 0.95        |
| Workers compensation                     | 1.06        | 1.02        | 0.98        | 1.24        | 1.22        | 0.99        | 1.06        | 1.41        | 1.06        |
| Motor vehicle third party personal claim | 1.28        | 0.91        | 1.02        | 1.20        | 1.23        | 1.14        | 1.25        | 1.33        | 1.10        |
| Department of Veterans' Affairs          | 0.96        | 0.94        | 0.77        | 0.87        | 1.06        | 1.08        | 0.90        | 1.19        | 0.94        |
| Other <sup>(b)</sup>                     | 1.75        | 0.96        | 0.91        | 1.07        | 1.03        | 1.04        | 0.99        | 1.04        | 1.21        |
| <i>Total public hospitals</i>            | <i>1.04</i> | <i>0.93</i> | <i>0.86</i> | <i>0.98</i> | <i>1.04</i> | <i>1.01</i> | <i>1.02</i> | <i>1.13</i> | <i>0.97</i> |
| <b>Private hospitals</b>                 |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Public patients <sup>(a)</sup>           | 0.91        | 1.25        | 1.06        | 1.01        | 1.00        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1.04        |
| Private health insurance                 | 1.08        | 1.07        | 1.08        | 1.01        | 0.99        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1.06        |
| Self-funded                              | 1.02        | 0.96        | 0.86        | 0.86        | 0.83        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 0.96        |
| Workers compensation                     | 1.06        | 1.02        | 0.97        | 0.88        | 0.92        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1.00        |
| Motor vehicle third party personal claim | 0.77        | 1.05        | 1.10        | 0.95        | 1.10        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1.00        |
| Department of Veterans' Affairs          | 1.31        | 1.15        | 1.25        | 1.19        | 1.16        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1.23        |
| Other <sup>(b)</sup>                     | 1.13        | 1.07        | 1.23        | 0.98        | 1.00        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1.04        |
| <i>Total private hospitals</i>           | <i>1.09</i> | <i>1.07</i> | <i>1.09</i> | <i>1.01</i> | <i>1.00</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>1.07</i> |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                     |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Public patients <sup>(a)</sup>           | 1.03        | 0.93        | 0.85        | 0.96        | 1.02        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 0.96        |
| Private health insurance                 | 1.08        | 1.04        | 1.05        | 1.02        | 1.02        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1.05        |
| Self-funded                              | 1.01        | 0.95        | 0.87        | 0.87        | 0.84        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 0.96        |
| Workers compensation                     | 1.06        | 1.02        | 0.97        | 0.97        | 0.99        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1.02        |
| Motor vehicle third party personal claim | 1.25        | 0.93        | 1.03        | 1.18        | 1.22        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1.09        |
| Department of Veterans' Affairs          | 1.07        | 1.06        | 1.14        | 1.06        | 1.11        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1.09        |
| Other <sup>(b)</sup>                     | 1.71        | 0.97        | 1.14        | 1.06        | 1.02        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1.16        |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>1.05</b> | <b>0.98</b> | <b>0.94</b> | <b>0.99</b> | <b>1.02</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>1.00</b> |

(a) Public patients includes separations with a funding source of *Health service budget*, *Other hospital or public authority* (with a *Public patient election status*), *Health service budget (due to eligibility for Reciprocal health care agreements)* and *Health service budget—no charge raised due to hospital decision* (in public hospitals).

(b) Other includes separations with a funding source of *Other compensation*, *Department of Defence*, *Correctional facilities*, *Other hospital or public authority* (without a *Public patient election status*), *Other*, *Health service budget—no charge raised due to hospital decision* (in private hospitals) and not reported.

Table 3.11: Average length of stay (days)<sup>(a)</sup> for selected AR-DRGs<sup>(b)</sup> version 6.0x, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13

| AR-DRG      | Hospital sector                                          | NSW           | Vic           | Qld           | WA           | SA           | Tas         | ACT         | NT          | Total         |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| <b>C03Z</b> | <b>Retinal procedures</b>                                |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | ALOS (days)                                              |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | Public                                                   | 1.5           | 1.3           | 1.2           | 1.3          | 1.7          | 1.0         | 1.3         | n.p.        | 1.3           |
|             | Private                                                  | 1.0           | 1.0           | 1.0           | 1.0          | 1.0          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1.0           |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                             | <i>1.1</i>    | <i>1.1</i>    | <i>1.0</i>    | <i>1.1</i>   | <i>1.1</i>   | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>1.1</i>    |
|             | Separations                                              |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | Public                                                   | 2,223         | 2,215         | 2,322         | 1,652        | 754          | 152         | 281         | 61          | 9,660         |
|             | Private                                                  | 15,532        | 9,693         | 11,156        | 7,808        | 6,196        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 55,296        |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                             | <i>17,755</i> | <i>11,908</i> | <i>13,478</i> | <i>9,460</i> | <i>6,950</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>64,956</i> |
| <b>D11Z</b> | <b>Tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy</b>                |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | ALOS (days)                                              |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | Public                                                   | 1.1           | 1.1           | 1.1           | 1.1          | 1.1          | 1.1         | 1.1         | 1.2         | 1.1           |
|             | Private                                                  | 1.0           | 1.0           | 1.0           | 1.0          | 1.0          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1.0           |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                             | <i>1.1</i>    | <i>1.1</i>    | <i>1.1</i>    | <i>1.0</i>   | <i>1.1</i>   | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>1.1</i>    |
|             | Separations                                              |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | Public                                                   | 5,612         | 5,879         | 3,466         | 2,019        | 2,125        | 323         | 263         | 265         | 19,952        |
|             | Private                                                  | 10,039        | 5,910         | 6,375         | 3,350        | 2,242        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 29,144        |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                             | <i>15,651</i> | <i>11,789</i> | <i>9,841</i>  | <i>5,369</i> | <i>4,367</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>49,096</i> |
| <b>E62C</b> | <b>Respiratory infections/inflammations without CSCC</b> |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | ALOS (days)                                              |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | Public                                                   | 3.1           | 2.7           | 2.3           | 2.7          | 3.0          | 3.5         | 2.9         | 2.7         | 2.8           |
|             | Private                                                  | 5.7           | 4.8           | 4.4           | 4.2          | 5.3          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 4.7           |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                             | <i>3.3</i>    | <i>3.1</i>    | <i>2.7</i>    | <i>2.9</i>   | <i>3.4</i>   | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>3.1</i>    |
|             | Separations                                              |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | Public                                                   | 9,094         | 4,565         | 5,663         | 3,106        | 2,052        | 379         | 383         | 477         | 25,719        |
|             | Private                                                  | 436           | 1,251         | 1,485         | 407          | 413          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 4,180         |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                             | <i>9,530</i>  | <i>5,816</i>  | <i>7,148</i>  | <i>3,513</i> | <i>2,465</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>29,899</i> |
| <b>E65B</b> | <b>Chronic obstructive airways disease without CSCC</b>  |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | ALOS (days)                                              |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | Public                                                   | 4.6           | 4.3           | 3.6           | 4.2          | 4.4          | 5.1         | 5.1         | 4.3         | 4.3           |
|             | Private                                                  | 9.4           | 7.4           | 7.5           | 7.4          | 7.2          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 7.7           |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                             | <i>4.9</i>    | <i>5.0</i>    | <i>4.4</i>    | <i>4.6</i>   | <i>4.7</i>   | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>4.8</i>    |
|             | Separations                                              |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | Public                                                   | 15,280        | 7,430         | 8,726         | 3,779        | 3,827        | 1,026       | 443         | 950         | 41,461        |
|             | Private                                                  | 858           | 2,124         | 2,501         | 604          | 551          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 6,884         |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                             | <i>16,138</i> | <i>9,554</i>  | <i>11,227</i> | <i>4,383</i> | <i>4,378</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>48,345</i> |

(continued)

**Table 3.11 (continued): Average length of stay (days)<sup>(a)</sup> for selected AR-DRGs<sup>(b)</sup> version 6.0x, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| AR-DRG      | Hospital sector                                                         | NSW           | Vic           | Qld           | WA           | SA           | Tas         | ACT         | NT          | Total         |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| <b>E69B</b> | <b>Bronchitis and asthma without CC</b>                                 |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | ALOS (days)                                                             |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | Public                                                                  | 1.7           | 1.5           | 1.4           | 1.7          | 1.7          | 1.5         | 1.7         | 1.6         | 1.6           |
|             | Private                                                                 | 3.7           | 3.4           | 3.2           | 3.5          | 4.4          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 3.5           |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                                            | <i>1.7</i>    | <i>1.6</i>    | <i>1.6</i>    | <i>1.8</i>   | <i>1.9</i>   | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>1.7</i>    |
|             | Separations                                                             |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | Public                                                                  | 11,556        | 6,891         | 6,244         | 2,611        | 2,829        | 511         | 394         | 320         | 31,356        |
|             | Private                                                                 | 186           | 674           | 928           | 167          | 220          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 2,214         |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                                            | <i>11,742</i> | <i>7,565</i>  | <i>7,172</i>  | <i>2,778</i> | <i>3,049</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>33,570</i> |
| <b>F62B</b> | <b>Heart failure and shock without catastrophic CC</b>                  |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | ALOS (days)                                                             |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | Public                                                                  | 4.6           | 4.1           | 3.7           | 4.0          | 4.7          | 4.6         | 4.4         | 4.3         | 4.3           |
|             | Private                                                                 | 8.4           | 6.8           | 6.7           | 7.0          | 6.8          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 7.1           |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                                            | <i>5.0</i>    | <i>5.0</i>    | <i>4.6</i>    | <i>4.5</i>   | <i>5.2</i>   | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>4.9</i>    |
|             | Separations                                                             |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | Public                                                                  | 9,121         | 5,007         | 4,600         | 2,567        | 2,197        | 618         | 276         | 336         | 24,722        |
|             | Private                                                                 | 975           | 2,243         | 1,948         | 476          | 636          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 6,528         |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                                            | <i>10,096</i> | <i>7,250</i>  | <i>6,548</i>  | <i>3,043</i> | <i>2,833</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>31,250</i> |
| <b>F76B</b> | <b>Arrhythmia, cardiac arrest and conduction disorders without CSCC</b> |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | ALOS (days)                                                             |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | Public                                                                  | 2.2           | 1.9           | 1.7           | 1.7          | 2.2          | 2.1         | 1.9         | 2.4         | 2.0           |
|             | Private                                                                 | 1.8           | 2.0           | 2.2           | 1.5          | 1.9          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 2.0           |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                                            | <i>2.1</i>    | <i>2.0</i>    | <i>1.9</i>    | <i>1.6</i>   | <i>2.1</i>   | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>2.0</i>    |
|             | Separations                                                             |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | Public                                                                  | 14,511        | 7,759         | 8,382         | 3,664        | 3,341        | 661         | 682         | 422         | 39,422        |
|             | Private                                                                 | 2,849         | 3,875         | 4,392         | 2,003        | 1,518        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 15,307        |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                                            | <i>17,360</i> | <i>11,634</i> | <i>12,774</i> | <i>5,667</i> | <i>4,859</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>54,729</i> |
| <b>G07B</b> | <b>Appendicectomy without malignancy or peritonitis without CSCC</b>    |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | ALOS (days)                                                             |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | Public                                                                  | 2.3           | 2.1           | 1.9           | 2.1          | 2.1          | 2.1         | 2.3         | 2.8         | 2.1           |
|             | Private                                                                 | 1.9           | 2.1           | 1.8           | 1.9          | 2.3          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 2.0           |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                                            | <i>2.3</i>    | <i>2.1</i>    | <i>1.9</i>    | <i>2.1</i>   | <i>2.2</i>   | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>2.1</i>    |
|             | Separations                                                             |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | Public                                                                  | 6,319         | 4,439         | 3,939         | 2,424        | 1,307        | 417         | 471         | 239         | 19,555        |
|             | Private                                                                 | 653           | 1,079         | 1,449         | 521          | 253          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 4,153         |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                                            | <i>6,972</i>  | <i>5,518</i>  | <i>5,388</i>  | <i>2,945</i> | <i>1,560</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>23,708</i> |

(continued)

**Table 3.11 (continued): Average length of stay (days)<sup>(a)</sup> for selected AR-DRGs<sup>(b)</sup> version 6.0x, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| AR-DRG      | Hospital sector                                | NSW           | Vic           | Qld           | WA           | SA           | Tas         | ACT         | NT          | Total         |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| <b>G10B</b> | <b>Hernia procedures without CC</b>            |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | ALOS (days)                                    |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | Public                                         | 1.3           | 1.3           | 1.2           | 1.4          | 1.4          | 1.2         | 1.4         | 1.5         | 1.3           |
|             | Private                                        | 1.3           | 1.3           | 1.2           | 1.3          | 1.3          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1.3           |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                   | <i>1.3</i>    | <i>1.3</i>    | <i>1.2</i>    | <i>1.3</i>   | <i>1.4</i>   | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>1.3</i>    |
|             | Separations                                    |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | Public                                         | 9,650         | 6,999         | 5,065         | 2,939        | 2,282        | 642         | 400         | 264         | 28,241        |
|             | Private                                        | 11,058        | 8,609         | 8,453         | 3,974        | 2,405        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 36,448        |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                   | <i>20,708</i> | <i>15,608</i> | <i>13,518</i> | <i>6,913</i> | <i>4,687</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>64,689</i> |
| <b>I03B</b> | <b>Hip replacement without catastrophic CC</b> |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | ALOS (days)                                    |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | Public                                         | 6.3           | 5.3           | 5.7           | 5.9          | 6.2          | 6.0         | 5.6         | n.p.        | 5.9           |
|             | Private                                        | 5.9           | 6.3           | 5.8           | 5.8          | 6.6          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 6.0           |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                   | <i>6.1</i>    | <i>6.0</i>    | <i>5.8</i>    | <i>5.8</i>   | <i>6.5</i>   | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>6.0</i>    |
|             | Separations                                    |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | Public                                         | 3,717         | 2,452         | 1,593         | 1,378        | 897          | 296         | 202         | 53          | 10,588        |
|             | Private                                        | 5,205         | 5,023         | 3,198         | 1,962        | 1,695        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 18,247        |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                   | <i>8,922</i>  | <i>7,475</i>  | <i>4,791</i>  | <i>3,340</i> | <i>2,592</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>28,835</i> |
| <b>I04B</b> | <b>Knee replacement without CSCC</b>           |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | ALOS (days)                                    |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | Public                                         | 5.2           | 4.8           | 5.0           | 5.8          | 5.0          | 5.1         | 3.4         | n.p.        | 5.1           |
|             | Private                                        | 5.9           | 6.0           | 5.4           | 6.0          | 5.9          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 5.8           |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                   | <i>5.6</i>    | <i>5.7</i>    | <i>5.3</i>    | <i>6.0</i>   | <i>5.6</i>   | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>5.6</i>    |
|             | Separations                                    |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | Public                                         | 4,135         | 1,905         | 1,731         | 1,249        | 847          | 174         | 172         | 51          | 10,264        |
|             | Private                                        | 7,086         | 4,990         | 5,262         | 2,715        | 2,320        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 23,467        |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                   | <i>11,221</i> | <i>6,895</i>  | <i>6,993</i>  | <i>3,964</i> | <i>3,167</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>33,731</i> |
| <b>I16Z</b> | <b>Other shoulder procedures</b>               |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | ALOS (days)                                    |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | Public                                         | 1.4           | 1.4           | 1.4           | 1.3          | 1.4          | n.p.        | 1.1         | n.p.        | 1.4           |
|             | Private                                        | 1.3           | 1.3           | 1.2           | 1.2          | 1.3          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1.3           |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                   | <i>1.3</i>    | <i>1.3</i>    | <i>1.2</i>    | <i>1.2</i>   | <i>1.3</i>   | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>1.3</i>    |
|             | Separations                                    |               |               |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
|             | Public                                         | 2,153         | 1,551         | 1,113         | 1,398        | 620          | 97          | 101         | 78          | 7,111         |
|             | Private                                        | 8,797         | 8,553         | 7,520         | 6,113        | 3,152        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 35,355        |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                   | <i>10,950</i> | <i>10,104</i> | <i>8,633</i>  | <i>7,511</i> | <i>3,772</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>42,466</i> |

(continued)

**Table 3.11 (continued): Average length of stay (days)<sup>(a)</sup> for selected AR-DRGs<sup>(b)</sup> version 6.0x, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| AR-DRG      | Hospital sector                                                          | NSW           | Vic          | Qld           | WA           | SA           | Tas         | ACT         | NT          | Total         |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| <b>L63B</b> | <b>Kidney and urinary tract infections without CSCC</b>                  |               |              |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
| ALOS (days) | Public                                                                   | 2.9           | 2.5          | 2.0           | 2.4          | 2.8          | 3.0         | 2.3         | 2.6         | 2.5           |
|             | Private                                                                  | 4.8           | 4.4          | 4.4           | 3.8          | 4.5          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 4.4           |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                                             | <i>3.0</i>    | <i>2.8</i>   | <i>2.5</i>    | <i>2.6</i>   | <i>3.1</i>   | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>2.8</i>    |
| Separations | Public                                                                   | 12,587        | 7,269        | 9,246         | 4,676        | 2,836        | 419         | 566         | 517         | 38,116        |
|             | Private                                                                  | 884           | 1,729        | 2,330         | 626          | 570          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 6,392         |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                                             | <i>13,471</i> | <i>8,998</i> | <i>11,576</i> | <i>5,302</i> | <i>3,406</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>44,508</i> |
| <b>M02B</b> | <b>Transurethral prostatectomy without CSCC</b>                          |               |              |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
| ALOS (days) | Public                                                                   | 2.8           | 2.5          | 2.3           | 2.5          | 2.9          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 2.6           |
|             | Private                                                                  | 2.6           | 2.6          | 2.4           | 2.4          | 3.1          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 2.6           |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                                             | <i>2.7</i>    | <i>2.6</i>   | <i>2.4</i>    | <i>2.4</i>   | <i>3.0</i>   | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>2.6</i>    |
| Separations | Public                                                                   | 1,756         | 1,407        | 822           | 537          | 440          | 82          | 66          | 16          | 5,126         |
|             | Private                                                                  | 3,202         | 2,981        | 2,351         | 1,019        | 845          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 10,871        |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                                             | <i>4,958</i>  | <i>4,388</i> | <i>3,173</i>  | <i>1,556</i> | <i>1,285</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>15,997</i> |
| <b>N04B</b> | <b>Hysterectomy for non-malignancy without CSCC</b>                      |               |              |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
| ALOS (days) | Public                                                                   | 3.0           | 3.0          | 2.7           | 2.8          | 3.0          | 3.0         | 3.0         | n.p.        | 2.9           |
|             | Private                                                                  | 3.4           | 3.6          | 3.0           | 3.0          | 3.7          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 3.3           |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                                             | <i>3.2</i>    | <i>3.3</i>   | <i>2.9</i>    | <i>2.9</i>   | <i>3.4</i>   | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>3.1</i>    |
| Separations | Public                                                                   | 2,821         | 2,183        | 1,693         | 876          | 811          | 226         | 135         | 60          | 8,805         |
|             | Private                                                                  | 3,720         | 2,777        | 3,260         | 1,609        | 881          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 12,911        |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                                             | <i>6,541</i>  | <i>4,960</i> | <i>4,953</i>  | <i>2,485</i> | <i>1,692</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>21,716</i> |
| <b>N06B</b> | <b>Female reproductive system reconstructive procedures without CSCC</b> |               |              |               |              |              |             |             |             |               |
| ALOS (days) | Public                                                                   | 2.1           | 2.0          | 1.7           | 2.0          | 2.0          | 2.1         | n.p.        | n.p.        | 2.0           |
|             | Private                                                                  | 2.6           | 2.5          | 2.0           | 2.3          | 2.7          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 2.4           |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                                             | <i>2.4</i>    | <i>2.3</i>   | <i>1.9</i>    | <i>2.2</i>   | <i>2.4</i>   | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>2.2</i>    |
| Separations | Public                                                                   | 1,857         | 1,356        | 1,020         | 449          | 500          | 106         | 66          | 21          | 5,375         |
|             | Private                                                                  | 3,302         | 2,174        | 2,298         | 1,088        | 877          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 10,259        |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                                             | <i>5,159</i>  | <i>3,530</i> | <i>3,318</i>  | <i>1,537</i> | <i>1,377</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>15,634</i> |

(continued)

**Table 3.11 (continued): Average length of stay (days)<sup>(a)</sup> for selected AR-DRGs<sup>(b)</sup> version 6.0x, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| AR-DRG      | Hospital sector                                                                   | NSW    | Vic    | Qld    | WA    | SA    | Tas  | ACT  | NT   | Total  |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|------|------|------|--------|
| <b>O01C</b> | <b>Caesarean delivery without CSCC</b>                                            |        |        |        |       |       |      |      |      |        |
|             | ALOS (days)                                                                       |        |        |        |       |       |      |      |      |        |
|             | Public                                                                            | 3.8    | 3.7    | 3.3    | 3.7   | 4.0   | 3.8  | 3.8  | 4.4  | 3.7    |
|             | Private                                                                           | 5.2    | 5.0    | 4.6    | 5.0   | 5.2   | n.p. | n.p. | n.p. | 5.0    |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                                                      | 4.3    | 4.2    | 3.9    | 4.3   | 4.4   | n.p. | n.p. | n.p. | 4.2    |
|             | Separations                                                                       |        |        |        |       |       |      |      |      |        |
|             | Public                                                                            | 15,170 | 11,944 | 8,954  | 4,737 | 3,573 | 775  | 953  | 561  | 46,667 |
|             | Private                                                                           | 8,508  | 7,157  | 6,992  | 4,156 | 1,543 | n.p. | n.p. | n.p. | 29,680 |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                                                      | 23,678 | 19,101 | 15,946 | 8,893 | 5,116 | n.p. | n.p. | n.p. | 76,347 |
| <b>O60C</b> | <b>Vaginal delivery single uncomplicated</b>                                      |        |        |        |       |       |      |      |      |        |
|             | ALOS (days)                                                                       |        |        |        |       |       |      |      |      |        |
|             | Public                                                                            | 1.8    | 1.8    | 1.5    | 1.7   | 1.7   | 1.8  | 1.4  | 2.1  | 1.7    |
|             | Private                                                                           | 3.8    | 3.9    | 3.4    | 3.3   | 3.9   | n.p. | n.p. | n.p. | 3.6    |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                                                      | 2.1    | 2.2    | 1.8    | 2.0   | 2.0   | n.p. | n.p. | n.p. | 2.0    |
|             | Separations                                                                       |        |        |        |       |       |      |      |      |        |
|             | Public                                                                            | 9,115  | 4,863  | 6,623  | 2,456 | 1,975 | 619  | 584  | 402  | 26,637 |
|             | Private                                                                           | 1,468  | 1,282  | 1,260  | 599   | 246   | n.p. | n.p. | n.p. | 5,328  |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                                                      | 10,583 | 6,145  | 7,883  | 3,055 | 2,221 | n.p. | n.p. | n.p. | 31,965 |
| <b>P67D</b> | <b>Neonate, admWt &gt;2499 g without significant OR procedure without problem</b> |        |        |        |       |       |      |      |      |        |
|             | ALOS (days)                                                                       |        |        |        |       |       |      |      |      |        |
|             | Public                                                                            | 2.2    | 2.9    | 1.9    | 2.3   | 2.0   | 2.6  | 2.8  | 2.5  | 2.2    |
|             | Private                                                                           | 4.3    | 2.5    | 3.1    | 3.5   | 2.4   | n.p. | n.p. | n.p. | 3.8    |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                                                      | 2.6    | 2.8    | 2.1    | 2.6   | 2.1   | n.p. | n.p. | n.p. | 2.5    |
|             | Separations                                                                       |        |        |        |       |       |      |      |      |        |
|             | Public                                                                            | 25,489 | 3,258  | 3,678  | 1,956 | 1,345 | 861  | 433  | 297  | 37,317 |
|             | Private                                                                           | 5,696  | 1,417  | 702    | 658   | 353   | n.p. | n.p. | n.p. | 8,937  |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                                                      | 31,185 | 4,675  | 4,380  | 2,614 | 1,698 | n.p. | n.p. | n.p. | 46,254 |
| <b>R61B</b> | <b>Lymphoma and non-acute leukaemia without catastrophic CC</b>                   |        |        |        |       |       |      |      |      |        |
|             | ALOS (days)                                                                       |        |        |        |       |       |      |      |      |        |
|             | Public                                                                            | 4.9    | 4.1    | 4.4    | 4.5   | 5.0   | 5.8  | 5.8  | n.p. | 4.6    |
|             | Private                                                                           | 5.5    | 3.7    | 5.6    | 3.2   | 4.9   | n.p. | n.p. | n.p. | 4.4    |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                                                      | 5.0    | 3.9    | 5.1    | 3.7   | 5.0   | n.p. | n.p. | n.p. | 4.5    |
|             | Separations                                                                       |        |        |        |       |       |      |      |      |        |
|             | Public                                                                            | 2,359  | 1,923  | 1,069  | 748   | 755   | 219  | 145  | 47   | 7,265  |
|             | Private                                                                           | 421    | 2,386  | 1,693  | 1,068 | 403   | n.p. | n.p. | n.p. | 6,066  |
|             | <i>Total</i>                                                                      | 2,780  | 4,309  | 2,762  | 1,816 | 1,158 | n.p. | n.p. | n.p. | 13,331 |

admwt—admission weight; CC—complications and comorbidities; CSCC—catastrophic and/or severe complications and comorbidities; OR—operating room.

(a) Separations for which the care type was reported as *Acute*, *Newborn* (with qualified days) or was not reported. Excludes separations where the length of stay was greater than 120 days. Average length of stay suppressed for private hospitals in Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, of if fewer than 100 separations were reported.

(b) For more information on the selected AR-DRGs, see Appendix B and tables accompanying this report online.

## 4 Australia's hospital resources

This chapter presents an overview of public hospitals in 2012–13 and private hospitals in 2011–12, covering the number and types of hospitals and availability of beds. It also describes public hospitals in terms of expenditure and revenue, the number of full-time equivalent staff employed and specialised services provided.

### What data are reported?

The hospital types reported in this chapter are:

- public hospitals (acute and psychiatric hospitals)
- private free-standing day hospital facilities and other private hospitals (acute and psychiatric hospitals).

Information on public hospital resources was derived from the NPHEd.

The financial data presented in this chapter for 2011–12 are sourced from the AIHW's Health Expenditure Database (HED). The financial data for 2012–13 are sourced from the NPHEd.

Financial data reported from the HED are not directly comparable with data reported from the NPHEd. Hospital expenditure reported for the purpose of the HED collection may cover activity that is not covered by the NPHEd. The HED financial data include trust fund expenditure, whereas the NPHEd does not.

Private hospital information for the period 2011–12 on the numbers of hospitals, beds, expenditure and revenue was sourced from the ABS' Private Health Establishments Collection (ABS PHEC). Caution should be used in comparing the data for private hospitals and public hospitals as there are variations in the data definitions used between the NPHEd and the PHEC.

#### **Box 4.1: What are the limitations of the data?**

##### **Hospitals**

- The number of hospitals reported can be affected by administrative and/or reporting arrangements and is not necessarily a measure of the number of physical hospital buildings or campuses (see Appendix B).

##### **Hospital beds**

- Comparability of bed numbers can be affected by the range and types of patients treated by a hospital (casemix). For example, hospitals may have different proportions of beds available for special and more general purposes, or for use as same-day care only or as overnight beds. Public and private hospital bed numbers presented in this chapter are based on different definitions.
- The number of average available beds presented in this report may differ from the counts published elsewhere. For example, counts based on a specified date, such as 30 June, may differ from the average available beds for the reporting period.
- Due to changes in definitions, the numbers of beds reported before 1 July 2009 may not be comparable to the numbers of beds reported after 1 July 2009.

*(continued)*

**Box 4.1 (continued): What are the limitations of the data?**

- From 1 July 2009, average available beds for same-day patients are the number of beds, chairs or trolleys exclusively or predominantly available to provide accommodation for same-day patients, averaged over the counting period.
- From 1 July 2009, average available beds for overnight-stay patients are the number of beds exclusively or predominantly available to provide overnight accommodation for patients (other than neonatal cots (non-special-care) and beds occupied by hospital-in-the-home (HITH) patients), averaged over the counting period.
- Before 1 July 2009, average available beds were the average number of beds which were immediately available for use by an admitted patient within the establishment. Surgical tables, recovery trolleys, delivery beds, cots for normal neonates, emergency stretchers/beds not normally authorised or funded and beds designated for same-day non-admitted patient care were excluded. Beds in wards that were closed for any reason were also excluded.
- In 2012–13, a large number of South Australian state-funded aged care beds in country hospitals were converted into Commonwealth multi-purpose service places. This has resulted in an apparent decrease in the numbers of available beds between 2011–12 and 2012–13.

**Public hospital financial data**

- A small number of establishments in 2012–13 did not report any financial data, or reported incomplete financial data.

*Public hospital expenditure*

- Capital expenditure is not reported in this publication. Not all jurisdictions were able to report using the *National health data dictionary 2012 version 16* (AIHW 2012b) categories and the comparability of the data may not be adequate for reporting.
- Recurrent expenditure reported in this chapter was largely expenditure by hospitals and may not necessarily include all expenditure spent on hospital services by each state or territory government. For example, recurrent expenditure on purchase of public hospital services at the state or at the Local hospital network level from privately owned and/or operated hospitals may not be included.

*Public hospital revenue*

- Revenue reported in this chapter was largely revenue received by individual hospitals, and may not necessarily include all revenue received by each state or territory government for the provision of public hospital services.

**Public hospital staffing**

- The collection of data by staffing category was not consistent among states and territories – for some jurisdictions, best estimates were reported for some staffing categories. There was variation in the reporting of *Other personal care staff* and *Domestic and other staff*.
- Variation between the states and territories in the outsourcing of services may explain some of the differences in full-time equivalent staff in some staffing categories and in average salaries reported.
- Information was not available on numbers of visiting medical officers (VMOs) who were contracted by hospitals to provide services to public patients and paid on a sessional or fee-for-service basis in public hospitals.



#### **Box 4.2: What methods were used?**

- The **remoteness area** of hospital as presented in this chapter is based on the ABS' 2011 Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) (ABS 2011b, see Appendix B). Beds per 1,000 population by remoteness areas are reported as crude rates based on the 30 June 2012 population in the remoteness area in question.
- Expenditure totals are reported including and excluding depreciation to ensure comparable figures are available across jurisdictions.

## **How have hospital numbers changed over time?**

### **Public hospitals**

In 2012–13, there were 746 public hospitals reported, compared with 756 in 2008–09 (Table 4.1). Changes in the numbers of hospitals over time can reflect the opening of new hospitals, the closure of older hospitals or the amalgamation of existing hospitals.

Between 2011–12 and 2012–13, the decrease in the number of public acute hospitals from 753 to 746 was due to:

- the amalgamation of 5 small public hospitals within parent campuses in Western Australia
- the closure of 2 small outpatient hospitals in Victoria.

From 2012–13, the Robina Hospital in Queensland will report data as a separate facility. Previously, Robina Hospital was reported as a campus of the Gold Coast Hospital and the information for Robina (including admitted patient, emergency department and outpatient data) was reported under the Gold Coast Hospital.

From 2009–10, the data for the Albury Base Hospital (in New South Wales) have been reported by the Victorian Department of Health as part of the Albury Wodonga Health Service. Data for Albury Base Hospital are therefore included in statistics for Victoria from 2009–10 whereas they were formerly reported by and included in statistics for New South Wales.

For Tasmania, the Statewide Mental Health Services has been reported as 1 entity since 2009–10, when it included 3 separate public psychiatric hospitals. From 2010–11, it also included a drug and alcohol treatment facility. Therefore, the number of reporting units changed between 2008–09 and 2010–11, but the number of public psychiatric hospital campuses remained the same. The decrease in the number of available beds for Tasmania between 2009–10 and 2010–11 was mainly due to a classification change of 76 beds from 'acute mental health beds' to 'residential care beds', and the result of an audit of beds in acute care facilities.

**Table 4.1: Number of hospitals and average available beds<sup>(a)</sup>, public hospitals, states and territories, 2008–09 to 2012–13**

|                                            | 2008–09       | 2009–10       | 2010–11       | 2011–12       | 2012–13       | Change (%)            |               |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                                            |               |               |               |               |               | Average since 2008–09 | Since 2011–12 |
| <b>New South Wales</b>                     |               |               |               |               |               |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                           | 227           | 226           | 226           | 225           | 225           | –0.2                  | 0.0           |
| Average available beds                     | 19,805        | 19,608        | 19,931        | 20,073        | 20,181        | 0.5                   | 0.5           |
| Available beds per 1,000 population        | 2.9           | 2.8           | 2.8           | 2.8           | 2.8           | –0.8                  | –0.7          |
| <b>Victoria<sup>(b)</sup></b>              |               |               |               |               |               |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                           | 149           | 150           | 151           | 151           | 150           | 0.2                   | –0.7          |
| Average available beds                     | 12,896        | 13,198        | 13,474        | 13,495        | 13,449        | 1.1                   | –0.3          |
| Available beds per 1,000 population        | 2.4           | 2.5           | 2.5           | 2.4           | 2.4           | –0.6                  | –1.1          |
| <b>Queensland</b>                          |               |               |               |               |               |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                           | 170           | 170           | 170           | 170           | 170           | 0.0                   | 0.0           |
| Average available beds                     | 10,805        | 10,911        | 11,117        | 11,245        | 11,273        | 1.1                   | 0.2           |
| Available beds per 1,000 population        | 2.6           | 2.5           | 2.5           | 2.5           | 2.5           | –0.9                  | –1.8          |
| <b>Western Australia</b>                   |               |               |               |               |               |                       |               |
| Public hospitals <sup>(c)</sup>            | 94            | 95            | 94            | 96            | 90            | –1.1                  | –6.3          |
| Average available beds                     | 5,369         | 5,376         | 5,492         | 5,677         | 5,648         | 1.3                   | –0.5          |
| Available beds per 1,000 population        | 2.5           | 2.4           | 2.4           | 2.4           | 2.3           | –1.6                  | –3.9          |
| <b>South Australia</b>                     |               |               |               |               |               |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                           | 80            | 80            | 80            | 80            | 80            | 0.0                   | 0.0           |
| Average available beds <sup>(d)</sup>      | 4,874         | 4,859         | 5,040         | 5,232         | 4,922         | 0.2                   | –5.9          |
| Available beds per 1,000 population        | 3.1           | 3.0           | 3.1           | 3.2           | 3.0           | –0.8                  | –6.9          |
| <b>Tasmania</b>                            |               |               |               |               |               |                       |               |
| Public hospitals <sup>(e)</sup>            | 28            | 24            | 23            | 23            | 23            | –4.8                  | 0.0           |
| Average available beds <sup>(e)</sup>      | 1,275         | 1,359         | 1,196         | 1,188         | 1,188         | –1.8                  | 0.0           |
| Available beds per 1,000 population        | 2.6           | 2.7           | 2.4           | 2.3           | 2.3           | –2.4                  | –0.1          |
| <b>Australian Capital Territory</b>        |               |               |               |               |               |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                           | 3             | 3             | 3             | 3             | 3             | 0.0                   | 0.0           |
| Average available beds                     | 875           | 907           | 926           | 939           | 986           | 3.0                   | 5.0           |
| Available beds per 1,000 population        | 2.5           | 2.6           | 2.6           | 2.6           | 2.6           | 1.1                   | 3.0           |
| <b>Northern Territory</b>                  |               |               |               |               |               |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                           | 5             | 5             | 5             | 5             | 5             | 0.0                   | 0.0           |
| Average available beds                     | 650           | 694           | 662           | 696           | 664           | 0.5                   | –4.6          |
| Available beds per 1,000 population        | 3.0           | 3.1           | 2.9           | 3.0           | 2.8           | –1.1                  | –6.2          |
| <b>Total</b>                               |               |               |               |               |               |                       |               |
| <b>Public hospitals</b>                    | <b>756</b>    | <b>753</b>    | <b>752</b>    | <b>753</b>    | <b>746</b>    | <b>–0.3</b>           | <b>–0.9</b>   |
| <b>Average available beds</b>              | <b>56,548</b> | <b>56,912</b> | <b>57,838</b> | <b>58,545</b> | <b>58,311</b> | <b>0.8</b>            | <b>–0.4</b>   |
| <b>Available beds per 1,000 population</b> | <b>2.7</b>    | <b>2.6</b>    | <b>2.6</b>    | <b>2.6</b>    | <b>2.6</b>    | <b>–0.9</b>           | <b>–1.9</b>   |

(a) Due to changes in the definitions of available beds, the numbers of beds reported before 1 July 2009 may not be comparable with the numbers of beds reported after 1 July 2009.

(b) For Victoria for 2008–09 to 2011–12, the numbers of available beds have been adjusted to correct reporting anomalies and to include Secure Extended Care Unit beds. These beds meet the definition of an available bed but were incorrectly excluded from the submissions of some health services to the NPHEd. Comparisons of bed numbers published in previous reports are not valid for Victoria.

(c) Between 2011–12 and 2012–13, the apparent decrease in the number of public hospitals for Western Australia was mainly due to the amalgamation of 5 small public hospitals within parent campuses.

(d) In 2012–13, a large number of South Australian state-funded aged care beds in country hospitals were converted into Commonwealth multi-purpose service places. This resulted in an apparent decrease in the numbers of available beds between 2011–12 and 2012–13.

(e) From 2009–10, Tasmania's Statewide Mental Health Services has reported data for 4 separate psychiatric and drug and alcohol treatment facilities that previously reported separately. Therefore, the number of reporting units changed between 2008–09 and 2010–11, but the number of public hospital campuses remained the same. In 2010–11, Tasmania reclassified 76 beds from 'acute mental health beds' to 'residential care beds', decreasing the number of beds reported for public psychiatric hospitals in Tasmania.

While average available bed numbers increased between 2008–09 and 2012–13, the increase did not keep pace with the growth in population. The overall number of available beds per 1,000 population fell gradually (from 2.7 per 1,000 to 2.6 per 1,000). This decrease would have been affected, however, by changes such as the relatively large number of South Australian state-funded aged care beds in country hospitals that were converted into Commonwealth multi-purpose service places between 2011–12 and 2012–13 that resulted in an apparent decrease in the numbers of available beds.

Between 2008–09 and 2012–13, the numbers of available beds per 1,000 population were relatively stable or decreased in all jurisdictions.

## Private hospitals

In 2011–12, there were 592 private hospitals, compared with 564 in 2008–09. New South Wales and Victoria accounted for most of the increase in private hospital numbers over this period.

Between 2008–09 and 2011–12, the number of average available beds in private hospitals increased by an average of 2.2% per year. Available beds per 1,000 population were relatively stable over the same period (Table 4.2).

**Table 4.2: Number of hospitals and average available beds, private hospitals, states and territories, 2007–08 to 2011–12**

|                                                                              | 2007–08 <sup>(a)</sup> | 2008–09       | 2009–10       | 2010–11       | 2011–12       | Change (%)            |               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                                                                              |                        |               |               |               |               | Average since 2008–09 | Since 2010–11 |
| New South Wales                                                              | n.a.                   | 176           | 179           | 183           | 185           | 1.3                   | 1.1           |
| Victoria                                                                     | n.a.                   | 152           | 161           | 167           | 164           | 1.9                   | –1.8          |
| Queensland                                                                   | n.a.                   | 106           | 106           | 107           | 107           | 0.2                   | 0.0           |
| Western Australia                                                            | n.a.                   | 54            | 55            | 56            | 57            | 1.4                   | 1.8           |
| South Australia                                                              | n.a.                   | 50            | 57            | 56            | 54            | 1.9                   | –3.6          |
| Australian Capital Territory, Northern Territory and Tasmania <sup>(b)</sup> | n.a.                   | 26            | 23            | 24            | 25            | –1.3                  | 4.3           |
| <b>Total private hospitals</b>                                               | <b>n.a.</b>            | <b>564</b>    | <b>581</b>    | <b>593</b>    | <b>592</b>    | <b>1.6</b>            | <b>2.1</b>    |
| <b>Average available beds<sup>(c)</sup></b>                                  | <b>n.a.</b>            | <b>27,180</b> | <b>27,748</b> | <b>28,351</b> | <b>29,004</b> | <b>2.2</b>            | <b>2.2</b>    |
| <b>Available beds per 1,000 population<sup>(d)</sup></b>                     | <b>n.a.</b>            | <b>1.3</b>    | <b>1.3</b>    | <b>1.3</b>    | <b>1.3</b>    | <b>0.6</b>            | <b>1.0</b>    |

(a) Data for the 2007–08 reference year are not available.

(b) The Australian Capital Territory, the Northern Territory and Tasmania are aggregated by the ABS to protect the confidentiality of the small number of hospitals in these states/territories.

(c) Available beds/chairs (average for the year).

(d) Average available beds per 1,000 population is the crude rate based on the estimated resident population as at 30 June for the relevant period.

Note: See boxes 4.1 and 4.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

Source: *Private hospitals Australia* (ABS 2013a).

# How many Local hospital networks and hospitals were there in 2012–13?

## Local hospital networks

Local hospital networks (LHNs) form a new layer of the health sector architecture in Australia and are provided for under the National Health Reform Agreement signed in 2011 (NHRA 2011). Each LHN consists of small groups of local hospitals, or an individual hospital, linking services within a region or through specialist networks across a state or territory (DoH 2014).

The LHNs vary greatly in location, size and in the types of hospitals that they contain. Table 4.3 shows the number of LHNs in each state and territory, and includes a count of networks according to the type of 'major hospital' in each LHN. This table groups the hospitals by public hospital peer groups. The 'major hospital' was identified as the hospital with either the largest amount of admitted patient activity or with the greatest range of services. For more information on the peer group classification, see Appendix C.

There are 137 LHNs, with 87 LHNs located in Victoria, and 1 LHN in the Australian Capital Territory. In most jurisdictions, the metropolitan areas contain 1 or more LHNs.

Many LHNs, particularly in Victoria, consist of a single hospital. Other networks consist of a *Principal referral* or *Large acute* hospital accompanied by a range of smaller and/or more specialised hospitals.

**Table 4.3: Local hospital networks, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                        | NSW       | Vic       | Qld       | WA       | SA       | Tas      | ACT      | NT       | Total      |
|----------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|
| <b>Total Local hospital networks</b>   | <b>18</b> | <b>87</b> | <b>17</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>137</b> |
| <b>Major hospital in network</b>       |           |           |           |          |          |          |          |          |            |
| Principal referral hospital            | 9         | 6         | 4         | 1        | 2        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 25         |
| Women's and children's                 | 1         | 2         | 1         | 0        | 1        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 5          |
| Large acute                            | 5         | 12        | 7         | 1        | 1        | 2        | 0        | 1        | 30         |
| Medium acute                           | 2         | 4         | 1         | 1        | 1        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 9          |
| Small acute                            | 0         | 48        | 4         | 1        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 53         |
| Very small                             | 0         | 10        | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 10         |
| Other                                  | 1         | 8         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 9          |
| LHNs that consist of a single hospital | 1         | 58        | 0         | 0        | 1        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 60         |
| Number of public hospitals             | 225       | 150       | 170       | 90       | 80       | 23       | 3        | 5        | 746        |

*Note:* See boxes 4.1 and 4.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## How many hospitals?

Table 4.4 presents the number of public and private hospitals by state and territory for 2012–13.

Where available, the numbers of private hospitals in 2012–13 were sourced from the states and territories. For the remaining states and/or territories, numbers of private hospitals in 2011–12 were sourced the ABS's PHEC. The 3 largest states together accounted for almost three-quarters of all reported hospitals.

**Table 4.4: Public and private hospitals<sup>(a)</sup>, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                               | NSW        | Vic <sup>(b)</sup> | Qld <sup>(a)</sup> | WA         | SA         | Tas         | ACT         | NT          | Total <sup>(c)</sup> |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|
| <b>Public hospitals</b>                       |            |                    |                    |            |            |             |             |             |                      |
| Public acute hospitals                        | 218        | 149                | 166                | 88         | 78         | 22          | 3           | 5           | 729                  |
| Public psychiatric hospitals                  | 7          | 1                  | 4                  | 2          | 2          | 1           | 0           | 0           | 17                   |
| <b>Private hospitals</b>                      |            |                    |                    |            |            |             |             |             |                      |
| Private free-standing day hospital facilities | 96         | 85                 | 52                 | 35         | 26         | n.a.        | n.a.        | n.a.        | 311                  |
| Other private hospitals                       | 89         | 79                 | 53                 | 22         | 28         | n.a.        | n.a.        | n.a.        | 281                  |
| <b>Total</b>                                  | <b>410</b> | <b>314</b>         | <b>275</b>         | <b>147</b> | <b>134</b> | <b>n.a.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>1,338</b>         |

(a) For Queensland, the numbers of private hospitals were provided for 2012–13. For other states and territories, the numbers of private hospitals were sourced from the ABS's Private Health Establishments Collection for 2011–12.

(b) The number of public hospitals in Victoria is reported as a count of the campuses that reported data separately to the National Hospital Morbidity Database in 2012–13.

(c) The total combines counts of public hospitals provided by jurisdictions for 2012–13, with counts of private hospitals sourced either from the jurisdiction for 2012–13, or from the ABS's Private Health Establishments Collection for 2011–12.

Note: See boxes 4.1 and 4.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## Hospital accreditation

Accreditation is provided by a number of bodies, including the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards' Evaluation and Quality Improvement Program, Business Excellence Australia, and the Quality Improvement Council. Hospitals can also be certified as compliant with the International Organization for Standardization's (ISO) 9000 quality family.

Across Australia, 696 public hospitals were accredited by 1 or more providers at 30 June 2013, with 57,047 accredited public hospital beds (93% of public hospitals and 98% of public hospital beds) (Table 4.5).

For Tasmania, the 4 largest hospitals were accredited and these accounted for 87% of available beds and 95% of separations.

From January 2013, public and private hospital accreditation has included assessment against the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards (NSQHS Standards) (ACSQHC 2013). More information on the NSQHS Standards and accreditation is available from the ACSQHC web site < <http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au> >.

**Table 4.5: Selected accreditation statistics by state and territory, public hospitals 2012–13, private hospitals 2010–11**

|                                          | NSW         | Vic         | Qld         | WA          | SA          | Tas         | ACT         | NT          | Total  |
|------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------|
| <b>Public hospitals</b>                  |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |        |
| <i>Total hospitals</i>                   | 225         | 150         | 170         | 90          | 80          | 23          | 3           | 5           | 746    |
| Accredited hospitals                     | 208         | 150         | 157         | 90          | 79          | 4           | 3           | 5           | 696    |
| Accredited (%)                           | 92          | 100         | 92          | 100         | 99          | 17          | 100         | 100         | 93     |
| <i>Total beds<sup>(a)</sup></i>          | 20,181      | 13,449      | 11,273      | 5,648       | 4,922       | 1,188       | 986         | 664         | 58,311 |
| Accredited beds                          | 19,639      | 13,449      | 10,713      | 5,648       | 4,918       | 1,030       | 986         | 664         | 57,047 |
| Accredited (%)                           | 97          | 100         | 95          | 100         | 100         | 87          | 100         | 100         | 98     |
| Separations in accredited hospitals (%)  | 99          | 100         | 95          | 100         | 100         | 95          | 100         | 100         | 99     |
| Patient days in accredited hospitals (%) | 98          | 100         | 96          | 100         | 100         | 86          | 100         | 100         | 98     |
| <b>Private hospitals<sup>(b)</sup></b>   |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |        |
| <i>Total hospitals</i>                   | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | 593    |
| Accredited hospitals                     | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | 567    |
| Accredited (%)                           | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | 96     |
| <i>Total beds<sup>(a)</sup></i>          | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | 28,351 |
| Accredited beds                          | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | 27,825 |
| Accredited (%)                           | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | 98     |

(a) The number of average available beds presented here may differ from the counts published elsewhere. For example, counts based on bed numbers at a specified data such as 30 June may differ from the average available beds over the reporting period.

(b) Accreditation statistics for private hospitals were sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS unpublished).

Note: See boxes 4.1 and 4.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## How many hospital beds?

In 2012–13, there were about 87,300 average available beds, with 67% (58,311) in public hospitals (Table 4.6).

In 2012–13, the total number of available beds per 1,000 population, in public and private hospitals, was 3.8 per 1,000. The number of available beds in *Public acute hospitals* ranged from 2.3 per 1,000 population in Tasmania, to 3.0 per 1,000 in South Australia and the Northern Territory.

Nationally, about 88% of beds in public acute hospitals were available for overnight-stay patients (Table 4.6). The proportion of beds in *Public acute hospitals* that were available for same-day patients ranged from 5.1% in the Northern Territory to 17.0% in Queensland. For *Public psychiatric hospitals*, states and territories did not report any available beds for same-day patients.

The comparability of bed numbers can be affected by the casemix of hospitals, including the extent to which hospitals provide same-day admitted patient services and other specialised services.

## How do hospitals differ by size?

Grouping hospitals by number of available beds showed that the majority of hospitals were very small (Table 4.7). This was particularly the case in jurisdictions that covered large geographical areas. The majority of beds were in larger hospitals and in more densely populated areas. The largest hospital had over 1,000 available beds and was located in Brisbane. More than 71% of hospitals had 50 or fewer beds.

**Table 4.6: Public and private hospital average available beds<sup>(a)</sup> and number of average available beds per 1,000 population<sup>(b)</sup>, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                                                      | NSW         | Vic         | Qld         | WA          | SA <sup>(c)</sup> | Tas         | ACT         | NT          | Total         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| <b>Average available beds<sup>(a)</sup></b>                          |             |             |             |             |                   |             |             |             |               |
| Public hospitals                                                     | 20,181      | 13,449      | 11,273      | 5,648       | 4,922             | 1,188       | 986         | 664         | 58,311        |
| <i>Public acute hospitals</i>                                        | 19,347      | 13,297      | 10,856      | 5,438       | 4,773             | 1,178       | 986         | 664         | 56,539        |
| Same-day beds/chairs                                                 | 1,638       | 2,132       | 1,869       | 638         | 564               | 169         | 152         | 34          | 7,195         |
| Overnight beds                                                       | 17,709      | 11,165      | 8,987       | 4,800       | 4,209             | 1,009       | 834         | 630         | 49,343        |
| <i>Public psychiatric hospitals</i>                                  | 834         | 152         | 417         | 210         | 149               | 10          | ..          | ..          | 1,772         |
| Private hospitals (2011–12) <sup>(d)</sup>                           | n.a.        | n.a.        | n.a.        | n.a.        | n.a.              | n.a.        | n.a.        | n.a.        | 29,004        |
| Private free-standing day hospital facilities                        | n.a.        | n.a.        | n.a.        | n.a.        | n.a.              | n.a.        | n.a.        | n.a.        | 2,973         |
| Other private hospitals                                              | 6,995       | 6,841       | 6,017       | 3,284       | n.a.              | n.a.        | n.a.        | n.a.        | 26,031        |
| <b>Total beds<sup>(a)</sup></b>                                      | <b>n.a.</b> | <b>n.a.</b> | <b>n.a.</b> | <b>n.a.</b> | <b>n.a.</b>       | <b>n.a.</b> | <b>n.a.</b> | <b>n.a.</b> | <b>87,315</b> |
| <b>Available or licensed beds per 1,000 population<sup>(b)</sup></b> |             |             |             |             |                   |             |             |             |               |
| <i>Public hospitals</i>                                              | 2.9         | 2.4         | 2.6         | 2.4         | 3.0               | 2.3         | 2.5         | 3.0         | 2.6           |
| Public acute hospitals                                               | 2.7         | 2.4         | 2.5         | 2.3         | 2.9               | 2.3         | 2.5         | 3.0         | 2.6           |
| Public psychiatric hospitals                                         | 0.1         | 0.0         | 0.1         | 0.1         | 0.1               | 0.0         | ..          | ..          | 0.1           |
| <i>Private hospitals<sup>(d)</sup></i>                               | n.a.        | n.a.        | n.a.        | n.a.        | n.a.              | n.a.        | n.a.        | n.a.        | 1.3           |
| Private free-standing day hospital facilities                        | n.a.        | n.a.        | n.a.        | n.a.        | n.a.              | n.a.        | n.a.        | n.a.        | 0.1           |
| Other private hospitals                                              | 1.0         | 1.2         | 1.3         | 1.3         | n.a.              | n.a.        | n.a.        | n.a.        | 1.1           |
| <b>Total beds per 1,000 population<sup>(b)</sup></b>                 | <b>n.a.</b> | <b>n.a.</b> | <b>n.a.</b> | <b>n.a.</b> | <b>n.a.</b>       | <b>n.a.</b> | <b>n.a.</b> | <b>n.a.</b> | <b>3.8</b>    |

(a) The number of average available beds presented here may differ from the counts published elsewhere. For example counts based on bed numbers at a specified date such as 30 June may differ from the average available beds over the reporting period. The count of beds in Queensland was based on data as at 30 June 2013.

(b) Average available beds per 1,000 population is reported as a crude rate based on the estimated resident population as at 30 June 2012.

(c) In 2012–13, a large number of South Australian state-funded aged care beds in country hospitals were converted into Commonwealth multi-purpose service places. This has resulted in an apparent decrease in the numbers of available beds between 2011–12 and 2012–13.

(d) Australian Bureau of Statistics' *Private hospitals Australia 2011–12* (ABS 2013a).

Note: See boxes 4.1 and 4.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

The proportion of hospital beds in different size hospitals varied by jurisdiction. The Northern Territory did not have any public hospitals with either more than 500 beds or 10 beds or fewer. For Victoria, a higher proportion of hospital beds were in hospitals with more than 200 to 500 beds (35%) than in hospitals with more than 500 beds (23%) (Table 4.19).

## How does Australia compare?

In 2012–13, Australia had 3.8 beds per 1,000 population, compared to an average of 5.0 beds per 1,000 population for other OECD countries (Table 4.8).

Among the OECD countries, the density of hospital beds per 1,000 population ranged from fewer than 1.0 per 1,000 in Indonesia to more than 13.6 per 1,000 in Japan. Compared with Australia, there were fewer beds per 1,000 population in New Zealand (2.8), the United Kingdom (3.0), the United States (3.1) and Canada (2.8), there were more beds per 1,000 in Germany (8.3), France (6.4) and Greece (4.9) (OECD 2013).

**Table 4.7: Number of public acute and psychiatric hospitals and average available beds, by hospital size, 2012–13**

| Hospital size             | Hospitals  | Proportion of total public hospitals (%) | Total average available beds | Proportion of total public hospital beds (%) |
|---------------------------|------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 10 or fewer beds          | 225        | 30.2                                     | 1,029                        | 1.8                                          |
| More than 10 to 50 beds   | 306        | 41.0                                     | 7,569                        | 13.0                                         |
| More than 50 to 100 beds  | 70         | 9.4                                      | 5,218                        | 8.9                                          |
| More than 100 to 200 beds | 62         | 8.3                                      | 9,295                        | 15.9                                         |
| More than 200 to 500 beds | 59         | 7.9                                      | 18,804                       | 32.2                                         |
| More than 500 beds        | 24         | 3.2                                      | 16,396                       | 28.1                                         |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>746</b> | <b>100.0</b>                             | <b>58,311</b>                | <b>100.0</b>                                 |

Note: See boxes 4.1 and 4.2 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information for states and territories is in Table 4.20 at the end of this chapter.

**Table 4.8: Hospital beds, density per 1,000 population, states and territories 2012–13, OECD average (2011)<sup>(a)</sup>**

|                                         | Hospital beds (per 1,000 population) |                                                  |            |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------|
|                                         | Public hospitals                     | Private hospitals (excludes same day facilities) | Total      |
| New South Wales                         | 2.8                                  | 0.9                                              | 3.7        |
| Victoria                                | 2.4                                  | 1.2                                              | 3.6        |
| Queensland                              | 2.3                                  | 1.3                                              | 3.8        |
| Western Australia                       | 2.4                                  | n.a.                                             | n.a.       |
| South Australia                         | 3.0                                  | 1.2                                              | 4.4        |
| Tasmania                                | 2.3                                  | n.a.                                             | n.a.       |
| Australian Capital Territory            | 2.6                                  | n.a.                                             | n.a.       |
| Northern Territory                      | 2.8                                  | n.a.                                             | n.a.       |
| <b>Australia</b>                        | <b>2.6</b>                           | <b>1.2</b>                                       | <b>3.8</b> |
| <b>OECD average</b>                     | <b>..</b>                            | <b>..</b>                                        | <b>5.0</b> |
| OECD interquartile range <sup>(b)</sup> |                                      |                                                  | 2.8–6.1    |
| Number of OECD countries                |                                      |                                                  | 25         |

(a) For some OECD countries, the data relate to a year other than 2011.

(b) The interquartile range is a measure of statistical dispersion, being equal to the difference between the upper and lower quartiles.

Source: OECD 2013.

## Where are public hospitals located?

The remoteness area classification is used in Table 4.9 to present information on the geographical distribution of public hospitals and available beds, and on the number of available beds per 1,000 population. The highest number of hospitals was reported for *Outer regional* areas (227) and over two-thirds of beds were reported for *Major cities* (39,478 beds).

In 2012–13, there were 2.6 public hospital beds per 1,000 population (see also Table 4.1). The number of public hospital beds per 1,000 population varied across remoteness areas. The ratio of available beds to the population does not necessarily indicate the accessibility of hospital services.

A hospital can provide services for patients who usually live in other areas of the state or territory, or in other jurisdictions. The patterns of bed availability across regions may also



reflect a number of factors including the availability of other health-care services and patterns of disease and injury.

**Table 4.9: Number of hospitals, average available beds and number of average available beds per 1,000 population<sup>(a)</sup>, by remoteness area, public acute and psychiatric hospitals, 2012–13**

| Remoteness area       | Hospitals  | Average available beds | Available beds per 1,000 population resident in area <sup>(a)</sup> |
|-----------------------|------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Major cities          | 176        | 39,478                 | 2.5                                                                 |
| <i>Total regional</i> | <i>415</i> | <i>17,026</i>          | <i>2.7</i>                                                          |
| Inner regional        | 188        | 10,589                 | 2.5                                                                 |
| Outer regional        | 227        | 6,437                  | 3.1                                                                 |
| <i>Total remote</i>   | <i>154</i> | <i>1,788</i>           | <i>3.4</i>                                                          |
| Remote                | 71         | 1,176                  | 3.7                                                                 |
| Very Remote           | 83         | 612                    | 3.0                                                                 |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>746</b> | <b>58,311</b>          | <b>2.6</b>                                                          |

(a) Average available beds per 1,000 population is reported as a crude rate based on the estimated resident population as at 30 June 2012.

Note: See boxes 4.1 and 4.2 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information for states and territories is in Table 4.21 at the end of this chapter.

## How diverse are public hospitals?

The diversity of public hospitals is presented in Table 4.10 by hospital peer groups. Other statistics are presented about peer groups in Chapter 5. Detailed information on the public hospital peer group classification is in Appendix C.

The 746 public hospitals are very diverse in size and type of services they provide for admitted and non-admitted patients. The diversity of admitted patient services that each type provides can be gauged by the average number of AR-DRGs reported.

In 2012–13, there were:

- 29 *Principal referral hospitals* – mainly in *Major cities*, with at least 1 in each state and territory. They provided a wide range of services, including emergency department, outpatient and admitted patient services (including 5 or more separations for 538 AR-DRGs on average) (Table 4.10). These hospitals accounted for a total of 1.9 million separations, or 36% of the total for public hospitals, and for 6.6 million days, or 35% of the total for public hospitals.
- 12 *Women's and children's hospitals* – in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide. They delivered an average of 21,570 separations per hospital, specialising in maternity and other specialist services for women, and/or specialist paediatric services.
- 62 *Large acute hospitals* – 33 in *Major cities*, 29 in *Regional and remote* areas. They provided emergency department, outpatient and admitted patient services, generally with a range of activities less than for the *Principal referral* hospitals (5 or more separations for 365 AR-DRGs), with an average of 29,532 separations per hospital.
- 45 *Medium acute hospitals* – 24 in *Major cities* and 21 in *Regional and Remote* areas. They provided emergency department, outpatient and admitted patient services with an average of 15,350 separations per hospital (with a narrower range of services than the *Large acute* hospitals).

- 334 *Small acute hospitals*—mostly in *Regional* and *Remote* areas. They delivered mainly acute care for admitted patients, with an average of 1,827 separations per hospital in the year, with a relatively narrow range of services. Most provided emergency services (rather than formal emergency departments) and some provided elective surgery.
- 135 *Very small hospitals* in *Regional* and *Remote* areas delivering 60.9% non-acute patient days with 93 average annual separations for a very narrow range of services (5 or more separations for an average of 3 AR-DRGs).
- 20 *Psychiatric hospitals*—specialising in the treatment and care of people with mental health problems. They were located in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide and Hobart, with 3 in regional Queensland centres.
- 39 *Non-acute hospitals*, some specialising in rehabilitation care.
- 43 *Outpatient hospitals*—in *Regional* and *Remote* areas. Most provided emergency services.
- 27 *Other hospitals*, mainly small or specialist hospitals.

**Table 4.10: The diversity of public hospitals, 2012–13**

| Hospital type          | Number of hospitals |            |            |            |                                      |                                         |                                   |                                 |                        |                       |                               |                                   |                             |
|------------------------|---------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                        | Location            |            |            |            | Services provided                    |                                         |                                   |                                 |                        |                       |                               |                                   |                             |
|                        | Major cities        | Regional   | Remote     | Total      | Emergency departments <sup>(a)</sup> | Other emergency services <sup>(b)</sup> | Outpatient clinics <sup>(c)</sup> | Elective surgery <sup>(d)</sup> | Average available beds | Separations (average) | Average length of stay (days) | Non-acute care — patient days (%) | AR-DRGs (5+) <sup>(e)</sup> |
| Principal referral     | 26                  | 3          | 0          | 29         | 29                                   | 0                                       | 29                                | 29                              | 639                    | 67,192                | 3.4                           | 8.9                               | 538                         |
| Women's and children's | 12                  | 0          | 0          | 12         | 10                                   | 0                                       | 12                                | 12                              | 209                    | 21,570                | 3.1                           | 0.6                               | 220                         |
| Large acute            | 33                  | 28         | 1          | 62         | 60                                   | 0                                       | 60                                | 58                              | 257                    | 29,532                | 3.1                           | 11.6                              | 365                         |
| Medium acute           | 24                  | 20         | 1          | 45         | 45                                   | 0                                       | 26                                | 43                              | 131                    | 15,350                | 2.7                           | 17.5                              | 234                         |
| Small acute            | 15                  | 249        | 70         | 334        | 52                                   | 270                                     | 8                                 | 99                              | 27                     | 1,827                 | 3.2                           | 28.5                              | 56                          |
| Very small             | 0                   | 86         | 49         | 135        | 6                                    | 113                                     | 0                                 | 0                               | 7                      | 93                    | 12.0                          | 60.9                              | 3                           |
| Psychiatric            | 15                  | 5          | 0          | 20         | 0                                    | 0                                       | 0                                 | 0                               | 108                    | 712                   | 48.4                          | 53.3                              | 8                           |
| Non-acute              | 28                  | 11         | 0          | 39         | 0                                    | 3                                       | 0                                 | 0                               | 69                     | 1,562                 | 14.0                          | 91.2                              | 23                          |
| Outpatients            | 0                   | 10         | 33         | 43         | 1                                    | 30                                      | 0                                 | 0                               | 0                      | 3                     | 2.8                           | 0.0                               | 0                           |
| Other                  | 23                  | 3          | 0          | 27         | 1                                    | 1                                       | 3                                 | 5                               | 29                     | 3,670                 | 2.3                           | 12.6                              | 22                          |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>176</b>          | <b>415</b> | <b>154</b> | <b>746</b> | <b>204</b>                           | <b>417</b>                              | <b>138</b>                        | <b>246</b>                      | <b>78</b>              | <b>7,408</b>          | <b>3.4</b>                    | <b>18.1</b>                       | <b>97</b>                   |

(a) This is the number of hospitals reporting episode-level emergency department presentations data to the National Non-admitted Patient Emergency Department Care Database.

(b) This is the number of hospitals reporting establishment-level emergency occasions of service data to the National Public Hospital Establishments Database.

(c) This is the number of hospitals reporting outpatient clinic-level non-admitted patient data to the National Outpatient Care Database.

(d) This is the number of hospitals reporting data to the National Elective Surgery Waiting Times Data Collection.

(e) This is the average number of AR-DRGs for which there were at least 5 separations.

*Note:* See boxes 4.1 and 4.2 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information for states and territories is in tables accompanying this report online.

## States and territories

A summary of public hospitals by state and territory is presented in Table 4.11. The distribution of hospitals across remoteness areas varies between jurisdictions. The average available beds per hospital varies between jurisdictions, ranging from 329 in the Australian Capital Territory to 52 in Tasmania.

More information on hospital peer groups by state and territory is in the tables that accompany this report online at <[www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/](http://www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/)>.

**Table 4.11: The diversity of public hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                 | Number of hospitals |            |            |            |                                         |                                            |                                   |                                 |                           |                          |                             |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                                 | Location            |            |            |            | Services provided                       |                                            |                                   |                                 | Average<br>available beds | Separations<br>(average) | AR-DRGs (5+) <sup>(e)</sup> |
|                                 | Major cities        | Regional   | Remote     | Total      | Emergency<br>departments <sup>(a)</sup> | Other emergency<br>services <sup>(b)</sup> | Outpatient clinics <sup>(c)</sup> | Elective surgery <sup>(d)</sup> |                           |                          |                             |
| New South Wales                 | 68                  | 139        | 18         | 225        | 95                                      | 90                                         | 44                                | 96                              | 90                        | 7,611                    | 109                         |
| Victoria                        | 51                  | 96         | 2          | 150        | 40                                      | 67                                         | 36                                | 32                              | 89                        | 9,533                    | 110                         |
| Queensland                      | 20                  | 79         | 71         | 170        | 27                                      | 129                                        | 23                                | 33                              | 66                        | 6,141                    | 82                          |
| Western Australia               | 19                  | 37         | 34         | 90         | 17                                      | 63                                         | 19                                | 35                              | 63                        | 6,742                    | 80                          |
| South Australia                 | 15                  | 44         | 21         | 80         | 14                                      | 56                                         | 8                                 | 39                              | 62                        | 5,172                    | 81                          |
| Tasmania                        | 0                   | 19         | 4          | 23         | 4                                       | 12                                         | 4                                 | 4                               | 52                        | 4,624                    | 73                          |
| Australian Capital<br>Territory | 3                   | 0          | 0          | 3          | 2                                       | 0                                          | 2                                 | 2                               | 329                       | 31,571                   | 304                         |
| Northern Territory              | 0                   | 1          | 4          | 5          | 5                                       | 0                                          | 2                                 | 5                               | 133                       | 23,661                   | 230                         |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>176</b>          | <b>415</b> | <b>154</b> | <b>746</b> | <b>204</b>                              | <b>417</b>                                 | <b>138</b>                        | <b>246</b>                      | <b>78</b>                 | <b>7,408</b>             | <b>97</b>                   |

(a) This is the number of hospitals reporting episode-level emergency department presentations data to the National Non-admitted Patient Emergency Department Care Database.

(b) This is the number of hospitals reporting establishment-level emergency occasions of service data to the National Public Hospital Establishments Database.

(c) This is the number of hospitals reporting outpatient clinic-level non-admitted patient data to the National Outpatient Care Database.

(d) This is the number of hospitals reporting data to the National Elective Surgery Waiting Times Data Collection.

(e) This is the average number of AR-DRGs for which there were at least 5 separations.

*Note:* See boxes 4.1 and 4.2 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information for states and territories is in table accompanying this report online.

## How much expenditure and revenue?

### Public hospital recurrent expenditure

Public hospital recurrent expenditure can be categorised into salary and non-salary expenditure:

- **Salary expenditure** includes salaries and wages, payments to staff on paid leave, workers compensation leave and salaries paid to contract staff where the contract was for the supply of labour and where full-time equivalent staffing data were available.
- **Non-salary expenditure** includes items such as payments to *Visiting medical officers*, superannuation payments, drug supplies, medical and surgical supplies (which includes consumable supplies only and not equipment purchases), food supplies, domestic

services, repairs and maintenance, patient transport, administrative expenses, interest payments, depreciation and other recurrent expenditure.

Between 2008–09 and 2012–13, public hospital recurrent expenditure rose by an average of 4.7% per year in constant price terms (adjusted for inflation) (Table 4.12). The average annual increase in public hospital recurrent expenditure was highest for the Australian Capital Territory (10.9%).

For 2012–13, expenditure data were not available for 3 public hospitals in Queensland, which reported about \$560 million expenditure in 2011–12. After adjusting for the missing expenditure data, the average annual increase in recurrent expenditure for public hospitals was about 5.1% between 2008–09 and 2012–13 (adjusted for inflation).

Over the same period, public hospital revenue increased by an average of 15.0% per year (adjusted for inflation), ranging from an average increase of 1.8% per year for Tasmania to an average increase of 18.5% per year for New South Wales.

Nationally, total recurrent expenditure by public hospitals, including depreciation, was over \$43 billion in 2012–13 (Table 4.13).

Excluding payments to *Visiting medical officers* and payments for outsourced services, salary payments accounted for 62% of the \$42 billion (excluding depreciation) spent within the public hospital system (Table 4.22).

Expenditure totals are reported including and excluding depreciation to ensure comparable figures are available across jurisdictions. In 2012–13, depreciation ranged from 0.7% of total expenditure in the Northern Territory to about 6% in Victoria (see also Table 4.22).

## Public hospital revenue

**Revenue** is reported against 3 categories: *Patient revenue*, *Recoveries*, and *Other revenue*.

*Recoveries* are income from the use of hospital facilities by salaried medical officers or private practitioners exercising their rights of private practice, and other recoveries. *Other revenue* includes investment income, income from charities, bequests and accommodation provided to visitors.

Australian public hospitals received \$5.8 billion in revenue in 2012–13 (Table 4.14). This was equivalent to 14% of total recurrent expenditure (excluding depreciation). Revenue as a proportion of total expenditure varied among the states and territories, ranging from 6% in the Northern Territory to 18% in New South Wales.

**Table 4.12: Recurrent expenditure<sup>(a)</sup> and revenue (\$ million, constant prices<sup>(b)</sup>), public hospitals, states and territories, 2008–09 to 2012–13**

|                                                           | 2008–09 | 2009–10 | 2010–11 | 2011–12 | 2012–13 | Change (%)            |               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                                                           |         |         |         |         |         | Average since 2008–09 | Since 2011–12 |
| Total recurrent expenditure, constant prices (\$ million) |         |         |         |         |         |                       |               |
| New South Wales <sup>(c)</sup>                            | 11,232  | 11,332  | 12,178  | 13,297  | 13,454  | 4.6                   | 1.2           |
| Victoria                                                  | 8,642   | 9,013   | 9,612   | 9,986   | 10,093  | 4.0                   | 1.1           |
| Queensland <sup>(d)</sup>                                 | 6,519   | 6,986   | 7,683   | 7,946   | 7,656   | 4.1                   | –3.6          |
| Western Australia                                         | 3,694   | 3,829   | 4,215   | 4,545   | 4,790   | 6.7                   | 5.4           |
| South Australia <sup>(e)</sup>                            | 2,731   | 2,811   | 3,099   | 3,324   | 3,194   | 4.0                   | –3.9          |
| Tasmania                                                  | 762     | 874     | 925     | 941     | 957     | 5.9                   | 1.7           |
| Australian Capital Territory                              | 652     | 677     | 741     | 968     | 988     | 10.9                  | 2.1           |
| Northern Territory                                        | 486     | 502     | 543     | 583     | 608     | 5.8                   | 4.3           |
| Total expenditure                                         | 34,715  | 35,994  | 38,982  | 41,567  | 41,741  | 4.7                   | 0.4           |
| Total revenue, constant prices (\$ million)               |         |         |         |         |         |                       |               |
| New South Wales                                           | 1,219   | 1,420   | 1,802   | 1,990   | 2,408   | 18.5                  | 21.0          |
| Victoria                                                  | 965     | 1,041   | 1,138   | 1,329   | 1,518   | 12.0                  | 14.3          |
| Queensland <sup>(d)</sup>                                 | 562     | 639     | 568     | 728     | 1,034   | 16.5                  | 42.1          |
| Western Australia                                         | 222     | 223     | 256     | 309     | 325     | 10.1                  | 5.1           |
| South Australia                                           | 164     | 185     | 225     | 238     | 293     | 15.7                  | 23.3          |
| Tasmania                                                  | 79      | 61      | 60      | 68      | 85      | 1.8                   | 24.4          |
| Australian Capital Territory                              | 60      | 56      | 57      | 62      | 70      | 3.9                   | 12.0          |
| Northern Territory                                        | 21      | 24      | 26      | 29      | 37      | 15.3                  | 28.6          |
| Total revenue                                             | 3,297   | 3,652   | 4,137   | 4,752   | 5,769   | 15.0                  | 21.4          |

(a) Recurrent expenditure does not include the purchase of public hospital services at the state or Local Health Networks from privately owned and/or operated hospitals.

(b) Expressed in terms of prices in the reference year 2012–13. The ABS Government Final Consumption Expenditure, State and Local – Hospitals and Nursing Homes deflator was used for public hospitals.

(c) New South Wales hospital expenditure recorded against special purposes and trust funds was not included. Professional Indemnity expense was included for the first time in 2011–12.

(d) For 2012–13, expenditure data were missing for 3 public hospitals in Queensland, which reported about \$560 million of recurrent expenditure in 2011–12. For all years, pathology services were purchased from a state-wide pathology service rather than being provided by hospital employees in Queensland.

(e) For South Australia, in 2011–12, there were significant once-off revaluations of other employee related expenses. In time series data this may result in 2012–13 appearing to have an artificial reduction in expenditure, including for salaries and wages expenditure components.

*Note:* See boxes 4.1 and 4.2 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information for states and territories is in Table 4.22 at the end of this chapter.

*Source:* National Public Hospital Establishments Database.

**Table 4.13: Recurrent expenditure<sup>(a)</sup> (\$ million), public acute and psychiatric hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| Recurrent expenditure                               | NSW <sup>(b)</sup> | Vic           | Qld <sup>(c)(d)</sup> | WA           | SA           | Tas        | ACT          | NT         | Total         |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|---------------|
| (\$ million)                                        |                    |               |                       |              |              |            |              |            |               |
| <b>Recurrent expenditure including depreciation</b> |                    |               |                       |              |              |            |              |            |               |
| Public acute hospitals                              | 13,705             | 10,680        | 7,805                 | 4,859        | 3,240        | 957        | 1,015        | 613        | 42,874        |
| Public psychiatric hospitals                        | 254                | 51            | 127                   | 83           | 81           | 21         | ..           | ..         | 618           |
| <b>Total</b>                                        | <b>13,960</b>      | <b>10,731</b> | <b>7,931</b>          | <b>4,942</b> | <b>3,322</b> | <b>978</b> | <b>1,015</b> | <b>613</b> | <b>43,492</b> |
| <b>Recurrent expenditure excluding depreciation</b> |                    |               |                       |              |              |            |              |            |               |
| Public acute hospitals                              | 13,208             | 10,044        | 7,534                 | 4,709        | 3,117        | 936        | 988          | 608        | 41,144        |
| Public psychiatric hospitals                        | 246                | 49            | 123                   | 81           | 77           | 21         | ..           | ..         | 597           |
| <b>Total</b>                                        | <b>13,454</b>      | <b>10,093</b> | <b>7,656</b>          | <b>4,790</b> | <b>3,194</b> | <b>957</b> | <b>988</b>   | <b>608</b> | <b>41,741</b> |

(a) Recurrent expenditure does not include the purchase of public hospital services at the state or LHN level from privately owned and/or operated hospitals.

(b) New South Wales hospital expenditure recorded against special purposes and trust funds was not included. Professional Indemnity expense was included for the first time in 2011–12.

(c) Pathology services were purchased from a state-wide pathology service rather than being provided by hospital employees in Queensland.

(d) For 2012–13, expenditure data were missing for 3 public hospitals in Queensland, which reported about \$560 million of recurrent expenditure in 2011–12.

*Note:* See boxes 4.1 and 4.2 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information for states and territories is in Table 4.22 at the end of this chapter.

*Source:* National Public Hospital Establishments Database.

**Table 4.14: Revenue (\$ million), public acute and psychiatric hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                              | NSW          | Vic          | Qld <sup>(a)</sup> | WA         | SA <sup>(b)</sup> | Tas       | ACT       | NT        | Total        |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| (\$ million)                 |              |              |                    |            |                   |           |           |           |              |
| Patient revenue              | 1,190        | 432          | 306                | 192        | 243               | 60        | 43        | 21        | 2,487        |
| Recoveries                   | 577          | 157          | 104                | 101        | ..                | 12        | 17        | 16        | 984          |
| Other revenue                | 641          | 929          | 624                | 32         | 51                | 12        | 10        | 0         | 2,299        |
| <b>Total revenue</b>         | <b>2,408</b> | <b>1,518</b> | <b>1,034</b>       | <b>325</b> | <b>293</b>        | <b>85</b> | <b>70</b> | <b>37</b> | <b>5,769</b> |
| Public acute hospitals       | 2,394        | 1,517        | 1,026              | 325        | 292               | 84        | 70        | 37        | 5,744        |
| Public psychiatric hospitals | 14           | 1            | 8                  | 1          | 1                 | 1         | ..        | ..        | 25           |

(a) Patient revenue in Queensland includes revenue for items such as pharmacy and ambulance, which may be considered to be *Recoveries*.

(b) South Australia did not identify any *Recoveries* due to a change in data recording practices.

*Note:* See boxes 4.1 and 4.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

*Source:* National Public Hospital Establishments Database.

## How are hospitals funded?

Public and private hospitals are funded from a range of different sources, reflecting the types of patients they treat and the services they provide. Governments mainly fund emergency department and outpatient services, whereas both private (non-government) and government sources commonly fund admitted patient services.

The data presented in Table 4.15 are sourced from the HED and are not directly comparable with data reported from the NPHED (see page 48).

The original sources of funds are reported here rather than immediate sources. Hence, the Australian Government is regarded as the source of funds for the contributions that it made

for public hospitals via intergovernmental agreements and for the contributions it made to private hospitals via the private health insurance premium rebates.

In 2011–12, the state and territory governments and the Australian Government provided most of the funds for public hospitals. Private health insurance and out-of-pocket payments by patients mainly fund private hospitals (AIHW 2013f; Table 4.15). Between 2007–08 and 2011–12, after adjusting for inflation, public hospital funding from the Australian Government increased by 4.7% on average each year and funding from state/territory governments increased by 5.2% on average each year (Chapter 2, Table 2.3).

**Table 4.15: Expenditure on public and private hospitals, by source of funds (\$ million), 2011–12**

|                                      | Public hospitals |              | Private hospitals |              |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
|                                      | \$ million       | % of total   | \$ million        | % of total   |
| <i>Australian Government</i>         | 16,073           | 38.2         | 3,464             | 30.3         |
| Rebates of health insurance premiums | 337              | 0.8          | 2,293             | 20.0         |
| Department of Veterans' Affairs      | 853              | 2.0          | 924               | 8.1          |
| Other                                | 14,883           | 35.4         | 247               | 2.2          |
| State/territory government           | 22,411           | 53.3         | 494               | 4.3          |
| Health insurance funds               | 805              | 1.9          | 5,483             | 47.8         |
| Individuals                          | 1,117            | 2.7          | 1,334             | 11.6         |
| Other                                | 1,630            | 3.9          | 701               | 6.1          |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>42,034</b>    | <b>100.0</b> | <b>11,475</b>     | <b>100.0</b> |

Source: *Health expenditure Australia, 2011–12* (AIHW 2013f).

## How many staff in public hospitals?

Nationally, more than 274,700 full-time equivalent staff were employed in the public hospital sector in 2012–13. *Nurses* accounted for 45% of public hospital staff and there were more than 35,000 *Salaried medical officers*, representing about 13% of the public hospital labour force (Table 4.16). For 2012–13, staffing data were missing for 3 public hospitals in Queensland, which reported about 3,800 full-time equivalent staff in 2011–12.

The average salary for full-time equivalent *Nurses* in 2012–13 was about \$90,000 nationally (Table 4.16), which was an increase of 1.1% compared with the average salary of \$89,000 in 2011–12 (AIHW 2013a). In 2012–13, the average salary for full-time equivalent *Salaried medical officers* was about \$183,000 which was a 0.4% increase over the previous year. Similar information for states and territories is in Table 4.23.

The collection of data by staffing category was not consistent among states and territories and may explain some of the variation in average salaries reported.

Different reporting practices and use of outsourcing services with a large labour-related component (such as food services, domestic services and information technology) can have a substantial impact on staffing figures and may also explain some of the variation in average salaries reported between jurisdictions. The degree of outsourcing of higher paid versus lower paid staffing functions affects the comparison of averages. For example, outsourcing the provision of domestic services but retaining domestic service managers to oversee the activities of the contractors tends to result in higher average salaries for the domestic service staff.

For medical officers, for example, this may be reflected in the variation in the proportion of total expenditure that was reported as being for VMOs who were contracted by hospitals to provide services to public patients and paid on a sessional or fee-for-service basis (Table 4.22). Variations in the outsourcing arrangements may also be reflected in variations in other recurrent expenditure categories reported in tables 4.13 and 4.22.

**Table 4.16: Average full-time equivalent staff<sup>(a)</sup> and average salaries, public acute and psychiatric hospitals, 2012–13**

|                                                  | Full-time equivalent staff numbers <sup>(b)</sup> | Average salaries (\$) |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Salaried medical officers                        | 35,124                                            | 182,609               |
| Total nurses <sup>(c)</sup>                      | 124,584                                           | 89,971                |
| Other personal care staff                        | 2,213                                             | 60,441                |
| Diagnostic and allied health professionals       | 38,753                                            | 79,961                |
| Administrative and clerical staff <sup>(d)</sup> | 42,839                                            | 68,122                |
| Domestic and other staff                         | 31,190                                            | 63,405                |
| <b>Total staff</b>                               | <b>274,703</b>                                    | <b>93,762</b>         |

(a) Where average full-time equivalent staff numbers were not available, staff numbers at 30 June 2012 were used. Staff contracted to provide products (rather than labour) are not included.

(b) For 2012–13, staffing data were missing for 3 public hospitals in Queensland, which reported about 3,800 full-time equivalent staff in 2011–12.

(c) *Total nurses* comprises registered nurses, enrolled nurses, student nurses and trainee nurses.

(d) *Administrative and clerical staff* may include staff working to support clinicians, such as ward clerks.

*Note:* See boxes 4.1 and 4.2 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information for states and territories is in Table 4.23 at the end of this chapter.

## What specialised services were provided?

### Specialised service units

In 2012–13, the most common specialised services offered by hospitals were *Domiciliary care service*, followed by *Nursing home care units* and *Obstetric/maternity service* (Table 4.17).

The existence of a specialised unit does not necessarily imply the delivery of large numbers of services in that unit. For example, in 2012–13, 117 smaller hospitals reported an *Obstetric/maternity service* unit and had less than 1 delivery a week on average. There were also 2 hospitals that did not report having an obstetric unit but each reported more than 14 deliveries a day.

Data on specialised services by state and territory are presented in Table 4.18. Data were not available for a few hospitals so the services may be undercounted.



**Table 4.17: Number of public acute hospitals with selected specialised services by remoteness area of hospital, 2012–13**

| Specialised service unit                  | Remoteness area of hospital |          |        | Total <sup>(a)</sup> |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|--------|----------------------|
|                                           | Major cities                | Regional | Remote |                      |
| Domiciliary care service                  | 79                          | 261      | 59     | <b>413</b>           |
| Nursing home care unit                    | 12                          | 183      | 44     | <b>254</b>           |
| Obstetric/maternity service               | 65                          | 133      | 21     | <b>230</b>           |
| Maintenance renal dialysis centre         | 74                          | 77       | 10     | <b>173</b>           |
| Rehabilitation unit                       | 89                          | 64       | 1      | <b>159</b>           |
| Oncology unit                             | 69                          | 54       | 3      | <b>132</b>           |
| Intensive care unit (level III)           | 53                          | 24       | 2      | <b>79</b>            |
| Major plastic/reconstructive surgery unit | 41                          | 3        | 0      | <b>44</b>            |
| Neonatal intensive care unit (level III)  | 23                          | 7        | 0      | <b>30</b>            |
| In-vitro fertilisation unit               | 7                           | 0        | 0      | <b>7</b>             |

(a) The total includes specialised services reported for hospital networks in Victoria, for which the remoteness was not specified.

Note: See boxes 4.1 and 4.2 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information for states and territories is in Table 4.18.

## Service Related Groups

The Service Related Group (SRG) classification is based on aggregations of AR-DRGs, and categorises admitted patient episodes into groups representing clinical divisions of hospital activity. SRGs are used to assist in planning services, analysing and comparing hospital activity, examining patterns of service needs and access, and projecting potential trends in services.

The method to assign records to SRGs largely involves aggregations of AR-DRG information. However, the assignment of some separations to SRGs is based on other information, such as procedures, diagnoses and care types. Separations may also be assigned to certain specialist SRGs depending on whether or not the hospital had a specialist neurosurgery, perinatology (neonatal intensive care unit) or cardiothoracic unit, as appropriate, as reported to the NPHED. For more information on the method used to allocate admitted patient records to SRGs, see Appendix D.

Table 4.19 presents the number of public hospitals reporting more than 360 patient days for selected SRGs by remoteness area of the hospital. This has been included as an indicative measure of the number of specialty unit.

**Table 4.18: Number of public acute hospitals<sup>(a)</sup> with specialised services, states and territories, 2012–13**

| <b>Specialised service unit</b>                   | <b>NSW<sup>(b)</sup></b> | <b>Vic<sup>(c)</sup></b> | <b>Qld</b> | <b>WA</b> | <b>SA</b> | <b>Tas</b> | <b>ACT</b> | <b>NT</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|--------------|
| Acute renal dialysis unit                         | 27                       | 15                       | 18         | 4         | 5         | 2          | 1          | 2         | <b>74</b>    |
| Acute spinal cord injury unit                     | 4                        | 2                        | 1          | 2         | 1         | 0          | 0          | 0         | <b>10</b>    |
| AIDS unit                                         | 8                        | 1                        | 2          | 1         | 2         | 0          | 1          | 0         | <b>15</b>    |
| Alcohol and drug unit                             | 79                       | 13                       | 10         | 3         | 3         | 0          | 1          | 1         | <b>110</b>   |
| Burns unit (level III)                            | 3                        | 2                        | 2          | 2         | 2         | 1          | 0          | 0         | <b>12</b>    |
| Cardiac surgery unit                              | 11                       | 8                        | 5          | 4         | 2         | 1          | 1          | 0         | <b>32</b>    |
| Clinical genetics unit                            | 15                       | 11                       | 2          | 3         | 2         | 1          | 1          | 0         | <b>35</b>    |
| Coronary care unit                                | 45                       | 24                       | 18         | 5         | 7         | 3          | 2          | 2         | <b>106</b>   |
| Diabetes unit                                     | 23                       | 21                       | 11         | 6         | 6         | 3          | 1          | 1         | <b>72</b>    |
| Domiciliary care service                          | 165                      | 89                       | 46         | 58        | 54        | 0          | 0          | 1         | <b>413</b>   |
| Geriatric assessment unit                         | 58                       | 40                       | 7          | 22        | 14        | 3          | 2          | 0         | <b>146</b>   |
| Hospice care unit                                 | 43                       | 26                       | 13         | 32        | 12        | 1          | 1          | 1         | <b>129</b>   |
| Infectious diseases unit                          | 17                       | 15                       | 9          | 4         | 4         | 1          | 1          | 0         | <b>51</b>    |
| Intensive care unit (level III)                   | 40                       | 17                       | 7          | 4         | 5         | 3          | 1          | 2         | <b>79</b>    |
| In-vitro fertilisation unit                       | 2                        | 1                        | 1          | 1         | 2         | 0          | 0          | 0         | <b>7</b>     |
| Maintenance renal dialysis centre                 | 50                       | 64                       | 19         | 15        | 18        | 2          | 1          | 4         | <b>173</b>   |
| Major plastic/reconstructive surgery unit         | 14                       | 13                       | 6          | 5         | 4         | 1          | 1          | 0         | <b>44</b>    |
| Neonatal intensive care unit (level III)          | 15                       | 4                        | 3          | 3         | 2         | 1          | 1          | 1         | <b>30</b>    |
| Neurosurgical unit                                | 13                       | 8                        | 6          | 3         | 3         | 1          | 1          | 0         | <b>35</b>    |
| Nursing home care unit                            | 73                       | 73                       | 7          | 48        | 43        | 10         | 0          | 0         | <b>254</b>   |
| Obstetric/maternity service                       | 75                       | 53                       | 37         | 27        | 28        | 3          | 2          | 5         | <b>230</b>   |
| Oncology unit                                     | 44                       | 38                       | 18         | 15        | 12        | 3          | 2          | 0         | <b>132</b>   |
| Psychiatric unit/ward                             | 44                       | 29                       | 18         | 17        | 8         | 3          | 2          | 2         | <b>123</b>   |
| Refractory epilepsy unit                          | 7                        | 5                        | 1          | 3         | 3         | 0          | 0          | 0         | <b>19</b>    |
| Rehabilitation unit                               | 66                       | 40                       | 16         | 18        | 12        | 3          | 2          | 2         | <b>159</b>   |
| Sleep centre                                      | 12                       | 12                       | 6          | 3         | 5         | 2          | 0          | 0         | <b>40</b>    |
| Specialist paediatric service                     | 43                       | 28                       | 20         | 11        | 9         | 4          | 2          | 2         | <b>119</b>   |
| Transplantation unit—bone marrow                  | 12                       | 7                        | 3          | 3         | 1         | 1          | 1          | 0         | <b>28</b>    |
| Transplantation unit—heart (including heart/lung) | 1                        | 2                        | 1          | 2         | 0         | 0          | 0          | 0         | <b>6</b>     |
| Transplantation unit—liver                        | 2                        | 2                        | 2          | 2         | 1         | 0          | 0          | 0         | <b>9</b>     |
| Transplantation unit—pancreas                     | 1                        | 2                        | 0          | 1         | 0         | 0          | 0          | 0         | <b>4</b>     |
| Transplantation unit—renal                        | 6                        | 6                        | 1          | 3         | 1         | 0          | 0          | 0         | <b>17</b>    |

(a) Excludes psychiatric hospitals.

(b) Data for a small number of hospitals in New South Wales were not available, so the number of services is slightly undercounted.

(c) Data for Victoria may underestimate the number of specialised services as some small multi-campus rural services were reported at a local hospital network level rather than campus level. Consequently, if 2 campuses within the network had a specialised type of service, then only one service was counted.

*Note:* See boxes 4.1 and 4.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 4.19: Number of public hospitals reporting more than 360 patient days for the 20 most common Service Related Groups, by remoteness area of hospital, 2012–13**

| Service Related Group                 | Remoteness area of hospital |          |        | Total      |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|--------|------------|
|                                       | Major cities                | Regional | Remote |            |
| Non subspecialty—medicine             | 113                         | 223      | 25     | <b>362</b> |
| Respiratory medicine                  | 96                          | 189      | 17     | <b>303</b> |
| Cardiology                            | 94                          | 142      | 10     | <b>247</b> |
| Maintenance                           | 71                          | 139      | 30     | <b>241</b> |
| Rehabilitation                        | 107                         | 120      | 3      | <b>230</b> |
| Orthopaedics                          | 105                         | 111      | 8      | <b>225</b> |
| Gastroenterology                      | 100                         | 115      | 9      | <b>224</b> |
| Non subspecialty—surgery              | 104                         | 94       | 9      | <b>208</b> |
| Neurology                             | 97                          | 88       | 6      | <b>192</b> |
| Obstetrics                            | 64                          | 106      | 12     | <b>182</b> |
| Psychiatry—acute                      | 104                         | 54       | 4      | <b>163</b> |
| Renal dialysis                        | 69                          | 81       | 6      | <b>157</b> |
| Diagnostic gastrointestinal endoscopy | 87                          | 65       | 2      | <b>154</b> |
| Urology                               | 90                          | 45       | 1      | <b>136</b> |
| Neurosurgery                          | 89                          | 45       | 1      | <b>135</b> |
| Gynaecology                           | 78                          | 53       | 4      | <b>135</b> |
| Upper gastrointestinal surgery        | 84                          | 47       | 3      | <b>134</b> |
| Colorectal surgery                    | 85                          | 45       | 1      | <b>131</b> |
| Palliative care                       | 67                          | 62       | 1      | <b>130</b> |
| Oncology                              | 77                          | 49       | 2      | <b>128</b> |

*Note:* See boxes 4.1 and 4.2 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information for states and territories is in tables accompanying this report online at <[www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/](http://www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/)>.

## Additional information

More information on service related groups is in Appendix D and by state and territory for both public and private hospitals in Tables D.S1 to D.S5 accompanying this report online at <[www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/](http://www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/)>.

Additional table online:

Table S4.1: The diversity of public hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13

**Table 4.20: Number of public acute and psychiatric hospitals and average available beds, by hospital size, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                    | NSW           | Vic <sup>(a)</sup> | Qld <sup>(b)</sup> | WA           | SA           | Tas          | ACT        | NT         | Total         |
|------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| <b>Hospital size<sup>(c)</sup></b> |               |                    |                    |              |              |              |            |            |               |
| 10 or fewer beds                   | 31            | 39                 | 76                 | 42           | 22           | 14           | 1          | 0          | 225           |
| More than 10 to 50 beds            | 119           | 50                 | 61                 | 28           | 41           | 5            | 0          | 2          | 306           |
| More than 50 to 100 beds           | 26            | 23                 | 8                  | 3            | 8            | 1            | 0          | 1          | 70            |
| More than 100 to 200 beds          | 21            | 18                 | 8                  | 10           | 3            | 1            | 0          | 1          | 62            |
| More than 200 to 500 beds          | 19            | 15                 | 12                 | 5            | 4            | 2            | 1          | 1          | 59            |
| More than 500 beds                 | 9             | 5                  | 5                  | 2            | 2            | 0            | 1          | 0          | 24            |
| <b>Total hospitals</b>             | <b>225</b>    | <b>150</b>         | <b>170</b>         | <b>90</b>    | <b>80</b>    | <b>23</b>    | <b>3</b>   | <b>5</b>   | <b>746</b>    |
| <b>Available beds</b>              |               |                    |                    |              |              |              |            |            |               |
| 10 or fewer beds                   | 103           | 226                | 244                | 233          | 137          | 76           | 10         | 0          | 1,029         |
| More than 10 to 50 beds            | 3,045         | 1,199              | 1,448              | 723          | 1,018        | 82           | 0          | 54         | 7,569         |
| More than 50 to 100 beds           | 1,944         | 1,699              | 621                | 226          | 580          | 89           | 0          | 60         | 5,218         |
| More than 100 to 200 beds          | 3,123         | 2,589              | 1,294              | 1,547        | 444          | 115          | 0          | 183        | 9,295         |
| More than 200 to 500 beds          | 5,964         | 4,663              | 3,880              | 1,590        | 1,280        | 826          | 235        | 367        | 18,804        |
| More than 500 beds                 | 6,003         | 3,073              | 3,786              | 1,330        | 1,464        | 0            | 741        | 0          | 16,396        |
| <b>Total available beds</b>        | <b>20,181</b> | <b>13,449</b>      | <b>11,273</b>      | <b>5,648</b> | <b>4,922</b> | <b>1,188</b> | <b>986</b> | <b>664</b> | <b>58,311</b> |

(a) The count of hospitals in Victoria is a count of the campuses that report data separately to the National Hospital Morbidity Database.

(b) The count of beds in Queensland was based on data as at 30 June 2013.

(c) Size is based on the average number of available beds.

*Note:* See boxes 4.1 and 4.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 4.21: Number of hospitals, average available beds and number of average available beds per 1,000 population resident in area<sup>(a)</sup>, by remoteness area, public acute and psychiatric hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| Remoteness area                                                                     | NSW           | Vic           | Qld           | WA           | SA           | Tas          | ACT        | NT         | Total         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| <b>Hospitals</b>                                                                    |               |               |               |              |              |              |            |            |               |
| Major cities                                                                        | 68            | 51            | 20            | 19           | 15           | ..           | 3          | ..         | 176           |
| <i>Total regional</i>                                                               | <i>139</i>    | <i>96</i>     | <i>79</i>     | <i>37</i>    | <i>44</i>    | <i>19</i>    | <i>0</i>   | <i>1</i>   | <i>415</i>    |
| Inner regional                                                                      | 75            | 58            | 25            | 11           | 14           | 5            | 0          | ..         | 188           |
| Outer regional                                                                      | 64            | 38            | 54            | 26           | 30           | 14           | ..         | 1          | 227           |
| <i>Total remote</i>                                                                 | <i>18</i>     | <i>2</i>      | <i>71</i>     | <i>34</i>    | <i>21</i>    | <i>4</i>     | <i>..</i>  | <i>4</i>   | <i>154</i>    |
| Remote                                                                              | 10            | 2             | 23            | 20           | 12           | 2            | ..         | 2          | 71            |
| Very remote                                                                         | 8             | ..            | 48            | 14           | 9            | 2            | ..         | 2          | 83            |
| <b>Total all remoteness areas</b>                                                   | <b>225</b>    | <b>150</b>    | <b>170</b>    | <b>90</b>    | <b>80</b>    | <b>23</b>    | <b>3</b>   | <b>5</b>   | <b>746</b>    |
| <b>Available beds</b>                                                               |               |               |               |              |              |              |            |            |               |
| Major cities                                                                        | 14,293        | 9,789         | 6,706         | 4,293        | 3,411        | ..           | 986        | ..         | 39,478        |
| <i>Total regional</i>                                                               | <i>5,682</i>  | <i>3,632</i>  | <i>4,019</i>  | <i>936</i>   | <i>1,224</i> | <i>1,166</i> | <i>0</i>   | <i>367</i> | <i>17,026</i> |
| Inner regional                                                                      | 4,161         | 2,893         | 1,960         | 358          | 365          | 852          | 0          | ..         | 10,589        |
| Outer regional                                                                      | 1,521         | 739           | 2,059         | 578          | 859          | 314          | ..         | 367        | 6,437         |
| <i>Total remote</i>                                                                 | <i>207</i>    | <i>11</i>     | <i>548</i>    | <i>419</i>   | <i>285</i>   | <i>22</i>    | <i>..</i>  | <i>297</i> | <i>1,788</i>  |
| Remote                                                                              | 159           | 11            | 245           | 298          | 209          | 12           | ..         | 243        | 1,176         |
| Very remote                                                                         | 48            | ..            | 303           | 121          | 76           | 10           | ..         | 54         | 612           |
| <b>Total all remoteness areas</b>                                                   | <b>20,181</b> | <b>13,449</b> | <b>11,273</b> | <b>5,648</b> | <b>4,922</b> | <b>1,188</b> | <b>986</b> | <b>664</b> | <b>58,311</b> |
| <b>Number of available beds per 1,000 population resident in area<sup>(a)</sup></b> |               |               |               |              |              |              |            |            |               |
| Major cities                                                                        | 2.6           | 2.3           | 2.4           | 2.3          | 2.8          | ..           | 2.6        | ..         | 2.5           |
| <i>Total regional</i>                                                               | <i>3.1</i>    | <i>2.7</i>    | <i>2.5</i>    | <i>2.3</i>   | <i>3.2</i>   | <i>2.3</i>   | <i>0.0</i> | <i>2.8</i> | <i>2.7</i>    |
| Inner regional                                                                      | 2.9           | 2.7           | 2.1           | 1.6          | 2.0          | 2.5          | 0.0        | ..         | 2.5           |
| Outer regional                                                                      | 3.4           | 3.0           | 3.1           | 3.1          | 4.2          | 1.9          | ..         | 2.8        | 3.1           |
| <i>Total remote</i>                                                                 | <i>5.3</i>    | <i>2.2</i>    | <i>4.0</i>    | <i>2.5</i>   | <i>4.7</i>   | <i>2.0</i>   | <i>..</i>  | <i>2.9</i> | <i>3.4</i>    |
| Remote                                                                              | 5.2           | 2.2           | 3.1           | 2.9          | 4.6          | 1.4          | ..         | 4.9        | 3.7           |
| Very remote                                                                         | 5.7           | ..            | 5.2           | 1.9          | 5.1          | 4.2          | ..         | 1.0        | 3.0           |
| <b>Total all remoteness areas</b>                                                   | <b>2.8</b>    | <b>2.4</b>    | <b>2.5</b>    | <b>2.3</b>   | <b>3.0</b>   | <b>2.3</b>   | <b>2.6</b> | <b>2.8</b> | <b>2.6</b>    |

(a) Average available beds per 1,000 population is reported as a crude rate based on the estimated resident population as at 30 June 2012. The remoteness area of hospital was based on the ABS 2011 remoteness area classification.

Note: See boxes 4.1 and 4.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 4.22: Recurrent expenditure (\$'000)<sup>(a)</sup>, public acute and psychiatric hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| <b>Recurrent expenditure category</b>                       | <b>NSW<sup>(b)</sup></b> | <b>Vic<sup>(c)</sup></b> | <b>Qld<sup>(d)</sup></b> | <b>WA</b>        | <b>SA<sup>(e)</sup></b> | <b>Tas<sup>(f)</sup></b> | <b>ACT</b>     | <b>NT</b>      | <b>Total</b>      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| <b>Salary and wages expenditure</b>                         |                          |                          |                          |                  |                         |                          |                |                |                   |
| Salaried medical officers                                   | 1,668,182                | 1,561,799                | 1,360,543                | 888,764          | 495,686                 | 155,234                  | 166,004        | 117,738        | 6,413,950         |
| Registered nurses                                           | n.a.                     | 2,681,822                | 1,814,578                | 1,181,263        | 786,310                 | 218,538                  | 288,507        | 173,454        | 7,144,472         |
| Enrolled nurses                                             | n.a.                     | n.a.                     | 191,771                  | n.a.             | 136,599                 | 22,781                   | 28,277         | 9,120          | 388,550           |
| Student nurses                                              | ..                       | ..                       | 2,702                    | ..               | 2,885                   | ..                       | ..             | ..             | 5,587             |
| <b>Total nurses</b>                                         | <b>3,670,294</b>         | <b>2,681,822</b>         | <b>2,009,077</b>         | <b>1,181,263</b> | <b>925,794</b>          | <b>241,319</b>           | <b>316,784</b> | <b>182,575</b> | <b>11,208,928</b> |
| Other personal care staff                                   | n.a.                     | ..                       | 73,441                   | ..               | 38,810                  | ..                       | 21,066         | 428            | 133,744           |
| Diagnostic and allied health professionals                  | 1,010,027                | 940,770                  | 516,657                  | 298,575          | 170,307                 | 54,678                   | 69,738         | 38,034         | 3,098,786         |
| Administrative and clerical staff <sup>(g)</sup>            | 967,739                  | 689,073                  | 497,982                  | 390,256          | 192,735                 | 72,369                   | 69,553         | 38,562         | 2,918,270         |
| Domestic and other staff                                    | 477,403                  | 564,821                  | 464,130                  | 298,220          | 65,962                  | 61,491                   | 4,241          | 41,332         | 1,977,601         |
| <b>Total salary and wages expenditure</b>                   | <b>7,793,646</b>         | <b>6,438,284</b>         | <b>4,921,831</b>         | <b>3,057,078</b> | <b>1,889,292</b>        | <b>585,092</b>           | <b>647,387</b> | <b>418,669</b> | <b>25,751,279</b> |
| <b>Non-salary expenditure</b>                               |                          |                          |                          |                  |                         |                          |                |                |                   |
| Payments to visiting medical officers                       | 642,225                  | 154,234                  | 85,138                   | 145,222          | 118,912                 | 947                      | 45,078         | 9,837          | 1,201,593         |
| Superannuation payments                                     | 693,466                  | 553,747                  | 424,397                  | 257,212          | 167,565                 | 75,561                   | 63,106         | 0              | 2,235,055         |
| Drug supplies                                               | 591,626                  | 516,112                  | 336,404                  | 226,791          | 153,026                 | 49,569                   | 22,412         | 24,142         | 1,920,082         |
| Medical and surgical supplies                               | 1,436,646                | 856,000                  | 815,324                  | 300,485          | 216,149                 | 100,729                  | 73,870         | 46,900         | 3,846,102         |
| Food supplies                                               | 282,318                  | 99,829                   | 47,653                   | 31,792           | 22,455                  | 9,643                    | 6,144          | 5,162          | 504,998           |
| Domestic services                                           | 330,227                  | 244,430                  | 175,337                  | 132,421          | 66,595                  | 21,440                   | 32,124         | 17,260         | 1,019,832         |
| Repairs and maintenance                                     | 322,639                  | 192,633                  | 158,763                  | 174,683          | 56,954                  | 10,843                   | 9,942          | 16,612         | 943,069           |
| Patient transport                                           | 117,849                  | 61,725                   | 56,031                   | 41,792           | 24,140                  | 9,782                    | 1,496          | 25,061         | 337,875           |
| Administrative expenses                                     | 901,094                  | 656,538                  | 627,217                  | 206,823          | 90,343                  | 42,052                   | 65,213         | 19,684         | 2,608,965         |
| Interest payments                                           | 47,458                   | 0                        | 0                        | 2,153            | 1,849                   | 0                        | 154            | 0              | 51,614            |
| Depreciation                                                | 505,716                  | 638,227                  | 275,034                  | 151,865          | 127,959                 | 21,207                   | 26,920         | 4,497          | 1,751,425         |
| Other recurrent expenditure                                 | 294,965                  | 319,533                  | 8,290                    | 213,706          | 386,412                 | 51,363                   | 21,138         | 24,726         | 1,320,134         |
| <b>Total non-salary expenditure, excluding depreciation</b> | <b>5,660,516</b>         | <b>3,654,781</b>         | <b>2,734,554</b>         | <b>1,733,080</b> | <b>1,304,399</b>        | <b>371,929</b>           | <b>340,677</b> | <b>189,384</b> | <b>15,989,320</b> |
| <b>Total non-salary expenditure, including depreciation</b> | <b>6,166,232</b>         | <b>4,293,008</b>         | <b>3,009,588</b>         | <b>1,884,945</b> | <b>1,432,358</b>        | <b>393,136</b>           | <b>367,597</b> | <b>193,882</b> | <b>17,740,745</b> |

(continued)

**Table 4.22 (continued): Recurrent expenditure (\$'000)<sup>(a)</sup>, public acute and psychiatric hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| Recurrent expenditure category                   | NSW <sup>(b)</sup> | Vic <sup>(c)</sup> | Qld <sup>(d)</sup> | WA               | SA <sup>(e)</sup> | Tas <sup>(f)</sup> | ACT              | NT             | Total             |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| <b>Total expenditure, excluding depreciation</b> | <b>13,454,162</b>  | <b>10,093,066</b>  | <b>7,656,385</b>   | <b>4,790,158</b> | <b>3,193,691</b>  | <b>957,020</b>     | <b>988,064</b>   | <b>608,054</b> | <b>41,740,600</b> |
| Public acute hospitals                           | 13,208,113         | 10,044,020         | 7,533,564          | 4,709,218        | 3,116,873         | 935,993            | 988,064          | 608,054        | 41,143,899        |
| Psychiatric hospitals                            | 246,049            | 49,046             | 122,820            | 80,941           | 76,818            | 21,027             | ..               | ..             | 596,701           |
| <b>Total expenditure, including depreciation</b> | <b>13,959,878</b>  | <b>10,731,292</b>  | <b>7,931,419</b>   | <b>4,942,023</b> | <b>3,321,651</b>  | <b>978,227</b>     | <b>1,014,984</b> | <b>612,551</b> | <b>43,492,024</b> |
| Public acute hospitals                           | 13,705,490         | 10,680,435         | 7,804,621          | 4,858,757        | 3,240,327         | 957,195            | 1,014,984        | 612,551        | 42,874,360        |
| Psychiatric hospitals                            | 254,388            | 50,857             | 126,798            | 83,266           | 81,324            | 21,032             | ..               | ..             | 617,665           |

(a) Recurrent expenditure does not include the purchase of public hospital services at the state or local hospital network level from privately owned and/or operated hospitals.

