

HACC Assessment Information update

March 2015

Living at home assessment tool and Guidelines for use 2015

The Living and home assessment tool has been completed and is now available for use by HACC assessment service (HAS).

The tool has a set of *Guidelines for use* which explains how the tool was developed, how to use it and who should use it.

The tool was evaluated by 30 HAS and feedback incorporated into the final version. Some comments from the evaluation are listed below.

The HACC assessment tool is **not mandated** for all HAS as many HAS have already developed their own assessment tool. If a HAS does not have an appropriate tool for Living at home assessments or is using the SCTT as their assessment tool then they should adopt this tool.

HAS transition to MyAgedCare

The HACC assessment tool was developed to align with the domains and questions that are in the National Assessment Screening and Assessment tool (NSAF).

For clients aged over 65 and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged over 50, the HACC assessment tool will be used until such time as your HAS commences on the MyAgedCare system. When this occurs you will move to the NSAF.

For clients aged under 65 and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged under 50 you will continue to use the HACC assessment tool.

Key Messages about the tool and its use

- Even if you have developed your own tool you should look at this new one and consider updating it or adding new questions/prompts to your existing tool.
- Some new questions and prompts such as prompts for home fire safety are included in this tool based

on recent research and information about good practice.

- Assessors need to use the tool and then identify areas or domains where training is required. This is an important professional development exercise.
- Assessors need to explore ways in which they can insert their own style into the assessment process. The client's needs and circumstances should drive the assessment process not the tool.
- You don't need to ask every question. Use your professional judgement about the order in which questions are asked.

Some feedback from the evaluation

- Good thought provoking prompts help to start conversations and enables questions to be asked in an informal way
- The tool's positive language promotes a conversational style assessment which opens up communication between the assessor and client and/or carer
- Provides opportunity for more in-depth conversations; helps clients to identify their abilities more so than the SCTT.
- Good resource for new assessment staff and refresher for existing staff.

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