

# Transition out of Guiding Principles for Residential Aged Care

As at 21 October 2020

In July 2020, the Guiding Principles of Residential Aged Care – Keeping Victorian Residents and Workers Safe, was developed through a sector led process. They acknowledge that safety of workers and residents in residential aged care during the Covid-19 pandemic are of the highest priority. These principles have sought to mitigate risks related to the working of staff across multiple sites. The adoption of the principles has been voluntary; however, most providers have implemented the recommended changes.

The Guiding Principles Support Hub and grant funding for service providers relating to their transition to single site operations in the Melbourne Metropolitan and Mitchell Shire regions were implemented for an initial period from mid-July to 25 September 2020. The implementation of guidelines and associated funding were then further extended by four weeks until 26 October 2020. There is now a further extension until 30 November 2020.

Unless circumstances change and there is a further extension, service providers who have implemented the single site arrangements will need to consider their transition arrangements from the current position to their new business as usual state.

Service providers can and will continue to plan and make workforce planning decisions according to their service model and resident needs. This may mean that some will choose to retain a model of full single site operations for staff, without the support of the additional funding grant. Others may resume their previous operating arrangements, with a higher level of awareness of the importance of limiting staff movement, which is helpful in the longer term.

Regardless, it is important that service providers commence planning with employees and any other relevant service provider partners, so that service continuity for residents over the change period at the end of November is maintained and so that workers have ample opportunity to be consulted and make choices about their future work plans.

The Guiding Principles Support Hub continues to be available to support service providers and workers with information, resources and tools through this process. Workers are also encouraged to contact their relevant union and will be able to receive support on this matter even if they are not a current member.