(b) New South Wales hospital expenditure recorded against special purposes and trust funds is not included. Professional Indemnity expense was included for the first time in 2011–12. *Other personal care staff* are included in *Diagnostic and allied health professionals* and *Domestic and other staff*. New South Wales was unable to provide information for each nurse category, although data on *Total nurses* were provided.

(c) Victorian *Other personal care staff* are included in *Domestic and other staff*. Victoria was unable to provide information for each nurse category, although data on *Total nurses* were provided.

(d) For 2012–13, expenditure data were missing for 3 public hospitals in Queensland, which reported about \$560 million of recurrent expenditure in 2011–12. Pathology services were purchased from a state-wide pathology service rather than being provided by hospital employees in Queensland.

(e) South Australian *Interest payments* are included in *Administrative expenses*. Termination payments are included in *Other recurrent expenditure*. In 2011–12, there were significant once-off revaluations of other employee related expenses. In time series data this may result in 2012–13 appearing to have an artificial reduction in expenditure, including for salaries and wages expenditure components.

(f) For Tasmania, data for *Other personal care staff* were not supplied separately and are included in other staffing categories. Data for 2 small hospitals in Tasmania were not supplied.

(g) *Administrative and clerical staff* may include staff working to support clinicians, such as ward clerks.

*Note:* See boxes 4.1 and 4.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 4.23: Average full-time equivalent staff<sup>(a)</sup> and average salaries, public acute and psychiatric hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                                  | NSW <sup>(b)</sup> | Vic <sup>(c)</sup> | Qld <sup>(d)</sup> | WA             | SA            | Tas <sup>(e)</sup> | ACT            | NT             | Total          |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Full-time equivalent staff numbers</b>        |                    |                    |                    |                |               |                    |                |                |                |
| Salaried medical officers                        | 10,598             | 8,658              | 7,237              | 3,663          | 2,895         | 771                | 810            | 491            | 35,124         |
| Total nurses                                     | 40,999             | 31,575             | 21,729             | 12,362         | 10,862        | 2,634              | 2,733          | 1,689          | 124,584        |
| Other personal care staff                        | n.a                | 0                  | 1,066              | 0              | 855           | n.a                | 286            | 6              | 2,213          |
| Diagnostic and allied health professionals       | 12,112             | 14,424             | 5,103              | 3,231          | 1,824         | 610                | 1,053          | 396            | 38,753         |
| Administrative and clerical staff <sup>(f)</sup> | 12,803             | 12,124             | 6,959              | 5,278          | 3,267         | 1,120              | 792            | 496            | 42,839         |
| Domestic and other staff                         | 8,344              | 7,117              | 7,745              | 4,629          | 1,565         | 1,089              | 67             | 634            | 31,190         |
| <b>Total staff</b>                               | <b>84,855</b>      | <b>73,897</b>      | <b>49,840</b>      | <b>29,164</b>  | <b>21,268</b> | <b>6,225</b>       | <b>5,742</b>   | <b>3,712</b>   | <b>274,703</b> |
| <b>Average salaries (\$)</b>                     |                    |                    |                    |                |               |                    |                |                |                |
| Salaried medical officers                        | 157,404            | 180,389            | 187,986            | 242,613        | 171,209       | 201,237            | 205,067        | 239,753        | 182,609        |
| Total nurses                                     | 89,522             | 84,936             | 92,460             | 95,553         | 85,229        | 91,611             | 115,894        | 108,084        | 89,971         |
| Other personal care staff                        | n.a                | .                  | 68,872             | .              | 45,402        | n.a                | 73,654         | n.p.           | 60,441         |
| Diagnostic and allied health professionals       | 83,390             | 65,225             | 101,248            | 92,400         | 93,360        | 89,570             | 66,225         | 96,069         | 79,961         |
| Administrative and clerical staff <sup>(f)</sup> | 75,589             | 56,836             | 71,561             | 73,945         | 59,002        | 64,595             | 87,770         | 77,681         | 68,122         |
| Domestic and other staff                         | 57,217             | 79,363             | 59,927             | 64,418         | 42,154        | 56,485             | 63,117         | 65,172         | 63,405         |
| <b>Average salary (\$)</b>                       | <b>91,907</b>      | <b>87,125</b>      | <b>98,753</b>      | <b>104,823</b> | <b>88,839</b> | <b>94,005</b>      | <b>112,754</b> | <b>112,774</b> | <b>93,762</b>  |

(a) Where average full-time equivalent staff numbers were not available, staff numbers at 30 June 2012 were used. Staff contracted to provide products (rather than labour) are not included.

(b) In New South Wales, *Other personal care staff* were included in *Diagnostic and allied health professionals*, *Domestic and other staff* and *Total nurses*.

(c) For Victoria, *Other personal care staff* were included in *Domestic and other staff*.

(d) For 2012–13, staffing data were missing for 3 public hospitals in Queensland, which reported about 3,800 full-time equivalent staff in 2011–12. Queensland pathology services provided by staff employed by the state pathology service were not reported here.

(e) For Tasmania, data for *Other personal care staff* were not supplied separately and are included in other staffing categories. Data for 2 small hospitals in Tasmania were not supplied.

(f) *Administrative and clerical staff* may include staff working to support clinicians, such as ward clerks.

*Note:* See boxes 4.1 and 4.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.



## 5 Non-admitted patient care

This chapter presents information on non-admitted patient care in Australia's public hospitals.

Non-admitted patient care includes both emergency and non-emergency services for non-admitted patients.

Emergency departments provide care for patients who may have an urgent need for medical, surgical or other care. Emergency occasions of service for non-admitted patients include visits to formal emergency departments in larger hospitals and those to smaller hospitals with other arrangements for providing emergency services.

Non-emergency non-admitted patient care includes outpatient clinic care and other non-admitted patient care.

Outpatient clinic care includes consultations with specialists to determine the most appropriate treatment for a patient's condition. This can result, for example, in the patient being placed on a waiting list for surgery.

Other non-admitted patient care includes the dispensing of medication, and provision of diagnostic procedures, including pathology, X-rays and ultrasounds – often provided in association with admitted patient care or outpatient clinic services. District and community nursing services, and mental health and alcohol and drug services are also delivered from hospitals for non-admitted patients.

The data are counts of occasions of service, not persons. A person may have multiple occasions of service, at a variety of outpatient clinics or departments reported in a reference year.

### What data are reported?

This chapter presents non-admitted patient occasions of service, by type of non-admitted patient service, public hospital peer group and by state and territory.

### Emergency non-admitted patient care

#### Emergency occasions of service

Data on **emergency occasions of service** were sourced from the National Public Hospital Establishments Database (NPHEd) which is based on the Public hospital establishments NMDS, defined in the *National health data dictionary 2012, version 16* (AIHW 2012b).

The NPHEd has essentially full coverage of public hospitals (see Appendix A). For the purposes of this report, emergency occasions of service refer to those occasions of service reported with a type of non-admitted patient care of *Emergency services*.

The emergency occasions of service data sourced from the NPHEd are provided as aggregate data only. Therefore, it is not possible to describe who used these services, how urgently they required care, how long they waited for treatment or the length of time to completion of the occasion of service.

Data on emergency occasions of service reported to the NPHED are in tables 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.6.

## **Emergency department presentations**

Data for **emergency department presentations** provided at formal emergency departments between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013 were sourced from the National Non-admitted Patient Emergency Department Care Database (NNAPEDCD) that is based on the Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS, as defined in the *National health data dictionary 2012, version 16* (AIHW 2012b).

The emergency department presentations data are provided as episode-level data. The NNAPEDCD data include information on the sex, age and Indigenous status of the patient, their triage category, how long they waited for treatment and the length of time to completion of the presentation.

Timely provision of the 2012–13 emergency department presentations data by state and territory health authorities allowed detailed demographic and waiting times information on emergency department care for larger hospitals to be reported in *Australian hospital statistics 2012–13: emergency department care* (AIHW 2013c) in October 2013.

Counts of emergency department presentations are presented in Table 5.2 to demonstrate the proportion of emergency occasions of service for which detailed information was available. In 2012–13, the NNAPEDCD data provided detailed information for 85% of all public hospital emergency occasions of service, an increase from 80% in 2008–09 (Table 5.2).

Data for emergency department presentations provided at formal emergency departments between 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2013 were sourced from the National Emergency Access Target Database (NEATD) that is based on the Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS, as defined in the *National health data dictionary 2012, version 16* (AIHW 2012b).

## **Non-emergency non-admitted patient care**

### **Non-admitted patient occasions of service**

Data on **non-admitted occasions of service** were sourced from the National Public Hospital Establishments Database (NPHED) which is based on the Public hospital establishments NMDS, defined in the *National health data dictionary 2012, version 16* (AIHW 2012b).

The non-admitted patient occasions of service data sourced from the NPHED are provided as aggregate data only. Therefore, it is not possible to describe who used these services, how urgently they required care, how long they waited for treatment, what treatment was provided or the length of time to completion of the occasion of service.

The non-admitted patient occasions of service reported to the NPHED includes data on non-admitted patient occasions of service for 14 non-emergency non-admitted patient services. These services can be categorised as:

- outpatient-related occasions of service
- other non-admitted patient occasions of service.

## Outpatient clinic services

Clinic-level summary data for **outpatient clinic occasions of service** in public hospitals are sourced from the National Outpatient Care Database (NOCD) which is based on the Outpatient care NMDS, defined in the *National health data dictionary 2012, version 16* (AIHW 2012b).

The outpatient care data sourced from the NOCD are provided as aggregate data only. Therefore, it is not possible to describe who used these services, how urgently they required care, how long they waited for treatment, what treatment was provided or the length of time to completion of the occasion of service.

These data were provided as counts of individual occasions of service and group sessions for 24 types of outpatient clinics.

The scope for the Outpatient care NMDS for 2012–13 was services provided to non-admitted, non-emergency patients registered for care in outpatient clinics of public hospitals that were classified as either peer group A (*Principal referral and specialist women's and children's hospitals*) or B (*Large hospitals*) in *Australian hospital statistics 2011–12* (AIHW 2013a). Some states and territories also provided outpatient care data for public hospitals that were classified to other peer groups. Western Australia provided data for 7 other hospitals, and South Australia and Tasmania each provided data for 1 other hospital.

The categories of services included in *Outpatient-related occasions of service* (from the NPHED) can be considered to be equivalent to the total outpatient clinic categories (from the NOCD).

In 2012–13, the proportion of individual outpatient-related occasions of service and group sessions for which outpatient clinic services data were available was about 80% for individual occasions of service and 73% for group sessions for all public hospitals (see Table 5.8).

### Box 5.1: What are the limitations of the data?

#### Emergency occasions of service

- South Australia's NPHED occasions of service data excluded patients who were dead on arrival (no resuscitation attempted) and patients in country hospitals who did not wait for treatment.

#### Emergency department presentations

- The NNAPEDCD provides information about presentations in public hospital emergency departments for hospitals that were mostly classified in peer groups A and B (from *Australian hospital statistics 2011–12*, AIHW 2013a) and mostly located within *Major cities* and *Inner regional* areas.
- The data are not necessarily representative of the hospitals not included in the NNAPEDCD. Hospitals not included generally do not have emergency departments that are equivalent to those in peer groups A and B.
- Statistics on emergency department presentations for non-admitted patients may be affected by variations in reporting practices across states and territories.
- From 2009–10, the data for the Albury Base Hospital have been included in statistics for Victoria, whereas they were formerly reported by, and included in statistics for, New South Wales.

(continued)

### **Box 5.1 (continued): What are the limitations of the data?**

#### **Non-emergency non-admitted patient occasions of service**

- States and territories may differ in the extent to which outpatient services are provided in non-hospital settings (such as community health services) that are beyond the scope of the NPHED.
- There is considerable variation among states and territories and between reporting years in the way in which non-admitted patient occasions of service data are collected for the NPHED. Differing admission practices between the states and territories also lead to variation among jurisdictions in the services reported.
- For 2009–10 and 2011–12, Tasmania were not able to provide outpatient care data for one hospital, which reported about 180,000 occasions of service to the NPHED in 2010–11.
- From 2010–11, Tasmania was able to exclude counts of outpatient occasions of service provided at public hospitals by private specialists. In previous years, these were included in Tasmania's public hospital counts.

#### **Outpatient clinic services**

- Data from the NOCD should be interpreted with caution as:
  - they may not be representative of outpatient clinic activity for hospitals that were not required to provide data for the NOCD
  - the comparability of the data may be influenced by variation in admission practices, the type of facility providing these services and in the allocation of outpatient services to the 24 clinic types among the states and territories.
- For some jurisdictions, the reporting of outpatient clinic care data to the NOCD varied over the period 2010–11 to 2012–13, in order to align with the reporting requirements for Activity Based Funding. These changes included: the discontinuation of reporting for some activity; the commencement of reporting for some activity; and the re-categorisation of some clinics according to the Tier 2 clinics structure (IHPA 2011). Therefore, these data may not be comparable with data reported for previous years.
- The estimated proportions of individual occasions of service reported to the NOCD for 2012–13 varied significantly by state and territory, ranging from 77% for New South Wales and Queensland to 100% for the Australian Capital Territory. For group occasions of service, the estimated proportion reported to the NOCD for 2012–13 ranged from 21% in the Australian Capital Territory to 100% for the Northern Territory.
- For 2011–12, data supply issues in Victoria resulted in significant under-reporting of non-admitted occasions of service for *Dental*, *Mental health*, and *Community health*. Consequently, the 2011–12 data for Victoria are not directly comparable with other years presented in time series.
- For Western Australia, counts of outpatient group sessions reported to the NOCD reflect the number of individuals who attended group sessions. The data for Western Australian group sessions are therefore not directly comparable with the data provided for group sessions presented for other states and territories.
- For 2009–10 and 2011–12, Tasmania were not able to provide outpatient care data for one hospital, which reported about 134,000 occasions of service to the NOCD in 2010–11.

See Appendix A for more information.

### Box 5.2: What methods were used?

- The proportion of emergency occasions of service for which NNAPEDCD patient-level data was available was calculated as the number of emergency department presentations reported to the NNAPEDCD divided by the number of emergency occasions of service, from the NPHED, as a percentage. Where the number of presentations reported to the NNAPEDCD was greater than the number of emergency occasions of service reported to the NPHED, the proportion is presented as 100%.
- The proportion of outpatient occasions of service for which NOCD clinic-level data was available was calculated as the number of outpatient occasions of service reported to the NOCD divided by the number of outpatient-related occasions of service (as defined above), from the NPHED, as a percentage. Where the number of occasions of service reported to the NOCD was greater than the number of outpatient-related occasions of service reported to the NPHED, the proportion is presented as 100%.

## How has activity changed over time?

### Non-admitted patient occasions of service

Table 5.1 shows the number of individual occasions of service for non-admitted patient care reported to the NPHED for public acute hospitals between 2008–09 and 2012–13.

Between 2008–09 and 2012–13, the number of emergency occasions of service reported to the NPHED increased steadily from 7.2 million to 7.9 million, an average annual increase of 2.5%.

During that period, outpatient-related care delivered in specialist outpatient clinics increased by an average of 2.3% per year and *Community health, Outreach* and *District nursing* increased by 9.0% per year (Table 5.1). However, there were marked variations across the categories of non-admitted patient services that may reflect changes in activity or reporting practices across states and territories. For example, the large increase for *Dialysis* occasions of service between 2011–12 and 2012–13 was largely caused by the reporting of dialysis training activity for Victoria for the first time.

|                                                      | 2008–09       | 2009–10       | 2010–11       | 2011–12       | 2012–13       | Change (%)            |               |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                                                      |               |               |               |               |               | Average since 2008–09 | Since 2011–12 |
|                                                      |               |               | (‘000)        |               |               |                       |               |
| Emergency                                            | 7,172         | 7,390         | 7,651         | 7,809         | 7,924         | 2.5                   | 1.5           |
| Outpatient-related                                   |               |               |               |               |               |                       |               |
| Allied health                                        | 3,752         | 3,848         | 3,908         | 4,060         | 3,742         | –0.1                  | –7.8          |
| Dental                                               | 775           | 864           | 886           | 452           | 917           | 4.3                   | 102.9         |
| Dialysis                                             | 26            | 50            | 23            | 19            | 156           | 57.0                  | 699.1         |
| Endoscopy and related procedures                     | 58            | 55            | 63            | 60            | 67            | 3.9                   | 13.1          |
| Other medical/surgical/obstetric                     | 11,906        | 11,972        | 11,801        | 12,277        | 13,205        | 2.6                   | 7.6           |
| <i>Total outpatient-related occasions of service</i> | <i>16,516</i> | <i>16,789</i> | <i>16,682</i> | <i>16,868</i> | <i>18,088</i> | <i>2.3</i>            | <i>7.2</i>    |
| Pharmacy, Pathology, Radiology and organ imaging     | 17,066        | 16,815        | 17,197        | 19,350        | 17,678        | 0.9                   | –8.6          |
| Mental health and Alcohol and drug services          | 3,042         | 3,180         | 3,385         | 2,798         | 2,846         | –1.6                  | 1.7           |
| Community health, Outreach and District nursing      | 5,365         | 5,296         | 5,261         | 6,300         | 7,579         | 9.0                   | 20.3          |
| <b>Total occasions of service</b>                    | <b>49,161</b> | <b>49,471</b> | <b>50,177</b> | <b>53,125</b> | <b>54,115</b> | <b>2.4</b>            | <b>1.9</b>    |

*Note:* See boxes 5.1 and 5.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## Emergency occasions of service

The increase in the number of hospitals reporting emergency occasions of service between 2011–12 and 2012–13 was mostly due to changed reporting arrangements in Victoria, with an increase in reporting by individual hospitals, that were previously included in local hospital network-level reporting.

**Table 5.2: Emergency department presentations and emergency occasions of service, public hospitals, 2008–09 to 2012–13**

|                                                             | 2008–09   | 2009–10   | 2010–11   | 2011–12   | 2012–13   | Change (%)            |               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                                                             |           |           |           |           |           | Average since 2008–09 | Since 2011–12 |
| Hospitals reporting emergency occasions of service to NPHED | 607       | 609       | 611       | 609       | 621       | 0.6                   | 2.0           |
| Emergency occasions of service (NPHED)                      | 7,171,667 | 7,390,459 | 7,651,233 | 7,809,335 | 7,924,241 | 2.5                   | 1.5           |
| Hospitals reporting to NNAPEDCD                             | 182       | 183       | 185       | 203       | 204       | 2.9                   | 0.5           |
| Presentations (NNAPEDCD)                                    | 5,702,039 | 5,941,498 | 6,165,813 | 6,547,342 | 6,712,357 | 4.2                   | 2.5           |
| <b>Estimated proportion (%)</b>                             | <b>80</b> | <b>80</b> | <b>81</b> | <b>84</b> | <b>85</b> | <b>1.6</b>            | <b>1.0</b>    |

*Note:* See boxes 5.1 and 5.2 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information for public hospital peer groups is in Table 5.8 at the end of this chapter.

*Source:* National Public Hospital Establishments Database (NPHED) and the National Non-admitted Patient Emergency Department Care Database (NNAPEDCD).

## States and territories

Between 2008–09 and 2012–13, the number emergency occasions of service reported to NPHED increased by an average of 2.5% per year (Table 5.3). Over that period, Western Australia reported the highest average annual increase of 5.4%.

Between 2011–12 and 2012–13, Tasmania reported the highest increase in emergency occasions of service of 3.2%.

For Victoria, the increase in the number of hospitals reporting emergency occasions of service between 2011–12 and 2012–13 was not accompanied by a marked increase in emergency occasions of service. The increase in the number of reporting hospitals was mostly due to changed reporting practices for 9 local hospital networks, with these data reported at an individual hospital level in 2012–13, rather than at the network level as had occurred in previous years. There were also 7 small hospitals in Victoria that commenced reporting emergency occasions of service in 2012–13.

Similar information about the numbers of emergency department presentations reported to the NNAPEDCD by state and territory for 2008–09 to 2012–13 and detailed information for the 6.7 million emergency department presentations in 2012–13 was reported in *Australian hospital statistics 2012–13: emergency department care* (AIHW 2013c).

**Table 5.3: Emergency occasions of services, public hospitals, state and territories, 2008–09 to 2012–13**

|                                        | 2008–09          | 2009–10          | 2010–11          | 2011–12          | 2012–13          | Change (%)            |               |
|----------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                                        |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  | Average since 2008–09 | Since 2011–12 |
| <b>New South Wales<sup>(a)</sup></b>   |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                       |               |
| Occasions of service                   | 2,416,731        | 2,442,982        | 2,484,261        | 2,537,681        | 2,580,878        | 1.7                   | 1.7           |
| Number of hospitals                    | 187              | 187              | 189              | 186              | 185              |                       |               |
| <b>Victoria<sup>(a)(b)</sup></b>       |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                       |               |
| Occasions of service                   | 1,537,510        | 1,591,819        | 1,654,943        | 1,659,550        | 1,658,736        | 1.9                   | <–0.1         |
| Number of hospitals                    | 90               | 88               | 90               | 90               | 107              |                       |               |
| <b>Queensland</b>                      |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                       |               |
| Occasions of service                   | 1,525,407        | 1,578,490        | 1,664,170        | 1,711,873        | 1,746,928        | 3.4                   | 2.0           |
| Number of hospitals                    | 154              | 156              | 157              | 156              | 156              |                       |               |
| <b>Western Australia<sup>(c)</sup></b> |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                       |               |
| Occasions of service                   | 783,294          | 823,402          | 877,671          | 944,759          | 966,901          | 5.4                   | 2.3           |
| Number of hospitals                    | 80               | 81               | 80               | 81               | 80               |                       |               |
| <b>South Australia<sup>(d)</sup></b>   |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                       |               |
| Occasions of service                   | 531,575          | 554,906          | 562,293          | 537,115          | 546,588          | 0.7                   | 1.8           |
| Number of hospitals                    | 73               | 73               | 73               | 73               | 70               |                       |               |
| <b>Tasmania</b>                        |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                       |               |
| Occasions of service                   | 146,085          | 159,472          | 154,220          | 154,731          | 159,701          | 2.3                   | 3.2           |
| Number of hospitals                    | 16               | 17               | 15               | 16               | 16               |                       |               |
| <b>Australian Capital Territory</b>    |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                       |               |
| Occasions of service                   | 101,898          | 106,806          | 112,460          | 118,767          | 118,975          | 3.9                   | 0.2           |
| Number of hospitals                    | 2                | 2                | 2                | 2                | 2                |                       |               |
| <b>Northern Territory</b>              |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                       |               |
| Occasions of service                   | 129,167          | 132,582          | 141,215          | 144,859          | 145,534          | 3.0                   | 0.5           |
| Number of hospitals                    | 5                | 5                | 5                | 5                | 5                |                       |               |
| <b>Total</b>                           |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                       |               |
| <b>Occasions of service</b>            | <b>7,171,667</b> | <b>7,390,459</b> | <b>7,651,233</b> | <b>7,809,335</b> | <b>7,924,241</b> | <b>2.5</b>            | <b>1.5</b>    |
| <b>Number of hospitals</b>             | <b>607</b>       | <b>609</b>       | <b>611</b>       | <b>609</b>       | <b>621</b>       |                       |               |

- (a) From 2009–10, the data for the Albury Base Hospital have been included in statistics for Victoria, whereas they were formerly reported by, and included in statistics for, New South Wales.
- (b) For Victoria, the increase in the number of reporting hospitals was mostly due to changed reporting practices for 9 local hospital networks, with these data reported at an individual hospital level in 2012–13, rather than at the network level as had occurred in previous years. There were also 7 small hospitals in Victoria that commenced reporting emergency occasions of service in 2012–13.
- (c) For Western Australia, the decrease in the number of reporting hospitals occurred because in Western Australia the scope for NPHEd reporting is restricted to hospitals that report admitted patient activity. In 2012–13, one hospital that provided emergency services did not record any admitted patient activity, so was not included in Western Australia's NPHEd submission.
- (d) For South Australia, the decrease in emergency occasions of service between 2010–11 and 2011–12 was due to changes in the categorisation of emergency department services at 2 hospitals. From 1 July 2011, the units at the 2 hospitals were no longer categorised as emergency departments.

*Note:* See boxes 5.1 and 5.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

*Source:* National Public Hospital Establishments Database.

## Outpatient and other non-admitted occasions of service

Between 2008–09 and 2012–13, the number of outpatient clinic services reported to the NOCD increased by 3.4% per year, from 13.0 million to 14.9 million, and the proportion of outpatient-related occasions of service for which clinic-level data were available increased from 78% to 80% (Table 5.4).



**Table 5.4: Outpatient clinic services and outpatient-related occasions of service, public hospitals, 2008–09 to 2012–13**

|                                                                      | 2008–09    | 2009–10    | 2010–11    | 2011–12    | 2012–13    | Change (%)            |               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                                                                      |            |            |            |            |            | Average since 2008–09 | Since 2011–12 |
| Hospitals reporting outpatient-related occasions of service to NPHED | 137        | 135        | 141        | 137        | 138        | 0.2                   | 0.7           |
| Outpatient-related occasions of service (NPHED)                      | 16,516,005 | 16,789,487 | 16,682,006 | 16,867,591 | 18,087,570 | 2.3                   | 7.2           |
| Hospitals reporting to NOCD                                          | 113        | 110        | 114        | 116        | 117        | 0.9                   | 0.9           |
| Outpatient clinic services                                           | 13,035,982 | 13,034,892 | 13,316,298 | 13,814,027 | 14,892,699 | 3.4                   | 7.8           |
| <b>Estimated proportion (%)</b>                                      | <b>78</b>  | <b>78</b>  | <b>79</b>  | <b>78</b>  | <b>80</b>  | <b>0.4</b>            | <b>2.0</b>    |

*Note:* See boxes 5.1 and 5.2 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information for public hospital peer groups is in Table 5.8 at the end of this chapter.

*Source:* National Public Hospital Establishments Database (NPHED) and the National Outpatient Care Database (NOCD).

## States and territories

Between 2008–09 and 2012–13, individual *Outpatient* occasions of service reported to the NPHED increased by an average of 2.3% per year, with the Australian Capital Territory reporting the highest increase of 13% per year (Table 5.5). From 2011–12, outpatient care and public hospital establishments data reported for the Australian Capital Territory differ from previous years due to the inclusion of public hospital non-admitted/outpatient services delivered in the community.

Between 2011–12 and 2012–13, there were apparent variations in the activity that some jurisdictions reported. For the Australian Capital Territory there were notable increases in *Pharmacy, Pathology, Radiology and organ imaging*, and *Allied health*. Western Australia had a notable decrease in *Allied health* (see Table 5.6 and *Australian hospital statistics 2011–12*, AIHW 2013a).

For 2011–12, Victoria was not able to report all *Dental, Mental health* and *Community health* occasions of service. For 2012–13, Victoria was able to report these data, resulting in a notable increase in the numbers of occasions of service reported between 2011–12 and 2012–13.

## How much activity was there in 2012–13?

### Emergency occasions of service

In 2012–13, public hospitals provided more than 7.9 million emergency occasions of service (Table 5.6).

Overall, emergency occasions of service accounted for about 15% of all non-admitted occasions of service reported. However, there was some variation in this proportion among states and territories. The Australian Capital Territory had the lowest proportion of non-admitted occasions of service that were for emergency services and South Australia had the highest proportion (6% and 33%, respectively). This reflects variation in the types of non-admitted services provided by hospitals.

**Table 5.5: Individual non-admitted patient occasions of service for outpatient and other services, public acute hospitals, states and territories, 2008–09 to 2012–13<sup>(a)</sup>**

|                                         | 2008–09           | 2009–10           | 2010–11           | 2011–12           | 2012–13           | Change (%)            |               |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                                         |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   | Average since 2008–09 | Since 2011–12 |
| <b>New South Wales<sup>(b)</sup></b>    |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                       |               |
| Outpatient-related                      | 6,549,516         | 6,450,592         | 6,022,466         | 6,428,747         | 6,962,125         | 1.5                   | 8.3           |
| Other non-admitted <sup>(c)</sup>       | 13,137,117        | 12,523,328        | 12,827,589        | 15,095,464        | 14,869,309        | 3.1                   | –1.5          |
| <i>Total</i>                            | <i>19,686,633</i> | <i>18,973,920</i> | <i>18,850,055</i> | <i>21,524,211</i> | <i>21,831,434</i> | <i>2.6</i>            | <i>1.4</i>    |
| <b>Victoria<sup>(b)(d)</sup></b>        |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                       |               |
| Outpatient-related                      | 2,939,829         | 3,094,084         | 3,334,130         | 2,962,630         | 3,643,485         | 5.5                   | 23.0          |
| Other non-admitted <sup>(c)</sup>       | 3,081,479         | 3,246,556         | 3,393,818         | 2,439,196         | 2,622,975         | –3.9                  | 7.5           |
| <i>Total</i>                            | <i>6,021,308</i>  | <i>6,340,640</i>  | <i>6,727,948</i>  | <i>5,401,826</i>  | <i>6,266,460</i>  | <i>1.0</i>            | <i>16.0</i>   |
| <b>Queensland</b>                       |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                       |               |
| Outpatient-related                      | 3,190,117         | 3,344,905         | 3,259,578         | 3,329,408         | 3,288,162         | 0.8                   | –1.2          |
| Other non-admitted <sup>(c)</sup>       | 6,023,488         | 6,155,172         | 6,267,074         | 6,147,142         | 5,799,561         | –0.9                  | –5.7          |
| <i>Total</i>                            | <i>9,213,605</i>  | <i>9,500,077</i>  | <i>9,526,652</i>  | <i>9,476,550</i>  | <i>9,087,723</i>  | <i>–0.3</i>           | <i>–4.1</i>   |
| <b>Western Australia</b>                |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                       |               |
| Outpatient-related                      | 1,775,362         | 1,902,060         | 2,021,564         | 2,243,413         | 1,975,763         | 2.7                   | –11.9         |
| Other non-admitted <sup>(c)</sup>       | 1,969,478         | 2,195,464         | 2,458,701         | 2,706,973         | 2,880,566         | 10.0                  | 6.4           |
| <i>Total</i>                            | <i>3,744,840</i>  | <i>4,097,524</i>  | <i>4,480,265</i>  | <i>4,950,386</i>  | <i>4,856,329</i>  | <i>6.7</i>            | <i>–1.9</i>   |
| <b>South Australia</b>                  |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                       |               |
| Outpatient-related                      | 1,130,999         | 1,136,319         | 1,142,192         | 1,172,450         | 1,167,791         | 0.8                   | –0.4          |
| Other non-admitted <sup>(c)</sup>       | 444,769           | 482,368           | 458,092           | 489,635           | 453,621           | 0.5                   | –7.4          |
| <i>Total</i>                            | <i>1,575,768</i>  | <i>1,618,687</i>  | <i>1,600,284</i>  | <i>1,662,085</i>  | <i>1,621,412</i>  | <i>0.7</i>            | <i>–2.4</i>   |
| <b>Tasmania<sup>(e)</sup></b>           |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                       |               |
| Outpatient-related                      | 454,806           | 334,946           | 358,322           | 326,013           | 304,860           | –9.5                  | –6.5          |
| Other non-admitted <sup>(c)</sup>       | 453,849           | 295,280           | 30,335            | 23,308            | 17,685            | –55.6                 | –24.1         |
| <i>Total</i>                            | <i>908,655</i>    | <i>630,226</i>    | <i>388,657</i>    | <i>349,321</i>    | <i>322,545</i>    | <i>–22.8</i>          | <i>–7.7</i>   |
| <b>Australian Capital Territory</b>     |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                       |               |
| Outpatient-related                      | 343,383           | 379,974           | 396,566           | 229,768           | 550,332           | 12.5                  | 139.5         |
| Other non-admitted <sup>(c)</sup>       | 158,941           | 169,808           | 170,225           | 1,294,070         | 1,200,511         | 65.8                  | –7.2          |
| <i>Total</i>                            | <i>502,324</i>    | <i>549,782</i>    | <i>566,791</i>    | <i>1,523,838</i>  | <i>1,750,843</i>  | <i>36.6</i>           | <i>14.9</i>   |
| <b>Northern Territory</b>               |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                       |               |
| Outpatient-related                      | 131,993           | 146,607           | 147,188           | 175,162           | 195,052           | 10.3                  | 11.4          |
| Other non-admitted <sup>(c)</sup>       | 203,994           | 223,292           | 237,874           | 251,847           | 259,001           | 6.2                   | 2.8           |
| <i>Total</i>                            | <i>335,987</i>    | <i>369,899</i>    | <i>385,062</i>    | <i>427,009</i>    | <i>454,053</i>    | <i>7.8</i>            | <i>6.3</i>    |
| <b>Total</b>                            |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                       |               |
| <b>Outpatient-related</b>               | <b>16,516,005</b> | <b>16,789,487</b> | <b>16,682,006</b> | <b>16,867,591</b> | <b>18,087,570</b> | <b>2.3</b>            | <b>7.2</b>    |
| <b>Other non-admitted<sup>(c)</sup></b> | <b>25,473,115</b> | <b>25,291,268</b> | <b>25,843,708</b> | <b>28,447,635</b> | <b>28,103,229</b> | <b>2.5</b>            | <b>–1.2</b>   |
| <b>Occasions of service</b>             | <b>41,989,120</b> | <b>42,080,755</b> | <b>42,525,714</b> | <b>45,315,226</b> | <b>46,190,799</b> | <b>2.4</b>            | <b>1.9</b>    |

(a) Reporting arrangements have varied significantly across years and across jurisdictions.

(b) From 2009–10, the data for the Albury Base Hospital have been included in statistics for Victoria, whereas they were formerly reported by, and included in statistics for New South Wales.

(c) *Other Pharmacy, Pathology, Radiology and organ imaging, Mental health, Alcohol and drug, Community health and Outreach and District nursing.*

(d) For 2011–12, Victoria was not able to report all *Dental, Mental health* and *Community health* occasions of service.

(e) For 2009–10 and 2011–12, Tasmania was not able to provide occasions of service data for one hospital that reported about 180,000 non-admitted patient occasions of service to the NPHED in 2010–11. From 2010–11, Tasmania excluded counts of outpatient occasions of service provided at public hospitals by private specialists. In previous years, these were included in Tasmania's public hospital counts.

*Note:* See boxes 5.1 and 5.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

*Source:* National Public Hospital Establishments Database.

**Table 5.6: Non-admitted patient occasions of service, public acute hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| Type of non-admitted patient service            | NSW               | Vic              | Qld               | WA               | SA               | Tas            | ACT              | NT <sup>(a)</sup> | Total             |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Individual occasions of service</b>          |                   |                  |                   |                  |                  |                |                  |                   |                   |
| Emergency                                       | 2,580,878         | 1,658,736        | 1,746,928         | 966,901          | 546,588          | 159,701        | 118,975          | 145,534           | 7,924,241         |
| Outpatient care                                 |                   |                  |                   |                  |                  |                |                  |                   |                   |
| Allied health                                   | 759,428           | 1,009,769        | 671,857           | 890,159          | 171,262          | 62,666         | 159,522          | 17,590            | 3,742,253         |
| Dental                                          | 439,492           | 455,473          | ..                | 12,832           | 9,135            | ..             | ..               | ..                | 916,932           |
| Dialysis                                        | 22,667            | 127,656          | ..                | ..               | ..               | ..             | ..               | 5,262             | 155,585           |
| Endoscopy and related procedures                | 24,381            | 3,497            | 8,307             | ..               | 26,901           | ..             | 3,139            | 1,104             | 67,329            |
| Other medical/surgical/obstetric <sup>(b)</sup> | 5,716,157         | 2,047,090        | 2,607,998         | 1,072,772        | 960,493          | 242,194        | 387,671          | 171,096           | 13,205,471        |
| <i>Total outpatient occasions of service</i>    | <i>6,962,125</i>  | <i>3,643,485</i> | <i>3,288,162</i>  | <i>1,975,763</i> | <i>1,167,791</i> | <i>304,860</i> | <i>550,332</i>   | <i>195,052</i>    | <i>18,087,570</i> |
| Pharmacy <sup>(c)</sup>                         | 3,765,178         | 421,723          | 539,330           | 234,006          | ..               | ..             | 42,880           | 35,283            | 5,038,400         |
| Pathology                                       | 3,244,984         | 877,350          | 3,840,715         | 837,049          | ..               | ..             | 683,066          | 132,045           | 9,615,209         |
| Radiology and organ imaging                     | 631,210           | 644,895          | 986,772           | 434,404          | 193,615          | ..             | 41,577           | 91,673            | 3,024,146         |
| Mental health                                   | 1,017,711         | ..               | 30,782            | 96,596           | 12,908           | 4,105          | 262,860          | ..                | 1,424,962         |
| Alcohol and drug                                | 1,293,842         | 87,747           | 39,694            | ..               | ..               | ..             | ..               | ..                | 1,421,283         |
| Community health                                | 2,543,707         | 426,022          | 227,451           | 1,058,187        | ..               | 13,580         | 170,128          | ..                | 4,439,075         |
| District nursing <sup>(c)</sup>                 | 1,636,103         | 159,594          | ..                | 114,674          | ..               | ..             | ..               | ..                | 1,910,371         |
| Other outreach                                  | 736,574           | 5,644            | 134,817           | 105,650          | 247,098          | ..             | ..               | ..                | 1,229,783         |
| <b>Total individual occasions of service</b>    | <b>24,412,312</b> | <b>7,925,196</b> | <b>10,834,651</b> | <b>5,823,230</b> | <b>2,168,000</b> | <b>482,246</b> | <b>1,869,818</b> | <b>599,587</b>    | <b>54,115,040</b> |

(continued)

**Table 5.6 (continued): Non-admitted patient occasions of service, public acute hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| Type of non-admitted patient service            | NSW            | Vic           | Qld           | WA             | SA            | Tas       | ACT           | NT <sup>(a)</sup> | Total          |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|
| <b>Group sessions</b>                           |                |               |               |                |               |           |               |                   |                |
| Outpatient care                                 |                |               |               |                |               |           |               |                   |                |
| Allied health                                   | 10,621         | 34,212        | 11,940        | 130,233        | 6,757         | ..        | 14,042        | 261               | 208,066        |
| Dental                                          | 46             | ..            | ..            | ..             | ..            | ..        | ..            | ..                | 46             |
| Other medical/surgical/obstetric <sup>(b)</sup> | 32,944         | 2,879         | 7,162         | 7,496          | 6,472         | ..        | 3,145         | 511               | 60,609         |
| <i>Total outpatient occasions of service</i>    | <i>43,611</i>  | <i>37,091</i> | <i>19,102</i> | <i>137,729</i> | <i>13,229</i> | <i>..</i> | <i>17,187</i> | <i>772</i>        | <i>268,721</i> |
| Mental health                                   | 34,543         | ..            | 2             | 20,720         | 460           | ..        | 5,648         | ..                | 61,373         |
| Alcohol and drug                                | 292            | ..            | 165           | ..             | ..            | ..        | ..            | ..                | 457            |
| Community health                                | 25,161         | 1,836         | 12,538        | 31,033         | ..            | ..        | 38,241        | ..                | 108,809        |
| District nursing                                | 2,608          | 36            | ..            | 758            | ..            | ..        | ..            | ..                | 3,402          |
| Other outreach                                  | 2,568          | ..            | 136           | 1,439          | 69,094        | ..        | ..            | ..                | 73,237         |
| Other                                           | 98             | 32            | ..            | ..             | ..            | ..        | ..            | ..                | 130            |
| <b>Total group sessions<sup>(d)</sup></b>       | <b>108,881</b> | <b>38,995</b> | <b>31,943</b> | <b>191,679</b> | <b>82,783</b> | <b>..</b> | <b>61,076</b> | <b>772</b>        | <b>516,129</b> |

(a) *Radiology* figures for the Northern Territory are underestimated and *Pathology* figures relate only to 3 of the 5 hospitals.

(b) *Other medical/surgical/obstetric* relates to the NOCD outpatient services of *Gynaecology, Obstetrics, Cardiology, Endocrinology, Oncology, Respiratory, Gastroenterology, Medical, General practice primary care, Paediatric, Plastic surgery, Urology, Orthopaedic surgery, Ophthalmology, Ear, nose and throat, Chemotherapy, Paediatric surgery and Renal medical*.

(c) Justice Health (formerly known as Corrections Health) in New South Wales reported a large number of occasions of service for *Pharmacy* and *District nursing* that may not be typical for other hospitals.

(d) Includes any group sessions for *Dialysis* and *Endoscopy* and related procedures.

*Note:* See boxes 5.1 and 5.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

*Source:* National Public Hospital Establishments Database.

## How long did people wait for care?

### Waiting times for emergency department care—proportion completed within four hours

The proportion of patients whose emergency department visit is completed within 4 hours is considered to be an indicator of accessibility. The information presented in Table 5.7 relates to emergency department care between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2013.

Patients are considered to have completed their visit to the emergency department when they physically leave the emergency department (regardless of whether they were admitted to the hospital, referred to another hospital, departed without being admitted or referred to another hospital, or left at their own risk). Included are all hospitals reporting to the NAPEDC NMDS.

During 2013, overall, 71% of patients presenting to a public hospital emergency department had their visit completed in 4 hours or less (Table 5.10). The proportion of presentations completed within 4 hours varied among states and territories, ranging from 59% in the Australian Capital Territory to 78% in Western Australia.

Between 2012 and 2013, the proportion of presentations completed in 4 hours or less increased for New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory.

Information on the proportion of presentations completed within 4 hours for each quarter of 2013 is available in Table S5.1, accompanying this report online.

**Table 5.7: Emergency department presentations<sup>(a)</sup>, proportion with a length of stay<sup>(b)</sup> of 4 hours or less, states and territories, 2012 to 2013**

| Calendar year                                                                 | NSW       | Vic       | Qld       | WA      | SA      | Tas     | ACT     | NT      | Total     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
| <b>Presentations with length of stay of 4 hours or less</b>                   |           |           |           |         |         |         |         |         |           |
| 2012 <sup>(c)</sup>                                                           | 1,388,084 | 989,168   | 847,114   | 592,939 | 297,059 | 96,636  | 67,869  | 92,617  | 4,371,486 |
| 2013                                                                          | 1,836,945 | 1,039,983 | 995,011   | 582,431 | 299,155 | 98,859  | 72,444  | 91,880  | 5,016,708 |
| <b>Total presentations</b>                                                    |           |           |           |         |         |         |         |         |           |
| 2012 <sup>(c)</sup>                                                           | 2,270,081 | 1,521,872 | 1,266,468 | 754,911 | 450,355 | 144,324 | 119,666 | 144,144 | 6,671,821 |
| 2013                                                                          | 2,594,678 | 1,544,455 | 1,315,802 | 748,207 | 459,448 | 147,401 | 121,880 | 146,949 | 7,078,820 |
| <b>Proportion of presentations with length of stay of 4 hours or less (%)</b> |           |           |           |         |         |         |         |         |           |
| 2012 <sup>(c)</sup>                                                           | 61.1      | 65.0      | 66.9      | 78.5    | 66.0    | 67.0    | 56.7    | 64.3    | 65.5      |
| 2013                                                                          | 70.8      | 67.3      | 75.6      | 77.8    | 65.1    | 67.1    | 59.4    | 62.5    | 70.9      |

(a) Excludes records for which the emergency department length of stay could not be calculated due to missing date or time data.

(b) The emergency department length of stay is the amount of time between the patient presenting to the emergency department (arrival) and the physical departure of the patient.

(c) As reported in *Australian hospital statistics: national emergency access and elective surgery targets 2012* (AIHW 2013g).

Source: National Emergency Access Target Database.

## Outpatient and other non-admitted occasions of service

In 2012–13, public hospitals provided almost 18.1 million service episodes for outpatient-related care (Table 5.6), including:

- 3.7 million services for *Allied health*
- 13.2 million service episodes delivered in specialist outpatient clinics for *Other medical/surgical/obstetric*.

The proportion of non-admitted patient occasions of service that are related to outpatient care varied across states, from 29% in New South Wales to 63% in Tasmania. However, there was considerable variation in activity for other non-admitted patient service types across states and territories, which may in part reflect differences in data recording practices. For example, Justice Health in New South Wales reported a large number of occasions of service for *Pharmacy* and *District nursing* that may not be typical for other hospitals.

In 2012–13, 516,000 non-admitted patient care occasions of service were reported to the NPHED for group sessions (care provided to more than one patient at a time), with *Mental health*, *Community health* and *Other Outreach* accounting for 47% of these sessions.

### Outpatient clinic services

In 2012–13, outpatient clinic-level data were provided to the NOCD for almost 14.9 million occasions of service for individuals (Table 5.8, see Box 5.1). The public hospital peer groups presented in Table 5.8 reflect the new AIHW public hospital peer group classification. See Appendix C for more information.

The estimated proportions of individual occasions of service reported to the NOCD for 2012–13 varied significantly by state and territory, ranging from 77% for New South Wales and Queensland to 100% for the Australian Capital Territory. For group occasions of service, the estimated proportion reported to the NOCD for 2012–13 ranged from 21% in the Australian Capital Territory to 100% for the Northern Territory.

### Individual occasions of service

Around 52% of individual outpatient occasions of service reported to the NOCD were provided by *Allied health*, *Medical* and *Obstetrics* clinics (Table 5.9).

There were large variations in the types of services reported and in the volume of activity reported. For example, the Northern Territory reported a relatively high number of occasions of service for *Paediatric* outpatient clinics and Victoria reported a relatively low number compared with other states and territories. For 2012–13, the large number of *Dialysis* occasions of service for Victoria reflects the reporting of dialysis training activity.

### Group occasions of service

In 2012–13, there were about 230,000 group sessions reported for non-admitted patient outpatient clinic care (Table 5.10). Over 77% of group sessions reported to the NOCD were provided by *Allied health* clinics.

## Additional material

An additional table accompanies this report online:

Table S5.1: Emergency department presentations, proportion with a length of stay of 4 hours or less by quarter, states and territories, 2013.

**Table 5.8: Outpatient occasions of service, by public hospital peer group<sup>(a)</sup>, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                                                | NSW       | Vic       | Qld       | WA      | SA      | Tas     | ACT     | NT      | Total     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
| <b>Principal referral and women's and children's hospitals</b> |           |           |           |         |         |         |         |         |           |
| Hospitals reporting to NOCD                                    |           |           |           |         |         |         |         |         |           |
| Individual occasions of service                                | 14        | 9         | 8         | 4       | 3       | 1       | 1       | 1       | 41        |
| Group occasions of service                                     | 11        | 9         | 5         | 4       | 3       | 0       | 1       | 1       | 34        |
| Occasions of service                                           |           |           |           |         |         |         |         |         |           |
| Individual                                                     | 3,741,620 | 1,361,036 | 1,353,268 | 881,425 | 551,004 | 186,618 | 552,429 | 131,086 | 8,758,486 |
| Group                                                          | 7,676     | 34,203    | 5,258     | 51,743  | 8,239   | 0       | 3,398   | 629     | 111,146   |
| <b>Large acute hospitals</b>                                   |           |           |           |         |         |         |         |         |           |
| Hospitals reporting to NOCD                                    |           |           |           |         |         |         |         |         |           |
| Individual occasions of service                                | 21        | 16        | 12        | 3       | 4       | 2       | 1       | 1       | 60        |
| Group occasions of service                                     | 19        | 12        | 11        | 3       | 4       | 0       | 1       | 1       | 51        |
| Occasions of service                                           |           |           |           |         |         |         |         |         |           |
| Individual                                                     | 1,387,659 | 1,042,107 | 1,034,719 | 359,024 | 398,002 | 145,866 | 36,111  | 45,561  | 4,449,049 |
| Group                                                          | 18,019    | 10,339    | 8,575     | 21,622  | 3,745   | 0       | 221     | 143     | 62,664    |
| <b>Medium acute hospitals</b>                                  |           |           |           |         |         |         |         |         |           |
| Hospitals reporting to NOCD                                    |           |           |           |         |         |         |         |         |           |
| Individual occasions of service                                | 9         | 7         | 3         | 5       | 1       | 1       | 0       | 0       | 26        |
| Group occasions of service                                     | 8         | 7         | 2         | 5       | 1       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 23        |
| Occasions of service                                           |           |           |           |         |         |         |         |         |           |
| Individual                                                     | 352,649   | 336,842   | 127,964   | 186,822 | 11,071  | 45,656  | 0       | 0       | 1,061,004 |
| Group                                                          | 2,260     | 6,502     | 561       | 23,188  | 151     | 0       | 0       | 0       | 32,662    |
| <b>Other hospitals</b>                                         |           |           |           |         |         |         |         |         |           |
| Hospitals reporting to NOCD                                    |           |           |           |         |         |         |         |         |           |
| Individual occasions of service                                | 0         | 4         | 0         | 7       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 11        |
| Group occasions of service                                     | 0         | 2         | 0         | 7       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 9         |
| Occasions of service                                           |           |           |           |         |         |         |         |         |           |
| Individual                                                     | 0         | 403,377   | 0         | 220,783 | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 624,160   |
| Group                                                          | 0         | 187       | 0         | 24,000  | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 24,187    |

(continued)

**Table 5.8 (continued): Outpatient occasions of service, by public hospital peer group<sup>(a)</sup>, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                                      | NSW       | Vic       | Qld       | WA        | SA      | Tas     | ACT     | NT      | Total      |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------|
| <b>Total</b>                                         |           |           |           |           |         |         |         |         |            |
| Hospitals reporting to NOCD                          |           |           |           |           |         |         |         |         |            |
| Individual occasions of service                      | 44        | 36        | 23        | 19        | 8       | 4       | 2       | 2       | 138        |
| Group occasions of service                           | 38        | 30        | 18        | 19        | 8       | 0       | 2       | 2       | 117        |
| Occasions of service                                 |           |           |           |           |         |         |         |         |            |
| Individual                                           | 5,481,928 | 3,143,362 | 2,515,951 | 1,648,054 | 960,077 | 378,140 | 588,540 | 176,647 | 14,892,699 |
| Group                                                | 27,955    | 51,231    | 14,394    | 120,553   | 12,135  | 0       | 3,619   | 772     | 230,659    |
| Estimated proportion of occasions of service in NOCD |           |           |           |           |         |         |         |         |            |
| Individual                                           | 77        | 79        | 77        | 83        | 82      | 95      | 100     | 91      | 80         |
| Group                                                | 64        | 42        | 75        | 87        | 92      | ..      | 21      | 100     | 73         |

(a) The AIHW public hospital peer group classification (AIHW forthcoming) has been updated since *Australian hospital statistics 2011–12* (AIHW 2013a). See Appendix C for more information.

*Note:* See boxes 5.1 and 5.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

*Source:* National Outpatient Care Database.



**Table 5.9: Outpatient care individual occasions of service<sup>(a)</sup>, by outpatient clinic type, selected public hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| Clinic type                       | NSW              | Vic              | Qld              | WA               | SA             | Tas            | ACT            | NT             | Total             |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Allied Health                     | 613,573          | 477,588          | 541,417          | 579,239          | 149,764        | 88,642         | 104,053        | 16,551         | 2,570,827         |
| Dental                            | 279,910          | 402,132          | 0                | 12,294           | 9,122          | 0              | 0              | 0              | 703,458           |
| Gynaecology                       | 63,935           | 56,115           | 49,157           | 20,784           | 42,498         | 10,989         | 4,321          | 6,642          | 254,441           |
| Obstetrics                        | 927,542          | 509,892          | 415,253          | 161,078          | 104,139        | 39,908         | 48,175         | 29,043         | 2,235,030         |
| Cardiology                        | 64,292           | 15,302           | 58,806           | 42,217           | 28,330         | 17,052         | 8,006          | 1,722          | 235,727           |
| Endocrinology                     | 207,341          | 64,763           | 58,421           | 40,703           | 35,565         | 18,630         | 13,656         | 3,067          | 442,146           |
| Oncology                          | 304,421          | 245,581          | 103,297          | 75,880           | 19,213         | 6,230          | 59,339         | 4,223          | 818,184           |
| Respiratory                       | 136,487          | 8,913            | 36,463           | 24,628           | 39,305         | 7,356          | 10,282         | 2,991          | 266,425           |
| Gastroenterology                  | 74,490           | 23,094           | 35,160           | 17,978           | 28,565         | 5,433          | 10,988         | 1,123          | 196,831           |
| Medical                           | 1368803          | 537,540          | 399,562          | 260,591          | 124,384        | 45,753         | 150,812        | 24,978         | 2,912,423         |
| General practice/primary care     | 238,419          | 433              | 27,066           | 203              | 0              | 0              | 123,474        | 0              | 389,595           |
| Paediatric                        | 69,019           | 14,101           | 53,655           | 13,164           | 17,910         | 9,118          | 7,017          | 8,117          | 192,101           |
| Endoscopy                         | 22,421           | 3,544            | 8,205            | 0                | 17,208         | 1,441          | 0              | 0              | 52,819            |
| Plastic surgery                   | 56,133           | 80,049           | 27,673           | 48,401           | 20,788         | 29,951         | 8,453          | 1,952          | 273,400           |
| Urology                           | 22,002           | 48,178           | 48,300           | 23,478           | 16,465         | 4,382          | 0              | 508            | 163,313           |
| Orthopaedic                       | 359,188          | 195,986          | 239,566          | 99,017           | 73,099         | 28,461         | 19,967         | 15,857         | 1,031,141         |
| Ophthalmology                     | 106,280          | 87,982           | 81,827           | 61,855           | 71,666         | 11,315         | 0              | 13,287         | 434,212           |
| Ear, nose and throat surgery      | 36,078           | 40,600           | 43,510           | 27,135           | 21,554         | 3,838          | 2,506          | 5,653          | 180,874           |
| Pre-admission and pre-anaesthesia | 198,058          | 98,793           | 88,507           | 52,556           | 31,393         | 13,130         | 8,612          | 8,716          | 499,765           |
| Chemotherapy                      | 97,983           | 0                | 13,715           | 1,951            | 20,175         | 8,296          | 0              | 4,666          | 146,786           |
| Dialysis                          | 19,879           | 87,762           | 0                | 849              | 0              | 0              | 0              | 5,237          | 113,727           |
| Surgery                           | 104,712          | 138,383          | 126,865          | 64,633           | 76,672         | 21,210         | 8,841          | 18,257         | 559,573           |
| Paediatric surgery                | 2,151            | 6,631            | 5,543            | 4,162            | 852            | 2,063          | 0              | 0              | 21,402            |
| Renal medicine                    | 108,811          | 0                | 53,983           | 15,258           | 11,410         | 4,942          | 38             | 4,057          | 198,499           |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>5,481,928</b> | <b>3,143,362</b> | <b>2,515,951</b> | <b>1,648,054</b> | <b>960,077</b> | <b>378,140</b> | <b>588,540</b> | <b>176,647</b> | <b>14,892,699</b> |

(a) Variations among jurisdictions in the reporting of occasions of service may reflect differences in admission practices and in the types of facilities offering these services.

Note: See boxes 5.1 and 5.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

Source: National Outpatient Care Database.

**Table 5.10: Outpatient care group occasions of service<sup>(a)</sup>, by outpatient clinic type, selected public hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| Clinic type                       | NSW           | Vic           | Qld           | WA             | SA            | Tas      | ACT          | NT         | Total          |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------|--------------|------------|----------------|
| Allied Health                     | 8,976         | 36,211        | 8,450         | 116,112        | 6,186         | 0        | 1,699        | 261        | 177,895        |
| Dental                            | 6             | 0             | 0             | 0              | 0             | 0        | 0            | 0          | 6              |
| Gynaecology                       | 1             | 0             | 0             | 0              | 0             | 0        | 0            | 0          | 1              |
| Obstetrics                        | 1,654         | 12,742        | 2,241         | 2,301          | 931           | 0        | 1,226        | 0          | 21,095         |
| Cardiology                        | 77            | 0             | 2,272         | 171            | 320           | 0        | 0            | 0          | 2,840          |
| Endocrinology                     | 1,175         | 1,116         | 351           | 848            | 245           | 0        | 304          | 0          | 4,039          |
| Oncology                          | 262           | 0             | 279           | 28             | 0             | 0        | 0            | 0          | 569            |
| Respiratory                       | 3,638         | 0             | 125           | 0              | 22            | 0        | 112          | 0          | 3,897          |
| Gastroenterology                  | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0              | 0             | 0        | 0            | 0          | 0              |
| Medical                           | 7,582         | 120           | 319           | 1,090          | 3,890         | 0        | 17           | 511        | 13,529         |
| General practice/primary care     | 117           | 0             | 0             | 0              | 0             | 0        | 240          | 0          | 357            |
| Paediatric                        | 426           | 2             | 104           | 0              | 10            | 0        | 0            | 0          | 542            |
| Endoscopy                         | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0              | 0             | 0        | 0            | 0          | 0              |
| Plastic surgery                   | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0              | 335           | 0        | 0            | 0          | 335            |
| Urology                           | 1             | 0             | 0             | 1              | 0             | 0        | 0            | 0          | 2              |
| Orthopaedic                       | 318           | 3             | 52            | 0              | 31            | 0        | 0            | 0          | 404            |
| Ophthalmology                     | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0              | 0             | 0        | 0            | 0          | 0              |
| Ear, nose and throat surgery      | 1             | 0             | 0             | 0              | 0             | 0        | 0            | 0          | 1              |
| Pre-admission and pre-anaesthesia | 3,305         | 763           | 83            | 0              | 0             | 0        | 21           | 0          | 4,172          |
| Chemotherapy                      | 23            | 0             | 3             | 0              | 0             | 0        | 0            | 0          | 26             |
| Dialysis                          | 2             | 226           | 0             | 0              | 0             | 0        | 0            | 0          | 228            |
| Surgery                           | 50            | 48            | 109           | 2              | 165           | 0        | 0            | 0          | 374            |
| Paediatric surgery                | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0              | 0             | 0        | 0            | 0          | 0              |
| Renal medicine                    | 341           | 0             | 6             | 0              | 0             | 0        | 0            | 0          | 347            |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>27,955</b> | <b>51,231</b> | <b>14,394</b> | <b>120,553</b> | <b>12,135</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>3,619</b> | <b>772</b> | <b>230,659</b> |

(a) Variations among jurisdictions in the reporting of occasions of service may reflect differences in admission practices and in the types of facilities offering these services.

Note: See boxes 5.1 and 5.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

Source: National Outpatient Care Database

## 6 Admitted patient care: overview

This chapter draws on data from the NHMD to present an overview of admitted patient care in Australia's hospitals.

Subsequent chapters present information on the following subsets of admitted patient care:

- same-day acute admitted patient care (Chapter 7)
- overnight acute admitted patient care (Chapter 8)
- surgery for admitted patients (Chapter 9)
- subacute and non-acute care (Chapter 10).

### What data are reported?

The NHMD contains episode-level records from admitted patient morbidity data collection systems in Australian hospitals. The data in this chapter include administrative, demographic and clinical data.

Administrative data provide information on:

- how patients were admitted
- how patient care ended
- length of stay in hospital
- the source of funding.

Demographic data provide information on the patient's:

- age
- sex
- Indigenous status
- remoteness area of usual residence
- SES of area of usual residence.

Clinical data provide information on:

- the type of care provided
- principal and additional diagnoses, and external causes of injury or poisoning
- procedures or interventions
- AR-DRGs.

Terms relevant to admitted patient care data are summarised in Box 6.1.

### Box 6.1: Summary of terms and classifications relating to admitted patient care

Statistics on admitted patients are compiled when an **admitted patient** (a patient who undergoes a hospital's formal admission process) completes an episode of admitted patient care and 'separates' from the hospital. This is because most of the data on the use of hospitals by admitted patients are based on information provided at the end of the patients' episodes of care, rather than at the beginning. The length of stay and the procedures carried out are then known and the diagnostic information is more accurate.

**Separation** is the term used to refer to the episode of admitted patient care, which can be a total hospital stay (from admission to discharge, transfer or death) or a portion of a hospital stay beginning or ending in a change of type of care (for example, from acute care to rehabilitation). 'Separation' also means the process by which an admitted patient completes an episode of care by being discharged, dying, transferring to another hospital or changing type of care.

**Patient day** means the occupancy of a hospital bed (or chair in the case of some same-day patients) by an admitted patient for all or part of a day. The length of stay for an overnight patient is calculated by subtracting the date the patient is admitted from the date of separation and deducting days the patient was on leave. A same-day patient is allocated a length of stay of 1 day.

A **same-day** separation occurs when a patient is admitted to and separated from the hospital on the same date. An **overnight** separation occurs when a patient is admitted to and separated from the hospital on different dates.

The **principal diagnosis** is the diagnosis established after study to be chiefly responsible for occasioning the patient's episode of admitted patient care. An **additional diagnosis** is a condition or complaint that either coexists with the principal diagnosis or arises during the episode of care. An additional diagnosis is reported if the condition affects patient management.

A **procedure** is a clinical intervention that is surgical in nature, carries an anaesthetic risk, requires specialised training and/or requires special facilities or services available only in an acute care setting. Procedures therefore encompass surgical procedures and non-surgical investigative and therapeutic procedures, such as X-rays. Patient support interventions that are neither investigative nor therapeutic (such as anaesthesia) are also included.

**Australian Refined Diagnosis Related Groups (AR-DRGs)** is a classification system developed to provide a clinically meaningful way of relating the number and type of patients treated in a hospital (that is, its casemix) to the resources required by the hospital. Each AR-DRG represents a class of patients with similar clinical conditions requiring similar hospital resources. The AR-DRG system is partly hierarchical, with 23 Major Diagnostic Categories (MDCs), which are divided into *Surgical*, *Medical* and *Other* partitions, and then into 708 individual AR-DRGs (in AR-DRG version 6.0x).

In 2012–13, diagnoses and external causes of injury were recorded using the 7th edition of the *International statistical classification of diseases and related health problems, 10th revision, Australian modification* (ICD-10-AM) (NCCH 2010). It comprises classifications of diseases and external causes of injuries and poisoning, based on the World Health Organization's version of ICD-10. The ICD-10-AM classification is hierarchical, with 20 summary disease chapters that are divided into a large number of more specific disease groupings. See Appendix B for more information.

(continued)

**Box 6.1 (continued): Summary of terms and classifications relating to admitted patient care**

Procedures were recorded using the 7th edition of the *Australian Classification of Health Interventions* (ACHI) (NCCH 2010). The ACHI classification is divided into 20 chapters by anatomical site. These subchapters are further divided into more specific procedure blocks, ordered from the least invasive to the most invasive. The blocks, which are numbered sequentially, group the very specific procedure information. In this publication, procedures are mostly presented based on the ACHI procedure chapters and the ACHI procedure blocks. See Appendix B for more information.

See the Glossary for more terms relating to admitted patient care.

**Box 6.2: What are the limitations of the data?**

When interpreting the data presented, the following should be noted:

- Coverage for the NHMD is essentially complete. For 2012–13, all public hospitals were included except for a small mothercraft hospital in the Australian Capital Territory. Private hospital data were not provided for private free-standing day hospital facilities in the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory and one private free-standing day hospital facility in Victoria.
- There may be variation among states and territories in the use of statistical discharges and the assignment of care types (see Appendix A).
- In 2011–12, it was estimated that 88% of Indigenous patients were correctly identified in Australian public hospitals (AIHW 2013h). The overall quality of the data provided for Indigenous status in 2012–13 is considered to be in need of some improvement and varied between states and territories (see Appendix B).
- Data on state of hospitalisation should be interpreted with caution because of cross-border flows of patients. This is particularly important for the Australian Capital Territory. In 2012–13, about 18% of separations for the Australian Capital Territory hospitals were for patients who lived in New South Wales.

See appendixes A and B for more information.

### Box 6.3: What methods were used?

- Unless otherwise indicated in footnotes, separations with a care type of *Newborn* (without qualified days) and records for *Hospital boarders* and *Posthumous organ procurement* have been excluded.
- The patient's age is calculated at the date of admission.
- In tables by age group and sex, separations for which age and sex were not reported are included in the totals. In 2012–13, there were 59 separations that did not have sex reported as male or female, and 20 separations for which date of birth was not reported (and therefore age could not be calculated).
- Separation rates are age-standardised as detailed in Appendix B.
- In some tables, separation rates are accompanied by the standardised separation rate ratio (SRR). If the SRR is greater than 1, then the rate for the category was higher than the national average (or, in the case of Indigenous status, than other Australians).
- *Other Australians* includes separations for which the Indigenous status of the patient was not reported.
- Data on area of usual residence were provided as state or territory and statistical area level 2 (SA2) and/or postcode, and have been aggregated to remoteness areas under the ASGS (ABS 2011b). Disaggregation by remoteness area is by usual residence, not remoteness of hospital. However, state/territory data are reported by jurisdiction of the hospital, regardless of the jurisdiction of residence.
- Socioeconomic status (SES) groups in this report are based on the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD) (ABS 2013b) for the area of usual residence (SA2) of the patient. These SES groups represent approximately 20% of the national population, but do not necessarily represent 20% of the population in each state or territory. Disaggregation by SES group is based on the patient's usual residence, not the location of the hospital.
- The 'cost weight' for a separation is the ratio of the estimated average cost for the separation (based on AR-DRG version 6.0x) compared with the average cost for all acute separations. The national estimated cost weights for each AR-DRG version 6.0x can be used as approximations of the relative costs of admitted patient care during 2012–13. They should be used with caution in any comparisons between the states and territories.
- For 2012–13, the 2010–11 AR-DRG version 6.0x public hospital cost weights obtained from the NHCDC (IHPA 2013a) were applied to each separation. The NHCDC Round 15 (2010–11) estimated the national average cost of an acute public hospital separation at \$4,613 (including depreciation) (IHPA 2013a).
- For private hospitals, the 2011–12 AR-DRG version 6.0x overnight private hospital cost weights (IHPA 2013b) were applied to each private hospital separation. An average cost was not reported for private hospitals.
- Estimated total admitted patient costs are not directly comparable between public and private hospitals. Private hospital treatment may include medical, pharmacy and pathology costs that are not included in existing private hospital cost information. These costs are included in public hospital cost information.

See Appendix B for more information.

## How has activity changed over time?

From 2011–12 to 2012–13, separations rose 1.3% to 9.4 million (Table 6.1). The increase in separations was higher in private hospitals (2.6%) than in public hospitals (0.3%). However, if a change in emergency department admission policy in Victoria had not occurred (which Victoria has advised resulted in a decrease of about 140,000 admissions in emergency departments), public hospital separations were estimated to have risen by 2.9%.

Between 2008–09 and 2012–13, the number of separations rose by an average of 3.6% per year (Table 6.1). Over that period, the average annual rise in separations was higher in private hospitals than in public hospitals. The largest increases in acute separation rates were seen for private hospital same-day separations (4.3% per year). After adjusting for Victoria's admission policy changes as above, the overall increase is estimated to be about 3.9% per year, and the increase for public hospitals is estimated at about 3.8% per year.

The largest increases in separations between 2008–09 and 2012–13 occurred for subacute and non-acute care, which rose by an average of 8.2% per year for public hospitals and 13.9% per year for private hospitals (see Chapter 10 for more information on subacute and non-acute care).

## States and territories

Between 2008–09 and 2012–13, the number of public hospital separations increased at a greater rate than the national average (3.1%) in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory (Table 6.2).

Between 2011–12 and 2012–13, the largest increase in the number of public hospital separations was recorded for Tasmania (6.8%). The large decrease in public hospital separations recorded for Victoria reflects a change in Victoria's emergency department admission policy between 2011–12 and 2012–13. After adjusting for this change, public hospital separations for Victoria were estimated to have increased by about 1.8%.

Over the same period, above-average increases in the number of private hospital separations were recorded in Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia.

**Table 6.1: Separations, by type of care, public and private hospitals, 2008–09 to 2012–13**

|                                        | 2008–09   | 2009–10   | 2010–11   | 2011–12   | 2012–13   | Change (%)            |               |
|----------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                                        |           |           |           |           |           | Average since 2008–09 | Since 2011–12 |
| Public hospitals                       |           |           |           |           |           |                       |               |
| Acute <sup>(a)</sup>                   | 4,748,075 | 4,916,330 | 5,114,373 | 5,329,166 | 5,334,793 | 3.0                   | 0.1           |
| Same-day                               | 2,438,918 | 2,548,838 | 2,660,640 | 2,777,380 | 2,751,061 | 3.1                   | –0.9          |
| Surgical <sup>(b)</sup>                | 359,435   | 365,562   | 373,252   | 380,885   | 384,515   | 1.7                   | 1.0           |
| Other <sup>(c)</sup>                   | 2,079,483 | 2,183,276 | 2,287,388 | 2,396,495 | 2,366,546 | 3.3                   | –1.2          |
| Overnight                              | 2,309,157 | 2,367,492 | 2,453,733 | 2,551,786 | 2,583,732 | 2.8                   | 1.3           |
| Surgical <sup>(b)</sup>                | 526,808   | 540,062   | 556,447   | 569,746   | 573,039   | 2.1                   | 0.6           |
| Other <sup>(c)</sup>                   | 1,782,349 | 1,827,430 | 1,897,286 | 1,982,040 | 2,010,693 | 3.1                   | 1.4           |
| Subacute and non-acute <sup>(d)</sup>  | 142,600   | 152,578   | 164,499   | 181,926   | 195,323   | 8.2                   | 7.4           |
| Total public hospitals <sup>(e)</sup>  | 4,891,023 | 5,069,288 | 5,279,132 | 5,511,492 | 5,530,195 | 3.1                   | 0.3           |
| Private hospitals                      |           |           |           |           |           |                       |               |
| Acute <sup>(a)</sup>                   | 3,105,309 | 3,277,060 | 3,357,966 | 3,502,827 | 3,587,976 | 3.7                   | 2.4           |
| Same-day                               | 2,082,968 | 2,216,940 | 2,282,843 | 2,399,171 | 2,463,026 | 4.3                   | 2.7           |
| Surgical <sup>(b)</sup>                | 703,982   | 743,928   | 761,808   | 805,846   | 818,014   | 3.8                   | 1.5           |
| Other <sup>(c)</sup>                   | 1,378,986 | 1,473,012 | 1,521,035 | 1,593,325 | 1,645,012 | 4.5                   | 3.2           |
| Overnight                              | 1,022,341 | 1,060,120 | 1,075,123 | 1,103,656 | 1,124,970 | 2.4                   | 1.9           |
| Surgical <sup>(b)</sup>                | 533,197   | 553,920   | 565,565   | 581,538   | 593,192   | 2.7                   | 2.0           |
| Other <sup>(c)</sup>                   | 489,144   | 506,200   | 509,558   | 522,118   | 531,778   | 2.1                   | 1.9           |
| Subacute and non-acute <sup>(d)</sup>  | 151,923   | 184,461   | 215,393   | 241,791   | 255,351   | 13.9                  | 5.6           |
| Total private hospitals <sup>(e)</sup> | 3,257,425 | 3,461,715 | 3,573,418 | 3,744,677 | 3,843,331 | 4.2                   | 2.6           |
| Total                                  | 8,148,448 | 8,531,003 | 8,852,550 | 9,256,169 | 9,373,526 | 3.6                   | 1.3           |

(a) *Acute* admitted patient care includes separations for which the care type was reported as *Acute*, *Newborn* (with qualified days) or was not reported.

(b) *Surgical* separations are defined as acute care separations with a surgical procedure reported, based on the procedures used to define 'surgical' DRGs in AR-DRG, version 6.0x (DoHA 2011).

(c) *Other* separations are those classified as acute care but not involving a surgical (or operating room) procedure. This can include non-operating room procedures such as endoscopy.

(d) *Subacute and non-acute* care includes *Rehabilitation*, *Palliative*, *Geriatric evaluation and management*, *Psychogeriatric* and *Maintenance* care types.

(e) The totals include separations with a care type of *Other* admitted patient care.

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

Between 2008–09 and 2012–13, the numbers of public hospital patient days increased at a higher rate than the national average for Queensland, Western Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory (Table 6.3). The decrease in patient days for Tasmanian public hospitals over the same period may, in part, reflect changes in the reporting of psychiatric care.



**Table 6.2: Separations for public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2008–09 to 2012–13**

|                                        | 2008–09          | 2009–10          | 2010–11          | 2011–12          | 2012–13          | Change (%)            |               |
|----------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                                        |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  | Average since 2008–09 | Since 2011–12 |
| <b>New South Wales<sup>(a)</sup></b>   |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                       | 1,505,969        | 1,542,968        | 1,582,804        | 1,660,602        | 1,716,789        | 3.3                   | 3.4           |
| Private hospitals                      | 907,214          | 960,706          | 1,011,887        | 1,070,140        | 1,082,500        | 4.5                   | 1.2           |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                   | <i>2,413,183</i> | <i>2,503,674</i> | <i>2,594,691</i> | <i>2,730,742</i> | <i>2,799,289</i> | <i>3.8</i>            | <i>2.5</i>    |
| <b>Victoria<sup>(a)(b)</sup></b>       |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                       | 1,379,624        | 1,424,663        | 1,496,041        | 1,543,773        | 1,429,453        | n.p.                  | n.p.          |
| Private hospitals                      | 811,020          | 885,776          | 875,470          | 917,810          | 943,381          | 3.9                   | 2.8           |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                   | <i>2,190,644</i> | <i>2,310,439</i> | <i>2,371,511</i> | <i>2,461,583</i> | <i>2,372,834</i> | <i>n.p.</i>           | <i>n.p.</i>   |
| <b>Queensland</b>                      |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                       | 883,340          | 922,970          | 964,349          | 1,001,215        | 1,044,011        | 4.3                   | 4.3           |
| Private hospitals                      | 813,941          | 844,953          | 859,202          | 901,188          | 933,661          | 3.5                   | 3.6           |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                   | <i>1,697,281</i> | <i>1,767,923</i> | <i>1,823,551</i> | <i>1,902,403</i> | <i>1,977,672</i> | <i>3.9</i>            | <i>4.0</i>    |
| <b>Western Australia<sup>(a)</sup></b> |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                       | 467,433          | 505,909          | 548,272          | 588,143          | 606,809          | 6.7                   | 3.2           |
| Private hospitals                      | 362,162          | 381,300          | 417,761          | 436,319          | 451,942          | 5.7                   | 3.6           |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                   | <i>829,595</i>   | <i>887,209</i>   | <i>966,033</i>   | <i>1,024,462</i> | <i>1,058,751</i> | <i>6.3</i>            | <i>3.3</i>    |
| <b>South Australia<sup>(a)</sup></b>   |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                       | 374,540          | 383,055          | 390,154          | 407,315          | 413,756          | 2.5                   | 1.6           |
| Private hospitals                      | 255,500          | 270,015          | 283,281          | 289,980          | 298,159          | 3.9                   | 2.8           |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                   | <i>630,040</i>   | <i>653,070</i>   | <i>673,435</i>   | <i>697,295</i>   | <i>711,915</i>   | <i>3.1</i>            | <i>2.1</i>    |
| <b>Tasmania<sup>(a)</sup></b>          |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                       | 94,892           | 101,673          | 99,333           | 99,632           | 106,358          | 2.9                   | 6.8           |
| Private hospitals                      | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.                  | n.p.          |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                   | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>           | <i>n.p.</i>   |
| <b>Australian Capital Territory</b>    |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                       | 89,869           | 88,356           | 93,745           | 97,455           | 94,712           | 1.3                   | –2.8          |
| Private hospitals                      | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.                  | n.p.          |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                   | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>           | <i>n.p.</i>   |
| <b>Northern Territory</b>              |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                       | 95,356           | 99,694           | 104,434          | 113,357          | 118,307          | 5.5                   | 4.4           |
| Private hospitals                      | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.                  | n.p.          |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                   | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>           | <i>n.p.</i>   |
| <b>Total</b>                           |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                       |               |
| <b>Public hospitals</b>                | <b>4,891,023</b> | <b>5,069,288</b> | <b>5,279,132</b> | <b>5,511,492</b> | <b>5,530,195</b> | <b>3.1</b>            | <b>0.3</b>    |
| <b>Private hospitals</b>               | <b>3,257,425</b> | <b>3,461,715</b> | <b>3,573,418</b> | <b>3,744,677</b> | <b>3,843,331</b> | <b>4.2</b>            | <b>2.6</b>    |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                   | <b>8,148,448</b> | <b>8,531,003</b> | <b>8,852,550</b> | <b>9,256,169</b> | <b>9,373,526</b> | <b>3.6</b>            | <b>1.3</b>    |

(a) There were changes in coverage or data supply over this period for New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania that affect the interpretation of these data. See Appendix A for more information.

(b) The large decrease in public hospital separations recorded for Victoria reflects a change in Victoria's emergency department admission policy between 2011–12 and 2012–13.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information for 2012–13 by state and territory is in Table 6.34 at the end of this chapter.

**Table 6.3: Patient days for public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2008–09 to 2012–13**

|                                        | 2008–09           | 2009–10           | 2010–11           | 2011–12           | 2012–13           | Change (%)            |               |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                                        |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   | Average since 2008–09 | Since 2011–12 |
| <b>New South Wales<sup>(a)</sup></b>   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                       | 6,114,244         | 6,061,168         | 6,192,497         | 6,434,979         | 6,387,014         | 1.1                   | –0.7          |
| Private hospitals                      | 2,121,237         | 2,225,185         | 2,330,294         | 2,452,877         | 2,464,340         | 3.8                   | 0.5           |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                   | <i>8,235,481</i>  | <i>8,286,353</i>  | <i>8,522,791</i>  | <i>8,887,856</i>  | <i>8,851,354</i>  | <i>1.8</i>            | <i>–0.4</i>   |
| <b>Victoria<sup>(a)(b)</sup></b>       |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                       | 4,499,508         | 4,606,599         | 4,722,672         | 4,782,281         | 4,629,716         | 0.7                   | –3.2          |
| Private hospitals                      | 2,060,800         | 2,235,086         | 2,166,659         | 2,261,615         | 2,310,738         | 2.9                   | 2.2           |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                   | <i>6,560,308</i>  | <i>6,841,685</i>  | <i>6,889,331</i>  | <i>7,043,896</i>  | <i>6,940,454</i>  | <i>1.4</i>            | <i>–1.5</i>   |
| <b>Queensland</b>                      |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                       | 3,072,713         | 3,128,097         | 3,206,398         | 3,262,934         | 3,295,250         | 1.8                   | 1.0           |
| Private hospitals                      | 2,005,809         | 2,062,543         | 2,093,296         | 2,177,232         | 2,219,627         | 2.6                   | 1.9           |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                   | <i>5,078,522</i>  | <i>5,190,640</i>  | <i>5,299,694</i>  | <i>5,440,166</i>  | <i>5,514,877</i>  | <i>2.1</i>            | <i>1.4</i>    |
| <b>Western Australia<sup>(a)</sup></b> |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                       | 1,647,019         | 1,722,439         | 1,779,052         | 1,856,812         | 1,920,265         | 3.9                   | 3.4           |
| Private hospitals                      | 819,851           | 829,497           | 886,003           | 905,529           | 910,944           | 2.7                   | 0.6           |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                   | <i>2,466,870</i>  | <i>2,551,936</i>  | <i>2,665,055</i>  | <i>2,762,341</i>  | <i>2,831,209</i>  | <i>3.5</i>            | <i>2.5</i>    |
| <b>South Australia<sup>(a)</sup></b>   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                       | 1,598,610         | 1,591,333         | 1,614,514         | 1,679,153         | 1,600,110         | 0.0                   | –4.7          |
| Private hospitals                      | 609,747           | 617,179           | 625,664           | 634,321           | 639,419           | 1.2                   | 0.8           |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                   | <i>2,208,357</i>  | <i>2,208,512</i>  | <i>2,240,178</i>  | <i>2,313,474</i>  | <i>2,239,529</i>  | <i>0.4</i>            | <i>–3.2</i>   |
| <b>Tasmania<sup>(a)</sup></b>          |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                       | 394,285           | 423,915           | 372,761           | 353,640           | 359,760           | –2.3                  | 1.7           |
| Private hospitals                      | n.p.              | n.p.              | n.p.              | n.p.              | n.p.              | n.p.                  | n.p.          |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                   | <i>n.p.</i>       | <i>n.p.</i>       | <i>n.p.</i>       | <i>n.p.</i>       | <i>n.p.</i>       | <i>n.p.</i>           | <i>n.p.</i>   |
| <b>Australian Capital Territory</b>    |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                       | 292,947           | 296,483           | 311,607           | 326,778           | 327,728           | 2.8                   | 0.3           |
| Private hospitals                      | n.p.              | n.p.              | n.p.              | n.p.              | n.p.              | n.p.                  | n.p.          |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                   | <i>n.p.</i>       | <i>n.p.</i>       | <i>n.p.</i>       | <i>n.p.</i>       | <i>n.p.</i>       | <i>n.p.</i>           | <i>n.p.</i>   |
| <b>Northern Territory</b>              |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                       | 269,856           | 272,712           | 287,518           | 294,459           | 302,980           | 2.9                   | 2.9           |
| Private hospitals                      | n.p.              | n.p.              | n.p.              | n.p.              | n.p.              | n.p.                  | n.p.          |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                   | <i>n.p.</i>       | <i>n.p.</i>       | <i>n.p.</i>       | <i>n.p.</i>       | <i>n.p.</i>       | <i>n.p.</i>           | <i>n.p.</i>   |
| <b>Total</b>                           |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                       |               |
| <b>Public hospitals</b>                | <b>17,889,182</b> | <b>18,102,746</b> | <b>18,487,019</b> | <b>18,991,036</b> | <b>18,822,823</b> | <b>1.3</b>            | <b>–0.9</b>   |
| <b>Private hospitals</b>               | <b>7,892,929</b>  | <b>8,262,177</b>  | <b>8,407,813</b>  | <b>8,745,214</b>  | <b>8,872,946</b>  | <b>3.0</b>            | <b>1.5</b>    |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                   | <b>25,782,111</b> | <b>26,364,923</b> | <b>26,894,832</b> | <b>27,736,250</b> | <b>27,695,769</b> | <b>1.8</b>            | <b>–0.1</b>   |

(a) There were changes in coverage or data supply over this period for New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania that affect the interpretation of these data. See Appendix A for more information.

(b) The large decrease in public hospital patient days recorded for Victoria reflects a change in Victoria's emergency department admission policy between 2011–12 and 2012–13.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information for 2012–13 by state and territory is in Table 6.34 at the end of this chapter.

## How much activity was there in 2012–13?

In 2012–13, about 59% of separations (5.5 million) and 68% of patient days (18.8 million) occurred in public hospitals. Public hospitals accounted for about 70% of overnight separations and 53% of same-day separations.

For the 3.8 million separations from private hospitals, about 22% of separations (853,000) occurred in *Private free-standing day hospital facilities* and the remainder were in other private hospitals

The number of overnight separations is considered to be more comparable among the states and territories, and between the public and private sectors, than the total number of separations. This is due to variations in admission practices, which lead to variation, in particular, in the number of same-day admissions.

The proportion of separations that were for same-day care varied by hospital sector and between jurisdictions. For public hospitals, the proportion of same-day separations ranged from 45% in New South Wales to 67% in the Northern Territory. For private free-standing day hospitals and other private hospitals combined, it ranged from 66% in Victoria to 72% in New South Wales.

More information on the numbers of separations and patient days by state and territory is available in Table 6.34 at the end of this chapter.

### Overnight separations

In 2012–13, there were about 165 overnight separations per 1,000 population. Public hospitals accounted for about 115 overnight separations per 1,000 population and private hospitals accounted for about 49 per 1,000. See Chapter 8 for selected international comparisons based on overnight acute care.

Rates of overnight separations in public hospitals ranged from 92 per 1,000 in Tasmania to 189 per 1,000 in the Northern Territory (Table 6.4). For private hospitals, rates of overnight separations ranged from 38 per 1,000 in New South Wales to 62 per 1,000 in Queensland.

The proportion of overnight separations that were in public hospitals varied among states and territories, ranging from 64% in Queensland to 76% in New South Wales.

Separation rates presented by the state or territory of hospitalisation will include separations for patients not usually resident in that state or territory. For the Australian Capital Territory, about 76% of overnight separations were for Australian Capital Territory residents, with most of the remainder for residents of New South Wales.

There were variations in rates of overnight separations by Indigenous status, remoteness area of residence and SES of area of residence (see 'Who used these services').

**Table 6.4: Overnight separations per 1,000 population, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                                  | NSW          | Vic          | Qld          | WA           | SA           | Tas         | ACT <sup>(a)</sup> | NT          | Total        |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>Hospital sector</b>                           |              |              |              |              |              |             |                    |             |              |
| Public                                           | 121.3        | 107.7        | 112.0        | 114.4        | 122.5        | 91.7        | 122.9              | 188.6       | 115.4        |
| Private                                          | 38.4         | 52.5         | 62.3         | 55.8         | 48.2         | n.p.        | n.p.               | n.p.        | 49.3         |
| <b>Indigenous status</b>                         |              |              |              |              |              |             |                    |             |              |
| Indigenous                                       | 304.4        | 272.0        | 311.2        | 398.9        | 380.4        | n.p.        | n.p.               | n.p.        | 324.5        |
| Other Australians                                | 161.2        | 164.7        | 174.7        | 170.1        | 172.4        | n.p.        | n.p.               | n.p.        | 166.0        |
| <b>Remoteness of residence</b>                   |              |              |              |              |              |             |                    |             |              |
| Major cities                                     | 153.8        | 152.0        | 164.3        | 160.1        | 160.4        | ..          | 135.8              | ..          | 156.0        |
| Inner regional                                   | 164.5        | 179.9        | 187.2        | 181.5        | 167.4        | 140.4       | n.p.               | ..          | 173.8        |
| Outer regional                                   | 199.1        | 209.0        | 183.1        | 201.2        | 219.8        | 134.9       | ..                 | 172.9       | 190.7        |
| Remote                                           | 235.6        | 286.9        | 199.5        | 227.5        | 197.3        | 143.4       | ..                 | 222.7       | 215.3        |
| Very remote                                      | 266.9        | ..           | 255.3        | 214.1        | 230.5        | 184.1       | ..                 | 305.3       | 254.6        |
| <b>Socioeconomic status of area of residence</b> |              |              |              |              |              |             |                    |             |              |
| 1—Lowest                                         | 161.0        | 171.6        | 220.2        | 213.7        | 199.5        | 153.5       | n.p.               | 286.6       | 182.8        |
| 2                                                | 149.1        | 179.9        | 186.2        | 191.6        | 173.7        | 133.3       | n.p.               | 188.1       | 170.1        |
| 3                                                | 176.1        | 159.6        | 158.0        | 170.5        | 164.6        | 119.9       | 551.1              | 249.1       | 165.9        |
| 4                                                | 158.1        | 156.1        | 155.0        | 156.5        | 148.5        | 131.1       | 140.1              | 169.7       | 154.8        |
| 5—Highest                                        | 139.9        | 134.0        | 147.9        | 147.1        | 135.8        | ..          | 131.7              | 159.7       | 140.4        |
| <b>Total</b>                                     | <b>159.7</b> | <b>160.1</b> | <b>174.3</b> | <b>170.2</b> | <b>170.6</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b>        | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>164.7</b> |

(a) Caution should be used in interpreting rates for the Australian Capital Territory, as about 24% of overnight separations in the Australian Capital Territory were for interstate residents.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## Same-day separations

The number of same-day separations may not be comparable among the states and territories due to variations in admission practices. Therefore, these data should be interpreted with caution.

In 2012–13, there were about 226 same-day separations per 1,000 population. Public hospitals accounted for about 116 same-day separations per 1,000 population and private hospitals accounted for 109 per 1,000.

Rates of same-day separations in public hospitals ranged from 98 per 1,000 in New South Wales and Tasmania to 373 per 1,000 in the Northern Territory (Table 6.5). For private hospitals, rates of same-day separations ranged from 98 per 1,000 in New South Wales to 135 per 1,000 in Queensland.

For the Australian Capital Territory, about 84% of same-day separations were for Australian Capital Territory residents, with most of the remainder being for residents of New South Wales.

There were variations in rates of same-day separations by Indigenous status, remoteness area of residence and SES of area of residence (see 'Who used these services').

**Table 6.5: Same-day separations per 1,000 population, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                                  | NSW          | Vic          | Qld          | WA           | SA           | Tas         | ACT <sup>(a)</sup> | NT          | Total        |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>Hospital sector</b>                           |              |              |              |              |              |             |                    |             |              |
| Public                                           | 97.9         | 131.6        | 112.0        | 133.3        | 105.3        | 97.6        | 140.5              | 373.1       | 116.4        |
| Private                                          | 98.2         | 104.0        | 134.7        | 127.3        | 108.2        | n.p.        | n.p.               | n.p.        | 109.3        |
| <b>Indigenous status</b>                         |              |              |              |              |              |             |                    |             |              |
| Indigenous                                       | 373.9        | 506.5        | 606.0        | 1214.7       | 852.7        | n.p.        | n.p.               | n.p.        | 713.9        |
| Other Australians                                | 196.8        | 238.4        | 245.1        | 251.8        | 210.3        | n.p.        | n.p.               | n.p.        | 223.0        |
| <b>Remoteness of residence</b>                   |              |              |              |              |              |             |                    |             |              |
| Major cities                                     | 201.5        | 242.6        | 251.5        | 270.5        | 223.0        | ..          | 184.4              | ..          | 230.4        |
| Inner regional                                   | 186.0        | 214.2        | 244.0        | 220.7        | 178.2        | 201.2       | n.p.               | ..          | 209.9        |
| Outer regional                                   | 182.1        | 232.7        | 232.1        | 211.8        | 202.1        | 165.7       | ..                 | 267.5       | 213.1        |
| Remote                                           | 163.3        | 310.2        | 205.2        | 287.5        | 159.4        | 182.1       | ..                 | 355.2       | 240.4        |
| Very remote                                      | 156.2        | ..           | 212.6        | 147.6        | 163.7        | 147.5       | ..                 | 925.6       | 324.6        |
| <b>Socioeconomic status of area of residence</b> |              |              |              |              |              |             |                    |             |              |
| 1—Lowest                                         | 175.8        | 254.3        | 274.9        | 267.5        | 213.2        | 185.7       | n.p.               | 720.8       | 226.5        |
| 2                                                | 166.2        | 235.1        | 240.6        | 270.2        | 207.5        | 186.9       | n.p.               | 314.9       | 211.7        |
| 3                                                | 215.6        | 225.2        | 228.6        | 273.5        | 211.2        | 178.5       | 535.7              | 418.6       | 229.1        |
| 4                                                | 206.3        | 243.2        | 242.0        | 250.6        | 215.8        | 205.1       | 189.1              | 252.2       | 230.7        |
| 5—Highest                                        | 214.2        | 221.5        | 255.0        | 247.9        | 218.8        | ..          | 180.9              | 181.6       | 225.5        |
| <b>Total</b>                                     | <b>196.1</b> | <b>235.6</b> | <b>246.6</b> | <b>260.5</b> | <b>213.5</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b>        | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>225.7</b> |

(a) Caution should be used in interpreting rates for the Australian Capital Territory, as about 16% of same-day separations in the Australian Capital Territory were for interstate residents.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## Who used these services?

### Sex and age group

In 2012–13, overall there were about 4.9 million separations for females, compared with about 4.5 million separations for males (Table 6.6). In particular, women aged 15 to 45 years accounted for about 65% of separations for this age group. Females also accounted for more patient days than males (Table 6.6).

People aged 65 and over (who make up about 13% of the population) accounted for 39% of separations and 48% of patient days in 2012–13. Information on separations and patient days by sex and age group for each state and territory is available in tables 6.37 and 6.38 at the end of this chapter.

In 2012–13, there were more separations per 1,000 population for females than for males in the age groups 15 to 54 (Figure 6.1). Separation rates increased markedly with age for both males and females aged 55 and over.

**Table 6.6: Separations and patient days, by age group and sex, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Age group (years)          | Separations      |                  |                  | Patient days      |                   |                   |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                            | Males            | Females          | Persons          | Males             | Females           | Persons           |
| 0–4                        | 210,853          | 151,099          | 361,960          | 673,278           | 521,582           | 1,194,882         |
| 5–9                        | 79,372           | 59,170           | 138,545          | 125,756           | 99,244            | 225,003           |
| 10–14                      | 62,640           | 53,299           | 115,939          | 122,632           | 124,715           | 247,347           |
| 15–19                      | 99,882           | 138,362          | 238,246          | 243,062           | 328,313           | 571,406           |
| 20–24                      | 118,895          | 223,814          | 342,712          | 340,434           | 495,220           | 835,662           |
| 25–29                      | 121,738          | 287,023          | 408,766          | 377,494           | 700,503           | 1,078,131         |
| 30–34                      | 136,519          | 332,677          | 469,203          | 433,661           | 864,144           | 1,297,832         |
| 35–39                      | 160,185          | 302,000          | 462,187          | 468,474           | 745,781           | 1,214,257         |
| 40–44                      | 208,538          | 281,970          | 490,511          | 548,642           | 650,870           | 1,199,517         |
| 45–49                      | 237,663          | 274,492          | 512,157          | 612,817           | 638,139           | 1,250,958         |
| 50–54                      | 295,692          | 319,247          | 614,939          | 748,754           | 743,765           | 1,492,519         |
| 55–59                      | 353,058          | 342,213          | 695,273          | 898,234           | 804,027           | 1,702,263         |
| 60–64                      | 424,018          | 374,728          | 798,748          | 1,074,858         | 935,616           | 2,010,476         |
| 65–69                      | 479,612          | 399,075          | 878,688          | 1,261,870         | 1,061,764         | 2,323,635         |
| 70–74                      | 438,150          | 373,096          | 811,247          | 1,234,815         | 1,112,999         | 2,347,815         |
| 75–79                      | 407,813          | 355,363          | 763,177          | 1,276,151         | 1,250,642         | 2,526,794         |
| 80–84                      | 336,809          | 313,659          | 650,469          | 1,250,282         | 1,415,051         | 2,665,334         |
| 85+                        | 278,752          | 341,974          | 620,729          | 1,370,525         | 2,141,372         | 3,511,903         |
| <b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b> | <b>4,450,204</b> | <b>4,923,265</b> | <b>9,373,526</b> | <b>13,061,754</b> | <b>14,633,752</b> | <b>27,695,769</b> |

(a) Total includes separations for which the age was not reported.

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information by state and territory is in tables 6.36 and 6.37 at the end of this chapter.

Persons aged 85 and over accounted for about 7% of all separations in 2012–13.

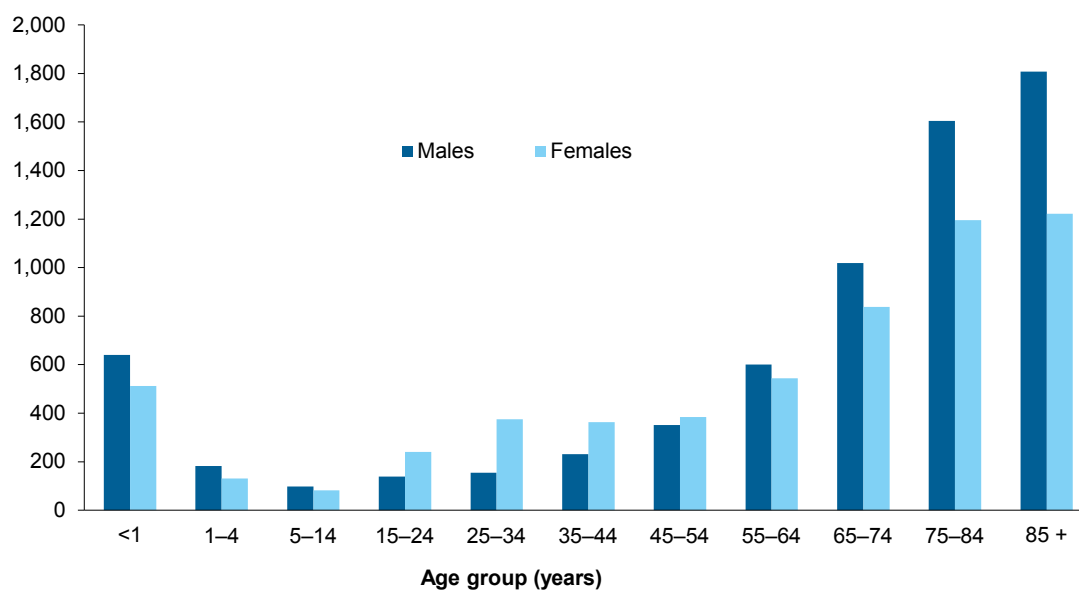
Between 2008–09 and 2012–13, there were large increases in separations for persons aged 65 to 74 years and for persons aged 85 and over.

Separations for persons aged 65 to 74 years increased by 28% overall (Figure 6.2), an average increase of 6% each year.

Separations for persons aged 85 and over increased by 36% overall (Figure 6.2), an average increase of 8% each year. This was faster than the population growth for this age group of about 4.3% each year over the same period.

The large increase in separations and patient days for patients aged less than 1 year mostly reflects changes in the reporting of *Newborn* episodes of care with qualified days in New South Wales between 2010–11 and 2011–12 (see Appendix B for more information).

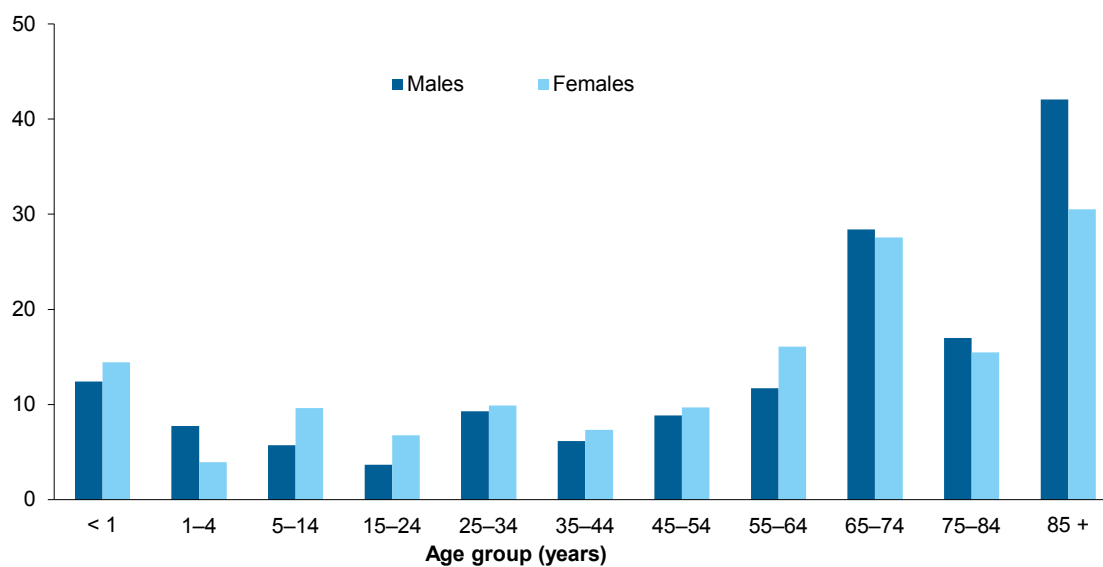
**Separations per 1,000 population**



Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Figure 6.1: Separations per 1,000 population by sex and age group, all hospitals, 2012-13**

**Per cent change**



Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Figure 6.2: Overall change in separations by sex and age group, all hospitals, 2008-09 to 2012-13**

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Caution should be used in the interpretation of these data because of jurisdictional differences in data quality. See 'Under-identification of Indigenous persons' (below) and appendix A for more information on the quality of Indigenous status data in the NHMD.

In 2012–13, there were about 385,000 separations reported for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (Table 6.7). For persons reported as Indigenous Australians:

- 93% were reported as *Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander origin*, 4% were reported as *Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal origin* and 3% were reported as *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin* sector (Table 6.38)
- 92% were from the public sector (353,000), whereas 58% of separations for other Australians were from the public sector (Table 6.38). In part, this may reflect the lower quality of Indigenous identification in private hospitals compared with public hospitals.
- there were 325 overnight separations per 1,000 population, almost twice the rate for other Australians (166 per 1,000) (Table 6.4)
- there were 714 same-day separations per 1,000 population, more than 3 times the rate for other Australians (223 per 1,000) (Table 6.5).

In 2012–13, there were 1,038 separations per 1,000 population for Indigenous Australians (Tables 6.4 and 6.5), about 2.7 times the separation rate for other Australians. About 86% of the difference between these rates was due to higher separation rates for Indigenous Australians admitted for same-day maintenance kidney dialysis (see Chapter 7).

The Northern Territory had the highest separation rate for Indigenous Australians (1,911 separations per 1,000), nearly 6 times the rate for other Australians (excludes private hospitals) (Table 6.38). Information on separations by Indigenous status for states and territories is available in tables 6.38 and 6.39 at the end of this chapter.

## Under-identification of Indigenous persons

The AIHW report *Indigenous identification in hospital separations data: quality report* (AIHW 2013h) found that nationally, about 88% of Indigenous Australians were identified correctly in hospital admissions data in the 2011–12 study period, and the 'true' number of separations for Indigenous Australians was about 9% higher than reported.

Using the agreed national correction factor of 1.09 (AIHW 2013h), the 'true' number of separations for Indigenous Australians for 2012–13 could be estimated at about 419,000 separations. As other Australians may include unidentified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, the 'true' number of separations for other Australians would be reduced and could be estimated at about 8,941,000 separations.

Using the same method (and assuming that the age distributions for unidentified and identified Indigenous Australians is similar), the 'true' separation rates for Indigenous Australians and other Australians for 2012–13 could be estimated as about 1,130 per 1,000 population and 387 per 1,000, respectively. These rates indicate that, after adjusting for under-identification, Indigenous Australians were hospitalised at about 2.9 times the rate for other Australians.



## Sex and age group

In 2012–13:

- 57% of separations for Indigenous Australians were for females, compared with 52% for other Australians (Table 6.7)
- 11% of separations for Indigenous Australians were for people aged 0 to 14, compared with 6% of separations for other Australians.
- 13% of separations for Indigenous Australians were for people aged 65 and over, compared with 41% of separations for other Australians.

**Table 6.7: Separations by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 2012–13**

| Age group (years)          | Indigenous Australians |                |                | Other Australians |                  |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                            | Males                  | Females        | Persons        | Males             | Females          | Persons          |
| 0–4                        | 14,035                 | 10,688         | 24,723         | 196,818           | 140,411          | 337,237          |
| 5–9                        | 4,967                  | 3,866          | 8,833          | 74,405            | 55,304           | 129,712          |
| 10–14                      | 3,852                  | 3,492          | 7,344          | 58,788            | 49,807           | 108,595          |
| 15–19                      | 5,010                  | 9,893          | 14,903         | 94,872            | 128,469          | 223,343          |
| 20–24                      | 6,549                  | 15,235         | 21,784         | 112,346           | 208,579          | 320,928          |
| 25–29                      | 6,763                  | 13,757         | 20,520         | 114,975           | 273,266          | 388,246          |
| 30–34                      | 7,410                  | 12,140         | 19,550         | 129,109           | 320,537          | 449,653          |
| 35–39                      | 11,040                 | 15,577         | 26,617         | 149,145           | 286,423          | 435,570          |
| 40–44                      | 16,400                 | 17,779         | 34,179         | 192,138           | 264,191          | 456,332          |
| 45–49                      | 19,254                 | 21,647         | 40,901         | 218,409           | 252,845          | 471,256          |
| 50–54                      | 17,759                 | 21,529         | 39,288         | 277,933           | 297,718          | 575,651          |
| 55–59                      | 16,808                 | 24,263         | 41,072         | 336,250           | 317,950          | 654,201          |
| 60–64                      | 14,344                 | 19,884         | 34,228         | 409,674           | 354,844          | 764,520          |
| 65+                        | 20,800                 | 29,895         | 50,695         | 1,920,336         | 1,753,272        | 3,673,615        |
| <b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b> | <b>164,991</b>         | <b>219,646</b> | <b>384,638</b> | <b>4,285,213</b>  | <b>4,703,619</b> | <b>8,988,888</b> |

(a) Total includes separations for which the age was not reported.

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information by state and territory is in tables 6.38 and 6.39 at the end of this chapter.

## State or territory of residence

The admitted patient care data includes information on the patient's area of usual residence, including the state or territory of usual residence and the Statistical Area level 2 (SA2).

Table 6.36 (at the end of this chapter) presents counts of separations by both the state or territory of hospitalisation and the state or territory of usual residence of the patient.

For 2012–13, about 98% of separations (9.1 million) were for people who were hospitalised in their state or territory of residence. However, in the Australian Capital Territory, only 80% of hospital separations were for Australian Capital Territory residents, with most of the remainder for residents of New South Wales.

## Remoteness area of residence

The patient's area of usual residence can be used to derive the remoteness area of usual residence. Remoteness area categories divide Australia into areas depending on distances from population centres.

The number of separations per 1,000 population varied by remoteness area. Overall, separation rates were highest for persons residing in *Very remote* and *Remote* areas (579 and 456 per 1,000 population, respectively) (Table 6.8).

The separation rates for the public and private sectors varied across remoteness areas.

For public hospitals, the highest separation rates were for patients living in *Very remote* areas and the lowest for patients living in *Major cities* (511 and 212 per 1,000, respectively).

For private hospitals, the highest separation rates were for patients living in *Major cities* and the lowest for patients living in *Very remote areas* (175 and 68 per 1,000, respectively).

