

Criteria for Assessing the Need for Interim Care 2003/04



- The Department of Human Services (DHS) considered a number of issues when determining the amount of Interim Care funded in 2003/04. The main basic considerations are outlined below.
- DHS converted the total number of bed days occupied by all patients, who separated to residential care, excluding patients whose LOS is 14 days or less or greater than 174 days. The bed day figures include the bed days of current Interim Care patients, where such a program exists in the Health Service.
- It should be noted that the occupied beds derived from this method would also cover the patients' stay in hospital when they are being assessed and treated, ie, their period in acute and/or sub-acute. To make allowance for this, the bed numbers of the patients waiting for placement are multiplied by 2/3 to estimate the time spent waiting for residential aged care placement and receiving maintenance care as opposed to time the patients are receiving active treatment.
- Once the notional, maximum number of Interim Care places are derived, 25% of these places are earmarked for home-based Interim Care and 75% for bed-based services. The evaluation of the Interim Care program demonstrated that a small but significant minority of patients could be managed at home while waiting for residential aged care placement. In Northern Health, the evaluation showed that approximately 25% of the Interim Care patients could be cared for at home. The evaluation also indicated that a proportion of people in home-based Interim Care can be maintained on mainstream community programs after they exit Interim Care.
- The quantity of Interim Care at individual Health Services will need to be reviewed on a regular basis. It should be noted that some Health Services have not required their notional amount of Interim Care once other internal hospital processes have been addressed. The Department of Human Services also monitors the amount of operational residential aged care beds in the Health Service catchment areas.