

Inclusions and Exclusions

For Home Care Packages

Inclusion and Exclusion List

There are limitations relating to the expenditure of funds from a Care Recipient's Home Care Package. Understandably, given the high demand from people needing support at home, funds are used for the purpose of maximizing their opportunities to remain at home.

Guidance on what is allowed to be funded in the Home Care Package Program is outlined in the *Quality of Care Principles 2014* and the current Home Care Packages Manual (Sep 21) at <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/home-care-packages-program-operational-manual-a-guide-for-home-care-providers>

The Manual states that you can only make a purchase if:

- It is linked to the Care Recipient's care needs and goals;
- It supports the Care Recipient's health and well-being in daily living;
- It is required to support functional safety in their home;
- It is within the scope of the Home Care Package budget;
- It is not considered as a general household expense;
- It 'would be considered an acceptable use of Government funds';
- It is not an excluded item as identified in the Home Care Package Operations Manual

However, expenditure of Home Care Package Funds is under renewed focus from the Department of Health and ACQSC (Aged Care Quality & Safety Commission). Guidance is constantly being sought as the Government review the rules, but the following table aims to guide care recipients and their representatives regarding the allowable use of Home Care Package funds.

Given the costs of certain aids, equipment and modifications, ADEC reserves the right to seek more than one quotation or advice.

Services

Service	Allowed	Excluded	Notes
Personal Care, e.g. showering, dressing, toileting	Yes		Identified in the Care Plan
Home Care, e.g. light house work tasks including vacuuming, laundry services, mopping, tidying, wiping benches, dusting	Yes		Identified in the Care Plan. In a household where the client lives with others, Home Care tasks need to benefit the client directly

ACTION on DISABILITY within ETHNIC COMMUNITIES INC.

Home Care Package Inclusions and Exclusions

Meal Preparation	Yes		Identified in the Care Plan
Assisted transport services, e.g. shopping, medical appointments, outings, errands	Yes		Identified in the Care Plan
Medication prompting/assistance	Yes		Identified in the Care Plan
Companionship and social support	Yes		Identified in the Care Plan
Planned Activity Groups (PAGs)	Yes		Identified in the Care Plan but at full cost
Day Respite	Yes		Identified in the Care Plan but at full cost
Day Therapy e.g. Group exercises led by a Physio including Hydrotherapy.	Yes		Identified in the Care Plan but at full cost
Nursing e.g. wound care, continence assessments, catheter care, medication administration, general clinical care	Yes		Full cost
Occupational Therapy e.g. functional assessments, assessment of the home environment, recommendations for equipment.	Yes		Full cost
Dietician	Yes		Full cost
Speech Therapy	Yes		Full cost
Podiatry	Yes		Full cost
Osteopathy, chiropractic services	Yes		Full cost
Massage e.g. therapeutic massage	Yes		Full cost
Physiotherapy	Yes		Full cost
Medical fees e.g. GP consultations, medical procedures, gap fees, X-Rays		No	Item already subsidised by Government
Optometry (including any glasses)		No	Excluded item; item already subsidised by Government
Audiologist (including hearing aids)		No	Excluded item; item already subsidised by Government
Specialist Services e.g. Oncologist, Anaesthetist		No	Item already subsidised by Government
Dental services (including dentures)		No	Excluded item; item already subsidised by Government
Natural therapies e.g. naturopathy, yoga, kinesiology, aromatherapy		No	Excluded items
Travel for holiday/social leave purposes such as flights		No	Excluded item

ACTION on DISABILITY within ETHNIC COMMUNITIES INC.

Home Care Package Inclusions and Exclusions

Entertainment activities e.g. gambling, tickets to events, club memberships, subscriptions		No	Excluded item.
Manicure/pedicure, hairstyling/haircuts		No	Excluded items i.e. general personal expenses.

Equipment

For expensive equipment items, hiring will be recommended. If an item is being purchased, the care recipient may be asked to fund a portion of the total cost.

