



Infection prevention and control in aged care

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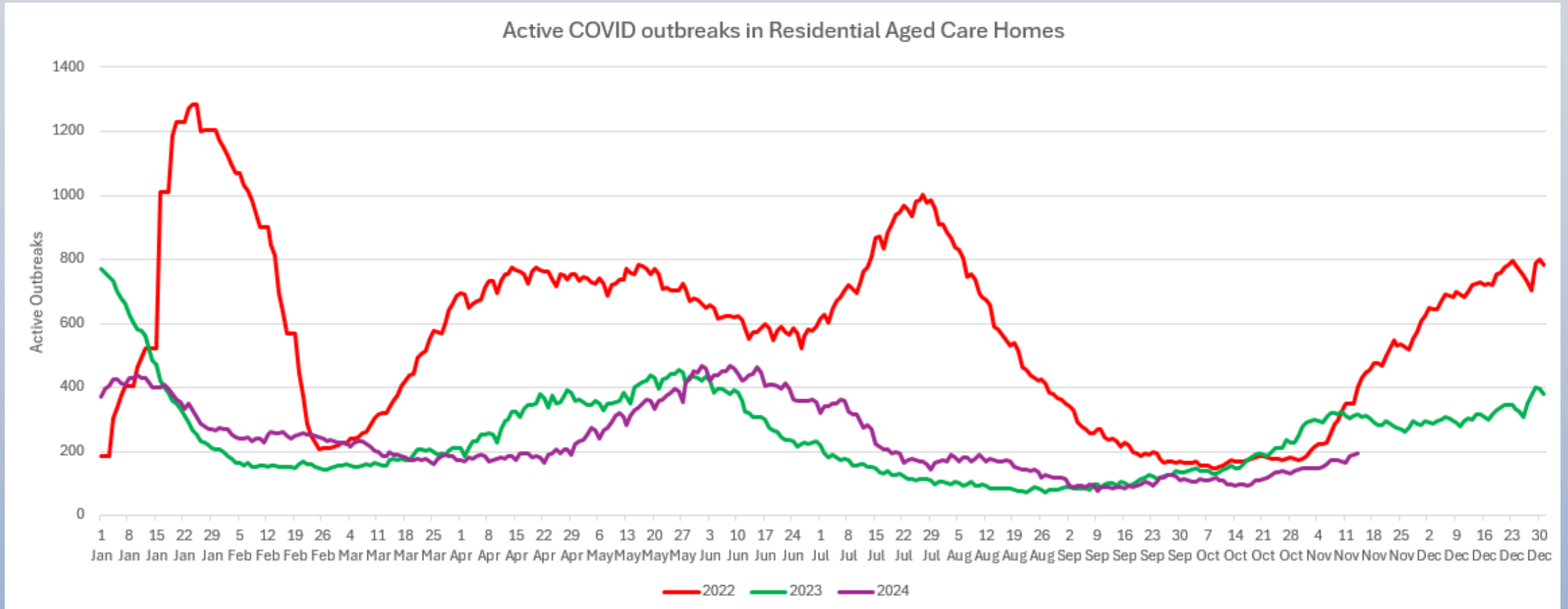
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Australian Government acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the Elders past and present.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this presentation may contain images of deceased persons.



Navigating the uncertainty of COVID-19 in aged care



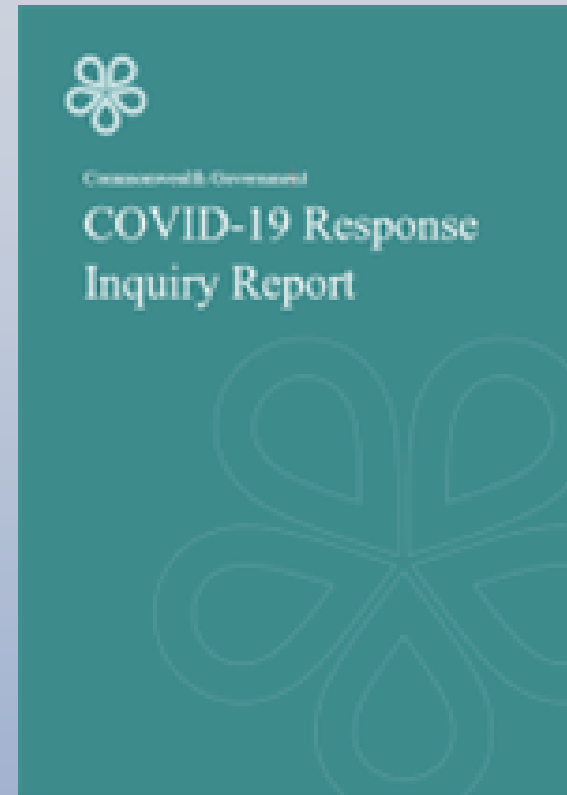


Commonwealth Government COVID-19 Response Inquiry

Report publicly released on 29 October 2024

Experience of older Australians

1. IPC as a priority
2. Vaccination
3. Balancing safety and wellbeing
4. Staffing challenges
5. Clarity of leadership and governance





IPC Lead Nurse evaluation



Overall impact:

