

Home and Community Care (HACC) Program

Hume Region Annual Plan 2007-08

The HACC Program in Victoria is supported by funding from the Australian and Victorian Governments.

1. Introduction

The Commonwealth and Victorian Governments have signed a new HACC Agreement that came into effect 1 July 2007. The Review Agreement introduces Triennial Planning for Home and Community Care (HACC) growth funding across Australia. The initial Triennium will be 2008-11 with the first Triennial Plans due in March 2008. The transition to Triennial Planning will take place over 2007-08 and a review of resource allocation methods and expenditure priorities for the new national triennium will take place.

This document sets out how the Region allocated 2007-08 HACC growth funds on the basis of the strategic directions identified in the **Regional Triennial Plan 2006-09 (Triennial Plan)**. The Region analysed funding per capita (\$pcf), service provision, demographic data, research/evaluation reports in drawing conclusions on how best to allocate HACC growth funds in alignment with the Triennial Plan.

The draft Hume Region Annual Plan 2007-08 (23 July 2007) was used as a basis for consulting with service providers and other stakeholders about the proposed 2007-08 funding allocations.

2. Broad HACC Program Directions

Considerable progress is being made with key 'The Way Forward' reforms in consultation between the Australian Government and the Victorian State Government. Work is being progressed in the areas of 'Access Points' and the ACCNA & CENA assessment tools (as part of the HACC Assessment Framework and SCoTT) and how these elements may be designed for the most effective local level implementation through two proposed 'Access Point Demonstration Sites', namely in the Eastern and Grampians Regions of Victoria. The outcomes of these Demonstration Sites are expected to inform how Victoria may implement better access to service strategies into the future and may consequently form part of the broader HACC consultations and planning in the next HACC Triennium.

In 2007-08, the HACC Program in Victoria will continue with the initiatives set out in the 2006-09 Regional Triennial Plans.

2.1 Assessment

The new Framework for Assessment in the HACC Program in Victoria was finalised and is available on the Victorian HACC Program web site at www.health.vic.gov.au/hacc/assessment.htm

The Victorian HACC Assessment Framework sets out the revised program policy for Assessment as a HACC funded activity. It details the requirements for the delivery of **Living at Home Assessments** that include home-based holistic assessment of need and service-specific assessments as key components.

Assessment Framework Implementation

Implementation will occur over a two-year period.

The first step is to formally identify HACC organisations that are currently funded for Assessment and that have the commitment and capacity to meet the criteria to deliver Living at Home Assessments. The criteria for designating HACC Assessment Services are detailed in Part 3 of the Framework. This process will occur between July and December 2007.

Once a group of organisations that are designated HACC Assessment Services is established, work with these organisations (and other relevant organisations) will continue to develop the next key pieces of work in the implementation process. These are:

- The development of a funding model for Living at Home Assessments
- Developing a HACC Assessment tool based on national and state screening tools (Australian Community Care Needs Assessment and the Victorian Service Coordination Tool Templates)

- Continue to work on a Professional Development Strategy for HACC Assessment staff
- Develop and pilot the Supported Access activity in order to support CALD and ATSI clients to access mainstream services.

Growth Funding for Assessment

Growth funding will be allocated to Assessment in 2007-08 and subsequent years as the Assessment Framework is progressively implemented.

2.2 Active Service Model

The Active Service Model (ASM) initiative aims to incorporate more capacity building, adaptive or restorative approaches to HACC service delivery to increase clients' ability to continue to maintain themselves and perform activities of daily living.

The key steps for 2007-08 are:

- Working with LaTrobe University to complete a Literature Review and explore implementation issues for Victoria. This will include consultation with academics, researchers and the sector in August/September 2007
- Working with the Commonwealth, States and Territories to hold a national policy focused forum to explore the evidence base and implications of incorporating wellness, capacity building and restorative approaches to HACC service delivery. The Promoting Independence Forum will take place in February 2008. Participants will be invited from the academic, research, government and service provider sectors
- Applying ASM principles through the implementation of the HACC Assessment Framework
- Continuing to support and learn from a number of ASM pilots
- Developing a policy statement to present to Minister(s).

2.3 Social Support

Social support programs have been a part of HACC since its inception in 1985. They have remained largely unchanged. A review of the provision of social support funded by the HACC Program was forecast in the 2006-09 Triennial Plan. The Review will be launched mid 2007 through a series of regional consultations to enable stakeholders to raise issues. The results of these consultations will inform the scope of the review. For the purposes of the Review, social support includes: respite, planned activity groups and volunteer coordination, which includes friendly visiting and transport provided by volunteers.

Growth Funding for Social Support

In 2007-08 the priority for social support was a maximum service expansion for Planned Activity Group of 5% across Priorities 1 & 2.

2.4 Priority 2 – CALD Access to HACC Services

The aim of Priority 2 was to improve access to services for people from CALD backgrounds. This is core business for the HACC Program in a State where over 21% of the aged population speaks a language other than English. It is imperative that integration of the lessons learned from the diverse range of projects that constituted Culturally Equitable Gateways Strategy (CEGS) are assimilated into general service provision.

