



Australian Government

Australian Institute of  
Health and Welfare

# Australian hospital statistics



*National emergency access and  
elective surgery targets 2012*



**Australian Government**

**Australian Institute of  
Health and Welfare**

*Authoritative information and statistics  
to promote better health and wellbeing*

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# **Australian hospital statistics**

## **National emergency access and elective surgery targets**

**2012**

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare  
Canberra

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**The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare is a major national agency which provides reliable, regular and relevant information and statistics on Australia's health and welfare. The Institute's mission is authoritative information and statistics to promote better health and wellbeing.**

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**Please note that there is the potential for minor revisions of data in this report. Please check the online version at <[www.aihw.gov.au](http://www.aihw.gov.au)> for any amendments.**

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# Abbreviations

|          |                                                                      |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ACT      | Australian Capital Territory                                         |
| AIHW     | Australian Institute of Health and Welfare                           |
| COAG     | Council of Australian Governments                                    |
| CRC      | COAG Reform Council                                                  |
| DoHA     | Department of Health and Ageing                                      |
| DSS      | Data Set Specification                                               |
| EWST     | Elective Surgery Waiting Times                                       |
| NAPEDC   | Non-Admitted Patient Emergency Department Care                       |
| NNAPEDCD | National Non-admitted Patient Emergency Department Care Database     |
| NEAT     | National Emergency Access Target                                     |
| NEATD    | National Emergency Access Target Database                            |
| NEST     | National Elective Surgery Target                                     |
| NESTD    | National Elective Surgery Target Database                            |
| NHA      | National Healthcare Agreement                                        |
| NMDS     | National minimum data set                                            |
| NPA-IPHS | National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospital Services |
| NSW      | New South Wales                                                      |
| NT       | Northern Territory                                                   |
| Qld      | Queensland                                                           |
| SA       | South Australia                                                      |
| Tas      | Tasmania                                                             |
| Vic      | Victoria                                                             |
| WA       | Western Australia                                                    |

# Symbols

|      |                                                                                                           |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ..   | not applicable                                                                                            |
| n.a. | not available                                                                                             |
| n.p. | not publishable because of small numbers, confidentiality or other concerns about the quality of the data |

# Summary

This report presents 2012 data for performance indicators in the *National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospital Services*. It includes measures of the extent to which states and territories met targets for emergency department lengths of stay of four hours or less, and for lengths of time spent waiting for elective surgery. It is being released on 28 February 2013, two months after the end of the 2012 reporting period, the date by which most of the data are required by the Council of Australian Governments Reform Council.

## **The National Emergency Access Target (NEAT)**

The goal of the NEAT is to increase the proportion of emergency department patients who physically leave the emergency department (for admission to hospital, referral to another hospital, or discharge) in 4 hours or less.

In 2012, five states and territories achieved proportions of patients leaving the emergency department in 4 hours or less that were higher than the baseline figures specified in the Agreement, and one state had a proportion greater than the target specified for it in the Agreement.

Overall, 65.5% of patients presenting to a public hospital emergency department had their visit to the emergency department completed in 4 hours or less. Nationally, and for most states and territories, the highest proportion of presentations with length of stay of 4 hours or less were in the October–December quarter.

## **The National Elective Surgery Target (NEST)**

The goal of the NEST is to increase the proportion of elective surgery patients seen within clinically recommended times and to reduce the number of patients waiting beyond the clinically recommended time.

In 2012, six states and territories achieved proportions seen on time greater than or equal to the baseline figures specified in the Agreement for two or three clinical urgency categories. Three states achieved proportions seen on time greater than the targets specified for them in the Agreement for two or three urgency categories.

Six states and territories had average overdue waits shorter than the baseline figures in the Agreement for two or three clinical urgency categories. Four states and territories had average overdue waits shorter than their targets for two or three urgency categories.

During 2012, five states and territories had provided treatment or referral for the longest wait overdue patients (those who had waited the longest at 31 December 2011) for all urgency categories. A further two states and territories had provided treatment or referral for all urgency category 1 patients.

There were almost 671,000 admissions from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists, as either an elective or an emergency admission in 2012. Median waiting times ranged from 27 days in Queensland to 55 days in the Australian Capital Territory. Numbers of admissions were highest in the July–September quarter nationally and in six states and territories.

# 1 Introduction

This report presents data provided by the AIHW to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Reform Council (CRC) for its report on jurisdictions' progress against the *National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospital Services* (NPA-IPHS) (COAG, 2011) for 2012.

The NPA-IPHS is an agreement between the Australian and state and territory governments that is intended to improve access to public hospital services including:

- increasing the proportion of emergency department patients to physically leave the emergency department (for admission to hospital, referral to another hospital, or discharge) in 4 hours or less. Under the NPA IPHS, this goal is specified as the National Emergency Access Target (NEAT).
- increasing the proportion of elective surgery patients seen within clinically recommended times and reducing the number of patients waiting beyond the clinically recommended time. Under the NPA-IPHS, this goal is specified as the National Elective Surgery Target (NEST).

The report also presents other data required to be reported under the NPA-IPHS and relating to state and territory performance in provision of emergency department and elective surgery services.

*Australian hospital statistics: National emergency access and elective surgery targets 2012* is a new addition to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's (AIHW) series of reports describing the characteristics and activity of Australia's hospitals (AIHW 1997a to 2012d).

The *Australian hospital statistics* suite of products presents data supplied by state and territory health authorities on admitted patient care, elective surgery waiting times, emergency department care, outpatient care, public hospital establishments and rates of infection with *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteraemia (an indicator of hospital safety and quality).

## What's in this report

This chapter provides an introduction to the report and the data sources used for it.

Chapter 2 describes the NEAT and related performance indicators; that is the proportion of emergency department presentation with a length of stay of 4 hours or less.

Chapter 3 describes the NEST and related performance indicators specified under the NPA-IPHS, that is:

- NEST 'Part 1', the percentage of patients removed from elective surgery waiting lists who received surgery within the clinically recommended time for each urgency category
- NEST 'Part 2'
  - the average overdue wait time in days for patients who have waited beyond the recommended time for their clinical urgency category
  - the 10 per cent longest waiting overdue patients in clinical urgency categories 1, 2 and 3 (as at 31 December 2011), who were still waiting for care (that is, they have not had their surgery or had appropriate alternative treatment options identified) during 2012, for each urgency category
- the number of additional patients removed (as an elective or emergency admission) from elective surgery waiting lists managed by public hospitals
- the number of removals from waiting lists for reasons other than elective or emergency admission
- the number and proportion of elective and emergency admissions within the clinically recommended time by clinical urgency category
- days waited at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile (median waiting times) for the 15 indicator procedures
- days waited at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile by clinical urgency category
- the number of elective or emergency surgical episodes with one or more adverse events
- the number of unplanned readmissions within 28 days of discharge from the hospital following an episode of elective or emergency surgery.

Appendix 1 presents data quality information.

Appendix 2 presents technical notes on methods used in this report, including specifications for the performance indicators.

Appendix 3 presents additional tables with quarterly data for some elective surgery performance indicators.

## What data are reported?

Under the NPA-IPHS, states and territories are required to provide data for performance reporting (Clauses C35 and A44). The AIHW collates and then provides the data to the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA). At the request of the CRC, the AIHW also collates and provides data to the CRC to support its role as the independent assessor of whether performance benchmarks have been met before rewards are made under a National Partnership Agreement.

The data supplied by states and territories were used by the AIHW to assemble:

- the National Emergency Access Target Database (NEATD), covering emergency department care and length of stay in emergency departments
- the National Elective Surgery Target Database (NESTD), covering waiting times and other characteristics of elective surgery in public hospitals.

Summary information on the NEATD and NESTD are provided below. See Box 1.1 for a summary of data limitations and Appendix 1 for more information.

### **National Emergency Access Target Database**

The National Emergency Access Target Database (NEATD) is a compilation of episode-level data for emergency department presentations in public hospitals. From 1 January 2012 to 30 June 2012, the database was based on the Data Set Specification (DSS) for Non-admitted patient emergency department care (NAPEDC). Information on the DSS is published in the AIHW's online metadata repository (METeOR). From 1 July 2012 to 31 December 2012, the dataset was based on the National Minimum Data Set (NMDS) for NAPEDC 2012–13, as defined in the *National health data dictionary, version 16* (AIHW 2012e).

The scope for the NEATD is all hospitals reporting to the NAPEDC NMDS (Peer Groups A, B and other) as at August 2011 (when the NPA-IPHS was signed). For the duration of the agreement, hospitals that have not previously reported to the NAPEDC NMDS can come into scope, subject to agreement between the jurisdiction and the Commonwealth.

### **National Elective Surgery Target Database**

The National Elective Surgery Target Database (NESTD) includes episode-level data on patients waiting for elective surgery on waiting lists managed by public acute hospitals. This may include public patients (see Glossary) treated in private hospitals and other patients treated in public hospitals.

From 1 January 2012 to 30 June 12, the database was based on the Elective Surgery Waiting Times (ESWT) Data Set Specification (DSS), which covers the same period. The data supplied for 1 July 2012 to 31 December 2012 are based on the National Minimum Data Set for Elective Surgery Waiting Times (Census and Removals) (ESWT NMDS) 2012–13, as defined in the *National health data dictionary, version 16* (AIHW 2012e). Included is information on the length of time waited, the surgical specialty and whether the patient was waiting for a particular indicator procedure.

Overall, the data are of sufficient quality to be published in this report. However, the limitations of the data should be taken into consideration when they are interpreted. Data on urgency categories are not considered comparable among the states and territories and are presented separately for each jurisdiction. Summary information on urgency categories is presented in Box 3.1.

### Box 1.1: Data Limitations

- States and territories are primarily responsible for the quality of the data they provide. However, the AIHW undertakes extensive validations on receipt of data. Potential errors are queried with jurisdictions, and corrections and resubmissions may be made in response to these edit queries. The AIHW does not adjust data to account for possible data errors or missing or incorrect values, unless stated otherwise.
- The data presented in this publication are broadly comparable with NAPEDC data and ESWT data presented in Australian hospital statistics 2011–12: Emergency department care and Australian hospital statistics 2011–12: Elective surgery waiting times. However, the reader should note that the reference year for this report is the 2012 calendar year.

#### NEATD

- Statistics on emergency department presentations for non-admitted patients may be affected by variations in reporting practices across states and territories and over time. Where possible, these variations have been noted in the text. Comparisons between states and territories and reporting periods should be made with reference to the accompanying notes in the chapters and the appendixes.
- Comparisons between states and territories and with NAPEDC data reported in other Australian hospital statistics reports should be made with reference to the accompanying notes in the chapters and appendixes.
- Approximately 3,000 records for which a valid length of stay could not be calculated due to missing or incorrect values (for example, for time of presentation or physical departure) were not used to derive data on length of stay in the emergency department.

#### NESTD

- Statistics on public hospital elective surgery waiting times may be affected by variations in reporting practices across states and territories and over time, including in relation to clinical urgency categorisation (see Box 3.1). Where possible, these variations have been noted in the text.
- Comparisons between states and territories and with elective surgery waiting times data reporting in other *Australian hospital statistics* products should be made with reference to the accompanying notes in the chapters and the appendixes.
- The data collection covered most public hospitals that undertake elective surgery. Hospitals that were not included may not undertake elective surgery, may not have had waiting lists, or may have had different waiting list characteristics compared with reporting hospitals. Some smaller remote hospitals may have different patterns of service delivery compared with other hospitals because specialists providing elective surgery services visit these hospitals only periodically.
- For 2012, the data for Albury Base Hospital were not available. *(continued)*

#### Box 1.1 (continued)

#### NESTD (continued)

- For 1 June to 31 July 2012, data for the Children's Hospital at Westmead were not available due to local systems issues.
- Methods to calculate waiting times have varied across states and territories and over time. For example, in some states and territories, for patients who were transferred from a waiting list managed by one hospital to that managed by another, the time waited on the first list is not included in the waiting time reported to the NESTD from the second hospital. Therefore, the number of days waited in those jurisdictions reflected the waiting time on the list managed by the second hospital only.
- In 2012, for patients who were admitted after being transferred from another hospital's waiting list, New South Wales, South Australia and the Northern Territory reported the total time waited on all hospital waiting lists. This could have an effect of increasing the waiting times reported for overall removals for those jurisdictions relative to others.
- The number of days waited does not include the time waited for the initial appointment with the specialist.

See appendixes 1 and 2 for more information.

## Additional data on the Internet

This report can be found at <[www.aihw.gov.au](http://www.aihw.gov.au)>. It is available as a PDF, with tables presented in this report and additional tables for Chapter 2 (not included in the PDF) downloadable as Excel spreadsheets.

## Updates

Internet tables are updated in the event of errors being found or if data are resupplied after publication of the report.

## 2 National emergency access target

The National Emergency Access Target (NEAT) is specified under the National Health Reform Agreement – National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Improving Public Hospital Services (NPA-IPHS).

Under Clause C1 of the NPA-IPHS, the objective of the NEAT is that, by 31 December 2015, 90% of patients presenting to public hospital emergency departments will either physically leave the emergency department for admission to hospital, be referred to another hospital for treatment, or be discharged within 4 hours (COAG, 2011).

The calculation of the NEAT performance indicator includes all visits to emergency departments (including patients who were dead on arrival). Patients are considered to have completed their visit to the emergency department when they physically leave the emergency department (regardless of whether they were admitted to the hospital, referred to another hospital, departed without being admitted or referred to another hospital, or left at their own risk).

The NEAT sets annual targets for each state and territory to achieve continual improvement in the proportion of presentations completed within 4 hours over the period 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2015 (Clause 34).

This report relates to annual targets for the 2012 calendar year under the NPA-IPHS, and also reports on data provided quarterly by states and territories as stipulated under Clause C35 of the NPA-IPHS, according to the timetable stipulated under Clause C41.

### **Box 2.1 What methods were used?**

In this chapter:

- data presented includes all presentations to emergency departments, except for approximately 3,000 records for which a valid length of stay could not be calculated due to missing or incorrect values (for example, for time of presentation or physical departure).
- length of stay is calculated as the length of time between presentation to the emergency department and physical departure.

## How did states and territories progress towards the NEAT?

Table 2.1 presents the baseline proportion of presentations with length of stay of 4 hours or less, the agreed targets for 2012 and the proportion of presentations with length of stay of 4 hours or less achieved in 2012 for each state and territory. These data have been provided to the CRC to support its role in assessment of state and territory performance under the NPA IPHS. The baseline and target figures are as agreed under Clause C34 of the NPA-IPHS. The baseline data were for 2009–10.

Five states and territories achieved higher proportions than the baseline and one state had a proportion greater than its target.

**Table 2.1: Emergency department presentations, performance against NEAT targets, states and territories, 2012**

|                  | NSW      | Vic  | Qld  | WA   | SA   | Tas  | ACT  | NT   |
|------------------|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Measure          | Per cent |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Baseline         | 61.8     | 65.9 | 63.8 | 71.3 | 59.4 | 66.0 | 55.8 | 66.2 |
| 2012 target      | 69.0     | 70.0 | 70.0 | 76.0 | 67.0 | 72.0 | 64.0 | 69.0 |
| 2012 achievement | 61.1     | 65.0 | 66.9 | 78.5 | 66.0 | 67.0 | 56.7 | 64.3 |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1 and 2.1 and appendices 1 and 2 for more information on terminology, data limitations and methods.

During 2012, 65.5% of patients presenting to a public hospital emergency department had their visit to the emergency department completed in 4 hours or less (Table 2.2). Nationally, and for most states and territories, the highest proportions of presentations with length of stay of 4 hours or less were in the October-December quarter.

