



Care Assess
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Fee Policy, Community Aged Care Packages

You are asked to pay a fee for a community care package; however in providing care to you we will ensure the following with regard to fees. We will ensure:

- Fee charged per day do not exceed the maximum daily. Care Assess does not charge the maximum fee set by the Department.
- We do not charge you more than one month in advance.
- We do not charge fees for any period prior to being provided with our community care service.
- When in the unfortunate situation that a care recipient dies or that our service provision ceases, then any excess fees they have paid in advance for the period after their death or that their care ceased, will be refunded accordingly.

Maximum fees

For a care recipient receiving the Age Pension, the Department of Health and Ageing sets the maximum fee which can be charged at 17.5% of the basic rate of single pension.

People on higher incomes* may be asked to pay additional fees (limited to 50% of any income above the basic rate of single pension) (*Income means income after tax and the Medicare levy).

The maximum fee for community care packages changes each March and September, in line with changes to the pension.

As at 20 September 2011 the maximum fee for a CACP community care package for people on the basic rate of pension is \$8.61 per day.

However, no one will be denied a service they need, based on an inability to pay fees.

Your contributions

The ongoing cost to you for Care Assess Aged Care Packages is, unless agreed otherwise:

- **\$5.00 per hour of in-home service, capped at \$ 40.00 per week**

However Care Assess will seek to determine your capacity this contribution before finalising this agreement.

Your capacity to pay

We will assess your situation against a Fee Guide published by Aged Care Services Tasmania in order to determine your capacity to pay. The Fee Guide is available upon request.

In addition, no one will be denied a service they need, based on an inability to pay fees. Ongoing fees are based on the amount of in-home services provided and are indicated in your Service Delivery Plan. There is no fee applied for service coordination or case management.

Costs associated with major home modification or additional services, not included in the Service Delivery Plan, will be negotiated with you if the need arises.

These charges are at the discretion of the Care Assess Aged Care Package Coordinator and may be renegotiated at any time.

Your ability to pay fees will not affect your access to Care Assess Aged Care Packages. If you are unable to pay the fees we ask you to please provide reasonable evidence to the Care Assess Aged Care Package Coordinator so that an informed decision to waiver the fee can be made.

To enable us to determine your capacity to pay, please advise the Care Assess Aged Care Package Coordinator of any exceptional and unavailable expenses that you have.

Determining your capacity to pay

Your Care Assess Community Aged Care Package Coordinator will have available the Fee Guide in determining your capacity to pay. A copy is also available upon request.

If you can show that after payment of our ongoing fee and payment of rent, mortgage, electricity, gas, rates (land and water), food, heating, transport, or short-term respite in a residential facility, you would be left with less than the amount shown in the last column of the Fee Guide, the maximum weekly fee will be reduced accordingly.

The weekly fee must be based on your actual income. Other amounts deemed to be income by other organisations such as the Centrelink and the Family Assistance Office should not be used for this purpose. In order to calculate your maximum fee your interest income, or other non-weekly income, should be reduced to a weekly average and added to other weekly income to produce an average weekly income.

The Fee Guide assumes that you earn income in the standard way. This may not be true. For example, you may have a reduced pension because of your assets rather than your income. Or you may earn additional income by way of periodic interest payments throughout the year. Some care recipients attract pension or other income which is not taxable.

In all such cases it is important to assist your Care Assess Aged Care Package Coordinator to know your actual weekly income after tax has been paid.

To use the Fee Guide in these cases, we will base our determination of your capacity to pay the fee on your Weekly Income less Tax and Medicare levy.

Note the Fee Guide only shows the maximum fee payable for recipients in receipt of income up to \$800 per week. The variable fee scale continues past this point but is not shown.

