



COAG Age Split outcome - impact on NSW HACC services

As an outcome of the National Health and Hospitals Network Agreement, COAG has established the Commonwealth Government as the level of government with full funding, policy, management and delivery responsibility for a national aged care system. These reforms include a transfer to the Commonwealth of current resourcing for aged care services from the Home and Community Care (HACC) Program.

What is the decision?

The Commonwealth will assume:

- a. funding and program responsibility for basic community care services currently provided under HACC for people 65 years or over (50 years and over for Indigenous Australians); and
- b. funding responsibility for specialist disability services provided under the National Disability Agreement for people aged 65 years and over (50 years and over for Indigenous Australians).

The States will assume responsibility for:

- a. funding and regulating basic community care services currently delivered under HACC for people under the age of 65 (under 50 for Indigenous Australians); and
- b. funding packaged community and residential aged care services delivered on behalf of the Commonwealth for people under the age of 65 (under 50 for Indigenous Australians).

When will this happen?

The current HACC Agreement between the Commonwealth and NSW will cease on 30 June 2011. NSW will retain current Funding Agreements with providers until at least 30 June 2012; this includes existing service delivery requirements and conditions.

The implementation of the new arrangements for basic community care maintenance and support services will be carefully managed to ensure continuity of care for clients. The Commonwealth will work with States to develop new funding arrangements to come into effect from 1 July 2011, with a smooth transfer to Commonwealth operational responsibility for HACC aged care services from 1 July 2012.





The Commonwealth will fund service providers no earlier than 1 July 2012, and will not substantially alter service delivery mechanisms before 1 July 2015.

What does this mean for clients and services?

It is expected that basic level community care services will continue to be delivered through a mix of local government, State agency and non-government providers, and that individual providers will continue to be able to deliver both community disability and community aged care services both during the implementation period and beyond, as many do now.

The Australian Government has announced an Inquiry by the Productivity Commission into Aged Care for report back in April 2011. Future funding and administrative arrangements for the aged care sector may be informed by the Inquiry outcomes.

What is NSW's position?

NSW is committed to transition to the new arrangements in a way that will ensure there is no disruption to current clients, including younger people with a disability who are currently receiving care in aged care facilities.

While the transition details are still to be finalised, NSW will also work to ensure that the new arrangements ensure:

- seamless transition of service provision for clients
- continuity of care for clients
- simple access to services and clear client pathways
- minimal disruption to the service system
- minimal duplication of service provider reporting.

NSW maintains its commitment to the 600 organisations funded under the Home and Community Care Program in this state. Many of these are small long established community organisations with a great track record of serving their communities.

Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) has engaged Aged and Community Services NSW & ACT to support and lead a state-wide consultation process for the community care sector. This process will provide information & advice, consultation forums and activities to support the sector during the transition phase to ensure continuity of services for existing and new clients. Following discussion with sector, ACS will release a consultation plan to outline the strategies and timeframes.

Through the transition ADHC will provide regular updates to all stakeholders as well as maintaining information on our website www.dadhc.nsw.gov.au/doing-business-with-us/home-and-community-care. For further enquires, please contact haccreforms@dadhc.nsw.gov.au.



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