**Table 2.2: Emergency department presentations, proportion with a length of stay of 4 hours or less, by quarter, states and territories, 2012**

| Quarter                                                                   | NSW              | Vic              | Qld              | WA             | SA             | Tas            | ACT            | NT             | Total            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>Presentations with length of stay of 4 hours or less</b>               |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |                |                |                  |
| Jan–Mar                                                                   | 344,525          | 252,212          | 202,661          | 149,868        | 71,890         | 23,226         | 16,912         | 22,779         | <b>1,084,073</b> |
| Apr–Jun                                                                   | 340,276          | 243,950          | 205,426          | 150,251        | 73,478         | 23,433         | 17,193         | 22,877         | <b>1,076,884</b> |
| Jul–Sep                                                                   | 330,459          | 238,568          | 208,440          | 145,238        | 73,767         | 24,155         | 16,529         | 23,041         | <b>1,060,197</b> |
| Oct–Dec                                                                   | 372,824          | 254,438          | 230,587          | 147,582        | 77,924         | 25,822         | 17,235         | 23,920         | <b>1,150,332</b> |
| <b>Total</b>                                                              | <b>1,388,084</b> | <b>989,168</b>   | <b>847,114</b>   | <b>592,939</b> | <b>297,059</b> | <b>96,636</b>  | <b>67,869</b>  | <b>92,617</b>  | <b>4,371,486</b> |
| <b>Total presentations</b>                                                |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |                |                |                  |
| Jan–Mar                                                                   | 561,434          | 376,301          | 309,203          | 185,812        | 108,813        | 35,095         | 29,705         | 35,197         | <b>1,641,560</b> |
| Apr–Jun                                                                   | 566,015          | 376,060          | 313,159          | 188,200        | 110,408        | 34,820         | 30,249         | 36,070         | <b>1,654,981</b> |
| Jul–Sep                                                                   | 564,171          | 379,763          | 323,499          | 192,220        | 113,798        | 36,532         | 29,489         | 36,523         | <b>1,675,995</b> |
| Oct–Dec                                                                   | 578,461          | 389,748          | 320,607          | 188,679        | 117,336        | 37,877         | 30,223         | 36,354         | <b>1,699,285</b> |
| <b>Total</b>                                                              | <b>2,270,081</b> | <b>1,521,872</b> | <b>1,266,468</b> | <b>754,911</b> | <b>450,355</b> | <b>144,324</b> | <b>119,666</b> | <b>144,144</b> | <b>6,671,821</b> |
| <b>Proportion of presentations with length of stay of 4 hours or less</b> |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |                |                |                  |
| Jan–Mar                                                                   | 61.4             | 67.0             | 65.5             | 80.7           | 66.1           | 66.2           | 56.9           | 64.7           | <b>66.0</b>      |
| Apr–Jun                                                                   | 60.1             | 64.9             | 65.6             | 79.8           | 66.6           | 67.3           | 56.8           | 63.4           | <b>65.1</b>      |
| Jul–Sep                                                                   | 58.6             | 62.8             | 64.4             | 75.6           | 64.8           | 66.1           | 56.1           | 63.1           | <b>63.3</b>      |
| Oct–Dec                                                                   | 64.5             | 65.3             | 71.9             | 78.2           | 66.4           | 68.2           | 57.0           | 65.8           | <b>67.7</b>      |
| <b>Total</b>                                                              | <b>61.1</b>      | <b>65.0</b>      | <b>66.9</b>      | <b>78.5</b>    | <b>66.0</b>    | <b>67.0</b>    | <b>56.7</b>    | <b>64.3</b>    | <b>65.5</b>      |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1 and 2.1 and appendices 1 and 2 for more information on terminology, data limitations and methods.

Internet Tables 2.3a through 2.3h present counts of emergency department presentations with length of stay of 4 hours or less, total presentations, and the proportion of presentations with length of stay of 4 hours or less, by hospital for each state and territory. These data are required to be reported on a Commonwealth website under Clause C37.

### 3 National elective surgery target

The National Elective Surgery Target (NEST) is specified under the National Health Reform Agreement – National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospital Services (NPA-IPHS).

Under Clause A1 of the NPA-IPHS, the objectives of the NEST are to increase the percentage of elective surgery patients seen so that 100 per cent of all patients are seen within the clinically recommended time for their clinical urgency category, and to reduce the number of patients who have waited longer than the clinically recommended time (COAG, 2011).

Clause A31 of the NPA-IPHS sets out annual targets for each state and territory to progressively improve the proportion of patients waiting for surgery seen within the clinically recommended time for their clinical urgency categories (Clause A31).

Clause A37 of the NPA-IPHS sets out targets for the reduction of average wait times for overdue patients, so that there are no overdue patients by the conclusion of the agreement. Clause A26(c) of the NPA-IPHS also notes that of the patients who have not had their procedure within the clinically recommended time, the 10 per cent who have waited the longest must have their procedure in the next year.

Clause A45 of the NPA-IPHS also describes a number of other performance indicators presented in this report.

This report relates to annual targets for the 2012 calendar year under the NPA-IPHS. The report also reports on data provided quarterly by states and territories as stipulated under Clause A44 of the NPA-IPHS, according to the timetable stipulated under Clause A48.

#### **Box 3.1: What methods were used?**

In this chapter:

- performance indicators include patients who were removed for elective and emergency admission from waiting lists for elective surgery, unless otherwise stated.

**Box 3.2: Clinical urgency categorisation**

In general, at the time of being placed on the public hospital waiting list, a clinical assessment is made of the urgency with which the patient requires elective surgery. The clinical urgency categories are:

- Category 1 – admission within 30 days desirable for a condition that has the potential to deteriorate quickly to the point that it may become an emergency
- Category 2 – admission within 90 days desirable for a condition causing some pain, dysfunction or disability but which is not likely to deteriorate quickly or become an emergency
- Category 3 – admission at some time in the future acceptable for a condition causing minimal or no pain, dysfunction or disability, which is unlikely to deteriorate quickly and which does not have the potential to become an emergency.

For the purposes of the NPA-IPHS, Clause A55 notes the recommended waiting times for Categories 1, 2 and 3 are no longer than 30, 90 and 365 days respectively.

Analyses of clinical urgency category data have shown notable variation in the assignment of these categories, both among and within jurisdictions, and for individual surgical specialties and indicator procedures, as well as overall (AIHW 2008b, 2009b, 2012d). This apparent lack of comparability of clinical urgency categories among jurisdictions means that measures based on these categories are not comparable between jurisdictions.

## How did states and territories perform against the NEST?

This section presents information on the proportion of patients seen on time for each clinical urgency category, average overdue waits by clinical urgency category and the number of overdue patients who had waited the longest for elective surgery at 31 December 2011 who had not had surgery or been referred to other appropriate treatment during 2012. The baseline and target figures presented are as agreed under Clause A31 and A38 of the NPA-IPHS. The baseline data for the proportions seen on time were for 2010.

### Proportions seen on time and average overdue waits

Tables 3.1a through 3.1h present information on the proportion of admissions where patients were seen within the clinically recommended time for their clinical urgency category, and the average (mean) overdue wait for people who were not admitted within the clinically recommended time. Data are presented in separate tables for each state and territory as clinical urgency categories are not comparable across states and territories. These were provided to the CRC as stipulated under Clause A44.

Six states and territories achieved proportions seen on time greater than or equal to the baseline for two or three urgency categories. Three states achieved proportions greater than their targets for two or three of the urgency categories.

Six states and territories had average overdue waits shorter than the baseline for two or three urgency categories. Four states and territories had average overdue waits shorter than their targets for two or three urgency categories.

**Table 3.1a: Elective surgery performance against NEST, New South Wales, 2012 (per cent)**

|                              | Baseline | Target | Achieved |
|------------------------------|----------|--------|----------|
| Proportion seen on time      |          |        |          |
| Category 1 (within 30 days)  | 92.3     | 96.0   | 95.1     |
| Category 2 (within 90 days)  | 86.6     | 90.0   | 91.0     |
| Category 3 (within 365 days) | 89.4     | 92.0   | 92.2     |
| Average overdue wait (days)  |          |        |          |
| Category 1 (within 30 days)  | 0.0      | 0.0    | 11.0     |
| Category 2 (within 90 days)  | 39.0     | 29.0   | 23.6     |
| Category 3 (within 365 days) | 130.0    | 98.0   | 63.4     |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 3.1b: Elective surgery performance against NEST, Victoria, 2012 (per cent)**

|                              | Baseline | Target | Achieved |
|------------------------------|----------|--------|----------|
| Proportion seen on time      |          |        |          |
| Category 1 (within 30 days)  | 100.0    | 100.0  | 100.0    |
| Category 2 (within 90 days)  | 72.5     | 75.0   | 68.3     |
| Category 3 (within 365 days) | 91.9     | 93.0   | 90.3     |
| Average overdue wait (days)  |          |        |          |
| Category 1 (within 30 days)  | 0.0      | 0.0    | 0.0      |
| Category 2 (within 90 days)  | 129.0    | 97.0   | 96.4     |
| Category 3 (within 365 days) | 165.0    | 124.0  | 144.4    |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1 and 3.1 and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 3.1c: Elective surgery performance against NEST, Queensland, 2012 (per cent)**

|                              | Baseline | Target | Achieved |
|------------------------------|----------|--------|----------|
| Proportion seen on time      |          |        |          |
| Category 1 (within 30 days)  | 83.0     | 89.0   | 89.0     |
| Category 2 (within 90 days)  | 74.8     | 81.0   | 77.1     |
| Category 3 (within 365 days) | 88.1     | 91.0   | 88.7     |
| Average overdue wait (days)  |          |        |          |
| Category 1 (within 30 days)  | 18.0     | 0.0    | 87.5     |
| Category 2 (within 90 days)  | 89.0     | 67.0   | 137.1    |
| Category 3 (within 365 days) | 81.0     | 61.0   | 135.8    |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1 and 3.1 and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 3.1d: Elective surgery performance against NEST, Western Australia, 2012 (per cent)**

|                              | Baseline | Target | Achieved |
|------------------------------|----------|--------|----------|
| Proportion seen on time      |          |        |          |
| Category 1 (within 30 days)  | 87.4     | 94.0   | 86.3     |
| Category 2 (within 90 days)  | 79.2     | 84.0   | 82.0     |
| Category 3 (within 365 days) | 97.2     | 98.0   | 96.4     |
| Average overdue wait (days)  |          |        |          |
| Category 1 (within 30 days)  | 27.0     | 0.0    | 12.1     |
| Category 2 (within 90 days)  | 90.0     | 68.0   | 54.2     |
| Category 3 (within 365 days) | 87.0     | 65.0   | 66.9     |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 3.1e: Elective surgery performance against NEST, South Australia, 2012 (per cent)**

|                              | Baseline | Target | Achieved |
|------------------------------|----------|--------|----------|
| Proportion seen on time      |          |        |          |
| Category 1 (within 30 days)  | 87.5     | 94.0   | 91.0     |
| Category 2 (within 90 days)  | 87.6     | 91.0   | 90.7     |
| Category 3 (within 365 days) | 95.5     | 97.0   | 96.3     |
| Average overdue wait (days)  |          |        |          |
| Category 1 (within 30 days)  | 31.0     | 0.0    | 22.7     |
| Category 2 (within 90 days)  | 30.0     | 23.0   | 38.2     |
| Category 3 (within 365 days) | 45.0     | 34.0   | 65.8     |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 3.1f: Elective surgery performance against NEST, Tasmania, 2012 (per cent)**

|                              | Baseline | Target | Achieved |
|------------------------------|----------|--------|----------|
| Proportion seen on time      |          |        |          |
| Category 1 (within 30 days)  | 75.4     | 84.0   | 76.1     |
| Category 2 (within 90 days)  | 59.3     | 67.0   | 60.4     |
| Category 3 (within 365 days) | 76.8     | 81.0   | 72.8     |
| Average overdue wait (days)  |          |        |          |
| Category 1 (within 30 days)  | 138.0    | 69.0   | 72.9     |
| Category 2 (within 90 days)  | 356.0    | 285.0  | 287.1    |
| Category 3 (within 365 days) | 440.0    | 352.0  | 586.4    |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 3.1g: Elective surgery performance against NEST, Australian Capital Territory, 2012 (per cent)**

|                              | Baseline | Target | Achieved |
|------------------------------|----------|--------|----------|
| Proportion seen on time      |          |        |          |
| Category 1 (within 30 days)  | 91.8     | 95.0   | 98.5     |
| Category 2 (within 90 days)  | 44.1     | 55.0   | 57.3     |
| Category 3 (within 365 days) | 76.9     | 82.0   | 89.3     |
| Average overdue wait (days)  |          |        |          |
| Category 1 (within 30 days)  | 45.0     | 23.0   | 20.3     |
| Category 2 (within 90 days)  | 179.0    | 143.0  | 127.1    |
| Category 3 (within 365 days) | 246.0    | 197.0  | 109.0    |

Note: Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 3.1h: Elective surgery performance against NEST, Northern Territory, 2012 (per cent)**

|                              | Baseline | Target | Achieved |
|------------------------------|----------|--------|----------|
| Proportion seen on time      |          |        |          |
| Category 1 (within 30 days)  | 79.1     | 83.0   | 87.5     |
| Category 2 (within 90 days)  | 56.9     | 59.0   | 71.3     |
| Category 3 (within 365 days) | 81.6     | 84.0   | 86.0     |
| Average overdue wait (days)  |          |        |          |
| Category 1 (within 30 days)  | 67.0     | 34.0   | 23.8     |
| Category 2 (within 90 days)  | 97.0     | 78.0   | 82.6     |
| Category 3 (within 365 days) | 144.0    | 115.0  | 70.8     |

Note: Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## How many of the longest wait overdue patients were removed from waiting lists in 2012?

Tables 3.2a through 3.2h present the 10 per cent longest waiting overdue patients in clinical urgency categories 1, 2 and 3 as at 31 December 2011, who were still waiting for care at the end of each quarter in 2012 (that is, they had not had their surgery or had appropriate alternative treatment options identified), for each clinical urgency category. Data are presented in separate tables for each state and territory because clinical urgency category data are not comparable across jurisdictions. These data were provided to the CRC as stipulated under Clause A44. The data were provided by the Department of Health and Ageing. They are based on anonymised lists of patients still waiting at 31 December 2011 agreed between the Department and states and territories, and anonymised information on patients removed from elective surgery waiting lists supplied to the Department by AIHW from the NESTD.

Five states and territories had provided treatment or referral for all these longest wait overdue patients by 31 December 2012 for all urgency categories. A further two states and territories had provided treatment or referral for all urgency category 1 patients.

