

The intent of the Home Care Package (HCP) Program is to optimise health and wellbeing of the care recipient and help them to live safely and independently at home.

Commonwealth funding comes with legislation, guidelines, rules and obligations.

As a provider of HCP funding, Westmont must ensure that funds are used according to the Commonwealth regulations. There is a lot of work in ensuring we are compliant with the funding guidelines while still being able to help you access the goods and services you need to remain safely living at home.

Westmont Community Care believes in honesty and transparency. Your Care Manager will work with you to ensure your needs are met while still complying with government regulations. If you have any questions regarding Home Care Package expenditures, we encourage you to call your Care Manager on 02 6043 9867.

www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/home-care-packages-pricing-update

Care Management Charges

Your Care Manager works with you to help you access care and services to meet your needs.

Home Care Packages are funded by the Commonwealth Government with the sole purpose of keeping you safely in your own home as independently as possible.

Care Management time is charged at a daily rate and is a set rate based on your package level in line with government legislated caps.

The charges you pay for Care Management come out of your Home Care Package funds, and ensure you continue to receive high quality services from your provider.

Care Management is a mandatory service, and your provider must:

- Regularly assess your needs, goals and preferences,
- Review your home care agreement and care plan with you,
- Ensure your care and services align with other supports,
- Partner with you and your family or carers about your care,
- Ensure your care and services are culturally safe,
- Identify and address risks to your safety, health and wellbeing.

Package Management Charges

Package Management is a service that supports the delivery of a Home Care Package, and covers administration activities that your provider must do, such as:

- Coordinating and scheduling services and workers,
- Preparing invoices and monthly statements,
- Complying with regulatory and assurance activities.

Package Management time is charged at a daily rate and is a set rate based on your package level in line with government legislated caps.

Basic Daily Fee

The Basic Daily Fee is an optional fee that can be collected to add more income in to the Home Care Package budget.

Everyone can be asked to pay this fee, but some providers do not collect it. The amount you pay varies depending on your package level. The basic daily fee increases twice a year in line with the age pension.

Income Tested Fee

If your income is above a certain amount, you will need to pay an income tested care fee to contribute to the cost of your care. This fee is different for everyone.

Full pensioners do not pay an income tested care fee.

Estimating and Confirming Your Fees

You can use the Fee Estimator at myagedcare.gov.au for an estimate of your home care fees.

To confirm if you need to pay an income tested care fee, you will need an income assessment. Services Australia works out the amount you pay by assessing your individual income. If you are a member of a couple, Services Australia assesses half of your combined income, regardless of who earned the income.

To find out your income tested care fee before your package starts, please phone Services Australia on 1800 227 475 and request to complete an *Income Tested Fee Assessment for a Home Care Package*.

For more complex financial situations, Services Australia may ask you to complete a Home Care Package Calculation of your cost of care form (SA456) at servicesaustralia.gov.au.

Services Australia will send you a fee advice letter after you submit the form. If you're a full or part pensioner, you don't need to complete this form; you can just ask Services Australia for a fee advice letter.

What to do if your Income Changes

If your financial circumstances change, call Services Australia on 1800 227 475 or the Department of Veterans' Affairs on 1800 838 372 to let them know or update your details online using [MyGov](https://my.gov.au). Services Australia reviews income tested care fees every 3 months. They will tell you and your provider if your fee changes.

Financial Advice

You may wish to seek independent financial advice before deciding how to pay for aged care. Services

Australia's free Financial Information Service (FIS) can help you understand how aged care costs may affect your finances. To find out more about FIS or to make an appointment, phone 132 300 and say 'Financial Information Service' when asked why you are calling.

www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-05/understanding-fees-for-home-care_0.pdf