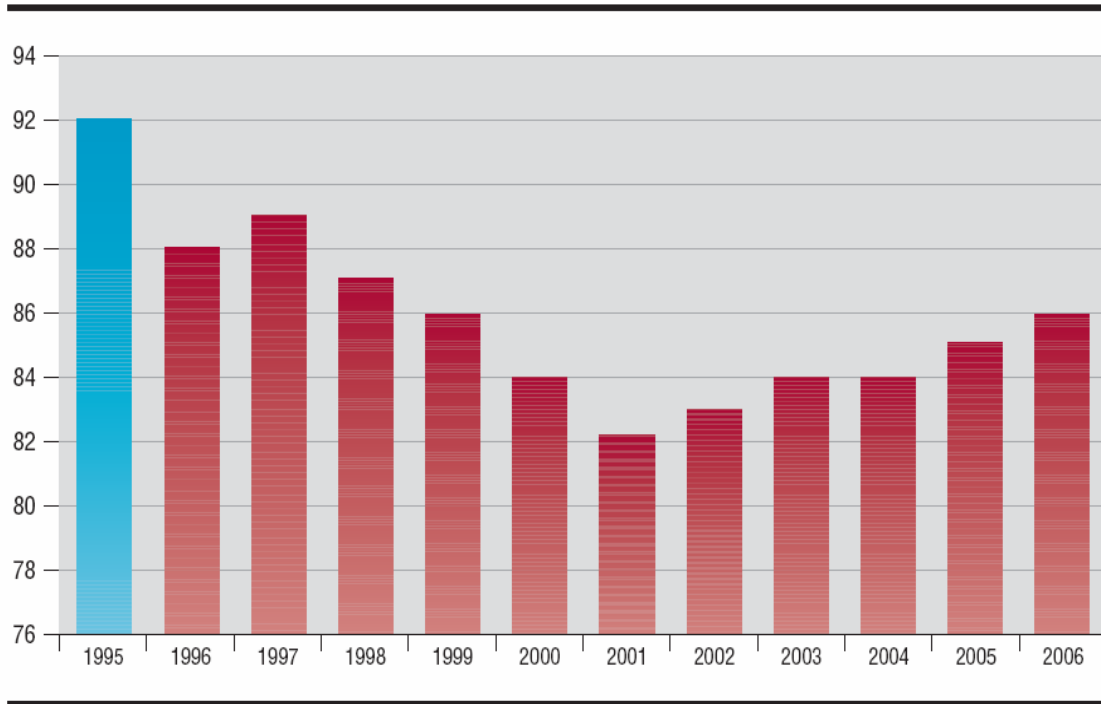


In 1995, there were 92 aged care beds for every 1000 people aged 70 years and over. In December 2006 there were only 86.6 beds for every 1000 people aged 70 years and over.

Aged Care beds per 1,000 people aged over 70



Source: Department of Health and Ageing Annual Reports, 1995-06 to 2005-06

On any night, there are approximately 2,000 older Australians who have had an ACAT assessment waiting for a residential aged care place.

At the same time, there is currently a shortage of more than 2,700 residential aged care places.

The average daily cost of a hospital bed is \$967, almost nine times the cost of a residential aged care place.

Average cost per day of an acute hospital bed (2004-05)

State	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
Average bed day	\$1,009	\$935	\$910	\$1,038	\$895	\$978	\$1,240	\$977	\$967

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2004-05) Australian Hospital Statistics