DBMAS and dementia training competitive grants round now open

A message sent to the sector on 13 April 2016 announced the opening of the single Dementia Behaviour Management Advisory Services (DBMAS) and Dementia Training Programme grants round on 11 April 2016. Applications will close on Tuesday 24 May 2016.

This follows the announcement on 25 January 2016 by the Minister for Health, Aged Care and Sport, the Hon Sussan Ley MP, launching a new national approach to dementia care in response to the report on the 2015 analysis of dementia programmes.

The new national approach includes:

- a single national provider for Dementia Behaviour Management Advisory Services (DBMAS)
- a single national provider to deliver a streamlined dementia education programme, consolidating the Dementia Training Study Centres and Dementia Care Essentials.


Help inform your stakeholders about aged care changes – new webpages with resources for you to share

In these times of significant, long-term aged care reform, everyone can play a role in sharing up-to-date information with stakeholders, so that providers and consumers are prepared for the changes ahead.

The department has created two new webpages in the News and Updates section of Ageing and Aged Care, currently on the DSS website: Resources for the sector to share with service providers and Resources for the sector to share with consumers webpages. These pages will be regularly updated with articles for you to adapt for your newsletters, as well as a range of useful resources such as fact sheets, videos and presentations.

In coming months there will be a particular focus on resources to support providers and consumers to understand the home care reforms including progress of the Increasing Choice in Home Care changes and what stakeholders need to know. The department will continue to develop content on these new webpages in consultation with providers and consumers, to support the sector to be ready for Stage 1 which starts on 27 February 2017.

Feedback on the content within the pages is welcomed. Please email us at aacei@health.gov.au with your thoughts and suggestions.
Administration fees cannot be charged for residential care

Please be reminded that an Approved Provider cannot charge an administration fee for providing residential care. This includes residential respite care.

Approved Providers’ responsibilities under section 54-1 of the Aged Care Act 1997 (the Act) include providing the care and services specified in the Quality of Care Principles 2014 within the fees charged under Division 52C of the Act. Providing administration services for the general operation of the home is included as one of the specified services. Therefore, an Approved Provider cannot charge a separate fee for administration services, whether it is charged as an ongoing daily payment or deducted from any lump sum accommodation payments that have been paid by the resident.

Guidance material has been developed to help Approved Providers understand their residential aged care responsibilities. It provides information on items that cannot be charged to a resident and includes a detailed list of administration items such as waitlist fees. A copy of this guidance material can be found on the department’s website at www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/ageing-and-aged-care/for-providers/guidance-for-providers/care-and-services-in-aged-care-homes-information-for-approved-providers.

New Palliative Approach Toolkit resources for residential aged care providers

The Palliative Approach (PA) Toolkit is a ‘how to’ guide designed to assist residential aged care providers implement a comprehensive, evidence-based palliative approach to care within their facility. The PA Toolkit was rolled out nationally throughout 2013 and 2014. New resources are available for residential aged care providers including four educational videos and a companion set of 15 fact sheets.

Personal care workers play a crucial role in providing high quality end of life care. Appropriate and ongoing education is therefore vital to allow for enhanced support to residents and their families. These new resources will assist in providing personal care workers with evidence-based training and education.


Increasing Choice in Home Care – Stage 1 transition underway

Activities are underway to support the sector to transition and be ready for Stage 1 of the home care reform changes happening from 27 February 2017. More information about the home care reforms, including consultation and sector engagement activities, will be regularly updated on the department’s Increasing Choice in Home Care webpage at www.dss.gov.au/ageing-and-aged-care/programs-services/home-care/home-care-packages-reform/increasing-choice-in-home-care.

Stage 1 of these changes will see funding for a home care package follow the consumer, allowing them to choose a provider that meets their needs, and to change their provider if they wish. Home care packages will also be assigned to eligible consumers from a national pool of packages managed through My Aged Care.

These changes to home care will create a more flexible, consumer-driven system to encourage innovation in the marketplace, reduce red tape, and support older Australians to have more choice and control over their care. A more detailed article is available on the changes, designed to be adapted for newsletters to share with providers.

The Government will look to further simplify the way that services are delivered and funded in Stage 2, expected to start from July 2018.

Enquiries can be emailed to agedcarereformenquiries@health.gov.au.