

Remedial Massage included in Home Care Package Program



Remedial Massage in Aged Care now included in Home Care Package Program

We are pleased to announce to members that the Federal Department of Health and Ageing confirms that they classify remedial massage as an allied health service and therefore is included under the Home Care Package (HCP) Program, if there is an assessed care need for the service.

Although remedial massage therapists are not considered allied health, they have been categorised as 'allied health services' under the HCP program.

Myotherapy Association Australia is an affiliated member of the Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA) and as such our MA members can be recognised as providing allied health services (remedial massage) under the HCP program.

The HCP Program

The HCP Program provides coordinated care and services that help older people with complex ageing related care needs to live safely and independently in their own home, for as long as it is safe and appropriate to do so. The HCP program is intended for people over 65 or First Nations people over 50, with some exceptions. Exceptions to the age cut-offs include:

- Younger people or people with disabilities not otherwise supported by other programs and persons on a low income;
- Homeless or at risk of being homeless, aged 50 years or older (45 years or older for First Nations people).

Care recipients can access remedial massage services through an Approved Provider when the service is:

- Required due to age-related functional decline and/or they cannot access disability supports
- In line with best practice guidance for treatment
- Delivered by an accredited provider
- Not concurrently being funded by another government program.

Remedial massage services can also be provided to people living in retirement homes, aged care facilities who are over 65 and have a HCP.

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Becoming an Approved Provider

It is important to note that in order to provide care under the HCP program members must register as an Approved Provider. Providers may be approved by the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner to deliver Australian Government subsidised home, residential or flexible care services to eligible older Australians.

Approved Providers are responsible for determining whether the remedial massage service will maintain the care recipient's capabilities to be well and independent, safe in their home, and connected to their community.

An approved provider is an organisation that has been approved by the Commission to deliver Australian Government subsidised home, residential or flexible care services to eligible older Australians.

The responsibilities of Approved Providers are detailed in the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission Act 2018 and include:

- Being responsible for the care you deliver
- Assisting care recipients to make decisions about quality care
- Managing government subsidies
- Managing care recipients' fees and payments

For members who wish to investigate becoming engaged to deliver remedial massage services through the HCP Program, a list of Approved Providers operating in your local community can be accessed via the My Aged Care website.