



Australian Government



myagedcare



Entering an aged care home

Document 3: Pay for an aged care home

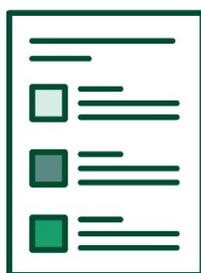
Easy to read version

How to use this document



We are the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

We wrote this document.



We wrote some words in **bold**.

We explain what these words mean.

There is also a list of these words on page **42**.



You can ask someone you trust for support to:

- read this document
- find more information.



This is an Easy Read summary of a document.

It only includes the most important ideas.

This document is part of a group of **5** documents about entering an aged care home:



1. What you need to know



2. Get an assessment



3. Pay for an aged care home

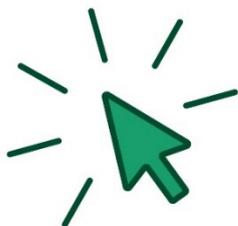
You are reading this document.



4. Find and apply for an aged care home



5. Make an agreement and manage your services



You can find all the documents on our website.

www.MyAgedCare.gov.au/Resources

What's in this document?

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Working out how much you need to pay



The Australian Government provides **funding** to aged care homes for some of your aged care services.

Funding is money from the government that pays for services and supports.



Funding makes sure more people can:

- afford aged care
- use aged care services.



But the government might not pay for all of it.

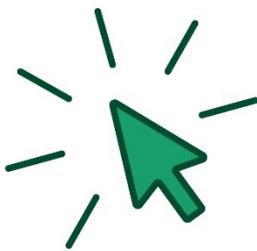


This means you might need to pay for some of the services you receive in an **aged care home**.



An aged care home is a place where older people live when they can't live in their home.

This might be for a short time or the rest of their life.



You can check how much you might need to pay on the My Aged Care website.

www.MyAgedCare.gov.au/Aged-Care-Home-Fee-Estimator

Getting a means assessment



You might need to get a **means assessment** to help you work out how much you need to pay.



A means assessment works out what **contributions** you need to pay to your aged care home.



Contributions are payments people need to make to use aged care services.



A means assessment also works out how much funding the Australian Government can pay your aged care home for your care.

This includes for a short time or the rest of your life.



A means assessment helps Services Australia work out exactly how much:

- you will pay
- the government will pay.

You will need to share information about your money, such as:



- how much money you make



- how much money you have in the bank



- the value of the things you own, like your house.



If you choose not to do a means assessment, you will have to pay:

- the highest contribution amount
- the price you agree to for your room.

You don't need to ask for a means assessment if:



- you don't own your own home

and

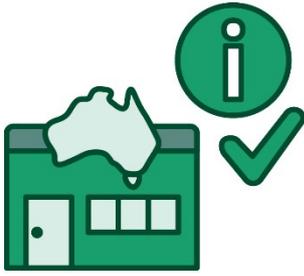


- you get certain payments from Centrelink or the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).

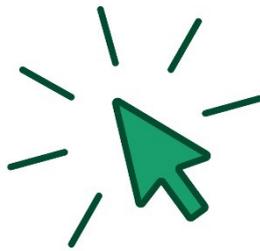


Veterans are people who worked in the defence forces, including the:

- army
- navy
- air force.



You don't need to ask for a means assessment because Services Australia will already have the information they need about you.



You can find out if you need to ask for a means assessment on the Services Australia website.

**[www.ServicesAustralia.gov.au/
AgedCareCostApply](http://www.ServicesAustralia.gov.au/AgedCareCostApply)**

Who you can contact for a means assessment



You can call Services Australia to do your means assessment.

1800 227 475



You can also call Services Australia if you need support to understand the means assessment.



Veterans can call DVA to do their means assessment.

1800 838 372



You can contact Services Australia and DVA to check how your assessment is going.

After your means assessment



After your means assessment, you will get a **pre-entry assessment letter**.

It explains to you how much you might have to pay to move into an aged care home.



You will have **120 days** to use the information in the letter.



If you need another pre-entry assessment letter you can ask:

- Services Australia
- DVA.

You might need another pre-entry assessment letter if:



- it is **120 days after** your means assessment



- parts of your life have changed – like your money or care needs.



You will need to keep information about your money up to date after your means assessment.



This means you must tell Services Australia or DVA if anything changes with your money.



You will need to tell them within **28 days** after things change.



This will make sure you're paying the right contribution amount.



After you choose to move into an aged care home, you will get a **fee advice letter**.



It explains the most you might pay in your aged care home.



You will get a fee advice letter even if you didn't have to ask for a means assessment.

Contributions in an aged care home

Basic daily fee



Everyone in aged care homes needs to pay a basic daily fee.

It might be the only fee you need to pay.

This fee helps to pay for things like your:



- meals



- power



- laundry.

DVA might pay your basic daily fee if you are a veteran who:



- was caught by an enemy while working for the defence force



- got the Victoria Cross award.



You can call the DVA to check if they will pay for you.

1300 550 450

Means tested care fee



You might have to pay a 'means tested care fee' if you have over a certain amount of money.



This includes the value of the things you own, like your house.



