



This is a joint resource of the Australian Government Departments of Health and Veterans' Affairs

Aged care services for the senior veteran community

If you're a senior* veteran or a war widow/widower, you may be able to get aged care services from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) and My Aged Care at the same time, **as long as you don't get the same service from both.**

For example, you could access low-level domestic assistance and personal care through the Veterans' Home Care Program, and receive community transport and delivered meals through the Commonwealth Home Support Programme.

Department of Veterans' Affairs' services

DVA's aged and community care services are usually 'entry level' services for lower care needs – they are generally not suitable for more complex care needs.

Eligible veterans or war widows/widowers may be able to receive services under the following DVA programs:

Veterans' Home Care (VHC) Program

- domestic assistance
- personal care
- safety related home and garden maintenance
- respite care (in-home, residential and emergency).

Community Nursing Program

- medication management
- wound care
- help with hygiene.

Other services for the veteran community

- aids and appliances through the Rehabilitation Appliance Program
- allied health services
- Veterans' and Veterans' Families Counselling Service (VVCS)
- Veterans' Access Network.

More information

For more information on services and payments you may be eligible for as a veteran or war widow/widower, call DVA on **1800 555 254** or visit www.dva.gov.au

* Younger veterans may be able to receive these services in exceptional circumstances.





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My Aged Care services

As well as accessing services offered by DVA, if eligible, veterans and war widows/widowers may also be able to receive services through My Aged Care, including:

Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) *entry level care*

The CHSP offers a range of community support services to help you live independently at home and in the community.

If you are eligible for DVA-funded services such as the VHC Program or Community Nursing Program, you may still be able to receive CHSP services alongside these so long as:

- you are eligible for services
- the support you need is entry-level
- there is no duplication in the services/help provided.

Short-term Restorative Care (STRC)

STRC provides a range of care and services for up to eight weeks. It aims to help improve wellbeing and independence, and delay or avoid the need to enter long-term care. If you are receiving DVA services, you may still be eligible to receive STRC.

Home Care Package (HCP) *more complex coordinated care*

HCPs deliver tailored and coordinated services to support senior Australians (including veterans and widows/widowers) who want to keep living in their own home.

You may be able to access DVA-funded services while receiving a HCP as long as there is no duplication of the specific services/help provided.

If you are receiving a HCP and are a veteran with a service related mental health condition accepted by DVA, you may also be entitled to the **Veterans' Supplement in Home Care**. This supplement is extra funding paid to your provider on your behalf to provide care appropriate to your circumstances.

Aged care homes

If you are living in an aged care home and are a veteran with a service related mental health condition accepted by DVA, you may also be entitled to the **Veterans' Supplement in Residential Care**. This supplement is extra funding paid to your aged care home on your behalf to provide care appropriate to your circumstances.

If you are a **former Prisoner of War** or **Victoria Cross recipient**, DVA will pay the basic daily fee on your behalf and you will not have to pay a means-tested fee for HCPs, aged care homes or STRC. DVA will organise this payment with your provider.