**Table 6.8: Separations per 1,000 persons, by remoteness area of usual residence, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

|                      | Remoteness area |                |                |              |              | Total        |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|                      | Major cities    | Inner regional | Outer regional | Remote       | Very remote  |              |
| Public hospitals     | 211.8           | 248.4          | 299.8          | 360.7        | 511.4        | 231.8        |
| Private hospitals    | 174.6           | 135.4          | 103.9          | 95.0         | 67.8         | 158.6        |
| <b>All hospitals</b> | <b>386.4</b>    | <b>383.8</b>   | <b>403.7</b>   | <b>455.7</b> | <b>579.2</b> | <b>390.4</b> |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

For overnight separations, patients living in *Very remote* areas had the highest separation rate (255 per 1,000) and those living in *Major cities* had the lowest separation rate (156 per 1,000) (Table 6.4).

For same-day separations, patients living in *Very remote* areas had the highest separation rate (325 per 1,000) (Table 6.5).

## Socioeconomic status

SES groups in this report are based on the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (from SEIFA 2011) for the area of usual residence, or SA2, of the patient. See Appendix B for details.

In 2012–13, separation rates varied across SES groups and between public and private hospitals. For public hospitals, the highest separation rates were for patients living in areas classified as being the lowest SES group (304 separations per 1,000 population) (Table 6.9). For private hospitals, the highest separation rates were for patients living in areas classified as being the highest SES group (215 per 1,000).

**Table 6.9: Separations per 1,000 population by socioeconomic status of area of residence, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

|                      | Socioeconomic status of usual residence area |              |              |              |              | Total        |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|                      | 1—Lowest                                     | 2            | 3            | 4            | 5—Highest    |              |
| Public hospitals     | 304.1                                        | 256.9        | 234.0        | 197.3        | 151.1        | 231.9        |
| Private hospitals    | 105.3                                        | 125.0        | 161.0        | 188.2        | 214.7        | 158.6        |
| <b>All hospitals</b> | <b>409.4</b>                                 | <b>381.8</b> | <b>394.9</b> | <b>385.5</b> | <b>365.8</b> | <b>390.4</b> |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

For overnight separations, patients living in areas classified as being in the lowest SES group had the highest separation rate (183 per 1,000) and those living in areas classified as being in the highest SES group had the lowest separation rate (140 per 1,000) (Table 6.4).

For same-day separations, separations rates were fairly similar across all SES groups (Table 6.5), ranging from 212 to 231 per 1,000.

## How did people access these services?

The mode of admission records the mechanism by which an admitted patient begins an episode of care. Patients may have the following modes of admission:

- *Admitted patient transferred from another hospital*
- *Statistical admission: care type change* – where a new admitted patient episode is created as a result of a change in the clinical intent of care (for example, a patient’s care may move from a focus on acute care to a focus on rehabilitation or palliative care), within the same hospital
- *Other* – the term used to refer to all other planned and unplanned admissions.

In 2012–13, most separations in both public and private hospitals had a mode of admission of *Other* (94%).

Public hospitals had a higher proportion of patients transferred from another hospital than private hospitals (4.9% and 2.8%, respectively). Western Australia had the highest proportion of patients transferred from another hospital and the Northern Territory had the lowest (6.1% and 0.2%, respectively).

Public hospitals also reported higher proportions of *Statistical admissions* than private hospitals (1.9% and 0.5%, respectively) (Table 6.10). For public hospitals, the Australian Capital Territory had the highest proportion of patients with a statistical admission.

## Why did people receive the care?

The reason that a patient receives admitted patient care can be described in terms of the principal diagnosis.

Where a patient has a diagnosis related to injury and poisoning, additional information is available on the cause of the injury (for example, a traffic accident or fall). In some cases, the principal diagnosis is described in terms of a treatment for an ongoing condition (for example, care involving dialysis).

**Table 6.10: Separations by mode of admission, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

|                                                    | NSW              | Vic              | Qld              | WA               | SA             | Tas            | ACT           | NT             | Total            |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>Public hospitals</b>                            |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |               |                |                  |
| Admitted patient transferred from another hospital | 95,855           | 69,865           | 40,037           | 37,263           | 20,017         | 2,507          | 2,961         | 240            | 268,745          |
| Statistical admission: type change                 | 34,086           | 15,872           | 30,691           | 11,070           | 4,284          | 1,658          | 3,343         | 1,507          | 102,511          |
| Other                                              | 1,577,636        | 1,342,932        | 973,283          | 558,476          | 388,772        | 101,257        | 88,408        | 116,560        | 5,147,324        |
| Not reported                                       | 9,212            | 784              | 0                | 0                | 683            | 936            | 0             | 0              | 11,615           |
| <i>Total</i>                                       | <i>1,716,789</i> | <i>1,429,453</i> | <i>1,044,011</i> | <i>606,809</i>   | <i>413,756</i> | <i>106,358</i> | <i>94,712</i> | <i>118,307</i> | <i>5,530,195</i> |
| <b>Private hospitals</b>                           |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |               |                |                  |
| Admitted patient transferred from another hospital | 41,188           | 31,537           | 18,309           | 7,821            | 5,993          | n.p.           | n.p.          | n.p.           | 109,111          |
| Statistical admission: type change                 | 5,018            | 3,432            | 7,947            | 2,716            | 471            | n.p.           | n.p.          | n.p.           | 20,644           |
| Other                                              | 1,035,294        | 908,412          | 907,405          | 441,405          | 291,466        | n.p.           | n.p.          | n.p.           | 3,695,203        |
| Not reported                                       | 1,000            | 0                | 0                | 0                | 229            | n.p.           | n.p.          | n.p.           | 18,373           |
| <i>Total</i>                                       | <i>1,082,500</i> | <i>943,381</i>   | <i>933,661</i>   | <i>451,942</i>   | <i>298,159</i> | <i>n.p.</i>    | <i>n.p.</i>   | <i>n.p.</i>    | <i>3,843,331</i> |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                               |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |               |                |                  |
| Admitted patient transferred from another hospital | 137,043          | 101,402          | 58,346           | 45,084           | 26,010         | n.p.           | n.p.          | n.p.           | 377,856          |
| Statistical admission: type change                 | 39,104           | 19,304           | 38,638           | 13,786           | 4,755          | n.p.           | n.p.          | n.p.           | 123,155          |
| Other                                              | 2,612,930        | 2,251,344        | 1,880,688        | 999,881          | 680,238        | n.p.           | n.p.          | n.p.           | 8,842,527        |
| Not reported                                       | 10,212           | 784              | 0                | 0                | 912            | n.p.           | n.p.          | n.p.           | 29,988           |
| <b>Total</b>                                       | <b>2,799,289</b> | <b>2,372,834</b> | <b>1,977,672</b> | <b>1,058,751</b> | <b>711,915</b> | <b>n.p.</b>    | <b>n.p.</b>   | <b>n.p.</b>    | <b>9,373,526</b> |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## Principal diagnosis

In 2012–13, more than one-quarter of separations in public and private hospitals had a principal diagnosis in the *Factors influencing health status and contact with health services* chapter, which includes care involving dialysis and chemotherapy (Table 6.11).

The relative distribution of separations by diagnosis chapter varied across public and private hospitals. For example, about 84% of separations for *Certain infectious and parasitic diseases* and 81% of separations for *Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes* were from public hospitals. For *Diseases of the eye and adnexa*, about 72% of separations were from private hospitals.

**Table 6.11: Separations, by principal diagnosis in ICD-10-AM chapters, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Principal diagnosis |                                                                                                     | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total            |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| A00–B99             | Certain infectious and parasitic diseases                                                           | 118,506          | 23,256            | 141,762          |
| C00–D48             | Neoplasms                                                                                           | 278,881          | 321,931           | 600,812          |
| D50–D89             | Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism | 90,615           | 48,434            | 139,049          |
| E00–E90             | Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases                                                       | 88,750           | 48,163            | 136,913          |
| F00–F99             | Mental and behavioural disorders                                                                    | 193,939          | 163,156           | 357,095          |
| G00–G99             | Diseases of the nervous system                                                                      | 139,413          | 107,196           | 246,609          |
| H00–H59             | Diseases of the eye and adnexa                                                                      | 95,295           | 239,340           | 334,635          |
| H60–H95             | Diseases of the ear and mastoid process                                                             | 31,425           | 29,235            | 60,660           |
| I00–I99             | Diseases of the circulatory system                                                                  | 339,423          | 179,279           | 518,702          |
| J00–J99             | Diseases of the respiratory system                                                                  | 305,877          | 94,926            | 400,803          |
| K00–K93             | Diseases of the digestive system                                                                    | 422,474          | 498,254           | 920,728          |
| L00–L99             | Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue                                                        | 108,573          | 46,660            | 155,233          |
| M00–M99             | Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue                                        | 189,972          | 309,307           | 499,279          |
| N00–N99             | Diseases of the genitourinary system                                                                | 247,773          | 186,543           | 434,316          |
| O00–O99             | Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium                                                            | 346,803          | 146,864           | 493,667          |
| P00–P96             | Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period                                              | 52,928           | 12,203            | 65,131           |
| Q00–Q99             | Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities                                | 25,837           | 11,150            | 36,987           |
| R00–R99             | Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified             | 445,708          | 209,910           | 655,618          |
| S00–T98             | Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes                                 | 488,513          | 113,247           | 601,760          |
| Z00–Z99             | Factors influencing health status and contact with health services                                  | 1,516,324        | 1,052,930         | 2,569,254        |
|                     | Not reported                                                                                        | 3,166            | 1,347             | 4,513            |
| <b>Total</b>        |                                                                                                     | <b>5,530,195</b> | <b>3,843,351</b>  | <b>9,373,526</b> |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

More than 48% of separations for Indigenous Australians had a principal diagnosis in the chapter *Factors influencing health status and contact with health services*, compared with 27% for other Australians (Table 6.12). This category includes care involving dialysis which accounts for a large proportion of same-day separations for Indigenous Australians (see Chapter 7).

*Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes* was the second most common principal diagnosis among Indigenous Australians, accounting for 7.2% of separations.

**Table 6.12: Separations by principal diagnosis in ICD-10-AM chapters, by Indigenous status, 2012–13**

| Principal diagnosis |                                                                                                     | Indigenous<br>Australians | Other<br>Australians | All<br>Australians |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| A00–B99             | Certain infectious and parasitic diseases                                                           | 6,601                     | 135,161              | 141,762            |
| C00–D48             | Neoplasms                                                                                           | 5,394                     | 595,418              | 600,812            |
| D50–D89             | Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism | 2,240                     | 136,809              | 139,049            |
| E00–E90             | Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases                                                       | 5,797                     | 131,116              | 136,913            |
| F00–F99             | Mental and behavioural disorders                                                                    | 16,393                    | 340,702              | 357,095            |
| G00–G99             | Diseases of the nervous system                                                                      | 4,929                     | 241,680              | 246,609            |
| H00–H59             | Diseases of the eye and adnexa                                                                      | 3,071                     | 331,564              | 334,635            |
| H60–H95             | Diseases of the ear and mastoid process                                                             | 2,762                     | 57,898               | 60,660             |
| I00–I99             | Diseases of the circulatory system                                                                  | 11,588                    | 507,114              | 518,702            |
| J00–J99             | Diseases of the respiratory system                                                                  | 20,944                    | 379,859              | 400,803            |
| K00–K93             | Diseases of the digestive system                                                                    | 19,315                    | 901,413              | 920,728            |
| L00–L99             | Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue                                                        | 8,310                     | 146,923              | 155,233            |
| M00–M99             | Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue                                        | 7,201                     | 492,078              | 499,279            |
| N00–N99             | Diseases of the genitourinary system                                                                | 10,348                    | 423,968              | 434,316            |
| O00–O99             | Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium                                                            | 22,342                    | 471,325              | 493,667            |
| P00–P96             | Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period                                              | 4,093                     | 61,038               | 65,131             |
| Q00–Q99             | Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities                                | 1,259                     | 35,728               | 36,987             |
| R00–R99             | Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified             | 18,616                    | 637,002              | 655,618            |
| S00–T98             | Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes                                 | 27,653                    | 574,107              | 601,760            |
| Z00–Z99             | Factors influencing health status and contact with health services                                  | 185,289                   | 2,383,965            | 2,569,254          |
|                     | Not reported                                                                                        | 493                       | 4,020                | 4,513              |
| <b>Total</b>        |                                                                                                     | <b>384,638</b>            | <b>8,988,916</b>     | <b>9,373,526</b>   |

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## How many separations were due to injury and poisoning?

Some hospitalisations for injury or poisoning may be considered potentially avoidable. It should be noted that the admitted patient care data provide only a partial picture of the overall burden of injury because it does not include injuries not medically treated, injuries treated by general practitioners and injuries treated in emergency departments that do not require admission to hospital.

In 2012–13, about 602,000 separations (about 26 per 1,000 population) had a principal diagnosis that was in the group *Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes*. The majority (81%) of these were treated in public hospitals (Table 6.13).

About 45% of these separations, in public and private hospitals combined, had a principal diagnosis of *Injuries to upper and lower limbs*.

**Table 6.13: Separations with a principal diagnosis of injury or poisoning, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Principal diagnosis                                                    | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| S00–S19 Injuries to head & neck                                        | 89,197           | 7,495             | 96,692         |
| S20–S39 Injuries to thorax, abdomen, back, spine & pelvis              | 47,687           | 6,198             | 53,885         |
| S40–S99 Injuries to upper & lower limbs                                | 211,831          | 56,475            | 268,306        |
| T00–T19 Injuries to multi- or unspecified region; foreign body effects | 10,209           | 1,367             | 11,576         |
| T20–T35 Burns and frostbite                                            | 8,111            | 249               | 8,360          |
| T36–T65 Poisoning and toxic effects                                    | 38,642           | 525               | 39,167         |
| T66–T79 Other and unspecified effects of external causes               | 13,145           | 708               | 13,853         |
| T80–T88 Complications of medical and surgical care                     | 69,623           | 40,214            | 109,837        |
| T89–T98 Other trauma complications; external cause sequelae            | 68               | 16                | 84             |
| <b>Total</b>                                                           | <b>488,513</b>   | <b>113,247</b>    | <b>601,760</b> |
| <b>Separations per 1,000 population</b>                                | <b>20.8</b>      | <b>4.7</b>        | <b>25.5</b>    |

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Indigenous Australians were hospitalised with a principal diagnosis of injury and poisoning at more than twice the rate of other Australians (54 per 1,000 and 26 per 1,000, respectively) (Table 6.14).

*Injuries to the head and neck* accounted for 26% of these separations for Indigenous Australians and 16% for other Australians. *Complications of medical and surgical care* accounted for a higher proportion of these separations for other Australians (19%) compared with Indigenous Australians (11%).

**Table 6.14: Separations with a principal diagnosis of injury or poisoning, by Indigenous status, 2012–13**

| Principal diagnosis                     |                                                                | Indigenous<br>Australians | Other<br>Australians | All<br>Australians |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| S00–S19                                 | Injuries to head & neck                                        | 7,199                     | 89,493               | 96,692             |
| S20–S39                                 | Injuries to thorax, abdomen, back, spine & pelvis              | 2,120                     | 51,765               | 53,885             |
| S40–S99                                 | Injuries to upper & lower limbs                                | 10,755                    | 257,551              | 268,306            |
| T00–T19                                 | Injuries to multi- or unspecified region; foreign body effects | 618                       | 10,958               | 11,576             |
| T20–T35                                 | Burns and frostbite                                            | 774                       | 7,586                | 8,360              |
| T36–T65                                 | Poisoning and toxic effects                                    | 2,351                     | 36,816               | 39,167             |
| T66–T79                                 | Other and unspecified effects of external causes               | 656                       | 13,197               | 13,853             |
| T80–T88                                 | Complications of medical and surgical care                     | 3,171                     | 106,666              | 109,837            |
| T89–T98                                 | Other trauma complications; external cause sequelae            | 9                         | 75                   | 84                 |
| <b>Total</b>                            |                                                                | <b>27,653</b>             | <b>574,107</b>       | <b>601,760</b>     |
| <b>Separations per 1,000 population</b> |                                                                | <b>54.4</b>               | <b>25.6</b>          | <b>26.3</b>        |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

### What were the causes of injury and poisoning?

An **external cause** is defined as the environmental event, circumstance or condition that was the cause of injury, poisoning or adverse event. Whenever a patient has a principal or additional diagnosis of an injury or poisoning, an external cause code should be recorded. External causes may also be required for other selected diagnoses.

A place of occurrence code is also usually recorded and, for most records, the activity of the person at the time of the event should be recorded (NCCH 2010).

In 2012–13, there were more than 1.1 million separations for which an external cause of injury or poisoning was reported (Table 6.15). About 76% of these separations were from public hospitals.

The most frequently reported groups of external causes in both public and private hospitals were *Complications of medical and surgical care* (462,000 separations) and *Falls* (299,000 separations). Public hospitals had notably higher proportions of separations with external causes of *Intentional self-harm*, *Accidental drowning and submersion*, *Accidental poisoning* and *Assault* than private hospitals.

Some of these external causes may be related to additional diagnoses, particularly for *Complications of medical and surgical care*.



**Table 6.15: Separations, by external cause in ICD-10-AM groupings, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| External cause             |                                                                  | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total            |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| V00–V99                    | Transport accidents                                              | 63,601           | 8,361             | 71,962           |
| W00–W19                    | Falls                                                            | 244,086          | 54,623            | 298,709          |
| W20–W64                    | Exposure to mechanical forces                                    | 92,768           | 12,046            | 104,814          |
| W65–W74                    | Accidental drowning and submersion                               | 723              | 13                | 736              |
| W75–W84                    | Other accidental threats to breathing                            | 13,525           | 1,744             | 15,269           |
| W85–W99                    | Exposure to electricity, radiation, extreme temperature/pressure | 1,108            | 189               | 1,297            |
| X00–X19                    | Exposure to smoke, fire, flames, hot substances                  | 8,449            | 541               | 8,990            |
| X20–X39                    | Exposure to venomous plants, animals, forces of nature           | 5,677            | 330               | 6,007            |
| X40–X49                    | Accidental poisoning                                             | 12,500           | 651               | 13,151           |
| X50–X59                    | Other external causes of accidental injury                       | 45,815           | 42,808            | 88,623           |
| X60–X84                    | Intentional self-harm                                            | 33,432           | 1,033             | 34,465           |
| X85–Y09                    | Assault                                                          | 25,463           | 483               | 25,946           |
| Y10–Y34                    | Events of undetermined intent                                    | 6,518            | 439               | 6,957            |
| Y35–Y36                    | Legal intervention and operations of war                         | 185              | 59                | 244              |
| Y40–Y84                    | Complications of medical and surgical care                       | 322,242          | 140,085           | 462,327          |
| Y85–Y98                    | Sequelae and supplementary factors                               | 30,377           | 8,724             | 39,101           |
| <b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b> |                                                                  | <b>854,136</b>   | <b>263,095</b>    | <b>1,117,231</b> |

(a) As more than one external cause can be reported for a separation, the totals may not equal the sums of the columns.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

More information on the place of occurrence and the activity when injured is in tables accompanying this report online at <[www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/](http://www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/)>.

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

*Complications of medical and surgical care* was the most commonly reported external cause of injury and poisoning for hospitalisations for Indigenous Australians, accounting for about one-quarter (25%) of all reported external causes (Table 6.16). This was also the most commonly reported external cause for other Australians (42%).

*Assault* accounted for 18% of external causes reported for Indigenous Australians, compared with 2% of external causes reported for other Australians.

*Transport accidents* accounted for a similar proportion of external causes for both Indigenous Australians and other Australians (6.8% and 6.4%, respectively).

**Table 6.16: Separations, by external cause in ICD-10-AM groupings and Indigenous status, 2012–13**

| External cause             |                                                                  | Indigenous<br>Australians | Other<br>Australians | All<br>Australians |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| V00–V99                    | Transport accidents                                              | 2,811                     | 69,151               | 71,962             |
| W00–W19                    | Falls                                                            | 7,028                     | 291,681              | 298,709            |
| W20–W64                    | Exposure to mechanical forces                                    | 5,623                     | 99,191               | 104,814            |
| W65–W74                    | Accidental drowning and submersion                               | 34                        | 702                  | 736                |
| W75–W84                    | Other accidental threats to breathing                            | 525                       | 14,744               | 15,269             |
| W85–W99                    | Exposure to electricity, radiation, extreme temperature/pressure | 42                        | 1,255                | 1,297              |
| X00–X19                    | Exposure to smoke, fire, flames, hot substances                  | 818                       | 8,172                | 8,990              |
| X20–X39                    | Exposure to venomous plants, animals, forces of nature           | 280                       | 5,727                | 6,007              |
| X40–X49                    | Accidental poisoning                                             | 818                       | 12,333               | 13,151             |
| X50–X59                    | Other external causes of accidental injury                       | 2,551                     | 86,072               | 88,623             |
| X60–X84                    | Intentional self-harm                                            | 2,547                     | 31,918               | 34,465             |
| X85–Y09                    | Assault                                                          | 7,296                     | 18,650               | 25,946             |
| Y10–Y34                    | Events of undetermined intent                                    | 593                       | 6,364                | 6,957              |
| Y35–Y36                    | Legal intervention and operations of war                         | 23                        | 221                  | 244                |
| Y40–Y84                    | Complications of medical and surgical care                       | 10,575                    | 451,751              | 462,326            |
| Y85–Y98                    | Sequelae and supplementary factors                               | 2,175                     | 36,928               | 39,103             |
| <b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b> |                                                                  | <b>41,596</b>             | <b>1,075,635</b>     | <b>1,117,231</b>   |

(a) As more than one external cause can be reported for a separation, the total may not equal the sum of the column.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## How many separations were potentially preventable?

The rate of potentially preventable hospitalisations (PPHs) is a NHA performance indicator, relating to the outcome *Australians receive appropriate high quality and affordable primary and community health services*. The proportion of total separations that were for PPHs is an NHA benchmark.

PPHs are those conditions where hospitalisation is thought to have been avoidable if timely and adequate non-hospital care had been provided. Separation rates for PPHs therefore have potential as indicators of the quality or effectiveness of non-hospital care. A high rate of PPHs may indicate an increased prevalence of the conditions in the community, poorer functioning of the non-hospital care system or an appropriate use of the hospital system to respond to greater need.

There are three broad categories of PPHs. These were originally sourced from the Victorian Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions Study (DHS, Victoria 2002) and are classified as:

- *Vaccine-preventable*. These diseases can be prevented by proper vaccination and include influenza, bacterial pneumonia, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella, pertussis and polio. The conditions are considered to be preventable, rather than the hospitalisation.
- *Acute*. These conditions may not be preventable, but theoretically would not result in hospitalisation if adequate and timely care (usually non-hospital) was received. These include complicated appendicitis; dehydration/gastroenteritis; pyelonephritis;

perforated ulcer; cellulitis; pelvic inflammatory disease; ear, nose and throat infections; and dental conditions.

- *Chronic.* These conditions may be preventable through behaviour modification and lifestyle change, but they can also be managed effectively through timely care (usually non-hospital) to prevent deterioration and hospitalisation. These conditions include diabetes complications, asthma, angina, hypertension, congestive heart failure and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

In 2012–13, 772,000 separations in public and private hospitals were classified as PPHs (Table 6.17). PPHs accounted for 8.2% of all hospital separations, 10.3% of public hospital separations and 5.2% of private hospital separations. Almost three-quarters of PPHs (74%) were reported for public hospitals. *Diabetes complications* accounted for about 26% of separations that were classified as PPHs.

**Table 6.17: Separations for potentially preventable hospitalisations, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| PPH category                               | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total          |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Vaccine-preventable conditions             | 20,586           | 3,138             | 23,724         |
| Acute conditions                           | 248,267          | 92,085            | 340,352        |
| <i>Chronic conditions</i> <sup>(a)</sup>   | 307,673          | 105,585           | 413,258        |
| Diabetes complications                     | 136,759          | 66,635            | 203,394        |
| Chronic conditions (excluding diabetes)    | 193,584          | 42,454            | 236,038        |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>572,124</b>   | <b>200,274</b>    | <b>772,398</b> |
| <b>Proportion of total separations (%)</b> | <b>10.3</b>      | <b>5.2</b>        | <b>8.2</b>     |

(a) As more than one chronic condition may be reported for a separation, the sum of *Diabetes complications* and *Chronic conditions (excluding diabetes)* does not necessarily equal the total number of separations for *Chronic conditions*.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information by residence state is in Table 6.40 at the end of this chapter.

## How have rates of potentially preventable hospitalisations changed over time?

Between 2008–09 and 2012–13, overall rates of PPHs fluctuated (Table 6.18).

For *Chronic conditions*, the rate was 16.7 per 1,000 in 2008–09. It decreased between 2009–10 and 2010–11 and then increased between 2011–12 and 2012–13. However, over this period, a number of changes in the coding standards for diabetes-related conditions were implemented. The first change in the coding standard resulted in a marked decrease in the reporting of *Diabetes complications* between 2009–10 and 2010–11. A second change to the coding standard was implemented on 1 July 2012, and this resulted in a sharp increase (124%) in the reporting of *Diabetes complications* between 2011–12 and 2012–13. For more information on these changes to coding standards and the effect on the reporting of diabetes, see Appendix B.

**Table 6.18: Separations per 1,000 population for potentially preventable hospitalisations, by PPH category, all hospitals, 2008–09 to 2012–13**

| PPH category                             | 2008–09     | 2009–10     | 2010–11     | 2011–12     | 2012–13     | Change (%)            |               |
|------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                                          |             |             |             |             |             | Average since 2008–09 | Since 2011–12 |
| Vaccine preventable conditions           | 0.7         | 0.8         | 0.8         | 0.8         | 1.0         | 7.1                   | 19.9          |
| Acute conditions                         | 11.3        | 11.4        | 11.6        | 14.5        | 14.0        | 5.5                   | –3.0          |
| <i>Chronic conditions</i> <sup>(a)</sup> | 16.7        | 15.9        | 12.9        | 12.9        | 16.4        | –0.4                  | 27.5          |
| Diabetes complications <sup>(b)</sup>    | 7.8         | 7.1         | 3.7         | 3.6         | 8.0         | 0.7                   | 124.01        |
| Chronic conditions (excluding diabetes)  | 9.5         | 9.3         | 9.6         | 9.6         | 9.4         | –0.3                  | –2.3          |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>30.9</b> | <b>30.4</b> | <b>27.8</b> | <b>28.0</b> | <b>31.2</b> | <b>0.3</b>            | <b>11.4</b>   |

(a) As more than one chronic condition may be reported for a separation, the sum of *Diabetes complications* and *Chronic conditions (excluding diabetes)* does not necessarily equal the total number of separations for *Chronic conditions*.

(b) Changes in coding standards for the recording of diabetes-related conditions took effect from 1 July 2010 and 1 July 2012. See Appendix A for more information.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## How do rates of potentially preventable hospitalisations differ by population groups?

### Remoteness area of residence

For 2012–13, the overall rate of PPHs was highest for residents of *Remote* and *Very remote* areas (58 and 74 per 1,000 population, respectively) and lowest for residents of *Major cities* (31 per 1,000) (Table 6.19).

Residents of *Remote* and *Very remote* areas had the highest rates of PPHs across the three categories of PPHs.

### Socioeconomic status

The rate of PPHs generally decreased with increasing levels of socioeconomic advantage, ranging from 24 per 1,000 for residents of areas classified as being in the highest SES group to 40 per 1,000 for residents of areas classified as being in the lowest SES group.

Residents of areas classified as being in the lowest SES group had the highest rates of PPHs across the three categories of PPHs.

More information about individual PPH conditions by state of residence, remoteness area of residence and SES of area of residence is in tables accompanying this report online at <[www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/](http://www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/)>.

**Table 6.19: Separations per 1,000 population for potentially preventable hospitalisations, by remoteness area and socioeconomic status of area of residence, all hospitals, 2012–13**

|                                   | Vaccine-preventable conditions | Acute conditions | Total chronic conditions <sup>(a)</sup> | Diabetes complications | Chronic conditions (excluding diabetes) | Total       |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Remoteness</b>                 |                                |                  |                                         |                        |                                         |             |
| Major cities                      | 1.0                            | 14.0             | 16.1                                    | 7.9                    | 9.1                                     | 30.9        |
| Inner regional                    | 0.9                            | 14.8             | 16.8                                    | 8.1                    | 9.7                                     | 32.3        |
| Outer regional                    | 1.1                            | 17.8             | 19.2                                    | 9.0                    | 11.3                                    | 39.2        |
| Remote                            | 2.1                            | 24.2             | 31.7                                    | 18.6                   | 14.8                                    | 57.6        |
| Very remote                       | 3.4                            | 32.8             | 40.5                                    | 20.7                   | 23.0                                    | 74.4        |
| <b>Socioeconomic status group</b> |                                |                  |                                         |                        |                                         |             |
| 1–Lowest                          | 1.3                            | 17.2             | 22.0                                    | 10.9                   | 12.6                                    | 40.1        |
| 2                                 | 1.0                            | 15.1             | 18.4                                    | 9.2                    | 10.3                                    | 34.3        |
| 3                                 | 1.1                            | 15.2             | 18.8                                    | 9.5                    | 10.4                                    | 34.9        |
| 4                                 | 0.9                            | 13.6             | 14.2                                    | 6.7                    | 8.3                                     | 28.5        |
| 5–Highest                         | 0.7                            | 12.5             | 10.9                                    | 5.0                    | 6.4                                     | 24.0        |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>1.0</b>                     | <b>14.0</b>      | <b>16.4</b>                             | <b>8.0</b>             | <b>9.4</b>                              | <b>31.2</b> |

(a) As more than one chronic condition may be reported for a separation, the sum of *Diabetes complications* and *Chronic conditions (excluding diabetes)* does not necessarily equal the total number of separations for *Chronic conditions*.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## How urgent was the care?

Admissions to hospital can be categorised as *Emergency* (required within 24 hours) or *Elective* (required at some stage beyond 24 hours). Emergency/elective status is not assigned for some admissions (for example, obstetric care and planned care, such as dialysis). This section classifies separations as *Emergency* or *Non-emergency* (includes elective and other planned care).

Table 6.20 presents information on urgency of admission and whether the separations were considered to be *Childbirth*, *Specialist mental health*, *Surgical*, *Medical* and *Other*. See the section ‘What care was provided?’ for more information on these types of care.

In 2012–13, 68% of separations were *Non-emergency* admissions, accounting for about 87% of same-day separations and 43% of overnight separations.

For same-day separations about 5% of *Emergency* admissions required surgical treatment. For overnight separations about 15% of *Emergency* admissions required surgical treatment.

Private hospitals accounted for about 53% of *Non-emergency* admissions and public hospitals accounted for about 92% of *Emergency* admissions (Table 6.20).

The numbers presented in Table 6.20 do not match those presented in chapters 7 and 8 due to the inclusion of care types other than acute in Table 6.20.

**Table 6.20: Same-day and overnight separations by broad category of service and urgency of admission, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                    | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total            |
|------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>Same-day separations</b>        |                  |                   |                  |
| Childbirth                         | 8,836            | 119               | 8,955            |
| Specialist mental health           | 15,712           | 110,179           | 125,891          |
| Emergency                          |                  |                   |                  |
| Surgical                           | 21,741           | 4,970             | 26,711           |
| Medical                            | 512,218          | 10,930            | 523,148          |
| Other                              | 5,059            | 3,798             | 8,857            |
| Non-emergency                      |                  |                   |                  |
| Surgical                           | 362,808          | 813,045           | 1,175,853        |
| Medical                            | 1,604,711        | 990,71            | 2,595,423        |
| Other                              | 252,595          | 713,173           | 965,768          |
| <i>Total same-day separations</i>  | <i>2,783,680</i> | <i>2,646,926</i>  | <i>5,430,606</i> |
| <b>Overnight separations</b>       |                  |                   |                  |
| Childbirth                         | 214,978          | 81,753            | 296,731          |
| Specialist mental health           | 97,993           | 33,566            | 131,559          |
| Emergency                          |                  |                   |                  |
| Surgical                           | 239,139          | 34,462            | 273,601          |
| Medical                            | 1,357,568        | 136,733           | 1,494,301        |
| Other                              | 58,372           | 12,037            | 70,409           |
| Non-emergency                      |                  |                   |                  |
| Surgical                           | 335,692          | 558,950           | 894,642          |
| Medical                            | 420,157          | 298,318           | 718,475          |
| Other                              | 22,616           | 40,586            | 63,202           |
| <i>Total overnight separations</i> | <i>2,746,515</i> | <i>1,196,405</i>  | <i>3,942,920</i> |
| <b>Total separations</b>           | <b>5,530,195</b> | <b>3,843,331</b>  | <b>9,373,526</b> |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information by state and territory is in tables accompanying this report online.

## What care was provided?

The care that is provided can be described in terms of:

- the broad category of service – *Childbirth, Specialist mental health, Medical, Surgical* or *Other*
- the intent of care – acute, subacute or non-acute
- MDCs and AR-DRGs – based on the AR-DRG classification of acute care separations
- the type of surgical or other procedure undertaken.

## Broad category of service

This section presents information describing care by the following broad categories of service:

- *Childbirth*: separations for which the AR-DRG was associated with childbirth (does not include newborn care).
- *Specialist mental health*: separations for which specialised psychiatric care days were reported, excluding separations for childbirth.
- *Surgical*: separations for which the AR-DRG belonged to the Surgical partition (involving an operating room procedure), excluding separations for childbirth and specialist mental health.
- *Medical*: separations for which the AR-DRG belonged to the Medical partition (not involving an operating room procedure), excluding separations for childbirth and specialist mental health.
- *Other*: separations for which the AR-DRG did not belong to the *Surgical* or *Medical* partitions (involving a non-operating room procedure, such as endoscopy), excluding separations for childbirth and specialist mental health.

In 2012–13, more than 17% of separations in public hospitals were for *Surgical* care and 70% were for *Medical* care, compared with 37% each for both *Surgical* and *Medical* care in private hospitals (Table 6.20). Overall, about 3.3% of separations were for *Childbirth*.

There were about 257,000 separations for *Specialist mental health* care. Private hospitals provided about 56% of these, accounting for 88% of same-day separations and 26% of overnight separations for *Specialist mental health* care.

## Care type

The **care type** describes the overall nature of a clinical service provided to an admitted patient during an episode of care.

The care type can be classified as:

- acute – *Acute* and *Newborn* (with at least one qualified day of patient care)
- subacute – *Rehabilitation*, *Palliative care*, *Geriatric evaluation and management* and *Psychogeriatric care*
- non-acute – *Maintenance care*
- *Other admitted patient care*.

For the public and private sectors combined, 94% of separations were classified as episodes of *Acute* care, 1.0% as *Newborn* (with qualified days) and 3.7% as *Rehabilitation care* (Table 6.21).

The proportions of separations, separation rates, patient days and days per 1,000 population for each care type varied by hospital sector.

The average length of stay for episodes of *Acute* care was longer in public hospitals (2.8 days) than in private hospitals (2.1 days).

The average length of stay for *Rehabilitation* episodes was 16.2 days in public hospitals, and 4.5 days in private hospitals. In part, this reflects a high proportion of same-day rehabilitation separations in private hospitals, as well as a number of very long stays for rehabilitation separations in public hospitals. More information on subacute and non-acute care is in Chapter 10.

**Table 6.21: Selected separation statistics by care type, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Care type and sector                                                         | Separations      | Separations per 1,000 population | Patient days      | Patient days per 1,000 population | Average length of stay |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Public hospitals</b>                                                      |                  |                                  |                   |                                   |                        |
| Acute care                                                                   | 5,259,398        | 220.8                            | 14,914,215        | 618.8                             | 2.8                    |
| Newborn total <sup>(a)</sup>                                                 | 242,096          | 10.8                             | 910,288           | 38.3                              | 3.8                    |
| Newborn with qualified days only                                             | 64,587           | 2.9                              | 472,561           | 21.1                              | 7.3                    |
| Newborn with a mixture of qualified days and unqualified days <sup>(b)</sup> | 10,767           | 0.5                              | 31,369            | 1.4                               | 2.9                    |
| Rehabilitation care                                                          | 103,220          | 4.1                              | 1,676,928         | 67.5                              | 16.2                   |
| Other <sup>(c)</sup>                                                         | 92,223           | 3.5                              | 1,727,750         | 66.6                              | 18.7                   |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                 | <b>5,530,195</b> | <b>231.8</b>                     | <b>18,822,823</b> | <b>775.3</b>                      | <b>3.4</b>             |
| <b>Private hospitals</b>                                                     |                  |                                  |                   |                                   |                        |
| Acute care                                                                   | 3,570,183        | 147.7                            | 7,512,905         | 306.6                             | 2.1                    |
| Newborn total <sup>(a)</sup>                                                 | 65,565           | 2.9                              | 313,740           | 13.3                              | 4.8                    |
| Newborn with qualified days only                                             | 15,220           | 0.7                              | 101,620           | 4.5                               | 6.7                    |
| Newborn with a mixture of qualified days and unqualified days <sup>(b)</sup> | 2,211            | 0.1                              | 8,957             | 0.4                               | 4.1                    |
| Rehabilitation care                                                          | 240,519          | 9.4                              | 1,088,903         | 41.7                              | 4.5                    |
| Other <sup>(c)</sup>                                                         | 15,198           | 0.6                              | 160,561           | 6.0                               | 10.6                   |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                 | <b>3,843,331</b> | <b>158.5</b>                     | <b>8,872,946</b>  | <b>359.3</b>                      | <b>2.3</b>             |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                                                         | <b>9,373,526</b> | <b>390.3</b>                     | <b>27,695,769</b> | <b>1,134.6</b>                    | <b>3.0</b>             |

(a) For *Newborns* with a mixture of qualified and unqualified days, the number of patient days includes only the qualified days for these separations. Unqualified days for these separations are not included in counts of patient days in this report.

(b) The totals do not include separations and unqualified days for *Newborns* (without qualified days). For information on *Newborn* (without qualified days), see tables 6.41 and 6.42.

(c) Includes separations for *Palliative care*, *Geriatric evaluation and management*, *Psychogeriatric care*, *Maintenance care* and *Other admitted patient care*.

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information by state and territory is in tables 6.41 and 6.42 at the end of this chapter.

## Major Diagnostic Categories

Australian Refined Diagnosis Related Groups (AR-DRG) is a classification system developed to provide a clinically meaningful way of relating the number and type of patients treated in a hospital to the resources required by the hospital. In general, Major Diagnostic Categories (MDCs) are based on a single body system or aetiology that is associated with a particular medical specialty (DoHA 2010).

For public hospitals, *Medical DRGs* accounted for about 74% of acute separations, and *Surgical DRGs* accounted for about 19%.

For private hospitals, *Medical DRGs* accounted for about 38% of acute separations, and *Surgical DRGs* accounted for about 40%.

*Diseases and disorders of the kidney and urinary tract* accounted for 23% of acute separations for public hospitals and *Diseases and disorders of the digestive system* was the most common MDC for private hospitals (Table 6.22). About 70% of acute separations for *Diseases and disorders of the eye* were from private hospitals.



## Cost by volume

An estimate of expenditure in public hospitals can be made using AR-DRGs and related cost information. See Box 6.3 and Appendix E for more information.

The cost-by-volume figures in Table 6.22 were derived by multiplying the estimated average cost for each AR-DRG by the number of acute separations for each AR-DRG. The cost estimates for all AR-DRGs within a given MDC were then summed to produce an estimated cost for the MDC. It should be noted that the estimates in Table 6.22 do not include the costs for subacute and non-acute separations. The cost estimates in Table 6.22 do not reconcile with those presented for total admitted patient care in public hospitals in Table 6.28 due to different estimation methods.

For 2012–13, the total estimated cost for acute admitted patient care was \$24.3 billion in public hospitals (Table 6.22). The highest cost-by-volume MDC in the public sector was *Diseases and disorders of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue* (\$2.9 billion). *Medical DRGs* and *Surgical DRGs* accounted for the majority of the estimated costs in public hospitals (54% and 41%, respectively).

## Procedures

In 2012–13, about 11.9 million procedures were reported, with about 5.9 million procedures performed in public hospitals and 6.0 million in private hospitals (Table 6.23).

In public hospitals, 75% of separations involved a procedure (4.1 million). In contrast, 95% of separations in private hospitals involved a procedure (3.6 million).

Public hospitals accounted for 76% of *Procedures on the urinary system* (mainly for dialysis), 75% of *Procedures on the respiratory system* and over 71% of *Obstetric procedures* (which includes childbirth).

Private hospitals accounted for 50% of the separations for which a procedure was reported, although they accounted for 41% of the separations overall. Private hospitals accounted for 79% of *Dental services* and over 70% of *Procedures on the eye and adnexa* (which includes cataract extractions).

**Table 6.22: Separation<sup>(a)</sup> statistics, by Major Diagnostic Category version 6.0x and Medical/Surgical/Other partition, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Major Diagnostic Category |                                                                                           | Public hospitals |                                        | Private hospitals |                                        |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------|
|                           |                                                                                           | Separations      | Cost by volume (\$'000) <sup>(b)</sup> | Separations       | Cost by volume (\$'000) <sup>(c)</sup> |
| PR                        | Pre-MDC (tracheostomies, transplants, ECMO)                                               | 13,105           | 1,270,698                              | 3,263             | n.a.                                   |
| 01                        | Diseases and disorders of the nervous system                                              | 273,489          | 1,655,844                              | 75,258            | n.a.                                   |
| 02                        | Diseases and disorders of the eye                                                         | 105,242          | 304,145                                | 244,683           | n.a.                                   |
| 03                        | Diseases and disorders of the ear, nose, mouth and throat                                 | 191,499          | 606,468                                | 229,696           | n.a.                                   |
| 04                        | Diseases and disorders of the respiratory system                                          | 300,645          | 1,847,922                              | 106,525           | n.a.                                   |
| 05                        | Diseases and disorders of the circulatory system                                          | 441,023          | 2,628,680                              | 175,243           | n.a.                                   |
| 06                        | Diseases and disorders of the digestive system                                            | 532,122          | 2,267,068                              | 591,854           | n.a.                                   |
| 07                        | Diseases and disorders of the hepatobiliary system and pancreas                           | 99,916           | 724,372                                | 35,731            | n.a.                                   |
| 08                        | Diseases and disorders of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue                | 391,488          | 2,913,601                              | 383,337           | n.a.                                   |
| 09                        | Diseases and disorders of the skin, subcutaneous tissue and breast                        | 203,885          | 862,540                                | 199,766           | n.a.                                   |
| 10                        | Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases and disorders                               | 77,508           | 480,992                                | 47,746            | n.a.                                   |
| 11                        | Diseases and disorders of the kidney and urinary tract                                    | 1,246,224        | 1,555,767                              | 336,557           | n.a.                                   |
| 12                        | Diseases and disorders of the male reproductive system                                    | 45,623           | 183,983                                | 67,881            | n.a.                                   |
| 13                        | Diseases and disorders of the female reproductive system                                  | 115,286          | 457,012                                | 176,969           | n.a.                                   |
| 14                        | Pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium                                                      | 365,183          | 1,758,443                              | 150,564           | n.a.                                   |
| 15                        | Newborns and other neonates                                                               | 85,850           | 825,819                                | 18,866            | n.a.                                   |
| 16                        | Diseases and disorders of the blood and blood-forming organs, and immunological disorders | 101,974          | 295,168                                | 53,599            | n.a.                                   |
| 17                        | Neoplastic disorders (haematological and solid neoplasms)                                 | 186,404          | 528,149                                | 268,408           | n.a.                                   |
| 18                        | Infectious and parasitic diseases                                                         | 66,630           | 487,674                                | 14,999            | n.a.                                   |
| 19                        | Mental diseases and disorders                                                             | 142,413          | 1,296,115                              | 125,011           | n.a.                                   |
| 20                        | Alcohol/drug use and alcohol/drug induced organic mental disorders                        | 37,570           | 141,987                                | 31,905            | n.a.                                   |
| 21                        | Injuries, poisoning and toxic effects of drugs                                            | 162,018          | 691,276                                | 25,830            | n.a.                                   |
| 22                        | Burns                                                                                     | 8,244            | 88,731                                 | 303               | n.a.                                   |
| 23                        | Factors influencing health status and other contacts with health services                 | 133,445          | 320,679                                | 213,606           | n.a.                                   |
| ED                        | Error DRGs <sup>(d)</sup>                                                                 | 8,007            | 119,685                                | 10,396            | n.a.                                   |
|                           | <i>Surgical DRG</i>                                                                       | 1,028,684        | 10,104,705                             | 1,448,727         | n.a.                                   |
|                           | <i>Medical DRG</i>                                                                        | 3,963,306        | 12,933,726                             | 1,364,097         | n.a.                                   |
|                           | <i>Other DRG</i>                                                                          | 342,803          | 1,274,388                              | 775,172           | n.a.                                   |
| <b>Total</b>              |                                                                                           | <b>5,334,793</b> | <b>24,312,819</b>                      | <b>3,587,996</b>  | <b>n.a.</b>                            |

DRG—Diagnosis related group; ECMO—extracorporeal membrane oxygenation; MDC—Major diagnostic category.

(a) Separations for which the care type was reported as *Acute*, or *Newborn* (with qualified days), or was not reported.

(b) Cost by volume is calculated using the 2010–11 Round 15 AR-DRG version 6.0x public hospital cost weights, with the average public cost of \$4,613.

(c) Although private cost weights are available for AR-DRG version 6.0x using the 2011–12 Round 16 NHCDC, an average cost has not been published for private hospitals. Therefore, the cost by volume cannot be calculated.

(d) An *Error DRG* is assigned to hospital records that contain clinically atypical or invalid information.

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 6.23: Separations, by procedure in ACHI chapters, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Procedure                |                                                         | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total             |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1–86                     | Procedures on nervous system                            | 77,402           | 110,064           | 187,466           |
| 110–129                  | Procedures on endocrine system                          | 8,065            | 9,016             | 17,081            |
| 160–256                  | Procedures on eye and adnexa                            | 93,982           | 236,957           | 330,939           |
| 300–333                  | Procedures on ear and mastoid process                   | 25,189           | 33,940            | 59,129            |
| 370–422                  | Procedures on nose, mouth and pharynx                   | 62,675           | 89,567            | 152,242           |
| 450–490                  | Dental services                                         | 29,958           | 112,981           | 142,939           |
| 520–570                  | Procedures on respiratory system                        | 114,710          | 38,214            | 152,924           |
| 600–777                  | Procedures on cardiovascular system                     | 151,993          | 137,270           | 289,263           |
| 800–817                  | Procedures on blood and blood-forming organs            | 36,408           | 25,250            | 61,658            |
| 850–1011                 | Procedures on digestive system                          | 443,890          | 777,515           | 1,221,405         |
| 1040–1129                | Procedures on urinary system                            | 1,182,152        | 371,397           | 1,553,549         |
| 1160–1203                | Procedures on male genital organs                       | 40,808           | 71,558            | 112,366           |
| 1240–1299                | Gynaecological procedures                               | 130,863          | 222,195           | 353,058           |
| 1330–1347                | Obstetric procedures                                    | 204,045          | 81,785            | 285,830           |
| 1360–1579                | Procedures on musculoskeletal system                    | 264,145          | 337,935           | 602,080           |
| 1600–1718                | Dermatological and plastic procedures                   | 204,807          | 204,517           | 409,324           |
| 1740–1759                | Procedures on breast                                    | 20,146           | 38,557            | 58,703            |
| 1786–1799                | Radiation oncology procedures                           | 10,572           | 3,807             | 14,379            |
| 1820–1922                | Non-invasive, cognitive and other interventions, n.e.c. | 2,752,224        | 3,083,697         | 5,835,921         |
| 1940–2016                | Imaging services                                        | 45,621           | 36,062            | 81,683            |
|                          | <i>Procedures reported<sup>(a)</sup></i>                | <i>5,899,655</i> | <i>6,022,284</i>  | <i>11,921,722</i> |
|                          | Separations with no procedure reported                  | 1,385,321        | 207,401           | 1,592,722         |
| <b>Total separations</b> |                                                         | <b>5,530,195</b> | <b>3,843,331</b>  | <b>9,373,526</b>  |

(a) A separation is counted once for the group if it has at least one procedure reported within the group. As more than one procedure can be reported for each separation, the data are not additive and therefore the totals in the tables may not equal the sum of counts in the rows.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## What was the safety and quality of the care?

Some information is available on the safety and quality of admitted patient care in hospitals, but the available information does not provide a complete picture. For example there is no routinely available information on some aspects of quality, such as continuity or responsiveness of hospital services.

This section presents information on conditions that arose during the hospital stay. These conditions may have led to a higher resource use than initially expected, and may have affected the length of the hospital stay. Conditions that arise during the hospital stay include adverse events (some of which may have been preventable) and therefore may provide information about the safety and quality of the care.

Other information on the safety and quality of the care is included in:

- Chapter 3 presents 3 performance indicators related to safety:
  - adverse events treated in hospitals

- unplanned/unexpected readmissions following selected surgical episodes of care (same public hospital)
- falls resulting in patient harm in hospitals.
- Chapter 9 presents information on adverse events and unplanned/unexpected readmissions following surgery for admissions from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists.

The NHA performance indicator '*Staphylococcus aureus* bacteraemia in public hospitals' has been reported in *Australian hospitals statistics 2012–13: Staphylococcus aureus bacteraemia in Australian public hospitals* (AIHW 2013e).

## What proportion of separations had a condition that arose during the hospital stay?

Conditions that arise during a hospital stay can be identified using the condition onset flag (COF) that is provided for each diagnosis and external cause of injury or poisoning in the patient's record.

'The condition onset flag (COF) is a means of differentiating those conditions which arise during, from those arising before, an episode of admitted patient care. This information provides insight into the kinds of conditions patients already have when entering hospital and what arises during the episode. A better understanding of those conditions arising during the episode may inform prevention strategies, particularly in relation to complications of medical care.' (NCCC 2013)

The Australian Coding Standard 0048 provides guidance to the assignment of the COF (NCCC 2013):

- A COF of '1' is assigned for a condition which arises during the episode of admitted patient care and would not have been present or suspected on admission. For example:
  - a condition resulting from a misadventure during surgical or medical care in the current episode of admitted patient care
  - an abnormal reaction to, or later complication of, surgical or medical care arising during the current episode of admitted patient care
  - a condition newly arising during the episode of admitted patient care (for example, pneumonia, rash, confusion or cyst)
  - a condition impacting on obstetric care arising after admission, including complications or unsuccessful interventions of labour and delivery or prenatal/postpartum management
  - for neonates, this also includes the condition(s) in the birth episode arising during the birth event (for example, respiratory distress, jaundice, feeding problems, neonatal aspiration, conditions associated with birth trauma or newborn affected by delivery or intrauterine procedures).
- A COF of '2' is assigned for a condition previously existing or suspected on admission such as the presenting problem, a comorbidity, chronic disease or disease status.

For 2012–13, the COF data were provided for almost all separations in both public and private hospitals for all states and territories except New South Wales. The information presented in this section therefore does not include the COF data for New South Wales. See Appendix A for more information on the quality and comparability the condition onset flag.

In 2012–13, about 553,000 separations recorded a condition with onset during the episode of care (tables 6.24 and 6.25). These accounted for about 10.5% of public hospital separations (Table 6.24) and 5.6% of private hospital separations (Table 6.25).

For both same-day and overnight separations, in both public and private hospitals, the highest proportion of separations that reported a condition with onset during the episode were in the *Childbirth* category.

Another category with relatively high rates of reporting conditions with onset during the episode were separations with an urgency of admission of *Emergency* and which involved surgery:

- for public hospitals, about 2.1% of same-day separations and 30.8% of overnight separations in this category reported a condition with onset during the episode (Table 6.24)
- for private hospitals, less than 1% of same-day separations and 25.9% of overnight separations in this category reported a condition with onset during the episode (Table 6.25).

There was marked variation between states and territories, with the overall proportion of records for which a condition was reported as arising during the episode of care.

For public hospitals, the proportion ranged from 4.0% for the Northern Territory to 12.6% in Victoria. For private hospitals, the proportion ranged from 4.0% for Queensland to 7.4% for Victoria. Differences in casemix between states and territories may account for some of this variation. However, this variation may indicate that there are differences in the allocation of COF values, and that there may be underreporting by some states and territories compared with others.

The top 30 conditions (Table 6.26) and the top 20 external causes of injury and poisoning (Table 6.27) reported as arising during the hospital stay provide some support for the quality of these data.

## **What conditions arose during the hospital stay?**

Conditions that arise during the hospital stay can be described in terms of the diagnoses and external causes for which the condition onset flag indicated that the condition arose during the hospital stay.

### **Diagnoses and external causes**

#### **Diagnoses**

In 2012–13, over 1.5 million diagnoses were reported as having onset during the episode of care, for the 553,000 separations that reported at least one condition with onset during the episode of care.

The 30 diagnoses presented in Table 6.26 accounted for about 51% of all conditions reported as having onset during the episode of care for public and private hospitals combined. Eight of the 30 most common diagnoses were obstetric conditions, 6 were ‘signs and symptoms’ (including nausea and vomiting, fever and headache) and 2 were complications of procedures.

**Table 6.24: Proportion of separations<sup>(a)</sup> with a condition noted as arising during the episode of care, by same-day/overnight status, broad category of service and urgency of admission, public hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                    | NSW         | Vic         | Qld         | WA          | SA          | Tas         | ACT         | NT          | Total <sup>(b)</sup> |                |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|----------------|
|                                    |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | Rate                 | Separations    |
| Same-day separations               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |                      |                |
| Childbirth                         | n.p.        | 37.7        | 29.7        | 34.4        | 28.3        | 29.0        | 34.6        | 39.5        | 32.5                 | 1,903          |
| Specialist mental health           | n.p.        | 0.3         | 1.7         | 0.7         | 0.2         | n.p.        | 0.0         | n.p.        | 1.1                  | 84             |
| Emergency                          |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |                      |                |
| Surgical                           | n.p.        | 2.5         | 2.1         | 1.2         | 2.0         | 1.1         | 2.9         | 0.8         | 2.1                  | 275            |
| Medical                            | n.p.        | 1.2         | 0.9         | 0.6         | 2.3         | 1.3         | 2.9         | 0.5         | 1.1                  | 4,137          |
| Other                              | n.p.        | 5.3         | 1.7         | 1.2         | 3.3         | 2.2         | 3.8         | n.p.        | 2.7                  | 75             |
| <i>Total emergency</i>             | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>1.3</i>  | <i>1.0</i>  | <i>0.6</i>  | <i>2.3</i>  | <i>1.3</i>  | <i>2.9</i>  | <i>0.5</i>  | <i>1.2</i>           | <i>4,487</i>   |
| Non-emergency                      |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |                      |                |
| Surgical                           | n.p.        | 1.7         | 0.9         | 0.9         | 0.7         | 1.4         | 1.2         | 0.7         | 1.2                  | 3,172          |
| Medical                            | n.p.        | 0.6         | 1.0         | 0.3         | 1.8         | 0.7         | 0.9         | 0.3         | 0.7                  | 8,771          |
| Other                              | n.p.        | 1.1         | 0.6         | 0.6         | 0.7         | 1.4         | 1.4         | 0.2         | 0.9                  | 1,639          |
| <i>Total non-emergency</i>         | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>0.8</i>  | <i>1.0</i>  | <i>0.4</i>  | <i>1.5</i>  | <i>0.9</i>  | <i>1.0</i>  | <i>0.3</i>  | <i>0.8</i>           | <i>13,582</i>  |
| <b>Total same-day separations</b>  | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>0.9</b>  | <b>1.1</b>  | <b>0.5</b>  | <b>1.7</b>  | <b>1.0</b>  | <b>1.7</b>  | <b>0.4</b>  | <b>1.0</b>           | <b>20,056</b>  |
| Overnight separations              |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |                      |                |
| Childbirth                         | n.p.        | 65.1        | 56.5        | 56.1        | 59.9        | 48.5        | 52.4        | 55.3        | 59.7                 | 86,230         |
| Specialist mental health           | n.p.        | 13.9        | 14.9        | 15.3        | 11.5        | 7.9         | 12.1        | 6.1         | 13.8                 | 8,880          |
| Emergency                          |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |                      |                |
| Surgical                           | n.p.        | 38.7        | 27.3        | 22.4        | 30.1        | 35.4        | 29.5        | 14.9        | 30.8                 | 49,765         |
| Medical                            | n.p.        | 17.1        | 9.0         | 7.7         | 11.3        | 17.1        | 12.6        | 5.0         | 11.9                 | 104,353        |
| Other                              | n.p.        | 37.4        | 23.6        | 19.2        | 24.0        | 29.3        | 24.4        | 12.2        | 27.7                 | 10,336         |
| <i>Total emergency</i>             | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>21.3</i> | <i>11.9</i> | <i>10.4</i> | <i>14.4</i> | <i>20.8</i> | <i>16.7</i> | <i>6.8</i>  | <i>15.3</i>          | <i>164,454</i> |
| Non-emergency                      |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |                      |                |
| Surgical                           | n.p.        | 32.1        | 21.7        | 18.9        | 21.1        | 34.6        | 23.8        | 11.2        | 25.6                 | 59,311         |
| Medical                            | n.p.        | 24.3        | 21.2        | 15.9        | 18.8        | 21.8        | 21.7        | 11.6        | 21.4                 | 57,429         |
| Other                              | n.p.        | 24.1        | 14.6        | 17.3        | 13.9        | 26.9        | 20.5        | 6.8         | 18.9                 | 2,998          |
| <i>Total non-emergency</i>         | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>27.7</i> | <i>21.2</i> | <i>17.4</i> | <i>19.7</i> | <i>27.6</i> | <i>22.7</i> | <i>11.3</i> | <i>23.2</i>          | <i>119,738</i> |
| <b>Total overnight separations</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>26.9</b> | <b>18.1</b> | <b>16.0</b> | <b>18.8</b> | <b>24.0</b> | <b>21.6</b> | <b>11.4</b> | <b>21.1</b>          | <b>379,302</b> |
| <b>Total all separations</b>       | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>12.6</b> | <b>9.6</b>  | <b>7.6</b>  | <b>10.9</b> | <b>12.0</b> | <b>11.1</b> | <b>4.0</b>  | <b>10.5</b>          | <b>399,358</b> |

(a) The number of separations with a condition reported as arising during the episode of care, divided by the total number of separations in each category.

(b) The total column excludes data for New South Wales.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 6.25: Proportion of separations<sup>(a)</sup> with a condition noted as arising during the episode of care, by same-day/overnight status, broad category of service and urgency of admission, private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                    |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | Total <sup>(b)</sup> |                |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|----------------|
|                                    | NSW         | Vic         | Qld         | WA          | SA          | Tas         | ACT         | NT          | Rate                 | Separations    |
| Same-day separations               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |                      |                |
| Childbirth                         | n.a.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 31.3                 | 31             |
| Specialist mental health           | n.a.        | 1.5         | 0.0         | 0.2         | 0.0         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 0.4                  | 301            |
| Emergency                          |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |                      |                |
| Surgical                           | n.a.        | 1.7         | 1.9         | 0.8         | 0.4         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 0.7                  | 33             |
| Medical                            | n.a.        | 1.1         | 1.1         | 0.9         | 2.4         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1.3                  | 130            |
| Other                              | n.a.        | 2.0         | 0.9         | 0.8         | 0.4         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 0.5                  | 20             |
| <i>Total emergency</i>             | <i>n.a.</i> | <i>1.2</i>  | <i>1.2</i>  | <i>0.9</i>  | <i>0.8</i>  | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>1.0</i>           | <i>183</i>     |
| Non-emergency                      |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |                      |                |
| Surgical                           | n.a.        | 0.4         | 0.6         | 0.5         | 0.4         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 0.5                  | 2,517          |
| Medical                            | n.a.        | 0.5         | 0.4         | 0.2         | 0.9         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 0.5                  | 3,327          |
| Other                              | n.a.        | 0.2         | 0.2         | 0.3         | 0.5         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 0.2                  | 1,224          |
| <i>Total non-emergency</i>         | <i>n.a.</i> | <i>0.4</i>  | <i>0.4</i>  | <i>0.3</i>  | <i>0.6</i>  | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>0.4</i>           | <i>7,068</i>   |
| <b>Total same-day separations</b>  | <b>n.a.</b> | <b>0.4</b>  | <b>0.4</b>  | <b>0.3</b>  | <b>0.6</b>  | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>0.4</b>           | <b>7,583</b>   |
| Overnight separations              |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |                      |                |
| Childbirth                         | n.a.        | 51.4        | 37.6        | 54.8        | 63.8        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 47.8                 | 27,783         |
| Specialist mental health           | n.a.        | 25.8        | 10.3        | 15.3        | 3.1         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 16.3                 | 3,945          |
| Emergency                          |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |                      |                |
| Surgical                           | n.a.        | 35.7        | 20.2        | 20.5        | 26.7        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 25.8                 | 7,925          |
| Medical                            | n.a.        | 17.6        | 10.4        | 13.4        | 14.9        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 13.2                 | 16,280         |
| Other                              | n.a.        | 19.1        | 13.2        | 18.9        | 18.8        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 16.4                 | 16,280         |
| <i>Total emergency</i>             | <i>n.a.</i> | <i>21.4</i> | <i>12.1</i> | <i>15.2</i> | <i>17.7</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>15.8</i>          | <i>40,485</i>  |
| Non-emergency                      |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |                      |                |
| Surgical                           | n.a.        | 18.7        | 9.9         | 12.0        | 15.4        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 13.7                 | 54,623         |
| Medical                            | n.a.        | 18.4        | 9.7         | 12.9        | 18.8        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 14.3                 | 31,079         |
| Other                              | n.a.        | 12.1        | 6.5         | 12.0        | 11.4        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 9.7                  | 2,990          |
| <i>Total non-emergency</i>         | <i>n.a.</i> | <i>18.2</i> | <i>9.6</i>  | <i>12.2</i> | <i>16.2</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>13.7</i>          | <i>88,692</i>  |
| <b>Total overnight separations</b> | <b>n.a.</b> | <b>21.1</b> | <b>11.9</b> | <b>16.2</b> | <b>18.7</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>16.4</b>          | <b>146,452</b> |
| <b>Total all separations</b>       | <b>n.a.</b> | <b>7.4</b>  | <b>4.0</b>  | <b>5.1</b>  | <b>6.2</b>  | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>5.6</b>           | <b>154,035</b> |

(a) The number of separations with a condition reported as arising during the episode of care, divided by the total number of separations in each category.

(b) The total column excludes data for New South Wales.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 6.26: The 30 most common conditions (diagnoses) reported with onset during the episode of care, public and private hospitals<sup>(a)</sup>, 2012–13**

| Condition |                                                                                                          | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total <sup>(a)</sup> |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| E87       | Other disorders of fluid, electrolyte and acid-base balance                                              | 62,467           | 12,347            | 74,814               |
| I95       | Hypotension                                                                                              | 51,344           | 15,872            | 67,216               |
| O70       | Perineal laceration during delivery                                                                      | 49,617           | 11,304            | 60,921               |
| T81       | Complications of procedures, not elsewhere classified                                                    | 32,714           | 14,143            | 46,857               |
| R11       | Nausea and vomiting                                                                                      | 26,932           | 16,081            | 43,013               |
| K59       | Other functional intestinal disorders                                                                    | 27,310           | 8,959             | 36,269               |
| O68       | Labour and delivery complicated by fetal stress [distress]                                               | 23,646           | 5,248             | 28,894               |
| R00       | Abnormalities of heart beat                                                                              | 22,137           | 5,826             | 27,963               |
| N39       | Other disorders of urinary system                                                                        | 20,572           | 5,498             | 26,070               |
| O99       | Other maternal diseases classifiable elsewhere but complicating pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium | 21,990           | 3,458             | 25,448               |
| B96       | Other bacterial agents as the cause of diseases classified to other chapters                             | 18,327           | 4,907             | 23,234               |
| O72       | Postpartum haemorrhage                                                                                   | 20,691           | 2,440             | 23,131               |
| D64       | Other anaemias                                                                                           | 16,299           | 6,809             | 23,108               |
| O92       | Other disorders of breast and lactation associated with childbirth                                       | 15,022           | 6,216             | 21,238               |
| E86       | Volume depletion                                                                                         | 18,530           | 2,157             | 20,687               |
| R33       | Retention of urine                                                                                       | 15,201           | 5,095             | 20,296               |
| R07       | Pain in throat and chest                                                                                 | 15,110           | 4,867             | 19,977               |
| R50       | Fever of other and unknown origin                                                                        | 14,165           | 4,860             | 19,025               |
| E83       | Disorders of mineral metabolism                                                                          | 16,669           | 2,353             | 19,022               |
| T82       | Complications of cardiac and vascular prosthetic devices, implants and grafts                            | 15,387           | 2,943             | 18,330               |
| I48       | Atrial fibrillation and flutter                                                                          | 12,671           | 5,270             | 17,941               |
| O62       | Abnormalities of forces of labour                                                                        | 14,790           | 2,760             | 17,550               |
| A09       | Other gastroenteritis and colitis of infectious and unspecified origin                                   | 12,689           | 4,173             | 16,862               |
| N17       | Acute kidney failure                                                                                     | 14,169           | 2,523             | 16,692               |
| L89       | Decubitus ulcer and pressure area                                                                        | 12,300           | 2,545             | 14,845               |
| F05       | Delirium, not induced by alcohol and other psychoactive substances                                       | 11,790           | 2,061             | 13,851               |
| O63       | Long labour                                                                                              | 11,078           | 2,131             | 13,209               |
| O71       | Other obstetric trauma                                                                                   | 9,543            | 3,276             | 12,819               |
| R51       | Headache                                                                                                 | 8,764            | 3,930             | 12,694               |
| J98       | Other respiratory disorders                                                                              | 8,714            | 3,474             | 12,188               |

(a) Excludes data for New South Wales.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

### External causes of injury and poisoning

External causes of injury or poisoning are assigned the same condition onset flag as the diagnosis to which they relate.

In 2012–13, the 20 external causes presented in Table 6.27 accounted for about 88% of all external causes of injury and poisoning reported as having onset during the episode of care for public and private hospitals.

*Surgical operation and other surgical procedures as the cause of abnormal reaction of the patient, or of later complication, without mention of misadventure at the time of the procedure (Y83) was the most common external causes of injury and poisoning reported as having onset during the episode of care.*



*Other medical procedures as the cause of abnormal reaction of the patient, or of later complication, without mention of misadventure at the time of the procedure (Y84)* was the second most common external causes of injury and poisoning reported as having onset during the episode of care.

The 20 most common external causes included:

- adverse effects of drugs and medicaments (for example, involving analgesics, antipyretics and anti-inflammatory drugs)
- misadventures during procedures (for example, involving an unintentional cut, puncture or haemorrhage)
- falls, including that involving a bed.

**Table 6.27: The 20 most common ICD-10-AM external cause codes with onset during the episode of care, public and private hospitals<sup>(a)</sup>, 2012–13**

| External cause of injury or poisoning |                                                                                                                                                                                           | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total <sup>(a)</sup> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Y83                                   | Surgical operation and other surgical procedures as the cause of abnormal reaction of the patient, or of later complication, without mention of misadventure at the time of the procedure | 39,682           | 16,391            | 56,188               |
| Y84                                   | Other medical procedures as the cause of abnormal reaction of the patient, or of later complication, without mention of misadventure at the time of the procedure                         | 29,334           | 5,775             | 35,146               |
| Y45                                   | Analgesics, antipyretics and anti-inflammatory drugs causing adverse effects in therapeutic use                                                                                           | 9,821            | 2,941             | 12,783               |
| Y60                                   | Unintentional cut, puncture, perforation or haemorrhage during surgical and medical care                                                                                                  | 7,640            | 2,905             | 10,556               |
| Y40                                   | Systemic antibiotics causing adverse effects in therapeutic use                                                                                                                           | 7,369            | 1,479             | 8,867                |
| Y44                                   | Agents primarily affecting blood constituents causing adverse effects in therapeutic use                                                                                                  | 5,222            | 1,003             | 6,234                |
| W18                                   | Other fall on same level                                                                                                                                                                  | 4,713            | 1,074             | 5,822                |
| Y52                                   | Agents primarily affecting the cardiovascular system causing adverse effects in therapeutic use                                                                                           | 3,828            | 773               | 4,611                |
| W19                                   | Unspecified fall                                                                                                                                                                          | 3,450            | 933               | 4,400                |
| Y95                                   | Nosocomial condition                                                                                                                                                                      | 3,958            | 167               | 4,134                |
| Y48                                   | Anaesthetics and therapeutic gases causing adverse effects in therapeutic use                                                                                                             | 3,266            | 682               | 3,948                |
| W01                                   | Fall on same level from slipping, tripping and stumbling                                                                                                                                  | 3,060            | 616               | 3,687                |
| Y43                                   | Primarily systemic agents causing adverse effects in therapeutic use                                                                                                                      | 2,641            | 830               | 3,489                |
| X59                                   | Exposure to unspecified factor                                                                                                                                                            | 2,571            | 772               | 3,352                |
| W06                                   | Fall involving bed                                                                                                                                                                        | 2,394            | 440               | 2,847                |
| W84                                   | Unspecified threat to breathing                                                                                                                                                           | 2,286            | 316               | 2,604                |
| Y65                                   | Other misadventures during surgical and medical care                                                                                                                                      | 1,971            | 612               | 2,585                |
| Y57                                   | Other and unspecified drugs and medicaments causing adverse effects in therapeutic use                                                                                                    | 2,087            | 443               | 2,539                |
| Y42                                   | Hormones and their synthetic substitutes and antagonists, not elsewhere classified causing adverse effects in therapeutic use                                                             | 2,011            | 412               | 2,476                |
| Y54                                   | Agents primarily affecting water-balance and mineral and uric acid metabolism causing adverse effects in therapeutic use                                                                  | 2,046            | 369               | 2,425                |

(a) Excludes data for New South Wales.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## What was the cost of the care?

This section includes information on expenditure for admitted patient care in public hospitals and the average 'cost weight' for separations in both public and private hospitals.

### Admitted patient expenditure—public hospitals

In 2012–13, about \$29 billion was spent on admitted patient services in public hospitals (Table 6.28). This figure is based on the recurrent expenditure reported for each public hospital, multiplied by the 'admitted patient cost proportion' provided for the hospital. The admitted patient cost proportion is an estimate of the proportion of each hospital's recurrent expenditure that was spent on admitted patient care.

**Table 6.28: Estimated expenditure on admitted patient care (\$ million), public hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                            | NSW        | Vic    | Qld   | WA    | SA    | Tas  | ACT  | NT   | Total  |
|--------------------------------------------|------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|------|--------|
|                                            | \$ million |        |       |       |       |      |      |      |        |
| Total expenditure                          | 13,454     | 10,093 | 7,656 | 4,790 | 3,194 | 957  | 988  | 608  | 41,741 |
| Estimated admitted patient cost proportion | 0.69       | 0.70   | 0.69  | 0.72  | 0.72  | 0.67 | 0.64 | 0.80 | 0.70   |
| Estimated admitted patient expenditure     | 9,334      | 7,067  | 5,247 | 3,465 | 2,295 | 637  | 637  | 485  | 29,167 |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

*Source:* National Public Hospital Establishments Database.

### Average cost weights and cost by volume

The National Hospital Cost Data Collection (NHCDC) compiles estimates of average costs for each AR-DRG version 6.0x (see Box 6.3 and Appendix E for more information).

As the public and private cost weights are not comparable, the 2010–11 AR-DRG version 6.0x public hospital cost weights were applied to both public and private hospital separations in Table 6.29.

In public hospitals, separations for *Public* and *Self-funded* patients generally had lower average cost weights than other patients and separations funded by *Motor vehicle third party personal claim* had higher average cost weights (Table 6.29).

In private hospitals, *Self-funded* separations had lower average costs than other separations. The very low average cost weight for *Public patients* in private hospitals for Western Australia reflects a large amount of contracted care involving dialysis (funded by *Other hospital or public authority*).

### Cost by volume

An estimate of expenditure in public hospitals can be made using AR-DRGs and related cost information. See Table 6.22 for more information.

**Table 6.29: Average cost weight<sup>(a)</sup> of separations, by principal source of funds, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                          | NSW         | Vic         | Qld         | WA          | SA          | Tas         | ACT         | NT          | Total       |
|------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Public hospitals</b>                  |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Public patients <sup>(b)</sup>           | 1.04        | 1.01        | 1.03        | 0.92        | 1.04        | 1.08        | 1.08        | 0.66        | 1.01        |
| Private health insurance                 | 1.11        | 1.12        | 1.06        | 1.45        | 1.39        | 0.96        | 1.08        | 0.95        | 1.13        |
| Self-funded                              | 1.29        | 0.80        | 1.05        | 0.85        | 0.77        | 0.71        | 1.34        | 1.24        | 1.09        |
| Workers compensation                     | 1.18        | 1.44        | 1.29        | 1.24        | 1.24        | 1.46        | 1.25        | 1.25        | 1.28        |
| Motor vehicle third party personal claim | 1.64        | 2.49        | 2.02        | 2.15        | 2.35        | 2.33        | 2.04        | 2.39        | 2.09        |
| Department of Veterans' Affairs          | 1.19        | 1.29        | 1.13        | 1.28        | 1.18        | 1.40        | 0.87        | 1.40        | 1.20        |
| Other <sup>(c)</sup>                     | 1.86        | 1.25        | 1.15        | 1.12        | 1.18        | 1.09        | 1.19        | 0.92        | 1.36        |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>1.07</b> | <b>1.04</b> | <b>1.04</b> | <b>0.96</b> | <b>1.08</b> | <b>1.07</b> | <b>1.08</b> | <b>0.68</b> | <b>1.04</b> |
| <b>Private hospitals</b>                 |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Public patients <sup>(b)</sup>           | 0.87        | 0.48        | 0.49        | 0.18        | 0.29        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 0.31        |
| Private health insurance                 | 0.85        | 0.93        | 0.88        | 0.94        | 0.87        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 0.89        |
| Self-funded                              | 0.89        | 0.71        | 0.65        | 0.71        | 0.81        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 0.77        |
| Workers compensation                     | 1.13        | 1.26        | 1.05        | 1.20        | 1.25        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1.15        |
| Motor vehicle third party personal claim | 0.89        | 1.47        | 1.21        | 1.08        | 0.90        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1.24        |
| Department of Veterans' Affairs          | 0.97        | 1.20        | 0.90        | 1.12        | 1.04        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1.01        |
| Other <sup>(c)</sup>                     | 1.01        | 1.02        | 0.68        | 0.73        | 0.88        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 0.91        |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>0.86</b> | <b>0.92</b> | <b>0.85</b> | <b>0.81</b> | <b>0.88</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>0.87</b> |

(a) AR-DRG version 6.0x public hospital cost weights 2010–11 were used for both public and private hospitals.

(b) Public patients includes separations with a funding source of *Health service budget*, *Other hospital or public authority* (with a *Public patient election status*), *Health service budget (due to eligibility for Reciprocal health care agreements)* and *Health service budget—no charge raised due to hospital decision* (in public hospitals).

(c) Other includes separations with a funding source of *Other compensation*, *Department of Defence*, *Correctional facilities*, *Other hospital or public authority* (without a *Public patient election status*), *Other*, *Health service budget—no charge raised due to hospital decision* (in private hospitals) and not reported.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## Who paid for the care?

The **funding source** describes the principal source of funds for the admitted patient episode.

There may be some variation between jurisdictions in the definitions of funding source categories and in the way in which state- or territory- level information was mapped to the *National health data dictionary* domain values.

In 2012–13, about 83% of separations in public hospitals were for *Public patients*, compared with about 3% in private hospitals (Table 6.30). For private hospitals, *Private health insurance* funded about 82% of separations.

**Table 6.30: Separations, by principal source of funds, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Principal source of funds                | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total            |
|------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Public patients <sup>(a)</sup>           | 4,607,838        | 119,236           | 4,727,074        |
| Private health insurance                 | 686,076          | 3,152,158         | 3,838,234        |
| Self-funded                              | 53,318           | 290,799           | 344,117          |
| Workers compensation                     | 21,660           | 61,745            | 83,405           |
| Motor vehicle third party personal claim | 27,818           | 6,349             | 34,167           |
| Department of Veterans' Affairs          | 104,154          | 184,807           | 288,961          |
| Other <sup>(b)</sup>                     | 29,331           | 28,237            | 57,568           |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>5,530,195</b> | <b>3,843,331</b>  | <b>9,373,526</b> |

(a) Public patients includes separations with a funding source of *Health service budget*, *Other hospital or public authority* (with a *Public patient election status*), *Health service budget (due to eligibility for Reciprocal health care agreements)* and *Health service budget—no charge raised due to hospital decision* (in public hospitals).

(b) Other includes separations with a funding source of *Other compensation*, *Department of Defence*, *Correctional facilities*, *Other hospital or public authority* (without a *Public patient election status*), *Other*, *Health service budget—no charge raised due to hospital decision* (in private hospitals) and not reported.

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information by state and territory is in table 6.43 at the end of this chapter.

## How much care was contracted between hospitals?

**Inter-hospital contracted patient separations** are episodes of care for admitted patients whose treatment and/or care is provided under an arrangement between a hospital purchaser of hospital care and a provider of an admitted service for which the activity is recorded by both hospitals.

A new specification for this data element was implemented from 1 July 2012 and therefore caution should be used in comparing these data over time. The new specification was introduced to enable the reporting of this activity by both the contracting (originating) hospital and the contracted (destination) hospital.

As inter-hospital contracted patients are admitted patients of both the contracting and contracted hospital, these separations may represent double-counting of hospital activity in the NHMD. The new specification will enable the elimination of double counting of episodes of admitted patient care.

These data should be interpreted with caution as the activity reported here includes separations under contract between hospitals, but does not include separations under contract between private hospitals and the jurisdiction or between private hospitals and Local Health Networks.

In 2012–13, there were about 133,000 separations for which the inter-hospital contracted patient status indicated that the patient received care at more than one hospital during their hospital stay (Table 6.31). Most contracted care provided by private hospitals was purchased by public hospitals. About 1,000 separations indicated contracted care between private hospitals.

There is a very good match between the numbers of separations reported as a public hospital separations contracted to the private sector (54,766) and the number of separations reported as a private hospital separations contracted from the public sector (54,756).

However, there are significant discrepancies between the numbers of separations reported as a private hospital separations contracted to the public sector (60) and the number of separations reported as a public hospital separations contracted from the private sector (2,774). Further information by state and territory is in the tables accompanying this report online.

**Table 6.31: Separations, by inter-hospital contracted patient status, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

|                                                                | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Inter-hospital contracted patient from public sector hospital  | 10,210           | 54,756            | 64,966           |
| Inter-hospital contracted patient from private sector hospital | 2,774            | 1,034             | 3,808            |
| Inter-hospital contracted patient to public sector hospital    | 9,844            | 60                | 9,904            |
| Inter-hospital contracted patient to private sector hospital   | 54,766           | 16                | 54,782           |
| <i>Total contracted separations</i>                            | <i>77,594</i>    | <i>55,866</i>     | <i>133,460</i>   |
| Not inter-hospital contracted                                  | 5,435,133        | 2,690,600         | 8,125,733        |
| Not stated                                                     | 17,468           | 1,096,865         | 1,114,333        |
| <b>Total</b>                                                   | <b>5,530,195</b> | <b>3,843,331</b>  | <b>9,373,526</b> |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information by state and territories is in the tables accompanying this report online.

## How much hospital care was provided in the patient's home?

Most states and territories have hospital-in-the-home (HITH) programs under which admitted patients are provided with hospital care in the home. This care has been defined as occurring in the patient's (permanent or temporary) place of residence as a substitute for hospital accommodation and within an episode of care for an admitted patient (AIHW 2012b). HITH days are counted as patient days in the data presented in this report (see the table accompanying this report online).

## How long did patients stay?

In 2012–13, public hospitals accounted for 59% of separations and 68% of patient days (Table 6.32).

The average length of stay per separation was longer in public hospitals than in private hospitals (3.4 days and 2.3 days, respectively).

Same-day separations accounted for 50% of public hospital separations and 69% of private hospital separations. The average length of stay for overnight separations was longer in public hospitals (5.8 days) than in private hospitals (5.2 days).

**Table 6.32: Average length of stay (ALOS), public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

|                   | Separations      | Same-day separations | Patient days      | ALOS       | ALOS (excluding same-day) |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------|---------------------------|
| Public hospitals  | 5,530,195        | 2,783,680            | 18,822,823        | 3.4        | 5.8                       |
| Private hospitals | 3,843,331        | 2,646,926            | 8,872,946         | 2.3        | 5.2                       |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>9,373,526</b> | <b>5,430,606</b>     | <b>27,695,769</b> | <b>3.0</b> | <b>5.6</b>                |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information by state and territory is in table 6.34 at the end of this chapter.

## How was the care completed?

The **mode of separation** records the status of the patient at the time of separation and, for some categories, the place to which the person was discharged or transferred.

About 91% of separations (8.6 million) had a mode of separation of *Other*, suggesting that most patients go home after their episode of care (Table 6.33). This was particularly the case in the private sector, where 95% of separations (3.7 million) were categorised as *Other*, compared with 89% (4.9 million) in the public sector.

About 5.8% of public hospital separations and 1.6% of private hospital separations had a mode of separation of *Discharge/transfer to an (other) hospital*, indicating that their care continued at another hospital.

However, there is a discrepancy between the number of separations with a mode of separation of *Discharge/transfer to an (other) hospital* (acute and psychiatric) (383,000) and the number of separations with a mode of admission of *Admitted patient transferred from another hospital* (378,000; see Table 6.10). This may indicate that not all patients who are transferred from one hospital to another are having this recorded as their mode of admission. There may also be discrepancies because some patients were admitted and separated in different reporting years.

**Table 6.33: Separations, by mode of separation, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Mode of separation                                                   | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Discharge/transfer to an (other) acute hospital                      | 319,705          | 63,259            | 382,964          |
| Discharge/transfer to residential aged care service <sup>(a)</sup>   | 63,162           | 7,517             | 70,679           |
| Discharge/transfer to an (other) psychiatric hospital                | 6,838            | 199               | 7,037            |
| Discharge/transfer to other health care accommodation <sup>(b)</sup> | 15,528           | 64,372            | 79,900           |
| Statistical discharge: type change                                   | 103,127          | 21,933            | 125,060          |
| Left against medical advice/discharge at own risk                    | 48,553           | 2,145             | 50,698           |
| Statistical discharge from leave                                     | 5,500            | 241               | 5,741            |
| Died                                                                 | 61,030           | 13,538            | 74,568           |
| Other <sup>(c)</sup>                                                 | 4,905,637        | 3,670,076         | 8,575,713        |
| Not reported                                                         | 1,115            | 51                | 1,166            |
| <b>Total</b>                                                         | <b>5,530,195</b> | <b>3,843,331</b>  | <b>9,373,526</b> |

(a) Unless this is the usual place of residence.

(b) Includes *Mothercraft* hospitals, except in jurisdictions where *Mothercraft* facilities are considered acute.

(c) Includes *Discharge to usual residence/own accommodation/welfare institution* (including prisons, hostels and group homes providing primarily welfare services).

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information by state and territory is in table 6.44 at the end of this chapter.

## Additional information

More detailed information on admitted patient care, including data by state and territory for principal diagnoses and procedures, is in the tables accompanying this report online at <[www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/](http://www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/)>.

### List of supplementary online tables

Table S6.1: Separations, by principal source of funds, public and private hospitals, 2008–09 to 2012–13

Table S6.2: Patient days by principal source of funds, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13

Table S6.3: Same-day and overnight separations by broad category of service, public hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13

Table S6.4: Same-day and overnight separations by broad category of service, private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13

Table S6.5: Separations by inter-hospital contracted patient status and hospital sector, states and territories, 2012–13

Table S6.6: Separations with hospital in the home care, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13

**Table 6.34: Separation, average cost weight, patient days and average length of stay statistics, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                               | NSW              | Vic              | Qld              | WA               | SA             | Tas         | ACT         | NT          | Total            |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| <b>Separations</b>                            |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |             |             |             |                  |
| <i>Public hospitals</i>                       | 1,716,789        | 1,429,453        | 1,044,011        | 606,809          | 413,756        | 106,358     | 94,712      | 118,307     | 5,530,195        |
| Public acute hospitals                        | 1,711,419        | 1,429,009        | 1,043,492        | 605,499          | 412,239        | 105,263     | 94,712      | 118,307     | 5,519,940        |
| Public psychiatric hospitals                  | 5,370            | 444              | 519              | 1,310            | 1,517          | 1,095       | ..          | ..          | 10,255           |
| <i>Private hospitals</i>                      | 1,082,500        | 943,381          | 933,661          | 451,942          | 298,159        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 3,843,331        |
| Private free-standing day hospital facilities | 218,878          | 211,752          | 216,561          | 124,497          | 70,981         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 854,843          |
| Other private hospitals <sup>(a)</sup>        | 863,622          | 731,629          | 717,100          | 327,445          | 227,178        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 2,988,488        |
| <i>Public acute and private hospitals</i>     | 2,793,919        | 2,372,390        | 1,977,153        | 1,057,441        | 710,398        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 9,363,271        |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                          | <b>2,799,289</b> | <b>2,372,834</b> | <b>1,977,672</b> | <b>1,058,751</b> | <b>711,915</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>9,373,526</b> |
| <b>Overnight separations</b>                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |             |             |             |                  |
| <i>Public hospitals</i>                       | 947,449          | 641,888          | 520,905          | 279,791          | 222,508        | 50,532      | 44,624      | 38,818      | 2,746,515        |
| Public acute hospitals                        | 942,265          | 641,446          | 520,432          | 278,502          | 221,256        | 49,453      | 44,624      | 38,818      | 2,736,796        |
| Public psychiatric hospitals                  | 5,184            | 442              | 473              | 1,289            | 1,252          | 1,079       | ..          | ..          | 9,719            |
| <i>Private hospitals</i>                      | 302,790          | 320,821          | 294,580          | 137,362          | 91,676         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1,196,416        |
| Private free-standing day hospital facilities | 0                | 7                | 1                | 1,418            | 0              | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1,431            |
| Other private hospitals <sup>(a)</sup>        | 302,790          | 320,814          | 294,579          | 135,944          | 91,676         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1,194,974        |
| <i>Public acute and private hospitals</i>     | 1,245,055        | 962,267          | 815,012          | 415,864          | 312,932        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 3,933,201        |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                          | <b>1,250,239</b> | <b>962,709</b>   | <b>815,485</b>   | <b>417,153</b>   | <b>314,184</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>3,942,920</b> |
| <b>Same-day separations</b>                   |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |             |             |             |                  |
| <i>Public hospitals</i>                       | 769,340          | 787,565          | 523,106          | 327,018          | 191,248        | 55,826      | 50,088      | 79,489      | 2,783,680        |
| Public acute hospitals                        | 769,154          | 787,563          | 523,060          | 326,997          | 190,983        | 55,810      | 50,088      | 79,489      | 2,783,144        |
| Public psychiatric hospitals                  | 186              | 2                | 46               | 21               | 265            | 16          | ..          | ..          | 536              |
| <i>Private hospitals</i>                      | 779,710          | 622,560          | 639,081          | 314,580          | 206,483        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 2,646,926        |
| Private free-standing day hospital facilities | 218,878          | 211,745          | 216,560          | 123,079          | 70,981         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 853,412          |
| Other private hospitals <sup>(a)</sup>        | 560,832          | 410,815          | 422,521          | 191,501          | 135,502        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1,793,514        |
| <i>Public acute and private hospitals</i>     | 1,548,864        | 1,410,123        | 1,162,141        | 641,577          | 397,466        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 5,430,070        |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                          | <b>1,549,050</b> | <b>1,410,125</b> | <b>1,162,187</b> | <b>641,598</b>   | <b>397,731</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>5,430,606</b> |

(continued)



**Table 6.34 (continued): Separation, average cost weight, patient day and average length of stay statistics, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                                                | NSW          | Vic          | Qld          | WA           | SA           | Tas         | ACT         | NT          | Total        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>Same-day separations as a % of total</b>                    |              |              |              |              |              |             |             |             |              |
| <i>Public hospitals</i>                                        | 44.8         | 55.1         | 50.1         | 53.9         | 46.2         | 52.5        | 52.9        | 67.2        | 50.3         |
| Public acute hospitals                                         | 44.9         | 55.1         | 50.1         | 54.0         | 46.3         | 53.0        | 52.9        | 67.2        | 50.4         |
| Public psychiatric hospitals                                   | 3.5          | 0.5          | 8.9          | 1.6          | 17.5         | 1.5         | ..          | ..          | 5.2          |
| <i>Private hospitals</i>                                       | 72.0         | 66.0         | 68.4         | 69.6         | 69.3         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 68.9         |
| Private free-standing day hospital facilities                  | 100.0        | 100.0        | 100.0        | 98.9         | 100.0        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 99.8         |
| Other private hospitals <sup>(a)</sup>                         | 64.9         | 56.2         | 58.9         | 58.5         | 59.6         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 60.0         |
| <i>Public acute and private hospitals</i>                      | 55.4         | 59.4         | 58.8         | 60.7         | 55.9         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 58.0         |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                                           | <b>55.3</b>  | <b>59.4</b>  | <b>58.8</b>  | <b>60.6</b>  | <b>55.9</b>  | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>57.9</b>  |
| <b>Separations per 1,000 population</b>                        |              |              |              |              |              |             |             |             |              |
| <i>Public hospitals</i>                                        | 219.6        | 239.5        | 224.3        | 247.9        | 228.0        | 189.5       | 263.7       | 561.6       | 232.1        |
| Public acute hospitals                                         | 218.9        | 239.5        | 224.2        | 247.3        | 227.1        | 187.4       | 263.7       | 561.6       | 231.6        |
| Public psychiatric hospitals                                   | 0.8          | 0.1          | 0.1          | 0.5          | 0.9          | 2.1         | ..          | ..          | 0.5          |
| <i>Private hospitals</i>                                       | 136.8        | 156.5        | 197.1        | 183.1        | 156.5        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 158.7        |
| Private free-standing day hospital facilities                  | 27.8         | 35.3         | 45.6         | 50.6         | 36.0         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 35.3         |
| Other private hospitals <sup>(a)</sup>                         | 109.0        | 121.2        | 151.6        | 132.4        | 120.5        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 123.4        |
| <i>Public acute and private hospitals</i>                      | 355.6        | 396.0        | 421.3        | 430.4        | 383.6        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 390.3        |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                                           | <b>356.4</b> | <b>396.1</b> | <b>421.4</b> | <b>430.9</b> | <b>384.5</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>390.8</b> |
| <b>Average public cost weight of separations<sup>(b)</sup></b> |              |              |              |              |              |             |             |             |              |
| <i>Public hospitals</i>                                        | 1.05         | 1.01         | 1.02         | 0.93         | 1.07         | 1.05        | 1.05        | 0.67        | 1.01         |
| Public acute hospitals                                         | 1.04         | 1.01         | 1.02         | 0.93         | 1.07         | 1.05        | 1.05        | 0.67        | 1.01         |
| Public psychiatric hospitals                                   | 2.54         | 2.42         | 3.14         | 3.00         | 2.34         | 1.05        | ..          | ..          | 2.53         |
| <i>Private hospitals</i>                                       | 0.93         | 0.90         | 0.86         | 0.79         | 0.90         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 0.89         |
| Private free-standing day hospital facilities                  | 0.60         | 0.43         | 0.50         | 0.33         | 0.44         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 0.48         |
| Other private hospitals <sup>(a)</sup>                         | 1.04         | 1.04         | 0.98         | 0.97         | 1.06         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1.02         |
| <i>Public acute and private hospitals</i>                      | 1.00         | 0.96         | 0.95         | 0.87         | 1.00         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 0.96         |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                                           | <b>1.01</b>  | <b>0.96</b>  | <b>0.95</b>  | <b>0.87</b>  | <b>1.00</b>  | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>0.96</b>  |

(continued)

**Table 6.34 (continued): Separation, average cost weight, patient day and average length of stay statistics, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                                                 | NSW              | Vic              | Qld              | WA               | SA               | Tas         | ACT         | NT          | Total             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| <b>Average private cost weight of separations<sup>(c)</sup></b> |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |             |             |             |                   |
| <i>Private hospitals</i>                                        | 0.88             | 1.00             | 0.91             | 0.89             | 0.95             | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 0.92              |
| Private free-standing day hospital facilities                   | 0.43             | 0.30             | 0.35             | 0.28             | 0.33             | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 0.35              |
| Other private hospitals <sup>(a)</sup>                          | 0.79             | 0.84             | 0.78             | 0.73             | 0.80             | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 0.80              |
| <b>Patient days</b>                                             |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |             |             |             |                   |
| <i>Public hospitals</i>                                         | 6,387,014        | 4,629,716        | 3,295,250        | 1,920,265        | 1,600,110        | 359,760     | 327,728     | 302,980     | 18,822,823        |
| Public acute hospitals                                          | 6,172,903        | 4,584,261        | 3,128,538        | 1,859,895        | 1,525,960        | 339,614     | 327,728     | 302,980     | 18,241,879        |
| Public psychiatric hospitals                                    | 214,111          | 45,455           | 166,712          | 60,370           | 74,150           | 20,146      | ..          | ..          | 580,944           |
| <i>Private hospitals</i>                                        | 2,464,340        | 2,310,738        | 2,219,627        | 910,944          | 639,419          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 8,872,946         |
| Private free-standing day hospital facilities                   | 218,878          | 211,759          | 216,561          | 124,497          | 70,981           | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 854,933           |
| Other private hospitals <sup>(a)</sup>                          | 2,245,462        | 2,098,979        | 2,003,066        | 786,447          | 568,438          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 8,018,013         |
| <i>Public acute and private hospitals</i>                       | 8,637,243        | 6,894,999        | 5,348,165        | 2,770,839        | 2,165,379        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 27,114,825        |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                                            | <b>8,851,354</b> | <b>6,940,454</b> | <b>5,514,877</b> | <b>2,831,209</b> | <b>2,239,529</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>27,695,769</b> |
| <b>Patient days per 1,000 population</b>                        |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |             |             |             |                   |
| <i>Public hospitals</i>                                         | 796.7            | 759.3            | 705.4            | 785.2            | 836.6            | 621.9       | 923.5       | 1,619.3     | 776.2             |
| Public acute hospitals                                          | 767.6            | 751.2            | 668.5            | 760.5            | 793.9            | 587.2       | 923.5       | 1,619.3     | 750.8             |
| Public psychiatric hospitals                                    | 29.0             | 8.2              | 36.9             | 24.7             | 42.7             | 34.6        | ..          | ..          | 25.5              |
| <i>Private hospitals</i>                                        | 304.6            | 373.1            | 466.8            | 369.9            | 323.2            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 359.7             |
| Private free-standing day hospital facilities                   | 27.8             | 35.3             | 45.6             | 50.6             | 36.0             | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 35.3              |
| Other private hospitals <sup>(a)</sup>                          | 276.9            | 337.8            | 421.2            | 319.3            | 287.1            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 324.4             |
| <i>Public acute and private hospitals</i>                       | 1,072.3          | 1,124.2          | 1,135.3          | 1,130.4          | 1,117.1          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1,110.4           |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                                            | <b>1,101.3</b>   | <b>1,132.4</b>   | <b>1,172.2</b>   | <b>1,155.1</b>   | <b>1,159.7</b>   | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>1,135.9</b>    |

(continued)

**Table 6.34 (continued): Separation, average cost weight, patient day and average length of stay statistics, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                                                      | NSW        | Vic        | Qld        | WA         | SA         | Tas         | ACT         | NT          | Total      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| <b>Average length of stay (days)</b>                                 |            |            |            |            |            |             |             |             |            |
| <i>Public hospitals</i>                                              | 3.7        | 3.2        | 3.2        | 3.2        | 3.9        | 3.4         | 3.5         | 2.6         | 3.4        |
| Public acute hospitals                                               | 3.6        | 3.2        | 3.0        | 3.1        | 3.7        | 3.2         | 3.5         | 2.6         | 3.3        |
| Public psychiatric hospitals <sup>(d)</sup>                          | 39.9       | 102.4      | 321.2      | 46.1       | 48.9       | 18.4        | ..          | ..          | 56.6       |
| <i>Private hospitals</i>                                             | 2.3        | 2.4        | 2.4        | 2.0        | 2.1        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 2.3        |
| Private free-standing day hospital facilities                        | 1.0        | 1.0        | 1.0        | 1.0        | 1.0        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1.0        |
| Other private hospitals <sup>(a)</sup>                               | 2.6        | 2.9        | 2.8        | 2.4        | 2.5        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 2.7        |
| <i>Public acute and private hospitals</i>                            | 3.1        | 2.9        | 2.7        | 2.6        | 3.0        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 2.9        |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                                                 | <b>3.2</b> | <b>2.9</b> | <b>2.8</b> | <b>2.7</b> | <b>3.1</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>3.0</b> |
| <b>Average length of stay, excluding same-day separations (days)</b> |            |            |            |            |            |             |             |             |            |
| <i>Public hospitals</i>                                              | 5.9        | 6.0        | 5.3        | 5.7        | 6.3        | 6.0         | 6.2         | 5.8         | 5.8        |
| Public acute hospitals                                               | 5.7        | 5.9        | 5.0        | 5.5        | 6.0        | 5.7         | 6.2         | 5.8         | 5.6        |
| Public psychiatric hospitals <sup>(d)</sup>                          | 41.3       | 102.8      | 352.4      | 46.8       | 59.0       | 18.7        | ..          | ..          | 59.7       |
| <i>Private hospitals</i>                                             | 5.6        | 5.3        | 5.4        | 4.3        | 4.7        | 5.2         | n.p.        | n.p.        | 5.2        |
| Private free-standing day hospital facilities                        | ..         | 2.0        | 1.0        | 1.0        | ..         | 17.6        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1.1        |
| Other private hospitals <sup>(a)</sup>                               | 5.6        | 5.3        | 5.4        | 4.4        | 4.7        | 5.2         | n.p.        | n.p.        | 5.2        |
| <i>Public acute and private hospitals</i>                            | 5.7        | 5.7        | 5.1        | 5.1        | 5.6        | 5.6         | n.p.        | n.p.        | 5.5        |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                                                 | <b>5.8</b> | <b>5.7</b> | <b>5.3</b> | <b>5.2</b> | <b>5.9</b> | <b>5.7</b>  | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>5.6</b> |

(a) Includes private psychiatric hospitals.

(b) Separations for which the care type was reported as *Acute*, or as *Newborn* (with qualified days), or was not reported. AR-DRG version 6.0x national public sector estimated cost weights 2010–11 were applied to AR-DRG version 6.0x DRGs for all rows in *Average public cost weight of separations*.

(c) AR-DRG version 6.0x national private sector estimated cost weights 2011–12 were applied to AR-DRG version 6.0x DRGs.

(d) Caution should be used with average length of stay data for public psychiatric hospitals. The figures include a small percentage of long-stay patients who can affect the average markedly.

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 6.35: Separations, by state or territory of usual residence, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| State or territory of usual residence       | State or territory of hospitalisation |           |           |           |         |         |        |         |           | Separations<br>per 1,000<br>population |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|--------|---------|-----------|----------------------------------------|
|                                             | NSW                                   | Vic       | Qld       | WA        | SA      | Tas     | ACT    | NT      | Total     |                                        |
| Public hospitals                            |                                       |           |           |           |         |         |        |         |           |                                        |
| New South Wales                             | 1,687,152                             | 29,150    | 11,264    | 804       | 1,713   | 357     | 16,581 | 549     | 1,747,570 | 223.2                                  |
| Victoria                                    | 3,811                                 | 1,389,390 | 2,474     | 871       | 2,362   | 279     | 285    | 384     | 1,399,856 | 234.3                                  |
| Queensland                                  | 12,354                                | 1,520     | 1,021,384 | 790       | 492     | 187     | 187    | 668     | 1,037,582 | 222.6                                  |
| Western Australia                           | 621                                   | 582       | 613       | 600,251   | 360     | 85      | 48     | 2,808   | 605,368   | 247.1                                  |
| South Australia                             | 743                                   | 2,164     | 556       | 360       | 405,945 | 53      | 64     | 2,741   | 412,626   | 227.0                                  |
| Tasmania                                    | 257                                   | 1,804     | 378       | 122       | 86      | 105,258 | 33     | 55      | 107,993   | 192.6                                  |
| Australian Capital Territory                | 3,566                                 | 239       | 259       | 56        | 87      | 19      | 76,183 | 24      | 80,433    | 539.2                                  |
| Northern Territory                          | 254                                   | 264       | 538       | 282       | 1,657   | 10      | 8      | 110,787 | 113,800   | 223.7                                  |
| Other Australian territories <sup>(a)</sup> | n.p.                                  | 0         | 11        | 278       | 1,054   | 0       | 2      | 0       | n.p.      | n.p.                                   |
| Not elsewhere classified <sup>(b)</sup>     | n.p.                                  | 3,883     | 6,534     | 2,995     | 0       | 0       | 56     | 290     | n.p.      | ..                                     |
| Not reported                                | 0                                     | 457       | 0         | 0         | 0       | 110     | 1,265  | 1       | 1,833     | ..                                     |
| Total                                       | 1,716,789                             | 1,429,453 | 1,044,011 | 606,809   | 413,756 | 106,358 | 94,712 | 118,307 | 5,530,195 | 232.1                                  |
| Private hospitals                           |                                       |           |           |           |         |         |        |         |           |                                        |
| New South Wales                             | 1,064,359                             | 9,419     | 31,833    | 355       | 1,643   | n.p.    | n.p.   | n.p.    | 1,115,299 | 140.5                                  |
| Victoria                                    | 7,856                                 | 929,340   | 1,614     | 234       | 1,647   | n.p.    | n.p.   | n.p.    | 940,936   | 156.1                                  |
| Queensland                                  | 4,069                                 | 1,123     | 897,655   | 264       | 273     | n.p.    | n.p.   | n.p.    | 903,549   | 190.7                                  |
| Western Australia                           | 378                                   | 426       | 311       | 450,592   | 176     | n.p.    | n.p.   | n.p.    | 452,021   | 153.4                                  |
| South Australia                             | 383                                   | 670       | 283       | 121       | 291,076 | n.p.    | n.p.   | n.p.    | 292,600   | 142.9                                  |
| Tasmania                                    | 328                                   | 1,438     | 313       | 33        | 68      | n.p.    | n.p.   | n.p.    | 82,780    | 183.1                                  |
| Australian Capital Territory                | 2,257                                 | 239       | 230       | 25        | 46      | n.p.    | n.p.   | n.p.    | 34,596    | 96.2                                   |
| Northern Territory                          | 393                                   | 499       | 730       | 179       | 1,078   | n.p.    | n.p.   | n.p.    | 15,733    | 77.5                                   |
| Other Australian territories <sup>(a)</sup> | 1,766                                 | 0         | 86        | 67        | 0       | n.p.    | n.p.   | n.p.    | n.p.      | n.p.                                   |
| Not elsewhere classified <sup>(b)</sup>     | 711                                   | 227       | 606       | 72        | 0       | n.p.    | n.p.   | n.p.    | n.p.      | ..                                     |
| Not reported                                | 0                                     | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0       | n.p.    | n.p.   | n.p.    | 91        | ..                                     |
| Total                                       | 1,082,500                             | 943,381   | 933,661   | 451,942   | 298,159 | n.p.    | n.p.   | n.p.    | 3,843,331 | 158.7                                  |
| All hospitals                               | 2,799,289                             | 2,372,834 | 1,977,672 | 1,058,751 | 711,915 | n.p.    | n.p.   | n.p.    | 9,373,526 | 390.8                                  |

(a) Includes Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas Island and Jervis Bay Territory.

