

Subject: PC Draft Report, HACC Flash- February 2011



Cumberland Prospect/Nepean HACC Flash February 2011

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The Productivity Commission Draft Report: What's in it for Community Care?

Most of us would have heard or read by now the release of the Productivity Commission's much awaited draft report on "Caring for Older Australians". The recommendations have been variously (and at times, erroneously) described in the media as "bold", "visionary", "making older Australians pay", "ignoring key workforce issues", "forcing people to sell their homes", among others. Much of the interest has understandably been on residential aged care and new ways to finance/subsidize it. Little has been said, to date, on how the recommendations would change the landscape of community-based aged care provision.

In truth, there isn't much that's unusually new in the recommendations affecting Community Care, if only because they actually seem to respond to issues that the sector has been advocating for in a long time (which were reflected in the submissions we all made to the PC Public Inquiry last year). Yes, the recommendations, if implemented (and there's still a long way to go for that to happen), would significantly change the way we provide community aged care services. But if done well, they should also address some difficulties we've been laboring under for so long.

In particular, the recommendations below have much potential to enhance the way we do things:

- 1) The "Building Block approach" which is meant to provide "single, integrated and flexible" care provision (vs. current "silos"/discrete packages)
- 2) Move towards "Consumer-Directed Care" (CDC) and "consumer entitlement funding, based on assessed needs" (vs. "block" or direct funding of programs); with some exception for direct funding
- 3) Establishment of an Australian Services Gateway Agency with regional centres and multiple functions
- 4) Introduction of a single "national co-contribution regime"
- 5) Development of Carer Support Centres and expansion of consumer advocacy services (to support the new consumer-directed care system)

Given all these, what should be our response to the PC recommendations as a regional forum?

We believe that our task now is to build on these recommendations. For our response to be useful, we might ask: "What are the possible pitfalls here? What further precautions or protocols are needed to make sure the recommendation works?" These would be based on our unique on-the-ground knowledge of service provision and service user behaviour. Most likely, nothing we say would be new; but they would further validate (or invalidate) what's already out there.

To this end, the next Regional Community Care Forum will hold a guided workshop to gather your ideas. Please see Programme/Invite below.

For easy-print pdf copy of the Programme below, pls go to -
<http://www.wscf.org.au/uploads/2011/uploads/HACC/WS%20Regional%20CC%20Forum%20invite-%20%20March%202011.pdf>

Productivity Commission Draft Report on “Caring for Older Australians”: Recommendations on Community Care

Western Sydney Regional Community Care Forum Wednesday, 2 March 2011

- What key recommendations are related to Community Care?
- What is the “building block approach”?
- What is Consumer-Directed Care? What do studies say about its potential benefits and pitfalls?
- What is the proposed Australian Services Gateway Agency (ASGA)?
- What’s in the report for carers? For community care workers?
- What is a “national co-contribution regime?” How would fee contributions be determined then?
- What should be our response as community care providers?... And many more!

Programme

- 10:05 Acknowledgement of Country
- 10:10 **Overview of PC Draft Report Recommendations**
This overview will include a distillation of analyses gathered at state forums.
-- Rocellita Lacsina & Christine Mifsud, HACC Development Officers (WSCF)
- 10:40 **Perspectives from the wider Community Aged Care Sector**
-- Sue Findlay, NSW HACC Transition Manager (ACS)
-- Ruth Wilson, Community Care Policy Officer (ACS)
- 11:10 Break
- 11:20 **Workshop: Our response to the recommendations**
Your response will once again serve as inputs in the NSW HACC DOs Network reply to the PC Draft Report.
- 11:50 Reports & Open Forum
- 12:30 Close

when | Wednesday 2 March 2011, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

where | Ropes Crossing Community Centre - 54 Pulley Drive, Ropes Crossing 2760

(look up directions in Google Maps as address may not be in older directories)

RSVP online on or before Friday, 25 February: <http://www.wscf.org.au/>

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Western Sydney HACC Fees Protocol— register for pilot/training now

How are HACC/community care fee contributions addressed in the PC Draft Report? Is our regional HACC Fees Protocol still relevant?

