

# Better living options for younger people in residential aged care (RAC)

## Background

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) announced an agreement on 10 February 2006 to reduce the number of younger people with a disability living in residential aged care (RAC) facilities. A bilateral agreement between the Commonwealth and the State committed \$60.2 million in joint funding for Victoria over five years.

The COAG's five-year Younger People in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC) initiative ended on 30 June 2011. While the agreement between the Commonwealth and Victoria is now completed, funding committed to the new services continues under the my future my choice initiative.

The my future my choice initiative is an ongoing commitment to support younger people in, or at risk of admission to, RAC facilities. From 2010-2011, \$18.7 million (\$9,383,586 each) in ongoing joint Commonwealth/Victorian State funding has been committed to support this initiative. This amount is indexed annually.

All individuals currently in receipt of ongoing my future my choice services will continue to receive support for as long as needed.

Younger people living in, or at risk of entry to RAC can register a request for ongoing disability supports by contacting their local Intake and Response team on 1800 783 783.

## Objectives

**My future my choice** aims to provide better living options for younger people in, or at risk of entry to, RAC. This will be achieved through the development of innovative support models that respond to complex clinical and health care needs, while also providing lifestyle and social opportunities that younger people can identify with.

The initiative has three strategic objectives:

### **To provide alternative supports**

Provide better living options for younger people with a disability in residential aged care settings, where it can be made available and where this is what the younger person chooses.

### **To enhance disability supports within RAC**

Promote a more age appropriate response to those younger people with a disability who choose to remain in residential aged care, or for whom residential aged care remains the most suitable supported accommodation option available.

### **To minimise future admissions to RAC**

Provide alternative responses, where possible, for younger people with a disability who are at risk of admission to residential aged care.

The initial priority is to achieve this for people aged less than 50 years.

### **Eligibility and assistance**

People who meet the following criteria may be able to receive assistance under **my future my choice**, if they:

- have a disability as defined in the [Disability Act 2006](#)
- are aged less than 65 years
- are living permanently in RAC or at risk of entry to RAC.

The initial priority is to support people aged less than 50 years.

People are at risk of entry to RAC if they are:

- in an acute, sub-acute or rehabilitation setting with high-level chronic or complex care needs
- have an Aged Care Assessment Service (ACAS) assessment which has determined that they are eligible for recommendation to RAC.

If you wish to discuss your personal circumstances, please contact the Department of Human Services, Disability Intake and Responses Service Monday to Friday between 9am - 5pm.

### **Guiding principles**

The implementation of my future my choice is underpinned by a number of important guiding principles. You can download the PDF **my future my choice Guiding Principles**.

- [my future my choice Guiding Principles](#)

### **Advisory committee**

An advisory committee with broad representation from the department, community members, Young People in Nursing Home Alliance and key stakeholder organisations met between 2006 and 2011 to provide specialist advice regarding critical implementation tasks and issues.

- [my future my choice news](#)
- [Improving Lives video](#)

A community education DVD Improving Lives, developed by Disability Services to illustrate the alternative support options available through my future my choice.

- [My future my choice](#)

Latest news about the progress of purpose built accommodation for younger people in or at risk of entry to residential aged care in Victoria, and links to external organisations associated with the my future my choice initiative.

## Contact Details

Tel: 1800 783 783  
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