

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health and Aged Care

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs Legislation Committee

Inquiry into the Aged Care Bill 2024 (Provisions)

03 October 2024

PDR Number: IQ24-000114

Current Wait List for ACAT Assessment by State

Spoken

Hansard page number: 41

Senator: Maria Kovacic

Question:

Senator KOVACIC: I'm happy for these next questions to go on notice. Could we please have the current wait list for ACAT assessments broken down by state? My last question relates to that in terms of people waiting in hospital beds for aged-care assistance. I note that you said you asked the states for the information and you're waiting. How long do you have to wait for that? Is this an ongoing issue, or is this the sort of data that you seek quarterly or biannually or whatever it is, and there are just delays in receiving that data?

Mr Lye: It varies by state. Sometimes it's because it's not easily centrally captured at the state level, because it's hospital based data. In some cases we get it, but it lags in the time sense. We've moved beyond asking for data and trying to work at a regional level with states around individual hospital or regional populations to saying 'How do we make a difference in those locations?'

Senator KOVACIC: To be clear, are you no longer asking for that information?

Mr Lye: No, there's still a process by which we want to reach agreement with the states to have an ongoing capacity to collect timely data to monitor the policy. But it's not going to land quickly.

Senator KOVACIC: Thank you. I just want to confirm that I can have that ACAT data on notice.

Mr Lye: Yes.

Answer:

Table 1 below outlines ACAT wait times (average and median) in 2023-24, by assessment priority and state. Table 2 below outlines ACAT wait times (average and median) in 2023-24, by assessment setting (community and hospital) and state:

Table 1: ACAT timeliness - All settings by priority – Referral Issued to Support Plan Completed (AVERAGE and MEDIAN - days)

State	Average (days)			Median (days)			Volume				
	High	Medium	Low	High	Medium	Low	High	Medium	Low	Total	%
NSW	6	3	80	1	1	56	149	22,209	47,933	70,291	33%
VIC	5	3	44	0	1	28	62	10,963	43,415	54,440	25%
QLD	12	7	82	1	3	80	42	12,864	28,500	41,406	19%
SA	1	3	54	1	2	40	3	4,707	13,826	18,536	9%
WA	3	8	59	1	3	41	65	7,793	12,524	20,382	10%
TAS	1	6	32	0	4	21	8	1,381	3,789	5,178	2%
NT	17	10	44	13	6	34	3	321	853	1177	1%
ACT	4	5	84	2	5	46	11	71	2,271	2,353	1%
National	6	4	65	1	2	42	343	60,309	153,111	213,763	100%

Table 2: ACAT timeliness by setting (hospital and community) and state – referral issued to support plan completed (AVERAGE and MEDIAN - days)

State	Community			Hospital			All		
	Average	Median	Volume	Average	Median	Volume	Average	Median	Volume
NSW	75	50	50,691	2	1	19,600	55	21	70,291
VIC	45	28	42,499	3	1	11,941	36	20	54,440
QLD	78	74	30,871	4	2	10,535	59	36	41,406
SA	54	40	13,920	3	2	4,616	41	26	18,536
WA	52	33	15,232	3	1	5,150	39	20	20,382
TAS	31	20	4,003	4	4	1,175	25	14	5,178
NT	45	35	839	10	6	338	35	21	1177
ACT	115	88	1,607	9	5	746	82	42	2,353
National	63	40	159,662	3	1	54,101	48	22	213,763