**Table 3.2a: Number of longest wait overdue patients at 31 December 2011 remaining on elective surgery waiting lists at end of each quarter, New South Wales, 2012**

|                              | 31 Dec 2011 | 31 Mar 2012 | 30 Jun 2012 | 30 Sep 2012 | 31 Dec 2012 |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Category 1 (within 30 days)  | 2           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           |
| Category 2 (within 90 days)  | 14          | 3           | 2           | 0           | 0           |
| Category 3 (within 365 days) | 26          | 9           | 0           | 0           | 0           |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 3.2a: Number of longest wait overdue patients at 31 December 2011 remaining on elective surgery waiting lists at end of each quarter, Victoria, 2012**

|                              | 31 Dec 2011 | 31 Mar 2012 | 30 Jun 2012 | 30 Sep 2012 | 31 Dec 2012 |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Category 1 (within 30 days)  | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           |
| Category 2 (within 90 days)  | 641         | 378         | 210         | 124         | 0           |
| Category 3 (within 365 days) | 184         | 123         | 87          | 50          | 0           |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 3.2c: Number of longest wait overdue patients at 31 December 2011 remaining on elective surgery waiting lists at end of each quarter, Queensland, 2012**

|                              | 31 Dec 2011 | 31 Mar 2012 | 30 Jun 2012 | 30 Sep 2012 | 31 Dec 2012 |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Category 1 (within 30 days)  | 37          | 6           | 2           | 1           | 1           |
| Category 2 (within 90 days)  | 422         | 306         | 202         | 121         | 65          |
| Category 3 (within 365 days) | 107         | 81          | 57          | 27          | 12          |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 3.2d: Number of longest wait overdue patients at 31 December 2011 remaining on elective surgery waiting lists at end of each quarter, Western Australia, 2012**

|                              | 31 Dec 2011 | 31 Mar 2012 | 30 Jun 2012 | 30 Sep 2012 | 31 Dec 2012 |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Category 1 (within 30 days)  | 15          | 2           | 0           | 0           | 0           |
| Category 2 (within 90 days)  | 120         | 46          | 15          | 4           | 0           |
| Category 3 (within 365 days) | 37          | 17          | 5           | 0           | 0           |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 3.2e: Number of longest wait overdue patients at 31 December 2011 remaining on elective surgery waiting lists at end of each quarter, South Australia, 2012**

|                              | 31 Dec 2011 | 31 Mar 2012 | 30 Jun 2012 | 30 Sep 2012 | 31 Dec 2012 |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Category 1 (within 30 days)  | 6           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           |
| Category 2 (within 90 days)  | 14          | 3           | 2           | 2           | 0           |
| Category 3 (within 365 days) | 13          | 4           | 2           | 2           | 0           |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 3.2f: Number of longest wait overdue patients at 31 December 2011 remaining on elective surgery waiting lists at end of each quarter, Tasmania, 2012**

|                              | 31 Dec 2011 | 31 Mar 2012 | 30 Jun 2012 | 30 Sep 2012 | 31 Dec 2012 |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Category 1 (within 30 days)  | 17          | 6           | 2           | 1           | 0           |
| Category 2 (within 90 days)  | 252         | 179         | 124         | 97          | 57          |
| Category 3 (within 365 days) | 105         | 101         | 100         | 99          | 98          |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 3.2g: Number of longest wait overdue patients at 31 December 2011 remaining on elective surgery waiting lists at end of each quarter, Australian Capital Territory, 2012**

|                              | 31 Dec 2011 | 31 Mar 2012 | 30 Jun 2012 | 30 Sep 2012 | 31 Dec 2012 |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Category 1 (within 30 days)  | 2           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           |
| Category 2 (within 90 days)  | 109         | 41          | 22          | 5           | 0           |
| Category 3 (within 365 days) | 20          | 9           | 0           | 0           | 0           |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 3.2h: Number of longest wait overdue patients at 31 December 2011 remaining on elective surgery waiting lists at end of each quarter, Northern Territory, 2012**

|                              | 31 Dec 2011 | 31 Mar 2012 | 30 Jun 2012 | 30 Sep 2012 | 31 Dec 2012 |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Category 1 (within 30 days)  | 4           | 1           | 0           | 0           | 0           |
| Category 2 (within 90 days)  | 23          | 17          | 8           | 3           | 2           |
| Category 3 (within 365 days) | 10          | 5           | 3           | 1           | 1           |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## Other performance indicators

This section presents performance indicators required to be reported under Clauses A44 and A45 of the NPA-IPHS.

### Admissions and other removals from waiting lists

Table 3.3 incorporates total removals for elective and emergency admission from elective surgery waiting lists in 2012. There were almost 671,000 admissions from public hospital elective surgery waiting lists, as either an elective or an emergency admission. Emergency admissions accounted for around 0.5% of admissions across Australia, ranging from 0.2% in Queensland to 0.8% in Tasmania.

In this table 'elective admissions' refer to patients admitted as elective patients for their awaited procedure by or on behalf of this hospital or the state/territory. 'Emergency admissions' refer to patients admitted as emergency patients for their awaited procedure by or on behalf of this hospital or the state/territory.

**Table 3.3: Number of patients admitted for elective surgery from waiting lists, by quarter, public hospitals, states and territories, 2012**

| State or territory           | Jan–Mar | Apr–Jun | Jul–Sep | Oct–Dec | Total   |
|------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| New South Wales              |         |         |         |         |         |
| Elective admissions          | 48,877  | 52,401  | 55,694  | 54,213  | 211,185 |
| Emergency admissions         | 362     | 412     | 430     | 374     | 1,578   |
| Total admissions             | 49,239  | 52,813  | 56,124  | 54,587  | 212,763 |
| Victoria                     |         |         |         |         |         |
| Elective admissions          | 35,741  | 38,756  | 40,615  | 38,257  | 153,369 |
| Emergency admissions         | 153     | 174     | 147     | 131     | 605     |
| Total admissions             | 35,894  | 38,930  | 40,762  | 38,388  | 153,974 |
| Queensland                   |         |         |         |         |         |
| Elective admissions          | 28,966  | 31,471  | 31,364  | 30,442  | 122,243 |
| Emergency admissions         | 22      | 38      | 85      | 94      | 239     |
| Total admissions             | 28,988  | 31,509  | 31,449  | 30,536  | 122,482 |
| Western Australia            |         |         |         |         |         |
| Elective admissions          | 19,625  | 19,913  | 21,952  | 20,987  | 82,477  |
| Emergency admissions         | 125     | 117     | 181     | 146     | 569     |
| Total admissions             | 19,750  | 20,030  | 22,133  | 21,133  | 83,046  |
| South Australia              |         |         |         |         |         |
| Elective admissions          | 15,527  | 16,528  | 16,160  | 15,842  | 64,057  |
| Emergency admissions         | 110     | 87      | 100     | 88      | 385     |
| Total admissions             | 15,637  | 16,615  | 16,260  | 15,930  | 64,442  |
| Tasmania                     |         |         |         |         |         |
| Elective admissions          | 3,438   | 3,834   | 3,895   | 3,743   | 14,910  |
| Emergency admissions         | 30      | 26      | 32      | 28      | 116     |
| Total admissions             | 3,468   | 3,860   | 3,927   | 3,771   | 15,026  |
| Australian Capital Territory |         |         |         |         |         |
| Elective admissions          | 2,634   | 2,905   | 3,134   | 2,902   | 11,575  |
| Emergency admissions         | 14      | 17      | 12      | 9       | 52      |
| Total admissions             | 2,648   | 2,922   | 3,146   | 2,911   | 11,627  |
| Northern Territory           |         |         |         |         |         |
| Elective admissions          | 1,603   | 1,811   | 2,032   | 1,923   | 7,369   |
| Emergency admissions         | 9       | 14      | 13      | 8       | 44      |
| Total admissions             | 1,612   | 1,825   | 2,045   | 1,931   | 7,413   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                 |         |         |         |         |         |
| Elective admissions          | 156,411 | 167,619 | 174,846 | 168,309 | 667,185 |
| Emergency admissions         | 825     | 885     | 1,000   | 878     | 3,588   |
| Total admissions             | 157,236 | 168,504 | 175,846 | 169,187 | 670,773 |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

In 2012, there were 98,311 removals from elective surgery waiting list for reasons other than admission to hospital (Table 3.4). Data for states and territories are provided in Appendix 3.

**Table 3.4: Removals from waiting lists for elective surgery, for reasons other than surgery, by reason for removal, states and territories, 2012**

| Reason for removal                             | Jan–Mar       | Apr–Jun       | Jul–Sep       | Oct–Dec       | Total         |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Not contactable/died                           | 1,721         | 1,851         | 2,017         | 1,815         | <b>7,404</b>  |
| Treated elsewhere                              | 4,402         | 4,599         | 4,483         | 4,128         | <b>17,612</b> |
| Surgery not required or declined               | 14,554        | 14,895        | 15,511        | 14,171        | <b>59,131</b> |
| Transferred to another hospital's waiting list | 2,273         | 2,494         | 2,498         | 2,774         | <b>10,039</b> |
| Not reported                                   | 918           | 985           | 1,110         | 1,112         | <b>4,125</b>  |
| <b>Total removals</b>                          | <b>23,868</b> | <b>24,824</b> | <b>25,619</b> | <b>24,000</b> | <b>98,311</b> |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## Median waiting times

Tables 3.5a through 3.5h present information on elective and emergency admissions from waiting lists, and median waiting times by clinical urgency category, for each state and territory.

Median waiting times ranged from 27 days in Queensland to 55 days in the Australian Capital Territory. Numbers of admissions were highest in the July–September quarter nationally and in six states and territories.

**Table 3.5a: Median waiting times and admissions from waiting lists for elective surgery, by clinical urgency category and quarter, New South Wales, 2012**

|                                            | Jan–Mar       | Apr–Jun       | Jul–Sep       | Oct–Dec       | Total          |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Category 1 (within 30 days)                |               |               |               |               |                |
| Number of admissions                       | 11,988        | 12,736        | 13,983        | 13,637        | <b>52,344</b>  |
| Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | 11            | 11            | 11            | 10            | <b>11</b>      |
| Category 2 (within 90 days)                |               |               |               |               |                |
| Number of admissions                       | 15,793        | 17,130        | 18,172        | 17,651        | <b>68,746</b>  |
| Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | 51            | 48            | 46            | 45            | <b>48</b>      |
| Category 3 (within 365 days)               |               |               |               |               |                |
| Number of admissions                       | 21,458        | 22,947        | 23,969        | 23,299        | <b>91,673</b>  |
| Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | 199           | 209           | 199           | 195           | <b>200</b>     |
| <b>Total</b>                               |               |               |               |               |                |
| Number of admissions                       | <b>49,239</b> | <b>52,813</b> | <b>56,124</b> | <b>54,587</b> | <b>212,763</b> |
| Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | <b>55</b>     | <b>51</b>     | <b>49</b>     | <b>47</b>     | <b>50</b>      |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 3.5b: Median waiting times and admissions from waiting lists for elective surgery, by clinical urgency category and quarter, Victoria, 2012**

|                                                  | Jan–Mar       | Apr–Jun       | Jul–Sep       | Oct–Dec       | Total          |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Category 1 (within 30 days)                      |               |               |               |               |                |
| Number of admissions                             | 10,967        | 11,842        | 12,215        | 12,199        | <b>47,223</b>  |
| Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile       | 11            | 11            | 11            | 11            | <b>11</b>      |
| Category 2 (within 90 days)                      |               |               |               |               |                |
| Number of admissions                             | 17,097        | 18,216        | 19,185        | 17,830        | <b>72,328</b>  |
| Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile       | 67            | 57            | 57            | 59            | <b>60</b>      |
| Category 3 (within 365 days)                     |               |               |               |               |                |
| Number of admissions                             | 7,830         | 8,872         | 9,362         | 8,359         | <b>34,423</b>  |
| Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile       | 113           | 109           | 98            | 97            | <b>105</b>     |
| <b>Total</b>                                     |               |               |               |               |                |
| <b>Number of admissions</b>                      | <b>35,894</b> | <b>38,930</b> | <b>40,762</b> | <b>38,388</b> | <b>153,974</b> |
| <b>Days waited at 50<sup>th</sup> percentile</b> | <b>41</b>     | <b>37</b>     | <b>35</b>     | <b>33</b>     | <b>36</b>      |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 3.5c: Median waiting times and admissions from waiting lists for elective surgery, by clinical urgency category and quarter, Queensland, 2012**

|                                                  | Jan–Mar       | Apr–Jun       | Jul–Sep       | Oct–Dec       | Total          |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Category 1 (within 30 days)                      |               |               |               |               |                |
| Number of admissions                             | 11,504        | 12,267        | 12,727        | 12,662        | <b>49,160</b>  |
| Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile       | 12            | 13            | 11            | 10            | <b>12</b>      |
| Category 2 (within 90 days)                      |               |               |               |               |                |
| Number of admissions                             | 13,055        | 13,636        | 13,851        | 12,904        | <b>53,446</b>  |
| Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile       | 56            | 51            | 51            | 51            | <b>52</b>      |
| Category 3 (within 365 days)                     |               |               |               |               |                |
| Number of admissions                             | 4,429         | 5,606         | 4,871         | 4,970         | <b>19,876</b>  |
| Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile       | 121           | 84            | 120           | 113           | <b>109</b>     |
| <b>Total</b>                                     |               |               |               |               |                |
| <b>Number of admissions</b>                      | <b>28,988</b> | <b>31,509</b> | <b>31,449</b> | <b>30,536</b> | <b>122,482</b> |
| <b>Days waited at 50<sup>th</sup> percentile</b> | <b>28</b>     | <b>28</b>     | <b>27</b>     | <b>26</b>     | <b>27</b>      |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 3.5d: Median waiting times and admissions from waiting lists for elective surgery, by clinical urgency category and quarter, Western Australia, 2012**

|                                                  | Jan–Mar       | Apr–Jun       | Jul–Sep       | Oct–Dec       | Total         |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Category 1 (within 30 days)                      |               |               |               |               |               |
| Number of admissions                             | 4,449         | 4,834         | 5,297         | 5,694         | <b>20,274</b> |
| Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile       | 14            | 12            | 12            | 10            | <b>12</b>     |
| Category 2 (within 90 days)                      |               |               |               |               |               |
| Number of admissions                             | 6,815         | 6,807         | 7,968         | 7,305         | <b>28,895</b> |
| Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile       | 42            | 39            | 39            | 39            | <b>40</b>     |
| Category 3 (within 365 days)                     |               |               |               |               |               |
| Number of admissions                             | 8,486         | 8,389         | 8,868         | 8,134         | <b>33,877</b> |
| Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile       | 49            | 49            | 54            | 61            | <b>53</b>     |
| <b>Total</b>                                     |               |               |               |               |               |
| <b>Number of admissions</b>                      | <b>19,750</b> | <b>20,030</b> | <b>22,133</b> | <b>21,133</b> | <b>83,046</b> |
| <b>Days waited at 50<sup>th</sup> percentile</b> | <b>33</b>     | <b>30</b>     | <b>30</b>     | <b>29</b>     | <b>30</b>     |

Note: Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 3.5e: Median waiting times and admissions from waiting lists for elective surgery, by clinical urgency category and quarter, South Australia, 2012**

|                                                  | Jan–Mar       | Apr–Jun       | Jul–Sep       | Oct–Dec       | Total         |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Category 1 (within 30 days)                      |               |               |               |               |               |
| Number of admissions                             | 4,186         | 4,588         | 4,327         | 4,375         | <b>17,476</b> |
| Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile       | 10            | 12            | 11            | 11            | <b>11</b>     |
| Category 2 (within 90 days)                      |               |               |               |               |               |
| Number of admissions                             | 5,244         | 5,528         | 5,875         | 5,627         | <b>22,274</b> |
| Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile       | 46            | 43            | 41            | 41            | <b>42</b>     |
| Category 3 (within 365 days)                     |               |               |               |               |               |
| Number of admissions                             | 6,207         | 6,499         | 6,058         | 5,928         | <b>24,692</b> |
| Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile       | 85            | 89            | 85            | 84            | <b>85</b>     |
| <b>Total</b>                                     |               |               |               |               |               |
| <b>Number of admissions</b>                      | <b>15,637</b> | <b>16,615</b> | <b>16,260</b> | <b>15,930</b> | <b>64,442</b> |
| <b>Days waited at 50<sup>th</sup> percentile</b> | <b>35</b>     | <b>35</b>     | <b>33</b>     | <b>32</b>     | <b>34</b>     |

