

# Home and Community Care Program for Younger People

## Eligibility

Primary Care, Dental and Drugs Branch  
Department of Health and Human Services, Victoria  
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## Overview

The Home and Community Care Program for Younger People (HACC-PYP) provides basic support and maintenance services for people aged under 65 and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (Aboriginal people) aged under 50 who experience difficulty performing the activities of daily living and their carers to help them remain independent at home and in the community.

In Victoria, significant reforms across the aged and disability sectors are affecting how HACC-PYP is being delivered and who is seeking support. In particular, implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is impacting HACC-PYP. As NDIS transition is finalised and HACC-PYP funding stabilises, providers are encouraged to streamline targets and to consider how to provide a more contemporary and responsive service to the post NDIS HACC-PYP cohort.

## Eligibility

HACC-PYP is for people aged under 65 and Aboriginal people aged under 50 who need assistance with daily activities, including personal care, dressing, preparing meals, house cleaning, property maintenance, community access and using public transport.

Clients may require this assistance for a variety of reasons. The most likely reasons for needing support to manage the activities of daily living are physical and/or psychosocial functional impairment related to disability where the person does not meet the threshold for support for the NDIS, or for functional impairment due to chronic illness and/or short-term health conditions.

In addition, clients may have other needs for which they need services including, psychosocial impairment, homelessness or social isolation.

To summarise the key eligibility criteria are:

1. Age
2. Need for support in performing the activities of daily living
3. Being a carer of someone who meets eligibility criteria

## Priority of access

HACC-PYP is not an entitlement program. Funded organisations need to apply the priority of access principles to determine if a person or their carer should receive a service.

The following questions are designed to assist HACC-PYP providers to determine priority of access:

1. Is the person under the age of 65 years (or under 50 years for Aboriginal people) and in need of support to manage the activities of daily living or caring for someone who needs support?
2. Does the person or the carer need a HACC-PYP funded activity or would another service or program better meet their needs? If yes, the person should undergo the relevant assessment process (either service specific or a Living at Home Assessment). If no, the person should be referred to other programs and/or services that would better meet their needs.
3. If eligible, will this person benefit the most from your available HACC-PYP budget, considering other potential clients who have no other access to support, and noting that funding for NDIS eligible clients has gone to the NDIS? If no, the person should be referred to other programs and/or services that would better meet their needs.

The eligibility of all HACC-PYP clients should be reviewed on an annual basis, or in response to any change in client circumstances to determine if the client is getting the right services. This may result in an increase, a decrease or an exit from HACC-PYP services.

## HACC-PYP and NDIS

HACC-PYP provides some services that are not part of NDIS. This includes volunteer services, drop in and outreach programs, some nursing and some allied health services. This means that clients in HACC-PYP may also be participants in the NDIS.

Carers of NDIS participants are not eligible for HACC-PYP. They may be eligible for other carer support services such as Victoria's Support for Carers Program.

HACC-PYP clients who are not currently eligible for NDIS may, over time, become eligible for NDIS. Organisations should encourage and support new and existing clients to test their eligibility for NDIS as relevant. If these clients are accepted into the NDIS, after December 2019 there will be no additional adjustment to an organisation's HACC-PYP funds. Organisations should allocate available resources to new clients according to eligibility and priority of access criteria.

HACC-PYP services can be provided to eligible clients as they test their NDIS eligibility and go through the planning process. Clients are not eligible for HACC-PYP **because** they are testing eligibility for NDIS. They are eligible only if they meet HACC-PYP program eligibility criteria. They may be testing eligibility for NDIS as well.

HACC-PYP is not a waiting list management program for the NDIS. If a HACC-PYP client becomes an NDIS recipient this should trigger a review of HACC-PYP services. Getting an NDIS plan should affect the type and amount of services delivered by HACC-PYP.

NDIS participants are generally not eligible to access HACC-PYP services as it is the responsibility of the NDIS to fund a participant's reasonable and necessary disability-related supports, including nursing and allied health services. However, some NDIS participants may be concurrently eligible for HACC-PYP services such as nursing for health-related needs, some kinds of allied health or volunteer support. In some cases an NDIS recipient may need short term access to personal care from HACC-PYP to address a short-term health-related need such as the flu, loss of a pet resulting in a temporary need for additional support.

HACC-PYP is not a top up program to address inadequate levels of supports in a participant's NDIS plan.

Unlike the NDIS, there is no restriction on access to HACC-PYP services based on residency status or visa type.

## Transition and HACC-PYP

Clients may move in and out of HACC-PYP over time as they may only need services for a short time, or the service you provide builds their capacity to be more independent.

As clients reach 65 years of age or 50 years of age if they are Aboriginal people they must transition to aged care or other services. HACC-PYP can accommodate a transition period, usually around 6-8 weeks, but it is not a waiting list management program for aged care.

Clients may become eligible for NDIS over time. They can be supported to test eligibility to get ready for their care plan meeting. Clients with an NDIS plan should be encouraged to exit HACC-PYP and access services through their NDIS plan as quickly as possible.

## Feedback

The department will seek feedback from providers during 2019-20 about how they have adapted and strengthened Program services following the roll out of the NDIS. Information and/or feedback about the cohort of clients seeking support to inform the ongoing detailed design for a future community care service are welcome.

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Where the term 'Aboriginal' is used it refers to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Indigenous is retained when it is part of the title of a report, program or quotation.

Available from the [HACC in Victoria and the NDIS page](https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/ageing-and-aged-care/home-and-community-care/hacc-and-ndis) <<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/ageing-and-aged-care/home-and-community-care/hacc-and-ndis>> on the Health.vic website.