### accept

# Introduction to Home Care **Funding**

Navigating home care can be challenging, especially if you're not sure where to start.

This fact sheet explains the basics so you know what help is available and how to access it.

#### What is My Aged Care?

My Aged Care (MAC) is the starting point for accessing governmentfunded aged care in Australia.

It's a free service run by the Australian Government that helps older Australians, their families, and carers understand what support is available and how to get it.

You can contact My Aged Care by calling 1800 200 422, visiting their website, or going to a Services Australia service centre.

### What is a Home Care Package?

A Home Care Package is government funding that helps you keep living independently at home for as long as possible.

Instead of moving into residential aged care, the package gives you a budget to spend on services and support that suit your needs so you can stay at home.

#### Am I eligible for a Home Care Package?

In most cases, you must be:

- 65 years or older, or
- 50 years or older if you are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

Your exact eligibility is decided after an in-home assessment with a qualified assessor.

#### What's the assessment like?

The assessment is completed in your home. The assessor will ask questions and assess your environment to see what support you may need to stay independent, safe and happy at home.

### What kind of support could I get with my Home Care Package?

Your Home Care Package can be used for a wide range of support to help you live safely and comfortably at home.

#### This can include:

- Health and clinical care such as physiotherapy, nursing, or podiatry
- Help with daily tasks like cleaning, gardening, laundry, and meal preparation
- Social support to keep you connected with your community, attend appointments, or enjoy activities you love.



## I'm currently getting some help now, is it a Home Care Package?

There are several funding schemes for home care services. Your help may be provided through a Home Care Package or the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP). CHSP services are usually provided within local council areas and offer basic help, such as cleaning, gardening, or transport. While Home Care Packages provide more funding and a more comprehensive range of supports.

If you want to apply for a Home Care Package, it's important to check with My Aged Care to make sure you are definitely on the waitlist.

### How do I apply?

You or a representative need to call My Aged Care on 1800 200 422, and ask to apply for a Home Care Package.

Or, you can ask a professional – such as your GP – to submit a professional referral to My Aged Care on your behalf.

#### What does this process look like?

- 1. Register with My Aged Care.
- **2.** Receive an at-home assessment by an assessor
- **3.** Approved and provided with referral codes (can take ~18months to receive funding)
- 4. Choose your provider

### How long does it take to get a Home Care Package?

There are over 88,000 older Australians waiting for a Home Care Package, and the entire process can between 6-12+ months.

# What should I do while I'm waiting for a Home Care Package?

There are local free and discount services in your area that can help while you're waiting for your funding to come through. Talk to our friendly home care experts, for more information. We also have a Free Care Program that you may be eligible for.

# What happens when my Home Care Package comes through?

Once your Package is assigned, it means that your funding is available to use, and you have 56 days to find a Home Care Provider that's right for you.

Age Up can help explain what questions to ask aged care providers to ensure you receive the best possible care.

### Who can help me?

If you need help navigating the aged care system, we're here to help at any stage!

We have a team of Home Care experts who can answer all your questions and ensure you're getting the right support you need.



Why not speak to our friendly Home Care experts today

08 8251 5186 info@accept.care