Note: Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 3.5f: Median waiting times and admissions from waiting lists for elective surgery, by clinical urgency category and quarter, public hospitals, Tasmania, 2012**

|                                                  | Jan–Mar      | Apr–Jun      | Jul–Sep      | Oct–Dec      | Total         |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Category 1 (within 30 days)                      |              |              |              |              |               |
| Number of admissions                             | 1,403        | 1,529        | 1,571        | 1,510        | <b>6,013</b>  |
| Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile       | 14           | 15           | 15           | 15           | <b>15</b>     |
| Category 2 (within 90 days)                      |              |              |              |              |               |
| Number of admissions                             | 1,486        | 1,583        | 1,641        | 1,533        | <b>6,243</b>  |
| Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile       | 70           | 65           | 63           | 64           | <b>66</b>     |
| Category 3 (within 365 days)                     |              |              |              |              |               |
| Number of admissions                             | 579          | 748          | 715          | 728          | <b>2,770</b>  |
| Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile       | 171          | 199          | 169          | 188          | <b>183</b>    |
| <b>Total</b>                                     |              |              |              |              |               |
| <b>Number of admissions</b>                      | <b>3,468</b> | <b>3,860</b> | <b>3,927</b> | <b>3,771</b> | <b>15,026</b> |
| <b>Days waited at 50<sup>th</sup> percentile</b> | <b>40</b>    | <b>40</b>    | <b>39</b>    | <b>35</b>    | <b>38</b>     |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 3.5g: Median waiting times and admissions from waiting lists for elective surgery, by clinical urgency category and quarter, public hospitals, Australian Capital Territory, 2012**

|                                                  | Jan–Mar      | Apr–Jun      | Jul–Sep      | Oct–Dec      | Total         |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Category 1 (within 30 days)                      |              |              |              |              |               |
| Number of admissions                             | 699          | 879          | 955          | 1,022        | <b>3,555</b>  |
| Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile       | 14           | 13           | 13           | 12           | <b>13</b>     |
| Category 2 (within 90 days)                      |              |              |              |              |               |
| Number of admissions                             | 1,333        | 1,416        | 1,484        | 1,214        | <b>5,447</b>  |
| Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile       | 109          | 77           | 70           | 66           | <b>77</b>     |
| Category 3 (within 365 days)                     |              |              |              |              |               |
| Number of admissions                             | 616          | 627          | 707          | 675          | <b>2,625</b>  |
| Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile       | 201          | 179          | 162          | 150          | <b>175</b>    |
| <b>Total</b>                                     |              |              |              |              |               |
| <b>Number of admissions</b>                      | <b>2,648</b> | <b>2,922</b> | <b>3,146</b> | <b>2,911</b> | <b>11,627</b> |
| <b>Days waited at 50<sup>th</sup> percentile</b> | <b>85</b>    | <b>56</b>    | <b>52</b>    | <b>42</b>    | <b>55</b>     |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 3.5h: Median waiting times and admissions from waiting lists for elective surgery, by clinical urgency category and quarter, public hospitals, Northern Territory, 2012**

|                                                  | Jan-Mar      | Apr-Jun      | Jul-Sep      | Oct-Dec      | Total        |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Category 1 (within 30 days)                      |              |              |              |              |              |
| Number of admissions                             | 716          | 593          | 583          | 597          | <b>2,489</b> |
| Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile       | 10           | 14           | 12           | 12           | <b>12</b>    |
| Category 2 (within 90 days)                      |              |              |              |              |              |
| Number of admissions                             | 644          | 821          | 1,014        | 955          | <b>3,434</b> |
| Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile       | 71           | 61           | 53           | 50           | <b>57</b>    |
| Category 3 (within 365 days)                     |              |              |              |              |              |
| Number of admissions                             | 252          | 411          | 448          | 379          | <b>1,490</b> |
| Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile       | 168          | 208          | 154          | 160          | <b>170</b>   |
| <b>Total</b>                                     |              |              |              |              |              |
| <b>Number of admissions</b>                      | <b>1,612</b> | <b>1,825</b> | <b>2,045</b> | <b>1,931</b> | <b>7,413</b> |
| <b>Days waited at 50<sup>th</sup> percentile</b> | <b>35</b>    | <b>48</b>    | <b>42</b>    | <b>36</b>    | <b>41</b>    |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

Indicator procedures are those of high volume and are often associated with long waits. Tables 3.6a through 3.6h present elective and emergency admissions from elective surgery waiting lists, and median waiting times for each quarter, for states and territories, by indicator procedure, for 2012.

Median waiting times were shortest for coronary artery bypass grafts in six states and territories and longest for total knee replacement in five states and territories. There is variation in how states and territories record waiting times data for cystoscopy. See *Australian hospital statistics 2011–12: elective surgery waiting times* for more information (AIHW, 2012d).

**Table 3.6a: Median waiting times and admissions from elective surgery waiting lists, by indicator procedure and quarter, New South Wales, 2012**

| Indicator procedure                   | Jan–Mar       |                                            | Apr–Jun       |                                            | Jul–Sep       |                                            | Oct–Dec       |                                            | Total          |                                            |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------|
|                                       | Admissions    | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | Admissions    | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | Admissions    | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | Admissions    | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | Admissions     | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile |
| Cataract extraction                   | 5,116         | 237                                        | 5,874         | 246                                        | 6,269         | 224                                        | 6,161         | 217                                        | 23,420         | 231                                        |
| Cholecystectomy                       | 1,660         | 67                                         | 1,802         | 60                                         | 1,807         | 58                                         | 1,766         | 55                                         | 7,035          | 60                                         |
| Coronary artery bypass graft          | 199           | 23                                         | 220           | 27                                         | 217           | 28                                         | 231           | 29                                         | 867            | 27                                         |
| Cystoscopy                            | 4,011         | 26                                         | 4,288         | 24                                         | 4,136         | 24                                         | 3,766         | 23                                         | 16,201         | 24                                         |
| Haemorrhoidectomy                     | 271           | 83                                         | 324           | 73                                         | 320           | 77                                         | 301           | 62                                         | 1,216          | 74                                         |
| Hysterectomy                          | 840           | 62                                         | 921           | 61                                         | 848           | 71                                         | 658           | 54                                         | 3,267          | 62                                         |
| Inguinal herniorrhaphy                | 1,354         | 79                                         | 1,486         | 79                                         | 1,721         | 68                                         | 1,643         | 68                                         | 6,204          | 73                                         |
| Myringoplasty                         | 114           | 315                                        | 85            | 327                                        | 115           | 278                                        | 113           | 278                                        | 427            | 301                                        |
| Myringotomy                           | 72            | 88                                         | 93            | 86                                         | 99            | 68                                         | 96            | 71                                         | 360            | 77                                         |
| Prostatectomy                         | 641           | 66                                         | 633           | 50                                         | 689           | 52                                         | 654           | 50                                         | 2,617          | 55                                         |
| Septoplasty                           | 356           | 323                                        | 384           | 338                                        | 379           | 330                                        | 439           | 329                                        | 1,558          | 331                                        |
| Tonsillectomy                         | 1,262         | 224                                        | 1,272         | 254                                        | 1,403         | 251                                        | 1,469         | 267                                        | 5,406          | 252                                        |
| Total hip replacement                 | 710           | 211                                        | 857           | 194                                        | 785           | 159                                        | 840           | 193                                        | 3,192          | 189                                        |
| Total knee replacement                | 1,339         | 315                                        | 1,443         | 296                                        | 1,565         | 285                                        | 1,441         | 291                                        | 5,788          | 296                                        |
| Varicose veins stripping and ligation | 332           | 103                                        | 414           | 117                                        | 420           | 99                                         | 352           | 94                                         | 1,518          | 103                                        |
| Other procedures                      | 30,962        | 35                                         | 32,717        | 34                                         | 35,351        | 32                                         | 34,657        | 30                                         | 133,687        | 33                                         |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>49,239</b> | <b>55</b>                                  | <b>52,813</b> | <b>51</b>                                  | <b>56,124</b> | <b>49</b>                                  | <b>54,587</b> | <b>47</b>                                  | <b>212,763</b> | <b>50</b>                                  |

Note: Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 3.6b: Median waiting times and admissions from elective surgery waiting lists, by indicator procedure and quarter, Victoria, 2012**

| Indicator procedure                   | Jan–Mar       |                                            | Apr–Jun       |                                            | Jul–Sep       |                                            | Oct–Dec       |                                            | Total          |                                            |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------|
|                                       | Admissions    | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | Admissions    | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | Admissions    | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | Admissions    | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | Admissions     | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile |
| Cataract extraction                   | 2,848         | 70                                         | 3,378         | 63                                         | 3,437         | 48                                         | 2,992         | 48                                         | 12,655         | 56                                         |
| Cholecystectomy                       | 970           | 68                                         | 1,006         | 57                                         | 1,008         | 55                                         | 1,064         | 62                                         | 4,048          | 59                                         |
| Coronary artery bypass graft          | 212           | 18                                         | 213           | 21                                         | 213           | 18                                         | 213           | 18                                         | 851            | 18                                         |
| Cystoscopy                            | 3,509         | 22                                         | 3,765         | 21                                         | 3,988         | 21                                         | 3,773         | 19                                         | 15,035         | 21                                         |
| Haemorrhoidectomy                     | 303           | 79                                         | 342           | 76                                         | 346           | 65                                         | 328           | 71                                         | 1,319          | 72                                         |
| Hysterectomy                          | 591           | 63                                         | 552           | 59                                         | 601           | 62                                         | 632           | 56                                         | 2,376          | 60                                         |
| Inguinal herniorrhaphy                | 791           | 73                                         | 873           | 63                                         | 904           | 65                                         | 815           | 66                                         | 3,383          | 67                                         |
| Myringoplasty                         | 70            | 110                                        | 93            | 95                                         | 84            | 125                                        | 91            | 103                                        | 338            | 110                                        |
| Myringotomy                           | 333           | 69                                         | 393           | 57                                         | 384           | 32                                         | 426           | 40                                         | 1,536          | 49                                         |
| Prostatectomy                         | 514           | 41                                         | 514           | 31                                         | 533           | 29                                         | 485           | 26                                         | 2,046          | 29                                         |
| Septoplasty                           | 318           | 105                                        | 330           | 106                                        | 341           | 107                                        | 305           | 117                                        | 1,294          | 107                                        |
| Tonsillectomy                         | 1,023         | 105                                        | 1,013         | 113                                        | 1,079         | 104                                        | 1,059         | 90                                         | 4,174          | 104                                        |
| Total hip replacement                 | 472           | 114                                        | 553           | 95                                         | 579           | 97                                         | 550           | 88                                         | 2,154          | 99                                         |
| Total knee replacement                | 608           | 126                                        | 666           | 129                                        | 694           | 136                                        | 628           | 134                                        | 2,596          | 132                                        |
| Varicose veins stripping and ligation | 294           | 131                                        | 309           | 132                                        | 345           | 126                                        | 304           | 134                                        | 1,252          | 130                                        |
| Other procedures                      | 23,038        | 31                                         | 24,930        | 30                                         | 26,226        | 30                                         | 24,723        | 28                                         | 98,917         | 29                                         |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>35,894</b> | <b>41</b>                                  | <b>38,930</b> | <b>37</b>                                  | <b>40,762</b> | <b>35</b>                                  | <b>38,388</b> | <b>33</b>                                  | <b>153,974</b> | <b>36</b>                                  |

Note: Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 3.6c: Median waiting times and admissions from elective surgery waiting lists, by indicator procedure and quarter, Queensland, 2012**

| Indicator procedure                   | Jan–Mar       |                                            | Apr–Jun       |                                            | Jul–Sep       |                                            | Oct–Dec       |                                            | Total          |                                            |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------|
|                                       | Admissions    | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | Admissions    | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | Admissions    | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | Admissions    | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | Admissions     | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile |
| Cataract extraction                   | 1,567         | 63                                         | 2,729         | 49                                         | 1,820         | 49                                         | 1,790         | 51                                         | 7,906          | 52                                         |
| Cholecystectomy                       | 919           | 53                                         | 906           | 41                                         | 964           | 44                                         | 923           | 43                                         | 3,712          | 45                                         |
| Coronary artery bypass graft          | 333           | 8                                          | 313           | 9                                          | 300           | 7                                          | 320           | 8                                          | 1,266          | 8                                          |
| Cystoscopy                            | 949           | 26                                         | 910           | 23                                         | 1,065         | 24                                         | 1,061         | 23                                         | 3,985          | 24                                         |
| Haemorrhoidectomy                     | 143           | 61                                         | 124           | 59                                         | 142           | 45                                         | 120           | 47                                         | 529            | 52                                         |
| Hysterectomy                          | 537           | 57                                         | 564           | 58                                         | 546           | 47                                         | 517           | 53                                         | 2,164          | 54                                         |
| Inguinal herniorrhaphy                | 588           | 62                                         | 545           | 55                                         | 586           | 51                                         | 526           | 63                                         | 2,245          | 57                                         |
| Myringoplasty                         | 118           | 83                                         | 95            | 83                                         | 125           | 70                                         | 103           | 80                                         | 441            | 80                                         |
| Myringotomy                           | 356           | 45                                         | 374           | 31                                         | 457           | 30                                         | 506           | 29                                         | 1,693          | 31                                         |
| Prostatectomy                         | 367           | 45                                         | 383           | 34                                         | 356           | 34                                         | 338           | 42                                         | 1,444          | 38                                         |
| Septoplasty                           | 154           | 62                                         | 171           | 65                                         | 188           | 78                                         | 166           | 71                                         | 679            | 70                                         |
| Tonsillectomy                         | 861           | 66                                         | 874           | 62                                         | 863           | 51                                         | 815           | 51                                         | 3,413          | 56                                         |
| Total hip replacement                 | 368           | 86                                         | 400           | 89                                         | 395           | 94                                         | 435           | 78                                         | 1,598          | 86                                         |
| Total knee replacement                | 524           | 129                                        | 544           | 141                                        | 611           | 140                                        | 610           | 138                                        | 2,289          | 138                                        |
| Varicose veins stripping and ligation | 119           | 69                                         | 135           | 61                                         | 140           | 44                                         | 99            | 45                                         | 493            | 51                                         |
| Other procedures                      | 21,085        | 24                                         | 22,442        | 24                                         | 22,891        | 23                                         | 22,207        | 22                                         | 88,625         | 23                                         |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>28,988</b> | <b>28</b>                                  | <b>31,509</b> | <b>28</b>                                  | <b>31,449</b> | <b>27</b>                                  | <b>30,536</b> | <b>26</b>                                  | <b>122,482</b> | <b>27</b>                                  |

Note: Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 3.6d: Median waiting times and admissions from elective surgery waiting lists, by indicator procedure and quarter, Western Australia, 2012**

| Indicator procedure                   | Jan–Mar       |                                            | Apr–Jun       |                                            | Jul–Sep       |                                            | Oct–Dec       |                                            | Total         |                                            |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------|
|                                       | Admissions    | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | Admissions    | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | Admissions    | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | Admissions    | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | Admissions    | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile |
| Cataract extraction                   | 2,290         | 38                                         | 2,287         | 34                                         | 2,687         | 41                                         | 2,464         | 47                                         | 9,728         | 40                                         |
| Cholecystectomy                       | 409           | 36                                         | 416           | 28                                         | 436           | 28                                         | 442           | 29                                         | 1,703         | 29                                         |
| Coronary artery bypass graft          | 47            | 28                                         | 63            | 18                                         | 68            | 14                                         | 56            | 9                                          | 234           | 15                                         |
| Cystoscopy                            | 1,316         | 28                                         | 1,468         | 28                                         | 1,715         | 22                                         | 1,744         | 22                                         | 6,243         | 24                                         |
| Haemorrhoidectomy                     | 143           | 30                                         | 129           | 43                                         | 169           | 41                                         | 150           | 29                                         | 591           | 35                                         |
| Hysterectomy                          | 263           | 38                                         | 276           | 41                                         | 285           | 35                                         | 285           | 30                                         | 1,109         | 36                                         |
| Inguinal herniorrhaphy                | 433           | 33                                         | 422           | 35                                         | 531           | 34                                         | 423           | 28                                         | 1,809         | 32                                         |
| Myringoplasty                         | 64            | 108                                        | 98            | 92                                         | 106           | 111                                        | 87            | 50                                         | 355           | 96                                         |
| Myringotomy                           | 250           | 57                                         | 267           | 55                                         | 288           | 46                                         | 325           | 45                                         | 1,130         | 50                                         |
| Prostatectomy                         | 174           | 37                                         | 165           | 40                                         | 223           | 36                                         | 211           | 33                                         | 773           | 36                                         |
| Septoplasty                           | 97            | 103                                        | 107           | 112                                        | 115           | 117                                        | 90            | 73                                         | 409           | 103                                        |
| Tonsillectomy                         | 516           | 93                                         | 543           | 84                                         | 516           | 83                                         | 473           | 76                                         | 2,048         | 83                                         |
| Total hip replacement                 | 277           | 99                                         | 236           | 83                                         | 303           | 103                                        | 293           | 92                                         | 1,109         | 96                                         |
| Total knee replacement                | 336           | 116                                        | 355           | 121                                        | 429           | 110                                        | 401           | 112                                        | 1,521         | 114                                        |
| Varicose veins stripping and ligation | 76            | 90                                         | 90            | 78                                         | 89            | 54                                         | 93            | 67                                         | 348           | 75                                         |
| Other procedures                      | 13,059        | 29                                         | 13,108        | 27                                         | 14,173        | 27                                         | 13,596        | 25                                         | 53,936        | 27                                         |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>19,750</b> | <b>33</b>                                  | <b>20,030</b> | <b>30</b>                                  | <b>22,133</b> | <b>30</b>                                  | <b>21,133</b> | <b>29</b>                                  | <b>83,046</b> | <b>30</b>                                  |