Over 2007-08, Regions will work towards incorporating the lessons learnt from CEGS into all organisations, implementing the outcomes of the evaluation of the Cultural Planning Strategy and undertaking a comprehensive review of the current CALD initiatives funded through HACC to ensure a more co-ordinated strategy for improving access.

In 2007-08, the focus for Priority 2 continues to be on expanding social support. The Review of Social Support planned for 2007-08 will further inform the planning process for social support, respite and volunteer co-ordination in the future.

2.5 Priority 3 – More services and improved access for Aboriginal people

Where there is a demonstrable need and in line with the Strengthening HACC in Aboriginal Communities Strategy, regions have considered the expansion of local services to support Aboriginal communities.

Over 2007-08, the work of Strengthening HACC in Aboriginal Communities (SHAC) will continue. The Strategy aims to improve access for eligible Aboriginal people to a range of HACC services, improve cultural appropriateness of service responses from generic providers and ensure sustainable HACC services are available to Aboriginal communities.

The following themes are key areas for development by DHS:

- A client centred approach: improving service coordination between Aboriginal and generic providers by funding service coordination training and networking forums at the local level
- Capacity building: support Aboriginal organisations to develop the capacity to assist clients in navigating the service system
- Model development: identify sustainable models of HACC service delivery based on the needs of each local Aboriginal community.

3. Consultation

The region consulted with HACC providers via email.

The region received replies from three HACC providers. One congratulated the region on the quality and transparency of the Annual Plan. The second suggested that the HACC Assessment and Nursing funds allocated to Shepparton be split 50%:50% rather than the recommended 60%:40% split. The final reply requested that 75% of the funds allocated to Home Care in Moira be changed to Personal Care.

The suggested changes to the recommended funding for Shepparton were not actioned as there was no agreement for the change between the affected organisations. The suggested changes for Moira were incorporated into the plan.

4. Budget Allocation by Regions

The funding available to regions for service expansion in 2007-08 was adjusted to accommodate additional funding to price indexation, allocations to statewide organisations and administration. The most significant allocation of additional funds was to price indexation.

In 2007-08 the Commonwealth indexation rate was 2.3% and the Victorian Community Service Organisation (CSO) indexation rate was 2.9%. Significant pressure has grown on HACC organisations from the low indexation rate allowed by the Commonwealth. The Minister and the Department recognise this and as a consequence the Minister has made a decision to match the CSO indexation rate of 2.9% in HACC. A topslice from matched growth funding of \$1.2m, was approved by the Commonwealth, and transferred to indexation with the difference being allocated from State funds.

Region	Allocation of matched growth funds 2007-08
Barwon South West	\$1,368,974
Gippsland	\$1,495,468
Grampians	\$594,132
Hume	\$790,512
Loddon Mallee	\$740,229
Eastern Metro	\$2,468,631
Southern Metro	\$3,175,927
North West Metro	\$5,952,127
TOTAL	\$16,586,000

5. 2006-09 Proposed Distribution

5.1 Indicative regional distribution of growth by LGA

Service Region	LGA Name	Allocation of matched growth funds 2007-08
Hume	Alpine (S)	\$0
	Benalla (C)	\$19,770
	Greater Shepparton (C)	\$296,547
	Indigo (S)	\$0
	Mansfield (S)	\$19,770
	Mitchell (S)	\$61,286
	Moira (S)	\$64,252
	Murrindindi (S)	\$12,267
	Strathbogie (S)	\$41,362
	Towong (S)	\$0
	Wangaratta (RC)	\$93,907
	Wodonga (RC)	\$161,581
	Hume Region	\$19,770
Hume Total *		\$790,512

* excludes State contribution to price.

5.2 Comparison to Proposals in 2006-09 Triennial Plan

Hume Region identified two objectives that needed to be met by reviewing the proposed allocations that were published in the 2006-09 Triennial Plan. The first was to ensure that funds kept pace with any changes to each LGAs HACC population. The second was to ensure that the Minister's commitment to improving equity in the allocation of HACC funds, in terms of dollars per person in the HACC target population, was advanced.

The interaction between these two objectives is quite complex, since some LGAs have population growth and are below equity, others have population growth but are above equity, and some have static or falling population but are below or above equity.

To aid decision-making, the results were then compared with the previous year's allocations of growth funding, and adjusted according to particular local circumstances, including performance in 2006-07 and the known capacity of agencies to produce real growth in outputs during 2007-08. In the original Triennial Plan, Hume Region proposed the following distribution of growth funding:

LGA Name	Year 2 Indicative allocations			
	Proportion of funds Priority 1	Proportion of funds Priority 2	Proportion of funds Priority 3	Total % growth to LGA
Alpine (S)				
Benalla (C)	6%			6%
Greater Shepparton (C)	30%			30%
Indigo (S)				
Mansfield (S)	3%			3%
Mitchell (S)	10%			10%
Moira (S)	13%			13%
Murrindindi (S)	5%			5%
Strathbogie (S)	5%			5%
Towong (S)				
Wangaratta (RC)	11%			11%
Wodonga (RC)	17%			17%

