

14/10/20

## Guiding Principles for Residential Aged Care - Single Site and DHHS PSRAC position

In response to the COVID-19 situation in Victoria, a range of measures have been put in place to limit the risk of outbreaks in residential aged care facilities. This includes arrangements to limit workers of residential aged care facilities from working across multiple sites. There are different arrangements for private and public service residential aged care facilities.

### Non-government residential aged care facilities

The “Guiding Principles for Residential Aged Care – Keeping Victorian Residents and Workers Safe” are in place until 30 November 2020. They apply in Greater Melbourne and Mitchell Shire and are designed to ensure that aged care workers are based at one residential aged care facility to minimise the risk of COVID-19 being unintentionally transmitted across residential aged care facilities.

The Principles were originally in place for an initial period from 27 July 2020 to 25 September 2020 and later extended twice to 26 October 2020 and now to 30 November 2020.

A Guiding Principles Support Hub was established to support providers and their staff in Metropolitan Melbourne and the Mitchell Shire who have opted into the Guiding Principles for Residential Aged Care – Keeping Victorian Residents and Workers Safe.

For further information go to: [www.supporthub.agedservicesworkforce.com.au](http://www.supporthub.agedservicesworkforce.com.au) or call **1800 491 793** Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

The Commonwealth Government has made grant funding available to ensure workers impacted by the single site arrangements are not disadvantaged. Providers can claim funding for the period that the Guiding Principles are in effect.

Grant Opportunity and documentation can be found at [Support for Aged Care Workers in COVID-19 \(GO4215\) Program](#).

Where Providers moved prior to the Guiding Principles taking effect on 27 July, they will be able to claim for the full duration they were implementing a single site arrangement from 15 July up to 30 November 2020.

The current state of play is:

- Commonwealth funding is available for the period that single site arrangements are in place while an area is considered a hotspot;
- The Guiding Principles are in place until 30 November 2020;
- “Hotspot” definition for the purpose of the grant also until 30 November 2020.

### Victorian Public Service Residential Aged Care Facilities

The Victorian Government implemented a funding scheme that complements and adopts the major principles of the Commonwealth Government’s Guiding Principles for Residential Aged Care – Keeping Victorian Residents and Workers Safe scheme, but with specific application for Victorian Public Sector Residential Aged Care Services (PSRACS).

Whereas funding support under the Commonwealth's scheme is limited geographically, the Victorian Government funding scheme is available to all Victorian PSRACS, not just those in the metropolitan area and the Mitchell Shire.

The funding has been used to incentivise PSRACS and their staff to limit mobility of the workforce to a single employer, and to ensure workers were not financially impacted.

On 19 September 2020, the Victorian Government announced an extension of the funding scheme for PSRACS until the end of February 2021.

The announcements regarding DHHS PSRACS do not apply to non-government RACFs who operate under the Guiding Principles, which are due to end on 30 November 2020.

The Hub continues to work with the Hub Advisory Group and through this, liaise with DOH, who will work closely with DHHS.