

# Older Australians' experiences of cost preventing healthcare access

## Regional status

National Seniors Australia asked 5,419 older people about 10 types of healthcare, and whether cost had stopped them from accessing the care they needed in recent times.

Within the group we then compared people living in rural or remote areas to those living in regional centres and to city-dwellers.

The proportion of people going without healthcare was almost always higher the further they lived away from metro locations.

The data are drawn from the National Seniors Social Survey conducted in February 2023. It was open to anyone residing in Australia aged 50 or over. For each healthcare type, we asked respondents if they had gone without it because of cost on one or more occasions in recent years. We also asked them to indicate if they lived in a rural, remote or regional location. Regional respondents comprised 24.1% of the total in calculations and rural/remote combined 9.7%. Healthcare items respondents did not need (marked 'not applicable' by them) were excluded from calculations. Access full data tables [here](#), the original healthcare costs report [here](#), and the report on regional, rural and remote experiences [here](#).