(b) Includes *Resident overseas*, *At sea* and *No fixed address*.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 6.36: Separations, by age group and sex, public hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| <b>Sex</b>                 | <b>Age group</b>           | <b>NSW</b>       | <b>Vic</b>       | <b>Qld</b>       | <b>WA</b>      | <b>SA</b>      | <b>Tas</b>     | <b>ACT</b>    | <b>NT</b>      | <b>Total</b>     |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>Males</b>               | Under 1                    | 34,432           | 16,600           | 15,247           | 7,925          | 5,585          | 1,516          | 1,314         | 1,376          | 83,995           |
|                            | 1–4                        | 27,661           | 19,032           | 18,614           | 10,200         | 7,199          | 1,433          | 1,269         | 1,612          | 87,020           |
|                            | 5–14                       | 36,013           | 23,152           | 24,048           | 12,757         | 8,456          | 1,903          | 1,980         | 1,821          | 110,130          |
|                            | 15–24                      | 44,206           | 32,846           | 33,075           | 17,037         | 10,831         | 2,447          | 2,790         | 2,518          | 145,750          |
|                            | 25–34                      | 49,497           | 40,170           | 36,463           | 22,841         | 11,701         | 2,762          | 3,147         | 5,056          | 171,637          |
|                            | 35–44                      | 64,793           | 57,437           | 48,489           | 28,570         | 16,832         | 4,418          | 4,512         | 7,862          | 232,913          |
|                            | 45–54                      | 92,412           | 80,515           | 63,443           | 37,314         | 23,924         | 6,830          | 5,013         | 12,499         | 321,950          |
|                            | 55–64                      | 125,841          | 116,462          | 83,307           | 47,132         | 31,671         | 9,066          | 7,513         | 10,515         | 431,507          |
|                            | 65–74                      | 151,649          | 146,171          | 89,694           | 53,287         | 34,762         | 10,879         | 10,044        | 5,511          | 501,997          |
|                            | 75–84                      | 152,527          | 131,967          | 72,531           | 44,886         | 38,731         | 9,804          | 7,400         | 2,351          | 460,197          |
|                            | 85 and over                | 58,431           | 41,298           | 24,791           | 17,875         | 14,654         | 2,621          | 3,405         | 302            | 163,377          |
|                            | <i>Total<sup>(a)</sup></i> | <i>837,463</i>   | <i>705,650</i>   | <i>509,702</i>   | <i>299,824</i> | <i>204,346</i> | <i>53,679</i>  | <i>48,387</i> | <i>51,423</i>  | <i>2,710,474</i> |
| <b>Females</b>             | Under 1                    | 28,080           | 12,320           | 11,249           | 5,957          | 4,041          | 1,105          | 1,068         | 1,080          | 64,900           |
|                            | 1–4                        | 19,691           | 12,156           | 13,137           | 6,898          | 4,976          | 999            | 949           | 1,216          | 60,022           |
|                            | 5–14                       | 26,600           | 18,824           | 18,220           | 9,777          | 6,661          | 1,396          | 1,268         | 1,494          | 84,240           |
|                            | 15–24                      | 68,211           | 54,020           | 60,723           | 28,017         | 19,013         | 4,542          | 4,069         | 5,586          | 244,181          |
|                            | 25–34                      | 117,689          | 99,441           | 82,415           | 41,854         | 28,790         | 6,464          | 7,585         | 8,700          | 392,938          |
|                            | 35–44                      | 87,861           | 81,462           | 61,617           | 34,874         | 22,224         | 5,593          | 5,803         | 11,222         | 310,656          |
|                            | 45–54                      | 82,294           | 82,241           | 60,866           | 36,841         | 23,393         | 6,765          | 4,880         | 14,342         | 311,622          |
|                            | 55–64                      | 98,117           | 95,224           | 63,780           | 41,829         | 23,743         | 7,488          | 5,209         | 14,892         | 350,282          |
|                            | 65–74                      | 131,766          | 111,537          | 67,532           | 40,743         | 26,741         | 8,604          | 6,238         | 6,538          | 399,699          |
|                            | 75–84                      | 137,189          | 106,431          | 63,006           | 38,791         | 30,534         | 6,604          | 5,847         | 1,424          | 389,826          |
|                            | 85 and over                | 81,802           | 50,141           | 31,764           | 21,404         | 19,294         | 3,119          | 3,409         | 390            | 211,323          |
|                            | <i>Total<sup>(a)</sup></i> | <i>879,301</i>   | <i>723,797</i>   | <i>534,309</i>   | <i>306,985</i> | <i>209,410</i> | <i>52,679</i>  | <i>46,325</i> | <i>66,884</i>  | <i>2,819,690</i> |
| <b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b> |                            | <b>1,716,789</b> | <b>1,429,453</b> | <b>1,044,011</b> | <b>606,809</b> | <b>413,756</b> | <b>106,358</b> | <b>94,712</b> | <b>118,307</b> | <b>5,530,195</b> |

(a) Totals include separations where age group was not reported.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 6.37: Separations, by age group and sex, private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| <b>Sex</b>                 | <b>Age group</b>           | <b>NSW</b>       | <b>Vic</b>     | <b>Qld</b>     | <b>WA</b>      | <b>SA</b>      | <b>Tas</b>  | <b>ACT</b>  | <b>NT</b>   | <b>Total</b>     |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| <b>Males</b>               | Under 1                    | 5,554            | 3,986          | 2,937          | 1,928          | 894            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 15,683           |
|                            | 1–4                        | 7,557            | 4,964          | 5,395          | 3,389          | 1,977          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 24,155           |
|                            | 5–14                       | 9,658            | 7,209          | 7,635          | 4,011          | 2,150          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 31,882           |
|                            | 15–24                      | 20,635           | 19,163         | 15,790         | 9,087          | 5,685          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 73,027           |
|                            | 25–34                      | 24,035           | 21,084         | 19,542         | 12,494         | 6,301          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 86,620           |
|                            | 35–44                      | 38,163           | 33,230         | 31,796         | 19,286         | 8,905          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 135,810          |
|                            | 45–54                      | 57,936           | 51,572         | 50,545         | 28,718         | 15,195         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 211,405          |
|                            | 55–64                      | 94,679           | 81,827         | 86,215         | 43,049         | 27,809         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 345,569          |
|                            | 65–74                      | 117,090          | 94,810         | 108,871        | 45,613         | 35,412         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 415,765          |
|                            | 75–84                      | 78,918           | 70,265         | 70,166         | 31,589         | 24,507         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 284,425          |
|                            | 85 and over                | 31,008           | 29,360         | 28,985         | 12,291         | 10,397         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 115,375          |
|                            | <i>Total<sup>(a)</sup></i> | <i>485,233</i>   | <i>417,470</i> | <i>427,877</i> | <i>211,455</i> | <i>139,246</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>1,739,730</i> |
| <b>Females</b>             | Under 1                    | 3,848            | 2,621          | 1,927          | 1,246          | 417            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 10,370           |
|                            | 1–4                        | 4,808            | 3,273          | 3,631          | 2,189          | 1,291          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 15,807           |
|                            | 5–14                       | 8,516            | 6,443          | 6,619          | 3,556          | 2,001          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 28,229           |
|                            | 15–24                      | 32,311           | 30,736         | 28,971         | 14,749         | 6,926          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 117,995          |
|                            | 25–34                      | 64,417           | 58,454         | 53,875         | 28,352         | 12,814         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 226,762          |
|                            | 35–44                      | 76,733           | 75,878         | 62,581         | 32,185         | 16,328         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 273,314          |
|                            | 45–54                      | 76,208           | 72,183         | 67,688         | 35,766         | 19,812         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 282,117          |
|                            | 55–64                      | 102,976          | 88,037         | 87,410         | 44,859         | 29,986         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 366,659          |
|                            | 65–74                      | 112,346          | 86,025         | 91,576         | 38,326         | 31,618         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 372,472          |
|                            | 75–84                      | 79,664           | 67,952         | 68,426         | 28,210         | 25,373         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 279,196          |
|                            | 85 and over                | 35,437           | 34,298         | 33,080         | 11,049         | 12,333         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 130,651          |
|                            | <i>Total<sup>(a)</sup></i> | <i>597,264</i>   | <i>525,900</i> | <i>505,784</i> | <i>240,487</i> | <i>158,902</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>2,103,575</i> |
| <b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b> |                            | <b>1,082,500</b> | <b>943,381</b> | <b>933,661</b> | <b>451,942</b> | <b>298,159</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>3,843,331</b> |

(a) Totals include separations where age group was not reported.

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 6.38: Separations, by Indigenous status, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                                      | NSW              | Vic              | Qld              | WA               | SA             | Tas            | ACT           | NT             | Total            |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>Public hospitals</b>                              |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |               |                |                  |
| Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander origin     | 72,877           | 15,838           | 73,834           | 55,614           | 23,090         | 3,297          | 1,920         | 81,945         | 328,415          |
| Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal origin     | 1,043            | 259              | 10,717           | 433              | 332            | 168            | 71            | 301            | 13,324           |
| Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin         | 1,592            | 1,638            | 5,935            | 742              | 70             | 181            | 55            | 876            | 11,089           |
| <i>Indigenous people</i>                             | <i>75,512</i>    | <i>17,735</i>    | <i>90,486</i>    | <i>56,789</i>    | <i>23,492</i>  | <i>3,646</i>   | <i>2,046</i>  | <i>83,122</i>  | <i>352,828</i>   |
| Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander origin | 1,632,944        | 1,398,497        | 942,770          | 550,013          | 372,687        | 101,444        | 89,574        | 35,182         | 5,123,111        |
| Not reported                                         | 8,333            | 13,221           | 10,755           | 7                | 17,577         | 1,268          | 3,092         | 3              | 54,256           |
| <i>Total</i>                                         | <i>1,716,789</i> | <i>1,429,453</i> | <i>1,044,011</i> | <i>606,809</i>   | <i>413,756</i> | <i>106,358</i> | <i>94,712</i> | <i>118,307</i> | <i>5,530,195</i> |
| <b>Private hospitals</b>                             |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |               |                |                  |
| Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander origin     | 2,352            | 665              | 2,620            | 20,327           | 353            | n.p.           | n.p.          | n.p.           | 27,441           |
| Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal origin     | 92               | 156              | 765              | 330              | 76             | n.p.           | n.p.          | n.p.           | 1,473            |
| Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin         | 691              | 724              | 634              | 492              | 171            | n.p.           | n.p.          | n.p.           | 2,896            |
| <i>Indigenous people</i>                             | <i>3,135</i>     | <i>1,545</i>     | <i>4,019</i>     | <i>21,149</i>    | <i>600</i>     | <i>n.p.</i>    | <i>n.p.</i>   | <i>n.p.</i>    | <i>31,810</i>    |
| Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander origin | 1,045,488        | 936,139          | 866,174          | 430,793          | 281,789        | n.p.           | n.p.          | n.p.           | 3,674,987        |
| Not reported                                         | 33,877           | 5,697            | 63,468           | 0                | 15,770         | n.p.           | n.p.          | n.p.           | 136,534          |
| <i>Total</i>                                         | <i>1,082,500</i> | <i>943,381</i>   | <i>933,661</i>   | <i>451,942</i>   | <i>298,159</i> | <i>n.p.</i>    | <i>n.p.</i>   | <i>n.p.</i>    | <i>3,843,331</i> |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |               |                |                  |
| <i>Indigenous people</i>                             | <i>78,647</i>    | <i>19,280</i>    | <i>94,505</i>    | <i>77,938</i>    | <i>24,092</i>  | <i>n.p.</i>    | <i>n.p.</i>   | <i>n.p.</i>    | <i>384,638</i>   |
| <i>Other Australians</i>                             | <i>2,720,642</i> | <i>2,353,554</i> | <i>1,883,167</i> | <i>980,813</i>   | <i>687,823</i> | <i>n.p.</i>    | <i>n.p.</i>   | <i>n.p.</i>    | <i>8,988,888</i> |
| <b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>                           | <b>2,799,289</b> | <b>2,372,834</b> | <b>1,977,672</b> | <b>1,058,751</b> | <b>711,915</b> | <b>n.p.</b>    | <b>n.p.</b>   | <b>n.p.</b>    | <b>9,373,526</b> |
| Separation rate for Indigenous people per 1,000      | 678.3            | 778.5            | 917.2            | 1,613.6          | 1,233.1        | 286.5          | 709.0         | 1,911.0        | 1,038.4          |
| Separation rate for other Australians per 1,000      | 358.0            | 403.1            | 419.8            | 422.0            | 382.7          | 332.2          | 380.1         | 329.4          | 389.1            |
| Separation rate for all people per 1,000             | 362.9            | 404.6            | 430.3            | 445.0            | 391.8          | 330.9          | 383.1         | 648.9          | 399.1            |
| Separation rate ratio <sup>(a)</sup>                 | 1.9              | 1.9              | 2.2              | 3.8              | 3.2            | 0.9            | 1.9           | 5.8            | 2.7              |

(a) The separation rate ratio is equal to the separation rate for Indigenous Australians divided by the separation rate for other Australians.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 6.39: Overnight separations, by Indigenous status, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                                      | NSW              | Vic            | Qld            | WA             | SA             | Tas         | ACT         | NT          | Total            |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| <b>Public hospitals</b>                              |                  |                |                |                |                |             |             |             |                  |
| Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander origin     | 37,463           | 6,318          | 30,060         | 24,368         | 8,577          | 1,838       | 1,078       | 20,720      | 130,422          |
| Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal origin     | 675              | 167            | 3,810          | 127            | 212            | 76          | 15          | 102         | 5,184            |
| Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin         | 1,014            | 732            | 2,497          | 267            | 45             | 107         | 38          | 283         | 4,983            |
| <i>Indigenous people</i>                             | 39,152           | 7,217          | 36,367         | 24,762         | 8,834          | 2,021       | 1,131       | 21,105      | 140,589          |
| Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander origin | 903,006          | 628,301        | 478,322        | 255,025        | 204,881        | 47,880      | 42,436      | 17,712      | 2,577,563        |
| Not reported                                         | 5,291            | 6,370          | 6,216          | 4              | 8,793          | 631         | 1,057       | 1           | 28,363           |
| <i>Total</i>                                         | 947,449          | 641,888        | 520,905        | 279,791        | 222,508        | 50,532      | 44,624      | 38,818      | 2,746,515        |
| <b>Private hospitals</b>                             |                  |                |                |                |                |             |             |             |                  |
| Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander origin     | 838              | 289            | 680            | 211            | 108            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 2,575            |
| Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal origin     | 34               | 87             | 134            | 13             | 26             | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 319              |
| Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin         | 195              | 314            | 128            | 61             | 51             | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 839              |
| <i>Indigenous people</i>                             | 1,067            | 690            | 942            | 285            | 185            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 3,733            |
| Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander origin | 293,607          | 317,524        | 280,891        | 137,077        | 89,804         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1,163,480        |
| Not reported                                         | 8,116            | 2,607          | 12,747         | 0              | 1,687          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 29,192           |
| <i>Total</i>                                         | 302,790          | 320,821        | 294,580        | 137,362        | 91,676         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1,196,405        |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                                 |                  |                |                |                |                |             |             |             |                  |
| <i>Indigenous people</i>                             | 40,219           | 7,907          | 37,309         | 25,047         | 9,019          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 144,322          |
| <i>Other Australians</i>                             | 1,210,020        | 954,802        | 778,176        | 392,106        | 305,165        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 3,798,598        |
| <b>Total</b>                                         | <b>1,250,239</b> | <b>962,709</b> | <b>815,485</b> | <b>417,153</b> | <b>314,184</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>3,942,920</b> |
| Separation rate for Indigenous people per 1,000      | 304.4            | 272.0          | 311.2          | 398.9          | 380.4          | 153.1       | 344.3       | 376.6       | 324.5            |
| Separation rate for other Australians per 1,000      | 161.2            | 164.7          | 174.7          | 170.1          | 172.4          | 140.8       | 168.5       | 165.7       | 166.0            |
| Separation rate for all people per 1,000             | 163.9            | 165.3          | 178.5          | 176.6          | 175.5          | 140.8       | 170.3       | 218.8       | 169.4            |
| Separation rate ratio <sup>(a)</sup>                 | 1.9              | 1.7            | 1.8            | 2.3            | 2.2            | 1.1         | 2.0         | 2.3         | 2.0              |

(a) The separation rate ratio is equal to the separation rate for Indigenous Australians divided by the separation rate for other Australians.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.



**Table 6.40: Separations for selected potentially preventable hospitalisations<sup>(a)</sup>, by state or territory of usual residence, all hospitals, 2012–13**

|                                                                 | NSW            | Vic           | Qld           | WA            | SA            | Tas          | ACT          | NT           | Total <sup>(b)</sup> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|
| <b>Vaccine-preventable conditions</b>                           |                |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                      |
| Influenza and pneumonia                                         | 5,456          | 3,797         | 4,883         | 2,263         | 1,925         | 490          | 262          | 419          | 19,512               |
| Other vaccine-preventable conditions                            | 1,133          | 1,301         | 865           | 401           | 179           | 78           | 29           | 277          | 4,266                |
| <i>Total vaccine-preventable conditions<sup>(c)</sup></i>       | <i>6,575</i>   | <i>5,085</i>  | <i>5,733</i>  | <i>2,657</i>  | <i>2,104</i>  | <i>568</i>   | <i>291</i>   | <i>691</i>   | <i>23,724</i>        |
| <i>Vaccine-preventable PPH separations per 1,000 population</i> | <i>0.8</i>     | <i>0.9</i>    | <i>1.3</i>    | <i>1.1</i>    | <i>1.1</i>    | <i>1.0</i>   | <i>0.9</i>   | <i>3.6</i>   | <i>1.0</i>           |
| <b>Acute conditions</b>                                         |                |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                      |
| Appendicitis with generalised peritonitis                       | 2,744          | 2,079         | 1,918         | 895           | 661           | 166          | 114          | 107          | 8,692                |
| Cellulitis                                                      | 15,397         | 9,749         | 11,284        | 4,561         | 3,780         | 920          | 529          | 869          | 47,133               |
| Convulsions and epilepsy                                        | 11,321         | 6,999         | 8,323         | 3,688         | 2,800         | 677          | 503          | 705          | 35,049               |
| Dehydration and gastroenteritis                                 | 21,046         | 15,263        | 14,781        | 6,486         | 5,260         | 1,153        | 592          | 671          | 65,296               |
| Dental conditions                                               | 16,869         | 14,893        | 13,024        | 9,550         | 6,090         | 1,572        | 761          | 787          | 63,597               |
| Ear, nose and throat infections                                 | 11,394         | 7,114         | 9,171         | 4,806         | 3,434         | 553          | 384          | 688          | 37,578               |
| Gangrene                                                        | 1,275          | 2,527         | 1,514         | 1,055         | 431           | 169          | 68           | 160          | 7,207                |
| Pelvic inflammatory disease                                     | 1,152          | 1,056         | 1,144         | 515           | 296           | 89           | 71           | 136          | 4,460                |
| Perforated/bleeding ulcer                                       | 1,835          | 1,302         | 1,002         | 568           | 480           | 130          | 58           | 38           | 5,413                |
| Pyelonephritis                                                  | 20,606         | 14,565        | 15,811        | 7,282         | 5,385         | 910          | 889          | 720          | 66,211               |
| <i>Total acute conditions<sup>(c)</sup></i>                     | <i>103,587</i> | <i>75,454</i> | <i>77,907</i> | <i>39,373</i> | <i>28,597</i> | <i>6,331</i> | <i>3,966</i> | <i>4,871</i> | <i>340,355</i>       |
| <i>Acute PPH separations per 1,000 population</i>               | <i>13.7</i>    | <i>13.1</i>   | <i>17.2</i>   | <i>16.7</i>   | <i>16.5</i>   | <i>11.9</i>  | <i>11.3</i>  | <i>23.2</i>  | <i>14.8</i>          |

(continued)

**Table 6.40 (continued): Separations for selected potentially preventable hospitalisations<sup>(a)</sup>, by state or territory of usual residence, all hospitals, 2012–13**

|                                                                              | NSW            | Vic            | Qld            | WA            | SA            | Tas           | ACT          | NT            | Total <sup>(b)</sup> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------|
| <b>Chronic conditions</b>                                                    |                |                |                |               |               |               |              |               |                      |
| Angina                                                                       | 8,563          | 5,302          | 8,913          | 3,004         | 2,563         | 614           | 216          | 337           | 29,532               |
| Asthma                                                                       | 12,829         | 9,089          | 7,882          | 2,926         | 3,226         | 605           | 404          | 420           | 37,395               |
| Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease                                        | 22,894         | 15,028         | 15,339         | 5,739         | 5,898         | 1,580         | 708          | 1,211         | 68,437               |
| Congestive cardiac failure                                                   | 16,947         | 13,604         | 10,192         | 4,805         | 4,275         | 1,154         | 542          | 552           | 52,106               |
| Diabetes complications                                                       | 56,062         | 45,342         | 46,741         | 31,152        | 14,990        | 4,775         | 1,772        | 2,386         | 203,394              |
| Hypertension                                                                 | 2,619          | 1,908          | 2,489          | 659           | 674           | 120           | 66           | 58            | 8,600                |
| Iron deficiency anaemia                                                      | 9,738          | 11,709         | 5,948          | 4,257         | 3,104         | 1,201         | 384          | 269           | 36,639               |
| Nutritional deficiencies                                                     | 122            | 91             | 92             | 23            | 21            | 10            | 20           | 39            | 418                  |
| Rheumatic heart disease <sup>(d)</sup>                                       | 682            | 568            | 696            | 371           | 273           | 28            | 28           | 260           | 2,911                |
| <i>Total chronic conditions<sup>(c)</sup></i>                                | <i>122,406</i> | <i>96,406</i>  | <i>92,538</i>  | <i>50,328</i> | <i>32,642</i> | <i>9,567</i>  | <i>3,928</i> | <i>5,138</i>  | <i>413,258</i>       |
| <i>Chronic PPH separations per 1,000 population</i>                          | <i>15.1</i>    | <i>15.8</i>    | <i>19.9</i>    | <i>21.3</i>   | <i>16.5</i>   | <i>15.5</i>   | <i>12.0</i>  | <i>30.5</i>   | <i>17.0</i>          |
| <i>Total chronic conditions, excluding diabetes<sup>(c)</sup></i>            | <i>74,394</i>  | <i>57,299</i>  | <i>51,551</i>  | <i>21,784</i> | <i>20,034</i> | <i>5,312</i>  | <i>2,368</i> | <i>3,146</i>  | <i>236,038</i>       |
| <i>Chronic PPH (excluding diabetes) separations per 1,000 population</i>     | <i>9.2</i>     | <i>9.4</i>     | <i>11.2</i>    | <i>9.3</i>    | <i>10.1</i>   | <i>8.6</i>    | <i>7.2</i>   | <i>19.1</i>   | <i>9.7</i>           |
| <b>Total selected potentially preventable hospitalisations<sup>(c)</sup></b> | <b>231,374</b> | <b>175,861</b> | <b>174,962</b> | <b>91,741</b> | <b>62,886</b> | <b>16,356</b> | <b>8,130</b> | <b>10,500</b> | <b>772,398</b>       |
| <b>Total PPH separations per 1,000 population</b>                            | <b>29.5</b>    | <b>29.6</b>    | <b>38.1</b>    | <b>38.9</b>   | <b>33.9</b>   | <b>28.2</b>   | <b>23.9</b>  | <b>56.3</b>   | <b>32.6</b>          |

PPH—potentially preventable hospitalisation.

(a) These conditions are defined using ICD-10-AM codes in Appendix B tables accompanying this report online.

(b) Includes other territories and excludes overseas residents and unknown state of residence.

(c) Excludes multiple diagnoses for the same separation within the same group.

(d) Rheumatic heart disease includes acute rheumatic fever as well as the chronic disease.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 6.41: Separations, by care type, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| Care type                                             | NSW              | Vic <sup>(a)</sup> | Qld              | WA             | SA             | Tas            | ACT           | NT             | Total            |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>Public hospitals</b>                               |                  |                    |                  |                |                |                |               |                |                  |
| Acute care                                            | 1,614,570        | 1,375,204          | 984,757          | 583,629        | 393,762        | 102,023        | 88,879        | 116,574        | 5,259,398        |
| Rehabilitation care                                   | 35,533           | 15,264             | 27,012           | 11,564         | 10,069         | 911            | 2,608         | 259            | 103,220          |
| Palliative care                                       | 13,129           | 7,342              | 8,404            | 1,518          | 1,411          | 553            | 600           | 315            | 33,272           |
| Geriatric evaluation and management                   | 6,497            | 17,920             | 4,606            | 1,964          | 1,479          | 266            | 456           | 96             | 33,284           |
| Psychogeriatric care                                  | 809              | 0                  | 472              | 792            | 268            | 114            | 28            | 2              | 2,485            |
| Maintenance care                                      | 9,590            | 470                | 7,494            | 1,412          | 2,290          | 866            | 777           | 163            | 23,062           |
| Newborn—qualified days only                           | 33,387           | 11,612             | 8,573            | 4,781          | 2,784          | 1,477          | 1,140         | 833            | 64,587           |
| Newborn—qualified and unqualified days <sup>(b)</sup> | 3,273            | 1,641              | 2,691            | 1,149          | 1,693          | 101            | 219           | 0              | 10,767           |
| Newborn—unqualified days only                         | 42,145           | 47,510             | 36,118           | 19,614         | 12,249         | 2,467          | 3,807         | 2,832          | 166,742          |
| <i>Newborn total</i>                                  | <i>78,805</i>    | <i>60,763</i>      | <i>47,382</i>    | <i>25,544</i>  | <i>16,726</i>  | <i>4,045</i>   | <i>5,166</i>  | <i>3,665</i>   | <i>242,096</i>   |
| Other admitted patient care                           | 1                | 0                  | 2                | 0              | 0              | 6              | 5             | 65             | 79               |
| Not reported                                          | 0                | 0                  | 0                | 0              | 0              | 41             | 0             | 0              | 41               |
| <i>Total<sup>(c)</sup></i>                            | <i>1,758,934</i> | <i>1,476,963</i>   | <i>1,080,129</i> | <i>626,423</i> | <i>426,005</i> | <i>108,825</i> | <i>98,519</i> | <i>121,139</i> | <i>5,696,937</i> |

(continued)

**Table 6.41 (continued): Separations, by care type, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| Care type                              | NSW              | Vic <sup>(a)</sup> | Qld            | WA             | SA             | Tas         | ACT         | NT          | Total            |
|----------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| <b>Private hospitals</b>               |                  |                    |                |                |                |             |             |             |                  |
| Acute care                             | 926,838          | 913,451            | 888,748        | 442,753        | 275,011        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 3,570,183        |
| Rehabilitation care                    | 147,723          | 20,119             | 38,128         | 3,270          | 22,040         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 240,519          |
| Palliative care                        | 318              | 693                | 1,946          | 2,683          | 229            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 6,007            |
| Geriatric evaluation and management    | 0                | 0                  | 130            | 0              | 60             | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 204              |
| Psychogeriatric care                   | 0                | 5,466              | 6              | 849            | 0              | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 6,321            |
| Maintenance care                       | 102              | 44                 | 1,997          | 103            | 14             | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 2,300            |
| Newborn—qualified days only            | 6,954            | 3,318              | 2,291          | 1,465          | 805            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 15,220           |
| Newborn—qualified and unqualified days | 565              | 290                | 415            | 819            | 0              | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 2,211            |
| Newborn—unqualified days only          | 16,739           | 2,440              | 15,918         | 8,873          | 772            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 48,138           |
| <i>Newborn total</i>                   | <i>24,258</i>    | <i>6,048</i>       | <i>18,624</i>  | <i>11,157</i>  | <i>1,577</i>   | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>65,569</i>    |
| Other admitted patient care            | 0                | 0                  | 0              | 0              | 0              | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 4                |
| Not reported                           | 0                | 0                  | 0              | 0              | 0              | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 362              |
| <i>Total<sup>(c)</sup></i>             | <i>1,099,239</i> | <i>945,821</i>     | <i>949,579</i> | <i>460,815</i> | <i>298,931</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>3,891,469</i> |

(a) The reporting of *Newborns* (without qualified days) is not compulsory for the Victorian private sector, resulting in a low number of separations in this category.

(b) Public hospitals in the Northern Territory did not report any separations for *Newborn* care with both qualified and unqualified days.

(c) Total separations include records for *Newborn* (without qualified days).

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 6.42: Patient days, by care type, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| Care type                           | NSW              | Vic <sup>(a)</sup> | Qld              | WA               | SA               | Tas            | ACT            | NT             | Total             |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| <b>Public hospitals</b>             |                  |                    |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |                   |
| Acute care                          | 5,196,801        | 3,675,744          | 2,461,885        | 1,520,263        | 1,231,434        | 298,002        | 258,686        | 271,400        | 14,914,215        |
| Rehabilitation care                 | 586,645          | 319,336            | 357,686          | 226,604          | 126,010          | 23,042         | 27,838         | 9,767          | 1,676,928         |
| Palliative care                     | 135,920          | 94,384             | 64,327           | 14,658           | 16,092           | 5,182          | 6,820          | 3,361          | 340,744           |
| Geriatric evaluation and management | 80,517           | 369,653            | 63,899           | 19,209           | 24,878           | 4,883          | 5,605          | 2,056          | 570,700           |
| Psychogeriatric care                | 44,535           | 0                  | 15,218           | 36,754           | 10,328           | 7,879          | 306            | 2              | 115,022           |
| Maintenance care                    | 175,861          | 47,564             | 242,288          | 52,668           | 148,395          | 8,609          | 16,755         | 8,197          | 700,337           |
| Newborn—qualified days              | 166,734          | 123,035            | 89,939           | 50,109           | 42,973           | 11,348         | 11,697         | 8,095          | 503,930           |
| Newborn—unqualified days            | 112,153          | 116,998            | 74,727           | 47,314           | 33,493           | 5,939          | 8,178          | 7,556          | 406,358           |
| Newborn total                       | 278,887          | 240,033            | 164,666          | 97,423           | 76,466           | 17,287         | 19,875         | 15,651         | 910,288           |
| Other admitted patient care         | 1                | 0                  | 8                | 0                | 0                | 52             | 21             | 102            | 184               |
| Not reported                        | 0                | 0                  | 0                | 0                | 0                | 763            | 0              | 0              | 763               |
| <i>Total<sup>(b)</sup></i>          | <i>6,387,014</i> | <i>4,629,716</i>   | <i>3,295,250</i> | <i>1,920,265</i> | <i>1,600,110</i> | <i>359,760</i> | <i>327,728</i> | <i>302,980</i> | <i>18,822,823</i> |

(continued)

**Table 6.42 (continued): Patient days, by care type, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| Care type                           | NSW              | Vic <sup>(a)</sup> | Qld              | WA             | SA             | Tas         | ACT         | NT          | Total            |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| <b>Private hospitals</b>            |                  |                    |                  |                |                |             |             |             |                  |
| Acute care                          | 1,935,943        | 1,977,705          | 1,956,758        | 804,114        | 558,285        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 7,512,905        |
| Rehabilitation total                | 483,208          | 269,820            | 169,232          | 55,077         | 70,727         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1,088,903        |
| Palliative care                     | 3,982            | 8,199              | 26,133           | 24,725         | 3,363          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 68,483           |
| Geriatric evaluation and management | 0                | 0                  | 2,523            | 0              | 407            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 3,013            |
| Psychogeriatric care                | 0                | 32,100             | 93               | 12,156         | 0              | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 44,349           |
| Maintenance care                    | 1,269            | 665                | 38,243           | 2,848          | 937            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 44,002           |
| Newborn—qualified days              | 39,938           | 22,249             | 26,645           | 12,024         | 5,700          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 110,577          |
| Newborn—unqualified days            | 73,954           | 11,055             | 62,418           | 38,658         | 3,217          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 203,182          |
| Newborn total                       | 113,892          | 33,304             | 89,063           | 50,682         | 8,917          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 313,759          |
| Other admitted patient care         | 0                | 0                  | 0                | 0              | 0              | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 11               |
| Not reported                        | 0                | 0                  | 0                | 0              | 0              | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 703              |
| <i>Total<sup>(b)</sup></i>          | <i>2,464,340</i> | <i>2,310,738</i>   | <i>2,219,627</i> | <i>910,944</i> | <i>639,419</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>8,872,946</i> |

(a) The reporting of *Newborns* (without qualified days) is not compulsory for the Victorian private sector, resulting in a low numbers of days in this category.

(b) Total patient days exclude unqualified days for *Newborns*.

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 6.43: Separations by funding source, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                          | NSW              | Vic              | Qld              | WA               | SA             | Tas            | ACT           | NT             | Total            |
|------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>Public hospitals</b>                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |               |                |                  |
| Public <sup>(a)</sup>                    | 1,314,978        | 1,197,467        | 897,279          | 551,258          | 366,206        | 84,308         | 81,367        | 114,970        | 4,607,833        |
| Private health insurance                 | 308,605          | 178,137          | 105,873          | 35,958           | 30,282         | 18,104         | 8,280         | 839            | 686,078          |
| Self-funded                              | 23,779           | 12,365           | 13,965           | 939              | 1,585          | 111            | 10            | 564            | 53,318           |
| Workers compensation                     | 6,942            | 4,769            | 5,697            | 1,898            | 1,174          | 343            | 423           | 414            | 21,660           |
| Motor vehicle third party personal claim | 8,758            | 7,492            | 4,314            | 3,435            | 2,257          | 663            | 277           | 624            | 27,820           |
| Department of Veterans' Affairs          | 46,013           | 20,318           | 15,622           | 6,887            | 9,370          | 2,215          | 3,468         | 261            | 104,154          |
| Other <sup>(b)</sup>                     | 7,714            | 8,905            | 1,261            | 6,434            | 2,882          | 614            | 887           | 635            | 29,332           |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>1,716,789</b> | <b>1,429,453</b> | <b>1,044,011</b> | <b>606,809</b>   | <b>413,756</b> | <b>106,358</b> | <b>94,712</b> | <b>118,307</b> | <b>5,530,195</b> |
| <b>Private hospitals</b>                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |               |                |                  |
| Public <sup>(a)</sup>                    | 8,307            | 2,858            | 22,311           | 81,031           | 3,680          | n.p.           | n.p.          | n.p.           | 119,236          |
| Private health insurance                 | 895,044          | 808,292          | 751,030          | 327,106          | 263,699        | n.p.           | n.p.          | n.p.           | 3,152,158        |
| Self-funded                              | 112,240          | 82,496           | 63,447           | 17,301           | 10,407         | n.p.           | n.p.          | n.p.           | 290,799          |
| Workers compensation                     | 21,056           | 11,879           | 14,076           | 8,065            | 4,953          | n.p.           | n.p.          | n.p.           | 61,745           |
| Motor vehicle third party personal claim | 1,281            | 3,208            | 495              | 699              | 494            | n.p.           | n.p.          | n.p.           | 6,349            |
| Department of Veterans' Affairs          | 43,613           | 32,784           | 73,761           | 15,342           | 13,008         | n.p.           | n.p.          | n.p.           | 184,807          |
| Other <sup>(b)</sup>                     | 959              | 1,864            | 8,541            | 2,398            | 1,918          | n.p.           | n.p.          | n.p.           | 28,237           |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>1,082,500</b> | <b>943,381</b>   | <b>933,661</b>   | <b>451,942</b>   | <b>298,159</b> | <b>n.p.</b>    | <b>n.p.</b>   | <b>n.p.</b>    | <b>3,843,331</b> |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                     | <b>2,799,289</b> | <b>2,372,834</b> | <b>1,977,672</b> | <b>1,058,751</b> | <b>711,915</b> | <b>n.p.</b>    | <b>n.p.</b>   | <b>n.p.</b>    | <b>9,373,526</b> |

(a) Public patients includes separations with a funding source of *Health Service budget* (including *Health Service budget due to Reciprocal health care agreements* and *Health Service budget—no charge raised due to hospital decision* in public hospitals) and *Other hospital or public authority* (with a *Public* patient election status).

(b) Other includes separations with a funding source of *Other compensation*, *Department of Defence*, *Correctional facilities*, *Other hospital or public authority* (without a *Public* patient election status), *Other*, *Health service budget—no charge raised due to hospital decision* (in private hospitals) and not reported.

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 6.44: Separations, by mode of separation, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                                                      | NSW              | Vic              | Qld              | WA             | SA             | Tas            | ACT           | NT             | Total            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>Public hospitals</b>                                              |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |               |                |                  |
| Discharge/transfer to an (other) acute hospital                      | 109,978          | 76,359           | 65,700           | 30,074         | 26,986         | 4,024          | 3,114         | 3,470          | 319,705          |
| Discharge/transfer to residential aged care service <sup>(a)</sup>   | 17,629           | 22,239           | 4,824            | 8,038          | 8,751          | 874            | 465           | 342            | 63,162           |
| Discharge/transfer to an (other) psychiatric hospital                | 2,035            | 1,541            | 151              | 1,126          | 1,141          | 744            | 89            | 11             | 6,838            |
| Discharge/transfer to other health-care accommodation <sup>(b)</sup> | 4,339            | 3,470            | 2,204            | 1,380          | 1,479          | 190            | 366           | 2,100          | 15,528           |
| Statistical discharge: type change                                   | 34,117           | 16,144           | 30,572           | 10,873         | 4,597          | 2,011          | 3,486         | 1,327          | 103,127          |
| Left against medical advice/discharge at own risk                    | 17,943           | 6,607            | 10,302           | 5,645          | 3,469          | 371            | 457           | 3,759          | 48,553           |
| Statistical discharge from leave                                     | 3,234            | 24               | 856              | 1,193          | 193            | 0              | 0             | 0              | 5,500            |
| Died                                                                 | 23,596           | 14,698           | 10,701           | 4,220          | 4,879          | 1,479          | 976           | 481            | 61,030           |
| Other <sup>(c)</sup>                                                 | 1,503,317        | 1,287,927        | 918,701          | 544,258        | 362,248        | 96,654         | 85,715        | 106,817        | 4,905,637        |
| Not reported                                                         | 601              | 444              | 0                | 2              | 13             | 11             | 44            | 0              | 1,115            |
| <b>Total</b>                                                         | <b>1,716,789</b> | <b>1,429,453</b> | <b>1,044,011</b> | <b>606,809</b> | <b>413,756</b> | <b>106,358</b> | <b>94,712</b> | <b>118,307</b> | <b>5,530,195</b> |
| <b>Private hospitals</b>                                             |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |               |                |                  |
| Discharge/transfer to an (other) acute hospital                      | 23,062           | 20,307           | 8,158            | 3,245          | 7,103          | n.p.           | n.p.          | n.p.           | 63,259           |
| Discharge/transfer to residential aged care service <sup>(a)</sup>   | 1,357            | 2,798            | 1,136            | 838            | 1,084          | n.p.           | n.p.          | n.p.           | 7,517            |
| Discharge/transfer to an (other) psychiatric hospital                | 64               | 56               | 20               | 25             | 30             | n.p.           | n.p.          | n.p.           | 199              |
| Discharge/transfer to other health-care accommodation <sup>(b)</sup> | 62,919           | 20               | 769              | 195            | 244            | n.p.           | n.p.          | n.p.           | 64,372           |
| Statistical discharge: type change                                   | 5,714            | 3,863            | 8,006            | 2,881          | 491            | n.p.           | n.p.          | n.p.           | 21,933           |
| Left against medical advice/discharge at own risk                    | 922              | 495              | 475              | 146            | 60             | n.p.           | n.p.          | n.p.           | 2,145            |
| Statistical discharge from leave                                     | 163              | 0                | 64               | 12             | 2              | n.p.           | n.p.          | n.p.           | 241              |
| Died                                                                 | 2,002            | 3,461            | 4,351            | 2,120          | 1,088          | n.p.           | n.p.          | n.p.           | 13,538           |
| Other <sup>(c)</sup>                                                 | 986,297          | 912,381          | 910,682          | 442,480        | 288,006        | n.p.           | n.p.          | n.p.           | 3,670,076        |
| Not reported                                                         | 0                | 0                | 0                | 0              | 51             | n.p.           | n.p.          | n.p.           | 51               |
| <b>Total</b>                                                         | <b>1,082,500</b> | <b>943,381</b>   | <b>933,661</b>   | <b>451,942</b> | <b>298,159</b> | <b>n.p.</b>    | <b>n.p.</b>   | <b>n.p.</b>    | <b>3,843,331</b> |

(a) Unless this is the usual place of residence.

(b) Includes Mothercraft hospitals, except in jurisdictions where Mothercraft facilities are considered acute.

(c) Includes discharge to usual residence/ own accommodation/ welfare institution (including prisons, hostels and group homes providing primarily welfare services).

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.



## 7 Same-day acute admitted patient care

This chapter presents information on same-day acute admitted patient care provided by public and private hospitals in Australia.

A same-day separation is one in which the patient is admitted and separated on the same date. Acute admitted patient care includes separations for which the care type was reported as *Acute*, *Newborn* (with qualified days) or was not reported. Separations for other care types were excluded. The data are sourced from the AIHW's NHMD. For definitions of terms and classifications, and more information on data limitations and methods, see Chapter 6 (boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3).

Of all same-day separations, 96% were reported as *Acute*, with a higher proportion in the public sector (99%) than in the private sector (93%).

### How has activity changed over time?

From 2011–12 to 2012–13, same-day acute separations increased by 0.7% to 5.2 million, a lower increase than the average per year between 2008–09 and 2012–13 (3.6%) (Table 7.1).

However, between 2011–12 and 2012–13, there was a change in Victoria's emergency department admission policy, which resulted in a decrease in admissions. After adjusting for this change (as detailed in Chapter 6) (with the assumption that the majority of emergency department 'admissions' that are no longer reported were same-day stays), same-day acute separations were estimated to have increased by about 3.0% between 2011–12 and 2012–13.

The annual growth rate in same-day acute separations between 2008–09 and 2012–13 was higher in private hospitals (4.3%) than in public hospitals (3.1%). After adjusting for changes as above, same-day acute separations for public hospitals increased by about 4.1% per year between 2008–09 and 2012–13. The greatest increase in same-day acute separations occurred in *Other private hospitals* (4.4% on average each year), increasing from fewer than 1.4 million in 2008–09 to more than 1.6 million in 2012–13.

**Table 7.1: Same-day acute separations, public and private hospitals, 2008–09 to 2012–13**

|                                               | 2008–09          | 2009–10          | 2010–11          | 2011–12          | 2012–13          | Change (%) <sup>(a)</sup> |               |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
|                                               |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  | Average since 2008–09     | Since 2011–12 |
| <b>Public hospitals</b>                       |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                           |               |
| Public acute hospitals                        | 2,438,288        | 2,548,148        | 2,660,010        | 2,776,747        | 2,750,608        | 3.1                       | –0.9          |
| Public psychiatric hospitals                  | 630              | 690              | 630              | 633              | 453              | –7.9                      | –28.4         |
| <i>Total</i>                                  | <i>2,438,918</i> | <i>2,548,838</i> | <i>2,660,640</i> | <i>2,777,380</i> | <i>2,751,061</i> | <i>3.1</i>                | <i>–0.9</i>   |
| <b>Private hospitals</b>                      |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                           |               |
| Private free-standing day hospital facilities | 726,572          | 780,690          | 806,409          | 841,327          | 852,073          | 4.1                       | 1.3           |
| Other private hospitals                       | 1,356,396        | 1,436,250        | 1,476,434        | 1,557,844        | 1,610,944        | 4.4                       | 3.4           |
| <i>Total</i>                                  | <i>2,082,968</i> | <i>2,216,940</i> | <i>2,282,843</i> | <i>2,399,171</i> | <i>2,463,017</i> | <i>4.3</i>                | <i>2.7</i>    |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                          | <b>4,521,886</b> | <b>4,765,778</b> | <b>4,943,483</b> | <b>5,176,551</b> | <b>5,214,078</b> | <b>3.6</b>                | <b>0.7</b>    |

(a) Annual average change, not adjusted for changes in coverage and re-categorisation of hospitals as public or private.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

Between 2008–09 and 2012–13, the highest average increases in the number of same-day acute separations in public hospitals were for Western Australia (8.0%) and the Northern Territory (7.5%) (Table 7.2). Western Australia also recorded the highest average increase in the number of same-day acute separations in private hospitals (6.6% per year).

**Table 7.2: Same-day acute separations, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2008–09 to 2012–13**

|                                        | 2008–09          | 2009–10          | 2010–11          | 2011–12          | 2012–13          | Change (%) <sup>(a)</sup> |               |
|----------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
|                                        |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  | Average since 2008–09     | Since 2011–12 |
| <b>New South Wales<sup>(b)</sup></b>   |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                           |               |
| Public hospitals                       | 654,272          | 679,911          | 697,804          | 726,434          | 757,835          | 3.7                       | 4.3           |
| Private hospitals                      | 563,959          | 592,552          | 618,824          | 651,662          | 654,772          | 3.8                       | 0.5           |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                   | <i>1,218,231</i> | <i>1,272,463</i> | <i>1,316,628</i> | <i>1,378,096</i> | <i>1,412,607</i> | <i>3.8</i>                | <i>2.5</i>    |
| <b>Victoria<sup>(b)(c)</sup></b>       |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                           |               |
| Public hospitals                       | 789,255          | 809,244          | 849,798          | 882,687          | 787,362          | n.p.                      | n.p.          |
| Private hospitals                      | 531,609          | 581,364          | 573,363          | 601,695          | 618,398          | 3.9                       | 2.8           |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                   | <i>1,320,864</i> | <i>1,390,608</i> | <i>1,423,161</i> | <i>1,484,382</i> | <i>1,405,760</i> | <i>n.p.</i>               | <i>n.p.</i>   |
| <b>Queensland</b>                      |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                           |               |
| Public hospitals                       | 433,612          | 459,402          | 482,271          | 492,281          | 509,595          | 4.1                       | 3.5           |
| Private hospitals                      | 530,024          | 549,879          | 556,567          | 586,929          | 609,674          | 3.6                       | 3.9           |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                   | <i>963,636</i>   | <i>1,009,281</i> | <i>1,038,838</i> | <i>1,079,210</i> | <i>1,119,269</i> | <i>3.8</i>                | <i>3.7</i>    |
| <b>Western Australia<sup>(b)</sup></b> |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                           |               |
| Public hospitals                       | 239,899          | 269,408          | 292,117          | 316,669          | 326,687          | 8.0                       | 3.2           |
| Private hospitals                      | 242,941          | 260,654          | 287,160          | 302,562          | 313,984          | 6.6                       | 3.8           |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                   | <i>482,840</i>   | <i>530,062</i>   | <i>579,277</i>   | <i>619,231</i>   | <i>640,671</i>   | <i>7.3</i>                | <i>3.5</i>    |
| <b>South Australia<sup>(b)</sup></b>   |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                           |               |
| Public hospitals                       | 164,745          | 170,177          | 173,794          | 183,019          | 185,094          | 3.0                       | 1.1           |
| Private hospitals                      | 153,881          | 162,859          | 172,395          | 180,672          | 189,061          | 5.3                       | 4.6           |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                   | <i>318,626</i>   | <i>333,036</i>   | <i>346,189</i>   | <i>363,691</i>   | <i>374,155</i>   | <i>4.1</i>                | <i>2.9</i>    |
| <b>Tasmania<sup>(b)</sup></b>          |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                           |               |
| Public hospitals                       | 49,338           | 51,080           | 49,606           | 50,462           | 55,765           | 3.1                       | 10.5          |
| Private hospitals                      | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.                      | n.p.          |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                   | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>               | <i>n.p.</i>   |
| <b>Australian Capital Territory</b>    |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                           |               |
| Public hospitals                       | 48,248           | 47,081           | 49,304           | 51,505           | 49,298           | 0.5                       | –4.3          |
| Private hospitals                      | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.                      | n.p.          |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                   | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>               | <i>n.p.</i>   |
| <b>Northern Territory</b>              |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                           |               |
| Public hospitals                       | 59,549           | 62,535           | 65,946           | 74,323           | 79,425           | 7.5                       | 6.9           |
| Private hospitals                      | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.                      | n.p.          |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                   | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>               | <i>n.p.</i>   |
| <b>Total</b>                           |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                           |               |
| <b>Public hospitals</b>                | <b>2,438,918</b> | <b>2,548,838</b> | <b>2,660,640</b> | <b>2,777,380</b> | <b>2,751,061</b> | <b>3.1</b>                | <b>–0.9</b>   |
| <b>Private hospitals</b>               | <b>2,082,968</b> | <b>2,216,940</b> | <b>2,282,843</b> | <b>2,399,171</b> | <b>2,463,017</b> | <b>4.3</b>                | <b>2.7</b>    |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                   | <b>4,521,886</b> | <b>4,765,778</b> | <b>4,943,483</b> | <b>5,176,551</b> | <b>5,214,078</b> | <b>3.6</b>                | <b>0.7</b>    |

(a) Annual average change, not adjusted for changes in coverage and re-categorisation of hospitals as public or private.

(b) There were changes in coverage or data supply over this period for New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania that affect the interpretation of these data. See Appendix A for more information.

(c) The large decrease in public hospital separations recorded for Victoria reflects a change in Victoria's emergency department admission policy between 2011–12 and 2012–13.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

Large single-year increases in the number of same-day acute separations between 2011–12 and 2012–13 were recorded for public hospitals in Tasmania (10.5%) and the Northern Territory (6.9%) and for private hospitals in South Australia (4.6%) (Table 7.2).

Between 2011–12 and 2012–13, the decrease in same-day acute separations for Victorian public hospitals reflects a change in emergency department admission policy. After adjusting for this change (as above), same-day acute separations in Victorian public hospitals would have increased by about 5.1% between 2011–12 and 2012–13.

## Who used these services?

### Sex and age group

Just over half (51%) of same-day acute separations were for females (Table 7.3). However, there were more same-day separations for boys aged 0 to 14 and men aged 55 and over. People aged 55 and over accounted for more than half (58%) of all same-day separations.

**Table 7.3: Same-day acute separations, by sex and age group (years), all hospitals, 2012–13**

| Age group (years)          | Males            | Females          | Total            |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 0–4                        | 71,017           | 44,942           | 115,960          |
| 5–9                        | 43,544           | 30,445           | 73,991           |
| 10–14                      | 31,020           | 25,093           | 56,113           |
| 15–19                      | 50,447           | 68,613           | 119,061          |
| 20–24                      | 60,991           | 112,424          | 173,416          |
| 25–29                      | 64,192           | 125,069          | 189,263          |
| 30–34                      | 74,018           | 146,173          | 220,193          |
| 35–39                      | 91,890           | 160,324          | 252,215          |
| 40–44                      | 123,919          | 173,390          | 297,310          |
| 45–49                      | 144,751          | 176,424          | 321,176          |
| 50–54                      | 184,140          | 206,610          | 390,750          |
| 55–59                      | 224,894          | 224,456          | 449,351          |
| 60–64                      | 269,152          | 238,311          | 507,465          |
| 65–69                      | 300,822          | 248,140          | 548,963          |
| 70–74                      | 270,819          | 222,264          | 493,084          |
| 75–79                      | 248,083          | 200,049          | 448,133          |
| 80–84                      | 187,978          | 145,376          | 333,355          |
| 85+                        | 118,410          | 105,849          | 224,260          |
| <b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b> | <b>2,560,101</b> | <b>2,653,953</b> | <b>5,214,078</b> |

(a) The total includes separations for which age information was not known.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Separations for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are likely to be under-counted. The quality of the data provided for Indigenous status in 2012–13 for admitted patient care varied by jurisdiction. For more information, see Chapter 6 and Appendix A.

Nationally, 4.6% of all same-day acute separations were for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people.

In 2012–13, the same-day acute separation rate for Indigenous Australians was more than 3 times the rate for other Australians (Table 7.4). The Northern Territory had the highest rate of same-day acute separations for Indigenous Australians.

*Care involving dialysis* accounted for a large proportion of same-day separations, particularly for Indigenous Australians, who were admitted for dialysis at 12 times the rate for other Australians. Excluding separations for dialysis, Indigenous Australians had lower same-day acute separation rates than other Australians in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania.

**Table 7.4: Same-day acute separations per 1,000 population, by Indigenous status, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                                           | NSW       | Vic       | Qld       | WA      | SA      | Tas  | ACT  | NT   | Total     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|------|------|------|-----------|
| <b>Indigenous Australians</b>                             |           |           |           |         |         |      |      |      |           |
| Separations                                               | 38,166    | 11,373    | 56,787    | 52,880  | 15,015  | n.p. | n.p. | n.p. | 239,487   |
| Separations per 1,000 population                          | 370.4     | 506.5     | 601.5     | 1214.4  | 847.8   | n.p. | n.p. | n.p. | 710.9     |
| Excluding care involving dialysis                         | 132.1     | 163.7     | 167.2     | 156.5   | 155.6   | n.p. | n.p. | n.p. | 152.8     |
| <b>Other Australians</b>                                  |           |           |           |         |         |      |      |      |           |
| Separations                                               | 1,374,441 | 1,394,387 | 1,062,482 | 587,791 | 359,140 | n.p. | n.p. | n.p. | 4,974,591 |
| Separations per 1,000 population                          | 180.2     | 237.7     | 235.8     | 251.4   | 198.2   | n.p. | n.p. | n.p. | 214.1     |
| Excluding care involving dialysis                         | 139.1     | 185.4     | 194.5     | 192.5   | 159.2   | n.p. | n.p. | n.p. | 168.7     |
| <b>All Australians</b>                                    |           |           |           |         |         |      |      |      |           |
| Separations                                               | 1,412,607 | 1,405,760 | 1,119,269 | 640,671 | 374,155 | n.p. | n.p. | n.p. | 5,214,078 |
| Separations per 1,000 population                          | 182.5     | 238.6     | 242.6     | 268.0   | 204.3   | n.p. | n.p. | n.p. | 220.9     |
| Excluding care involving dialysis                         | 139.1     | 185.3     | 194.4     | 192.2   | 159.3   | n.p. | n.p. | n.p. | 168.7     |
| Separation rate ratio                                     | 2.1       | 2.1       | 2.6       | 4.8     | 4.3     | 0.7  | 1.7  | 9.5  | 3.3       |
| Separation rate ratio (excluding care involving dialysis) | 0.9       | 0.9       | 0.9       | 0.8     | 1.0     | 0.7  | 1.5  | 1.3  | 0.9       |

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## Remoteness area

In 2012–13, people who lived in *Very remote* areas had 356 same-day acute separations per 1,000 population, compared with about 222 per 1,000 nationally (Table 7.5). The SRR for *Very remote* areas was 1.60, indicating that the separation rate was 60% higher than the national separation rate.

**Table 7.5: Selected same-day acute separation statistics, by remoteness area of usual residence, all hospitals, 2012–13**

|                                    | Remoteness area |                |                |        |             | Total <sup>(a)</sup> |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|--------|-------------|----------------------|
|                                    | Major cities    | Inner regional | Outer regional | Remote | Very remote |                      |
| Separations                        | 3,619,349       | 968,758        | 472,457        | 77,556 | 60,216      | 5,214,078            |
| Separation rate                    | 227.7           | 199.4          | 215.5          | 237.0  | 356.0       | 222.1                |
| Standardised separation rate ratio | 1.03            | 0.90           | 0.97           | 1.07   | 1.60        |                      |

(a) Total includes separations for which the remoteness area was not able to be categorised.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## Socioeconomic status

Each SES group accounted for between 19% and 21% of total same-day acute separations. The separation rates varied from 208 per 1,000 population for people living in areas classified as being the second-lowest SES group to 231 per 1,000 for the middle SES group (Table 7.6).

**Table 7.6: Selected same-day acute separation statistics, by socioeconomic status of area of residence, all hospitals, 2012–13**

|                                    | Socioeconomic status of area of residence |           |           |           |           | Total <sup>(a)</sup> |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|
|                                    | 1—Lowest                                  | 2         | 3         | 4         | 5—Highest |                      |
| Separations                        | 1,090,154                                 | 1,023,472 | 1,066,321 | 1,017,101 | 975,528   | 5,214,078            |
| Separation rate                    | 230.1                                     | 208.1     | 230.6     | 226.1     | 209.2     | 222.1                |
| Standardised separation rate ratio | 1.04                                      | 0.94      | 1.04      | 1.02      | 0.94      |                      |

(a) Total includes separations for which socioeconomic status group was not able to be categorised.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## How did people access these services?

The **mode of admission** records the mechanism by which a patient begins an episode of care.

In both public and private hospitals, most same-day separations had a mode of admission of *Other* (99% overall), the term used to refer to all planned and unplanned admissions except transfers from other hospitals and statistical admissions. Public hospitals recorded higher proportions of *Admitted patient transferred from another hospital* than private hospitals (1.2% and 0.3%, respectively) (Table 7.7).

**Table 7.7: Same-day acute separations, by mode of admission, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

|                                                    | Public hospitals | Private free-standing day facilities | Other private hospitals | Total            |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Admitted patient transferred from another hospital | 32,209           | 4,446                                | 3,711                   | 40,366           |
| Statistical admission: type change                 | 3,233            | 0                                    | 450                     | 3,683            |
| Other                                              | 2,707,781        | 847,619                              | 1,594,964               | 5,150,364        |
| Not reported                                       | 7,838            | 8                                    | 11,819                  | 19,665           |
| <b>Total</b>                                       | <b>2,751,061</b> | <b>852,073</b>                       | <b>1,610,944</b>        | <b>5,214,078</b> |

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## Why did people receive the care?

The reason that a patient receives admitted patient care can be described in terms of the principal diagnosis.

In 2012–13, almost half (48%) of same-day acute separations in public hospitals and 31% in private hospitals had a principal diagnosis in the *Factors influencing health status and contact with health services* chapter of the ICD-10-AM (Table 7.8). The major contributors to the *Factors influencing health status and contact with health services* separations were *Care involving dialysis* and *Other medical care* (which includes chemotherapy) (Table 7.9).

The relative distribution of separations by diagnosis chapter varied across public and private hospitals. For example, about 63% of same-day acute separations for *Factors influencing health status and contact with health services* were from public hospitals, while about 74% of same-day acute separations for *Diseases of the eye and adnexa* were from private hospitals.

**Table 7.8: Same-day acute separations, by principal diagnosis in ICD-10-AM chapters, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Principal diagnosis |                                                                                                     | Public hospitals | Private free-standing day facilities | Other private hospitals | Total            |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| A00–B99             | Certain infectious and parasitic diseases                                                           | 30,444           | 2,512                                | 8,418                   | 41,374           |
| C00–D48             | Neoplasms                                                                                           | 124,679          | 69,972                               | 142,760                 | 337,411          |
| D50–D89             | Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism | 60,075           | 14,550                               | 24,202                  | 98,827           |
| E00–E90             | Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases                                                       | 32,965           | 6,279                                | 14,352                  | 53,596           |
| F00–F99             | Mental and behavioural disorders                                                                    | 46,674           | 483                                  | 119,065                 | 166,222          |
| G00–G99             | Diseases of the nervous system                                                                      | 66,828           | 4,349                                | 32,323                  | 103,500          |
| H00–H59             | Diseases of the eye and adnexa                                                                      | 82,654           | 144,663                              | 84,995                  | 312,312          |
| H60–H95             | Diseases of the ear and mastoid process                                                             | 17,239           | 3,012                                | 19,567                  | 39,818           |
| I00–I99             | Diseases of the circulatory system                                                                  | 75,163           | 19,187                               | 48,276                  | 142,626          |
| J00–J99             | Diseases of the respiratory system                                                                  | 49,444           | 3,405                                | 16,147                  | 68,996           |
| K00–K93             | Diseases of the digestive system                                                                    | 172,411          | 147,465                              | 245,108                 | 564,984          |
| L00–L99             | Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue                                                        | 36,029           | 10,661                               | 21,734                  | 68,424           |
| M00–M99             | Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue                                        | 74,163           | 16,384                               | 116,525                 | 207,072          |
| N00–N99             | Diseases of the genitourinary system                                                                | 107,447          | 17,280                               | 90,624                  | 215,351          |
| O00–O99             | Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium                                                            | 75,652           | 35,851                               | 17,888                  | 129,391          |
| P00–P96             | Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period                                              | 2,295            | 4                                    | 407                     | 2,706            |
| Q00–Q99             | Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities                                | 11,847           | 1,258                                | 5,533                   | 18,638           |
| R00–R99             | Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified             | 205,352          | 46,366                               | 101,499                 | 353,217          |
| S00–T98             | Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes                                 | 156,055          | 5,335                                | 28,696                  | 190,086          |
| Z00–Z99             | Factors influencing health status and contact with health services                                  | 1,322,907        | 302,076                              | 472,652                 | 2,097,635        |
|                     | Not reported                                                                                        | 738              | 981                                  | 173                     | 1,892            |
| <b>Total</b>        |                                                                                                     | <b>2,751,061</b> | <b>852,073</b>                       | <b>1,610,944</b>        | <b>5,214,078</b> |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information by state and territory is in tables 7.19 and 7.20 at the end of this chapter.

## Most common principal diagnoses

Public and private hospitals also differed substantially in the relative distributions of principal diagnoses at the 3-character level. Public hospitals accounted for the majority (82%) of same-day acute separations for *Care involving dialysis*, but private hospitals provided more same-day acute separations for *Other malignant neoplasms of skin* (71%) *Other cataract* (68%) and *Other medical care* (63%, which includes chemotherapy for neoplasms) (Table 7.9).

**Table 7.9: Separations for the 20 most common principal diagnoses in 3-character ICD-10-AM groupings for same-day acute separations, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Principal diagnosis |                                                                                     | Public hospitals | Private free-standing day facilities | Other private hospitals | Total            |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Z49                 | Care involving dialysis                                                             | 1,037,550        | 130,114                              | 99,166                  | 1,266,830        |
| Z51                 | Other medical care                                                                  | 141,594          | 66,993                               | 173,563                 | 382,150          |
| H26                 | Other cataract                                                                      | 57,283           | 62,788                               | 58,694                  | 178,765          |
| R10                 | Abdominal and pelvic pain                                                           | 38,665           | 20,612                               | 27,836                  | 87,113           |
| C44                 | Other malignant neoplasms of skin                                                   | 23,991           | 25,538                               | 34,329                  | 83,858           |
| K01                 | Embedded and impacted teeth                                                         | 7,885            | 19,111                               | 48,840                  | 75,836           |
| Z45                 | Adjustment and management of drug delivery or implanted device                      | 19,011           | 7,600                                | 43,104                  | 69,715           |
| Z31                 | Procreative management                                                              | 5,151            | 41,009                               | 21,716                  | 67,876           |
| R07                 | Pain in throat and chest                                                            | 57,761           | 1,398                                | 7,536                   | 66,695           |
| Z09                 | Follow-up examination after treatment for conditions other than malignant neoplasms | 17,675           | 15,163                               | 31,606                  | 64,444           |
| D12                 | Benign neoplasm of colon, rectum, anus and anal canal                               | 12,190           | 17,915                               | 31,090                  | 61,195           |
| K21                 | Gastro-oesophageal reflux disease                                                   | 13,554           | 19,154                               | 27,898                  | 60,606           |
| Z12                 | Special screening examination for neoplasms                                         | 10,350           | 16,785                               | 28,369                  | 55,504           |
| H35                 | Other retinal disorders                                                             | 2,620            | 40,314                               | 7,844                   | 50,778           |
| Z08                 | Follow-up examination after treatment for malignant neoplasms                       | 20,797           | 4,463                                | 24,641                  | 49,901           |
| M23                 | Internal derangement of knee                                                        | 9,886            | 3,032                                | 36,640                  | 49,558           |
| K92                 | Other diseases of digestive system                                                  | 18,662           | 7,842                                | 22,074                  | 48,578           |
| R19                 | Other symptoms and signs involving the digestive system and abdomen                 | 13,049           | 9,815                                | 23,011                  | 45,875           |
| O04                 | Medical abortion                                                                    | 8,129            | 34,658                               | 2,440                   | 45,227           |
| F32                 | Depressive episode                                                                  | 9,330            | 148                                  | 31,089                  | 40,567           |
|                     | Other                                                                               | 1,225,928        | 307,621                              | 829,458                 | 2,363,007        |
| <b>Total</b>        |                                                                                     | <b>2,751,061</b> | <b>852,073</b>                       | <b>1,610,944</b>        | <b>5,214,078</b> |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information by state and territory is in tables S7.1 and S7.2 accompanying this report online.

## How urgent was the care?

Table 7.10 includes information on urgency of admission and whether the separations were considered to be *Childbirth*, *Specialist mental health*, *Surgical*, *Medical* or *Other*. See the section ‘What care was provided?’ for more information on these types of care.

In 2012–13, about 11% of same-day acute separations were *Emergency* admissions (required within 24 hours), 96% of which were in public hospitals. About 87% of same-day acute separations were *Non-emergency* admissions (includes elective and other planned care), and these occurred slightly more often in private hospitals (52%) than in public hospitals (48%) (Table 7.10).

**Table 7.10: Same-day acute separations, by urgency of admission and broad category of service<sup>(a)</sup>, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

|                          | Public hospitals |              | Private hospitals |              | Total            |              |
|--------------------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|
|                          | Separations      | % (column)   | Separations       | % (column)   | Separations      | % (column)   |
| Childbirth               | 8,836            | 0.3          | 119               | 0.0          | 8,955            | 0.2          |
| Specialist mental health | 15,536           | 0.6          | 105,592           | 4.3          | 121,128          | 2.3          |
| Emergency                |                  |              |                   |              |                  |              |
| Surgical                 | 21,733           | 0.8          | 4,969             | 0.2          | 26,702           | 0.5          |
| Medical                  | 511,629          | 18.6         | 10,767            | 0.4          | 522,396          | 10.0         |
| Other                    | 5,055            | 0.2          | 3,798             | 0.2          | 8,853            | 0.2          |
| Total emergency          | 538,417          | 19.6         | 19,534            | 0.8          | 557,951          | 10.7         |
| Non-emergency            |                  |              |                   |              |                  |              |
| Surgical                 | 362,782          | 13.2         | 813,037           | 33.0         | 1,175,819        | 22.6         |
| Medical                  | 1,572,925        | 57.2         | 811,578           | 33.0         | 2,384,503        | 45.7         |
| Other                    | 252,565          | 9.2          | 713,157           | 29.0         | 965,722          | 18.5         |
| Total non-emergency      | 2,188,272        | 79.5         | 2,337,772         | 94.9         | 4,526,044        | 86.8         |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>2,751,061</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>2,463,017</b>  | <b>100.0</b> | <b>5,214,078</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

(a) Separations have been categorised as *Childbirth*, *Specialist mental health*, *Medical*, *Surgical* or *Other* based mainly on the AR-DRG classification recorded for the separation. See Chapter 6 and Appendix B for more information.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information by state and territory is in Table 7.21 at the end of this chapter.

## What care was provided?

This section presents information on same-day acute separations describing care by:

- the broad category of service – *Childbirth*, *Specialist mental health*, *Medical* (not involving a procedure), *Surgical* (involving an operating room procedure) or *Other* (involving a non-operating room procedure, such as endoscopy). See Chapter 6 and Appendix B for more information.
- MDCs and AR-DRGs – based on the AR-DRG classification of acute care separations.
- the type of surgical or other procedure undertaken.

## Broad categories of service

In 2012–13, more than half (56%) of same-day acute separations were reported as *Medical*, 23% were *Surgical* and 19% were *Other care* (excluding *Childbirth* and *Specialist mental health*, Table 7.10). The majority of *Medical* care occurred in public hospitals (72%) and the majority of *Surgical* care occurred in private hospitals (68%). *Specialist mental health* admissions accounted for about 2.3% of same-day acute separations.



## Major Diagnostic Categories

Table 7.11 presents same-day acute separations by MDCs for public and private hospitals. *Diseases and disorders of the kidney and urinary tract* accounted for more than one-quarter (27%) of same-day acute separations, and 80% of these separations were from public hospitals. About 72% of same-day acute separations for *Mental diseases and disorders* and 73% for *Diseases and disorders of the eye* were from private hospitals.

**Table 7.11: Same-day acute separations, by Major Diagnostic Category, AR-DRG version 6.0x, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Major Diagnostic Category |                                                                                           | Public hospitals | Private free-standing day facilities | Other private hospitals | Total            |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| PR                        | Pre-MDC (tracheostomies, transplants, ECMO)                                               | 297              | 8                                    | 180                     | 485              |
| 01                        | Diseases and disorders of the nervous system                                              | 105,982          | 6,411                                | 35,365                  | 147,758          |
| 02                        | Diseases and disorders of the eye                                                         | 88,145           | 147,300                              | 87,044                  | 322,489          |
| 03                        | Diseases and disorders of the ear, nose, mouth and throat                                 | 87,465           | 43,460                               | 119,284                 | 250,209          |
| 04                        | Diseases and disorders of the respiratory system                                          | 48,390           | 686                                  | 8,042                   | 57,118           |
| 05                        | Diseases and disorders of the circulatory system                                          | 136,362          | 7,266                                | 42,978                  | 186,606          |
| 06                        | Diseases and disorders of the digestive system                                            | 242,706          | 188,436                              | 288,365                 | 719,507          |
| 07                        | Diseases and disorders of the hepatobiliary system and pancreas                           | 18,463           | 599                                  | 4,740                   | 23,802           |
| 08                        | Diseases and disorders of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue                | 136,738          | 18,447                               | 138,910                 | 294,095          |
| 09                        | Diseases and disorders of the skin, subcutaneous tissue and breast                        | 95,066           | 54,335                               | 89,922                  | 239,323          |
| 10                        | Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases and disorders                               | 24,350           | 4,724                                | 12,751                  | 41,825           |
| 11                        | Diseases and disorders of the kidney and urinary tract                                    | 1,123,789        | 135,682                              | 153,672                 | 1,413,143        |
| 12                        | Diseases and disorders of the male reproductive system                                    | 25,811           | 6,894                                | 36,675                  | 69,380           |
| 13                        | Diseases and disorders of the female reproductive system                                  | 70,132           | 49,924                               | 84,398                  | 204,454          |
| 14                        | Pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium                                                      | 87,852           | 35,856                               | 20,159                  | 143,867          |
| 15                        | Newborns and other neonates                                                               | 5,956            | 386                                  | 801                     | 7,143            |
| 16                        | Diseases and disorders of the blood and blood-forming organs, and immunological disorders | 69,144           | 16,166                               | 27,256                  | 112,566          |
| 17                        | Neoplastic disorders (haematological and solid neoplasms)                                 | 166,923          | 71,706                               | 185,617                 | 424,246          |
| 18                        | Infectious and parasitic diseases                                                         | 11,706           | 383                                  | 3,135                   | 15,224           |
| 19                        | Mental diseases and disorders                                                             | 37,216           | 437                                  | 94,462                  | 132,115          |
| 20                        | Alcohol/drug use and alcohol/drug induced organic mental disorders                        | 9,984            | 2                                    | 24,335                  | 34,321           |
| 21                        | Injuries, poisoning and toxic effects of drugs                                            | 58,354           | 1,895                                | 7,252                   | 67,501           |
| 22                        | Burns                                                                                     | 2,771            | 25                                   | 102                     | 2,898            |
| 23                        | Factors influencing health status and other contacts with health services                 | 95,719           | 54,231                               | 144,284                 | 294,234          |
| ED                        | Error DRGs <sup>(a)</sup>                                                                 | 1,740            | 6,814                                | 1,215                   | 9,769            |
|                           | <i>Surgical</i>                                                                           | 384,790          | 318,381                              | 499,666                 | 1,202,837        |
|                           | <i>Medical</i>                                                                            | 2,104,429        | 275,815                              | 646,589                 | 3,026,833        |
|                           | <i>Other</i>                                                                              | 261,842          | 257,877                              | 464,689                 | 984,408          |
| <b>Total</b>              |                                                                                           | <b>2,751,061</b> | <b>852,073</b>                       | <b>1,610,944</b>        | <b>5,214,078</b> |

AR-DRG—Australian Refined Diagnosis Related Group; ECMO—extracorporeal membranous oxygenation; MDC—Major Diagnostic Category.

(a) An *Error DRG* is assigned to hospital records that contain clinically atypical or invalid information.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information by state and territory is in tables 7.22 and 7.23 at the end of this chapter.

## Most common AR-DRGs

In 2012–13, the 20 most common AR-DRGs accounted for just over two-thirds (68%) of same-day acute separations. Almost one-quarter of same-day acute separations were for *Haemodialysis*, with *Chemotherapy* the next most common category (Table 7.12).

Public hospitals provided the majority (82%) of same-day separations for *Haemodialysis*, and private hospitals provided more than 90% of separations for *Retinal procedures*.

**Table 7.12: Separations for the 20 most common AR-DRGs version 6.0x for same-day acute separations, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| AR-DRG                                                                         | Public hospitals | Private free-standing day facilities | Other private hospitals | Total            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| L61Z Haemodialysis                                                             | 1,030,272        | 128,977                              | 99,002                  | 1,258,251        |
| R63Z Chemotherapy                                                              | 136,622          | 65,126                               | 172,758                 | 374,506          |
| G48C Colonoscopy, same-day                                                     | 57,799           | 77,546                               | 109,310                 | 244,655          |
| C16Z Lens procedures                                                           | 63,322           | 81,760                               | 64,040                  | 209,122          |
| G46C Complex gastroscopy, same-day                                             | 30,570           | 52,601                               | 74,080                  | 157,251          |
| Z40Z Endoscopy with diagnoses of other contacts with health services, same-day | 41,084           | 36,027                               | 75,482                  | 152,593          |
| G47C Other gastroscopy, same-day                                               | 38,216           | 51,408                               | 62,018                  | 151,642          |
| D40Z Dental extractions and restorations                                       | 21,951           | 30,240                               | 69,971                  | 122,162          |
| Z64B Other factors influencing health status, same-day                         | 42,098           | 16,542                               | 59,301                  | 117,941          |
| U60Z Mental health treatment, same-day, without ECT                            | 24,770           | 231                                  | 88,645                  | 113,646          |
| J11Z Other skin, subcutaneous tissue and breast procedures                     | 34,824           | 22,744                               | 35,894                  | 93,462           |
| I18Z Other knee procedures                                                     | 14,356           | 4,082                                | 53,319                  | 71,757           |
| Q61B Red blood cell disorders without catastrophic or severe CC                | 43,534           | 8,814                                | 17,597                  | 69,945           |
| N07Z Other uterine and adnexa procedures for non-malignancy                    | 14,914           | 21,942                               | 32,492                  | 69,348           |
| O05Z Abortion with operating room procedure                                    | 20,048           | 35,601                               | 10,702                  | 66,351           |
| L14Z Cystourethroscopy, same-day                                               | 26,829           | 3,799                                | 28,597                  | 59,225           |
| C03Z Retinal procedures                                                        | 5,586            | 43,375                               | 9,946                   | 58,907           |
| F74Z Chest pain                                                                | 54,655           | 862                                  | 3,278                   | 58,795           |
| O66B False labour                                                              | 46,780           | 22                                   | 6,709                   | 53,511           |
| I68C Non-surgical spinal disorders, same-day                                   | 19,693           | 6,125                                | 20,755                  | 46,573           |
| Other                                                                          | 983,138          | 164,249                              | 517,048                 | 1,664,435        |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                   | <b>2,751,061</b> | <b>852,073</b>                       | <b>1,610,944</b>        | <b>5,214,078</b> |

CC— complications and comorbidities; ECT—electroconvulsive therapy.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information by state and territory is in tables S7.3 and S7.4 accompany this report online.

## Procedures

In 2012–13, 7.9 million procedures were reported for same-day acute separations, with more than 4.6 million in the private sector (Table 7.13). Public hospitals accounted for 41% of the same-day acute separations for which a procedure was reported. In public hospitals, 81% of same-day acute separations involved a procedure, compared with 97% in private hospitals. See Box 6.1 and Appendix B for information on the classification of procedures.

**Table 7.13: Procedures<sup>(a)</sup> reported for the same-day acute separations, by ACHI chapter, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Procedure                |                                                         | Public hospitals | Private free-standing day facilities | Other private hospitals | Total            |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1-86                     | Procedures on nervous system                            | 26,331           | 12,679                               | 45,284                  | 84,294           |
| 110-129                  | Procedures on endocrine system                          | 222              | 13                                   | 166                     | 401              |
| 160-256                  | Procedures on eye and adnexa                            | 81,540           | 143,506                              | 83,841                  | 308,887          |
| 300-333                  | Procedures on ear and mastoid process                   | 15,594           | 3,046                                | 21,274                  | 39,914           |
| 370-422                  | Procedures on nose, mouth and pharynx                   | 19,556           | 8,340                                | 26,293                  | 54,189           |
| 450-490                  | Dental services                                         | 24,049           | 33,523                               | 76,012                  | 133,584          |
| 520-570                  | Procedures on respiratory system                        | 18,368           | 188                                  | 7,972                   | 26,528           |
| 600-777                  | Procedures on cardiovascular system                     | 45,581           | 8,562                                | 39,177                  | 93,320           |
| 800-817                  | Procedures on blood and blood-forming organs            | 12,998           | 2,306                                | 5,291                   | 20,595           |
| 850-1011                 | Procedures on digestive system                          | 222,366          | 237,898                              | 386,316                 | 846,580          |
| 1040-1129                | Procedures on urinary system                            | 1,105,750        | 143,416                              | 174,936                 | 1,424,102        |
| 1160-1203                | Procedures on male genital organs                       | 23,110           | 6,643                                | 36,794                  | 66,547           |
| 1240-1299                | Gynaecological procedures                               | 82,620           | 85,550                               | 92,693                  | 260,863          |
| 1330-1347                | Obstetric procedures                                    | 8,665            | 32                                   | 1,592                   | 10,289           |
| 1360-1579                | Procedures on musculoskeletal system                    | 76,467           | 16,564                               | 122,147                 | 215,178          |
| 1600-1718                | Dermatological and plastic procedures                   | 89,656           | 57,045                               | 92,129                  | 238,830          |
| 1740-1759                | Procedures on breast                                    | 7,470            | 5,006                                | 11,184                  | 23,660           |
| 1786-1799                | Radiation oncology procedures                           | 2,190            | 816                                  | 492                     | 3,498            |
| 1820-1922                | Non-invasive, cognitive and other interventions, n.e.c. | 1,024,652        | 557,786                              | 1,352,957               | 2,935,395        |
| 1940-2016                | Imaging services                                        | 20,375           | 1,051                                | 15,838                  | 37,264           |
|                          | <i>Procedures reported</i>                              | <i>3,243,024</i> | <i>1,550,426</i>                     | <i>3,078,418</i>        | <i>7,871,868</i> |
|                          | No procedure or not reported                            | 531,345          | 4,335                                | 64,191                  | 599,871          |
| <b>Total separations</b> |                                                         | <b>2,751,061</b> | <b>852,073</b>                       | <b>1,610,944</b>        | <b>5,214,078</b> |

ACHI—Australian Classification of Health Interventions; n.e.c.—not elsewhere classified.

(a) A procedure is counted once for the group if it has at least one procedure reported within the group. As more than one procedure can be reported for each separation, the data are not additive and therefore the totals in the tables may not equal the sum of counts in the rows.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information by state and territory is available in tables 7.24 and 7.25 at the end of this chapter.

## Most common procedures

In 2012–13, *Cerebral anaesthesia* (general anaesthesia) was the most common procedure overall, reflecting that it is a companion procedure for many other procedures (Table 7.14). Apart from *Cerebral anaesthesia*, the most frequently reported procedure groups were *Haemodialysis*, *Administration of pharmacotherapy* (including chemotherapy) and *Fibreoptic colonoscopy with excision*.

**Table 7.14: Procedures<sup>(a)</sup> reported for the 20 most common ACHI procedure blocks for same-day acute separations, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Procedure block          |                                                                                      | Public hospitals | Private free-standing day facilities | Other private hospitals | Total            |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1910                     | Cerebral anaesthesia                                                                 | 634,551          | 450,325                              | 982,625                 | 2,067,501        |
| 1060                     | Haemodialysis                                                                        | 1,031,531        | 134,160                              | 98,987                  | 1,264,678        |
| 1920                     | Administration of pharmacotherapy                                                    | 219,599          | 70,979                               | 207,929                 | 498,507          |
| 911                      | Fibreoptic colonoscopy with excision                                                 | 64,430           | 89,986                               | 150,910                 | 305,326          |
| 1008                     | Panendoscopy with excision                                                           | 68,676           | 89,348                               | 142,473                 | 300,497          |
| 905                      | Fibreoptic colonoscopy                                                               | 67,521           | 87,786                               | 129,718                 | 285,025          |
| 197                      | Extracapsular crystalline lens extraction by phacoemulsification                     | 62,603           | 80,669                               | 61,262                  | 204,534          |
| 1909                     | Conduction anaesthesia                                                               | 63,905           | 57,560                               | 60,650                  | 182,115          |
| 1620                     | Excision of lesion(s) of skin and subcutaneous tissue                                | 48,136           | 37,538                               | 62,957                  | 148,631          |
| 1265                     | Curettage and evacuation of uterus                                                   | 51,214           | 39,798                               | 48,789                  | 139,801          |
| 1893                     | Administration of blood and blood products                                           | 81,725           | 18,483                               | 32,825                  | 133,033          |
| 458                      | Surgical removal of tooth                                                            | 11,743           | 25,765                               | 63,966                  | 101,474          |
| 1089                     | Examination procedures on bladder                                                    | 37,729           | 6,127                                | 44,082                  | 87,938           |
| 1005                     | Panendoscopy                                                                         | 18,651           | 31,920                               | 25,857                  | 76,428           |
| 1916                     | Generalised allied health interventions                                              | 44,549           | 419                                  | 30,216                  | 75,184           |
| 1297                     | Procedures for reproductive medicine                                                 | 5,020            | 40,696                               | 22,440                  | 68,156           |
| 1259                     | Examination procedures on uterus                                                     | 26,766           | 3,575                                | 31,026                  | 61,367           |
| 209                      | Application, insertion or removal procedures on retina, choroid or posterior chamber | 3,160            | 40,684                               | 8,978                   | 52,822           |
| 1873                     | Psychological/psychosocial therapies                                                 | 89               | 1                                    | 52,326                  | 52,416           |
| 1922                     | Other procedures related to pharmacotherapy                                          | 9,145            | 6,973                                | 33,546                  | 49,664           |
|                          | Other                                                                                | 692,281          | 237,634                              | 786,856                 | 1,716,771        |
|                          | <i>Procedures reported</i>                                                           | <i>3,243,024</i> | <i>1,550,426</i>                     | <i>3,078,418</i>        | <i>7,871,868</i> |
|                          | No procedure or not reported                                                         | 531,345          | 4,335                                | 64,191                  | 599,871          |
| <b>Total separations</b> |                                                                                      | <b>2,751,061</b> | <b>852,073</b>                       | <b>1,610,944</b>        | <b>5,214,078</b> |

ACHI—Australian Classification of Health Interventions.

(a) A procedure is counted once for the group if it has at least one procedure reported within the group. As more than one procedure can be reported for each separation, the data are not additive and therefore the totals in the table may not equal the sum of counts in the rows.

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information by state and territory is in tables S7.5 and S7.6 accompany this report online.

## How does Australia compare?

An OECD indicator is the proportion of cataract surgeries that were performed on a same day basis. Australia's proportion was higher than the OECD average (95.7% and 85.6%, respectively) (Table 7.15).

In 2012–13, most states and territories, except the Northern Territory, had higher rates of cataract surgeries performed as same-day surgery than the OECD average. Queensland had the highest rate (96.9%) and the Northern Territory the lowest (83.2%). For more international comparisons, see chapters 4 and 8.

**Table 7.15: Proportion of cataract surgeries undertaken as same-day separations, states and territories (2012–13) and OECD statistics (2011)<sup>(a)</sup>**

|                                         | Proportion of cataract surgeries undertaken as same-day separations (%) |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| New South Wales                         | 96.5                                                                    |
| Victoria                                | 95.9                                                                    |
| Queensland                              | 96.9                                                                    |
| Western Australia                       | 92.4                                                                    |
| South Australia                         | 93.6                                                                    |
| Tasmania                                | 96.8                                                                    |
| Australian Capital Territory            | 95.8                                                                    |
| Northern Territory                      | 83.2                                                                    |
| <b>Australia</b>                        | <b>95.7</b>                                                             |
| <b>OECD average</b>                     | <b>85.6</b>                                                             |
| OECD interquartile range <sup>(b)</sup> | 81.3–97.1                                                               |
| Number of OECD countries                | 27                                                                      |

(a) For some OECD countries, the data relate to a year other than 2011.

(b) The interquartile range is a measure of statistical dispersion, being equal to the difference between the upper and lower quartiles.

Source: OECD *Health Statistics 2013* (OECD 2013).

## Who paid for the care?

About 86% of same-day acute separations from public hospitals were *Public patients*, and *Private health insurance* funded about 80% of same-day acute separations from private hospitals (Table 7.16).

About 69% of same-day separations that the *Department of Veterans' Affairs* funded were from private hospitals. About 10% of same-day acute separations from private hospitals were *Self-funded*, with a higher proportion of these occurring in *Private free-standing day facilities* (16%) than in *Other private hospitals* (6%).

## How was the care completed?

About 96% of same-day acute separations had a mode of separation of *Other*, suggesting that most patients went home after their episode of care. In private hospitals, 98% of separations reported a mode of separation of *Other*, compared with 94% in public hospitals. A higher proportion of public hospital same-day separations ended with a *Transfer to another hospital (acute or psychiatric)* compared with private hospital same-day separations (4.1% and 0.7%, respectively) (Table 7.17).

**Table 7.16: Same-day acute separations, by principal source of funds, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Principal source of funds                | Public hospitals | Private free-standing day facilities | Other private hospitals | Total            |
|------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Public patients <sup>(a)</sup>           | 2,358,398        | 80,700                               | 29,895                  | 2,468,993        |
| Private health insurance                 | 297,783          | 604,056                              | 1,378,208               | 2,280,047        |
| Self-funded                              | 28,812           | 133,633                              | 101,757                 | 264,202          |
| Workers compensation                     | 8,713            | 3,158                                | 23,685                  | 35,556           |
| Motor vehicle third party personal claim | 7,947            | 451                                  | 2,090                   | 10,488           |
| Department of Veterans' Affairs          | 38,869           | 23,891                               | 64,095                  | 126,855          |
| Other <sup>(b)</sup>                     | 10,539           | 6,184                                | 11,214                  | 27,937           |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>2,751,061</b> | <b>852,073</b>                       | <b>1,610,944</b>        | <b>5,214,078</b> |

(a) *Public patients* includes separations with a funding source of *Health service budget*, *Other hospital or public authority* (with a *Public patient election status*), *Health service budget (due to eligibility for Reciprocal health care agreements)* and *Health service budget—no charge raised due to hospital decision* (in public hospitals).

(b) *Other* includes separations with a funding source of *Other compensation*, *Department of Defence*, *Correctional facilities*, *Other hospital or public authority* (without a *Public patient election status*), *Other*, *Health service budget—no charge raised due to hospital decision* (in private hospitals) and not reported.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 7.17: Same-day acute separations, by mode of separation, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Mode of separation                                                 | Public hospitals | Private free-standing day facilities | Other private hospitals | Total            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Discharge/transfer to an (other) acute hospital                    | 111,926          | 11,036                               | 5,519                   | 128,481          |
| Discharge/transfer to residential aged care service <sup>(a)</sup> | 11,134           | 10                                   | 203                     | 11,347           |
| Discharge/transfer to an (other) psychiatric hospital              | 1,621            | 2                                    | 14                      | 1,637            |
| Discharge/transfer to other health care accommodation              | 2,249            | 190                                  | 32,992                  | 35,431           |
| Statistical discharge: type change                                 | 4,832            | 1                                    | 358                     | 5,191            |
| Left against medical advice/discharge at own risk                  | 16,703           | 42                                   | 529                     | 17,274           |
| Statistical discharge from leave                                   | 418              | 2                                    | 97                      | 517              |
| Died                                                               | 5,029            | 2                                    | 312                     | 5,343            |
| Other <sup>(b)</sup>                                               | 2,596,833        | 840,788                              | 1,570,902               | 5,008,523        |
| Not reported                                                       | 316              | 0                                    | 18                      | 334              |
| <b>Total</b>                                                       | <b>2,751,061</b> | <b>852,073</b>                       | <b>1,610,944</b>        | <b>5,214,078</b> |

(a) Unless this is the usual place of residence.

(b) Includes *Discharge to usual residence/own accommodation/welfare institution (including prisons, hostels and group homes providing primarily welfare services)*.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 7.18: Same-day acute separations, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                      | NSW              | Vic              | Qld              | WA             | SA             | Tas           | ACT           | NT            | Total            |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| <b>Public hospitals</b>              |                  |                  |                  |                |                |               |               |               |                  |
| Public acute                         | 757,673          | 787,360          | 509,594          | 326,666        | 184,830        | 55,762        | 49,298        | 79,425        | 2,750,608        |
| Public psychiatric                   | 162              | 2                | 1                | 21             | 264            | 3             | ..            | ..            | 453              |
| <i>Total</i>                         | <i>757,835</i>   | <i>787,362</i>   | <i>509,595</i>   | <i>326,687</i> | <i>185,094</i> | <i>55,765</i> | <i>49,298</i> | <i>79,425</i> | <i>2,751,061</i> |
| Separation rate                      | 98.4             | 134.6            | 111.9            | 137.8          | 103.6          | 98.5          | 142.8         | 384.4         | 117.7            |
| <b>Private hospitals</b>             |                  |                  |                  |                |                |               |               |               |                  |
| Private free-standing day facilities | 218,877          | 211,745          | 215,222          | 123,079        | 70,981         | n.p.          | n.p.          | n.p.          | 852,073          |
| Other private hospitals              | 435,895          | 406,653          | 394,452          | 190,905        | 118,080        | n.p.          | n.p.          | n.p.          | 1,610,944        |
| <i>Total</i>                         | <i>654,772</i>   | <i>618,398</i>   | <i>609,674</i>   | <i>313,984</i> | <i>189,061</i> | <i>n.p.</i>   | <i>n.p.</i>   | <i>n.p.</i>   | <i>2,463,017</i> |
| Separation rate                      | 85.0             | 105.6            | 132.1            | 131.5          | 101.4          | n.p.          | n.p.          | n.p.          | 104.3            |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                 | <b>1,412,607</b> | <b>1,405,760</b> | <b>1,119,269</b> | <b>640,671</b> | <b>374,155</b> | <b>n.p.</b>   | <b>n.p.</b>   | <b>n.p.</b>   | <b>5,214,078</b> |
| <b>Separation rate</b>               | <b>183.4</b>     | <b>240.2</b>     | <b>243.9</b>     | <b>269.3</b>   | <b>205.0</b>   | <b>n.p.</b>   | <b>n.p.</b>   | <b>n.p.</b>   | <b>222.0</b>     |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 7.19: Same-day acute separations, by principal diagnosis in ICD-10-AM chapters, public hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| Principal diagnosis |                                                                                                     | NSW            | Vic            | Qld            | WA             | SA             | Tas           | ACT           | NT            | Total            |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| A00–B99             | Certain infectious and parasitic diseases                                                           | 8,531          | 5,465          | 9,476          | 3,885          | 1,980          | 277           | 436           | 394           | 30,444           |
| C00–D48             | Neoplasms                                                                                           | 31,883         | 41,508         | 21,051         | 14,163         | 10,677         | 3,416         | 997           | 984           | 124,679          |
| D50–D89             | Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism | 13,309         | 22,664         | 8,356          | 8,011          | 4,385          | 1,815         | 1,151         | 384           | 60,075           |
| E00–E90             | Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases                                                       | 6,329          | 11,288         | 5,593          | 5,295          | 1,880          | 1,294         | 518           | 768           | 32,965           |
| F00–F99             | Mental and behavioural disorders                                                                    | 13,656         | 10,601         | 10,896         | 5,231          | 3,876          | 918           | 338           | 1,158         | 46,674           |
| G00–G99             | Diseases of the nervous system                                                                      | 15,066         | 23,291         | 13,895         | 6,746          | 4,244          | 1,921         | 1,176         | 489           | 66,828           |
| H00–H59             | Diseases of the eye and adnexa                                                                      | 24,627         | 21,609         | 10,513         | 13,412         | 8,265          | 1,739         | 1,441         | 1,048         | 82,654           |
| H60–H95             | Diseases of the ear and mastoid process                                                             | 3,854          | 3,861          | 4,917          | 2,016          | 1,882          | 245           | 222           | 242           | 17,239           |
| I00–I99             | Diseases of the circulatory system                                                                  | 23,261         | 17,162         | 15,657         | 8,778          | 6,382          | 1,588         | 1,662         | 673           | 75,163           |
| J00–J99             | Diseases of the respiratory system                                                                  | 14,031         | 9,603          | 15,383         | 4,465          | 3,736          | 831           | 608           | 787           | 49,444           |
| K00–K93             | Diseases of the digestive system                                                                    | 50,434         | 51,277         | 28,423         | 23,876         | 8,474          | 4,635         | 3,094         | 2,198         | 172,411          |
| L00–L99             | Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue                                                        | 8,815          | 8,671          | 7,670          | 3,827          | 4,869          | 1,158         | 450           | 569           | 36,029           |
| M00–M99             | Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue                                        | 18,401         | 20,205         | 14,286         | 9,504          | 7,327          | 1,891         | 1,729         | 820           | 74,163           |
| N00–N99             | Diseases of the genitourinary system                                                                | 30,925         | 29,488         | 22,538         | 11,411         | 8,174          | 2,036         | 1,676         | 1,199         | 107,447          |
| O00–O99             | Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium                                                            | 21,382         | 15,678         | 20,510         | 5,859          | 7,628          | 1,036         | 1,141         | 2,418         | 75,652           |
| P00–P96             | Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period                                              | 856            | 460            | 568            | 209            | 113            | 16            | 35            | 38            | 2,295            |
| Q00–Q99             | Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities                                | 4,058          | 3,073          | 2,139          | 1,099          | 934            | 241           | 217           | 86            | 11,847           |
| R00–R99             | Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified             | 56,703         | 49,846         | 47,327         | 28,631         | 13,054         | 3,130         | 4,239         | 2,422         | 205,352          |
| S00–T98             | Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes                                 | 47,583         | 28,354         | 42,185         | 18,106         | 10,616         | 2,628         | 3,550         | 3,033         | 156,055          |
| Z00–Z99             | Factors influencing health status and contact with health services                                  | 363,421        | 413,230        | 208,212        | 152,163        | 76,598         | 24,950        | 24,618        | 59,715        | 1,322,907        |
|                     | Not reported                                                                                        | 710            | 28             | 0              | 0              | 0              | 0             | 0             | 0             | 738              |
| <b>Total</b>        |                                                                                                     | <b>757,835</b> | <b>787,362</b> | <b>509,595</b> | <b>326,687</b> | <b>185,094</b> | <b>55,765</b> | <b>49,298</b> | <b>79,425</b> | <b>2,751,061</b> |

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.



**Table 7.20: Same-day acute separations, by principal diagnosis in ICD-10-AM chapters, private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| Principal diagnosis |                                                                                                     | NSW            | Vic            | Qld            | WA             | SA             | Tas         | ACT         | NT          | Total            |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| A00–B99             | Certain infectious and parasitic diseases                                                           | 2,985          | 2,477          | 2,897          | 1,262          | 912            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 10,930           |
| C00–D48             | Neoplasms                                                                                           | 58,243         | 45,359         | 59,116         | 22,666         | 20,843         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 212,732          |
| D50–D89             | Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism | 7,145          | 9,127          | 15,810         | 2,415          | 3,046          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 38,752           |
| E00–E90             | Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases                                                       | 3,987          | 6,468          | 5,040          | 3,049          | 1,412          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 20,631           |
| F00–F99             | Mental and behavioural disorders                                                                    | 49,890         | 17,702         | 40,561         | 4,799          | 560            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 119,548          |
| G00–G99             | Diseases of the nervous system                                                                      | 8,779          | 8,570          | 10,691         | 5,426          | 2,148          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 36,672           |
| H00–H59             | Diseases of the eye and adnexa                                                                      | 74,506         | 47,886         | 53,112         | 23,092         | 18,185         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 229,658          |
| H60–H95             | Diseases of the ear and mastoid process                                                             | 7,045          | 5,303          | 3,934          | 2,989          | 2,326          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 22,579           |
| I00–I99             | Diseases of the circulatory system                                                                  | 22,132         | 18,085         | 11,682         | 7,429          | 4,899          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 67,463           |
| J00–J99             | Diseases of the respiratory system                                                                  | 6,620          | 4,413          | 5,057          | 1,386          | 1,444          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 19,552           |
| K00–K93             | Diseases of the digestive system                                                                    | 114,907        | 113,200        | 87,801         | 36,997         | 27,461         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 392,573          |
| L00–L99             | Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue                                                        | 8,395          | 8,826          | 5,630          | 3,606          | 4,987          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 32,395           |
| M00–M99             | Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue                                        | 35,319         | 33,034         | 26,425         | 17,856         | 14,920         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 132,909          |
| N00–N99             | Diseases of the genitourinary system                                                                | 35,329         | 28,905         | 22,573         | 10,633         | 6,519          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 107,904          |
| O00–O99             | Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium                                                            | 10,835         | 17,584         | 14,873         | 8,474          | 815            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 53,739           |
| P00–P96             | Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period                                              | 59             | 164            | 53             | 80             | 31             | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 411              |
| Q00–Q99             | Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities                                | 2,105          | 1,669          | 1,455          | 669            | 711            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 6,791            |
| R00–R99             | Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified             | 42,115         | 45,392         | 31,348         | 15,810         | 8,917          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 147,865          |
| S00–T98             | Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes                                 | 8,632          | 7,720          | 6,749          | 4,063          | 5,639          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 34,031           |
| Z00–Z99             | Factors influencing health status and contact with health services                                  | 155,744        | 195,374        | 204,867        | 141,283        | 63,277         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 774,728          |
|                     | Not reported                                                                                        | 0              | 1,140          | 0              | 0              | 9              | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1,154            |
| <b>Total</b>        |                                                                                                     | <b>654,772</b> | <b>618,398</b> | <b>609,674</b> | <b>313,984</b> | <b>189,061</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>2,463,017</b> |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 7.21: Same-day acute separations by broad category of service<sup>(a)</sup>, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                | NSW            | Vic            | Qld            | WA             | SA             | Tas           | ACT           | NT            | Total            |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| <b>Public hospitals</b>        |                |                |                |                |                |               |               |               |                  |
| Childbirth                     | 2,986          | 1,263          | 2,402          | 742            | 619            | 193           | 459           | 172           | 8,836            |
| Specialist mental health       | 7,959          | 1,781          | 4,292          | 405            | 931            | 7             | 110           | 51            | 15,536           |
| Emergency                      |                |                |                |                |                |               |               |               |                  |
| Surgical                       | 8,608          | 5,182          | 2,747          | 2,244          | 1,468          | 621           | 733           | 130           | 21,733           |
| Medical                        | 144,162        | 82,553         | 160,393        | 63,519         | 37,029         | 4,471         | 9,614         | 9,888         | 511,629          |
| Other                          | 2,254          | 677            | 946            | 683            | 242            | 137           | 106           | 10            | 5,055            |
| Non-emergency                  |                |                |                |                |                |               |               |               |                  |
| Surgical                       | 104,559        | 108,729        | 55,369         | 40,477         | 36,417         | 7,958         | 4,928         | 4,345         | 362,782          |
| Medical                        | 417,502        | 497,251        | 255,639        | 176,006        | 99,012         | 35,569        | 29,410        | 62,536        | 1,572,925        |
| Other                          | 69,805         | 89,926         | 27,807         | 42,611         | 9,376          | 6,809         | 3,938         | 2,293         | 252,565          |
| <i>Total public hospitals</i>  | <i>757,835</i> | <i>787,362</i> | <i>509,595</i> | <i>326,687</i> | <i>185,094</i> | <i>55,765</i> | <i>49,298</i> | <i>79,425</i> | <i>2,751,061</i> |
| <b>Private hospitals</b>       |                |                |                |                |                |               |               |               |                  |
| Childbirth                     | 20             | 19             | 30             | 12             | 11             | n.p.          | n.p.          | n.p.          | 119              |
| Specialist mental health       | 42,804         | 15,580         | 36,707         | 4,753          | 523            | n.p.          | n.p.          | n.p.          | 105,592          |
| Emergency                      |                |                |                |                |                |               |               |               |                  |
| Surgical                       | 394            | 469            | 525            | 495            | 2,998          | n.p.          | n.p.          | n.p.          | 4,969            |
| Medical                        | 937            | 2,639          | 3,316          | 2,024          | 1,773          | n.p.          | n.p.          | n.p.          | 10,767           |
| Other                          | 157            | 205            | 344            | 132            | 2,939          | n.p.          | n.p.          | n.p.          | 3,798            |
| Non-emergency                  |                |                |                |                |                |               |               |               |                  |
| Surgical                       | 254,426        | 198,463        | 177,999        | 87,576         | 61,538         | n.p.          | n.p.          | n.p.          | 813,037          |
| Medical                        | 148,216        | 193,092        | 233,214        | 148,272        | 73,005         | n.p.          | n.p.          | n.p.          | 811,578          |
| Other                          | 207,818        | 207,931        | 157,539        | 70,720         | 46,274         | n.p.          | n.p.          | n.p.          | 713,157          |
| <i>Total private hospitals</i> | <i>654,772</i> | <i>618,398</i> | <i>609,674</i> | <i>313,984</i> | <i>189,061</i> | <i>n.p.</i>   | <i>n.p.</i>   | <i>n.p.</i>   | <i>2,463,017</i> |

(a) Separations have been categorised as *Childbirth*, *Specialist mental health*, *Medical*, *Surgical* or *Other* based mainly on the AR-DRG classification recorded for the separation. See Chapter 6 and Appendix B for more information.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 7.22: Same-day acute separations, by Major Diagnostic Category, AR-DRG version 6.0x, public hospitals, state and territories, 2012–13**

| Major Diagnostic Category |                                                                                           | NSW            | Vic            | Qld            | WA             | SA             | Tas           | ACT           | NT            | Total            |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| PR                        | Pre-MDC (tracheostomies, transplants, ECMO)                                               | 52             | 93             | 28             | 87             | 23             | 14            | 0             | 0             | 297              |
| 01                        | Diseases and disorders of the nervous system                                              | 26,654         | 29,542         | 25,655         | 11,469         | 7,419          | 2,423         | 1,817         | 1,003         | 105,982          |
| 02                        | Diseases and disorders of the eye                                                         | 26,195         | 22,612         | 11,874         | 14,098         | 8,735          | 1,833         | 1,572         | 1,226         | 88,145           |
| 03                        | Diseases and disorders of the ear, nose, mouth and throat                                 | 21,829         | 21,551         | 22,064         | 9,428          | 8,210          | 1,793         | 1,324         | 1,266         | 87,465           |
| 04                        | Diseases and disorders of the respiratory system                                          | 14,021         | 10,146         | 13,444         | 4,820          | 3,314          | 1,174         | 709           | 762           | 48,390           |
| 05                        | Diseases and disorders of the circulatory system                                          | 38,095         | 30,850         | 32,728         | 16,447         | 11,488         | 2,075         | 3,460         | 1,219         | 136,362          |
| 06                        | Diseases and disorders of the digestive system                                            | 75,085         | 66,723         | 42,846         | 36,933         | 8,920          | 5,152         | 4,116         | 2,931         | 242,706          |
| 07                        | Diseases and disorders of the hepatobiliary system and pancreas                           | 5,206          | 5,211          | 3,465          | 2,241          | 1,001          | 710           | 364           | 265           | 18,463           |
| 08                        | Diseases and disorders of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue                | 39,113         | 32,700         | 29,600         | 15,716         | 11,300         | 2,882         | 3,735         | 1,692         | 136,738          |
| 09                        | Diseases and disorders of the skin, subcutaneous tissue and breast                        | 24,555         | 23,782         | 21,734         | 9,746          | 10,426         | 2,559         | 973           | 1,291         | 95,066           |
| 10                        | Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases and disorders                               | 5,333          | 7,071          | 4,722          | 4,065          | 1,730          | 707           | 442           | 280           | 24,350           |
| 11                        | Diseases and disorders of the kidney and urinary tract                                    | 344,364        | 308,836        | 183,147        | 114,882        | 73,228         | 17,863        | 23,266        | 58,203        | 1,123,789        |
| 12                        | Diseases and disorders of the male reproductive system                                    | 6,510          | 7,314          | 4,328          | 4,192          | 2,180          | 566           | 436           | 285           | 25,811           |
| 13                        | Diseases and disorders of the female reproductive system                                  | 19,476         | 22,032         | 13,517         | 5,722          | 6,217          | 1,533         | 826           | 809           | 70,132           |
| 14                        | Pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium                                                      | 25,010         | 16,681         | 26,861         | 6,058          | 7,954          | 1,097         | 1,184         | 3,007         | 87,852           |
| 15                        | Newborns and other neonates                                                               | 3,712          | 602            | 1,015          | 307            | 188            | 24            | 47            | 61            | 5,956            |
| 16                        | Diseases and disorders of the blood and blood-forming organs, and immunological disorders | 14,747         | 27,235         | 8,945          | 9,335          | 4,638          | 2,378         | 1,189         | 677           | 69,144           |
| 17                        | Neoplastic disorders(haematological and solid neoplasms)                                  | 8,919          | 99,975         | 14,940         | 33,742         | 3,502          | 4,196         | 856           | 793           | 166,923          |
| 18                        | Infectious and parasitic diseases                                                         | 3,329          | 2,101          | 3,699          | 1,426          | 664            | 127           | 129           | 231           | 11,706           |
| 19                        | Mental diseases and disorders                                                             | 11,478         | 10,676         | 7,493          | 2,956          | 2,951          | 872           | 202           | 588           | 37,216           |
| 20                        | Alcohol/drug use and alcohol/drug induced organic mental disorders                        | 1,995          | 930            | 3,225          | 2,225          | 869            | 34            | 123           | 583           | 9,984            |
| 21                        | Injuries, poisoning and toxic effects of drugs                                            | 17,199         | 10,230         | 15,772         | 7,461          | 4,171          | 1,196         | 1,095         | 1,230         | 58,354           |
| 22                        | Burns                                                                                     | 1,104          | 329            | 655            | 254            | 213            | 98            | 19            | 99            | 2,771            |
| 23                        | Factors influencing health status and other contacts with health services                 | 22,904         | 29,685         | 17,732         | 12,945         | 5,674          | 4,451         | 1,412         | 916           | 95,719           |
| ED                        | Error DRGs <sup>(a)</sup>                                                                 | 950            | 455            | 106            | 132            | 79             | 8             | 2             | 8             | 1,740            |
| <b>Total</b>              |                                                                                           | <b>757,835</b> | <b>787,362</b> | <b>509,595</b> | <b>326,687</b> | <b>185,094</b> | <b>55,765</b> | <b>49,298</b> | <b>79,425</b> | <b>2,751,061</b> |

AR-DRG—Australian Refined Diagnosis Related Group; ECMO—extracorporeal membranous oxygenation; MDC—Major Diagnostic Category.

(a) An *Error DRG* is assigned to hospital records that contain clinically atypical or invalid information.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 7.23: Same-day acute separations, by Major Diagnostic Category, AR-DRG version 6.0x, private hospitals, state and territories, 2012–13**

| Major Diagnostic Category |                                                                                           | NSW            | Vic            | Qld            | WA             | SA             | Tas         | ACT         | NT          | Total            |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| PR                        | Pre-MDC (tracheostomies, transplants, ECMO)                                               | 74             | 33             | 48             | 5              | 23             | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 188              |
| 01                        | Diseases and disorders of the nervous system                                              | 9,903          | 9,703          | 12,628         | 5,660          | 2,713          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 41,776           |
| 02                        | Diseases and disorders of the eye                                                         | 75,718         | 48,840         | 54,355         | 23,866         | 18,482         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 234,344          |
| 03                        | Diseases and disorders of the ear, nose, mouth and throat                                 | 46,816         | 41,366         | 31,772         | 22,544         | 14,234         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 162,744          |
| 04                        | Diseases and disorders of the respiratory system                                          | 1,579          | 2,225          | 2,912          | 949            | 863            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 8,728            |
| 05                        | Diseases and disorders of the circulatory system                                          | 17,800         | 10,256         | 8,997          | 6,520          | 3,857          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 50,244           |
| 06                        | Diseases and disorders of the digestive system                                            | 142,771        | 139,675        | 112,050        | 38,117         | 30,820         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 476,801          |
| 07                        | Diseases and disorders of the hepatobiliary system and pancreas                           | 1,161          | 1,442          | 1,651          | 317            | 586            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 5,339            |
| 08                        | Diseases and disorders of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue                | 43,424         | 38,776         | 31,221         | 20,876         | 16,886         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 157,357          |
| 09                        | Diseases and disorders of the skin, subcutaneous tissue and breast                        | 37,854         | 34,257         | 33,953         | 17,421         | 16,985         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 144,257          |
| 10                        | Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases and disorders                               | 3,917          | 4,969          | 4,173          | 2,684          | 1,334          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 17,475           |
| 11                        | Diseases and disorders of the kidney and urinary tract                                    | 47,212         | 54,615         | 73,871         | 84,384         | 26,331         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 289,354          |
| 12                        | Diseases and disorders of the male reproductive system                                    | 13,216         | 10,326         | 8,275          | 6,684          | 3,576          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 43,569           |
| 13                        | Diseases and disorders of the female reproductive system                                  | 40,877         | 41,080         | 27,367         | 12,011         | 8,322          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 134,322          |
| 14                        | Pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium                                                      | 11,903         | 18,237         | 15,244         | 8,527          | 824            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 56,015           |
| 15                        | Newborns and other neonates                                                               | 260            | 321            | 223            | 116            | 232            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1,187            |
| 16                        | Diseases and disorders of the blood and blood-forming organs, and immunological disorders | 7,669          | 10,800         | 17,642         | 2,625          | 3,178          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 43,422           |
| 17                        | Neoplastic disorders(haematological and solid neoplasms)                                  | 44,270         | 67,745         | 82,811         | 33,690         | 22,779         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 257,323          |
| 18                        | Infectious and parasitic diseases                                                         | 187            | 238            | 627            | 92             | 2,345          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 3,518            |
| 19                        | Mental diseases and disorders                                                             | 37,914         | 12,402         | 35,296         | 3,275          | 551            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 94,899           |
| 20                        | Alcohol/drug use and alcohol/drug induced organic mental disorders                        | 11,795         | 5,281          | 5,208          | 1,511          | 3              | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 24,337           |
| 21                        | Injuries, poisoning and toxic effects of drugs                                            | 1,952          | 2,443          | 1,917          | 1,299          | 1,173          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 9,147            |
| 22                        | Burns                                                                                     | 21             | 33             | 30             | 16             | 18             | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 127              |
| 23                        | Factors influencing health status and other contacts with health services                 | 50,694         | 61,711         | 47,130         | 20,674         | 12,818         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 198,515          |
| ED                        | Error DRGs <sup>(a)</sup>                                                                 | 5,785          | 1,624          | 273            | 121            | 128            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 8,029            |
| <b>Total</b>              |                                                                                           | <b>654,772</b> | <b>618,398</b> | <b>609,674</b> | <b>313,984</b> | <b>189,061</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>2,463,017</b> |

AR-DRG—Australian Refined Diagnosis Related Group; ECMO—extracorporeal membranous oxygenation; MDC—Major Diagnostic Category.