- Strengthened IPC practises in residential aged care homes

2023 HMA evaluation:

- Confirmed the effectiveness of the role
- Identified key areas for improvement
- **14 key recommendations** outlined
- **Full report now available on the Department's website.**
- The Department and the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission are considering the recommendations



IPC research and resources

- **National Health and Medical Research Council's targeted call for research**
- **Literature review into IPC in home and community-based aged care settings, and AMS in aged care**
- **New Aged Care IPC Guide – released August 2024**
- **CDNA National Guideline for the Prevention, Control and Public Health Management of Outbreaks of Acute Respiratory Infection in Residential Aged Care Homes – updated June 2024**





**World Antimicrobial
Resistance
Awareness Week**

18-24 November

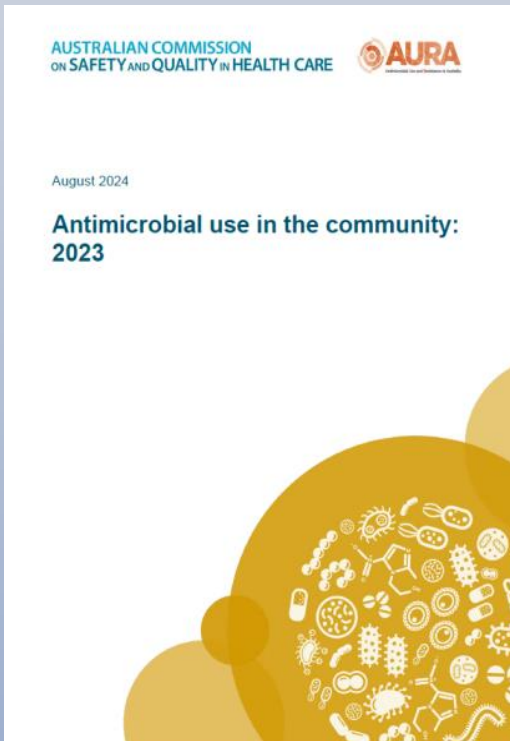


**EDUCATE.
ADVOCATE.
ACT NOW.**



Antimicrobial stewardship in aged care

**Antimicrobial use in aged care
increased by 11.1% from 2022 to 2023**



➤ Continued funding of key surveillance programmes (Aged Care NAPS)

➤ Targeted strategies to promote:

- Responsible prescribing
- Improved IPC practises
- Appropriate education and training for staff





Aged care on-site pharmacist measure

- Commenced 1 July 2024
- Provides funding to:
 - Community pharmacies to employ and place pharmacists in RACHs.
 - RACHs to engage on-site pharmacists directly, where community pharmacies can't or choose not to participate, or the RACH and community pharmacy can't come to a suitable agreement.
- On-site pharmacists will work alongside other aged care professionals to improve medication management and ensure older people are using their medications safely.
- It is not compulsory for a residential aged care home or community pharmacy to participate in the measure.





Vaccinations

- Fundamental component of IPC
- **Low COVID-19 vaccination rates** in aged care – 52.3%
 - Conversations with residents about vaccinations

Department actions:

- Monthly publication of vaccination rates for RACHs
- Working with RACHs and PHNs to address access barriers
- New vaccination requirements under the incoming Aged Care Act

Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission

- Continued monitoring of access to vaccinations as a critical component of clinical care.



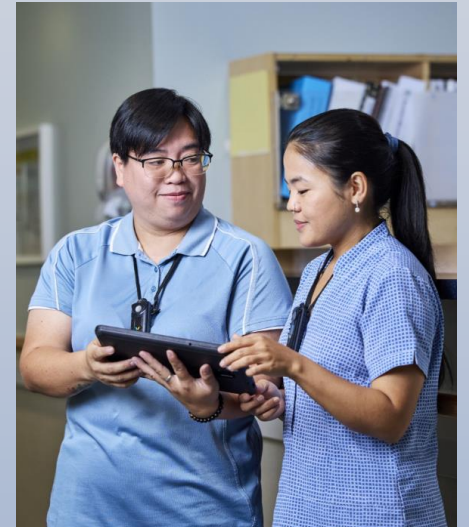


Aged Care Outbreak Management Support Supplement

A contribution toward the costs of preventing and managing COVID-19 outbreaks in aged care

The supplement is an investment in:

- Building improved IPC and outbreak management practices into core business
- Lifting the capability and capacity required to plan, prepare for and manage outbreaks into the future





Surge workforce

Supporting residential aged care homes to maintain high-quality safe service delivery and care for residents, during COVID-19 outbreaks



- Temporary access to a pool of skilled aged care workers during critical staff shortages
- Changing environment and genuine workforce challenges
- Considering the future of workforce support models for residential aged care homes in times where resident safety is at risk



Questions

➤ Email: agedcareIPC@Health.gov.au

➤ Resources:

- [Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care](#)
- [COVID-19 outbreaks in Australian residential aged care facilities | Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care](#)
- [COVID-19 Response Inquiry Report | PM&C](#)
- [Evaluation of the Infection Prevention and Control Nurse Lead role in Residential Aged Care Homes | Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control Leads | Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care](#)
- [Antimicrobial use in the community: 2023 | Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](#)
- [For aged care | Antimicrobial resistance](#)
- [Aged Care On-site Pharmacist Measure – Pharmacist and Residential Aged Care Home Guide | Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care](#)
- [Government support for providers and workers | Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care](#)
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