The PC Draft Report recommends a national “comprehensive aged care means testing” to determine a person’s financial co-contribution to care costs, regardless of where the care is received (residential aged care or community). The means testing is to be done by Centrelink at the proposed Australian Seniors Gateway Agency (draft report, page XLVIII).

However, the means testing, under current proposal, “would apply where the approved care services have a combined value of around \$100 or more on average per week (the ‘comprehensive aged care means test threshold’) and all home modification service”. This leaves us with the question, “What about those receiving services of below \$100/week?”

Until further developments, HACC providers in NSW should continue following their own specific procedures on assessing for financial disadvantage, developing fee schedules according to persons’ level of income, and applying fee reduction/fee capping. The Western Sydney HACC Fees Protocol (up for piloting) is a resource and a tool for those tasks.

If you have sent an Expression of Interest, received the Info Pack, and you would like to be a Pilot participant, please fill out the registration form and submit by **Tuesday 15th February**. A comprehensive training on how to use the Protocol (especially the “Self Declaration of Income” form) is scheduled for Tuesday, 29th March.

Revised - 2011 Calendar of HACC/Community Care Forum meetings

The WS Regional Community Care Forum has two new homes in 2011! Much thanks to Blacktown City Council (Jenny Tisdell/Amy Lawton) and The Hills Shire Council (Bronwyn Whichello) for hosting this year’s venues: Ropes Crossing Community Centre (2 March and 5 October) and The Hills Shire Council Function Room (6 July).

For venue dates and details of all HACC/CC Forums in CP-Nepean, please click on - <http://www.wscf.org.au/uploads/2011uploads/HACC/CP%20Nepean%20HACC-CC%20Forums%202011%20Calendar.pdf>

Quick Volunteer Survey

ADHC has requested assistance from TRI Community Exchange’s Cumberland/Prospect Volunteer Support Project to ascertain how many volunteers working with people with disability under 65 years old are being utilised in both Disability and Home and Community Care (HACC) services in the planning areas of Cumberland/Prospect, Nepean and Northern Sydney.

The survey contains 7 multiple choice questions and should only take 2 minutes to complete.

To do the survey, go to-- <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/C9ZNB73>

Useful documents and links

- Productivity Commission “Caring for Older Australians” Draft Report - http://www.pc.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/104879/aged-care-draft.pdf
- Frequently Asked Questions About HACC (popular!) - <http://www.wscf.org.au/uploads/2010uploads/HACC/FAQs%20about%20HACC-Nov2010.pdf>
- **New!** Australian Government Directory of Services for Older People 2011 - <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ageing-agdos-2010.htm>
- Eating Well: A Food and Nutrition Resource for Frail Older People and their Carers - <http://www.supportservices.org.au/resources/view?id=a201d3f7082b7cd6fcafd74de11c9c76&key=lC5hCS&download=1&d=1>
- **New!** MDS Newsletter Jan 2011 - <http://www.wscf.org.au/uploads/2011uploads/HACC/MDS-Newsletter-January-2011-final.pdf>
- New Modern SACS Awards from 1 Feb 2011 - <http://www.asumembers.org.au/downloads/SACS/sacsspecialemail.pdf>
- WSCF Feb-June 2011 Training Calendar - <http://www.wscf.org.au/uploads/2011uploads/TrainingCalendar2011.pdf>

- Guide Dogs NSW/ACT - <http://www.guidedogs.com.au>

For more details on HACC Forums in Cumberland Prospect & Nepean, see 2011 Calendar of Meetings in WSCF HACC webpage-

http://www.wscf.org.au/index.php/home/hacc_home_and_community_care

For a Directory of HACC and HACC-like service providers in Cumberland Prospect (MAP Project) -

<http://www.wscf.org.au/uploads/2010uploads/HACC/Directory%20of%20HACC%20%20HACC%20like%20services%20August%202010.pdf>

Western Sydney HACC Forums Flash is published once a month by the HACC Development project of Western Sydney Community Forum (WSCF).

A hard copy is available for download at our HACC webpage:

http://www.wscf.org.au/index.php/home/hacc_home_and_community_care

For queries and feedback, please contact the WSCF HACC Regional Resource Workers.

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WSCF's HACC Regional Resource Worker project is funded by the Australian Government and the Ageing, Disability and Home Care, Department of Human Services NSW.