Equipment Item	Allowed	Excluded	Notes
Mobility Equipment e.g. walking stick, 4-wheel walker, wheelchair	Yes		Only with an assessment from an OT or relevant Allied Health Professional. Identified in the Care Plan
Shower Chair, commode	Yes		Only with an assessment from an OT or relevant Allied Health Professional. Identified in the Care Plan
High/low bed, pressure mattress	Yes		Only with an assessment from an OT or relevant Allied Health Professional. Identified in the Care Plan
Recliner chair	Yes		Only with an assessment from an OT or relevant Allied Health Professional. Identified in the Care Plan
Motorised scooter	Yes		Only with an assessment from an OT or relevant Allied Health Professional. Identified in the Care Plan.
Oxygen equipment e.g. Concentrator	Yes		Only with written support from a GP or Medical Specialist, or relevant Allied Health Professional. Identified in the Care Plan
Client transfer equipment e.g. hoist, Sara Steady, wheelchair	Yes		Only with an assessment from an OT or relevant Allied Health Professional. Identified in the Care Plan
Electrical Goods e.g. fridge, washing machine, clothes dryer, microwave		No	General Household item
Assistive devices including tipper kettle, modified cutlery, raised toilet seats, long reach handle, swivel seat, large button phones, iPads	Yes		Only with an assessment from an OT or relevant Allied Health Professional. Identified in the Care Plan
Personal safety alarms, incl. sensor mats, fall detectors	Yes		Identified in the Care Plan
Gardening equipment including shovels, sprinklers, lawn mowers		No	General household expense

ACTION on DISABILITY within ETHNIC COMMUNITIES INC.

Home Care Package Inclusions and Exclusions

Home Maintenance and Modifications

Minor home modifications are allowed where there is a safety risk and it relates to the care needs of the client. Modifications must be in line with the *Building Code of Australia* and in compliance with State building regulations.

Care Recipient may be asked to fund a portion of the total cost.

Maintenance or Modification Item	Allowed	Excluded	Notes
Light gardening	Yes		Only essential gardening that allows access to the home and improves safety
Minor home maintenance	Yes		Maintenance activities that the care recipient previously did for themselves but cannot do now that assists their safety in the home e.g. changing light globes, smoke detectors, fixing a broken cupboard
Landscaping		No	Excluded item
Planting, weeding, maintaining plants/crops		No	Excluded items
Installation/maintenance/removal of garden beds		No	Permitted if the garden beds are identified as a trip hazard only for those areas accessed by the client
Cleaning gutters	Yes		Once annually
Gutter repairs		No	Home maintenance that the care recipient needs to attend to themselves
Pruning i.e. essential pruning	Yes		Essential pruning means branches that are only impeding walkway and access areas for the client
Minor bathroom modifications e.g. easy access taps, hand held shower head, installing grab rails	Yes		Only with an assessment from an OT or relevant Allied Health Professional. Identified in the Care Plan
Widening doorways to improve access	Yes		Only with an assessment from an OT or relevant Allied Health Professional. Identified in the Care Plan
Removing trip hazards	Yes		Only with an assessment from an OT or relevant Allied Health Professional. Identified in the Care Plan
Step modifications, lifts, ramps	Yes		Only with an assessment from an OT or relevant Allied Health Professional. Identified in the Care Plan

ACTION on DISABILITY within ETHNIC COMMUNITIES INC.

Home Care Package Inclusions and Exclusions

Complex home modifications requiring development applications		No	Work deemed as capital improvements not essential to the care needs of the client
Aesthetic home modifications of any kind		No	Work deemed as capital improvements not essential to the care needs of the client
Home modifications relating to windows, sun rooms, pergolas, roofs		No	Work deemed as capital improvements not essential to the care needs of the client
Electrical re-wiring		No	General household expense
Repair of household appliances e.g. dishwasher, washing machine, oven		No	General household expense
Carpet replacement		No	General household expense
Repair of heating/cooling appliances		No	General household expense
Pool maintenance and repairs		No	General household expense
Home security equipment i.e. CCTV, security lighting.		No	General household expense
Window cleaning	Yes		Once annually
Carpet cleaning		Partial	Generally not allowed, but permissible where there are hygiene issues for the specific area affected

Miscellaneous Items

Miscellaneous Item	Allowed	Excluded	Notes
Residential Aged Care Fees e.g. respite		No	Excluded item as it is already subsidised by Government
Utility bills e.g. electricity, water and gas		No	General household expenses
Motor vehicle expenses and running costs		No	General household expenses
Takeaway food		No	General household expenses
Pet Care e.g. food, medications, grooming, accommodation, vet expenses, pet insurance		No	General household expenses
Internet		No	General household expenses
Personal grooming items e.g. hair dryer, electric shaver, toiletries, soaps, hair products, moisturiser		No	General household expenses

ACTION on DISABILITY within ETHNIC COMMUNITIES INC.

Home Care Package Inclusions and Exclusions

Funeral costs		No	Personal expense not related to the care needs of the client
Costs relating to hobbies		No	General household expenses
Public transport e.g. MYKI ticket		No	General expense
Consultancy services e.g. Placement Services		No	Does not match client goals of remaining at home