



Home and Community Care Minimum Data Set (MDS) Version 2 Implementation

Bulletin No. 4—September 2006

These quarterly bulletins will keep you informed about the implementation of the new version of the HACC minimum data set in Victoria.

Time lines

When	What	Why
From 1 July 2006	Test your v2 upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When you have received an upgrade, you will want to test it by sending us MDS Version 2 files.
From 1 July 2006	Start collecting MDS v2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agencies should have begun switching to MDS v2 format.
22 Aug 2006	Briefing for software vendors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DHS held a briefing to update HACC software developers on the MDS V2 and SCTT 2006.
15 Oct 2006	Send in v2 files for first time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data for the period July-Aug-Sept 2006 can be transmitted in v2 format. Keep sending v1 files if you have not yet upgraded.

July-Aug-Sept data: due 15 October

As usual, agencies in Victoria should transmit their HACC data to haccmds.data@dhs.vic.gov.au. Use the same address for both v1 and v2 MDS files. Due date is 15 October 2006.

Testing your v2 software

Once you have acquired software upgraded to HACC MDS version 2, we can check whether the extract from your client records is being correctly formatted. Send your test files to the help desk, haccmds@dhs.vic.gov.au

Have you changed your email address?

We recently asked agencies to check that we have correct details about their email address. Most have done so. From now on, the HACC data repository in DHS will hold a list of registered email addresses in order to give feedback. Your agency or outlet can nominate more than one email address.

V2 User Guide—on the Web

All documentation about the v2 data set can be downloaded from Victoria's HACC Web site: http://www.health.vic.gov.au/hacc/data_collection/index.htm

FAQs on the HACC MDS v2 and SCTT 2006

A revised set of Frequently Asked Questions has been posted on Victoria's HACC Web site, discussing such issues as how to collect Client Functional Status and how to report client assessments. See the pdf document HACC MDS FAQ Sept 2006 on http://www.health.vic.gov.au/hacc/data_collection/index.htm

Check your data on the DHS Funded Agency Channel

Remember that your HACC MDS files can be viewed on the DHS Funded Agency Channel, a Website. Allow two working days from the date of transmission to DHS. For free registration, call the FAC Helpdesk on 9096 2742. If the HACC data looks wrong, please contact the HACC MDS Help Desk. The FAC Web site is: <https://fac.dhs.vic.gov.au/>

A revised suite of reports will be appearing soon.

Guide to HACC client management systems

More than a dozen systems for collecting HACC MDS **Version 1** are described in the Comparative Guide on the Victorian HACC Web site http://www.health.vic.gov.au/hacc/data_collection/index.htm.

A revised list will appear during September showing products that have been upgraded for HACC MDS v2 and SCTT 2006. The list is supplied purely as a starting point; agencies wanting further information should contact the vendors. It may also be useful to talk to other users. The list is not necessarily complete, and none of the products are endorsed or recommended by DHS.

CRISSP and HealthSmart

The HACC MDS v2 will be embedded in two new client management systems that are under development by DHS: CRISSP, and the HealthSmart Patient & Client Management System (P&CMS). One version of the HealthSmart system (TrakHealth) is being designed for stand-alone community health centres. It will be progressively rolled out from 2007. See <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/healthsmart/pcms/patmen.htm>

CRISSP Release 2 is scheduled for roll-out from January 2007. It is intended to suit agencies that receive funds from both the HACC Program and Victoria's Disability Services Program, replacing the QDC.

E-Form

People currently using the HACC E-Form should continue using it until they have an alternative system for collecting MDS v2. DHS will continue to support the E-Form for some time yet.

Checklist of useful features for HACC software

- Customer service to solve day to day problems and manage upgrades.
- Ease of creating and modifying HACC client records.
- Ease of updating the hours of service to any client, with links between staff rosters, client care plans, and billing systems.
- Ease of extracting and transmitting the HACC MDS.
- Inbuilt error-checking and ability to generate useful reports.
- Ease of making and updating a client care plan, given your agency's team structure and the staff who have access to the client record.
- Ease of handling different service types and client categories, especially if your clients are funded from more than one government program.
- Ability to generate the Service Coordination Tool Templates 2006, populated with client information already held in your agency's data base; ability to save, print or email selected material for the purpose of referral.
- Ability to send and receive e-referrals, integrated into the system to avoid duplicated data entry.
- Ease of generating multiple referrals for one client.
- Ability to plug into Web-based service directories when making client referrals.
- Ability to link computers in a network. Ability for staff to do data entry in the field.
- Software that supports data sharing between mobile computers and a head-office server.
- Compliance with HL-7 messaging standards.
- Ability to migrate existing v1 client records to an upgraded v2 system.

Overview of MDS version 2

HACC MDS Version 2 is essentially an expansion of Version 1. It has three main areas of difference from Version 1:

Carers: Information about the carer (if any) will be recorded on the care recipient's record. That is, for the purposes of the MDS v2, a HACC client is defined as a frail aged or younger disabled person. (In MDS version 1, a carer could be defined as a client in their own right, when the service received was respite; alternatively, carer details could be recorded on the care recipient's record. This ambiguity led to confusion and poor quality data.) **A few extra items** about carers will be collected, in order to produce a more complete picture of the contribution made by family carers in supporting older and disabled people.

Dependency items: A set of 14 items measuring the client's functional status or level of dependency will be collected. These items are quite similar to the items currently found in the Functional Screen in Victoria's Service Coordination Tool Templates. Collecting the dependency data is regarded as a by-product of a broad needs-based HACC assessment, carried out by assessment officers in HACC agencies.

Other changes: A few new data elements will be collected (Date of birth estimate flag, DVA entitlement card, Date of entry into HACC service episode, and Date of exit from HACC service episode). Definitions of service types have been revised, and minor changes to some existing code sets have also been made. The data elements have been made consistent with the DHS Common Client Data Set, for the convenience of agencies also required to report data to the Community & Women's Health Program, the Alcohol & Drug Treatment Program or the Aged Care Assessment Program.

Community Connections and Aged Care Support for Carers: Agencies with funding from these sources will now use the HACC MDS v2 to report to DHS. This is explained in the HACC MDS User Guide. For more information, contact the HACC data help desk on 9096-7255.

About the HACC Program

The HACC Program is jointly funded and managed by the Commonwealth Government and the Victorian Government. It is a major provider of essential community care services to frail aged people and younger people with disabilities and their carers. Services include domestic assistance (home care), personal care, home nursing, delivered meals, property maintenance, planned activity groups, assessment and care management, and allied health services. The budget for 2006–07 in Victoria was \$440.1 million, of which \$384.3 million was cost-shared in a 60:40 ratio by the Commonwealth and Victorian governments, and \$55.7 million was an additional Victorian Government contribution. Local government authorities in Victoria are also significant contributors to expenditure (as well as being major providers). Fees collected from consumers of HACC services are re-invested in extra service provision.

HACC Data Help Desk in Victoria Now at 50 Lonsdale Street

(on the 12th floor)

Phone (03) 9096 7255

Email haccmds@dhs.vic.gov.au

Fax (03) 9096 9162

Email your data to: haccmds.data@dhs.vic.gov.au

Post diskettes to:
HACC Data Collection
Coordinated & Home Care
Department of Human Services
GPO 4057
Melbourne Vic 3001