(a) An *Error DRG* is assigned to hospital records that contain clinically atypical or invalid information.

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 7.24: Procedures<sup>(a)</sup> reported for same-day acute separations, by ACHI chapter, public hospitals, state and territories, 2012–13**

| Procedure                                                         | NSW            | Vic            | Qld            | WA             | SA             | Tas           | ACT           | NT            | Total            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1–86 Procedures on nervous system                                 | 6,622          | 7,814          | 4,527          | 3,299          | 3,144          | 505           | 223           | 197           | 26,331           |
| 110–129 Procedures on endocrine system                            | 63             | 92             | 37             | 15             | 8              | 4             | 3             | 0             | 222              |
| 160–256 Procedures on eye and adnexa                              | 24,125         | 21,541         | 10,359         | 13,095         | 8,264          | 1,703         | 1,485         | 968           | 81,540           |
| 300–333 Procedures on ear and mastoid process                     | 3,196          | 3,580          | 4,628          | 1,864          | 1,743          | 209           | 169           | 205           | 15,594           |
| 370–422 Procedures on nose, mouth and pharynx                     | 4,785          | 4,747          | 6,227          | 1,769          | 1,450          | 212           | 210           | 156           | 19,556           |
| 450–490 Dental services                                           | 5,434          | 7,447          | 4,135          | 2,643          | 2,861          | 782           | 410           | 337           | 24,049           |
| 520–570 Procedures on respiratory system                          | 5,514          | 5,492          | 3,650          | 1,756          | 850            | 646           | 260           | 200           | 18,368           |
| 600–777 Procedures on cardiovascular system                       | 11,508         | 15,973         | 5,481          | 5,829          | 3,248          | 1,824         | 1,233         | 485           | 45,581           |
| 800–817 Procedures on blood and blood-forming organs              | 2,610          | 5,941          | 999            | 1,325          | 1,717          | 276           | 44            | 86            | 12,998           |
| 850–1112 Procedures on digestive system                           | 70,449         | 75,228         | 22,343         | 39,499         | 3,946          | 5,794         | 2,706         | 2,401         | 222,366          |
| 1040–1129 Procedures on urinary system                            | 340,147        | 306,529        | 175,300        | 112,886        | 72,335         | 17,556        | 23,096        | 57,901        | 1,105,750        |
| 1160–1203 Procedures on male genital organs                       | 5,834          | 6,967          | 3,581          | 3,573          | 2,093          | 508           | 326           | 228           | 23,110           |
| 1240–1299 Gynaecological procedures                               | 21,519         | 27,321         | 12,934         | 6,920          | 10,003         | 1,597         | 920           | 1,406         | 82,620           |
| 1330–1347 Obstetric procedures                                    | 2,641          | 1,942          | 1,603          | 983            | 886            | 152           | 317           | 141           | 8,665            |
| 1360–1579 Procedures on musculoskeletal system                    | 23,373         | 21,473         | 12,781         | 8,352          | 6,460          | 1,702         | 1,595         | 731           | 76,467           |
| 1600–1718 Dermatological and plastic procedures                   | 22,568         | 25,047         | 18,137         | 10,209         | 9,615          | 1,982         | 988           | 1,110         | 89,656           |
| 1740–1759 Procedures on breast                                    | 2,684          | 2,241          | 1,157          | 609            | 463            | 215           | 59            | 42            | 7,470            |
| 1786–1799 Radiation oncology procedures                           | 470            | 782            | 640            | 193            | 96             | 5             | 3             | 1             | 2,190            |
| 1820–1922 Non-invasive, cognitive and other interventions, n.e.c. | 248,670        | 367,818        | 140,605        | 145,762        | 66,565         | 29,579        | 16,381        | 9,272         | 1,024,652        |
| 1940–2016 Imaging services                                        | 6,162          | 6,048          | 2,672          | 2,706          | 1,775          | 634           | 287           | 91            | 20,375           |
| No procedure or not reported                                      | 164,452        | 83,842         | 167,780        | 51,276         | 38,253         | 5,790         | 9,003         | 10,949        | 531,345          |
| <b>Total separations</b>                                          | <b>757,835</b> | <b>787,362</b> | <b>509,595</b> | <b>326,687</b> | <b>185,094</b> | <b>55,765</b> | <b>49,298</b> | <b>79,425</b> | <b>2,751,061</b> |

ACHI—Australian Classification of Health Interventions; n.e.c.—not elsewhere classified.

(a) These are counts of separations that reported at least one procedure within the ACHI procedure chapter.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 7.25: Procedures<sup>(a)</sup> reported for same-day acute separations, by ACHI chapter, private hospitals, state and territories, 2012–13**

| Procedure                                                         | NSW            | Vic            | Qld            | WA             | SA             | Tas         | ACT         | NT          | Total            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| 1–86 Procedures on nervous system                                 | 13,978         | 14,832         | 13,422         | 9,183          | 4,672          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 57,963           |
| 110–129 Procedures on endocrine system                            | 62             | 59             | 30             | 10             | 5              | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 179              |
| 160–256 Procedures on eye and adnexa                              | 73,445         | 47,614         | 52,648         | 22,946         | 17,906         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 227,347          |
| 300–333 Procedures on ear and mastoid process                     | 7,715          | 5,598          | 4,333          | 3,273          | 2,348          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 24,320           |
| 370–422 Procedures on nose, mouth and pharynx                     | 12,377         | 7,105          | 6,896          | 4,335          | 2,865          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 34,633           |
| 450–490 Dental services                                           | 29,286         | 29,029         | 20,934         | 16,572         | 9,643          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 109,535          |
| 520–570 Procedures on respiratory system                          | 1,749          | 1,896          | 2,738          | 784            | 781            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 8,160            |
| 600–777 Procedures on cardiovascular system                       | 16,473         | 10,600         | 9,962          | 4,787          | 3,009          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 47,739           |
| 800–817 Procedures on blood and blood-forming organs              | 1,180          | 1,868          | 3,109          | 531            | 573            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 7,597            |
| 850–1112 Procedures on digestive system                           | 187,902        | 183,586        | 142,888        | 53,538         | 38,671         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 624,214          |
| 1040–1129 Procedures on urinary system                            | 60,097         | 60,720         | 78,000         | 87,652         | 27,909         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 318,352          |
| 1160–1203 Procedures on male genital organs                       | 14,257         | 10,562         | 7,692          | 5,689          | 3,707          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 43,437           |
| 1240–1299 Gynaecological procedures                               | 49,295         | 55,877         | 39,882         | 19,600         | 8,475          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 178,243          |
| 1330–1347 Obstetric procedures                                    | 294            | 550            | 527            | 140            | 51             | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1,624            |
| 1360–1579 Procedures on musculoskeletal system                    | 41,653         | 33,958         | 26,867         | 16,095         | 14,500         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 138,711          |
| 1600–1718 Dermatological and plastic procedures                   | 40,747         | 35,960         | 33,319         | 18,891         | 15,858         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 149,174          |
| 1740–1759 Procedures on breast                                    | 4,949          | 3,064          | 4,996          | 1,739          | 1,099          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 16,190           |
| 1786–1799 Radiation oncology procedures                           | 952            | 93             | 80             | 11             | 158            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1,308            |
| 1820–1922 Non-invasive, cognitive and other interventions, n.e.c. | 553,520        | 490,190        | 485,960        | 187,340        | 133,524        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1,910,743        |
| 1940–2016 Imaging services                                        | 7,143          | 3,378          | 3,901          | 1,375          | 720            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 16,889           |
| No procedure or not reported                                      | 8,997          | 17,762         | 21,031         | 7,607          | 8,228          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 68,526           |
| <b>Total separations</b>                                          | <b>654,772</b> | <b>618,398</b> | <b>609,674</b> | <b>313,984</b> | <b>189,061</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>2,463,017</b> |

ACHI—Australian Classification of Health Interventions; n.e.c.—not elsewhere classified.

(a) These are counts of separations that reported at least one procedure within the ACHI procedure chapter.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## Additional information

The following tables provide more information on diagnosis and procedures for same-day acute separations, by state and territory. Information on the 50 most common principal diagnoses, diagnosis-related groups and procedure blocks is available in tables accompanying this report online at <[www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/](http://www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/)>.

Additional tables accompany this report online:

Table S7.1: Same-day acute separations, for the 50 most common principal diagnoses, public hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13

Table S7.2: Same-day acute separations, for the 50 most common principal diagnoses, private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13

Table S7.3: Same-day acute separations for the 50 most common AR-DRGs version 6.0x, public hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13

Table S7.4: Same-day acute separations for the 50 most common AR-DRGs version 6.0x, private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13

Table S7.5: Procedures reported for the 50 most common ACHI procedure blocks for same-day acute separations, public hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13

Table S7.6: Procedures reported for the 50 most common ACHI procedure blocks for same-day acute separations, private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13

## 8 Overnight acute admitted patient care

This chapter presents information on overnight acute admitted patient care that public and private hospitals in Australia provide.

An overnight separation occurs when the patient is admitted and separated on different dates. Acute admitted patient care includes separations for which the care type was reported as *Acute*, *Newborn* (with qualified days) or was not reported. Separations for other care types were excluded. The data are sourced from the AIHW's NHMD. For definitions of terms and classifications, and more information on data limitations and methods, see Chapter 6 (boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3).

Of all overnight separations, 94% were reported as *Acute* in both the public and private sectors.

### How has activity changed over time?

Between 2008–09 and 2012–13, the number of overnight acute separations (in both public and private sectors combined) increased by an average of 2.7% per year, with an average annual increase of 2.8% in public hospitals and 2.4% in private hospitals (Table 8.1).

**Table 8.1: Overnight acute separations, public and private hospitals, 2008–09 to 2012–13**

|                                                              | 2008–09          | 2009–10          | 2010–11          | 2011–12          | 2012–13          | Change (%) <sup>(a)</sup> |               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
|                                                              |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  | Average since 2008–09     | Since 2011–12 |
| <b>Public hospitals</b>                                      |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                           |               |
| Public acute hospitals <sup>(b)</sup>                        | 2,299,960        | 2,358,333        | 2,445,577        | 2,544,092        | 2,576,351        | 2.9                       | 1.3           |
| Public psychiatric hospitals <sup>(c)</sup>                  | 9,197            | 9,159            | 8,156            | 7,694            | 7,381            | –5.4                      | –4.1          |
| <i>Total</i>                                                 | <i>2,309,157</i> | <i>2,367,492</i> | <i>2,453,733</i> | <i>2,551,786</i> | <i>2,583,732</i> | <i>2.8</i>                | <i>1.3</i>    |
| <b>Private hospitals<sup>(b)</sup></b>                       |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                           |               |
| Private free-standing day hospital facilities <sup>(d)</sup> | 1,247            | 1,259            | 1,363            | 1,231            | 1,431            | n.p.                      | n.p.          |
| Other private hospitals                                      | 1,021,094        | 1,058,861        | 1,073,760        | 1,102,425        | 1,123,528        | 2.4                       | 1.9           |
| <i>Total</i>                                                 | <i>1,022,341</i> | <i>1,060,120</i> | <i>1,075,123</i> | <i>1,103,656</i> | <i>1,124,959</i> | <i>2.4</i>                | <i>1.9</i>    |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                                         | <b>3,331,498</b> | <b>3,427,612</b> | <b>3,528,856</b> | <b>3,655,442</b> | <b>3,708,691</b> | <b>2.7</b>                | <b>1.5</b>    |

(a) Annual average change, not adjusted for changes in coverage and re-categorisation of hospitals as public or private.

(b) For 2009–10, data were missing for Western Australia for 2,400 separations in public hospitals and 10,600 separations in private hospitals.

(c) From 2010–11, some psychiatric care provided by Tasmanian public hospitals was categorised as residential care. In previous years, this care data was categorised as admitted patient care.

(d) The average change per year is not shown due to low numbers.

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

Between 2008–09 and 2012–13, the greatest increases in the rate of overnight acute public hospital separations occurred in Western Australia and Queensland (Table 8.2).

Over the same period, above average increases in the rate of overnight acute private hospital separations were recorded in Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia.



Large single-year increases in the number of overnight acute hospital separations between 2011–12 and 2012–13 were recorded for public hospitals in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania and for private hospitals in Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia.

**Table 8.2: Overnight acute separations, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2008–09 to 2012–13**

|                                  |           |           |           |           |           | Change (%)            |               |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                                  | 2008–09   | 2009–10   | 2010–11   | 2011–12   | 2012–13   | Average since 2008–09 | Since 2011–12 |
| New South Wales                  |           |           |           |           |           |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                 | 806,544   | 812,097   | 828,898   | 874,293   | 893,395   | 2.6                   | 2.2           |
| Private hospitals                | 260,688   | 268,024   | 270,018   | 276,770   | 279,585   | 1.8                   | 1.0           |
| All hospitals                    | 1,067,232 | 1,080,121 | 1,098,916 | 1,151,063 | 1,172,980 | 2.4                   | 1.9           |
| Victoria                         |           |           |           |           |           |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                 | 557,718   | 580,354   | 608,894   | 621,425   | 601,095   | 1.9                   | –3.3          |
| Private hospitals                | 258,873   | 280,390   | 278,660   | 290,786   | 298,661   | 3.6                   | 2.7           |
| All hospitals                    | 816,591   | 860,744   | 887,554   | 912,211   | 899,756   | 2.5                   | –1.4          |
| Queensland                       |           |           |           |           |           |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                 | 418,960   | 431,204   | 447,294   | 466,393   | 486,426   | 3.8                   | 4.3           |
| Private hospitals                | 254,922   | 261,394   | 267,591   | 275,689   | 281,780   | 2.5                   | 2.2           |
| All hospitals                    | 673,882   | 692,598   | 714,885   | 742,082   | 768,206   | 3.3                   | 3.5           |
| Western Australia <sup>(a)</sup> |           |           |           |           |           |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                 | 214,047   | 223,900   | 242,507   | 254,810   | 262,872   | 5.3                   | 3.2           |
| Private hospitals                | 115,178   | 115,779   | 124,923   | 127,610   | 131,053   | 3.3                   | 2.7           |
| All hospitals                    | 329,225   | 339,679   | 367,430   | 382,420   | 393,925   | 4.6                   | 3.0           |
| South Australia                  |           |           |           |           |           |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                 | 198,181   | 200,360   | 202,226   | 208,710   | 213,145   | 1.8                   | 2.1           |
| Private hospitals                | 88,856    | 89,104    | 88,376    | 87,252    | 86,755    | –0.6                  | –0.6          |
| All hospitals                    | 287,037   | 289,464   | 290,602   | 295,962   | 299,900   | 1.1                   | 1.3           |
| Tasmania <sup>(b)</sup>          |           |           |           |           |           |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                 | 43,409    | 48,278    | 47,803    | 47,009    | 47,877    | 2.5                   | 1.8           |
| Private hospitals                | n.p.      | n.p.      | n.p.      | n.p.      | n.p.      | n.p.                  | n.p.          |
| All hospitals                    | n.p.      | n.p.      | n.p.      | n.p.      | n.p.      | n.p.                  | n.p.          |
| Australian Capital Territory     |           |           |           |           |           |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                 | 35,664    | 35,526    | 38,795    | 41,051    | 40,940    | 3.5                   | –0.3          |
| Private hospitals                | n.p.      | n.p.      | n.p.      | n.p.      | n.p.      | n.p.                  | n.p.          |
| All hospitals                    | n.p.      | n.p.      | n.p.      | n.p.      | n.p.      | n.p.                  | n.p.          |
| Northern Territory               |           |           |           |           |           |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                 | 34,634    | 35,773    | 37,316    | 38,095    | 37,982    | 2.3                   | –0.3          |
| Private hospitals                | n.p.      | n.p.      | n.p.      | n.p.      | n.p.      | n.p.                  | n.p.          |
| All hospitals                    | n.p.      | n.p.      | n.p.      | n.p.      | n.p.      | n.p.                  | n.p.          |
| Total                            |           |           |           |           |           |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                 | 2,309,157 | 2,367,492 | 2,453,733 | 2,551,786 | 2,583,732 | 2.8                   | 1.3           |
| Private hospitals                | 1,022,341 | 1,060,120 | 1,075,123 | 1,103,656 | 1,124,959 | 2.4                   | 1.9           |
| All hospitals                    | 3,331,498 | 3,427,612 | 3,528,856 | 3,655,442 | 3,708,691 | 2.7                   | 1.5           |

(a) For 2009–10, data were missing for Western Australia for 2,400 separations in public hospitals and 10,600 separations in private hospitals.

(b) From 2010–11, some psychiatric care provided by Tasmanian public hospitals was categorised as residential care. In previous years, this care was categorised as admitted patient care.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

# Who used these services?

## Sex and age group

Males accounted for less than half (46%) of overnight acute separations (Table 8.3). There were, however, more overnight separations for males than females in the age groups 0 to 14 and 50 to 79. People aged 55 and over accounted for nearly half of all overnight acute separations.

**Table 8.3: Overnight acute separations, by age group and sex, all hospitals, 2012-13**

| Age group (years)          | Males            | Females          | Persons <sup>(a)</sup> |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| 0-4                        | 139,737          | 106,061          | 245,805                |
| 5-9                        | 35,702           | 28,651           | 64,354                 |
| 10-14                      | 31,344           | 27,985           | 59,329                 |
| 15-19                      | 48,184           | 68,992           | 117,177                |
| 20-24                      | 56,189           | 110,300          | 166,491                |
| 25-29                      | 55,605           | 160,628          | 216,236                |
| 30-34                      | 59,957           | 184,455          | 244,417                |
| 35-39                      | 65,246           | 138,831          | 204,078                |
| 40-44                      | 79,751           | 104,357          | 184,110                |
| 45-49                      | 86,580           | 92,390           | 178,971                |
| 50-54                      | 103,315          | 101,972          | 205,287                |
| 55-59                      | 115,003          | 103,053          | 218,057                |
| 60-64                      | 136,351          | 114,355          | 250,706                |
| 65-69                      | 153,184          | 120,860          | 274,044                |
| 70-74                      | 140,524          | 118,716          | 259,240                |
| 75-79                      | 132,832          | 121,478          | 254,310                |
| 80-84                      | 122,662          | 131,078          | 253,740                |
| 85+                        | 127,954          | 184,372          | 312,328                |
| <b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b> | <b>1,690,121</b> | <b>2,018,535</b> | <b>3,708,691</b>       |

(a) The total includes separations for which age group or sex was not known or not reported.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Separations for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are likely to be under-enumerated. The quality of the data provided for Indigenous status in 2012-13 for admitted patient care varied by jurisdiction. See Chapter 6 and Appendix A for more information on the quality of Indigenous data in the NHMD.

Nationally, 3.8% of overnight acute separations were for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people. In 2012-13, the overnight acute separation rate for Indigenous Australians was twice the rate for other Australians. Western Australia had the highest rate ratio for overnight acute separations for Indigenous Australians compared with other Australians (Table 8.4).

**Table 8.4: Overnight acute separations per 1,000 population, by Indigenous status, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                                       | NSW              | Vic            | Qld            | WA             | SA             | Tas         | ACT         | NT          | Total            |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| <b>Indigenous Australians</b>                         |                  |                |                |                |                |             |             |             |                  |
| Separations                                           | 39,265           | 7,699          | 36,174         | 24,506         | 8,888          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 140,928          |
| Separations per 1,000 population <sup>(a)</sup>       | 292.5            | 259.3          | 294.9          | 384.3          | 371.6          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 311.7            |
| <b>Other Australians</b>                              |                  |                |                |                |                |             |             |             |                  |
| Separations                                           | 1,133,715        | 892,057        | 732,032        | 369,419        | 291,012        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 3,567,763        |
| Separations per 1,000 population <sup>(a)</sup>       | 151.9            | 154.5          | 164.6          | 160.3          | 165.4          | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 156.5            |
| <b>All Australians</b>                                |                  |                |                |                |                |             |             |             |                  |
| <b>Separations</b>                                    | <b>1,172,980</b> | <b>899,756</b> | <b>768,206</b> | <b>393,925</b> | <b>299,900</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>3,708,691</b> |
| <b>Separations per 1,000 population<sup>(a)</sup></b> | <b>154.5</b>     | <b>155.1</b>   | <b>168.3</b>   | <b>166.6</b>   | <b>168.5</b>   | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>159.8</b>     |
| <b>Standardised separation rate ratio</b>             | <b>1.9</b>       | <b>1.7</b>     | <b>1.8</b>     | <b>2.4</b>     | <b>2.2</b>     | <b>1.1</b>  | <b>2.1</b>  | <b>2.3</b>  | <b>2.0</b>       |

(a) The separation rate presented in this table differs from the separation rate in Table 6.4 because all care types (that is, including sub- and non-acute care) are included in Table 6.4. In addition, the total separation rate differs from the figures in Table 8.19 due to differences in the population age groups used for calculating the age-standardised rates.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## Remoteness area

In 2012–13, people living in *Very remote* areas of Australia had 246 overnight acute separations per 1,000 population, compared with 156 per 1,000 nationwide (Table 8.5).

The standardised separation rate ratio of 1.58 for this area indicates that the overnight separation rate in *Very remote* areas was 58% higher than the national rate.

**Table 8.5: Overnight acute separation statistics, by remoteness area of residence, all hospitals, 2012–13**

|                                    | Remoteness area |                |                |        |             | Total <sup>(a)</sup> |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|--------|-------------|----------------------|
|                                    | Major cities    | Inner regional | Outer regional | Remote | Very remote |                      |
| Separations                        | 2,431,800       | 748,396        | 395,258        | 64,904 | 45,457      | 3,708,691            |
| Separation rate                    | 146.6           | 165.4          | 182.9          | 208.5  | 245.9       | 155.7                |
| Standardised separation rate ratio | 0.94            | 1.06           | 1.18           | 1.34   | 1.58        |                      |

(a) The total includes separations for which the remoteness area was not able to be categorised.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## Socioeconomic status

Each SES group accounted for between 16% and 23% of total overnight acute separations. Separation rates varied from 131 per 1,000 population for patients living in areas classified as being the highest SES group to 174 per 1,000 for the lowest SES group (Table 8.6).

**Table 8.6: Overnight acute separation statistics, by socioeconomic status of area of residence, all hospitals, 2012–13**

|                                    | Socioeconomic status of area of residence |         |         |         |           | Total <sup>(a)</sup> |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|----------------------|
|                                    | 1—Lowest                                  | 2       | 3       | 4       | 5—Highest |                      |
| Separations                        | 845,451                                   | 790,519 | 749,555 | 671,811 | 607,287   | 3,708,691            |
| Separation rate                    | 173.7                                     | 161.7   | 157.0   | 145.2   | 131.4     | 155.7                |
| Standardised separation rate ratio | 1.12                                      | 1.04    | 1.01    | 0.93    | 0.84      |                      |

(a) The total includes separations for which the socioeconomic status group was not able to be categorised.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## How did people access these services?

The **mode of admission** records the mechanism by which a patient begins an episode of care.

For both public and private hospitals, the majority of overnight acute separations had a mode of admission of *Other* (93% overall), the term used to refer to all planned and unplanned admissions except transfers from other hospitals and statistical admissions (Table 8.7).

Public hospitals recorded higher proportions of *Admitted patient transferred from another hospital* than private hospitals (7.1% and 5.0%, respectively) (Table 8.7).

**Table 8.7: Overnight acute separations, by mode of admission, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Mode of admission                                  | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total            |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Admitted patient transferred from another hospital | 182,675          | 56,645            | 239,320          |
| Statistical admission: type change                 | 10,302           | 2,250             | 12,552           |
| Other                                              | 2,387,096        | 1,059,812         | 3,446,908        |
| Not reported                                       | 3,659            | 6,252             | 9,911            |
| <b>Total</b>                                       | <b>2,583,732</b> | <b>1,124,959</b>  | <b>3,708,691</b> |

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## Why did people receive the care?

The reason that a patient receives admitted patient care can be described in terms of the principal diagnosis.

Overall, almost half of all overnight acute separations in 2012–13 had a principal diagnosis from 1 of 5 ICD-10-AM chapters:

- *Diseases of the digestive system*
- *Diseases of the respiratory system*
- *Diseases of the circulatory system*
- *Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium*
- *Injury and poisoning.*

The relative distribution of separations by diagnosis chapter varied across public and private hospitals. For *Certain infectious and parasitic diseases*, 88% of overnight separations were from public hospitals. For *Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue*, 61% of separations were from private hospitals (Table 8.8).

**Table 8.8: Overnight acute separations, by principal diagnosis in ICD-10-AM chapters, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Principal diagnosis |                                                                                                     | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total            |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| A00–B99             | Certain infectious and parasitic diseases                                                           | 86,626           | 12,277            | 98,903           |
| C00–D48             | Neoplasms                                                                                           | 131,914          | 104,644           | 236,558          |
| D50–D89             | Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism | 30,004           | 9,631             | 39,635           |
| E00–E90             | Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases                                                       | 54,651           | 27,454            | 82,105           |
| F00–F99             | Mental and behavioural disorders                                                                    | 140,889          | 38,254            | 179,143          |
| G00–G99             | Diseases of the nervous system                                                                      | 69,180           | 69,701            | 138,881          |
| H00–H59             | Diseases of the eye and adnexa                                                                      | 12,610           | 9,680             | 22,290           |
| H60–H95             | Diseases of the ear and mastoid process                                                             | 14,104           | 6,655             | 20,759           |
| I00–I99             | Diseases of the circulatory system                                                                  | 257,147          | 111,243           | 368,390          |
| J00–J99             | Diseases of the respiratory system                                                                  | 250,817          | 74,827            | 325,644          |
| K00–K93             | Diseases of the digestive system                                                                    | 247,545          | 105,496           | 353,041          |
| L00–L99             | Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue                                                        | 71,744           | 14,229            | 85,973           |
| M00–M99             | Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue                                        | 113,325          | 176,218           | 289,543          |
| N00–N99             | Diseases of the genitourinary system                                                                | 137,991          | 78,395            | 216,386          |
| O00–O99             | Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium                                                            | 271,094          | 93,122            | 364,216          |
| P00–P96             | Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period                                              | 50,630           | 11,792            | 62,422           |
| Q00–Q99             | Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities                                | 13,961           | 4,356             | 18,317           |
| R00–R99             | Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified             | 236,334          | 61,874            | 298,208          |
| S00–T98             | Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes                                 | 325,273          | 78,977            | 404,250          |
| Z00–Z99             | Factors influencing health status and contact with health services                                  | 65,632           | 35,978            | 101,610          |
|                     | Not reported                                                                                        | 2,261            | 156               | 2,417            |
| <b>Total</b>        |                                                                                                     | <b>2,583,732</b> | <b>1,124,959</b>  | <b>3,708,691</b> |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information by state and territory is in tables 8.20 and 8.21 at the end of this chapter.

## Most common principal diagnoses

The most common principal diagnosis (at the 3-character level) reported for overnight acute separations was *Single spontaneous delivery*, which accounted for 4.6% of overnight acute separations in public hospitals and 2.8% in private hospitals. The 20 most common principal diagnoses included several childbirth-related and heart-related conditions, as well as respiratory conditions (Table 8.9).

Comparing this table with Table 7.8, it can be seen that the top 20 principal diagnoses for overnight acute separations and same-day acute separations are different, suggesting that

there are differences in the types of conditions that are most commonly treated on an overnight basis compared with those that are not.

**Table 8.9: Overnight acute separations for the 20 most common principal diagnoses in 3-character ICD-10-AM groupings, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Principal diagnosis |                                                       | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total            |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| O80                 | Single spontaneous delivery                           | 118,208          | 31,623            | 149,831          |
| O82                 | Single delivery by caesarean section                  | 58,575           | 34,044            | 92,619           |
| G47                 | Sleep disorders                                       | 15,878           | 55,981            | 71,859           |
| R07                 | Pain in throat and chest                              | 58,166           | 13,435            | 71,601           |
| J18                 | Pneumonia, organism unspecified                       | 48,027           | 8,814             | 56,841           |
| J44                 | Other chronic obstructive pulmonary disease           | 48,773           | 7,325             | 56,098           |
| K80                 | Cholelithiasis                                        | 36,438           | 18,795            | 55,233           |
| M17                 | Gonarthrosis [arthrosis of knee]                      | 15,691           | 31,670            | 47,361           |
| R10                 | Abdominal and pelvic pain                             | 38,247           | 8,411             | 46,658           |
| I50                 | Heart failure                                         | 35,965           | 10,291            | 46,256           |
| I21                 | Acute myocardial infarction                           | 37,988           | 8,201             | 46,189           |
| N39                 | Other disorders of urinary system                     | 35,862           | 9,831             | 45,693           |
| L03                 | Cellulitis                                            | 36,864           | 6,519             | 43,383           |
| I48                 | Atrial fibrillation and flutter                       | 27,078           | 13,307            | 40,385           |
| I20                 | Angina pectoris                                       | 27,027           | 12,542            | 39,569           |
| O81                 | Single delivery by forceps and vacuum extractor       | 24,435           | 12,360            | 36,795           |
| K40                 | Inguinal hernia                                       | 15,441           | 20,673            | 36,114           |
| J35                 | Chronic diseases of tonsils and adenoids              | 13,789           | 20,260            | 34,049           |
| T81                 | Complications of procedures, not elsewhere classified | 22,592           | 9,766             | 32,358           |
| K35                 | Acute appendicitis                                    | 26,126           | 4,648             | 30,774           |
|                     | Other                                                 | 1,842,562        | 786,463           | 2,629,025        |
| <b>Total</b>        |                                                       | <b>2,583,732</b> | <b>1,124,959</b>  | <b>3,708,691</b> |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information by state and territory is in tables 8.20 and 8.21 at the end of this chapter.

## How urgent was the care?

Table 8.10 presents information on the urgency of admission by overnight status and the broad category of admitted patient service (*Childbirth, Specialist mental health, Surgical, Medical and Other*). See the section ‘What care was provided?’ for more information on these broad categories of service.

In 2012–13, about half of all overnight acute separations were *Emergency* admissions (required within 24 hours), 90% of which were from public hospitals. Just over 39% of overnight acute separations were *Non-emergency* admissions (includes elective and other planned care), and more than half of these were from private hospitals (Table 8.10).

**Table 8.10: Overnight acute separations by broad category of service<sup>(a)</sup>, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                            | Public hospitals |              | Private hospitals |              | Total            |              |
|----------------------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|
|                            | Separations      | % (column)   | Separations       | % (column)   | Separations      | % (column)   |
| Childbirth                 | 214,949          | 8.3          | 81,752            | 7.3          | 296,701          | 8.0          |
| Specialist mental health   | 92,253           | 3.6          | 32,144            | 2.9          | 124,397          | 3.4          |
| Emergency                  |                  |              |                   |              |                  |              |
| Surgical                   | 239,070          | 9.3          | 34,416            | 3.1          | 273,486          | 7.4          |
| Medical                    | 1,347,103        | 52.1         | 134,902           | 12.0         | 1,482,005        | 40.0         |
| Other                      | 58,344           | 2.3          | 12,026            | 1.1          | 70,370           | 1.9          |
| <i>Total emergency</i>     | <i>1,644,517</i> | <i>63.6</i>  | <i>181,344</i>    | <i>16.1</i>  | <i>1,825,861</i> | <i>49.2</i>  |
| Non-emergency              |                  |              |                   |              |                  |              |
| Surgical                   | 333,969          | 12.9         | 558,776           | 49.7         | 892,745          | 24.1         |
| Medical                    | 275,559          | 10.7         | 230,370           | 20.5         | 505,929          | 13.6         |
| Other                      | 22,485           | 0.9          | 40,573            | 3.6          | 63,058           | 1.7          |
| <i>Total non-emergency</i> | <i>632,013</i>   | <i>24.5</i>  | <i>829,719</i>    | <i>73.8</i>  | <i>1,461,732</i> | <i>39.4</i>  |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>2,583,732</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>1,124,959</b>  | <b>100.0</b> | <b>3,708,691</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

(a) Separations have been categorised as *Childbirth*, *Specialist mental health*, *Medical*, *Surgical* or *Other* based mainly on the AR-DRG classification recorded for the separation. See Chapter 6 and Appendix B for more information.

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information by state and territory is in Table 8.22 at the end of this chapter.

## What care was provided?

The care that a patient received can be described in a variety of ways. This section presents information on overnight acute separations describing care by:

- the broad category of service – *Childbirth*, *Specialist mental health*, *Medical* (not involving a procedure), *Surgical* (involving an operating room procedure) or *Other* (involving a non-operating room procedure, such as endoscopy). See Chapter 6 and Appendix B for more information.
- MDCs and AR-DRGs – based on the AR-DRG classification of acute care separations
- the type of surgical or other procedure undertaken.

### Broad categories of service

In 2012–13, more than half (54%) of overnight acute separations were reported as *Medical*, almost one-third (31%) were *Surgical* and about 4% were *Other* care (excluding *Childbirth* and *Specialist mental health*, Table 8.10). The majority of *Medical* care occurred in public hospitals (82%), as did almost half (49%) of *Surgical* care. *Childbirth* admissions accounted for 8.0% of overnight acute separations and *Specialist mental health* for 3.4%.

### Major Diagnostic Categories

Table 8.11 presents overnight acute separations by MDCs for public and private hospitals.

*Diseases and disorders of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue* accounted for 13% of total overnight acute separations for the combined public and private sectors, and just over half of these separations (53%) were from public hospitals. For *Injuries, poisoning and toxic effects of drugs*, around 86% of the overnight acute separations were from public hospitals. For

*Diseases and disorders of the male reproductive system* just over half (55%) of the overnight acute separations were from private hospitals.

**Table 8.11: Overnight acute separations, by Major Diagnostic Category, AR-DRG version 6.0x, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Major Diagnostic Category |                                                                                           | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total            |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| PR                        | Pre-MDC (tracheostomies, transplants, ECMO)                                               | 12,808           | 3,075             | 15,883           |
| 01                        | Diseases and disorders of the nervous system                                              | 167,507          | 33,482            | 200,989          |
| 02                        | Diseases and disorders of the eye                                                         | 17,097           | 10,335            | 27,432           |
| 03                        | Diseases and disorders of the ear, nose, mouth and throat                                 | 104,034          | 66,952            | 170,986          |
| 04                        | Diseases and disorders of the respiratory system                                          | 252,255          | 97,797            | 350,052          |
| 05                        | Diseases and disorders of the circulatory system                                          | 304,661          | 124,999           | 429,660          |
| 06                        | Diseases and disorders of the digestive system                                            | 289,416          | 115,048           | 404,464          |
| 07                        | Diseases and disorders of the hepatobiliary system and pancreas                           | 81,453           | 30,392            | 111,845          |
| 08                        | Diseases and disorders of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue                | 254,750          | 225,980           | 480,730          |
| 09                        | Diseases and disorders of the skin, subcutaneous tissue and breast                        | 108,819          | 55,509            | 164,328          |
| 10                        | Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases and disorders                               | 53,158           | 30,271            | 83,429           |
| 11                        | Diseases and disorders of the kidney and urinary tract                                    | 122,435          | 47,201            | 169,636          |
| 12                        | Diseases and disorders of the male reproductive system                                    | 19,812           | 24,312            | 44,124           |
| 13                        | Diseases and disorders of the female reproductive system                                  | 45,154           | 42,646            | 87,800           |
| 14                        | Pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium                                                      | 277,332          | 94,547            | 371,879          |
| 15                        | Newborns and other neonates                                                               | 79,894           | 17,675            | 97,569           |
| 16                        | Diseases and disorders of the blood and blood-forming organs, and immunological disorders | 32,830           | 10,177            | 43,007           |
| 17                        | Neoplastic disorders (haematological and solid neoplasms)                                 | 19,481           | 11,085            | 30,566           |
| 18                        | Infectious and parasitic diseases                                                         | 54,924           | 11,481            | 66,405           |
| 19                        | Mental diseases and disorders                                                             | 105,197          | 30,108            | 135,305          |
| 20                        | Alcohol/drug use and alcohol/drug induced organic mental disorders                        | 27,586           | 7,568             | 35,154           |
| 21                        | Injuries, poisoning and toxic effects of drugs                                            | 103,664          | 16,683            | 120,347          |
| 22                        | Burns                                                                                     | 5,473            | 176               | 5,649            |
| 23                        | Factors influencing health status and other contacts with health services                 | 37,726           | 15,091            | 52,817           |
| ED                        | Error DRGs <sup>(a)</sup>                                                                 | 6,266            | 2,369             | 8,635            |
|                           | <i>Surgical</i>                                                                           | 643,894          | 630,672           | 1,274,566        |
|                           | <i>Medical</i>                                                                            | 1,858,877        | 441,684           | 2,300,561        |
|                           | <i>Other</i>                                                                              | 80,961           | 52,603            | 133,564          |
| <b>Total</b>              |                                                                                           | <b>2,583,732</b> | <b>1,124,959</b>  | <b>3,708,691</b> |

DRG—Diagnosis Related Group; ECMO—extracorporeal membrane oxygenation; MDC—Major Diagnostic Category.

(a) An *Error DRG* is assigned to hospital records that contain clinically atypical or invalid information.

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information by state and territory is available in tables 8.23 and 8.24 at the end of this chapter.



## Most common AR-DRGs

In 2012–13, the 20 most common AR-DRGs accounted for one-quarter of overnight acute separations. The 2 most common AR-DRGs for overnight acute separations were childbirth-related, followed by *Chest pain* and *Sleep apnoea* (Table 8.12).

Public hospitals provided the majority of separations for childbirth and *Chest pain*. Private hospitals provided the majority of separations for AR-DRGs such as *Sleep apnoea*, *Other shoulder procedures*, *Circulatory disorders* (F42B) and *Knee replacement* (I04B).

**Table 8.12: Separations for the 20 most common AR-DRGs version 6.0x for overnight acute separations, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| AR-DRG                                                                                                  | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| O60B Vaginal delivery without CSCC                                                                      | 103,054          | 34,821            | 137,875          |
| O01C Caesarean delivery without CSCC                                                                    | 46,552           | 29,665            | 76,217           |
| F74Z Chest pain                                                                                         | 54,647           | 8,698             | 63,345           |
| E63Z Sleep apnoea                                                                                       | 6,446            | 48,693            | 55,139           |
| G70B Other digestive system diagnoses without CSCC                                                      | 40,729           | 8,204             | 48,933           |
| G10B Hernia procedures without CC                                                                       | 19,581           | 27,871            | 47,452           |
| J64B Cellulitis without CSCC                                                                            | 41,306           | 5,667             | 46,973           |
| E65B Chronic obstructive airways disease without catastrophic CC                                        | 37,352           | 6,641             | 43,993           |
| P67D Neonate, admission weight >2499 grams without significant operating room procedure without problem | 33,853           | 8,088             | 41,941           |
| G66Z Abdominal pain or mesenteric adenitis                                                              | 34,408           | 4,995             | 39,403           |
| I16Z Other shoulder procedures                                                                          | 6,659            | 32,574            | 39,233           |
| H08B Laparoscopic cholecystectomy without closed CDE without CSCC                                       | 20,878           | 17,293            | 38,171           |
| O66A Antenatal and other obstetric admission                                                            | 31,209           | 6,758             | 37,967           |
| G67B Oesophagitis and gastroenteritis without CSCC                                                      | 31,922           | 4,376             | 36,298           |
| D11Z Tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy                                                                 | 15,402           | 20,358            | 35,760           |
| L63B Kidney and urinary tract infections without CSCC                                                   | 29,281           | 5,492             | 34,773           |
| F42B Circulatory disorders without AMI with invasive cardiac investigative procedure without CSCC       | 12,259           | 21,916            | 34,175           |
| I04B Knee replacement without CSCC                                                                      | 10,246           | 23,431            | 33,677           |
| F76B Arrhythmia, cardiac arrest and conduction disorders without CSCC                                   | 25,267           | 7,736             | 33,003           |
| U63B Major affective disorders age<70/ without CSCC                                                     | 18,326           | 13,810            | 32,136           |
| Other                                                                                                   | 1,964,355        | 787,872           | 2,752,227        |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                                            | <b>2,583,732</b> | <b>1,124,959</b>  | <b>3,708,691</b> |

AMI—acute myocardial infarction; CC—complications and comorbidities; CDE—common duct exploration; CSCC—catastrophic or severe complications or comorbidities.

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information by state and territory is in tables S8.3 and S8.4 that accompany this report online.

## Procedures

In 2012–13, almost 7.1 million procedures were reported for overnight acute separations, with about 4.1 million in the public sector and 2.9 million in the private sector. Public hospitals accounted for 64% of the overnight acute separations for which a procedure was reported (Table 8.13). In public hospitals, 67% or 1.7 million overnight acute separations involved a procedure. In contrast, for private hospitals, 88% or 1 million overnight acute separations involved a procedure.

**Table 8.13: Procedures<sup>(a)</sup> reported for overnight acute separations, by ACHI chapter, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Procedure                                |                                                         | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total            |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1–86                                     | Procedures on nervous system                            | 50,704           | 51,838            | 102,542          |
| 110–129                                  | Procedures on endocrine system                          | 7,821            | 8,832             | 16,653           |
| 160–256                                  | Procedures on eye and adnexa                            | 12,381           | 9,602             | 21,983           |
| 300–333                                  | Procedures on ear and mastoid process                   | 9,411            | 9,602             | 19,013           |
| 370–422                                  | Procedures on nose, mouth and pharynx                   | 43,044           | 54,923            | 97,967           |
| 450–490                                  | Dental services                                         | 5,798            | 3,443             | 9,241            |
| 520–570                                  | Procedures on respiratory system                        | 95,330           | 29,918            | 125,248          |
| 600–777                                  | Procedures on cardiovascular system                     | 106,194          | 89,459            | 195,653          |
| 800–817                                  | Procedures on blood and blood-forming organs            | 23,336           | 17,639            | 40,975           |
| 850–1011                                 | Procedures on digestive system                          | 220,278          | 153,034           | 373,312          |
| 1040–1129                                | Procedures on urinary system                            | 75,060           | 52,812            | 127,872          |
| 1160–1203                                | Procedures on male genital organs                       | 17,682           | 28,119            | 45,801           |
| 1240–1299                                | Gynaecological procedures                               | 48,217           | 43,941            | 92,158           |
| 1330–1347                                | Obstetric procedures                                    | 195,356          | 80,160            | 275,516          |
| 1360–1579                                | Procedures on musculoskeletal system                    | 186,765          | 198,840           | 385,605          |
| 1600–1718                                | Dermatological and plastic procedures                   | 112,996          | 55,024            | 168,020          |
| 1740–1759                                | Procedures on breast                                    | 12,645           | 22,359            | 35,004           |
| 1786–1799                                | Radiation oncology procedures                           | 7,794            | 2,453             | 10,247           |
| 1820–1922                                | Non-invasive, cognitive and other interventions, n.e.c. | 1,565,540        | 928,915           | 2,494,455        |
| 1940–2016                                | Imaging services                                        | 24,936           | 19,106            | 44,042           |
|                                          | <i>Procedures reported</i>                              | <i>4,162,236</i> | <i>2,937,196</i>  | <i>7,099,432</i> |
|                                          | No procedure or not reported                            | 853,976          | 138,875           | 992,851          |
| <b>Total overnight acute separations</b> |                                                         | <b>2,583,732</b> | <b>1,124,959</b>  | <b>3,708,691</b> |

ACHI—Australian Classification of Health Interventions; n.e.c.—not elsewhere classified.

(a) A procedure is counted once for the group if it has at least one procedure reported within the group. As more than one procedure can be reported for each separation, the data are not additive and therefore the totals in the tables may not equal the sum of counts in the rows.

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information by state and territory is in tables 8.25 and 8.26 at the end of this chapter.

## Most common procedures

In 2012–13, *Generalised allied health interventions*, which includes physiotherapy and other rehabilitation procedures or interventions, was the most common procedure block reported for overnight acute separations. *Cerebral anaesthesia* (general anaesthesia) was the next most

frequently reported procedure block, reflecting the fact that it is a companion procedure for many other procedures (Table 8.14).

**Table 8.14: Procedures<sup>(a)</sup> reported for the 20 most common ACHI procedure blocks for overnight acute separations, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Procedure block                                                     | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1916 Generalised allied health interventions                        | 1,061,034        | 398,511           | 1,459,545        |
| 1910 Cerebral anaesthesia                                           | 681,451          | 654,898           | 1,336,349        |
| 1909 Conduction anaesthesia                                         | 125,608          | 130,994           | 256,602          |
| 1893 Administration of blood and blood products                     | 139,835          | 57,773            | 197,608          |
| 1340 Caesarean section                                              | 63,750           | 36,297            | 100,047          |
| 1920 Administration of pharmacotherapy                              | 68,752           | 26,883            | 95,635           |
| 1344 Postpartum suture                                              | 70,517           | 23,623            | 94,140           |
| 668 Coronary angiography                                            | 44,648           | 39,465            | 84,113           |
| 1333 Analgesia and anaesthesia during labour and delivery procedure | 53,869           | 28,572            | 82,441           |
| 1334 Medical or surgical induction of labour                        | 57,467           | 23,849            | 81,316           |
| 1335 Medical or surgical augmentation of labour                     | 47,050           | 15,014            | 62,064           |
| 1828 Sleep study                                                    | 7,132            | 51,527            | 58,659           |
| 986 Division of abdominal adhesions                                 | 30,072           | 27,434            | 57,506           |
| 570 Non-invasive ventilatory support                                | 41,213           | 15,217            | 56,430           |
| 607 Examination procedures on ventricle                             | 23,579           | 28,621            | 52,200           |
| 965 Cholecystectomy                                                 | 29,986           | 21,122            | 51,108           |
| 412 Tonsillectomy or adenoidectomy                                  | 20,606           | 29,071            | 49,677           |
| 1566 Excision procedures on other musculoskeletal sites             | 26,688           | 18,207            | 44,895           |
| 1343 Other procedures associated with delivery                      | 29,718           | 12,940            | 42,658           |
| 957 Examination of gallbladder or biliary tract                     | 23,759           | 17,813            | 41,572           |
| Other                                                               | 1,515,502        | 1,279,365         | 2,794,867        |
| <i>Procedures reported</i>                                          | <i>4,162,236</i> | <i>2,937,196</i>  | <i>7,099,432</i> |
| No procedure or not reported                                        | 853,976          | 138,875           | 992,851          |
| <b>Total separations</b>                                            | <b>2,583,732</b> | <b>1,124,959</b>  | <b>3,708,691</b> |

ACHI—Australian Classification of Health Interventions.

(a) A procedure is counted once for the group if it has at least one procedure reported within the group. As more than one procedure can be reported for each separation, the data are not additive and therefore the totals in the tables may not equal the sum of counts in the rows.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information by state and territory is in tables S8.5 and S8.6 that accompany this report online.

## How does Australia compare?

Table 8.15 presents statistics on selected indicators for procedures in Australia and the OECD. Note that these statistics may be affected by variation in admission practices both within Australia and internationally. Procedures undertaken during same-day admissions are not included in this analysis and may also affect the comparability of the data.

Australia's rate of *Caesarean sections* was higher than the OECD average (32.7 and 26.9 per 100 births, respectively) and was also above the interquartile range (19.9 to 32.2). Western Australia had the highest rate of *Caesarean sections* (34.4 per 100 births).

In 2012–13, the *Coronary revascularisation procedure* rate for Australia was below the 2011 OECD average (202.0 and 220.7 per 100,000 population, respectively), but within the interquartile range. *Coronary angioplasty* accounted for 76% of all revascularisation procedures in Australia, compared to 79% across OECD countries (interquartile range 75% to 83%). Western Australia had the highest proportion of revascularisation procedures that were coronary angioplasties (83%).

The Australian Capital Territory had the highest population rates for *Coronary revascularisation procedures*, *Hip replacement surgery* and *Knee replacement surgery*. However, these rates should be interpreted with caution due to the high proportion of interstate patients treated in hospitals in the Australian Capital Territory.

**Table 8.15: Selected indicators, states and territories (2012–13) and OECD statistics (2011)<sup>(a)</sup>**

|                                         | Caesarean sections (per 100 live births) | Coronary revascularisation procedures (per 100,000 population) <sup>(b)</sup> | Coronary angioplasty (% of coronary revascularisation procedures) | Hip replacement surgery (per 100,000 population) | Knee replacement surgery (per 100,000 population) |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| New South Wales                         | 31.7                                     | 195.7                                                                         | 76.2                                                              | 176.4                                            | 120.3                                             |
| Victoria                                | 32.4                                     | 210.7                                                                         | 75.4                                                              | 153.6                                            | 136.2                                             |
| Queensland                              | 33.4                                     | 206.8                                                                         | 72.3                                                              | 173.6                                            | 111.3                                             |
| Western Australia                       | 34.4                                     | 194.3                                                                         | 82.5                                                              | 206.7                                            | 149.1                                             |
| South Australia                         | 34.1                                     | 209.2                                                                         | 73.2                                                              | 188.7                                            | 147.8                                             |
| Tasmania                                | 31.5                                     | 153.0                                                                         | 75.8                                                              | 143.3                                            | 137.6                                             |
| Australian Capital Territory            | 33.7                                     | 344.7                                                                         | 80.5                                                              | 268.6                                            | 199.7                                             |
| Northern Territory                      | 33.3                                     | ..                                                                            | ..                                                                | 74.8                                             | 40.4                                              |
| <b>Australia</b>                        | <b>32.7</b>                              | <b>202.0</b>                                                                  | <b>75.7</b>                                                       | <b>173.8</b>                                     | <b>128.5</b>                                      |
| <b>OECD average</b>                     | <b>26.9</b>                              | <b>220.7</b>                                                                  | <b>79.4</b>                                                       | <b>160.4</b>                                     | <b>118.6</b>                                      |
| OECD interquartile range <sup>(c)</sup> | 19.9–32.2                                | 173.3–256.2                                                                   | 75.0–83.0                                                         | 102.0–225.4                                      | 85.9–166.9                                        |
| Number of OECD countries                | 32                                       | 29                                                                            | 29                                                                | 32                                               | 30                                                |

(a) For some OECD countries, the data relate to a year other than 2011.

(b) Revascularisation procedures include coronary bypass and angioplasty.

(c) The interquartile range is a measure of statistical dispersion, being equal to the difference between the upper and lower quartiles.

Source: OECD *Health Statistics 2013* (OECD 2013).

## How long did patients stay?

The lengths of stay for overnight acute separations varied by the type of care received and between public and private hospitals.

*Non-emergency* separations had longer lengths of stay in public hospitals than in private hospitals. *Childbirth*, *Specialist mental health* care and *Emergency* separations for *Surgical* and *Medical* care had longer lengths of stay in private hospitals than in public hospitals (Table 8.16).

**Table 8.16: Patient days and average length of stay, for overnight acute separations, by broad category of service<sup>(a)</sup>, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Broad category of service | Public hospitals  |                        | Private hospitals |                        | Total             |                        |
|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
|                           | Patient days      | Average length of stay | Patient days      | Average length of stay | Patient days      | Average length of stay |
| Childbirth                | 669,009           | 3.1                    | 381,564           | 4.7                    | 1,050,573         | 3.5                    |
| Specialist mental health  | 1,523,959         | 16.5                   | 610,966           | 19.0                   | 2,134,925         | 17.2                   |
| Emergency                 |                   |                        |                   |                        |                   |                        |
| Surgical                  | 1,844,054         | 7.7                    | 279,587           | 8.1                    | 2,123,641         | 7.8                    |
| Medical                   | 5,315,949         | 3.9                    | 785,188           | 5.8                    | 6,101,137         | 4.1                    |
| Other                     | 378,742           | 6.5                    | 67,689            | 5.6                    | 446,431           | 6.3                    |
| Non-emergency             |                   |                        |                   |                        |                   |                        |
| Surgical                  | 1,375,398         | 4.1                    | 1,806,420         | 3.2                    | 3,181,818         | 3.6                    |
| Medical                   | 1,478,309         | 5.4                    | 1,124,919         | 4.9                    | 2,603,228         | 5.1                    |
| Other                     | 82,427            | 3.7                    | 104,835           | 2.6                    | 187,262           | 3.0                    |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>12,667,847</b> | <b>4.9</b>             | <b>5,161,168</b>  | <b>4.6</b>             | <b>17,829,015</b> | <b>4.8</b>             |

(a) Separations have been categorised as *Childbirth*, *Medical*, *Surgical* or *Other* based on the AR-DRG classification recorded for the separation. The category *Specialist mental health* is assigned for those separations for which at least 1 day of specialised psychiatric care is reported.

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## Who paid for the care?

Around 81% of overnight acute separations from public hospitals were for *Public* patients and *Private health insurance* funded 85% of overnight acute separations from private hospitals (Table 8.17). The *Department of Veterans' Affairs* funded 2% of overnight acute separations in public hospitals and 6% in private hospitals.

**Table 8.17: Overnight acute separations, by principal source of funds, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Principal source of funds                | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total            |
|------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Public patients <sup>(a)</sup>           | 2,103,266        | 4,622             | 2,107,888        |
| Private health insurance                 | 352,301          | 960,781           | 1,313,082        |
| Self-funded                              | 23,949           | 49,590            | 73,539           |
| Workers compensation                     | 12,379           | 27,690            | 40,069           |
| Motor vehicle third party personal claim | 18,142           | 2,533             | 20,675           |
| Department of Veterans' Affairs          | 55,609           | 70,190            | 125,799          |
| Other <sup>(b)</sup>                     | 18,086           | 9,553             | 27,639           |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>2,583,732</b> | <b>1,124,959</b>  | <b>3,708,691</b> |

(a) Public patients includes separations with a funding source of *Health service budget*, *Other hospital or public authority* (with a *Public patient election status*), *Health service budget (due to eligibility for Reciprocal health care agreements)* and *Health service budget—no charge raised due to hospital decision* (in public hospitals).

(b) Other includes separations with a funding source of *Other compensation*, *Department of Defence*, *Correctional facilities*, *Other hospital or public authority* (without a *Public patient election status*), *Other*, *Health service budget—no charge raised due to hospital decision* (in private hospitals) and not reported.

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## How was the care completed?

The mode of separation records the status of the patient at the time of separation and, for some categories, the place to which the person was discharged or transferred.

About 87% of overnight acute separations had a mode of separation of *Other*, suggesting that most patients go home after their episode of care (Table 8.18). This was particularly the case in private hospitals, where 91% of separations reported a mode of separation of *Other*, compared with 85% in public hospitals.

**Table 8.18: Overnight acute separations, by mode of separation, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Mode of separation                                    | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total            |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Discharge/transfer to an (other) acute hospital       | 188,268          | 42,812            | 231,080          |
| Discharge/transfer to residential aged care service   | 35,475           | 5,403             | 40,878           |
| Discharge/transfer to an (other) psychiatric hospital | 4,960            | 172               | 5,132            |
| Discharge/transfer to other health care accommodation | 9,353            | 18,118            | 27,471           |
| Statistical discharge: type change                    | 77,837           | 18,714            | 96,551           |
| Left against medical advice/discharge at own risk     | 30,529           | 1,344             | 31,873           |
| Statistical discharge from leave                      | 4,054            | 107               | 4,161            |
| Died                                                  | 34,632           | 9,562             | 44,194           |
| Other                                                 | 2,197,938        | 1,028,698         | 3,226,636        |
| Not reported                                          | 686              | 29                | 715              |
| <b>Total</b>                                          | <b>2,583,732</b> | <b>1,124,959</b>  | <b>3,708,691</b> |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## Additional information

Additional tables accompany this report online:

Table S8.1: Overnight acute separations, for the 50 most common principal diagnoses, public hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13

Table S8.2: Overnight acute separations, for the 50 most common principal diagnoses, private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13

Table S8.3: Overnight acute separations, for the 50 most common AR-DRGs version 6.0x, public hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13

Table S8.4: Overnight acute separations, for the 50 most common AR-DRGs version 6.0x, private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13

Table S8.5: Procedure statistics for the 50 most common procedures for overnight acute separations, public hospitals, state and territories, 2012–13

Table S8.6: Procedure statistics for the 50 most common procedures for overnight acute separations, private hospitals, state and territories, 2012–13

**Table 8.19: Overnight acute separations, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                                       | NSW              | Vic            | Qld            | WA             | SA             | Tas           | ACT           | NT            | Total            |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| <b>Public hospitals</b>                               |                  |                |                |                |                |               |               |               |                  |
| Public acute hospitals                                | 889,073          | 600,653        | 486,420        | 261,600        | 212,034        | 47,649        | 40,940        | 37,982        | 2,576,351        |
| Public psychiatric hospitals                          | 4,322            | 442            | 6              | 1,272          | 1,111          | 228           | ..            | ..            | 7,381            |
| <i>Total</i>                                          | <i>893,395</i>   | <i>601,095</i> | <i>486,426</i> | <i>262,872</i> | <i>213,145</i> | <i>47,877</i> | <i>40,940</i> | <i>37,982</i> | <i>2,583,732</i> |
| Separations per 1,000 population <sup>(a)</sup>       | 115.2            | 101.4          | 104.8          | 107.5          | 118.2          | 87.4          | 112.0         | 182.2         | 109.1            |
| <b>Private hospitals</b>                              |                  |                |                |                |                |               |               |               |                  |
| Private free-standing day hospital facilities         | 0                | 7              | 1              | 1,418          | 0              | n.p.          | n.p.          | n.p.          | 1,431            |
| Other private hospitals                               | 279,585          | 298,654        | 281,779        | 129,635        | 86,755         | n.p.          | n.p.          | n.p.          | 1,123,528        |
| <i>Total</i>                                          | <i>279,585</i>   | <i>298,661</i> | <i>281,780</i> | <i>131,053</i> | <i>86,755</i>  | <i>n.p.</i>   | <i>n.p.</i>   | <i>n.p.</i>   | <i>1,124,959</i> |
| Separations per 1,000 population                      | 35.7             | 49.1           | 59.7           | 53.2           | 46.0           | n.p.          | n.p.          | n.p.          | 46.5             |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                                  | <b>1,172,980</b> | <b>899,756</b> | <b>768,206</b> | <b>393,925</b> | <b>299,900</b> | <b>n.p.</b>   | <b>n.p.</b>   | <b>n.p.</b>   | <b>3,708,691</b> |
| <b>Separations per 1,000 population<sup>(a)</sup></b> | <b>150.9</b>     | <b>150.5</b>   | <b>164.5</b>   | <b>160.7</b>   | <b>164.2</b>   | <b>n.p.</b>   | <b>n.p.</b>   | <b>n.p.</b>   | <b>155.6</b>     |

(a) Separation rates may differ from the figures in Table 6.4 due to differences in the care types used.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 8.20: Overnight acute separations, by principal diagnosis in ICD-10-AM chapters, public hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| Principal diagnosis |                                                                                                     | NSW            | Vic            | Qld            | WA             | SA             | Tas           | ACT           | NT            | Total            |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| A00–B99             | Certain infectious and parasitic diseases                                                           | 33,028         | 18,842         | 15,623         | 8,504          | 6,310          | 1,377         | 1,257         | 1,685         | 86,626           |
| C00–D48             | Neoplasms                                                                                           | 42,023         | 35,352         | 24,654         | 12,183         | 11,672         | 2,891         | 2,225         | 914           | 131,914          |
| D50–D89             | Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism | 10,513         | 7,580          | 5,208          | 2,648          | 2,934          | 461           | 372           | 288           | 30,004           |
| E00–E90             | Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases                                                       | 17,099         | 12,951         | 11,040         | 5,464          | 5,054          | 1,024         | 655           | 1,364         | 54,651           |
| F00–F99             | Mental and behavioural disorders                                                                    | 49,284         | 29,938         | 24,814         | 17,802         | 12,693         | 2,683         | 2,109         | 1,566         | 140,889          |
| G00–G99             | Diseases of the nervous system                                                                      | 20,462         | 20,255         | 13,403         | 6,232          | 5,946          | 1,439         | 879           | 564           | 69,180           |
| H00–H59             | Diseases of the eye and adnexa                                                                      | 4,471          | 3,117          | 1,872          | 1,593          | 999            | 89            | 236           | 233           | 12,610           |
| H60–H95             | Diseases of the ear and mastoid process                                                             | 4,485          | 3,261          | 2,669          | 1,686          | 1,200          | 267           | 174           | 362           | 14,104           |
| I00–I99             | Diseases of the circulatory system                                                                  | 88,967         | 59,691         | 50,816         | 23,261         | 21,693         | 5,525         | 4,296         | 2,898         | 257,147          |
| J00–J99             | Diseases of the respiratory system                                                                  | 88,318         | 56,158         | 46,119         | 24,883         | 22,755         | 4,701         | 3,432         | 4,451         | 250,817          |
| K00–K93             | Diseases of the digestive system                                                                    | 84,300         | 59,286         | 46,978         | 25,578         | 19,358         | 4,803         | 4,170         | 3,072         | 247,545          |
| L00–L99             | Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue                                                        | 23,590         | 14,853         | 15,230         | 8,307          | 5,087          | 1,072         | 1,043         | 2,562         | 71,744           |
| M00–M99             | Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue                                        | 38,435         | 27,912         | 19,627         | 12,883         | 9,276          | 2,129         | 1,784         | 1,279         | 113,325          |
| N00–N99             | Diseases of the genitourinary system                                                                | 45,686         | 32,488         | 27,688         | 13,953         | 11,747         | 2,218         | 2,358         | 1,853         | 137,991          |
| O00–O99             | Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium                                                            | 89,840         | 65,720         | 53,469         | 28,736         | 18,728         | 4,721         | 5,436         | 4,444         | 271,094          |
| P00–P96             | Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period                                              | 17,134         | 12,183         | 9,396          | 5,008          | 3,891          | 997           | 1,277         | 744           | 50,630           |
| Q00–Q99             | Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities                                | 5,346          | 3,326          | 2,389          | 1,377          | 946            | 254           | 206           | 117           | 13,961           |
| R00–R99             | Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified             | 86,317         | 54,154         | 43,108         | 21,899         | 21,419         | 3,878         | 2,869         | 2,690         | 236,334          |
| S00–T98             | Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes                                 | 111,783        | 71,968         | 62,909         | 36,371         | 24,656         | 5,859         | 5,719         | 6,008         | 325,273          |
| Z00–Z99             | Factors influencing health status and contact with health services                                  | 30,118         | 11,997         | 9,414          | 4,504          | 6,781          | 1,487         | 443           | 888           | 65,632           |
|                     | Not reported                                                                                        | 2,196          | 63             | 0              | 0              | 0              | 2             | 0             | 0             | 2,261            |
| <b>Total</b>        |                                                                                                     | <b>893,395</b> | <b>601,095</b> | <b>486,426</b> | <b>262,872</b> | <b>213,145</b> | <b>47,877</b> | <b>40,940</b> | <b>37,982</b> | <b>2,583,732</b> |

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.



**Table 8.21: Overnight acute separations, by principal diagnosis in ICD-10-AM chapters, private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| Principal diagnosis |                                                                                                     | NSW            | Vic            | Qld            | WA             | SA            | Tas         | ACT         | NT          | Total            |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| A00–B99             | Certain infectious and parasitic diseases                                                           | 1,679          | 3,706          | 4,457          | 1,041          | 872           | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 12,277           |
| C00–D48             | Neoplasms                                                                                           | 25,543         | 30,300         | 25,256         | 11,373         | 8,035         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 104,644          |
| D50–D89             | Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism | 1,690          | 2,913          | 2,544          | 1,123          | 1,018         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 9,631            |
| E00–E90             | Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases                                                       | 7,095          | 6,343          | 6,233          | 4,555          | 2,072         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 27,454           |
| F00–F99             | Mental and behavioural disorders                                                                    | 11,673         | 9,117          | 9,978          | 4,230          | 1,672         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 38,254           |
| G00–G99             | Diseases of the nervous system                                                                      | 15,887         | 17,810         | 20,085         | 8,936          | 4,800         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 69,701           |
| H00–H59             | Diseases of the eye and adnexa                                                                      | 2,778          | 1,780          | 1,454          | 2,309          | 970           | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 9,680            |
| H60–H95             | Diseases of the ear and mastoid process                                                             | 2,090          | 1,385          | 1,577          | 741            | 591           | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 6,655            |
| I00–I99             | Diseases of the circulatory system                                                                  | 25,514         | 32,772         | 30,817         | 10,855         | 7,815         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 111,243          |
| J00–J99             | Diseases of the respiratory system                                                                  | 18,256         | 19,096         | 20,158         | 7,507          | 6,501         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 74,827           |
| K00–K93             | Diseases of the digestive system                                                                    | 24,950         | 28,081         | 27,823         | 10,977         | 8,473         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 105,496          |
| L00–L99             | Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue                                                        | 2,966          | 3,927          | 4,235          | 1,440          | 1,047         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 14,229           |
| M00–M99             | Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue                                        | 46,122         | 46,263         | 37,167         | 24,001         | 14,921        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 176,218          |
| N00–N99             | Diseases of the genitourinary system                                                                | 20,556         | 19,741         | 19,005         | 8,451          | 6,875         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 78,395           |
| O00–O99             | Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium                                                            | 26,958         | 22,925         | 21,038         | 12,126         | 5,187         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 93,122           |
| P00–P96             | Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period                                              | 2,878          | 3,136          | 2,514          | 2,047          | 723           | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 11,792           |
| Q00–Q99             | Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities                                | 1,413          | 1,080          | 986            | 467            | 297           | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 4,356            |
| R00–R99             | Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified             | 10,127         | 19,929         | 18,319         | 5,280          | 5,691         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 61,874           |
| S00–T98             | Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes                                 | 16,911         | 19,595         | 22,274         | 10,469         | 6,884         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 78,977           |
| Z00–Z99             | Factors influencing health status and contact with health services                                  | 14,498         | 8,608          | 5,860          | 3,125          | 2,311         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 35,978           |
|                     | Not reported                                                                                        | 1              | 154            | 0              | 0              | 0             | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 156              |
| <b>Total</b>        |                                                                                                     | <b>279,585</b> | <b>298,661</b> | <b>281,780</b> | <b>131,053</b> | <b>86,755</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>1,124,959</b> |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 8.22: Overnight acute separations by broad category of service<sup>(a)</sup>, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                          | NSW            | Vic            | Qld            | WA             | SA             | Tas           | ACT           | NT            | Total            |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| <b>Public hospitals</b>  |                |                |                |                |                |               |               |               |                  |
| Childbirth               | 70,494         | 54,836         | 41,692         | 22,039         | 14,883         | 3,650         | 4,340         | 3,015         | 214,949          |
| Specialist mental health | 31,722         | 21,427         | 18,321         | 9,922          | 6,427          | 2,062         | 1,427         | 945           | 92,253           |
| Emergency                |                |                |                |                |                |               |               |               |                  |
| Surgical                 | 77,411         | 56,602         | 42,861         | 27,701         | 19,207         | 5,198         | 5,789         | 4,301         | 239,070          |
| Medical                  | 478,044        | 285,044        | 264,050        | 140,559        | 115,114        | 22,771        | 19,460        | 22,061        | 1,347,103        |
| Other                    | 21,002         | 13,036         | 9,695          | 6,094          | 4,948          | 1,370         | 1,163         | 1,036         | 58,344           |
| Non-emergency            |                |                |                |                |                |               |               |               |                  |
| Surgical                 | 104,141        | 91,054         | 61,497         | 33,711         | 28,748         | 6,341         | 5,660         | 2,817         | 333,969          |
| Medical                  | 103,887        | 72,703         | 43,445         | 21,277         | 21,739         | 6,097         | 2,897         | 3,514         | 275,559          |
| Other                    | 6,694          | 6,393          | 4,865          | 1,569          | 2,079          | 388           | 204           | 293           | 22,485           |
| <i>Total</i>             | <i>893,395</i> | <i>601,095</i> | <i>486,426</i> | <i>262,872</i> | <i>213,145</i> | <i>47,877</i> | <i>40,940</i> | <i>37,982</i> | <i>2,583,732</i> |
| <b>Private hospitals</b> |                |                |                |                |                |               |               |               |                  |
| Childbirth               | 23,687         | 20,689         | 17,906         | 10,713         | 4,696          | n.p.          | n.p.          | n.p.          | 81,752           |
| Specialist mental health | 9,385          | 7,863          | 8,277          | 3,933          | 1,410          | n.p.          | n.p.          | n.p.          | 32,144           |
| Emergency                |                |                |                |                |                |               |               |               |                  |
| Surgical                 | 3,781          | 10,105         | 10,637         | 4,946          | 4,209          | n.p.          | n.p.          | n.p.          | 34,416           |
| Medical                  | 13,360         | 36,611         | 51,750         | 15,789         | 13,892         | n.p.          | n.p.          | n.p.          | 134,902          |
| Other                    | 912            | 3,928          | 4,182          | 1,475          | 1,298          | n.p.          | n.p.          | n.p.          | 12,026           |
| Non-emergency            |                |                |                |                |                |               |               |               |                  |
| Surgical                 | 160,682        | 138,884        | 119,317        | 70,404         | 44,348         | n.p.          | n.p.          | n.p.          | 558,776          |
| Medical                  | 58,033         | 67,545         | 58,792         | 21,133         | 14,181         | n.p.          | n.p.          | n.p.          | 230,370          |
| Other                    | 9,745          | 13,036         | 10,919         | 2,660          | 2,721          | n.p.          | n.p.          | n.p.          | 40,573           |
| <i>Total</i>             | <i>279,585</i> | <i>298,661</i> | <i>281,780</i> | <i>131,053</i> | <i>86,755</i>  | <i>n.p.</i>   | <i>n.p.</i>   | <i>n.p.</i>   | <i>1,124,959</i> |

(a) Separations have been categorised as *Childbirth*, *Specialist mental health*, *Medical*, *Surgical* or *Other* based mainly on the AR-DRG recorded for the separation. See Chapter 6 and Appendix B for more information.

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 8.23: Overnight acute separations by Major Diagnostic Category AR-DRG version 6.0x, public hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| Major Diagnostic Category |                                                                                           | NSW            | Vic            | Qld            | WA             | SA             | Tas           | ACT           | NT            | Total            |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| PR                        | Pre-MDC (tracheostomies, transplants, ECMO)                                               | 4,214          | 3,308          | 2,532          | 1,075          | 1,054          | 260           | 212           | 153           | 12,808           |
| 01                        | Diseases and disorders of the nervous system                                              | 58,082         | 40,401         | 30,785         | 16,531         | 13,885         | 3,499         | 2,539         | 1,785         | 167,507          |
| 02                        | Diseases and disorders of the eye                                                         | 6,080          | 4,059          | 2,744          | 2,105          | 1,354          | 132           | 308           | 315           | 17,097           |
| 03                        | Diseases and disorders of the ear, nose, mouth and throat                                 | 32,146         | 25,705         | 19,786         | 11,421         | 9,575          | 1,896         | 1,506         | 1,999         | 104,034          |
| 04                        | Diseases and disorders of the respiratory system                                          | 88,852         | 57,752         | 46,075         | 24,597         | 22,390         | 5,020         | 3,421         | 4,148         | 252,255          |
| 05                        | Diseases and disorders of the circulatory system                                          | 106,221        | 67,413         | 63,386         | 26,549         | 27,421         | 5,656         | 4,526         | 3,489         | 304,661          |
| 06                        | Diseases and disorders of the digestive system                                            | 101,538        | 68,457         | 53,654         | 28,615         | 23,777         | 5,495         | 4,677         | 3,203         | 289,416          |
| 07                        | Diseases and disorders of the hepatobiliary system and pancreas                           | 28,022         | 20,389         | 14,931         | 7,918          | 6,145          | 1,640         | 1,303         | 1,105         | 81,453           |
| 08                        | Diseases and disorders of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue                | 87,238         | 60,455         | 45,917         | 28,497         | 19,658         | 4,894         | 4,563         | 3,528         | 254,750          |
| 09                        | Diseases and disorders of the skin, subcutaneous tissue and breast                        | 36,013         | 23,039         | 22,280         | 12,480         | 8,624          | 1,689         | 1,522         | 3,172         | 108,819          |
| 10                        | Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases and disorders                               | 17,230         | 12,726         | 10,327         | 5,331          | 4,838          | 1,048         | 687           | 971           | 53,158           |
| 11                        | Diseases and disorders of the kidney and urinary tract                                    | 39,702         | 28,988         | 23,976         | 11,917         | 11,964         | 1,864         | 2,070         | 1,954         | 122,435          |
| 12                        | Diseases and disorders of the male reproductive system                                    | 6,312          | 4,785          | 3,750          | 2,132          | 1,808          | 370           | 407           | 248           | 19,812           |
| 13                        | Diseases and disorders of the female reproductive system                                  | 14,292         | 11,789         | 8,769          | 4,421          | 3,680          | 928           | 697           | 578           | 45,154           |
| 14                        | Pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium                                                      | 91,944         | 67,003         | 54,666         | 29,573         | 19,216         | 4,807         | 5,520         | 4,603         | 277,332          |
| 15                        | Newborns and other neonates                                                               | 36,508         | 14,947         | 12,391         | 6,947          | 4,969          | 1,700         | 1,472         | 960           | 79,894           |
| 16                        | Diseases and disorders of the blood and blood-forming organs, and immunological disorders | 11,333         | 8,143          | 5,788          | 3,069          | 3,159          | 514           | 422           | 402           | 32,830           |
| 17                        | Neoplastic disorders (haematological and solid neoplasms)                                 | 6,129          | 5,704          | 3,080          | 1,865          | 1,692          | 505           | 377           | 129           | 19,481           |
| 18                        | Infectious and parasitic diseases                                                         | 20,542         | 12,664         | 9,931          | 5,713          | 3,410          | 910           | 830           | 924           | 54,924           |
| 19                        | Mental diseases and disorders                                                             | 33,757         | 24,976         | 19,773         | 12,803         | 9,665          | 1,937         | 1,288         | 998           | 105,197          |
| 20                        | Alcohol/drug use and alcohol/drug induced organic mental disorders                        | 11,014         | 3,849          | 5,012          | 4,048          | 2,077          | 445           | 659           | 482           | 27,586           |
| 21                        | Injuries, poisoning and toxic effects of drugs                                            | 36,385         | 22,434         | 19,843         | 11,714         | 8,014          | 1,717         | 1,619         | 1,938         | 103,664          |
| 22                        | Burns                                                                                     | 1,333          | 1,047          | 1,041          | 881            | 687            | 134           | 49            | 301           | 5,473            |
| 23                        | Factors influencing health status and other contacts with health services                 | 15,163         | 9,807          | 5,284          | 2,251          | 3,714          | 760           | 215           | 532           | 37,726           |
| ED                        | Error DRGs <sup>(a)</sup>                                                                 | 3,345          | 1,255          | 705            | 419            | 369            | 57            | 51            | 65            | 6,266            |
| <b>Total</b>              |                                                                                           | <b>893,395</b> | <b>601,095</b> | <b>486,426</b> | <b>262,872</b> | <b>213,145</b> | <b>47,877</b> | <b>40,940</b> | <b>37,982</b> | <b>2,583,732</b> |

DRG—Diagnosis Related Group; ECMO—extracorporeal membrane oxygenation; MDC—Major Diagnostic Category.

(a) An *Error DRG* is assigned to hospital records that contain clinically atypical or invalid information.

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 8.24: Overnight acute separations by Major Diagnostic Category AR-DRG version 6.0x, private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| Major Diagnostic Category |                                                                                           | NSW            | Vic            | Qld            | WA             | SA            | Tas         | ACT         | NT          | Total            |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| PR                        | Pre-MDC (tracheostomies, transplants, ECMO)                                               | 783            | 721            | 963            | 226            | 300           | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 3,075            |
| 01                        | Diseases and disorders of the nervous system                                              | 7,833          | 9,521          | 9,718          | 3,206          | 2,184         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 33,482           |
| 02                        | Diseases and disorders of the eye                                                         | 2,926          | 1,930          | 1,608          | 2,445          | 1,023         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 10,335           |
| 03                        | Diseases and disorders of the ear, nose, mouth and throat                                 | 20,717         | 14,992         | 14,388         | 7,236          | 6,278         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 66,952           |
| 04                        | Diseases and disorders of the respiratory system                                          | 18,684         | 26,965         | 30,181         | 11,536         | 7,307         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 97,797           |
| 05                        | Diseases and disorders of the circulatory system                                          | 26,886         | 37,625         | 35,480         | 11,696         | 9,731         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 124,999          |
| 06                        | Diseases and disorders of the digestive system                                            | 24,698         | 31,945         | 31,915         | 11,744         | 9,123         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 115,048          |
| 07                        | Diseases and disorders of the hepatobiliary system and pancreas                           | 7,681          | 8,206          | 7,667          | 3,062          | 2,351         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 30,392           |
| 08                        | Diseases and disorders of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue                | 57,395         | 58,506         | 50,848         | 30,298         | 19,599        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 225,980          |
| 09                        | Diseases and disorders of the skin, subcutaneous tissue and breast                        | 13,642         | 15,599         | 13,346         | 6,337          | 4,240         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 55,509           |
| 10                        | Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases and disorders                               | 8,141          | 6,828          | 6,836          | 4,788          | 2,402         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 30,271           |
| 11                        | Diseases and disorders of the kidney and urinary tract                                    | 10,421         | 13,885         | 11,726         | 4,565          | 4,087         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 47,201           |
| 12                        | Diseases and disorders of the male reproductive system                                    | 7,411          | 6,300          | 5,414          | 2,457          | 1,600         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 24,312           |
| 13                        | Diseases and disorders of the female reproductive system                                  | 12,551         | 9,455          | 9,991          | 4,913          | 3,706         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 42,646           |
| 14                        | Pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium                                                      | 27,576         | 23,226         | 21,210         | 12,190         | 5,221         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 94,547           |
| 15                        | Newborns and other neonates                                                               | 7,608          | 3,574          | 2,825          | 2,349          | 793           | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 17,675           |
| 16                        | Diseases and disorders of the blood and blood-forming organs, and immunological disorders | 1,756          | 3,114          | 2,695          | 1,186          | 1,057         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 10,177           |
| 17                        | Neoplastic disorders (haematological and solid neoplasms)                                 | 1,386          | 3,648          | 3,359          | 1,659          | 797           | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 11,085           |
| 18                        | Infectious and parasitic diseases                                                         | 2,002          | 3,163          | 3,914          | 1,160          | 776           | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 11,481           |
| 19                        | Mental diseases and disorders                                                             | 8,933          | 7,313          | 7,611          | 3,500          | 1,406         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 30,108           |
| 20                        | Alcohol/drug use and alcohol/drug induced organic mental disorders                        | 2,507          | 1,808          | 2,082          | 714            | 263           | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 7,568            |
| 21                        | Injuries, poisoning and toxic effects of drugs                                            | 3,036          | 4,308          | 4,780          | 2,612          | 1,234         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 16,683           |
| 22                        | Burns                                                                                     | 24             | 53             | 51             | 27             | 12            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 176              |
| 23                        | Factors influencing health status and other contacts with health services                 | 4,567          | 5,129          | 2,466          | 945            | 1,123         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 15,091           |
| ED                        | Error DRGs <sup>(a)</sup>                                                                 | 421            | 847            | 706            | 202            | 142           | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 2,369            |
| <b>Total</b>              |                                                                                           | <b>279,585</b> | <b>298,661</b> | <b>281,780</b> | <b>131,053</b> | <b>86,755</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>1,124,959</b> |

DRG—Diagnosis Related Group; ECMO—extracorporeal membrane oxygenation; MDC—Major Diagnostic Category.

(a) An *Error DRG* is assigned to hospital records that contain clinically atypical or invalid information.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 8.25: Procedures<sup>(a)</sup> reported for overnight acute separations by ACHI chapter, public hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| Procedure                                                         | NSW            | Vic            | Qld            | WA             | SA             | Tas           | ACT           | NT            | Total            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1–86 Procedures on nervous system                                 | 16,906         | 13,712         | 8,239          | 5,273          | 3,900          | 1,232         | 934           | 508           | 50,704           |
| 110–129 Procedures on endocrine system                            | 2,790          | 2,057          | 1,366          | 803            | 531            | 130           | 94            | 50            | 7,821            |
| 160–256 Procedures on eye and adnexa                              | 4,355          | 3,143          | 1,787          | 1,608          | 1,022          | 70            | 235           | 161           | 12,381           |
| 300–333 Procedures on ear and mastoid process                     | 2,400          | 2,266          | 1,903          | 1,244          | 1,000          | 165           | 145           | 288           | 9,411            |
| 370–422 Procedures on nose, mouth and pharynx                     | 12,284         | 12,802         | 6,910          | 4,685          | 4,428          | 751           | 652           | 532           | 43,044           |
| 450–490 Dental services                                           | 1,251          | 1,306          | 1,298          | 879            | 498            | 99            | 183           | 284           | 5,798            |
| 520–570 Procedures on respiratory system                          | 31,477         | 25,164         | 16,772         | 9,459          | 6,994          | 2,185         | 1,870         | 1,409         | 95,330           |
| 600–777 Procedures on cardiovascular system                       | 34,948         | 26,464         | 20,424         | 9,873          | 9,041          | 2,149         | 2,312         | 983           | 106,194          |
| 800–817 Procedures on blood and blood-forming organs              | 7,567          | 5,957          | 4,378          | 2,370          | 1,845          | 536           | 465           | 218           | 23,336           |
| 850–1112 Procedures on digestive system                           | 72,716         | 56,613         | 40,135         | 22,164         | 17,728         | 4,598         | 4,034         | 2,290         | 220,278          |
| 1040–1129 Procedures on urinary system                            | 21,792         | 19,237         | 13,730         | 7,520          | 8,013          | 1,183         | 1,537         | 2,048         | 75,060           |
| 1160–1203 Procedures on male genital organs                       | 5,453          | 4,687          | 3,018          | 1,966          | 1,641          | 413           | 345           | 159           | 17,682           |
| 1240–1299 Gynaecological procedures                               | 15,104         | 12,269         | 9,482          | 4,965          | 3,934          | 1,062         | 811           | 590           | 48,217           |
| 1330–1347 Obstetric procedures                                    | 63,487         | 49,307         | 36,587         | 22,498         | 13,658         | 3,238         | 3,957         | 2,624         | 195,356          |
| 1360–1579 Procedures on musculoskeletal system                    | 61,954         | 44,628         | 33,642         | 21,552         | 13,964         | 4,056         | 3,887         | 3,082         | 186,765          |
| 1600–1718 Dermatological and plastic procedures                   | 32,633         | 28,947         | 21,278         | 13,637         | 9,047          | 1,657         | 2,183         | 3,614         | 112,996          |
| 1740–1759 Procedures on breast                                    | 3,704          | 3,006          | 2,521          | 1,551          | 1,295          | 229           | 178           | 161           | 12,645           |
| 1786–1799 Radiation oncology procedures                           | 2,895          | 1,942          | 1,343          | 587            | n.p.           | n.p.          | 245           | n.p.          | 7,794            |
| 1820–1922 Non-invasive, cognitive and other interventions, n.e.c. | 512,534        | 390,886        | 287,474        | 163,334        | 132,435        | 31,690        | 26,214        | 20,973        | 1,565,540        |
| 1940–2016 Imaging services                                        | 10,549         | 4,944          | 4,083          | 2,882          | 1,279          | 351           | 648           | 200           | 24,936           |
| No procedure or not reported                                      | 324,193        | 168,561        | 170,985        | 82,083         | 69,650         | 13,402        | 11,329        | 13,773        | 853,976          |
| <b>Total separations</b>                                          | <b>893,395</b> | <b>601,095</b> | <b>486,426</b> | <b>262,872</b> | <b>213,145</b> | <b>47,877</b> | <b>40,940</b> | <b>37,982</b> | <b>2,583,732</b> |

ACHI—Australian Classification of Health Interventions; n.e.c.—not elsewhere classified.

(a) These are counts of ACHI procedure codes. It is possible that a single procedure code may represent multiple procedures or that a specific procedure may require the reporting of more than one code. Therefore the number of procedure codes reported does not necessarily equal the number of separate procedures performed.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 8.26: Procedures<sup>(a)</sup> reported for overnight acute separations by ACHI chapter, private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| Procedure                |                                                         | NSW            | Vic            | Qld            | WA             | SA            | Tas         | ACT         | NT          | Total            |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| 1–86                     | Procedures on nervous system                            | 14,552         | 12,855         | 12,134         | 7,044          | 3,229         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 51,838           |
| 110–129                  | Procedures on endocrine system                          | 3,143          | 2,113          | 1,734          | 982            | 616           | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 8,832            |
| 160–256                  | Procedures on eye and adnexa                            | 2,739          | 1,762          | 1,455          | 2,312          | 981           | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 9,602            |
| 300–333                  | Procedures on ear and mastoid process                   | 3,174          | 1,708          | 1,948          | 1,485          | 846           | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 9,602            |
| 370–422                  | Procedures on nose, mouth and pharynx                   | 17,437         | 11,871         | 10,303         | 7,381          | 5,060         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 54,923           |
| 450–490                  | Dental services                                         | 1,006          | 932            | 544            | 376            | 429           | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 3,443            |
| 520–570                  | Procedures on respiratory system                        | 6,133          | 7,108          | 10,995         | 2,607          | 2,607         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 29,918           |
| 600–777                  | Procedures on cardiovascular system                     | 22,821         | 27,723         | 22,144         | 8,888          | 5,691         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 89,459           |
| 800–817                  | Procedures on blood and blood-forming organs            | 4,878          | 4,218          | 4,452          | 1,695          | 1,655         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 17,639           |
| 850–1112                 | Procedures on digestive system                          | 37,728         | 39,226         | 39,202         | 17,412         | 12,215        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 153,034          |
| 1040–1129                | Procedures on urinary system                            | 13,938         | 14,122         | 12,123         | 5,269          | 4,720         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 52,812           |
| 1160–1203                | Procedures on male genital organs                       | 8,746          | 7,351          | 5,881          | 2,813          | 1,803         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 28,119           |
| 1240–1299                | Gynaecological procedures                               | 12,956         | 9,710          | 10,503         | 4,886          | 3,759         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 43,941           |
| 1330–1347                | Obstetric procedures                                    | 23,316         | 20,148         | 17,446         | 10,762         | 4,630         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 80,160           |
| 1360–1579                | Procedures on musculoskeletal system                    | 50,536         | 51,487         | 43,935         | 27,188         | 17,431        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 198,840          |
| 1600–1718                | Dermatological and plastic procedures                   | 14,513         | 14,988         | 12,037         | 7,149          | 4,111         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 55,024           |
| 1740–1759                | Procedures on breast                                    | 5,988          | 5,315          | 4,494          | 3,593          | 1,968         | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 22,359           |
| 1786–1799                | Radiation oncology procedures                           | 673            | 997            | 408            | 131            | 210           | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 2,453            |
| 1820–1922                | Non-invasive, cognitive and other interventions, n.e.c. | 236,425        | 245,805        | 226,005        | 109,729        | 73,212        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 928,915          |
| 1940–2016                | Imaging services                                        | 5,946          | 5,423          | 5,150          | 1,362          | 971           | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 19,106           |
|                          | No procedure or not reported                            | 26,050         | 37,303         | 43,878         | 13,993         | 10,962        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 138,875          |
| <b>Total separations</b> |                                                         | <b>279,585</b> | <b>298,661</b> | <b>281,780</b> | <b>131,053</b> | <b>86,755</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>1,124,959</b> |

ACHI—Australian Classification of Health Interventions; n.e.c.—not elsewhere classified.

(a) These are counts of ACHI procedure codes. It is possible that a single procedure code may represent multiple procedures or that a specific procedure may require the reporting of more than one code. Therefore the number of procedure codes reported does not necessarily equal the number of separate procedures performed.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## 9 Surgery in Australian hospitals

This chapter presents information on surgery in Australian hospitals.

It includes an overview of surgery in public and private hospitals, based on information for almost 2.5 million acute separations involving surgery in 2012–13, sourced from the NHMD. It then presents more detailed information on surgery for separations with an *Emergency* or *Elective* urgency of admission that includes:

- demographic information on the patients' age, sex, Indigenous status, remoteness area and SES of area of usual residence
- administrative information, including the modes of admission and separation and funding source for the episode
- clinical information, including the principal diagnoses and procedures performed.

This chapter also includes waiting times information for about 651,000 patients admitted from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists in 2012–13, for which additional demographic information has been sourced from the NHMD.

Timely provision of the NESWTDC data by state and territory health authorities allowed overall waiting times information to be reported in *Australian hospital statistics 2012–13: elective surgery waiting times* (AIHW 2013d) in October 2013.

Information on public hospital elective surgery waiting times for the calendar year 2013 is also reported in this chapter as this is already available.

### What data are reported?

#### Admissions involving surgery

Information on admitted patient care for both *Emergency* and *Elective* admissions involving surgery is derived from the NHMD (see Appendix A). Terms relevant to admitted patient care data are summarised in Box 6.1.

As the NHMD includes information on admitted patient care for essentially all public and private hospitals, it can provide an overview of 'elective' surgery that is beyond the scope of the NESWTDC, which is restricted to waiting lists managed by public hospitals.

#### Elective surgery waiting times

The scope of the NESWTDC is patients on waiting lists for elective surgery that are managed by public hospitals. This may include *Public patients* treated in private hospitals and patients other than *Public patients* treated in public hospitals.

For the NESWTDC, the data reported are for patients removed from elective surgery waiting lists in public hospitals between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013. It is estimated that the NESWTDC data covers about 96% of all elective surgery in public hospitals. Waiting times data are not available for private hospitals. See Appendix A for more information.

For 2012–13, data from the NESWTDC were linked to the patient's admitted patient record by the state or territory health authorities. These linked records were provided to the AIHW as part of the NHMD.

The elective surgery data in the NHMD allowed analysis of public hospital waiting times for elective surgery by remoteness area and socioeconomic status of the patient's usual residence. Estimates of the separation rates for indicator procedures and for cancer-related principal diagnoses are included.

### Box 9.1: Definitions

#### How are admissions involving surgery defined in this chapter?

Separations were included for which the care type was reported as *Acute*, *Newborn* (with at least one qualified day) and records where the care type was not reported.

**Admissions involving surgery** are defined as acute care separations with a 'surgical procedure' reported, based on the procedures used to define 'surgical' DRGs in AR-DRG version 6.0x (DoHA 2010). Separations for *Specialist mental health care* and *Childbirth* were excluded (see Chapter 6).

Admissions involving surgery are presented in this chapter as **emergency** and **elective admissions involving surgery**. *Emergency admissions* includes separations for which the Urgency of admission was reported as *Emergency* (about 300,000 records nationally). *Elective admissions* includes separations for which the Urgency of admission was reported as *Elective* (about 2 million records nationally). A relatively small number of separations involving surgery had an Urgency of admission that was *Not assigned* or *Not reported* (about 26,000 records nationally). These records are in Table 9.1 but are not included in subsequent tables in this chapter.

The **elective admissions involving surgery** using admitted patient care data from the NHMD is not necessarily the same as **elective surgery** as defined for the NESWTDC.

#### Waiting times data for elective surgery

For the NESWTDC, elective surgery comprises elective care (admission could be delayed by at least 24 hours), where the procedures required by patients are listed in the surgical operations section of the Medicare Benefits Schedule, with the exclusion of specific procedures frequently done by non-surgical clinicians (AIHW 2013i).

### Box 9.2: What are the limitations of the data?

#### Admitted patient care data

- Limitations of the data on admitted patient care are outlined in Chapter 6 and Appendix A.
- The quality of Indigenous status data in the NHMD is variable and these data should be used with caution. For more information, see Appendix A.
- In the Northern Territory, urgency of admission for private hospital separations was missing for all records. For the purposes of this chapter, all separations involving surgery have been categorised as elective admissions involving surgery. Therefore, these counts may not agree with counts presented for non-emergency surgery in other chapters in this report.

(continued)



### **Box 9.2 (continued): What are the limitations of the data?**

#### **Linked NHMD and NESWTDC data**

- For 2012–13, the linked data accounted for about 96% of public hospital elective admissions involving surgery. There was some variation in the linked data coverage between states and territories. For some states, the number of linked records exceeded the number of elective admissions involving surgery because the linked data include emergency admissions for elective surgery or because some patients may receive more than one awaited surgery during one admission.
- Coverage of the linked data by remoteness area ranged from 86% in *Inner regional* areas to 100% in *Major cities*. Coverage by SES group ranged from 89% for the second most disadvantaged group to 100% for the least disadvantaged group (5– Highest). These variations in coverage should be considered when interpreting the waiting times and the age-standardised rates in this chapter.
- Methods to calculate waiting times have varied across states and territories and over time (see *Australian hospital statistics 2012–13: elective surgery waiting times*, AIHW 2013d).
- In 2012–13, for patients who were admitted after being transferred from another hospital's waiting list, New South Wales, South Australia and the Northern Territory reported the total time waited on all hospital waiting lists. This could have an effect of increasing the waiting times reported for overall removals for those jurisdictions relative to others.
- From 2009–10, the Victorian Department of Health has reported data for the Albury Base Hospital as part of the Albury Wodonga Health Service. Data for Albury Base Hospital are therefore now included in statistics for Victoria whereas New South Wales formerly reported these data and included in statistics.

## **How has surgery activity changed over time?**

Between 2011–12 and 2012–13, separations involving surgery increased by 1.4% to almost 2.5 million.

Between 2008–09 and 2012–13, the number of separations involving surgery rose by an average of 2.8% per year (Table 9.1). Over the same period, the number of emergency admissions involving surgery increased by an average of 3.9% per year and the number of elective admissions involving surgery rose by an average of 3.0% per year. The average annual rise in elective admissions involving surgery was higher in private hospitals (3.9%) than in public hospitals (1.3%).

### **States and territories**

Between 2008–09 and 2012–13, the number of emergency admissions involving surgery increased for public hospitals in most states and territories (Table 9.2). Emergency admissions involving surgery in private hospitals also rose in most states and territories.

Over this period, public hospitals accounted for the majority (87% to 88%) of emergency admissions involving surgery.

Victoria had the highest increase in emergency admissions involving surgery (5.9%) in private hospitals between 2011–12 and 2012–13.

**Table 9.1: Separations involving surgery by urgency of admission, public and private hospitals, 2008–09 to 2012–13**

|                                     |           |           |           |           |           | Change (%)            |               |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                                     | 2008–09   | 2009–10   | 2010–11   | 2011–12   | 2012–13   | Average since 2008–09 | Since 2011–12 |
| Public hospitals                    |           |           |           |           |           |                       |               |
| Emergency admissions                | 226,469   | 229,707   | 243,771   | 256,804   | 260,803   | 3.6                   | 1.6           |
| Elective admissions                 | 644,175   | 656,741   | 669,884   | 676,148   | 679,084   | 1.3                   | 0.4           |
| Sub-total                           | 870,644   | 886,448   | 913,655   | 932,952   | 939,887   | 1.9                   | 0.7           |
| Childbirth-related surgery          | 62,537    | 64,347    | 65,993    | 69,039    | 70,844    | 3.2                   | 2.6           |
| Urgency not assigned                | 15,597    | 15,849    | 15,760    | 17,461    | 17,429    | 2.8                   | –0.2          |
| Urgency not reported <sup>(a)</sup> | 2         | 3,327     | 284       | 218       | 238       | n.p.                  | n.p.          |
| All surgery                         | 948,780   | 969,971   | 995,692   | 1,019,670 | 1,028,398 | 2.0                   | 0.9           |
| Private hospitals                   |           |           |           |           |           |                       |               |
| Emergency admissions                | 30,575    | 33,069    | 36,556    | 38,634    | 39,173    | 6.4                   | 1.4           |
| Elective admissions                 | 1,172,326 | 1,245,704 | 1,279,501 | 1,339,422 | 1,363,566 | 3.9                   | 1.8           |
| Sub-total                           | 1,202,901 | 1,278,773 | 1,316,057 | 1,378,056 | 1,402,739 | 3.9                   | 1.8           |
| Childbirth-related surgery          | 35,474    | 37,097    | 35,698    | 36,812    | 37,500    | 1.4                   | 1.9           |
| Urgency not assigned <sup>(a)</sup> | 34,278    | 18,745    | 9,206     | 8,075     | 8,381     | n.p.                  | n.p.          |
| Urgency not reported <sup>(a)</sup> | 0         | 330       | 2,110     | 1,253     | 78        | n.p.                  | n.p.          |
| All surgery                         | 1,272,653 | 1,334,945 | 1,363,071 | 1,424,196 | 1,448,698 | 3.3                   | 1.7           |
| All hospitals                       |           |           |           |           |           |                       |               |
| Emergency admissions                | 257,044   | 262,776   | 280,327   | 295,438   | 299,976   | 3.9                   | 1.5           |
| Elective admissions                 | 1,816,501 | 1,902,445 | 1,949,385 | 2,015,570 | 2,042,650 | 3.0                   | 1.3           |
| Sub-total                           | 2,073,545 | 2,165,221 | 2,229,712 | 2,311,008 | 2,342,626 | 3.1                   | 1.4           |
| Childbirth-related surgery          | 98,011    | 101,444   | 101,691   | 105,851   | 108,344   | 2.5                   | 2.4           |
| Urgency not assigned <sup>(a)</sup> | 49,875    | 34,594    | 24,966    | 25,536    | 25,810    | n.p.                  | n.p.          |
| Urgency not reported <sup>(a)</sup> | 2         | 3,657     | 2,394     | 1,471     | 316       | n.p.                  | n.p.          |
| All surgery                         | 2,221,433 | 2,304,916 | 2,358,763 | 2,443,866 | 2,477,096 | 2.8                   | 1.4           |

(a) The average change per year is not shown due to low numbers or known data quality issues.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1 and 9.2 for notes on definitions and data limitations.

Between 2008–09 and 2012–13, the number of elective admissions involving surgery for public hospitals increased in all states and territories (Table 9.3), with the highest increase in Tasmania (4.3%). Western Australia had the highest average annual rise in elective admissions involving surgery (5.5%) in private hospitals.

Over this period, private hospitals accounted for the majority (65% to 67%) of elective admissions involving surgery.

Between 2011–12 and 2012–13, there were increases in the numbers of elective admissions involving surgery for public hospitals in New South Wales, Western Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.

**Table 9.2: Emergency admissions involving surgery, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2008–09 to 2012–13**

|                                     | 2008–09        | 2009–10        | 2010–11        | 2011–12        | 2012–13        | Change (%)            |               |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                                     |                |                |                |                |                | Average since 2008–09 | Since 2011–12 |
| <b>New South Wales</b>              |                |                |                |                |                |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                    | 77,185         | 77,905         | 79,858         | 84,980         | 86,019         | 2.7                   | 1.2           |
| Private hospitals                   | 4,278          | 4,204          | 4,046          | 4,296          | 4,175          | –0.6                  | –2.8          |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                | <i>81,463</i>  | <i>82,109</i>  | <i>83,904</i>  | <i>89,276</i>  | <i>90,194</i>  | <i>2.6</i>            | <i>1.0</i>    |
| <b>Victoria</b>                     |                |                |                |                |                |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                    | 54,716         | 57,817         | 59,997         | 62,528         | 61,784         | 3.1                   | –1.2          |
| Private hospitals                   | 6,964          | 7,874          | 8,964          | 9,988          | 10,574         | 11.0                  | 5.9           |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                | <i>61,680</i>  | <i>65,691</i>  | <i>68,961</i>  | <i>72,516</i>  | <i>72,358</i>  | <i>4.1</i>            | <i>–0.2</i>   |
| <b>Queensland</b>                   |                |                |                |                |                |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                    | 35,794         | 36,979         | 39,814         | 42,632         | 45,608         | 6.2                   | 7.0           |
| Private hospitals                   | 9,649          | 10,533         | 11,241         | 11,047         | 11,162         | 3.7                   | 1.0           |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                | <i>45,443</i>  | <i>47,512</i>  | <i>51,055</i>  | <i>53,679</i>  | <i>56,770</i>  | <i>5.7</i>            | <i>5.8</i>    |
| <b>Western Australia</b>            |                |                |                |                |                |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                    | 25,101         | 26,076         | 28,025         | 29,296         | 29,945         | 4.5                   | 2.2           |
| Private hospitals                   | 3,717          | 4,842          | 5,501          | 5,433          | 5,441          | 10.0                  | 0.1           |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                | <i>28,818</i>  | <i>30,918</i>  | <i>33,526</i>  | <i>34,729</i>  | <i>35,386</i>  | <i>5.3</i>            | <i>1.9</i>    |
| <b>South Australia</b>              |                |                |                |                |                |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                    | 18,945         | 18,720         | 19,531         | 20,238         | 20,675         | 2.2                   | 2.2           |
| Private hospitals                   | 5,201          | 5,013          | 6,233          | 7,331          | 7,207          | 8.5                   | –1.7          |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                | <i>24,146</i>  | <i>23,733</i>  | <i>25,764</i>  | <i>27,569</i>  | <i>27,882</i>  | <i>3.7</i>            | <i>1.1</i>    |
| <b>Tasmania<sup>(a)</sup></b>       |                |                |                |                |                |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                    | 5,711          | 2,500          | 5,770          | 5,902          | 5,819          | 0.5                   | –1.4          |
| Private hospitals                   | n.p.           | n.p.           | n.p.           | n.p.           | n.p.           | n.p.                  | n.p.          |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                | <i>n.p.</i>    | <i>n.p.</i>    | <i>n.p.</i>    | <i>n.p.</i>    | <i>n.p.</i>    | <i>n.p.</i>           | <i>n.p.</i>   |
| <b>Australian Capital Territory</b> |                |                |                |                |                |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                    | 5,238          | 5,788          | 6,377          | 6,600          | 6,522          | 5.6                   | –1.2          |
| Private hospitals                   | n.p.           | n.p.           | n.p.           | n.p.           | n.p.           | n.p.                  | n.p.          |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                | <i>n.p.</i>    | <i>n.p.</i>    | <i>n.p.</i>    | <i>n.p.</i>    | <i>n.p.</i>    | <i>n.p.</i>           | <i>n.p.</i>   |
| <b>Northern Territory</b>           |                |                |                |                |                |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                    | 3,779          | 3,922          | 4,399          | 4,628          | 4,431          | 4.1                   | –4.3          |
| Private hospitals <sup>(b)</sup>    | n.p.           | n.p.           | n.p.           | n.p.           | n.p.           | n.p.                  | n.p.          |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                | <i>n.p.</i>    | <i>n.p.</i>    | <i>n.p.</i>    | <i>n.p.</i>    | <i>n.p.</i>    | <i>n.p.</i>           | <i>n.p.</i>   |
| <b>Total</b>                        |                |                |                |                |                |                       |               |
| <b>Public hospitals</b>             | <b>226,469</b> | <b>229,707</b> | <b>243,771</b> | <b>256,804</b> | <b>260,803</b> | <b>3.6</b>            | <b>1.6</b>    |
| <b>Private hospitals</b>            | <b>30,575</b>  | <b>33,069</b>  | <b>36,556</b>  | <b>38,634</b>  | <b>39,173</b>  | <b>6.4</b>            | <b>1.4</b>    |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                | <b>257,044</b> | <b>262,776</b> | <b>280,327</b> | <b>295,438</b> | <b>299,976</b> | <b>3.9</b>            | <b>1.5</b>    |

(a) For Tasmania in 2009–10, urgency of admission was not reported for a large number of records.

(b) For private hospitals in the Northern Territory, urgency of admission was missing for all records. All Northern Territory private hospital separations involving surgery have been categorised as elective admissions. Therefore, the counts of emergency admissions involving surgery are likely to be under-estimated.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1 and 9.2 for notes on definitions and data limitations.

**Table 9.3: Elective admissions involving surgery, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2008–09 to 2012–13**

|                                     | 2008–09          | 2009–10          | 2010–11          | 2011–12          | 2012–13          | Change (%)            |               |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                                     |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  | Average since 2008–09 | Since 2011–12 |
| <b>New South Wales</b>              |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                    | 183,554          | 184,325          | 189,681          | 193,730          | 196,926          | 1.8                   | 1.6           |
| Private hospitals                   | 363,722          | 382,465          | 391,822          | 409,531          | 410,613          | 3.1                   | 0.3           |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                | <i>547,276</i>   | <i>566,790</i>   | <i>581,503</i>   | <i>603,261</i>   | <i>607,539</i>   | <i>2.6</i>            | <i>0.7</i>    |
| <b>Victoria</b>                     |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                    | 196,717          | 201,661          | 202,715          | 199,876          | 198,973          | 0.3                   | –0.5          |
| Private hospitals                   | 284,616          | 306,155          | 313,182          | 331,335          | 337,107          | 4.3                   | 1.7           |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                | <i>481,333</i>   | <i>507,816</i>   | <i>515,897</i>   | <i>531,211</i>   | <i>536,080</i>   | <i>2.7</i>            | <i>0.9</i>    |
| <b>Queensland</b>                   |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                    | 108,311          | 112,458          | 114,288          | 115,709          | 114,334          | 1.4                   | –1.2          |
| Private hospitals                   | 253,890          | 270,111          | 275,223          | 288,108          | 295,551          | 3.9                   | 2.6           |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                | <i>362,201</i>   | <i>382,569</i>   | <i>389,511</i>   | <i>403,817</i>   | <i>409,885</i>   | <i>3.1</i>            | <i>1.5</i>    |
| <b>Western Australia</b>            |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                    | 65,128           | 65,452           | 69,188           | 70,892           | 73,498           | 3.1                   | 3.7           |
| Private hospitals                   | 127,671          | 132,185          | 145,057          | 153,090          | 157,876          | 5.5                   | 3.1           |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                | <i>192,799</i>   | <i>197,637</i>   | <i>214,245</i>   | <i>223,982</i>   | <i>231,374</i>   | <i>4.7</i>            | <i>3.3</i>    |
| <b>South Australia</b>              |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                    | 63,054           | 63,060           | 64,087           | 65,644           | 64,458           | 0.6                   | –1.8          |
| Private hospitals                   | 98,106           | 101,183          | 100,106          | 101,816          | 105,699          | 1.9                   | 3.8           |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                | <i>161,160</i>   | <i>164,243</i>   | <i>164,193</i>   | <i>167,460</i>   | <i>170,157</i>   | <i>1.4</i>            | <i>1.6</i>    |
| <b>Tasmania<sup>(a)</sup></b>       |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                    | 11,662           | 14,349           | 13,832           | 13,945           | 13,818           | 4.3                   | –0.9          |
| Private hospitals                   | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.                  | n.p.          |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>           | <i>n.p.</i>   |
| <b>Australian Capital Territory</b> |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                    | 10,018           | 9,522            | 10,149           | 10,317           | 10,421           | 1.0                   | 1.0           |
| Private hospitals                   | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.                  | n.p.          |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>           | <i>n.p.</i>   |
| <b>Northern Territory</b>           |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                       |               |
| Public hospitals                    | 5,731            | 5,914            | 5,944            | 6,035            | 6,656            | 3.8                   | 10.3          |
| Private hospitals <sup>(b)</sup>    | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.             | n.p.                  | n.p.          |
| <i>All hospitals</i>                | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>      | <i>n.p.</i>           | <i>n.p.</i>   |
| <b>Total</b>                        |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                       |               |
| <b>Public hospitals</b>             | <b>644,175</b>   | <b>656,741</b>   | <b>669,884</b>   | <b>676,148</b>   | <b>679,084</b>   | <b>1.3</b>            | <b>0.4</b>    |
| <b>Private hospitals</b>            | <b>1,172,326</b> | <b>1,245,704</b> | <b>1,279,501</b> | <b>1,339,422</b> | <b>1,363,566</b> | <b>3.9</b>            | <b>1.8</b>    |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                | <b>1,816,501</b> | <b>1,902,445</b> | <b>1,949,385</b> | <b>2,015,570</b> | <b>2,042,650</b> | <b>3.0</b>            | <b>1.3</b>    |

(a) For Tasmania in 2009–10, urgency of admission was not reported for a large number of records.

