

Information sheet for HCP care recipients



New Aged Care Act 2024

The Commonwealth Government has passed a new Aged Care Act (the Act). It will take effect on 1 November 2025. When the Act starts there will be changes to Australia's aged care system and programs. The Home Care Package (HCP) and Short Term Restorative Care (STRC) programs will be replaced by a new Support at Home (SAH) program.

Transition to SAH

If you have a HCP in place on 31 October 2025 you will move to the SAH program on 1 November 2025. You will:

- be known as a 'participant' or 'older person'
- keep your current service provider, unless you choose otherwise
- receive the same amount of funding each year as you do for your HCP services
- rollover any unspent HCP funds to use for services, equipment or home modifications under SAH
- not pay any Basic Daily Fees or Package Management Fees under SAH

If you were assessed as needing a HCP but are still waiting for one, you will move into the new SAH National Priority System until funding becomes available for you.

Features of HCP

- **Four funding levels**
- **Monthly budget and statements**
- **Care management fees:** A flat fee charged monthly.
- **Package management fees:** A flat monthly fee to cover providers' administrative costs.
- **Basic daily fee:** A fee you might pay to help with the cost of your care. Not all providers charge this fee.
- **Income tested care fee:** A daily fee you may have to pay toward your care, based on how much you earn. Your HCP funding will be reduced by this amount.
- **Services:** Flexibility to choose a range of home care services, as long as they help meet your assessed care needs and are allowed under your HCP.
- **Equipment and home modifications:** Costs are paid from HCP funding if enough funds are left after paying for ongoing services.

Features of SAH

- **Eight ongoing funding levels**
- **Quarterly budget, monthly statements**
- **Care management:** 10% of your quarterly ongoing budget will be set aside to pay for care management services.
- **No package management fees:** Provider's administrative costs must now be included in service prices.
- **No basic daily fees**
- **Participant contribution:** An amount you have to pay toward your care, based on your means and assets and the type of service.
- **Services:** Must be included in the SAH service list. When reassessed to a SAH budget, must be in the list of services approved at assessment.
- **Equipment and home modifications:** Separate funding available based on an assessment.



'No worse off' principle

If you had a HCP, were waiting in the National Priority System for a HCP, or were assessed as eligible for a HCP on or before **12 September 2024**, you are considered to be a **grandfathered participant**. A 'no worse off' principle will apply to you. This principle only relates to whether or not you pay, or would pay, an income tested care fee (ITCF) under the HCP program.

- If Services Australia said you **don't have to pay** an ITCF towards your HCP services, you will not have to pay contribution fees toward your SAH services.
- If Services Australia said you **have to pay** an ITCF towards your HCP services, you will pay the same amount, or less, towards your SAH services.

Note: You will not have to contribute to the cost of any clinical care services under SAH. These will be fully paid from your SAH funding.

SAH Grandfathered Participant Contribution Rates

	Clinical Supports	Independence	Everyday Living
Full pensioner	0%	0%	0%
Part Pensioner	0%	Between 0% - 25%	Between 0% - 25%
Self-funded retiree eligible for Commonwealth Seniors Health Card	0%	Between 0% - 25%	Between 0% - 25%
Self-funded retiree not eligible for Commonwealth Seniors Health Card	0%	25%	25%

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/support-at-home-program-handbook?language=en>





Registered Supporters

Under the new Act, all older people are presumed to be able to make their own decisions. If you choose to have someone support you to make decisions, they may become a registered supporter. Registered supporters have specific duties.

All current representatives authorised through My Aged Care will automatically become registered supporters on 1 November 2025.

Service Prices

Service providers will set their own service prices for 2025-2026. The government will introduce capped prices in 2026-2027.

Under the new SAH guidelines, providers must include all business costs, except care management, in their service prices. This is because package management fees will no longer exist under SAH.



Where can I find out more?

www.health.gov.au/our-work/aged-care-act/resources/older-people

www.myagedcare.gov.au/upcoming-changes-aged-care-funding-how-they-affect-you#see-how-much-you-might-pay-for-services-under-support-at-home