

Aged Care Jargon Buster

There's lots of tricky acronyms in the Aged Care Space. Here we try and clear up a few of the most often used one's for you and what they actually mean:

ACAS – Aged Care Assessment Service (only Victoria uses the term ACAS). See ACAT.

ACAT – Aged Care Assessment Test – this test is performed by a medical professional who could include social workers, nurses, doctors, physios and occupational therapists to assess your readiness for aged care or home care services.

Accommodation Payment – The entry amount payable to enter an aged care home. These can vary from place to place and depend on the features of the facility.

Accreditation – Residential Aged Care service facilities must be accredited by the independent Australian Aged Care Quality Agency to receive Government funding. They also need to comply with legislated Accreditation Standards.

Aged Care Funding Instrument (ACFI) is used to measure the level of care each resident needs, based on their activities of daily living, behaviour, and complex health care. This in turn helps allocate the Australian Government subsidy to providers to care for residents.

Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP). CHSP is active in all states except WA which uses HACC funded services. CHSP is a Government initiative subsidising in-home or centre-based care services needing low level assistance to stay living in their own home independently.

DAP – Daily Accommodation Payment. This is the regular rental payment you can choose to pay, interest only at the government interest rate.

Daily Fee – A daily charge in addition to the accommodation payment, payable by all residents. It contributes toward daily living expenses.

ESF – Extra Services Facility. Some facilities provide 'extra services.' This means that the facility offers a higher standard of accommodation, food, or services such as wine with dinner, choice of meals, a superior room and décor. It does not mean a higher offered standard of care.

HCP – Home Care Packages – There are four levels of packages funded by the Australian Government. Level 1 supports those with basic care needs and Level 2, those with low care needs, Level 3 is for those with Intermediate Needs and Level 4, High Care needs.

In-home Care Services – supportive care provided by the patient’s healthcare providers in their own home.

ILU’s – Independent living Units - These villas offer one to three bedroom accommodation units in a village environment to live independently and continue to care for yourself.

LGBTI – Some aged care facilities increasingly cater for the ‘lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex’ persons within their communities.

MTT – Means Tested Fee. The Australian Government pays a large proportion of age care fees, but not all. You may be asked to contribute towards the cost of your care if you have the means to do so. If you are on the full Age Pension you usually do not have to pay any MTT.

Palliative Care – providing care to patients with a life limiting illness by supporting and improving quality of life with pain management and medication.

RAD – Residential Accommodation Deposit. This is the new name for what you previously knew as a Bond.

Respite – This is a short-term service offered by some facilities to allow carers a break. It also can be used if the carer becomes ill and may need to be admitted to hospital. Unofficially, some use this as an option to ‘try before you buy’.

SRF – Supported Residential Facility – A supported residential facility offers similar services to Government funded facilities but without the funding support. An ACAT/ACAS Assessment is not required.

Veteran’s Supplement – Home care package supplements for eligible veterans, war widows or widowers through the Department of Veterans’ Affairs.