(b) For private hospitals in the Northern Territory, urgency of admission was missing for all records. All Northern Territory private hospital separations involving surgery have been categorised as elective admissions. Therefore, the counts of elective admissions involving surgery are likely to be over-estimated.

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1 and 9.2 for notes on definitions and data limitations.

## How much activity was there in 2012–13?

In 2012–13, there were almost 300,000 emergency admissions involving surgery and more than 2 million elective admissions involving surgery (Table 9.4).

Nationally, there were 99 separations involving surgery per 1,000 population, with emergency admissions accounting for 13 per 1,000 population. There was some variation among states and territories in the proportion of separations involving surgery that were emergency admissions, ranging from 12% in Victoria to 40% in the Northern Territory (public hospitals only).

**Table 9.4: Separations involving surgery per 1,000 population, by urgency of admission, states and territories, all hospitals, 2012–13**

|                              | NSW            | Vic            | Qld            | WA             | SA             | Tas <sup>(a)</sup> | ACT <sup>(a)</sup> | NT <sup>(a)</sup> | Total <sup>(b)</sup> |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Emergency admissions</b>  |                |                |                |                |                |                    |                    |                   |                      |
| Separations                  | 90,194         | 72,358         | 56,770         | 35,386         | 27,882         | 5,819              | 6,522              | 4,431             | 299,976              |
| Separations per 1,000        | 11.8           | 12.3           | 12.3           | 14.5           | 15.3           | 10.9               | 17.7               | 19.8              | 12.8                 |
| <b>Elective admissions</b>   |                |                |                |                |                |                    |                    |                   |                      |
| Separations                  | 607,539        | 536,080        | 409,885        | 231,374        | 170,157        | 13,818             | 10,421             | 6,656             | 2,042,650            |
| Separations per 1,000        | 78.1           | 90.8           | 87.5           | 94.5           | 93.5           | 24.9               | 29.3               | 33.2              | 85.9                 |
| <b>Total</b>                 |                |                |                |                |                |                    |                    |                   |                      |
| <b>Separations</b>           | <b>697,733</b> | <b>608,438</b> | <b>466,655</b> | <b>266,760</b> | <b>198,039</b> | <b>19,637</b>      | <b>16,943</b>      | <b>11,087</b>     | <b>2,342,626</b>     |
| <b>Separations per 1,000</b> | <b>89.9</b>    | <b>103.0</b>   | <b>99.8</b>    | <b>108.9</b>   | <b>108.8</b>   | <b>35.8</b>        | <b>47.0</b>        | <b>53.0</b>       | <b>98.6</b>          |

(a) For Tasmania, Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory, data are for public hospitals only.

(b) The total includes private hospital data for Tasmania, Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1 and 9.2 for notes on definitions and data limitations.

## How urgent was the care?

In 2012–13, public hospitals provided 40 separations involving surgery per 1,000 population and private hospitals provided about 59 per 1,000 (Table 9.5).

There was some variation in the rates of separations involving surgery by urgency of admission. Public hospitals provided about 11 emergency admissions involving surgery per 1,000 population and private hospitals provided fewer than 2 per 1,000. For elective admissions involving surgery, public hospitals provided about 29 per 1,000 population and private hospitals provided about 57 per 1,000.

There were also variations in the rates of separations involving surgery by Indigenous status, remoteness area and SES of area of residence (see 'Who used these services?').

**Table 9.5: Separations involving surgery per 1,000 population by urgency of admission, Indigenous status, remoteness area and socioeconomic status of area of residence, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

|                         | Public hospitals     |                     | Private hospitals    |                     | Total                |                     |           |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------|
|                         | Emergency admissions | Elective admissions | Emergency admissions | Elective admissions | Emergency admissions | Elective admissions | Number    |
| Indigenous status       |                      |                     |                      |                     |                      |                     |           |
| Indigenous              | 26.4                 | 48.3                | 0.3                  | 10.6                | 26.7                 | 58.9                | 36,549    |
| Other Australians       | 11.1                 | 28.9                | 1.7                  | 59.1                | 12.8                 | 88.0                | 2,306,077 |
| Remoteness of residence |                      |                     |                      |                     |                      |                     |           |
| Major cities            | 10.4                 | 25.4                | 1.8                  | 59.4                | 12.2                 | 84.8                | 1,593,732 |
| Inner regional          | 11.9                 | 35.2                | 1.3                  | 55.4                | 13.2                 | 90.5                | 477,195   |
| Outer regional          | 12.9                 | 39.1                | 0.9                  | 46.7                | 13.8                 | 85.8                | 219,071   |
| Remote                  | 15.9                 | 40.6                | 0.9                  | 37.0                | 16.8                 | 77.7                | 29,655    |
| Very remote             | 20.2                 | 34.1                | 0.7                  | 24.8                | 20.9                 | 58.8                | 14,466    |
| Socioeconomic status    |                      |                     |                      |                     |                      |                     |           |
| 1—Lowest                | 13.2                 | 37.6                | 0.8                  | 41.3                | 14.0                 | 78.9                | 451,469   |
| 2                       | 11.9                 | 34.7                | 1.1                  | 47.9                | 13.0                 | 82.6                | 466,210   |
| 3                       | 11.5                 | 30.0                | 1.5                  | 58.1                | 13.0                 | 88.2                | 482,099   |
| 4                       | 10.0                 | 23.8                | 2.2                  | 65.1                | 12.2                 | 88.9                | 464,934   |
| 5—Highest               | 8.3                  | 16.2                | 2.4                  | 71.7                | 10.8                 | 87.8                | 456,257   |
| Total                   | 11.2                 | 28.8                | 1.6                  | 57.0                | 12.8                 | 85.9                | 2,342,626 |

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1 and 9.2 for notes on definitions and data limitations.

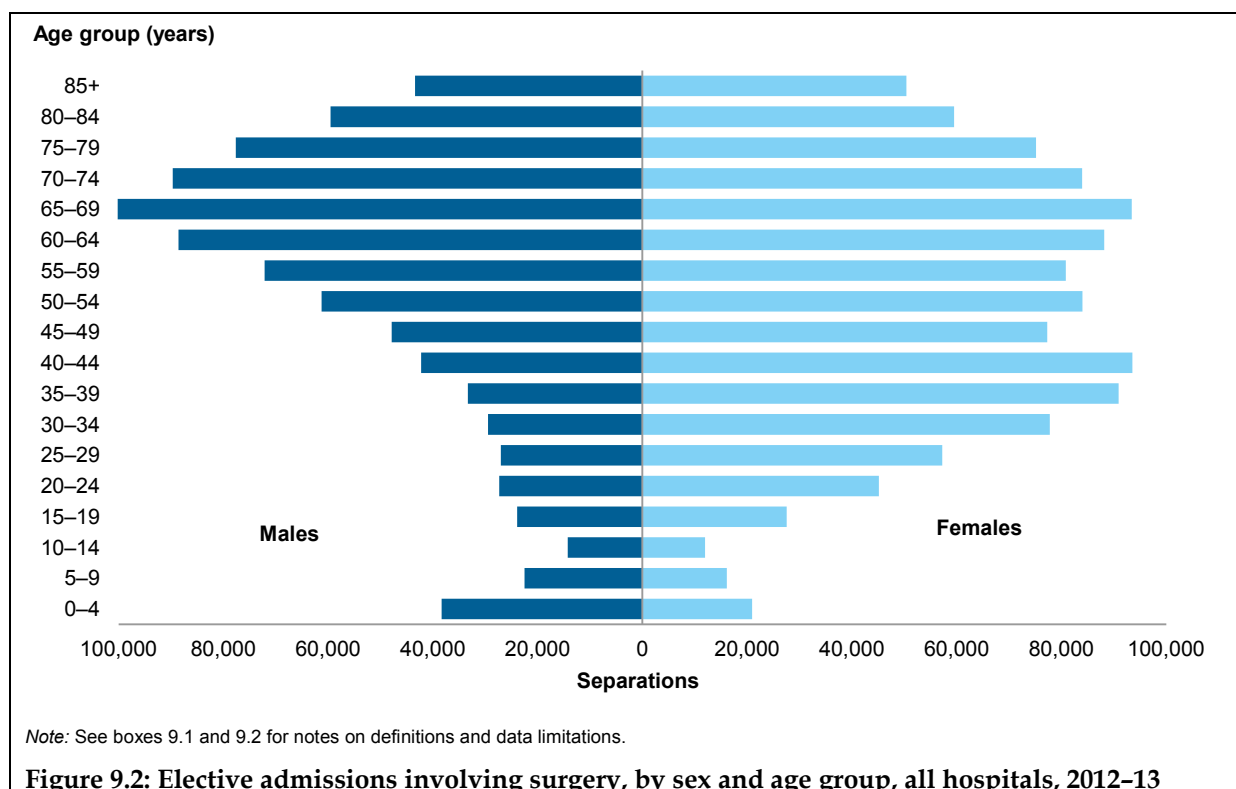
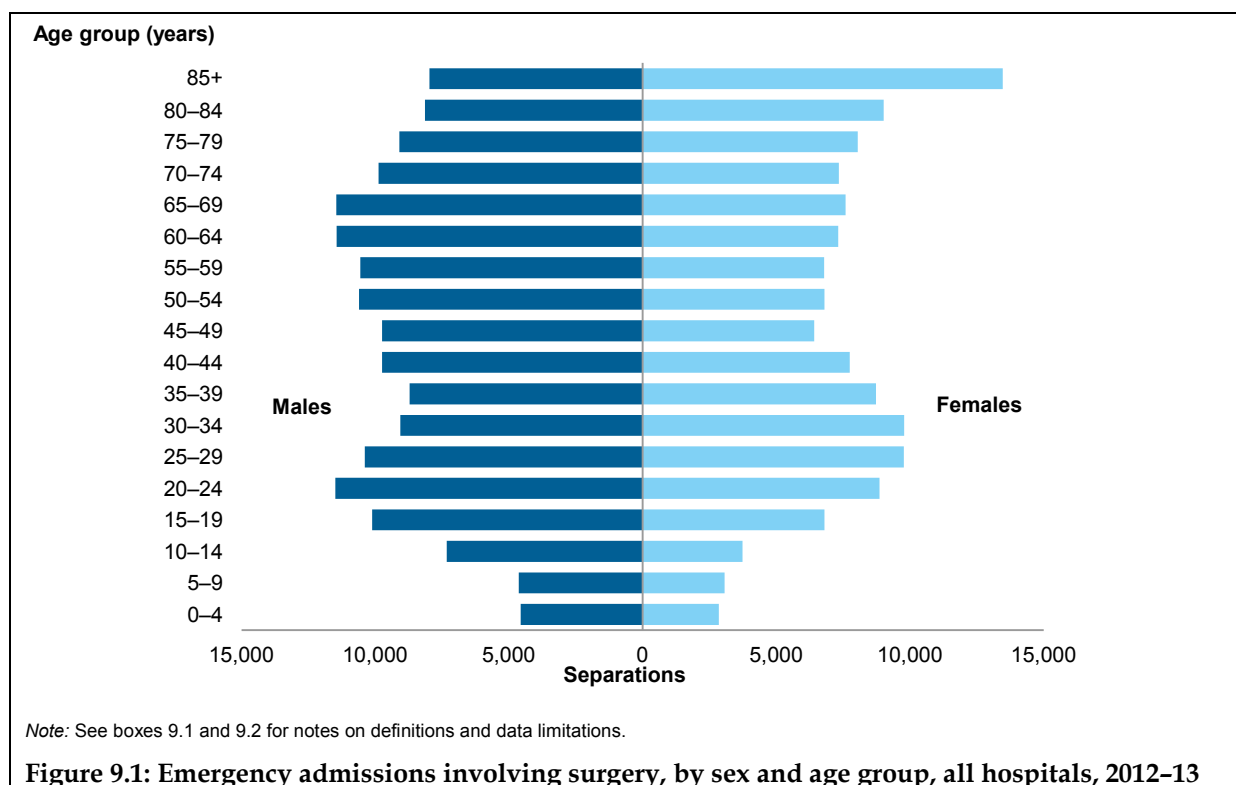
## Who used these services?

### Sex and age group

Males accounted for more than half (55%) of emergency admissions involving surgery (Figure 9.1). There were more emergency admissions involving surgery for males than females in almost all age groups except 30 to 39 and those aged 80 and over. Persons aged 15 to 29 accounted for about 19% of all emergency admissions involving surgery.

For children aged 10 to 14, there were almost twice as many emergency admissions for boys as for girls.

Females accounted for more than half (56%) of elective admissions involving surgery (Figure 9.2). There were more elective admissions involving surgery for females than males in the age groups from 15 to 59 and 85 and over. In particular, for the age groups from 30 to 39, there were more than two and half times as many elective admissions involving surgery for females as for males.



## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Separations for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are likely to be under-counted. The quality of the data provided for Indigenous status in 2012–13 for admitted patient care varied by jurisdiction. See Chapter 6 and Appendix A for more information on the quality of Indigenous data in the NHMD.

There were more than 36,500 separations involving surgery for Indigenous Australians in 2012–13, a rate of 86 per 1,000 population for Indigenous Australians compared to 101 per 1,000 for other Australians (Table 9.5).

About one-third of separations involving surgery for Indigenous Australians were emergency admissions (35%), and the rate of emergency admissions involving surgery for Indigenous Australians was about 27 per 1,000 population, more than twice the rate for other Australians (13 per 1,000).

The separation rate for elective admissions involving surgery for other Australians (88 per 1,000) was about 1.5 times of the rate for Indigenous Australians (58 per 1,000).

### Indicator procedures

Indicator procedures are those of high volume and are often associated with long waits.

The SRRs presented in Figure 9.3 compare the separation rates for indicator procedures for Indigenous Australians with the rates for other Australians for public hospitals in 2012–13. An SRR greater than 1.0 indicates that the separation rate for the indicator procedure for Indigenous Australians was higher than for other Australians admitted for the same indicator procedure.

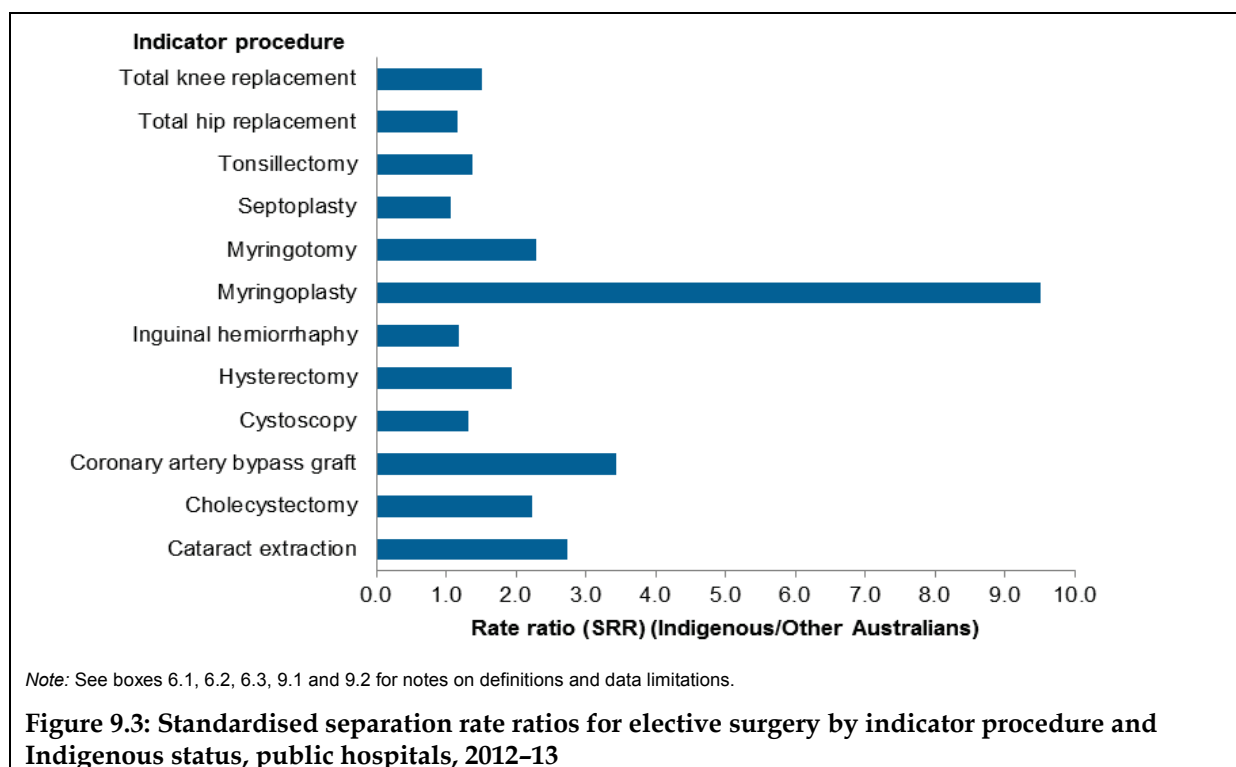
The SRR is not shown for indicator procedures for which there were fewer than 100 separations for Indigenous Australians.

For 8 of the 12 indicator procedures, the data suggest that the separation rates for Indigenous Australians were markedly different from the rates for other Australians. The rates were not notably different for *Cystoscopy*, *Septoplasty*, *Inguinal herniorrhaphy*, and *Total hip replacement*.

The highest SRRs were reported for *Myringoplasty* (9.5) and *Coronary artery bypass graft* (3.4). Indigenous Australians had an SRR less than 1.0 for *Varicose veins stripping and ligation*.

For more information, see Table S9.1 accompanying this report online at [www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/](http://www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/).





## Remoteness area

In 2012–13, the overall rate of separations involving surgery was highest for those living in *Inner regional* areas (104 per 1,000 population, Table 9.5). The rate of elective admissions involving surgery was lowest for those living in *Very remote* areas (59 per 1,000) and highest for those living in *Inner regional* areas (91 per 1,000). The separation rate for emergency admissions involving surgery was highest for those living in *Very remote* areas (21 per 1,000) and decreased with decreasing remoteness.

For elective admissions involving surgery in public hospitals, the separation rate was lowest for those living in *Major cities* (25 per 1,000) and highest for those living in *Remote* areas (41 per 1,000). In contrast, for private hospitals the rate was highest for those living in *Major cities* (59 per 1,000) and fell with increasing remoteness to 25 per 1,000 for *Very remote* areas. This may reflect variations in the availability of private hospital services in the more remote areas of Australia.

## Indicator procedures

Table 9.6 presents separation rates by indicator procedure and remoteness area for the 651,000 patients admitted from elective surgery waiting lists. For people living in *Very remote* areas, the rate for *Myringoplasty* for was 13 times the national rate and the rate for *Cataract extraction* was twice the national rate.

## Socioeconomic status

There was little variation in the rate of emergency admissions involving surgery by SES of area of residence (Table 9.5). For elective admissions involving surgery, separation rates ranged from 79 per 1,000 population for those living in areas classified as being in the lowest

SES group to 89 per 1,000 for those living in areas classified as being in the middle SES group.

In 2012–13, the separation rate for elective admissions involving surgery in public hospitals was highest for people living in areas classified as being in the lowest SES group (38 per 1,000) and tended to drop with increasing SES to 16 per 1,000 for people living in areas classified in the highest SES group. In contrast, the rate in private hospitals was highest for people living in areas classified as being in the highest SES group (72 per 1,000) and lowest for people living in areas classified in the lowest SES group (41 per 1,000).

**Table 9.6: Separations per 1,000 population<sup>(a)</sup> for admissions from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists, by indicator procedure and remoteness area of usual residence, public hospitals, 2012–13**

| Indicator procedure                   | Remoteness area |                |                |               |              | Total <sup>(b)</sup> |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|----------------------|
|                                       | Major Cities    | Inner Regional | Outer Regional | Remote        | Very Remote  |                      |
| Cataract extraction                   | 2.4             | 2.3            | 3.4            | 4.2           | 4.7          | 2.5                  |
| Cholecystectomy                       | 0.7             | 0.9            | 1.0            | 1.0           | 0.9          | 0.8                  |
| Coronary artery bypass graft          | 0.1             | 0.2            | 0.2            | n.p.          | n.p.         | 0.2                  |
| Cystoscopy                            | 1.9             | 1.6            | 1.6            | 2.0           | 1.7          | 1.8                  |
| Haemorrhoidectomy                     | 0.2             | 0.1            | 0.3            | n.p.          | n.p.         | 0.2                  |
| Hysterectomy                          | 0.4             | 0.5            | 0.6            | n.p.          | n.p.         | 0.4                  |
| Inguinal herniorrhaphy                | 0.6             | 0.7            | 0.7            | 1.0           | 0.7          | 0.7                  |
| Myringoplasty                         | 0.1             | 0.1            | 0.1            | 0.4           | 1.3          | 0.1                  |
| Myringotomy                           | 0.3             | 0.3            | 0.3            | 0.5           | 0.5          | 0.3                  |
| Prostatectomy                         | 0.3             | 0.3            | 0.3            | n.p.          | n.p.         | 0.3                  |
| Septoplasty                           | 0.2             | 0.2            | 0.2            | n.p.          | n.p.         | 0.2                  |
| Tonsillectomy                         | 0.8             | 1.0            | 0.8            | 0.9           | 0.6          | 0.8                  |
| Total hip replacement                 | 0.3             | 0.4            | 0.5            | n.p.          | n.p.         | 0.4                  |
| Total knee replacement                | 0.5             | 0.6            | 0.8            | n.p.          | n.p.         | 0.6                  |
| Varicose veins stripping and ligation | 0.2             | 0.2            | 0.2            | n.p.          | n.p.         | 0.2                  |
| Not applicable/not stated             | 17.8            | 19.7           | 23.3           | 26.5          | 21.3         | 18.8                 |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>26.8</b>     | <b>29.1</b>    | <b>34.2</b>    | <b>39.4</b>   | <b>34.2</b>  | <b>28.1</b>          |
| <b>Number of separations</b>          | <b>419,956</b>  | <b>137,143</b> | <b>74,162</b>  | <b>12,456</b> | <b>5,614</b> | <b>651,372</b>       |

(a) Separations per 1000 population are not published where there are fewer than 100 separations in a remoteness area for the indicator procedure.

(b) The total includes records for which *Remoteness area* was not recorded or not known.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1 and 9.2 for notes on definitions and data limitations.

## Indicator procedures

Table 9.7 presents separation rates by indicator procedure and socioeconomic status for the 651,000 patients admitted from elective surgery waiting lists. Across all indicator procedures, people living in areas classified as being in the highest SES group had the lowest separation rates for public elective surgery (Table 9.7).

The greatest variation in separation rates by SES were for *Myringoplasty*, with people living in areas classified as being in the lowest SES group having twice the overall rate. The rates for *Septoplasty* were more evenly distributed among SES groups, with people living in areas classified as being in the lowest SES group having separation rates about 30% higher than the

overall rate, and those in the highest SES group having separation rates about 60% lower than the overall rate.

**Table 9.7: Separations per 1,000 population for admissions from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists, by indicator procedure and socioeconomic status<sup>(a)</sup> of area of residence, public hospitals, 2012–13**

| Indicator procedure                   | Socioeconomic status of area of residence |                |                |                |               | Total <sup>(b)</sup> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------------|
|                                       | 1–Lowest                                  | 2              | 3              | 4              | 5–Highest     |                      |
| Cataract extraction                   | 3.3                                       | 2.7            | 2.7            | 2.1            | 1.4           | 2.5                  |
| Cholecystectomy                       | 1.2                                       | 0.9            | 0.8            | 0.6            | 0.4           | 0.8                  |
| Coronary artery bypass graft          | 0.2                                       | 0.2            | 0.2            | 0.1            | 0.1           | 0.1                  |
| Cystoscopy                            | 2.3                                       | 1.9            | 2.0            | 1.7            | 1.1           | 1.8                  |
| Haemorrhoidectomy                     | 0.3                                       | 0.2            | 0.2            | 0.1            | 0.1           | 0.2                  |
| Hysterectomy                          | 0.6                                       | 0.5            | 0.5            | 0.3            | 0.2           | 0.4                  |
| Inguinal herniorrhaphy                | 0.8                                       | 0.7            | 0.7            | 0.6            | 0.4           | 0.7                  |
| Myringoplasty                         | 0.2                                       | 0.1            | 0.1            | 0.1            | 0.0           | 0.1                  |
| Myringotomy                           | 0.3                                       | 0.3            | 0.3            | 0.3            | 0.1           | 0.3                  |
| Prostatectomy                         | 0.4                                       | 0.3            | 0.3            | 0.3            | 0.2           | 0.3                  |
| Septoplasty                           | 0.3                                       | 0.2            | 0.2            | 0.2            | 0.1           | 0.2                  |
| Tonsillectomy                         | 1.1                                       | 1.0            | 0.9            | 0.7            | 0.4           | 0.8                  |
| Total hip replacement                 | 0.5                                       | 0.4            | 0.4            | 0.3            | 0.2           | 0.4                  |
| Total knee replacement                | 0.8                                       | 0.7            | 0.6            | 0.4            | 0.3           | 0.6                  |
| Varicose veins stripping and ligation | 0.2                                       | 0.2            | 0.2            | 0.2            | 0.1           | 0.2                  |
| Not applicable/not stated             | 25.0                                      | 20.9           | 20.2           | 16.0           | 11.3          | 18.9                 |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>37.3</b>                               | <b>31.3</b>    | <b>30.3</b>    | <b>23.9</b>    | <b>16.5</b>   | <b>28.2</b>          |
| <b>Number of separations</b>          | <b>176,431</b>                            | <b>150,201</b> | <b>135,590</b> | <b>108,095</b> | <b>74,994</b> | <b>651,372</b>       |

(a) Disaggregation by socioeconomic group is based on the usual residence of the patient, not the location of the hospital. The socioeconomic status of area of residence is based on the ABS Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD). These socioeconomic groups represent approximately 20% of the national population.

(b) The total includes records for which records for which *Socioeconomic status of area of usual residence* was not recorded or not known.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1 and 9.2 for notes on definitions and data limitations.

## How did people access these services?

Most separations involving surgery had a mode of admission of *Other* (97%), the term used to refer to all planned and unplanned admissions except transfers from other hospitals and statistical admissions (Table 9.8). However, for emergency admissions involving surgery, about 11% were transferred from another hospital.

**Table 9.8: Separations involving surgery by urgency of admission and mode of admission, all hospitals, 2012–13**

| Mode of admission                                  | Emergency admissions | Elective admissions | Total            |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Admitted patient transferred from another hospital | 34,180               | 21,908              | 56,088           |
| Other                                              | 265,543              | 2,010,418           | 2,275,961        |
| Not reported                                       | 253                  | 10,324              | 10,577           |
| <b>Total</b>                                       | <b>299,976</b>       | <b>2,042,650</b>    | <b>2,342,626</b> |

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1 and 9.2 for notes on definitions and data limitations.

## Why did people receive the care?

The reason that a patient receives surgical care can be described in terms of the principal diagnosis.

In 2012–13, more than 14% of separations involving surgery had a principal diagnosis in the ICD-10-AM chapter *Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue* and almost 14% had a principal diagnosis in both the *Neoplasms* and *Diseases of the eye and adnexa* chapters (Table 9.9).

The relative distributions of separations involving surgery by diagnosis chapter varied by urgency of admission. For example, more than 98% of separations involving surgery for *Diseases of the eye and adnexa* and *Diseases of the ear and mastoid process* and *Factors influencing health status and contact with health services* were elective admissions. More than half of separations involving surgery for *Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes* were emergency admissions.

**Table 9.9: Separations involving surgery, by principal diagnosis in ICD-10-AM chapters and urgency of admission, all hospitals, 2012–13**

| Principal diagnosis |                                                                                                     | Emergency admissions | Elective admissions | Total            |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| A00–B99             | Certain infectious and parasitic diseases                                                           | 2,376                | 3,405               | 5,781            |
| C00–D48             | Neoplasms                                                                                           | 12,852               | 307,772             | 320,624          |
| D50–D89             | Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism | 581                  | 1,441               | 2,022            |
| E00–E89             | Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases                                                       | 3,683                | 31,910              | 35,593           |
| F00–F99             | Mental and behavioural disorders                                                                    | 104                  | 31                  | 135              |
| G00–G99             | Diseases of the nervous system                                                                      | 1,625                | 50,918              | 52,543           |
| H00–H59             | Diseases of the eye and adnexa                                                                      | 4,472                | 318,483             | 322,955          |
| H60–H95             | Diseases of the ear and mastoid process                                                             | 444                  | 41,174              | 41,618           |
| I00–I99             | Diseases of the circulatory system                                                                  | 34,808               | 101,802             | 136,610          |
| J00–J99             | Diseases of the respiratory system                                                                  | 5,504                | 83,809              | 89,313           |
| K00–K93             | Diseases of the digestive system                                                                    | 66,918               | 169,770             | 236,688          |
| L00–L99             | Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue                                                        | 6,925                | 41,274              | 48,199           |
| M00–M99             | Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue                                        | 9,970                | 322,033             | 332,003          |
| N00–N99             | Diseases of the genitourinary system                                                                | 13,777               | 215,256             | 229,033          |
| O00–O99             | Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium                                                            | 12,739               | 63,296              | 76,035           |
| P00–P96             | Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period                                              | 202                  | 241                 | 443              |
| Q00–Q99             | Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities                                | 1,289                | 20,169              | 21,458           |
| R00–R99             | Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified             | 5,002                | 21,964              | 26,966           |
| S00–T98             | Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes                                 | 115,781              | 102,226             | 218,007          |
| Z00–Z99             | Factors influencing health status and contact with health services                                  | 924                  | 145,676             | 146,600          |
| <b>Total</b>        |                                                                                                     | <b>299,976</b>       | <b>2,042,650</b>    | <b>2,342,626</b> |

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1 and 9.2 for notes on definitions and data limitations.

## Most common principal diagnoses

The 20 most common principal diagnoses for emergency admissions involving surgery accounted for half of the principal diagnoses reported (Table 9.10). The most common principal diagnosis for emergency admissions was *Acute appendicitis*, with 89% of those separations in public hospitals. *Angina pectoris* was the principal diagnosis with the highest proportion of emergency admissions in private hospitals (32%).

For elective admissions involving surgery, the 20 most common principal diagnoses accounted for about 46% of the principal diagnoses reported (Table 9.11). The most common principal diagnosis for elective admissions was *Other cataract*, with 68% of those separations coming from private hospitals. About 94% of elective admissions involving surgery with a principal diagnosis of *Other retinal disorders* and about 92% with a principal diagnosis of *Procreative management* were from private hospitals.

**Table 9.10: Separations for the 20 most common principal diagnoses in 3-character ICD-10-AM groupings for emergency admissions involving surgery, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Principal diagnosis |                                                           | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total          |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| K35                 | Acute appendicitis                                        | 24,308           | 3,103             | 27,411         |
| S72                 | Fracture of femur                                         | 16,899           | 2,437             | 19,336         |
| I21                 | Acute myocardial infarction                               | 12,137           | 1,947             | 14,084         |
| S82                 | Fracture of lower leg, including ankle                    | 11,322           | 1,182             | 12,504         |
| S52                 | Fracture of forearm                                       | 9,201            | 1,011             | 10,212         |
| K80                 | Cholelithiasis                                            | 8,054            | 1,646             | 9,700          |
| S62                 | Fracture at wrist and hand level                          | 6,864            | 546               | 7,410          |
| S61                 | Open wound of wrist and hand                              | 6,308            | 574               | 6,882          |
| T81                 | Complications of procedures, not elsewhere classified     | 4,710            | 840               | 5,550          |
| K61                 | Abscess of anal and rectal regions                        | 4,871            | 444               | 5,315          |
| S42                 | Fracture of shoulder and upper arm                        | 4,714            | 548               | 5,262          |
| O03                 | Spontaneous abortion                                      | 4,263            | 242               | 4,505          |
| S66                 | Injury of muscle and tendon at wrist and hand level       | 4,061            | 286               | 4,347          |
| K56                 | Paralytic ileus and intestinal obstruction without hernia | 3,652            | 607               | 4,259          |
| O02                 | Other abnormal products of conception                     | 3,196            | 135               | 3,331          |
| S01                 | Open wound of head                                        | 2,976            | 235               | 3,211          |
| O00                 | Ectopic pregnancy                                         | 2,983            | 149               | 3,132          |
| I20                 | Angina pectoris                                           | 2,109            | 983               | 3,092          |
| S81                 | Open wound of lower leg                                   | 2,606            | 329               | 2,935          |
| E11                 | Type 2 diabetes mellitus                                  | 2,689            | 205               | 2,894          |
|                     | Other                                                     | 122,880          | 21,724            | 144,604        |
| <b>Total</b>        |                                                           | <b>260,803</b>   | <b>39,173</b>     | <b>299,976</b> |

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1 and 9.2 for notes on definitions and data limitations.

**Table 9.11: Separations for the 20 most common principal diagnoses in 3-character ICD-10-AM groupings for elective admissions involving surgery, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Principal diagnosis |                                                | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total            |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| H26                 | Other cataract                                 | 58,213           | 122,869           | 181,082          |
| C44                 | Other malignant neoplasms of skin              | 27,799           | 67,359            | 95,158           |
| Z31                 | Procreative management                         | 5,032            | 62,260            | 67,292           |
| M23                 | Internal derangement of knee                   | 12,738           | 48,877            | 61,615           |
| M17                 | Gonarthrosis [arthrosis of knee]               | 17,672           | 41,469            | 59,141           |
| H35                 | Other retinal disorders                        | 3,055            | 48,751            | 51,806           |
| O04                 | Medical abortion                               | 7,766            | 36,964            | 44,730           |
| K40                 | Inguinal hernia                                | 17,502           | 25,026            | 42,528           |
| J35                 | Chronic diseases of tonsils and adenoids       | 15,331           | 24,581            | 39,912           |
| K80                 | Cholelithiasis                                 | 16,976           | 15,408            | 32,384           |
| G56                 | Mononeuropathies of upper limb                 | 11,994           | 20,234            | 32,228           |
| H25                 | Senile cataract                                | 7,582            | 23,296            | 30,878           |
| M75                 | Shoulder lesions                               | 4,913            | 24,996            | 29,909           |
| N92                 | Excessive, frequent and irregular menstruation | 13,998           | 14,657            | 28,655           |
| M16                 | Coxarthrosis [arthrosis of hip]                | 7,964            | 17,584            | 25,548           |
| J34                 | Other disorders of nose and nasal sinuses      | 6,804            | 17,514            | 24,318           |
| Z47                 | Other orthopaedic follow-up care               | 8,506            | 14,703            | 23,209           |
| I84                 | Haemorrhoids                                   | 10,828           | 10,725            | 21,553           |
| C50                 | Malignant neoplasm of breast                   | 8,685            | 10,801            | 19,486           |
| H65                 | Nonsuppurative otitis media                    | 6,486            | 12,891            | 19,377           |
|                     | Other                                          | 409,240          | 702,601           | 1,111,841        |
| <b>Total</b>        |                                                | <b>679,084</b>   | <b>1,363,566</b>  | <b>2,042,650</b> |

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1 and 9.2 for notes on definitions and data limitations.

## What care was provided?

This section presents information on separations involving surgery describing care using:

- MDCs and AR-DRGs – based on the AR-DRG classification of acute care separations
- type of surgical procedure undertaken.

## Major Diagnostic Categories

Table 9.12 presents separations involving surgery by MDC and urgency of admission. About 27% of emergency admissions and 20% of elective admissions involving surgery were for *Diseases and disorders of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue*, with 84% of these being elective admissions. Almost 60% of separations involving surgery for *Injuries, poisoning and toxic effects of drugs* were emergency admissions.

**Table 9.12: Separations involving surgery, by Major Diagnostic Category<sup>(a)</sup>, AR-DRG version 6.0x and urgency of admission, all hospitals, 2012–13**

| Major Diagnostic Category |                                                                                           | Emergency admissions | Elective admissions | Total            |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| PR                        | Pre-MDC (tracheostomies, transplants, ECMO)                                               | 8,682                | 6,789               | 15,471           |
| 01                        | Diseases and disorders of the nervous system                                              | 10,207               | 51,463              | 61,670           |
| 02                        | Diseases and disorders of the eye                                                         | 5,787                | 326,374             | 332,161          |
| 03                        | Diseases and disorders of the ear, nose, mouth and throat                                 | 7,333                | 158,727             | 166,060          |
| 04                        | Diseases and disorders of the respiratory system                                          | 3,166                | 19,706              | 22,872           |
| 05                        | Diseases and disorders of the circulatory system                                          | 32,192               | 89,976              | 122,168          |
| 06                        | Diseases and disorders of the digestive system                                            | 58,380               | 161,693             | 220,073          |
| 07                        | Diseases and disorders of the hepatobiliary system and pancreas                           | 13,987               | 43,768              | 57,755           |
| 08                        | Diseases and disorders of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue                | 79,924               | 411,179             | 491,103          |
| 09                        | Diseases and disorders of the skin, subcutaneous tissue and breast                        | 9,214                | 249,444             | 258,658          |
| 10                        | Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases and disorders                               | 2,809                | 33,250              | 36,059           |
| 11                        | Diseases and disorders of the kidney and urinary tract                                    | 6,742                | 65,841              | 72,583           |
| 12                        | Diseases and disorders of the male reproductive system                                    | 3,456                | 55,727              | 59,183           |
| 13                        | Diseases and disorders of the female reproductive system                                  | 6,743                | 254,180             | 260,923          |
| 14                        | Pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium                                                      | 12,727               | 63,302              | 76,029           |
| 15                        | Newborns and other neonates                                                               | 634                  | 454                 | 1,088            |
| 16                        | Diseases and disorders of the blood and blood-forming organs, and immunological disorders | 905                  | 3,362               | 4,267            |
| 17                        | Neoplastic disorders (haematological and solid neoplasms)                                 | 1,560                | 8,664               | 10,224           |
| 18                        | Infectious and parasitic diseases                                                         | 4,073                | 2,573               | 6,646            |
| 21                        | Injuries, poisoning and toxic effects of drugs                                            | 26,076               | 17,721              | 43,797           |
| 22                        | Burns                                                                                     | 2,030                | 1,547               | 3,577            |
| 23                        | Factors influencing health status and other contacts with health services                 | 201                  | 11,782              | 11,983           |
| ED                        | Error DRGs <sup>(b)</sup>                                                                 | 3,148                | 5,128               | 8,276            |
| <b>Total</b>              |                                                                                           | <b>299,976</b>       | <b>2,042,650</b>    | <b>2,342,626</b> |

DRG—Diagnosis Related Group; ECMO—extracorporeal membrane oxygenation; MDC—Major Diagnostic Category.

(a) The Major Diagnostic Categories *Mental diseases and disorders* and *Alcohol/drug use and alcohol/drug induced organic mental disorders* are not listed as there were no separations involving surgery for these MDCs.

(b) An *Error* DRG is assigned to hospital records that contain clinically atypical or invalid information.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1 and 9.2 for notes on definitions and data limitations.

## Most common AR-DRGs

For emergency admissions involving surgery, the 20 most common AR-DRGs accounted for half of the AR-DRGs reported (Table 9.13). In 2012–13, about 7% of emergency admissions involving surgery had an AR-DRG of *Appendicectomy without malignancy or peritonitis without catastrophic or severe complications or comorbidities*. For *Implantation or replacement of pacemaker, total system without catastrophic complications or comorbidities*, about 31% of emergency admissions involving surgery were in private hospitals.

**Table 9.13: Separations involving surgery for the 20 most common AR-DRGs version 6.0x for emergency admissions, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Diagnosis Related Group |                                                                                                                                 | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total          |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| G07B                    | Appendicectomy without malignancy or peritonitis without CSCC                                                                   | 18,835           | 2,541             | 21,376         |
| I30Z                    | Hand procedures                                                                                                                 | 11,377           | 1,042             | 12,419         |
| I13B                    | Humerus, tibia, fibula and ankle procedures without CC                                                                          | 10,715           | 1,177             | 11,892         |
| F10B                    | Interventional coronary procedures with AMI without catastrophic CC                                                             | 7,713            | 1,375             | 9,088          |
| O05Z                    | Abortion with OR procedure                                                                                                      | 8,192            | 418               | 8,610          |
| I19B                    | Other elbow or forearm procedures without CC                                                                                    | 7,532            | 884               | 8,416          |
| I08B                    | Other hip and femur procedures without catastrophic CC                                                                          | 7,202            | 1,109             | 8,311          |
| G07A                    | Appendicectomy with malignancy or peritonitis or with CSCC                                                                      | 6,888            | 700               | 7,588          |
| X06B                    | Other procedures for other injuries without CSCC                                                                                | 6,768            | 636               | 7,404          |
| H08B                    | Laparoscopic cholecystectomy without closed CDE without CSCC                                                                    | 5,879            | 1,448             | 7,327          |
| G11Z                    | Anal and stomal procedures                                                                                                      | 5,878            | 835               | 6,713          |
| X05B                    | Other procedures for injuries to hand without CC                                                                                | 5,330            | 482               | 5,812          |
| A06B                    | Tracheostomy with ventilation >95 hours without catastrophic CC or tracheostomy with ventilation >95 hours with catastrophic CC | 5,365            | 253               | 5,618          |
| I08A                    | Other hip and femur procedures with catastrophic CC                                                                             | 4,999            | 471               | 5,470          |
| G02A                    | Major small and large bowel procedures with catastrophic CC                                                                     | 4,008            | 550               | 4,558          |
| H08A                    | Laparoscopic cholecystectomy with closed CDE or with CSCC                                                                       | 3,235            | 538               | 3,773          |
| F12B                    | Implantation or replacement of pacemaker, total system without catastrophic CC                                                  | 2,470            | 1,131             | 3,601          |
| I27B                    | Soft tissue procedures without CC                                                                                               | 3,124            | 320               | 3,444          |
| I03B                    | Hip replacement without catastrophic CC                                                                                         | 2,684            | 735               | 3,419          |
| X06A                    | Other procedures for other injuries with CSCC                                                                                   | 2,899            | 280               | 3,179          |
|                         | Other                                                                                                                           | 129,710          | 22,248            | 151,958        |
| <b>Total</b>            |                                                                                                                                 | <b>260,803</b>   | <b>39,173</b>     | <b>299,976</b> |

AMI—acute myocardial infarction; CC—complications or comorbidities; CDE—Common bile duct exploration; CSCC—catastrophic or severe complications or comorbidities; OR—operating room.

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1 and 9.2 for notes on definitions and data limitations.

For elective admissions involving surgery, the 20 most common AR-DRGs accounted for over half (56%) of the AR-DRGs reported (Table 9.14). The most common AR-DRG for elective admissions was for *Lens procedures*, of which 69% were carried out in private hospitals and which accounted for about 10% of elective admissions involving surgery.



**Table 9.14: Separations involving surgery for the 20 most common AR-DRGs version 6.0x for elective admissions, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Diagnosis Related Group |                                                              | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total            |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| C16Z                    | Lens procedures                                              | 64,951           | 147,556           | 212,507          |
| J11Z                    | Other skin, subcutaneous tissue and breast procedures        | 37,015           | 61,500            | 98,515           |
| I18Z                    | Other knee procedures                                        | 16,736           | 66,793            | 83,529           |
| N07Z                    | Other uterine and adnexa procedures for non-malignancy       | 18,985           | 60,676            | 79,661           |
| C03Z                    | Retinal procedures                                           | 7,681            | 54,803            | 62,484           |
| G10B                    | Hernia procedures without CC                                 | 25,647           | 35,814            | 61,461           |
| O05Z                    | Abortion with OR procedure                                   | 14,992           | 46,371            | 61,363           |
| G11Z                    | Anal and stomal procedures                                   | 20,248           | 34,351            | 54,599           |
| D11Z                    | Tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy                           | 18,462           | 28,916            | 47,378           |
| J08B                    | Other skin graft and/or debridement procedures without CC    | 9,436            | 35,757            | 45,193           |
| I30Z                    | Hand procedures                                              | 15,723           | 29,393            | 45,116           |
| I16Z                    | Other shoulder procedures                                    | 6,918            | 35,094            | 42,012           |
| N10Z                    | Diagnostic Curettage or diagnostic Hysteroscopy              | 18,061           | 20,883            | 38,944           |
| J10Z                    | Skin, subcutaneous tissue and breast plastic OR procedures   | 9,267            | 26,739            | 36,006           |
| N11Z                    | Other female reproductive system OR procedures               | 10,129           | 23,270            | 33,399           |
| I04B                    | Knee replacement without CSCC                                | 2,795            | 30,586            | 33,381           |
| H08B                    | Laparoscopic cholecystectomy without closed CDE without CSCC | 15,974           | 16,088            | 32,062           |
| N09Z                    | Conisation, vagina, cervix and vulva procedures              | 15,606           | 13,906            | 29,512           |
| B05Z                    | Carpal tunnel release                                        | 11,004           | 17,385            | 28,389           |
| I03B                    | Hip replacement without catastrophic CC                      | 7,787            | 17,449            | 25,236           |
|                         | Other                                                        | 331,667          | 560,236           | 891,903          |
| <b>Total</b>            |                                                              | <b>679,084</b>   | <b>1,363,566</b>  | <b>2,042,650</b> |

CC—complications or comorbidities; CDE—common bile duct exploration; CSCC—catastrophic or severe complications or comorbidities; OR—operating room.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1 and 9.2 for notes on definitions and data limitations.

## Procedures

In this chapter, counts of procedures are presented for surgical procedures only. See Box 6.1 and Appendix B for information on the classification of procedures.

Almost 23% of all surgical procedures reported for separations involving surgery were for *Procedures on musculoskeletal system*, with 81% of these being elective admissions (Table 9.15).

In 2012–13, more than 2.8 million surgical procedures were reported for separations involving surgery, with 2.4 million reported for elective admissions. Emergency admissions accounted for about 13% of the procedures reported for separations involving surgery.

**Table 9.15: Procedures<sup>(a)(b)</sup> reported for separations involving surgery by ACHI chapter and urgency of admission, all hospitals, 2012–13**

| Procedure                        |                                                         | Emergency admissions | Elective admissions | Total            |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1–86                             | Procedures on nervous system                            | 15,328               | 91,352              | 106,680          |
| 110–129                          | Procedures on endocrine system                          | 278                  | 15,853              | 16,131           |
| 160–256                          | Procedures on eye and adnexa                            | 7,561                | 345,203             | 352,764          |
| 300–333                          | Procedures on ear and mastoid process                   | 482                  | 35,293              | 35,775           |
| 370–422                          | Procedures on nose, mouth and pharynx                   | 4,292                | 143,547             | 147,839          |
| 450–490                          | Dental services                                         | 73                   | 2,313               | 2,386            |
| 520–570                          | Procedures on respiratory system                        | 13,543               | 16,765              | 30,308           |
| 600–777                          | Procedures on cardiovascular system                     | 48,930               | 132,604             | 181,534          |
| 800–817                          | Procedures on blood and blood-forming organs            | 2,338                | 32,438              | 34,776           |
| 850–1011                         | Procedures on digestive system                          | 84,283               | 262,533             | 346,816          |
| 1040–1129                        | Procedures on urinary system                            | 8,083                | 87,680              | 95,763           |
| 1160–1203                        | Procedures on male genital organs                       | 4,814                | 61,395              | 66,209           |
| 1240–1299                        | Gynaecological procedures                               | 19,112               | 351,185             | 370,297          |
| 1330–1347                        | Obstetric procedures                                    | 678                  | 782                 | 1,460            |
| 1360–1579                        | Procedures on musculoskeletal system                    | 120,019              | 522,785             | 642,804          |
| 1600–1718                        | Dermatological and plastic procedures                   | 36,573               | 287,640             | 324,213          |
| 1740–1759                        | Procedures on breast                                    | 376                  | 54,479              | 54,855           |
| 1786–1799                        | Radiation oncology procedures                           | 28                   | 2,019               | 2,047            |
| 1820–1922                        | Non-invasive, cognitive and other interventions, n.e.c. | 3,729                | 1,834               | 5,563            |
| 1940–2016                        | Imaging services                                        | 2                    | 5                   | 7                |
| <b>Total surgical procedures</b> |                                                         | <b>369,324</b>       | <b>2,447,705</b>    | <b>2,818,227</b> |

ACHI—Australian Classification of Health Interventions; n.e.c.—not elsewhere classified.

(a) A procedure was counted if it was an operating room procedure included in the definition of the AR-DRG as *Surgical*.

(b) A procedure is counted once for the group if it has at least one procedure reported within the group. As more than one procedure can be reported for each separation, the data are not additive and therefore the totals in the tables may not equal the sum of counts in the rows.

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1 and 9.2 for notes on definitions and data limitations.

## Most common procedures

In 2012–13, *Appendicectomy* was the most common surgical procedure for emergency admissions involving surgery (Table 9.16). Around 89% of emergency admissions for *Appendicectomy* procedures were performed in public hospitals. *Insertion of cardiac pacemaker generator* was the surgical procedure with the highest proportion of emergency admissions in private hospitals (32%).

**Table 9.16: Procedures<sup>(a)</sup> reported for the 20 most common ACHI procedure blocks for emergency admissions involving surgery, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Procedure                                               | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total          |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 926 Appendicectomy                                      | 26,462           | 3,283             | 29,745         |
| 671 Transluminal coronary angioplasty with stenting     | 11,416           | 2,697             | 14,113         |
| 1566 Excision procedures on other musculoskeletal sites | 12,268           | 1,652             | 13,920         |
| 965 Cholecystectomy                                     | 9,806            | 2,062             | 11,868         |
| 1628 Other debridement of skin and subcutaneous tissue  | 11,131           | 530               | 11,661         |
| 1479 Fixation of fracture of pelvis or femur            | 9,719            | 1,301             | 11,020         |
| 1265 Curettage and evacuation of uterus                 | 8,461            | 453               | 8,914          |
| 1539 Open reduction of fracture of ankle or toe         | 6,396            | 728               | 7,124          |
| 569 Ventilatory support                                 | 6,660            | 308               | 6,968          |
| 1489 Arthroplasty of hip                                | 5,539            | 1,091             | 6,630          |
| 1429 Open reduction of fracture of radius               | 5,672            | 727               | 6,399          |
| 986 Division of abdominal adhesions                     | 4,760            | 903               | 5,663          |
| 930 Incision procedures on rectum or anus               | 5,013            | 486               | 5,499          |
| 650 Insertion of cardiac pacemaker generator            | 3,333            | 1,319             | 4,652          |
| 1466 Repair of tendon of hand                           | 4,059            | 270               | 4,329          |
| 1636 Repair of nail                                     | 3,924            | 214               | 4,138          |
| 1256 Procedures for management of ectopic pregnancy     | 2,995            | 149               | 3,144          |
| 913 Colectomy                                           | 2,451            | 454               | 2,905          |
| 83 Repair of nerve or nerve trunk                       | 2,464            | 138               | 2,602          |
| 1414 Open reduction of fracture of humerus or elbow     | 2,236            | 317               | 2,553          |
| Other                                                   | 116,038          | 20,091            | 136,129        |
| <b>Total</b>                                            | <b>260,803</b>   | <b>39,173</b>     | <b>299,976</b> |

ACHI—Australian Classification of Health Interventions.

(a) A procedure was counted if it was an operating room procedure included in the definition of the AR-DRG as *Surgical*. For separations for which more than one operating room procedure was reported, the separation was counted against the first surgical procedure reported.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1 and 9.2 for notes on definitions and data limitations.

In 2012–13, *Extracapsular crystalline lens extraction by phacoemulsification* was the most common surgical procedure for elective admissions, accounting for 10% of elective admissions (Table 9.17). Around 93% of elective admissions for *Procedures for reproductive medicine* were reported for private hospitals.

**Table 9.17: Procedures<sup>(a)</sup> reported for the 20 most common ACHI procedure blocks for elective admissions involving surgery, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Procedure                                                                                | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 197 Extracapsular crystalline lens extraction by phacoemulsification                     | 62,697           | 140,851           | 203,548          |
| 1620 Excision of lesion(s) of skin and subcutaneous tissue                               | 33,444           | 55,957            | 89,401           |
| 1265 Curettage and evacuation of uterus                                                  | 26,035           | 56,600            | 82,635           |
| 1297 Procedures for reproductive medicine                                                | 4,926            | 63,113            | 68,039           |
| 412 Tonsillectomy or adenoidectomy                                                       | 23,354           | 35,038            | 58,392           |
| 209 Application, insertion or removal procedures on retina, choroid or posterior chamber | 2,914            | 46,836            | 49,750           |
| 1517 Arthroscopic meniscectomy of knee with repair                                       | 6,820            | 40,638            | 47,458           |
| 990 Repair of inguinal hernia                                                            | 17,293           | 24,030            | 41,323           |
| 1518 Arthroplasty of knee                                                                | 13,321           | 27,680            | 41,001           |
| 941 Procedures for haemorrhoids                                                          | 13,709           | 24,839            | 38,548           |
| 965 Cholecystectomy                                                                      | 18,876           | 17,915            | 36,791           |
| 1651 Local skin flap, simple and small, single stage                                     | 6,910            | 25,105            | 32,015           |
| 76 Release of carpal and tarsal tunnel                                                   | 11,117           | 17,671            | 28,788           |
| 1489 Arthroplasty of hip                                                                 | 8,851            | 18,675            | 27,526           |
| 1554 Other application, insertion or removal procedures on other musculoskeletal sites   | 12,432           | 10,970            | 23,402           |
| 309 Myringotomy                                                                          | 7,023            | 14,241            | 21,264           |
| 1266 Excision of lesion of uterus                                                        | 7,401            | 13,260            | 20,661           |
| 1566 Excision procedures on other musculoskeletal sites                                  | 5,080            | 15,053            | 20,133           |
| 1503 Arthroscopic excision of knee                                                       | 6,184            | 13,854            | 20,038           |
| 1649 Other full thickness skin graft                                                     | 6,596            | 11,985            | 18,581           |
| Other                                                                                    | 384,101          | 689,255           | 1,073,356        |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                             | <b>679,084</b>   | <b>1,363,566</b>  | <b>2,042,650</b> |

ACHI—Australian Classification of Health Interventions.

(a) A procedure was counted if it was an operating room procedure included in the definition of the AR-DRG as *Surgical*. For separations for which more than one operating room procedure was reported, the separation was counted against the first surgical procedure reported.

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1 and 9.2 for notes on definitions and data limitations.

## How long did patients stay?

The length of stay for separations involving surgery varied by urgency of admission and, to a lesser extent, between public and private hospitals. For overnight separations, the length of stay for emergency admissions involving surgery was more than twice as long as for elective admissions involving surgery (Table 9.18).

**Table 9.18: Patient days and average length of stay for separations involving surgery, by urgency of admission, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

|                              | Public hospitals |                        | Private hospitals |                        | Total            |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
|                              | Patient days     | Average length of stay | Patient days      | Average length of stay | Patient days     | Average length of stay |
| <b>Same-day</b>              |                  |                        |                   |                        |                  |                        |
| Emergency admissions         | 21,733           | 1.0                    | 4,932             | 1.0                    | 26,665           | 1.0                    |
| Elective admissions          | 358,098          | 1.0                    | 808,955           | 1.0                    | 1,167,053        | 1.0                    |
| <i>All same-day surgery</i>  | <i>379,831</i>   | <i>1.0</i>             | <i>813,887</i>    | <i>1.0</i>             | <i>1,193,718</i> | <i>1.0</i>             |
| <b>Overnight</b>             |                  |                        |                   |                        |                  |                        |
| Emergency admissions         | 1,844,054        | 7.7                    | 278,862           | 8.1                    | 2,122,916        | 7.8                    |
| Elective admissions          | 1,197,450        | 3.7                    | 1,776,484         | 3.2                    | 2,973,934        | 3.4                    |
| <i>All overnight surgery</i> | <i>3,041,504</i> | <i>4.7</i>             | <i>2,055,346</i>  | <i>3.3</i>             | <i>5,096,850</i> | <i>4.0</i>             |
| <b>Total</b>                 |                  |                        |                   |                        |                  |                        |
| <b>Emergency admissions</b>  | <b>1,865,787</b> | <b>7.2</b>             | <b>283,794</b>    | <b>7.2</b>             | <b>2,149,581</b> | <b>7.2</b>             |
| <b>Elective admissions</b>   | <b>1,555,548</b> | <b>2.3</b>             | <b>2,585,439</b>  | <b>1.9</b>             | <b>4,140,987</b> | <b>2.0</b>             |
| <b>All surgery</b>           | <b>3,421,335</b> | <b>3.3</b>             | <b>2,869,233</b>  | <b>2.0</b>             | <b>6,290,568</b> | <b>2.7</b>             |

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1 and 9.2 for notes on definitions and data limitations.

## Who paid for the care?

About 76% of emergency admissions involving surgery in public hospitals were for *Public patients* and *Private health insurance* funded about 16% (Table 9.19). For private hospitals, *Private health insurance* funded almost 86% of emergency admissions involving surgery and the *Department of Veterans' Affairs* funded about 7%.

For elective admissions involving surgery, 88% of separations in public hospitals were for *Public patients* and *Private health insurance* funded about 7% of separations. In private hospitals, *Private health insurance* funded about 81% of elective admissions involving surgery and 11% were *Self-funded*.

**Table 9.19: Separations involving surgery, by principal source of funds and urgency of admission, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

|                                          | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total            |
|------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>Emergency admissions</b>              |                  |                   |                  |
| Public patients <sup>(a)</sup>           | 197,473          | 64                | 197,537          |
| Private health insurance                 | 42,409           | 33,759            | 76,168           |
| Self-funded                              | 2,360            | 758               | 3,118            |
| Workers compensation                     | 6,257            | 1,435             | 7,692            |
| Motor vehicle third party personal claim | 5,245            | 90                | 5,335            |
| Department of Veterans' Affairs          | 4,140            | 2,841             | 6,981            |
| Other <sup>(b)</sup>                     | 2,919            | 226               | 3,145            |
| <i>Total</i>                             | <i>260,803</i>   | <i>39,173</i>     | <i>299,976</i>   |
| <b>Elective admissions</b>               |                  |                   |                  |
| Public patients <sup>(a)</sup>           | 597,482          | 8,122             | 605,604          |
| Private health insurance                 | 49,510           | 1,100,424         | 1,149,934        |
| Self-funded                              | 22,271           | 153,647           | 175,918          |
| Workers compensation                     | 2,646            | 39,350            | 41,996           |
| Motor vehicle third party personal claim | 1,693            | 3,021             | 4,714            |
| Department of Veterans' Affairs          | 3,232            | 48,324            | 51,556           |
| Other <sup>(b)</sup>                     | 2,250            | 10,678            | 12,928           |
| <i>Total</i>                             | <i>679,084</i>   | <i>1,363,566</i>  | <i>2,042,650</i> |

(a) Public patients includes separations with a funding source of *Health service budget*, *Other hospital or public authority* (with a *Public patient election status*), *Health service budget (due to eligibility for Reciprocal health care agreements)* and *Health service budget—no charge raised due to hospital decision* (in public hospitals).

(b) Other includes separations with a funding source of *Other compensation*, *Department of Defence*, *Correctional facilities*, *Other hospital or public authority* (without a *Public patient election status*), *Other*, *Health service budget—no charge raised due to hospital decision* (in private hospitals) and not reported.

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1 and 9.2 for notes on definitions and data limitations.

## How was the care completed?

The mode of separation records the status of the patient at the time of separation and, for some categories, the place to which the person was discharged or transferred.

About 94% of separations involving surgery had a mode of separation of *Other*, suggesting that most patients go home after their episode of care (Table 9.20). A higher proportion of separations involving surgery were *Discharged/transferred to an (other) acute hospital* for public hospitals (4%) compared with private hospitals (2%).

**Table 9.20: Separations involving surgery, by mode of separation, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Mode of separation                                                   | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Discharge/transfer to an (other) acute hospital                      | 34,093           | 26,221            | 60,314           |
| Discharge/transfer to residential aged care service <sup>(a)</sup>   | 3,946            | 1,001             | 4,947            |
| Discharge/transfer to an (other) psychiatric hospital                | 103              | 19                | 122              |
| Discharge/transfer to other health care accommodation <sup>(b)</sup> | 1,786            | 25,106            | 26,892           |
| Statistical discharge: type change                                   | 15,651           | 11,364            | 27,015           |
| Left against medical advice/discharge at own risk                    | 4,197            | 341               | 4,538            |
| Statistical discharge from leave                                     | 258              | 64                | 322              |
| Died                                                                 | 5,428            | 1,286             | 6,714            |
| Other <sup>(c)</sup>                                                 | 874,389          | 1,337,317         | 2,211,706        |
| Not reported                                                         | 36               | 20                | 56               |
| <b>Total</b>                                                         | <b>939,887</b>   | <b>1,402,739</b>  | <b>2,342,626</b> |

(a) Unless this is the usual place of residence.

(b) Includes mothercraft hospitals, except in jurisdictions where mothercraft facilities are considered acute.

(c) Includes Discharge to usual residence/own accommodation/welfare institution (including prisons, hostels and group homes providing primarily welfare services).

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1 and 9.2 for notes on definitions and data limitations.

## Public hospital elective surgery

This section presents information on patients admitted from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists. Depending on data availability, some of the information presented here relate to the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 (2012–13), while other analyses present information for the 2012 and 2013 calendar years.

Information on waiting times for about 651,000 patients admitted from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists in 2012–13 includes analyses by:

- the Indigenous status of the patient
- remoteness of the area of residence of the patient
- the socioeconomic status of the area of residence of the patient
- and for patients with a principal diagnosis of cancer.

Information for about 682,000 patients admitted from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists in the 2013 calendar year includes information on:

- reason for removal
- clinical urgency category
- adverse events
- readmissions following elective surgery.

The waiting times data presented in this section are for patients who completed their wait and were admitted for their surgery on either an emergency or an elective basis.

## How did people access these services?

The section describes the reason that a patient was removed from an elective surgery waiting list. Most patients are admitted after waiting; however, some patients were removed from waiting lists for other reasons.

### Number of patients removed (as an elective or emergency admission) from elective surgery waiting lists managed by public hospitals

In 2013, there were more than 682,000 admissions from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists, as either an elective or an emergency admission (Table 9.21). Emergency admissions accounted for around 0.6% of admissions across Australia, ranging from 0.4% in Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory to 0.7% in New South Wales and Western Australia.

### Number of removals from waiting lists for reasons other than elective or emergency admission

In 2013, more than 110,000 patients were removed from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists for reasons other than admission (Table 9.21).

About 58% of patients removed from waiting lists for reasons other than admission for the awaited surgery had a reason of *Surgery not required or declined*. More than 19% were *Treated elsewhere* and a further 12% were *Transferred to another hospital's waiting list*.

Similar information on removals from waiting lists for each quarter is available in Table S9.2, accompanying this report online.

**Table 9.21: Number of patients admitted for elective surgery from waiting lists, by reason for removal, public hospitals, states and territories, 2013**

| Reason for removal                             | NSW            | Vic            | Qld            | WA             | SA            | Tas           | ACT           | NT           | Total          |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| Elective admissions                            | 214,957        | 156,587        | 123,108        | 84,751         | 63,982        | 15,816        | 11,531        | 7,708        | 678,440        |
| Emergency admissions                           | 1,576          | 553            | 575            | 568            | 358           | 102           | 49            | 42           | 3,823          |
| <b>Total admissions</b>                        | <b>216,533</b> | <b>157,140</b> | <b>123,683</b> | <b>85,319</b>  | <b>64,340</b> | <b>15,918</b> | <b>11,580</b> | <b>7,750</b> | <b>682,263</b> |
| <b>Other reasons</b>                           |                |                |                |                |               |               |               |              |                |
| Not contactable/died                           | 2,049          | 1,979          | 1,057          | 960            | 613           | 412           | 150           | 132          | 7,352          |
| Treated elsewhere                              | 10,484         | 3,701          | 2,662          | 2,512          | 1,083         | 475           | 358           | 120          | 21,395         |
| Surgery not required or declined               | 19,757         | 15,832         | 14,243         | 7,002          | 3,865         | 988           | 1,137         | 1,107        | 63,931         |
| Transferred to another hospital's waiting list | 0              | 2,252          | 4,794          | 4,663          | 777           | 57            | 275           | 0            | 12,818         |
| Not reported                                   | 0              | 269            | 125            | 2,255          | 1,300         | 490           | 157           | 0            | 4,596          |
| <b>Total other reasons</b>                     | <b>32,290</b>  | <b>24,033</b>  | <b>22,881</b>  | <b>17,392</b>  | <b>7,638</b>  | <b>2,422</b>  | <b>2,077</b>  | <b>1,359</b> | <b>110,092</b> |
| <b>Total removals</b>                          | <b>248,823</b> | <b>181,173</b> | <b>146,564</b> | <b>102,711</b> | <b>71,978</b> | <b>18,340</b> | <b>13,657</b> | <b>9,109</b> | <b>792,355</b> |

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1 and 9.2 for notes on definitions and data limitations.



## How long did people wait for care?

This section presents information about the length of time waited by patients on public hospital elective surgery waiting lists before being admitted for surgery. The waiting times data presented are for patients who complete their wait and are admitted for surgery as either an elective or emergency admission.

It includes the proportion seen within the clinically recommended time, the median waiting time, the average overdue waiting time and the numbers of longest wait patients remaining on waiting lists at the end of the year. This information is presented by the clinical urgency category of the patient.

Due to the apparent lack of comparability of clinical urgency categories between states and territories, these data are presented for each state and territory separately. See Box 9.3 for more information.

## How did waiting times differ by clinical urgency category?

At the time of being placed on the public hospital waiting list, a clinical assessment is made of the urgency with which the patient requires elective surgery. The clinical urgency categories are:

- Category 1 – admission within 30 days desirable for a condition that has the potential to deteriorate quickly to the point that it may become an emergency
- Category 2 – admission within 90 days desirable for a condition causing some pain, dysfunction or disability but which is not likely to deteriorate quickly or become an emergency
- Category 3 – admission at some time in the future acceptable for a condition causing minimal or no pain, dysfunction or disability, which is unlikely to deteriorate quickly and which does not have the potential to become an emergency. A patient is generally regarded as overdue for Category 3 if they wait longer than 365 days.

### Box 9.3: Comparability of clinical urgency categorisation

Analyses of clinical urgency category data have shown notable variation in the assignment of these categories, both among and within jurisdictions, and for individual surgical specialties and indicator procedures, as well as overall (AIHW 2013i). This apparent lack of comparability of clinical urgency categories among jurisdictions means that measures based on these categories are not comparable between jurisdictions.

In 2012, the AIHW, in collaboration with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, developed a package of integrated reforms for national definitions for elective surgery urgency categories (AIHW 2013i). Health ministers have agreed with these recommendations, which are being implemented. Once this has occurred, waiting times will be able to be presented in a comparable way for each state and territory for each urgency category, as will the proportions of patients who had their surgery within the clinically recommended time.

For the purpose of this report, a patient is regarded as being treated within the clinically recommended time (or 'seen on time') if they were admitted within:

- 30 days for Category 1
- 90 days for Category 2
- 365 days for Category 3.

### **Proportion of patients seen within the recommended time**

This measure presents the percentage of patients removed from elective surgery waiting lists who received surgery within the clinically recommended time for each clinical urgency category.

Between 2012 and 2013, 6 states and territories increased the proportion of patients who received treatment within the recommended time for clinical urgency category 1 (tables 9.22a to 9.22h). For clinical urgency categories 2 and 3, the proportions seen on time in 2013 had either improved or were similar to the proportions seen on time in 2012 for 6 states and territories.

### **Average overdue wait time**

The 'average overdue wait time' is calculated for patients remaining on the waiting list at 31 December, who were ready for care and had waited more than the recommended time for their clinical urgency category.

The 'overdue wait' is the amount of time spent waiting while overdue, that is, after 30, 90 or 365 days for clinical urgency categories 1, 2 and 3, respectively.

Between 2012 and 2013, the average overdue wait for people who were not admitted within the clinically recommended time decreased for most jurisdictions, or was fairly stable (tables 9.22a to 9.22h).

### **Number of longest wait patients at end of year**

Tables 9.22a to 9.22h present the number of the 10% longest waiting patients in clinical urgency categories 1, 2 and 3 (as at 31 December 2012), who were still waiting for care (that is, they had not had their surgery or appropriate alternative treatment options identified) at 31 December 2013, for each clinical urgency category.

These data were provided by the Commonwealth Department of Health. They are based on anonymised lists of patients still waiting at 31 December 2012 agreed between the Department and states and territories, and anonymised information on patients removed from elective surgery waiting lists supplied to the Department by AIHW.

For New South Wales, Western Australia, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory, there were no long wait patients remaining on elective surgery waiting lists at the end of 2013.

For the remaining states and territories, the number of long wait patients remaining on a list at the end of 2013 was generally lower than the number who remained waiting at the end of 2012.

## Median waiting times

In 2013, the median waiting time for clinical urgency category 1 either improved or was similar to those for 2012 for most jurisdictions (tables 9.22a to 9.22h).

## States and territories

For New South Wales, the proportion seen on time, average overdue waiting times and median waiting times improved between 2012 and 2013 for all clinical urgency categories (Table 9.22a). At 31 December 2013, there were no 'longest wait' patients remaining on elective surgery waiting lists.

**Table 9.22a: Selected statistics for admissions from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists, by clinical urgency category, New South Wales, 2012 and 2013**

|                                                                  | 2012                              |                                   |                                    | 2013                              |                                   |                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                                                                  | Category 1<br>(within<br>30 days) | Category 2<br>(within<br>90 days) | Category 3<br>(within<br>365 days) | Category 1<br>(within<br>30 days) | Category 2<br>(within<br>90 days) | Category 3<br>(within<br>365 days) |
| Number of admissions                                             | 52,344                            | 68,746                            | 91,673                             | 51,594                            | 71,313                            | 93,626                             |
| Number admitted within clinically recommended time               | 49,761                            | 62,535                            | 84,518                             | 51,286                            | 68,758                            | 89,245                             |
| Proportion admitted within clinically recommended time (%)       | 95.1                              | 91.0                              | 92.2                               | 99.4                              | 96.4                              | 95.3                               |
| Average overdue wait time (days)                                 | 11                                | 23.6                              | 63.4                               | 0.0                               | 20.5                              | 51.5                               |
| Number of longest wait patients remaining on list at end of year | 0                                 | 0                                 | 0                                  | 0                                 | 0                                 | 0                                  |
| Days waited at 50th percentile                                   | 11                                | 48                                | 200                                | 10                                | 43                                | 194                                |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 for notes on definitions and data limitations. Similar information for each quarter of 2013 is available in tables S9.3a to S9.3h, accompanying this report online.

For Victoria, the proportion seen on time, average overdue waiting times and median waiting times improved or were stable for clinical urgency category 1. For categories 2 and 3, they declined between 2012 and 2013 (Table 9.22b). At 31 December 2013, there were two 'longest wait' patients remaining on elective surgery waiting lists.

**Table 9.22b: Selected statistics for admissions from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists, by clinical urgency category, Victoria, 2012 and 2013**

|                                                                  | 2012                              |                                   |                                    | 2013                              |                                   |                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                                                                  | Category 1<br>(within<br>30 days) | Category 2<br>(within<br>90 days) | Category 3<br>(within<br>365 days) | Category 1<br>(within<br>30 days) | Category 2<br>(within<br>90 days) | Category 3<br>(within<br>365 days) |
| Number of admissions                                             | 47,223                            | 72,328                            | 34,423                             | 47,777                            | 73,857                            | 35,506                             |
| Number admitted within clinically recommended time               | 47,223                            | 49,392                            | 31,073                             | 49,392                            | 48,150                            | 31,397                             |
| Proportion admitted within clinically recommended time (%)       | 100.0                             | 68.3                              | 90.3                               | 100.0                             | 65.2                              | 88.4                               |
| Average overdue wait time (days)                                 | 0.0                               | 96.4                              | 144.4                              | 0.0                               | 105                               | 189.2                              |
| Number of longest wait patients remaining on list at end of year | 0                                 | 0                                 | 0                                  | 0                                 | 0                                 | 2                                  |
| Days waited at 50th percentile                                   | 11                                | 60                                | 105                                | 11                                | 64                                | 104                                |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 for notes on definitions and data limitations. Similar information for each quarter of 2013 is available in tables S9.3a to S9.3h, accompanying this report online.

For Queensland, the proportions seen on time were relatively stable and average overdue waiting times improved for all clinical urgency categories (Table 9.22c). There were 15 'longest wait' patients remaining on elective surgery waiting lists at 31 December 2013, an improvement compared with the 78 patients remaining on elective surgery waiting lists at 31 December 2012.

**Table 9.22c: Selected statistics for admissions from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists, by clinical urgency category, Queensland, 2012 and 2013**

|                                                                  | 2012                              |                                   |                                    | 2013                              |                                   |                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                                                                  | Category 1<br>(within<br>30 days) | Category 2<br>(within<br>90 days) | Category 3<br>(within<br>365 days) | Category 1<br>(within<br>30 days) | Category 2<br>(within<br>90 days) | Category 3<br>(within<br>365 days) |
| Number of admissions                                             | 49,160                            | 53,446                            | 19,876                             | 49,061                            | 53,136                            | 21,486                             |
| Number admitted within clinically recommended time               | 43,769                            | 41,215                            | 17,627                             | 45,977                            | 40,985                            | 18,711                             |
| Proportion admitted within clinically recommended time (%)       | 89                                | 77.1                              | 88.7                               | 93.7                              | 77.1                              | 87.1                               |
| Average overdue wait time (days)                                 | 32                                | 133                               | 133.9                              | 18.8                              | 126.1                             | 115.6                              |
| Number of longest wait patients remaining on list at end of year | 1                                 | 65                                | 12                                 | 0                                 | 11                                | 4                                  |
| Days waited at 50th percentile                                   | 12                                | 52                                | 109                                | 11                                | 55                                | 127                                |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 for notes on definitions and data limitations. Similar information for each quarter of 2013 is available in tables S9.3a to S9.3h, accompanying this report online.

For Western Australia, the proportions seen on time improved and average overdue waiting times were relatively stable for all clinical urgency categories (Table 9.22d). At 31 December 2013, there were no 'longest wait' patients remaining on elective surgery waiting lists.

**Table 9.22d: Selected statistics for admissions from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists, by clinical urgency category, Western Australia, 2012 and 2013**

|                                                                  | 2012                              |                                   |                                    | 2013                              |                                   |                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                                                                  | Category 1<br>(within<br>30 days) | Category 2<br>(within<br>90 days) | Category 3<br>(within<br>365 days) | Category 1<br>(within<br>30 days) | Category 2<br>(within<br>90 days) | Category 3<br>(within<br>365 days) |
| Number of admissions                                             | 20,274                            | 28,895                            | 33,877                             | 21,151                            | 30,980                            | 33,188                             |
| Number admitted within clinically recommended time               | 17,502                            | 23,708                            | 32,661                             | 20,291                            | 27,690                            | 32,411                             |
| Proportion admitted within clinically recommended time (%)       | 86.3                              | 82                                | 96.4                               | 95.9                              | 89.4                              | 97.7                               |
| Average overdue wait time (days)                                 | 12.1                              | 54.2                              | 66.9                               | 12.9                              | 55.0                              | 75.8                               |
| Number of longest wait patients remaining on list at end of year | 0                                 | 0                                 | 0                                  | 0                                 | 0                                 | 0                                  |
| Days waited at 50th percentile                                   | 12                                | 40                                | 53                                 | 10                                | 40                                | 63                                 |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 for notes on definitions and data limitations. Similar information for each quarter of 2013 is available in tables S9.3a to S9.3h, accompanying this report online.

For South Australia, the proportions seen on time improved for all clinical urgency categories (Table 9.22e). There were no overdue patients who had waited more than the recommended time still on the waiting list as at 31 December 2013, and there were also no 'longest wait' patients remaining on elective surgery waiting lists.

**Table 9.22e: Selected statistics for admissions from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists, by clinical urgency category, South Australia, 2012 and 2013**

|                                                                  | 2012                              |                                   |                                    | 2013                              |                                   |                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                                                                  | Category 1<br>(within<br>30 days) | Category 2<br>(within<br>90 days) | Category 3<br>(within<br>365 days) | Category 1<br>(within<br>30 days) | Category 2<br>(within<br>90 days) | Category 3<br>(within<br>365 days) |
| Number of admissions                                             | 17,476                            | 22,274                            | 24,692                             | 16,731                            | 22,962                            | 24,647                             |
| Number admitted within clinically recommended time               | 15,901                            | 20,192                            | 23,782                             | 15,471                            | 21,176                            | 24,130                             |
| Proportion admitted within clinically recommended time (%)       | 91                                | 90.7                              | 96.3                               | 92.5                              | 92.2                              | 97.9                               |
| Average overdue wait time (days)                                 | 22.7                              | 38.2                              | 65.8                               | 0.0                               | 0.0                               | 0.0                                |
| Number of longest wait patients remaining on list at end of year | 0                                 | 0                                 | 0                                  | 0                                 | 0                                 | 0                                  |
| Days waited at 50th percentile                                   | 11                                | 42                                | 85                                 | 11                                | 43                                | 74                                 |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 for notes on definitions and data limitations. Similar information for each quarter of 2013 is available in tables S9.3a to S9.3h, accompanying this report online.

For Tasmania, the proportions seen on time declined for clinical urgency categories 1 and 2. However, the average overdue waiting time decreased for all clinical urgency categories between 2012 and 2013 (Table 9.22f). There were 57 'longest wait' patients remaining on elective surgery waiting lists at the end of 2013, an improvement compared with the 155 'longest wait' patients remaining on elective surgery waiting lists at the end of 2012.

**Table 9.22f: Selected statistics for admissions from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists, by clinical urgency category, Tasmania, 2012 and 2013**

|                                                                  | 2012                              |                                   |                                    | 2013                              |                                   |                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                                                                  | Category 1<br>(within<br>30 days) | Category 2<br>(within<br>90 days) | Category 3<br>(within<br>365 days) | Category 1<br>(within<br>30 days) | Category 2<br>(within<br>90 days) | Category 3<br>(within<br>365 days) |
| Number of admissions                                             | 6,013                             | 6,243                             | 2,770                              | 6,085                             | 6,567                             | 3,266                              |
| Number admitted within clinically recommended time               | 4,575                             | 3,770                             | 2,017                              | 4,499                             | 3,476                             | 2,376                              |
| Proportion admitted within clinically recommended time (%)       | 76.1                              | 60.4                              | 72.8                               | 73.9                              | 52.9                              | 72.7                               |
| Average overdue wait time (days)                                 | 72.9                              | 287.1                             | 586.4                              | 37.6                              | 250.7                             | 514.8                              |
| Number of longest wait patients remaining on list at end of year | 0                                 | 57                                | 98                                 | 0                                 | 28                                | 29                                 |
| Days waited at 50th percentile                                   | 15                                | 66                                | 183                                | 17                                | 83                                | 152                                |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 for notes on definitions and data limitations. Similar information for each quarter of 2013 is available in tables S9.3a to S9.3h, accompanying this report online.

For the Australian Capital Territory, the proportions seen on time improved for clinical urgency categories 2 and 3. The average overdue waiting times decreased for all clinical urgency categories between 2012 and 2013 (Table 9.22g). There were no 'longest wait' patients remaining on elective surgery waiting lists at the end of 2013.

**Table 9.22g: Selected statistics for admissions from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists, by clinical urgency category, Australian Capital Territory, 2012 and 2013**

|                                                                  | 2012                              |                                   |                                    | 2013                              |                                   |                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                                                                  | Category 1<br>(within<br>30 days) | Category 2<br>(within<br>90 days) | Category 3<br>(within<br>365 days) | Category 1<br>(within<br>30 days) | Category 2<br>(within<br>90 days) | Category 3<br>(within<br>365 days) |
| Number of admissions                                             | 3,555                             | 5,447                             | 2,625                              | 3,558                             | 5,157                             | 2,865                              |
| Number admitted within clinically recommended time               | 3,503                             | 3,122                             | 2,345                              | 3,474                             | 3,386                             | 2,591                              |
| Proportion admitted within clinically recommended time (%)       | 98.5                              | 57.3                              | 89.3                               | 97.6                              | 65.7                              | 90.4                               |
| Average overdue wait time (days)                                 | 20.3                              | 127.1                             | 109                                | 0.0                               | 100.5                             | 73.4                               |
| Number of longest wait patients remaining on list at end of year | 0                                 | 0                                 | 0                                  | 0                                 | 0                                 | 0                                  |
| Days waited at 50th percentile                                   | 13                                | 77                                | 175                                | 15                                | 66                                | 178                                |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 for notes on definitions and data limitations. Similar information for each quarter of 2013 is available in tables S9.3a to S9.3h, accompanying this report online.

For the Northern Territory, the proportions seen on time improved for all clinical urgency categories. Median waiting times improved for patients assigned to clinical urgency category 2 (decreasing from 57 days to 46 days) and clinical urgency category 3 (decreasing from 170 days to 140 days). (Table 9.22h). There were 6 'longest wait' patients remaining on elective surgery waiting lists at the end of 2013.

**Table 9.22h: Selected statistics for admissions from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists, by clinical urgency category, Northern Territory, 2012 and 2013**

|                                                                  | 2012                              |                                   |                                    | 2013                              |                                   |                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                                                                  | Category 1<br>(within<br>30 days) | Category 2<br>(within<br>90 days) | Category 3<br>(within<br>365 days) | Category 1<br>(within<br>30 days) | Category 2<br>(within<br>90 days) | Category 3<br>(within<br>365 days) |
| Number of admissions                                             | 2,489                             | 3,434                             | 1,490                              | 2,215                             | 3,788                             | 1,747                              |
| Number admitted within clinically recommended time               | 2,178                             | 2,450                             | 1,282                              | 2,005                             | 2,867                             | 1,499                              |
| Proportion admitted within clinically recommended time (%)       | 87.5                              | 71.3                              | 86                                 | 90.5                              | 75.7                              | 85.8                               |
| Average overdue wait time (days)                                 | 23.8                              | 82.6                              | 70.8                               | 116.4                             | 67.6                              | 117.1                              |
| Number of longest wait patients remaining on list at end of year | 0                                 | 2                                 | 1                                  | 0                                 | 4                                 | 2                                  |
| Days waited at 50th percentile                                   | 12                                | 57                                | 170                                | 12                                | 46                                | 140                                |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 for notes on definitions and data limitations. Similar information for each quarter of 2013 is available in tables S9.3a to S9.3h, accompanying this report online.

### **How did waiting times differ by indicator procedure?**

Indicator procedures are those of high volume and are often associated with long waits. Table 9.23 presents median waiting times by indicator procedure for each state and territory for 2013.

Median waiting times were shortest for *Coronary artery bypass grafts* in six of the seven states and territories that performed this procedure. The median waiting times were longest for *Total knee replacement* in four states and territories.

Information on median waiting times for each quarter of 2013 is available in tables S9.4a to S9.4h, accompanying this report online.

### **How did waiting times differ for Indigenous and other Australians?**

In 2012–13, there were almost 20,000 admissions from public hospital waiting lists for elective surgery for patients identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Overall, the median waiting time for Indigenous Australians was greater than the median waiting time for other Australians (41 days and 36 days respectively (Table 9.24).

#### **Indicator procedures**

Indigenous Australians had higher median waiting times for 9 of the 12 indicator procedures for which there were at least 100 separations for Indigenous Australians. The greatest difference in median waiting times was for *Total knee replacement* (320 days for Indigenous Australians and 205 days for other Australians). *Cholecystectomy* and *Coronary artery bypass graft* had the smallest differences in median waiting times by Indigenous status.

**Table 9.23: Median waiting times (days) and admissions from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists, by indicator procedure, states and territories, 2013**

| Indicator procedure            | NSW    | Vic    | Qld   | WA     | SA    | Tas   | ACT   | NT  |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| Cataract extraction            |        |        |       |        |       |       |       |     |
| Admissions                     | 22,082 | 13,105 | 7,918 | 10,232 | 6,863 | 1,435 | 1,283 | 838 |
| Days waited at 50th percentile | 230    | 47     | 42    | 42     | 70    | 147   | 167   | 120 |
| Cholecystectomy                |        |        |       |        |       |       |       |     |
| Admissions                     | 7,063  | 4,275  | 3,808 | 1,712  | 1,438 | 541   | 315   | 179 |
| Days waited at 50th percentile | 53     | 58     | 43    | 28     | 30    | 66    | 70    | 54  |
| Coronary artery bypass graft   |        |        |       |        |       |       |       |     |
| Admissions                     | 908    | 889    | 1327  | 233    | 424   | 154   | 71    | 0   |
| Days waited at 50th percentile | 23     | 22     | 9     | 16     | 16    | 23    | 19    | 0   |
| Cystoscopy                     |        |        |       |        |       |       |       |     |
| Admissions                     | 12,735 | 15,648 | 4,627 | 7,111  | 2,945 | 817   | 1,322 | 377 |
| Days waited at 50th percentile | 27     | 21     | 25    | 20     | 31    | 34    | 30    | 45  |
| Haemorrhoidectomy              |        |        |       |        |       |       |       |     |
| Admissions                     | 1,304  | 1,338  | 462   | 563    | 423   | 131   | 56    | 188 |
| Days waited at 50th percentile | 64     | 79     | 55    | 36     | 21    | 76    | 74    | 70  |
| Hysterectomy                   |        |        |       |        |       |       |       |     |
| Admissions                     | 2,560  | 2,476  | 2,216 | 1,140  | 863   | 310   | 163   | 62  |
| Days waited at 50th percentile | 55     | 63     | 54    | 33     | 42    | 69    | 55    | 60  |
| Inguinal herniorrhaphy         |        |        |       |        |       |       |       |     |
| Admissions                     | 6,172  | 3,682  | 2,286 | 1,747  | 1,295 | 408   | 252   | 149 |
| Days waited at 50th percentile | 70     | 70     | 62    | 36     | 29    | 88    | 71    | 47  |
| Myringoplasty                  |        |        |       |        |       |       |       |     |
| Admissions                     | 370    | 355    | 436   | 351    | 86    | 22    | 10    | 246 |
| Days waited at 50th percentile | 319    | 141    | 85    | 84     | 83    | 80    | 392   | 158 |
| Myringotomy                    |        |        |       |        |       |       |       |     |
| Admissions                     | 363    | 1536   | 1776  | 998    | 556   | 155   | 118   | 143 |
| Days waited at 50th percentile | 66     | 59     | 47    | 55     | 35    | 88    | 81    | 83  |

(continued)



**Table 9.23 (continued): Median waiting times (days) and admissions from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists, by indicator procedure, states and territories, 2013**

| Indicator procedure                   | NSW            | Vic            | Qld            | WA            | SA            | Tas           | ACT           | NT           |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Prostatectomy                         |                |                |                |               |               |               |               |              |
| Admissions                            | 2,558          | 1,914          | 1,561          | 879           | 604           | 24            | 90            | 18           |
| Days waited at 50th percentile        | 55             | 28             | 37             | 26            | 42            | 29            | 34            | 65           |
| Septoplasty                           |                |                |                |               |               |               |               |              |
| Admissions                            | 1,792          | 1,317          | 562            | 390           | 469           | 92            | 108           | 39           |
| Days waited at 50th percentile        | 323            | 143            | 84             | 140           | 98            | 301           | 357           | 133          |
| Tonsillectomy                         |                |                |                |               |               |               |               |              |
| Admissions                            | 5,380          | 4,649          | 3,429          | 1,970         | 1,529         | 314           | 288           | 177          |
| Days waited at 50th percentile        | 238            | 98             | 56             | 94            | 68            | 116           | 256           | 63           |
| Total hip replacement                 |                |                |                |               |               |               |               |              |
| Admissions                            | 3,172          | 2,244          | 1,592          | 1,124         | 894           | 263           | 211           | 46           |
| Days waited at 50th percentile        | 196            | 116            | 71             | 73            | 96            | 409           | 138           | 70           |
| Total knee replacement                |                |                |                |               |               |               |               |              |
| Admissions                            | 5,853          | 2,850          | 2,576          | 1,665         | 1,095         | 294           | 298           | 71           |
| Days waited at 50th percentile        | 292            | 156            | 159            | 86            | 153           | 660           | 161           | 121          |
| Varicose veins stripping and ligation |                |                |                |               |               |               |               |              |
| Admissions                            | 1,438          | 1,317          | 516            | 296           | 369           | 23            | 178           | 35           |
| Days waited at 50th percentile        | 105            | 135            | 67             | 77            | 75            | 98            | 88            | 121          |
| Other procedures                      |                |                |                |               |               |               |               |              |
| Admissions                            | 142,783        | 99,544         | 88,590         | 54,908        | 44,487        | 10,935        | 6,817         | 5,166        |
| Days waited at 50th percentile        | 32             | 29             | 23             | 26            | 28            | 34            | 30            | 25           |
| <b>Total</b>                          |                |                |                |               |               |               |               |              |
| <b>Admissions</b>                     | <b>216,533</b> | <b>157,140</b> | <b>123,683</b> | <b>85,319</b> | <b>64,340</b> | <b>15,918</b> | <b>11,580</b> | <b>7,750</b> |
| <b>Days waited at 50th percentile</b> | <b>48</b>      | <b>36</b>      | <b>27</b>      | <b>29</b>     | <b>34</b>     | <b>44</b>     | <b>49</b>     | <b>37</b>    |

Source: National Elective Surgery Target Database.

**Table 9.24: Median waiting time (days) to admission for elective surgery by indicator procedure and Indigenous status, public hospitals, 2012–13**

| Indicator procedure          | Indigenous<br>Australians | Other<br>Australians | All<br>Australians |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Cataract extraction          | 140                       | 88                   | 89                 |
| Cholecystectomy              | 47                        | 50                   | 50                 |
| Coronary artery bypass graft | 16                        | 16                   | 16                 |
| Cystoscopy                   | 29                        | 24                   | 24                 |
| Hysterectomy                 | 59                        | 53                   | 53                 |
| Inguinal herniorrhaphy       | 42                        | 60                   | 59                 |
| Myringoplasty                | 121                       | 123                  | 123                |
| Myringotomy                  | 54                        | 49                   | 49                 |
| Septoplasty                  | 253                       | 191                  | 193                |
| Tonsillectomy                | 102                       | 96                   | 97                 |
| Total hip replacement        | 190                       | 123                  | 123                |
| Total knee replacement       | 320                       | 205                  | 207                |
| Not applicable/not stated    | 29                        | 28                   | 28                 |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>41</b>                 | <b>36</b>            | <b>36</b>          |
| <b>Number of admissions</b>  | <b>19,527</b>             | <b>631,845</b>       | <b>651,372</b>     |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1 and 9.2 for notes on definitions and data limitations. Some indicator procedures are not shown due to small numbers of admissions for Indigenous Australians.

*Source:* National Hospital Morbidity Database.

## How did waiting times vary by remoteness area?

Overall, about 68% of admissions from waiting lists for elective surgery were for patients living in *Major cities*, 20% were for patients in *Inner regional* areas and 9% were for patients in *Outer regional* areas (Table 9.5).

The median waiting time varied somewhat by remoteness, ranging from 30 days for people living in *Remote* areas to 40 days for people living in *Inner regional* areas (Table 9.25).

## Indicator procedures

There was some variation in the median waiting time for remoteness areas by indicator procedure. For indicator procedures with at least 100 admissions in each remoteness area, *Cataract extraction* had the greatest variation in waiting times by remoteness area. People from *Inner regional* areas had the highest median waiting time of 181 days, and people from *Major cities* had the lowest (70 days) (Table 9.25). *Cystoscopy* had the least variation by remoteness area, ranging from 24 days for people from *Inner regional*, *Major cities* and *Remote* areas to 38 days for people from *Very remote* areas.

For more information, see Table S9.5 accompanying this report online at <[www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/](http://www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/)>.

**Table 9.25: Median waiting time (days) to admission for elective surgery by indicator procedure and remoteness area of usual residence, public hospitals, 2012–13**

| Indicator procedure                   | Remoteness area |                |                |           |             | Total     |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
|                                       | Major Cities    | Inner Regional | Outer Regional | Remote    | Very Remote |           |
| Cataract extraction                   | 70              | 181            | 143            | 89        | 90          | 89        |
| Cholecystectomy                       | 51              | 53             | 46             | 35        | 49          | 50        |
| Coronary artery bypass graft          | 16              | 12             | 24             | n.p.      | n.p.        | 16        |
| Cystoscopy                            | 24              | 24             | 26             | 24        | 38          | 24        |
| Haemorrhoidectomy                     | 65              | 67             | 42             | 38        | n.p.        | 60        |
| Hysterectomy                          | 55              | 55             | 43             | 43        | n.p.        | 53        |
| Inguinal herniorrhaphy                | 62              | 64             | 51             | 33        | 31          | 59        |
| Myringoplasty                         | 125             | 130            | 105            | 84        | 145         | 123       |
| Myringotomy                           | 47              | 53             | 62             | 33        | 52          | 49        |
| Prostatectomy                         | 38              | 40             | 42             | n.p.      | n.p.        | 39        |
| Septoplasty                           | 194             | 192            | 253            | n.p.      | n.p.        | 193       |
| Tonsillectomy                         | 95              | 107            | 102            | 69        | 68          | 97        |
| Total hip replacement                 | 113             | 139            | 139            | 122       | n.p.        | 123       |
| Total knee replacement                | 180             | 259            | 248            | 227       | n.p.        | 207       |
| Varicose veins stripping and ligation | 97              | 97             | 88             | n.p.      | n.p.        | 95        |
| Not applicable/not stated             | 28              | 28             | 28             | 25        | 27          | 28        |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>36</b>       | <b>40</b>      | <b>37</b>      | <b>30</b> | <b>35</b>   | <b>36</b> |

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1 and 9.2 for notes on definitions and data limitations.

## How did waiting vary by socioeconomic status?

Overall, about 27% of admissions from waiting lists were for people living in areas classified as being in the lowest SES group, dropping to about 12% for people living in areas classified as being in the highest SES group (Table 9.7).

Median waiting times varied by SES, ranging from 31 days for people living in areas classified as the highest SES group to 40 days for people living in areas classified as the lowest SES group (Table 9.26).

## Indicator procedures

*Septoplasty* was the indicator procedure with the greatest variation in waiting times by socioeconomic status, ranging from 251 days for people living in areas classified as being in the lowest SES group to 159 days for people in the highest SES group. *Cystoscopy* had the least variation by socioeconomic status group (Table 9.26).

**Table 9.26: Median waiting times (days) for elective surgery by indicator procedure and socioeconomic status of area of usual residence, public hospitals, 2012–13**

| Indicator procedure                   | Socioeconomic status of area of residence |           |           |           |           | Total     |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                                       | 1–Lowest                                  | 2         | 3         | 4         | 5–Highest |           |
| Cataract extraction                   | 119                                       | 96        | 74        | 74        | 72        | 89        |
| Cholecystectomy                       | 54                                        | 50        | 49        | 51        | 43        | 50        |
| Coronary artery bypass graft          | 18                                        | 18        | 14        | 16        | 14        | 16        |
| Cystoscopy                            | 25                                        | 24        | 23        | 23        | 24        | 24        |
| Haemorrhoidectomy                     | 58                                        | 56        | 63        | 64        | 56        | 60        |
| Hysterectomy                          | 56                                        | 51        | 52        | 54        | 47        | 53        |
| Inguinal herniorrhaphy                | 61                                        | 58        | 60        | 63        | 53        | 59        |
| Myringoplasty                         | 147                                       | 123       | 103       | 99        | 113       | 123       |
| Myringotomy                           | 56                                        | 53        | 42        | 46        | 41        | 49        |
| Prostatectomy                         | 43                                        | 42        | 35        | 35        | 34        | 39        |
| Septoplasty                           | 251                                       | 197       | 161       | 167       | 160       | 193       |
| Tonsillectomy                         | 111                                       | 102       | 91        | 89        | 78        | 97        |
| Total hip replacement                 | 136                                       | 128       | 115       | 114       | 109       | 123       |
| Total knee replacement                | 232                                       | 211       | 196       | 184       | 165       | 207       |
| Varicose veins stripping and ligation | 100                                       | 97        | 95        | 98        | 89        | 95        |
| Not applicable/not stated             | 29                                        | 29        | 28        | 28        | 26        | 28        |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>40</b>                                 | <b>39</b> | <b>35</b> | <b>35</b> | <b>31</b> | <b>36</b> |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1 and 9.2 for notes on definitions and data limitations.

## How did waiting times vary by diagnosis?

The diagnosis information available in the data from the NHMD can be used to compare the waiting times for patients for whom elective surgery may be more urgent with the waiting times for other patients. In this way, the waiting times for patients awaiting surgery for cancer can be compared with the waiting times for patients awaiting the same surgery for other conditions.

Median waiting times varied according to the type of cancer. The selected ‘cancer types’ presented in Table 9.27 were defined as separations with a principal diagnosis of:

- Bladder cancer (C67, D09.0)
- Bowel cancer (C18–20, D01.0–D01.2)
- Breast cancer (C50, D05)
- Gynaecological cancer (C51–58, D06.9, D07.0–D07.3)
- Kidney cancer (C64)
- Lung cancer (C33–34, D02.1–D02.2)
- Melanoma (C43, D03)
- Prostate cancer (C61, D07.5).

In 2012–13, patients admitted with a principal diagnosis for lung cancer had a median waiting time of 12 days and 90% of patients had been admitted for surgery within 29 days (Table 9.27). Patients with a principal diagnosis of prostate cancer had a median waiting time of 28 days and 90% of patients had been admitted for surgery within 93 days.

**Table 9.27: Waiting time statistics for admissions from waiting lists for elective surgery, for selected principal diagnoses for cancer, 2012–13**

| Cancer type                   | Separations    | Days waited at 50th percentile | Days waited at 90th percentile |
|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Bladder cancer                | 7,520          | 20                             | 77                             |
| Bowel cancer                  | 5,130          | 15                             | 35                             |
| Breast cancer                 | 10,140         | 13                             | 28                             |
| Gynaecological cancer         | 7,417          | 22                             | 78                             |
| Kidney cancer                 | 1,275          | 23                             | 72                             |
| Lung cancer                   | 1,341          | 12                             | 29                             |
| Melanoma                      | 4,348          | 14                             | 33                             |
| Prostate cancer               | 6,689          | 28                             | 93                             |
| All other principal diagnoses | 607,512        | 41                             | 279                            |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>651,372</b> | <b>36</b>                      | <b>266</b>                     |

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1 and 9.2 for notes on definitions and data limitations.

### Surgical specialties

There were shorter overall waiting times for admissions with a principal diagnosis of a cancer (median of 17 days) compared with other admissions (41 days), and for most surgical specialties (Table 9.28). Cancer principal diagnoses were defined by the ICD-10-AM diagnosis codes C00–C99, D00–D09, D45, D46, D47.1 and D47.3.

For surgical specialties for which there were at least 100 cancer-related separations, the largest variation in median waiting times by surgical specialty was for *General surgery* for which patients with a cancer-related principal diagnosis had a median waiting time of 14 days, compared with 38 days for other diagnoses and 31 days overall. The surgical specialties that had the least variation in median waiting times for separations with a cancer-related principal diagnosis compared with other diagnoses were *Urology* (23 days for cancer, compared with 26 days) and *Cardiothoracic surgery* (12 days for cancer, compared with 18 days).

**Table 9.28: Median waiting time (days) for patients admitted from waiting lists for elective surgery with a cancer-related principal diagnoses (or other principal diagnosis), by surgical specialty, public hospitals, 2012–13**

| Surgical specialty           | Cancer-related | Other diagnosis | Overall   |
|------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Cardio-thoracic surgery      | 12             | 18              | 17        |
| Ear, nose and throat surgery | n.p.           | 67              | 67        |
| General surgery              | 14             | 38              | 31        |
| Gynaecology                  | 21             | 33              | 31        |
| Neurosurgery                 | n.p.           | 32              | 32        |
| Ophthalmology                | n.p.           | 75              | 75        |
| Orthopaedic surgery          | n.p.           | 68              | 68        |
| Plastic surgery              | 14             | 25              | 24        |
| Urology                      | 23             | 26              | 26        |
| Vascular surgery             | n.p.           | 21              | 21        |
| Other                        | 23             | 26              | 26        |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>17</b>      | <b>41</b>       | <b>36</b> |

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1 and 9.2 for notes on definitions and data limitations.

## What was the safety and quality of the care?

This section presents information on some aspects of safety and quality of surgical care. It includes information for:

- adverse events reported for public hospital elective surgery admissions
- unplanned readmissions following public hospital elective surgery.

### **Box 9.4: Limitations of the data for adverse events and unplanned readmissions following surgery**

- Diagnosis information that can indicate that adverse events occurred are only available at the end of the episode of care. Therefore, information on adverse events may not be available for the quarter in which the surgery was undertaken.
- Data on readmissions within 28 days following elective surgery may not be available during the quarter that the surgery occurred, as the admission may occur during the following quarter. It should be noted that the numbers of readmissions following surgery for the most recent quarter may not be final.
- The Northern Territory Department of Health identified that, due to an error in their information system, the numbers reported for adverse events and readmissions during the July to September 2013 quarter were under reported. Therefore, these data have been suppressed in this report. The Northern Territory Department of Health have advised that the issue has been rectified. The data will be reported as soon as available.

### **Adverse events reported for elective surgery admissions**

Adverse events are generally defined as incidents in which harm resulted to a person receiving health care. They include infections, falls resulting in injuries, and problems with medication and medical devices. Some of these adverse events may be preventable.

Table 9.29 presents information on the proportion of separations for patients admitted from elective surgery waiting lists where an adverse event was reported, for patients admitted to hospitals from elective surgery waiting lists between 1 October 2012 and 30 September 2013.

The data presented in Table 9.29 can be interpreted as representing selected adverse events in health care that have affected the hospital admissions, rather than all adverse events that occurred.

Information on adverse events was calculated by the states and territories, not the AIHW. Therefore, the comparability of the calculations is unknown. Data for the October to December quarter 2013 were not available at the time of publication of this report. Further information on the definition for this indicator is provided in Appendix B.

Between 1 October 2012 and 30 September 2013, adverse events were reported for approximately 6.5% of patients admitted from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists (Table 9.29). This was similar to the rate of adverse events reported for elective surgery for the period 1 January 2012 and 30 September 2012 (*Australian hospital statistics: national emergency access and elective surgery targets 2012*, AIHW 2013g).

Between 2012 and 2013, the rate of adverse events increased for most states and territories, it decreased for New South Wales.

More information on adverse events for each quarter, by states and territories is available in Table S9.6, accompanying this report online.

**Table 9.29: Adverse events reported for admissions from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists, states and territories, October 2012 to September 2013**

|                                      | NSW     | Vic     | Qld     | WA     | SA     | Tas    | ACT    | NT    | Total   |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|---------|
| Total admissions                     | 205,248 | 147,173 | 107,497 | 81,606 | 63,649 | 15,279 | 10,774 | 6,843 | 641,418 |
| Admissions with adverse events       | 10,898  | 12,538  | 7,896   | 4,328  | 4,033  | 1,237  | 820    | n.a.  | 41,750  |
| Proportion with an adverse event (%) | 5.3     | 8.5     | 7.3     | 5.3    | 6.3    | 8.1    | 7.6    | n.a.  | 6.5     |

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1, 9.2 and 9.4 for notes on definitions and data limitations.

### Unplanned readmissions following elective surgery

Unplanned readmissions following selected surgical episodes of care are generally defined as the number of separations where the principal diagnosis indicates an unplanned or unexpected readmission following an episode of care, and where admission occurred within a specified period (in days).

Table 9.30 presents information on unplanned readmissions within 28 days to the same hospital, for patients admitted to hospitals from elective surgery waiting lists between 1 October 2012 and 30 September 2013. The indicator is an underestimate of all possible unplanned readmissions because:

- it could only be calculated for readmissions to the same hospital, whereas readmissions can take place to other hospitals and even across state and territory borders
- the unplanned and/or unexpected readmissions are limited to those having a principal diagnosis of a post-operative adverse event for which a specified ICD-10-AM (NCCH 2010) diagnosis code has been assigned. This does not include all possible unplanned/unexpected readmissions
- the indicator only includes unplanned readmissions where the urgency of admission was *Emergency*.

Information on unplanned readmissions was calculated by the states and territories, not the AIHW. Therefore, the comparability of the calculations is unknown. Data for the October to December 2013 quarter were not available at the time of publication of this report. Further information on the definition for this indicator is provided in Appendix B.

Between 1 October 2012 and 30 September 2013, approximately 1.2% of patients who were admitted from a public hospital elective surgery waiting list had an unplanned or unexpected readmission to hospital within 28 days of admission for the awaited surgery (Table 9.30). This was similar to the rate of unexpected readmissions reported for the period 1 January 2012 and 30 September 2012 (AIHW 2013g).

Between 2012 and 2013, the rate of unexpected readmission to hospital within 28 days decreased for Victoria and Tasmania.