You don't have to pay a means tested care fee if you are a veteran who:

- was caught by an enemy while working for the defence force
- got the Victoria Cross award.

Hotelling contribution

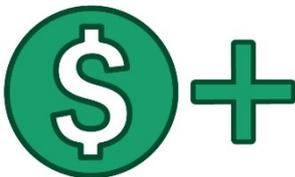


You only need to pay a hotelling contribution if you can afford it.



The government will pay this for you if you can't afford it.

This contribution helps to pay the extra costs of your:



- meals
- power
- laundry.

Non-clinical care contribution



You might have to pay a 'non-clinical care contribution' if you have over a certain amount of money.

This contribution pays for things like:



- bathing



- support to move around



- lifestyle activities – like group exercises.



You only need to pay this contribution if you can afford to pay the full hotelling contribution.



This contribution has a limit for how much you can pay.

You will stop paying this contribution if you:

- reach the limit
- pay this contribution for **4 years** .

Higher everyday living fee

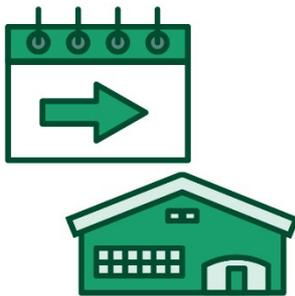


Some aged care homes have extra services you can pay for.

These are part of the higher everyday living fee.



You can choose whether you want to or don't want to get these extra services.

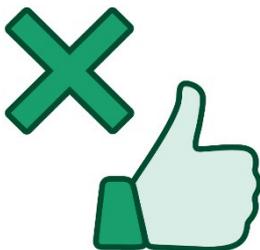


You can only agree to these services after you have moved into an aged care home.



These services must be included in a different **agreement**.

An agreement is a plan between you and your aged care home.



You can cancel a service at any time without having to pay an extra cost.



In the first **28 days** you can cancel the service straight away.



You can still cancel a service after this time. But you will have to tell the aged care home 28 days before you want to stop.



You will have to pay for any services you have gotten within that time.



You can ask your aged care home about these extra costs.

Accommodation costs



You might need to pay for your accommodation – the room you live in.



Your means assessment will work out how much you need to pay.



You might:

- not pay this cost
- pay for some of it
- pay for all of it.

Costs for other aged care programs



Some aged care programs have different rules about how much they cost.



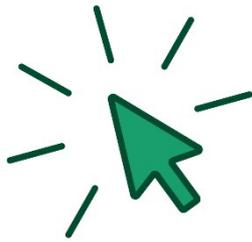
You should talk to your aged care **provider** about the costs for these programs.



Providers support people by delivering a service.



This includes some programs that support people who live far away from cities and towns.

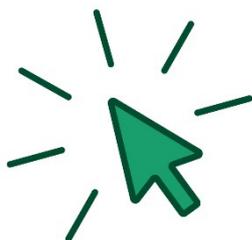


You can find out more about these programs
our website.

www.MyAgedCare.gov.au/Support-People-Living-Rural-And-Remote-Areas



This also includes some programs that support
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



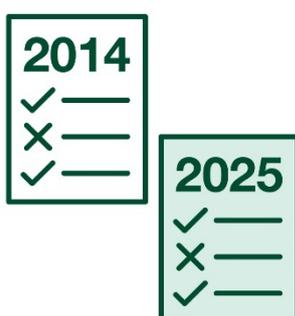
You can find out more about these programs
our website.

www.MyAgedCare.gov.au/Support-Aboriginal-And-Torres-Strait-Islander-People

Rules about the contributions you pay



There are different rules for the types of contributions you might have to pay.



Below we explain the:

- 2014 rules for contributions
- 2025 rules for contributions.

The 2014 rules



The 2014 rules started in **July 2014**.



The 2014 rules are for people who moved into an aged care home for long-term care before **1 November 2025**.

The 2014 rules are also for people who moved into an aged care home for long-term care:



- on or after **1 November 2025**

but



- received or found out they could get a Home Care Package on or before **12 September 2024** .



Home Care Packages were a way for older people to find and use services to help them at home.

The Home Care Packages program ended on **31 October 2025**.

The 2014 rules include the:



- basic daily fee



- means tested care fee



- higher everyday living fee



- accommodation costs.

The 2025 rules



The 2025 rules started in **1 November 2025.**



The 2025 rules are for people who moved into an aged care home on or **after 1 November 2025 .**



The 2025 rules are not for people who:

- were getting a Home Care Package on or before 12 September 2024
- found out they can get a Home Care Package on or before 12 September 2024.

The 2025 rules include the:



- basic daily fee



- hotelling contribution



- non-clinical care contribution



- higher everyday living fee



- accommodation costs.

How to pay your aged care accommodation costs



There are 3 ways you can choose to pay for your room in an aged care home.



1. You could pay a small amount regularly.

This is called a 'daily payment'.



This could be useful if you:

- don't have a lot of money saved
- get payments over time, like from the government.



2. You could pay a larger amount straight away as a lump-sum payment.



Your aged care home will take a small amount of this payment up to once a month.



