

### Home Care Plan Matters Requiring Advance or Immediate Care Management Team Notification

If you have started to use the subsidy from the Home Care Package Scheme, there are some things that you or your family needs to be aware of, as this may affect the government subsidy amount you receive.

#### 1 Temporary Leave

The impact on subsidies and grants depends on the type of leave required and its length:

**There are four types of temporary leave:**

- Hospital
- Transitional Care (post-hospitalised)
- Respite Care
- Social Leave (holiday, getaway....)

For hospitalization or transitional care, the government will continue to pay the full basic home care grant and any applicable subsidies, only for a maximum of 28 consecutive days. From the 29th day of hospitalization leave, all basic grants/subsidies will be reduced to one quarter (25%) of the original subsidy.

For nursing home respite or leave for other reasons (including overseas/outbound travel); similarly the government will continue to pay the full basic home care subsidy and any applicable subsidies for a maximum of 28 days accumulated in a financial year. After the 29th day of such leave, all basic grants/subsidy will be reduced to one quarter (25%) of the original amount.

**Please don't forget to inform your care manager prior to taking your leave, otherwise your home package amount may be affected**



#### 2 Deceased Notice

When a loved one on a home care plan passes away, you need to tell My Aged Care of this occurrence so their case can be closed. This ensures that no further correspondence is sent to the deceased, their families or their representatives.

Secondly, you need to inform the Australian Death Notification Service or My Aged Care 1800 200 422 in this situation.

The Australian Death Notification Service provides a free nationwide service that helps you notify a number of different organizations of the death of a loved one. You can use this service after a death certificate has been issued, but you do not need to produce the death certificate.

If your family or a representative does not inform the care manager about the death of a loved one, previously booked services with the care manager will continue as normal without their knowledge. Therefore, the care manager needs to be notified immediately so all service arrangements can be cancelled.

According to government statistics, as of September 30, 2020, there were 99,268 people nationwide waiting for funding from the Home Care Package. If you or your family or a client you are representing no longer requires services for any reason, the much needed funding will go back to the federal government and be used for someone who needs support.

#### 3 Change Address / Move House

If you change your current place of residence, or moving to live with your children, you must notify your Care Manager as soon as possible.

The care manager initially uses the occupational therapist's home assessment report to arrange appropriate services equipments (such as grab rails or ramps) for your current home and personal health conditions. If you change your accommodation address for any reason, you need to notify your Care Manager in advance to reschedule an occupational therapist assessment visit.



#### ACG Reminder:

If you change your residential address without notifying your Care Manager, the required services or equipment may be suspended pending a new assessment for your new address.



#### ACG Reminder:

You must inform your ACG care manager when your leave will start and the duration of your leave. You can inform them verbally or in writing.



#### ACG Reminder:

If a loved one has passed away, you should not hold on to any unspent federal funding.

# What is Respite Care?

If you live alone and start to feel a little powerless to take care of yourself, you may want to temporarily stay in a respite facility to relieve your stress. If you take care of an elderly person long term, and feel overwhelmed or emotionally exhausted requiring a break, you most likely need to take time out for yourself and seek respite help for someone qualified to provide in-home respite care.

## Purpose of respite services

For caregivers (partners / children / family members): We strongly encourage the elderly to participate in respite services. This service can help elderly caregivers

take time out for themselves or to focus on their work or to take a relaxing vacation. This will allow caregivers to refresh themselves and provide stress-free care.

Elderly people who have been cared for at home for a long time may find respite services allow them to go out to meet other people and increase their social opportunities.

Carers can request respite services for a few hours, a few days or a month, depending on the needs of the carer or the person being cared for.



## Can I use a Home Care Package to pay for this?

The subsidy from a home care package plan only covers the cost of in-home respite services. You need to ensure that your home care package plan has sufficient funds to cover this cost. Respite nursing home services cannot be paid from your Home care package funds.

As there are many types of respite services, speak to your care manager to see if the type you are considering is eligible to be paid for from your Home Care Package funds.



# Occupational Dementia Care 365Wellbeing Allied Health

**Occupational Therapy** is vital for individuals with dementia, aiming to enhance their overall well-being while supporting their caregivers. Through personalized assessments, therapists identify specific needs and preferences, developing tailored intervention plans. These plans encompass strategies to improve cognitive functions, such as memory and attention, as well as physical abilities like mobility and balance.

Moreover, therapists emphasize the importance of meaningful engagement in activities such as gardening or music, promoting a sense of identity and purpose. Environmental modifications are also addressed to ensure safety and accessibility at home, including installing grab bars and removing trip hazards.

Additionally, **occupational therapists** provide valuable support and

education to caregivers, offering practical strategies for managing daily challenges and reducing stress. As dementia progresses, interventions are adapted to meet evolving needs, ensuring the highest level of independence and quality of life possible for individuals with dementia and their caregivers. Overall, **Occupational Therapy** plays a crucial role in comprehensive dementia care, focusing on enhancing functional abilities and promoting meaningful engagement for a dignified life.

Writer: Mr S. Tang (experienced OT)

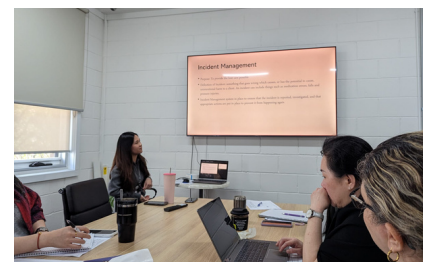
# Client Incident Reporting Training


The Serious Incident Reporting Scheme (SIRS) started as early as December 1st, 2022 and was extended to home-based elderly care, with the aim of providing the best care and protection for elderly clients who are receiving in-home care services.

An incident is defined as a situation that can result in harm to elderly people receiving in-home care, such as falls, medication errors, injuries etc.

The purpose of ACG regular incident reporting training is to ensure that their incident management system is in place and undertake to ensure incidents are reported, investigated and appropriate action is taken to prevent a recurrence.

Therefore, if an incident occurs during, before or after the day's scheduled services, all frontline staff must report it to ACG office staff. If the incident is of a serious nature Care Manager must report it to relevant government departments within 24 hours.





**Deadline for submission of invoices**

**04/03 & 18/03/2024**  
**Before 12 PM**

Please send all your invoices to the "Claims Processing Team" to do reimbursement submission

**Do you need to pay the income tested care fee (ITCF)?**



**If clients need to pay as a result of the ITCF assessment or has questions about this fee, please contact your care manager as soon as possible.**

**ACG wish all of you who were born in March 2024 a very happy birthday**

