

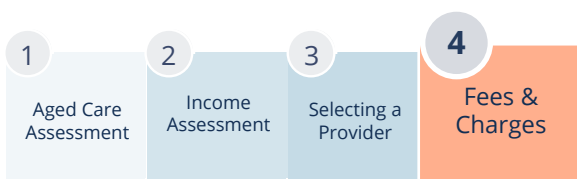
Home Care Fees & Charges

Time required

Ongoing

Complexity

Low



Overview

The Australian Government provides a subsidy towards a large part of the fees associated with a Home Care Package. Beyond the Government subsidy, three types of fees may be payable by an elderly person:

- Basic daily fee
- Income tested care fee
- Extra services

What the Government pays

1. Basic Care Needs	\$10,271.10 a year
2. Low Level Care Needs	\$18,063.85 a year
3. Intermediate Care Needs	\$39,310.50 a year
4. High Level Care Needs	\$59,593.55 a year

This Government subsidy is paid directly to the home care package provider. This is an **approximate maximum** amount.

What do I need to pay?

There are two types of fees your provider can ask you to pay:

1. A Basic Daily Fee
2. An Income Tested Care Fee.

The amount of the contribution you may be asked to make towards your home care package is advised by DHS. Any fees to be paid by you will be discussed between you and your provider before commencing services. The amount, if any, of the Means Income Tested Care Fee will depend on the outcome of the Centrelink Income Assessment.

Generally, the following limits apply (single person rates):

Income	Income tested fee payable
Full pensioner - i.e. annual income is less than \$32,331.00	No income tested care fee payable
Part pensioner - i.e. annual income is less than \$60,632.00	Up to \$6,543.66 per year
Self Funded retiree - i.e. annual income above \$60,632.00	Up to \$13,087.39 per year

What about extra services?

There may be additional or extra services that cannot be catered for within the **individualised care budget**. In this scenario a care recipient and provider can agree on the payment of an additional amount to cover.

In a hurry? Private services

Receiving a Home Care Package requires a **package allocation** (see Step 1). This **package allocation** may or may not occur quickly after an Aged Care Assessment is received - it will depend on national demand.

If a family doesn't want to wait to receive a **package allocation**, you can choose to engage a Home Care Provider on a 'private' basis - meaning you will have to pay the entire cost of services with no Government subsidy.

Controlling how the money is spent

A Home Care Provider will recommend a mix of services (and charges) to be provided under a home care package. This will be wrapped into a home care package '**individualised care budget**'.

Ultimately, it is up to the care recipient to agree to how the overall home care package budget is allocated and spent. If a care recipient wants more of one type of service, or less of another, then the provider must agree to this change.

Every month the Home Care Provider will itemise all services provided, and their costs, in a statement. This statement will also show administration and case management costs.

Unhappy? Change providers

If your family is unhappy with the services provided by the home care package provider (and their sub contractors), or are unhappy with the cost, it is easy to switch providers.

It's now a competitive market for Home care packages. Any registered provider can provide services to any elderly person who has been allocated a package. See Step 3 for how to go about shortlisting another Home Care Provider.

Further information

MyAgedCare.gov.au - <https://www.myagedcare.gov.au/aged-care-home-costs-and-fees>