



Information for Aged Care Providers

Cessation of Residential Care Subsidy for Pre-Entry Leave

From 1 July 2015 residential care subsidy will no longer be paid to an approved aged care provider on behalf of a resident who is on pre-entry leave. Residential care subsidy is made up of the basic subsidy and any supplements which are payable on behalf of the resident.

Pre-entry leave is the period of leave a resident may take for up to seven days immediately before entering permanent residential care. From 1 July 2015 a resident will still be able to take pre-entry leave, though no subsidy or supplements will be payable for this period.

A provider will still be able to charge the basic daily fee to a resident on pre-entry leave but will not be able to charge a means tested care fee or anything towards the resident's accommodation. Residential care subsidy that would have previously been payable cannot be recouped from the resident through any other charges.

Currently, a provider receives a reduced amount of residential care subsidy on behalf of a resident on pre-entry leave. For a resident whose pre-entry leave starts prior to 1 July 2015 and ends on or after 1 July 2015, the current 30 per cent subsidy will continue to be paid for all days up to and including 30 June 2015. The Australian Government announced this change in the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook in December 2014.

Aged Care Fees Income Assessment (SA456) form

Self-funded retirees need to complete the Aged Care Fees Income Assessment (SA456) to determine the fees they could be asked to pay for their home care package. The Department of Human Services (DHS) and Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) do not hold their income information. If a self-funded retiree does not complete the Aged Care Fees Income Assessment (SA456) form, their fees will be set at the maximum rate. Further information, including a guide to complete the form, is available on the Department of Human Service's website (<http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/forms/sa456>).

Most people who receive the aged pension (and some who receive other means tested income payments) do not need to complete the Aged Care Fee Income Assessment (SA456) form to receive their fee advice. DHS or DVA have sufficient information to work out the income tested care fee (if any) payable without these individuals completing the income assessment form. DHS will notify the provider and consumer of the fees payable once the provider has notified that the consumer has started care. However, a person may wish to know the fees payable prior to entry into a Home Care Package. If this is the case, someone receiving the aged pension can trigger a pre-commencement assessment by simply calling DHS on 1800 227 475 or DVA on 1800 555 254 or alternatively by completing their contact details and submitting the Aged Care Fees Income Assessment (SA456) form.

Only one assessment is required. A separate assessment does not need to be requested (or form completed) for each service a consumer wants to go on the wait-list for. Consumers can be directed to the My Aged Care website (<http://www.myagedcare.gov.au/financial-and-legal/home-care-package-income-tested-care-fee>) for further information on incomes tested fees.

Severe Behaviour Response Teams funding round

The Severe Behaviour Response Team (SBRT) grant funding round has now opened and will close on Wednesday 15 July 2015. This funding round will support the establishment of a mobile workforce of clinical experts who will provide timely and expert advice to residential aged care providers that request assistance with addressing the needs of people with very severe and extreme behavioural issues and behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia. A total of up to \$12.67 million in funding is available in 2015-16 for this programme.

Following the grant application process, the first phase of the SBRTs is expected to commence nationally later this year. The SBRTs will work closely with the existing Dementia Behaviour Management Advisory Services (DBMAS) in each state and territory. A second phase will see these two programmes integrated from 2016-17. Information on the application process is available on the Department's website (<https://www.dss.gov.au/grants>), or if you have any questions please email grants@dss.gov.au.

CDC and Home Care Agreements

As providers prepare for all home care packages to be delivered on a CDC basis from 1 July 2015, some of you have asked if you need to update existing Home Care Agreements as part of the transition. The answer is no – existing Home Care Agreements entered into before 1 July 2015 do not need to be updated providing they comply with the requirements of CDC. The consumer's package will still need to be delivered on a CDC basis from 1 July 2015. You will be able to achieve this through the co-design of the consumer's new care plan and individualised budget. You will also need to provide your consumers with a monthly statement so that they can see how their budget is being spent.

Home Care Agreements entered into on or after 1 July 2015 need to state that the home care package will be delivered on a CDC basis and specify that the provider will give an individualised budget and a monthly income and expenditure statement to the consumer.

Quality Indicators for Aged Care – Pilot in Residential Aged Care

The pilot for the National Aged Care Quality Indicator Programme commenced on 4 May 2015, and the first pilot cycle is now almost at completion. While it is too early to comment on the pilot results, the early response has been positive with over 400 facilities volunteering to participate. KPMG, which is managing the pilot, will collect feedback from participating facilities to inform the Department as we move toward the national programme in 2016.

The second cycle of the pilot will start on 20 July 2015 and will also involve quality of life/consumer experience indicators. In May, KPMG (on behalf of the Department) conducted a number of consultations with providers and conducted consumer and carer focus groups which have progressed the development of quality of life/consumer experience indicators. If you would like to participate in the second cycle of the residential aged care pilot, please contact KPMG on **1800 881 436** or email AU-FMACQIS@kpmg.com.au. The Department is commencing work on the second component of the programme, quality indicators for home care, and it is expected that a pilot for home care will commence later this year.

Message to Home Care Providers from the Department of Human Services

The end of the financial year is almost upon us again. We thought it timely to remind aged care providers and services who have outstanding claims and would like them paid in this financial year, that now is the time to lodge them.

Historically during the last few weeks in June the Department of Human Services (the department) receives a higher volume of claims for payment than usual, as people prepare for the end of the financial year. As a guide, claims lodged with the department by Wednesday 24 June 2015 (where no further information is required by the department), should be processed by the department, with applicable payments made by 30 June 2015.

Claims can be emailed to the department at aged.care.liaison@humanservices.gov.au. If you post claims please factor in postal delivery times. If you have any questions, please contact the department at aged.care.liaison@humanservices.gov.au.