

## Eligibility for Residential Care

You can apply for a place in a residential aged care home once you have a current **ACAT (Aged Care Assessment Team) assessment** that says you are eligible to receive residential care.

### What is an ACAT?

Aged Care Assessment Teams (ACAT) are teams of health professionals, such as doctors, nurses or social workers. They provide information, advice and assistance to older people who are having difficulty living at home.

### How do I find my local ACAT?

A Senexus aged care specialist can provide you with details of your local ACAT. You can arrange for your own ACAT assessment or your doctor or nurse may refer you to an ACAT for an assessment if they think you need more coordinated care.

You can also find more information about ACAT assessments at the My Aged Care website [www.myagedcare.gov.au](http://www.myagedcare.gov.au)

### What does an ACAT do?

With your consent an ACAT can:

- Assess your eligibility for entry into an aged care home;
- Give you information about aged care homes and home services in your area;
- Help you arrange respite care if this is what you require; and
- Assess your eligibility for home care to help you continue living at home or refer you to other services that will help you to continue living at home

### What happens at an ACAT assessment?

A member of an ACAT will visit and talk to you about your lifestyle and health needs. You can also choose to have your doctor provide the ACAT member with information about your medical history.

This information is then used to help work out the best care option for you.

You can choose to have your carer or a friend or family member present at the assessment.

### After the assessment – letter of eligibility

Following your assessment you will receive a letter to let you know whether you are eligible for Australian government subsidised aged care services.

If you are eligible your letter will tell you what type of services you are approved to receive, as well as the reasons why. You will need to show this letter to the aged care providers that you would like to receive services from, as proof of your eligibility.

### Does the assessment cost anything?

No. ACAT assessments are a free service.

### How often do I need to be assessed?

Generally, only once. All permanent residential care approvals granted on or after 1 July 2014 will remain valid, unless the ACAT approval was granted for a specific period of time.

If you are granted an ACAT approval for a specific period of time, you will need a new assessment when it expires.

### Important!

This document is only a guide to the Government's law and policies and does not take into account your individual circumstances. Senexus Aged Care Solutions recommends that you seek appropriate professional advice relevant to your particular situation.