HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE (HACC) SERVICE PROVISION GUIDELINES FOR YOUNGER PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY - OCTOBER 2012

These guidelines are intended to assist Regional Assessment Services, Local Area Coordinators, HACC service providers and other stakeholders to understand eligibility and priority of access for people with disability seeking assistance from the HACC Program. Part 1 of this document provides a summary of the over-arching WA HACC Service Provision Level Guidelines (http://www.health.wa.gov.au/HACC/docs/Guidelines_to_HACC_Service_Provision_Levels.pdf).

Part 1: Eligibility and Priority of Access to HACC Support

The overall objective of the HACC Program is to enhance the independence of people in the target population and to avoid or delay their premature admission to long term residential care through the provision of basic maintenance and support services.

All HACC support in WA is underpinned by the Wellness philosophy and is delivered in a manner that supports people to develop, retain and/or regain independence in their physical, social and emotional functioning and continue to live autonomously in the community.

The HACC target population¹ is defined as:
(a)...people in the Australian community who, without basic maintenance and support services provided under the scope of the National Program, would be at risk of premature or inappropriate long term residential care, including:
(i) older and frail people with moderate, severe or profound disability;
(ii) younger people with moderate, severe or profound disability; and
(iii) such other classes of people as are agreed upon, from time to time, by the Commonwealth Minister and the State Minister; and
(b) the unpaid carers of people assessed as being within the ‘target population’.

Eligibility is based on impaired functional capacity and individuals do not qualify for HACC support on the basis of advanced age alone. HACC eligible individuals have difficulties in carrying out tasks of daily living and need support due to an ongoing moderate, severe or profound functional disability.

Once eligibility is determined the individual’s relative priority of access to HACC support needs to be considered. Eligibility and priority of access are reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Priority of access to HACC support is for eligible people who:
- are receiving no formal services;
- are living alone with no informal support;

¹ National Program Guidelines for the Home and Community Care Program 2007
• do not have access to, or are ineligible for, assistance through other government funded programs; and/or
• are carers of HACC eligible people experiencing carer stress.

Therefore, priority of access is lower for HACC eligible people who:
• have access to, or are eligible for, other government funded programs; and/or
• are considered less at risk of premature or inappropriate admission to long term residential care.

Levels of HACC support provided must be consistent with the WA HACC Service Provision Level Guidelines and the definition of basic maintenance and support\(^2\). Generally, HACC support should not exceed the value of $14,000 per annum; an amount equivalent to the average Community Aged Care Package (CACP). If a person requires support well in excess of $14,000 per annum it is appropriate to explore assessment and referral for alternative programs of support and maintain the HACC support until an appropriate transition can be arranged.

Where a person is receiving low to moderate levels of assistance through another government funded program it may be appropriate to provide limited HACC support in areas that do not duplicate existing support and are outside the parameters of their existing program. This complementary support should only be provided where it does not impact negatively on access for HACC eligible clients who are receiving no or minimal other supports.

Where a person is receiving high levels of support through another government funded program it is not appropriate for that individual to commence receiving HACC support.

Where a current HACC client commences receiving high levels of support from another government funded program it is expected all client needs will be addressed through the new program and planning for an appropriate transition to the new program will commence.

For the purposes of these guidelines ‘high levels of support’ is deemed to be equivalent to the funding level for an Extended Aged Care at Home (EACH) package, currently funded at approximately $45,000 per annum.

Where an assessment determines a current HACC client requires assistance from an alternative program the support needs to be maintained until an appropriate transition is arranged.

Respite and Counselling, support, information and advocacy (CSIA-carer) are provided specifically for carers of HACC eligible people in acknowledgement of their need for support, recognition and assistance in their role. Carers are not eligible for other types of HACC support, but carer needs will be considered in determining priority of access to HACC support for eligible people with moderate, severe or profound disability.

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\(^2\) Basic maintenance and support services are defined as those that are essential to a person’s well being, for example, nutrition, community nursing, domestic assistance and personal care.
Part 2: Younger People with Disability and Case Examples

**Children with disability living with their family/carer**

Part 1 of this document provides guidance on the broad group who may be assisted by the HACC Program and the priorities for assistance.