Hume Region			
	100%		100%

As a result of the review of the 2006-09 Triennial Plan, the Region allocated the following distribution by LGA and priority in 2007-08:

LGA	% of funds to Priority 1	% of funds to Priority 2	% of funds to Priority 3	Total growth % by LGA
Alpine (S)				
Benalla (C)	2.50%			2.50%
Greater Shepparton (C)	37.50%			37.50%
Indigo (S)				
Mansfield (S)	2.50%			2.50%
Mitchell (S)	7.75%			7.75%
Moira (S)	8.10%			8.10%
Murrindindi (S)	1.55%			1.55%
Strathbogie (S)	5.20%			5.20%
Towong (S)				
Wangaratta (RC)	11.87%			11.87%
Wodonga (RC)	20.40%			20.40%
Hume Region	2.50%			2.50%
	100%			100%

The revised distribution will greatly improve equity. With the nine municipalities allocated growth having a per capita funding range of between \$568 and \$584. The original proposal, contained in the Triennial Plan, would have resulted in a per capita funding range of between \$562 and \$592 for these municipalities.

5.3 2007-08 Regional Allocations

Summary of Allocation by Priority

LGA	Priority 1 \$
Alpine (S)	\$0
Benalla (C)	\$19,818
Greater Shepparton (C)	\$305,100
Indigo (S)	\$0
Mansfield (S)	\$19,818
Mitchell (S)	\$61,286
Moira (S)	\$64,325
Murrindindi (S)	\$12,283
Strathbogie (S)	\$41,362
Towong (S)	\$0
Wangaratta (RC)	\$93,907
Wodonga (RC)	\$165,845
Hume Region	\$19,769
* Total	\$803,512

* includes State contribution to price

Summary of allocations by Activity

Activity	Priority 1	
	Growth Units	Growth \$**
HACC Assessment		\$426,655
HACC Domestic Assistance	211	\$5,655
HACC Nursing	3,900	\$280,800
HACC Personal Care	2,306	\$70,633
HACC SSR (Regional Training Advisory Committee)		\$19,769
* Total		\$803,512

- *includes State contribution to price
- **Funds rounded to the nearest \$.

Summary of allocation of 2007-08 growth funds by LGA, Hume

LGA	Activity	Priority 1	
		Growth Units	Growth \$**
Benalla	HACC Personal Care	647	\$19,818
Greater Shepparton	HACC Assessment		\$117,900
	HACC Nursing	2600	\$187,200
Hume Region	HACC SSR – Regional Training		\$19,769
Mansfield	HACC Personal Care	647	\$19,818
Mitchell	HACC Assessment		\$61,286
Moira	HACC Assessment		\$39,955
	HACC Personal Care	611	\$18,715
	HACC Domestic Assistance	211	\$5,655
Murrindindi	HACC Personal Care	401	\$12,283
Strathbogie	HACC Assessment		\$41,362
Wangaratta	HACC Assessment		\$93,907
Wodonga	HACC Assessment		\$72,245
	HACC Nursing	1300	\$93,600
Total*			\$803,512

- * includes State contribution to price
- **Funds have been rounded to the nearest \$

6. Research and Development

In 2006-09, the region proposed to evaluate the effectiveness of the two CALD liaison officer positions through the 2007-08 service development grant. Due to delays in establishing the positions, the region proposes to postpone the evaluation until 2008-09.

Instead, the region proposes to undertake a review of district nursing services that will identify key service model elements and geographical boundaries.

Attachment 1. Explanation of HACC growth allocations to LGAs in 2007-08

In 2007-08 funding available for service expansion was adjusted to accommodate additional funding to price indexation (\$1.2m from matched growth funding, approved by the Commonwealth, with the balance from State only funds), allocations to statewide organisations (\$150k) and administration (\$400k).

The HACC growth funding allocated to local government areas (LGAs) in 2007-08 was determined as follows.

Regional allocations were determined according to the HACC equity model, which calculated the amount of funding needed for each region to reach the relevant 2009 benchmark. Then these were reduced – “topliced” - to meet the above noted program commitments.

From the resulting regional totals, LGA allocations were calculated by reference to current funding levels and equity goals.

The aim of modelling at LGA level was to meet two objectives:

- Firstly, to ensure that changes over time, particularly growth, in the HACC target population in each LGA were taken into account. If the target population of a particular LGA was projected to grow, it was necessary to ensure that its share of growth funds kept pace. The ‘target population’ was calculated as the number of people aged 70 plus and the number of younger people with disabilities.
- The second objective was to ensure that the Minister’s commitment to improving equity in the allocation of HACC funds, in terms of dollars per person in the HACC target population, was advanced. The commitment is to move all regions towards the benchmarks of \$598 per capita in rural regions and \$523 per capita in metropolitan regions.

These results were then compared with the previous year’s allocation of growth funding, and were adjusted according to particular local circumstances, including organisation performance in 2006-07 and the consequent expected capacity of organisations to produce real growth in outputs during 2007-08.