Note: Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 3.6e: Median waiting times and admissions from elective surgery waiting lists, by indicator procedure and quarter, South Australia, 2012**

| Indicator procedure                   | Jan–Mar       |                                            | Apr–Jun       |                                            | Jul–Sep       |                                            | Oct–Dec       |                                            | Total         |                                            |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------|
|                                       | Admissions    | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | Admissions    | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | Admissions    | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | Admissions    | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | Admissions    | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile |
| Cataract extraction                   | 1,550         | 90                                         | 1,851         | 75                                         | 1,602         | 85                                         | 1,576         | 90                                         | 6,579         | 84                                         |
| Cholecystectomy                       | 378           | 48                                         | 398           | 42                                         | 391           | 41                                         | 304           | 29                                         | 1,471         | 41                                         |
| Coronary artery bypass graft          | 96            | 17                                         | 95            | 11                                         | 87            | 14                                         | 116           | 18                                         | 394           | 16                                         |
| Cystoscopy                            | 639           | 32                                         | 755           | 31                                         | 725           | 28                                         | 749           | 29                                         | 2,868         | 30                                         |
| Haemorrhoidectomy                     | 103           | 36                                         | 124           | 22                                         | 124           | 20                                         | 96            | 16                                         | 447           | 24                                         |
| Hysterectomy                          | 235           | 43                                         | 268           | 41                                         | 223           | 46                                         | 216           | 43                                         | 942           | 42                                         |
| Inguinal herniorrhaphy                | 364           | 32                                         | 299           | 35                                         | 360           | 31                                         | 287           | 26                                         | 1,310         | 31                                         |
| Myringoplasty                         | 28            | 76                                         | 31            | 56                                         | 28            | 65                                         | 25            | 90                                         | 112           | 70                                         |
| Myringotomy                           | 119           | 70                                         | 103           | 43                                         | 186           | 31                                         | 169           | 58                                         | 577           | 46                                         |
| Prostatectomy                         | 151           | 36                                         | 153           | 35                                         | 140           | 34                                         | 167           | 29                                         | 611           | 34                                         |
| Septoplasty                           | 109           | 116                                        | 105           | 139                                        | 94            | 123                                        | 80            | 88                                         | 388           | 117                                        |
| Tonsillectomy                         | 429           | 69                                         | 420           | 65                                         | 401           | 66                                         | 388           | 68                                         | 1,638         | 67                                         |
| Total hip replacement                 | 182           | 142                                        | 221           | 140                                        | 192           | 127                                        | 203           | 139                                        | 798           | 137                                        |
| Total knee replacement                | 297           | 175                                        | 309           | 195                                        | 282           | 154                                        | 310           | 146                                        | 1,198         | 171                                        |
| Varicose veins stripping and ligation | 111           | 126                                        | 123           | 103                                        | 107           | 81                                         | 109           | 94                                         | 450           | 102                                        |
| Other procedures                      | 10,846        | 29                                         | 11,360        | 28                                         | 11,318        | 27                                         | 11,135        | 27                                         | 44,659        | 28                                         |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>15,637</b> | <b>35</b>                                  | <b>16,615</b> | <b>35</b>                                  | <b>16,260</b> | <b>33</b>                                  | <b>15,930</b> | <b>32</b>                                  | <b>64,442</b> | <b>34</b>                                  |

Note: Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 3.6f: Median waiting times and admissions from elective surgery waiting lists, by indicator procedure and quarter, Tasmania, 2012**

| Indicator procedure                   | Jan–Mar      |                                            | Apr–Jun      |                                            | Jul–Sep      |                                            | Oct–Dec      |                                            | Total         |                                            |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------|
|                                       | Admissions   | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | Admissions   | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | Admissions   | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | Admissions   | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | Admissions    | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile |
| Cataract extraction                   | 178          | 243                                        | 263          | 313                                        | 205          | 309                                        | 392          | 390                                        | 1,038         | 309                                        |
| Cholecystectomy                       | 112          | 94                                         | 139          | 88                                         | 134          | 83                                         | 160          | 75                                         | 545           | 84                                         |
| Coronary artery bypass graft          | 45           | 20                                         | 37           | 23                                         | 48           | 47                                         | 30           | 14                                         | 160           | 26                                         |
| Cystoscopy                            | 146          | 33                                         | 121          | 24                                         | 163          | 30                                         | 202          | 29                                         | 632           | 30                                         |
| Haemorrhoidectomy                     | 9            | n.p.                                       | 13           | 102                                        | 12           | 102                                        | 20           | 35                                         | 54            | 76                                         |
| Hysterectomy                          | 58           | 74                                         | 63           | 65                                         | 83           | 48                                         | 83           | 80                                         | 287           | 65                                         |
| Inguinal herniorrhaphy                | 111          | 55                                         | 122          | 56                                         | 117          | 97                                         | 142          | 102                                        | 492           | 67                                         |
| Myringoplasty                         | 5            | n.p.                                       | 13           | 55                                         | 10           | 65                                         | 7            | n.p.                                       | 35            | 62                                         |
| Myringotomy                           | 43           | 90                                         | 40           | 48                                         | 32           | 72                                         | 38           | 37                                         | 153           | 55                                         |
| Prostatectomy                         | 12           | 66                                         | 7            | n.p.                                       | 17           | 56                                         | 7            | n.p.                                       | 43            | 61                                         |
| Septoplasty                           | 21           | 133                                        | 21           | 244                                        | 23           | 136                                        | 19           | 226                                        | 84            | 190                                        |
| Tonsillectomy                         | 71           | 105                                        | 74           | 94                                         | 65           | 70                                         | 66           | 89                                         | 276           | 88                                         |
| Total hip replacement                 | 36           | 256                                        | 45           | 206                                        | 53           | 297                                        | 59           | 322                                        | 193           | 259                                        |
| Total knee replacement                | 44           | 591                                        | 41           | 538                                        | 52           | 286                                        | 66           | 724                                        | 203           | 546                                        |
| Varicose veins stripping and ligation | 3            | n.p.                                       | 5            | n.p.                                       | 11           | 39                                         | 5            | n.p.                                       | 24            | 40                                         |
| Other procedures                      | 2,574        | 32                                         | 2,856        | 32                                         | 2,902        | 29                                         | 2,475        | 25                                         | 10,807        | 29                                         |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>3,468</b> | <b>40</b>                                  | <b>3,860</b> | <b>40</b>                                  | <b>3,927</b> | <b>39</b>                                  | <b>3,771</b> | <b>35</b>                                  | <b>15,026</b> | <b>38</b>                                  |

Note: Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 3.6g: Median waiting times and admissions from elective surgery waiting lists, by indicator procedure and quarter, Australian Capital Territory, 2012**

| Indicator procedure                   | Jan–Mar      |                                            | Apr–Jun      |                                            | Jul–Sep      |                                            | Oct–Dec      |                                            | Total         |                                            |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------|
|                                       | Admissions   | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | Admissions   | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | Admissions   | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | Admissions   | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | Admissions    | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile |
| Cataract extraction                   | 321          | 177                                        | 270          | 156                                        | 340          | 150                                        | 298          | 147                                        | 1,229         | 157                                        |
| Cholecystectomy                       | 75           | 67                                         | 78           | 38                                         | 54           | 62                                         | 62           | 48                                         | 269           | 50                                         |
| Coronary artery bypass graft          | 21           | 19                                         | 26           | 13                                         | 24           | 5                                          | 18           | 6                                          | 89            | 11                                         |
| Cystoscopy                            | 239          | 66                                         | 275          | 48                                         | 364          | 49                                         | 333          | 29                                         | 1,211         | 44                                         |
| Haemorrhoidectomy                     | 12           | 70                                         | 7            | n.p.                                       | 9            | n.p.                                       | 9            | n.p.                                       | 37            | 71                                         |
| Hysterectomy                          | 36           | 57                                         | 35           | 57                                         | 49           | 52                                         | 23           | 96                                         | 143           | 57                                         |
| Inguinal herniorrhaphy                | 63           | 113                                        | 66           | 56                                         | 79           | 63                                         | 68           | 85                                         | 276           | 84                                         |
| Myringoplasty                         | 2            | n.p.                                       | 6            | n.p.                                       | 0            | ..                                         | 5            | n.p.                                       | 13            | 405                                        |
| Myringotomy                           | 47           | 135                                        | 55           | 78                                         | 36           | 41                                         | 34           | 62                                         | 172           | 80                                         |
| Prostatectomy                         | 17           | 36                                         | 24           | 44                                         | 27           | 67                                         | 31           | 78                                         | 99            | 54                                         |
| Septoplasty                           | 25           | 319                                        | 23           | 158                                        | 14           | 114                                        | 28           | 346                                        | 90            | 246                                        |
| Tonsillectomy                         | 103          | 148                                        | 116          | 132                                        | 86           | 92                                         | 61           | 97                                         | 366           | 130                                        |
| Total hip replacement                 | 49           | 168                                        | 51           | 173                                        | 62           | 123                                        | 47           | 109                                        | 209           | 147                                        |
| Total knee replacement                | 76           | 223                                        | 66           | 173                                        | 70           | 154                                        | 62           | 149                                        | 274           | 181                                        |
| Varicose veins stripping and ligation | 41           | 196                                        | 63           | 178                                        | 63           | 168                                        | 41           | 192                                        | 208           | 182                                        |
| Other procedures                      | 1,521        | 41                                         | 1,761        | 29                                         | 1,869        | 30                                         | 1,791        | 27                                         | 6,942         | 29                                         |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>2,648</b> | <b>85</b>                                  | <b>2,922</b> | <b>56</b>                                  | <b>3,146</b> | <b>52</b>                                  | <b>2,911</b> | <b>42</b>                                  | <b>11,627</b> | <b>55</b>                                  |

Note: Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

.. Not applicable

**Table 3.6h: Median waiting times and admissions from elective surgery waiting lists, by indicator procedure, by quarter, Northern Territory, 2012**

| Indicator procedure                   | Jan–Mar      |                                            | Apr–Jun      |                                            | Jul–Sep      |                                            | Oct–Dec      |                                            | Total        |                                            |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------|
|                                       | Admissions   | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | Admissions   | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | Admissions   | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | Admissions   | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile | Admissions   | Days waited at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile |
| Cataract extraction                   | 103          | 155                                        | 159          | 212                                        | 171          | 176                                        | 183          | 167                                        | 616          | 177                                        |
| Cholecystectomy                       | 35           | 58                                         | 47           | 63                                         | 42           | 61                                         | 47           | 54                                         | 171          | 58                                         |
| Coronary artery bypass graft          | 0            | ..                                         | 0            | ..                                         | 0            | ..                                         | 0            | ..                                         | 0            | ..                                         |
| Cystoscopy                            | 68           | 41                                         | 83           | 55                                         | 89           | 57                                         | 82           | 52                                         | 322          | 50                                         |
| Haemorrhoidectomy                     | 41           | 106                                        | 52           | 132                                        | 62           | 92                                         | 62           | 49                                         | 217          | 97                                         |
| Hysterectomy                          | 12           | 87                                         | 14           | 89                                         | 17           | 95                                         | 13           | 61                                         | 56           | 82                                         |
| Inguinal herniorrhaphy                | 27           | 62                                         | 45           | 70                                         | 42           | 55                                         | 37           | 43                                         | 151          | 56                                         |
| Myringoplasty                         | 40           | 152                                        | 58           | 119                                        | 46           | 105                                        | 46           | 154                                        | 190          | 127                                        |
| Myringotomy                           | 35           | 63                                         | 36           | 58                                         | 33           | 39                                         | 30           | 43                                         | 134          | 50                                         |
| Prostatectomy                         | 7            | n.p.                                       | 4            | n.p.                                       | 4            | n.p.                                       | 5            | n.p.                                       | 20           | 59                                         |
| Septoplasty                           | 5            | n.p.                                       | 11           | 118                                        | 6            | n.p.                                       | 10           | 108                                        | 32           | 102                                        |
| Tonsillectomy                         | 23           | 80                                         | 47           | 73                                         | 54           | 75                                         | 45           | 81                                         | 169          | 74                                         |
| Total hip replacement                 | 6            | n.p.                                       | 13           | 146                                        | 13           | 107                                        | 14           | 130                                        | 46           | 124                                        |
| Total knee replacement                | 9            | n.p.                                       | 16           | 211                                        | 19           | 133                                        | 22           | 117                                        | 66           | 129                                        |
| Varicose veins stripping and ligation | 11           | 223                                        | 9            | n.p.                                       | 17           | 127                                        | 7            | n.p.                                       | 44           | 172                                        |
| Other procedures                      | 1,190        | 25                                         | 1,231        | 29                                         | 1,430        | 28                                         | 1,327        | 25                                         | 5,178        | 26                                         |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>1,612</b> | <b>35</b>                                  | <b>1,825</b> | <b>48</b>                                  | <b>2,045</b> | <b>42</b>                                  | <b>1,931</b> | <b>36</b>                                  | <b>7,413</b> | <b>41</b>                                  |

Note: Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

.. Not applicable

## Adverse events

Adverse events are generally defined as incidents in which harm resulted to a person receiving health care. They include infections, falls resulting in injuries, and problems with medication and medical devices. Some of these adverse events may be preventable.

Hospital separations data (see Glossary) include information on diagnoses, places of occurrence and external causes of injury and poisoning that can indicate that an adverse event was treated and/or occurred during the hospitalisation. However, other diagnosis codes may also suggest that an adverse event has occurred, and some adverse events are not identifiable using these codes.

Table 3.7 presents information on the proportion of separations for patients admitted from elective surgery waiting lists where an adverse event was reported, for patients admitted to hospitals from elective surgery waiting lists in the first three quarters of 2012.

The data presented in Table 3.7 can be interpreted as representing selected adverse events in health care that have affected the hospital admissions, rather than all adverse events that occurred.

Information on adverse events was calculated by the states and territories, not the AIHW. Therefore, the comparability of the calculations is unknown. Data for the October to December quarter were not available at the time of publication of this report. Further information on the definition for this indicator is provided in Appendix 2.

## Unplanned readmissions

Unplanned readmissions following selected surgical episodes of care are generally defined as the number of separations where the principal diagnosis indicates an unplanned or unexpected readmission following an episode of care, and where admission occurred within a specified period (in days).

Table 3.8 presents information on unplanned readmissions within 28 days to the same hospital, for patients admitted to hospitals from elective surgery waiting lists in the first three quarters of 2012. The indicator is an underestimate of all possible unplanned readmissions because:

- it could only be calculated for readmissions to the same hospital
- the unplanned and/or unexpected readmissions are limited to those having a principal diagnosis of a post-operative adverse event for which a specified *International statistical classification of diseases and related health problems, tenth revision, Australian modification* (ICD-10-AM) (NCCH, 2010) diagnosis code has been assigned. This does not include all possible unplanned/unexpected readmissions
- the indicator only includes unplanned readmissions where the urgency of admission was *Emergency*.

Information on unplanned readmissions was calculated by the states and territories, not the AIHW. Therefore, the comparability of the calculations is unknown. Data for the October to December quarter were not available at the time of publication of this report. Further information on the definition for this indicator is provided in Appendix 2.