While younger children with ‘moderate, severe or profound disability’ may meet HACC eligibility criteria this group are not considered ‘at risk of premature or inappropriate long term residential care’, or appropriate for support that focuses on maximising independence with tasks of daily living, including showering and dressing, preparing meals, house cleaning and maintenance, and using public transport.

As such, younger children with a moderate, severe or profound disability may meet HACC eligibility criteria but do not have priority of access to HACC support in their own right.

In these cases it may be appropriate to support the carer of the HACC eligible child through HACC Respite or CSIA (see ‘Support for Carers’ below).

When a child reaches an age where it is not common practice for a family member and/or carer to provide ongoing support (e.g. shower assistance/personal care to a teenager) and they may benefit from support to maximise their independence, HACC support can be appropriate.

In these cases priority of access is determined on the basis of current informal and formal supports in place and the client’s ability to access other assistance (as described in part 1 of these guidelines).

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<tr>
<th>Case example</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seven year old boy with vision impairment and intellectual disability lives with his mother and four older brothers.</td>
<td>Request for HACC support household tasks and to maintain the garden. The family currently receives support from the DSC Local Area Coordinator (LAC).</td>
<td>Assistance with household tasks and garden maintenance should not be provided by HACC as these activities are not activities of daily living for a seven year old. HACC should explore the need for respite or a carer support group for the mother if this is not provided by another program.</td>
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<td>Three year old girl with physical disability living with her mother.</td>
<td>Request for assistance with showering/bathing and dressing in the mornings.</td>
<td>As three year old children do not usually shower/bath or dress independently this support should not be provided by HACC. HACC should explore the need for respite or a carer support group for the mother if this is not provided by another program.</td>
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<td>Fifteen year old boy with a physical disability living with his parents.</td>
<td>Requests assistance with showering from HACC. Family provides all other assistance. LAC also provides support.</td>
<td>HACC support is appropriate but level of support should be consistent with HACC Service Provision Level Guidelines. If personal care and other needs are likely to increase, HACC and LAC should support this family to apply for DSC funding for all care requirements.</td>
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**Adults with disability living with their family/carer or independently in the community**

Adults with moderate, severe or profound disability living with their family/carer or independently in the community may have priority of access for HACC support.

In these cases priority of access is determined on the basis of current informal and formal supports in place, the client’s ability to access other assistance and, if present, the carer’s need for support (as described in part 1 of this guideline).

People being supported by a DSC **Local Area Coordinator** without ongoing funding for formal services may be eligible for HACC support.

People in receipt of DSC **Community Living Initiative** funding and **Family Living Initiative** funding are eligible for complementary HACC support.

People in receipt of any combination of DSC **Accommodation Support Funding, Intensive Family Support** and/or **Alternatives To Employment** funding below $45,000 per annum may be eligible for complementary HACC support if support is required outside of existing funding parameters.

People in receipt of any combination of DSC **Accommodation Support Funding, Intensive Family Support** and/or **Alternatives To Employment** funding in excess of $45,000 per annum are not eligible for HACC support.
People residing in **24 hour supported accommodation** are not eligible for HACC support.

Where an assessment determines a current HACC client should be supported through an alternative program HACC support must be maintained until an appropriate transition is arranged.

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<td>Nineteen year old man with a physical disability living with his parents.</td>
<td>Requests assistance to access age appropriate social activities each Saturday. Does not require other assistance at this time or in the foreseeable future.</td>
<td>Requested level of HACC support is consistent with HACC Service Provision Level Guidelines and can be provided.</td>
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<td>Older couple in their 70s caring for their adult son who has an intellectual disability.</td>
<td>HACC service provider currently provides 10 hours per week personal care. DSC Intensive Family Support funding provides 40 hours per week of respite and personal care support.</td>
<td>Client will continue to receive the current level of HACC support until a transition plan to cease HACC can be implemented. Priority is to reduce duplication of personal care support and transition all support needs to DSC as client is already receiving high levels of support.</td>
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<td>Married woman 42 years old with a neurological condition, her husband works.</td>
<td>HACC service provider currently provides 3 hours per week to support client to manage household responsibilities. Funding from DSC Family Living Initiative provides 10 hours per week for all other support needs.</td>
<td>This level of HACC support is consistent with the WA HACC Service Provision Level Guidelines and is complementary to (does not duplicate) DSC provided support.</td>
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<td>Two women with intellectual disability living together (aged 26 and 34).</td>
<td>Women request two hours per week of HACC support for assistance with banking, bill paying and some shopping. Currently receive support through the DSC Local Area Coordinator.</td>
<td>This level of HACC support is appropriate and consistent with the WA HACC Service Provision Level Guidelines.</td>
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### Case example

