

# Aged Care Access Initiative



## Background information prepared by Tasmania Medicare Local for residential aged care facilities

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### 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)**

### Tasmania Medicare Local

Tasmania Medicare Local (TML) has been formed from the previous Divisions of General Practice and will continue with much of the work undertaken by the Divisions as well as expanding into a number of new areas of business. In Tasmania the Aged Care Access Initiative is administered by TML.

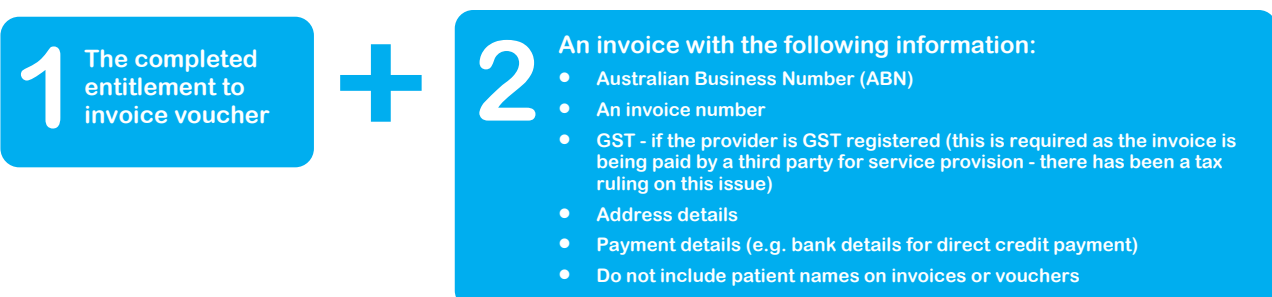
**Note: The initiative ends 30 June 2012**

### 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 Tasmania Medicare Local Limited (or General Practice Tasmania Limited) by providing:



## 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 Department of Veterans' Affairs
- 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. two vouchers for a \$100 visit. The allied health professional is required to invoice Tasmania Medicare Local Limited (or General Practice Tasmania Limited)
- 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 June 2012**
- **Any unused vouchers are to be forwarded to Tasmania Medicare Local Limited upon expiry**

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#### > CONTACT DETAILS

**Ms Jane Lucas-Banks**, Program Officer  
GPO Box 1827 Hobart TAS 7001  
T: 03 6220 6403 F: 03 6224 3384  
[jlucas-banks@tasmedicarelocal.com.au](mailto:jlucas-banks@tasmedicarelocal.com.au)

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