

Program Plan
AGED CARE ACCESS INITIATIVE
ALLIED HEALTH COMPONENT

Aim:-

To improve access to allied health services for residents of aged care facilities through the purchase based on a needs assessment, of allied health services for residents of aged care facilities (where these allied health services are not covered by Medicare or other government funding programs).

Funder:-

Department of Health and Ageing (Schedule 9 of the Multi-Program Funding Agreement)

Term of Agreement:-

To 30 June 2009

Service Model:-

- GPT as the executor of the Agreement retains contract compliance, reporting and monitoring responsibilities
- GPT has purchased from each Division input into the needs assessment for their respective region and input into the program plan for the State
- Divisions have undertaken the needs assessment regionally by contacting the RACF's and surveying them utilising a standard state-wide assessment tool. The Divisions were also asked to liaise with key stakeholders in relation to this needs assessment
- GPT will administer the payment for AHP services on a state-wide basis
- GPT will contract communication and coordination services from Aged Care Services Tasmania (the RACF peak body)
- GPT will process payments to avoid potential confusion within the RACF as to whether the allied health services are funded from within the RACF budget (i.e. high care places) or from the new initiative
- GPT will develop a pamphlet for the RACF's to provide to their existing allied health service providers to provide instructions for eligibility and billing etc.
- RACF's will make appointments with AHP's in line with the needs assessment
- Allied health services will bill GPT directly and this will enable GPT to readily meet reporting obligations to DoHA

List of Activities:-

- Establish and manage an efficient system of invoicing and reporting -15 September 2008
- Develop and distribute brochure for RACF's to provide AHP with information on ACAI -15 September 2008
- Develop guidelines with regards to the payment and coordination of transport and accommodation for AHP providing services and communicate this to RACF -15 September 2008

- Liaise regularly with ACST to co-ordinate communication to RACF's, including distribution of brochure, and to identify any emerging issues or concerns in relation to the ACAI - *ongoing*
- Meet with Allied Health Taskforce to communicate initiative and the service model - *commence mid September and ongoing*
- Process payments - *ongoing*
- Monitor uptake of services and expenditure at a regional level - *ongoing*
- Report to Department of Health & Ageing - *6 monthly*

Budget for Aged Care Access Initiative:-

	(GST Excl Amount)
TOTAL INCOME (2008-09)	\$164,776.00
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EXPENDITURE	
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Administration (max 25% total funding)	
Payment to Division to Undertake Needs Assessment and Contribute to Plan*	
South	\$ 6,000.00
North	\$ 4,200.00
North West	\$ 3,300.00
Payment to ACST to facilitate communications with RACFs	\$ 5,000.00
Contribution to GPT Salaries for Program Coordination and Resource Development	\$ 10,000.00
Contribution to GPT Salaries for Payment Processing	\$ 5,000.00
General Administration (e.g. Communications)	\$ 2,694.00
Printing of Resources (e.g. flyers for RACFs to provide to AHP's with billing details)	\$ 5,000.00
Total Administration	\$ 41,194.00
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Purchase of Allied Health Services**	
South	\$ 58,264.63
North	\$ 32,115.06
North West	\$ 33,202.31
Total Service Delivery	\$123,582.00
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Estimated Numbers of Allied Health Consultations **	
South	486
North	268
North West	277
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*Based on share of RACFs

**Based on needs identified in Needs Assessment

Needs Assessment:-

Tasmanian Residential Aged Care Facilities and Places by Region as at 30 June 2007

Region	Number of Aged Care Facilities	% of Aged Care Facilities	Residential Low Care Places	% of Low Care Places
South	40	44%	1,245	51%
North	28	31%	632	26%
North West	22	24%	555	23%
Tasmania	90	100%	2,432	100%

Source: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/ageing-rescare-servlist-download.htm>

State Summary of Needs Assessment

In the process of developing the service model for the ACAI, GP Tasmania consulted with Allied Health Providers and developed an Allied Health Taskforce. There was also consultation with ACST.

GP Divisions undertook a needs assessment involving consultation with external stakeholders including RACF's and AHP's in their region. From the needs assessment and consultations needs have been identified and prioritised. Below is a summary of comments gained from these needs assessment along with prioritised AHP needs:-

Comments from needs assessment

Most usual needs and common conditions of the patient population considering age and frailty	Other sources of allied health service provision (including health initiatives conducted by other agencies)	Gaps in allied health service provision	Adverse environmental factors (e.g. geographical) which will impede the provision of allied health services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physiotherapy services to help in the prevention of falls and to assist with exercise related issues • Foot problems • Chronic conditions, e.g. Arthritis, diabetes, dementia • Loss of muscle tone and increased calorie requirements indicates the need for dietician/nutrition services • Family interaction • Palliative care / end-of-life issues • Dementia and behaviour care • Increased participation by allied health services in general to improve quality of care • Dentistry services • Development of referral pathways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of the RACLT team from the Royal Hobart Hospital in the South, who employ a dietician and 1 or 2 other AHP's • Access in the North West is limited due to a lack of AHP in the region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the shortage of supply of AHP in Tasmania particularly in rural areas many RACF have difficulty accessing their services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tasmania has a highly decentralised population with almost 60% of the population outside the Greater Hobart area. There are major problems with accessing AHP in rural areas of Tasmania. • Tasmania has a higher proportion of the population aged >65. • The North West Region of Tasmania is especially challenged by remoteness

Overall across the state there was an identified need to increase the accessibility of AHP to RACF's. This need was especially identified in rural areas. The needs assessment has allowed for the allocation of services as follows:- South 486, North 268 and North West 277, this allocation is by service numbers but will need to be adjusted when taking into account travel and accommodation expense that may be used by rural RACF's. See the budget for a full description of this allocation. Note:- North West Division has a higher proportion of services allocated as they were found to have a higher need for services.

Below is a summary by division of the services required with a collated summary following.

Summary of Divisional Distribution of Services required

<i>Allied Health Services Urgently Required</i> <i>(order of priority)</i>	<i>Identified as priority need</i>	<i>Supporting Comments</i>
General Practice North West		
Podiatrist	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request a list of AHP's available in area
Dietician/Nutritionist	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require urgent access to podiatry and foot care
Speech Pathologist	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need access to services on a regular basis for quality care of residents
Occupational Therapist	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited number of AHP
Nurse Specialist – Wound Care / Continence	X	
Dental Services	X	
Physiotherapy	X	
General Practice South		
Podiatrists	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited number of AHP
Dentists & Dental Prosthetics	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Especially limited for private consultants
Speech Pathologist	X	
Physiotherapists	X	
Occupational Therapists	X	
Specialist Nurses		
Exercise Physiologists		
General Practice North		
Speech Pathologists	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited number of consultants available
Dietician	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport issues due to geographical location of some ACF's
Occupational Therapists	X	
Dental	X	
Podiatry	X	
Social Worker		

Collated Summary of Services required for the State

<i>Allied Health Services Required (order of priority for the State)</i>	<i>Important Comments from the Needs Assessment of each Division</i>
Podiatrist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The biggest problem foreseen from the Needs Assessment is that there is a lack of Allied Health Professionals in many areas of the state
Dietician/Nutritionist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The shortage is especially acute in remote regional areas
Speech Pathologist	
Occupational Therapist	
Nurse Specialist – Wound Care / Continence	
Dental Services	
Physiotherapists	