Commonwealth Home Support Programme
Information sheet – overview of existing programs

From 1 July 2015, the Commonwealth Home Support Programme will consolidate a range of existing programs to provide the entry level tier of home support services for older people including the Commonwealth HACC Program, the National Respite for Carers Program, the Day Therapy Centres Program, and the Assistance with Care and Housing for the Aged Program.


The Commonwealth Home and Community Care (HACC) Program
The Commonwealth HACC Program is the largest part of the Australian Government’s support for aged care services at home and delivers a range of basic maintenance, support and care services for frail older people and their carers.

On 1 July 2012, the Australian Government assumed full policy, funding and day-to-day responsibility for HACC services for people aged 65 years and over and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 years and over in all states and territories except Victoria and Western Australia.

In Victoria and Western Australia, HACC services are currently delivered as a jointly funded Commonwealth-State programme that provides services to older people and younger people with disabilities. It is intended that the HACC Program for older people in Victoria will transition to the CHSP. Negotiations with Victoria are continuing and further detail on arrangements for Victorian HACC providers will be available in 2015. The Victorian HACC Program continues to be administered by the Victorian Government and there are no changes to arrangements for Victorian HACC services until responsibility for HACC services for older people are transitioned to the Commonwealth.

The HACC Program in Western Australia for younger and older clients will remain administered by the state government and jointly funded with the Australian Government. Negotiations on a transition of the HACC Program for older people in Western Australia to the CHSP are still taking place and further detail will be provided during 2015.

During 2012–13, the Australian Government provided $1.1 billion to the Commonwealth HACC Program which provided services to over 486,000 people aged 65 years and over (50 years and over for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people), not including people who received assistance in Victoria or Western Australia. In Victoria and Western Australia, another 357,446 people received services through the HACC Program in those states, of which 269,989 were aged 65 years or over (50 years and over for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people).
**The National Respite for Carers Program (NRCP)**
The National Respite for Carers Program is designed to support and assist relatives and friends caring at home for people who are unable to care for themselves because of disability or frailty. It provides respite and other carer supports in a variety of settings, including day care centres, overnight cottages and in-home respite services. In 2012-2013, the Australian Government provided funding of $215 million to the NRCP to provide 5.1 million hours of planned respite through more than 550 respite services across Australia.

**The Day Therapy Centres Program (DTC)**
The Day Therapy Centre Program provides therapy services aimed at assisting older people to maintain their independence. In 2012–13, the Australian Government provided $38.1 million to over 150 service outlets. Over 48,000 clients received services from DTCs including physiotherapy, occupational therapy, podiatry and social work.

**The Assistance with Care and Housing for the Aged Program (ACHA)**
The Assistance with Care and Housing for the Aged Program supports older people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The programme links clients to suitable accommodation services with the aim of helping clients to remain in the community rather than inappropriately entering residential care. While accommodation support is a key feature of the programme, clients are also referred to a range of care and other services to help them maintain their independence. In 2012–13, the Australian Government provided funding of $5.5 million to the ACHA Program, supporting 54 services to assist 5,390 people.

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