

# Primary and acute care measures for older people in South Australia

Factsheet prepared by the HPC for COTA (SA) presentation on 28 July 2016

## SA has a relatively older population...

In 2011 there were around 1.6 million people in South Australia, of which:

- > **Approximately one in six** (16.1%) aged **65+ years**. This is the *second highest* proportion of states & territories (and above 14.0% national proportion)
- > **Around one in 13** (7.8%) aged **75+ years** – *highest* of states & territories (6.4% nationally)
- > **Roughly one in 40** (2.4%) aged **85+ years** – *highest* of states & territories (1.9% nationally)
- > **Median age is 39 years** – *second highest* of states & territories (37 years nationally).

## Older people are over-represented in hospital utilisation...

In 2014-15, over 422,000 admitted inpatient separations from public hospitals in SA, of which:

- > **41.0%** were for people aged **65+ years** (compared to 38.9% nationally)
- > **25.7%** for people aged **75+ years** (22.2% nationally)
- > **8.7%** for people aged **85+ years** (7.0% nationally)
- > **Median age** of a public hospital inpatient around **58 years** (57 years nationally).

## ... although representation varies between types of admission and population groups...

In 2014-15, of admitted inpatient separations from SA public hospitals:

- > Emergency **readmissions**: **50.3%** were aged 65+ years
- > **Mental health** admissions: **14.6%** were aged 65+ years
- > **Rehabilitation** admissions: **56.9%** were aged 65+ years
- > Admissions for persons born in **non-MES** countries: **56.0%** were aged 65+ years
- > Admissions for **Aboriginal** persons: **11.4%** were aged 65+ years
- > Admissions for **rural and remote SA** residents: **41.2%** were aged 65+ years
- > **Potentially preventable** admissions: **48.7%** were aged 65+ years.

### Prepared by the HPC Secretariat.

If you have any queries with the statistics presented here, please contact us on:

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## Older people in SA utilise many health services above national averages...

In 2013-14, **persons aged 65+ years in SA** had received the following health services **in the previous 12 months**:

- > **96.7%** had seen a **GP** (96.0% nationally), including:
  - 13.1% saw a GP for *urgent medical care* (11.8% nationally)
  - 6.7% saw an *after-hours* GP (5.2% nationally)
- > **92.5%** had received a **prescription** for medication (91.4% nationally)
- > **51.0%** had seen a **dental professional** (49.0% nationally)
- > **58.0%** had seen a **medical specialist** (57.8% nationally).
- > **73.8%** had a **pathology test** (78.9% nationally)
- > **48.8%** had an **imaging test** (49.7% nationally)
- > **21.1%** had been **admitted to hospital** (19.9% nationally)
- > **17.1%** had visited a hospital **ED** (16.1% nationally)
- > **19.8%** had seen **3 or more health professionals** for the **same condition** (24.0% nationally).

## Older people in SA are generally satisfied with their experiences of health care...

In 2013-14, **of persons aged 65+ in SA**:

- > **Satisfaction with GPs:** 94.8% said GP listened carefully, 96.4% said GP showed respect, 96.5% said GP spent enough time with them.
- > **Satisfaction with medical specialists:** 96.4% said medical specialist listened carefully, 95.3% said medical specialist showed respect, 94.5% said medical specialist spent enough time with them.
- > **Satisfaction with dental professionals:** 97.7% said dental professional listened carefully, 99.2% said dental professional showed respect, 97.1% said dental professional spent enough time with them.
- > **Satisfaction with hospital clinical staff** (hospital doctors, specialists and nurses):
  - 94.5% said **hospital doctors/specialists** listened carefully, 98.5% said hospital doctors/specialists showed respect, *but a significantly lower* 91.4% said hospital doctors/specialists spent enough time with them.
  - 94.5% said **hospital nurses** listened carefully, 96.5% said hospital nurses showed respect, *but a significantly lower* 91.8% said hospital nurses spent enough time with them.

## Despite very high levels of satisfaction with health care when received, older people can experience difficulties with access...

In 2013-14, **of persons aged 65+ in SA** who had received or needed a health service:

- > Around **one in 7** (13.5%) said they **waited longer than they felt acceptable to see a GP**
- > Around **one in 14** (7.2%) said they had **delayed or avoided seeing a medical specialist** (for reasons such as cost) when needed
- > Around **one in six** (15.5%) said they had delayed or avoided seeing a dental professional (for reasons such as cost) when needed
- > However, only **one in 90** (1.1%) said they had **delayed or avoided going to hospital** when needed.