

Facing the Future: Transition from Independent Living to Aged Care

- This is GENERAL information only. Your circumstances are unique to YOU and you should always get advice specific to you and your situation. This information is intended to give you information about some of the issues you may wish to consider when planning your own transition from Independent Living to Aged Care. The examples and costs provided are current as at 1 July 2018, and change quarterly

Where do I start

- Start by talking with your spouse, your family, friends and whomever is important to you.
- Identify the issues that matter
 - Medical
 - What are my care needs now and in the near future
 - Can I manage at home – do I actually want to?
 - Is there something the care service needs to know
 - Dementia with aggressive or inappropriate behaviours – may need specialised placement
 - Emotional
 - Where do my family or next of kin live?
 - Should I move closer to my Family when I need to move into an Aged Care Home?
 - Will I be scared and lonely at home all by myself if I am too frail to go out on my own?
 - We have a lot of kids – who do we talk to about the future, who do we choose as first contact?
 - Financial
 - What does everything cost
 - Who decides what I pay? *“but... I was expecting to be able to leave it all to the kids”*
 - What happens when I can't manage my own finances?
 - Can I be taken advantage of?

www.myagedcare.gov.au

Staying in my Home for long as I can

Problems you can face:

- Can't get up out of the chair to get to the bathroom in time
- Getting distracted and forgetting that you have started cooking something
- Feeling lonely and isolated

Apartment Living

- Perfect if you would like to feel a little more secure and closer to the everyday services you use.
- Stay completely independent or receive Community Care
- Smaller home to keep clean, heated, cooled,
- Look for a place to keep motorised scooter

Community Care in your Home

What Help is available?

- help with housework
- help with personal care such as bathing and dressing
- help with meals and food preparation
- help staying physically active
- social support and activities
- help with transport
- nursing care
- allied health support such as physiotherapy, podiatry or a dietician
- maintenance and modifications to your home
- goods and equipment to help you
- people you can talk with through counselling services.

Residential Aged Care Services

- Respite Care
- Permanent Care
- Memory Support Care
- Specialised Care

Waiting list

To be accepted on the Village Baxter Manor & Lodge waiting list you need to provide

1. myagedcare client record showing care approval for “Residential Permanent”
2. “Residential Aged Care Fees” letter to you from the Department of Human Services showing the results of your income and assets assessment.

Why do I need the fees letter?

Village Baxter offers at least 40% of places in the Manor and Lodge to people who require government assistance with their accommodation payments.

You need to complete the “Permanent Residential Aged Care - Request for a Combined Assets and Income Assessment form” to receive the fees letter

The letter you receive back from Centrelink will show if you are eligible for accommodation cost assistance

Private Care Costs

- Private Care – you pay market rate fees
- Funded Community Care – Government set rate
- Residential Care – Government will advise what cost category applied to you

Funded Care Costs

- Done by Centrelink or DVA
- Couples – assets are divided 50:50
- If one partner moves into care, the value of your family home is **not** included in the test when spouse will still be living there
- If you live in a Retirement Village you will need to get a ‘**letter of equity**’ from the Village to complete the form correctly

Residential Aged Care Home Fees

- **Basic Daily fee** – everyone pays the same basic fee
 - Rate set by Government equal to 85% of Single pension. Currently it is \$50.16 per day
 - **Everyone** pays this, broadly speaking it covers the costs of Housekeeping, Catering, laundry, reception and other “hotel type services”
- **Means Tested Care Fees** – based on the combined income and asset assessment
 - These fees are your contribution to the cost of providing care which includes showering, nursing, feeding, physiotherapy, lifestyle activity programs etc
 - Range from \$0 for a full pensioner with few assets to over \$250.00 **per day** for a wealthy fully self funded retiree.
 - The Care Facility DOES NOT benefit from these fees as the Government reduces the level of Funding by the same amount. For example if you are assessed as required to pay \$20 per day, the Government will deduct \$20 per day from the funding that they provide to the Aged Care Home.
 - This is capped at \$26,964 per year or \$64,715 per lifetime
- **Accommodation payment** - known as RAD's, RAC's, DAP's or DAC's
 - This is what we all used to call “the bond” and it covers the costs associated with providing you with a roof over your head.
 - Don't panic – you will only be asked to contribute what Centrelink has assessed you as being able to.
 - Broadly speaking
 - The Government will pay the accommodation costs for a full pensioner with assessed assets of less than \$48,500
 - The Government will pay part of the Accommodation costs for people with assets between \$48,500 and \$165,271
 - If you have assets over \$165,271 you will be asked to pay all of the costs of accommodation yourself.

Home Care Packages

- A basic daily fee of up to 17.5% of the single basic Age Pension - currently \$144.48 per person per fortnight
- Fee is charged Daily regardless of how many days you receive services in your home
- An income-tested care fee if your income is over a certain amount.
- No Assets test
- 4 levels of package available, huge variety of services can be provided

Will there be a place available for me immediately when I need it?

- Practically speaking – probably not !
- There will be a waiting period between when you have received the completed assessments and you choose a home or a service and a place is available for you.
- If you are looking for Residential Care, getting your Income and Assets Assessment completed can take time, particularly if you can't do it yourself and need help.

Should I get the assessments done “Just in case”

- No – unless you are planning on using them to move into care, then getting them done in advance is just a waste of resources.
- Why ?- the care assessment will show you don't need care or your care needs are so low that we will not consider you a priority anyway and the Income and Assets Assessment will be out of date by the time you need it.

Should I get financial advice?

YES YES YES

- BEFORE you lodge your Centrelink form
- Strongly recommend you use someone who specialises in Aged Care Finance. A list of some advisors who specialise in Aged Care Finance is available from www.agedcaregurus.com.au **
- A quick telephone conversation could make a big difference
- Please note that you should find your own advisor best suited to your personal circumstances
- If you can do something simple like gift a small approved amount to family or pre-pay your funeral and bring your Assets under \$48,500 then the Government may fund all of your accommodation costs.
- If you can do the same and bring your Assessable Assets under \$165,271 then the Government may fund some of your Accommodation Costs.