

HACC program for younger people: assessment services

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Introduction

Assessment is the gateway to services provided by the HACC Program for Younger People (HACC PYP). Assessment establishes a person's eligibility to receive services, and it identifies the needs and expectations of the person and their carer. It also sets up the person's best pathway through the service system.

A person can approach any funded organisation and ask to be assessed for their eligibility and priority for a HACC PYP service. Initial screening by this organisation also determines whether the person has broader needs and requires referrals to other service types.

If broader needs are identified, then the organisation will refer the person to a HACC PYP assessment service that provides a broad, holistic assessment - a Living at Home Assessment. Living at Home Assessments take place in the client's home, when possible and helps people to explore ways to live independently and remain active members of their community.

Living at Home Assessment for people aged under 65

A Living at Home Assessment is a funded activity delivered by designated assessment services under the HACC PYP. The purpose of a Living at home assessment is to gain a broad understanding of a person and their carer's needs, in order to assist the person to live at home as independently as possible.

All HACC PYP assessment services have a proportion of assessment funds in their DHHS Service Agreement dedicated to assessing people who are aged under 65. Target hours of assessment are calculated in the same way and counting rules for assessment under the HACC PYP are the same as they were under the HACC Program

A Living at Home Assessment involves assessment and careful planning, matching the person's needs and goals to the most appropriate service response either from carers, family members and friends, local community groups and/or subsidised services funded through the HACC PYP or other health and community services.

A wide range of resources support consistent practice in conducting Living at Home Assessments. These are available for download on the HACC PYP website: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/ageing-and-aged-care/home-and-community-care/hacc-access-and-assessment>

Living at Home Assessment tool

The Living at Home Assessment tool and guidelines are mandated for use by all HACC PYP assessment services. The *HACC assessment information update March 2015* gives an overview of the Living at home assessment tool and how it was developed. The department also recommends two service coordination tool templates (SCTT) as supplementary tools: ASSIST and the K10.

Use of this tool standardises the assessment process and embeds a person-centred, strengths based approach to the assessment and care planning process. If your service is using an assessment tool of the same standard as the Living at Home Assessment tool, contact your regional HACC PASA to discuss an exemption from this requirement.

The tool and guidelines are available on the HACC PYP website: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/ageing-and-aged-care/home-and-community-care/hacc-access-and-assessment>

Pathways to a Living at Home Assessment

People can self-refer for a Living at Home Assessment or be referred from hospitals, GPs or other organisations. Organisations will identify clients aged under 65 who have broader needs beyond what their service can address, and who will benefit from a holistic assessment for longer term services.

The list of HACC PYP assessment services in DHHS Divisions is available on the HACC PYP website:
<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/ageing-and-aged-care/home-and-community-care/hacc-access-and-assessment>

Interface with the NDIS registration and eligibility testing

As the NDIS rolls out across Victoria people who are **currently receiving services** under the HACC PYP in each NDIS site will be encouraged to go to the NDIA to test their eligibility. **New clients** aged under 65 who approach an assessment service in a NDIS roll out site should be assessed for their eligibility for HACC PYP services in the usual way. Undertaking a Living at Home Assessment will identify the person's eligibility and priority for services as well as their likely eligibility under the NDIS. This will enable the assessment services to:

- identify and provide timely services under HACC PYP for those people who are not likely to be eligible for the NDIS,
- encourage and support new clients who are highly likely to be NDIS eligible to apply to participate in the NDIA,
- provide interim HACC PYP support services while clients are developing and implementing their NDIS package of care.

Interface with Commonwealth Home Support Program

Existing HACC Program for Younger People clients who are turning 65 or Aboriginal people who are turning 50 do not need to be referred to My Aged Care for assessment to continue receiving services under the CHSP unless their needs have changed significantly and they require a Home Support Assessment or a Comprehensive Assessment.

Further information

HACC Program for Younger People

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/ageing-and-aged-care/home-and-community-care>

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