

# Changes to the Home and Community Care Program

Fact sheet for people who receive Home and Community Care (HACC) services and their carers

## Purpose

This Fact Sheet provides information on changes to the Home and Community Care (HACC) Program services.

This Fact Sheet is for people with a disability, their families and carers who:

- Are aged 65 and over (or 50 and over for Aboriginal people) on 1 July 2016 and currently receive HACC services;
- Are aged under 65 (or under 50 for Aboriginal people) on 1 July 2016 and currently receive HACC services; or
- Are looking for more information about the changes in aged and disability care.

## Changes to Aged and Disability Care

As part of the National Disability Insurance Scheme agreement, the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments agreed that management of the Home and Community Care program will be split from 1 July 2016.

Services for older people (people aged 65 and over and 50 and over for Aboriginal people) will be directly funded and managed by the Commonwealth Government.

From 1 July 2016 the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) will commence in Victoria providing support for frail older people living in the community to maximise their independence. The CHSP will largely replace the HACC Program in Victoria and will fund a similar range of services currently provided under HACC.

Services for younger people (people aged under 65 and under 50 for Aboriginal people) will be funded and managed solely by the Victorian Government, with some services and clients transferring to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) as it is rolled out in Victoria.

## What is the Home and Community Care Program and how do I know if I am a client?

The Victorian Home and Community Care (HACC) program currently provides services to support frail older people, younger people with disabilities, and their carers. These services help people live as independently as possible in the community. Services can include domestic assistance, personal care, delivered meals (meals on wheels), planned activity groups, home nursing and allied health services.

Most Victorian local councils provide HACC services, as well as community health centres, district nursing services, ethno specific organisations and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.

If you are unsure if the services you receive are funded under the HACC program, check with your provider.

Victoria has arguably the best home care services in Australia. The Victorian Government is working with the Commonwealth Government to ensure that the high standard and levels of these services are preserved through this period of change.

Both governments are committed to ensuring that the changes have minimal impacts on the clients who depend on these services.

## I am a HACC client aged under 65 on 1 July 2016

The type of service and the levels of service you currently receive will continue to be delivered by your current provider through this transition.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will gradually roll out in Victoria over three years from 1 July 2016. People currently receiving support through the HACC Program will be able to test their eligibility for the Scheme as it becomes available in the area where they live.

If you are eligible, you will continue to receive your existing supports and services until you transition to the NDIS. Closer to the time when your area transitions, you will be provided with more information on the process of entering the Scheme.

If you are not eligible for the Scheme, your current services will continue to be funded by the Department of Health & Human Services into the future.

### **I am a HACC Aboriginal client aged 50 and over on 1 July 2016**

If you are an Aboriginal person aged over 50 and under 65, you may be eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

If you are eligible, you will continue to receive your existing supports and services until you transition to the NDIS. Closer to the time when your area transitions, you will be provided with more information on the process of entering the Scheme.

If you are not eligible for the Scheme or are aged over 65, the type of service and the levels of service you currently receive will continue to be delivered by your current provider through this transition

#### **More information**

The Department of Health & Human Services provides detailed updates on the transition to all HACC providers – we suggest that in the first instance you should discuss your service provision with your HACC provider.

Further information will also be posted on our website on the DHHS Transition webpage as it comes to hand: <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/hacc/transition/index.htm>

If you have any questions, please contact the DHHS HACC Transition Team by emailing to [HACCtransition@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:HACCtransition@dhhs.vic.gov.au), or contact your regional DHHS office.