

What determines how my Home Care Package funds may be spent?

Frequently asked questions:



Need help?
1300 866 228

If you are unsure whether you can use your Home Care Package funds for something, please use these questions outlined in the Australian Government Department of Health Operational Manual for Home Care Package consumers. Providers such as Care Connect and all Home Care Package consumers must comply with these guidelines.



Inclusions and exclusions framework questions you will need to answer:

1. Mandatory:

- Is the support specifically excluded under the Aged Care legislation?

2. Quality and safety:

- Does the support pose a risk to your health and safety?
- Does the support pose a risk to the health and safety to the people providing your care and your community?
- Does a support require maintenance to ensure its safe use that represents a significant portion of your package budget?
- Is it difficult to provide the maintenance required?

3. Consumer's assessed needs:

- Does the support directly align with the intent and scope of the Home Care Package Program?
- How does the support assist you to achieve your assessed care needs and goals, now and in the short-medium term? Is it necessary to meet your care needs and goals?
- How does the support match your care needs in your ACAT assessment, your provider's assessment or an assessment by a health care professional?
- Have you considered the evidence-base for the support in addressing the particular care needs?

4. Financial:

- Is there an opportunity cost associated with the support?
- Will you miss out on the care you need if the support is included in your package budget?
- Does the support represent value for money to meet your assessed care needs?

5. Other:

- Can the support be provided in your community?
- Does the support directly benefit you, or does it have significant benefits for others?



What are the main categories of care and services accessible through a Home Care Package?

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| 1. Services to keep you well and independent: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal care• Nursing• Allied health and therapy services• Meal preparation and diet• Specialised support | 2. Services to keep you safe in your home: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nursing assistance• Home maintenance• Minor home modifications• Goods, equipment and assistive technology | 3. Services to keep you connected to your community: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transport• Social support |
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Can I spend my funds freely?

- A Home Care Package is not additional income that may be used for everyday items and costs.
- You cannot purchase PBS medicines.
- The funds in your package are intended to help meet your assessed care needs outlined in your care plan so you can continue to live independently in your home for as long as it is safe and appropriate.
- Technology purchases may be permitted for various reasons, however, the model and brand must be cost efficient and please seek pre-approval from your Care Manager.
- You are encouraged to work with Care Connect to determine how the money can be allocated.

What if I am not sure about funding a particular product or service?

Sometimes a support or service may not fall neatly within the inclusions and exclusions list. This does not mean it cannot be included in your Home Care Package. It means that you will need to work in partnership with your provider to determine if the service, support or purchase:

- Is directly linked to your identified care needs and goals;
- Will optimise your health and wellbeing;
- Is necessary for you to remain living safely and independently in your home;
- Can be delivered within your package budget; and
- Would be considered an acceptable use of Government funds.



Please speak with Care Connect for tailored advice and to discuss the suitability of purchasing products and services as part of your funding. It is a requirement that all products and services purchased within a package must align with the care plan of that individual and comply with the Australian Government guidelines. Penalties apply for misuse of Government funds.