



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

WA Home and Community Care (HACC)

Assessment Framework

Policy Statements – September 2019

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OVERVIEW

As of 1 July 2018, eligibility for services through the WA Home and Community Care (HACC) Program is limited to clients aged under 65 (for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people aged under 50). Services for older people (people aged 65 and over and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 and over) are now funded and managed by the Commonwealth Department of Health through the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP).

The *WA Assessment Framework Policy Statements* only apply to those aged under 65. From July 2017 to June 2020, services for younger people are transitioning out of the WA HACC Program to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) as it rolls out across Western Australia. As of 1 July 2019, the NDIS entered its final rollout phase in Western Australia. This means that younger people living in all regions of Western Australia are now able to test their eligibility for the NDIS.

The *WA Assessment Framework (WAAF) Policy Statements* assist Regional Assessment Services, Service Providers and other stakeholders to understand the core principles and policies around the HACC program.

This document supersedes the August 2018 *WAAF Policy Statements*.

The Objectives of the WAAF should also guide the approach taken when supporting people seeking or receiving community care support.

WA Assessment Framework Objectives

- Provide referral to appropriate assessment and/or services to address identified needs.
- Provide targeted and responsive service delivery to support the client/carer to maintain and improve their well-being and independence.
- Ensure the client/carer journey in the community care system is supported by effective communication and cooperation between all parts of the system and the client/carer is at the centre of the decision making.
- Improve the collection and exchange of client/carer information to prevent duplication.

The *WAAF Policy Statements* complement the *WAAF Client Pathways August 2019* (attached). Organisations in receipt of WA HACC Program funding are expected to comply with the *WAAF Policy Statements*, as well as other documents such as *WA HACC Program Eligibility Criteria and Principles for Service Provision*¹. These policies will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure they meet the needs of stakeholders and contribute to assessment and service provision that has the client at the centre of the decision making process.

¹ The most recent version of this and other significant HACC documents available at http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/F_I/HACC-publications-and-policies

