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Lookups for Members - before you ask for a lookup please remember that if a displayed field is **BLANK it means that there is no further information available for that field in that database.** You can request one of our researchers to research further for you which may/may not produce further information. For this you will need to ask for a research request - [click here](#)

1. Introduction

This document describes the Hospital, Asylum & Lying-in Home Admissions (Hospital Admissions) dataset.

2. Hospital, Asylum & Lying-in Home Admissions

2.1 Summary

In this database, each record describes an admission to a hospital, asylum, maternity or lying-in home. It includes records representing a petition for entry for lunatic asylums as well as records from the Torrens Island Quarantine Station.

2.2 Coverage

Record coverage is from 1839 to 1970 with varying degrees of coverage depending on the facility. Refer Section 3 Facility Information for detailed information on coverage of the hospital, asylum or home of interest.

Hospital records held by State Records are restricted to protect personal information. Patient records are restricted for between 60 to 100 years after they were created. Records that have moved out of the restriction period are added to the Hospital Admissions dataset periodically.

2.3 Source

Sources vary depending on the hospital, asylum or home. Refer Section 3 Facility Information for detailed information on the source of records for the hospital, asylum or home of interest.

Except where otherwise indicated these collections were transcribed & composed by Genealogy SA (GSA) volunteers.

2.4 Volume

There are 327,865 records in this dataset version (M-20241118).

2.5 Additional information

There are variations between facilities of what data was collected and, over time, the quality and consistency of that data, has also changed. Whatever data is present in the source is transcribed and provided in the dataset. Where that data does not fit a frequently collected field it will be found in the *Notes* field.

Information about what data was collected for some of the facilities can be found in Section 3 Facility Information.

Fields

New fields have been added to the latest database version and is available, where recorded, for records from 1928 onwards.

- *Death Date* - the date the patient died whilst in the hospital, asylum or home. May be expanded on in *Notes* field.
- *Sex* - the sex of the person admitted.
- *Previous Reg No* - the registration number for a previous admission of the patient being admitted.

Additionally:

- *Admission No.* has been renamed *Adm/Reg No* to reflect the mix of terms covering the data in this field.
- *Ward* was available for Adelaide Hospital data 1923 and early 1924 which has been combined into the *Notes* field.

3. Facility Information

3.1 Hospitals

3.1.1 Adelaide Hospital

These records show admissions to the Adelaide Hospital from 1839 through to 1934. Known as the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH) in 1939.

Data was compiled from 3 sources:

1. State Records GRG 78/49 - from 1839 to early August 1911⁺
2. Patient Admission Registers - from early September 1911 to 1922, and from early 1924 to 1934
3. Patient Registers - from 1923 to early 1924^{*}

⁺ State Records acknowledge there are gaps in their data (1856 to 1862) and this is under review.

^{*} Patient Admission Registers for 1923 and early 1924 have been lost. However, GSA volunteers have created admission data from Patient Registers. The data in the Patient Register is different to that collected in the Admission Register and so some data will be unavailable and other, not normally collect has been included.

Admission records often recorded the name of the ship the patient arrived on into, and how long they have been in, South Australia.

A card system of some of the above data (compiled by GSA volunteers) is also available in the Library.

3.1.2 Kapunda Hospital

Data compiled by Dr P A Barclay from the Hospital Admission Register and covers the period November 1877 to December 1885. Sporadic coverage from 1886 to 1909.

One sheet is missing from the register, affecting 72 entries, between July 1879 and March 1880. For Admission Numbers 325-360, it is the page with the names and personal information, while Admission Numbers 289-324 have lost the details of the disease, doctor and general notes.

The data contains spellings as they appear in the original registers. However, the spelling of diseases and ship names may have been amended for consistency following research.

3.1.3 Mount Gambier Hospital

Data compiled from the Hospital Admission Register and covers the period 1869 to 1891.

Some pages are missing from the registers.

3.1.4 Port Augusta Hospital

Data compiled from original hospital records and covers the period 1877 to 1883, 1887 to 1904 and then some records for 1917.

3.1.5 Wallaroo Hospital

Data compiled from the original hospital records and covers the period 1876 to 1955.

3.2 Maternity and Lying-in Homes

3.2.1 Clare Lying-in Home

Data compiled from the original records and covers the period 1902 to 1920.

The Clare Lying-in Home was run by Mrs Mary Waller located in Gleeson Street, Clare.

3.2.2 Hawker Lying-In Home

Data compiled from the original registers lodged in the Hawker Community Library and covers the period 1899 to 1926.

The register doesn't require the child's name/s, but in some of the records these names are written and included in the *Notes* field.

3.2.3 Mrs Elizabeth Knight's Nursing Home, Mount Gambier

Data compiled from the original records and covers the period 1914 to 1929.

3.2.4 Port Augusta Maternity Hospital

Data compiled from the original records and covers the period 1926 to 1933.

Also known as Nurse Taylor's Nursing home located at 9 Fern Street, Port Augusta.

3.2.5 Willunga Maternity Home 1922-1940

Data compiled from the original records and covers the period 1922 to 1940.

Also known as Mrs Pethick's Maternity Home or Willunga Lying-in Home, located in Aldinga. The home of Mrs Amy Agnes Pethick nee Nicholls.

3.3 Asylums

3.3.1 Lunatic Asylums 1846-1921

These records cover admissions to the Adelaide, Parkside and Adelaide Gaol Lunatic Asylums from 1846 to 1921.