More information on unplanned readmissions following elective surgery for each quarter, by states and territories is available in Table S9.7, accompanying this report online.

**Table 9.30: Readmissions within 28 days of elective surgery for admissions from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists, states and territories, October 2012 to September 2013**

|                                   | NSW     | Vic     | Qld     | WA     | SA     | Tas    | ACT    | NT    | Total   |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|---------|
| Total admissions                  | 205,248 | 147,173 | 107,497 | 81,606 | 63,649 | 15,279 | 10,774 | 6,843 | 641,418 |
| Readmissions within 28 days       | 2,332   | 1,693   | 1,665   | 922    | 743    | 3      | 148    | n.a.  | 7,506   |
| Proportion with a readmission (%) | 1.1     | 1.2     | 1.5     | 1.1    | 1.2    | 0.0    | 1.4    | n.a.  | 1.2     |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1, 9.2 and 9.4 for notes on definitions and data limitations.

## Additional information

Detailed information on waiting time statistics for patients admitted from waiting lists during 2012–13 were published in *Australian hospital statistics: elective surgery waiting times 2012–13* (AIHW 2013d).

Additional information is available in tables accompanying this report online at [www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/](http://www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/).

Table S9.1: Selected separation statistics for elective surgery by indicator procedure and Indigenous status, public hospitals, 2012–13

Table S9.2: Number of patients admitted for elective surgery from waiting lists, by reason for removal and quarter, public hospitals, states and territories, 2013

Table S9.3a: Selected statistics for admissions from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists, by clinical urgency category and quarter, New South Wales, 2013

Table S9.3b: Selected statistics for admissions from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists, by clinical urgency category and quarter, Victoria, 2013

Table S9.3c: Selected statistics for admissions from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists, by clinical urgency category and quarter, Queensland 2013

Table S9.3d: Selected statistics for admissions from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists, by clinical urgency category and quarter, Western Australia, 2013

Table S9.3e: Selected statistics for admissions from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists, by clinical urgency category and quarter, South Australia, 2013

Table S9.3f: Selected statistics for admissions from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists, by clinical urgency category and quarter, Tasmania, 2013

Table S9.3g: Selected statistics for admissions from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists, by clinical urgency category and quarter, Australian Capital Territory, 2013

Table S9.3h: Selected statistics for admissions from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists, by clinical urgency category and quarter, Northern Territory, 2013

Table S9.4a: Median waiting times and admissions from elective surgery waiting lists, by indicator procedure and quarter, New South Wales, 2013

Table S9.4b: Median waiting times and admissions from elective surgery waiting lists, by indicator procedure and quarter, Victoria, 2013

Table S9.4c: Median waiting times and admissions from elective surgery waiting lists, by indicator procedure and quarter, Queensland 2013



Table S9.4d: Median waiting times and admissions from elective surgery waiting lists, by indicator procedure and quarter, Western Australia, 2013

Table S9.4e: Median waiting times and admissions from elective surgery waiting lists, by indicator procedure and quarter, South Australia, 2013

Table S9.4f: Median waiting times and admissions from elective surgery waiting lists, by indicator procedure and quarter, Tasmania, 2013

Table S9.4g: Median waiting times and admissions from elective surgery waiting lists, by indicator procedure and quarter, Australian Capital Territory, 2013

Table S9.4h: Median waiting times and admissions from elective surgery waiting lists, by indicator procedure and quarter, Northern Territory, 2013

Table S9.5: Waiting time statistics for admissions from elective surgery waiting lists by indicator procedure and remoteness area of usual residence, public hospitals, 2012–13

Table S9.6: Adverse events reported for admissions from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists by quarter, states and territories, October 2012 to September 2013

Table S9.7: Readmissions within 28 days of elective surgery for admissions from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists by quarter, states and territories, October 2012 to September 2013

# 10 Subacute and non-acute admitted patient care

This chapter presents an overview of subacute and non-acute admitted patient care provided by public and private hospitals in Australia, based on data for more than 450,000 separations sourced from the NHMD.

## What data are reported?

Subacute admitted patient care includes the following categories:

- *Rehabilitation care* – care in which the clinical intent or treatment goal is to improve the functional status of a patient with an impairment, disability or handicap. It is usually evidenced by a multi-disciplinary rehabilitation plan comprising negotiated goals and indicative time frames which are evaluated by a periodic assessment using a recognised functional assessment measure.
- *Palliative care* – care in which the clinical intent or treatment goal is primarily quality of life for a patient with an active, progressive disease with little or no prospect of cure. It is usually evidenced by an interdisciplinary assessment and/or management of the physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual needs of the patient; and a grief and bereavement support service for the patient and their carers/family.
- *Geriatric evaluation and management* – care in which the clinical intent or treatment goal is to maximise health status and/or optimise the living arrangements for a patient with multi-dimensional medical conditions associated with disabilities and psychosocial problems, who is usually (but not always) an older patient.
- *Psychogeriatric care* – care in which the clinical intent or treatment goal is improvement in health, modification of symptoms and enhancement in function, behaviour and/or quality of life for a patient with an age-related organic brain impairment with significant behavioural or late onset psychiatric disturbance or a physical condition accompanied by severe psychiatric or behavioural disturbance.

Non-acute care is:

- *Maintenance care* – care in which the clinical intent or treatment goal is prevention of deterioration in the functional and current health status of a patient with a disability or severe level of functional impairment. The patient may require care over an indefinite period. This care includes that provided to a patient who would normally receive care in another setting, for example at home, or in a residential aged care service, by a relative or carer, that is unavailable in the short term.

### Box 10.1: What are the limitations of the data?

As these data are sourced from the NHMD, the data limitations presented in Chapter 6 and Appendix A should be taken into consideration when interpreting the data.

Some subacute and non-acute activity may occur during an acute episode of admitted patient care, or may be delivered as a non-admitted patient service. Therefore, the information presented in this chapter is likely to underestimate this activity.

There is some apparent variation among jurisdictions in the use of statistical discharges and associated assignment of care types which may affect the comparability of the data.

See boxes 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 for notes on definitions, data limitations and methods.

### Box 10.2: What methods were used?

In this chapter, separations are reported for the care types: *Rehabilitation care*, *Palliative care*, *Geriatric evaluation and management*, *Psychogeriatric care* or *Maintenance care*.

In some tables in this chapter, the category **Other subacute and non-acute care** has been used. It includes the care types: *Geriatric evaluation and management*, *Psychogeriatric care* and *Maintenance care*.

For details of other methods used in this chapter, see Chapter 6 and Appendix B.

## How has activity changed over time?

Between 2008–09 and 2012–13, the number of separations for subacute and non-acute care rose from about 295,000 to about 451,000, an average increase of 11.2% per year (Table 10.1).

Over this period, the average rate of increase was higher in private hospitals (13.9%) than in public hospitals (8.2%).

Between 2008–09 and 2012–13, *Rehabilitation care* consistently accounted for the majority (more than 73%) of subacute and non-acute separations. It accounted for just over half of subacute and non-acute separations for public hospitals and over 90% for private hospitals. Over the five-year period, *Rehabilitation care* in private hospitals increased by an average of 14.9% per year.

Separations for *Geriatric evaluation and management* in public hospitals increased by an average of 16.1% per year between 2008–09 and 2012–13.

**Table 10.1: Subacute and non-acute separations by care type, public and private hospitals, 2008–09 to 2012–13**

|                                                    | 2008–09        | 2009–10        | 2010–11        | 2011–12        | 2012–13        | Change (%) <sup>(a)</sup> |               |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|---------------|
|                                                    |                |                |                |                |                | Average since 2008–09     | Since 2011–12 |
| <b>Public hospitals</b>                            |                |                |                |                |                |                           |               |
| Rehabilitation care                                | 77,875         | 82,675         | 86,426         | 95,562         | 103,220        | 7.3                       | 8.0           |
| Palliative care                                    | 24,262         | 26,633         | 28,255         | 31,260         | 33,272         | 8.2                       | 6.4           |
| Geriatric evaluation and management                | 18,307         | 21,310         | 26,484         | 30,451         | 33,284         | 16.1                      | 9.3           |
| Psychogeriatric care                               | 2,393          | 2,336          | 2,445          | 2,382          | 2,485          | 0.9                       | 4.3           |
| Maintenance care                                   | 19,763         | 19,624         | 20,889         | 22,271         | 23,062         | 3.9                       | 3.6           |
| <i>Total public hospitals</i>                      | <i>142,600</i> | <i>152,578</i> | <i>164,499</i> | <i>181,926</i> | <i>195,323</i> | <i>8.2</i>                | <i>7.4</i>    |
| <b>Private hospitals</b>                           |                |                |                |                |                |                           |               |
| Rehabilitation care                                | 137,946        | 168,972        | 200,808        | 226,887        | 240,519        | 14.9                      | 6.0           |
| Palliative care                                    | 5,281          | 5,016          | 5,507          | 5,877          | 6,007          | 3.3                       | 2.2           |
| Geriatric evaluation and management <sup>(b)</sup> | 113            | 88             | 77             | 124            | 204            | n.p.                      | n.p.          |
| Psychogeriatric care                               | 6,579          | 8,102          | 6,336          | 6,204          | 6,321          | −1.0                      | 1.9           |
| Maintenance care                                   | 2,004          | 2,283          | 2,665          | 2,698          | 2,300          | 3.5                       | −14.8         |
| <i>Total private hospitals</i>                     | <i>151,923</i> | <i>184,461</i> | <i>215,393</i> | <i>241,790</i> | <i>255,351</i> | <i>13.9</i>               | <i>5.6</i>    |
| <b>Total</b>                                       | <b>294,523</b> | <b>337,039</b> | <b>379,892</b> | <b>423,716</b> | <b>450,674</b> | <b>11.2</b>               | <b>6.4</b>    |

(a) Annual average change, not adjusted for changes in coverage and re-categorisation of hospitals as public or private.

(b) The average change per year is not shown due to low numbers.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 10.1 and 10.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## States and territories

Between 2008–09 and 2012–13, the average rate of increase for subacute and non-acute care separations in public hospitals was highest in Queensland (12.1%) (Table 10.2). For the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, the rate of subacute and non-acute separations in public hospitals decreased between 2008–09 and 2012–13 (decreases of 6.8% and 7.8% on average per year, respectively).

Over the same period, the average rate of increase for subacute and non-acute separations in private hospitals varied among jurisdictions. It was highest for New South Wales (15.7% on average per year), South Australia (15.0%) and Western Australia (14.3%).

**Table 10.2: Subacute and non-acute separations, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2008–09 to 2012–13**

|                              | 2008–09 | 2009–10 | 2010–11 | 2011–12 | 2012–13 | Change (%) <sup>(a)</sup> |               |
|------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------------------------|---------------|
|                              |         |         |         |         |         | Average since 2008–09     | Since 2011–12 |
| New South Wales              |         |         |         |         |         |                           |               |
| Public hospitals             | 45,153  | 50,960  | 56,102  | 59,740  | 65,558  | 9.8                       | 9.7           |
| Private hospitals            | 82,567  | 100,130 | 123,045 | 141,708 | 148,143 | 15.7                      | 4.5           |
| All hospitals                | 127,720 | 151,090 | 179,147 | 201,448 | 213,701 | 13.7                      | 6.1           |
| Victoria                     |         |         |         |         |         |                           |               |
| Public hospitals             | 32,651  | 35,065  | 37,349  | 39,661  | 40,996  | 5.9                       | 3.4           |
| Private hospitals            | 20,538  | 24,022  | 23,447  | 25,329  | 26,322  | 6.4                       | 3.9           |
| All hospitals                | 53,189  | 59,087  | 60,796  | 64,990  | 67,318  | 6.1                       | 3.6           |
| Queensland                   |         |         |         |         |         |                           |               |
| Public hospitals             | 30,439  | 32,104  | 34,615  | 42,444  | 47,988  | 12.1                      | 13.1          |
| Private hospitals            | 28,805  | 33,487  | 34,990  | 38,514  | 42,207  | 10.0                      | 9.6           |
| All hospitals                | 59,244  | 65,591  | 69,605  | 80,958  | 90,195  | 11.1                      | 11.4          |
| Western Australia            |         |         |         |         |         |                           |               |
| Public hospitals             | 13,487  | 12,601  | 13,648  | 16,664  | 17,250  | 6.3                       | 3.5           |
| Private hospitals            | 4,043   | 4,867   | 5,678   | 6,146   | 6,905   | 14.3                      | 12.3          |
| All hospitals                | 17,530  | 17,468  | 19,326  | 22,810  | 24,155  | 8.3                       | 5.9           |
| South Australia              |         |         |         |         |         |                           |               |
| Public hospitals             | 11,614  | 12,518  | 14,134  | 15,586  | 15,517  | 7.5                       | −0.4          |
| Private hospitals            | 12,763  | 18,052  | 22,510  | 22,056  | 22,343  | 15.0                      | 1.3           |
| All hospitals                | 24,377  | 30,570  | 36,644  | 37,642  | 37,860  | 11.6                      | 0.6           |
| Tasmania                     |         |         |         |         |         |                           |               |
| Public hospitals             | 2,145   | 2,230   | 1,910   | 2,148   | 2,710   | 6.0                       | 26.2          |
| Private hospitals            | n.p.    | n.p.    | n.p.    | n.p.    | n.p.    | n.p.                      | n.p.          |
| All hospitals                | n.p.    | n.p.    | n.p.    | n.p.    | n.p.    | n.p.                      | n.p.          |
| Australian Capital Territory |         |         |         |         |         |                           |               |
| Public hospitals             | 5,956   | 5,749   | 5,645   | 4,877   | 4,469   | −6.9                      | −8.4          |
| Private hospitals            | n.p.    | n.p.    | n.p.    | n.p.    | n.p.    | n.p.                      | n.p.          |
| All hospitals                | n.p.    | n.p.    | n.p.    | n.p.    | n.p.    | n.p.                      | n.p.          |
| Northern Territory           |         |         |         |         |         |                           |               |
| Public hospitals             | 1,155   | 1,351   | 1,096   | 806     | 835     | −7.8                      | 3.6           |
| Private hospitals            | n.p.    | n.p.    | n.p.    | n.p.    | n.p.    | n.p.                      | n.p.          |
| All hospitals                | n.p.    | n.p.    | n.p.    | n.p.    | n.p.    | n.p.                      | n.p.          |
| Total                        |         |         |         |         |         |                           |               |
| Public hospitals             | 142,600 | 152,578 | 164,499 | 181,926 | 195,323 | 8.2                       | 7.4           |
| Private hospitals            | 151,923 | 184,461 | 215,393 | 241,790 | 255,351 | 13.9                      | 5.6           |
| All hospitals                | 294,523 | 337,039 | 379,892 | 423,716 | 450,674 | 11.2                      | 6.4           |

(a) Annual average change, not adjusted for changes in coverage and re-categorisation of hospitals as public or private.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 10.1 and 10.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## How much activity was there in 2012–13?

Overall, 4.8% of separations in 2012–13 were for subacute and non-acute separations (Table 10.3). The proportion of separations that were for subacute and non-acute care varied among states and territories, ranging from 2.3% of all separations in Western Australia to 7.6% in New South Wales.

**Table 10.3: Subacute and non-acute separations by care type, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                      | NSW            | Vic           | Qld           | WA            | SA            | Tas          | ACT          | NT          | Total          |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|
| <b>Public hospitals</b>              |                |               |               |               |               |              |              |             |                |
| Rehabilitation care                  | 35,533         | 15,264        | 27,012        | 11,564        | 10,069        | 911          | 2,608        | 259         | 103,220        |
| Palliative care                      | 13,129         | 7,342         | 8,404         | 1,518         | 1,411         | 553          | 600          | 315         | 33,272         |
| Geriatric evaluation and management  | 6,497          | 17,920        | 4,606         | 1,964         | 1,479         | 266          | 456          | 96          | 33,284         |
| Psychogeriatric care                 | 809            | 0             | 472           | 792           | 268           | 114          | 28           | 2           | 2,485          |
| Maintenance care                     | 9,590          | 470           | 7,494         | 1,412         | 2,290         | 866          | 777          | 163         | 23,062         |
| <i>Public hospital total</i>         | <i>65,558</i>  | <i>40,996</i> | <i>47,988</i> | <i>17,250</i> | <i>15,517</i> | <i>2,710</i> | <i>4,469</i> | <i>835</i>  | <i>195,323</i> |
| <b>Private hospitals</b>             |                |               |               |               |               |              |              |             |                |
| Rehabilitation care                  | 147,723        | 20,119        | 38,128        | 3,270         | 22,040        | n.p.         | n.p.         | n.p.        | 240,519        |
| Palliative care                      | 318            | 693           | 1,946         | 2,683         | 229           | n.p.         | n.p.         | n.p.        | 6,007          |
| Geriatric evaluation and management  | 0              | 0             | 130           | 0             | 60            | n.p.         | n.p.         | n.p.        | 204            |
| Psychogeriatric care                 | 0              | 5,466         | 6             | 849           | 0             | n.p.         | n.p.         | n.p.        | 6,321          |
| Maintenance care                     | 102            | 44            | 1,997         | 103           | 14            | n.p.         | n.p.         | n.p.        | 2,300          |
| <i>Private hospital total</i>        | <i>148,143</i> | <i>26,322</i> | <i>42,207</i> | <i>6,905</i>  | <i>22,343</i> | <i>n.p.</i>  | <i>n.p.</i>  | <i>n.p.</i> | <i>255,351</i> |
| <b>All hospitals</b>                 | <b>213,701</b> | <b>67,318</b> | <b>90,195</b> | <b>24,155</b> | <b>37,860</b> | <b>n.p.</b>  | <b>n.p.</b>  | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>450,674</b> |
| <b>Proportion of all separations</b> | <b>7.6</b>     | <b>2.8</b>    | <b>4.6</b>    | <b>2.3</b>    | <b>5.3</b>    | <b>n.p.</b>  | <b>n.p.</b>  | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>4.8</b>     |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 10.1 and 10.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

Overall in 2012–13, there were 17.6 subacute and non-acute separations per 1,000 population. There was large variation among states and territories, ranging from 9.9 per 1,000 in Western Australia to 24.9 per 1,000 for New South Wales (Table 10.4).

In Table 10.4, the data for Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory are for public hospitals only. However, separations for private hospitals for all jurisdictions are included in the Australian total.

The number of overnight separations is considered to be more comparable among the states and territories, and between the public and private sectors, than the total number of separations. This is due to variations in admission practices which lead to variation, in particular, in the number of same-day admissions.

In 2012–13 overall, there were 9.0 overnight subacute and non-acute separations per 1,000 population, with some variation between states and territories, ranging from 6.5 per 1,000 for South Australia to 9.9 per 1,000 for Queensland.

There was notable variation between states and territories in the rates for same-day separations for subacute and non-acute care, ranging from 0.4 per 1,000 for Western Australia to 16.1 per 1,000 for New South Wales.

**Table 10.4: Subacute and non-acute separations per 1,000 population by same-day/overnight status, states and territories, all hospitals, 2012–13**

|                                                   | NSW         | Vic         | Qld         | WA         | SA          | Tas <sup>(a)</sup> | ACT <sup>(a)</sup> | NT <sup>(a)</sup> | Total <sup>(b)</sup> |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Same-day separations per 1,000 population</b>  |             |             |             |            |             |                    |                    |                   |                      |
| Rehabilitation care                               | 15.9        | <0.1        | 8.6         | 0.1        | 11.6        | <0.1               | 2.1                | <0.1              | 8.2                  |
| Palliative care                                   | 0.2         | <0.1        | 0.2         | 0.3        | <0.1        | <0.1               | 0.1                | 0.1               | 0.1                  |
| Geriatric evaluation and management               | <0.1        | <0.1        | <0.1        | <0.1       | <0.1        | <0.1               | <0.1               | <0.1              | <0.1                 |
| Psychogeriatric care                              | <0.1        | 0.6         | <0.1        | <0.1       | <0.1        | <0.1               | <0.1               | <0.1              | 0.2                  |
| Maintenance care                                  | <0.1        | <0.1        | 0.2         | <0.1       | <0.1        | <0.1               | <0.1               | <0.1              | 0.1                  |
| <i>Same-day total</i>                             | <i>16.1</i> | <i>0.7</i>  | <i>9.1</i>  | <i>0.4</i> | <i>11.7</i> | <i>0.1</i>         | <i>2.2</i>         | <i>0.2</i>        | <i>8.6</i>           |
| <b>Overnight separations per 1,000 population</b> |             |             |             |            |             |                    |                    |                   |                      |
| Rehabilitation care                               | 5.6         | 5.5         | 5.1         | 6.0        | 4.0         | 1.5                | 5.4                | 1.5               | 5.3                  |
| Palliative care                                   | 1.4         | 1.2         | 1.9         | 1.4        | 0.8         | 0.8                | 1.7                | 2.3               | 1.4                  |
| Geriatric evaluation and management               | 0.7         | 2.6         | 1.0         | 0.8        | 0.6         | 0.4                | 1.4                | 1.1               | 1.2                  |
| Psychogeriatric care                              | 0.1         | 0.2         | 0.1         | 0.6        | 0.1         | 0.2                | 0.1                | ..                | 0.2                  |
| Maintenance care                                  | 1.0         | 0.1         | 1.8         | 0.6        | 1.0         | 1.5                | 2.2                | 1.3               | 0.9                  |
| <i>Overnight total</i>                            | <i>8.8</i>  | <i>9.6</i>  | <i>9.9</i>  | <i>9.5</i> | <i>6.5</i>  | <i>4.3</i>         | <i>10.8</i>        | <i>6.2</i>        | <i>9.0</i>           |
| <b>Total</b>                                      | <b>24.9</b> | <b>10.3</b> | <b>18.9</b> | <b>9.9</b> | <b>18.2</b> | <b>4.4</b>         | <b>13.0</b>        | <b>6.5</b>        | <b>17.6</b>          |

(a) Data for Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory are for public hospitals only.

(b) Data for private hospitals in Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory are included in the *Total* column.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 10.1 and 10.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## Overnight separations for subacute and non-acute care

There was a large difference in the overall separation rates of overnight subacute and non-acute care between public and private hospitals (6.3 per 1,000 population and 2.7 per 1,000, respectively) (Table 10.5).

The separation rate for overnight subacute and non-acute for Indigenous Australians was about 34% higher than the rate for other Australians (12.7 per 1,000 and 9.5 per 1,000, respectively).

There were also variations by remoteness of area of residence, with persons residing in *Remote* areas having the lowest rate of overnight subacute and non-acute separations and persons residing in *Major cities* having the highest rate.

Nationally, there was very little variation in the rates of overnight subacute and non-acute care by SES of area of residence.

**Table 10.5: Separations per 1,000 population for overnight subacute and non-acute care by hospital sector, Indigenous status, remoteness area and socioeconomic status of area of residence, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                                  | NSW        | Vic        | Qld        | WA         | SA         | Tas         | ACT         | NT          | Total      |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| <b>Hospital sector</b>                           |            |            |            |            |            |             |             |             |            |
| Public                                           | 6.1        | 6.2        | 7.2        | 7.0        | 4.3        | 4.3         | 10.8        | 6.2         | 6.3        |
| Private                                          | 2.6        | 3.4        | 2.6        | 2.6        | 2.2        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 2.7        |
| <b>Indigenous status<sup>(a)</sup></b>           |            |            |            |            |            |             |             |             |            |
| Indigenous                                       | 11.9       | 12.8       | 16.3       | 14.6       | 8.8        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 12.7       |
| Other Australians                                | 9.3        | 10.2       | 10.0       | 9.9        | 7.0        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 9.5        |
| <b>Remoteness of residence</b>                   |            |            |            |            |            |             |             |             |            |
| Major cities                                     | 9.1        | 9.9        | 10.2       | 9.6        | 7.1        | ..          | 9.3         | ..          | 9.4        |
| Inner regional                                   | 7.9        | 9.1        | 9.7        | 7.7        | 4.4        | 5.3         | n.p.        | ..          | 8.4        |
| Outer regional                                   | 8.9        | 7.8        | 8.3        | 10.1       | 4.8        | 2.5         | ..          | 6.7         | 7.7        |
| Remote                                           | 7.1        | 6.7        | 6.7        | 9.6        | 5.1        | 3.0         | ..          | 4.7         | 6.8        |
| Very remote                                      | 6.3        | ..         | 10.3       | 9.1        | 4.7        | 2.1         | ..          | 5.9         | 8.4        |
| <b>Socioeconomic status of area of residence</b> |            |            |            |            |            |             |             |             |            |
| 1—Lowest                                         | 8.1        | 10.0       | 12.3       | 11.0       | 6.4        | 5.0         | n.p.        | 6.0         | 9.2        |
| 2                                                | 7.2        | 9.6        | 10.0       | 10.3       | 6.6        | 3.9         | n.p.        | 6.3         | 8.5        |
| 3                                                | 9.3        | 9.0        | 8.8        | 9.7        | 6.0        | 2.9         | 31.2        | 7.8         | 8.9        |
| 4                                                | 10.1       | 10.1       | 9.1        | 9.2        | 6.8        | 4.7         | 11.0        | 6.2         | 9.5        |
| 5—Highest                                        | 9.2        | 9.3        | 8.8        | 8.5        | 5.9        | 2.9         | 8.1         | 4.7         | 8.9        |
| <b>Total</b>                                     | <b>8.8</b> | <b>9.6</b> | <b>9.9</b> | <b>9.5</b> | <b>6.5</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>9.0</b> |

(a) The populations used for calculating age standardised separation rates by Indigenous status use different age groups compared with the populations used to calculate other age standardised separation rates presented in this table. Therefore, the separation rates by Indigenous status are not directly comparable with the rates by hospital sector, remoteness of residence or socioeconomic status.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 10.1 and 10.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## Who used these services?

### Sex and age group

Females accounted for more than half (56%) of subacute and non-acute separations (Table 10.6) and there were more separations for females than for males in the age groups 50 years and above. Persons aged 65 and over accounted for around 72% of all subacute and non-acute separations.



**Table 10.6: Subacute and non-acute separations, by age group and sex, all hospitals, 2012–13**

| Age group (years) | Males          | Females        | Persons        |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 0–4               | 93             | 94             | 187            |
| 5–9               | 125            | 73             | 198            |
| 10–14             | 274            | 221            | 495            |
| 15–19             | 1,249          | 752            | 2,001          |
| 20–24             | 1,712          | 1,087          | 2,799          |
| 25–29             | 1,939          | 1,318          | 3,257          |
| 30–34             | 2,543          | 2,049          | 4,592          |
| 35–39             | 3,044          | 2,842          | 5,886          |
| 40–44             | 4,865          | 4,216          | 9,081          |
| 45–49             | 6,330          | 5,674          | 12,004         |
| 50–54             | 8,234          | 10,661         | 18,895         |
| 55–59             | 13,159         | 14,702         | 27,861         |
| 60–64             | 18,515         | 22,060         | 40,575         |
| 65–69             | 25,604         | 30,073         | 55,677         |
| 70–74             | 26,807         | 32,116         | 58,923         |
| 75–79             | 26,897         | 33,835         | 60,732         |
| 80–84             | 26,168         | 37,204         | 63,372         |
| 85+               | 32,386         | 51,753         | 84,139         |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>199,944</b> | <b>250,730</b> | <b>450,674</b> |

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 10.1 and 10.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Separations for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are likely to be under-enumerated. The quality of the data provided for Indigenous status in 2012–13 for admitted patient care varied by jurisdiction. See Chapter 6 and Appendix A for more information on the quality of Indigenous data in the NHMD.

In 2012–13, there were more than 4,100 subacute and non-acute separations for which the Indigenous status was reported as *Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander*, accounting for less than 1% of all subacute and non-acute separations (Table 10.7). For all separations (acute, subacute and non-acute), Indigenous persons comprised about 4.3% of separations. The proportion of separations for subacute and non-acute care that were for Indigenous Australians varied among the states and territories.

In 2012–13, there were 16 subacute and non-acute separations per 1,000 population for Indigenous Australians, about 85% of the rate for other Australians (18 per 1,000). Indigenous Australians had lower separation rates for *Rehabilitation care* than other Australians (9 per 1,000 and 14 per 1,000, respectively). Indigenous Australians had higher separation rates for *Palliative care* than other Australians.

**Table 10.7: Subacute and non-acute separations, by Indigenous status, all hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                            | NSW            | Vic           | Qld           | WA            | SA            | Tas <sup>(a)</sup> | ACT <sup>(a)</sup> | NT <sup>(a)</sup> | Total <sup>(b)</sup> | Per 1,000 population |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Indigenous Australians</b>              |                |               |               |               |               |                    |                    |                   |                      |                      |
| Rehabilitation care                        | 785            | 135           | 899           | 316           | 143           | 25                 | 60                 | 120               | 2,501                | 8.9                  |
| Palliative care                            | 198            | 29            | 230           | 82            | 20            | 18                 | 6                  | 61                | 645                  | 2.7                  |
| Other subacute and non-acute care          | 232            | 44            | 415           | 154           | 26            | 19                 | 14                 | 118               | 1,022                | 4.1                  |
| <i>Total Indigenous Australians</i>        | <i>1,215</i>   | <i>208</i>    | <i>1,544</i>  | <i>552</i>    | <i>189</i>    | <i>62</i>          | <i>80</i>          | <i>299</i>        | <i>4,168</i>         | <i>15.6</i>          |
| Proportion of all hospital separations (%) | 1.5            | 1.1           | 1.6           | 0.7           | 0.8           | 0.2                | 1.4                | 2.6               | 1.1                  |                      |
| <b>Other Australians</b>                   |                |               |               |               |               |                    |                    |                   |                      |                      |
| Rehabilitation care                        | 182,471        | 35,248        | 64,241        | 14,518        | 31,966        | 886                | 2,548              | 139               | 341,238              | 14.1                 |
| Palliative care                            | 13,249         | 8,006         | 10,120        | 4,119         | 1,620         | 535                | 594                | 254               | 38,634               | 1.6                  |
| Other subacute and non-acute care          | 16,766         | 23,856        | 14,290        | 4,966         | 4,085         | 1,227              | 1,247              | 143               | 66,634               | 2.7                  |
| <i>Total other Australians</i>             | <i>212,486</i> | <i>67,110</i> | <i>88,651</i> | <i>23,603</i> | <i>37,671</i> | <i>2,648</i>       | <i>4,389</i>       | <i>536</i>        | <i>446,506</i>       | <i>18.4</i>          |
| Proportion of all hospital separations (%) | 7.8            | 2.9           | 4.7           | 2.4           | 5.5           | 1.2                | 19.8               | 5.0               | 5.0                  |                      |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>213,701</b> | <b>67,318</b> | <b>90,195</b> | <b>24,155</b> | <b>37,860</b> | <b>2,710</b>       | <b>4,469</b>       | <b>835</b>        | <b>450,674</b>       | <b>18.4</b>          |

(a) Data for Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory are for public hospitals only.

(b) Data for private hospitals in Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory are included in the *Total* column.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 10.1 and 10.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## Remoteness area

Overall, people usually resident in *Major cities* had much higher rates for *Rehabilitation care* than other areas (17 separations per 1,000 population, compared with 14 per 1,000 nationwide) (Table 10.8).

The SRRs indicate notable differences in the separation rates for *Rehabilitation care* across remoteness areas for both public and private hospitals.

For public hospitals, the rate of *Rehabilitation care* varied from 2.8 per 1,000 population for people residing in *Remote* areas to 4.4 per 1,000 for people residing in *Major cities* (Table 10.8). There were more marked variations for private hospitals, with the rate of *Rehabilitation care* ranging from 1.7 per 1,000 in *Remote* areas to 12.1 per 1,000 in *Major cities*.

## Socioeconomic status

The separation rates varied from 24 per 1,000 population for patients living in areas classified as being the highest SES group to 14 per 1,000 for the lowest and second lowest SES groups (Table 10.9).

The SRRs indicate notable differences in the separation rates across SES groups for some care types, and for both public and private hospitals.

For public hospitals, the rate of *Rehabilitation care* was broadly similar across all SES groups. For private hospitals, the rate varied from 5.5 per 1,000 population for persons living in areas

classified as the second lowest SES group to 17.4 per 1,000 for persons living in areas classified as the highest SES group.

**Table 10.8: Subacute and non-acute separation statistics, by remoteness area of usual residence, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

|                                     | Remoteness area |                |                |        |             | Total <sup>(a)</sup> |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|--------|-------------|----------------------|
|                                     | Major cities    | Inner regional | Outer regional | Remote | Very remote |                      |
| Public hospitals                    |                 |                |                |        |             |                      |
| Rehabilitation care                 |                 |                |                |        |             |                      |
| Separations                         | 75,897          | 18,096         | 7,353          | 793    | 484         | 103,220              |
| Separations per 1,000 population    | 4.4             | 3.5            | 3.1            | 2.8    | 3.2         | 4.1                  |
| Separation rate ratio               | 1.08            | 0.85           | 0.76           | 0.67   | 0.77        |                      |
| Palliative care                     |                 |                |                |        |             |                      |
| Separations                         | 21,410          | 7,469          | 3,834          | 339    | 149         | 33,272               |
| Separations per 1,000 population    | 1.2             | 1.4            | 1.5            | 1.2    | 1.2         | 1.3                  |
| Separation rate ratio               | 0.96            | 1.05           | 1.19           | 0.93   | 0.92        |                      |
| Geriatric evaluation and management |                 |                |                |        |             |                      |
| Separations                         | 25,289          | 6,064          | 1,786          | 50     | 28          | 33,284               |
| Separations per 1,000 population    | 1.4             | 1.1            | 0.7            | n.p.   | n.p.        | 1.2                  |
| Separation rate ratio               | 1.11            | 0.86           | 0.58           | n.p.   | n.p.        |                      |
| Psychogeriatric care                |                 |                |                |        |             |                      |
| Separations                         | 1,949           | 366            | 146            | 7      | 2           | 2,485                |
| Separations per 1,000 population    | 0.1             | 0.1            | 0.1            | n.p.   | n.p.        | 0.1                  |
| Separation rate ratio               | 1.18            | 0.67           | 0.59           | n.p.   | n.p.        |                      |
| Maintenance care                    |                 |                |                |        |             |                      |
| Separations                         | 13,178          | 5,640          | 3,096          | 592    | 426         | 23,062               |
| Separations per 1,000 population    | 0.7             | 1.1            | 1.3            | 2.3    | 4.0         | 0.9                  |
| Separation rate ratio               | 0.83            | 1.22           | 1.45           | 2.63   | 4.50        |                      |
| Total                               |                 |                |                |        |             |                      |
| Separations                         | 137,723         | 37,635         | 16,215         | 1,781  | 1,089       | 195,323              |
| Separations per 1,000 population    | 7.9             | 7.0            | 6.7            | 6.5    | 8.6         | 7.6                  |
| Separation rate ratio               | 1.04            | 0.93           | 0.88           | 0.85   | 1.13        |                      |
| Private hospitals                   |                 |                |                |        |             |                      |
| Rehabilitation care                 |                 |                |                |        |             |                      |
| Separations                         | 206,586         | 28,251         | 4,674          | 426    | 199         | 240,519              |
| Separations per 1,000 population    | 12.1            | 5.3            | 2.0            | 1.7    | 2.0         | 9.5                  |
| Separation rate ratio               | 1.27            | 0.56           | 0.21           | 0.18   | 0.21        |                      |
| Palliative care                     |                 |                |                |        |             |                      |
| Separations                         | 3,879           | 1,697          | 391            | 24     | 15          | 6,007                |
| Separations per 1,000 population    | 0.2             | 0.3            | 0.2            | n.p.   | n.p.        | 0.2                  |
| Separation rate ratio               | 0.95            | 1.36           | 0.68           | n.p.   | n.p.        |                      |
| Other subacute and non-acute care   |                 |                |                |        |             |                      |
| Separations                         | 7,782           | 815            | 200            | 18     | 7           | 8,825                |
| Separations per 1,000 population    | 0.4             | 0.2            | 0.1            | n.p.   | n.p.        | 0.3                  |
| Separation rate ratio               | 1.31            | 0.49           | 0.34           | n.p.   | n.p.        |                      |
| Total                               |                 |                |                |        |             |                      |
| Separations                         | 218,247         | 30,763         | 5,265          | 468    | 221         | 255,351              |
| Separations per 1,000 population    | 12.7            | 5.8            | 2.2            | 1.9    | 2.2         | 10.0                 |
| Separation rate ratio               | 1.27            | 0.58           | 0.22           | 0.19   | 0.22        |                      |

(a) Total includes separations for which the remoteness area was not able to be categorised.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 10.1 and 10.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 10.9: Subacute and non-acute separation statistics, by socioeconomic status of area of residence, all hospitals, 2012–13**

|                                     | Socioeconomic status of area of residence |        |        |        |           | Total <sup>(a)</sup> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|----------------------|
|                                     | 1—Lowest                                  | 2      | 3      | 4      | 5—Highest |                      |
| Public hospitals                    |                                           |        |        |        |           |                      |
| Rehabilitation care                 |                                           |        |        |        |           |                      |
| Separations                         | 21,883                                    | 21,201 | 21,334 | 20,144 | 17,390    | 103,220              |
| Separations per 1,000 population    | 4.1                                       | 4.0    | 4.2    | 4.3    | 3.7       | 4.1                  |
| Separation rate ratio               | 1.00                                      | 0.96   | 1.03   | 1.06   | 0.90      |                      |
| Palliative care                     |                                           |        |        |        |           |                      |
| Separations                         | 9,000                                     | 7,568  | 6,444  | 5,502  | 4,353     | 33,272               |
| Separations per 1,000 population    | 1.6                                       | 1.4    | 1.3    | 1.2    | 0.9       | 1.3                  |
| Separation rate ratio               | 1.26                                      | 1.05   | 0.97   | 0.91   | 0.70      |                      |
| Geriatric evaluation and management |                                           |        |        |        |           |                      |
| Separations                         | 7,808                                     | 6,813  | 6,419  | 7,050  | 4,867     | 33,284               |
| Separations per 1,000 population    | 1.3                                       | 1.2    | 1.2    | 1.5    | 1.0       | 1.2                  |
| Separation rate ratio               | 1.07                                      | 0.93   | 0.97   | 1.18   | 0.79      |                      |
| Psychogeriatric care                |                                           |        |        |        |           |                      |
| Separations                         | 594                                       | 530    | 564    | 421    | 344       | 2,485                |
| Separations per 1,000 population    | 0.1                                       | 0.1    | 0.1    | 0.1    | 0.1       | 0.1                  |
| Separation rate ratio               | 1.09                                      | 0.97   | 1.13   | 0.96   | 0.76      |                      |
| Maintenance care                    |                                           |        |        |        |           |                      |
| Separations                         | 7,040                                     | 5,465  | 4,160  | 3,355  | 2,774     | 23,062               |
| Separations per 1,000 population    | 1.3                                       | 1.0    | 0.8    | 0.7    | 0.6       | 0.9                  |
| Separation rate ratio               | 1.44                                      | 1.09   | 0.90   | 0.80   | 0.64      |                      |
| Total                               |                                           |        |        |        |           |                      |
| Separations                         | 46,325                                    | 41,577 | 38,921 | 36,472 | 29,728    | 195,323              |
| Separations per 1,000 population    | 8.4                                       | 7.5    | 7.6    | 7.8    | 6.2       | 7.6                  |
| Separation rate ratio               | 1.11                                      | 0.99   | 1.00   | 1.02   | 0.82      |                      |
| Private hospitals                   |                                           |        |        |        |           |                      |
| Rehabilitation care                 |                                           |        |        |        |           |                      |
| Separations                         | 29,786                                    | 32,327 | 44,945 | 48,668 | 81,885    | 240,519              |
| Separations per 1,000 population    | 5.5                                       | 6.0    | 8.8    | 10.5   | 17.4      | 9.5                  |
| Separation rate ratio               | 0.58                                      | 0.63   | 0.93   | 1.11   | 1.84      |                      |
| Palliative care                     |                                           |        |        |        |           |                      |
| Separations                         | 751                                       | 1,443  | 1,169  | 1,220  | 1,421     | 6,007                |
| Separations per 1,000 population    | 0.1                                       | 0.3    | 0.2    | 0.3    | 0.3       | 0.2                  |
| Separation rate ratio               | 0.58                                      | 1.11   | 0.95   | 1.11   | 1.26      |                      |
| Other non-acute care                |                                           |        |        |        |           |                      |
| Separations                         | 786                                       | 827    | 1,744  | 2,973  | 2,490     | 8,825                |
| Separations per 1,000 population    | 0.1                                       | 0.2    | 0.3    | 0.7    | 0.5       | 0.3                  |
| Separation rate ratio               | 0.42                                      | 0.44   | 0.96   | 1.90   | 1.54      |                      |
| Total                               |                                           |        |        |        |           |                      |
| Separations                         | 31,323                                    | 34,597 | 47,858 | 52,861 | 85,796    | 255,351              |
| Separations per 1,000 population    | 5.8                                       | 6.4    | 9.4    | 11.4   | 18.2      | 10.0                 |
| Separation rate ratio               | 0.58                                      | 0.64   | 0.93   | 1.14   | 1.82      |                      |

(a) Total includes separations for which the socioeconomic status group was not able to be categorised.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 10.1 and 10.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## How did people access these services?

The **mode of admission** records the mechanism by which an admitted patient begins an episode of care.

Over half of all subacute and non-acute separations had a mode of admission of *Other*, the term used to refer to all planned and unplanned admissions except transfers from other hospitals and statistical admissions (Table 10.10).

*Statistical admission: care type change* was the most common admission mode for subacute and non-acute separations in public hospitals, accounting for 46% of subacute and non-acute separations. This indicates that the clinical intent of the patient's care had changed (for example, from *Acute* care to *Rehabilitation care*) within the one hospital. Public hospitals also recorded a higher proportion (27%) of *Admitted patient transferred from another hospital* than private hospitals (17%).

**Table 10.10: Subacute and non-acute separations, by mode of admission, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Mode of admission                                  | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total          |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Admitted patient transferred from another hospital | 53,856           | 44,308            | 98,164         |
| Statistical admission: care type change            | 88,974           | 17,944            | 106,918        |
| Other                                              | 52,375           | 192,805           | 245,180        |
| Not reported                                       | 118              | 294               | 412            |
| <b>Total</b>                                       | <b>195,323</b>   | <b>255,351</b>    | <b>450,674</b> |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 10.1 and 10.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## Why did people receive the care?

The reason that a patient received admitted patient care can usually be described in terms of the principal diagnosis.

Overall, 4 out of 5 subacute and non-acute separations had a principal diagnosis from the ICD-10-AM chapter *Factors influencing health status and contact with health services*. A principal diagnosis within this chapter was reported for 95% of subacute and non-acute separations in private hospitals and 65% in public hospitals (Table 10.11).

**Table 10.11: Subacute and non-acute separations, by principal diagnosis in ICD-10-AM chapters, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Principal diagnosis                             |                                                                                                     | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total          |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| A00–B99                                         | Certain infectious and parasitic diseases                                                           | 1,434            | 49                | 1,483          |
| C00–D48                                         | Neoplasms                                                                                           | 22,287           | 4,555             | 26,842         |
| D50–D89                                         | Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism | 535              | 51                | 586            |
| E00–E90                                         | Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases                                                       | 1,132            | 78                | 1,210          |
| F00–F99                                         | Mental and behavioural disorders                                                                    | 6,366            | 5,354             | 11,720         |
| G00–G99                                         | Diseases of the nervous system                                                                      | 3,404            | 823               | 4,227          |
| I00–I99                                         | Diseases of the circulatory system                                                                  | 7,112            | 573               | 7,685          |
| J00–J99                                         | Diseases of the respiratory system                                                                  | 5,603            | 547               | 6,150          |
| K00–K93                                         | Diseases of the digestive system                                                                    | 2,515            | 184               | 2,699          |
| L00–L99                                         | Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue                                                        | 794              | 36                | 830            |
| M00–M99                                         | Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue                                        | 2,483            | 179               | 2,662          |
| N00–N99                                         | Diseases of the genitourinary system                                                                | 2,332            | 244               | 2,576          |
| R00–R99                                         | Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified             | 4,016            | 171               | 4,187          |
| S00–T98                                         | Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes                                 | 7,173            | 239               | 7,412          |
| Z00–Z99                                         | Factors influencing health status and contact with health services                                  | 127,779          | 242,223           | 370,002        |
|                                                 | Other ICD-10-AM chapters                                                                            | 192              | 8                 | 200            |
|                                                 | Not reported                                                                                        | 166              | 37                | 203            |
| <b>Total subacute and non-acute separations</b> |                                                                                                     | <b>195,323</b>   | <b>255,351</b>    | <b>450,674</b> |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 10.1 and 10.2 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information for states and territories is in tables 10.26 and 10.27 at the end of this chapter.

## Most common principal diagnoses

*Care involving use of rehabilitation procedures* accounted for 76% of principal diagnoses reported for subacute and non-acute separations (at the 3-character level). This diagnosis is required to be reported as the principal diagnosis for *Rehabilitation care* and lies within the chapter *Factors influencing health status and contact with health services*.

The second most common principal diagnosis chapter reported for subacute and non-acute separations was *Neoplasms*, which includes both benign and malignant tumours, and was particularly associated with separations for *Palliative care*.

For *Palliative care*, neoplasm-related principal diagnoses accounted for 64% of principal diagnoses for *Palliative care* separations. The 5 most common neoplasm-related principal diagnoses are presented in Table 10.12, as are the top 5 non-neoplasm-related principal diagnoses for *Palliative care*, which included heart failure and respiratory disorders.

**Table 10.12: Separations for the 5 most common neoplasm-related and the 5 most common other principal diagnoses in 3-character ICD-10-AM groupings for *Palliative care* separations, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Principal diagnosis                      |                                                                  | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total         |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| <b>Neoplasm-related</b>                  |                                                                  |                  |                   |               |
| C34                                      | Malignant neoplasm of bronchus and lung                          | 3,836            | 676               | 4,512         |
| C79                                      | Secondary malignant neoplasm of other and unspecified sites      | 2,240            | 506               | 2,746         |
| C78                                      | Secondary malignant neoplasm of respiratory and digestive organs | 1,556            | 361               | 1,917         |
| C25                                      | Malignant neoplasm of pancreas                                   | 1,120            | 322               | 1,442         |
| C61                                      | Malignant neoplasm of prostate                                   | 1,084            | 264               | 1,348         |
|                                          | Other neoplasm-related principal diagnosis                       | 10,851           | 2,282             | 13,133        |
| <b>Other</b>                             |                                                                  |                  |                   |               |
| I50                                      | Heart failure                                                    | 815              | 134               | 949           |
| J44                                      | Other chronic obstructive pulmonary disease                      | 756              | 70                | 826           |
| J18                                      | Pneumonia, organism unspecified                                  | 729              | 62                | 791           |
| J69                                      | Pneumonitis due to solids and liquids                            | 517              | 32                | 549           |
| I63                                      | Cerebral infarction                                              | 512              | 29                | 541           |
|                                          | Other (excludes neoplasm-related principal diagnoses)            | 9,256            | 1,269             | 10,525        |
| <b>Total Palliative care separations</b> |                                                                  | <b>33,272</b>    | <b>6,007</b>      | <b>39,279</b> |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 10.1 and 10.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

For *Geriatric evaluation and management*, the 5 most common principal diagnoses made up 25% of all separations within this care type. They included *Care involving use of rehabilitation procedures*, *Fracture of the femur* (hip) and *Delirium* (Table 10.13).

For *Psychogeriatric care*, the 5 most common principal diagnoses made up 66% of all separations within this care type. The 5 most common principal diagnoses were from the ICD-10-AM chapter *Mental and behavioural disorders* (Table 10.13).

For *Maintenance care*, the 5 most common principal diagnoses made up almost 89% of all separations within this care type, with *Problems related to medical facilities and other health care* reported as the principal diagnosis for 73% of *Maintenance care* separations (Table 10.13).

In some cases, patients may have extended stays in hospital while waiting for admission to another health care facility, such as a residential aged care service.

**Table 10.13: Separations for the 5 most common principal diagnoses in 3-character ICD-10-AM groupings for other subacute and non-acute care separations, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Principal diagnosis                                          |                                                                    | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| <b>Geriatric evaluation and management</b>                   |                                                                    |                  |                   |               |
| Z50                                                          | Care involving use of rehabilitation procedures                    | 3,386            | 0                 | 3,386         |
| S72                                                          | Fracture of femur                                                  | 1,687            | n.p.              | n.p.          |
| F05                                                          | Delirium, not induced by alcohol and other psychoactive substances | 1,282            | n.p.              | n.p.          |
| I50                                                          | Heart failure                                                      | 1,095            | n.p.              | n.p.          |
| S32                                                          | Fracture of lumbar spine and pelvis                                | 978              | n.p.              | n.p.          |
|                                                              | Other                                                              | 24,856           | 182               | 25,038        |
| <i>Total Geriatric evaluation and management separations</i> |                                                                    | <i>33,284</i>    | <i>204</i>        | <i>33,488</i> |
| <b>Psychogeriatric care</b>                                  |                                                                    |                  |                   |               |
| F33                                                          | Recurrent depressive disorder                                      | 234              | 1,862             | 2,096         |
| F32                                                          | Depressive episode                                                 | 462              | 948               | 1,410         |
| G30                                                          | Alzheimer's disease                                                | 275              | 621               | 896           |
| F31                                                          | Bipolar affective disorder                                         | 199              | 569               | 768           |
| F41                                                          | Other anxiety disorders                                            | 60               | 613               | 673           |
|                                                              | Other                                                              | 1,255            | 1,708             | 2,963         |
| <i>Total Psychogeriatric care separations</i>                |                                                                    | <i>2,485</i>     | <i>6,321</i>      | <i>8,806</i>  |
| <b>Maintenance care</b>                                      |                                                                    |                  |                   |               |
| Z75                                                          | Problems related to medical facilities and other health care       | 17,632           | 972               | 18,604        |
| Z54                                                          | Convalescence                                                      | 935              | 594               | 1,529         |
| Z74                                                          | Problems related to care-provider dependency                       | 1,380            | 9                 | 1,389         |
| F99                                                          | Mental disorder, not otherwise specified                           | 531              | 0                 | 531           |
| F33                                                          | Recurrent depressive disorder                                      | 12               | 456               | 468           |
|                                                              | Other                                                              | 2,572            | 269               | 2,841         |
| <i>Total Maintenance care separations</i>                    |                                                                    | <i>23,062</i>    | <i>2,300</i>      | <i>25,362</i> |

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 10.1 and 10.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## Additional diagnoses

For *Rehabilitation care*, the principal diagnosis is required to be reported as *Care involving use of rehabilitation procedures*, and the first additional diagnosis is usually the reason for that care.

The 10 most common first additional diagnoses reported for *Rehabilitation care* separations included 7 musculoskeletal conditions or injuries (Table 10.14). Over half of rehabilitation separations in private hospitals and over one-quarter of rehabilitation separations in public hospitals reported these 10 first additional diagnoses.



**Table 10.14: Separations for the 10 most common first additional diagnoses in 3-character ICD-10-AM groupings for *Rehabilitation care* separations, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| First additional diagnosis                          |                                                                               | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total          |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| M17                                                 | Gonarthrosis [arthrosis of knee]                                              | 3,893            | 57,238            | 61,131         |
| M16                                                 | Coxarthrosis [arthrosis of hip]                                               | 1,990            | 23,250            | 25,240         |
| S72                                                 | Fracture of femur                                                             | 8,166            | 7,818             | 15,984         |
| I63                                                 | Cerebral infarction                                                           | 6,613            | 4,638             | 11,251         |
| Z96                                                 | Presence of other functional implants                                         | 2,072            | 8,563             | 10,635         |
| M54                                                 | Dorsalgia                                                                     | 1,195            | 8,220             | 9,415          |
| M25                                                 | Other joint disorders, not elsewhere classified                               | 603              | 6,572             | 7,175          |
| S32                                                 | Fracture of lumbar spine and pelvis                                           | 2,742            | 4,029             | 6,771          |
| M48                                                 | Other spondylopathies                                                         | 730              | 5,217             | 5,947          |
| T84                                                 | Complications of internal orthopaedic prosthetic devices, implants and grafts | 990              | 4,931             | 5,921          |
|                                                     | Other                                                                         | 74,226           | 110,043           | 184,269        |
| <b>Total <i>Rehabilitation care</i> separations</b> |                                                                               | <b>103,220</b>   | <b>240,519</b>    | <b>343,739</b> |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 10.1 and 10.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

### **Performance indicator: number of hospital patient days used by those eligible and waiting for residential aged care**

This indicator is related to the NHA outcome area of *Older Australians receive appropriate high quality and affordable health and aged services*. The indicator is specified under the NHA as a ‘proxy’ measure as it requires data development to ensure that the analysis is better suited to the intent of the indicator.

This indicator is intended to report the number of hospital patient days taken up by Australians waiting for a residential aged care place. However, the current data collected do not identify whether an aged care assessment has been made and there may also be variations in the use of the care type *Maintenance* between jurisdictions.

Table 10.15 presents the number of hospital patient days (per 1,000 patient days) for overnight separations with a care type of *Maintenance* and a diagnosis of *Person awaiting admission to residential aged care service*.

There were large variations in the rates between states and territories. There was also variation in the rates according to remoteness area of the patient and SES, with the highest rates of patient days reported for persons residing in *Remote* areas, and those in the two lowest SES.

**Table 10.15: Hospital patient days per 1,000 patient days, used by those eligible and waiting for residential aged care<sup>(a)</sup>, 2012–13**

|                                                  | NSW        | Vic        | Qld         | WA          | SA          | Tas        | ACT         | NT          | Total       |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Indigenous status</b>                         |            |            |             |             |             |            |             |             |             |
| Indigenous                                       | 2.8        | 0.2        | 15.7        | 2.7         | 22.2        | n.p.       | n.p.        | n.p.        | 8.5         |
| Other Australians                                | 7.1        | 1.2        | 20.6        | 14.0        | 24.1        | n.p.       | n.p.        | n.p.        | 10.5        |
| <b>Remoteness of residence<sup>(b)</sup></b>     |            |            |             |             |             |            |             |             |             |
| Major cities                                     | 6.0        | 0.0        | 13.9        | 3.7         | 19.4        | 0.0        | 18.0        | 0.0         | 6.8         |
| Inner regional                                   | 9.6        | 2.5        | 19.2        | 23.8        | 2.9         | 5.9        | 0.4         | 0.0         | 9.9         |
| Outer regional                                   | 11.1       | 10.9       | 45.2        | 77.7        | 28.2        | 9.9        | 2.9         | 18.1        | 29.4        |
| Remote                                           | 0.6        | 4.4        | 57.8        | 37.5        | 132.4       | 4.4        | 0.0         | 24.6        | 53.3        |
| Very remote                                      | 0.0        | 0.0        | 25.8        | 11.7        | 77.0        | 22.3       | 0.0         | 8.5         | 18.9        |
| <b>Socioeconomic status of area of residence</b> |            |            |             |             |             |            |             |             |             |
| 1—Lowest                                         | 10.6       | 1.1        | 28.5        | 6.3         | 10.0        | 8.5        | 1.4         | 7.7         | 12.4        |
| 2                                                | 7.4        | 2.6        | 27.5        | 30.0        | 36.4        | 4.7        | 8.1         | 30.5        | 16.2        |
| 3                                                | 6.4        | 1.8        | 13.4        | 18.6        | 44.6        | 8.4        | 8.0         | 28.7        | 10.7        |
| 4                                                | 5.9        | 0.3        | 13.5        | 4.1         | 13.2        | 4.9        | 21.7        | 14.6        | 6.5         |
| 5—Highest                                        | 3.6        | 0.0        | 14.3        | 4.0         | 12.2        | 3.4        | 15.5        | 16.6        | 5.3         |
| <b>Total</b>                                     | <b>6.9</b> | <b>1.2</b> | <b>20.4</b> | <b>13.3</b> | <b>24.0</b> | <b>7.1</b> | <b>15.4</b> | <b>15.7</b> | <b>10.4</b> |

(a) Includes patient days for overnight separations with a care type of *Maintenance*, for which the separation mode was not *Other* (was not discharged to their place of usual residence) and had a diagnosis of Z75.11 *Person awaiting admission to residential aged care service*.

(b) Not all remoteness areas are represented in each state or territory. However, interstate visitors residing in these remoteness areas may be treated in those states and territories.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 10.1 and 10.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## How urgent was the care?

Admissions to hospital can be categorised as *Emergency* (required within 24 hours) or *Elective* (required at some stage beyond 24 hours). Emergency/elective status is not assigned for some admissions (for example, obstetric care and planned care, such as dialysis).

In 2012–13, 65% of subacute and non-acute admitted patients were reported as *Elective* admissions (treatment could be delayed by at least 24 hours). The proportion of *Elective* admissions varied between public and private hospitals, accounting for 89% of subacute and non-acute separations in private hospitals and 34% in public hospitals. About 32% of subacute and non-acute separations had a *Not assigned* urgency of admission (Table 10.16).

**Table 10.16: Subacute and non-acute separations, by urgency of admission and care type, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

|                            | Care type      |               |                                     |                  |               | Total          |
|----------------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
|                            | Rehabilitation | Palliative    | Geriatric evaluation and management | Psycho-geriatric | Maintenance   |                |
| <b>Public hospitals</b>    |                |               |                                     |                  |               |                |
| Emergency                  | 3,399          | 6,361         | 790                                 | 653              | 998           | 12,201         |
| Elective                   | 41,922         | 10,129        | 11,137                              | 627              | 1,701         | 65,516         |
| Not assigned               | 57,813         | 16,751        | 21,314                              | 1,203            | 19,834        | 116,915        |
| <i>Total<sup>(a)</sup></i> | <i>103,220</i> | <i>33,272</i> | <i>33,284</i>                       | <i>2,485</i>     | <i>23,062</i> | <i>195,323</i> |
| <b>Private hospitals</b>   |                |               |                                     |                  |               |                |
| Emergency                  | 582            | 817           | 11                                  | 644              | 34            | 2,088          |
| Elective                   | 215,888        | 4,171         | 137                                 | 5,655            | 1,584         | 227,435        |
| Not assigned               | 24,048         | 1,019         | 56                                  | 22               | 644           | 25,789         |
| <i>Total<sup>(a)</sup></i> | <i>240,519</i> | <i>6,007</i>  | <i>204</i>                          | <i>6,321</i>     | <i>2,300</i>  | <i>255,351</i> |
| <b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b> | <b>343,739</b> | <b>39,279</b> | <b>33,488</b>                       | <b>8,806</b>     | <b>25,362</b> | <b>450,674</b> |

(a) The totals include separations for which the urgency of admission was not reported.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 10.1 and 10.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## What care was provided?

The care that a patient received can be described in a variety of ways. This section presents information on subacute and non-acute separations describing care by the type of procedure undertaken.

The type of care is also described by the care type that is used throughout this chapter to categorise the subacute and non-acute separations.

### Palliative care

Although over 39,000 separations were recorded with a care type of *Palliative care*, there were more than 61,000 separations identified as providing some form of palliative care regardless of the care type specified (Table 10.17). These separations are identified by either the assignment of the ICD-10-AM code Z51.5 *Palliative care* as an additional diagnosis, or by the assignment of the *Palliative care* type. The exact nature of the care provided for the separations that were not assigned the *Palliative care* type, but were assigned an additional diagnosis code of Z51.5, is unknown.

**Table 10.17: *Palliative care* separations as identified by care type and/or additional diagnosis of Z51.5, all hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                            | NSW    | Vic    | Qld    | WA    | SA    | Tas <sup>(a)</sup> | ACT <sup>(a)</sup> | NT <sup>(a)</sup> | Total <sup>(b)</sup> |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Care type                  | 13,447 | 8,035  | 10,350 | 4,201 | 1,640 | 553                | 600                | 315               | 39,279               |
| Diagnosis                  | 17,839 | 20,108 | 10,350 | 4,201 | 4,198 | 1,655              | 700                | 666               | 60,375               |
| Care type and/or diagnosis | 18,699 | 20,114 | 10,350 | 4,201 | 4,383 | 1,693              | 728                | 746               | 61,596               |

(a) Data for Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory are for public hospitals only.

(b) Data for private hospitals in Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory are included in the Total column.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 10.1 and 10.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## Procedures and other interventions

In public hospitals, about 17% of subacute and non-acute separations did not report a procedure, for private hospitals about 4% did not report a procedure (Table 10.18).

About 90% of procedures reported for subacute and non-acute separations, belonged to the ACHI procedure chapter *Non-invasive, cognitive and other interventions, not elsewhere classified*. This chapter includes anaesthesia, allied health interventions (which includes physiotherapy and other rehabilitation-related procedures), dialysis and chemotherapy.

**Table 10.18: Procedures<sup>(a)</sup> reported for subacute and non-acute separations, by ACHI chapter, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Procedure chapter                               |                                                         | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total          |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1–86                                            | Procedures on nervous system                            | 367              | 263               | 630            |
| 300–333                                         | Procedures on ear and mastoid process                   | 184              | 18                | 202            |
| 370–422                                         | Procedures on nose, mouth and pharynx                   | 74               | 11                | 85             |
| 450–490                                         | Dental services                                         | 111              | 3                 | 114            |
| 520–570                                         | Procedures on respiratory system                        | 1,010            | 136               | 1,146          |
| 600–777                                         | Procedures on cardiovascular system                     | 218              | 72                | 290            |
| 800–817                                         | Procedures on blood and blood-forming organs            | 73               | 14                | 87             |
| 850–1011                                        | Procedures on digestive system                          | 1,246            | 267               | 1,513          |
| 1040–1129                                       | Procedures on urinary system                            | 1,338            | 233               | 1,571          |
| 1360–1579                                       | Procedures on musculoskeletal system                    | 912              | 383               | 1,295          |
| 1600–1718                                       | Dermatological and plastic procedures                   | 2,151            | 319               | 2,470          |
| 1786–1799                                       | Radiation oncology procedures                           | 588              | 46                | 634            |
| 1820–1922                                       | Non-invasive, cognitive and other interventions, n.e.c. | 162,019          | 244,038           | 406,057        |
| 1940–2016                                       | Imaging services                                        | 310              | 67                | 377            |
|                                                 | Other ACHI chapters                                     | 176              | 35                | 211            |
|                                                 | No procedure or not reported                            | 32,747           | 11,236            | 43,983         |
| <b>Total subacute and non-acute separations</b> |                                                         | <b>195,323</b>   | <b>255,351</b>    | <b>450,674</b> |

ACHI—Australian Classification of Health Interventions; n.e.c.—not elsewhere classified.

(a) A separation is counted once for the group if it has at least one procedure reported within the group. As more than one procedure can be reported for each separation, the data are not additive and therefore the totals may not equal the sum of counts in the rows.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 10.1 and 10.2 for notes on data limitations and methods. Additional information for states and territories is in tables 10.28 and 10.29 at the end of this chapter.

## Most common procedures

The most frequently reported procedures for each of the subacute and non-acute care types are presented in tables 10.19 to 10.21.

In 2012–13, allied health interventions (which lie within the chapter *Non-invasive, cognitive and other interventions, not elsewhere classified*) were the most frequently reported procedures for *Rehabilitation care* separations (Table 10.19). The 10 most common allied health interventions reported accounted for 91% of procedures reported. They included physiotherapy, occupational therapy and social work. Some procedures were predominantly performed in private hospitals, such as hydrotherapy and exercise therapy.

**Table 10.19: Procedures<sup>(a)</sup> reported for the 10 most common ACHI procedures for *Rehabilitation care*, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Procedure code          |                                                  | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 95550-03                | Allied health intervention, physiotherapy        | 82,280           | 214,938           | 297,218        |
| 95550-02                | Allied health intervention, occupational therapy | 61,463           | 111,690           | 173,153        |
| 96153-00                | Hydrotherapy                                     | 5,319            | 74,463            | 79,782         |
| 95550-01                | Allied health intervention, social work          | 41,293           | 18,074            | 59,367         |
| 95550-00                | Allied health intervention, dietetics            | 28,006           | 13,646            | 41,652         |
| 96129-00                | Exercise therapy, total body                     | 109              | 36,842            | 36,951         |
| 95550-05                | Allied health intervention, speech pathology     | 20,305           | 11,595            | 31,900         |
| 95550-11                | Allied health intervention, other                | 4,142            | 16,296            | 20,438         |
| 95550-09                | Allied health intervention, pharmacy             | 10,780           | 5,770             | 16,550         |
| 95550-10                | Allied health intervention, psychology           | 6,639            | 5,945             | 12,584         |
|                         | Other                                            | 28,885           | 43,527            | 72,412         |
|                         | No procedure or not reported                     | 13,714           | 4,666             | 18,380         |
| <b>Total procedures</b> |                                                  | <b>289,221</b>   | <b>552,786</b>    | <b>842,007</b> |

ACHI—Australian Classification of Health Interventions.

(a) A separation is counted once for the group if it has at least one procedure reported within the group. As more than one procedure can be reported for each separation, the data are not additive and therefore the totals may not equal the sum of counts in the rows.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 10.1 and 10.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

For *Palliative care*, 9 of the 10 most common reported procedures were allied health interventions and included social work, physiotherapy and pastoral care (Table 10.20). About 15% of *Palliative care* separations had no procedures reported.

**Table 10.20: Procedures<sup>(a)</sup> reported for the 10 most common ACHI procedures for *Palliative care*, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Procedure code          |                                                  | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total         |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 95550-01                | Allied health intervention, social work          | 13,572           | 1,214             | 14,786        |
| 95550-03                | Allied health intervention, physiotherapy        | 12,592           | 1,523             | 14,115        |
| 95550-02                | Allied health intervention, occupational therapy | 8,245            | 438               | 8,683         |
| 95550-00                | Allied health intervention, dietetics            | 6,575            | 740               | 7,315         |
| 95550-12                | Allied health intervention, pastoral care        | 5,938            | 865               | 6,803         |
| 95550-05                | Allied health intervention, speech pathology     | 4,779            | 254               | 5,033         |
| 95550-09                | Allied health intervention, pharmacy             | 2,623            | 186               | 2,809         |
| 13706-02                | Administration of packed cells                   | 1,209            | 361               | 1,570         |
| 95550-11                | Allied health intervention, other                | 1,188            | 82                | 1,270         |
| 96187-00                | Pastoral ministry                                | 89               | 1,015             | 1,104         |
|                         | Other                                            | 9,131            | 2,345             | 11,476        |
|                         | No procedure or not reported                     | 8,948            | 2,243             | 11,191        |
| <b>Total procedures</b> |                                                  | <b>65,941</b>    | <b>9,023</b>      | <b>74,964</b> |

ACHI—Australian Classification of Health Interventions.

(a) A separation is counted once for the group if it has at least one procedure reported within the group. As more than one procedure can be reported for each separation, the data are not additive and therefore the totals may not equal the sum of counts in the rows.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 10.1 and 10.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

For *Geriatric evaluation and management*, the 5 most common procedures were allied health interventions and accounted for about 80% of reported procedures. These included physiotherapy, occupational therapy and social work (Table 10.21).

For *Psychogeriatric care*, about 28% of separations had no procedures reported. The 5 most common procedures included general anaesthesia, physiotherapy, social work and occupational therapy (Table 10.21).

For *Maintenance care*, about 18% of separations had no procedures reported. The 5 most common procedures included physiotherapy, social work and occupational therapy (Table 10.21).

**Table 10.21: Procedures<sup>(a)</sup> reported for the 5 most common ACHI procedures for other subacute and non-acute care, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Procedure code                                                  |                                                  | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| <b>Geriatric evaluation and management</b>                      |                                                  |                  |                   |                |
| 95550-03                                                        | Allied health intervention, physiotherapy        | 27,425           | 140               | 27,565         |
| 95550-02                                                        | Allied health intervention, occupational therapy | 24,140           | 88                | 24,228         |
| 95550-01                                                        | Allied health intervention, social work          | 20,524           | 65                | 20,589         |
| 95550-00                                                        | Allied health intervention, dietetics            | 14,568           | 34                | 14,602         |
| 95550-05                                                        | Allied health intervention, speech pathology     | 8,468            | 15                | 8,483          |
|                                                                 | Other                                            | 24,176           | 179               | 24,355         |
|                                                                 | <i>Separations with no procedure reported</i>    | 2,586            | 14                | 2,600          |
| <i>Total procedures for Geriatric evaluation and management</i> |                                                  | <i>119,301</i>   | <i>521</i>        | <i>119,822</i> |
| <b>Psychogeriatric care</b>                                     |                                                  |                  |                   |                |
| 92514-99                                                        | General anaesthesia, ASA 99                      | 491              | 1,663             | 2,154          |
| 95550-03                                                        | Allied health intervention, physiotherapy        | 1,081            | 674               | 1,755          |
| 95550-01                                                        | Allied health intervention, social work          | 1,194            | 460               | 1,654          |
| 95550-02                                                        | Allied health intervention, occupational therapy | 1,041            | 561               | 1,602          |
| 92514-39                                                        | General anaesthesia, ASA 39                      | 202              | 496               | 698            |
|                                                                 | Other                                            | 2,903            | 3,991             | 6,894          |
|                                                                 | <i>Separations with no procedure reported</i>    | 544              | 3,547             | 4,091          |
| <i>Total procedures for Psychogeriatric care</i>                |                                                  | <i>6,912</i>     | <i>7,845</i>      | <i>14,757</i>  |
| <b>Maintenance care</b>                                         |                                                  |                  |                   |                |
| 95550-03                                                        | Allied health intervention, physiotherapy        | 10,345           | 750               | 11,095         |
| 95550-01                                                        | Allied health intervention, social work          | 9,462            | 497               | 9,959          |
| 95550-02                                                        | Allied health intervention, occupational therapy | 6,117            | 228               | 6,345          |
| 95550-00                                                        | Allied health intervention, dietetics            | 4,625            | 188               | 4,813          |
| 95550-05                                                        | Allied health intervention, speech pathology     | 2,914            | 115               | 3,029          |
|                                                                 | Other                                            | 7,746            | 858               | 8,604          |
|                                                                 | <i>Separations with no procedure reported</i>    | 6,957            | 766               | 7,723          |
| <i>Total procedures for Maintenance care</i>                    |                                                  | <i>41,209</i>    | <i>2,636</i>      | <i>43,845</i>  |

ACHI—Australian Classification of Health Interventions; ASA—American Society of Anesthesiologists Physical Status Classification.

(a) A separation is counted once for the group if it has at least one procedure reported within the group. As more than one procedure can be reported for each separation, the data are not additive and therefore the totals may not equal the sum of counts in the rows.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 10.1 and 10.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## How long did patients stay?

Subacute and non-acute separations may involve same-day or overnight episodes. Overall, the average length of stay for subacute and non-acute care was much higher than the average length of stay for acute care (Table 6.21), and was higher in public hospitals than in private hospitals (Table 10.22). For example, the average length of stay for *Rehabilitation care* was 16.2 days in public hospitals, compared to 4.5 days in private hospitals.

**Table 10.22: Patient days and average length of stay for subacute and non-acute separations, by care type, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Care type                           | Public hospitals |                        | Private hospitals |                        | Total            |                        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
|                                     | Patient days     | Average length of stay | Patient days      | Average length of stay | Patient days     | Average length of stay |
| Rehabilitation care                 | 1,676,928        | 16.2                   | 1,088,903         | 4.5                    | 2,765,831        | 8.0                    |
| Palliative care                     | 340,744          | 10.2                   | 68,483            | 11.4                   | 409,227          | 10.4                   |
| Geriatric evaluation and management | 570,700          | 17.1                   | 3,013             | 14.8                   | 573,713          | 17.1                   |
| Psychogeriatric care                | 115,022          | 46.3                   | 44,349            | 7.0                    | 159,371          | 18.1                   |
| Maintenance care                    | 700,337          | 30.4                   | 44,002            | 19.1                   | 744,339          | 29.3                   |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>3,403,731</b> | <b>17.4</b>            | <b>1,248,750</b>  | <b>4.9</b>             | <b>4,652,481</b> | <b>10.3</b>            |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 10.1 and 10.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## Who paid for the care?

About 75% of subacute and non-acute separations from public hospitals were for *Public patients*, and *Private health insurance* funded 82% of subacute and non-acute separations from private hospitals (Table 10.23). The *Department of Veterans' Affairs* funded 5% of subacute and non-acute separations in public hospitals and 10% in private hospitals. For private hospitals, about 38% of *Palliative care* separations were *Public patients*.

## How was the care completed?

The mode of separation records the status of the patient at the time of separation and, for some categories, the place to which the person was discharged or transferred.

In 2012–13, the most common mode of separation for subacute and non-acute separations was *Other* (76%), which includes discharge to usual residence/own accommodation/welfare institution (Table 10.24). Over 5% were transferred to another hospital and a further 4% of separations ended with *Discharged or transferred to a residential aged care service*.

*Other* was reported as the separation mode for 90% of private hospital separations for subacute and non-acute care, compared with 57% for subacute and non-acute care in public hospitals.

For public hospitals, about 10% of subacute and non-acute separations ended with a *Discharge/transfer to an (other) acute hospital* and a further 11% ended with a *Statistical discharge: type change* (indicating that the patient remained in hospital but the intent of care had changed).

There was some variation in the mode of separation by type of subacute and non-acute care. For example, for *Rehabilitation care*, 86% of separations reported a mode of separation of *Other*, compared with 27% for *Palliative care* and 51% for *Other subacute and non-acute care* types. Around 19% of patients in *Other subacute and non-acute care* types had a mode of separation of *Discharge/transfer to residential aged care service*. Over half (58%) of *Palliative care* separations had a mode of separation of *Died* (Table 10.25).

**Table 10.23: Subacute and non-acute separations, by principal source of funds and care type, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Principal source of funds                | Care type      |            |                                   | Total   |
|------------------------------------------|----------------|------------|-----------------------------------|---------|
|                                          | Rehabilitation | Palliative | Other subacute and non-acute care |         |
| Public hospitals                         |                |            |                                   |         |
| Public patients <sup>(a)</sup>           | 77,133         | 24,590     | 44,373                            | 146,096 |
| Private health insurance                 | 19,302         | 6,660      | 10,030                            | 35,992  |
| Self-funded                              | 312            | 111        | 134                               | 557     |
| Workers compensation                     | 514            | 38         | 16                                | 568     |
| Motor vehicle third party personal claim | 1,503          | 5          | 221                               | 1,729   |
| Department of Veterans' Affairs          | 4,020          | 1,721      | 3,935                             | 9,676   |
| Other <sup>(b)</sup>                     | 436            | 147        | 122                               | 705     |
| Total public hospitals                   | 103,220        | 33,272     | 58,831                            | 195,323 |
| Private hospitals                        |                |            |                                   |         |
| Public patients <sup>(a)</sup>           | 1,171          | 2,250      | 597                               | 4,018   |
| Private health insurance                 | 199,863        | 2,971      | 6,276                             | 209,110 |
| Self-funded                              | 5,676          | 19         | 124                               | 5,819   |
| Workers compensation                     | 7,185          | 5          | 22                                | 7,212   |
| Motor vehicle third party personal claim | 1,222          | 52         | 1                                 | 1,275   |
| Department of Veterans' Affairs          | 24,370         | 484        | 1,777                             | 26,631  |
| Other <sup>(b)</sup>                     | 1,032          | 226        | 28                                | 1,286   |
| Total private hospitals                  | 240,519        | 6,007      | 8,825                             | 255,351 |
| Total                                    | 343,739        | 39,279     | 67,656                            | 450,674 |

(a) Public patients includes separations with a funding source of *Health service budget*, *Other hospital or public authority* (with a *Public patient election status*), *Health service budget (due to eligibility for Reciprocal health care agreements)* and *Health service budget—no charge raised due to hospital decision* (in public hospitals).

(b) Other includes separations with a funding source of *Other compensation*, *Department of Defence*, *Correctional facilities*, *Other hospital or public authority* (without a *Public patient election status*), *Other*, *Health service budget—no charge raised due to hospital decision* (in private hospitals) and not reported.

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 10.1 and 10.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.



**Table 10.24: Subacute and non-acute separations, by mode of separation, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Mode of separation                                                 | Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Discharge/transfer to an (other) acute hospital                    | 19,491           | 3,891             | 23,382         |
| Discharge/transfer to residential aged care service <sup>(a)</sup> | 16,553           | 1,901             | 18,454         |
| Discharge/transfer to an (other) psychiatric hospital              | 257              | 11                | 268            |
| Discharge/transfer to other health-care accommodation              | 3,924            | 13,072            | 16,996         |
| Statistical discharge: type change                                 | 20,458           | 2,860             | 23,318         |
| Left against medical advice/discharge at own risk                  | 1,316            | 230               | 1,546          |
| Statistical discharge from leave                                   | 1,028            | 35                | 1,063          |
| Died                                                               | 21,369           | 3,662             | 25,031         |
| Other <sup>(b)</sup>                                               | 110,815          | 229,685           | 340,500        |
| <b>Total<sup>(c)</sup></b>                                         | <b>195,323</b>   | <b>255,351</b>    | <b>450,674</b> |

(a) The separation mode *Discharge/transfer to residential aged care service* excludes where this was the usual place of residence.

(b) The separation mode *Other* includes *Discharge to usual residence/own accommodation/welfare institution* (including prisons, hostels and group homes providing primarily welfare services).

(c) *Total* includes records where the mode of separation was not reported.

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 10.1 and 10.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 10.25: Subacute and non-acute separations, by mode of separation and care type, 2012–13**

| Mode of separation                                                 | Care type      |               |                                   | Total          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
|                                                                    | Rehabilitation | Palliative    | Other subacute and non-acute care |                |
| Discharge/transfer to an (other) acute hospital                    | 13,242         | 2,577         | 7,563                             | 23,382         |
| Discharge/transfer to residential aged care service <sup>(a)</sup> | 4,504          | 1,214         | 12,736                            | 18,454         |
| Discharge/transfer to an (other) psychiatric hospital              | 100            | 7             | 161                               | 268            |
| Discharge/transfer to other health-care accommodation              | 14,312         | 408           | 2,276                             | 16,996         |
| Statistical discharge type change                                  | 13,936         | 1,187         | 8,195                             | 23,318         |
| Left against medical advice                                        | 1,095          | 88            | 363                               | 1,546          |
| Statistical discharge from leave                                   | 699            | 200           | 164                               | 1,063          |
| Died                                                               | 469            | 22,891        | 1,671                             | 25,031         |
| Other <sup>(b)</sup>                                               | 295,337        | 10,663        | 34,500                            | 340,500        |
| <b>Total<sup>(c)</sup></b>                                         | <b>343,739</b> | <b>39,279</b> | <b>67,656</b>                     | <b>450,674</b> |

(a) The separation mode *Discharge/transfer to residential aged care service* excludes where this was the usual place of residence.

(b) The separation mode *Other* includes *Discharge to usual residence/own accommodation/welfare institution* (including prisons, hostels and group homes providing primarily welfare services).

(c) *Total* includes records where the mode of separation was not reported.

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 10.1 and 10.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 10.26: Subacute and non-acute separations, by principal diagnosis in ICD-10-AM chapters, public hospitals, states and territories, 2012-13**

| Principal diagnosis                             |                                                                                                     | NSW           | Vic           | Qld           | WA            | SA            | Tas          | ACT          | NT         | Total          |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|------------|----------------|
| A00-B99                                         | Certain infectious and parasitic diseases                                                           | 483           | 460           | 296           | 77            | 44            | 26           | 35           | 13         | 1,434          |
| C00-D48                                         | Neoplasms                                                                                           | 8,864         | 5,255         | 5,472         | 903           | 929           | 337          | 377          | 150        | 22,287         |
| D50-D89                                         | Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism | 171           | 176           | 113           | 21            | 35            | 9            | 6            | 4          | 535            |
| E00-E90                                         | Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases                                                       | 287           | 455           | 260           | 49            | 47            | 6            | 19           | 9          | 1,132          |
| F00-F99                                         | Mental and behavioural disorders                                                                    | 1,842         | 1,345         | 1,256         | 698           | 383           | 728          | 92           | 22         | 6,366          |
| G00-G99                                         | Diseases of the nervous system                                                                      | 732           | 1,386         | 639           | 300           | 224           | 67           | 51           | 5          | 3,404          |
| I00-I99                                         | Diseases of the circulatory system                                                                  | 1,961         | 2,665         | 1,560         | 516           | 201           | 75           | 110          | 24         | 7,112          |
| J00-J99                                         | Diseases of the respiratory system                                                                  | 1,609         | 2,005         | 1,160         | 321           | 253           | 69           | 146          | 40         | 5,603          |
| K00-K93                                         | Diseases of the digestive system                                                                    | 737           | 819           | 576           | 196           | 87            | 32           | 42           | 26         | 2,515          |
| L00-L99                                         | Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue                                                        | 235           | 293           | 147           | 51            | 32            | 5            | 26           | 5          | 794            |
| M00-M99                                         | Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue                                        | 541           | 1,135         | 321           | 193           | 222           | 25           | 33           | 13         | 2,483          |
| N00-N99                                         | Diseases of the genitourinary system                                                                | 669           | 858           | 487           | 153           | 84            | 19           | 51           | 11         | 2,332          |
| R00-R99                                         | Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified             | 962           | 1,837         | 563           | 238           | 318           | 19           | 59           | 20         | 4,016          |
| S00-T98                                         | Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes                                 | 1,871         | 3,263         | 1,181         | 518           | 195           | 62           | 58           | 25         | 7,173          |
| Z00-Z99                                         | Factors influencing health status and contact with health services                                  | 44,377        | 18,977        | 33,925        | 12,989        | 12,455        | 1,230        | 3,361        | 465        | 127,779        |
|                                                 | Other ICD-10-AM chapters/not reported                                                               | 217           | 67            | 32            | 27            | 8             | 1            | 3            | 3          | 358            |
| <b>Total subacute and non-acute separations</b> |                                                                                                     | <b>65,558</b> | <b>40,996</b> | <b>47,988</b> | <b>17,250</b> | <b>15,517</b> | <b>2,710</b> | <b>4,469</b> | <b>835</b> | <b>195,323</b> |

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 10.1 and 10.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 10.27: Subacute and non-acute separations, by principal diagnosis in ICD-10-AM chapters, private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| Principal diagnosis                             |                                                                    | NSW            | Vic           | Qld           | WA           | SA            | Tas         | ACT         | NT          | Total          |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| C00–D48                                         | Neoplasms                                                          | 220            | 564           | 1,418         | 2,087        | 176           | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 4,555          |
| F00–F99                                         | Mental and behavioural disorders                                   | 0              | 4,808         | 484           | 56           | 1             | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 5,354          |
| G00–G99                                         | Diseases of the nervous system                                     | 5              | 656           | 47            | 45           | 16            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 823            |
| I00–I99                                         | Diseases of the circulatory system                                 | 23             | 28            | 121           | 367          | 16            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 573            |
| J00–J99                                         | Diseases of the respiratory system                                 | 20             | 27            | 103           | 370          | 19            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 547            |
| Z00–Z99                                         | Factors influencing health status and contact with health services | 147,791        | 20,110        | 39,674        | 3,378        | 22,043        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 242,223        |
|                                                 | Other ICD-10-AM chapters/not reported                              | 84             | 129           | 360           | 602          | 72            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1,276          |
| <b>Total subacute and non-acute separations</b> |                                                                    | <b>148,143</b> | <b>26,322</b> | <b>42,207</b> | <b>6,905</b> | <b>22,343</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>255,351</b> |

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 10.1 and 10.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 10.28: Procedures<sup>(a)</sup> reported for subacute and non-acute separations, by ACHI chapter, public hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| Procedure chapter                               |                                                         | NSW           | Vic           | Qld           | WA            | SA            | Tas          | ACT          | NT         | Total          |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|------------|----------------|
| 1–86                                            | Procedures on nervous system                            | 118           | 67            | 46            | 59            | 49            | 6            | 17           | 5          | 367            |
| 520–570                                         | Procedures on respiratory system                        | 317           | 198           | 285           | 114           | 43            | 11           | 31           | 11         | 1,010          |
| 850–1011                                        | Procedures on digestive system                          | 443           | 218           | 266           | 133           | 110           | 12           | 40           | 24         | 1,246          |
| 1040–1129                                       | Procedures on urinary system                            | 572           | 256           | 199           | 163           | 60            | 8            | 49           | 31         | 1,338          |
| 1360–1579                                       | Procedures on musculoskeletal system                    | 286           | 223           | 110           | 159           | 84            | 24           | 18           | 8          | 912            |
| 1600–1718                                       | Dermatological and plastic procedures                   | 294           | 1,356         | 247           | 111           | 83            | 14           | 29           | 17         | 2,151          |
| 1786–1799                                       | Radiation oncology procedures                           | 271           | 161           | 61            | 17            | 4             | 11           | 38           | 25         | 588            |
| 1820–1922                                       | Non-invasive, cognitive and other interventions, n.e.c. | 58,023        | 35,728        | 32,970        | 15,506        | 13,410        | 1,560        | 4,188        | 634        | 162,019        |
| 1940–2016                                       | Imaging services                                        | 239           | 27            | 20            | 11            | 3             | 3            | 6            | 1          | 310            |
|                                                 | Other ACHI chapters                                     | 279           | 111           | 259           | 102           | 47            | 6            | 23           | 9          | 836            |
|                                                 | Separations with procedures                             | 58,250        | 35,780        | 33,125        | 15,561        | 13,447        | 1,564        | 4,198        | 651        | 162,576        |
|                                                 | No procedure or not reported                            | 7,308         | 5,216         | 14,863        | 1,689         | 2,070         | 1,146        | 271          | 184        | 32,747         |
| <b>Total subacute and non-acute separations</b> |                                                         | <b>65,558</b> | <b>40,996</b> | <b>47,988</b> | <b>17,250</b> | <b>15,517</b> | <b>2,710</b> | <b>4,469</b> | <b>835</b> | <b>195,323</b> |

ACHI—Australian Classification of Health Interventions; n.e.c.—not elsewhere classified.

- (a) A separation is counted once for the group if it has at least one procedure reported within the group. As more than one procedure can be reported for each separation, the data are not additive and therefore the totals in the tables may not equal the sum of counts in the rows. For data on the number of procedures, all procedures within a group are counted, even if more than one is reported for a separation. These are counts of ACHI procedure codes. It is possible that a single procedure code may represent multiple procedures or that a specific procedure may require the reporting of more than one code. Therefore, the number of procedure codes reported does not necessarily equal the number of separate procedures performed.

Note: See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 10.1 and 10.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 10.29: Procedures<sup>(a)</sup> reported for subacute and non-acute separations, by ACHI chapter, private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

| Procedure chapter                               |                                                         | NSW            | Vic           | Qld           | WA           | SA            | Tas         | ACT         | NT          | Total          |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1360–1579                                       | Procedures on musculoskeletal system                    | 88             | 77            | 81            | 96           | 26            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 383            |
| 1600–1718                                       | Dermatological and plastic procedures                   | 108            | 22            | 74            | 87           | 16            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 319            |
| 1820–1922                                       | Non-invasive, cognitive and other interventions, n.e.c. | 144,045        | 22,723        | 40,040        | 5,606        | 22,252        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 244,038        |
|                                                 | Other ACHI chapters                                     | 219            | 155           | 359           | 285          | 98            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 1,165          |
|                                                 | Separations with procedures                             | 144,049        | 22,727        | 40,069        | 5,640        | 22,254        | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 244,115        |
|                                                 | No procedure or not reported                            | 4,094          | 3,595         | 2,138         | 1,265        | 89            | n.p.        | n.p.        | n.p.        | 11,236         |
| <b>Total subacute and non-acute separations</b> |                                                         | <b>148,143</b> | <b>26,322</b> | <b>42,207</b> | <b>6,905</b> | <b>22,343</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>n.p.</b> | <b>255,351</b> |

ACHI—Australian Classification of Health Interventions; n.e.c.—not elsewhere classified.

- (a) A separation is counted once for the group if it has at least one procedure reported within the group. As more than one procedure can be reported for each separation, the data are not additive and therefore the totals in the table may not equal the sum of counts in the rows. For data on the number of procedures, all procedures within a group are counted, even if more than one is reported for a separation. These are counts of ACHI procedure codes. It is possible that a single procedure code may represent multiple procedures or that a specific procedure may require the reporting of more than one code. Therefore, the number of procedure codes reported does not necessarily equal the number of separate procedures performed.

*Note:* See boxes 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 10.1 and 10.2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

# Appendix A: Database quality statement summaries

This appendix includes data quality summaries and additional detailed information relevant to interpretation of the:

- National Hospital Morbidity Database (NHMD)
- National Public Hospital Establishments Database (NPHEd)
- National Outpatient Care Database (NOCD)
- National Emergency Access Target Database (NEATD)
- National Elective Surgery Target Database (NESTD).

This appendix also contains information on variation in the categorisation of public and private hospitals, and other changes in hospital reporting that may affect interpretation of the data presented in this report.

Complete data quality statements for these databases are available online at [www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/](http://www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/).

## Public and private hospitals

There is some variation between jurisdictions as to whether hospitals that predominantly provide public hospital services, but are privately owned and/or operated, are reported as public or private hospitals. A list of such hospitals is in Table A1 with information on how they are reported. The categorisations listed are those used for this report; reports produced by other agencies may categorise these hospitals differently.

For example, Peel and Joondalup hospitals are private hospitals that predominantly treat public patients under contract to the Western Australian Department of Health. From 2006–07, two new reporting units (public hospitals) were created to cover the public health services of these two hospitals, whereas in previous years all activity was reported for the private hospitals.

Another example is the Hawkesbury District Health Service, which was categorised as a private hospital until 2002–03 and has been categorised as a public hospital in AIHW reports since 2003–04.

Lists of all public and private hospitals contributing to this report are in tables A.S1 and A.S2 accompanying this report online at [www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/](http://www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/).

**Table A1: Hospitals included in this report that predominantly provide public hospital services that were privately owned and/or operated, 2012–13**

| Hospital                                             | How reported                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Hawkesbury District Health Service, NSW              | Public hospital                                                                                                           |
| Mildura Base Hospital, Victoria                      | Public hospital                                                                                                           |
| Mater Adult Hospital, Qld                            | Public hospital                                                                                                           |
| Mater Children's Hospital, Qld                       | Public hospital                                                                                                           |
| Mater Mother's Hospital, Qld                         | Public hospital                                                                                                           |
| Joondalup Health Campus, WA                          | Public hospital for services provided under the contract and a private hospital for services provided to private patients |
| Peel Health Campus, WA                               | Public hospital for services provided under the contract and a private hospital for services provided to private patients |
| Southern Districts War Memorial Private Hospital, SA | Public hospital for services provided under the contract and a private hospital for services provided to private patients |
| May Shaw District Nursing Centre, Tas                | Public hospital                                                                                                           |
| Toosey Hospital, Tas                                 | Public hospital                                                                                                           |
| Mersey Community Hospital                            | Public hospital                                                                                                           |

## National Hospital Morbidity Database

The National Hospital Morbidity Database (NHMD) is a compilation of episode-level records from admitted patient morbidity data collection systems in Australian hospitals.

The data supplied are based on the National Minimum Data Set (NMDS) for Admitted patient care and include demographic, administrative and length of stay data, as well as data on the diagnoses of the patients, the procedures they underwent in hospital and external causes of injury and poisoning.

The purpose of the NMDS for Admitted patient care is to collect information about care provided to admitted patients in Australian hospitals. The scope of the NMDS is episodes of care for admitted patients in all public and private acute and psychiatric hospitals, free-standing day hospital facilities and alcohol and drug treatment centres in Australia. Hospitals operated by the Australian Defence Force, corrections authorities and in Australia's off-shore territories are not in scope but some are included.

The reference period for this data set is 2012–13. The data set includes records for admitted patient separations between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013.

### Summary of key issues

- The NHMD is a comprehensive dataset that has records for all separations of admitted patients from essentially all public and private hospitals in Australia.
- A record is included for each separation, not for each patient, so patients who separated more than once in the year have more than one record in the NHMD.
- For 2012–13, almost all public hospitals provided data for the NHMD. The exception was a mothercraft hospital in the Australian Capital Territory. The great majority of private hospitals also provided data, the exceptions being the private free-standing day hospital facilities in the Australian Capital Territory, the single private free-standing day hospital in the Northern Territory, and a private free-standing day hospital in Victoria.

- Hospitals may be re-categorised as public or private between or within years.
- There is apparent variation between states and territories in the use of statistical discharges and associated assignment of care types. For example, for public hospitals, the proportion of separations ending with a statistical discharge varied from 0.9% to 3.9% across states and territories.
- There was variation between states and territories in the reporting of separations for *Newborns* (without qualified days).
- Data on state of hospitalisation should be interpreted with caution because of cross-border flows of patients. This is particularly the case for the Australian Capital Territory. In 2012–13, about 18% of separations for Australian Capital Territory hospitals were for patients who resided in New South Wales.
- Variations in admission practices and policies lead to variation among providers in the number of admissions for some conditions.
- Caution should be used in comparing diagnosis, procedure and external cause data over time, as the classifications and coding standards for those data can change over time. In particular, between 2009–10 and 2010–11, there were significant changes in the coding of diagnoses for diabetes and obstetrics and for imaging procedures. There were also significant changes made to coding practices for diabetes and related conditions for the 2012–13 year, resulting in increased counts for these conditions.
- The Indigenous status data in the NHMD for all states and territories are considered of sufficient quality for statistical reporting for 2010–11, 2011–12 and 2012–13. In 2011–12, an estimated 88% of Indigenous patients were correctly identified in public hospitals. The overall quality of the data provided for Indigenous status is considered to be in need of some improvement and varied between states and territories.

The list of public hospitals that contributed to the NHMD in 2012–13 is in Table A.S1, which accompanies this report online.

## Factors affecting interpretation of the NHMD data

This section presents information about the quality of the data provided for the NHMD and other factors that may affect interpretation of the information presented in this report.

### Newborn episodes of care

There is variation in the reporting of *Newborn* care between states and territories.

Between 2010–11 and 2011–12, the reporting of *Newborn* episodes with qualified days increased markedly for New South Wales public hospitals. Therefore, the data for *Newborn* care in New South Wales public hospitals for 2011–12 and 2012–13 are not comparable to the data reported by New South Wales in previous years.

For Victoria, private hospitals did not report all *Newborn* episodes without qualified days. Therefore, the count of newborns may be underestimated.

The Northern Territory did not report separations for *Newborn* episodes with a mixture of qualified and unqualified days.

Information on reporting practices for *Newborn* episodes before 2012–13 is available in previous *Australian hospital statistics* reports.



## Quality of Indigenous status data

### Indigenous identification in hospital separations data: 2013 quality report

The 2013 AIHW report *Indigenous identification in hospital separations data–2013 quality report*, (AIHW, 2013h) presented the latest findings on the quality of Indigenous identification in hospital separations data in Australia, based on studies conducted in public hospitals during 2011. Private hospitals were not included in the assessment.

The results of the study indicated that, overall, the quality of Indigenous identification in hospital separations data was similar to that achieved in the previous study (AIHW 2010). However, the 2011–12 survey was performed on larger samples for each jurisdiction/region and is therefore considered more robust than the previous study.

The report recommends that the data for all jurisdictions are used in analysis of Indigenous hospitalisation rates, for hospitalisations in total in national analyses of Indigenous admitted patient care for data from 2010–11 onwards.

Based on the results of the survey data a correction factor of 1.09 was calculated, suggesting that the ‘true’ number of Indigenous persons should be about 9% higher than indicated in the hospital record. The correction factor is calculated based on a number of possible variables including over-identification or under-identification of Indigenous persons in the hospital record.

### Quality in 2012–13

The following information has been provided by the states and territories to provide some additional insight into the quality of Indigenous status data in the hospitals data provided to the AIHW.

#### *New South Wales*

The New South Wales Ministry of Health (NSW) noted that NSW had achieved an overall weighted completeness of 80% for Indigenous identification in 2011–12. The low level of completeness for hospitals in major cities (67% compared with 98% in remote areas) revealed that education in Indigenous status data collection should be focused on hospital staff in urban areas. NSW’s Data Quality Audit and Assurance Program revealed that individual Local Health Districts have initiated, and are delivering, their own comprehensive programs to staff on cultural sensitivity and innovative methods of Indigenous data collection.

#### *Victoria*

The Victorian Department of Health reports that Indigenous status data for 2012–13 is of an adequate standard for reporting, but should still be considered to under-count the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients. There is a continued effort to improve the quality of this data element through data validation processes and communication channels.

#### *Queensland*

The Queensland Department of Health noted that for 2012–13, Indigenous status was reported as ‘not stated’ for 3.8% of admitted patient separations (1.0% of public hospital separations and 6.8% of private hospital separations). The level of non-reporting of Indigenous status has continued to improve for both public and private hospitals compared to the previous financial years.

#### *Western Australia*

The Western Australian Department of Health regards its Indigenous status data as being of good quality, with 99.5% of cases having a valid Indigenous status reported in 2012–13.

A recent sample survey concluded that Western Australia was collecting Indigenous status with a high degree of accuracy.

#### *South Australia*

South Australia considers the quality of Indigenous status data to be acceptable for reporting and analysis purposes. The department contracted the Australian Bureau of Statistics to develop a training package for the collection of Indigenous identifier aimed at frontline staff in hospitals and other healthcare units. The package is based on the best practice guidelines developed by the AIHW. A state-wide training program was completed in 2011. A second training program commenced in late 2012 and was completed in mid-2013.

#### *Tasmania*

The Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services reports that the quality and the level of Indigenous status identification, across public hospital information collections, are of a high standard. However, as with all data collections, there is constant and continued work on maintaining and improving, where needed, the collection of this data element.

#### *Australian Capital Territory*

The Australian Capital Territory Government Health Directorate is continuing to undertake a number of initiatives aligned with local and national developments to improve the quality of collection and reporting of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data.

#### *Northern Territory*

The Northern Territory Department of Health participated in the national review of the quality of demographic data, coordinated by AIHW, in 2011. Indigenous status was found to be accurately recorded in 98% of admitted patients, consistent with findings from previous surveys in 1997 and 2008. The department retains historical reporting of Indigenous status. All management and statistical reporting, however, is based on a person's most recently reported Indigenous status.

### **Quality of the coded clinical data**

The comparability of the coded diagnosis, procedure and external cause data can be affected by variations in the quality of the coding, the numbers of diagnoses and/or procedures reported and can also be influenced by state-specific coding standards.

The quality of coded diagnosis, procedure and external cause data can be assessed using coding audits in which, in general terms, selected records are independently recoded and the resulting codes compared with the codes originally assigned for the separation. There are no national standards for this auditing, so it is not possible to use information on coding audits to make quantitative assessments of data quality on a national basis.

The quality and comparability of the coded data can, however, be gauged by information provided by the states and territories on the quality of the data and by assessment of apparent variation in the reporting of additional diagnoses.

### **State-specific coding standards**

The Australian Coding Standards (ACS) were developed for use in both public and private hospitals with the aim of satisfying sound coding convention according to the ICD-10-AM/ACHI. Although all states and territories instruct their coders to follow the ACS, some jurisdictions also apply state-specific coding standards to deal with state-specific reporting requirements. These standards may be in addition to or instead of the relevant ACS, and may affect the comparability of ICD-10-AM coded data.

For example, there are variations in coding standards between jurisdictions with regard to the reporting of external cause codes and place of occurrence codes. The ACS requires a place of occurrence code to be reported if an external cause code in the range V00–Y89 has been reported, and requires an activity when injured code to be recorded if the external cause code is in the range V00–Y34. The Western Australian coding standard requires the mandatory recording of a place of occurrence and activity when injured code for all records with a diagnosis code in the range S00–T98, regardless of the external cause code reported. The Victorian coding standard does not require the recording of external cause, place of occurrence or activity when injured for separations where the care type is *Rehabilitation care*.

### **State and territory comments on the quality of the data**

The following information has been provided by the states and territories to provide some insight into the quality of the coded data in the NHMD.

#### *New South Wales*

For New South Wales, hospitals perform formal audits on ICD-10-AM coded data at a local level. Data edits are monitored regularly and consistent errors are identified and rectified by individual hospitals.

All NSW public hospital coded data is routinely processed, monitored and validated using Performance Indicators for Coding Quality (PICQ™) by the Ministry of Health and disseminated back to the Local Health Districts and individual hospitals. The data from PICQ™ is also used to benchmark Local Health District's/Network's performance.

#### *Victoria*

As part of a comprehensive health data integrity audit program, the Victorian Department of Health continues to conduct state-wide external audits of admitted patient data across public sites. These audits review the ICD-10-AM/ACHI coding and the application of ACSs along with some key demographic and administrative data. Approximately 13,000 patient records are audited each year. In the most recently completed 3-year audit cycle, the rate of AR-DRG change reported for audited records continued to decrease, falling to less than 5% in the third year, indicating a high quality of coding. Coded data is also validated using PICQ™ with published state-wide results for both public and private hospitals.

#### *Queensland*

Hospitals in Queensland conduct their own coding quality audits, and ICD-10-AM/ACHI validations are automatically executed as part of the general processing of morbidity data in the corporate data collection. A Statewide Health Information Management Clinical Coding Network (SHIM-CCN) Steering Committee has been established to aid the improvement of Health Information Management (HIM) and clinical coding services state-wide. It also fosters appropriate education and development of HIMs and clinical coders. The Queensland Department of Health complements this activity by undertaking a range of quality assurance processes.

#### *Western Australia*

The Western Australian Department of Health conducts in-house data quality activities and regular comprehensive external audits of hospital medical records and admitted patient data reporting processes. The Edit Protocol for Hospital Morbidity Data System and the Clinical Information Audit Program aims to provide assurances of data quality and integrity, promoting confidence in the use of health information by hospitals and throughout the system.

### *South Australia*

The South Australian Department for Health and Ageing completed a major audit of coding practices in 2011. The rate of AR-DRG change for metropolitan hospitals was marginally above 10%. A result of less than 10% is generally regarded as an indication of high quality coding.

The Department conducts a number of other coding improvement activities, aimed at improving compliance with national and state coding standards. For example, desktop audits of coded data are regularly run. Individual hospitals are followed-up as required and results are reported to all coders in quarterly newsletters. A coding educator has been appointed to assist hospitals in further developing their coding knowledge.

### *Tasmania*

In Tasmania, hospitals continue to conduct coding quality improvement activities using the Australian Coding Benchmark Audit tool and PICQ™. Validation of ICD-10-AM data also occurs routinely as the data are processed from the hospitals. A state-wide coding auditor/educator has been appointed and that position will assume the responsibility of managing state-wide coding audits and education in relation to findings from them. Also the position will manage changes/updates to coding classifications and grouping systems.

### *Australian Capital Territory*

The Australian Capital Territory conducts regular coding data quality improvement and integrity activities including analysis using the PICQ™ tool to ensure a high standard of coding quality. Validations are automatically undertaken as part of the processing data flow in the hospital level and corporate level data collections and further education and training supports these quality improvement activities.

### *Northern Territory*

The Northern Territory is committed to the continual improvement of clinical coding across the Northern Territory Hospitals Network, and in the past has experienced challenges in recruiting suitably experienced staff. In the last 12 months off-site coding has discontinued and recruitment to vacant coding positions has been successful. With the introduction of integrated clinical coding software, there have been gains in coding quality, consistency and timeliness.

## **Apparent variation in reporting of additional diagnoses**

A measure of apparent variation among Australian states and territories in the reporting and coding of additional diagnoses is the proportion of separations in the lowest resource split for adjacent AR-DRGs, standardised to the national distribution of adjacent AR-DRGs to take into account differing casemixes (Coory & Cornes 2005).

### *Method*

An adjacent AR-DRG is a set of AR-DRGs that is split on a basis supplementary to the principal diagnoses and procedures that are used to define the adjacent AR-DRG grouping.

For many adjacent AR-DRGs, this split is based on the inclusion of significant additional diagnoses, also known as complications or comorbidities (CCs). Adjacent AR-DRGs are signified in the AR-DRG classification by having the first three characters in common. The allocation of a fourth character code is hierarchical, with the highest resource use level being assigned an A and the lowest resource use level being assigned the lowest letter in the sequence.

This analysis concentrates on differences in the reporting of additional diagnoses that are significant in AR-DRG assignment within the adjacent AR-DRG groupings. The analysis covers four groups of adjacent AR-DRGs:

1. all applicable adjacent AR-DRGs (that is, excluding adjacent AR-DRGs with other factors affecting partitioning)
2. adjacent AR-DRGs where the lowest split was without complications or comorbidities
3. adjacent AR-DRGs where the lowest split was without catastrophic or severe complications or comorbidities
4. Vaginal and caesarean deliveries.

Categories 2, 3 and 4 are subsets of category 1.

The category *Vaginal and caesarean deliveries* is included as it represents a sub-group of patients for which there is limited scope for differences in the admission threshold. Therefore, it is expected that differences in the proportions in the lowest resource AR-DRGs for this group are likely to reflect variation in reporting additional diagnoses.

Table A2 shows that there is variation among jurisdictions, and by sector, in the proportion of separations grouped to the lowest resource split for adjacent AR-DRGs.

Overall for public hospitals, about 71% of separations were allocated to the lowest resource split for adjacent AR-DRGs, ranging from 66% for Victoria to 74% for Western Australia.

For private hospitals, there was less variation among jurisdictions in the proportion allocated to the lowest resource split, ranging from 74% in Victoria to 77% in South Australia.

For *Vaginal and caesarean deliveries*, the proportion allocated to the lowest resource split was 37% for both public and private hospitals. However, there was some variation among jurisdictions, with public hospital proportions ranging from 34% in Victoria to 40% in Queensland and Tasmania.

#### *Standardised proportion*

The underlying assumption of this analysis is that variation in the proportions of separations assigned to individual AR-DRGs within an adjacent AR-DRG is caused by variation in the reporting and coding of additional diagnoses that are relevant to the split of the adjacent AR-DRG. This assumption is less likely to be valid when comparing hospital sectors which have differing casemixes, or the smaller jurisdictions because of differing population profiles and the limitations of the standardisation method.

The data were directly standardised by scaling the distribution of adjacent AR-DRGs in each jurisdiction/sector to the same distribution as the national total. The resulting proportions of separations in the lowest resource AR-DRG within the adjacent AR-DRG are considered comparable.

See tables accompanying this report online for additional detail on this analysis and the list of AR-DRGs included.