**Table 3.7: Admissions from elective surgery waiting lists with adverse events reported, by quarter, states and territories, January through September 2012**

| State                                       | Jan–Mar        | Apr–Jun        | Jul–Sep        | Total          |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| New South Wales                             |                |                |                |                |
| Admissions with adverse events              | 2,772          | 2,883          | 2,710          | 8,365          |
| Total admissions                            | 47,691         | 51,021         | 54,331         | 153,043        |
| Proportion with an adverse event (%)        | 5.8            | 5.7            | 5.0            | 5.5            |
| Victoria                                    |                |                |                |                |
| Admissions with adverse events              | 755            | 796            | 759            | 2,310          |
| Total admissions                            | 34,666         | 37,655         | 39,480         | 111,801        |
| Proportion with an adverse event (%)        | 2.2            | 2.1            | 1.9            | 2.1            |
| Queensland                                  |                |                |                |                |
| Admissions with adverse events              | 1,897          | 1,792          | 2,068          | 5,757          |
| Total admissions                            | 27,416         | 27,767         | 29,665         | 84,848         |
| Proportion with an adverse event (%)        | 6.9            | 6.5            | 7.0            | 6.8            |
| Western Australia                           |                |                |                |                |
| Admissions with adverse events              | 1,046          | 971            | 990            | 3,007          |
| Total admissions                            | 19,482         | 19,692         | 21,075         | 60,249         |
| Proportion with an adverse event (%)        | 5.4            | 4.9            | 4.7            | 5.0            |
| South Australia                             |                |                |                |                |
| Admissions with adverse events              | 980            | 939            | 932            | 2,851          |
| Total admissions                            | 15,447         | 16,409         | 16,029         | 47,885         |
| Proportion with an adverse event (%)        | 6.3            | 5.7            | 5.8            | 6.0            |
| Tasmania                                    |                |                |                |                |
| Admissions with adverse events              | 220            | 233            | 252            | 705            |
| Total admissions                            | 3,425          | 3,814          | 3,865          | 11,104         |
| Proportion with an adverse event (%)        | 6.4            | 6.1            | 6.5            | 6.3            |
| Australian Capital Territory                |                |                |                |                |
| Admissions with adverse events              | 166            | 187            | 244            | 597            |
| Total admissions                            | 2,558          | 2,760          | 3,146          | 8,464          |
| Proportion with an adverse event (%)        | 6.5            | 6.8            | 7.8            | 7.1            |
| Northern Territory                          |                |                |                |                |
| Admissions with adverse events              | 79             | 82             | 80             | 241            |
| Total admissions                            | 1,450          | 1,668          | 1,867          | 4,985          |
| Proportion with an adverse event (%)        | 5.4            | 4.9            | 4.3            | 4.8            |
| <b>Total</b>                                |                |                |                |                |
| <b>Admissions with adverse events</b>       | <b>7,915</b>   | <b>7,883</b>   | <b>8,035</b>   | <b>23,833</b>  |
| <b>Total admissions</b>                     | <b>152,135</b> | <b>160,786</b> | <b>169,458</b> | <b>482,379</b> |
| <b>Proportion with an adverse event (%)</b> | <b>5.2</b>     | <b>4.9</b>     | <b>4.7</b>     | <b>4.9</b>     |

Note: Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table 3.8: Unplanned readmissions reported as following admissions from elective surgery waiting lists, by quarter, states and territories, January through September 2012**

| State                                    | Jan–Mar        | Apr–Jun        | Jul–Sep        | Total          |
|------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| New South Wales                          |                |                |                |                |
| Readmissions within 28 days              | 525            | 508            | 533            | <b>1,566</b>   |
| Admissions                               | 47,691         | 51,021         | 54,331         | <b>153,043</b> |
| Proportion with a readmission (%)        | 1.1            | 1.0            | 1.0            | <b>1.0</b>     |
| Victoria                                 |                |                |                |                |
| Readmissions within 28 days              | 787            | 830            | 793            | <b>2,410</b>   |
| Admissions                               | 34,666         | 37,655         | 39,480         | <b>111,801</b> |
| Proportion with a readmission (%)        | 2.3            | 2.2            | 2.0            | <b>2.2</b>     |
| Queensland                               |                |                |                |                |
| Readmissions within 28 days              | 400            | 333            | 401            | <b>1,134</b>   |
| Admissions                               | 27,416         | 27,767         | 29,665         | <b>84,848</b>  |
| Proportion with a readmission (%)        | 1.5            | 1.2            | 1.4            | <b>1.3</b>     |
| Western Australia                        |                |                |                |                |
| Readmissions within 28 days              | 219            | 205            | 205            | <b>629</b>     |
| Admissions                               | 19,482         | 19,692         | 21,075         | <b>60,249</b>  |
| Proportion with a readmission (%)        | 1.1            | 1.0            | 1.0            | <b>1.0</b>     |
| South Australia                          |                |                |                |                |
| Readmissions within 28 days              | 204            | 195            | 167            | <b>566</b>     |
| Admissions                               | 15,447         | 16,409         | 16,029         | <b>47,885</b>  |
| Proportion with a readmission (%)        | 1.3            | 1.2            | 1.0            | <b>1.2</b>     |
| Tasmania                                 |                |                |                |                |
| Readmissions within 28 days              | 19             | 16             | 24             | <b>59</b>      |
| Admissions                               | 3,425          | 3,814          | 3,865          | <b>11,104</b>  |
| Proportion with a readmission (%)        | 0.6            | 0.4            | 0.6            | <b>0.5</b>     |
| Australian Capital Territory             |                |                |                |                |
| Readmissions within 28 days              | 33             | 25             | 49             | <b>107</b>     |
| Admissions                               | 2,558          | 2,760          | 3,146          | <b>8,464</b>   |
| Proportion with a readmission (%)        | 1.3            | 0.9            | 1.6            | <b>1.3</b>     |
| Northern Territory                       |                |                |                |                |
| Readmissions within 28 days              | 35             | 39             | 46             | <b>120</b>     |
| Admissions                               | 1,450          | 1,668          | 1,867          | <b>4,985</b>   |
| Proportion with a readmission (%)        | 2.4            | 2.3            | 2.5            | <b>2.4</b>     |
| <b>Total</b>                             |                |                |                |                |
| <b>Readmissions within 28 days</b>       | <b>2,222</b>   | <b>2,151</b>   | <b>2,218</b>   | <b>6,591</b>   |
| <b>Admissions</b>                        | <b>152,135</b> | <b>160,786</b> | <b>169,458</b> | <b>482,379</b> |
| <b>Proportion with a readmission (%)</b> | <b>1.5</b>     | <b>1.3</b>     | <b>1.3</b>     | <b>1.4</b>     |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

# Appendix 1: Data quality statements

This appendix includes data quality statements relevant to the interpretation of the National Emergency Access Database (NEATD) and the National Elective Surgery Target Database (NESTD).

The data quality statements for the NEATD and the NESTD are also available online at <[www.aihw.gov.au](http://www.aihw.gov.au)>.

## The National Emergency Access Target Database

### Summary of key data quality issues

- The National Emergency Access Target Database (NEATD) is a compilation of episode-level data for emergency department presentations in public hospitals.
- The scope of the NEATD is all hospitals reporting to the NAPEDC NMDS (as at August 2011 (when the NPA-IPHS was signed)). For the duration of the Agreement, hospitals that have not previously reported to the NAPEDC NMDS can come into scope, subject to agreement between the jurisdiction and the Commonwealth.
- The NEATD includes all care provided to patients treated in emergency departments. Care is included until the patient is recorded as having physically departed the emergency department, regardless of whether they have been admitted to hospital. Care provided to patients admitted to 'short stay units' within emergency departments is not included.
- Although there are national standards for data on non-admitted patient emergency department services, there are some variations in how those services are defined and counted across states and territories and over time.

### Description

The NEATD includes episode-level data on non-admitted patients treated in the emergency departments of Australian public hospitals. The data supplied for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2012 are based on the Non-admitted patient emergency department care Data Set Specification (NAPEDC DSS), which covered the same period. The data supplied from 1 July to 31 December 2012 are based on the NMDS for National Non-admitted patient emergency department care (NAPEDC NMDS) 2012-13.

The scope for the NEATD is all hospitals reporting to the NAPEDC NMDS (Peer Groups A, B and other) as at August 2011 (when the NPA-IPHS was signed). For the duration of the agreement, hospitals that have not previously reported to the NAPEDC NMDS can come into scope, subject to agreement between the jurisdiction and the Commonwealth.

The data include data elements on length of stay in the emergency department, waiting times for emergency department care, triage categorisation and other characteristics of the patients and care provided.

The care provided to patients in emergency departments is, in most instances, recognised as being provided to 'non-admitted' patients. Patients being treated in emergency departments may subsequently become 'admitted'. The NEATD includes care provided to all patients

treated in emergency departments until they are recorded as having physically departed the emergency department, regardless of whether they have been admitted. However, care provided to patients admitted to 'short stay units' within emergency departments is not included.

Non-admitted patients who are treated in outpatient clinics are not included in the NEATD.

## **Institutional environment**

The AIHW is a major national agency set up by the Australian Government under the *Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987* to provide reliable, regular and relevant information and statistics on Australia's health and welfare. It is an independent statutory authority established in 1987, governed by a management board, and accountable to the Australian Parliament through the Health and Ageing portfolio.

The AIHW aims to improve the health and wellbeing of Australians through better health and welfare information and statistics. It collects and reports information on a wide range of topics and issues, ranging from health and welfare expenditure, hospitals, disease and injury, and mental health, to ageing, homelessness, disability and child protection.

The Institute also plays a role in developing and maintaining national metadata standards. This work contributes to improving the quality and consistency of national health and welfare statistics. The Institute works closely with governments and non-government organisations to achieve greater adherence to these standards in administrative data collections to promote national consistency and comparability of data and reporting.

One of the main functions of the AIHW is to work with the states and territories to improve the quality of administrative data and, where possible, to compile national datasets based on data from each jurisdiction, to analyse these datasets and disseminate information and statistics.

The *Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987* and the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cwlth) ensure that the data collections managed by the AIHW are kept securely and under the strictest conditions with respect to privacy and confidentiality.

For further information see the AIHW website <[www.aihw.gov.au](http://www.aihw.gov.au)>.

Data for the NEATD were supplied to the AIHW by state and territory health authorities under the terms of the NPA-IPHS. The NPA-IPHS requires states and territories to provide the data to the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA). AIHW collated the data on behalf of DoHA.

The state and territory health authorities received these data from public hospitals. States and territories use these data for service planning, monitoring and internal and public reporting. Hospitals may be required to provide data to states and territories through a variety of administrative arrangements, contractual requirements or legislation.

## **Timeliness**

Data for the NEATD are reported quarterly. The NEATD includes records for emergency department service episodes between 1 January and 31 December 2012.

States and territories provided a first version of the full 2012 data to the AIHW during January and February 2013. The data were first published on 28 February 2013. Data provision and publication were in accordance with agreed timetables.

## Accessibility

The AIHW has released data drawn from the NEATD in:

- Australian hospital statistics: National emergency access and elective surgery targets 2012 with associated Excel tables.

This publication is part of the Australian hospital statistics suite of products. These products may be accessed on the AIHW website at:

<<http://www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/>>.

## Interpretability

Metadata information for the NAPEDC DSS 1 January 2012 to 20 June 2012 and the NAPEDC NMDS 2012–13 are published in the AIHW's online metadata repository, METeOR, and the *National health data dictionary*.

METeOR and the *National health data dictionary* can be accessed on the AIHW website at:

<<http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/181162>>

<<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=6442468385>>.

## Relevance

The NEATD is the source for performance indicator information for the NPA-IPHS.

## Scope and coverage

The scope for the NEATD is all hospitals reporting to the NAPEDC NMDS (Peer Groups A, B and other) as at August 2011 (when the NPA-IPHS was signed). For the duration of the agreement, hospitals that have not previously reported to the NAPEDC NMDS can come into scope, subject to agreement between the jurisdiction and the Commonwealth.

For 2012, coverage of the NEATD in relation to the reporting requirements for the NPA-IPHS was 100%.

## Reference period

The reference period for this data set is 2012. The data set includes records for emergency department service episodes between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2012.

## Accuracy

### Potential sources of variation

Although there are national standards for data on emergency department care, statistics may be affected by variations in reporting practices across states and territories.

### Data validation

States and territories are primarily responsible for the quality of the data they provide. However, the AIHW undertakes extensive validations on receipt of data. Data are checked for valid values, logical consistency and historical consistency. Where possible, data in individual data sets are checked with data from other data sets. Potential errors are queried with jurisdictions, and corrections and resubmissions may be made in response to these edit queries.

**Incomplete responses**

For 2012, approximately 3,000 records did not have a valid length of stay in emergency department recorded.

**Non-response adjustment**

The AIHW does not adjust data to account for possible data errors or missing or incorrect values, except as stated.

# National Elective Surgery Target Database

## Summary of key data quality issues

- The National Elective Surgery Target Database (NESTD) is a compilation of episode-level data on patients added to, removed from, or still waiting on elective surgery waiting lists managed by public hospitals.
- States and territories provided data to the NESTD as agreed between the Commonwealth and states and territories for the purposes of the *National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospitals* (NPA-IPHS). The NESTD covered most hospitals that undertook elective surgery. Hospitals that were not included may not undertake elective surgery, may not have had waiting lists, or may have had different waiting lists compared with other hospitals.
- While coverage of the NESTD was essentially complete for the purposes of reporting the NPA-IPHS the NESTD did not include data from:
  - Albury Base Hospital (for 2012)
  - The Children's Hospital at Westmead for 1 June to 31 July.
- Although there are national standards for data on elective surgery waiting times, methods to calculate waiting times have varied between states and territories and over time. For example, some states and territories vary in how they report on patients transferred from a waiting list managed by one hospital to that managed by another.
- There is an apparent lack of comparability of clinical urgency categories among jurisdictions that may result in statistics that are not meaningful or comparable between jurisdictions.
- There is apparent variation in recording practices for waiting times for elective surgery for patients awaiting 'staged' procedures (such as follow-up care, cystoscopy or the removal of pins or plates) that may result in statistics that are not meaningful or comparable between or within jurisdictions.

## Description

The NESTD provides episode-level data on patients added to or removed from elective surgery waiting lists managed by public hospitals. This includes private patients treated in public hospitals, and may include public patients treated in private hospitals. 'Public hospitals' may include hospitals that are set up to provide services for public patients (as public hospitals do), but are managed privately.

States and territories provided data to the NESTD as agreed between the Commonwealth and states and territories for the purposes of the *National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospitals* (NPA-IPHS).

The data supplied for 1 January 2012 to 30 June 12 are based on the Elective Surgery Waiting Times Data Set Specification (ESWT DSS), which covers the same period. The data supplied for 1 July 2012 to 31 December 2012 are based on the National Minimum Data Set for Elective Surgery Waiting Times (Census and Removals) (ESWT NMDS) 2012-13.

The NESTD includes data elements on waiting times for elective surgery, clinical urgency category, indicator procedure and reason for removal from the waiting list. The database

also includes flags provided by states and territories to indicate where admissions from waiting lists had an adverse event or unplanned readmission reported.

## **Institutional environment**

The AIHW is a major national agency set up by the Australian Government under the *Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987* to provide reliable, regular and relevant information and statistics on Australia's health and welfare. It is an independent statutory authority established in 1987, governed by a management board, and accountable to the Australian Parliament through the Health and Ageing portfolio.

The AIHW aims to improve the health and wellbeing of Australians through better health and welfare information and statistics. It collects and reports information on a wide range of topics and issues, ranging from health and welfare expenditure, hospitals, disease and injury, and mental health, to ageing, homelessness, disability and child protection.

The Institute also plays a role in developing and maintaining national metadata standards. This work contributes to improving the quality and consistency of national health and welfare statistics. The Institute works closely with governments and non-government organisations to achieve greater adherence to these standards in administrative data collections to promote national consistency and comparability of data and reporting.

One of the main functions of the AIHW is to work with the states and territories to improve the quality of administrative data and, where possible, to compile national datasets based on data from each jurisdiction, to analyse these datasets and disseminate information and statistics.

The *Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987* and the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cwlth) ensure that the data collections managed by the AIHW are kept securely and under the strictest conditions with respect to privacy and confidentiality.

For further information see the AIHW website <[www.aihw.gov.au](http://www.aihw.gov.au)>.

Data for the NESTD were supplied to the AIHW by state and territory health authorities under the terms of the NPA-IPHS. The NPA-IPHS requires states and territories to provide the data to the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA). AIHW collated the data on behalf of DoHA.

The state and territory health authorities received these data from public hospitals. States and territories use these data for service planning, monitoring and internal and public reporting. Hospitals may be required to provide data to states and territories through a variety of administrative arrangements, contractual requirements or legislation.

## **Timeliness**

Data for the NESTD are reported quarterly. The NESTD includes episode-level data on patients added to, removed from, or still waiting on elective surgery waiting lists managed by public hospitals from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2012.

States and territories provided a first version of the full 2012 data to the AIHW during January and February 2013. The data were first published on 28 February 2013. Data provision and publication were in accordance with agreed timetables.

## Accessibility

The AIHW has released data drawn from the NESTD in:

- Australian hospital statistics: National emergency access and elective surgery targets 2012 with associated Excel tables.

This publication is part of the Australian hospital statistics suite of products. These products may be accessed on the AIHW website at:

<<http://www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/>>.

