



Residential Admissions

Entry into an Aged Care Home for Respite Care



Entry into an aged care home for respite care

Your simple guide to residential respite care

People are often confused by the process of entering residential respite care.

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 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 and extensions are 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 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. x-xxxxxxxxxxx]
- Application for residential care
- Privacy information consent statement
- Enduring power of attorney / legal decision maker document
- 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 and Aged Care for the specific value.

Financial support with the basic daily fee in part or in 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 service fees

Some residential aged care providers charge an additional service fee. mecwacare does not hold this extra service status and does not charge any additional ongoing compulsory fees.

However, mecwacare does offer optional paid services such as hairdressing and other wellbeing services. These services can be ongoing or on a one-off basis, while residents and their families can determine whether they wish for residents to engage in these services.

Items to bring on the day of entry

The following items are required on the day of entry into respite.

- An original medication chart completed by the relevant doctor. If you are unable to collect a chart one can be posted to you. Some of mecwacare's aged care homes may be able to organise a locum doctor to visit the client on the day of entry to complete the chart. 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. These can be arranged by mecwacare, however relevant paperwork must be completed prior to entry.
- Personal items such as clothing, footwear, toiletries and incontinence pads.
- Any hobby or entertainment items, such as books, handheld electronic devices, crafts and the likes.
- Continence aids for the duration of the stay.

Support documents

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





A variety of lifestyle and entertainment programs are available at many of our residential aged care homes.

These programs often include activities such as arts and crafts, gardening, movie evenings, community outings and game nights.

There is also the option to receive additional services during your respite stay, including physiotherapy and podiatry.

Helpful resources

mecwacare's Admissions team

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

Caring is at our heart

mecwacare

We are a caring, not-for-profit organisation that's been helping older Victorians for over 65 years. We provide experienced, quality support in residential aged care, respite stays, home care, community services, retirement living, affordable housing and disability services.

Support at *Home*

E intake@mecwacare.org.au

- Personalised support to help you remain independent and safely living at home.
- Trusted, reliable help with housework, maintenance, gardening, shopping, personal care, nursing and allied health.

Retirement *Living*

E retirementliving@mecwacare.org.au

- Secure, independent living in a vibrant and welcoming community.
- Contemporary, low maintenance homes, shared spaces, social activities and support when needed.

Residential Aged *Care*

E admissions@mecwacare.org.au

- Round-the-clock care from a dedicated and highly trained team.
- Tailored support that promotes independence, dignity and quality of life.
- Comfortable and homely facilities, chef prepared meals with engaging lifestyle programs.

Affordable *Housing*

E housing@mecwacare.org.au

- Housing designed to provide comfort, safety and independence for people with a low income who are over 65, or living with a disability.

Disability *Services*

E community@mecwacare.org.au

- Life and social skills-based programs to empower individuals living with a disability achieve their life goals.
- Dedicated team of highly trained professionals focused on compassionate care.

Community *Services*



E community@mecwacare.org.au

- Wide range of services, including social activities, support groups, exercise classes, arts, crafts, outings and carer assistance for wellbeing and community connection.

Op *Shops*

- Pre-loved items at budget-friendly prices, from clothing and kitchenware to books and toys, every purchase helps fund vital community programs in aged care and disability services.

Freecall 1800 163 292 · mecwacare.org.au

Follow us on   



mecwacare is proudly a not-for-profit,
non-denominational charitable organisation that
has been caring for Victorians since 1959.

mecwacare

Freecall **1800 163 292** • **mecwacare.org.au**



Corporate Services

1287 Malvern Road, Malvern VIC 3144

P 03 8573 4888

E enquiries@mecwacare.org.au

ABN 59 004 927 244
MEC-RAC-007 / 131025



Registered
NDIS
Provider



Supported by the Australian Government
Department of Social Services. Visit the
Department of Social Services website at
www.dss.gov.au for more information.