FACT SHEET

CONSUMER DIRECTED CARE (CDC) IN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT FUNDED COMMUNITY AGED CARE

What is the Government doing around Consumer Directed Care?
The Australian Government is funding consumer directed care in selected Australian Government community aged care programs. Under the initiative, the Government will fund selected community aged care providers to deliver innovative service models, which provide care recipients and their carers with greater control over the design and delivery of the care and services they receive.

What is CDC?
Consumer (or self) directed care allows people to have greater control over their own lives by allowing them, to the extent that they are capable and wish so to do, to make choices about the types of care services they access and the delivery of those services, including who will deliver the services and when.

Which programs will CDC affect?
Participating providers will offer care recipients the choice of consumer directed care packages within Australian Government funded packaged care programs of Community Aged Care Packages (CACPs), Extended Aged Care at Home (EACH) and Extended Aged Care at Home Dementia (EACHD). Consumer direction will also be delivered in the respite services under the National Respite for Carers Program (NRCP) through a separate process. Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centres will deliver CDC in this program.

CDC Framework
The model adopted for CDC packages is an individual budget based on a needs assessment and administered on the care recipient’s behalf by an approved provider for an agreed percentage of the allocated budget.

Funds for an individual’s allocated budget will be drawn from the provider’s income, which is obtained from government subsidies and care recipients’ fees. It is not intended that in each case an individual’s allocated budget would exactly match the subsidy received by the provider in respect of that care recipient.

There will be three levels of subsidy depending on the assessed level of care to be provided. These three levels will broadly align with the existing subsidy levels of the current Packaged Care programs, namely, CACPs, EACH and EACHD.

An individual budget will:
- be allocated to the care recipient;
• be based on a care recipient’s needs as assessed by the packaged care provider and agreed with the care recipient;
• follow the care recipient’s assessment by an ACAT, which determines eligibility for a specific level of Packaged Care (eg, CACP);
• be held and administered by the packaged care provider for an amount agreed with the care recipient from the total budget; and
• be set for a one year period (evaluation will determine the future of the CDC places).

**CDC Low Care**
This level of care is similar to a CACP in that it may provide services such as personal care, social support, transport to appointments, home help, meal preparation and gardening.

**CDC High Care**
This level is similar to an EACH package in that it may provide services such as nursing, domestic assistance, in-home respite, personal care, transport to appointments, and social support.

**CDC High Care Dementia**
This level is similar to an EACHD package and will provide care services to people living in the community who have high level, complex care needs and also experience behaviours and symptoms associated with dementia that affect their ability to live independently.

People assessed as eligible for this package will have complex high care needs associated with their dementia, be eligible for high level residential care, have expressed a preference to live at home and be able to do so with the assistance of a package of care.

**Assessment by an Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT)**
To be eligible for a CDC package, older people must first be assessed by an ACAT as eligible for a CACP, EACH or EACHD package.

For information on how to contact your local ACAT, you can call the Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centre on free call 1800 052 222, or view their website [http://www.commCarelink.health.gov.au](http://www.commCarelink.health.gov.au)

**How many CDC ‘places’ are available?**
A total of 500 (non-ongoing) CDC places will be available nationally in 2010-11, through the Innovative Pool Program for delivering consumer directed care in Australian Government packaged care programs.

**Who can apply to deliver CDC packages?**
CDC places will only be allocated to existing approved providers as defined under the *Aged Care Act 1997*. A formal application for CDC places must be submitted to the Department of Health and Ageing. In order to deliver CDC packages, services must be approved providers of flexible care. It is possible for other existing approved providers that are not approved for flexible care to apply to the Department for Health and Ageing to be approved providers of flexible care. This can be done at the time of submitting their CDC places application. Approved provider and CDC places application forms are available for download at [www.health.gov.au/cdc](http://www.health.gov.au/cdc)
When do applications close?
All 2010-11 applications for CDC places must be received within the Department of Health and Ageing by **2.00pm, Monday 31 May 2010**.

Who can I call for more information?
Further information and application forms are available from the website at [www.health.gov.au/cdc](http://www.health.gov.au/cdc) or from the Aged Care Information Line on 1800 500 853.