



Finding an Aged Care Home

Once you have been assessed by an ACAT as eligible for residential aged care, you may choose to start looking for your future aged care home. Included in this pack is a checklist to use when making the decision about which home(s) to apply for. It will help you work out which one best suits your individual needs.

For help with any aged care matters, call the Aged and Community Care Information Line on 1800 500 853.



How do I find out what is available?

When you look for an aged care home, it is important to understand what type of home you are considering, such as one that offers extra service places, as this may affect the cost and the services that you will receive.

Commonwealth Carelink Centres can provide you with information about aged care homes in your area, and the types of services they offer. ACATs, family, friends, your local doctor and social workers may also be able to help you find an aged care home suitable for you.

How do aged care homes decide who to accept?

Aged care homes offer places when they have vacancies. When a place becomes available, the aged care home makes a decision on who they can accept based on whether they can provide for the person's particular care needs, as well as taking into account other business matters.

Can I only apply to one aged care home?

No. You can apply to as many aged care homes as you wish. When a place becomes available, the aged care home will contact you (or the contact person that you have nominated). If you wish to accept the place, you should then meet with the home's manager to discuss your resident agreement.

Resident agreements are discussed in Step 5: Moving and Settling In later in this booklet.

Once you have been offered, and have accepted a place, it is important that you let the other aged care homes to which you applied know that you no longer need their services.

Which is the right aged care home for me?

The decision to move into full-time residential care or residential respite care is a significant one. It is important to choose an aged care home that meets your care needs and preferences.

The best way to find the aged care home that suits you is to visit a range of homes. They are all different, so visiting them will help you to find out what they can offer you, and what the accommodation is like. This entry pack contains a checklist called Finding an Aged Care Home. You may find it useful to take it with you on your visits to remind you of the things that are important to you.

You can use the checklist to note down the way you feel about each home you visit, the things you like and the things you didn't like. It will be a useful record of your impressions as you meet with staff and view the home.