

Aged Care Jargon Explained

Are you finding yourself confused by all the aged care terms being thrown your way?

Well, it is more common than you think. Below we have put together an explanation of the most common words and terms you would come across in your aged care journey.

Aged Care Assessment	<p>A potential aged care resident will need to get an Aged Care Assessment prior to entering a nursing home. This is a medical assessment done by a clinician from an Aged Care Assessment Service (VIC/WA), or Aged Care Assessment Team (all other States) - see below for more details.</p> <p>An aged care assessment is not strictly compulsory for new residents in aged care, but the failure to have one will mean the resident is a private fee paying resident, and will not be eligible to access Government subsidies. An aged care assessment must be organised through My Aged Care (see below).</p>
Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT)	<p>This is a local clinical team that is funded by the Australian Government to undertake aged care assessments. In Victoria and WA this service is called an Aged Care Assessment Service (VIC/WA).</p>
Aged Care Facility	<p>Otherwise known as a nursing home, a Residential Aged Care facility is accredited by the Australian Government's Department of Health to offer aged care services to residents. An aged care facility is accredited, and receives subsidies from the Government for delivering care. An aged care facility predominately offers nursing care to its residents. It is different to a retirement village or independent living unit, - which do not offer nursing care to residents.</p>
DAP	<p>This is the Daily Accommodation Payment. It is the accommodation fee (see RAD below) expressed as a daily fee, not as a lump sum. Families can pay a DAP on a monthly basis, or have it deducted from RAD (bond) on an ongoing basis.</p>
Income and Assets Assessment	<p>This is a Centrelink / DVA form that should be filled in prior to entering aged care. It is used by the Australian Government to work out the Means Tested Care Fee that a resident may have to pay. It is also used to assess whether a resident will be liable to pay an accommodation fee (see RAD below). Failure to complete and return this form will mean the potential aged care resident is subject to the maximum level of fees payable.</p>
My Aged Care	<p>This is the Australian Government agency that organises Aged Care Assessments and issues referral codes.</p>
RAD / Bond	<p>Aged care fees are split into two types - care fees and accommodation fees. An accommodation fee will usually be expressed in the form of a Refundable Accommodation Deposit. This is what used to be known as the aged care bond. Its usually in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. The RAD is normally fully refunded to a family upon exit.</p>
Referral Code	<p>This is a 12 digit code (formatted like 1-12345678012) that is provided with an Aged Care Assessment. A potential aged care resident will likely receive a Referral Code for Respite and Permanent Aged Care. This code will allow aged care providers to view the aged care assessment online, and understand a potential aged care resident's care needs.</p>
Respite	<p>This is a short term stay in an aged care facility. The Australian Government subsidises up to <u>63 days of respite per financial year</u> for an elderly person who has had an Aged Care Assessment. A respite stay is also a good way for a potential resident to get to know a facility.</p>
