

AGREEMENT

Assessment and referral pathways:

Living At Home Assessment Agencies & Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-operative (BADAC)

PREAMBLE:

This agreement was developed during the Grampians Region HACC Partnership Project (June 2012) to improve communication and working arrangements between HAS agencies and the Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-operative.

It has been agreed to plan for the situation where an Aboriginal person seeks to receive HACC services from both BADAC and a HAS provider. This may be due to:

- Personal preference of the Aboriginal person – we support choice
- The availability of the right mix of services – if it is not possible for BADAC to provide all HACC services
- Discharge from hospital
- The problems of distance – it may be necessary to deliver shared care where distance from Ballarat is a problem.

This agreement is to confirm a commitment that all agencies follow a clear but simple process to ensure that the choices of an Aboriginal person are recognised and, where consent is provided, both BADAC and the HAS agency can collaborate through assessment, goal setting and service delivery.

AGREEMENT:

It is agreed that:

- Either BADAC or the HAS provider will contact each other when the Aboriginal person provides consent
- Arrangements for assessment will be done together: as a joint assessment or with BADAC in an advocacy role
- Arrangements for proof of Aboriginality are not required by the HAS agencies, however, BADAC policies stipulate that proof of Aboriginality is required to access BADAC HACC services. NB: BADAC provides a General Practitioner service to both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.
- Contact between agencies will be maintained so that advice on culturally appropriate service provision can be provided at any time, with BADAC acting as an information resource
- Both agencies will collaborate to make links with other programs or agencies – for example special interest groups such as a Men's Shed or arts group
- Arrangements for managing any fees or cost such as transport will be discussed to achieve the most responsive outcome for the Aboriginal person
- All progress and review activities will be done jointly, including arrangements to withdraw services.

PARTIES:

All Central Highlands Living At Home Assessment agencies and Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-operative are parties to this agreement. For further information please contact: Carolyn Gargiulo, HACC Diversity Advisor at carolyn.gargiulo@health.vic.gov.au