The Adelaide Lunatic Asylum was the precursor to the Parkside Lunatic Asylum and operated from 1852 to 1902. The Adelaide Lunatic Asylum was repurposed as the Consumptive Home starting in 1906.

Parkside Lunatic Asylum was founded in 1870, renamed the Mental Hospital in 1913, and later became Glenside Hospital in 1967.

The lunatic asylum at Adelaide Gaol operated from 1846 to 1852. When the Adelaide Lunatic Asylum opened in 1852, patients were transferred there, and the asylum at the gaol ceased operations. (Although records in our database have a reference of Adelaide Gaol up to 1862.)

Coverage varies depending on the facility:

1. Adelaide – 1852 to 1901 (plus 6 records in 1845, 1848, 1849 & 1850)
2. Parkside – 1870 to 1916 (plus sporadic records 1846 to 1869 and 1917 to 1921)
3. Adelaide Gaol – 1846 to 1862

Data was collected mainly from casebooks (or possibly casebook indexes), as shown in Admissions to SA Lunatic Asylums 1846-1916 Coding Index.docx. Initial creation by David Buob.

The Casebook code (the first part of the 'ref' element in *Notes*) gives the facility of each record (the prefix), and the type or sex of the patient (the suffix).

- Prefix: AA and A=Adelaide, P=Parkside, AG=Adelaide Gaol.
- Suffix: C=Criminal, D=Dangerous Patient, F=Female, M=Male, P=Private patient.

Example #1: Ref=P78F/191 would be Parkside and a female.

Example #2: Ref=AG67C/123 would be Adelaide Gaol and a criminal.

There is no additional information for the description of the Outcome Codes, though they can generally be deduced. For example: TRANS A.A. would be Transferred to Adelaide Asylum.

3.3.2 Lunacy Petitions

Data covers the period 1853 to 1892 and are sourced from State Records GRG 36/53 Supreme Court-Lunacy Petitions.

Description of this source: "This series consists of petitions and associated documents, such as affidavits, filed with the Supreme Court in relation to the Lunatics Act. Under the Lunatics Act, the Court was granted the power to make orders regarding the maintenance of dependents and the care and management of property and estates of individuals found incapable of managing their own affairs due to mental illness."

3.3.3 Adelaide Destitute Asylum

Data are sourced from State Records GRG 28/5 covering the periods 1870 to 1873, 1881 to 1897, 1900 to 1917. Note there is sporadic coverage in the years 1900, 1904 and 1905.

The Destitute Asylum was Adelaide's equivalent of the British 'workhouse'.

3.4 Other

3.4.1 Torrens Island Quarantine Station

Data sourced from National Archives D2305 Volume 1 and provides details of people admitted to the Torrens Island Quarantine Station from 1923 to 1970.

4. Versions

This is the latest of several updates to the Hospital, Asylum & Lying-in Home Admissions dataset since it was first created in 2016. Outlined below, along with the action taken where available, is provided for each update.

1. 16/08/2016: Original conversion for MPCviewer.
2. 29/11/2017: Added records from Hawker Lying-in Home, Destitute Asylum, Lunatic Asylums.
3. 24/07/2018: Added records from Port Augusta Hospital and Destitute Asylum.
4. 09/10/2018: Added records from Clare Lying-in Home, Mrs Elizabeth Knights' Nursing Home, Port Augusta Maternity Home and Willunga Maternity Home.
5. 02/05/2019: Added records from Adelaide Hospital covering 1911 to 1917.
6. 10/06/2020: Added records from Mount Gambier Hospital covering 1869 to 1891 and Torrens Island Admissions volume 1 covering 1923 to 1942
7. 15/12/2020: Added records from Adelaide Hospital covering 1918 to 1924 and Wallaroo Hospital covering 1876 to 1955.
8. 19/07/2022: Added records from Adelaide Hospital covering 1925 to 1927 and Parkside Lunatic Asylum covering 1918 to 1921.
9. 18/11/2024: Added records from Adelaide Hospital covering 1923, 1924 and 1928 to 1934.

4.1 Version M-20160816

Original conversion from Excel Master files.

4.2 Version M-20171129

Added records as follows:

- Hawker Lying-In Home 1899-1928
- Destitute Asylum 1870-1906
- Lunatic Asylums 1846-1960 (inc. Adelaide Gaol)
- Member feedback update.
- General cosmetic and normalisation changes

4.3 Version M-20180724

Added records as follows:

- Pt Augusta Hospital Admissions 1877-1904 & 1917
- Destitute Asylum 1906-1917
- Member feedback update.

4.4 Version M-20181009

Added records as follows:

- Clare Lying-in Home
- Mrs Elizabeth Knight's Nursing Home, Mt Gambier
- Port Augusta Maternity Hospital
- Willunga Maternity Home

4.5 Version M-20190502

Added records from Adelaide Hospital for the period 1911 to 1917.

4.6 Version M-20200610

Added records as follows:

- Torrens Island Admissions volume 1 for the period 1923 to 1942
- Mount Gambier Hospital for the period 1869 to 1891

4.7 Version M-20201215

Added records as follows:

- Adelaide Hospital 1918 to 1924 (records for 1913 to early 1924 were missing)
- Wallaroo Hospital 1876 to 1955

4.8 Version M-20220719

Added records as follows:

- Adelaide Hospital 1925 to 1927
- Embargoed Parkside Lunatic Asylum 1918-1921

4.9 Version M-20241118

Added records as follows:

- Adelaide Hospital 1923 & early 1924 and 1928 to 1934