



Dowerin Home Care

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Home Care Packages (HCP)- This is the first time Dowerin has provided this service. In the past Dowerin HACC was brokered by other organisations to provide the service.

A Home Care Package is for people who find that their current CHSP services aren't providing them with enough assistance at home or that a greater amount of assistance is required to continue to stay in the Community.

What is a Home Care Package?

A home care package is a coordinated package of care and services to help you to live independently in your own home for as long as you can. Some people receive services through the Commonwealth Home Support Programme and are then assessed for a Home Care Package. Others will start with a Home Care Package.

The benefit of a Home Care Package is that your home care provider will work with you to:

- choose care and services that best meet your needs and goals
- manage your care and services.

There are four levels of Home Care Packages to help meet the different levels of care needs. During your aged care assessment, your assessor will discuss your current care needs and determine the best level to meet them.

It is expected that more people will be assessed as eligible for a lower level package, with a smaller number being assessed as needing higher level packages.

Packages of aged care services for people with:

- Level 4: high-level care needs
- Level 3: intermediate care needs
- Level 2: low-level care needs
- Level 1: basic care needs
- Transition Entry level, ongoing or short-term support services through the **Commonwealth Home Support Programme**

How the Government contributes to the cost of your Home Care Package

The total amount of a Home Care Package is made up of what:

- the Australian Government pays (the subsidy)
- you may need to pay (your home care fees).

The Australian Government pays a different subsidy amount for each level of Home Care Package. This amount is paid to the home care provider you choose.

The Government subsidy for each package level is as follows:

Package level	1	2	3	4
Aged care services for people with	Basic care	low level care	Intermediate Care	High Care
Yearly amount paid by the Australian Government up to approximate* value of	\$9,000	\$15,750	\$34,250	\$52,000

* The maximum government contribution increases each year. The individual amount that will be paid will depend on whether you are asked to pay an income-tested care fee.

What can Home Care Package funds be used for?

The types of services that you can purchase under a Home Care Package include but are not limited to:

- **Personal services:** assistance with personal activities such as bathing, showering, toileting, dressing and undressing, mobility and communication
- **Nutrition, hydration, meal preparation and diet:** assistance with preparing meals, including special diets for health, religious, cultural or other reasons, assistance with using eating utensils and assistance with feeding
- **Continence management:** assistance in using continence aids and appliances such as disposable pads and absorbent aids, commode chairs, bedpans and urinals, catheter and urinary drainage appliances, and enemas
- **Mobility and dexterity:** providing crutches, quadruped walkers, walking frames, walking sticks, mechanical devices for lifting, bed rails, slide sheets, sheepskins, tri-pillows, pressure-relieving mattresses and assistance using these aids
- **Nursing, allied health and therapy services:** for example, this may include speech therapy, podiatry, occupational or physiotherapy services and other clinical services such as hearing and vision services
- **Transport and personal assistance:** assistance with shopping, visiting health practitioners and attending social activities
- **Management of skin integrity:** assistance with bandages, dressings and skin emollients.

A Home Care Package may also support the use of:

- **Telehealth:** video conferencing and digital technology (including remote monitoring) to increase access to timely and appropriate care
- **Assistive technology:** such as devices that assist mobility, communication and personal safety
- **Aids and equipment:** particularly those that assist a person to perform daily living tasks can be purchased using funds from your package budget. Your Home Care Agreement needs to specify whether it is leased or who owns the item and who is responsible for ongoing maintenance and repair costs.
- **Lite N Easy:** enter into an agreement with Lite N Easy and the service provider to cover up to a maximum of 70% of the meals ordered. There is no obligation to order on a regular basis. We can also assist with the collection and delivery of the meals if required.

Approved home care providers will work in partnership with you to tailor care and services to best support your needs and goals.

Home Care Package funds cannot be used as a general source of income for items such as (but not limited to):

- day-to-day bills
- food
- mortgage payments
- rent.

Home Care Package funds also cannot be used to purchase:

- other types of care funded, or jointly funded, by the Australian Government
- travel and accommodation
- entertainment activities, such as club memberships or tickets to sporting events.

Pathway to accessing a Home Care Package This outlines the usual pathway for people who have been assessed as eligible for a Home Care Package and includes information on the actions at each stage, so you can start and manage your home care services.

1. Confirmation of your eligibility to receive a Home Care Package
2. Start making enquiries about who you would like to provide your services and how much it will cost
3. Confirmation of the assignment of your Home Care Package and unique package referral code
4. Start negotiations with your preferred provider to develop a care plan and Home Care Agreement
5. Start receiving home care services and manage your services if your needs change

Call My Aged Care on 1800 200 422 for assistance with accessing a Home Care Package.

If any other information is required regarding HCP's please contact the Dowerin Home Care office or call My Aged Care.