

Changes to the Home and Community Care Program (HACC)

Fact sheet for funded organisations

Purpose

This Fact Sheet provides information on the transition of Home and Community Care (HACC) Program for older people to Commonwealth.

This Fact Sheet is for organisations that are funded to provide HACC services.

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.

Detailed agreement reached to transfer HACC services and specialist disability services for older people to Commonwealth administration

On 16 September 2015, the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments signed the agreement on transitioning responsibilities for aged care and disability services in Victoria.

The agreement includes the transfer to the Commonwealth Department of Social Services of funding and administration of HACC services for older people.

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

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. The Agreement reflects the ongoing commitment by both governments to retaining the benefits of the current Victorian HACC system

What does this mean for my organisation's current HACC services between now and 30 June 2016?

Existing arrangements will remain in place until 30 June 2016.

This means that your organisation will continue to deliver services to your existing and new clients of all ages until 30 June 2016. It is **business as usual for this period**.

Between now and 30 June 2016, DHHS and the Commonwealth Department of Social Services (DSS) will jointly determine a split of your HACC funding according to the age profile of your clients. The split will be based on the client-level data that 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.

What will happen from 1 July 2016?

You will continue to provide the same level and type of services **for older people** under a Commonwealth DSS funding agreement. The Commonwealth has guaranteed that the level of funding you receive for older people on 30 June 2016 will remain the same (plus indexation) for a three year period – this means there will be no re-tendering of services during this period.

We understand that there will be also opportunities for funded organisations to apply for annual growth funding during this period.

Your organisation will have time to consider the new service agreement with DSS before it needs to be signed.

You will continue to provide the same level and type of services for **younger people** under your DHHS service agreement. This funding will also remain stable. However as the NDIS is implemented across Victoria from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2019, a proportion of your funds for younger clients is likely to transfer to the National Disability Insurance Agency as your younger clients test their eligibility for the NDIS.

DHHS will develop advice about how this will work which will be available to you later in 2015.

More information

The Department of Health & Human Services will provide detailed updates on the transition to all HACC providers, as they are known.

DHHS and DSS will be conducting joint regional consultations with providers in November 2015 to discuss the transition to the new arrangements. You will be kept informed on the dates and venues for these forums by your DHHS Program and Service Adviser

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, or contact your regional DHHS office.