Information for Aged Care Providers

Assignment of home care packages and referrals to providers

The department has now released over 18,000 home care packages during March and April and continues to release packages at regular intervals. The majority have been issued to clients who have previously never held a home care package.

Clients have **56 days** from the date of their package assignment to enter into a Home Care Agreement with their chosen provider. If more time is required to research providers, clients can extend this by a further **28 days**.

Providers may receive referrals for home care packages in two ways:

1. direct contact by a client who provides them with their referral code from their package assignment letter, OR
2. a system referral that has been generated on the client’s behalf either by the My Aged Care contact centre or their ACAT.

Make sure your service and pricing information is up-to-date in the home care package service finder to help clients when researching service providers.

The department will continue to analyse consumer behaviour around timeframes for the take up of packages. This information can then be factored into future package release schedules.

Information resources for consumers and providers

**Free flu vaccines available for people 65 years and over**

The 2017 National Immunisation Program (NIP) seasonal influenza (flu) vaccines are being distributed around the country.

The vaccination is free under the NIP for anyone aged 65 years and over.

The flu can have severe consequences for staff and clients of aged care services.

How can you help?

- Raise awareness of the flu vaccine by ordering or downloading resources including posters, brochures and fact sheets.
- Talk to your vaccination provider about giving the flu vaccine to your clients.

More information about vaccinations for older Australians is available on the Immunise Australia website.

**LGBTI Ageing and Aged Care Resources**

As part of the Ageing and Aged Care LGBTI Strategy, the Australian Government and advocacy and support organisations have developed a range of LGBTI specific ageing and aged care resources.

These resources are available from the department’s website.

If you have any feedback or suggestions for other LGBTI inclusive resources, please email ageing.and.diversity@health.gov.au.
Consultation on the CALD and LGBTI Ageing and Aged Care Strategies – two weeks to go

The department is seeking your feedback on the National Ageing and Aged Care Strategies for:

- people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) people.

The department is currently reviewing progress against the Strategies. As well as highlighting achievements, we wish to identify gaps where more can be done. Your feedback will contribute towards the review and inform the development of a new Aged Care Diversity Framework.

Submissions will close at 5pm, 12 May 2017 (AEST).

For more information and to provide feedback visit the department’s website.

Older People Speak Out Media Awards

Nominations for the annual Older People Speak Out (OPSO) Media Awards are now open. The Awards were established to promote positive attitudes towards ageing and break down negative stereotypes of older people.

You can nominate media items featuring positive coverage of seniors, published or broadcast between 3 October 2016 and 26 September 2017.

For more information or to submit a nomination visit the OPSO website.

2017 Better Practice conferences

You are invited to register for this year’s Better Practice conferences run by the Australian Aged Care Quality Agency.

The theme for 2017 is: Rethinking Aged Care: Discover, Connect, Create. The conferences will consider what is needed to deliver on expectations about quality of care and services in aged care.

For further information and to register, visit the Australian Aged Care Quality Agency website. Subscribe to the Quality Standard for regular updates.

Participate in the Aged Care National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey

Australian aged care homes and multi-purpose services are encouraged to participate in this year’s Aged Care National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey (acNAPS).

The acNAPS aims to:

- reduce harm to aged care residents by preventing infections through a greater focus on infection control
- promote appropriate antimicrobial (e.g. antibiotic) use
- collate de-identified data that allows each aged care home to benchmark their results against the Australian average
- support aged care homes to meet accreditation requirements.

The survey can be undertaken by a nurse, infection control practitioner or pharmacist between Monday 19 June 2017 and Friday 1 September 2017.

Expert support from a clinical microbiologist, pharmacist and an infection control practitioner is available to all participating aged care homes and multi-purpose services during this time.

Contact details - phone (03) 9342 9415 or email support@naps.org.au

For further information or to participate visit the NAPS website.