

Home and Community Care (HACC) in Transition: Newsletter

3 June 2015

Background

In May 2013, the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments announced an agreement to implement the National Disability Insurance Scheme from July 2016.

As part of this agreement, Governments agreed that management of the HACC Program will be split. 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.

Services for younger people (people aged under 65 and under 50 for Aboriginal people) will be funded and managed solely by the Victorian Government, until the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is in full operation.

The Commonwealth and Victorian Governments have agreed to work together to retain the benefits of Victoria's HACC service system.

The Commonwealth and Victorian Governments have been working on a Transition Agreement that spells out the detail of transition arrangements.

Discussions are ongoing and a firm transition date will be determined when the Transition Agreement is formally endorsed – which is likely to be in July/August 2015. The transition date is expected to be 1 July 2016.

What does this mean for my organisation's current funding agreement?

Existing arrangements will remain in place until further notice. This means that:

- Your organisation will be offered a new Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) service agreement to continue providing the HACC services you are currently funded to deliver from 1 July 2015.

What will the Transition mean for my organisation?

- Through the transition process, DHHS and the Commonwealth Department of Social Services (DSS) will determine a split of your HACC funding between funding for older clients and funding for younger clients.
- This split will be based on the client level data your organisation provides through the HACC Minimum Data Set (MDS). Both DHHS and DSS will communicate with you about the split of funding and discuss with you any variations from the data that you believe are justified.
- **If you only provide HACC services to younger people**, your organisation's DHHS service agreement will not be affected by the transition process, and you will continue to provide these services. These services will gradually reduce as a proportion of your younger clients transfer to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2019.

- **If you only provide HACC services to older people**, all of your HACC funding will be removed from your DHHS service agreement and you will be offered a replacement service agreement from the Commonwealth DSS to continue to deliver these services under the Commonwealth Home Support Programme from the transition date.
- **If you provide HACC services to both older and younger people** (as most HACC funded organisations do):
 - The proportion of HACC for **younger people** will remain in your DHHS service agreement and will gradually reduce as a proportion of your younger clients transfer to the NDIS from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2019.
 - The proportion of HACC funding for **older people** will be removed from your DHHS service agreement from the transition date and you will be offered a replacement service agreement from the Commonwealth DSS to continue to deliver these services under the Commonwealth Home Support Programme.
- The Commonwealth and Victorian Governments have committed to a three-year period of funds stability for funds allocated to services for older people for Victorian organisations transitioning to the CHSP.

What does the introduction of My Aged Care in Victoria mean for my services?

The Department is working closely with the Commonwealth on the implementation of My Aged Care in Victoria, which is an important part of the Australian Government's national aged care reform measures.

My Aged Care will provide a central, identifiable point of entry for older people, their families, and carers to access information on ageing and aged care, have their needs assessed, and be supported to locate and access available services.

There is currently an in principle agreement between the Commonwealth and the Department to register all HACC service providers on the My Aged Care system by 30 June 2016 at the latest. Registration of services will occur as a staged migration over the next 12 months, and DHHS will be closely managing this process to ensure a smooth transition onto My Aged Care.

For now, **no immediate action is required from service providers who do not undertake assessment activities.**

What if my organisation is a designated HACC Assessment Service (HAS)?

The Commonwealth's commitment to funds stability means that funds for assessment allocated to agencies currently delivering assessment (primarily local councils) will remain there for at least three years.

As part of the staged migration to My Aged Care, from 1 July 2015, HAS will be able to receive referrals on the My Aged Care system as an additional referral source, just as they would receive referrals from other agencies. Otherwise, it is business as usual.

For more information on the staged migration of HACC Assessment Services into My Aged Care and how to prepare for accessing the system, please refer to the May 2015 **My Aged Care – Information Update for Victorian HACC Assessment Services** bulletin.

Where can we direct queries related to HACC Transition?

DHHS has now established a dedicated email address (HACCtransition@dhhs.vic.gov.au) for directing queries related to the HACC Transition in Victoria. One of the team members from DHHS Central Office will endeavour to respond as soon as possible.



home and community care

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To receive this publication in an accessible format phone **03 9096 8210** using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or email HACCtransition@dhhs.vic.gov.au

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