

I Finding out if you are eligible for residential aged care

In this section we will help you establish what level of care you are looking for and what to do next.

To find out if you are eligible for Australian Government Support for residential aged care, you will need to be assessed by an Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT).*

* (Aged Care Assessment Teams are known as Aged Care Assessment Services (ACAS) in Victoria.)

Aged Care Assessment Teams are teams of health professionals such as doctors, nurses or social workers, who provide information, advice and assistance to older people who are having difficulty living at home. To find an ACAT you can

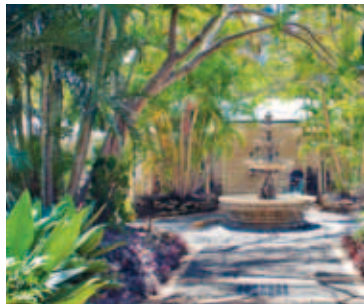
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contact one directly via the Aged Care Australia website at www.agedcareaustralia.gov.au.

Alternatively your doctor or health center can provide a referral to the ACAT nearest to you.

What is an ACAT assessment?

A member of an ACAT will visit you to understand more about your lifestyle and your needs. With your permission your doctor may tell the ACAT member about your medical history. At this visit you may like a member of your family or your carer present.



Once your assessment has been completed by your ACAT and you are considered eligible for aged care services they will either give you a copy of the assessment or it will be posted to you. It is important that you hold onto this document as it is the approval for your move to residential aged care. You should note that your ACAT assessment is valid for 12 months.

Types of care

The following are the types of aged care services you may be eligible for:

Low level care – residential home

- You need help with day to day tasks
- You need assistance with personal care

High level care – residential home

- You need 24-hour nursing care

Dementia care

Dementia care is available in many aged care homes usually in a separate wing or unit. It involves a high level of care with round the clock nursing.

Respite care

Respite care is short term care when you need it and may be provided in your own home, in a respite care centre or in a residential aged care home.

It may be planned or on an emergency basis and can be used for up to 63 days in a financial year.

Your Aged
Care Assessment
Team (ACAT)
assessment will
determine whether
you are eligible

