

Transition of Guiding Principles for Residential Aged Care Victoria, NSW, QLD

FUNDING SUPPORT FOR SINGLE SITE ARRANGEMENTS IS ENDING

In July 2020, the Guiding Principles of Residential Aged Care – Keeping 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.

Three states, NSW, Victoria and Qld have had active COVID 19 hotspots where the Guiding Principles and associated funding support have applied over the December 2020 and January 2021 period. These local areas are no longer declared a hotspot.

Department of Health has made the following announcement on **15/01/21**.

Based on current case numbers in the community and within aged care residents and staff in these areas, current single site workforce arrangements in hotspots and high-risk locations can begin to cease. The Australian Government would like to thank the residential aged care sector for its hard work and collaboration in moving to these arrangements.

Public Sector facilities in Victoria are continuing single site arrangements until February 2021, as funded by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services. Additionally, Queensland Government [Aged Care Direction No.21](#) remains in place which recommends Aged Care Facilities limit the mobility of their workers.

Australian Government funding support under the Support for Aged Care Workers in COVID-19 Grant (SACWIC) is available to support providers who have implemented single site arrangements during the relevant grant period.

*Providers should commence transition out activities so that normal working arrangements can recommence from the dates set out below. After these dates, eligible providers can submit applications for the SACWIC grant. This will remain open until **30 June 2021**. Providers can submit an application for out of pocket expenses after 22 January 2021.*

State	Local Government Area/Suburb	SACWIC Grant Activity Period
New South Wales	Northern Beaches LGA	18 December 2020 – 29 January 2021
Victoria	Brighton	31 December 2020 – 29 January 2021
	Doveton	
	Glen Waverley	
	McKinnon	
	Mordialloc	
	Moorabbin	
Queensland	City of Brisbane	8 January 2021 – 22 January 2021
	City of Ipswich	
	Logan City	
	Moreton Bay Region	
	Redland City	

Providers are also encouraged to take steps to understand your workforce by developing a register for recording each workers' mobility and their skills and training. Further advice on how to prepare for and implement a single site workforce arrangement can be found in the National COVID-19 Aged Care Plan. This guidance will support providers to prepare in the event single site arrangements are required again in the future.

For guidance on practical implementation of single site arrangements and the available funding support, providers can visit the [Guiding Principles Support Hub](#) website or phone the hotline on **1800 491 793**.

Further advice for service providers:

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. This process should also be considered in light of their local state health directives.

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 January 2021 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.

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