



WA HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE (HACC) PROGRAM

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND PRINCIPLES FOR SERVICE PROVISION

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This paper addresses the position of the WA HACC Program in the changing environment of aged, disability and community care programs and outlines changes to access and the level of support that can be provided to individuals.

As of 1 July 2018, the WA HACC Program is available only to younger individuals (people aged under 65 and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people aged under 50). Services for older people (people aged 65 and over and Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 and over) are now funded and managed by the Commonwealth Department of Health through the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP).

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) commenced rollout in Western Australia in July 2017 and is the new way of providing disability support for Australians under 65 who have a permanent and significant disability. WA HACC and the NDIS will co-exist during the roll-out to ensure continuity of service for current HACC clients.

With the NDIS now accepting younger people from all regions, the WA HACC Program is only available to younger clients who are already recipients of WA HACC services. No new clients are able to enter the HACC program.

THE WA HACC PROGRAM TODAY

The WA HACC Program, in partnership with the sector, has engaged in significant reform commencing in 2005 that has resulted in the following:

- Support for individuals underpinned by a Wellness philosophy that works with individuals to identify and build on their strengths and maximise independence, well-being and connections to the community;
- Holistic assessment and support planning that places the person and their carer at the centre of decision-making and ensures effective communication and cooperation between all parts of the system;
- Innovative service approaches with substantial evidence of success in building individual strengths and abilities and social connection;
- Established independent monitoring of the quality of service provision against standards;
- Investment in sector development and training opportunities;
- Organisations with a well-developed understanding of the costs of service provision and the capacity to manage their business in a sustainable manner;
- Established standard fees ensuring a consistent and fairer system of applying fees for support.

The WA Government will continue to administer the WA HACC Program for younger individuals, with the majority of funding and clients transitioning to the Commonwealth-funded National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) as it rolls out between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2020. For further information on the NDIS, please see www.ndis.gov.au.

The ongoing structure and services of the WA HACC Program beyond 2020 are still under consideration.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE WA HACC PROGRAM

The overarching objective of the WA HACC Program is to maximise the independence, well-being and community connections of people who require low levels of support¹ with everyday tasks of living. The NDIS is the new way of providing support to younger people with a permanent and significant disability. Current HACC Clients should be supported by service providers to test their eligibility for NDIS services. Those current HACC clients who have tested their eligibility but have not met NDIS criteria will continue to be supported by the WA HACC Program, but will not have their supports increased.

WA HACC Program support for people with disability aged under 16 years is limited to support with activities that are appropriate for an individual of that age to undertake independently.

New people (non-current HACC clients) seeking assistance/support to manage a disability or impairment must test their eligibility with the NDIS. These clients are not eligible for HACC services.

PRINCIPLES FOR WA HACC PROGRAM SERVICE PROVISION

The WA HACC Program is committed to the following principles in the administration and service delivery of the program in Western Australia:

1. The WA HACC Program provides low levels of support to eligible individuals to maximise their independence, well-being and connections to the community. All elements of the WA HACC Program work within a Wellness philosophy.
2. WA HACC Program service providers play an important role in ensuring the support they provide addresses the assessed needs of the individual and is consistent with a Wellness philosophy and the *Principles for WA HACC Program Service Provision*. Service providers and the WA Regional Assessment Service will collaborate to ensure the individual and carer experience of the WA HACC Program is characterised by effective communication and cooperation.
3. Ongoing WA HACC Program support is only provided at low levels and should not exceed the amount of support available from a Level 1 Home Care Package. People seeking ongoing WA HACC Program support in excess of a Level 1 Home Care Package will be supported in identifying other appropriate programs.

4. Carers of people eligible for WA HACC Program support may access planned respite support and counselling, support, information and advocacy on an individual basis or in a group. Support provided to the carer is included within the maximum level of support available to the eligible individual.
5. People with access to support as part of their accommodation arrangements, people in residential aged care facilities and people in NDIS areas remain ineligible for short term and ongoing WA HACC Program support.
6. Current WA HACC Program clients accessing levels of support in excess of a Level 1 Home Care Package should have their support maintained but not increased. Where support needs exceed this level, WA RAS will work with the service provider and the individual to facilitate access to short term reablement support with the objective of restoring previous levels of independence. Where needs remain high, WA RAS will work with the service provider and the individual to support identification of alternative programs. These clients should be prioritised by Service Providers to test their eligibility with the NDIS.
7. Current WA HACC Program clients accessing similar support from another government program should have their support maintained but not increased. WA RAS will actively work with the service provider and the individual to minimise duplication and excessive support provision by facilitating access to short term reablement support or facilitating transition to alternative programs.
8. People who are not eligible to access ongoing WA HACC Program support may negotiate with WA HACC Program service providers to purchase support at full cost where capacity exists. Sub-contracting arrangements between WA HACC Program service providers and other service providers may also be negotiated to support continuity of care and consumer choice if WA HACC Program clients are not disadvantaged through these arrangements.
9. Current WA HACC Program clients who have been found eligible for NDIS may continue to access their HACC Program support at current levels during the process of transitioning to NDIS, but will no longer be able to access any HACC services once their NDIS plan is in place and NDIS services commence.
10. Current WA HACC Program clients who have been deemed ineligible for the NDIS will be able to have their current level of support maintained but not increased during the NDIS transition period.
11. The RAS will not conduct reassessments for changes in support needs for current HACC clients. These clients should be prioritised by Service Providers to test their eligibility with the NDIS.
12. Where required, the RAS may conduct reviews of current HACC clients residing in NDIS areas as part of supporting them to test their eligibility and transition to the NDIS or to other community programs.