

ENTRY INTO AN AGED CARE HOME FOR RESPITE CARE

Looking for a quick guide to residential respite care?

People may be confused by the process for entering residential respite care. For this reason, we have created this guide to clarify the requirements for entering an aged care home. We understand that too much information can create unnecessary stress for a person and their loved ones, so we hope this guide is helpful. We welcome any questions that you may have.

mecwacare is a leading not-for-profit organisation that provides quality care for clients in residential aged care homes throughout Victoria regardless of their financial means.

About residential respite care

Respite care is ideal for supporting a person and their carer for a short period of time. A person can access up to 63 days of subsidised care in a financial year. In special circumstances, an extension of 21 days may be granted at the discretion of My Aged Care.

Please note that respite care is not encouraged for people who cannot return home and have been assessed clinically as requiring permanent care, as it is intended for short term stays only.

Many people are welcomed to our care homes for respite care throughout the year. Placement is subject to availability and will typically be confirmed closer to the requested entry date. We maintain and monitor an active waitlist. Feel free to contact the Admissions team on 03 8573 4812 or at admissions@mecwacare.org.au for updates.

Requesting an aged care assessment

The first step to accessing government subsidised respite care is to contact My Aged Care by phone on 1800 200 422 or online at [My Aged Care](#) to check eligibility and to register. A representative from the Aged Care Assessment Team in the person's local area will then make contact and schedule an appointment for a face-to-face meeting to complete the assessment.

Applying for respite care

The following items are required when applying for placement in a mecwacare care home.

- My Aged Care service referral code for respite care [i.e. 1-xxxxxxxxxxx]
- Application for residential care
- Privacy information consent statement
- Enduring power of attorney / guardianship order
- Details of any respite placements throughout the financial year, so that we can ensure the balance is within the 63 days allowed.

Understanding the costs

The minimum term of respite care is 14 days. The cost of respite care is the basic daily fee and full payment is required before entry. Refer to the current [schedule of fees and charges for residential care](#) from the Department of Health for the specific value.

Financial support with the basic daily fee in part or full may be available through organisations such as the Department of Veterans' Affairs and Carer Gateway. Contact the relevant organisation directly to determine eligibility.

Extra and additional service fees

mecwacare does not hold an extra service status, meaning these ongoing fees are not applicable to our care homes. There are however some optional additional services that are paid for by the person, e.g. hairdressing.

Items to bring on the day of entry

- Original medication chart completed by the doctor. A chart will need to be collected from mecwacare. We can post a chart to you if it is not possible to collect one in person. Note: Some care homes may be able to organise a locum doctor to visit the client on the day of entry to complete the chart. If this service is required, please contact the Admissions team **at least two business days** prior to entry to check availability.
- Medication Webster packs to cover the full term of respite care. Note: We can organise the packs through Medsafe Pharmacy. However, the request cannot be supported unless the required Medsafe Pharmacy forms are returned before entry.
- Personal items such as clothing, footwear, toiletries and incontinence pads.
- Anything of interest such as books, handheld electronic devices, crafts and the likes.

Support documents

- Resident information handbook
- Care home service information
- Schedule of fees and charges for residential care

Helpful resources

- Admissions team at mecwacare
Phone: 03 8573 4812
Website: mecwacare.org.au
- My Aged Care
Phone: 1800 200 422
Website: myagedcare.gov.au
- Department of Veterans' Affairs
Phone: 133 254
Website: dva.gov.au
- Carer Gateway
Phone: 1800 422 737
Website: carergateway.gov.au