



HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE (HACC) SERVICE PROVISION GUIDELINES FOR FAMILIES OR CARERS REQUIRING RESPITE

Where a family member needs a break from their caring role the HACC Program may be able to provide a replacement carer through respite. However, for a carer to receive HACC services the person being cared for must be HACC eligible as determined through a HACC assessment.

A HACC service provider should consider whether the respite provided by HACC is the most suitable for the client and consider, where appropriate, referring to an alternative carer respite program.

The primary purpose of the HACC respite service is to provide a substitute for the carer. HACC respite is usually provided on a planned/regular basis. The HACC Program only provides direct respite services while other respite programs may provide indirect respite services.

Please refer to *appendix 1* for further details regarding other Government funded respite services and definition for direct and indirect respite.





Carer of HACC eligible client who is not receiving respite from any Government Program (ie HACC, Community Aged Care Packages, National Respite for Carers Program)

The HACC service provider, in making a decision about the provision of respite services, should consider whether the carer is currently receiving, or able to receive, a more appropriate respite service from another Government program.

For a carer requiring respite, priority of access to HACC services should be given to carers who:

1. Are not receiving formal respite services
2. Do not have access to, or are ineligible for, respite assistance through other Government programs (i.e. Australian Government’s National Respite for Carers Program).

Case example	Support needs/request	Comment
45 year old man with severe rheumatoid arthritis and not currently receiving services from any Government program. Mother (72) is his main carer	Mother requests HACC support (Respite) of 2 hours a week so that she can manage her weekly shopping	This level of support is consistent with the WA HACC Service Provision Guidelines
Husband (79) caring for wife (80) who is not able to get out of the house. Husband provides all support for the wife. Not currently receiving any services from any Government program	Daughter requests HACC support to provide a break for her father. Assessment identifies that husband and wife are eligible for HACC services, support plan developed to provide assistance with household tasks 3 hours per fortnight and a break for the husband (Respite) 3 hours per fortnight	This level of support is consistent with the WA HACC Service Provision Guidelines. HACC service provider should continue to monitor the couple regularly
Woman (78), previously independent, breaks her leg. Her husband (79) is her carer whilst she recovers. Not currently receiving services from any Government program.	Request for short term support whilst recovering from broken leg	Woman does not have an ongoing functional disability and is therefore not eligible for HACC services.



Carer receiving respite from another Government program (National Respite for Carers Program, Disability Services Commission)

The HACC service provider should take into account the family’s current access to respite services provided under other Government programs. Where a family currently receives a high level of other respite services, they will not have priority of access to HACC respite.

Case example	Support needs/request	Comment
Elderly couple in their 70s, wife is the primary carer. Husband has paralysis from stroke several years ago. Wife provides all support for the husband	Currently receives occasional overnight support so that wife is able to visit her daughter (respite) from the NRCP when carer is under pressure and needs a break. Regular HACC respite 2 hrs a month so that the wife can have her hair done.	This level of support is consistent with the WA HACC Service Provision Guidelines
Girl (16) with Cerebral Palsy, lives with her family there are two younger siblings	HACC provides 2 hours of respite per week with occasional overnight respite provided through the National Respite for Carers Program (NRCP)	This level of support is consistent with the WA HACC Service Provision Guidelines
Woman (78) with ongoing functional difficulties, specifically mobility issues. Cared for by son	Currently receiving an Extended Aged Care at Home (EACH) package. Requests respite care from HACC	Not eligible for HACC support should request respite through EACH package
Man (45) with cerebral palsy. Wife is primary carer	Currently receives 6 hours of respite a week through DSC. Local Area Coordinator requests HACC respite due to increasing needs	Not eligible for HACC support should request increased respite through DSC



Delivering a Healthy WA



For further information:

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Home and Community Care Program Website
www.health.wa.gov.au/hacc



Appendix 1: Definitions and Government Funded Respite Programs in Western Australia

Direct respite has the primary purpose of giving a carer a break from their caring role through the provision of a substitute carer.

Indirect respite refers to assistance that results in an indirect *respite effect* by relieving the carer of other tasks of daily living, i.e. assistance with shopping or household tasks.

GOVERNMENT FUNDED CARER RESPITE PROGRAMS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

		Respite Service Type Provided						
Program	Contact No.	Direct /Indirect	Information	In Community	Emergency/ crisis	Planned/ ongoing	Residential	Retreat/ Host Family
Australian Government National Respite for Carers Program	1800 059 059	✓ ✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dept of Communities Carers WA Short Breaks (Retreats)	1800 242 636	✓		✓		✓		✓
FaCSIA Respite Support for Carers of Young People with a Severe or Profound Disability	1800 059 059	✓ ✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Young Carers Respite Program	1800 059 059	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Mental Health Respite Program	1800 059 059	✓ ✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Dept of Veterans' Affairs Veteran's Home Care Program	1300 550 450	✓ ✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Dept of Health Home and Community Care	9222 2460	✓		✓		✓		
Office of Mental Health	By referral	✓ ✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Disability Services Commission Respite Program	1800 998 214	✓ ✓		✓		✓	✓	
Intensive Family Support Program		✓		✓		✓		