| 42 year old woman with physical disability | Receives a small amount of Accommodation Support Funding from DSC that is used to cover personal care requirements four days per week. Requests HACC support for personal care for remaining three days per week. | This duplicates existing support provided by DSC. Client should not receive HACC support for personal care. Client should be supported to apply for increase in Accommodation Support Funding from DSC. |
| 54 year old man with physical disability. | Requests HACC support to attend the football during home games. Ten hours per week for support with personal care and meal preparation provided through DSC Accommodation Support Funding. | This level of HACC support is appropriate and consistent with the WA HACC Service Provision Level Guidelines. |
| 30 year old man with physical disability lives with his wife and works full time. | Requests HACC support for personal care on week ends to give his wife a break from providing this support. | This level of HACC support is appropriate and consistent with the WA HACC Service Provision Level Guidelines. |

### Support for carers

Respite support and Counselling, support, information and advocacy support are provided specifically for carers in acknowledgement of their need for support, recognition and assistance in their role. Carers are not eligible for other types of HACC support but carer needs will be considered in determining priority of access to HACC support for eligible people with a moderate, severe or profound disability.

The primary purpose of the HACC Respite support is to provide a substitute for the carer on a planned/regular basis. The HACC Program only provides direct respite services (a carer replacement) while other respite programs may provide indirect respite services (other support that has the effect of providing a break e.g. completing household tasks, shopping etc).

The Regional Assessment Service/HACC service provider should explore whether HACC Respite support is the most suitable for the carer and, where appropriate, refer to an alternative carer respite program.

Carers not able to access other government funded respite programs should have a higher priority of access to HACC respite support.
The carer of the HACC eligible person may also access carer specific support through HACC for counselling, support, information and advocacy.

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<td>54 year old woman is caring for her 65 year old husband who has a physical disability. She also works full time.</td>
<td>Carer requests 2 hours per week assistance with household tasks and minor garden maintenance. This couple receive no other assistance.</td>
<td>The carer is not eligible to receive this assistance but her husband is assessed and is eligible for support. Husband is provided with support to undertake household and garden maintenance tasks. This level of HACC support is appropriate and consistent with the WA HACC Service Provision Level Guidelines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carer of a 9 year old with an intellectual disability.</td>
<td>Carer requests respite each Tuesday evening to attend her choir.</td>
<td>This level of HACC support is appropriate and consistent with the WA HACC Service Provision Level Guidelines.</td>
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<td>60 year old man with an intellectual disability is supported by his sister.</td>
<td>Sister requests respite as her brother has recently retired from a disability business service and relies on her for all his social needs. No other support is provided.</td>
<td>A discussion with the man and his sister identifies an interest in woodwork. The man is supported to attend the local HACC Centre Based Day Care Men’s Shed twice a week. The sister benefits from the break without receiving formal respite support.</td>
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**Websites of Interest**

Home and Community Care Program website

Disability Services Commission Website

Department of Health and Ageing website
For further information:
Home and Community Care Program
Department of Health WA
PO Box 8172, Perth Business Centre
PERTH WA 6849
(08) 9222 4060

Complaints and Advocacy
If a client has an issue regarding the community care they receive and are not able to satisfactorily address their concerns with their service provider, they may contact Advocare.

Advocare is an independent advocacy agency which advocates and protects the rights and best interests of people living in aged care facilities, people receiving community care services, and people not currently receiving these services but who are eligible for them.

Advocare services are free.

Advocare
1/190 Abernethy Rd
BELMONT WA 6104

Freecall 1800 655 566

Advocare Website