Defined Terms

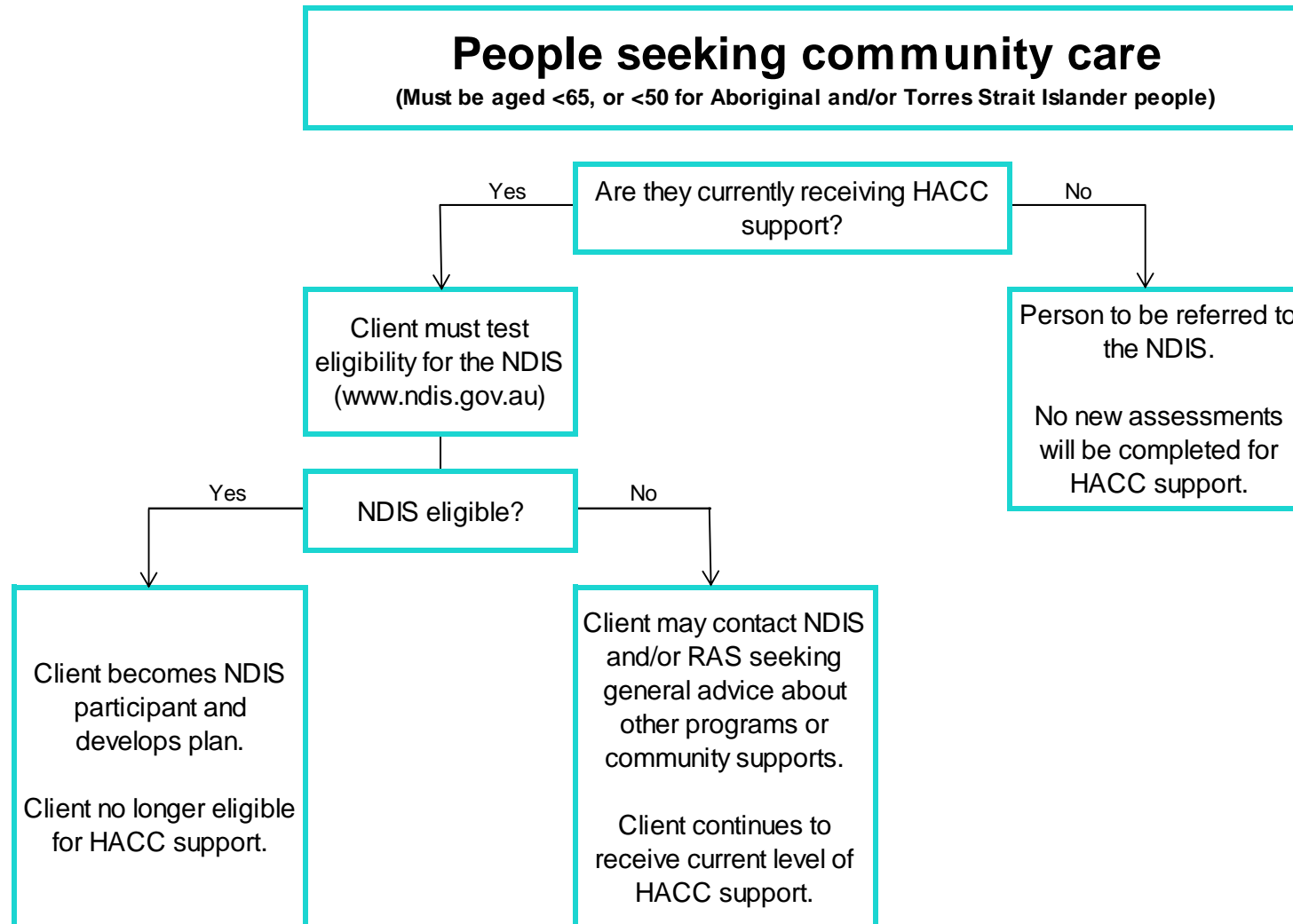
Current HACC Client

Those clients who are either currently receiving HACC services, or have in the last 12 months received HACC services.

Under 65 years

People aged under 65 years and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people aged under 50.

WA Assessment Framework - Client Pathways September 2019



WA ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK - POLICY STATEMENT 1

Assessment Pathways

POLICY

The components of the community care assessment system work in partnership by supporting the client and carer with clear, accurate and relevant information and referral to the most appropriate assessment and/or supports to address identified needs.

National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA)

The NDIA are responsible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) which is funded by the Commonwealth Government. Roll out commenced in Western Australia on 1 July 2017, As of 1 July 2019, the NDIS has been rolled out across all areas of Western Australia.

New people (non-current HACC client) seeking assistance/support to manage a disability or impairment must test their eligibility with the NDIS. These clients are not eligible for HACC services. HACC funding to support people aged under 65 years has been transferred to the NDIS in line with the Western Australian roll out schedule.

Neurological Council of Western Australia (NCWA) Nursing

People who require neurological nursing support can be directly referred to NCWA¹

¹ Referral to NCWA is available for people of all ages.

WA ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK – POLICY STATEMENT 2

Current HACC Clients

POLICY

Younger people experiencing disability to the extent they require support are able to access services in a coordinated and consistent manner. There will be continuity of support to younger people currently receiving HACC services.

HACC Service Provision

As of 1 July 2019, the NDIS has been rolled out across all regions of Western Australia. Current HACC clients must be referred to the NDIA by their HACC service provider for exploration of their eligibility for the NDIS and planning discussions. During the process of testing their eligibility for the NDIS, and whilst awaiting an outcome, these clients will continue to access HACC Program support at current levels.

If deemed eligible for NDIS assistance, these clients are no longer eligible for any HACC support and must be assisted to transition by their service provider¹. In the event that a client's NDIS plan does not include their HACC services, the client can make a request to the NDIA for a plan review. HACC services are able to be continued until the review is complete and the client should then be exited from the HACC program.

If deemed ineligible for NDIS assistance, clients may continue to receive their current level of HACC support.

Regional Assessment Service (RAS)

The Regional Assessment Service (RAS) will not conduct reassessments for changes in support needs for current HACC clients. Clients who have had significant changes in circumstances should be prioritised and supported by service providers to test their eligibility for the NDIS and if eligible, be supported to transition to the NDIS.

At the request of the WA Department of Health, the RAS may conduct reviews of current HACC clients as part of assisting clients to test their eligibility and transition to the NDIS or to other community programs.

¹ Current HACC clients deemed eligible for NDIS will continue to receive their current HACC support until their NDIS plan is in place and services have commenced. At this point, they are no longer eligible for any HACC support irrespective of what is contained in their NDIS plan.

**This document can be made available in alternative formats
on request for a person with disability.**

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