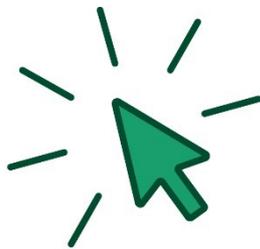
You can also talk to your aged care home about paying other costs with your lump-sum payment.



When you leave the aged care home, they will give you back the money that is left over.



3. You could also pay through a mix of these 2 options.



You can learn more about paying for your aged care home on the My Aged Care website.

www.MyAgedCare.gov.au/Understanding-Aged-Care-Home-Accommodation-Costs

How to pay for respite care



Respite care is when you only stay in an aged care home for a short time.

Paying for respite care is different to an aged care home.



You will have to pay a basic daily fee when you are in respite care.

But you don't have to:



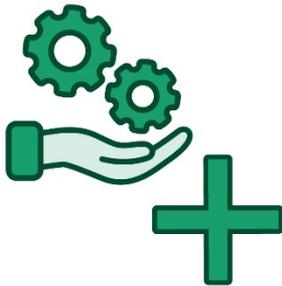
- pay accommodation costs



- get a means assessment.



You only need to get a means assessment if you want help to pay for your respite care.



You can choose to use extra services in respite care.

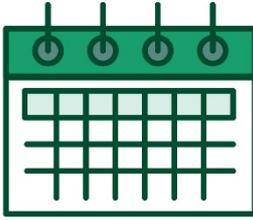
This means you might have to pay a higher everyday living fee.



You might also have to pay an extra amount of money before you receive care.

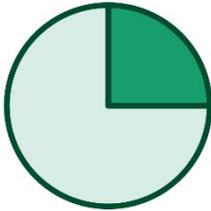
This is called a booking fee.

Your booking fee can't cost more than:



- a week's worth of respite care

or



- **25%** of the respite care you get.



You will pay which one costs less.

Who might help you pay for respite care



DVA might pay for your respite care if you are a veteran.

You can call them to check if they will pay for you.

1300 550 450



The government will pay for most of your respite care if you use a **registered** provider.



When a provider is registered, it means they:

- can provide aged care services
- must follow certain rules.

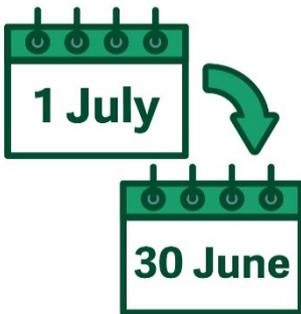
If you stay longer than **63 days**
in a financial year:



- the government will stop paying if you don't ask for more time



- you might have to pay more.



A financial year:

- starts on 1 July
- ends on 30 June the next year.

If you need more time in respite care



You can ask for more time in respite care if you need.

You can ask for up to **21 more days** at a time.



You will need to ask your aged care **assessor** for more time.

An assessor is someone who has the skills and knowledge to do an assessment.



You can cancel your respite care **7 days before** it starts.



The aged care home will have to give your money back.

Support to pay your fees

Learn more about aged care fees



It's a good idea to get advice from an expert about using your money.



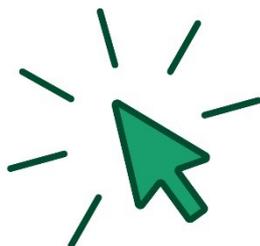
This is because how you pay for your aged care home might affect:

- payments you get from the government
- your other aged care services
- your partner's aged care services.



You can call Services Australia to get help with payments for your aged care home.

1800 227 475



You can get more information about getting financial support on the Services Australia website.

www.ServicesAustralia.gov.au/

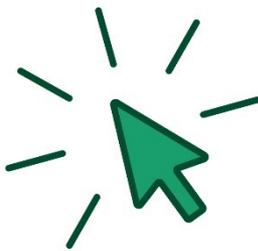
Financial-Information-Service

Help to pay your fees



Sometimes it is hard to pay your aged care fees.

You can get help.



You can find out more about help to pay your fees on our website.

**[www.MyAgedCare.gov.au/
Financial-Hardship-Assistance](http://www.MyAgedCare.gov.au/Financial-Hardship-Assistance)**



You can also call Services Australia.

1800 227 475

Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.



Aged care home

An aged care home is a place where older people live when they can't live in their home.

This might be for a short time or the rest of their life.



Agreement

An agreement is a plan between you and your aged care home.



Assessor

An assessor is someone who has the skills and knowledge to do an assessment.



Contributions

Contributions are payments people need to make to use aged care services.



Fee advice letter

A fee advice letter explains the most you might pay in your aged care home.



Funding

Funding is money from the government that pays for services and supports.



Means assessment

A means assessment works out:

- if the Australian Government can help you pay for an aged care home
- what contributions you need to pay.



Pre-entry assessment letter

A pre-entry assessment letter explains to you how much you might have to pay to move into an aged care home.



Providers

Providers support people by delivering a service.



Registered

When a provider is registered, it means they:

- can provide aged care services
- must follow certain rules.



Respite care

Respite care is when you stay in an aged care home for a short time.

Veterans



Veterans are people who worked in the defence forces, including the:

- army
- navy
- air force.



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