**Table A2: Standardised proportion of separations<sup>(a)</sup> in lowest resource level AR-DRG for selected adjacent AR-DRGs version 6.0x, public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                                                                                                             | NSW     | Vic     | Qld     | WA      | SA      | Tas    | ACT    | NT     | Total     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|
| <b>All adjacent AR-DRGs split by complications only</b>                                                     |         |         |         |         |         |        |        |        |           |
| <b>Public hospitals</b>                                                                                     |         |         |         |         |         |        |        |        |           |
| Separations                                                                                                 | 709,829 | 506,473 | 442,282 | 227,131 | 171,670 | 43,329 | 36,946 | 32,850 | 2,170,510 |
| Standardised proportion in lowest resource level                                                            | 0.72    | 0.66    | 0.72    | 0.74    | 0.71    | 0.71   | 0.69   | 0.67   | 0.71      |
| <b>Private hospitals</b>                                                                                    |         |         |         |         |         |        |        |        |           |
| Separations                                                                                                 | 220,085 | 227,201 | 217,508 | 97,290  | 73,788  | n.p.   | n.p.   | n.p.   | 870,574   |
| Standardised proportion in lowest resource level                                                            | 0.75    | 0.74    | 0.75    | 0.76    | 0.77    | n.p.   | n.p.   | n.p.   | 0.75      |
| <b>Adjacent AR-DRGs with 'without complication' as the lowest resource level AR-DRG</b>                     |         |         |         |         |         |        |        |        |           |
| <b>Public hospitals</b>                                                                                     |         |         |         |         |         |        |        |        |           |
| Separations                                                                                                 | 226,305 | 173,713 | 143,710 | 75,840  | 53,123  | 13,584 | 13,594 | 11,390 | 711,259   |
| Standardised proportion in lowest resource level                                                            | 0.61    | 0.56    | 0.61    | 0.61    | 0.60    | 0.60   | 0.58   | 0.52   | 0.60      |
| <b>Private hospitals</b>                                                                                    |         |         |         |         |         |        |        |        |           |
| Separations                                                                                                 | 83,472  | 81,610  | 76,496  | 39,705  | 24,930  | n.p.   | n.p.   | n.p.   | 318,278   |
| Standardised proportion in lowest resource level                                                            | 0.62    | 0.62    | 0.63    | 0.64    | 0.64    | n.p.   | n.p.   | n.p.   | 0.63      |
| <b>Adjacent DRGs with 'without catastrophic or severe complication' as the lowest resource level AR-DRG</b> |         |         |         |         |         |        |        |        |           |
| <b>Public hospitals</b>                                                                                     |         |         |         |         |         |        |        |        |           |
| Separations                                                                                                 | 483,524 | 332,760 | 298,572 | 151,291 | 118,547 | 29,745 | 23,352 | 21,460 | 1,459,251 |
| Standardised proportion in lowest resource level                                                            | 0.77    | 0.72    | 0.77    | 0.80    | 0.77    | 0.77   | 0.75   | 0.74   | 0.76      |
| <b>Private hospitals</b>                                                                                    |         |         |         |         |         |        |        |        |           |
| Separations                                                                                                 | 136,613 | 145,591 | 141,012 | 57,585  | 48,858  | n.p.   | n.p.   | n.p.   | 552,296   |
| Standardised proportion in lowest resource level                                                            | 0.81    | 0.80    | 0.81    | 0.83    | 0.84    | n.p.   | n.p.   | n.p.   | 0.82      |
| <b>Adjacent DRGs for Vaginal and caesarean delivery</b>                                                     |         |         |         |         |         |        |        |        |           |
| <b>Public hospitals</b>                                                                                     |         |         |         |         |         |        |        |        |           |
| Separations                                                                                                 | 73,480  | 56,099  | 44,094  | 22,781  | 15,502  | 3,843  | 4,798  | 3,187  | 223,784   |
| Standardised proportion in lowest resource level                                                            | 0.38    | 0.34    | 0.40    | 0.35    | 0.38    | 0.40   | 0.37   | 0.35   | 0.37      |
| <b>Private hospitals</b>                                                                                    |         |         |         |         |         |        |        |        |           |
| Separations                                                                                                 | 23,707  | 20,708  | 17,936  | 10,725  | 4,707   | n.p.   | n.p.   | n.p.   | 81,873    |
| Standardised proportion in lowest resource level                                                            | 0.36    | 0.36    | 0.38    | 0.36    | 0.34    | n.p.   | n.p.   | n.p.   | 0.37      |

AR-DRG—Australian Refined Diagnosis Related Group.

(a) Separations for which the care type was reported as *Acute*, or *Newborn* (with qualified days), or was not reported.

## Changes affecting ICD-10-AM/ACHI classifications

The Australian Coding Standard for *Diabetes mellitus and Impaired glucose regulation* (ACS 0401) has undergone changes in the last few ICD-10-AM editions.

The 7th edition of ICD-10-AM was implemented in Australian hospitals from 1 July 2010. From 1 July 2012, changes were implemented to the coding standard for diabetes (ACS 0401) to ensure that 'when documented, diabetes mellitus should always be coded'.

The coding practice for classifying diabetes under ICD-10-AM 6th edition (used 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2010) was largely consistent with previous editions of ICD-10-AM. However, clarification of how the coding standard for additional diagnoses (ACS 0002) should be applied under ICD-10-AM 6th edition meant that conditions would only be coded as an additional diagnosis if they were 'significant in terms of treatment required, investigations needed and resources used in each episode of care'. While this clarification resulted in a decrease in the number of conditions being coded as additional diagnoses for all separations, it had a particularly significant impact on the reporting of diabetes as an additional diagnosis for separations that involved a patient with diabetes.

The coding practice for classifying diabetes under ICD-10-AM 7th edition (from 1 July 2010) changed as a result of changes made to the ACS specialty standard for *Diabetes Mellitus and impaired glucose regulation* (ACS 0401). The ACS changes resulted in a further decrease between 2009–10 and 2010–11 in the reporting of diabetes-related conditions, due to the condition not meeting the criteria for being assigned as either a principal (ACS 0001) or additional diagnosis (ACS 0002).

During 2011, the National Casemix and Classification Centre's ICD Technical Group and the Diagnosis Related Group Technical Group investigated the effect of the changes to diabetes coding and recommended that 'when documented, diabetes mellitus should always be coded'.

This recommendation was agreed by the National Health Information Standards and Statistics Committee (NHISSC) at its March 2012 meeting, for implementation from 1 July 2012.

### *Effect on reporting*

Between 2009–10 and 2010–11, the numbers of diagnoses reported for diabetes and impaired glucose regulation (E09–E14) decreased by 38% from 531,000 diagnoses in 2009–10 to 330,000 diagnoses in 2010–11 (Table A3).

Between 2010–11 and 2011–12, there were increases in the numbers of diagnoses reported for diabetes (E10–E14) that may be unrelated to coding changes.

Between 2011–12 and 2012–13, the numbers of codes reported for both principal and additional diagnoses of diabetes increased markedly. The reporting of diabetes as a principal diagnosis increased by an average of 29.6% between 2011–12 and 2012–13 (Table A3). The reporting of diabetes as an additional diagnosis increased by an average of 247% between 2011–12 and 2012–13.

Examining the reporting of codes for E11 – *Type 2 diabetes mellitus* in more detail, the greatest increases in reporting between 2011–12 and 2012–13 were for E11.3 (*Type 2 diabetes mellitus with ophthalmic complication*) and E11.9 (*Type 2 diabetes mellitus without complications*) (Table A4). There was also a very large increase in the reporting of E11.2 (*Type 2 diabetes mellitus with kidney complication*).

**Table A3: Diabetes mellitus and impaired glucose regulation, reporting 2008–09 to 2012–13**

|                            | ICD-10-AM 6th edition |         | ICD-10-AM 7th edition |         |           | Change (%)<br>since |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|-----------|---------------------|
|                            | 2008–09               | 2009–10 | 2010–11               | 2011–12 | 2012–13   | 2011–12             |
| Principal diagnoses        |                       |         |                       |         |           |                     |
| E09                        | 229                   | 198     | 46                    | 106     | 93        | −12.3               |
| E10                        | 22,363                | 23,584  | 18,280                | 19,946  | 24,490    | 22.8                |
| E11                        | 129,475               | 130,983 | 47,133                | 48,220  | 64,137    | 33.0                |
| E13                        | 689                   | 719     | 413                   | 481     | 589       | 22.5                |
| E14                        | 655                   | 858     | 374                   | 479     | 382       | −20.3               |
| Total principal diagnoses  | 153,411               | 156,342 | 66,246                | 69,232  | 89,691    | 29.6                |
| Additional diagnoses       |                       |         |                       |         |           |                     |
| E09                        | 2,242                 | 1,986   | 1,347                 | 1,276   | 6,798     | 432.8               |
| E10                        | 24,499                | 24,238  | 19,750                | 21,029  | 58,916    | 180.2               |
| E11                        | 373,472               | 345,873 | 238,737               | 265,782 | 939,309   | 253.4               |
| E13                        | 3,579                 | 3,454   | 2,976                 | 3,707   | 7,866     | 112.2               |
| E14                        | 1,560                 | 1,102   | 691                   | 646     | 5,242     | 711.5               |
| Total additional diagnoses | 403,792               | 375,551 | 262,810               | 291,794 | 1,012,889 | 247.1               |
| Total (E09–E14)            | 557,203               | 531,893 | 329,056               | 361,026 | 1,102,580 | 205.4               |

E09—Impaired glucose regulation; E10—Type 1 diabetes mellitus; E11—Type 2 diabetes mellitus; E13—Other specified diabetes mellitus.

E14—Unspecified diabetes mellitus; E09–E14—Impaired glucose regulation and diabetes mellitus.

Source: National Hospital Morbidity Database.

**Table A4: Type 2 diabetes mellitus, all diagnoses reported, 2008–09 to 2012–13**

|                                              | ICD-10-AM 6th edition |         | ICD-10-AM 7th edition |         |           | Change (%)<br>since |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|-----------|---------------------|
| Diagnosis                                    | 2008–09               | 2009–10 | 2010–11               | 2011–12 | 2012–13   | 2011–12             |
| Type 2 diabetes mellitus                     |                       |         |                       |         |           |                     |
| E11.0 – with hyperosmolarity                 | 951                   | 974     | 1,088                 | 1,265   | 2,003     | 58.3                |
| E11.1 – with acidosis                        | 1,835                 | 2,122   | 1,913                 | 2,123   | 4,000     | 88.4                |
| E11.2 – with kidney complication             | 103,820               | 98,041  | 58,576                | 62,897  | 177,945   | 182.9               |
| E11.3 – with ophthalmic complication         | 40,858                | 39,201  | 7,323                 | 7,058   | 82,190    | 1,064.5             |
| E11.4 – with neurological complication       | 10,156                | 9,837   | 6,101                 | 6,914   | 50,534    | 630.9               |
| E11.5 – with circulatory complication        | 22,370                | 20,292  | 9,405                 | 10,206  | 51,261    | 402.3               |
| E11.6 – with other specified<br>complication | 54,288                | 57,600  | 60,981                | 67,640  | 86,994    | 28.6                |
| E11.7 – with multiple complications          | 236,463               | 223,289 | 119,087               | 132,613 | 160,498   | 21.0                |
| E11.9 – without complication                 | 32,184                | 25,458  | 21,362                | 23,240  | 387,940   | 1,569.3             |
| Total Type 2 diabetes mellitus (E11)         | 502,925               | 476,814 | 285,836               | 313,956 | 1,003,365 | 219.6               |

Source: National Hospital Morbidity Database.



## Condition onset flag data

The data element 'Episode of admitted patient care – condition onset flag' was mandated for national collection for the first time for the 2008–09 reporting period.

Information on the data reported for Conditions onset flag for 2012–13 is included in Chapter 6.

### *Quality of the Condition onset flag data for 2012–13*

Overall, the provision of COF data for 2012–13 was similar to that provided for 2010–11 and 2011–12:

- In 2012–13, the coverage of COF data was 91% for public hospitals and 72% for private hospitals (Table A5). Data were missing for all private hospital records for New South Wales and there were major gaps for public hospitals for New South Wales.
- Private hospital COF data were reported by the private hospital in the Northern Territory for the first time in 2012–13.
- There was marked variation between states and territories in the overall proportion of records for which a condition was reported as arising during the episode of care. For public hospitals, the proportion ranged from 4.0% for the Northern Territory to 12.6% in Victoria (Table 6.24). For private hospitals, the proportion ranged from 1.5% for Tasmania to 7.4% for Victoria (Table 6.25). Differences in casemix between states and territories may account for some of this variation. However, this variation may indicate that there are differences in the allocation of COF values.
- There was some variation among jurisdictions in the conditions reported as having onset during the episode of care.
- The top 30 conditions reported as arising during the hospital stay provide support for the quality of the condition onset flag assignment (Table 6.26).
- The top 20 external caused of injury or poisoning reported as arising during the hospital stay provide support for the quality of the condition onset flag assignment (Table 6.27).

**Table A5: Proportion of separations with Condition onset flag reported<sup>(a)</sup> (%), public and private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13**

|                              | Public hospitals | Private hospitals |
|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| New South Wales              | 71.2             | 0.0               |
| Victoria                     | 100.0            | 100.0             |
| Queensland                   | 100.0            | 100.0             |
| Western Australia            | 100.0            | 100.0             |
| South Australia              | 100.0            | 100.0             |
| Tasmania                     | 100.0            | 97.6              |
| Australian Capital Territory | 100.0            | 99.9              |
| Northern Territory           | 100.0            | 100.0             |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>91.0</b>      | <b>71.8</b>       |

(a) The proportion of separations for which Condition onset flag was reported may include records where the flag was provided for some diagnoses and not for others.

# National Public Hospital Establishments Database

The National Public Hospital Establishments Database (NPHEd) is based on the National Minimum Data Set (NMDS) for Public hospital establishments. It holds establishment-level data for each public hospital in Australia, including public acute hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, drug and alcohol hospitals and dental hospitals in all states and territories. Hence, public hospitals not administered by the state and territory health authorities (hospitals operated by correctional authorities for example, and hospitals located in offshore territories) are not included. The collection does not include data for private hospitals.

The purpose of the NMDS for Public hospital establishments is to collect information on the characteristics of public hospitals and summary information on non-admitted services provided by them. Information is included on hospital resources (beds, staff and specialised services), recurrent expenditure (including depreciation), non-appropriation revenue and services to non-admitted patients.

The reference period for this data set is 2012–13.

## Summary of key issues

- In 2012–13, the NPHEd included essentially all public hospitals in Australia.
- Differences in accounting, counting and classification practices across jurisdictions and over time may affect the comparability of these data. There was variation between states and territories in the reporting of expenditure, depreciation, revenue, available beds, staffing categories and outpatient occasions of service.
- The number of hospitals reported can be affected by administrative and/or reporting arrangements and is not necessarily a measure of the number of physical hospital buildings or campuses.
- Comparability of bed numbers can be affected by the range and types of patients treated by a hospital (casemix), with, for example, different proportions of beds being available for special and more general purposes.
- Recurrent expenditure reported to the NPHEd is largely expenditure by hospitals, and may not necessarily include all expenditure on hospital services by each state or territory government.
- The collection of data by staffing category is not consistent among states and territories.
- The outsourcing of services with a large labour related component (such as food services and domestic services) can have a substantial impact on estimates of costs.
- A small number of establishments in 2012–13 did not report any financial data, or reported incomplete financial data.
- For 2012–13, Queensland was not able to provide complete data for the three privately-managed Mater public hospitals in Brisbane. Data were not available for expenditure and staffing categories. In 2011–12, these hospitals reported a total of about \$560 million for recurrent expenditure and about 3,800 full time equivalent staff.
- Victoria substantially under-reported outpatient *Dental* services data in 2011–12, with those data being not directly comparable with previous years. For 2012–13, Victoria reported substantially more *Dental* services activity than for 2011–12. The reporting of *Dialysis* occasions of service in 2012–13 captured data for dialysis training activity.

The list of public hospitals that contributed to the NPHED is available in Table A.S1, which accompanies this report online.

## National Outpatient Care Database

The National Outpatient Care Database (NOCD) includes aggregate data on services provided to non-admitted, non-emergency patients registered for care in outpatient clinics of public hospitals. It includes data on the type of outpatient clinic and counts of individual and group occasions of service. The data supplied are based on the National Minimum Data Set for Outpatient care (OPC NMDS).

The scope of the NOCD covers public hospitals that are classified as either peer group A or B (*Principal referral and specialist women's and children's hospitals* or *Large hospitals*) in the *Australian hospital statistics* publication from the preceding financial year.

The reference period for this data set is 2012–13. The data set includes records for outpatient care occasions of service provided between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013.

### Summary of key issues

- While the scope of the NOCD covers public hospitals in public hospital peer groups A and B (*Principal referral and specialist women's and children's* and *Large hospitals*), data were also provided by some states and territories for hospitals in peer groups other than A and B.
- For 2012–13, the proportion of outpatient occasions of service reported to the NOCD was estimated as 100% for public hospitals in peer groups A and B and 80% for all public hospitals.
- Although the NOCD is a valuable source of information on services provided to non-admitted, non-emergency patients, the data have limitations. For example, there is variation in admission practices between states and territories and there is variation in the types of services provided for non-admitted patients in a hospital setting.
- Over the three reporting periods 2010–11, 2011–12 and 2012–13 the reporting of outpatient clinic care for some jurisdictions was changed in order to align with the reporting requirements for Activity Based Funding. These changes included: the discontinuation of reporting for some activity; the commencement of reporting for some activity; and the re-categorisation of some clinics according to the Tier 2 clinics structure (IHPA 2011). Therefore, data for 2010–11, 2011–12 and 2012–13 may not be comparable with data reported for previous years.
- Victoria substantially under-reported outpatient *Dental* services data in 2011–12, with those data being not directly comparable with previous years. For 2012–13, Victoria reported considerably more *Dental* services activity than for 2011–12.
- For 2012–13, Tasmania was able to provide outpatient care data for one *Principal referral hospital* that did not report in 2011–12.

The list of public hospitals that contributed to the NOCD in 2012–13 is in Table A.S1, which accompanies this report online.

# The National Emergency Access Target Database

The National Emergency Access Target Database (NEATD) includes episode-level data on non-admitted patients treated in the emergency departments of Australian public hospitals. The data supplied for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2013 are based on the NMDS for Non-admitted patient emergency department care (NAPEDC NMDS) 2012–13. The data supplied for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2013 are based on the NAPEDC NMDS for 2013–14.

The scope of the NEATD covers public hospitals in public hospital peer groups A and B (*Principal referral and specialist women's and children's hospitals* and *Large hospitals*) in the AIHW's *Australian hospital statistics* of the previous year. Some states and territories also provided data for public hospitals that were classified in peer groups other than A or B, as agreed between the Commonwealth and states and territories for the purposes of the National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospital Services (NPA-IPHS). For 2013, coverage of the NEATD in relation to the reporting requirements for the NPA-IPHS was 100%.

## Summary of key data quality issues

- The NEATD is a compilation of episode-level data for emergency department presentations in public hospitals.
- The scope of the NEATD is patients registered for care in emergency departments in public hospital peer groups A and B (*Principal referral and specialist women's and children's* and *Large hospitals*).
- Some states and territories also provided data for public hospitals that were classified in peer groups other than A or B as agreed between the Commonwealth and states and territories for the purpose of the NPA-IPHS.
- The NEATD includes all care provided to patients treated in emergency departments. Care is included until the patient is recorded as having physically departed the emergency department, regardless of whether they have been admitted to hospital. Care provided to patients admitted to 'short stay units' is not included.
- Although there are national standards for data on non-admitted patient emergency department services, there are some variations in how those services are defined and counted across states and territories and over time.
- The care provided to patients in emergency departments is, in most instances, recognised as being provided to 'non-admitted' patients. Patients being treated in emergency departments may subsequently become 'admitted'.
- Non-admitted patients who are treated in outpatient clinics are not included in the NEATD.

# National Elective Surgery Target Database

The National Elective Surgery Target Database (NESTD) provides episode-level data on patients added to or removed from elective surgery waiting lists managed by public hospitals. This includes private patients treated in public hospitals, and may include public patients treated in private hospitals. 'Public hospitals' may include hospitals that are set up to provide services for public patients (as public hospitals do), but are managed privately.

The data supplied for 1 January 2013 to 30 June 2013 are based on the NMDS for Elective surgery waiting times (ESWT NMDS—Removals) 2012–13. The data supplied for 1 July 2013 to 31 December 2014 are based on the NMDS for ESWT NMDS—Removals 2013—.

Data for the NESTD are reported quarterly. The NESTD includes episode-level data on patients added to, removed from, or still waiting on elective surgery waiting lists managed by public hospitals from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2013.

## Summary of key data quality issues

- The NESTD is a compilation of episode-level data on patients added to, removed from, or still waiting on elective surgery waiting lists managed by public hospitals.
- States and territories provided data to the NESTD as agreed between the Commonwealth and states and territories for the purposes of the NPA-IPHS. The NESTD covered most hospitals that undertook elective surgery. Hospitals that were not included may not undertake elective surgery, may not have had waiting lists, or may have had different waiting lists compared with other hospitals.
- Although there are national standards for data on elective surgery waiting times, methods to calculate waiting times have varied between states and territories and over time. For example, some states and territories vary in how they report on patients transferred from a waiting list managed by one hospital to that managed by another.
- There is an apparent lack of comparability of clinical urgency categories among jurisdictions that may result in statistics that are not meaningful or comparable between jurisdictions.

# Appendix B: Technical appendix

This appendix covers:

- definitions and classifications used
- the presentation of data in this report
- analysis methods.

## Definitions and classifications

If not otherwise indicated, data elements were defined according to the definitions in the *National health data dictionary, version 16* (NHDD) (AIHW 2012b) (summarised in the Glossary).

Data element definitions for each National Minimum Data Set (NMDS) are also available online for the:

- Admitted patient care NMDS 2012–13 at  
<<http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/466132>>
- Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2012–13 at  
<<http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/474371>>
- Outpatient patient care NMDS 2012–13 at  
<<http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/336862>>
- Public hospital establishments NMDS 2012–13 at  
<<http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/470656>>
- Elective surgery waiting times (removals data) NMDS 2012–13 at  
<<http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/472497>>.

## Geographical classifications

### Remoteness areas

Data on geographical location of the patient's usual residence and of the hospital location are defined using the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). Data on remoteness area of usual residence are defined using the ABS's ASGS Remoteness Structure 2011 (ABS 2011c).

The ABS's ASGS Remoteness Structure 2011 categorises geographical areas in Australia into remoteness areas, described in detail on the ABS website <[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)>. The classification is as follows:

- *Major cities*
- *Inner regional*
- *Outer regional*
- *Remote*
- *Very remote.*

## Socioeconomic status

Data on socioeconomic status groups are defined using the ABS's Socio-Economic Indexes For Areas 2011 (SEIFA 2011 [ABS 2013b]).

The SEIFA 2011 (ABS 2013b) are generated by the ABS using a combination of 2011 Census data such as income, education, health problems/disability, access to Internet, occupation/unemployment, wealth and living conditions, dwellings without motor vehicles, rent paid, mortgage repayments, and dwelling size. Composite scores are averaged across all people living in areas and defined for areas based on the Census collection districts. However, they are also compiled for higher levels of aggregation including SA2. The SEIFAs are described in detail on the ABS website <[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)>.

## Classifications of clinical data

### ICD-10-AM/ACHI

Diagnosis, procedure and external cause data for 2012–13 were reported to the NHMD by all states and territories using the 7th edition of the *International statistical classification of diseases and related health problems, 10th revision, Australian modification* (ICD-10-AM) (NCCH 2010), incorporating the *Australian classification of health interventions* (ACHI).

The tables and figures presented in chapters 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 use the codes and abbreviated descriptions of the ICD-10-AM/ACHI classification. Full descriptions of the categories are available in the ICD-10-AM/ACHI publications (NCCH 2010).

### Diagnoses

The ICD-10-AM disease classification is hierarchical, with a small number of summary disease chapters that are divided into a large number of more specific disease groupings (represented by 3-character codes). Most of the 3-character disease groupings can be divided into an even larger number of very specific disease categories represented by 4-character and 5-character codes.

### External causes

The external cause classification (Chapter 20 of ICD-10-AM) is hierarchical, consisting of 377 three-character categories. Some of the information in Chapter 6 is presented by categorising the ICD-10-AM external cause codes into 16 groups to provide an overview of the reported external causes. Information on the 30 most common external causes reported for conditions arising during the episode of care are presented at the 3-character level.

Additional information on external causes of injury and poisoning, place of occurrence and activity when injured is available online at <[www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/](http://www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/)>.

### Procedures

One or more procedures can be reported for each separation, but procedures are not undertaken for all hospital admissions, so only some of the separation records include procedure data.

The procedure classification is divided into chapters by anatomical site, and within each chapter by a 'superior' to 'inferior' (head to toe) approach. These subchapters are further divided into more specific procedure blocks, beginning with the least invasive procedure through to the most invasive. The blocks, which are numbered sequentially, group the very specific procedure codes.

## Australian Refined Diagnosis Related Groups

AR-DRG is an Australian admitted patient classification system which provides a clinically meaningful way of relating the number and type of patients treated in a hospital (that is, its casemix) to the resources expected to be used by the hospital. This system categorises acute admitted patient episodes of care into groups with similar conditions and similar expected use of hospital resources, based on information in the hospital morbidity record such as the diagnoses, procedures and demographic characteristics of the patient. This report uses AR-DRG version 6.0x (DoHA 2010) to classify separations.

The AR-DRG classification is partly hierarchical, with 23 Major Diagnostic Categories (MDCs), divided into *Surgical*, *Medical* and *Other* partitions, and then into 698 individual AR-DRGs.

The MDCs are mostly defined by body system or disease type, and correspond with particular medical specialties. In general, episodes are assigned to MDCs on the basis of the principal diagnosis. Some episodes involving procedures that are particularly resource intensive may be assigned to the *Pre-MDC* category (AR-DRGs A01Z to A41B), irrespective of the principal diagnosis (including most organ and bone marrow transplants). Episodes that contain clinically atypical or invalid information are assigned *Error DRGs* (AR-DRGs 801A–801C and 960Z–963Z), even if they were assigned to an MDC (*Error DRGs* are included within the *Other* DRG in the *Surgical*/ *Medical*/ *Other* DRG partition).

Episodes are assigned to AR-DRGs within MDCs, mainly on the basis of the procedure codes (in the *Surgical* DRG partition) or the diagnosis codes (in the *Medical* DRG partition). Additional variables including the patient's age, complicating diagnoses/procedures and/or patient clinical complexity level, the length of stay, and the mode of separation are also used for AR-DRG assignment.

## Estimated resident populations

All populations, except those used for analyses by Indigenous status, are based on the estimated resident population as at 30 June (at the beginning of the reporting period), based on the 2011 Census data. For more information, see 'Methods'.

For analyses by Indigenous status, the population projections based on the 2011 Census were not available at the time of the release of this report. Therefore, the ABS's Indigenous experimental estimates and projections (2001 Census-based) were used.

## Presentation of data

For the majority of tables in this report, data are presented by the state or territory of the hospital, not by the state or territory of usual residence of the patient. The exceptions are for tables presenting information on potentially preventable hospitalisations and selected procedures, which are based on data on the state or territory of usual residence. In addition, the state or territory of usual residence of the patient is reported against the state or territory of hospitalisation in Chapter 6.

For tables presented by the state or territory of usual residence of the patient, the totals include unknown residence area (within a known state), overseas residents and unknown state of residence.



Except as noted below, the totals in tables include data only for those states and territories for which data were available, as indicated in the tables.

Throughout the publication, percentages may not add up to 100.0 because of rounding. Percentages and population rates printed as 0.0 or 0 may denote less than 0.05 or 0.5, respectively.

## **Suppression of data**

The AIHW operates under a strict privacy regime which has its basis in Section 29 of the *Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987* (AIHW Act). Section 29 of the AIHW Act requires that confidentiality of data relating to persons (living and deceased) and organisations be maintained. The Privacy Act governs confidentiality of information about living individuals.

The AIHW is committed to reporting that maximises the value of information released for users while being statistically reliable and meeting legislative requirements described above.

Data (cells) in tables may be suppressed in order to maintain the privacy or confidentiality of a person or organisation, or because a proportion or other measure related to a small number of events and may therefore not be reliable.

Data have been suppressed to avoid attribute disclosure. Some measures have been suppressed if there if there were fewer than 100 separations in the category being presented (for example, for length of stay, separations rates and elective surgery waiting times). The abbreviation 'n.p.' has been used in tables to denote these suppressions. For these tables, the totals include the suppressed information.

The data for private hospitals in Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory were not published for confidentiality reasons.

In addition, private hospital data are suppressed for a particular diagnosis, procedure or AR-DRG where:

- there are fewer than three reporting units
- there are three or more reporting units and one contributed more than 85% of the total separations, or
- there are three or more reporting units and two contributed more than 90% of the total separations.

## **Analysis methods**

### **Admitted patient care data analyses**

Records for 2012–13 are for hospital separations (discharges, transfers, deaths or changes in care type) in the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013. Data on patients who were admitted on any date before 1 July 2012 are included, provided that they also separated between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013. A record is included for each separation, not for each patient, so patients who separated more than once in the year have more than one record in the NHMD.

Patient day statistics can be used to provide information on hospital activity that, unlike separation statistics, account for differences in length of stay. As the database contains records for patients separating from hospital during the reporting period (1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013), this means that not all patient days reported will have occurred in that year. It is expected, however, that patient days for patients who separated in 2012–13, but who were admitted before 1 July 2012, will be counterbalanced overall by the patient days for patients in hospital on 30 June 2013 who will separate in future reporting periods.

The numbers of separations and patient days can be a less accurate measure of the activity for establishments such as public psychiatric hospitals, and for patients receiving care other than acute care, for which more variable lengths of stay are reported. Information on some aspects of the quality and comparability of the data are presented in Appendix A.

The notes above and those in Box 6.1 should be used to guide interpretation of the data.

### **Newborn episodes of care**

Newborn care episodes can include ‘qualified days’ which are considered to be the equivalent of acute care days. In this report, *Newborn* episodes with at least one qualified day have been included in all tables reporting separations. Records for *Newborn* episodes with no qualified days do not meet admission criteria for all purposes, so they have been excluded from this report, except as specified in Chapter 6.

The number of patient days reported in this publication for *Newborn* episodes is equal to the number of qualified days, so for newborns with a mixture of qualified and unqualified days the number of patient days reported is less than the actual length of stay for the episode.

### **Standardised separation rate**

Unless noted otherwise, population rates (separation rates) presented in this report are age-standardised, calculated using the direct standardisation method and 5-year age groups.

The crude population rates presented in some tables (for example, average available beds per 1,000 population) were calculated using the population estimates for 30 June 2012.

All populations, except those used for analyses by Indigenous status, are based on the 2011 Census data. For time series tables in this report, the age-standardised separations rates (per 1,000 population) presented for the years 2008–09 to 2011–12 have been calculated using estimated resident populations based on the 2011 Census data. Therefore, the separation rates reported for 2008–09 to 2011–12 in this report are not comparable to the separation rates presented in earlier *Australian hospital statistics* reports which were based on the 2006 Census data.

The total Australian population for 30 June 2001 was used as the standard population against which expected rates were calculated. The Australian Bureau of Statistics’ population estimates for 30 June at the beginning of the reporting period (see tables B.S1 to B.S3 accompanying this report online) were used for the observed rates as detailed below:

- Separation rates (by hospital state, residence state, remoteness areas and by quintiles of socioeconomic advantage/disadvantage) were directly age-standardised, using the estimated resident populations as at 30 June 2012. The estimated resident populations use a highest age group of 85 and over.
- Separation rates by Indigenous status were directly age-standardised, using the projected Indigenous population (low series) as at 30 June 2012, based on the 2006

Census data. The population for other Australians was based on the estimated resident populations as at 30 June 2012, based on the 2006 Census data. As the projected estimates use a highest age group of 65 and over and population data for June 2012, standardised rates calculated for analyses by Indigenous status are not directly comparable to the rates presented elsewhere.

### **Standardised separation rate ratios**

For some tables reporting comparative separation rates, standardised separation rate ratios (SRRs) are presented. The ratios are calculated by dividing the age-standardised separation rate for a population of interest (an observed rate) by the age-standardised separation rate for a comparison population (the expected rate). The calculation is as follows:

$$\text{Standardised separation rate ratio (SRR)} = \text{observed rate} / \text{expected rate}$$

A standardised separation ratio of 1.0 indicates that the population of interest (for example, Indigenous Australians) had a separation rate similar to that of the comparison group (for example, other Australians). An SRR of 1.2 indicates that the population of interest had a rate that was 20% greater than that of the comparison population and an SRR of 0.8 indicates a rate 20% smaller.

The populations used for the observed and expected rates vary in this report, for example:

- For Indigenous status, the rate ratio is equal to the separation rate for Indigenous Australians divided by the separation rate for other Australians (other Australians includes Indigenous status not reported).
- For analyses by residence state or territory, remoteness areas and socioeconomic status of area of residence, the rate ratio is equal to the separation rate for the residence state or territory, remoteness area or socioeconomic status group divided by the separation rate for Australia.

### **Counts of separations by groups of diagnoses, procedures and external causes**

For tables with counts of separations by groups of diagnoses, procedures or external causes, a separation is counted once for the group if it has at least one diagnosis/procedure/external cause reported within the group. As more than one diagnosis, procedure or external cause can be reported for each separation, the data are not additive and therefore the totals in the tables may not equal the sum of counts in the rows.

#### **Diagnoses**

Most of the information about principal diagnoses in chapters 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 is presented using two methods of grouping records based on the ICD-10-AM disease classification:

- ICD-10-AM disease chapters – these 20 groups provide information aggregated at the ICD-10-AM chapter level
- 3-character ICD-10-AM groupings – 1,674 categories describe the diseases at a specific level. Detailed information is presented for the 20 groupings with the highest number of separations. Summary information is provided for all the groups (for which separations were reported) online at <[www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/](http://www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/)>.

## Procedures

For data on the number of procedures, all procedures within a group are counted, even if more than one is reported for a separation.

The procedure information is presented using three methods of grouping procedures based on the ACHI procedure classification:

- ACHI procedure chapters – these 20 groups provide information aggregated at the ACHI chapter level
- ACHI procedure blocks – these 1,601 categories describe procedures at a specific level. Detailed information is presented for the 10 groups with the highest number of separations and summary information is provided for all the groups (for which separations were reported) online at <[www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/](http://www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/)>
- ACHI procedures – there are over 6,300 individual procedures. Chapter 10 presents information for the most common procedures for sub- and non-acute care separations.

## ICD-10-AM codes used for selected analyses

A number of tables in this report use ICD-10-AM/ACHI codes to define diagnoses and procedures. The codes are presented in tables B.S4 to B.S8 accompanying this report online and relate to:

- adverse events (Chapter 3)
- unplanned/unexpected readmissions (Chapter 3)
- selected procedures (Chapter 3)
- selected AR-DRGs (Chapter 3)
- potentially preventable hospitalisations (Chapter 6).

## Counts of AR-DRGs and MDCs

Following receipt of the data from states and territories, the AIHW regrouped the data to ensure that the same grouping method was used for all data. The AR-DRGs that resulted from this regrouping are reported here, and may differ slightly from the AR-DRGs derived by the states and territories.

The information in chapters 6, 7, 8, and 9 is presented using different methods of grouping the AR-DRG classification:

- Separations have been categorised as *Childbirth*, *Medical*, *Surgical* or *Other* based on the AR-DRG recorded for the separation
- MDCs – these 23 groups are used to provide information at a high level of aggregation
- AR-DRGs – detailed information is presented for the 20 AR-DRGs having the largest number of separations.

## AR-DRG versions

For 2012–13, each separation in the NHMD was classified to AR-DRG version 6.0x (DoHA 2010) on the basis of demographic and clinical characteristics of the patient.

Each AR-DRG version is based on a specific edition of the ICD-10-AM/ACHI (Table B1). However, AR-DRGs can be mapped from other ICD-10-AM/ACHI editions.

**Table B1: ICD-10-AM and AR-DRG versions, 2008–09 to 2012–13**

| Year                   | ICD-10-AM edition | Relevant AR-DRG version | AR-DRG version reported in Australian hospital statistics |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 2008–09                | Sixth edition     | Version 6.0             | Version 5.2                                               |
| 2009–10                | Sixth edition     | Version 6.0             | Version 5.2                                               |
| 2010–11 <sup>(a)</sup> | Seventh edition   | Version 6.0             | Version 6.0                                               |
| 2011–12                | Seventh edition   | Version 6.0             | Version 6.0x                                              |
| 2012–13                | Seventh edition   | Version 6.0x            | Version 6.0x                                              |

(a) For analyses where cost weights were required, AR-DRG version 5.2 Round 13 cost weights (2008–09) were applied to AR-DRG version 5.2.

For the purpose of making AR-DRG-based time series comparisons, the coded clinical data for 2008–09 to 2009–10 were grouped to AR-DRG version 6.0 using the mapping facility in the DRGroup™ software. Due to the mapping necessary to generate the AR-DRG versions, the data presented in these tables may not be comparable to those reported by the states and territories for a small number of AR-DRGs.

### Broad categories of service

Separations have been categorised as *Childbirth*, *Specialist mental health*, *Medical*, *Surgical* or *Other* based mainly on the AR-DRG recorded for the separation:

- *Childbirth*: separations for which the AR-DRG was associated with childbirth:
  - O01A *Caesarean delivery with catastrophic complication or comorbidity*
  - O01B *Caesarean delivery with severe complication or comorbidity*
  - O01C *Caesarean delivery without catastrophic or severe complication or comorbidity*
  - O02A *Vaginal delivery with operating room procedure with catastrophic or severe complication or comorbidity*
  - O02B *Vaginal delivery with operating room procedure without catastrophic or severe complication or comorbidity*
  - O60A *Vaginal delivery with catastrophic or severe complication or comorbidity*
  - O60B *Vaginal delivery without catastrophic or severe complication or comorbidity*
  - O60C *Vaginal delivery single uncomplicated without other condition*

Does not include newborn care. Includes separations for childbirth for which specialised psychiatric care days were reported.

- *Specialist mental health*: separations for which at least one specialised psychiatric care day was reported. Excludes separations for *Childbirth* that also reported specialised psychiatric care days.
- *Surgical*: separations for which the AR-DRG belonged to the *Surgical* partition (involving an operating room procedure), excluding separations for *Childbirth* and *Specialist mental health*.
- *Medical*: separations for which the AR-DRG belonged to the *Medical* partition (not involving an operating room procedure), excluding separations for *Childbirth* and *Specialist mental health*.

- *Other*: separations for which the AR-DRG did not belong to the *Surgical* or *Medical* partitions (involving a non-operating room procedure, such as endoscopy), excluding separations for *Childbirth* and *Specialist mental health*.

For Chapter 6, broad categories of service are presented for standard admitted patient care data analyses. For chapters 7, 8, and 9, broad categories of service are presented for acute admitted patient care data analyses.

### **Standard admitted patient care data analyses**

For chapters 2 and 6, the counts of separations do not include separations for *Newborns* (without qualified days) and records for *Hospital boarders* or *Posthumous organ procurement*, and the patient days are also not included for those records. In addition, patient days for *Newborns* that were not qualified days are excluded from the counts of patient days.

### **Acute admitted patient care data analyses**

For chapters 6, 7, 8 and 9, and for tables in other chapters that include AR-DRGs and/or cost weight information, separations are included only for *Acute* care, *Newborns* (with qualified days) or where care type was not reported. Patient days for *Newborns* that were not qualified days are excluded from the counts of patient days.

### **Same-day acute admitted patient care data analyses**

For Chapter 7, records are included if the patient had a care type of *Acute*, *Newborn* (with qualified days), or the care type was not reported, and the patient was admitted and separated on the same date.

As a separation may be generated by a transfer between hospitals, or a change in the type of care provided, these data may include records for patients whose stay in hospital was longer than one day but involved more than one separation.

### **Overnight acute admitted patient care data analyses**

For Chapter 8, records are included if the patient had a care type of *Acute*, *Newborn* (with qualified days), or the care type was not reported, and the patient was admitted and separated on different dates.

### **Separations involving surgery**

For Chapter 9, separations involving surgery are defined as acute separations with a 'surgical procedure' reported, based on the procedures used to define 'surgical' AR-DRGs in AR-DRG version 6.0x (DoHA 2010). Separations for *Specialist mental health* care and *Childbirth* were excluded (see Chapter 9).

Separations involving surgery are further disaggregated in Chapter 9 based on the reported urgency of admission as:

- *Emergency admissions involving surgery*—includes separations for which the urgency of admission was reported as *Emergency*
- *Elective admissions involving surgery*—includes separations for which the urgency of admission was reported as *Elective*.

Separations involving surgery for which the urgency of admission was *Not assigned* or not reported are only included in the first table of Chapter 9.

## Subacute and non-acute admitted patient care data analyses

For Chapter 10, records are included if the patient had a care type of *Rehabilitation care*, *Palliative care*, *Geriatric evaluation and management*, *Psychogeriatric care* or *Maintenance care*. It includes both same-day and overnight separations for subacute and non-acute care.

## Funding source

Between 2011–12 and 2012–13, some changes were made to the data element ‘Episode of care – source of funding’ (METeOR id 472033) to facilitate the use of this data element in non-admitted patient care as well as admitted patient care.

Some of the existing domain values were renamed as the category title ‘Australian health care agreements’ (AHCA) was no longer valid after the cessation of the AHCA in 2009. In addition, a domain value was added for the funding source ‘Medicare benefits schedule’, which is not applicable for admitted patient care.

## Public patient analyses

From 2012–13, the category *Public patients* includes separations for which the funding source was reported as:

- *Health service budget*
- *Health service budget (due to eligibility for Reciprocal health care agreements)*
- *Health service budget (no charge raised due to hospital decision)* in public hospitals
- *Other hospital or public authority* with a patient election status of *Public* (regardless of hospital sector).

In tables presenting information by funding source, the category *Other* includes separations for which the funding source was reported as:

- *Other compensation*
- *Department of Defence*
- *Correctional facility*
- *Other hospital or public authority* with a patient election status of *Private* (or not reported)
- *Health service budget (no charge raised due to hospital decision)* in private hospitals
- *Other funding source*.

## Non-admitted patient emergency department care data analyses

### Estimated proportion of emergency services

The estimated proportion of emergency occasions of service covered by the National Non-admitted Patient Emergency Department Care Database (NNAPEDCD) data is calculated as the number of presentations reported to the NNAPEDCD divided by the number of emergency occasions of service reported to the NPHED, as a percentage. See Chapter 5.

## **Emergency department length of stay statistics calculations**

Length of stay statistics are calculated for all emergency department *Type of visit* categories.

### **Proportion of emergency department presentations completed in 4 hours or less**

The proportion of presentations completed in 4 hours or less is determined as the proportion of all emergency presentations with time elapsed between the presentation and the physical departure of the patient of less than or equal to 240 minutes. See Chapter 5.

Presentations were excluded if either (or both) of the presentation date/time or physical departure date/time were missing or invalid, or if the calculation resulted in an invalid length of stay (that is, missing or negative number of minutes).

## **National elective surgery waiting times data analyses**

### **Elective surgery waiting times**

The waiting times data presented in this report are for patients who complete their wait and are admitted for their surgery as either an elective or emergency admission. In reports before 2011–12, this information was presented for elective admissions only. Therefore, the data presented are not directly comparable with the data reported in previous *Australian hospital statistics* reports.

See also 'Median and 90th percentiles'.

### **Elective surgery care and elective surgical separations**

The definition of elective surgery care for the purposes of the National Elective Surgery Waiting Times Data Collection (NESWTDC), and the definition of separations described as elective admissions involving surgery in the National Hospital Morbidity Database (NHMD) differ. In particular, the procedures defined as surgical differ between those used to define the scope of the NESWTDC and those used to define surgical separations in the NHMD.

For the NESWTDC, elective surgery comprises elective care where the procedures required by patients are listed in the surgical operations section of the Medicare Benefits Schedule, with the exclusion of specific procedures frequently done by non-surgical clinicians (AIHW 2012).

For the NHMD (see Chapter 9), separations involving surgery are defined as acute separations with a 'surgical procedure' reported, based on the procedures used to define 'surgical' AR-DRGs in AR-DRG version 6.0x (DoHA 2010).

## **National public hospital establishment data analyses**

### **Counting public hospitals**

Two different counts of hospitals are used in this report, depending on the type of information being presented and the way in which the hospitals were reported to the NHMD and the National Public Hospital Establishments Database (NPHED) (Table B2):

- Entities for which there was expenditure information were counted as hospitals. A small number of hospitals in the NPHED had incomplete expenditure information. In addition, in some jurisdictions, expenditure data were available at the Local Hospital Networks level, not at campus-level, so the networks were the entities counted as hospitals in these cases.



- In Chapter 4, hospitals are generally counted as they were reported to the NPHEd. These entities are usually 'physical hospitals' (buildings or campuses) but may encompass some outpost locations such as dialysis units. Conversely hospitals on the one 'campus' can be reported as separate entities to this database if, for example, they are managed separately and have separate purposes, such as specialist women's services and specialist children's services. Although most of the hospitals counted in this way report separations to the NHMD, some small hospitals do not have separations every year.

**Table B2: Numbers of public hospitals reported in this report, states and territories, 2012–13**

| Hospitals                     | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT <sup>(a)</sup> | NT | Total |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|-----|--------------------|----|-------|
| For expenditure data          | 225 | 104 | 167 | 96 | 80 | 23  | 3                  | 5  | 703   |
| Chapter 4 (physical campuses) | 225 | 150 | 170 | 90 | 80 | 23  | 3                  | 5  | 746   |

(a) The count of hospitals for the Australian Capital Territory includes a small mothercraft hospital for which admitted patient data were not reported. The expenditure for this hospital is included in the total reported for the Australian Capital Territory in Chapter 4.

Data on numbers of hospitals should therefore be interpreted taking these notes into consideration. Changes in the numbers of hospitals over time can be due to changes in administrative or reporting arrangements rather than changes in the number of hospital campuses or buildings. For example, for 2012–13, Western Australia reported 6 fewer hospitals than in 2011–12, due to the amalgamation of reporting for 5 small campuses with their respective parent hospitals.

Counts of private hospitals can also vary, depending on the source of the information. Therefore, there may be discrepancies between counts of private hospitals from the ABS Private Health Establishments Collection and the lists of private hospitals contributing to the NHMD (which are the basis of admitted patient data presented in chapters 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10). The states and territories provided the latter information, which may not correspond with the way in which private hospitals report to the Private Health Establishments Collection.

## Expenditure and revenue

### Constant prices

Constant price expenditure adjusts current prices for the effects of inflation, that is, it aims to remove the effects of inflation. Hence, expenditures in different years can be compared on a dollar-for-dollar basis, using this measure of changes in the volume of health goods and services.

Constant price estimates for expenditure aggregates have been derived in terms of prices in the reference year 2012–13 with the ABS Government Final Consumption Expenditure, State and Local– Hospitals & Nursing Homes deflator used for public hospitals. The ABS Household Final Consumption Expenditure Hospital Services deflator was used for private hospitals.

## Median and 90th percentiles

The 50th percentile is the median (or the middle value) in a group of data arranged from lowest to highest value. It represents, for example, the amount of time within which 50% of patients were admitted; half the waiting times will have been shorter, and half the waiting times longer, than the median.

Using the same example, the 90th percentile data represent the number of days within which 90% of patients were admitted.

The 50th percentile and 90th percentile waiting times are calculated using an empirical distribution function with averaging. Using this method, observations are sorted in ascending order.

The calculation is where:

$n$  is the number of observations and

$p$  is the percentile value divided by 100,

then  $n \times p = i + f$  (where  $i$  is an integer and  $f$  is the fractional part of  $n \times p$ ).

If  $n \times p$  is an integer, then the percentile value will correspond to the average of the values for the  $i$ th and  $(i+1)$ th observations.

If  $n \times p$  is not an integer, then the percentile value will correspond to the value for the  $(i+1)$ th observation.

For example, if there were 100 observations, the median waiting time will correspond to the average waiting time for the 50th and 51st observations (ordered according to waiting time). Similarly, the 90th percentile will correspond to the average waiting time for the 90th and 91st observations if there are 100 observations.

If there were 101 observations, then the median waiting time will correspond to the waiting time for the 51st observation and the 90th percentile waiting time will correspond to the waiting time for the 91st observation.

The 50th and 90th percentiles have been rounded to the nearest whole number; in days for elective surgery waiting times and in minutes for emergency department waiting times.

## **Data on geographical location**

Data on geographical location are collected on hospitals in the NPHED and on the area of usual residence of patients in the NHMD and the NAPEDCD. These data have been provided as state or territory and Statistical Area level 2 (SA2), a small area unit within the ABS's ASGS and/or postcode, and have been aggregated to remoteness areas.

### **Geographical location of hospital**

The remoteness area of each public hospital was determined on the basis of its location. For 2012–13, the geographical location aligns with the ABS's ASGS Remoteness Structure 2011 (ABS 2011b). Data on the remoteness area of hospitals are presented in Chapter 4.

### **Geographical location of usual residence of the patient**

The NHDD specifies that these data should be provided as the state or territory and the SA2 of usual residence. All states and territories were able to provide SA2 codes both for patients usually resident in the jurisdiction and for patients not usually resident in the jurisdiction.

The AIHW mapped the supplied area of residence data for each separation to remoteness area categories based on the ABS's ASGS Remoteness Structure 2011. This was undertaken on a probabilistic basis as necessary, using ABS concordance information describing the distribution of the population by remoteness areas and SA2s. Because of the probabilistic

nature of this mapping, the remoteness area data for individual records may not be accurate; however, the overall distribution of records by geographical areas is considered useful.

For the NHMD, about 99% of records included data on the area of usual residence in the form of an SA2. For the remaining 0.4% of records, about 50% were for overseas residents, 5% were of no fixed abode, and the remainder not reported.

### **Remoteness area of usual residence**

Data based on the area of usual residence for admitted patients are presented by remoteness area in chapters 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

The data presented in this report by remoteness areas using the ABS's ASGS Remoteness Structure 2011 are not comparable to the data presented by remoteness areas using the ABS's ASGC Remoteness Structure 2006 (ABS 2006) in *Australian hospital statistics* reports for 2006–07 to 2011–12 because of differences in the underlying calculation of the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) scores used to determine remoteness areas. Therefore, caution should be used when making comparisons over time.

### **Socioeconomic status**

Separation rates by socioeconomic status were generated by the AIHW using the ABS Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD) scores for the SA2 of usual residence of the patient reported for each separation.

The SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage is one of the ABS's SEIFA indexes. The relative disadvantage scores indicate the collective socioeconomic status of the people living in an area, with reference to the situation and standards applying in the wider community at a given point in time. A relatively disadvantaged area is likely to have a high proportion of relatively disadvantaged people. However, such an area is also likely to contain people who are not disadvantaged, as well as people who are relatively advantaged.

Separation rates by socioeconomic status were generated by the AIHW using the ABS Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD) scores for the SA2 of usual residence of the patient reported for each separation. The 1 – Lowest SES group represents the areas containing the 20% of the population with the most disadvantage, and the 5 – Highest SES group represents the areas containing the 20% of the population with the least disadvantage.

The following labels for each socioeconomic group have been used throughout the report:

| <b>Label</b> | <b>Socioeconomic status group</b> |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 – Lowest   | Most disadvantaged                |
| 2            | Second most disadvantaged         |
| 3            | Middle                            |
| 4            | Second least disadvantaged        |
| 5 – Highest  | Least disadvantaged               |

## AR-DRG cost weights and cost estimates

Cost weights and cost estimates were prepared by the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority (IHPA) through the National Hospital Cost Data Collection (NHCDC) (IHPA 2013a, 2013b). The NHCDC estimates the average cost of each AR-DRG and the cost weight is the average cost for that AR-DRG divided by the average cost across all AR-DRGs.

Separate cost weights are usually estimated for the public and private sectors because of the differences in the range of costs recorded in public and private hospitals.

The most recent public hospital cost weights based on version 6.0x relate to the 2010–11 reporting period (Round 15, IHPA 2013a). For 2010–11, the average cost for public hospital separations was \$4,613.

For private hospitals, the most recent private hospital cost weights based on version 6.0x relate to the 2011–12 reporting period (Round 16, IHPA 2013b). For 2011–12, an average cost for private hospital separations was not reported.

### Average cost weight

Average cost weight information provides a guide to the expected resource use for separations, with a value of 1.00 representing the average cost for all separations.

The average cost weight for a hospital (or group of hospitals) is calculated as the sum of the average cost weights for each separation, divided by the total number of separations for the hospital. It represents in a single number the overall relative expected use of resources by a hospital. For example, a hospital with an average cost weight of 1.08 has an 8% more costly casemix than the national average (equal to 1.00).

## Cost per casemix-adjusted separation analysis

In previous *Australian hospital statistics* reports, the cost per casemix-adjusted separation was presented as an indicator of the efficiency of public acute care hospitals (see Chapter 3).

The cost per casemix-adjusted separation is a measure of the average recurrent expenditure for each admitted patient, adjusted using AR-DRG cost weights for the resources expected to be used for the separation. A summary of the method used in this analysis was included in Appendix B of *Australian hospital statistics 2011–12*, and more detail is available in *Australian hospital statistics 2000–01* (AIHW 2002).

This indicator has been omitted from *Australian hospital statistics 2012–13* for two reasons:

- There are concerns about the potential for this indicator to be confused with the IHPA's calculation of the national efficient price and the allocation of activity based funding for the 2012–13 reporting period.
- The method has not been revised since the 2000–01 reporting period. Over the past two years, the IHPA have been developing costing models for subacute and non-acute care, mental health care, emergency department care and outpatient care, which may contain elements that could be appropriately included in the AIHW's cost per casemix-adjusted separation analysis.

The AIHW will undertake a revision of this indicator during the first half of 2014, and aims to publish the results in an addendum to this report in the second half of 2014.

## Relative stay index analysis

Relative stay indexes (RSIs) have been identified as indicators of efficiency and are presented in Chapter 3. They are calculated as the number of 'observed patient days' for separations in selected AR-DRGs, divided by the number of 'expected patient days', standardised for casemix (based on national figures).

An RSI greater than 1.0 indicates that an average patient's length of stay is higher than expected given the casemix for the group of separations of interest. An RSI of less than 1.0 indicates that the length of stay was less than expected.

The standardisation for casemix (based on AR-DRG version 6.0x and the age of the patient for each separation) allows comparisons to be made that take into account variation in types of services provided; however, it does not take into account other influences on length of stay, such as Indigenous status or the remoteness area of the patient's residence or of the hospital.

The RSI method includes acute care separations only, and excludes separations for patients who died or were transferred within 2 days of admission, or with a length of stay greater than 120 days. Excluded from the analysis were:

- AR-DRGs for rehabilitation (such as Z60A *Rehabilitation with catastrophic/severe complications or comorbidities*)
- predominantly same-day AR-DRGs (such as R63Z *Chemotherapy* and L61Z *Admit for renal dialysis*)
- AR-DRGs with a length of stay component in the definition (see tables accompanying this report online)
- *Error AR-DRGs.*

Comparisons with RSIs presented in earlier reports should be made with caution, because the indexes for reports from 2004–05 to 2009–10 were calculated using AR-DRG versions 5.0/5.1/5.2.

## RSI standardisation methods—direct and indirect relative stay indexes

The two methods for standardisation of the length of stay data used in this report are analogous to direct and indirect age-standardisation methods.

### Indirect relative stay index

The indirect RSI method applies the national average length of stay (ALOS) for each AR-DRG to the relevant population of interest (number of separations for each AR-DRG in the hospital group) to derive the expected number of patient days. This method is generally used when rate information (ALOS for each AR-DRG in this analysis) for the population of interest is unknown or subject to fluctuation because of small population sizes. It provides a measure of efficiency for a hospital, or group of hospitals, based on their actual activity.

However, an indirectly standardised rate compares a group with a 'standard population rate' so, using this method, rates for different groups are not strictly comparable because each group has a different casemix to which the national ALOS data have been applied. Therefore, the indirectly standardised data for hospital groups should be compared with the national average of 1.00.

### **Direct relative stay index**

For the direct RSI method, the ALOS of each AR-DRG for the group of interest is multiplied by the national population (total number of separations in each AR-DRG) to derive the expected number of patient days. This method provides a measure of efficiency for a hospital, or group of hospitals, and is suitable if all or most AR-DRGs are represented in a hospital group.

Direct standardisation methods are generally used where the populations and their characteristics are stable and reasonably similar, for example for total separations for New South Wales and Victoria. Groups can be compared using the directly standardised rates as the activity of each group is weighted using the same set of weights, namely the national casemix.

However, the ALOS data for AR-DRGs which are not represented in a group need to be estimated. The method in this report uses the assumption that the missing AR-DRGs for the hospital group had a relative length of stay that was the same as that for the reported AR-DRGs for the hospital group, weighted by the national distribution of the reported AR-DRGs in the group. Also, this method can scale up AR-DRGs to have an impact that does not reflect their relative volume in a hospital group, which can be particularly problematic if the low-volume AR-DRGs are atypical.

For those jurisdictions and sectors for which RSI statistics are presented in tables 3.9 and 3.10, there were between 502 and 672 AR-DRGs represented, meaning that ALOS data was estimated for up to 170 AR-DRGs.

Due to the issues with the direct RSI detailed above, this report mainly presents RSI information using the indirect standardised method. However, the direct standardised method has also been presented in Chapter 3. This allows comparison between the two methods and more direct comparison for those jurisdictions and sectors for which the data are presented.

For public hospitals in the Northern Territory, about 500 of the 672 DRGs used in the national RSI analysis are represented, so results are likely to have been affected by estimation of the missing ALOS data. Therefore the data presented for the direct standardised method in the public sector for the Northern Territory in tables 3.9 and 3.10 should be interpreted with caution.

Table B.S9, accompanying this report online, shows the number of AR-DRGs represented in each cell in tables 3.9 and 3.10, so that the number of AR-DRGs for which ALOS was estimated can be derived.

## Appendix C: Public hospital peer groups

This report uses a new public hospital peer group classification, developed by the AIHW in consultation with the Australian Hospital Statistics Advisory Committee. An AIHW report on the new peer group classification will be released later in 2014 (*Australian hospital peer groups 2014*, AIHW forthcoming). This appendix presents a summary of the method used to develop the new peer groups.

Since 1999, AIHW has grouped public hospitals into peer groups when reporting hospital data. This reflects the need to compare hospitals against other hospitals with similar characteristics when reporting statistics and monitoring performance.

The AIHW's original peer grouping was developed with the National Health Ministers' Benchmarking Working Group (NHMBWG) and the National Health Performance Committee (NHPC). It was developed to examine variability in the average cost per casemix-adjusted separation and to group hospitals into broadly similar groups in terms of their range of admitted patient activities.

This grouping was first published in *Australian hospital statistics 1998-99* (AIHW 2000) and continued to be used in all subsequent *Australian hospital statistics* publications until the 2011-12 report. It grouped hospitals based on a number of criteria, including specialisation of hospital (categories such as multi-purpose services, hospices, rehabilitation, mothercraft, psychiatric or other non-acute; categorisation was based on advice from states and territories); workload of hospital, measured in acute separations or acute weighted separations; and geographic location (see Table C1).

However, changes in hospital workloads and work practices over time highlighted the need for a review of the appropriateness of the peer groups.

The new AIHW peer grouping has been developed as a flexible and robust system for the categorisation of hospitals into peer groups:

- The groups are based on logical groupings of hospitals according to available data. It is based on a broader range of hospital data sources than the original peer group classification and does not rely on advice from state and territories to create particular groups.
- The grouping is intended to be multi-purpose. The peer groups were defined according to common criteria and not for any particular type of statistical analysis or performance reporting purpose. They should be useful for a range of different purposes.
- The grouping is intended to be stable over time. The individual groups have been defined by the type and nature of the services provided rather than by size-based characteristics which can change through activity increases. The stability of the grouping membership was also tested using several years of data.

A summary of the new peer group classification is presented in Table C2. The peer group to which each public hospital was assigned for 2012-13 is included in Table CS.1 accompanying this report online and includes the previous peer group for information.

**Table C1: Public hospital peer group classification, 1999 to 2013**

| Peer group                                                         | Subgroup                          | Code | Definition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Principal referral and specialist women's and children's hospitals | Principal referral                | A1   | Major city hospitals with >20,000 acute casemix-adjusted separations, and Regional hospitals with >16,000 acute casemix-adjusted separations per annum.                                                                                                  |
|                                                                    | Specialist women's and children's | A2   | Specialised acute women's and children's hospitals with >10,000 acute casemix-adjusted separations per annum.                                                                                                                                            |
| Large hospitals                                                    | Major city                        | B1   | Major city acute hospitals treating more than 10,000 acute casemix-adjusted separations per annum.                                                                                                                                                       |
|                                                                    | Regional and Remote               | B2   | Regional acute hospitals treating >8,000 acute casemix-adjusted separations per annum, and Remote hospitals with >5,000 casemix-adjusted separations.                                                                                                    |
| Medium hospitals                                                   | Group 1                           | C1   | Medium acute hospitals in Regional and Major city areas treating between 5,000 and 10,000 acute casemix-adjusted separations per annum.                                                                                                                  |
|                                                                    | Group 2                           | C2   | Medium acute hospitals in Regional and Major city areas treating between 2,000 and 5,000 acute casemix-adjusted separations per annum, and acute hospitals treating <2,000 casemix-adjusted separations per annum but with >2,000 separations per annum. |
| Small acute hospitals                                              | Regional                          | D1   | Small Regional acute hospitals (mainly small country town hospitals), acute hospitals treating <2,000 separations per annum, and with less than 40% non-acute and outlier patient days of total patient days.                                            |
|                                                                    | Remote                            | D3   | Small Remote hospitals (<5,000 acute casemix-adjusted separations but not 'multi-purpose services' and not 'small non-acute'). Most are <2,000 separations.                                                                                              |
| Sub-acute and non-acute hospitals                                  | Small non-acute                   | D2   | Small non-acute hospitals, treating <2,000 separations per annum, and with more than 40% non-acute and outlier patient days of total patient days.                                                                                                       |
|                                                                    | Multi-purpose services            | E2   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                                                                    | Hospices                          | E3   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                                                                    | Rehabilitation                    | E4   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                                                                    | Mothercraft                       | E5   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                                                                    | Other non-acute                   | E9   | For example, geriatric treatment centres combining rehabilitation and palliative care, with a small number of acute patients.                                                                                                                            |
|                                                                    |                                   | G    | Prison medical services, dental hospitals, special circumstance hospitals, Major city hospitals with <2,000 acute casemix-adjusted separations, hospitals with <200 separations etc.                                                                     |
| Psychiatric hospitals                                              |                                   | F    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |



**Table C2: List of new peer groups including number of public hospitals, 2012–13**

| Group                                                   | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Public hospitals |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Acute public hospitals</b>                           | <b>Are identified according to the hospital's service profile:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                  |
| <b>Principal referral hospitals</b>                     | Provide a very broad range of services, including some very sophisticated services, and have very large patient volumes. Most include an intensive care unit, a cardiac surgery unit, a neurosurgery unit, an Infectious diseases unit and a 24-hour emergency department                                                                                                                                                                             | 29               |
| <b>Large acute hospitals</b>                            | Provide a wide range of services to a large number of patients and are usually situated in metropolitan centres or inner regional areas. Most have an intensive care unit and a 24-hour emergency department. They are among the largest hospitals, but provide a narrower range of services than the Principal referral group. They have a range of specialist units, potentially including bone marrow transplant, coronary care and oncology units | 62               |
| <b>Medium acute hospitals</b>                           | Most have a 24-hour emergency department and perform elective surgery. They provide a narrower range of services than the Principal referral and Large acute groups. They have a range of specialist units, potentially including obstetrics, paediatrics, psychiatric and oncology units.                                                                                                                                                            | 45               |
| <b>Small acute hospitals</b>                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                  |
| Small hospitals with surgery and/or obstetrics          | These hospitals usually provide an obstetric unit, surgical services and some form of emergency facility. Generally smaller than the Medium acute hospitals.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 143              |
| Other small hospitals                                   | Often situated in regional and remote areas and offer a smaller range of services relative to the other public acute hospitals groups. Hospitals in this group tend to have a greater proportion of non-acute separations compared with the larger acute public hospitals.                                                                                                                                                                            | 191              |
| <b>Very small hospitals</b>                             | Generally provide less than 200 admitted patient separations each year.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 136              |
| <b>Specialist hospital groups</b>                       | <b>Perform a readily identified role within the health system</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                  |
| <b>Women's and children's hospitals</b>                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>12</b>        |
| Children's hospitals                                    | Specialise in the treatment and care of children                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 6                |
| Women's hospitals                                       | Specialise in treatment of women                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 5                |
| Women's and children's hospitals                        | Specialise in the treatment of both women and children                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 1                |
| <b>Early parenting centres</b>                          | Specialise in care and assistance for mothers and their very young children                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 8                |
| <b>Drug and alcohol hospitals</b>                       | Specialises in the treatment of disorders relating to drug or alcohol use                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 2                |
| <b>Psychiatric hospitals</b>                            | Specialise in providing psychiatric care and/or treatment for people with a mental disorder or psychiatric disability                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                  |
| Psychogeriatric hospitals                               | Specialise in the psychiatric treatment of older people                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 7                |
| Child, adolescent and young adult psychiatric hospitals | Specialise in the psychiatric treatment of children and young people                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 4                |
| General acute psychiatric hospitals                     | Provide acute psychiatric treatment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 5                |
| General non-acute psychiatric hospitals                 | Provide non-acute psychiatric treatment—mainly to the general adult population                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 6                |
| Forensic psychiatric hospitals                          | Provide assessment and treatment of people with a mental disorder and a history of criminal offending, or those who are at risk of offending                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 5                |

**Table C2 (continued): List of new peer groups including number of public hospitals, 2012–13**

| <b>Group</b>                                                     | <b>Description</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Public hospitals</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Same day hospitals</b>                                        | Treat patients on a same-day basis. The hospitals in the same day hospital peer groups tend to be highly specialised.                                                                                                                                                                        |                         |
| Other day procedure hospitals                                    | Provide a variety of specialised services on a same day basis.                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 4                       |
| <b>Other acute specialised hospitals</b>                         | Specialise in a particular form of acute care, not grouped elsewhere. This group is too diverse to be considered a peer group for comparison purposes. It includes hospitals that specialise in the treatment of cancer, rheumatology, eye, ear and dental disorders.                        | 3                       |
| <b>Subacute and non-acute hospitals</b>                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                         |
| Rehabilitation and geriatric evaluation and management hospitals | Primarily provide rehabilitation and/or geriatric evaluation and management in which the clinical purpose or treatment goal is improvement in the functioning of a patient                                                                                                                   | 14                      |
| Mixed subacute and non-acute hospitals                           | Primarily provide a mixture of subacute (rehabilitation, palliative care, geriatric evaluation and management, psychogeriatric care) and non-acute (maintenance) care that is not covered by the hospitals in the rehabilitation and geriatric evaluation and management hospital peer group | 26                      |
| <b>Outpatient hospitals</b>                                      | Provide a range of non-admitted patient services. Generally do not admit patients.                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 44                      |
| <b>Unpeered hospitals</b>                                        | Could not be placed in one of the other peer groups.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 11                      |

# Appendix D: Service Related Groups

## Introduction

The Service Related Group (SRG) classification categorises admitted patient episodes into groups representing clinical divisions of hospital activity, based on aggregations of AR-DRGs. SRGs are used to assist in planning services, analysing and comparing hospital activity, examining patterns of service needs and access, and projecting potential trends in services.

The AR-DRG system was not considered appropriate for this purpose as it contains too many classes. Both the Major Diagnostic Categories (MDC) and the *International statistical classification of diseases and related health problems, 10th revision, Australian modification* (ICD-10-AM) were also considered unsuitable as they generally relate to body systems rather than services.

An example illustrating the assignment of selected procedures to SRGs is shown below. These examples illustrate the differences between categorising procedures on the basis of ICD-10-AM chapters, MDCs and SRGs.

| Procedure                                             | ICD-10-AM                        | MDC                         | SRG                |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Extraction of wisdom teeth                            | Diseases of the digestive system | MDC 3: Ear, nose and throat | Dentistry          |
| Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) | Diseases of the digestive system | MDC 6: digestive system     | Gastroenterology   |
| Excision of haemorrhoids                              | Diseases of the digestive system | MDC 6: Digestive system     | Colorectal surgery |

For the *Australian hospital statistics* 2001–02 to 2004–05 reports, this analysis used a method based on AR-DRG version 4.2, originally developed by the former New South Wales Department of Health and Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

A different methodology was used in *Australian hospital statistics* from 2005–06 to 2009–10, which assigned SRGs based on AR-DRG versions 5.0, 5.1 and 5.2 and was developed by the former New South Wales Department of Health (unpublished).

The SRG version used for the 2010–11, 2011–12 and this report assigns service related group based mostly on AR-DRGs version 6.0, also developed by the New South Wales Ministry of Health (adapted for AR-DRG version 6.0x). For more information on the methodology used to assign SRGs, see Table D6 (which accompanies this report online).

SRGs were allocated using the data in the NHMD. The method largely involves aggregations of AR-DRG information. However, the assignment of some separations to SRGs is based on other information, such as procedures, diagnoses and care types. Separations with non-acute care are allocated to separate SRG categories according to the type of care, because the main service type of these separations cannot be ascertained from their diagnoses or procedures.

For public hospitals, separations may also have been assigned to certain specialist SRGs depending on whether or not the hospital had a specialist neurosurgery, perinatology (neonatal intensive care unit) or cardiothoracic unit, as appropriate, as reported to the NPHED (see Chapter 4). An ‘unallocated’ SRG is assigned for separations with an *Error DRG*.

The classification also incorporates non-specialist SRGs, which are used for smaller hospitals that do not have the specialist services or specialist equipment. There are 46 SRGs, and the 20 most common were presented in Chapter 4.

## How much activity in 2012–13?

Table D1 contains the number of separations and patient days in each SRG category for public and private hospitals. *Renal dialysis* (SRG 23) had the largest number of separations in public hospitals with over 1,039,000. This was followed by *Obstetrics* (SRG 72) with 329,000. In the private sector, *Diagnostic gastrointestinal endoscopy* (SRG 16) recorded the highest number of separations with over 414,000, followed by *Orthopaedics* (SRG 49) with 320,000.

For patient days, in public hospitals, *Rehabilitation* (SRG 84) recorded the highest number of patient days with 1.96 million days, followed by *Psychiatry – acute* (SRG 82) with 1.69 million. For private hospitals, *Rehabilitation* (SRG 84) recorded the highest number of patient days with 1.01 million days, followed by *Orthopaedics* (SRG 49) with 865,000.

**Table D1: Separations<sup>(a)</sup> and patient days by service related group based on AR-DRG version 6.0x, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Service Related Group                  | Public hospitals |              | Private hospitals |              |
|----------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
|                                        | Separations      | Patient days | Separations       | Patient days |
| 11 Cardiology                          | 311,968          | 825,204      | 57,863            | 232,007      |
| 12 Interventional cardiology           | 69,709           | 233,906      | 78,768            | 179,183      |
| 13 Dermatology                         | 22,013           | 48,607       | 4,480             | 11,226       |
| 14 Endocrinology                       | 34,340           | 120,176      | 4,871             | 20,294       |
| 15 Gastroenterology                    | 305,972          | 739,381      | 211,659           | 334,764      |
| 16 Diagnostic GI endoscopy             | 143,045          | 206,295      | 414,058           | 439,790      |
| 17 Haematology                         | 58,244           | 257,995      | 35,394            | 93,758       |
| 18 Immunology and infections           | 53,951           | 117,549      | 11,848            | 22,136       |
| 19 Oncology                            | 46,685           | 244,199      | 24,255            | 126,842      |
| 20 Chemotherapy                        | 136,638          | 136,647      | 237,914           | 237,946      |
| 21 Neurology                           | 201,081          | 632,471      | 37,706            | 142,055      |
| 22 Renal medicine                      | 58,109           | 186,971      | 38,553            | 70,836       |
| 23 Renal dialysis                      | 1,039,223        | 1,039,565    | 229,139           | 229,149      |
| 24 Respiratory medicine                | 274,579          | 1,145,518    | 91,294            | 324,063      |
| 25 Rheumatology                        | 30,633           | 83,143       | 11,591            | 27,522       |
| 26 Pain management                     | 33,901           | 53,166       | 34,330            | 48,924       |
| 27 Non subspecialty—medicine           | 292,794          | 1,199,934    | 91,344            | 334,268      |
| 41 Breast surgery                      | 19,035           | 41,728       | 35,155            | 62,050       |
| 42 Cardiothoracic surgery              | 16,947           | 173,824      | 11,056            | 116,704      |
| 43 Colorectal surgery                  | 47,443           | 256,458      | 50,131            | 166,027      |
| 44 Upper Gastrointestinal surgery      | 79,450           | 316,746      | 44,695            | 130,849      |
| 46 Neurosurgery                        | 80,221           | 374,262      | 51,941            | 273,879      |
| 47 Dentistry                           | 23,760           | 25,627       | 101,772           | 102,058      |
| 48 Ear, nose and throat; head and neck | 129,768          | 199,359      | 121,943           | 142,083      |
| 49 Orthopaedics                        | 307,473          | 1,162,946    | 320,386           | 864,879      |

(continued)

**Table D1 (continued): Separations<sup>(a)</sup> and patient days by service related group based on AR-DRG version 6.0, public and private hospitals, 2012–13**

| Service Related Group                 | Public hospitals |                   | Private hospitals |                  |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
|                                       | Separations      | Patient days      | Separations       | Patient days     |
| 50 Ophthalmology                      | 103,155          | 128,230           | 244,428           | 248,176          |
| 51 Plastic and reconstructive surgery | 90,357           | 205,249           | 147,749           | 216,050          |
| 52 Urology                            | 160,192          | 305,209           | 158,386           | 268,052          |
| 53 Vascular surgery                   | 48,081           | 289,151           | 35,827            | 133,459          |
| 54 Non subspecialty—surgery           | 300,952          | 760,598           | 133,788           | 303,670          |
| 61 Transplantation                    | 1,390            | 24,710            | 17                | 150              |
| 62 Extensive burns                    | 2,070            | 21,417            | 55                | 389              |
| 63 Tracheostomy                       | 9,709            | 290,317           | 1,086             | 37,904           |
| 71 Gynaecology                        | 149,211          | 228,450           | 224,669           | 300,173          |
| 72 Obstetrics                         | 329,093          | 849,256           | 101,317           | 421,082          |
| 73 Qualified neonate                  | 63,273           | 230,232           | 18,886            | 120,816          |
| 74 Unqualified neonate                | 166,742          | 0                 | 48,138            | 0                |
| 75 Perinatology                       | 22,875           | 345,377           | n.a.              | n.a.             |
| 81 Drug and alcohol                   | 64,305           | 138,256           | 10,099            | 33,871           |
| 82 Psychiatry—acute                   | 161,847          | 1,687,238         | 148,160           | 768,667          |
| 83 Psychiatry—non acute               | 4,096            | 495,653           | 470               | 483              |
| 84 Rehabilitation                     | 135,090          | 1,957,460         | 241,160           | 1,097,036        |
| 85 Psychogeriatric care               | 2,485            | 115,022           | 6,321             | 44,349           |
| 86 Palliative care                    | 33,266           | 340,592           | 6,006             | 68,482           |
| 87 Maintenance                        | 23,748           | 523,469           | 2,027             | 45,723           |
| 99 Unallocated                        | 8,018            | 65,260            | 10,734            | 31,122           |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>5,696,937</b> | <b>18,822,823</b> | <b>3,891,469</b>  | <b>8,872,946</b> |

(a) Separations excludes records for *Hospital boarders* and *Posthumous organ procurement*. Newborns without qualified days are included, and are allocated to SRG 74 *Unqualified neonate*.

Source: National Hospital Morbidity Database.

Tables D.S1 to D.S5 (which accompany this report online) present more detailed SRG information by state and territory.

Table D.S1 contains the number of public hospitals establishments that, in 2012–13, reported more than 50 separations or more than 360 patient days in each SRG by state and territory and by remoteness area. This has been included as an indicative measure of the number of specialty units.

The best indicative measure of the number of units varies between SRGs and between uses of the measure. For example, for *Maintenance* (SRG 87), 104 hospitals provided more than 50 separations per year and 241 hospitals provided more than 360 patient days (reflecting the longer lengths of stay associated with maintenance care), while for *Gastroenterology* (SRG 15) these measures were 379 and 224 hospitals respectively. *Cardiothoracic surgery* (SRG 42) showed very little difference between the two different measures, with 39 hospitals providing more than 50 separations per year and 44 hospitals providing more than 360 patient days.

*Non subspecialty – medicine* (SRG 27) had the greatest number of establishments, with 410 hospitals with more than 50 separations per year and 362 hospitals with more than 360 patient days per year.

## Additional information online

Table D.S1: Number of hospitals with more than 50 separations and with more than 360 patient days in each SRG, by SRG and remoteness area, public hospitals, 2012–13

Table D.S2: Separations by service related group based on AR-DRG version 6.0, public hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13

Table D.S3: Separations by service related groups based on AR-DRG version 6.0, private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13

Table D.S4: Patient days by service related group based on AR-DRG version 6.0, public hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13

Table D.S5: Patient days by service related group based on AR-DRG version 6.0, private hospitals, states and territories, 2012–13

Table D.S6: Service Related Groups (SRG) to Diagnosis Related Groups (DRG) conversion table, based on AR-DRG version 6.0

# Appendix E: National Hospital Cost Data Collection

The National Hospital Cost Data Collection (NHCDC) was established to produce annual updates of Australian Refined Diagnosis Related Group (AR-DRG) cost weights and estimated average costs, as incorporated into tables in chapters 3, 4 and 6. This report uses the cost data for acute admitted patients only. Unless otherwise specified, the cost weight data in this report applies public hospital cost weight data for AR-DRG version 6.0x (IHPA 2013a) to the AR-DRGs reported in version 6.0x.

The NHCDC comprises a voluntary collection of hospital cost and activity data covering the financial year before the collection period, and is coordinated by the Independent Hospitals Pricing Authority (IHPA). Both public and private hospital data are usually included, with the results separately reported for the two sectors. The latest data available at the time of publication of this report were for the 2010–11 financial year (Round 15) for public hospitals (IHPA 2013a) and the 2011–12 financial year (Round 16) for private hospitals (IHPA 2013b).

Cost weights and associated tables for each round of the NHCDC can be obtained from the NHCDC pages of the IHPA website at <[www.iHPA.gov.au](http://www.iHPA.gov.au)>.

## Public hospitals

For 2010–11, the NHCDC involved arrangements whereby the hospital data were collected by the individual hospitals, and checked and validated by state/territory coordinators before being passed on to the IHPA. The production and publication of the final cost weights and associated tables followed extensive quality assurance procedures undertaken by the IHPA and endorsement of the results by the states and territories.

In 2010–11, 352 public hospitals participated in the NHCDC. The total number of public hospital separations reported to the NHCDC was approximately 92% of total acute separations within the year (IHPA 2013a).

## Private hospitals

For the 2011–12 private sector cost weights, the NHCDC involved arrangements where individual private hospitals submitted data to PricewaterhouseCoopers Australia (PwC). Data for the majority of hospitals were cost-modelled by PwC. The production and publication of the final cost weights and associated tables followed extensive quality assurance procedures undertaken by the PwC in consultation with, and endorsed by, private hospitals.

For 2011–12, 105 overnight private hospitals participated in the NHCDC Round 16. These hospitals accounted for about 66% of separations for overnight private hospitals (IHPA 2013b).

# Glossary

Definitions in the Glossary contain an identification number from the Metadata Online Registry (METeOR). METeOR is Australia's central repository for health, community services and housing assistance metadata, or 'data about data'. It provides definitions for data for health and community services-related topics and specifications for related national minimum data sets (NMDs), such as the NMDs. METeOR can be viewed on the AIHW website at <[www.aihw.gov.au](http://www.aihw.gov.au)>.

**activity when injured:** The type of activity being undertaken by a person at the time of injury. METeOR identifier: 514277.

**acute:** Having a short and relatively severe course.

**acute care:** See **care type**.

**acute care hospital:** See **establishment type**.

**additional diagnosis:** A condition or complaint either coexisting with the principal diagnosis or arising during the episode of admitted patient care, episode of residential care or attendance at a health care establishment. METeOR identifier: 514271.

**administrative and clerical staff:** Staff engaged in administrative and clerical duties. Medical staff and nursing staff, diagnostic and health professionals and any domestic staff primarily or partly engaged in administrative and clerical duties are excluded. Civil engineers and computing staff are included in this category. METeOR identifier: 270496.

**administrative expenditure:** All expenditure incurred by establishments (but not central administrations) of a management expenses/administrative support nature, such as any rates and taxes, printing, telephone, stationery and insurance (including workers compensation). METeOR identifier: 270107.

**admitted patient:** A patient who undergoes a hospital's admission process to receive treatment and/or care. This treatment and/or care is provided over a period of time and can occur in hospital and/or in the person's home (for **hospital-in-the-home** patients). METeOR identifier: 268957.

**admitted patient cost proportion:** A measure used to calculate the cost per casemix-adjusted separation. It is the ratio of admitted patient costs to total hospital costs, also known as the **inpatient fraction** or **IFRAC**.

**adverse event:** An incident in which harm resulted to a person receiving health care. They include infections, falls and other injuries, and reactions or complications due to surgery and other procedures, medical devices or medication, some of which may be preventable.

**age standardisation:** A set of techniques used to remove, as far as possible, the effects of differences in age when comparing two or more populations.

**alcohol and drug treatment centre:** See **establishment type**.

**arrival mode – transport:** The mode of transport by which the person arrives at the emergency department. METeOR identifier: 471921.

**Australian Classification of Health Interventions (ACHI):** ACHI was developed by the National Centre for Classification in Health. The 7th edition was used for the 2012–13 procedures data for admitted patients in Australian hospitals.



**Australian Refined Diagnosis Related Groups (AR-DRGs):** An Australian system of diagnosis related groups (DRGs). DRGs provide a clinically meaningful way of relating the number and type of patients treated in a hospital (that is, its casemix) to the resources required by the hospital. Each AR-DRG represents a class of patients with similar clinical conditions requiring similar hospital services.

**available beds:** The average number of beds which are immediately available for use by an admitted patient or resident within the establishment. A bed is immediately available for use if it is located in a suitable place for care with nursing and auxiliary staff available within a reasonable period. METeOR identifier: 270133.

From 1 July 2009, superseded by:

- average available beds for same-day patients and
- average available beds for overnight-stay patients.

**average available beds for overnight-stay patients:** The number of beds available to provide overnight accommodation for patients (other than neonatal cots (non-special-care) and beds occupied by hospital-in-the-home patients), averaged over the counting period. METeOR identifier: 374151.

**average available beds for same-day patients:** The number of beds, chairs or trolleys available to provide accommodation for same-day patients, averaged over the counting period. METeOR identifier: 373966.

**average length of stay:** The average number of patient days for admitted patient episodes. Patients admitted and separated on the same date are allocated a length of stay of 1 day.

**capital expenditure:** Expenditure on large-scale fixed assets (for example, new buildings and equipment with a useful life extending over a number of years). METeOR identifier: 270516.

**care type:** The care type defines the overall nature of a clinical service provided to an admitted patient during an episode of care (admitted care), or the type of service provided by the hospital for boarders or posthumous organ procurement (care other than admitted care). METeOR identifier: 491557. Admitted patient care consists of the following categories:

- acute care
- rehabilitation care
- palliative care
- geriatric evaluation and management
- psychogeriatric care
- maintenance care
- newborn care
- other admitted patient care – this is where the principal clinical intent does not meet the criteria for any of the above.

Care other than admitted care include:

- posthumous organ procurement
- hospital boarder.

**casemix:** The range and types of patients (the mix of cases) treated by a hospital or other health service. Casemix classifications (such as AR-DRGs) provide a way of describing and comparing hospitals and other services for management purposes.

**chronic:** Persistent and long-lasting.

**clinical urgency:** A clinical assessment of the urgency with which a patient requires elective hospital care. METeOR identifier: 270008.

**compensable patient:** An individual who is entitled to receive or has received a compensation payment with respect to an injury or disease. Compensable patient excludes eligible beneficiaries (Department of Veterans' Affairs), Defence Force personnel and persons covered by the Motor Accident Compensation Scheme, Northern Territory. METeOR identifier: 270100.

**condition onset flag:** A means of differentiating those conditions which arise during, or arose before, an admitted patient episode of care. Having this information can provide an insight into the kinds of conditions patients already have when entering hospital and what arises during the episode of care. A better understanding of those conditions arising during the episode of care may inform prevention strategies, particularly in relation to complications of medical care. METeOR identifier: 496512.

**constant prices:** Constant price expenditure adjusts current prices for the effects of inflation, that is, it aims to remove the effects of inflation. Hence, expenditures in different years can be compared on a dollar-for-dollar basis, using this measure of changes in the volume of health goods and services.

**cost weight:** The costliness of an AR-DRG relative to all other AR-DRGs such that the average cost weight for all separations is 1.00. A separation for an AR-DRG with a cost weight of 5.0, therefore, on average costs 10 times as much as a separation with a cost weight of 0.5.

There are separate cost weights for AR-DRGs in the public and private sectors, reflecting the differences in the range of costs in the different sectors.

**current prices:** Expenditures reported for a particular year, unadjusted for inflation.

**Department of Veterans' Affairs patient:** A person whose charges for the hospital admission are met by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA). These patients include eligible veterans and war widows/widowers. The data are supplied by the states and territories and the eligibility to receive hospital treatment as a DVA patient may not necessarily have been confirmed by the DVA. METeOR identifier: 270092.

**diagnosis related group (DRG):** A widely used casemix classification system used to classify admissions into groups with similar clinical conditions (related diagnoses) and similar resource usage. This allows the activity and performance of hospitals to be compared on a common basis. In Australian acute hospitals, AR-DRGs are used. METeOR identifier: 391295.

**diagnostic and allied health professionals:** Qualified staff (other than qualified medical and nursing staff) engaged in duties of a diagnostic, professional or technical nature (but also including diagnostic and health professionals whose duties are primarily or partly of an administrative nature). This category includes all allied health professionals and laboratory technicians (but excludes civil engineers and computing staff). METeOR identifier: 270495.

**domestic and other staff:** Domestic staff are staff engaged in the provision of food and cleaning services including those primarily engaged in administrative duties such as food services manager. Dieticians are excluded. This category also includes all staff not elsewhere included (primarily maintenance staff, trades people and gardening staff). METeOR identifier: 270498.

**domestic services expenditure:** The cost of all domestic services, including electricity, other fuel and power, domestic services for staff, accommodation and kitchen expenses, but not including salaries and wages, food costs or equipment replacement and repair costs. METeOR identifier: 270283.

**drug supplies expenditure:** The cost of all drugs, including the cost of containers. METeOR identifier: 270282.

**elective care:** Care that, in the opinion of the treating clinician, is necessary and for which admission can be delayed for at least 24 hours. METeOR identifier: 335036.

**elective surgery:** Elective care in which the procedures required by patients are listed in the surgical operations section of the Medicare Benefits Schedule, with the exclusion of specific procedures frequently done by non-surgical clinicians. METeOR identifier: 470208.

**elective admissions involving surgery:** Separation for which the urgency of admission was reported as elective (admission could be delayed by at least 24 hours) and where the assigned AR-DRG was surgical (excluding childbirth-related AR-DRGs).

**emergency occasion of service:** A non-admitted patient occasion of service reported to the National Public Hospital Establishments Database with an *Emergency services* **Type of non-admitted patient occasion of service**.

**enrolled nurses:** Enrolled nurses are division 2 nurses who are registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency–Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. Includes general enrolled nurses and specialist enrolled nurses (for example, mothercraft nurses in some states). METeOR identifier: 270497.

**episode end status:** The status of the patient at the end of the non-admitted patient emergency department service episode. METeOR identifier: 474159.

**episode of care:** The period of admitted patient care between a formal or statistical admission and a formal or statistical separation, characterised by only one care type (see **care type** and **separation**). METeOR identifier: 491557 (Care type), METeOR identifier: 268956 (Episode of admitted patient care).

**error DRGs:** AR-DRGs to which separations are grouped if their records contain clinically inconsistent or invalid information.

**establishment type:** Type of establishment (defined in terms of legislative approval, service provided and patients treated) for each separately administered establishment. METeOR identifier: 269971.

**external cause:** The environmental event, circumstance or condition as the cause of injury, poisoning and other adverse effect. METeOR identifier: 514295.

**full-time equivalent staff:** Full-time equivalent staff units are the on-job hours paid for (including overtime) and hours of paid leave of any type for a staff member (or contract employee, where applicable) divided by the number of ordinary time hours normally paid for a full-time staff member when on the job (or contract employee, where applicable) under the relevant award or agreement for the staff member (or contract employee occupation, where applicable). METeOR identifier: 270543. For more detailed information see the glossary entries for the staffing categories:

- salaried medical officers
- registered nurses

- enrolled nurses
- student nurses
- other personal care staff
- diagnostic and allied health professionals
- administrative and clerical staff
- domestic and other staff.

**funding source for hospital patient:** The principal source of funds for an admitted patient episode or non-admitted patient service event. METeOR identifier: 339080.

**geriatric evaluation and management:** See **care type**.

**group session:** A non-admitted occasion of service provided to two or more patients, where all individuals are not members of the same family. METeOR identifier: 269674.

**HASAC (Health and Allied Services Advisory Council) ratio:** For hospitals where the IFRAC is not available or is clearly inconsistent with the data, admitted patient costs are estimated by the HASAC ratio.

**hospice:** See **establishment type**.

**hospital:** A health-care facility established under Commonwealth, state or territory legislation as a hospital or a free-standing day procedure unit and authorised to provide treatment and/or care to patients. METeOR identifier: 268971.

**hospital boarder:** See **care type**.

**hospital-in-the-home care:** Provision of care to hospital admitted patients in their place of residence as a substitute for hospital accommodation. Place of residence may be permanent or temporary. METeOR identifier: 270305.

**IFRAC (inpatient fraction):** see **admitted patient cost proportion**.

**Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD):** One of the set of Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas for ranking the average socioeconomic conditions of the population in an area. It summarises attributes of the population such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment and jobs in relatively unskilled occupations.

**indicator procedure:** A procedure which is of high volume, and is often associated with long waiting periods. Elective surgery waiting time statistics for indicator procedures give a specific indication of performance in particular areas of elective care provision. METeOR identifier: 514033.

**Indigenous status:** A measure of whether a person identifies as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. This is in accord with the first two of three components of the Commonwealth definition below:

An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is a person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community in which he or she lives. METeOR identifier: 291036.

**inpatient:** See **admitted patient**. METeOR identifier: 268957.

**interactive data cubes:** A multidimensional representation of data which provides fast retrieval from multiple layers of information.

**International Classification of Diseases (ICD):** The World Health Organization's internationally accepted classification of diseases and related health conditions. The 10th revision, Australian modification (ICD-10-AM) is currently in use in Australian hospitals for admitted patients.

**inter-hospital contracted care:** An episode of care for an admitted patient whose treatment and/or care is provided under an arrangement (either written or verbal) between a hospital purchaser of hospital care (contracting hospital) and a provider of an admitted service (contracted hospital) and for which the activity is recorded by both hospitals. METeOR identifier: 472024.

**length of stay:** The length of stay of an overnight patient is calculated by subtracting the date the patient is admitted from the date of separation and deducting days the patient was on leave. A same-day patient is allocated a length of stay of 1 day. METeOR identifier: 269982.

**licensed bed:** A bed in a private hospital, licensed by the relevant state or territory health authority.

**maintenance care:** See **care type**.

**Major Diagnostic Categories (MDCs):** The category into which the patient's diagnosis and the associated AR-DRG falls. They correspond generally to the major organ systems of the body. METeOR identifier: 391298.

**medical and surgical supplies expenditure:** The cost of all consumables of a medical or surgical nature (excluding drug supplies) but not including expenditure on equipment repairs. METeOR identifier: 270358.

**mode of admission:** The mechanism by which a person begins an episode of admitted patient care. METeOR identifier: 269976.

**mode of separation:** Status at separation of a person (discharge/transfer/death) and place to which a person is released (where applicable). METeOR identifier: 270094.

**National health data dictionary:** A biennial publication of all the standardised and accepted terms and protocols used for the collection of health information.

**newborn care:** See **care type**.

**non-admitted patient:** A patient who does not undergo a hospital's formal admission process. There are three categories of non-admitted patient: emergency department patient; outpatient; and other non-admitted patient (treated by hospital employees off the hospital site – includes community/outreach services). METeOR identifier: 268973.

**non-admitted patient occasion of service:** Occurs when a patient attends a functional unit of the hospital for the purpose of receiving some form of service, but is not admitted. A visit for administrative purposes is not an occasion of service. METeOR identifier: 270506.

**non-salary expenditure:** Includes items such as payments to visiting medical officers, superannuation payments, drug supplies, medical and surgical supplies (which includes consumable supplies only and not equipment purchases), food supplies, domestic services, repairs and maintenance, patient transport, administrative expenses, interest payments, depreciation and other recurrent expenditure.

**number of days of hospital-in-the-home care:** The number of hospital-in-the-home days occurring within an episode of care for an admitted patient. See **hospital-in-the-home care**. METeOR identifier: 270305.

**occasion of service:** See **non-admitted patient occasion of service**.

**other care:** See **care type**.

**other personal care staff:** Includes attendants, assistants or home assistance, home companions, family aides, ward helpers, warders, orderlies, ward assistants and nursing assistants engaged primarily in the provision of personal care to patients or residents; they are not formally qualified or undergoing training in nursing or allied health professions. METeOR identifier: 270171.

**other recurrent expenditure:** Expenditure incurred by organisations on a recurring basis, for the provision of health goods and services that excludes salary and wages; payments to visiting medical officers; superannuation payments; drug supplies; medical and surgical supplies; food supplies; domestic services; repairs and maintenance; patient transport; administrative expenses; interest payments and depreciation. METeOR identifier: 270126.

**other revenue:** All other revenue received by the establishment that is not included under **patient revenue** or **recoveries** (but not including revenue payments received from state or territory governments). This includes revenue such as investment income from temporarily surplus funds and income from charities, bequests and accommodation provided to visitors. METeOR identifier: 364799.

**outpatient:** See **non-admitted patient**. METeOR identifier: 268973.

**outpatient clinic service:** An examination, consultation, treatment or other service provided to non-admitted non-emergency patients in a specialty unit or under an organisational arrangement administered by a hospital. METeOR identifier: 336980.

**outpatient clinic type:** The nature of services which are provided by outpatient clinic services. METeOR identifier: 291073.

**overnight-stay patient:** A patient who, following a clinical decision, receives hospital treatment for a minimum of 1 night (that is, who is admitted to and separated from the hospital on different dates).

**palliative care:** See **care type**.

**patient days:** The total number of days for all patients who were admitted for an episode of care and who separated during a specified reference period. A patient who is admitted and separated on the same day is allocated 1 patient day. METeOR identifier: 270045.

**patient election status:** Accommodation chargeable status elected by patient on admission. METeOR identifier: 326619. The categories are:

- **public patient**
- **private patient.**

**patient presentation at emergency department:** The presentation of a patient at an emergency department. It is the earliest occasion of being registered clerically or triaged. METeOR identifier: 270393.

**patient revenue:** Revenue received by, and due to, an establishment in respect of individual patient liability for accommodation and other establishment charges. METeOR identifier: 364797.

**patient transport cost:** The direct cost of transporting patients, excluding salaries and wages of transport staff where payment is made by an establishment. METeOR identifier: 270048.

**payments to visiting medical officers:** All payments made by an institutional health care establishment to visiting medical officers for medical services provided to hospital (public) patients on an honorary, sessionally paid or fee-for-service basis. METeOR identifier: 270049.

**peer group:** Groupings of hospitals into broadly similar groups in terms of characteristics.

**percentile:** Any one of 99 values that divide the range of probability distribution or sample into 100 intervals of equal probability or frequency.

**performance indicator:** A statistic or other unit of information that directly or indirectly, reflect either the extent to which an expected outcome is achieved or the quality of processes leading to that outcome.

**place of occurrence of external cause:** The place where the external cause of injury, poisoning or adverse effect occurred. METeOR identifier: 514302.

**posthumous organ procurement:** See **care type**.

**potentially preventable hospitalisation (selected):** Hospital separations from a specified range of conditions where hospitalisation is considered to be largely preventable if timely and adequate care were provided through population health services, primary care and outpatient services. The PPH conditions are classified as vaccine-preventable, chronic and acute. The rate of PPHs is currently being used as an indicator of the effectiveness of a large part of the health system, other than hospital admitted patient care.

**Pre-MDC (Pre-Major Diagnostic Category):** AR-DRGs to which separations are grouped, regardless of their principal diagnoses, if they involve procedures that are particularly resource-intensive (transplants, tracheostomies or extra-corporeal membrane oxygenation without cardiac surgery).

**principal diagnosis:** The diagnosis established after study to be chiefly responsible for occasioning an episode of admitted patient care, an episode of residential care or an attendance at the health care establishment. METeOR identifier: 514273.

**private hospital:** A privately owned and operated institution, catering for patients who are treated by a doctor of their own choice. Patients are charged fees for accommodation and other services provided by the hospital and relevant medical and paramedical practitioners. Acute care and psychiatric hospitals are included, as are private free-standing day hospital facilities. See also **Establishment type**.

**private patient:** Person admitted to a private hospital, or person admitted to a public hospital who decides to choose the doctor(s) who will treat them or to have private ward accommodation. This means they will be charged for medical services, food and accommodation.

**procedure:** A clinical intervention that is surgical in nature, carries a procedural risk, carries an anaesthetic risk, requires specialised training and/or requires special facilities or equipment available only in an acute care setting. METeOR identifier: 514040.

**psychiatric hospital:** See **establishment type**.

**psychogeriatric care:** See **care type**.

**public hospital:** A hospital controlled by a state or territory health authority. Public hospitals offer free diagnostic services, treatment, care and accommodation to all eligible patients. See also **establishment type**.

**public patient:** A patient admitted to a public hospital who has agreed to be treated by doctors of the hospital's choice and to accept shared ward accommodation. This means that the patient is not charged. This includes separations with a funding source of *Health service budget*, *Other hospital or public authority* (with a public patient election status), *Health service budget (due to eligibility for Reciprocal health care agreements)* and *Health service budget – no charge raised due to hospital decision* (in public hospitals).

**qualified days:** The number of qualified days within newborn episodes of care. Days within newborn episodes of care are either qualified or unqualified. This definition includes all babies who are 9 days old or less. METeOR identifier: 268957 (Admitted patient). METeOR identifier: 270033 (Newborn qualification status). A newborn day is acute (qualified) when a newborn meets at least one of the following criteria:

- is the second or subsequent live born infant of a multiple birth, whose mother is currently an admitted patient
- is admitted to an intensive care facility in a hospital, being a facility approved by the Australian Government Health Minister for the purpose of the provision of special care
- remains in hospital without its mother
- is admitted to the hospital without its mother.

**recoveries:** All revenue received that is in the nature of a recovery of expenditure incurred. This includes income from provision of meals and accommodation to hospital staff, income from the use of hospital facilities for private practice and some recoveries relating to inter-hospital services. METeOR identifier: 364805.

**recurrent expenditure:** Expenditure incurred by organisations on a recurring basis, for the provision of health goods and services. This includes, for example, salaries and wages expenditure and non-salary expenditure such as payments to visiting medical officers. This excludes capital expenditure. METeOR identifier: 269132.

**registered nurses:** Registered nurses must be registered as division 1 nurses with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency–Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. METeOR identifier: 270500.

This is a comprehensive category and includes community mental health, general nurse, intellectual disability nurse, psychiatric nurse, senior nurse, charge nurse (now unit manager), supervisory nurse and nurse educator. It may also include registered midwives (including pupil midwife). This category also includes nurses engaged in administrative duties no matter what the extent of their engagement, for example, directors of nursing and assistant directors of nursing.

**rehabilitation care:** See **care type**.

**relative stay index (RSI):** The actual number of patient days for acute care separations in selected AR-DRGs divided by the expected number of patient days adjusted for casemix. An RSI greater than 1 indicates that an average patient's length of stay is higher than would be expected given the jurisdiction's casemix distribution. An RSI of less than 1 indicates that the number of patient days used was less than would have been expected.



**remoteness area:** A classification of the remoteness of a location using the Australian Statistical Geography Standard Remoteness Structure (2011), based on the Accessibility /Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) which measures the remoteness of a point based on the physical road distance to the nearest urban centre. The categories are:

- Major cities
- Inner regional
- Outer regional
- Remote
- Very remote
- Migratory.

**removal from waiting list:** The reason why a patient is removed from an elective surgery waiting list. METeOR identifier: 471735. The reason-for-removal categories are:

- admitted as an elective patient for awaited procedure by or on behalf of this hospital or the state/territory
- admitted as an emergency patient for awaited procedure by or on behalf of this hospital or the state/territory
- could not be contacted (includes patients who have died while waiting whether or not the cause of death was related to the condition requiring treatment)
- treated elsewhere for awaited procedure, but not on behalf of this hospital or the state/territory
- surgery not required or declined
- transferred to another hospital's waiting list
- not known.

**repairs and maintenance expenditure:** The costs incurred in maintaining, repairing, replacing and providing additional equipment; maintaining and renovating buildings and minor additional works. METeOR identifier: 269970.

**salaried medical officers:** Medical officers employed by the hospital on a full-time or part-time salaried basis. This excludes visiting medical officers engaged on an honorary, sessional or fee-for-service basis. This category includes salaried medical officers who are engaged in administrative duties regardless of the extent of that engagement (for example, clinical superintendent and medical superintendent). METeOR identifier: 270494.

**salary expenditure:** Includes salaries and wages, payments to staff on paid leave, workers compensation leave and salaries paid to contract staff where the contract was for the supply of labour and where full-time equivalent staffing data were available.

**same-day patient:** An admitted patient who is admitted and separated on the same date.

**separation:** An episode of care for an **admitted patient**, which can be a total hospital stay (from admission to discharge, transfer or death) or a portion of a hospital stay beginning or ending in a change of type of care (for example, from acute care to rehabilitation).

Separation also means the process by which an admitted patient completes an episode of care either by being discharged, dying, transferring to another hospital or changing type of care.

**separation rate:** The total number of episodes of care for admitted patients divided by the total number of persons in the population under study. Often presented as a rate per 1,000 or 10,000 members of a population. Rates may be crude or standardised.

**separation rate ratio:** The separation rate for one population divided by the separation rate of another.

**separations:** The total number of episodes of care for admitted patients, which can be total hospital stays (from admission to discharge, transfer or death) or portions of hospital stays beginning or ending in a change of type of care (for example, from acute to rehabilitation) that cease during a reference period. METeOR identifier: 270407.

**Service Related Group (SRG):** A classification based on AR-DRG aggregations for categorising admitted patient episodes into groups representing clinical divisions of hospital activity.

**specialised service:** A facility or unit dedicated to the treatment or care of patients with particular conditions or characteristics, such as an intensive care unit. METeOR identifier: 269612.

**student nurses:** A person employed by a health establishment who is currently studying in years one to three of a three-year certificate course. This includes any person commencing or undertaking a three-year course of training leading to registration as a nurse by the state or territory registration board. This includes full-time general student nurse and specialist student nurse (such as mental deficiency nurse) but excludes practising nurses enrolled in post-basic training courses. METeOR identifier: 270499.

**superannuation employer contributions:** Contributions paid on behalf of establishment employees either by the establishment or a central administration such as a state health authority, to a superannuation fund providing retirement and related benefits to establishment employees. METeOR identifier: 270371.

**surgical procedure:** A procedure used to define surgical AR-DRGs in version 6.0x (DoHA 2010).

**surgical specialty:** The area of clinical expertise held by the doctor who will perform the surgery of interest. METeOR identifier: 270146.

**trainee nurse:** Includes any person commencing or undertaking a 1-year course of training leading to registration as an enrolled nurse by the state/territory registration board. METeOR identifier: 270493.

**type of non-admitted patient occasion of service:** A broad classification of services provided to **non-admitted patients**, including emergency, dialysis, pathology, radiology and organ imaging, endoscopy, other medical/surgical/diagnostic, mental health, drug and alcohol, dental, pharmacy, allied health, community health, district nursing and other outreach services. METeOR identifiers: 270395, 270502–270514.

**visiting medical officer:** A medical practitioner appointed by the hospital board to provide medical services for hospital (public) patients on an honorary, sessionally paid or fee-for-service basis. METeOR identifier: 327170.

**waiting time at admission:** The time elapsed for a patient on the **elective surgery** waiting list from the date they were added to the waiting list for the procedure to the date they were admitted to hospital for the procedure. METeOR identifier: 269477.

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## Related publications

This report, *Australian hospital statistics 2012–13*, is part of an annual series. The earlier editions and any published subsequently can be downloaded for free from the AIHW website <[www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals-publications/](http://www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals-publications/)>. The website also includes information on ordering printed copies.

Statistics reported in the hard copy are more concise than those presented in the report prior to 2008–09, with smaller tables, and graphs and figures interspersed in the text. More detailed statistics can be found in the supplementary tables presented as additional tables online. See <[www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/](http://www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/)>.

Accompanying the release of *Australian hospital statistics 2012–13* is *Australia's hospitals 2012–13 at a glance*.

The following AIHW publications relating to hospitals, hospital service utilisation and hospital resources might also be of interest:

- AIHW 2014 (forthcoming). Australian hospital peer groups 2014. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW 2014 (forthcoming). Australian hospital statistics 2012–13: private hospitals. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW 2013. Australian hospital statistics: national emergency access and elective surgery targets 2012. Cat. no. HSE 131. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW 2013. Australian hospital statistics 2011–12: *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteraemia in Australian hospitals. Health services series no. 47. Cat. no. HSE 129. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW 2012. Australian hospital statistics 2011–12: emergency department care. Health services series no. 45. Cat. no. HSE 126. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW 2012. Australian hospital statistics 2011–12: elective surgery waiting times. Health services series no. 46. Cat. no. HSE 127. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW 2012. Australian hospital statistics 2010–11. Cat. no. HSE 117. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW 2011. Australian hospital statistics 2010–11: emergency department care and elective surgery waiting times. Cat. no. HSE 115. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW 2011. Australian hospital statistics 2009–10. Cat. no. HSE 107. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW 2010. Australian hospital statistics 2009–10: emergency department care and elective surgery waiting times. Cat. no. HSE 93. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW 2010. Australian hospital statistics 2008–09. Cat. no. HSE 84. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW 2009. Australian hospital statistics 2007–08. Cat. no. HSE 71. Canberra: AIHW.

Please see <[www.aihw.gov.au/publications-catalogue/](http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications-catalogue/)> to access a complete list of AIHW publications relating to Australia's health and welfare.

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*Australian hospital statistics 2012–13* presents a detailed overview of Australia's public and private hospitals. In 2012–13, there were about 9.4 million separations from hospitals, including:

- 5.2 million same-day acute separations
- 3.7 million overnight acute separations
- about 450,000 sub-acute and non-acute separations.

There were also 7.9 million non-admitted patient emergency services and more than 46 million outpatient services provided by public hospitals.