## Interpretability

Metadata information for the ESWT DSS 1 January 2012 to 30 June 2012 and the ESWT NMDS 2012–13 are published in the AIHW's online metadata repository – METeOR, and the *National health data dictionary*.

METeOR and the *National health data dictionary* can be accessed on the AIHW website:

<<http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/181162>>

<<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=6442468385>>.

## Relevance

The NESTD is the source of information is to report performance indicator information for the NPA-IPHS.

The NESTD includes data on patients added to, removed from, or still waiting on elective surgery waiting lists managed by public hospitals from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2012.

## Scope and coverage

The NESTD provides information on waiting times for elective surgery in public hospitals. The scope of the data collection is patients on waiting lists for elective surgery that are managed by public hospitals. This may include public patients treated in private hospitals and other patients treated in public hospitals.

States and territories provided data to the NESTD as agreed between the Commonwealth and states and territories for the purposes of the *National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospitals* (NPA-IPHS). The NESTD covered most hospitals that undertook elective surgery. Hospitals that were not included may not undertake elective surgery, may not have had waiting lists, or may have had different waiting lists compared with other hospitals.

While coverage of the NESTD was essentially complete for the purposes of reporting the NPA-IPHS.

The NESTD did not include data for the Albury Base Hospital (for all of 2012).

The NEST did not include data for the Children's Hospital at Westmead for 1 June to 31 July.

In addition, a small number of records for peritonectomy were not provided by New South Wales due to data quality issues.

## **Reference period**

The reference period for this data set is 2012. The data set includes records for on patients added to, removed from, or still waiting on elective surgery waiting lists managed by public hospitals between 1 January and 31 December 2012.

Data for adverse events occurring during admissions from elective surgery waiting lists, and readmissions following them are provided by states and territories one quarter after the quarter in which the admission occurred, when the data on adverse events and readmissions become available.

## **Accuracy**

### **Potential sources of variation**

Although there are national standards for data on elective surgery waiting times, methods to calculate waiting times have varied between states and territories and over time. For example, in some states and territories, for patients who were transferred from a waiting list managed by one hospital to that managed by another, the time waited on the first list is not included in the waiting time reported to the NESTD from the second hospital. Therefore, the number of days waited in those jurisdictions reflected the waiting time on the list managed by the reporting hospital only.

There is an apparent lack of comparability of clinical urgency categories among jurisdictions that may result in statistics that are not meaningful or comparable between jurisdictions.

There is apparent variation in recording practices for waiting times for elective surgery for patients awaiting 'staged' procedures (such as follow-up care, cystoscopy or the removal of pins or plates), that may result in some statistics that are not comparable between or within jurisdictions.

### **Data validation**

States and territories are primarily responsible for the quality of the data they provide. However, the AIHW undertakes extensive validations on receipt of data. Data are checked for valid values, logical consistency and historical consistency. Where possible, data in individual data sets are checked with data from other data sets. Potential errors are queried with jurisdictions, and corrections and resubmissions may be made in response to these edit queries.

### **Non-response adjustment**

The AIHW does not adjust data to account for possible data errors or missing or incorrect values, except as stated.

## Appendix 2: Technical appendix

This appendix presents additional information on analysis methods and the presentation of data in this report. It also presents information on performance indicator specifications.

### National Emergency Access Target calculations

Length of stay statistics are calculated for all emergency department type of visit categories.

#### Proportion of emergency department presentations completed in 4 hours or less

The proportion of presentations completed in 4 hours or less is determined as the proportion of all emergency presentations with time elapsed between the presentation and the physical departure of the patient of less than or equal to 240 minutes.

Presentations were excluded if either (or both) of the presentation date/time or physical departure date/time were missing or invalid, or if the calculation resulted in an invalid length of stay (that is, missing or negative number of minutes).

If not otherwise indicated, data elements were defined according to the 2011–12 definitions in the *National health data dictionary, version 16* (AIHW 2012d) (summarised in the Glossary).

Specifications for the National Emergency Access Target performance indicators are published on METeOR:

<<http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/489441>>.

#### National Elective Surgery Access Target and related performance indicators

Specifications for the National Elective Surgery Target performance indicators for Part 1, Part 2 and numbers of longest wait overdue patients are published on METeOR:

<<http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/489441>>.

#### Median waiting times for elective surgery

The waiting times data presented in this report are for patients who complete their wait and are admitted for their surgery as either an elective or an emergency admission.

The 50th percentile (the median or the middle value in a group of data arranged from lowest to highest value for days waited) represents the number of days within which 50% of patients were admitted for the awaited surgery; half the waiting times will have been shorter, and half the waiting times longer, than the median.

The 50th percentile waiting times are calculated using an empirical distribution function with averaging. Using this method, observations are sorted in ascending order.

The calculation is where:

$n$  is the number of observations and

$p$  is the percentile value divided by 100,

then  $n \times p = i + f$  (where  $i$  is an integer and  $f$  is the fractional part of  $n \times p$ ).

If  $n \times p$  is an integer, then the percentile value will correspond to the average of the values for the  $i^{\text{th}}$  and  $(i+1)^{\text{th}}$  observations.

If  $n \times p$  is not an integer, then the percentile value will correspond to the value for the  $(i+1)^{\text{th}}$  observation.

For example, if there were 100 observations, the median waiting time will correspond to the average waiting time for the 50<sup>th</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup> observations (ordered according to waiting time).

Days waited at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile have been rounded to the nearest whole number of days.

## **Elective surgical episodes with one or more adverse events**

This performance indicator presents the number and proportion of separations for patients admitted from elective surgery waiting lists where an adverse event was reported. In general, adverse events are defined as incidents in which harm resulted to a person receiving health care. They include infections, falls resulting in injuries, and problems with medication and medical devices. Some of these adverse events may be preventable.

The NESTD included a flag indicating whether an adverse event had been reported for a patient after admission from the elective surgery waiting list. The flag was calculated by the states and territories, not the AIHW. States and territories were provided with the specification to assist calculation.

The flag was specified by one or more of the following ICD-10-AM (7<sup>th</sup> edition) codes reported:

- For diagnoses:
  - T80- T88 code range for complications of surgical and medical care, not elsewhere classified
  - T98.3 sequelae of complications of surgical and medical care, not elsewhere classified
  - Chapter specific codes for post procedural disorders from blocks E89, G97, H59, H95, I97, J95, K91, M96 or N99
- For external causes of injury and poisoning:
  - Y60-Y69 Misadventures to patients during surgical and medical care
  - Y70-Y82 Medical devices associated with misadventures in diagnostic and therapeutic use
  - Y83- Y84 Surgical and other medical procedures as the cause of abnormal reaction of the patient, or of later complication, without mention of misadventure at the time of the procedure.

## **Unplanned readmissions**

Unplanned readmissions following selected surgical episodes of care are generally defined admissions where the principal diagnosis indicates an unplanned or unexpected readmission following an episode of care, and where admission occurred within a specified period (in days).

The NESTD included a flag indicating where a patient admitted from an elective surgery waiting list was readmitted to the same hospital within 28 days. The flag was calculated by

the states and territories, not the AIHW. States and territories were provided with the specification to assist calculation.

The specification was that the 28-day period was calculated from patient's separation date of the admitted patient episode to the patient's admission date for subsequent hospital treatment. Where a patient has more than one subsequent admission, only the first admission was flagged.

Records were flagged where the subsequent separation:

- had one of the following ICD-10-AM (7th edition) principal diagnosis codes:
  - T80- T88 code range for complications of surgical and medical care, not elsewhere classified
  - T98.3 sequelae of complications of surgical and medical care, not elsewhere classified
  - Chapter specific codes for post procedural disorders from blocks E89, G97, H59, H95, I97, J95, K91, M96 or N99
- where the readmission has an urgency of admission of *Emergency*.

## Data presentation

Data are presented by the state or territory of the hospital, not by the state or territory of usual residence of the patient. Except as noted below, the totals in tables include data only for those states and territories for which data were available, as indicated in the tables. Throughout the report, percentages may not add up to 100.0 because of rounding. Percentages and rates printed as 0.0 or 0 may denote less than 0.05 or 0.5, respectively.

Data on median waiting times (50th waiting times) and the proportion of patients who waited more than 365 days for their surgery have been suppressed if there were fewer than 10 admissions in the category being presented. The abbreviation 'n.p.' has been used to denote these suppressions. For these tables, the totals include the suppressed information.

## Appendix 3: Additional tables

This appendix presents additional tables with quarterly data for each state and territory for two elective surgery performance indicators presented in Chapter 3:

- the number and proportion of patients seen on time
- removals from waiting lists for reasons other than admission.

### Proportions of patients seen on time by quarter

Tables A3.1a through A3.1h present the number and proportion of admissions treated within clinically recommended waiting times for each clinical urgency category, for each quarter, individually for each state and territory.

**Table A3.1a: Number and proportion of patients seen within clinically recommended times, by clinical urgency category and quarter, New South Wales, 2012**

|                                   | Jan–Mar       | Apr–Jun       | July–Sep      | Oct–Dec       | Total          |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Category 1                        |               |               |               |               |                |
| Number seen within 30 days        | 11,235        | 12,001        | 13,397        | 13,128        | <b>49,761</b>  |
| Proportion seen within 30 days    | 93.7          | 94.2          | 95.8          | 96.3          | <b>95.1</b>    |
| Category 2                        |               |               |               |               |                |
| Number seen within 90 days        | 13,918        | 15,641        | 16,715        | 16,261        | <b>62,535</b>  |
| Proportion seen within 90 days    | 88.1          | 91.3          | 92.0          | 92.1          | <b>91.0</b>    |
| Category 3                        |               |               |               |               |                |
| Number seen within 365 days       | 19,684        | 21,093        | 22,259        | 21,482        | <b>84,518</b>  |
| Proportion seen within 365 days   | 91.7          | 91.9          | 92.9          | 92.2          | <b>92.2</b>    |
| <b>Total</b>                      |               |               |               |               |                |
| <b>Number of admissions</b>       | <b>44,837</b> | <b>48,735</b> | <b>52,371</b> | <b>50,871</b> | <b>196,814</b> |
| <b>Proportion treated on time</b> | <b>91.1</b>   | <b>92.3</b>   | <b>93.3</b>   | <b>93.2</b>   | <b>92.5</b>    |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table A3.1b: Number and proportion of patients seen within clinically recommended times, by clinical urgency category and quarter, Victoria, 2012**

|                                   | Jan–Mar       | Apr–Jun       | Jul–Sep       | Oct–Dec       | Total          |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Category 1                        |               |               |               |               |                |
| Number seen within 30 days        | 10,967        | 11,842        | 12,215        | 12,199        | <b>47,223</b>  |
| Proportion seen within 30 days    | 100.0         | 100.0         | 100.0         | 100.0         | <b>100.0</b>   |
| Category 2                        |               |               |               |               |                |
| Number seen within 90 days        | 11,228        | 12,650        | 13,363        | 12,151        | <b>49,392</b>  |
| Proportion seen within 90 days    | 65.7          | 69.4          | 69.7          | 68.1          | <b>68.3</b>    |
| Category 3                        |               |               |               |               |                |
| Number seen within 365 days       | 7,121         | 7,996         | 8,470         | 7,486         | <b>31,073</b>  |
| Proportion seen within 365 days   | 90.9          | 90.1          | 90.5          | 89.6          | <b>90.3</b>    |
| <b>Total</b>                      |               |               |               |               |                |
| <b>Number of admissions</b>       | <b>29,316</b> | <b>32,488</b> | <b>34,048</b> | <b>31,836</b> | <b>127,688</b> |
| <b>Proportion treated on time</b> | <b>81.7</b>   | <b>83.5</b>   | <b>83.5</b>   | <b>82.9</b>   | <b>82.9</b>    |

Note: Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table A3.1c: Number and proportion of patients seen within clinically recommended times, by clinical urgency category and quarter, Queensland, 2012**

|                                   | Jan–Mar       | Apr–Jun       | Jul–Sep       | Oct–Dec       | Total          |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Category 1                        |               |               |               |               |                |
| Number seen within 30 days        | 9,901         | 10,689        | 11,551        | 11,628        | <b>43,769</b>  |
| Proportion seen within 30 days    | 86.1          | 87.1          | 90.8          | 91.8          | <b>89.0</b>    |
| Category 2                        |               |               |               |               |                |
| Number seen within 90 days        | 9,462         | 10,633        | 10,910        | 10,210        | <b>41,215</b>  |
| Proportion seen within 90 days    | 72.5          | 78.0          | 78.8          | 79.1          | <b>77.1</b>    |
| Category 3                        |               |               |               |               |                |
| Number seen within 365 days       | 3,946         | 4,978         | 4,326         | 4,377         | <b>17,627</b>  |
| Proportion seen within 365 days   | 89.1          | 88.8          | 88.8          | 88.1          | <b>88.7</b>    |
| <b>Total</b>                      |               |               |               |               |                |
| <b>Number of admissions</b>       | <b>23,309</b> | <b>26,300</b> | <b>26,787</b> | <b>26,215</b> | <b>102,611</b> |
| <b>Proportion treated on time</b> | <b>80.4</b>   | <b>83.5</b>   | <b>85.2</b>   | <b>85.8</b>   | <b>83.8</b>    |

Note: Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table A3.1d: Number and proportion of patients seen within clinically recommended times, by clinical urgency category and quarter, Western Australia, 2012**

|                                   | Jan–Mar       | Apr–Jun       | Jul–Sep       | Oct–Dec       | Total         |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Category 1                        |               |               |               |               |               |
| Number seen within 30 days        | 3,631         | 4,022         | 4,623         | 5,226         | <b>17,502</b> |
| Proportion seen within 30 days    | 81.6          | 83.2          | 87.3          | 91.8          | <b>86.3</b>   |
| Category 2                        |               |               |               |               |               |
| Number seen within 90 days        | 5,403         | 5,583         | 6,516         | 6,206         | <b>23,708</b> |
| Proportion seen within 90 days    | 79.3          | 82.0          | 81.8          | 85.0          | <b>82.0</b>   |
| Category 3                        |               |               |               |               |               |
| Number seen within 365 days       | 8,224         | 8,073         | 8,545         | 7,819         | <b>32,661</b> |
| Proportion seen within 365 days   | 96.9          | 96.2          | 96.4          | 96.1          | <b>96.4</b>   |
| <b>Total</b>                      |               |               |               |               |               |
| <b>Number of admissions</b>       | <b>17,258</b> | <b>17,678</b> | <b>19,684</b> | <b>19,251</b> | <b>73,871</b> |
| <b>Proportion treated on time</b> | <b>87.4</b>   | <b>88.3</b>   | <b>88.9</b>   | <b>91.1</b>   | <b>89.0</b>   |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table A3.1e: Number and proportion of patients seen within clinically recommended times, by clinical urgency category and quarter, South Australia, 2012**

|                                   | Jan–Mar       | Apr–Jun       | Jul–Sep       | Oct–Dec       | Total         |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Category 1                        |               |               |               |               |               |
| Number seen within 30 days        | 3,761         | 4,090         | 4,017         | 4,033         | <b>15,901</b> |
| Proportion seen within 30 days    | 89.8          | 89.1          | 92.8          | 92.2          | <b>91.0</b>   |
| Category 2                        |               |               |               |               |               |
| Number seen within 90 days        | 4,520         | 4,934         | 5,506         | 5,232         | <b>20,192</b> |
| Proportion seen within 90 days    | 86.2          | 89.3          | 93.7          | 93.0          | <b>90.7</b>   |
| Category 3                        |               |               |               |               |               |
| Number seen within 365 days       | 5,982         | 6,152         | 5,909         | 5,739         | <b>23,782</b> |
| Proportion seen within 365 days   | 96.4          | 94.7          | 97.5          | 96.8          | <b>96.3</b>   |
| <b>Total</b>                      |               |               |               |               |               |
| <b>Number of admissions</b>       | <b>14,263</b> | <b>15,176</b> | <b>15,432</b> | <b>15,004</b> | <b>59,875</b> |
| <b>Proportion treated on time</b> | <b>91.2</b>   | <b>91.3</b>   | <b>94.9</b>   | <b>94.2</b>   | <b>92.9</b>   |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table A3.1f: Number and proportion of patients seen within clinically recommended times, by clinical urgency category and quarter, Tasmania, 2012**

|                                   | Jan-Mar      | Apr-Jun      | Jul-Sep      | Oct-Dec      | Total         |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Category 1                        |              |              |              |              |               |
| Number seen within 30 days        | 1,048        | 1,157        | 1,191        | 1,179        | <b>4,575</b>  |
| Proportion seen within 30 days    | 74.7         | 75.7         | 75.8         | 78.1         | <b>76.1</b>   |
| Category 2                        |              |              |              |              |               |
| Number seen within 90 days        | 884          | 952          | 1,004        | 930          | <b>3,770</b>  |
| Proportion seen within 90 days    | 59.5         | 60.1         | 61.2         | 60.7         | <b>60.4</b>   |
| Category 3                        |              |              |              |              |               |
| Number seen within 365 days       | 428          | 532          | 556          | 501          | <b>2,017</b>  |
| Proportion seen within 365 days   | 73.9         | 71.1         | 77.8         | 68.8         | <b>72.8</b>   |
| <b>Total</b>                      |              |              |              |              |               |
| <b>Number of admissions</b>       | <b>2,360</b> | <b>2,641</b> | <b>2,751</b> | <b>2,610</b> | <b>10,362</b> |
| <b>Proportion treated on time</b> | <b>68.1</b>  | <b>68.4</b>  | <b>70.1</b>  | <b>69.2</b>  | <b>69.0</b>   |

