

# EVOLUTION AGED CARE MAKING THE COMPLEX SIMPLE

*Clyde H Pearsall on his  
100th Birthday.*

Photo by Peter D Photography



**EVOLUTION**  
BUSINESS + PERSONAL ADVISERS

This is a critical and stressful time where decisions made impact in many areas, emotionally and financially.

At Evolution we are available to assist and guide you through the complex so you have all the details and information to ensure decisions made are in the best interest of those you love.

Our aim is to make it easier on you. As you hold their hand we will hold yours. We will help ease the stress and anxiety by providing you the necessary steps and paths available.

In essence, we understand and will be there for you.




# STEP 1

## ASSESSING YOUR ELIGIBILITY

The Government has established Aged Care Assessment Teams (ACAT's) to assess your care needs and will assist older people and their careers determine what kind of care will best meet their needs. ACATs assess and approve older people for Australian Government subsidised aged care, including residential aged care facilities, Home Care Packages and respite care.

Before you can enter an aged care facility you will need to have an ACAT assessment. ACATs are available across Australia and can visit you in your own home or in a hospital to discuss your care needs. You can arrange an appointment with the ACAT closest to you with your Doctor, or by accessing the Government's aged care portal "My Aged Care" at [www.myagedcare.gov.au](http://www.myagedcare.gov.au) or calling 1800 200 422.



**It is important to understand the implications of aged care advice as the wrong decision can have adverse consequences.**



# STEP 2

## DETERMINING LEVEL OF CARE REQUIRED

### STAYING IN YOUR HOME



Most people prefer to stay in their home for as long as their health and physical ability allow.

Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) offers a range of basic care services in the home to people who are largely independent but need some simple help with daily living tasks.

Home care packages may offer a solution for people who have more complex needs to receive care in the home rather than in a residential service. There are four levels of packages. The services in each package are similar to CHSP services but are offered as consumer directed care so that you can work with your co-ordinator to decide how to spend the available budget to suit your specific needs. These packages are heavily subsidised by the government but you will be asked to pay a basic daily care fee plus an additional contribution based on your assessable income. This additional fee is capped to an annual amount and a lifetime cap.



## MOVING TO AN AGED CARE FACILITY

Aged care facilities provide a variety of different levels of care. Some facilities cater for residents with relatively low care needs whereas others specialise in providing care for residents with higher care needs.

Aged care facilities must provide details of all of available rooms, key features, types of services, additional services and advertise the maximum accommodation payment on [www.myagedcare.gov.au](http://www.myagedcare.gov.au)

# STEP 3

## DETERMINING FEES

To work out the amount of your fees and how to pay them you will need to evaluate a range of financial strategies and choices.

Each strategy has the potential to change your assessable assets and income, which in turn can affect your aged care fees and your age / department of veteran affairs pension entitlements. It is most important to ensure you create enough cashflow and protect your estate.

Some important questions you need to answer are:

- What will you do with your former home?
- How will you pay for your accommodation?
- Can you create cashflow to cover your daily costs?

Financial strategies

Fee's and age pension

Assessable assets & income

## Initial Fees

### Accommodation

Refundable  
Accommodation Deposit

&/OR

Daily Accommodation  
Payment

An accommodation payment pay for your room and amenities, it is an entry fee payable. It is like an interest free loan to the aged care facilities. The amount you pay as an accommodation payment will depend on the facility you choose to enter and is determined by a number of factors including quality of the facility, location and demand.



## Ongoing Fees

### Daily Care

Basic Daily Care Fee

Means Tested Care Fee

Basic daily care fee is payable by all aged care residents. The basic daily care fee is equivalent to 85% of the maximum single age pension. This pays for daily living expenses and nursing care.

Means tested fee is another ongoing daily fee, charged in addition to the basic daily care fee. The amount you will pay is calculated by Centrelink / Department of Health and Ageing and is based on your means tested amount which is determined following the submission of your combined income and assets assessment form. This additional fee is capped to an annual amount and a lifetime cap.

### Added Services

Extra Service Fee

&/OR

Additional Service Fees

Extra service fee is approved by the government to Aged care facilities who provide extra services across the whole facility or a designated part of the facility. These extra services may include a higher standard of accommodation, meals, wine etc.

