



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

Commonwealth Home and Community Care (HACC) Transition to Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP)

The Commonwealth Home Support Programme's (CHSP) stated objectives are to deliver timely, high quality entry-level support services, taking into account individual goals, preferences and choices, to help frail older people stay in their homes as long as they can and wish to do so.

The CHSP commenced on 1 July 2015 when the HACC program ceased, however existing HACC clients will continue to be supported under the CHSP.

Existing HACC services will be offered three-year funding agreements under the CHSP until 30 June 2018. An additional year of funding has been confirmed to allow CHSP and Home Care packages to merge to create an integrated at home package from 2018.

The exception to this is case management and care coordination services which are being provided by Regional Assessment Services (RAS) from 1 July 2015. Clients outside the scope of the CHSP will be supported during the transfer to other appropriate services.

The Commonwealth Home Support Programme brings together the:

- Commonwealth Home and Community Care (HACC) Program;
- National Respite for Carers Program (NRCP);
- Day Therapy Centres (DTC) Program; and
- Assistance with Care and Housing for the Aged (ACHA) Program.

Does the Introduction of the Regional Assessment Services (RAS) mean CHSP Service Providers no Longer Undertake Assessments?

Since 1 July 2015, the Regional Assessment Services have commenced undertaking assessment for access to CHSP. Clinical assessments, however, are still an important part of CHSP service provision.

These assessments include:

- Service level assessment activities such as work, health and safety (for both care workers and clients)
- Specialised clinical assessment based on professional expertise (e.g. Nursing and allied health and therapy services; risk of malnutrition assessed by meal providers).

What has Changed for Clients?

Following 1 July 2015 all client and carer requests for care are directed through the My Aged Care gateway. The My Aged Care Contact Centre will ask the prospective client a number of questions as part of initial screening to identify their level of need and will refer them to a face-to-face assessment. For clients with low level support needs that could be met by CHSP, the assessment will be conducted by Regional Support Services (RAS).

For existing HACC clients, there should be no noticeable change to the service they receive beyond becoming more empowered to work in partnership and make decisions about their care through a wellness approach.

To implement a wellness approach, staff will need to adapt their approaches towards clients, to do 'with' rather than 'for'.

More Information

For further resources on the transition, please see the Department of Social Services website at <https://www.dss.gov.au/ageing-and-aged-care/programs-services/commonwealth-home-support-programme>