

# Aged Care Access Initiative

Background information prepared by General Practice Tasmania  
for Residential Aged Care Facilities

## Aged Care Access Initiative

The Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing has developed and provided funding for the Aged Care Access Initiative.

The Aged Care Access Initiative supports access to allied health services for low care residents of aged care facilities through payments for clinical care provided by allied health professionals (AHPs) in residential aged care facilities (RACFs), where these services are not currently covered by Medicare or other government funding arrangements.

**Aim:** To improve access to allied health services for low care residents of aged care facilities through the purchase of allied health services (where these services are not covered by Medicare or other government funding programs)

## The General Practice Tasmania Network

The General Practice Tasmania Network comprises three Divisions of General Practice, a rural workforce support agency with General Practice Tasmania (GPT) as the state based organisation and peak body. The Network supports contemporary general practice and integrated primary care in Tasmania by linking general practitioners with each other and by supporting all members of the general practice team. The Network also provides systems support in general practice and works to strengthen the relationships between general practice and other health service providers

In Tasmania the Aged Care Access Initiative is administered by General Practice Tasmania (GPT).

**Note: The initiative ends 30 June 2012**

## Administration of the Aged Care Access Initiative

The residential aged care facility can make appointments directly with allied health professionals for low care residents or the low care resident can make their own appointments

Entitlement to invoice vouchers (refer over) must be signed and provided to the allied health professional or low care resident

Allied health professionals will bill General Practice Tasmania Limited by providing:

**1** The completed entitlement to invoice voucher



**2** An invoice with the following information:

- ✓ Australian Business Number (ABN)
- ✓ An invoice number
- ✓ GST if the provider is GST registered (*this is required as the invoice is being paid by a third party to service provision - there has been a tax ruling on this issue*)
- ✓ Address details
- ✓ Payment details (e.g. bank details for direct credit payment)
- ✗ Please **do not** include patient names on invoices or vouchers

## Eligibility for the Aged Care Access Initiative

### Allied Health Professionals

- Allied health professionals engaged under this scheme must be registered and/or accredited and must qualify for membership of the relevant professional association
- Must not require supervision to undertake clinical tasks
- Must have their own Australian Business Number (ABN)
- Must be a profession identified in the Aged Care Access Initiative Guidelines ( see below or the voucher)

### Costs Covered

- Professional services fees
- Reasonable travel costs to rural and remote residential aged care facilities
- There must be no cost to the patient

### Services Covered

- Individual services may include one-on-one services such as podiatry or physiotherapy and may also include participation in case conferencing and care planning
- Group services might include, for example, group exercise and falls prevention programs provided these are conducted by qualified allied health professionals as above.

### Resident

- Must be low care
- Not eligible to claim payment under Medicare or other government funding program such as DVA

For a full copy of the program guidelines visit

[http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/aged\\_care\\_access](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/aged_care_access)

## The Voucher System

- Entitlement to invoice vouchers to the value of \$50.00 are provided to residential aged care facilities
- The residential aged care facility is responsible for providing these to the allied health professionals or low care resident to the value of the consultation e.g. 2 vouchers for a \$100 visit. The allied health professional is required to invoice General Practice Tasmania.
- The entitlement to invoice voucher must be signed, dated and stamped by the residential aged care facility
- The entitlement to invoice voucher is not redeemable for cash
- **The initiative ends 30 June 2012 and the vouchers expire 30 March 2012**
- **Any unused vouchers are to be forwarded to General Practice Tasmania Limited upon expiry**

## General Practice Tasmania Contact Details

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