Additional Services pay for package services and lifestyle services, in some instances the fee may be mandatory or elective dependent on the facility offering these services.

## MAKING THE COMPLEX SIMPLE

The cost of residential aged care can be complex and difficult to understand. Navigating through the options and the best way to structure your finances to pay for your care may not be easy. Obtaining good advice to evaluate the range of financial strategies provides the opportunity to uncover your optimal tailored solution.

With so many interdependent variables it can be hard on your own to analyse all your options and decide which ones are most suitable. This is where an adviser who is experienced in this field of advice can provide valuable guidance and support.

Working with a quality adviser, you will be able to confidently make well informed choices that will help you access the care you need at a cost you can afford. This can take away some of the stress for you and your family.



As your adviser we can:

- Help you and your family to understand the range of care options and how the aged care system works.
- Outline the steps ahead to help you find and access the right type of care.
- Act as a central reference point for clear and relevant information on aged care and how your finances are impacted.
- Help you to identify what's important and achieve your goals and objectives
- Review your financial situation to help provide solutions that meet your goals and objectives.
- Help you to evaluate what you can afford so you can focus on searching for a suitable aged care service.
- Explain the range of fees and how they are calculated to estimate what you may need to pay.
- Evaluate the options and strategies for your accommodation payment.
- Review the potential for strategies to maximise your age pension and minimise aged care fees.

# HELPFUL CONTACTS

ORGANISATION	SERVICES	CONTACT
Carer Gateway	A national online and phone service that provides practical information and resources to support carers	1800 422 737
Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centres	Link carers to a wide range of aged care services to help at home and in the community	1800 052 222
Carers Australia	Represents carers of people with a disability, mental illness, chronic condition or those who are frail or aged	1800 242 636
Carer Support Groups	Carer support groups are sometimes organised around specific conditions	1800 200 422
Department of Human Services, Financial Assistance for Carers	Carer payments and allowances are available for some carers	132 717
Aged Care Complaints Commissioner	Resolves complaints about the quality of care and services provided by Australian Government-subsidised aged care services	1800 550 552

ORGANISATION	SERVICES	CONTACT
National Aged Care Advocacy Services, Seniors Rights Service	Aged care advocacy services	1800 424 079
Help with translation	Translating and Interpreting Services (TIS)	131 450
Help for deaf, Hearing or Speech Impaired	Hearing or speech impairment service	133 677(TTY) Speak & Listen 1800 555 727
Department of Veterans' Affairs	Support and training sessions for carers of veterans and veterans who are carers	133 254
Independent Living Centres	Information resource centres that display a range of products and equipment to assist with day-to-day living activities	1300 885 886
Young Carers	Provides information and support groups targeted specifically to the needs of young carers	1800 242 636
National Continence Helpline	Provides information, education and advice to callers with incontinence or who are caring for someone with incontinence	1800 330 066

# HELPFUL CONTACTS

ORGANISATION	SERVICES	CONTACT
Dementia Behaviour Management Advisory Service	Provides clinical support for people caring for someone with dementia	1800 699 799
My Aged Care Government	Home Care Provider list and Aged Care general information & service providers list	1800 200 422
NSW Family & Community Services	Elder Abuse Helpline NSW <a href="http://www.ageing.nsw.gov.au/">www.ageing.nsw.gov.au/</a>	1800 628 221
Commonwealth Respite and Carelink	Booking respite	1800 052 222
Carer support groups	Caring for someone with a particular need	1800 200 422
Centrelink	Income and Assets Assessment Hotline	1300 227 475
Department of Veteran Affairs	General enquiries	133 254
Centrelink	Age pension	132 300
Centrelink/ Advocacy	Complaints/escalation	1800 132 468
Newcastle & Hunter local Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT)	ACAT assesses your care needs and will assist older people and their careers determine what kind of care will best meet their needs	(02) 49 855 700



**ORGANISATION**                      **SERVICES**                      **CONTACT**

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*Evolution Advisers Pty Ltd trading as Evolution Wealth ABN 42 137 552 982*



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