Note: Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table A3.1g: Number and proportion of patients seen within clinically recommended times, by clinical urgency category and quarter, Australian Capital Territory, 2012**

|                                   | Jan-Mar        | Apr-Jun        | Jul-Sep        | Oct-Dec        | Total          |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Category 1                        |                |                |                |                |                |
| Number seen within 30 days        | 686.0          | 865.0          | 944.0          | 1,008.0        | <b>3,503.0</b> |
| Proportion seen within 30 days    | 98.1           | 98.4           | 98.8           | 98.6           | <b>98.5</b>    |
| Category 2                        |                |                |                |                |                |
| Number seen within 90 days        | 566.0          | 833.0          | 931.0          | 792.0          | <b>3,122.0</b> |
| Proportion seen within 90 days    | 42.5           | 58.8           | 62.7           | 65.2           | <b>57.3</b>    |
| Category 3                        |                |                |                |                |                |
| Number seen within 365 days       | 547.0          | 559.0          | 628.0          | 611.0          | <b>2,345.0</b> |
| Proportion seen within 365 days   | 88.8           | 89.2           | 88.8           | 90.5           | <b>89.3</b>    |
| <b>Total</b>                      |                |                |                |                |                |
| <b>Number of admissions</b>       | <b>1,799.0</b> | <b>2,257.0</b> | <b>2,503.0</b> | <b>2,411.0</b> | <b>8,970.0</b> |
| <b>Proportion treated on time</b> | <b>67.9</b>    | <b>77.2</b>    | <b>79.6</b>    | <b>82.8</b>    | <b>77.1</b>    |

Note: Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table A3.1h: Number and proportion of patients seen within clinically recommended times, by clinical urgency category and quarter, Northern Territory, 2012**

|                                   | Jan-Mar      | Apr-Jun      | July-Sep     | Oct-Dec      | Total        |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Category 1                        |              |              |              |              |              |
| Number seen within 30 days        | 605          | 499          | 523          | 551          | <b>2,178</b> |
| Proportion seen within 30 days    | 84.5         | 84.1         | 89.7         | 92.3         | <b>87.5</b>  |
| Category 2                        |              |              |              |              |              |
| Number seen within 90 days        | 401          | 587          | 741          | 721          | <b>2,450</b> |
| Proportion seen within 90 days    | 62.3         | 71.5         | 73.1         | 75.5         | <b>71.3</b>  |
| Category 3                        |              |              |              |              |              |
| Number seen within 365 days       | 210          | 345          | 399          | 328          | <b>1,282</b> |
| Proportion seen within 365 days   | 83.3         | 83.9         | 89.1         | 86.5         | <b>86.0</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>                      |              |              |              |              |              |
| <b>Number of admissions</b>       | <b>1,216</b> | <b>1,431</b> | <b>1,663</b> | <b>1,600</b> | <b>5,910</b> |
| <b>Proportion treated on time</b> | <b>75.4</b>  | <b>78.4</b>  | <b>81.3</b>  | <b>82.9</b>  | <b>79.7</b>  |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

## Removals for other reasons by state and territory

Tables A3.2a through A3.2h present information on removals from elective surgery waiting lists for reasons other than admission for the awaited procedure.

**Table A3.2a: Removals from waiting lists for reasons other than admission, New South Wales, 2012**

|                                                | Jan–Mar      | Apr–Jun      | Jul–Sep      | Oct–Dec      | Total         |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Not contactable/died                           | 437          | 531          | 561          | 473          | <b>2,002</b>  |
| Treated elsewhere                              | 1,812        | 1,880        | 1,870        | 1,747        | <b>7,309</b>  |
| Surgery not required or declined               | 4,665        | 4,552        | 4,968        | 4,098        | <b>18,283</b> |
| Transferred to another hospital's waiting list | 0            | 0            | 0            | 0            | <b>0</b>      |
| Not reported                                   | 0            | 0            | 0            | 0            | <b>0</b>      |
| <b>Total</b>                                   | <b>6,914</b> | <b>6,963</b> | <b>7,399</b> | <b>6,318</b> | <b>27,594</b> |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table A3.2b: Removals from waiting lists for reasons other than admission, Victoria, 2012**

|                                                | Jan–Mar      | Apr–Jun      | Jul–Sep      | Oct–Dec      | Total         |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Not contactable/died                           | 458          | 533          | 537          | 473          | <b>2,001</b>  |
| Treated elsewhere                              | 801          | 1,001        | 882          | 803          | <b>3,487</b>  |
| Surgery not required or declined               | 3,733        | 4,050        | 3,793        | 3,666        | <b>15,242</b> |
| Transferred to another hospital's waiting list | 142          | 287          | 392          | 369          | <b>1,190</b>  |
| Not reported                                   | 47           | 59           | 69           | 72           | <b>247</b>    |
| <b>Total</b>                                   | <b>5,181</b> | <b>5,930</b> | <b>5,673</b> | <b>5,383</b> | <b>22,167</b> |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table A3.2c: Removals from waiting lists for reasons other than admission, Queensland, 2012**

|                                                | Jan–Mar      | Apr–Jun      | Jul–Sep      | Oct–Dec      | Total         |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Not contactable/died                           | 240          | 236          | 265          | 241          | <b>982</b>    |
| Treated elsewhere                              | 637          | 555          | 610          | 575          | <b>2,377</b>  |
| Surgery not required or declined               | 2,823        | 2,853        | 3,065        | 2,943        | <b>11,684</b> |
| Transferred to another hospital's waiting list | 584          | 822          | 481          | 855          | <b>2,742</b>  |
| Not reported                                   | 46           | 29           | 25           | 27           | <b>127</b>    |
| <b>Total</b>                                   | <b>4,330</b> | <b>4,495</b> | <b>4,446</b> | <b>4,641</b> | <b>17,912</b> |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table A3.2d: Removals from waiting lists for reasons other than admission, Western Australia, 2012**

|                                                | Jan–Mar      | Apr–Jun      | Jul–Sep      | Oct–Dec      | Total         |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Not contactable/died                           | 285          | 256          | 272          | 317          | 1,130         |
| Treated elsewhere                              | 550          | 620          | 542          | 481          | 2,193         |
| Surgery not required or declined               | 1,557        | 1,564        | 1,872        | 1,751        | 6,744         |
| Transferred to another hospital's waiting list | 1,310        | 1,186        | 1,335        | 1,256        | 5,087         |
| Not reported                                   | 505          | 507          | 639          | 600          | 2,251         |
| <b>Total</b>                                   | <b>4,207</b> | <b>4,133</b> | <b>4,660</b> | <b>4,405</b> | <b>17,405</b> |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table A3.2e: Removals from waiting lists for reasons other than admission, South Australia, 2012**

|                                                | Jan–Mar      | Apr–Jun      | Jul–Sep      | Oct–Dec      | Total        |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Not contactable/died                           | 176          | 180          | 158          | 156          | 670          |
| Treated elsewhere                              | 338          | 296          | 286          | 306          | 1,226        |
| Surgery not required or declined               | 972          | 1,023        | 931          | 936          | 3,862        |
| Transferred to another hospital's waiting list | 106          | 129          | 209          | 217          | 661          |
| Not reported                                   | 221          | 263          | 254          | 284          | 1,022        |
| <b>Total</b>                                   | <b>1,813</b> | <b>1,891</b> | <b>1,838</b> | <b>1,899</b> | <b>7,441</b> |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table A3.2f: Removals from waiting lists for reasons other than admission, Tasmania, 2012**

|                                                | Jan–Mar    | Apr–Jun    | Jul–Sep    | Oct–Dec    | Total        |
|------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Not contactable/died                           | 41         | 54         | 134        | 100        | 329          |
| Treated elsewhere                              | 81         | 98         | 129        | 92         | 400          |
| Surgery not required or declined               | 202        | 288        | 263        | 224        | 977          |
| Transferred to another hospital's waiting list | 30         | 37         | 41         | 23         | 131          |
| Not reported                                   | 70         | 86         | 102        | 99         | 357          |
| <b>Total</b>                                   | <b>424</b> | <b>563</b> | <b>669</b> | <b>538</b> | <b>2,194</b> |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table A3.2g: Removals from waiting lists for reasons other than admission, Australian Capital Territory, 2012**

|                                                | Jan–Mar    | Apr–Jun    | Jul–Sep    | Oct–Dec    | Total        |
|------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Not contactable/died                           | 36         | 12         | 29         | 15         | 92           |
| Treated elsewhere                              | 145        | 121        | 125        | 86         | 477          |
| Surgery not required or declined               | 344        | 294        | 289        | 247        | 1,174        |
| Transferred to another hospital's waiting list | 101        | 33         | 40         | 54         | 228          |
| Not reported                                   | 29         | 41         | 21         | 30         | 121          |
| <b>Total</b>                                   | <b>655</b> | <b>501</b> | <b>504</b> | <b>432</b> | <b>2,092</b> |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

**Table A3.2h: Removals from waiting lists for reasons other than admission, Northern Territory, 2012**

|                                                | Jan–Mar    | Apr–Jun    | Jul–Sep    | Oct–Dec    | Total        |
|------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Not contactable/died                           | 48         | 49         | 61         | 40         | 198          |
| Treated elsewhere                              | 38         | 28         | 39         | 38         | 143          |
| Surgery not required or declined               | 258        | 271        | 330        | 306        | 1,165        |
| Transferred to another hospital's waiting list | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0            |
| Not reported                                   | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0            |
| <b>Total</b>                                   | <b>344</b> | <b>348</b> | <b>430</b> | <b>384</b> | <b>1,506</b> |

*Note:* Refer to boxes 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2, and appendixes 1 and 2 for notes on data limitations and methods.

# Glossary

For further information on the terms used in this report, refer to the definitions in the *National health data dictionary version 16* (AIHW 2012c). Each definition contains an identification number from the Metadata Online Registry (METeOR). METeOR is Australia's central repository for health, community services and housing assistance metadata, or 'data about data'. It provides definitions for data for health and community services-related topics, and specifications for related national minimum data sets (NMDSs), METeOR can be viewed on the AIHW website at <[www.aihw.gov.au](http://www.aihw.gov.au)>.

|                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Admitted patient                  | A patient who undergoes a hospital's formal admission process to receive treatment and/or care. This treatment and/or care is provided over a period of time and can occur in hospital and/or in the person's home (for hospital-in-the-home patients).<br>METeOR id: 268957 |
| Clinical urgency                  | A clinical assessment of the urgency with which a patient requires elective hospital care. METeOR id: 270008                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Elective admission                | Admission as an elective patient for awaited procedure by or on behalf of this hospital or the state/territory. METeOR id: 471735                                                                                                                                            |
| Elective care                     | Care that, in the opinion of the treating clinician, is necessary and for which admission can be delayed for at least 24 hours.<br>METeOR id: 335036                                                                                                                         |
| Elective surgery                  | Elective care where the procedures required by patients are listed in the surgical operations section of the Medicare Benefits Schedule book, with the exclusion of specific procedures frequently done by non-surgical clinicians. METeOR id: 327226                        |
| Emergency admission               | Admission as an emergency patient for awaited procedure by or on behalf of this hospital or the state/territory. METeOR id: 471735                                                                                                                                           |
| Emergency department stay         | The period between when a patient presents at an emergency department and when that person is recorded as having physically departed the emergency department. METeOR id: 472757                                                                                             |
| Hospital                          | A health-care facility established under Commonwealth, state or territory legislation as a hospital or a free-standing day procedure unit and authorised to provide treatment and/or care to patients.<br>METeOR id: 268971                                                  |
| Indicator procedure               | Indicator procedure for which an elective surgery patient is waiting, as represented by a code.<br><br>Waiting list statistics for indicator procedures give a specific indication of performance in particular areas of elective care provision.<br>METeOR id: 472513       |
| Patient presentation at emergency | The presentation of a patient at an emergency department occurs following the arrival of the patient at the emergency department. It                                                                                                                                         |

|                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| department                | is the earliest occasion of being registered clerically, or triaged.<br>METeOR id: 327262                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Performance indicator     | A statistic or other unit of information that reflects, directly or indirectly, the extent to which an expected outcome is achieved or the quality of processes leading to that outcome.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Presentation              | A non-admitted patient emergency department service episode.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Private hospital          | A privately owned and operated institution, catering for patients who are treated by a doctor of their own choice. Patients are charged fees for accommodation and other services provided by the hospital and relevant medical and paramedical practitioners. Acute care and psychiatric hospitals are included, as are private free-standing day hospital facilities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Public hospital           | A hospital controlled by a state or territory health authority. Public hospitals offer free diagnostic services, treatment, care and accommodation to all eligible patients.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Public patient            | Public patient includes patients treated at no charge in a public hospital (or provided with care by a private hospital on behalf of a public hospital).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Removal from waiting list | <p>The reason a patient is removed from an elective surgery waiting list. The reason-for-removal categories are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Admitted as an elective patient for awaited procedure by or on behalf of this hospital or the state/territory</li> <li>• Admitted as an emergency patient for awaited procedure by or on behalf of this hospital or the state/territory</li> <li>• Could not be contacted (includes patients who have died while waiting whether or not the cause of death was related to the condition requiring treatment)</li> <li>• Treated elsewhere for awaited procedure, but not on behalf of this hospital or the state/territory</li> <li>• Surgery not required or declined</li> <li>• Transferred to another hospital's waiting list</li> <li>• Not known.</li> </ul> <p>METeOR id: 471735</p> |

|                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Separation                        | An episode of care for an admitted patient, which can be a total hospital stay (from admission to discharge, transfer or death) or a portion of a hospital stay beginning or ending in a change of type of care (for example, from acute to rehabilitation). Separation also means the process by which an admitted patient completes an episode of care either by being discharged, dying, transferring to another hospital or changing type of care. |
| Waiting time at admission/removal | The time elapsed (in days) for a patient on the elective surgery waiting list from the date they were added to the waiting list for the procedure to the date they were removed from the waiting list.<br>METeOR id: 471744                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

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## Related publications

This report, *Australian hospital statistics: National emergency access and elective surgery targets 2012* is part of an annual series. The earlier editions and any published subsequently can be downloaded for free from the AIHW website <[www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals-publications/](http://www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals-publications/)>. The website also includes information on ordering printed copies.

Recent reports in the series include:

- AIHW 2012. Australian hospital statistics 2011–12: elective surgery waiting times. Health services series no. 46. Cat. no. HSE 127. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW 2012. Australian hospital statistics 2011–12: emergency department care. Health Services series no. 45. Cat. no. HSE 126. Canberra: AIHW.
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Please see <[www.aihw.gov.au/publications-catalogue/](http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications-catalogue/)> to access a complete list of AIHW publications relating to Australia's health and welfare.

This report presents 2012 data for performance indicators in the National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospital Services. Included are measures of the extent to which states and territories met targets for emergency department lengths of stay of 4 hours or less and for lengths of time spent waiting for elective surgery.