

SNAPSHOT

Deaths in 2014-2017 of people with disability in residential care

Major gaps in life expectancy when compared with the general population

People in disability services died at least **25 years earlier**

-25 years

People in assisted boarding houses died around **20 years earlier.**

-20 years

Most of the deaths were **unexpected** and from **natural causes.**



Respiratory diseases were the leading contributory cause of death of people in disability services



Circulatory diseases were the leading contributory cause of death of people in assisted boarding houses.

Our reviews of **preventable deaths** highlight the need for concerted action to:

Identify illness or injury and take swift action to obtain urgent medical assistance

Improve access to preventive health services and supports - particularly for smoking, obesity and other lifestyle risks



Identify and effectively manage breathing, swallowing and choking risks

Ensure that treatment limitation decisions are informed and not based on perceived quality of life

Provide an effective first aid response



Improve support and coordination of care in hospital



Report 'near misses' and take action to prevent recurrence and death

Provide behaviour and other support to help to minimise aversion and resistance to health services and treatment



Reduce risks associated with medication - including medication errors and unsafe storage