

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000833

OUTCOME: 6 - Ageing and Aged Care

Topic: ACAT and RAS Assessments - Wait Times by Priority Area

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Polley, Helen

Question:

What is the average and the mean wait times for ACAT and RAS assessments, by assessment area and by priority for the period 1 July to 31 December 2016? And for the period 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2017?

Answer:

In accordance with the Australian Bureau of Statistics advice, the Department of Health uses the median average, as the most relevant statistical measure for averages as it is less subject to data variance than the mean average.

Table 1 provides the median average and mean average wait times for Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT) assessments for the period 1 July to 31 December 2016.

Table 2 provides the median average for Regional Assessment Service (RAS) assessments for the period 1 July to 31 December 2016. Mean data is not currently available.

Jurisdictions and assessment organisations are required to provide the Department with six monthly performance reports. The next reporting period is January to June 2017 which will be subject to a validation process.

Table 1: Time from Assessment Referral Issued to Assessment Complete (ACAT) – 1 July 2016 to 31 December 2016

State	High Priority		Medium Priority		Low Priority	
	Median Average (days)	Mean Average (days)	Median Average (days)	Mean Average (days)	Median Average (days)	Mean Average (days)
New South Wales	4	7.4	4	7	22	25.9
Victoria	4	10.5	4	8.8	28	35.3
Queensland	2	16.6	5	10.3	28	38.6
South Australia	14	41.1	3	7	16	20.5
Western Australia	1	3.8	4	13	14	27
Tasmania	1	5.1	7	13	76	90.4
Northern Territory	6	37.7	9	15.3	18	26.2
Australian Capital Territory	1	2.1	5	5.7	14	15.9
National	3	13.1	4	8.7	24	32.4

Source: Aged Care Data Warehouse. Data extracted 30 April 2017

Caveats

- data is point in time data
- minor system issues and user errors may have contributed to some data issues in the 1 July 2016 to 31 December 2016 period

Table 2: Time from Assessment Referral Issued to Assessment Complete (RAS) – 1 July 2016 to 31 December 2016

State	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority
New South Wales	7	11	14
Victoria	9	13	14
Queensland	7	9	13
South Australia	7	11	14
Tasmania	9	12	16
Northern Territory	5.5	8	11
Australian Capital Territory	7	12	13
National	7	11	14

Source: Aged Care Data Warehouse. Data Current as at May 2017.

Caveats

- data is point in time data
- minor system issues and user errors may have contributed to some data issues in the 1 July 2016 to 31 December 2016 period